



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"

Spring 2020

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

Volume I

1/5th Is Attacked by Iranian Missiles

Since last fall the 1/5th has been in Iraq working with and training the Iraqi Army in an effort to defeat ISIS.

When the United States killed the Iranian general Iran retaliated with a missile attack on the Air Force base where the 1/5th is based.

Below is a report on that attack from the BBC. LTC Garland who is being interviewed is the 1/5th Battalion Commander.

Inside a US air base attacked by Iranian missiles

From the BBC - 13 JAN 20

"US air base Al Asad in Iraq was targeted by Iran in response to the death of Qasem Soleimani, the top Iranian military commander, who was killed in a US air strike.

BBC Persian correspondent Nafiseh Kohnavard was allowed inside the high



LTC Garland 1/5th Commander is pictured above speaking

security base to see the damage and speak to soldiers who survived the attack."

Ardmore PA Block Named After Bobcat Killed In Vietnam

ARDMORE, PA — "A portion of an Ardmore road was renamed in honor of an Ardmore native who lost his life while serving in the Vietnam conflict. Wednesday night, Lower Merion Township Commissioners announced the 200 block of Chestnut Avenue in Ardmore will be renamed to 1st Lt. Paul T. Short Jr. Way.



Short grew up on that block and was killed on FEB 3, 1967 in Vietnam. Resident Wendell Holland Sr. proposed the renaming and local veterans groups backed it.

According to township officials, Short was born Aug. 9, 1942, graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1960, and attended Temple University.

(See Paul Continued on page 2)

"I'll Try Sir"

Florida Veterans Home Named After Bobcat

"Hi Fred, I'm in Florida at the moment and was doing some research on Veterans benefits when I came across an article about Ardie R Copas. This is what I found.

Ardie Ray Copas who was awarded the Medal of Honor) has a state Veterans



Nursing Home in Port Saint Luce Florida named after him. There was a ground breaking for this nursing home on April 20, 2018.

This will be a 112 bed Veterans nursing home in Orange County and is

(See Ardie continued on page 2)

(Paul Continued from page 1)

Short served as an officer in Vietnam, which was relatively uncommon at the time.

His childhood home still sits on Chestnut Avenue and his sisters still live in Ardmore.



Former Lower Merion Township Commissioner Maryam Phillips said Short deserves to be known by future generations that he was one of the township's 'biggest and brightest stars.'

.....

*Paul was in B Company and I knew him. In fact the night of February 12th 1967 we sat and had a long conversation. After six months with the 1/5th I had transferred to another unit. I missed the 1/5th and was telling Paul I was thinking of requesting a transfer back to the 5th.

Paul advised me not to come back but to stay where I was. He said something to the affect that they were going out on an operation the next morning and that he had a strange feeling about it. He then took out a picture of his young daughter and showed it to me.

I have often wondered if this was some kind of premonition that he would be killed? Because the next day, on that operation that he was concerned about, I was shocked to hear that he was killed.

I've never forgot this late evening conversation. When the 25th Infantry Division Memorial fund was selling commemorative bricks for the courtyard surrounding the memorial they were building at Schofield Barracks Hawaii, I purchased one in Paul's name.

Fred Deverse

(Ardie continued from page 1)

under construction with a scheduled opening to residents, sometime in 2020.

This was in the Florida Veterans guide information and a good thing for our membership to be aware of. I didn't see an official opening date."

Theron Clough

After Theron sent me this E-mail I also searched and below is all I could find.

The new 120-bed state veterans' home will be located near 10700 SW



Above picture is of the groundbreaking for the **Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie County) and is scheduled to open to residents in early 2020. When completed, the 120-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.

Tradition Parkway in the Port St. Lucie community of Tradition.

The Book Store Lady

"Years ago, around 1980, was driving back to my office in north Phoenix when I spotted a used book store, operating out of an old one story bungalow. Along arterial streets in old parts of town one very often sees older houses converted to commercial use. I'd not noticed this one before so stopped to check it out. A well dressed middle aged woman sat at the counter, reading a book. She had a dignified look, wore a skirt and blouse. Her demeanor and attire reminded me of my 2nd grade teacher years before, a very classy lady. We exchanged pleasantries and I went about my business, looking for VN books. Normally the smaller stores don't have many, or the ones they had I already had. This one was somewhat of a mini-bonanza. Found a couple of books I'd been looking for for a long time, and a couple more that friends were looking for. A great haul of good books. An armload.

Took them to the front counter, plopped them down, and the woman got up, started punching in the cash register, told me the total and began bagging the

books. I paid, got change, and then it happened. She asked "Were you in Viet Nam?" Seemed like good idea to keep it simple so I simply said "yes." She was studying my face with what was quite obviously more than a simple curiosity. Then she asked "So...what do you think of it all."

I paused. Been conditioned to have people ask then exhibit boredom if answer was too long. Then again she might be a rabid "anti-war" radical and give me a raft of sh-t. Then again, how can one convey an experience like that into a brief response that makes any sense. She was waiting, looking at me, as I mulled things over. I had to say something. Made things as simple as I could.

My oration went something like this: "I know what everyone else thinks, I know what they said on the news, and I'd probably agree with all that if I had not gone. What I experienced is not at all what people perceive here. "My Viet Nam" was never in the "news," and I had NO respect for the "news"(?) media. I know bad things, disgusting things occurred. My Lai was real, it happened, it was repugnant. Still, I never saw anything like that, and the few times I saw Americans abusing Viet Nameese I put an immediate stop to it.

"The communists were barbarians. They were sick, ruthless Nazis. I knew a thirteen year-old Viet Nam boy who witnessed the VC's execution of his father, putting a bullet in his head.

"I went on scores of MED-CAPs. Saved some lives. Saved one girl's horribly infected face. Saved an old woman's terribly scalded foot.

I don't care what anyone else says or thinks. As for me I served with some of the best people this country has ever produced. I had and have the greatest respect for them. People say 'you're lucky. You're not dead. It's easy for you to be positive. Of the people I knew who were killed in Viet Nam not one, ever, was opposed to what we were trying to do. Not one.

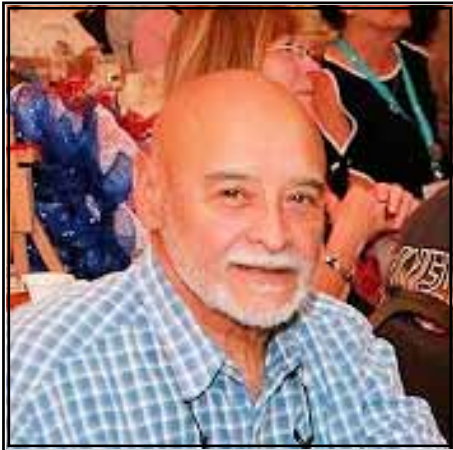
"I'd go again and am very fortunate and blessed to have encountered some of the finest people I've ever seen walk this earth. We were doing the right thing and it's not our fault if the government, the news media and all the rest made a mess of things."

She sat there, taking it all in, obviously pondering what I'd said. She just kept looking at me.

Then she spoke. "What you've said

(See Book Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings to all the Bobcat families,

"Already the third month of 2020 and many events are getting close. In April a group of Bobcats will be attending a dedication renaming of the Veterans Hospital in Odessa TX. to the Wilson Young Veterans Hospital, in honor of Rex Young and Max Wilson, two Medal of Honor recipients from Odessa TX. The Regiment will be well represented by members of the Association. Honorary Bobcat member Ronald (Ronnie) Rains has been instrumental in having the renaming of the VA Hospital. Ronnie knew Rex from High School in Odessa. A Post Office in Odessa has already been named after Rex Young.

Our prayers to the people of Tennessee who were devastated by the tornadoes that hit in early March. 25 lives were lost and the damage was extensive. Bad weather continues to raise havoc on many states and has made travel hazardous. That coupled with the Coronavirus outbreak has made travel questionable.

Please take all precautions and this virus will be cured.

Our Reunion is fast approaching and it promises to be a great occasion. The itinerary for our reunion will be enjoyed by all as many of our events will feature several historical sites.

Our deployed active duty Bobcats are due back soon and a few of us will travel to Alaska to welcome our Bobcats back.

Several members of our Bobcat family and their spouses are having health care issues at this time. Please keep them in your prayers. At our age we are blessed with the years we have been given and for every day of life. Hope to see everyone at our Reunion.

George Chavez
President

(Book Continued from page 2)

is very important to me." I didn't know what to say. I just stood there looking back at her. Then she dropped the bomb saying, "My son was killed in Viet Nam. I'm glad you told me this."

I came up with some lame yet sincere condolences, said her son is remembered by those he served with, and even those, such as I, who did not serve directly with him. We exchanged some courtesies and then I left, two bags of books in my arms. I was numb.

I could not get anything done for the rest of the day. Got home that evening, went out in backyard and threw down a couple of beers. How long had that woman, that MOTHER, been forced to bear thoughts of her son being a rapist, drug head, killer, officer fragger, etc., etc.? What kind of corrosive agony had this poor mother endured over the years? How long had it been when she'd heard anything positive??? I thought of the lines written by a Vietnamese poet, describing the path of a bullet as it goes through a soldier, kills him, and continues its flight into the heart of the soldier's mother.

Perhaps, maybe, I'd done one good deed for the week."

COL-R Nevin Williams

52 Years of Friendship Chaplain Falabella

"Cpt. Fr. Robert Falabella (2nd Bde Chaplain, 25th ID) & Ric Myers during a recent visit, after 52 years of friendship. They forged their lifelong bond of friendship while serving in the 5th Mech in Vietnam in 1967.



At age 90, Fr. Robert still maintains his devout spirituality and grand sense of

(See Ric Continued on page 24)

5th Infantry Association

President - *George Chavez*
Vice President - *Nicky Fasselin*
Treasurer & Quartermaster- *Chester Johnson*
Membership Secretary - *Tom Frame*
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 Tom Frame about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 20** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 20. Please renew now!

Reunions

Fairfax County VA 25-30 AUG 2020
Colorado Springs CO 14-19 SEP 2021

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 Tom Frame at:

*460 Center School RD - Perkasi PA 18944
toppop68@gmail.com or 215-514-6613*

Lost Members:

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

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

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.

Socia, Michael - New address
PO BOX 2043
Littleton MA 01460-3043

Bennett, John D. - New Address
3609 Mauka LN
Ruskin FL 33570-3574

Jakubowski, Timothy - New address
14522 Coaral ST
Dyer IN 46311-3122

Vunak, Lawrence - New address
13 Stadelman CT
Cartersville GA 30120-5443

New Members:

King, Butch
2121 Armor's Ford
Greensboro GA 30642
706-817-6495
B Company 1969
bkingam2@gmail.com

Garland, Tim (Katrina)
1717 Candlewood DR
Leavenworth, KS 66048
912-271-2475
1-5 INF - 2019-20 (Battalion Commander)
Garlandkatrina@yahoo.com

Boe, Gordon
1700 Gwynedd View Rd
North Wales, PA 19454
g.boe@comcast.net

Taps:

Baker, Ronald L. - From Rapid City

SD- HHC 69 - Died 2 JAN 2020

**See more information and a picture of Ronald on page 9.*

Ferguson, Michael L. - From Pensacola
FL - BN Commander 1974

**See more information and a picture of Michael on page 9.*

Richardson, Bill of Saratoga Springs
NY - HHC 65-67 died 7 DEC 19

**Tom Frame said, "I received a call from Donna Richardson that Bill passed away on Dec. 7th 2019." I could not find an obituary for Bill.*

Smith, Billy Smith reports that his wife recently died.

Illness:

Caused by Agent Orange

22 DEC 19

"Agent Orange in some cases will mimic different symptoms. For over a month in 2011 the VA treated me for terrible earaches. My son Alex took me to the San Diego VA demanding better health care. After many important X-rays, CT scans & many more tests I was diagnosed with throat & esophagus cancer. At this point I can no longer speak or swallow food or liquids. My means of communication is by note book & pen (Mexican I pad). I had been programmed for a G tube attachment next day, feeding tube attached to my stomach for feeding Meds & high milk formula. I remember writing down I don't think I will need a feeding tube. Well it has been 8 years & I still have the feeding tube. I'm still not able to swallow or pass liquids. I speak a little every 3 months. I have throat & esophagus expansion. The problem is the cancer is right on top of my voice box, about the size of a marble. The doctors suggested the removal of my voice box & cancer cell. My son told them not to remove my voice box. This is the beginning of illnesses caused by Agent Orange."

Abe Cardenas

=====

A Facebook post on 26 FEB 20 by Betty Young

"Just got off the phone with John Snodgrass. About a half hour ago the doctor at the hospital Cathy is in came in and told them that she has cancer in her lungs, spine, and brain. The Doc's will be talking with them later about the options. Needless to say, John sounds very emotional after hearing this. He asked if

I would post this info and to ask for all the Bobcats prayers for both of them."



Prayers needed for this wonderful couple.
Said Ed Kawczynski in a Facebook post

JUST A DREAM

Once again we're on the move,
In our hands the power to destroy,
A power I don't think I should have
And I hope to never employ.
But as we proceed on our path
Our eyes are open wide,
Darkness and fear engulfs us all
We pray with every stride.
---Suddenly,
An eruption breaks the deafening silence,
In the air a bullet flies,
A sickening thud is heard by all,
A fallen being cries.
Small dark shadows scatter quickly
Looking for some place to hide.
A distraught voice behind me says,
"Sergeant, this man has died."
Again a bullet cracks the air
And smacks the earth near me.
"Return the fire, a voice commands,
He's somewhere in that tree."
A barrage of firing splits my ears,
But I can't remember that sound,
Only the sight of a lifeless body
Falling to the ground.
---So,
As easy as the light of a candle,
Two lives are blown out,
But for those of us who go on living,
We've ourselves to worry about.
No, two young men exist no more
There must be a reason it would seem
But no answer comes, so back to sleep,
I'll pretend it was just a dream.

"I was going through some old stuff when I ran across a few poems I wrote in country back in 1968. I think I wrote this when we were in Saigon the first week of July."

Rob Kiehm

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

A Review of Roger Hayes book

"On Point - A Rifleman's Year in the Boonies: Vietnam 1967-1968"



Timothy J. Bazzett

★★★★☆ Good book.

Reviewed in the United States on November 16, 2018

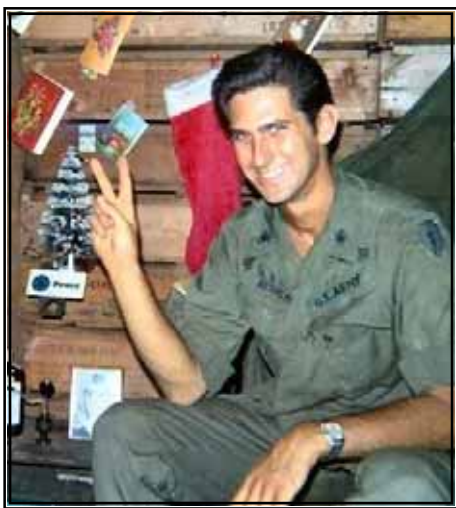
Format: Paperback

Good book. Hayes tells of his year in a Mechanized Infantry unit in a calm, unadorned fashion. He employs no obscenity, a rare thing in a combat memoir, often displaying a dry wit so subtle you could almost miss it. Hayes walked point often, was a volunteer tunnel rat, and a mortar and machine gun man too. He "instructs" his readers in tactics, OP's and LP's and warns you off powdered "green eggs" for reasons Dr Seuss never imagined. ON POINT was first published nearly 20 years ago, a part of the glut of Vietnam books that flooded the market. There is some quiet heroism displayed in these pages, by many GI's. Hayes' own is very understated, but it is there. I'll say it again. Good book. And Roger Hayes was an exemplary soldier.

- Tim Bazzett, author of the Cold War memoir, SOLDIER BOY: AT PLAY IN THE ASA

Roger Hayes commented, "I like this review. It was pretty much what I was striving for."

Randy Kethcart Christmas Eve 1970 Xuan Loc, Vietnam.



"Waiting My Turn To Call 911"

14 DEC 19

"To the Bobcat Family: I am remorseful for this late reaction to Roy Bressler's recent medical misfortunes. But I am also pleased to know that he is

well on the way to recovery. Due to the nature of today's on-line news, (some good, most bad), I may not look at my inbox for several days. Hence, my tardiness in not coming up on the net in a more timely manner. But it's good to know that Roy is now at the VA hospital and making progress in the recovery phase. Roy did not exhibit any physical problems at our Granite Ranch reunion, so I was very surprised to receive these medical updates. But then as a senior citizen, we must expect facing challenges like Roy experienced that can happen at any time. My own cardiologist tells me: "Andy, if you fall and hit your head, you must go to the hospital and be evaluated". So now I'll wait my turn to call 911, but also wish Roy a speedy recovery and the ability to attend our next Bobcat Family reunion. So Roy, hang tough, stay healthy, and we'll see you soon in Virginia. May God bless and watch over you.

With warmest regards,"

Andy Anderson

4 JAN 20

Regarding Jim Carter

Randy,
"There was a letter in the lat-

est Bobcat newsletter looking for info on Jim Carter.

Jim was the 1st Platoon Leader in Bravo Company in mid-1969 when I was the C.O.

Some time after Ralph took over (early Oct?) I believe he took a job on Brigade staff. As I recall, he was from SE Massachusetts.

Don't know if this is any help, but it's all I remember."

Bill Correia



Sent by Nevin Williams on 12/22/19

Always Ask!

7 JAN 20

"We stopped at a TACO BELL
(See Comments on page 6)

All Veterans Would Get Dental Care Help Under This Proposed Plan

Week of December 23, 2019

"A proposed Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pilot program would help all veterans access free or discounted dental services in their local communities. Currently, the VA provides dental care only to veterans who have a service-related dental problem, are former POWs or are rated as totally disabled as a result of their military service. Now, according to a notice published in the Federal Register, the VA wants to begin an at least five-year-long pilot program that would connect veterans with dentists in their area who offer free or discounted dental care to all veterans -- not just those with a service-connected disability."

**From Military.com*

Some New Commissary Shoppers Will Be Able to Use This Letter for Base Access

20 Dec 2019

Military.com / By Dorothy Mills-Gregg

"Defense Department officials have announced a workaround that will allow more new shoppers to access base commissaries and exchanges on Jan. 1, when eligibility categories expand. Some veterans who don't have a Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC, from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to use a VA benefits eligibility letter to get on base instead, according to new guidance presented Friday during a Military OneSource Facebook live video.

A new law that takes effect at the start of 2020 extends commissary, exchange and some Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facility use to about four million additional veterans and caregivers. Newly eligible categories include Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with any service-connected disability and caregivers registered with the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program.

But allowing those users on to secure military bases or to process through the commissary's checkout system,

which requires ID cards be scanned to confirm shopping eligibility, has posed a challenge.

Please Help Scholarship Fund

In the past years at our reunions we have always passed the hat for donations to the "25th Infantry Division Association's Scholarship Fund". And in recent years we have donated at least \$1,000 and sometimes \$1,500 to the Fund. Because of the hurricane forcing us to cancel our reunion there was no passing of the hat and therefore no money to donate.

This year the 25th's Scholarship Fund is awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to the relative of a Bobcat.

Your "Board of Directors" voted to donate \$1000 to the 25th Scholarship Fund if they awarded a scholarship to a relative of a Bobcat. They have chosen a Bobcat relative to receive a scholarship so we have made a \$1,000 donation.

We are asking you to help us by making a donation to the Association to help pay for this donation.

You can donate and pay one of two ways:

1. Mail a check to our treasurer. Make the check out to "5th INF REG ASSOC" and mail it to:

Chester Johnson
225 Summit DR
La Grange TX 78945

2. Pay by credit card on our Website. Sign on to Website at:
<http://bobcat.ws/donations.html> and just follow the directions.

Donations to our Association are tax deductible so please help fund this scholarship by donating. Any amount large or small is welcome.

In advance we thank you for your generosity!

Do it now! Donate

Did you know?

We have 410 members. Of the 410 members 325 have a paid up for life membership and 3 are honorary members.

One hundred thirty two members have elected to receive their newsletter by E-mail only.

(Comments from page 5)

today. I placed the order and then said I would like either a senior or military discount.

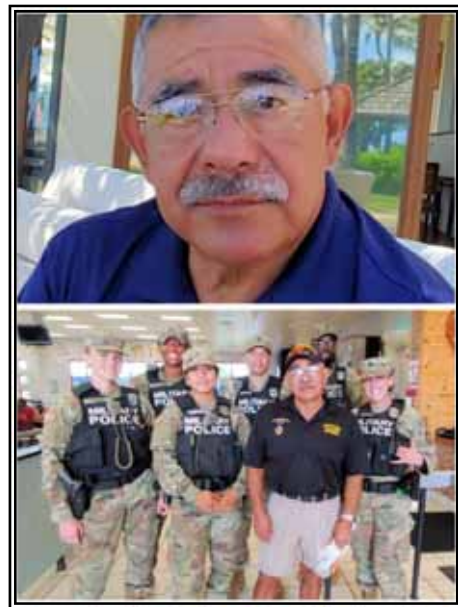
Well, I reviewed the charge slip. I got a 10% senior discount off the food cost and then a 25% discount of total bill! She did not ask for military ID."

Nevin Williams

Touring Hawaii and a Visit to the 25th at Schofield Barracks

My wife Tena and I spent the month of October of this year on the Island of Hawaii.

We toured the island by car and helicopter. Went over still steaming volcanos & saw many waterfalls. We also spent a few days on the island of Oahu We went to 25th Schofield Barracks.



As we were having lunch a group of MP's came in & noticed my 25 ID cap and asked many questions about Vietnam. Great Trip!"

Eusevio Alvarado Jr, (Doc)

Soppe & Curran's Visit

Pictured below (L to R) are Ron Soppe in a visit with Shirley and Dan Curran. This was back in December of



2018.

Did you know Dale Hearndon?

I received a call from Don Fuller in January. He had received a call from Dale Hearndon (Julian) from Crossville Tennessee. Dale was in Headquarters Company's Recon Platoon from 8/67 to 8/68.

Dale said that he was now in the Veteran's Hospital in Knoxville TN. Dale has had some serious health problems. He has had a stroke resulting in his right side being paralyzed. He also broke his knee and hip, had bypass surgery and can't see.

If you knew or served with Dale I'm sure he would love to hear from or talk with you. Dale's contact information is:

**Dale Hearndon - Room 302
1 Veterans Way
Knoxville TN 37931
931-787-9242**

George Chavez is Proud of his Daughter

"It has been 1 year ago that my daughter was promoted to 1st Lt. It is



the second Chavez to attain Officer Rank. So Proud of my young LT's."

Bobcats Get Together In Florida

When the Florida Winter Social was cancelled a few who had planned to attend kept their reservations and met in St Petersburg.

On February 18th Theron Clough said; "We all met at the Hollander Hotel, spent some time getting acquainted and



then we went to Johns Pass to Bubba Gump's for seafood. Tuck and Arlene live in central Florida so they only came for the day and brought their daughter, her husband and a son. We ate, socialized and had a real good time. Then we went back to the Hollander, saying our good byes to Tuck and his family as they were going back home. As is usual we met in the morning with Dan and Shirley headed back to Wisconsin and Sue and I headed for central Florida for some more sun."

Hi Fred,

"We had a nice time meeting up with a couple Bobcats in Florida. Douglas & Arlene Tuck and Theron & Susan Clough. Dan was in Vietnam with Doug in 1967/68 and they both were stationed at Fort Polk afterwards. The two have remained close friends ever



Dan, Doug and Theron

since. They had common experiences together in Vietnam and remember the same incidents and people. Especially those they witnessed losing. Doug was a career police officer in Lake Placid, Florida. We were invited to his 75th Birthday last May and surprised him at the airport. It was very emotional. They refer to each other as best of friends claiming they covered by each other's back.

We first met Theron & Sue when we were all first time attendees in Hagerstown. We got to be good friends on the Caribbean cruise a number of us enjoyed. They even stopped by our house on their trip back from West.

It was a short visit as Doug & Arlene drove from Lake Placid for the afternoon & evening dinner together. We were joined by their daughter & husband along with one son. Everyone had fun at Bubba Gump. Service people referred to Dan as Lieutenant Dan."

Shirley Curran



13 FEB 20

Jim Caudle recently had part of his left leg amputated. He recently received his new prosthesis and is learning to use it.

(See Comments on page 8)

From golf courses to commissaries: More details about access to new military benefits for 4.1 million extra people

"For the 4.1 million people who are newly eligible for shopping privileges on military installations, defense officials have provided some more details on access to the new shopping and recreation benefits open to them as of Jan. 1. Officials have outlined a temporary solution for veterans who have a service-connected disability, but their income is too high to qualify for a Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC. That VHIC is the required credential for eligible veterans to gain entry into installations, to shop at commissaries, exchanges and to use certain morale, welfare and recreation facilities. The temporary solution is to accept the veteran's Health Eligibility Center Form H623A that indicates they have been placed in Priority Group 8E, along with an acceptable credential such as a U.S. passport or a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, until defense officials identify a long-term credential for this group.

However, one of those veterans who falls into that category contacted by Military Times said that she is not familiar with the letter and form, and hasn't yet been able to get information from the Department of Veterans Affairs about getting the document.

About 37,000 veterans have been classified by the VA as having a 0 percent service-connected condition, but their income is too high to qualify for the health care card. Yet these veterans are still eligible for these new shopping benefits.

The new benefits were authorized by law for all veterans with VA service-connected disability ratings; Purple Heart recipients; veterans who are former prisoners of war; and primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the VA caregiver program. Previously those with a 100 percent service-connected disability rating, and Medal of Honor recipients were allowed the benefits.

It's the largest patronage expansion in more than 60 years.

The new customers receive access to commissaries, exchanges and MWR Category C revenue-generating programs on the same basis as a retired military member.

**Copied from an Army Times Website*

TALES OF CU CHI IT'S A SMALL WORLD - -PART TWO

"In 1967, I was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi, Republic of Vietnam. Prior to my assignment I had been married to a nice lady that I shall refer to as MARY LOSSER. Mary and I tried to make a go of it. However, I was commanding a Basic Training Company at Fort Ord, CA and my hours were such that I only saw my wife on weekends. I did recall that Mary had a brother who was a sergeant and stationed at Ft Bragg, NC in the 82d Airborne Division. She and that brother were quite close and she called him often. Mary and I gave it up in 1963 and divorced.

Back to Cu Chi. I was sent to the S-4 shop to draw jungle fatigues and boots. There I encountered a Sergeant who was wearing airborne wings on his fatigue jacket. His name tag said his name was Losser. I became curious and I asked him where he was from. He replied, Mooresville, Kentucky, sir. That was Mary's home town. Then I asked him if he had ever been stationed at Ft. Bragg, and he replied yes. After he answered that question, the sergeant looked at me more closely and read my name tag and insignia of rank. Obviously he had known that his sister had at one time been married to an army captain named Williams.

I suspect we both realized that we had just met our ex-brother-in-law! No more was said by either of us. I soon left the 5th Infantry for another assignment within the 25th Infantry Division and I have no idea what ever happened to Sgt Losser.

I consider it quite a coincidence that one would meet an ex in-law in Vietnam—an in-law that he had never met previously—especially since there were approximately 400,000 US troops in Vietnam in early 1967.

Yes, it is a small world!

As a matter of useless information, this Sergeant was reputed to be the only person at the Cu Chi Base Camp with a flush commode. Apparently he carried the water to it and it flushed into an old VC tunnel. (You may recall that the base camp area apparently was built in an old VC area and was riddled with tunnels.)"

COL-R Nevin Williams

(Comments from page 7)

Track #34 - 51 Years Later

"On Fri, Aug 23, 2019 Charles Kennedy wrote: "Hey so Summer Flashes (25th Infantry Division Association's newsletter) comes , I open it and start to look at pictures before reading anything (always do this) page 26 has a story about The Green Dragon, page 27 I'm looking at Track # 34, Now this is the Spooky part, the picture is from Aug 19, 68, 51 years from the day I'm opening Flashes, 51 years from the day Co A made contact with a NVA unit, I lead 3rd platoon that day, we were point, Lt got shot about 15 min into fight. So now I'm point Platoon and ranking guy in platoon. So anyway Frank (Goins) I thought you should know that your 34 made the Flashes. It only took 51 years. We lost 34 a very short time after this Picture. (mine) Any way Frank we will miss you in SC.

Chuck (Kennedy)

Frank Goins replied: **WOW**

Remembering Phillip Monson

"March 15, 1971, all hell broke loose and I lost a friend. Phillip Monson , May you Rest In Peace. A co. 1/5m 25 ID. Gone but not forgotten."

Theron Clough

SGT Phillip D. Monson DEC 2, 1949 - MAR 15, 1971



Phillip's sister Theresa on 15 March posted the picture below which reads.

(See Comments Continued on page 15)

Obituaries for Beloved Bobcats

Ronald L. Baker (COL-R)

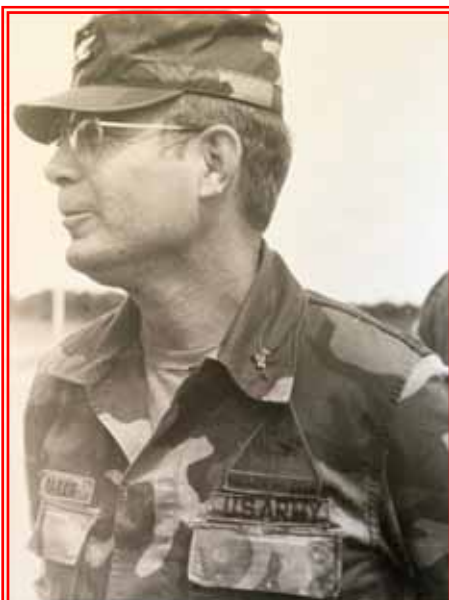
"Ronald L. Baker, 79, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, at Rapid City Regional Hospital after a year-long struggle with cancer.

Ron was born Aug. 3, 1939, in Rapid City.....



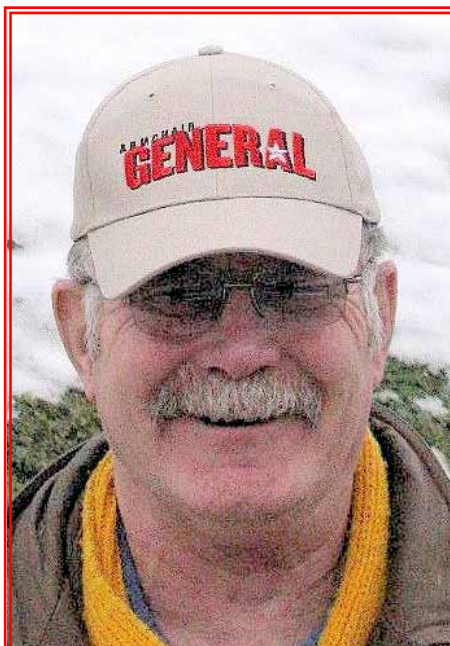
COL-R Ronald L. Baker
War College Photo

A tough yet compassionate man, Ron served two tours in Vietnam. His career as an army officer would continue from 1961 until he retired as a Colonel in 1991. After retirement from the U.S. Army, he continued to work with young soldiers as an employee of various military contractors.



Ron's wife Carrie said: "Above is about my favorite photo of Ron. He loved being a soldier."

Although having moved many times throughout his career, Ron eventually settled in Rapid City, which he consid-



A more recent picture of Ron

ered part of God's country. He would spend the rest of his life in the Black Hills hosting friends and family, pheasant hunting, and enjoying the occasional beer.

Ron and Carrie Knutson met in high school and would eventually marry on Jan. 26, 1961.

Interment will be at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, with full military honors rendered by the South Dakota Army National Guard."

Michael Ferguson (BG-R)

Brigadier General Michael L. Ferguson, USA (ret.)

"Pensacola, FL - (Ret.) Brigadier General Michael Lambert Ferguson, an esteemed community leader in the Pensacola area, passed away on Saturday, January 18, 2020. He was 81 and lived with grace, dignity, integrity and courage.

Gen. Ferguson was graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1960. "Iron Mike" went on to serve with distinction and honor in cold-war-era West Germany and Vietnam where he was awarded a Purple Heart, one of



BG-R Michael L. Ferguson

more than 30 awards, decoration, and badges he received. His exemplary service is noted in a December 10, 1968 Look Magazine article; novel The Stuff of Heroes (by William Cohen); and The Lost Battalion of Tet by Charles A. Krohn, 2008. His accolades, awards and accomplishments are too numerous to mention. Gen. Ferguson also served at the highest levels of military command in the Pentagon before his "first" retirement.

After retirement, Michael was admitted to law school at the University of Florida, and had a distinguished career."

.... Even as a lawyer, Mike never lost his love for the military men and women he had served with and led, serving as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA - 3 star level according to Army protocol). in his life.

Burial will be at Barrancas National Cemetery with full Flag Officer military honors.

*Also see "Our Bobcat Forebears" by Sam Kier on page 14.

"Once you replace negative thought with positive ones, you'll start having positive results."

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

"If you really want to get along with somebody, let them be themselves."

-Willie Hugh Nelson

Treasurer's Report

4th Quarter Financial Report
(1 October - 31 December 2019)

October 2019:

Income:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Membership Dues | \$75 |
| Quartermaster Sales | \$168.50 |
| Scholarship Donation | \$325 |
| Dulles Reunion | \$589 |
| TOTAL | \$1157.50 |

Debits:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mastercraft Printers - Fall Newsletter | \$750.75 |
| Postage Newsletter | \$208.35 |
| 5th INF Museum Plaque | \$5000 |
| Dulles Reunion Deposits | \$2300 |
| Ronnie Rains Picture | \$361.35 |
| I-Power Website Account | \$814.18 |
| C. Johnson -Postage mailing quartermaster items | \$89.67 |
| Schulenburg Printing (Quartermaster sales jacket) | \$59.50 |
| TOTAL | \$9583.80 |

November 2019

Income:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Membership | \$25.00 |
| Quartermaster Sales | \$317.30 |
| TOTAL | \$342.30 |

Debits:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Vanguard (5th INF Shields) | \$111.95 |
| TOTAL | \$111.95 |

December

Income:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Membership | \$145 |
| TOTAL | \$145.00 |

Debits:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Schulenburg Printing (Quartermaster sales shirts) | \$87.93 |
| Postage Mail quartermaster orders | \$49 |
| Mastercraft Printers - Winter Newsletter | \$750.75 |

The Green Dragon

Letter to the editor in the fall "Tropic Lightning Flashes"

"Great article about the Green Dragon, the iconic M 113. I had the privilege to command the other mech battalion in the Division, the 1st of the 5th Infantry from December 1969 till July 1970 to include the Cambodian Incursion.

I have a long history with the M113, having served a couple of tours in Germany during the Cold War in Armored Cav units. The 113 was the mainstay in the Cav, along with its little bother the M 114 scout track. The 114 was tried in the early days in VN but failed because it couldn't negotiate the paddy dikes.

With regard to the 113, I have often wondered how many baby boomers and Millennials are walking around alive because their fathers or grandfathers survived because they were crew on a 113.

About the time I arrived in the 1/5, the reinforcing titanium mine protection plate mod was being fitted under [the] hull between the front road wheels. This got most of the drivers back in their seats, eliminating the need for the lateral extensions they jury rigged to reduce their vulnerability to mines.

This mitigated one of main vulnerabilities to the 113; the other was the gasoline engine. I have often had black thoughts thinking about who was the guy that decided to not convert to diesel, the models of the 113 that operated in VN.

After I retired I went to work with a company that did business in VN. Since the end of the war I have made about ten trips there, and I was able to establish contact with a number of former soldiers from my time there, both ARVN and NVA.

One of those was a former NVA major general who was one of the senior

NVA officers involved in TET. General Trung retired a 4 star, and had commanded the Hanoi air defense during the 1972 B52 Christmas bombing.

In one of our conversations at the bar with several of his colleagues in the Metropole Hotel in Hanoi, their experience with US mechanized units came up.

One of the other former NVA officers present who had served in the South commented that they, the NVA, avoided as much as they could, contact with mechanized units, saying that they almost always came out badly for such engagements.

I said that we were mostly wary of mines and also the RPG, particularly after the model 7 began to show up. General Trung commented that RPG7 was a great improvement and that if a gunner could get a hit on a M 113 it probably was knocked out. The problem was that to the RPG gunner it was usually a death sentence because, as he said, "those damn M 113s never went any place alone and sure as hell as a gunner got a shot, there were 5 others, all with 2 machine guns and 6 or 8 infantry men going after the shooter."

As an aside, in a separate conversation with General Trung, he told me that if we had continued with B52s for 2 more days they'd have been out of SA missiles and AAA ammunition.

The Army says that over 80,000 M113s and their variants were built, they have no idea how many are still in service."

Colonel Ted G. Westerman (R)

Bobcat-6

December 1960-July 1970

Mr. Ted Westerman
23935 Park Belmonte
Calabasas, CA 91302

**Jeff Mc Grath requested and received permission from COL Westerman to publish his letter in our newsletter.*

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Postage Mail newsletter | \$161.57 |
| Postage - Mail newsletter to 5th in Iraq | \$14.96 |
| TOTAL | \$1064.21 |
| Checkbook Balance | \$3762.06 |
| Savings Account | \$51972.98 |
| TOTAL | \$55735.04 |
| Treasurer/Quartermaster Chester Johnson | |

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.

"Every Box of C-Rations is Peaches And Pound Cake"

*Speech by Major General Robert Scales
USA (Ret) at Truman Library - 12 September 2009*

"Mr. Skelton, Mr Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy. I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our conscientiousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the minds of soldiers for as long as wars have been fought. From Marathon to Mosul young men and now women have marched off to war to learn that the cold fear of violent death and the prospects of killing another human being heighten the senses and sear these experiences deeply and irrevocably into our souls and linger in the back recesses of our minds.

After Vietnam we may have gone on to thrilling lives or dull; we might have found love or loneliness, success or failure. But our

experiences have stayed with us in brilliant Technicolor and with a clarity undiminished by time. For whatever primal reason war heightens the senses. When in combat we see sharper, hear more clearly and develop a sixth sense about everything around us.

Remember the sights? I recall sitting in the jungle one bright moonlit night marveling on the beauty of Vietnam. How lush and green it was; how attractive and gentle the people, how stoic and unmoved they were amid the chaos that surrounded them.

Do you remember the sounds? Where else could you stand outside a bunker and listen to the cacophonous mix of Jimmy Hendrix, Merle Haggard and Jefferson Airplane? Or how about the sounds of incoming? Remember it wasn't a boom like in the movies but a horrifying noise like a passing train followed by a crack and the whistle of flying fragments.

Remember the smells? The sharpness of cordite, the choking stench of rotting jungle and the tragic sweet smell of enemy dead.

I remember the touch, the wet, sticky sensation when I touched one of my wounded soldiers one last time before the medevac rushed him forever from our presence but not from my memory, and the guilt I felt realizing that his pain was caused by my inattention and my lack of experience. Even taste is a sense that brings back memories. Remember the end of the day after the log bird flew away leaving mail, C rations and warm beer? Only the first sergeant had sufficient gravitas to be allowed to turn the C ration cases over so that all of us could reach in and pull out a box on the unlabeled side hoping that it wasn't going to be ham and lima beans again.

Look, forty years on I can forgive the guy who put powder in our ammunition so foul that it caused our M-16s to jam. I'm OK with helicopters that arrived late. I'm over artillery landing too close and the occasional canceled air strike. But I will never forgive the Pentagon bureaucrat who in an incredibly lame moment thought that a soldier would open a can of that green, greasy, gelatinous goo called ham and lima beans and actually eat it.

But to paraphrase that iconic war hero of our generation, Forrest Gump, life is like a case of C Rations, you never know what you're going to get because

for every box of ham and lima beans there was that rapturous moment when you would turn over the box and discover the bacchanalian joy of peaches and pound cake. It's all a metaphor for the surreal nature of that war and its small pleasures... those who have never known war cannot believe that anyone can find joy in hot beer and cold pound cake. But we can.

Another reason why Vietnam remains in our consciousness is that the experience has made us better. Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing for war as a self improvement course. And I realize that war's trauma has damaged many of our fellow veterans physically, psychologically and morally. But recent research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by behavioral scientists has unearthed a phenomenon familiar to most veterans: that the trauma of war strengthens rather than weakens us (They call it Post Traumatic Growth). We know that a near death experience makes us better leaders by increasing our self reliance, resilience, self image, confidence and ability to deal with adversity. Combat veterans tend to approach the future wiser, more spiritual and content with an amplified appreciation for life. We know this is true. It's nice to see that the human scientists now agree.

I'm proud that our service left a legacy that has made today's military better. Sadly Americans too often prefer to fight wars with technology. Our experience in Vietnam taught the nation the lesson that war is inherently a human not a technological endeavor. Our experience is a distant whisper in the ear of today's technology wizards that firepower is not sufficient to win, that the enemy has a vote, that the object of war should not be to kill the enemy but to win the trust and allegiance of the people and that the ultimate weapon in this kind of war is a superbly trained, motivated, and equipped soldier who is tightly bonded to his buddies and who trusts his leaders.

I've visited our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan several times. On each visit I've seen first hand the strong connection between our war and theirs. These are worthy warriors who operate in a manner remarkably reminiscent of the way we fought so many years ago. The similarities are surreal. Close your eyes for a moment and it all comes rushing back. In Afghanistan I watched soldiers from my old unit, the

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

101st Airborne Division, as they conducted daily patrols from firebases constructed and manned in a manner virtually the same as those we occupied and fought from so many years ago. Every day these sky soldiers trudge outside the wire and climb across impossible terrain with the purpose as one sergeant put it - to kill the bad guys, protect the good guys and bring home as many of my soldiers as I can.. Your legacy is alive and well. You should be proud.

The timeless connection between our generation and theirs can be seen in the unity and fighting spirit of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, I get asked the same old question from folks who watch soldiers in action on television: why is their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are getting fed up with these wars? Don't they know Afghanistan is going badly? Often they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what ever one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On those lonely firebases as we dug through C ration boxes and drank hot beer we didn't argue the righteousness of our cause or ponder the latest pronouncements from McNamara or Nixon or Ho Chi Minh for that matter. Some of us might have trusted our leaders or maybe not. We might have been well informed and passionate about the protests at home or maybe not. We might have groused about the rich and privileged who found a way to avoid service but we probably didn't. We might have volunteered for the war to stop the spread of global communism or maybe we just had a failing semester and got swept up in the draft.

In war young soldiers think about their buddies. They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. For the most part the military we served with in Vietnam did not come from the social elite. We didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of political bluebloods. We were in large measure volunteers and draftees from middle and lower class America. Just as in Iraq today we came from every corner of our country to meet in a beautiful yet harsh and forbidding place, a place that we've

seen and experienced but can never explain adequately to those who were never there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought us to fight in the jungle was no different than the motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the military but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

What makes a person successful in America today is a far cry from what would have made him a success in the minds of those assembled here today. Big bucks gained in law or real estate, or big deals closed on the stock market made some of our countrymen rich. But as they have grown older they now realize that they have no buddies. There is no one who they are willing to die for or who is willing to die for them. William Manchester served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and put the sentiment precisely right when he wrote: "Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die is not a man at all. He is truly damned."

The Anglo Saxon heritage of buddy loyalty is long and frightfully won. Almost six hundred years ago the English king, Henry V, waited on a cold and muddy battlefield to face a French army many times his size. Shakespeare captured the ethos of that moment in his play Henry V. To be sure Shakespeare wasn't there but he was there in spirit because he understood the emotions that gripped and the bonds that brought together both king and soldier. Henry didn't talk about national strategy. He didn't try to justify faulty intelligence or ill formed command decisions that put his soldiers at such a terrible disadvantage. Instead, he talked about what made English soldiers fight and what in all probably would allow them to prevail the next day against terrible odds. Remember this is a monarch talking to his men:

This story shall the good man teach his son; And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by, From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered - We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he to-day that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be

he ne'er so vile, This day shall gentle his condition; And gentlemen in England now-a-bed Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

You all here assembled inherit the spirit of St Crispin's day. You know and understand the strength of comfort that those whom you protect, those in America now abed, will never know. You have lived a life of self awareness and personal satisfaction that those who watched you from afar in this country who hold their manhood cheap can only envy.

I don't care whether America honors or even remembers the good service we performed in Vietnam. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a firebase to open a case of C rations with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves. I believe in my very soul that the almighty reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual campfire where some day we can meet and embrace all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

**Sent by COL-R Nevin Williams*



C Co. In Iraq - Mortars conducting Live Fire

Virginia Celebrating Veterans

Good afternoon Fred,

"Here in Virginia we're wrapping up our legislative session in a couple of weeks. Last night our Legislative Veterans Caucus celebrated and recognized our active duty and veteran populations of the great Commonwealth of Virginia at the Virginia War Memorial here in Richmond. I serve as a member of the Joint Leadership Council of the Virginia Department of veterans Services and Homeland Security. I represent the interests of the members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. We have had much success in securing legislative initiatives in support of our wounded and disabled veterans. Additionally, we support initiatives assisting transitioning service members in educational and employment programs to encourage them to remain within the Commonwealth.

The first photo is of me and my good friends, MG Tim Williams, the State Adjutant General and his deputy, BG Jim Ring. The second is of a col-



league of mine, Mark Atchison, a Silver Star-decorated Special Forces colleague and the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam.

I hope that you are doing well and surviving the winter. We've had no snow this year and today it's in the high fifties!

All the best,"

Jim Cuthbertson

MOPH Representative
Joint Leadership Council Of Veterans
Service Organizations

Fred,

"Might make an interesting addition (*Article & pictures below*) to an upcoming issue. Although we deal with a lot of amputees and traumatic brain injury vets, this bevy of beauties is none of my doing. It does depict that IED's are not gender-selective in their victims. God bless these young heroes!"

Jim Cuthbertson

You'll never see this picture on the front of Time Magazine, or any other magazine.



We see lots of pictures of wounded male veterans but women vets get wounded and maimed too. You may need to take a second, closer look though. The first thing I saw was a bunch of beautiful smiles. Study this picture again. Let the story it tells sink in. These women and many others, as well as their male comrades, paid this price for our freedoms.

And, they did it for less than what welfare recipients are paid! DID YOU GET THAT?!?

There is more patriotism and class in those 11 ladies pictured than the majority of Congress and the White House combined! And a HECK of a lot more than those over-paid athletes who choose to "take a knee" when the National Anthem is played! They risked these injuries (or death) FOR YOU and ME, AMERICA!

**Sent by Jim Cuthbertson*

"It is the desire of the good people of the whole country that sectionalism as a factor in our politics should disappear."

"To vote is like the payment of a debt, a duty never to be neglected, if its performance is possible."

"Unjust attacks on public men do them more good than unmerited praise."

-Rutherford B. Hayes - 19th president of the United States 1877 to 1881

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

Michael Lambert Ferguson 1938-2020



“BG-Ret Michael Ferguson passed away in Pensacola, Florida on January 18, 2020. Ferguson commanded 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry at Schofield Barracks during the mid-70’s. During his tenure with the Bobcats, the battalion carried out Operation New Life, an effort devoted to the care and processing of Vietnamese refugees who had been evacuated from Saigon in the closing days of the war.

Mike, born September 4, 1938, was a 6th generation native of Pensacola. His father, PFC Lloyd Ferguson, a machine gunner with the 8th Infantry Division, was killed in March, 1945 during the attack on Cologne, Germany. When Mike finished high school in 1956, he was one of 13 young men who were appointed to the U.S. Military Academy because they were the sons of deceased veterans.

Ferguson was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry in June, 1960 and, after completing the Basic Officer Course and Airborne and Ranger School, was sent to Bremerhaven, Germany and assigned to the 2nd Armored Rifle Battalion, 50th Infantry, 4th Armored Division. He served as a rifle platoon leader, mortar platoon leader, company executive officer and, at age 23, a company commander. On November 4, 1961, he took some leave and

married Jane Lang of Buffalo, New York.

In 1964, Mike returned to Ft. Benning and was assigned to the Platoon Tactics Committee. During this period, he taught tactics, completed night courses leading to an M.A. in international relations and became the father of two girls; Michelle, 1965, and Cathy, 1966.

In 1967, after attending Special Warfare School and taking a course in the Vietnamese language, Captain Ferguson was assigned to I Corps, Vietnam. He was attached, as an advisor, to the 4th Battalion, 3rd Regiment, 1st ARVN Infantry Division. Operations were frequent, lengthy and full of surprises, fraught with ambushes, well-hidden mines, and little artillery and air support. The battalion commander, who had thirteen years of experience in the Indochina conflict, was initially adverse to advice from any quarter but was soon won over by “this young American, who demonstrates coolness under fire and good judgement, integrity and understanding.”

Upon promotion to major, Ferguson became a regimental adviser and was based at an old French fort, PK17, which guarded the northern approaches to Hue. For his actions during the Tet offensive, Mike received the Bronze Star for Valor. His citation reads: Without regard for his personal safety, Major Ferguson continuously exposed himself to great danger as he guided the landing and deployment of heli-borne relief forces and assisted in the treatment of wounded personnel while under fire. He also guided a vital resupply column through enemy-infested territory with no loss of men or material. He received another Bronze Star, during the same thirty-day period, for his support and coordination of air assaults and follow-on operations of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Mike was wounded during a rocket and mortar barrage.

Following Tet, the 29-year-old major, weighing no more than 124 pounds, after a bout with dengue fever, was assigned as a senior advisor, to brigade level. His unit continued to co-operate with the 1st Cavalry Division. Major General Truong, the ARVN 1st Division Commander praised Mike, stating, “This American soldier represents all the best of the thousands of brave and unheralded advisors that assisted my soldiers and my country.”

Mike went home in 1969-70. He held a brief staff position with Third US Army and then attended the Naval War College Command and Staff Program. His son, Michael Jr., was born during this period. Ferguson returned to Vi-

etnam, briefly, to help coordinate the pull-out of US Army forces.

Once the Vietnam job was over, Ferguson reported to the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He served as Assistant Division G-3, Division G-3, and finally, in 1974-75, commander of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry. He instituted some intense training programs, including the “Bobcat Combat Run.” Platoons were timed in a ten mile run with full field equipment and scored on a live fire assault at the end of the run. Continuous individual skills training qualified over 115 of his soldiers to be awarded the Expert Infantryman Badge.

Mike was alerted to take the Bobcats back to Vietnam in 1975 to secure bridges and assist in the evacuation of any remaining U.S. Forces and key personnel, but, as the RVN fell, the battalion was diverted to Guam to organize refugee efforts for 40,000 Vietnamese soldiers and civilians being evacuated to Orote Point.

Ferguson’s 5th Infantry assignment was followed by attendance at the National War College, then command of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, then on to the Military Command Center in Washington, DC and finally to Fort Polk and command of 2nd Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division.

Mike was promoted to brigadier general in 1983 and spent the next three years ably handling several “two-star” jobs. When the second star didn’t arrive by age 47, Mike opted to retire and enroll in law school at the University of Florida. He passed the Florida Bar Exam in 1989 and began his law practice in Pensacola. In 2003, he was appointed a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army.

“Iron Mike” Ferguson’s professional and volunteer activities during his “retirement” years would have kept a platoon of men busy. They involved many charitable and civic areas but still left a little time for hunting and surfing.

From all reports, Michael Lambert Ferguson lived with grace, dignity, integrity and courage. He was an amazing soldier, outstanding leader, loving father and devoted community member. The Bobcats of 1974-75 had a good boss.”

Sam Kier

“It was by one Union that we achieved our independence and liberties, and by it alone can they be maintained.”

-President James Monroe

(Comments from page 8)

Forty years have passed and we
Remember you.
For those of us who have memories
Take the time to remember.
For those of us who have only stories
to hear
We take the time to listen.
Seeking God's plan and purpose for
your life was your focus.
Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his
own image, in the image of God he
Created him; male and female he
created them.
The plan to become a minister may not
have happened in real life but you are
an image of God.
In these present days of war, let us re-
member your sincere petition to us in
your letters was to pray for peace, and
you closed with these words,
"Oh, God, let it be soon."

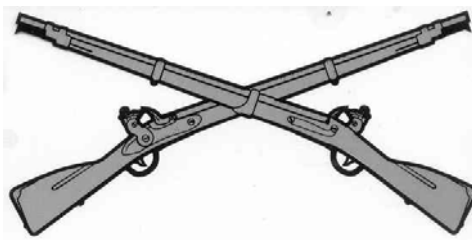
Written by Theresa



C Company in Iraq
Promoting Specialist Cruz to Sergeant



C Company in Iraq
Promoting SPC Enderle to Sergeant



Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

Distinguished Service Cross
is Awarded to:

Captain Ronald M. Chatelain

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarter, United State. Army Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDER
NUMBER 3311

29 August 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CHATELAIN, RONALD M., CAPTAIN FIELD ARTILLERY United
State Army, Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion
(Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, APO 96225

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross .

Date of action: 13 June 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operation.
involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam:
Captain Chatelain distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions
on 13 June 1969 while serving as a forward observer in support of an am-
bush patrol engaged with an enemy force on the Bau Dieu Peninsula. Af-
ter Captain Chatelain had directed fire on the hostile positions from his
helicopter and had succeeded in silencing the enemy, his craft landed to
take aboard casualties. Just as the aircraft set down, it was struck by rock-
et-propelled grenade fire which wounded all the crew members and set the
aircraft on fire. Despite his wounds, Captain Chatelain immediately be-
gan helping the more seriously wounded crew members to safety. Organ-
izing the remnants of the patrol into a defensive perimeter, he called in
and adjusted gunship fire on the hostile positions. He then supervised the
medical evacuation of his wounded comrades and directed his men to un-
leash a barrage of rifle fire on the enemy until a relief unit arrived. Cap-
tain Chatelain's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keep-
ing with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great cred-
it upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act
of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

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

16 March 2020

"I wrote to our families in January the environment can change on us at any moment. I am proud to report the Bobcats' hard work is paying off in terms of our readiness. Our mission to advise and assist the Iraqi Army in its mission to defeat ISIS has not changed. Bobcats continue to work hard on consolidating the gains of defeating ISIS through our continued partnership with Iraqi Security Forces. The goal of preventing ISIS or any other malign actor from threatening the democratic process here in Iraq is extremely important. The events from 2014 shows us how important stability is to this region and you can be proud the Bobcats are at the forefront of that stabilizing force. The goal remains to develop and build the Iraqi Army to continue and protect all the success from the last five years of combined operations with Coalition Forces.

I remain optimistic for the future based on the commitment and drive of our Iraqi partners. The fight against ISIS was refining moment where many bad leaders and Soldiers were removed, right sizing talent and ability within the Iraqi Army. I witness this result every day in my counterpart, who commands army forces throughout our region. The soldiers within the operational command we partner with remain aggressive and committed knowing there is no good alternative to their success.

The Combined Joint Task Force for Operation Inherent Resolve recognizes our focus is changing from kinetic operations to partner enhancing and building capacity. As such, we are right sizing Coalition forces and again the Bobcats are in the lead. We are closing our tactical base vicinity of Al Qaim near the Syrian border. This means we are bringing Anger Company back to Al Assad Airbase with the rest of the battalion. The battalion's focus remains on force protection and our continued partnership with the Iraqi Army. Our support for kinetic operations remains ready, but we will provide that support from a consolidated base. The Iraqi Army now mans the forward position at Al Qaim and continues to secure the border area from ISIS infiltration coming from inside Syria.

As we look forward, the Bobcats remain committed to their training knowing we're always on call for any mission. We work hard to maintain our readiness because we care about each other, our families, and our nation. It is difficult to communicate to you the pride I have in each Bobcat and what our battalion is accomplishing over this deployment. I recognize we are continuing the legacy each of you sacrificed so much to build. The reputation of this battalion is strong and we continue the legacy you passed onto us with pride. Please know these Soldiers are representing the 5th Infantry Regiment well, and are writing new powerful chapters to our regiment's history."

Tim Garland

LTC Tim Garland
Bobcat 06



CDR LTC Tim R. Garland &
CSM Brady Davis



SSG Bach (C Co) hanging a 60mm round



SSG
Louis
(C Co)
conducting
the
physical
fitness
test



Left to Right: SSG Roberts, SGT Langdon,
1LT Dougherty Being Awarded Their
1000lb Club Shirts.



PFC Lanzo Conducting Medical Training



A Co conducting MEDVAC training on the HH-60 Helicopter



A Co conducts a dry run through of battle drill 6

Additional
pictures on
Pages 12, 15,
19 & 24.

SPC Mitchell
(B Co) giving
direction and
purpose to his
Soldier.



CPL Valdez (A Co) activates a
smoke grenade to obscure the
movement of the assaulting
element



Headhunter Range Operations

Our Historian Sam Kier Helping Others

24DEC 19

"Mr. Kier: Thank you for the reply! My dad passed away April 10, 2016 in Centerville, Ia. I was relying on my mom's recollection of his years in Korea. She's 91 and has dementia. Is it possible to find out what battles he was in? He obviously wasn't in the Chosen Reservoir battle, as it was Nov-Dec 1950. He did mention Pusan and other places. Thank you for any help! His obituary is in the Ottumwa Courier."

Sincerely, **Tom Nord**

24DEC 19

Mr. Nord,

"Your father, who served with Company A of the 5th RCT, became a member of the 5th RCT Assn after the war. In the group's January, 2013 directory, they've listed his time of service in Korea as 1951-52 rather than 1950-51, as you stated. I believe that there are a few living veterans of Able Company or perhaps of 1st Battalion who might remember Eugene. As you know, these men would be in their late 80's to early 90's so it is doubtful that they check postings on the 5th Infantry Bobcat webpage guestbook. They do, however, receive a 5th RCT newsletter on a quarterly basis. The editor of that newsletter is Frank Jennings, who served with Company M in 1952-53. You might e-mail Frank at frankjennings5rct@gmail.com and ask if he would mention your quest in his next issue.

I assume that your father has passed away. If so, I would like to add his name and date of death to the list of the 5th Infantry vets that we will memorialize at our regimental reunion in August, 2020. I look forward to hearing from you."

Sam Kier, Historian
5th Infantry Regiment Association

26 DEC 19

Tom,

"To answer your question about actions in which your father was engaged we need to determine when in 1951 he arrived in Korea. When he separated from the Army, he received a form called DD214, Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States. From that we can get the date

that he was inducted into the Army, add 16 weeks for basic and advanced individual training plus a month for leave time, overseas travel time, and processing at Camp Drake near Tokyo, and get a rough idea when he reported to the 5th RCT. Gene would have kept that report because it was an important document to use when claiming veteran's benefits. Do you know where that document might be?

At this point all that we know is that he very likely spent some time as an RTO (radio/telephone operator) and served with 2nd Platoon of Company A. He apparently received the Bronze Star Medal for valor. That and his other awards and campaign ribbons will be listed on his DD214.

He definitely was not at the Chosin Reservoir. That action, involving the 3rd and 7th Infantry Divisions, took place in Eastern Korea while the 5th RCT was fighting in Western Korea as part of the 24th Infantry Division.

Please let me know what you find in the way of papers and we can take it from there.

Sam Kier

P.S. I was very near Centerville, IA in March of this year. My grandson, who is currently teaching in Istanbul, Turkey, married a girl from Burlington and I flew to Iowa for the ceremony. We were blessed with two rare days of sunshine in late March."

5th Infantry World War II Pictures Discovered

Hi,

"Today at the flea market I acquired a photo album of a Tec Sgt 4 from WW2. It has 183 photos of soldiers and places. All are removable and about 1/3 have captions. From the contents of the photos I have determined he was in the 5th Infantry Regiment, 71st. Division, 3rd. Army in Europe late in the War. Unfortunately he only identifies himself as "Me" on any of the photos. Other soldiers identified are: Conrad, Flickinger, Fortney (from Maine), Harbaugh, Hartman (from Kansas), Howard (from Maine), Hughes, Hunter, Jankowski, Moreland, Nell, Seay, Strum, Varney, Vassallo (squad leader), Vonderheid, Wallace, Watsek, and Watson.

I was hoping you might have a ros-

ter of the 5th Infantry Regiment during WW2 and be able to help me identify the owner of my album from the names of the other soldiers he is pictured with.

I can send you a few scans if you are interested."

Paul Roales
US Army 1963-69
Tulsa, OK

Hi, Paul,

"On any given day, during the war, there were approximately 3200 officers and men in the 5th Infantry Regiment (It's authorized strength was 3,257) That would be quite a roster. There may be company rosters and morning reports still in existence that would contain some of those names. The morning report would basically show casualties and transfers leaving and replacements arriving. These docs would be at the National Archives (NARA) in St. Louis, if they survived a late 20th century fire that took place at that agency.

The only list that I have is of the company commanders and field grade officers assigned to the regiment on 26 February 1944. Are there any officers pictured and identified?

If there are names of towns and cities on any of the photos, that might help narrow it down to the battalion level, since objectives were, at times, assigned to a particular battalion. There may be other clues in the photos, but I would need to see them. Of course, identifying the battalion or company would just be a first step. It would narrow the search for a roster.

Since the soldiers in the photos would have been wearing the 71st Infantry Division shoulder patch, how were you able to determine that they were assigned to the 5th Infantry?

The photo album was a great find, but I fear that identifying the previous owner and his buddies is going to be a tough task."

Sam Kier
Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn
HHC/5th Inf Regt, 1954-56

Looking for information on my grandfather

"My grandfather lied about his age and went to infantry basic and airborne in 1951 at age 15. He deployed to Korea

and was wounded. They found out his age and kicked him out of the Army. Two days after he turned 17 in 1953 he re joined and was sent to Koje-Do with George company 21st infantry regiment 24th ID.

I'm wondering if his first deployment to Korea was with the 5th RCT?

His time frame just matches too well with Sgt Robert Barfield. It just makes sense. Especially him being sent back to the 24th ID after he re joined in 1953.

Here is a picture of him in a pre



1952 airborne infantry uniform with a glider patch on his cover and airborne wings. And a theatre made patch he



brought home saying returned from hell Korea 1951-1952

Hoping someone might know something or be able to help me.

His name was Francis Burton

Crossman."

john doe
gunner1171@gmail.com

Dear John Doe (?),

"I'm sorry to hear that your grandfather's records were lost in the St. Louis fire. Have you considered the possibility that his first tour in Korea might have been with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. The timing would be right. The 187th went to Korea in the fall of 1950, made combat jumps in October 1950 and March 1951 and returned to Japan in late 1952. During the summer of 1952, they helped quell the prisoner-of-war riots on Koje-do Island. Service with the 187th would best explain the 1951-52 on the "Returned from Hell" patch.

"You say that he returned to Korea in 1953 and was assigned to G Company, 21st Infantry, 24th Division. That would have to have been July of 1953 or later because the 24th was rebuilding in Japan from January 1952 to July 1953.

I do know that, following the Korean War, your grandfather did not join the 5th RCT Assn with other veterans of the combat team. I have a directory of past and present members of that group.

I've copied my 24th Inf Division friend, Wes Morrison. He might have some ideas about how we might confirm Francis B. Crossman's assignment to G/21/24.

If what I've had to say triggers more memories or questions, please let me know."

Sincerely,

Sam Kier
Historian, 5th Inf Regt

Sam,

"The only information I could find on Francis B. Crossman was he died in 2 Feb 1998 in Orlando, FL. He is buried in Woolan Cemetery Woodland St., Clinton, MA. He served in the US Army for: 27 Jan 53-2 Nov 55 & 3 Nov 55-22 Dec 58. Highest Grade obtained was SP3 (E-4).

Information on Barfield show he was WIA on 3/6/52, unit shows 0005. This could be either the 5th RCT or 5th Cav Regiment. SS Death lists many Robert Barfield, so I don't have DOB or DOD, cannot find further info."

Wes

Thank you, Wes. That helps.

Shawn,

"Wes' findings that Robert Barfield was wounded on 3/6/52 make me doubt that Barfield was serving with the 5th RCT at the time he was wounded. On that date, the 5th RCT was not in a combat zone. 1st and 2nd Battalions were providing security for the POW camp on Koje-do Island and 3rd Battalion was providing security for the Tungsten mines near Sangdong. On his command report, Colonel Lee Alfred, the 5th RCT commander, reported no casualties for that month of March, 1952. Wes mentioned that Barfield's unit was possibly the 5th Cavalry Regiment but the 5th Cav had rotated back to Hokkaido, Japan on 7Dec51. It's a puzzlement.

This afternoon I went through the copies of 24th Infantry Division General Orders that I have for that 1951-52 period, when the 5th RCT was attached to the 24th, hoping that Francis Crossman might have picked up a Bronze Star around the time that he was wounded. That would identify his unit. There was nothing. Unfortunately, I don't have a listing of Purple Heart recipients for the same period. The other thing that occurred to me was that even if we had the DD214, Report of Separation, that your grandfather received when he mustered out of the Army in December 1958, it would probably list only his assignment to CO G, 21st Infantry. Personnel would have listed what they deemed his most significant assignment. It would, however, have information about his Purple Heart.

When Francis was wounded and evacuated, it would have been noted on his company's Morning Report. I understand that unit morning reports did survive the fire at NARA in St. Louis but you would have to know which infantry company to pull.

If you run across any more information or have questions about anything I've written, I would appreciate hearing from you. At this point, I'm stumped.

Sam Kier



C Co. in Iraq Reenlistment of
SGT Velasquez Fire Team Leader –
1st Platoon

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 - \$7.50 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



1
2

1A



3



9



13



14



17

**New lower prices
for shirts!**



5



6



7



4



Khaki/Navy

10



12



8



15



16

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 5th Regiment. Every person who has ever served in the 5th

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,

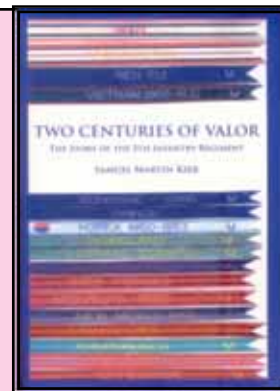
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

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

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:

Tom Frame - 5th IRA 460 Center School RD Perkasi PA 18944

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

Membership Application 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____

in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____

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

DUES: _____ Annual = \$30.00 Lifetime - Your age: _____ Less than 30 = \$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

1 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Again a fairly nothing happening day. We had a memorial service this morning and a big chicken dinner, bus back and swimming this afternoon. Right now I'm listening to Beethoven while trying to drown out "Fury at Furnace Creek", Armed Forces Vietnam television's \$10 movie of the early 40's. They couldn't pick many movies worse than a Victor Mature western.

One nice thing about a stand down none of the shammers came in on our sick call. Instead of our regular 30 or 40, we only had 6 people today. (Pardon me a moment there playing Gershwin.)

I watched the Bears beat the Packers 10-7 on television today. It was good to see Gale Sayers running again. I hope we get a few more Bears football games.

The word we got was that we would be staying in Dau Tieng December. I think Charlie has not rocketed or mortared us for about a week now (knock on wood)!

I guess I better sign off and get a few more letters written More later."

Love, Joe

P.S. Please send more lemonade, limeade, etc. It makes a great Vodka Punch.

5 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,
Hi!

"Just a quick note to tell you not to worry if you don't hear from me for about 3 or 4 days. I'm going out with the Battalion Commander as his personal medic in a few minutes and will probably be set out forward for a several days.

There's nothing to worry about except I don't know when I'll have another chance."

Love, Joe

8 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"I got in from the field last night, since our 5 day mission was cut short. It was so refreshing to be sleeping under the stars and hear that the base camp was getting hit. We did not receive as much as a sniper round while we were

out there. It was almost like a R & R. I didn't hold sick call, all I did was sit around and hope we did not get hit. At least I got several books read. The good doctor and two of our medics left for home today. By the time that you get this (13 SEP) I'll only have 8 months to go.

Also forgot to tell you that the medics are now in D company. That is a sort of coincidence since my unit in basic was D-5-1, now it's D 1/5.

As far as what I want for my birthday, all I'd really like is more good food (sausage, oysters, tuna. Other exotic dishes) and Wyler's soup & drinks. Also, I'd appreciate it if you could send my small tape recorder and my tapes (if you can find them all). I can keep it safe and clean and possibly get some more tapes recorded.

Well, I've got to sign off. Today is dispensary cleaning day. More soon."

Love, Joe

10 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"I'm standing up writing this in the shadows of the dispensary trying to avoid the bugs. We got our new doctor today, Captain P.R. Hodges from Butte Montana. He graduated from medical school in June, came in the Army in July and is now in the Vietnam. From what it looks like so far, we've done more surgery (minor) than he has. It also seems like he will let us continue prescribing medications, giving shots, and cutting on people.

I'm sending you a picture (below) from the Sun-Times I thought might interest you. The medic on the left is Clyde Sparks, one of our men who leaves next month. He had to go back on line because of a shortage of medics and happened to be out in all the fighting. I think that the picture is excellent. I'll try to send you a copy of our Division newspaper showing some more pictures of the same battle.

All of our Class VI stores are closed for inventory, so we have no beer. Right now I'm drinking George Dickel Sour Mash whiskey and Dr. Pepper (Bleakkk!!) We'd best get some more beer.....

I'm sorry that there's no more to write about but if I did write a long letter it would probably would be bad news.

That reminds me, our dog Lady was



killed by a 2 1/2 ton truck the other day. We decided that if we got another dog it will be ma... Puppy." I haven't seen a cat yet."

More later.

Love, Joe

=====

12 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Well, in the last letter I said that nothing was happening and less than 12 hours later all hell broke loose again. Alpha company's logger site was hit early yesterday morning, we received rockets and mortars all day today and the convoy was ambushed on the way here. From now on I won't even mention what is happening. It must be bad luck. (Still no Purple Hart, though I must admit today was close). We didn't even get dinner tonight because there was a mortar round with delayed fuse stuck in the cement floor. We also did emergency surgery on Samantha, the motor pool's mascot who took shrapnel in the right shoulder. She should be all right in a week or so.

I got 6 newspapers and a Time magazine in the mail today, so I'm finally beginning to catch up on the convention news. No matter what they say, I still like the way Mayor Daly handles things.

Time to go (no more to write about). More soon."

Love, Joe

=====

14 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Excitement, excitement! Charlie is starting to get cute with us now. He drops in a few mortars and rockets every few hours just to keep us on our toes. No body has been hurt bad except Samantha, the maintenance platoon monkey. (Did I already tell you that?)

Anyway, nothing much is happening. We are supposed to get about 10 new medics this week. Since we are now about 9 men short that will put us up to strength for the first time since late June.

There is also a rumor about that the 5th Mech is moving again (Oh, well). For all I know it could be back to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. I think that has a good chance as anyplace. At least we believe it will be some place south of Hanoi. In other words, they can send us any place.

I'm under 8 months!!! I passed the 7 and days yesterday, Friday the 13th. Not that superstition abounds, but yesterday

Bravo company track #13 hit a mine. It was the 13th vehicle in the convoy and it hit at 1313 hours. Coincidence??

Menk left country today, before we had a chance to go out and get blitzed together. Oh well, I guess I don't get my night out.

You know, I got my notice of subscription from Esquire about 2 months ago, but I haven't got my first issue yet. I'll let it slide for another week or so, and then I'll check with them.

Would it be possible for you to send me an address or two of local college girls that I might write to? I'd like to know somebody besides my family when I get home.

Enough jabber!! I think there is a football game on the telly, so I'll sign off. More later.

Love, Joe

=====

15 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Well the Army has done it again! We received the word tonight that we can be prepared to move the whole dispensary in 3 hours notice. (Goodie!!) We tried to get some stuff packed and hoped for a small sick call. HaH!! We had 30 patients, several of them minor surgery and had to extend sick call by 45 minutes (Doc, John and I are the only ones authorized to dispense medications and do surgery).

There is good news in that we have 11 medics in school in Cu Chi with orders to 1/5th (M). But, as every clear sky has it's grey lining, that means we all have to give up our aid kits to them. Oh well, such is life.

I got a letter from Grandma Lex and she really believes you made a wise investment in the new house. I also got a letter from cousin Dick who says he visited and read one of my letters. He congratulated me for being put in for an award. What award?? If I indicated to you that I was put in for anything either I was 3/4 slashed when I wrote about it, or you misunderstood my wording, or you know something I don't know.

It has been fairly quiet today... no mortars, no rockets, no sniper rounds. We kind of miss our 0700hrs "good morning" from Charlie. He usually pops about 50 AK rounds into the camp and didn't.

We're beginning to call the local latrine "Mortar Alley" because every time a medic goes down to "relieve himself" either mortars drop in or sniper fire starts up. I haven't been caught with my

pants down yet, but earlier this week Tiny beat Rick back to the bunker. That an accomplishment.

Just new (2330 hrs) I received a birthday card and a note. As for my "Commanders Medic" position it was voluntary on the condition that I could take two cases of beer with me. Again it meant going through "Ambush Alley", so I thought I deserved at least that much. In case I haven't told you about "Ambush Alley" let me illustrate.

(There was a small diagram of "Ambush Alley".)

"Notes from Nam, dated 1968-09-16 - in which I go to the rear for a while, but the forward group patches up victims of the night's activity.

On September 16, 1968, Company A was set up in a night defensive perimeter at the Ben Cui Air Strip near XT 443451. At 0020 hours, a flare ship was operating over the area of the perimeter. Enemy movement had been observed to the south of the perimeter since late evening. After 0100 hours Company A received heavy RPG, small arms and automatic weapons fire as well as a ground assault against the perimeter. At 0122 hours, contact was reported as still heavy and that two Bobcats had been killed and three wounded, so far. At 0150 hours, Company A reported a renewed ground assault coming from the west. At 0209 hours, Company A reported that the enemy contact had ceased. An occasional RPG round was fired at the perimeter during the remainder of the morning. Dust-offs were completed at 0402 hours. It was an estimated reinforced enemy company that attacked the Company A position. Company A suffered two Bobcats killed and ten wounded.

Later in the day at 1136 hours, an APC from Company C detonated an AT mine on Highway 239, about 200 meters east of the junction of Highways 239 and 26. Four Bobcats were wounded.

Company B, 1/5th(M) relieved Company A and occupied the night defensive position at the Ben Cui Air Strip."

Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing at all.
-Helen Keller

(Ric Continued from page 3)
humor. (see Bobcat Bulletin article,
Summer 2017)"

Ric Myers



**Editors
note:*

*Father Cap-
tain Chaplain
Falabella
was awarded
a Silver Star-
for his heroic
actions to
save the life
of (then) Lt.
Jim Mar-
schewski on
February 19,
1968, at Hoc
Mon.*

*Chaplains
being award-
ed Silver
Stars I would
think is a rare
occurrence.*



Reenlistment In Iraq

**SPC Khan
Automatic Rifleman – A Company
2ndPlatoon**



2020 Reunion - Fairfax VA

25-30 August 2020

Bobcats:

"As you all are aware, our reunion in Charleston was interrupted by Hurricane Dorian. Like true Bobcats (and dedicated spouses) we move forward with our motto, "I'LL TRY SIR".

That being said, forward we go. This year the Board sent Randy and I to re-view Loudon County and Fairfax County, VA. This was done because the brand new National Army Museum is set to open in 2020, so we, especially General Anderson, wanted to make sure we did a reunion there so we could all see it. This will be better than Ft. Benning, GA.

As you read in the Quarterly Newsletter put out by Fred Deverse, he listed the next reunion (2020) as Colorado Springs, CO beginning August 25th, 2020. Contracts were signed and everything in place. However.....

Driving home from SC I talked to General Anderson a couple of times and he was so disappointed that Charleston wasn't going to happen. He always worries about his health and how many more reunions he'll be able to make. Now we all love the General and want him happy and to be at as many reunions as possible. I came up with a thought while driving. What if I called my "go to person" in Colorado Springs at the MCM Elegante Hotel and asked her if it was possible to change our dates, without penalty, to come there in 2021 and move our 2020 Reunion to Fairfax, VA in August of 2020. I presented this to the Board in an email and they all agreed that they would be willing to take a vote and do it. Vote passed unanimously in favor of going to Fairfax next.

As soon as I could I called the hotel person in Colorado Springs, told her of our dilemma in Charleston and of our desire to do Fairfax first, for the General, and come there in 2021. She totally allowed us to do it, no penalties and as of today a new contract was signed for 2021 and accepted by them.

In the meantime I contacted the hotel in Fairfax that the Board choose, The Crowne Plaza Airport, and told them that we wanted to move our reunion dates around. Within minutes she called me back, said they had the availability for us and as of today, that contract is signed, sealed and delivered.

What I am trying to say, in short because Randy says I type too much to send to men, is we are going to Fairfax

next, regardless of what your Newsletter says. Hope all will be ok with this.

Randy and I have seen the outside of the Army Museum and pictures of the inside. You will be so amazed, you'll want to spend extra time there.

Randy is building the webpage for this reunion as I type this. Give him a couple of days to put up the details then check it out and begin by sending me your Pre-Registration Forms. I stress to you all, this form is very important to me. Please fill it out if you intend to come to the next reunion.

Love all my Bobcats."

Carolyn Kethcart

Reunion Coordinantor
5th Infantry Regiment Association
16054 Pine Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-468-8624 or 708-288-0193

Carolyn & the Bobcat Family,

"As flyboys are prone to say:" I'm cleared for the active". I have my room and flight reservations and I'm good to go and enjoy for the week some more Texan hospitality with my brothers and sisters. I was mad as a Bobcat could ever be about the loss of life and vast destruction and disruption caused by Hurricane Dorian. However, thanks to Carolyn's rapid response and great work in re-scheduling, we can all look forward to a super gathering with the majestic new US Army Museum as the centerpiece of the 2020 reunion. We could not have had a better team 'on point' as Carolyn & Randy. Kudos to a great couple that gives me incentive to hang in there for at least one more year.

Warmest regards to all."

Andy Anderson

General Anderson,

"I am in awe as I read your email and could see your happiness in the words I read. Just know, what I do for the Bobcats is a labor of love and I do it for them all."

Love you bunches

Carolyn

The Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport



2200 Centreville Road
Herndon VA 20170



\$129 Single / Double per night



- * Free parking
- * Complimentary Shuttle Service to/from the Airport & within a 5 mile radius of the hotel based on request and availability
- * Breakfast for 2 included in Room Rate
- * Free Wi-Fi in guestrooms

To make reservations phone
(877) 390-5944
and when booking tell them "5th Infantry Regiment Association"

* Booking prices are good up to 3 days before and after the reunion dates
Reservations must be made by 26 July 2020

Schedule of events

Hospitality Room: TUE AUG 25th -
SAT AUG 29th (No fee)
Snacks & Beverages are allowed.

Tuesday August 25th

Arrival and Registration

Wednesday AUG 26th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

National Air & Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center - And Lunch at the Bull Run Winery \$79.00 PP



Walk our historic estate while tasting Virginia wines, and learn about the rich Civil War history behind these breathtaking, hallowed grounds. This is a group tasting combined with a guided historical tour of the property.

**Taste Award Winning Wines
Along The Journey**

Bull Run Winery



Follow in the footsteps of Colonel W.T. Sherman on that fateful day that marked the first major battle of the Civil War. See where the picnickers watched the battle as they spectated the horrors of war that would soon sweep them up. Walk amongst the ruins of the Hillwood Mansion that served as a hospital during the First Battle of Bull Run. Explore an authentic Civil War soldiers' winter quarters cabin which appears to still be inhabited today

*Make your lunch selection in the shopping cart, Choice of Our Picnic Style Wraps

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Tuna Sun Dried Tomato
- Turkey BLT with Avocado
- Buffalo Chicken Wrap with Blue Cheese
- Veggie Roasted Red Pepper Hummus

**Includes Delectable Homemade Pepper Kettle Chips and Penne Pasta Salad*

Thursday August 27th

9:00 AM- 3:30 PM \$59 PP

Washington DC Memorials & Monuments Day

**Lunch on your own at Union Station Food Court*

- ◆ Lincoln Memorial
- ◆ Vietnam Memorial
- ◆ Korean Memorial
- ◆ 911 Memorial
- ◆ Washington Monument
- ◆ Iwo Jima Memorial
- ◆ World War II Memorial
- ◆ Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- ◆ Jefferson Memorial
- ◆ Americans Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial

***We will see as many as time permits. We will have tour guides*

(See Reunion on page 26)

National Army Museum



(Continued from page 25)

Memorials & Monuments Day

Pictures of some that will be visited



The National Museum of the United States Army will serve as the capstone of the Army Museum Enterprise and provide the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions. The National Army Museum will celebrate the selfless service and sacrifice of over 30 million men and women who have worn the Army uniform since 1775. The Museum will be a technological marvel incorporating the latest advances in museum exhibits while providing advanced educational opportunities that will capture the attention of visitors old and young. As the Army's national landmark, the Museum will honor United States Soldiers – past, present, and future – and provide an interactive educational experience explaining the Army's role in creating and defending our nation, as well as the Army's social initiatives and contributions for more than 240 years.

**Picture of Army Museum above*

Saturday August 29th

9:00 - 10 AM - Membership Meeting

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

10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

Free to explore Fairfax County

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Auction - Approx. time

Friday August 28th 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM \$89 PP

**National Army Museum Memorial
Service, Luncheon, and Tour**

(See Reunion on page 27)

Fairfax VA 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

Phone number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

⇒ **WED** - Do you plan on taking "The Air & Space Museum with lunch and historic tour at Bull Run (wine tasting included)"?
_____ Yes _____ No

⇒ **THU** - Do you plan on taking the "The Washington DC Memorials and Monuments Day"?
_____ Yes _____ No

⇒ **FRI** - Do you plan on attending the Memorial Service Tour & Luncheon at The National Army Museum?
_____ Yes _____ No

⇒ **SAT** - Do you plan 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

Registration Form

Fairfax VA - 25-30 AUG 2020

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

| | Number | Cost |
|---|--------|------|
| Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple | | |
| WED 26 AUG - The Air & Space Museum & lunch at Bull Run - \$79 per person - <u>Circle your choice of sandwich:</u> 1. Chicken Caesar Wrap Tuna Sun Dried Tomato 3. Turkey BLT with Avocado 4. Buffalo Chicken Wrap with Blue Cheese 5. Veggie Roasted Red Pepper Hummus | | |
| THU 27 AUG - Washington DC Memorials and Monuments Day - \$59 per person | | |
| FRI 28 AUG - Memorial Service Tour & Luncheon at The National Army Museum - \$89 per person includes Lunch | | |
| SAT 29 AUG - Banquet Dinner Choices | | |
| 1. Tuscan Chicken - \$45 | | |
| 2. Baked Cod - \$50 | | |
| 3. Grilled Crusted New York Steak - \$55 | | |
| 4. Vegetarian option upon request - \$45 | | |
| Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.) | | |
| TOTAL | | |
| Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one) | YES | NO |

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

Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477

*Cancellation policy: Except in cases of death or health, refunds will not be made if the request is made in less than 30 days before the reunion.

* Pre-registration and Registration can be completed online at <http://bobcat.ws/reunions.html> (Payment can be made by credit card at the same site online).

(Reunion from page 26)

Dinner Choices

- ◆ Vegetarian option upon request \$45
- ◆ Tuscan Chicken \$45 with Tomato Beurre Blanc
- ◆ Baked Cod \$50 With Lemon Butter Capers Sauce
- ◆ Grilled Crusted New York Steak \$55 12 oz. steak, medium rare, with Red Wine and Demi-glance Shallot

Bordelaise

* All dinners include fresh Caesar salad, Chef's Selection of Accompaniments, Dessert, Freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.

Pre-registration and Registration can be completed online at <http://bobcat.ws/reunions.html> (Payment can be made by credit card at the same site online).

Member Jim Fitzgerald had Quite A Night

On February 28th 2020 Jim posted this on Facebook and said, "52 years tomorrow".

I'm betting this is a night Jim remembers very clearly.

Bobcat' Buddy Isn't So friendly After All

2ND BDE - A case of mistaken identity recently paid off for 25th Inf Div soldiers as they set up a night ambush 16 kms north of Saigon.

The 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf's, reconnaissance platoon left its forward base camp with a patrol moving ahead to locate and secure the ambush site.

The smaller force reached the site, then sat down to wait for the rest of the platoon.

"I was sitting down by a mound of dirt," said SP4 James Fitzgerald, a rifleman from Claymont, Del., "when all of a sudden someone tapped me on the shoulder.

"As I started to turn around, the guy started talking to me - only it wasn't English."

Fitzgerald stood face to face with an armed Viet Cong who apparently mistook the American for one of his own. Before the unlucky enemy could react, the "Bobcat" shot him.

The men settled back down to wait, thinking the action was over for the night. Minutes later, it repeated itself.

"I had just squatted down behind some cover when I saw three armed Viet Cong coming towards me," SSG Edward Planthaber, a section leader from Lake Ariel, Pa.

"I was hoping they wouldn't see me, but they walked right up and started talking. I didn't give them a chance to see they'd made another mistake."

A burst from the sergeant's rifle killed one and the rest of the platoon got another.

"It was really quite a night," said Planthaber the next morning.

5th Infantry Regiment Association Inc.
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