



# The BOBCAT Bulletin

## 5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Summer 2019

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

Volume II

### 1/5th Returning to Iraq

#### "Army Announces Unit Deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea"

*Week of April 08, 2019*

"U.S. Army brigade combat teams will deploy this summer to Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea to participate in ongoing rotations, according to recent Army announcements. The 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will deploy to Afghanistan to replace 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, a March 29 news release states. **The Army will deploy the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska,** to replace the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, according to another news release."

### Winter Social

After not having the "Florida Winter Social" last year the Social returns.

After you northerners have shivered during the cold winter months of December and January why not head to Florida for a temperature and temperament warm-up.

The Winter Social has been a rather informal gathering of a small group of Bobcats and their spouses.

The Winter Social was started about 20 years ago by former president Ralph Laubecher. Denis McDonough and Teriann Tringali continued the Social.

Teriann put in a lot of effort to make this Social happen so make her efforts worth while by attending.

Details for the Social are on page 9.

### Fire Destroys Cherished Records - A Member Helps Restore Them

Randy and Fred

"Late last year I asked Randy if he might help me resurrect some Bobcat history. I had been the victim of a California fire/flood episode where my garage flooded soaking two foot lockers that had much of what I had saved from my active duty Army years. One was uniforms, the other paperwork...the most important to me was from my time with the Bobcats. I had retained copies of monthly company duty rosters, opera-



Lieutenant Colonel Ted G. Westerman assumed command of the 1st Battalion, (Mechanized) 5th Infantry recently. Westerman, of Chicago, Ill., succeeds Lieutenant Colonel Frederick DeLisle, now serving in Hawaii. Prior to coming to the Division, Westerman

served as G-1 LISARV.

*From the "Tropic Lightning News 2/16/70"*

tions orders, and the citation recommendations for awards of BSM/v and above that included a contemporaneous copy of the DSC recommendation for Ardi Copas that was upgraded in 2017 to the Medal of Honor. There was also a roster of the Bobcats KIA during my time with the battalion. I particular missed that list because on my periodic trips to Washington, I always visit the Wall and like

*(See Ted Continued on page 7)*

*"I'll Try Sir"*

### 2019 Reunion Charleston, SC

**TUE SEPT 3rd - SUN 8th 2019**

"Charleston, the South Carolina port city founded in 1670, is defined by its cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages and pastel antebellum houses, particularly in the elegant French Quarter and Battery districts. The Battery promenade and Waterfront Park both overlook Charleston Harbor, while Fort Sumter, a federal stronghold where the first shots of the Civil War rang out, lies across the water."

If you attend our 2019 reunion in Charleston you will have the opportunity to visit the city voted as "America's Favorite Destination".



While there you will be able to visit Fort Sumter where the first shots of the Civil War were fired. You will also be able to tour the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, USS Laffey (destroyer) and USS Clamagore (submarine), a Vietnam era support base and the US Medal of Honor Museum (USS Yorktown).

One of our tours includes a ride in a horse drawn carriage.

The Memorial Service will be held at the military college "The Citadel".

And of course the best part of the reunion will be your opportunity to meet with your brothers from your Army days.

*(See Charleston on page 25)*

## MEMORIAL DAY

**MEMORIAL DAY** is the only day of the year that has been set aside to acknowledge the **Sacrifices of our Country's Combat Veterans.** (Veterans Day acknowledges All veterans for their Service to our Country.)

### Pre-Noon



### Gone, but Not Forgotten !

The Flag is lowered to Half-Mast in the Morning to Revere and Remember those who perished, those who made the ultimate Sacrifice for the well-being of those to follow, In order that they may live a better life than these had known.

The '3-Volley Salute' of Battlefield Etiquette, playing Taps, and piping 'Flowers of the Forest', will echo throughout the Land to remind us of their Dedication and Sacrifice for our Freedom.

### Post-Noon



### Here, but Won't Forget !

At Noon: We raise the Flag to Full-Mast, to Recognize those who must live on to sorely remember those who were lost, those who we fought with side by side, and formed that ever-lasting 'Bond', that only those who have served in Combat can fully Realize.

To those who had to continue the Battle, and suffer through those future horrid moments, never knowing what lies ahead, and wondering if they will be the next to be 'Remembered'.

**This is the one 'Holiday' of the year that we truly wish that we did not have to 'Celebrate' (Commemorate)—to 'Remember', and 'Memorial-ize', that most unfortunate 'Reality of Realities'—WAR!**

**I wish you all a Great, albeit somber, Day!**

**--Ric**

**(1/5 Recon, '67)**

*\*This was sent to me by Richard Myers.*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Bobcats

2019 has been a remarkable year. Many graduations from high schools and from colleges. And now the year is half-way gone. Time is flying by. 2019 has brought new birth's and have made Old Bobcats new grandparents or great-grandparents.

But sadly we have also lost a few of our brothers and wives of our brothers. I know that it brings much sadness to our hearts and the memories of their joyful laughing and bright smiles will last a lifetime.

September is fast approaching and hopefully for those who will attend our reunion in Charleston have made their reservations and choices for events to attend.

Our active duty unit, 1/5th BN, is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in August of this year. We wish them a safe tour of duty and safe return. They will be in our prayers. I have seen these fine young Soldiers in person and I can say with Pride that they are the Best America Has. Seeing their young faces brings back memories of our time.

God Bless them and Protect them.

**George Chavez**  
President.

### VA New Eligibility Criteria For Community Care

"VA recently proposed new rules for Veteran community care that include six new eligibility criteria for Veterans under the VA MISSION Act, which was signed into law by President Trump in June 2018.

The eligibility criteria are projected to go into effect in June 2019 after final

regulations are published

### Eligibility Criteria

1. Veteran Needs a Service Not Available at a VA Medical Facility. In this situation, a Veteran needs a specific type of care or service that VA does not provide in-house at any of its medical facilities.

2. Veteran Lives in a U.S. State or Territory Without a Full-Service VA Medical Facility. Specifically, this would apply to Veterans living in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

3. Veteran Qualifies under the "Grandfather" Provision Related to Distance Eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program. For this element, there are a few different ways that a Veteran could be eligible for community care. Initially, the following two requirements must be met in every case:

A. Veteran was eligible under the 40-mile criterion under the Veterans Choice Program on the day before the VA MISSION Act was enacted into law (June 6, 2018), and

B. Veteran continues to reside in a location that would qualify them under that criterion.

4. VA Cannot Furnish Care within Certain Designated Access Standards. To be eligible under this criterion, Veterans must meet specific access standards for average drive time or appointment wait-times.

5. It Is in the Veteran's Best Medical Interest. In this situation, a Veteran may be referred to a community provider when the Veteran and the referring clinician agree that it is in their best medical interest to see a community provider.

6. A VA Medical Service Line Does Not Meet Certain Quality Standards. In this scenario, if VA has identified a medical service line is not meeting VA's standards for quality based on specific conditions, Veterans can elect to receive care from a community provider with certain limitations.

As part of implementing the VA MISSION Act of 2018, VA will offer an urgent care benefit that provides eligible Veterans with greater choice and access to timely, high-quality care.

With urgent care, Veterans have a new option for care for the treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, such as colds, sore throats, and minor skin infections.

## 5th Infantry Association

President - *George Chavez*  
Vice President - *Nicky Fasselin*  
Treasurer & Quartermaster- *Chester Johnson*  
Secretary & Membership - *Paul Robinson*  
Historian - *Sam Kier*  
Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*  
Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*  
Past Presidents - *Bart Stanzione and Tom Frame*

Bobcat Board of Directors consists of the above and the following 5 elected directors:

*Dan Curran, Robert Kiehm, Jeff McGrath, Gary Robertson, John Snodgrass*

Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

### Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.

2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 19** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 19. Please renew now!

### Reunions

Charleston SC ..... 3-8 SEP 2019  
FL Social ST Petersburg ..... 7-9 FEB 2020  
Colorado Springs CO..... 2020

## HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

### Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

*Andy Anderson (MG-R)*

### Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

*George Chavez (MSG-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), Bart Stanzione, 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, Jim Caudle 14, Sam Kier 15, Ed Kawczynski 16, Carolyn & Randy Kethcart 17, Gary Robinson 18*

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

# ROSTER

## Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

*(Please let us know when any of your information like phone #, address or E-mail address changes or is incorrect. Contact Paul Robinson at:*

*[paulandjulier@gmail.com](mailto:paulandjulier@gmail.com) or*

*PO BOX 569, Frankfort MI 49635-0569 or 231-651-0052*

## Lost Members:

We have no information on these members. Please contact us if you have information (Address, Phone # & E-mail).

**McFadden, Terri, Blanton III, Carl**  
"Trey" A., **Jones, Charles, Reiter, Kenneth,**

## Roster Changes/Corrections:

>>> 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 in the roster.

**Shipman, Donald R.** - Address change  
5915 Harvest Hill Rd, Apt 1080  
Dallas, TX 75230-1217

**Purcell, Tom** - Address & phone #  
416 College Ave  
Haverford, PA 19041  
610-9637-0034  
Wife - Connie

**Raymond, Don** - New add. & phone #  
1852 NW 5th Ave  
Ontario OR 97914  
541-979-5637

**Ducey, Jack** - Change  
241 Siegert PL  
Nolensville TN 37135-1516  
774-454-2115

**Levy, Harold** - Change  
735 Renaissance DR Apt K-224  
Buffalo, NY 14221-8042.  
716-458-0227

**Tringali, Teriann** - Change  
31 Crestview DR  
Brookfield CT 06804

**Johnson, Chester** - Incorrect on the  
Quartermaster page of newsletter  
[jcjohnson4@verizon.net](mailto:jcjohnson4@verizon.net)

## New Members:

**Marques, LTC James**  
32 Fairfax St  
Somerville, MA 02144  
617-666-4110  
[jtmarques05@yahoo.com](mailto:jtmarques05@yahoo.com)

*\* See article and picture on pages 6 and 7.*

Good morning, James!

"I received your Life Membership payment and welcome you to our great association. I'll send a copy of our recent Bobcat Bulletin for your reading pleasure.

In order to fully add you to our roster, please reply with: Dates and unit you served with the Bobcats, Spouse name, if any. Also whether or not you wish to have the Bobcat Bulletin via e-mail only."

Thanks,  
**Paul Robinson**  
Membership Chairman

Hi Paul,

"It was actually my dad, not me, who served with them. He was with 5th RCT in Korea and received a Purple Heart. We have a street sign dedicated in his name at the top of our street. I am currently in the Army myself at Fort Hood and will retire next year. So I guess I'm applying to be an associate member but I picked active duty since that's my current status with the military. I am not married and would like to receive the newsletter via mail if possible."

**LTC James Marques**

*\* See picture and article about James on page six.*

**Poe, Paul "Ed" (Pamela)**  
2239 Vanatta RD  
Centerburg OH 43011  
740-625-6300  
D Co/A Co 6-2-69 to 7/4/70  
[poepp2239@CenturyLink.net](mailto:poepp2239@CenturyLink.net)

\*Poe was a battalion or company RTO... I sent him a welcome note...and a note to Danny Yeary about him....

**Paulie (Robinson)**

**Garbacz, John H. (Dinah)**  
14700 Kennebec ST  
Southgate MI 48195  
734-283-8139  
HHC Recon A Co 7/66 - 7/67

**Whitaker, Fredrick**  
4425 Ravenwood Ave  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
[rick\\_whitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:rick_whitaker@yahoo.com)

## Taps:

**Brock, SGM-R Bobby Q.** - from FT Benning GA served with A Co. 12/68-12/69 & C Co. 69-70

"I can't recall whether there was a notice in the Bobcat Bulletin that SGM Bobby Q. Brock died on January 26 of this year. He was very likely the most highly decorated Bobcat in Vietnam. I had talked to Bobby a couple of times on the phone and we exchanged Christmas cards for several years. I didn't hear from him this past Christmas. I guess he was feeling poorly. Bobby was buried at the Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, Alabama. He had lived in retirement at Ft. Benning but he was an Alabama native. I'll write a short piece about him."

**Sam Kier**

*\* See article and pictures on Page 11*

Paul Robinson commented, "*Toughest man I knew in Vietnam.*"

**Peterson, Rose** - Wife of Myron

"Myron just sent me a text and told me that Rose had a heart attack this morning, no advanced warning and she died. I'm in shock."

**Carolyn Kethcart**

## Did You Know Robert S. Liszcz

Randy Kethcart:

"Researching my late Uncle (Robert S. Liszcz / KIA: 3/16/1967) HHC, 1ST BN, 5TH INFANTRY, 25TH INF DIV, USARV (July 15, 1966 - March 16, 67).

For years I've been vowing to honor my uncle's legacy by attempting to locate and contact unit member's that may have served with "Bobby"... Sadly little is known about my late uncle's tour in Vietnam, let alone about his friends and comrades in the 5th infantry.

Not sure if you knew Bobbie, or able to offer some insight into locating army buddies who may have served with him. Any insight you could offer would be greatly appreciated."

Thanks: **John Andrews**

[joandrews@archinsurance.com](mailto:joandrews@archinsurance.com)

(860) 510-6856

185 Asylum Ave. / Hartford CT 06103





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

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

## Nine Bobcats Wounded

"Notes from Nam for 50 years ago today, 20 Mar 1969. I was in Cu Chi base camp and wrote no letter home. Battalion Action Report for March 20, 1969

At 1336 hours, Company C requested a Dust-off. While securing Rome Plow operations at XT 575270, an APC from Company C detonated an AT mine wounding two Bobcats. The track was a combat loss.

At 1608 hours, The Recon Platoon received sniper fire at XT 519263, while escorting two flame tracks and a downed APC. Fire was returned with unknown results.

At 2320 hours, the Company C night perimeter at XT 552273, received small arms, automatic weapons, RPG and mortar fire. The fire was returned with organic weapons, artillery, helicopter gunships, C-119 gunships and air strikes. Seven Bobcats were wounded in the contact. A check of the area at first light revealed enemy dead along with miscellaneous weapons and ammunition."

\*Facebook post by Joe Lex

## Saying Goodbye To A Friend

"Julie and I said goodbye to our



friend today. Carolyn met us at the cemetery and we shared some touching mo-



ments. I placed a dime on his stone."

Paulie (Robinson)

## Proud To Be Bobcat And A Member

Hello Fred,

"I was released last week after a 3-1/2 month stay in both hospitals and rehab facilities. Can't tell you how good it is to be home again!

I was diagnosed with ADL which is not good at all but I will make the most of it with the help of the good Lord... Doing out patient therapy which will be a big help and that's for sure..

About my dues. Judging from the date on my membership card it would appear I have another year (see attachment). If this was/is in error please let me know.

My wife told me about your email and did not have access to my card in the hospital so I told her to send a check to cover the dues (See attached). And this was returned.

I am very proud to have been able to serve with the 1/5 and very much just as proud to be a member of the 5th Infantry Association.

Now that I am home I am sure we can get this situation fixed with no problems so please let me know what I need to do next.  
All the best,"

Mike Pruett

Company A, 3rd & 4th platoons, Track 33, 42, 40 & 41. Feb. 1970- Jan. 1971

(Mike sent in a check renewing as a "Life" member. We wish Mike and his wife the best in dealing with his diagnosis.)

## Ed Meets MOH Recipient

"Yesterday, our Church hosted a Veterans Information Day. I was honored to meet and photograph this hero and Medal of Honor recipient, Allen J.



Lynch. Allen served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division. He was awarded the MOH for his heroic action on 15 December 1967."

Ed Kawczynski

## 5th RCT's First Surgeon In Korea

Fred & Paul,

"I received a phone call this morning from Dr. Harold Levy, 5th RCT, 1949-50. He was the combat team's first surgeon. You may recall that he attended our Niagara Falls reunion. Harold, a psychiatrist, has finally retired from his medical practice at the age of 98! He wanted to correct his mailing address to 735 Renaissance Dr, Apt K-224, Buffa-

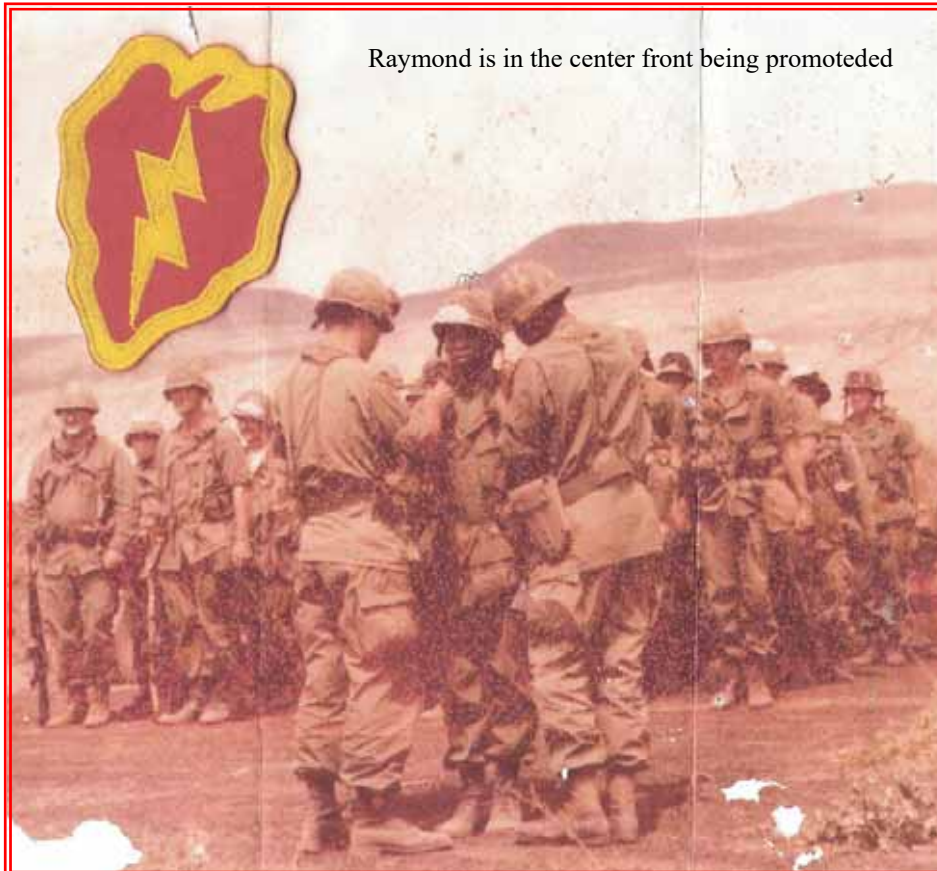
(See Comments on page 7)

## Meet New Member Raymond Johnson

Raymond Johnson, wife Stacie  
1100 Strickland Bridge Road  
Fayetteville NC 28304

“My name is Raymond Johnson, I was in CSC 15th Tow Gunner from 1977 to April 1981. I’m sending copies of pictures that I hold close to my heart.

Me my wife and son just went on a trip to Hawaii and I showed them my old Quad. It’s closed for renovation. The old movie theater and recreation center are



Raymond is in the center front being promoted

closed but still standing.

Right now I’m 100% disabled, military related.

It felt so good being able to go back to Schofield Barracks.

E-mail is: [rsj2011@aol.com](mailto:rsj2011@aol.com)

Glad to be a member. Thanks for doing this, it means a lot.”



Sergeant Fuller, Mack and Raymond on the right

## Meet New Member James Marques

SOMERVILLE NEWS WEEKLY’S  
SPECIAL PERSON OF THE  
WEEK: LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
JAMES MARQUES



*Photo by Skip Murray*

“Meet this week’s “Special Person of the Week: Lieutenant Colonel James Marques

Lieutenant Colonel James Marques was born on August 28, 1964 in Somerville, Massachusetts. He grew up with two brothers younger than him. The middle brother, who he was close to, died early in life while the youngest brother is currently a high school teacher teaching Math and Computer Science.

His father was a postman his whole life and his mother was a keypunch operator who later worked as a banker in her later years. His father happened to be a rifleman in the Korean War for the 5th Regional Combat Team. He was injured in July of 1953 and was awarded the Purple Heart.

As a result, James had his father honored with a street sign at the top of the street the family grew up on in May of 2017.

He graduated from Somerville High School in 1982, then joined the Army Reserve in 1983. As a result, he has had a lot of his schooling paid for the military. He graduated Bunker Hill Commu-

*(Continued on page 7)*



(Continued from page 6)

nity College with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts, a Bachelors at UMass Lowell in Electrical Engineering Technology, as well as several trade schools studying electrical and mechanical design.

He worked as a Software, Firmware & Hardware Quality Assurance Engineer for private companies, including Raytheon and 3M, before he got called to Iraq the first time in 2004.

As a Captain in the Army National Guard, James served in Tikrit, Iraq for one year in 2004 with the 42nd Infantry Division as a Maintenance Officer in the Division Headquarters. When he came back from Iraq he worked at Fort Dix, NJ as a trainer for one year before going back to Iraq in 2008 as a Civil Affairs Officer in Shaab district of Baghdad, with the 4th Infantry Division, for one year.

Later, in 2010-2011, as a Major, he served in Stability Operations of the Division Staff of the 101st Airborne Division in Parwan, Afghanistan on Bagram Air Force Base for one year.

Today, James serves down at Fort Hood in Texas as a Simulations Officer with First Army training Army Reserve and Army National Guard units still going overseas to Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Africa. He is currently in his second year of the US Navy War College on his way to a Masters Degree in Defense Studies. He plans to work with the military after he retires from the military in two years."

*\*From the "The Somerville News Weekly" MAR 24, 2019*

(Ted continued from page 1)

to be sure I don't miss the names of any of my soldiers.

After the Bulletin was published I was surprised, pleased and grateful to receive a call from M/Sgt Art Mobley (R), from Coca, FL. a Bobcat from B Company '67-68 who said he might be able to help. He is part of 1/5 Infantry Society that has compiled an extensive history of the Bobcats time in VN based on Operations Orders, duty rosters and other official documents that included a roster of all Bobcat KIAs. I was astounded at the number...

While I guess I can be excused for focusing on my time with the Bobcats and the 61 of my soldiers that were KIA, I was not prepared for the 504 that were KIA from April 1965 to March 1971. That's equal to half the battalion! What I

had on my roster that was not in the one from the Society was a list of the at-



MG-R Andy Anderson & COL-R Ted Westerman at our San Francisco Reunion in 2013

tached soldiers KIA while assigned or attached to the Bobcats. I believe there were about 15 during the time I was there. They included ARVN, engineers an artilleryman and an Airman.

I will take the total roster with me to The Wall next month. I also have on that list 46 names from a previous tour with the Big Red One and the ARVN Rangers. Thanks to the Bulletin and M/Sgt Art Mobley. As usual the NonComs bail out the brass!"

**Ted Westerman**

Bobcat 6, Dec 69-Jul 70

(Comments from page 5)

lo, NY 14221-8042. His phone is (716) 458-0227. He no longer has e-mail."

**Sam Kier**

## 2020 Reunion - Colorado Springs

"Just an update for reunion planning for year 2020, yes that is what I said 2020. When CJ Visage-Kethcart and I visited Colorado Springs last year we hit some unexpected stumbling blocks. It was Army Week and we could not visit Ft Carson, and then at the Air Force Academy we were told that the Chapel where we wanted to hold our Memorial Service would be closed for 5 years for roof repairs. Well that has changed at least for now and it appears we could still hold it there. We just returned today from there and it all looks good. However we also have a back up plan B & C at Ft Carson need it be."

**Randy Kethcart**

## Blown Halfway To Saigon

"The Masons and Robinsons celebrated the 50th anniversary of getting blown halfway to Saigon in the Ho Bo Woods March 28th.



We had beans and franks for lunch (Wagyu beef franks) and fruit cocktail. Then dined at T-Michaels in Naples, FL .... if you are ever in Naples for dinner, eat at T-Michaels ... bring your credit cards!



Ty Michaels serves a free meal to any veteran on November 11th...he is quite a patriot!"

**Paul Robinson**

## Need A New Membership Card?

"If your Bobcat membership card is weathered beyond recognition, please bring it to my attention at the reunion in

(See Comments on page 10)

# Korean War vet was wounded shielding family from shrapnel

"For decades, Paul R. Garland didn't tell his family that he had shielded a mother and her two children from a shower of shrapnel when he served in the Korean War.

He said he never thought it merited mention. To him, he was just doing what was expected of him.



But as time passed and his four children grew up, his youngest, Mark, known as the "curious one," finally succeeded in coaxing Garland into sharing his war experiences.

What Garland had done amazed his family. The Hamburg man who had retired from a desk job as the Buffalo office manager for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad had used his own body to protect three strangers in a war zone.

It happened at about 10 a.m. May 29, 1952, when Garland, a member of the Fifth Regimental Combat Team, was riding in a jeep up to the front lines in an area of Korean peninsula known as the "Punchbowl."

Enemy artillery shells were exploding dangerously close to the jeep.

"There was shrapnel exploding all over the place," Garland said. "One of the shells landed off to the right of the jeep and trees were turned into shrubs."

As the shelling continued, he said he spotted a mother and her two children walking along the left side of the road.

"I jumped from the moving jeep and ran up to the family and pushed them down into the ditch under a covered them with my body," Garland said. "They were scared and didn't move."

When he was certain the shelling had stopped, he stood up and noticed his left leg had been hit with shrapnel. Garland returned to the jeep and the family went on their way.

"Back at headquarters I went to the medical tent and they cleaned up the wound as best they could, and then I returned to my unit."

He says he has never forgotten that damp rainy day.

"I've dreamed about it many times. It's like a rerun in the movies. I can see myself jumping from the jeep all over again."

Garland says he should have been awarded a Purple Heart for his wound and a Bronze Star his commander had promised him for actions in other combat missions. But the medals never arrived he says because "the documents were lost."

"I know the date that happened because I was there and I was scared to death," Garland said of that May day 67 years ago.

Some 10 years ago when he shared that story with his son and other family members, they gave his act of bravery a name: "The Jeep Leap."

Garland's other Korean memories



Paul Garland (R) with LT Booker Morris

include the harsh cold of winter and equipment that often failed to function.

"We were given equipment that was World War II rejects he said.

But it is the sight of roaming war orphans that seared his memory.

"We shared our food with the Korean kids. We even gave them our cloths to wear. It was just pitiful. The kids were just wandering because their parents had been killed."

When his 11 months of war duty ended in December 1952, Garland said he left the Korean peninsula with a sense of helplessness because "nothing seemed to be getting done."

After his service, he returned to Buffalo and married the former Carol

Hodges. And while he never discussed the war with his family for years, Gar-



CPL Garland outside the Battalion Aid Station.

land said he could not stop thinking about the war orphans. The memory, he



said, compelled him to somehow make a difference in the lives of young people.

"We worked with little ones and teenagers for 50 years at our churches trying to lead them to the Lord through biblical direction," said Garland, a born-again Christian.

He said he still thinks about the mother and two children whom he shielded. He wonders whatever became of them.

"I still wonder what happened to those three people," he said. "I'm sure the Lord will one day tell me when I ask Him."

## A Big Thank You!

I wish to sincerely thank the following for contributing articles and or pictures for the newsletter: Sam Kier, LTC Sonny Rosales, 2LT Dan Dougherty, Ric Myers, Teri Tringali, Raymond Johnson, James Marques, Paul Garland, Chester Jonson, Eusevio Alvarado, Randy Kethcart, Paul Robinson, Joe Lex, John Barnard, Ted Westerman, Jeff Mc Grath and George Bates.



# 2020 Florida Winter Social

FRI FEB 7th - SUN FEB 9th 2020  
St. Petersburg, FL

## Hollander Boutique Hotel

421 - 4TH Ave. North St.,  
St. Petersburg, FL



The Hollander Hotel is located in the heart of Downtown St. Petersburg and is in walking distance of restaurants, shops and attractions. We are centrally located near the Salvador Dali Museum, The St. Petersburg Pier, Museum of Fine Arts, The Mahaffey Theatre, Tropicana Field, and St. Petersburg Beach. Our new Hotel in Downtown St Petersburg has been completely renovated. Our elegant rooms are here to provide a peaceful getaway just minutes away from restaurants and attractions. The water is about 3 blocks away...only a few minutes ride by complimentary Free Shuttle.  
(Pet Friendly Hotel - Handicap rooms available)

- Rates the same for longer stay
- Free parking
- Shuttle to area attractions

### All Rooms Include

Free Wi-Fi, Non-smoking, Mini-fridge, Microwave, Flat Screen TV, Coffee Maker, Handicap rooms available

### TERRACE



Heated Pool, Cabanas for Relaxing or Socializing and Outdoor Bar

## Queen Bed Standard Room



\$127+ tax per night (No Pool View)

## King Bed Room



Standard - \$137+ tax per night  
Pool View - \$145+ tax per night

## KING SUITE



King Bed, Sleeper Sofa, Walk-in Closet  
\$165+ tax per night

### RESERVATIONS

Credit card will hold your reservation  
Charged upon check-in only  
Cancellation - 24 hours prior to check-in  
Availability is very limited - Book ASAP

"Please do not book thru hotel"

To make reservations contact Teriann:  
727-482-4564

[TeriannsTravels@aol.com](mailto:TeriannsTravels@aol.com)

Feel free to call anytime

Friday Dinner & Sunday Breakfast  
information to Follow

*The highlight of the Social is the  
Saturday dinner cruise*

## Starlite Dinner Cruise - Sapphire Dinning Yacht

SAT - FEB 8, 2020 - 6PM - ST Pete's Pier

Full Dinner & Entertainment - Rate: \$57.25 pp/Includes Tax & Tip - *Non-refundable*  
Pay by check only - pay by 1/10/20 - Make check out to:

TERIANN TRINGALI

31 Crestview DR  
Brookfield, CT 0804



## Treasurer's Report

1st Quarter Financial Report  
(1 January - 31 March 2019)

### January 2019:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$190
Quartermaster Sales	\$33.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$223.50</b>

#### Debits:

Postage stamps & mailings	\$57.77
Internet service: Vast (Keep adds off Guestbook)	\$14.95
George Chavez-FT Wainwright Military Ball	\$1197.29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1493.51</b>

### February 2019:

#### Income:

Charleston Reunion	\$1033
Membership	\$300
Quartermaster Sales	\$51

#### Debits:

Sandra Kane- Have 990N taxes filed	\$115
Schulenburg Printing- 24 caps & 1 denim shirt (Harry VanRiper)	\$251.26
Postage Bulk Mailing Fee	\$235
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8601.26</b>

### March 2019:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$395
Quartermaster Sales	\$62.50
Charleston Reunion	\$4014
Ellen White Donation	\$300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4771.50</b>

#### Debits:

Mastercraft Printers- Spring newsletter	\$675.68
Postage- Mail newsletter	\$161.92
Internet- I-Power - Kethcart	\$34.90

**TOTAL 872.50**

#### Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$2695.47
Savings Account	\$65651.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68346.59</b>

Treasurer/Quartermaster  
**Chester Johnson**

### Donations to the Association

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

Edward & Ellen White in Memory of Kellum W. Grant - KIA - 4 May 68  
(Picture of Kellum on page 24)

(Comments from page 7)



Charleston. I'll have new ones available for those who need them.

**Paulie (Robinson)**

## A Visit To The Army Museum

ALL:

"A Bobcat family visit to Ft Belvoir and the new Army Museum would make for a great reunion. Early commitment to and lockdown of room reservations would be essential in selecting this site. I have come to view our yearly reunions as the highlight event of my year. For me to be able to drive about two hours to Fairfax would be icing on the cake. If this option is a go, I'll tell my good looking female funeral director that I can't report for duty at ANC until after Halloween 2021."

Warm regards,

**Andy Anderson**

(See Comments on page 11)

## Searching for Vietnam Jewish Veterans

March 10, 2019

Welcome Home Brother!

"First, allow me to introduce myself & then tell you about the reason I am contacting you. I am a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and a Vietnam vet (1st Cav December 69-70). Our national organization has a Vietnam Veterans Committee of which I am currently the chairman (I am also a life member of VVA). The JWV Vietnam Veterans Committee has an on-going project to collect the military stories of Jewish military personnel who served during the Vietnam Era (1959-1975) regardless of whether they were in Nam or wherever Uncle Sam sent them. We have plans to publish the stories on disc with all profits going to JWV's museum at our national hq in Washington. The official name of the museum is the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We have advertised in the 1st Cav Saber and received a number of stories contributed. I recently spoke with Dara Wydler about reaching out to other major military units that were in Nam, and she provided me with your organization & e-mail address.

Here is what I am requesting. Please put a notice in your organization's publication, soliciting the following:

1. Military story of Jewish personnel (1959-1975).
2. Make it 1.5-2 pages discussing whatever you feel comfortable writing about.
3. Include, if possible, a "then" photo & a "now" photo.
4. Be assured that nobody is going to make any personal profit. Once your story is on the disc (We are getting ready to start a second disc), all profits will go to our museum.
5. Your story and photos may be e-mailed to me at:  
[conrailbob2003@yahoo.com](mailto:conrailbob2003@yahoo.com)
6. If you have any questions, feel free to call me. 732-691-6139

**Bob Jacobs**

## Need A DD-214

To obtain a copy of your DD-214, go to <http://members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm> or consult your local VA office.



## SGM-R Bobby Q. Brock Dies

*"One of the most decorated Bobcats!"*

### SGM- Ret Bobby Q. Brock



Fred,

"I was saddened to find an obituary for Bobby Quillian Brock, one of the most heroic Bobcats in the 211-year history of our regiment. Bobby passed away in Columbus, Georgia on January 26, 2019 at the age of 83. He was buried at the Fort Mitchell National Cemetery in Alabama.

During the past several years, I've had a couple of phone chats with Bobby. We exchanged notes at Christmas time, and I know more about him now than I did when I wrote about his exploits in *Two Centuries of Valor*.

Bobby was born on February 28, 1935 in Nashville, Georgia to James and Lottie Jane Brock. He was inducted at Fort Jackson in 1958 and completed basic training and AIT at Fort Benning. His first assignment was in Berlin, Germany. Four years later, he was assigned to a training regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Ft. Lewis. Upon being promoted to staff sergeant, he was sent to Korea.

Bobby returned to Ft. Benning in 1965, but was soon on his way to Vietnam. During his first tour, he served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. He was wounded, received the Bronze Star for valor and was shipped back to Germany to serve with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Divi-

sion. He was promoted to E-6, went through a divorce, and returned to Vietnam in December of 1968 to become a Bobcat.

Bobby described A/1/5 as "the best company I was ever in during my 28 years in the Army." He spoke glowingly of CPT Randy Yeargan, the company commander. (Yeargan died in 2009 in San Antonio.)

In February, 1969, Bobby received the first of four Silver Star awards. Then on the evening of June 19, near Phuoc My, he and CPT Ron Chatelain, an artillery forward observer, while wounded themselves, rescued the wounded passengers and crew from a burning helicopter. Both men received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Following his recuperation, Bobby served a third tour in Vietnam with Charlie Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry. During his three deployments, he received the DSC, four silver stars, two Army Commendation Medals, four Bronze Stars, three Air Medals, and four Purple Hearts. He retired from the Army in 1986 after twenty-eight years of service. Bobby is survived by his wife of 45 years, Haeng Sun Yun Brock and his son, Benjamin Yi Brock.

*Sam Kier - Historian*

*(Comments from page 10)*

### VA Will Soon Let You Go to Civilian Urgent Care Doctors

*Week of June 03, 2019  
Military.com*

"Got a sore throat or a sprained ankle and don't want to go to a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital? Got sick at 8:00 on a Friday night and don't want to wait until Monday to see a VA doctor? A new program may be for you. Starting June 6, 2019, the VA will offer medical care to eligible veterans at selected civilian urgent care facilities nationwide. This is an expansion of the VA's Mission Act, which itself was an expansion of the Veterans Choice Act. Read more about the new benefit on Military.com."

*\*See more details page 3*

## Did You Know David Loyall Berry

Hi Fred,

"Hope all is well with you and Carolyn.

I was at a veterans website today, [www.VietnamWarHistory.Org](http://www.VietnamWarHistory.Org).

Came across a post from Jimmy R Berry Sr. asking about his brother **David Loyall Berry**. He was in Bravo Co. and KIA 7-21-66.

John Snodgrass suggested I ask you if you had a recollection of David. I tried to share that post to the 1/5 website, some is there some isn't. Sent Jimmy the info on the bobcat.ws/ website.

Wondering if you have any info on David. Checked our roster, saw you got there on 6/66. If you or anyone you know may have any info that would be a thing. John also mentioned George Smith was there at that time in Bravo. I don't know him."

*Andy Gimma*

*(I was there when David was killed but was in C Company and did not know David. We offered to put a request for information in the newsletter but have not heard back from Jimmy.)*

---

### Disabled Veterans eligible for free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass

"Many Veterans, with a service-connected disability rating, are entering Federal parks for free with the Lifetime National Parks Access Pass from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Good for entry into 400+ National Parks and over 2,000 recreation sites across the country, the Lifetime Access Pass is another way a grateful nation says thank you for the service and sacrifices of Veterans with disabilities.

The Access Pass admits disabled Veterans and any passengers in their vehicle (non-commercial) at per-vehicle fee areas; and, the pass owner plus three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. In addition to free entry at participating parks, the Access Pass includes discounts on expanded amenity fees; such as camping, swimming, boat launching and guided tours. Veterans who have a VA disability rating, (10% or higher) are eligible for the Lifetime

*(See Comments on page 15)*

# A MEMORIAL DAY STORY

by Sam Kier

"On the day after Memorial Day, I was thumbing through some documents that I recently received from Robert Tamburri, Company C, 1966, when I noticed a news clipping entitled Local vet tracks down lost army buddy's grave site. Further searching revealed a story that was both sad and inspiring.

From March 14 through March 19, 1966, 1st Battalion participated in a search and destroy operation in the general area of Bao Trai near the Oriental River. As they neared the river on March 14, some of the APCs bogged down in the mud so the battalion dismounted and continued the operation on foot.

Light enemy contact was made on the morning of the 15th as the companies poked around in the bush. At 1507 hours, Company C received small arms fire while concurrently detonating a booby trap. The encounter resulted in the death of one Bobcat and the wounding of four others.

One of the wounded was SP4 George Snodgrass from Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. He suffered a leg wound. His buddy, Jim Wilson, helped load George on a medevac helicopter and told him that he would see him later at the hospital.

When Wilson returned to Cu Chi, he was dismayed to learn that George had died. The helicopter had come under fire as it was lifting off and George had been hit in the back of the head.



George Edward Snodgrass

Snodgrass and Wilson had been in Vietnam for just two months but had been together since basic training, in 1963 at Ft. Dix. Jim Wilson said, "Of all the people I lost over there, the memory of George stuck with me the strongest. He and I were both Catholic and attended services together. George talked a lot about God and even though it was a bad situation we were in, he always spoke about good things – about what he was going to do when he got home. He always kept a positive attitude. He lifted my spirits and I feel he got me home."

After Jim Wilson did get home, he spent years looking for George Snodgrass's grave. He wanted to pay his respects, honor George's memory and hopefully gain some measure of closure. Part of the problem was that he was looking for a family named Snodgrass. George had never told him that he was the foster child of the William Vannote family of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. In the early 90's, Wilson moved to Pompton Lakes. He and LT Billy Smith, a Pompton Lakes police officer, became acquainted when their sons played on the same Wayne Township baseball team. Billy said that he had lost quite a few friends in Vietnam including three from Pompton Lakes. One of them was George Snodgrass.

Arrangements were made for Wilson to meet with George's foster parents but they were very non-committal; saying that he was buried at "Arlington" and left it at that. Finally, word came from the local congressman's office that George was not buried in Virginia. He was buried in North Arlington, New Jersey at Holy Cross Cemetery.

When Jim Wilson went to the cemetery plot listed for George Snodgrass, the name on the tombstone was Joseph Kowalski. Kowalski was the brother of George's foster mother. There was nothing to indicate that George was buried in the same plot.

On Memorial Day, 2006, four dec-



ades after George's death, his gravesite was finally dedicated with a proper headstone and a full military service by Post 2906 of the VFW. More than a 100 veterans were in attendance.

The borough of Pompton Lakes named a city park after George. Snodgrass Park is situated on the Wanaque



River. It contains baseball and soccer fields. The local school district has a lease to use the fields and maintains the park."

VA recently proposed new rules for Veteran community care that include six new eligibility criteria for Veterans under the VA MISSION Act, which was signed into law by President Trump in June 2018.

Read: A MISSION Act: What is the latest on community care?

The new eligibility criteria will be a major improvement over existing criteria in terms of making things simpler: currently, eligibility criteria vary between VA's community care programs. When the new criteria go into effect, Veterans can expect better access and greater choice in their health care, whether at VA or through a community provider.

John Stewart, Ron Soppe, Doc Hodge and Tete Bocsi

Ron Soppe picture from our Website





# Memorial Day Remembrances

## Eusevio Alvarado Posting

Three pictures below



Back Row - "Randy Kethcart (Me), Earl Weekes, John Benson Front Row - Francis Harter, Shaun P. McCaul badly wounded that night and flown to Japan — in Long Thành. Fran had traded a carton of cigarettes to get the puppy. He named her Peace. We kept that dog until John Benson went home and he took her with him."

**Randy Kethcart**



"I did not take this picture that day but Ronald J. Debartolomeo was also fatally wounded that night and died on Nov 11th 1970, picture courtesy of Carolyn Phipps his sister — in Long Thành."

**Randy Kethcart**



"Francis Harter also killed along with Ronald Debartolomeo — in Long Thành"

**Randy Kethcart**



Gary Robinson Posts (Above & below)



"Just A Soldier" A patriotic video sent by Nevin Williams (COL-R) - To view go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAjxwNQwm8s>



Joe Lex Post

## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

### LTC Leroy R. Burk



Four transports bearing the Fifth Regimental Combat Team entered the harbor at Pusan, Korea on the night of July 31, 1950. The Fifth, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, was the first reinforcing unit to reach Korea from an area outside of Japan.

The troops formed up in a column of twos on the dock and set off for an assembly area. They were instructed to make a horseshoe pack with a change of socks and underwear and an extra set of fatigues and then kiss the rest of their belongings good-bye.

On August 2, they traveled south to the coastal village of Chindong-ni by train and truck convoy. The North Korean 6th Division was rapidly approaching Chindong-ni from the west in an effort to pierce the left flank of the U.S. 8th Army's Pusan Perimeter. The combat team reached the village late in the day and dug in. Four days later, the 5th RCT attacked west on the Tosan road.

On August 9, Company K was assigned the mission of securing high ground near Kogan-ni. When 2nd LT Leroy Burk's First Platoon was suddenly attacked by a company of North Koreans, some of the in-experienced G.I.'s began to withdraw.

LT Burk advanced alone toward the hostile troops, firing his carbine and throwing hand grenades with such accuracy that two enemy machine gunners and five enemy riflemen were killed. Inspired by the actions of their platoon

leader, the GIs rallied behind him and conducted a spirited assault against the enemy positions. When LT Burk killed the enemy company commander, the remainder of the North Koreans fled in disorder.

The 5th RCT crossed the 38th Parallel and entered North Korea on the 17th of October. The combat team captured Taechon on 29 October and then struck northwest toward Kusong. Third Battalion led the advance. The North Koreans gave ground reluctantly. Air Force B-26 bombers pounded the defenders and Kusong finally fell on Halloween Day.

Leroy Burk's luck ran out during the fight for Kusong. He received severe shrapnel wounds from an exploding grenade and mortar fire. He was evacuated to Tokyo Army Hospital for stabilization and was then flown to Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston. He arrived in Texas on the 21st of November, 1950.

That part of the country was not a new experience for Leroy. He was born in Rocky, Oklahoma, a small town about eleven miles south of Cordell in the southwest corner of the state. When he was nine years old, he left his parents, hitched a ride on a south-bound freight train and rode as far as Amarillo, Texas. A local rancher spotted the little runaway, gave him a ride and offered him a job on his ranch. For the next few years, the older man treated Leroy as if he were his own son.

When Leroy returned to Oklahoma, he moved in with his brother, Floyd, in Weatherford. Leroy graduated from Weatherford High School and, in 1939, enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard. He was assigned to the 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division. When the 45th ID was federalized in September of 1941, Leroy requested a transfer to the Army Air Force. Following a period of training in Miami, Florida he was assigned to an Air Force supply depot near Ipswich in England. M/SGT Burk mustered out of the service at Fort Dix in November, 1945. He remained in the Army Reserve.

In February of 1949, Leroy was ordered to return to active duty with the U.S. Army. Following OCS at Ft. Benning, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to King Company, 5th RCT at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Following the battle for Kusong, Leroy spent seven months at Brooke Army Hospital before he was cleared to

return to active duty. He was assigned to the USAR Advisory Group in Knoxville, Tennessee. Following that he completed a two-year tour in Germany.

In July, 1960, Major Burk returned to Korea. He was assigned to the Army Support Command Base at ASCOM City near the port of Inchon. He found his two years there, enabling South Koreans to rebuild their war-ravaged country, very satisfying. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel during this tour.

Leroy had two more active duty assignments after ASCOM City. His next job entailed serving as Officer in Charge of the Weapons Committee of the Army Training Command at Fort Polk and then, in 1964, he was sent to Frankfurt, Germany to work in the G2 and G3 Sections of the Northern Area Command.

During this assignment, his second in Germany, Leroy met Marlene Reiner, a young woman who was working for the West German Ministry of Defense in nearby Bonn.

When Leroy returned state-side, Marlene was able to obtain a visa and the two were married in Las Vegas on February 8, 1966. The newly-weds moved to Sacramento, California and LTC Burk took command of all thirty-one Army Reserve Units located between the cities of Redding and Modesto.

On November 28, 1967, Leroy appeared before a medical board at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco and was told that because of the lingering paralysis in a hand and one of his legs, stemming from his Korean War wounds, his Army career was over. There was no way to appeal the board's decision. The 47-year-old warrior was deemed 100% disabled. This man, who had seen many rough days as a child and later, as a soldier in combat, maintains that the day he was medically retired was actually the saddest day of his life.

Leroy Burk received the Silver Star for his actions near Kogan-ni, South Korea. His other Korean War decorations include the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation for 3rd Battalion's role in the battle of Chinju Pass, the National Defense Service Medal w/OLC, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. His World War II decorations include the American Theatre Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. During his Army career, he



was also presented with the Distinguished Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Leroy Burk, now well into his late 90's, and his wife, Marlene, live in Rancho Cordova, California, a suburb of Sacramento. Their daughter, Janene, lives close by.

Leroy has a life-long love of the sport of wrestling. During the early years of his retirement he volunteered to coach wrestling, primarily at Cordova High School. He traveled extensively to help other teams be more successful and to learn from other coaches. In addition to his coaching, he boasts of a 7+ handicap in golf. He and Marlene had season tickets to the Sacramento Kings' games when the basketball team was at the Arco Arena. They rarely missed a game.

I'm grateful to Renee Fischer and Michelle McUen of the Placer County Veteran's Service Office for bringing Lieutenant Colonel Burk to the attention of our 5th Infantry Association and for providing me with documents, press clippings, and an interview link. Leroy Burk served his country with great valor and brought honor to our regiment. It's a pleasure to tell his story.

**Sam Kier**

*5th infantry Regiment Association  
Historian*

*(Comments from page 11)*

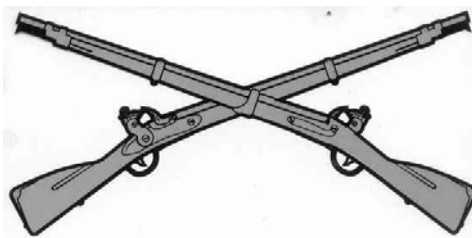
Access Pass-with two ways to apply.

First, disabled Veterans can apply in person at a participating federal recreation site. Simply present photo identification (Driver's license, State ID, Passport) and documentation proving a permanent disability (VA awards letter, VA ID with service-connected annotation, VA summary of benefits, or receipt of Social Security disability income). That's it. The Pass is free and issued at the time of entry.

Second, if applying by mail, send a completed packet and

\$10 processing fee to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The packet should include:

The Access Pass Application Form ([https://store.usgs.gov/s3fs-public/access\\_pass\\_application.pdf](https://store.usgs.gov/s3fs-public/access_pass_application.pdf)); proof of residency, and VA disability award letter, VA summary of benefits, or proof of SSDI income.



## ***Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!***

**Distinguished Service Cross  
is Awarded to:**

**1LT Peter R. Bernardo**

**BERNARDO, PETER R. -----FIRST LIEUTENANT**  
United States Army, Company C 1st Battalion  
(Mech), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division  
Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross  
Date of action: 23 February 1969  
Theater: Republic of Vietnam  
Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection  
with military operations involving conflict with an  
armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam:



First Lieutenant Bernardo distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 23 February 1969 while serving as a platoon leader on a search and clear mission. His company came under intense small arms, automatic weapons, rifle grenade, and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an enemy force concealed and entrenched only a few meters from the friendly unit. Seeing that the heavy hostile fire was preventing his fellow soldiers from effectively returning fire and regrouping, Lieutenant Bernardo quickly assaulted and silenced one of the enemy automatic weapons positions. As he continued providing suppressive fire, his unit was able to withdraw and call in supporting fire. During a second assault on the enemy, Lieutenant Bernardo rushed two more enemy fortifications and destroyed them with hand grenades. As the company again withdrew he placed devastating suppressive fire on the hostile fortifications to cover the withdrawal. On a third assault he was wounded seriously, but he refused medical evacuation until his unit had completed its mission. First Lieutenant Bernardo's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

*Peter was a member of our Association for a few 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 19, 2019

Fellow Bobcats,

The Bobcat Battalion will be deploying this fall in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) in Iraq. We are very honored to be joining the international coalition that will defeat ISIS and set conditions for increased regional stability. For the past year, the Bobcats trained intensively and continue to build readiness to prepare for this deployment. The Bobcats are ready and looking forward to answer our nation's call.

As we continue to train the force for deployment, the Battalion received new key leaders this Spring. We welcomed five new Company Commanders in the Battalion. (See Pictures on page 27) From Anger Company, CPT Kingley Ehie replaced CPT Jonathan Beck. CPT Beck was selected to take a Recruiting Company Command in Kansas. From Bayonet Company, CPT Thomas Wong replaced CPT Oleg Sheynfeld. CPT Sheynfeld replaced CPT Trey Bruce to command 1-5 Infantry Headquarters and Headquarter Company (HHC). CPT Bruce was selected to be an Advisor for the 4th SFAB, Fort Carson, Colorado. In addition, CPT Jacob McLellan replaced CPT Alex Purdy for Charger Company. CPT Purdy was selected for a second Company Command in the Brigade, Echo Troop in 5-1 CAV. Lastly, our Forward Support Company, Gladiator, CPT Chris Kelleher replaced CPT Unna Lee. CPT Lee was also selected to command a second Company in the Brigade, Alpha Company, BSB.

This Summer, the Bobcat Battalion will be able to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday and Summer Block Leave. The Block Leave will afford Soldiers the opportunity to relax and see their loved ones prior to deployment.

Upon return from Block Leave, the Battalion will be executing final preparations and training needed prior to deployment. Companies will be conducting Platoon Situational Training Exercises (STX) and Squad Live Fire Exercises (LFX). In addition, the Battalion Staff will execute Bobcat Fusion at the Mission Training Complex; a Staff Exercise (STAFFEX) that will focus OIR missions and tasks.

To be well-updated of Bobcat Battalion activities and to connect with other Bobcats and their families – past and present - please like and follow us on our Facebook page, "1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment". Our battalion would, again, like to express their sincerest appreciations to the 5th Infantry Regimental Association for their contributions and support to the Soldiers and their families.

*Sonny T Rosales*

Sonny T. Rosales  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army  
Commanding



CDR LTC Sonny Rosales &  
CSM Brady Davis

LTC Rosales guest speaking during an event held for Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month to celebrate the cultures, progress, and accomplishments of the AAPI community within the US Army.



"This morning (*July 4th*) the Bobcat Battalion held a Red, White, and Blue Run in honor of the upcoming 4th of July Holiday and Block Leave. Soldiers, families, and pets participated in the 2 mile run led by the Battalion Command Team. Following the run, some Bobcat Soldiers were recognized for their outstanding performances and were presented the Army Achievement Medal for their accomplishments."



A special thanks to LTC Sonny Rosales for the article and pictures.



Bobcat LTs practice 60mm mortar indirect fire operations.



Bobcat LTs conduct Tactical Casualty Care on a simulated casualty.



Bobcat Soldiers participate in Gunnery in the Yukon Training Area



The Bobcat Battalion held an Org Day for Soldiers, family, and friends supported by the USO Fort Wainwright.



Bobcat Soldiers participating in the Ticasuk Brown Elementary Purple-Up breakfast to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. Service Members from across the BN had the opportunity to interact with school leaders and military liaisons as Bobcats work to strengthen the community outreach.





## Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

### Needs Help Obtaining Fathers Army Records

Dear Sirs,

"I am writing to ask if you could be of any assistance to me as I am trying obtain my Father's Army Records or/and Unit Records from his time in the United States Army

The information that I have is as follows:  
His name, number, Unit, enlistment, discharge date and place are as follows:

Name: Alex Browne  
Born: Brooklyn NY  
Number: 6128199  
Unit: Co. A, 5th Infantry

Enlistment May 1928 New Haven Connecticut but says he has already served 3 years if I am reading the paperwork correctly

Re enlisted 1931 Portland Maine says completed 6 years?

The next piece of paper I have says he: Re-enlisted June 6th 1938 at Fort Lawton Washington

Discharge Date: June 6th 1938  
Discharge Place: Fort McKinley Maine

I would be very grateful if you can help me. My Father is deceased

I have already written to:  
National Personnel Records Center, Military Records Facility, 1 Archive Drive, St Louis, MO 63138-1002

I then wrote to:  
USAHEC/USAMHI-RUSD, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-5021  
all to no avail.

Thank you for your time"

Yours Sincerely

**Mrs. Catherine Coomber** (Nee Browne)

"I'm forwarding this on to our Historian, possibly he can assist you."

**Randy Kethcart**

Dear Cathy,

"I would be glad to look at the documentation that you do have and see if I can come up with some hints of where to look further. At that time in history, the

most information about a soldier's service was entered on his *War Department, Form No. 870*. Is that the form that you have? Can you scan it in and send me a digital copy? You say that you wrote to the National Archives in St. Louis but to no avail. Did they respond at all? They did lose some records, some years back, to an office fire but usually will respond one way or the other. The notation about both re-enlisting and being discharged on 6 Jun 38 is puzzling as is what he was doing out at Fort Lawton, Washington. The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was garrisoned at Portland, Maine from 1922 through 1939 but participated in exercises and trained young CCC workers during the Depression, throughout New England, so it's quite possible that he enlisted or re-enlisted in New Haven, Connecticut during one of those excursions."

**Sam Kier**

Historian, 5<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt Assn

Mr. Keir,

"From my father I have heard about the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT in Korea. My father went to Korea sometime around 1950-1951. He was in the Corp. at Texas A&M. He passed away in the last month or so and for no particular reason I came to your website. I saw a unit citation for the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT Company A. The question I have is this ..... were there any other 5<sup>th</sup> RCT companies working or assigned to Korea during that time.

I do know or I think I know that the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT Co. A was attached to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

I have a few pictures of my father from that time in Korea but I never asked him exactly what he did or what he went through during that time.

Thank you for any response you can give.

**Craig A. Sweeney**

Investigator- Rusk County D.A.'s Office  
115 N. Main, Room 302  
Henderson, TX 75652  
903-657-2265 - 903-658-2376

Dear Craig,

"I'm sorry to hear about your father. Yes, to your question. The entire 5th RCT (5th Infantry Regiment +555th Field Artillery Bn + 72 Combat Engineer Company) was in Korea from July 1950 until October 1954. Do you have any of your father's Army records, especially his Form DD 214, Report of Sepa-

ration from the Armed Forces of the United States? That document would note his company and unit assignment.

Yes, the 5th RCT was attached to the 25th Infantry Division in the summer of 1950 and for a brief period later in the war. Company A received the Presidential Unit Citation for actions taken during June, 1953 when the 5th RCT was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division.

I know that there was a Bradley Sweeney with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion and a Harvey Sweeney with Company I and, undoubtedly, others with the same surname.

**Sam Kier**

"Bradley Sweeney is my father. Is there anything you can impart upon me that would document his time with the 5th RCT. He at one time said he was in Korea a second or is that something I would need to obtain from an official military records request.

I should have read your email more thoroughly. I'll look up from other family members for his dd214 and other records they may have."

Thank you for your response."

**Craig A. Sweeney**

## An Army Family

Gen. James McConville had some back-up during a hearing on Capitol Hill Thursday as members of the Senate Armed Services Committee considered his nomination to become the Army's next chief of staff. Sitting in the visitors' section directly behind the general were his wife, Maria, an Army veteran herself, and four family members, all active



Gen. McConville during a hearing on Capitol Hill

duty soldiers. The couple's eldest son Michael, an Army captain who flies Apache helicopters, sat beside his mother. The McConvilles' son-in-law, Staff Sgt. Ryan Nanzer, an Army Ranger, was next, sitting beside his wife Army Capt. Jessica Nanzer, who sat beside her brother, Ryan.

*\*Sent by Nevin Williams*



# Going to Nom

By *John T. Barnard, Jr.*

"After AIT (Infantry Training) in Tiger Land at Fort Polk Louisiana. My Orders assigned me to the 25TH Infantry Division.....

I got a 33 day leave. It was from Saturday, the 29TH, of October of 1966, until Wednesday, November the 30TH 1966, to go home (Phoenix, Arizona) before shipping out for Vietnam.

When I got to Oakland Army Terminal on Wednesday the 30TH of November 1966, I ran into Davis, who I had taken AIT with at Fort Polk. On our second evening we got tagged for KP. They put us in a bay and told us that we couldn't leave the bay. Well, you know what they say don't tell a GI that he can't do something and that is exactly what he is going to try to do!

Well, the two of us snuck out of the bay, through a window. And went to the EM club. Where we stayed until it closed at 0200 Hours. Needless to say we were both drunk, and we staggered our way back to the bay and crawled back in through the window. By the time we hit the rack it was about 0300 hours.

They got us up at 0400 hours. And we both had hangovers. I ended up on pots and pans. At about 0600 hours we were called out for Port Call.

Neither of us were called. So we went back to KP. I was half way into one of the large pots scrubbing it, when Davis came over without me knowing it and took one of the large metal spoons and started banging the side of the pot. I still had my hangover and came out of the pot ready to fight whoever it was. Davis just backed up and started laughing. I was calling him everything that I could think of.

We had another Port Call at 0800 hours. And about the 20TH person called was Davis. I looked at him and told him you SOB you are going to be over there in those bays laying around all day, while I will still be here on KP until 2100 hours. Then about 20 more names were call and they called my name. So David and I were together in the same bay.

A Sargent told us if we wanted our last good shower to go and take one now. So Davis and I decided to go and shower. While we were in the shower a bunch of guys that had just gotten back from Nom came into the showers. They were joking with each other about what was wrong with the showers, because the water didn't have any rust in it. Davis

and I started looking at the scars on their bodies. And that is when it sunk into our brains that where we were going that they weren't playing any games, They were playing for keeps!

After the shower on the way back to the bay we came across a vending machine that had hot cans of soup and chili. This was the first time I had ever seen a vending machine that dispensed hot cans of food. I got a can of chili.

At around 1400 hours they put us on some buses and took us to Travis Air Force Base. We were to fly out of Travis at 1800 hours, on Saturday the Third, of December, 1966. At about 1700 hours they announced on the PA system that our flight would be delayed for one hour because of engine problems. I got to thinking, I'm going to make a 10,000 mile flight on a plane that has engine problems before it even gets off the ground, not very reassuring.

Then at about 1800 hours they announced that we would be delayed for another hour. And then at about 1900 hours again delayed for another hour. This went on each hour until 2200 hours.

We loaded up on the Air Force C-141. (The C-141 was the biggest plane I had ever seen.) I was somewhere in the first 20 to get aboard. I looked and saw that, on the left side of the plane behind the wing there was a window port. I got the seat by the window port. That way I could look out of the plane. A little after 2200 hours on Saturday the third of December, 1966 we took off for Vietnam.

I fell asleep and sometime in the early morning I was awakened by an Air force guy tapping me on my left knee, with a flashlight. He told me that I would have to move so he could look out the window port with the flashlight at the engine. I then asked what is wrong with the engine. He told me nothing. I said, come on what is wrong. I know that the plane had engine problems before taking off. Now what is wrong with the engine. He told me again that there wasn't anything wrong, that he just had to do a visual observation on it.

First stop was Wake Island to refuel. We disembarked the plane; it was still dark. While waiting in the Civilian-Military Airport, I went outside. It was hot and humid. I looked and saw a naval gun and walked down to it. It was a monument for the men that had lost their lives on Wake Island in World War II. Beside the monument there was a dog. I scratched his head and ears. I

then went back into the airport. We loaded up and took off for Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

On the way to the Philippines, the Air Force let us go up the stairs to look over the pilot's shoulders. Got to see all of the Pacific ocean in front of us and the white wakes leading to ships. Also, the instrument panel for the C-141; it was very interesting.

After landing at Clark Air Force Base, Philippines, we were told to go over to the mess hall and get breakfast. I went to the mess hall and a cook ask me how I wanted my eggs. I told him Sargent, You know you are just going to fix those eggs anyway you want and then put them on my tray. The Sargent told me this is the damn Air Force not the damn Army. And we don't use trays, we use plates. Now how do you want your eggs. I told him over easy. And that is how I got them. Not only did I get my eggs the way I wanted them, but the Air Force had three difference types of breakfast meats set out; just help yourself.

After breakfast, we loaded back up on the C-141 and took off for Tan Son Nhut, Air Force Base, Vietnam.

Somewhere on the way to Tan Son Nhut, they told us that we were being rerouted to Pleiku, Vietnam, because of Tan Son Nhut, getting a rocket or mortar attack.

We landed at Pleiku, Vietnam, and they told us it was 1400 hours on Monday, December fifth, 1966.

To be continued

*John Barnard*

## Humor

A Sergeant Major, Buck Sergeant and Private First Class sometimes ducked out the back gate for lunch. One day, while crossing a vacant lot, one of them kicked a lamp and a genie appeared. Said the genie: "Customarily, I grant three wishes, so each of you gets one wish, starting with the most junior." The Private First Class said: "I want to be on Miami Beach with a cool drink in one hand and the hand of a beautiful blonde in the other." And WHOOSH, he was gone. The Buck Sergeant said: "I want to be on Waikiki Beach with a cool drink in one hand and the hand of a beautiful redhead in the other." And WHOOSH, he was gone. And the Sergeant Major said, "I want those two yardbirds back on post by 1300 hours

\*Sent by COL-R Nevin Williams

# 5th Infantry Association Quartermaster

## Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75 or 1A (Blue) - \$15.50
- 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 with 5th INF REG Crest - \$35.00 *(With or without pocket)*  
*Colors: white, black, ash, forest, green, navy, light blue, maroon, oxford, royal, safety green or orange & red*  
 1). With Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$35.00 *(With or without pocket)*  
 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering on "Right" sleeve - \$43.00  
*(With or without pocket)*  
 + There is a \$1.50 Charge for each size larger than XL (XXL + \$1.50, XXXL + \$3.00)
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest \$104 and CIB or CMB Badge - \$115 or \$122 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$49.50 and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge \$49.50 or \$57 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below (Picture #13) Embroidered on left breast - \$25 *(In 51 different colors)*  
 + There is a \$1.50 Charge for each size larger than XL (XXL + \$1.50, XXXL + \$3.00)
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$23.00
- 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  
 Quartermaster Chester Johnson at:  
 979-966-9669 or  
 E-mail: [jcjohnson4@verizon.net](mailto:jcjohnson4@verizon.net)



**New lower prices  
 for shirts!**



Have this Bobcat put  
 on the lower left sleeve  
 of your jacket or shirt  
 for \$5 (#18)





## DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

"I just got off the phone with Don Clancey . He received his copy of your book with the inscription that you wrote to him. He was very pleased with the recognition that you accorded him, and is proud to display it and share with his fellow veterans (at Kerrville VA Hospital). Thank you for your kindness and eloquence – he is quite deserving.

I also received my copy. Your book is quite an intensive research endeavor, considering the minute details that you have included over the span of the history of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Every person who has ever served in the 5<sup>th</sup>

Regiment should have a copy of this book for personal reference, and for a sense of pride in our military heritage.

Thank you for all of your efforts to provide this very valuable piece of history for us to cherish."

**Ric Myers,**

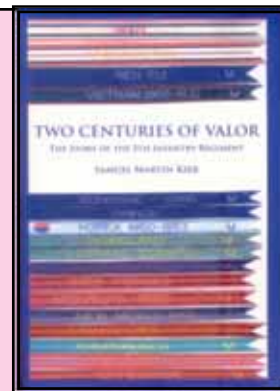
*Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68*

## History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

This book "*Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment*" written by Sam Kier our Historian traces the history of the 5th Regiment from its beginning up to the present day. Many of our members are mentioned in the book as are events and battles that you may

have participated in.

You can purchase this book by 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 or you can contact Sam at:

**Notice:** If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 19** 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 PO BOX 569 Frankfort MI 49635-0569**

(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 \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
in the 25th Div. \_\_\_\_\_

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

DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual = \$30.00 Lifetime - Your age: \_\_\_\_\_ Less than 30 = \$770 \_\_\_\_\_ 31-40 = \$645 \_\_\_\_\_ 41-50 = \$500  
\_\_\_\_\_ 51-60 = \$350 \_\_\_\_\_ 61-70 = \$225 \_\_\_\_\_ 71+ \$200

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**

# Letters From Vietnam

*From Joe Lex (Medic 5/68-5/69) to his family*

7 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Little news here. The weekend was uneventful, in that we stayed around the Big Angel and did "busy work". We have 7 of our medics leaving for the states this month with only one replacement on the horizon so far. Thus the Big Angel is down from 6 people to 4.

Doc has been feeling under the weather so I have taken over for him including meetings with Battalion bigwigs. This is good for me to learn this stuff now, because Doc leaves in September and his replacement may not be as willing to spend time in the field. According to regulations, the doctor is in charge of the rear and the 91C of the forward Aid Station. I just can't see anyone taking this job over cold. Each place to want to call on the radio has a different "freak" (frequency). This also means I would be track commander on convoys and maneuvers, as well as the person who decides who gets evacuated etc.

Some local girls have set a business about 50 meters from our perimeter. This has increased our business also, especially penicillin shots. One of the Company Commanders just dropped by and suggested the cause instead of the results. Even though doc is sick, he did a pretty good job of reading the riot act to the C.O. He told him we may as well set up a tent and take part of the profits as our "cut", since we would be condoning the actions of the men. Not only that but the Chaplain is staying with us now (Just my luck. Not more than 2 weeks after I get here our old Chaplain Father Falabella leaves and his replacement is Missouri Synod Lutheran) and I think it does the guys good to come in and get their shots while the Chaplain watches and hears the whole proceedings.

Time to go now. Let me know about the perils of moving.

*Love Joe*

11 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

I thought I better write earlier today since the last two nights was sidetracked by Monopoly, Cribbage, Casino, Hearts & 500 Rummy. Yesterday I was due to go in, but with Doc in the hospital I

won't be going in for some time. The last we heard on him they are testing for possible brain tumor.

I was in charge for a couple of days while Doc was gone and only ran into one problem, the Catholic Chaplain asked if he could stay in our tent and of course I consented. Three of us were sitting around playing cards when the Chaplain said, "You'll make this the last hand. It's 10:30 and the lights are going out." I couldn't say much because he is a Major, but when Doc got back and found out he really flipped. He said that the next time the Chaplain comes, he'll play cards with us and we'll stay up all night.

Someone threw a grenade or a M-79 round in the sump right behind us and it threw shrapnel all over when the fire got to it (nobody hurt). Then some other brain threw some M-16 rounds in another sump and when they went off, everyone headed for the bunkers. To top it off, someone tossed about a dozen aerosol cans into a sump and one of them blew when the Battalion CO (LT COL) was relieving himself at our outdoor urinal, about 10 feet away. Needless to say he was not too happy.

I went on my first MEDCAP today and I might have some more good pictures. The one of the water buffalo may be blurred because they started charging just as I pushed the button. I think that I jumped (about 4 ft.).

I am also sending 2 magazines in an envelope. I thought that you might want some "first hand" information.

That's about all for now. There's a chance that we might move again and run roads for land mine sweeps. HHC would stay inside Cu Chi if this happens.

*Love Joe*

13 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

I got the letter from you and the Debs today, so if you see them again please thank them for me.

We got the word today that we are moving out on 18 July to a location I'm pretty sure you can find on the map.... Tay Ninh. It is one of the holy cities of Vietnam where people make annual pilgrimages. It is also a minor base camp for the 25th Division and we will proba-

bly set up inside the wire and get to sleep in barracks again. Doc said I could go into Cu Chi if I wanted to before we move, but I really don't have any reason to go in. Dan (the other 91C) was sent back to the states with encephalitis and there is only one other medic on the track. Our platoon sergeant retired this month and our Medical Service Corp officer leaves this week. Doc is expecting a promotion to major, which means he will leave the battalion. Right now that leaves me second in charge by virtue of my MOS.

Have you gotten the "information guides" for Vietnamese tourists yet? I'll try to send more if I can.

By the way, people from Chicago have done everything but kiss my feet when I'd give them all my old "Sun Times". And one of the medics in Alpha company swears up and down that there is someone from Havana, Illinois, but I can't find him for the life of me.

Not much more here. I'll keep in touch as things happen.

*Love Joe*

15 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Greeting from the almost hairless one. I was lighting a gasoline soaked sump yesterday from the wrong side and got caught in a temporary wall of fire. It singed all the hair on my face, arms and some on my head. My pride was hurt more than anything since I've been burning sumps for over a month and this is the first time I goofed. Oh well, 2 APC's and back to duty.

Thursday we puled out for Tay Ninh, an all day drive. Lucidly we'll be inside the wire so we won't have to worry about a bunker. The Big Angel which used to carry 7 people is now down to 3, including the driver.

Alpha Company moved out for Trang Bang and was replaced by 2/22 (Mech), also known as "Triple Deuces" or "Full back".

Not much more to write about. More before we pull out of here.

*Love Joe*

19 Jul 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

I've forgotten when I last wrote, but my intentions were good, believe me.

I got dad's letter today telling me about the camera approximately 1 hour



after I bought a Polaroid "Swinger" for only \$9.95. I am quite surprised at the quality of pictures. I enclosed few for you to see.

#1 is "Nui Be Dinh" (in English that's "Black Virgin Mountain". It's visible on a clear day at Cu Chi, about 50 miles on the other side. This was taken from Tay Ninh base camp, where we moved yesterday. #2 is the "Big Angel" without the tent set up. This is 5-5-7 track. I usually ride on the chest just above the words "Big Angel". The fella is Rick, our driver from New York. #3 is a local bunker. Notice the radio antennae!! Business as usual, even while under attack. #4 is "my first car." This is the little buggy with the stick shift that I relearned to drive in. The tracks behind it are Battalion HQ. #5 is our glorious home for the next 6 hours, 6 days, 6 weeks, 6 months (choose one). All it is, is 2 x 4's set on a wooden floor with a tent over it.

Tomorrow we go on a MEDCAP (Medical Civil Action Program) about 30 miles from here. What a way to waste a day!! It'll take 2 to 3 hours to go either way plus at least 2 hours up there. Then when we get back, we have to refill all the pills we gave out. Goodie.

More tomorrow, I hope.

**Love Joe**

20 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Hello. Not much new here. We traveled about 5 miles on the other side of the mountain today for a MEDCAP. Doc told me to ahead and run it since the other 91C and I would take them from now on. The other 91C is a SP6 fresh in country, which means that I won't be able to get a promotion before I leave unless I transfer to another unit. Oh, well, I didn't want that extra \$70 anyway.

More pictures today. #6 is just one of the small tracks, like all of the line troops use. #7 is our driver getting out of the hatch after our 30 jaunt back. His moustache isn't that big. That's dust from the road. #8 is our "washroom" with basin, cup, mirror and 5 gallon can of water. Fresh air while you shave!! #9 is Big Angel from the front. Notice the red crosses that no one is suppose to shoot at. #10 is Rick and Ray (ambulance driver) working on the road wheels. Notice our mascot, BOBCAT, on the side. #11 is our very own bunker. Better I should run an extra 20 meters during an attack than hide in that rickety

thing. One motor round within 20 feet would collapse it. #12 is just scenery (experimentation). #13 is the back and inside of the Big Angel. That pile of canvas on the top is our Battalion Aid Station. #14 is me. I finally got someone to take my picture. That bright spot on my left pocket is my Combat Medic Badge.

Gotta go now MEDCAP tomorrow, have to pack pills.

**Love Joe.**

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Just a quick note before I go to sleep. I saw 280 patients on MEDCAP today and I'm exhausted. No more MEDCAP's until Wednesday now.

We got the word yesterday that we are moving to Dau Tieng on Saturday. Thus we will have hit all 3 of the 25th's base camps. I hope we set up permanently real soon. The rain is here to stay.

Now for pictures. #15 is a MEDEVAC chopper taking off for another load after dropping off casualties at the 25th Med Battalion. That's Nui Ba Dinh in the background. #16 is not a bartender or half of a bartender quartet. They are medics from Alpha Company. That's "Blinky" on the left and "Ziggy" on the right. #17 is a combat-hardened veteran, whose name slips my mind at the moment, but his initials are LEX. #18 is again our hero, armed with M-16, insect repellent and water purification tablets. #19 was an attempt to catch the beginning of a rain storm. I'm afraid the cloud cover was a little heavy.

Well, that's about all for now. I'll try to dash off a note tomorrow between filling pill envelopes. Now, off to the air mattress.

**Love, Joe**

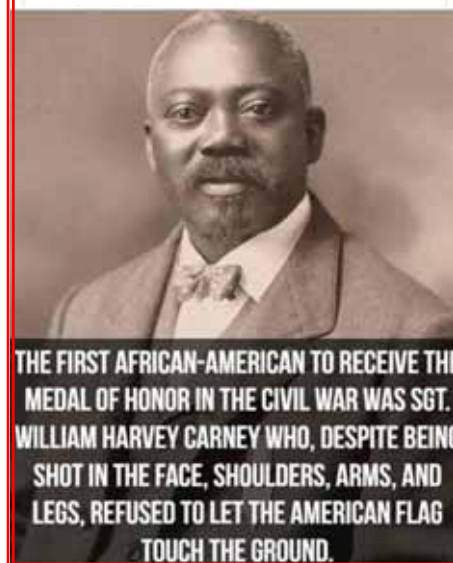
*P.S. I sent my application for a ballot in today. This also officially registers me. I hope that we still own the house in Park Forest, because that's what I put down for permanent home address.*

### Leadership

Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and let them shine.

-Chris Hadfield

From Eusevio Alvarado's Facebook page



## New Hat For Sale

At our Norfolk reunion we had 12 of the hats shown below for sale. They were so popular that they all sold within about two hours.

So we have decided to offer them for sale. The color of the hat will be royal blue as pictured below. They will be sold



for \$15.50. That price includes shipping.

You can purchase the hat from our quartermaster Chester Johnson.

Chester can be reached at:

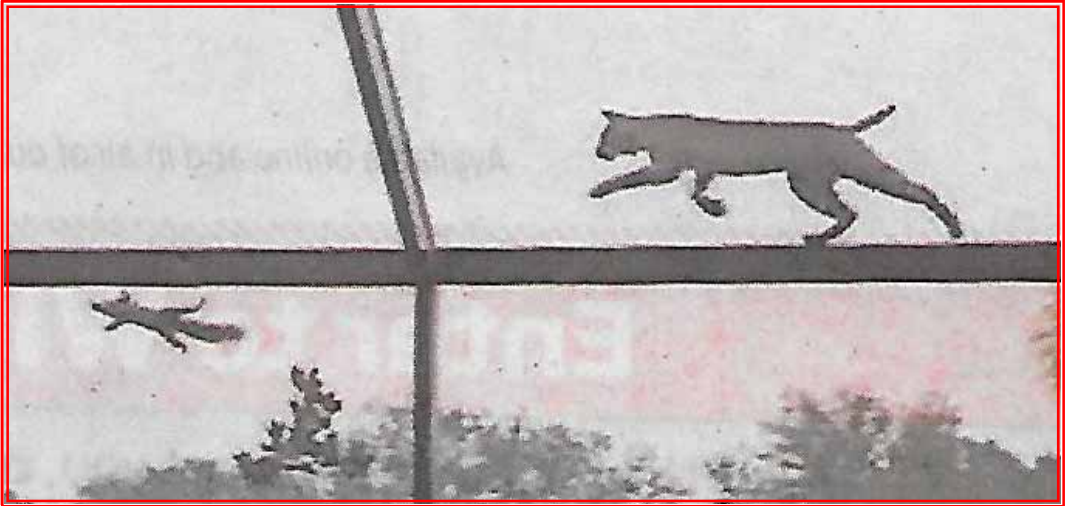
979-966-9669 or

E-mail: [jcjohnson4@verizon.net](mailto:jcjohnson4@verizon.net)

## Bobcat In Pursuit

In this picture a bobcat is chasing a squirrel on the screened lanai that covers a Florida swimming pool.

It is rare to see a bobcat this close to humans. But wildlife experts believe it to be a inexperienced 20 to 30 pound juvenile bobcat who may have been hungry.



## ‘Hall Of Honor’ Working To Preserve Stories Of Purple Heart Recipients

April 29, 2019

*Filed Under: Cindy Hsu, Local TV, National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, New Windsor, Orange County, Purple Heart, veterans, Voices For Vets*

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. (CBS New York)

“Do you know a military hero who’s been awarded with a Purple Heart?”

A special place in Orange County wants to preserve their stories and pass them on to younger generations.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor is on a mission to collect and share the stories of recipients like Tony Lassiter. The 72-year-old was wounded when his convoy was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade during the Vietnam War.

“That’s the one medal that you don’t want to get, but since I have it, that’s the one medal I’m really proud of,” he told CBS2’s Cindy Hsu. “There’s only two ways to get that medal – you get wounded or you get killed.”

To Enroll For The Roll Of Honor Go To: <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2019/04/29/purple-heart-hall-of-honor/>

Two of Lassiter’s fellow soldiers were killed in the attack. While it’s been 50 years, he still has nightmares about Vietnam.

“I can still see it so clearly, and I guess that’s some of the problems that I have. I can’t let it go,” he said. His story is now part of a database known as the Roll of Honor.

An estimated 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded, but the gov-

ernment doesn’t have an official list of recipients. The Roll of Honor only represents about 10 percent.

To enroll, the recipients just have to fill out a form, which includes verification the award was made.

“It’s voluntary – that’s the catch, our Achilles heel, our challenge. There are no master lists to draw upon,” said Peter Bedrossian, of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. “We rely on recipients, their families or friends to do this.” The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor opened in 2006, and many school groups have visited since. It’s open six days a week and it’s free to visit.

Lassiter said it’s been a place to share his past, especially with his oldest grandson.

“He thinks I’m a hero, but I’m just saying, ‘hey look, I did what we all should do – we serve our country,’” he said.

The stories collected there are teaching the next generation about courage and sacrifice.”

*\*Sent by George Bates*

### Three C Company KIA’s

“This Sunday will mark the 50th anniversary of a battle that took 3 “C” company men. Charles Hathorn (*In the front* KIA 4/7/69) of Laurel, MS, Stanley McCreary (KIA 4/7/69) of Harve DeGrace, MD and the guy standing in the back with the hat and pistol is Ralph Nathan, KIA 2-27-69. , Wayne Stewart

*(Continued with picture next column)*

of Warner Robins, GA.

Chuck was a really good friend, we had fought many battles side by side. I didn’t have to ask but he was always there. I was getting ready to rotate out and he took over the 1st squad. He was in that position for about a week and



while on a sweep he walked through a hedge row and an NVA in a fox hole fired a RPG that hit him. He is still missed as are all those that gave all.”

*\*Gary Robertson Facebook post*

### Two out of six are KIA’s



L to R: Joseph Gallagher (KIA), Andy Gimma, Kellum (Kelly) Grant (KIA) Steve (Solly) Solomon, Dennis Hacken and kneeling Jimmy Sutton (Picture courtesy Steve Solomon and taken from our Website)



# 2019 Reunion Charleston South Carolina

Tuesday September 3rd - Sunday September 8th

## The DoubleTree by Hilton Charleston Airport



7401 Northwoods Boulevard,  
North Charleston, SC 29406

\$124 Single / Double per night



- \* Free parking
  - \* Complimentary Shuttle Service to/  
from the Airport & within a 6 mile radi-  
us of the hotel based on request
  - \* Breakfast included in Room Rate
  - \* Free Wi-Fi in guestrooms
  - \* Outdoor swimming pool
- To make reservations call:  
[After September 15th 2018](tel:8435186200)  
1- (843) 518-6200  
and when booking tell them  
"5th Infantry Regiment Association"
- \* *Booking prices are good up to 3 days  
before and after reunion dates*

## Schedule of Events

**Hospitality Room: September 3rd -  
September 7th (No fee)**

**Snacks & Beverages are allowed.**

**Tuesday September 3rd**

**Arrival and Registration**

**WED SEP 4th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Historic Charleston City Tour and  
Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Mu-  
seum (Lunch Included) - \$69 pp**

The best way to see one of the most  
historic cities in America. On the tour,  
we will cover and pass by: Hampton



Park, The Battery, Rainbow Row, The  
Old Exchange and Provost, Broad  
Street, Church Street, St. Philips Church,  
St. Michael's Church, the Four Corners  
of Law, Meeting Street, site of Secession  
Hall, Circular Congregational  
Church, Charleston City Market, Market  
Hall, Marion Square, the Old Citadel  
(Embassy Suites Hotel), Charleston Mu-  
seum, Charleston Visitor Center,  
Chalmers Street, Dock Street Theater,  
King Street, College of Charleston,  
Mother Emanuel AME Church, Liberty  
Square and the South Carolina Aquari-  
um.

Patriots Point Naval and Maritime  
Museum Tour with Lunch in the CPO  
Mess. One of Charleston's premiere  
venues, Patriot's Point, features the USS  
Yorktown (aircraft carrier), USS Laffey



(destroyer) and USS Clamagore  
(submarine), a Vietnam era support  
base, the US Medal of Honor Museum  
(USS Yorktown).

**THU SEP 5th 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM**

**Fort Sumter Ferry Tour,  
Lunch on your own in the City Mar-  
ket Area & A Carriage Ride Tour -**

**\$69 PP**

Fort Sumter is an island fortification  
located in Charleston Harbor, South Car-  
olina. Originally constructed in 1829 as  
a coastal garrison, Fort Sumter is most



famous for being the site of the first  
shots of the Civil War (1861-65). U.S.  
Major Robert Anderson occupied the  
unfinished fort in December 1860 fol-  
lowing South Carolina's secession from  
the Union, initiating a standoff with the  
state's militia forces. When President  
Abraham Lincoln announced plans to  
resupply the fort, Confederate General  
P.G.T. Beauregard bombarded Fort  
Sumter on April 12, 1861. After a 34-  
hour exchange of artillery fire, Anderson  
and 86 soldiers surrendered the fort on  
April 13. Confederate troops then occu-  
pied Fort Sumter for nearly four years,  
resisting several bombardments by Un-  
ion forces before abandoning the garri-  
son prior to William T. Sherman's cap-  
ture of Charleston in February 1865.  
After the Civil War, Fort Sumter was  
restored by the U.S. military and  
manned during the Spanish-American  
War (1898), World War I (1914-18) and  
World War II (1939-45).

**CHARLESTON CITY MARKET  
SHOPPING** - There's no better way to  
get a feel for Charleston while support-  
ing local artists and entrepreneurs than



*(See Charleston on page 26)*

## Charleston Reunion Pre-Registration

**PLEASE** complete this form if you are planning to attend this reunion.

By completing this form it will help us plan our needs for transportation and meals etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of additional guests

Names of additional guests

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ **WED** - Do you plan on taking "The Charleston City and Patriots Point Naval Museum Tour"?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

⇒ **THU** - Do you plan on taking the "Fort Sumter Ferry Tour"?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

⇒ **FRI** - Do you plan on attending the Memorial Service at the Citadel?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

⇒ **SAT** - Are you planning on attending the Ladies Breakfast 9 AM SAT morning at (no charge) ?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

⇒ Are you driving? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Is this your first reunion?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to or contact:

Carolyn Kethcart  
16054 Pine Drive  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-468-8624  
[carolynjk@bobcat.ws](mailto:carolynjk@bobcat.ws)

-----  
**See you in Charleston SC!**

## Registration Form Charleston SC

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 4 SEP</b> - The Charleston City and Patriots Point Naval Museum Tour - \$69 per person		
<b>THU 5 SEP</b> - Fort Sumter Ferry Tour - \$69 per person		
<b>FRI 6 SEP</b> - Memorial Service at the Citadel - \$49 per person includes Lunch		
<b>SAT 7 SEP - Banquet Dinner Choices</b>		
1. Grilled Vegetable Marinara - \$35		
2. Seared Free Range Chicken Supreme - \$40		
3. Grilled Atlantic Salmon - \$45		
4. Herb Roasted Prime Rib - \$50		
* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Seasonal Vegetable, Apple Cobbler, Freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO
Make check payable to <b>5th Infantry Association</b> and mail to: <b>Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477</b>		

(Charleston from page 25)  
with a visit to the Charleston City Market. If you're looking for locally hand-made items, one-of-a-kind gifts or memorable souvenirs, you'll have much to choose from. Among the many family-friendly vendors, you'll find everything from handcrafted jewelry to award-winning fine art paintings and sculptures from local artists. There's a little something of everything here!

**Carriage Ride/Tour** - Old South Carriage Company, owned and operated by the same family since 1983, features some of the finest tour guides, draft horses, and carriages in historic Charles-

ton. Stop by our stable at 14 Anson Street to meet our professional staff and



see for yourself the quality of our operation. Not only are our tour guides extensively trained, but when you see our sta-

(See Charleston on page 27)



(Charleston from page 26)

ble, our horses, and our carriages you will immediately appreciate the care and attention to detail that Old South Carriage Company dedicates to guarantee a quality tour and a wonderful carriage ride.

---

**FRI SEP 6th 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

**Memorial Service at The Citadel  
Military College at Summerall Chapel**



Citadel above; Summerall Chapel below

**A Cadet Guided Tour of the Citadel  
College & Catered Luncheon at the  
Citadel - \$49 pp**



---

**Saturday September 7th**

**9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership  
Meeting**

**9:00 - 10 AM - Ladies Breakfast (No  
Charge)**

**10:30 - 11 AM Fragging**

**12 Noon - 5 PM - Free to explore  
Charleston**

**Bobcat Banquet**

**5:00 PM - Cocktails**

**6:00 PM - Dinner**

**7:00 PM - Program**

**8:00 PM - Approximate Auction**

**ARE YOU ENROLLED ON THE ROLL OF HONOR**  
at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor?

**THE NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR**

**The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, located in New Windsor NY is the only facility in the nation dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the stories of our nation's service men and women who have been killed or wounded by enemy action while serving in the United States military.**

**We rely on family, friends and Purple Heart recipients to share their stories with us. We need your help to build the Roll of Honor database containing these stories.**

**To learn more about the Hall of Honor, sharing your story and free enrollment please visit our website at: [www.thepurpleheart.com](http://www.thepurpleheart.com) or call the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor at 845.561.1765.**

The Hall of Honor is part of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission which administers 27 parks, parkways and historic sites for the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation in NY.



## Changes of Command at the 1/5th



Gladiator Co.'s CPT Unna Lee relinquished command to CPT Christopher Kelleher.



CPT Jon Beck Anger Company relinquished his company to CPT Kingsley Ehie.



Bayonet Company held a Change of Command Ceremony for outgoing commander CPT Oleg Sheynfeld and incoming commander CPT Thomas Wong.



CPT Trey Bruce relinquished command to CPT Oleg Sheynfeld. CPT Bruce will be departing for Fort Carson as CPT Sheynfeld takes command of HHC.



Charger Co.'s CPT Alexander Purdy relinquished command to CPT Jacob McLellan.

Change of Command pictures were provided by 2LT Dan Dougherty.

## WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE

I NOW KNOW WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO  
REUNITE. NOT TO TELL STORIES OR LOOK AT OLD PICTURES.  
NOT TO WEEP OR LAUGH.

COMRADES GATHER BECAUSE THEY LONG TO BE WITH  
THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE ACTED THEIR BEST: WHO ONCE  
SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED, WHO WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR  
HUMANITY.

I DID NOT PICK THESE MEN, THEY WERE DELIVERED BY FATE  
AND THE MILITARY. BUT I KNOW THEM IN A WAY I KNOW NO  
OTHER MEN. I HAVE NEVER GIVEN ANYONE SUCH TRUST.

THEY WERE WILLING TO GUARD SOMETHING MORE  
PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE. THEY WOULD HAVE CARRIED MY  
REPUTATION... THE MEMORY OF ME.

IT WAS PART OF THE BARGAIN WE ALL MADE, THE REASON WE  
WERE ALL WILLING TO DIE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AS LONG AS I  
HAVE MEMORY, I WILL THINK OF THEM ALL. EVERY DAY.

I AM SURE THAT WHEN I LEAVE THIS WORLD, MY LAST  
THOUGHTS WILL BE OF MY FAMILY, AND MY COMRADES.

**SUCH GOOD MEN!"**

*Sent by Paul Robinson - See related article on page 24*

**5th Infantry Regiment Association Inc.**  
138 Glenrise Road  
Swanton MD 21561-2317

*Address Service Requested*

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