



# The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

25th INFANTRY DIVISION & 1st ARMORED DIVISION

*For all who ever served with the "5th Infantry Regiment"*

*The US Army's 3rd Oldest - Established 1808*

*"I'll Try Sir"*

Summer 2014

Web Page Address: <http://www.bobcat.ws/>

Volume II



## 2014 Bobcat Reunion Niagara Falls NY

22-27 July 2014

Our 2014 reunion will be held at Niagara Falls NY an enormously popular tourist destination — from both the American side in New York and the Canadian vantage point in Ontario.

Known as the honeymoon capital of the world, the Falls at Niagara are about 12,000 years old.

A big reason for choosing Niagara Falls is because of its close proximity to Lundy's Lane where the 5th Infantry Regiment earned its motto "I'll Try Sir". The dates of 22-27 July were chosen because it was during this

(See NY on page 20 & 21)



Niagara Falls at night

## Bobcat CSM Is Killed In Afghanistan

"The senior enlisted soldier for 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment has died from wounds suffered in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Thursday 14 May 2014.

Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Barreras, 49, of Tucson, Arizona, died Tuesday at San Antonio Military Medical Center in Texas. He died from wounds suffered on May 6 in Herat province, Afghanistan,



when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire, according to information released by DoD.

(In addition it was reported that 4 Bobcats were wounded and medevac'd. They all are doing well and will be returned to duty.)

Barreras became the top enlisted soldier for 2nd Battalion in March 2013. The

(See CSM on page 2)

## Kennedy Named to Ohio's Military Hall of Fame

"It might have been nearly a half century ago since two local men served as sergeants in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, but they say it's a time they remember vividly.

"In our household, we say, 'The Vietnam experience is always there,' " said Sgt. Charles W. Kennedy, who was stationed in Vietnam from December 1967 to December 1968. "You learn to live with the highs and lows. It's just part of your life or DNA."

Kennedy, .... will be inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor

(See Kennedy on page 7)



The Fall 2014 Newsletter will be out SEP or OCT 2014 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

(CSM from page 1)

unit is part of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Elements of 2nd Battalion deployed to Afghanistan in December, according to information from the 1st Armored Division. "Command Sgt. Maj. Barreras was my friend and battle buddy," said Lt. Col. Ed-



This image from 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry's Facebook page shows Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Barreras just before Christmas 2013 in Afghanistan.

ward Brady, the battalion commander, in a statement. "I've spent more time with him than my wife since I've taken command. I believe that I was the luckiest battalion commander in the Army to have him as my

command sergeant major.

"While every soldier in this formation is extremely saddened by his loss, his Bobcats are doing exactly what he would expect of us: continuing on with the mission and taking the fight to the enemy. This man would do absolutely anything and everything to ensure his soldiers came home safely."

Barreras joined the Army in 1988 after serving in the Marine Corps for five years, according to information from the division. He served for 22 years in the 75th Ranger Regiment, serving in 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Special Troops Battalion and the regimental headquarters.

In the Ranger Regiment, Barreras served in virtually every enlisted duty and leadership position and completed multiple combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Restore/Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and other special operations contingency missions.

Following his time with the Ranger Regiment, Barreras was the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with V device, Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Iraqi Campaign Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with four stars, Combat Infantryman Badge with one star, Expert Infantryman

Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge with bronze star, Military Freefall Badge and Pathfinder Badge.

Barreras is survived by his parents and two brothers, his wife, three children and three grandchildren."

## CSM Martin Barreras's Funeral and Burial

*A report to the 5th Infantry Association by Gary Fenton.*

"Command Sergeant Major Martin R. (Gunny) Barreras, age 49 of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment was interred Saturday afternoon 24 May 2014 with the sounding of Taps, the strains of a bagpipe and a dramatic flyover formation of powerful Apache helicopters.

The funeral and interment ceremony on this warm and breezy day was attended by dozens if not hundreds of family members and friends, veterans, military personnel in dress uniforms, and dignitaries such as Congressman Ron Barber from Tucson and the Tucson Police and Fire. Facing the casket at the cemetery were canopies shading family and friends. Flanking the interment ceremony were several dozen biker Veterans solemnly posted at "parade rest" gripping staffs topped with large fluttering U.S. flags in tribute to CSM Barreras and the 75th Ranger Regiment Honor Guard.

CSM Barreras had served five years in the Marines and some twenty-two years with the 75th Ranger Regiment which is an unusually long term, before he joined the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment and its Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Brady.

Colonel Christopher Vanek, Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment and his officers and men conducted with tremendous pride the "13-Fold" Flag-Folding ceremony and presentation to the next of kin. Traditional grave site military funeral honors include the silent folding and presentation of a U.S. flag, three rifle volleys and the sounding of "Taps." Today's service included a dramatic over-flight of U.S. Army Apache helicopters

(See CSM on page 19)



At the funeral for CSM Barreras from the 2/5th SGT Hernandez, CPT Sheridan, MAJ Griffin, Gary Fenton representing our Association and CPT Davis. We donated \$250 to a Memorial in honor of CSM Barreras.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



June 20, 2014

"Another quarter has gone by, and Fred Deverse is hammering me to get this submitted for the next Bulletin. Just another indicator of the outstanding work he does on behalf of Bobcats. The quarter has not passed without a lot of work on the part of a number of your Association friends. Carolyn and Randy Kethcart and Sam Kier have continued to work on the upcoming reunion next month, and it promises to be one of the best ever. We will have in attendance active duty representatives of both 1-5 and 2-5, and they will be participating in our various ceremonies. Come talk to these guys and learn what the "Real Army" is like in the 21st Century.

As I am sure most of you know, 2-5 suffered a devastating loss in Afghanistan when CSM Martin "Gunny" Barreras was wounded and subsequently medically evacuated to San Antonio where he died of wounds. He was interred in Tucson, AZ on May 24 with full military honors. Our Association was well represented by Gary Fenton, from the Phoenix area, and your Board approved a donation to a Memorial Fund in CSM Barreras' name. Lieutenant Colonel Ed Brady, of course, could not attend as he was deployed, however 2-5 Infantry was well represented by a number of soldiers from Ft. Bliss. Mrs. Patricia Brady read a message from her husband. Quite a number of Special Operations officers and soldiers attended as CSM Barreras had served much

of his career in such units. As many of you can recall, such losses can be devastating on a unit, however, 2-5 continued combat operations without losing a step.

In a conversation with a representative of The Rotary Club of Sebring, Florida I learned that they would like to ship packages to our troops in Afghanistan. They asked me if our Association would be willing to participate in sending boxes by paying the postal fees. Your Board passed a motion to donate up to \$400 for this purpose. The first packages have been sent and we have made the initial payment for those. The packages include a short memo telling the recipients who sent them and of our participation. Just another effort to support the troops. In this regard, 2-5 Infantry plans a formal dinner/dance upon their return to Fort Bliss. Randy Kethcart has added a page to the Regiment's website enabling people to use PayPal to support this effort, as we did for 1-5 when they returned from their most recent combat tour.

Our reunion in Niagara Falls is just a few weeks away. I hope to see many of you there at what promises to be one of our most memorable reunions. We will be combining great social time, tourism and of course a good dose of Bobcat history when we visit the Lundy's Lane memorial park. This is a not to be missed gathering.

This article marks my last as the President of your Association, and I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to express my appreciation for the outstanding support your Officers and Board, and several wives have given to me and to the Association. I also wish to tell you how much pleasure it has given me to be a member of this outstanding Regiment, and to participate in activities related to furthering its goals and supporting our active duty soldiers and their families."

"I'll Try Sir"

**Bob Wood**

The **red** numbers after your name on the address label tells what year your dues expires. Need to renew?

## 5th Infantry Association

President - *Robert (Bob) Wood*

Vice President - *Bart Stanzione*

Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*

Secretary & Membership Chairman -

*Denis McDonough*

Historian - *Sam Kier*

Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*

Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*

Past Presidents - *Paul Robinson and*

*Jon Cartwright*

Bobcat Board of Directors consists of the above and the following 4 elected directors:

*Jon Blickenstaff Joe "Red" Burdick*

*John Snodgrass Tom Frame*

Chaplain (Appointed) - *Myron Peterson*

### Reminder !

1. Notify Denis McDonough about changes in address and phone number etc.

2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 14** (only or the last two numbers) on the address label your dues expires 31 DEC 14. Please renew now!

### Reunions

Niagara Falls NY ..... 22-27 July 14

25th INF DIV ASSN - Seattle

9-14 SEP 14

FL Winter Social ..... 20-22 FEB 15

## HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

### Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

*Andy Anderson (MG-R)*

### Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment - *Ray Barrett (CSM-R)*

### Distinguished Members of the Regiment

*SSG Eddie Barba(1/5), Jon Blickenstaff,*

*Joe "Red" Burdick, Jon Cartwright, Jim*

*Caudle, Fred Deverse, James Garner,*

*Ron Henry(1SG-R), Randy Kethcart,*

*Sam Kier, Ralph Laubecher, Denis*

*McDonough, Victor Mercado (CSM -R),*

*SGT John Paul Morgan 2/5, Daryl Niles*

*(CSM-R), Jerry Peal, Paul Robinson,*

*Roger Smith, John Snodgrass (MAJ-R),*

*Bob Wood (COL-R)*

### Honorary Members of the Regiment

*Sue Caudle, Carolyn Deverse, Shannon*

*Henry, Carolyn Kethcart, Teri Tringali*

### Bobcat of the Year

*Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04,*

*Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart*

*07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09,*

*Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11,*

*Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13*

# ROSTER

## ADDITIONS, CHANGES & CORRECTIONS

The information provided below is new since the last Newsletter was printed.

*(Please let me know when any of your information like phone # , address or E-mail address changes or is incorrect)*

### E-mail Changes & Additions:

>>> If your E-mail address changes you need to notify us if you want to continue to receive Chapter E-mails and to have your correct E-mail address on the roster.

**Anderson (MG-R), Andy** - Change  
[Bobcat6vn68@bobcat.ws](mailto:Bobcat6vn68@bobcat.ws)

**Frame, Tom** - Change  
[toppop68@gmail.com](mailto:toppop68@gmail.com)

**Garrod, Dave** - Change  
[bravo6xray@gmail.com](mailto:bravo6xray@gmail.com)

**Wright, Ronnie** - Period after 2007  
[harleyman2007@yahoo.com](mailto:harleyman2007@yahoo.com)

**Baker, Barry** - Change  
[barrybaker242@gmail.com](mailto:barrybaker242@gmail.com)

### Roster Changes/Corrections:

**Porter, Ronald J.** - Phone number  
276-237-4386

**Jenkins, Purcel** - New phone number -  
540-539-2914

**Gill, Merna** - Address change  
PO Box 470731  
Charlotte, NC 28247

**Holochwost, John "Bud"** - New Phone # and E-mail address  
[sgthollie@gmail.com](mailto:sgthollie@gmail.com)  
908-850-1664

**Soppe, Ron** - New phone #  
563-380-5310

### New Members:

**DuBois, LT Christopher**  
1411-5 Dogwood Street  
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703  
HHC 1-5 Adjutant 2014  
207-316-2922  
[christopher.r.dubois.mil@mail.mil](mailto:christopher.r.dubois.mil@mail.mil)

**Rogers Jr., Kevin**  
4849 Route 328  
Millerton, PA 16936  
HHC 1/5 10/01-3/05  
607-331-0526  
[krogersjr25@gmail.com](mailto:krogersjr25@gmail.com)

**Keane, Peter (Linda)**  
956 Truman CIR  
Lancaster TX 75146-9740  
469-449-7098  
A Co. 3rd PLT Medic 3/69-5/69  
[peterkeane@yahoo.com](mailto:peterkeane@yahoo.com)

**Kerlee, Lark (Betty)**  
13218 Satterlee RD  
Anacortes WA 98221-8666  
360-708-6222  
1/5 Charlie 1968  
[betslark@gmail.com](mailto:betslark@gmail.com)

"I was with Charlie Company 1/5th Mech. Got hit May 8th 1968 & Medevac'd to Camp Zuma Japan. Spent three



L-R: SGT Shaffer (Wolfhound), SGT Kerlee and SGT Armstrong

months in hospital for rehab. I got a 180 day profile & sent to Okinawa Japan for the rest of my service. I was a Sergeant & Squad Leader when



L-R: SGT Shaffer , SP5 Mike McDaniel (Special Forces) and SGT Kerlee

wounded in the right hand and right leg. Pictures are me with three others, one 25th Wolfhound, one Special Forces and the other 173rd Airborne."

**Wills JR, Wesley (Gail)**  
6015 Audobon Trace  
Cumming, GA 30040  
770-887-9140  
1/5 1973-75  
[wowillis@comcast.net](mailto:wowillis@comcast.net)

**Giustino, Ronald (Carol)**  
45 W67th ST - APT 24A  
New York NY 10023  
917-375-1262  
1/5th B Co 3rd PLT1st SQD -

11/67-11/68  
[rgiustino@gmail.com](mailto:rgiustino@gmail.com)

### Taps:

**Henning, Clifton L.** - "July 17, 1933 - April 1, 2014 - Obituary  
1ST Lt Clifton L. Henning (AUS, Ret), 80, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2014 with his wife at his side. A veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, Cliff was a recipient of three purple Hearts and two bronze stars."

*\*Information sent by Robert Whaley*

**McGaugh, Bennie** - (SEP 9, 1929 - May 9, 2014) 84, of Elkhorn, MO, died Friday, May 9, 2014. Bennie served his country in the Korean War with the 5th Regimental Combat Team. Bennie was a Purple Heart recipient having been WIA on 1/17/52.

*\*Information sent by Paul Garland*

**Bucher, Alvin G.** - HHC (AQT) 5th RCT -23 JUN 14 Korea - West Seneca, NY

*\*Information sent by Paul Garland*

**Lounsberry, Wayne Allen** - Died 29 APR 11 - B Co 1/5th 1969 - Awarded a Bronze Star for Heroism (see page 25)

*\*Information sent by Denis*

*McDonough*

## Army tests jungle boots for Pacific deployments

*Sure looks different than the Vietnam era jungle boot.*



# Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

Please send me your thoughts, comments, impressions, criticisms & suggestions etc. along with pictures for "your" Bobcat Bulletin!

## "Bobcats Were the Best Thing"

### *Mechanic to Infantryman*

"The Bobcats were the best thing to happen for an 18 year old in Nam. I was sent as a mechanic but soon became a rifleman and weapons squad leader 33. I was known as just JR. I was promoted as a light Infantry Sargent but my mechanic back ground (MOS) keeps me from getting a CIB. But just knowing all the Bobcat Charley's I fought beside during Tet and mini Tet in May of 68 and from July 67 to 68 was worth every day. And I'd do it again. Just thinking of you Bobcats is overwhelming at times and I'm so grateful to know you all."

JR 33

An E-mail on 15 APR from Mick Jones  
[mickjones245282@gmail.com](mailto:mickjones245282@gmail.com)

15 APR 14

## Do You Know Albert Ham?

### *Can you help?*

"I received a letter in response to the expired membership letters I recently sent out. It is from Judith H. Parker, sister of Albert L. Ham. She states that he is suffering from throat cancer since 2012, that he had chemo and radiation treatments. He has lost his teeth. In September 2013 he suffered a stroke and his left side is paralyzed.

Obviously he will not be active with us any more. However his sister said that she has been trying without success to obtain VA benefits for him. The address she gave is: 3133 S CASHUA DR APT 6, FLORENCE SC 29501-5305. I don't know if we have anyone who knows him or who might be able to assist her."

Thanks,

Bob Wood

## Served with the 3/5th in the canal Zone Twice

New member Ronald Porter served in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division. After leaving Vietnam he was assigned to C Company, 3/5th Infantry, 193 Infantry Brigade stationed at FT Kobbe in the Canal Zone in 1971.



3/5th at FT Kobbe Canal Zone Panama

Ronald re-entered the Army in 1979-80 and was again sent to Panama assigned to C Company 3/5th. Ronald



FT Sherman Canal Zone Panama

said, "This was a really good unit to be in."

Ronald left the Army in 1983 and has since that time been a factory worker.

His phone number is: 276-237-4386

## BG McCaffrey Moving

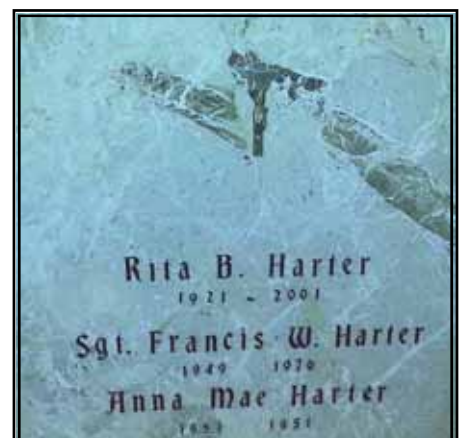
Former 1/5th Battalion Commander, Brigadier General Todd B. McCaffrey who has been the Deputy Commanding General (Operations), 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii will now become the Chief of Staff, United States Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Todd was the 1/5th Commander when they deployed to Iraq in 2004-05.

*\*Information sent by Andy Anderson (MG-R)*

## Memorial Day Activity

On Memorial Day this year Randy Kethcart visited the gravesites of two "Bobcats". Their grave markers are pictured below.



(See Comments on page 6)



# Treasurer's Report

## 1st Quarter Financial Report

(1 JAN - 30 APR 2014)

### January:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$665.00
Quartermaster Sales	\$28.50
25th INF DIV Scholarship Fund Donation	\$559.50
NY Nia. Fall 2014 Reunion	\$340.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1593.50</b>

#### Debits:

Bank Charges	\$3.00
Postage	\$18.40
Quartermaster	\$19.00
Winter Newsletter Printing	\$743.75
P-38s (New member's gifts)	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$704.15</b>

### February:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$115.00
25th INF DIV Scholarship Fund Donation	\$50.00
Lundy's Lane Donation	\$50.00
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	\$352.66
Donation general Fund	\$100.00
Deposit Error (Add)	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$867.66</b>

#### Debit:

Bronze Plaque Lundy's Lane	\$802.77
Bank Service Charge	\$3.00
Postage	\$9.80
Print Bank Checks	\$26.48
Printer Paper	\$6.00
Larson Shadow Box	\$371.45
Debit Error	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1244.50</b>

### March:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$375.00
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	\$1109.32
Quartermaster Sales	\$21.00
Niagara Falls Reunion	\$1960.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3465.82</b>

#### Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$29.00
5th INF Award Streamers & Flag Cover	\$889.86
Bank Service charge	\$3.00
NF Reunion Refund	\$144.50
Postage	\$177.76
USPS Bulk Mail Annual Fee	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1444.12</b>

#### Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$12,370.75
Business Account	\$49,955.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62326.63</b>

*Jim Caudle,*

Treasurer/Quartermaster

### Donations to the Association

*We are a 501c19 organization. Donations to our Association are tax-deductible.*

Nevin Williams	\$10
Shirley Curran - NF Reunion	\$20
Jenny Diaz - NF Reunion	\$50
Elwood Merring - NF Reunion	\$25
Jim Caudle - NF Reunion	\$50

Your name could go here!

(Comments from page 5)

## Memorial Day Message

Bob Wood, our president, left the following message:

"As the sun sets on another Memorial Day, I am struck by the feelings that course through my veins and nerves regarding those Bobcats who gave their all, starting in the War of 1812 and continuing on until even today in Afghanistan. This is not a day to celebrate, but a day to remember and honor those brave guys who were lost in combat or who subsequently died from their service, and their wives, sons and daughters.

I know some of you have been able to visit the graves and share memories with your buddies from those times, and I thank you for doing this. Keeping their memories and sacrifices alive is the best thing one can now do on their behalf.

As we look forward to another reunion, our chance to renew our friendships, and another time to reflect on our buddies and associates no longer able to attend with us, I wish you each a good day and look forward to seeing you there."

*I'll Try, Sir"*

## Did You Know Ardie Ray Copas

*Awarded the Medal of Honor*

Dear Bobcats:

"My name is Shyrell Copas Herrera. I am Ardie's (Ardie Ray Copas - DSC upgraded to MOH) daughter, only child. I would love to speak to ANYONE who knew him or served with him. My phone # is (615)866-7997 and E-mail is: [shyrellherrera@gmail.com](mailto:shyrellherrera@gmail.com). I would also like to thank you all for what you've done and sacrifices you made for me and our Great country. Love to you all and GOD BLESS."

*Shyrell Copas Herrera*

(Kennedy from page 1)

on May 2 at the Atrium of the Ohio Statehouse for going "above and beyond the call of duty" for two specific events while serving as squad leaders in the Vietnam War.

For the past 15 years, the hall of fame has inducted a group of new members annually, and this year's induction brings the total to 258 honorees.....

"I'm very, very flattered, and I'm very humbled to be on the list with some of the same people I already know are on that list," Kennedy said. "To be considered in the same breath as some of these people is very humbling."

Each of the local men being inducted into the hall of fame for valor also received honorary medals for their heroic efforts:

Sgt. Charles W. Kennedy: While serving with U.S. Army Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry in Vietnam, Kennedy and his unit came under intense enemy attack while waiting for a friendly listening post to return to the perimeter.

Kennedy received two calls for help during the human wave attack and ran through intense enemy fire twice to retrieve two soldiers and bring them back to safety, where they received medical treatment. Kennedy received a Silver Star Medal for his actions that day on Sept. 16, 1968.

The Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. May 2 at the Atrium of the Ohio Statehouse. The event is open to the public.

*\*Article sent to me by Melissa Boswell, Kennedy's youngest daughter and was published in the "Lancaster Eagle-Gazette".*

---

## 9 New Streamers

"I now have 9 new streamers for the Regimental Colors. These are from the Iraq/Afghanistan actions of 1-5 and 2-5.

I intend to conduct some kind of ceremony at the July reunion to add them to the colors.

I also purchased a flag cover to better protect the colors when not in use."

**Bob Wood**

=====

30 May 14

## Join the VA Health System

"According to an article in the June/July 2014 issue of VFW MAGAZINE, the Dept of Veterans Affairs encourages all veterans to apply for enrollment in the VA health Care System. (Note that enrollment does not mean you have to use it!)

Veterans can apply at [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll) or by calling 1-877-222-8387. You can also apply at your local VA Medical facility. Once enrollment is verified, VA will photograph the veteran and mail him/her a Veteran Health Identification Card.

I would suggest that if you are a veteran, then ENROLL. You have nothing to lose and there may be a time when you need another health care system. In spite of the current "bad press" the VA normally does a good job.

So, if a veteran, consider applying. If not a veteran, and you know a veteran, tell him about this."

**Nevin R. Williams**

=====

## COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

27 May 14

"While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave.

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave

means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire."

**John Barnard**

=====

4 May 14

## Taking Back the Cannons at the Niagara falls Reunion

"Greetings all:

FYI, Please note I have changed my email address. I look forward to seeing most, if not all of you, at what portends to be a great reunion at Niagara Falls. With more than 170 attendees, we will have sufficient hands to take back the seven cannons we left on the high ground in Canada 200 years ago. Our very own piper Jon Blickenstaff will play: "All the Blue Bonnets are over the Border" and John Snodgrass will take the point."

Warm regards,

**Andy Anderson**

# Can You Find The NVA Soldier?



*John Snodgrass sent me this picture. If you read the letter below he sent with it, you will see that he thinks there is a North Vietnamese Soldier (NVA) in it. What do you think? I've placed a yellow arrow pointing to where he thinks the NVA is located*

"This CD is an enlargement from the 4th photograph on our website's Ben Cui photographs. I received 8"x10" photos when I was still a patient at Walter Reed Army Medical center. About 20 or 25 years later, I was looking closely at the 4th picture and noticed an NVA officer or NCO in the photo. I gave this photo to Dennis Hackin in San Francisco, at our reunion last year and asked him if he knew a photographer who could blow up the picture and make the NVA soldier easier to see. It took him 8 months, but he was successful.

If you have trouble locating the NVA, look at the 4 white bark trees to the right of the Charlie company soldier's rifle. You will see 4 white bark trees and to the right of them, you will see a dark bark tree with a "V"...the NVA is inside the "V" of the tree. He is easy to locate if you look for his light colored web belt. You can see his helmet, shirt, belt and pants.

Recently, I have examined this photo closely and I think I can find other people in it. Have at it and see what you can find."

I'll Try Sir!

JS



# Do You Remember Chris Noel?

"I have kind of hit the jackpot from a Vietnam vet's perspective.

I am sure some if not most of you remember Chris Noel. She had from 66 to 70 a AFVN radio show "A Date with Chris" always opening with the words "Hi love!" She travelled some half a dozen times to Vietnam to visit the troops and remind them there actually is a "world" back home.

Well, Chris is in my hometown this weekend and I got to meet her. She is still the sweet and bubbly person that comes across in her radio shows.

How come?

A friend of mine who is a huge Elvis fan hosts an "Elvis weekend" about twice a year in a hotel in my hometown. He has



excellent connections to former friends and employees of Elvis and brings them in so they can talk to fans from all over Europe, many of them not even born when Elvis died in 77.

Chris Noel had a movie career too and she had a small part in an Elvis movie



In case you don't know, she is on the left in the top two pictures. On the right is Marlyn Mason who was also in an Elvis movie. She appeared in almost any TV series in the 60s and 70s including Bonanza, Mission: Impossible, Streets of San Francisco.

I have included some old pics and a radio show with Chris.

There is more on

<http://afrtsarchive.blogspot.de/>

Make sure to check out also Chris' website which you will find under her name.

Take care  
And Thank You for Your service!"

**Andreas Gewinner**

-----  
Andreas is in the middle in the top right picture.

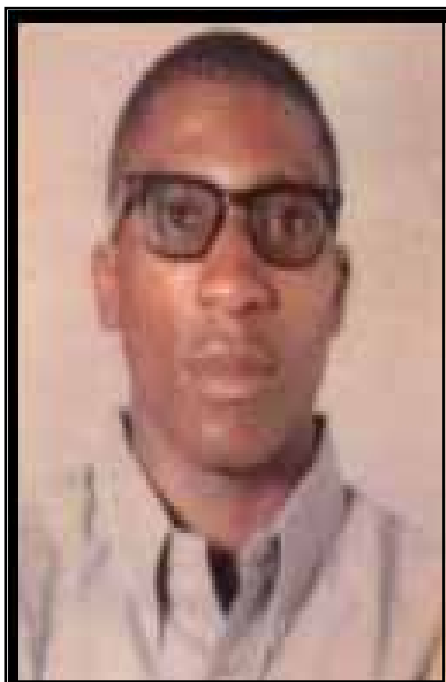


This is a picture of Chris appearing in the 1966 "Bob Hope" show which I attended.

## Some Pictures and Comments From the 5th Infantry Facebook Page

A number of months ago Randy Kethcart set up a 5th Infantry Association Facebook Page. Some great pictures have been posted by many. If you are not participating in this page you should take a look at it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/468555973188533>



Thomas Charles Little from Cleveland OH - C Company 1/5th killed-in-action in Vietnam on 3 June 71 will have his name added to the wall.



Our newly acquired picture of SPC Robert Leland Sloane from North Hollywood CA - C Company 1/5th killed-in-action in Vietnam on 4 MAR 69



### Bob Hope Show

It was asked if anyone saw the Bob Hope Show and Ken McKenna (C Co.) replied, "I was in the hospital in Japan DEC 68. Mr. Hope, Miss World and 4 of the Gold Diggers from the Dean Martin show came to my ward. Two of the Gold Diggers went bed to bed talking to us for a few minutes each, the other two sang and played guitar. Mr. Hope wished us luck and apologized for not being able to stay longer as he spent extra time in the burn ward."

Tom Ward (A Co.) said, "I was at the DEC 69 show as a patient at the 12th Evac Hospital. I remember the humor and the love and respect for the audience."



Denis McDonough found these pictures on the Internet. On the left is Gonzalo Villasenor from FT Worth TX and on the right is Martin Lechuga from San Antonio TX. Both were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for action in which they were killed on 11 APR 69.

**From the 1/5th Facebook page.** "Congratulations to the soldiers of HHC 1/5th for earning the US Army Alaska's (USARAK) "Army Physical Fitness Test" (APFT) Streamer. The company averages 279 making it the first HHC company in Alaska to earn the APFT

streamer. The company celebrated with a run up Birch Hill led by MG Michael Shields commanding general of USARAK. Who also presented the streamer.

*"You could title this 'running in the rain.'"*





---

## Prospective New Member at the Reunion

"Denis, I just registered a new person for the reunion who is not a member, but is very interested in becoming one. I told him he could do it online or he could do it at the reunion. I still wanted to pass his info on to you for the follow up.

Richard (Dick) Swanson  
HHC 67-68  
Lives in MN, wife is Mary  
Phone: 651-494-4100  
Email: [dswan@frontiernet.net](mailto:dswan@frontiernet.net)

**Carolyn Kethcart**  
Reunion Coordinator

---

## Did you know Captain Akos Szekely

"Hello, I saw your post when reading about Captain Akos Szekely. Although I did not know him, Captain Szekely attended my church in Silver Spring, MD. I have read his story, of his sacrifice and service. I have visited his name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and his resting place at Arlington.

I am sure his parents have passed on from this life. I want to make sure he is never forgotten. I would like to make sure we have a suitable memorial at our church since the memorial his parents donated (a Carillon) stopped working several years ago.

If you know of anyone who knew him, I would like to speak with them, if they don't mind sharing about him."

Thank you so much,

**Keri Jacobs**

108 Claybrook Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
240-876-8360 cell  
[keri.gary.jacobs@gmail.com](mailto:keri.gary.jacobs@gmail.com)  
[keri.22toomany@gmail.com](mailto:keri.22toomany@gmail.com)

---

## Thank You Carolyn & Randy

Carolyn and Randy,

"I just wanted to say Thank You for all you have done to organize, plan and help with the reunion.

I am sure it is a ton of work. You deserve a "toast" at the reunion from all the members that attend. Thank you again."

**Bruce Colton**

---

**Jeff Mc Grath** agreed with Bruce's Thank You.

---

## 1981 Bobcat Korean Plate

On JUN 19 **Mark Canales** Wrote on our Facebook page "I'm planning on joining but I still want to see if there are any members from my time frame. I also understand there is a museum. Do you have one of the plates from the Team Spirit 1981 in Korea? I found



**Mark Canales**

---

## House Burned need Pictures

"Hello Denis (McDonough),

I would like to ask you for a favor. Our house burned down and everything was a complete loss and I would like for anyone who knew me in Nam to send any pictures to me. I will pay for them and the cost of mailing. I was in Alpha Co. 1st. Platoon. 1st. squad from Feb. 1, 1968 until April, then went to 4th squad as the driver. In August I went to the 88 command track until 9/11/68. I would also like the Bobcat address book. I know this is a lot of trouble but I don't know any other way to do it. My address is 121 Cliff Trail, Fritch Texas 79036."

Thank you,

**Sam Harvey**



this at my parents house where it has been hiding for the last 30 odd years."



# 1-5th INFANTRY - ARCTIC BOBCATS - FT WAINWRIGHT AK



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
1ST BATTALION, 5TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
3214 SANTIAGO AVENUE  
FORT WAINWRIGHT AK 99703-8000

June 30, 2014

Fellow Bobcats,


As I write this letter, PCS season for the Army and the Bobcats continues in earnest. Since my last update, the Bobcats have bid farewell to CSM Speedie, MAJ Dye (BN XO), MAJ O'Brien (S3), and MSG Dow (OPS SGM). The battalion change of command occurs on 11 July, and we will have a new team in the command group. The transition of these great Bobcats hit us hard, but I am confident the new Bobcat leadership will add to the already great Bobcat legacy. In April, we welcomed MAJ Chris Wellman who is Bobcat 3, and 1SG Stromitis moved from HHC to fill the role of Command Sergeant Major. By mid-July, we will have a new Commander, CSM, XO, and Operations Sergeant Major in place.

We have added to the list of Distinguished Members of Our Regiment (DMOR). Prior to their departure, both MAJ Dye and MAJ O'Brien received this distinct honor. We also added Dr. Randall Zarnke to our list of Honorary Members of the Regiment. Randy served as a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 30 years before retiring, and now continues his service in the interior of Alaska with hockey programs and with the Alaska Trapper's Association. It was my privilege to present these awards.

Our Bobcats remain busy. We spent time relaxing at the beginning of June with some well earned leave. Upon return, we assumed a Quick Reaction Force mission, and we started our preparation for the Expert Infantryman Badge, which will carry us through the month of July. After EIB, the battalion has a full training schedule through the end of the year as we train for a National Training Center rotation in January 2015, which is a perfect time to leave Fairbanks for training in the desert of southern California.

I have spent time reflecting on my opportunity to serve as Bobcat 6 over the past two years. I believe Bobcats, young and old, have much to be proud of. We have a great reputation, and I am firmly convinced that the team we built in the command group, company commanders, First Sergeants, platoon leaders, and platoon sergeants made this battalion great. The leadership this team provides inspired our phenomenal Soldiers to achieve excellence. We have many dynamic Families who also significantly added to the success of the Bobcats through our Family Readiness Groups. Our entire battalion... Soldiers, leaders, and Families focused on preparing for the mission and balanced that with taking care of our Families. I am both blessed and honored to have served alongside these great Soldiers, leaders, and Families.

I want to thank all the Association members for your support over the past two years. What you do is very important in maintaining our legacy and history.

  
Jason A. Wesbrock  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army  
Commanding

## AMPUTEE GOING RANGER

19 May 14

1st Lt. David Brunett is going through the 61 days of Ranger School, determined that the loss of his leg in an IED blast in Afghanistan will not hold him back.

"The injury doesn't stop you from being the type of soldier you want to be. It's dangerous to think of yourself as just an amputee or a wounded warrior instead of saying 'I am a Soldier', Brunett said in an Army release.

He has been through three years of recovery, including five months of rehabilitation at the Center for the Intrepid, and he is assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



**1st Lt. David Brunett gets ready for Ranger School, starting this month at Fort Benning, Ga.**

ston, Texas.

Brunett was on patrol in April 2011 in Kandahar with 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment of Fort Wain-

wright, Alaska, when the IED exploded, according to the release. His left leg was amputated in July 2012.

His doctors approve of him going to Ranger school and gave him prosthetic legs, according to the release, and a sweat liner and hygiene suspension sleeve around his leg will help him in the swampy Florida phase of the Ranger course. He says his family and fellow soldiers from his unit encouraged him in his recovery.

"Having a support system was vital in me saying 'this isn't done'," Brunett said in the release.

*\*Copied from the 19 May "Army Times"*

### 3rd ANNUAL BOBCATS REUNION CRUISE

FEB. 15 to 20, 2015

#### 5 DAY EASTERN CARIBBEAN - CARNIVAL SUNSHINE

**Port Canaveral / Nassau / Sea / Grand Turk / Sea / Port Canaveral**  
(Port Canaveral - Orlando, FL.)

CABIN Location: Interior, Ocean View, Balcony - Unobstructed Views & Midship

#### RATES: Include All Taxes / Meals / Entertainment

Interior: Main Deck / Mid Ship - \$551.19 per person Ocean View: Main Deck / Mid Ship - \$641.90 per person Balcony: Deck 6 - Mid Ship - \$806.90 per person (Triple & Quad Cabin Rates Available Upon Request)

**Discounted Rates May Apply prior to Final Payment**

#### PAYMENT:

1st Deposit - \$25.00 per person) - Due 7/13/14, 2nd Deposit: \$175.00 - Due 10/15/14 - Cabin Assigned, (Full Refund - Cancel by 12/1/2013), Final Payment: Due 12/14/14

Valid Passport Suggested



### BOBCAT WINTER SOCIAL

**Feb. 20, 2015 - Friday to Feb 22, 2015 - Sunday**

(Group Rates Valid between 2/11/15 - 2/18/15)

**QUALITY BEACH RESORT - Clearwater Beach, FL**

**RATES:** (Request Queen or King Bed), City View - \$131 per nite Partial Gulf View - \$139 per nite, Beach Front - \$149 per nite, Pool Cabana Rm - 2 King beds - \$171 per nite, (All Room Rates are Subject to Local Sales Tax & Occupancy Taxes Currently - 12.%)

**AMINITIES:** 10% Discount all Meals at IHop Restaurant (on premises)

1 Free Drink Cards per room, Free Parking **Call ASAP with Credit Card to hold Reservation without a charge**

(Please **Do Not** make reservation directly with Resort or Cruise Line)

**CONTACT TERIANN TO BOOK RESORT & CRUISE**

Teriann - 727-482-4564 / [Teriannstravels@aol.com](mailto:Teriannstravels@aol.com)

**DINNERS: ISLAND WAY GRILL - Clearwater, FL**

Feb. 20, 2015, Friday - Time to be Announced

### Saturday, Feb.21, 2015 : STARLITE DINNER CRUISE

**Majesty Dining Yacht**



**Boarding - 6:30P**

( Delicious Food & Entertainment )

Rate: \$48.75 per person / Includes Taxes & Gratuity  
**This Year must be paid by Check or Money Order**

**Only**

**Make out to: Teriann Tringali**

**Mail to: 1201 Orange Avenue**

**Dunedin, FL 34698**

## 2-5th INFANTRY - 3rd BRIGADE/1st ARMORED DIV - FT BLISS TX

### 2nd Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment Afghanistan

*The articles and pictures of the 2-5th were sent to me by the Battalion S-6 Captain Justin Reeves*



B CO - "SPC Gillespie-SGT Campbell-CPT Womack-PFC Clarke- PFC Cotter posing before mission at DSP Shay Joy"



B CO - "SGT Gonzalez always excited to man the gun"





## TF Bobcat Partners With ANSF

“Task Force Bobcat has partnered with Afghan National Security Forces throughout the deployment to bolster the credibility of the ANSF with the local populace and the confidence of the ANSF’s ability to conduct missions without Coalition Forces taking the lead. Recently ANSF conducted a three part mission to disrupt and deny enemy freedom of maneuver named “Operation Sabzawar”. The operation topped out at 425 ANSF, with elements gathered from the Afghan National Army, Afghan Uniform Police, and Afghan Commandos. The ANSF successfully cleared more than 7 km and a dozen villages in a three day period.

TF Bobcat and Regional Command – West supported the planning and execution of the mission, by providing over watch on the ground, providing eyes in the sky with ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) assets, and providing the ability to defeat combatants from a distance with CAS (Close Air Support). The result is the strengthened confidence for the ANSF to plan and execute missions in their own area of operations and be able to maintain stability against the Taliban insurgency.”

## Saying Goodbye to CSM Barreras

“On 18 May 2014, the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment said goodbye to CSM Martin Barreras in a memorial ceremony held on Shindand Air Base. More than 400 attendees came to honor a man who was a true example of a leader that embodied all of the Army values. CH (CPT) Kim led the ceremony and LTC Brady, 1LT Buchanan, SFC Buchinski, SFC Jackson, and PFC Dozier all spoke, reminiscing about events and the personality of CSM Barreras.

The memorial could not have been performed without the efforts of TF Warhawk, 838th AEAS, RC-West, and

many others. CSM Barreras affected so many lives and careers in so many positive ways, it is no surprise so many people would want to combine their efforts to honor him.

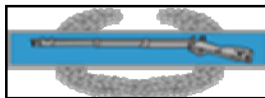
## Partnership With Mongolian Task Force

“Task Force Bobcat has benefited greatly from the joint partnership with the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force (METF). As TF Bobcat pushes outside the wire, taking the fight to the enemy, the METF patrols and secures Shindand Air Base for over 4,000 Soldiers, Airmen, NATO/ISAF partner militaries, civilians, and local nationals. The METF participates in base wide drills, impromptu drills from the TF Bobcat tactical operations center, and assisting in improving base defense in and outside the wire.

The METF have displayed their impressive prowess with martial arts and theatrics during the change of command ceremony for the incoming and outgoing Mongolian Task Forces back in April. The METF have also participated in the Memorial Day celebrations with a live band. The METF relationship will continue to grow as TF Bobcat finishes out the deployment and will begin strong with the 1-82 CAV as they take over the Bobcat mission at SAB.”

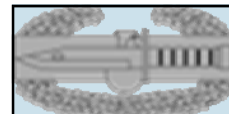
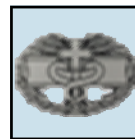
## CIB - CMB - CAB

“Since arriving to Shindand Airbase on 15 December 2013, 100 Soldiers from the Bobcat Battalion have been awarded their respective combat badges. Out of the 100 badges, seventy one Soldiers have earned the Combat Infantry Badge, which was



established by the War Department on 27 October 1943. Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, then the Army Ground Forces commanding general, was instrumental in its creation. He

originally recommended that it be called the “fighter badge.” Seven Soldiers have earned the Combat Medical Badge. The CMB was created as a “companion” badge to the CIB. It was designed to provide recognition to the field medic who accompanies the infantryman into battle and shares with the experiences unique to the infantry in combat. Twenty two Soldiers have earned the Combat Action Badge. The Chief of Staff of the Army approved the creation of the Combat Action Badge on 2 May 2005, to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engaged, or are engaged by the enemy.



All the Soldiers have showed a tremendous amount of courage and selfless service in the Bobcat Battalion. This is significant for the area of operations that we currently operate in and shows how much we are taking the fight to the enemy during this security forces mission in Afghanistan. As Bobcat 6 (LTC Brady) and Bobcat 7 (SGM Banogon) present the badges with smiles and inspirational words of wisdom they often tell the Soldiers how



LTC Brady awarding 1LT Field his Combat Infantry Badge

proud they are and how they will never forget this moment for the rest of their lives. After seeing the feeling of excitement and proud faces of all the Soldiers, this is a moment they will without a doubt always remember.”

(See 2-5 on page 22)

# Losing the former Republic of South Viet Nam

By MAJ Roger L. Kehrier USA, (Ret) - Reprinted from 12 June 2012 edition of "Military Magazine"

Ever since 30 April 1975 when the former Republic of South Viet Nam fell to communist forces it has been debated who was responsible for its loss. Many views have been expressed, however, Viet Nam has often been referred to as the first war America lost. Obviously, Viet Nam wasn't a clear-cut victory like WWII, nor was it fought to a stalemate like Korea. With the passage of time more and more has been published about our efforts in Viet Nam and its final outcome. Numerous books, magazine articles and Hollywood productions have been produced on the subject with no end in sight for the immediate future. Basically, Viet Nam will continue to be examined well into the 21st century as the basis for future American foreign policy and also (hopefully) for lessons learned.

It's my professional and personal belief that those who served in Viet Nam saw the war through the prism of their individual tours. If you were there in the very early 1960s, you saw the war in an advisory capacity; in 1965, your experience saw the American build-up. If you were in country on 30 January 1968 and a few weeks thereafter, then you saw Tet up close and very personal. Furthermore, if your tour was January 1968- January 1969, you're a survivor of the bloodiest year of the war for fatalities.

Infantrymen sometimes saw the war up close and very personal; others, in a one-year tour, may have experienced firefights, but never saw the enemy. I have spoken with others who were present in firefights I was engaged in and I remained amazed at the different views we have of the same actions, which I attributed to jungle terrain and triple canopy forests in the Central Highlands. Combat operations against the VC were far different from those against the NVA. My tour, from February 1967-February 1968 with the 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) was vastly different in II Corps than in I Corps.

Many veterans from the Viet Nam War with whom I've spoken over the

past 40 years have stated that one of the most compelling things they deal with is the knowledge that nearly 58,800 Americans died in "their war"; they feel guilty for surviving. The oft-stated viewpoint was that the war was for nothing!

The continuing support for the American involvement in the Viet Nam War were contained in the inaugural address of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on 1 January 1961 when he put the entire world on notice (especially the communists) with the words, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price; bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This much we pledge - and more."

That day the gauntlet was thrown down for Southeast Asian military operations in the event communist activities stepped up in that part of the world. The choice for this showdown came out to be South Viet Nam, Laos, Thailand and/or Cambodia when there was a great fear of "the domino theory." Apparently South Viet Nam was chosen because of its military forces, government semi-stability and, most important, its coastline and availability of deep-sea ports along the South China Sea.

As the war progressed from one of American advisors to massive American forces, in excess of 550,000 in country, the major tactic became a body count. General William C. Westmoreland believed that with superior firepower he could bring the communist forces to their collective knees. Without any front lines, the war became one of attrition and frequently the same ground was fought over. General Westmoreland was vilified in Lewis Sorley's book, "Westmoreland," based primarily on the tactics he chose to employ throughout the war. When President Lyndon Baines Johnson brought General Westmoreland home to become Chief of Staff, he was succeeded by General Creighton

Abrams who shifted from stressing body count to pacification programs, which had always been favored in part by the USMC with their Combined Action Program.

In my opinion, the best writing on the early beginnings of the Viet visit us at [www.milmag.com](http://www.milmag.com) Nam War is "Triumph Forsaken -The Viet Nam War, 1954-1965" by Mark Moyar, followed by "Dereliction of Duty- Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam" by H.R. McMaster. As has been written, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." History is a great teacher for the future. However, it often is unknown and not really understood. The Viet Nam War was never fought with the objective to win; rather a quasi reasoning appeared that we could negotiate a peaceful settlement with an enemy we never truly understood nor realized the lengths they would go to for the reunification of the country. A clear-cut failure to see the history of Viet Nam was never comprehended by the U.S. government.

As American ground combat operations continued from 1965-72, the political decision was made under the Nixon Administration to desperately seek "peace with honor." President Nixon assured the South Vietnamese in January 1973 that, in the event the North Vietnamese broke the Paris peace agreement, American air power would return, but Watergate came crashing down on President Nixon. As a result, Congress, employing the War Powers Resolution Act of 1973, handcuffed President Gerald Ford from making good on Nixon's promise to South Viet Nam. This action by Congress, plus its subsequent failure to fund South Viet Nam efforts to defend itself against North Viet Nam aggression and invasion, caused the country to fall on 30 April 1975.

Very little has been written condemning the efforts of the South Vietnamese from 1973-75; however, George Veith in the pages of "Black



April - The Fall of South Vietnam, 1973-75," has provided the ultimate defense of American combat operations in the former Republic of South Viet Nam. Upon the conclusion of the book, the reader is provided sufficient evidence to understand that the fall of the former Republic of South Viet Nam is on the shoulders of the U.S. Congress based on its 1974 failure to adequately fund the country's self defense. The aid reduction to Viet Nam directly caused the later wholesale slaughter of individuals in Viet Nam and Cambodia. I submit, in the first time in its history, the United States of America abandoned an ally!

As a Viet Nam veteran, never allow, in your presence, anyone to state, "You lost the Viet Nam War." Strongly advise that individual that the war was lost specifically because of the actions of the U.S. Congress and its failure to adequately fund the defense of the former Republic of South Viet Nam. Furthermore, if it's ever stated in your presence that nearly 58,800 Americans died in vain, advise that person, "Liberty has a cost, and every veteran has formally signed a contract whereby he/she is willing to die for principles he/she deeply believes in."

I will go to my grave with the firm belief that I served with the finest group of Americans the country has produced; who performed their duties at the highest of personal levels and will never have anything to be ashamed of. We were the very best of the best.

*Editor's note: Maj. Kehrier served in the USA (1965-71) and the USAR (1980-96) in the Infantry.*

*\*Allan Azary sent me this article and got permission to have it reprinted.*

## Capitol memorial a "welcome home" for Vietnam vets

By Peggy Fikac

"AUSTIN" - The dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Monument at the Texas Capitol on Saturday highlighted the pride and solidarity of those who put their lives on the line in an unpopular conflict.

They fought, they bled, all too often they died for their country. When they came home, there weren't any parades. There weren't any picnics. Instead they were treated with indifference or, even worse, with outright scorn," said Gov. Rick Perry.

Perry said the bronze sculpture of an infantry patrol, unveiled before a throng of

veterans, will "stand as a declaration that in Texas, we understand how blessed we are to have warriors ready to step forward and draw a line between us and those who would do harm to our citizens...."

*\*Copied from the 30 MAR 14 edition of the San Antonio Express-News*



Ernesto Gamez (HHC Recon/Radar) and Jose Garza attended this dedication on March 29, 2014 in Austin Texas. Ernesto sent me the above article and the pictures of himself and Jose.

In both pictures above Ernesto is in the dark blue shirt. Jose has on a light blue jacket. Also attending but not pictured was Richard Hale.



The state of Texas had 3417 soldiers killed-in-action in the Vietnam War.



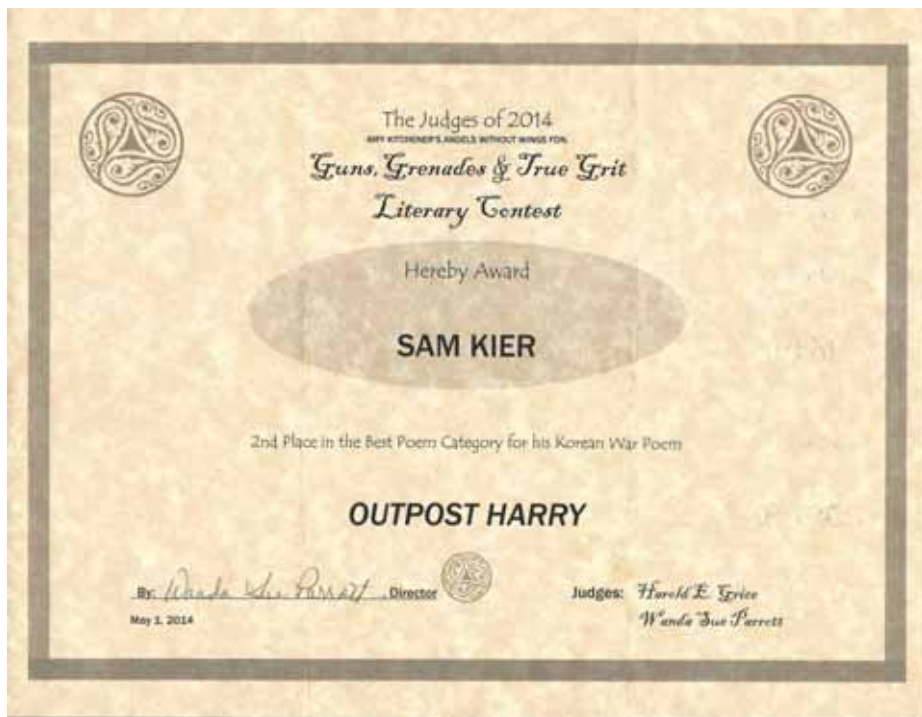


## Historian Sam Kier is an Award Winning Poet

Our Historian Sam Kier who has written books had never tried his hand at writing poetry until recently.

On May 8th Sam wrote, "Several months ago, I entered a veterans' poetry contest and was just informed that my poem, about Company A's defense of Outpost Harry, warranted 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. I received \$7 in prize money. Since I had paid an entry fee of \$5, I made a net profit of two bucks. My advice to all is, don't quit your day job to become a poet."

*Sam*



### OUTPOST HARRY

by Sam Kier

The 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was near Songnae-dong in June of '53.

It was just our luck to get attached to the Fifteenth Infantry.

North of the line stood a tiny hill about 400 meters high.

I glanced at it, as mortar rounds hit, and figured that's where I'll die.

That's OP Harry, said Sergeant Brown,

as wrinkles crossed his brow.  
Our turn will come, I guarantee, B  
Company is up there now.  
That's Star Hill to the right of it, the  
home of a Chinese division.  
They'd like to take the outpost back  
and blow us to perdition.

At 0500, Brown shook me awake. "On  
your feet, lad," said he.  
"Check your weapon, make your peace  
with God, and write your mom and  
dad.

Fill your cartridge belt and two can  
teens.

We're going somewhere bad."

As the sun came up, Platoons 1 and 2  
assembled at the wire.

I felt a tightness in my chest and started  
to perspire.

I peered at the top of big Star Hill, then  
turned away in dread.

Let's get under cover before old Joe  
Chink drops a mortar round on my  
head.

We walked four hundred yards to the  
toe of the slope and entered an up-  
ward trench.

When we got to the top, we suddenly  
stopped and were met by a terrible  
stench.

Midst the caved-in bunkers and broken

timbers lay dozens of dead  
Chinese.

Brown pitched a body over the side  
and said, "Let's get rid of these."

Each rifle squad was assigned a dam-  
aged bunker to restore.

We had nothing but entrenching tools  
to shovel the dirt and gore.

We salvaged the usable timbers and  
filled some bags with soil.

It was approaching 1500 when we  
rested from our toil.

While we took our break, some more  
G.I.'s came puffing up the hill,

With machine guns and recoilless rifles  
to make us stronger still.

Some engineers laid napalm mines out  
beyond the wire.

They did their job courageously in spite  
of sniper fire.

Third Platoon came to the rear of the  
hill and entered the medical bun-  
ker.

Until we needed them on top, that is  
where they'd hunker.

The skipper came by to check our shel-  
ter, so I got off my butt.

He said "When I yell VT, that door's to  
be sand-bagged shut."

The Chinese got things rolling at 2145.  
Their artillery and mortar rounds were  
the first things to arrive.

Then through the smoke and dust, we  
saw their infantry;

One group to the front and one on our  
flank. We were in deep kim chee.

Their whistles blew and their burp guns  
burped as they scrambled up the  
slope.

As our M-1's barked and our machine  
guns chattered, I nearly gave up  
hope.

"Button up," came the call and we dove  
for cover, "VT is on its way."

A rain of shrapnel came plummeting  
down and ruined the enemy's day.

Then 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, as the skipper order-  
ed, came charging up to the crest.

They swept forward, firing from the  
hip, and managed to kill the rest.

The trenches were impassable, so filled  
with dead Chinese.

We threw the bodies over the side so  
we could move with ease.



Lawburg, 1LT Jakubiec, and Sergeant Hernandez. The 2/5 Battalion Commander LTC Edward Brady's wife eulogized for her husband who was on deployment. Filling the sanctuary were U.S. Marines, the 75th Ranger Regimental Commander, his unit's Honor Guard and rifle squad. Also attending was MG Robert P. Ashley, Jr., Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Fort Huachuca in southern Arizona, and CSM Frank Grippe, the CENTCOM senior enlisted leader who arrived from Tampa, Florida.

Following the church service the funeral cortege was lead by dozens of veteran motorcyclists and uniformed Tucson Police motor officers who escorted the hearse and four stretch limousines which were followed by a two-mile procession of headlights and blinkers for some twelve miles to the cemetery.

Upon my initial morning arrival at the church parking lot I could barely get through the mass of cars and motorcycles and riders who were posting-up the colors in a disciplined and solemn manner.

Biker friends of CSM Barreras, who was also a motorcycle enthusiast, showed him love, devotion and admiration and brought color and sound to the memorable ceremony.

I located a female Command Sergeant Major who promptly led me to 2/5 Battalion Commander LTC Brady's wife whom I had not met. Inside the church sanctuary were flower arrangements, family members, guests and abundant military personnel clad in proper formal dress uniforms. Not far from my seat was CSM Barreras's flag draped casket. Unable to attend, LTC Brady, who is currently deployed asked his wife Mrs. Brady to deliver his final words to his friend and his Battalion's Command Sergeant Major.

Mrs. Brady, her hands trembling as she stood erect at the altar, spoke in a clear, strong and steady voice while she delivered her husband's words which included his final radio sign-off to his trusted enlisted leader CSM (Marty) Barreras. His final radio call and sign-off to his "7" filled our hearts with sadness and tremendous pride.

At the conclusion of the church

(See CSM 2on page 23)

The People's Army made two more tries between then and 0200. Throughout the night their howitzers and heavy mortars thundered. Shortly before the morning light, they seemed to have had their fill. The few surviving Chinese troops limped back to old Star Hill.

I was one of the lucky few, just a mess of cuts and scratches. I helped carry my wounded brothers down the hill in stretchers. Seventeen of my buds were killed that night, defending OP Harry. I pray that they're in the loving care of Holy Mother Mary.

One hundred twenty five of us whipped hundreds of Chinese. I understand that 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion received a DUC. The skipper was given a Silver Star; a puny offering. His extraordinary leadership must not have meant a thing.

Sixty years have come and gone since the siege of OP Harry.

Vivid scenes of violence elicit dreams so scary  
That I'm afraid to go to sleep at night even with a pill.  
I don't want to visit hell again, out there on that hill.

(CSM from page 2)

which was captured on video and posted to YouTube.



Flyover by 3 Apache helicopter gunships

In attendance from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment was MAJ Griffin, CPT Sheridan, CPT Davis, CPT Webster, CPT Stenburg, CPT



(NY from page 1)

time period 200 years ago that the battle of Lundy's Lane took place.

## Niagara Falls, New York July 22nd - 27th 2014

Hotel: **Days Inn at the Falls**  
433 Main Street



Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Rates \*\* :

TUE 22 JUL - THU 24 JUL  
2 Queens \$95

FRI JUL 25 - SAT JUL 26  
2 Queens \$135

*Average price for 5 nights \$111 plus  
Taxes*

(Free Parking)

Room Reservations must be made by  
June 22, 2014

*\$95 rate applies 2 days before and 3  
days after the reunion dates.*

For reservations, call the hotel direct  
number: (716)-284-8801 and identify  
yourself as "5th Infantry Regiment  
Association" or "Bobcats"

### Schedule

Hospitality Room: July 22-27 (no fee)  
You can bring in snacks, non and alcoholic beverages.

#### **Tuesday July 22**

4 pm Board Meeting

#### **Wednesday July 23**

**Explore the Niagara Wine Trail**

10 am - 5 pm \$70 per person

This tour will begin with a tasting  
at Vizcarra Vineyards featuring red,  
white and fruit wines grown, produced,

and bottled at Becker Farms. The facility also features the Becker Brewing Company and a farm market.

Following the tasting you will enjoy a barbecue lunch featuring seasonal green salad, petit red potatoes with fresh parsley from the garden, Becker Farms BBQ Chicken, macaroni salad, soft drinks, and cookies.

Then it's off to Schulze Vineyards and winery to taste their award-winning whites and sparkling wines. The next stop will be Eveningside Vineyards followed by another tasting at Freedom Run. All wineries visited are locally owned and operated and offer unique shopping opportunities at their respective gift shops.

This tour includes deluxe coach transportation, tastings at four wineries, lunch including meal gratuity and taxes, and services of a driver and a step-on guide.

#### **Thursday July 24**

**Lockport Locks / Erie Canal Cruise w/  
Old Fort Niagara**

9 am - 4 pm \$85 per person

Take a leisurely and informative two hour cruise on the Erie Canal while traversing the only set of double locks on the canal. Next you will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch at Erie Canal side overlooking the canal. Following lunch you will journey along the shore of Lake Erie on the way to Old Fort Niagara where 300 years of history will unfold before you. Built in the 1700's, the fort has been under French, British, and American control and played a major role in the War of 1812.

This tour includes deluxe coach transportation, two hour canal and locks cruise, buffet lunch including meal gratuity and taxes, admission and tour at Fort Niagara, and services of driver and a step-on guide.

#### **Friday July 25**

**Memorial Service** - The Lundy's Lane, Drummond Hill Cemetery  
3:30 PM - 10:30 PM Charge (depends

on dinner option) - Donations Welcome

### **Passport or Passport Card required & mandatory for border crossings**

To apply for a Passport or Passport Card (a less expensive alternative to a Passport) go to:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt\\_card/ppt\\_card\\_3926.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html)

#### **Schedule of Events:** (tentative)

4:30 - 5 pm Start of Memorial Service  
(depending on time it takes to cross the border)

6:00 pm (Subway dinner- See page 21)

7:30 pm Lundy's Lane Ceremony 200  
year celebration begins

8:45 pm Wreath Laying Ceremony

9:00 pm Board buses for the night  
viewing of Niagara Falls

10 - 10:30 pm Approximate return to  
hotel

#### **Saturday July 26**

9:00 am: **Ladies Breakfast** in Banquet  
Room \$14.50 per person

9:00 am: **General membership meeting**  
in the Hospitality Room

10:30 am: Fraggings in Hospitality  
Room (following the meeting)

6:00 pm: **Cocktails Hour** (cash bar)

7:00 pm: **Dinner Banquet**

1. New York Strip Steak \$35
2. Chicken Marsala \$30 or
3. Broiled Salmon \$30.

*All entrees include Salad, Rolls, Butter,  
Potato, Vegetable, and Desert.*

Cash Bar and Auction to follow Banquet.

#### **Discovery Pass \$33**

This can be used in any of your open time. It includes the following attractions Maid of the Mist, Cave of the Winds, Niagara Adventure Theater, Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara Gorge Discovery Center, as well as a day of unlimited rides on the trolley that will take you through the park to include Goat Island, Luna Island, Terapin Point and Three Sister's Island.

**Important Reunion Information in pink (gray on paper copy) on Page 22**



*Registration Form*

# Bobcat Niagara Falls Reunion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Date arriving \_\_\_\_\_

	Number	Cost
<b>Registration fee</b> - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
<b>WED 23 July</b> - Niagara Wine Tour - \$70 Per person		
<b>THU 24 July</b> - Erie Canal Cruise & Old FT Niagara Tour - \$85 Per person		
<b>FRI 25 July</b> - Memorial Service Subway Dinner - \$7.50 (From Form on Right)		
<b>SAT 26 July</b> - Ladies Breakfast - \$14.50		
<b>SAT 26 July</b> - Bobcat Banquet		
1. Broiled Salmon - \$30		
2. Chicken Marsala - \$30		
3. 10oz New York Strip - \$35		
Discovery Pass Adults - \$33		
Discovery Pass Children Ages 6 to 12 - \$26 (Under 5 free)		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
I/we plan to attend Friday's Memorial Service (Passport Required)	#	No Cost

*Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to:*

**Carolyn Kethcart**  
**16054 Pine Drive**  
**Tinley Park IL 60477**

## Hotel Rooms Almost Gone

*18 DEC 13*

"Great news regarding the Niagara Falls reunion. We have 126 people registered ..... The bad news is this hotel is filling up fast and we do not have a back up hotel for over flow. We have 19 people registered with the association that have not reserved a room. I highly suggest you do not procrastinate. If you are attending or think you may attend call the hotel and reserve now. We pro-

ject with the early registration that we will top the 150 mark for this reunion. Many of the regular attendees still are not reserved. The cost to stay at another hotel will be very pricey and inconvenient. I repeat this is the peak Niagara Falls season. Please do NOT delay in reserving or you may find rooms sold out, as there are only 20 rooms left of our promised block for Friday and Saturday night left. Call (716)-284-8801 today"

**Randy Kethcart**

## Memorial Service "Subway" Dinner Selection

*Make a choice below and add the cost to "Registration Form" on the left.*

**FRI 27 JUL** - Memorial Service "Subway" Dinner - \$7.50 each - Circle below your choice of Sub, Chips, Cookie and Drink (**Circle your choice in each category below**)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sub:** Roast Beef - Turkey - Ham

**Bread:** Italian - 9 Grain Wheat

**Chips:** Baked Lays Crisps- Doritos Nacho's Cheese - Potato Chips

**Drink:** Coke - Diet Coke - Sprite - Dasani Water

**Cookie:** Chocolate Chip - M&M - White Chocolate Macadamia Nut

### 2nd Person's choice

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sub:** Roast Beef - Turkey - Ham

**Bread:** Italian - 9 Grain Wheat

**Chips:** Baked Lays Crisps - Doritos Nacho's Cheese - Potato Chips

**Drink:** Coke - Diet Coke - Sprite - Dasani Water

**Cookie:** Chocolate Chip - M&M - White Chocolate Macadamia Nut

## 2014 Memorial Service

Our Memorial Service at the Niagara Falls Reunion will be held at Lundy's Lane pictured below.



## Important Notice for Anyone Attending the NF Reunion

*You need to:*

**Auction** - Bring something of value for the auction. We are able to keep the costs/registration fee low because of the money we make from the auction. What you bring could be something related to the 5th Infantry, Army or non-military. But it should be something that you think someone else would be willing to bid/pay for. Help us - bring something!

**Fragging** - Andy Gimma does not know it but he is being fragged. His newsletter will say that it is Tom Frame.

Help make it a fun event by bringing a small/inexpensive gag type gift. It does not need to be wrapped. If you want just put it in a paper bag.

His interests are photography. A suggested type of gift related to this interests might be appropriate.

## 2014 Reunion - Niagara Fall

"Just an FYI to all the Bobcats and their spouses or significant others who plan to attend the reunion next July in Niagara Falls, NY.... We will be having our Memorial Service at Lundy's Lane on the Canadian side and you will need a passport to attend the service. If you don't have one, apply and get it taken care of. If you have an expired one, get it renewed. If you have one, check the expiration date and make sure it will be good through the end of July, 2014.

This message was brought to you by someone who wants everyone to be there next year and be able to go to Canada with the group to attend this eventful Memorial Service."

**Carolyn Visage - Kethcart**  
Reunion Coordinator



## A Bobcat Remembers Being saved by the American Military

This E-mail was sent to Sam Kier by a Bobcat who served with the 5th Infantry Regiment in the Korean War. Sam writes, "*A note and illustration from Simon (Frenchy) Jeruchim, HHC, 3rd Bn, 5th RCT, 1951-53.*"

Dear friends,

"Wow, 70 years ago!

At that time I had a front seat of the Liberation of France.

I was hidden in the village of Savigny-le-Vieux in Normandy, only 40 miles from "Omaha" beach, where the first wave of the American forces had landed on June 6, 1944. But it would take an additional two months until our village was liberated.

But in the meantime, while the combat was raging, we could hear artillery fire in the distance as American aircraft were bombing towns, railways and bridges in order to cut off access from German troops. Several weeks later, after the landing had taken place, a nearby village suffered almost total destruction when American aircraft had bombed a bridge. I recreated this event in a watercolor.

I thought that you would appreciate seeing this memento about a cruel war in which countless young American soldiers gave their lives in order to liberate us from the Nazis. Without the sacrifice of those brave men, it is doubtful that I could have survived World War II, as the Nazis assisted by the French police had intensified their search, in order to arrest Jewish children, like myself, who were hidden with Christian families."



**Simon Jeruchim**

(2-5 from page 15)

## Blacksheep Augmenting the Special Forces

"Blacksheep has settled quite nicely into this deployment augmenting the 7th Special Forces Group. Currently our whole company is spread across RC-S at various locations supporting the SF mission. This deployment poses a unique opportunity where we are able to learn from operators about their special skill set, and be able to bring our light Infantry tactics to their mission planning. All members of this compa-

ny are happy with the amount of positive influence they have in their respective AO and are impressed with the progress from their partnered Afghan force."

Life is the acceptance of responsibilities, or their evasion. It is the business of meeting obligations or avoiding them. To every man the choice is continually being offered, and by the manner of his choosing you may fairly measure him.

**-Ben Ames Williams**



## LTC Brady's Remarks from Afghanistan

*Read at the funeral by his wife Patricia*

"Good Afternoon. I would like read the remarks of my husband LTC Ed Brady, from Marty's Memorial service held last week in Shindand, Afghanistan.

Today, we remember the standard bearer of 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment and my friend, Command Sergeant Major Martin "Gunny" Barreras.

Instead of talking today about how Command Sergeant Major Barreras died, I am going to focus my brief remarks on how he lived, which if I had to sum up in one word.....it would be he lived "selflessly". Unfortunately I lack the command of the English language to render proper honors so I will use Gunny's own words. A cousin in the Marine Corps asked him how he kept up his fire and motivation after all these years. Gunny responded in an email with, and I quote, "I think the ONLY reason I've been able to do it is because of the units I've been in & the Soldiers underneath me. I NEVER make it about me; it's ALWAYS about what I can do for my Soldiers; what do I have to offer them to keep them alive & lethal in combat. I approach being an NCO as the ability to use my rank to DO MORE for my Soldiers; have an ability to make life better for THEM, not myself. There are definitely times I feel like I can't do this anymore, but I always ask myself "who will take care of my guys"; "will the next guy give a crap about them"; have I taught my Soldiers EVERYTHING I can about shooting, moving, & communicating. I think that if you approach your job as SERVING your subordinates, you will always be able to find the 'little extra' to be able to drive on & 'be there' for you Soldiers/Marines. "UNBELIEVABLE! These weren't just words, this was exactly how Gunny lived.....every minute of every day. I've never met a man who gave more for his Soldiers.....for them Gunny was even willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. If we ever wanted to know what right looks like, all we had to do was look at Command Sergeant Major "Gunny" Barreras as

our example. How lucky we were to know and serve alongside such a great warrior, leader, and man. He lived the Ranger Creed and the 5th Infantry motto every day while leading his Soldiers from the front.

The way that Bobcat 7 would want us to honor him is to take everything he taught us about living, leading, and loving, and pass it on to the next generation who will never know Gunny. That is what he expected out of each and every one of us that he touched along his storied career. He would have been so proud to have seen how the battalion reacted on the battlefield the day he was wounded....leaders and soldiers stepped up without missing a beat.

Before closing, I'd like to say a few words to my ranger buddy. Gunny, I'm going to miss you and I promise to look after our Bobcats as best as I know how. No one will ever know the full magnitude of what you have done for this battalion, how many lives you have saved, and how we are so much better because of you....you truly are 2-5 Infantry. Vaya Con Dios Mi Amigo....save a spot for me in the perimeter for our next link-up.

It ends with the 5th Infantry motto, 'I'll Try Sir!'

---

*(CSM 2 from page 19)*

service the 75th Ranger Regiment's Cadre moved the flag draped casket from the church sanctuary and carefully loaded it into the hearse and squared away the flag before closing the door. The funeral procession formed-up and moved out with the sound of motorcycle sirens cutting the air. Tucson's officers leading the way stopped traffic at intersections along the route to the cemetery to allow the cortege to continue moving.

The heart rending interment was followed by luncheon held at the family's community church where our military and police uniformed personnel were honored by forming the chow line and were honored by front row seating as they enjoyed Arizona's finest Mexican food and fresh salsa.

During the luncheon CSM Frank Grippe was kind enough to visit with me....and with soldiers on either side he

shared a short briefing of his role, the CENTCOM's AO and he talked about the pride he has in the readiness of our U.S. Army troops. He assured me Americans can be extremely proud of today's modern soldiers who are prepared for duty and committed to their mission. He said he was able to visit with CSM Barreras during his stay at Bagram Air Field hospital before he was moved to Germany. Grippe was the kind of person you could sit with for hours and have a great conversation. As was CSM Barreras...CSM Grippe is a great leader of our Army war fighters."

**Gary Fenton**

Veteran, U.S. Army, RVN, 1968-69  
Sergeant - 1/5th, 25th ID  
11B40/BN Command Group RTO  
CIB, Bronze Star "V," Purple Heart  
Glendale, AZ

---

## Bobcat in Prison

Bob Wood received a letter from a person who corresponds with a friend who is in prison. This person in prison has a friend who also is in State prison. That person is Ronald E. Pass who was in Recon 1-5 Mech during the same period. Both are now confined in the State of Michigan's Department of Corrections.

If you know Ronald Pass you might want to correspond with him. Basically the story is that Pass was in the Bobcats, is now in confinement. He was born in 1950 and was confined in the early 1990's for solicitation to commit murder or great bodily harm according to the state prison database.

His address is:

Ronald E. Pass, #236840  
Cooper Street Correctional Facility  
3100 Cooper Street  
Jackson, MI 49201

Excellence doesn't happen by accident. It takes preparation, teamwork, consistency and dedication.

**-Christopher Lewis**

## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier



### COL Jerry Sage

Many of you will remember seeing Steve McQueen in the 1963 film *The Great Escape*. McQueen's role was based largely on the exploits of Major Jerry Sage, who earned the name "Cooler King" after landing in solitary confinement, 15 times, while a prisoner in Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany. A less known fact is that, a few years later, LTC Jerry Sage commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in Korea.

Jerry Michael Sage was born in British Columbia in 1917, but grew up in Eastern Washington. A scholar athlete, he attended Washington State College, where he played football, earned a Phi Beta Kappa key, and graduated with an infantry commission in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Sage spent the next three-and-a-half years as a sales rep for Proctor & Gamble. In the fall of 1941, he went to the nearest recruiting station and requested active duty. He was sent to the Presidio of San Francisco, where it was noticed that he had sold shortening for Proctor and Gamble so he was given command of a field bakery platoon. Things were looking bleak for the eager young warrior.

A month later, Jerry was summoned to Washington DC. His scholastic and athletic abilities had not gone

unnoticed and he had been plucked by COL "Wild Bill" Donovan to become a charter member of the OSS.

After intensive training in various parts of the world, Sage was dispatched to Algeria in December, 1942. He took command of an international group of spooks with a cover name of Experimental Detachment, G-3, AFHQ.

On one of his first missions behind German lines, Sage was wounded and captured by the Germans. Despite his jump boots, he was able to convince his captors that he was an Air Force major rather than a spy. After several stops in Italy, he arrived in Frankfurt in March, 1943. The Germans finally got tired of their fruitless interrogation of Sage and sent him to Stalag Luft III, a camp for aviators, about 90 miles southeast of Berlin.

Prior to his arrival at the prison camp, the British inmates had developed a plan to dig escape tunnels. Major Sage was put in charge of disposing of the yellow sandy soil that came out of the tunnel shafts. His workers wore sandbags inside their trousers. When they reached an area where it was safe to make a dump, they would remove a nail from the bag and scatter its contents. The men in the dispersal crew were called penguins because of the way they walked when they were carrying sand.

Jerry Sage attempted to escape on a number of occasions but was always recaptured and placed in solitary confinement. Finally, in January, 1945, he walked away from a column of prisoners, crossed into Poland and flagged down a Russian tank and began his trip home.

When the OSS was terminated in September 1945, LTC Sage was transferred to Headquarters, European Command in Frankfurt for three years. That assignment was followed by three years as a social science instructor at the U.S. Military Academy.

In summer 1952, Sage went to Ft. Benning for an advanced infantry refresher. In September, he joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team in Korea, serving first as Regimental XO and then as commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. At that point in the war, the battalion was deployed on the northern lip of the Punch Bowl in eastern Korea and had

been up on the line for more than a hundred days without relief. Sage's 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry assignment ended in September 1953, while the combat team was involved in a training program at Chipo-ri.

In January 1968, during the Tet counterattack, Jerry's oldest son, CPT Terrence F. Sage, USMA 1963, was killed in action near Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base. Terry Sage received the Silver Star.

Jerry Sage remained in the U.S. Army for nineteen more years serving in many more command, staff, and teaching assignments. He retired in 1972, still packed with energy, moved to Columbia, South Carolina and became a social studies teacher at Spring Valley High School. Jerry loved high school teaching and, in 1979, was named Teacher of the Year for South Carolina. He served as a teacher until he retired again in 1980 and moved to Enterprise, Alabama.

COL Sage passed away on March 29, 1993. His widow, Mary Jon, died in 2010. They are survived by a son, four daughters and their grand-children.

Jerry Sage ended his 1985 autobiography, *Sage*, with the following: *I'm a very happy man and a very grateful one. I plan to spend the rest of my days thanking God for His care and help and my country for the rich opportunities I've been given. Helping my fellow man in this great country seems to be the best possible way of showing my gratitude.*

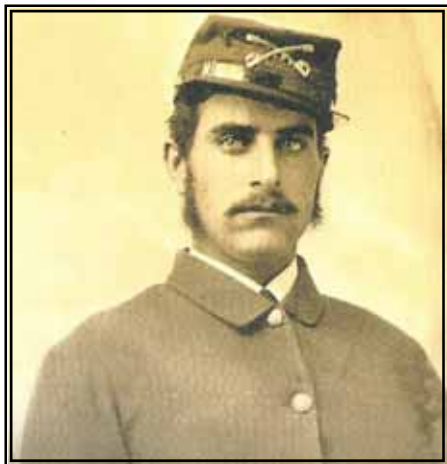
### A Special Thanks!!

I want to especially thank **Randy Kethcart, Denis McDonough and Sam Kier** for being major contributors to the newsletter. So much of what I put into the newsletter comes to me by these three members. Thanks!!



## Wearing the Correct Hat

"Dr. Kier, I was hoping you could answer a question on the 1889 campaign hat as worn by the 5th. As I told you I try to present the 5th as historical-



ly correct as possible but I can not determine if they wore the brass devices and/or cord on that hat. I have found evidence from others regiments that some wore the devices on the front, side or not at all. Some wore the cord and some didn't. All the history books



I've been able to find states that "uniform regulation were silent on this".

I'm retired military and belong to a living history group in Montana where I represent an infantryman from the 5th under Gen. Miles

Hopefully you have seen some evidence in your research.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

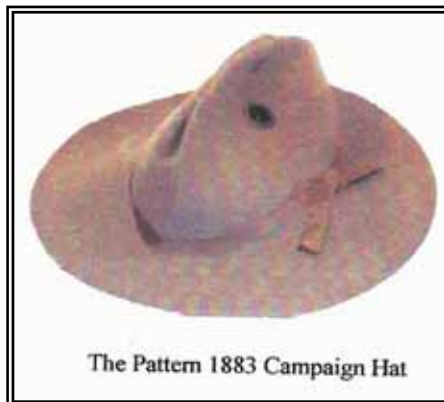
**SSG (retired) Bob Leaf**

Hi Bob,

"The only picture of men of the 5th Infantry that I have from the 1880's



is the one of Company H and they are dressed in their winter great coats and fur hats so it's no help. According to David Cole's Survey of US Army Uniforms, Weapons and Accoutrements, the Army had become much stricter in its uniform requirements by the Apache



campaign of the 1880's so you would have seen fewer uniform deviations. The regulations frowned on wearing any insignia on the campaign hat. They



were bare as you can see in my attachment showing the three gents in their campaign hats and the close-ups of the

1883 and 1889 hats. You'll notice that the 1889 hat did away with the larger ringed vents of the 1883 hat replacing them with a snowflake pattern of small holes. Brass branch and unit insignia were worn on only the kepi or forage cap when the blue sack coat and the rest of the service uniform was worn. Braid (cord) was worn on the dress uniform and dress helmet only. So if you fellows are wearing the fatigue uniform or the service uniform with the campaign hat, you'll have to remove any brass insignia from the hats and rely on your guide-on to identify your company and regiment, if you want to be authentic."

**Sam**

### Sam's Visit to Montana

*Bob bought Sam's history of the 5th and Sam is replying about his visit to Montana*

"Two years ago, my wife and I took a wonderful (for me) vacation and traveled in southeastern Montana visiting 5th Infantry battle sites and that great museum (Range Riders?) across the river from Miles City.

That's great country! I hope you enjoy my book...."

**Sam**

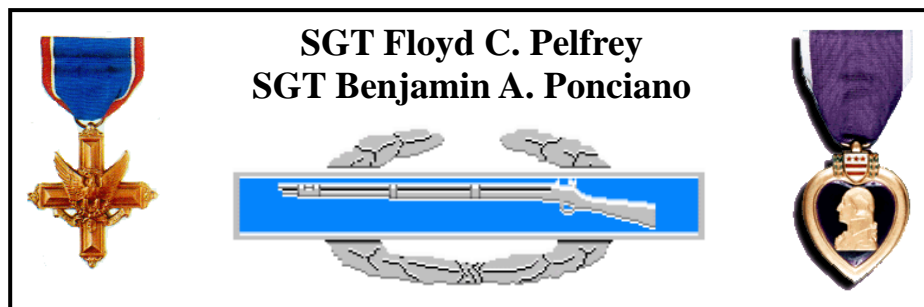


*Below are articles/information taken from the "Tropic Lightning News"*

23 JUN 69

### BRONZE STAR FOR HEROISM

CPT Bud R. Brown, Co A,  
1LT James T. Carter, Co  
BSSG Joseph C. Urkshus, Co C  
SSG Bobby Q. Brock, Co A  
SSG William L. Merrifield, HHCSSG  
Richard L. Hautekeete, HHC  
SP4 William Lamonica, HHC  
SP4 David G. Canant, Co A  
SP4 Bobby W. Thomas, Co A  
[SP4 Wayne A. Lounsberry, Co B \(Died See "Taps" on page 4\)](#)  
SP4 Michael Reznick, Co B  
SP4 Doye A. Kersey, Co A  
PFC Paul T. Weiss, Co B  
PFC Pedro Olivo, Co B



## ***Honoring Two of Our Bobcat Heroes!***

### **Distinguished Service Cross**

**Awarded to**

### **PELFREY, FLOYD C.**

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Floyd C. Pelfrey, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Regimental combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant Pelfrey distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Pagdangdong-ni, Korea, on 13 October 1951. On that date, Company B was engaged in an attack against well-fortified enemy positions. As the battle raged, intense enemy fire accounted for several casualties among the friendly troops including the platoon leader of the 2d platoon. Immediately taking charge of the platoon, Sergeant Pelfrey led the men forward until a heavy volume of automatic-weapons fire from a hostile emplacement halted the advance. At this point, with utter disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Pelfrey single-handedly charged the enemy position and destroyed it with hand grenades. Shouting words of encouragement, he led his men forward. Twice more, the platoon was stopped short of their objective by deadly accurate fire from enemy emplacements and both times Sergeant Pelfrey assaulted them in such an aggressive manner that they were successfully neutralized. Sergeant Pelfrey charged forward and his men, inspired by his fearless action, overran the enemy position and inflicted numerous casualties among the hostile troops.

*Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 954 (December 1, 1951)*

**And**

### **PONCIANO, BENJAMIN A.**

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Benjamin A. Ponciano, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant Ponciano distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Waegwan, Korea, on 16 September 1950. Sergeant Ponciano, with a companion, was assisting his platoon in attacking the center of a ridge from which came a preponderance of enemy fire, a strongpoint that was successfully holding up the advance of the entire battalion. Being on the left flank of his platoon, he observed prepared enemy positions that posed a serious threat to the left rear of his advancing platoon. Unable to attract the attention of the endangered personnel, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he attempted to eliminate the nearest enemy machine-gun position. Together with his companion, he was able to destroy the enemy machine-gun, but in so doing was

mortally wounded and sacrificed his own life in order to protect his comrades.

*Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 19, (January 12, 1951) Home Town: Kahuku, Hawaii*

## **Numbering and Naming of Army Divisions**

503rd Infantry Regiment 1771h Military Police Brigade, 10th Mountain Division - who came up with all of these names?

"There's really no rhyme or reason for the Army's unit numbering system," said Army Historical Foundation historian Matt Seelinger.

Division numbers have the simplest explanation: 1 through 25 are designated for Regular Army; 26 through 50 are National Guard; and 63 through 108 are reserves.

The exceptions to this are the Regular Army 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Similarly, regiments within divisions are organized as: 1-99 for Regular Army; 101-242, National Guard; and a mixture of designations above that range, but there are exceptions to those rules, as well.

"There is no particular reason why the numbers were selected," Seelinger said.

He explains that although the Army has gone through much reorganization in the last century, so many unit numbers hold sentimental value that they've been preserved, despite deactivations, reactivations and integrations, and that's why the numbers seem so random.

*\*From the 12 OCT 12 "Army Times"*

If you will call your troubles experiences and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however adverse your circumstances may seem to be.

***-John R. Miller***



**Notice:** If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 14** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

Membership Application  
**5th Infantry Regiment Association, Inc.**  
 25th Infantry Division Association

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal (Complete only items that need changed)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit (BN/CO/PLT etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ Dates with 5th INF: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

1 Year - \$15 2 Years - \$25 5 Years - \$60 Lifetime -Ages 1-49 = \$200 50-64 = \$150 65+ = \$100 Active Duty - \$5.00 per year

Donations: (Tax Deductible); General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Reunion \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "5th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail this application to:

**5th INF REG ASSN 1201 Orange AVE Dunedin FL 34698**

(You can join or renew online and pay using a credit card. Go to [www.bobcat.ws](http://www.bobcat.ws) and follow the directions.)

Membership Application  
**25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served With \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the 25th Div. \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_

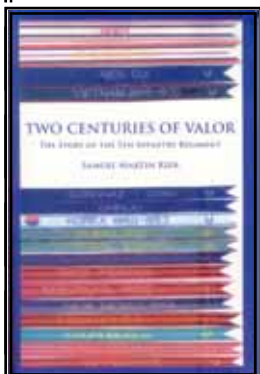
\*Attach copies of your DD-214 or other documentation of service.

DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual = \$30.00 Lifetime - Your age: \_\_\_\_\_ Less than 30 = \$415 \_\_\_\_\_ 31-40 = \$385 \_\_\_\_\_ 41-50 = \$305  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 51-60 = \$220 \_\_\_\_\_ 61-70 = \$145 \_\_\_\_\_ 71+ \$90

Please make all checks payable to: '25th Infantry Division Association' and send to:

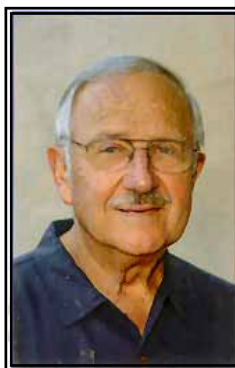
**25th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown PA 19031-0007**

## History of The 5th Infantry Regiment



For the first time we have an up to date comprehensive history book of the 5th Infantry Regiment. This book "Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment" traces the history of the 5th Regiment from it's beginning up to the present day.

You can purchase this book by either completing the order form below or going to our website at: [http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter\\_master.shtml](http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml) where you can pay for the book using your credit card.



Randy Kethcart has made a QR-Barcode for scanning with a cell phone or mobile device that will take you to our Face-book page where you can join our Association or renew you membership.



**Set aside the dates now for the 2014 reunion in Niagara Falls NY.**

**Tuesday 22 July through Sunday 27 July 2014**

# Order Form

All items are available on our website where you can pay by credit card. Go to: [http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter\\_master.shtml](http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Put the number of each item you want in the line to its left.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| _____ #1 = Hats - \$12.75                                   | _____ #8A = License Plate at "US Army" - \$10.50   |
| _____ #2 = 3 inch Patch (Like on hat) - \$4.00              | _____ #8B = License Plate "5th Infantry" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #3 = 5th Patch (4") with Tab - \$7.50                 | _____ #14 = 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50            |
| _____ #4 = 4 inch Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50 | _____ #15 = 5th Key Chain - \$15.50                |
| _____ #5 = Window Decals - \$4.00                           | _____ #16A = MIA Bracelet (Black Small) - \$4      |
| _____ #6 = Pins - \$5.50                                    | _____ #16B = MIA Bracelet (Silver Medium) - \$4    |
| _____ #7 = Challenge Coin - \$10.50                         | _____ #17 = 25th Decal with "Bobcat" above - \$4   |

**#9 = Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt** (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) - Item #437M

- \_\_\_\_\_ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00

**Color:** (Circle Color) White Grey Black Forest Green Navy Blue

**Size:** Small (Without pocket only) Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

**#10 = Tri-Mountain 5400 High Peak Winter Jacket** Windproof/Water-resistant with Hood concealed in collar (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 5400]

- \_\_\_\_\_ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$55.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$55.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$61.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$61.00

**Color:** (Circle Color) [1st color Outer Shell & 2nd color is lining/collar] khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki

**Size:** Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large [4X, 5X & 6X-large & long sizes available in some colors]

**#11 = Light Weight Windbreaker/Summer Jacket** water-repellent with hidden hood (circle size and color) [Item 8953]

- \_\_\_\_\_ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$60.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$60.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00

**Color:** (Circle Color) Black/Black, Navy/Stone, Olive/Khaki or Stone/Navy [1st color is jacket color & 2nd color is liner/collar]

**Size:** Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large (Circle Size)

**#12 = Long Sleeve Denim Shirt** (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 8960]

- \_\_\_\_\_ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$34.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$34.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$40.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$40.00

**Color:** (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

**Size:** Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large (Circle Size)

**#13 = T-shirt with logo as pictured on left breast** (50% cot./50% poly.) - \$19.00 (Put # desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 29, P-131]

**Color:** (Circle Color) White, Oxford, Black, True Navy, Light Blue, Pink, Periblu, North Carolina Blue, California Blue, True Royal Blue, Cornflower Blue, Yellow Haze, Burnt Orange, Cardinal, Deep Purple, Forrest Green, Gold, Island Yellow, Natural, Birch, Jade, Kelly, Khaki Brown, True Red, Safety Green, Maroon, Light Orange, Aqua, Bamboo Green, Classic Brown, Kiwi, Cyber Pink, Dark Graphite, Dark Lavender, Fossil Grey & Olive Green

**Size:** Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

Special instructions for order: \_\_\_\_\_

All Polo shirts, T-shirts, Denim shirts and Jackets are custom ordered and will take up to 3 weeks for delivery

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

Make the check payable to: **5th INF ASSOC**

Mail to: **Jim Caudle / 5th Infantry Chapter**  
**1501 Baychester AVE**  
**Norfolk VA 23503**

For information or questions contact  
Jim at **757-588-0056** or  
E-mail: [jecaudle@cox.net](mailto:jecaudle@cox.net)



# 5th Infantry Chapter Quartermaster

## Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc. (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - \$5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). (License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS") - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt - Item #437M
  - 1). With 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
  - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$38.00
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest and CIB or CMB Badge - \$55 or \$61 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 11). Light Weight Windbreaker/Summer Jacket with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$60 or \$66 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - \$29 with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge or \$40 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below on left breast - \$19
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$15.50
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting  
our Quartermaster Jim Caudle at:

757-588-0056 or

E-mail: [jecaudle@cox.net](mailto:jecaudle@cox.net)



1  
2



3



4



5



6



8



7



9



Khaki/Navy

10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17

# Thanks and Remembering Vietnam

**Bud Holochwost** wrote me a nice letter (Below left) thanking me for my work on the newsletter which was very much appreciated. He also provided some details (Below right) on his year in Vietnam and honored the 13 who were killed-in-action in his platoon by listing them with the date they were KIA.

Bud also sent two stories about experiences he had in Vietnam. One, titled "New AT Mines" I have reprinted on the next (31) page. The second story I will reprint in the next Bobcat Bulletin.

Thank you very much Bud!!

May 16, 2014

Dear Fred,

Once I was responsible for putting together a monthly newsletter for a Boy Scout district and remember how much work and time it took.

Today I am very thankful for continued generous giving of yourself to keep all the Bobcats informed and entertained with the Bobcat Bulletin. I know everyone waits for each issue to come out.

General Anderson once passed along a letter I had sent and you were kind enough to use it.

There are so many things I have forgotten since Vietnam, I wish I had kept a diary. But there are a few memories I will share with you and you can decide if they belong in a future issue.

Best wishes & thanks  
for all the newsletters,

Bud Holochwost

I arrived in Vietnam 15 Nov. 67  
and was assigned to the  
1st Platoon, Co. A

Jon Smudgrose became my  
Platoon leader late 67 after  
our previous LT was wounded.

Between Jan. 3 '68 & Sept. 16 '68  
1st Platoon - lost 13

Jan 3 - Harry Bartholomew  
James Scherer  
Paul Striepe

Jan 5 - Bruce Moran

May 4 - James Antolini  
Samuel Linville  
Claude Protty

Aug 9 Paul Sullivan

Aug 20 John Connell

Sept. 11 - Tom Roberts

Sept. 12 - David Dahlin  
Donald Butler

Sept 16 - Arnold Wimberly

After losing our Platoon Leaders  
Paul Sullivan & John Connell  
in August, Jon Blickenstaff  
became our Platoon Leader for  
the remainder of my tour -  
I left Nov. 9



# New AT mines

It was near the end of November 1967 when the Bobcats left Cu Chi once again. We made our way through Tay Ninh and around Nui Ba Den. Then we turned north and passed by the old French Fort at the bottom of the mountain. From then on we never saw a single hut or any Vietnamese, just a dry dusty dirt road that seemed to lead straight to nowhere, but miles ahead in the forest at the end of the road was Katum.

Katum would be our base camp only after we cleared a place big enough for ourselves and all the support units that joined us. Every morning we were up before dawn, we'd get our breakfast from the mess tent, then we would fill our canteens from the water buffalo and choose some C rations for lunch from a pile of boxes scattered on the ground. As soon as it was light enough we would climb onto our tracks and leave our base to clear the road and secure it for the truck convoys that brought us everything we needed at Katum every day.

It took just a few days to realize the VC wanted to play hide and seek with their AT mine on that road. So the engineers worked their mine detectors along the road and discovered mines every day, but some escaped detection and exploded under our APCs. In fact the road had so many mine craters that the engineers finally dumped piles of dirt alongside the road so we could fill the craters with the shovels on our tracks.

Then the day came when I finally got my first chance to drive our 14 track. We had all been told everyone should know how to drive and they were always on the lookout for the guys who would be the best drivers. I had been checked out and now our regular driver was manning the .50 cal. and giving me pointers, well one pointer: stay in the tracks of the vehicle in front of me. Wander off and we would probably be the next APC to set off a mine!

I was also getting constant directions from my friend Jim Antolini who was walking right beside the APC so he could yell up to tell me just how poorly I was driving. Jim knew he could do better than I was and would show me when he got his chance, but for now he enjoyed shouting about what a terrible driver I was. He was really making me nervous and I was sure I would mess up.

We were approaching one of those piles of dirt left to repair mine craters when Jim called up to me and said, 'The next thing you know, the VC will be putting mines in there too.' When we got to the pile he gave a good hard kick with his jungle boot.

And there it was, a white plastic mine sticking out of that red dirt. I pulled back hard on the laterals to stop. Jim stopped too and we called the engineers back to look. No wonder they had missed some mines. This was something new. Up to now, all the mines we had found had been metallic and painted green or brown. We had no idea how many of these new plastic mines had been used by the VC.

We could never know if any of our vehicles had been destroyed by the new mines, but from then on the engineers used their detectors on a more sensitive setting and took extra time sweeping for mines.

Jim was very happy with himself for discovering the new plastic mine. What made him more happy; he was right, I never got the chance to sit in a driver's seat again.

# C Company 2-5th in Afghanistan



Cobra Company Soldiers conduct a variety of missions ranging from security on fixed sites in Helmand and Herat Province to conducting resupply and retrograde missions, as well as tactical uplift to Special Operations units.

**5th Infantry Chapter** of the 25th Inf. Div. Assoc.  
138 Glenrise Road  
Swanton MD 21561-2317

*Address Service Requested*

**U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oakland MD 21550  
Permit # 4  
Non-Profit Org.**