



# The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

25th INFANTRY DIVISION & 1st ARMORED DIVISION

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

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

*"I'll Try Sir"*

Winter 2014

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

Volume IV



## 2015 Reunion New Orleans LA

*MON May 4th - FRI May 8th*

**For details and a Registration Form  
see pages 20-22**

## Medal of Honor Ceremony for Ardie Ray Copas

"On November 8, 2014 Barb and I  
(Bob Wood) and Roger Sperl from Fair-  
banks, Alaska were honored to attend



Bob Wood and Roger Sperl

the ceremony in Fort Pierce, Florida,  
marking the dedication of a new head-  
stone monument for Sergeant Ardie Ray  
Copas updated to reflect his receipt of



(See Copas on page 2)

## 13th Annual Florida Winter Social

20-22 February 2015

*And*

## 3rd Annual Bobcat Caribbean Cruise

15-20 February 2015

**For details see page 9**

## A New Bobcat Major General

"Maj. Gen. Todd B. McCaffrey, (a  
member of our Association) U.S. Army  
Pacific chief of staff, was promoted to  
major general during a ceremony held  
Nov. 25 at historic Palm Circle, Fort



Shafter, Hawaii. Gen. Vincent K.  
Brooks, USARPAC commanding gen-  
eral, officiated the promotion ceremony.  
McCaffrey's wife, two sons and daugh-  
ter also participated in ceremony."

MG McCaffrey commanded 1st  
Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th

(See McCaffrey on page 7)

## 2/5th Will Be Deactivated

4 NOV 14

Bart,

"Its official that 2-5 IN at FT Bliss  
will deactivate in March/April of next  
year (2015) and not stand up at another  
location (for now).

Starting next week, our Soldiers will  
start to be reassigned to the other Bri-  
gades on FT Bliss. This process will  
take several months but the bulk of our  
Soldiers will leave in the next 60 days.

When we deactivate, we'll box up  
all our unit colors and memorabilia and  
send them to the Army Center for Mili-  
tary History to wait for the next incarna-  
tion of 2-5 IN.

I believe that when the army finally  
completes its re-structuring, it will go  
back and re-designate some of the re-  
maining battalions. They use a formula  
based on battalion history to determine  
who makes the cut. 2-5 will probably  
have a good chance of coming back at  
that time because of our strong lineage.  
3rd Brigade of the 25th (the Bronco Bri-

(See 2/5th on page 4)

*The Spring 2015 Newsletter will be out MAR/APR 2015 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.*

(Copas from page 1)

the Medal of Honor awarded as a result of his actions on May 12, 1970 while a member of Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry. At that time, the Bobcats were involved in combat operations as part of a major incursion into Cambodia. Sergeant Copas' daughter



Sgt Copas' daughter Shyrell Herrera and the American Legion Chaplain unveiling the MOH grave marker.

ter accepted the Medal presented by President Obama in a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014."

The citation reads in part as follows:

**"Specialist Four Ardie Ray Copas**



**distinguished himself by acts of gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Machine gunner in Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy near Ph Romeas Hek, Cambodia on May 12, 1970. That morning Specialist Four Copas' company was suddenly attacked by a large hostile force firing recoilless rifles, rocket-propelled gre-**

**nades and automatic weapons. As Specialist Four Copas began returning fire, his armored car was struck by an enemy recoilless round, knocking him to the ground and injuring four American Soldiers beside the vehicle. Ignor-**



**ing his own wounds, Specialist Four Copas remounted the burning vehicle and commenced firing his machinegun at the belligerents. Braving the hostile fire directed at him and the possible detonation of the mortar rounds inside the track, Specialist Four Copas maintained a heavy volume of suppressive fire on the foe while the wounded Americans were evacuated. Undaunted, Specialist Four Copas continued to place devastating volumes of fire upon the adversary until he was mortally wounded when another enemy round hit his vehicle....."**

"On Saturday November 8, the dedication ceremony was conducted at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Fort Pierce, Florida. A large group of family members, in addition to veterans from the Fort Pierce area attended. Very moving remarks were made by Sergeant Copas' daughter Shyrell Herrera, in addition to

the unveiling of the marker. A rifle salute and the rendering of taps was conducted by the American Legion Honor Guard. Following the ceremony a lunch was served by American Legion Post # 40."

**Bob Wood**



SGT Copas' Widow From TN

## Shyrell Asks For Your Help

"After 44 yrs. my Dad has been awarded the Medal of Honor (prior to that he received EVERY medal you can in the Armed Forces including Purple Heart, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Medal for Heroism and more). I went March 18, 2014, to accept my Dad's Medal of Honor posthumously from President Barak Obama. My

(See Copas on page 8)





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



"I must say that the 2/5 Battalion certainly knows how to throw a good party. Patti and I, and Randy and Carolyn Kethcart attended the Homecoming Ball in November in El Paso, Texas and had a great time. From Battalion Commander LTC Ed Brady and his wife Patricia, down through the ranks, everyone treated us very well, readily accepting two grizzled old Bobcats into their domain. The setting was great, food as well, but the company was outstanding. It was a night full of laughs, and also a night of remembering. A special tribute to CSM Martin Barreras, who was killed in action in Afghanistan recently, was an emotional part of the ceremony. We were fortunate to meet the parents and a brother and sister-in-law of CSM Barreras during the evening. Randy and I passed out a number of the new Challenge coins that the Association just commissioned to the soldiers and I was also able to give the Barreras family these coins.

The comic highlight of the evening was the mixing of the "grog"; a concoction of different alcoholic "spirits" which were added in the order in which the 5th Infantry Regiment has been in the various wars, conflicts and police actions throughout our proud heritage. The final result of "diesel fuel", "napalm", and "sand" from their deployments, and the alcohol and tea additives made for a somewhat hesitant but eventual tasting of the brew. Not bad.

We, as the Association, were presented a plaque in appreciation of our continuing support and fund raising efforts for the 2-5. Randy and Carolyn took possession of the plaque and will

have it at our 2015 Reunion in New Orleans. After the Ball, Randy and Carolyn were continuing their trip to Fort Benning, Georgia to check out the hotels and attractions for our 2016 Reunion. Just have to appreciate their dedication.

LTC Ed Brady has informed us that the 2-5 in Fort Bliss will deactivate in 2015 and not stand up for another location now. As of this writing, the Soldiers will start to be reassigned to the other Brigades at Fort Bliss. LTC Brady believes that because of the Battalion lineage and history it will eventually come back when the Army finishes its re-structuring.

Sam Kier has an updated list of the Regiment's current campaign and unit awards for the Bobcat Directory. Sam is also working on ways to ensure that donated items, artifacts, etc. which tell the history of the Regiment, could be returned to the Association in the event of the de-activation of the military units. These items would then be available to be loaned/donated again for display as a Unit is re-activated.

Remember to check the Bobcat website for our upcoming Winter Social and 2015 reunion in "Nawlins". Also, I have been notified that the 3rd Platoon, 1-5 Inf. will be holding their bi-annual reunion in June, 2015 in Fargo, ND. This location was chosen so that a memorial service can be held for Davy Johnson, a Bobcat who was KIA in 1970. Fargo was his home town. The exact dates have not been set as of now. This is a group of soldiers who served in this Platoon during Viet Nam who decided to meet every 2 years. I have attended the two previous gatherings, tried to play membership recruiter, with some success, and will do so again this year. A number of the attendees are men that I was privileged to serve with during my tour. I will notify Randy when the dates are finalized and he can post it on the website.

I shall end this article with the hopes that everyone had a "Happy Thanksgiving" and that all have a very "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

*Bart Stanzione*

Veterans killed on their last day in Vietnam was 1,448 (Unconfirmed)

## 5th Infantry Association

President - *Bart Stanzione*  
 Vice President - *Tom Frame*  
 Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*  
 Secretary - *Denis McDonough*  
 Membership Chair (Acting) - *Fred Deverse*  
 Historian - *Sam Kier*  
 Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*  
 Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*  
 Past Presidents - *Robert (Bob) Wood and Jon Cartwright*

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

*Jon Blickenstaff Andy Gimma*  
*John Snodgrass George Bates*

Chaplain (Appointed) - *Myron Peterson*

### Reminder !

1. Notify Fred Deverse about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 14** (only the last two numbers) on the address label your dues expires 31 DEC 14. Please renew now!

### Reunions

FL Winter Social ..... 20-22 FEB 15  
 New Orleans ..... 4-8 May 15

## HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

**Honorary Colonel of the Regiment**  
*Andy Anderson (MG-R)*

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

### Distinguished Members of the Regiment

*SSG Eddie Barba(1/5), Jon Blickenstaff, Joe "Red" Burdick, Jon Cartwright, Jim Caudle, Fred Deverse, James Garner, Ron Henry(1SG-R), Randy Kethcart, Sam Kier, Ralph Lau-becher, Denis McDonough, Victor Mercado (CSM -R), SGT John Paul Morgan 2/5, Daryl Niles (CSM-R), Jerry Peal, Paul Robinson, Roger Smith, John Snodgrass (MAJ-R), Bob Wood (COL-R)*

**Honorary Members of the Regiment**  
*Sue Caudle, Carolyn Deverse, Shannon Henry, Carolyn Kethcart, Teri Tringali*

### Bobcat of the Year

*Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04, Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart 07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09, Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11, Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13, Jim Caudle 14*

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

#### E-mail Changes & Additions:

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

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

**Brock, Douglas "Doug"** -Change  
[Lightning25flash@icloud.com](mailto:Lightning25flash@icloud.com)

**Smith, Roger "Smitty"** - Change  
[roger\\_smith@centurylink.net](mailto:roger_smith@centurylink.net)

**Vetter, Robert** - Change  
[b4v164@comcast.net](mailto:b4v164@comcast.net)

#### Lost Members:

We have no information on these members. Please contact us if you have information.

**Anderson Jr., John "Andy"** - He was a LT in Vietnam and is a "Life" member. He is in the picture on the top right of this (page 4).

**McFadden, Terri** - Last known address was FT Wainwright - Was on active duty.

#### Roster Changes/Corrections:

**Alexander, John** - New address & phone number  
840 S 500 W  
Shelbyville IN 46176  
317-729-5054

**Beckler, Tony** - New address  
2212 10th AVE SE  
Mandan ND 58554  
Cell: 701-400-0700

**Harvey, Sammy** - New address  
313 Folsom ST  
Fritch TX 79036

**McCaffrey, BG Todd B.** - New address  
8 Palm Circle DR  
Honolulu HI 96819-2124

**Wesbrock, LTC Jason A.** - New address  
2009 Rampart Drive

Alexandria VA 22308

**Logue, Carroll E.** - New phone number  
719-547-0424

**Manuel, Patrick** - Cell number  
337-459-2339

**Smith, Billy L.** - Changes  
1208 Tinsley BLVD  
Prince George VA 23875  
703-806-9184  
[billys@hughes.net](mailto:billys@hughes.net)

#### New Members:

**Rushing, Eric (Gail)**  
921 Camden RD  
Wingate NC 28174  
704-233-5114  
A Co. 1/5th. INF 2/69-8/69  
[fireball4@windstream.net](mailto:fireball4@windstream.net)

Comment: "It took me a long time to find this site because I was always looking under the 25th. Div. web site. I am so glad I found this."

**Grimsley, Marshall R. (Linda)**  
2128 Cherry W  
Quincy IL 62301  
217-224-0730  
C-22 65-66  
[mgrimsley@adams.net](mailto:mgrimsley@adams.net)

**Guin, James (Amy)**  
110 Balmoral Way - Apt 6D  
Greenwood IN 46143  
903-467-7577  
HHC, B Co. 2009-12 (Active Duty)  
[jimguin512@gmail.com](mailto:jimguin512@gmail.com)

**Willis, Steven (Abby)**  
21117 Camomile CT  
Germantown MD 20876  
253-227-6489  
A Co/HHC 1/5 (6 yrs) Iraq  
[willissd@hotmail.com](mailto:willissd@hotmail.com)

#### Taps:

**Freeman, Bill "Doc"** - Died 22 SEP 14  
Billings  
MT HQ & B  
Co. Medic  
67/68 - In  
1966, at the age of 19, he joined the Army, serving in Vietnam and continuing his military service for 24 years,



Jack Czilli, "Doc" Freeman and LT Andy Anderson all B Company -Picture from the 2004 Tucson Reunion

retiring in 1990 at the rank of Master Sergeant. Bill returned to Billings and began a second career as a clerk with the Postal Service.

*\*Reported to Denis McDonough by  
Dusty Edwards on 26 SEP 14*

#### **Walker, Richard**

Facebook posting on 13 OCT 14 from Stephen SGT Rock Walker. "Dedicated to my brother Richard Walker - HHC 1/5th 25th INF DIV 67-68. He went home this morning. No more pain from the agent orange."

**Landon, Jr., Raymond "Ray" L.** - A & C Company 3/70-3/71 age 68, of Laurel, Delaware passed away on November 15, 2014 at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

*(2/5th from page 1)*

gade in HI) will be gaining an infantry battalion as part of this Army reorganization and I'm keeping my fingers crossed it will be designated 2-5 IN.

Looking forward to seeing you and Randy at the Bobcat Ball."

BC6

"I'll Try Sir!"

#### **LTC Ed Brady**

CDR, 2-5 Infantry  
3/1 AD

Ed,

"It is with a heavy heart that I read your email. To have the unit you put together, trained and led for a year in combat dropped from the rolls is a tough

*(See 2/5 on page 6)*



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

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

### "Smitty" Coming to New Orleans

Roger "Smitty" Smith sent an E-mail address change:

[roger\\_smith@centurylink.net](mailto:roger_smith@centurylink.net)

In that E-mail he indicated that he plans to attend our May 2015 reunion in New Orleans LA



### "Three Docs On The Medical Track"

Jerry Rudlaff sent this picture. On the left is "Tiny" Richard Hopkins the senior medic then Dan Boyum the track commander and on the right is Jerry Rudlaff the driver.



### "C Company - 2nd PLT - 2nd SQD 68"

Stephen Dodd writes, "Here's a picture of 2-1 squad in 1968.... That handsome devil with the cool shades is me. Next to me, the guy with the ball cap and the scowl, is Ed Stiltner.

### Tim Fyle and his Son

Tim Fyle on November 13, 2014 posted this picture on Facebook with the caption: "A picture with my son Tim Jr. and I.



He served in the Marine Corp. Picture taken 1993."

### Lunch With Denis

"Julie and I had lunch at Star's Grille in Dunedin with Denis and Teri on October 29th. As always with Denis, the conversation was spirited and laughter was continuous. For someone who is suffering with terminal COPD, Denis is upbeat and positive about his life. His COPD does not seem to have affected his appetite, as he put down a pretty good sized plate of eggs and potatoes!



As with all of us, he appreciates phone calls."

*Paulie (Robinson)*

(See Comments on page 12)

# Treasurer's Report

2nd Quarter Financial Report  
(1 July - 30 September 2014)

## July

### Income:

Dues	\$100
Quartermaster Sales	\$191
NF Reunion Registration	\$3728
Transfer Savings to Checking	\$15000

**TOTAL \$19019**

### Debits:

Bank Charges	\$9
Postage ( SUM Newsletter)	\$171.41
Printing Cartridge	\$50.99
Summer Newsletter Printing	\$643.88
Misc.- Plaques, engraving etc.	\$150.12
2-5 Subway Donations	\$1267.86
NF Reunion Memorial Books	\$190.42
NF Reunion Discov. Passes	\$2297
NF Reunion Eating utensils	\$29
NF Reunion Refunds	\$1812
NF Reunion Tours	\$14890
NF Reunion Hotel Food	\$3723.50
NF Reunion Church donation	\$250

**TOTAL \$25491.18**

## August

### Income:

Quartermaster	\$49
Dues	\$295
25th Scholarship Fund	\$250
Corporate Donation "Stock the Barracks" Subway Gift Cards	\$1800
Nia. Falls Reunion Donation	\$100
Nia Falls Reunion Registration	\$5969.25
2/5 Homecoming Ball Registration	\$375
Corporate Donation 2/5 Homecoming Ball - Vito Trucking	\$1000

**TOTAL \$9838.25**

### Debits:

Quartermaster (Hats etc.)	\$194.80
Postage	\$57.12
Postage - Packages mailed to soldiers	\$169.95
Bank Service Charge	\$3
Challenge coins - New	\$1617
25th Scholarship Fund	\$1500
Deposit in Saving Account	\$10,000
Nia. Falls Reunion refund	\$140
2/5 Stock the Barracks - Association donation	\$211.03
Donation Subway Gift Cards	\$1800
Donation Memory of CSM Barreras' Memorial	\$250
New Orleans Reunion Banquet deposit	\$600
New Orleans bus deposit	\$1000

**TOTAL \$17542.90**

## September

### Income:

Dues	\$125
Pay Pal - Internet sales	\$2054.53
2/5 Ball donations	\$1418.15

**TOTAL \$3597.68**

### Debit:

Quartermaster	\$73
Postage	\$83.93
Bank service charge	\$3
Miscellaneous supplies	\$71.81

**TOTAL \$231.74**

### Assets

Checkbook	\$5510.71
Business account - Savings	\$48686.27

**TOTAL \$54196.98**

*Jim Caudle,*

Treasurer/Quartermaster

(2/5 from page 4)

and bitter event.

As you close out the unit and see your officers and men go on to other units, now is the time to huddle and work out a system to encourage those superb soldiers to remain attached with the unit and with its Association. Only those of us who have stayed in touch, attended events together, and supported other Bobcats, both vets and active duty, can truly appreciate the feeling of a common bond wrought by combat. Those of us now 40+ years away from our common service to the country know what it is like to continue our associations, and I strongly encourage you to take time from your schedule to encourage your officers, NCO's and soldiers to remain active Bobcats!"

"I'll Try, Sir"

**Bob Wood**

Bob,

"In 2-5 Infantry's five years at FT Bliss, I think we have achieved a really good level of unit pride in being Bobcats. I wouldn't be surprised if the 2-5 IN Soldiers make up the bulk of the active members at some point down the road. A lot of that pride comes from the support that the association has shown this battalion. Trish reminds me daily about how much you have done for us in our short time here at Bliss; we consider all of you friends for life.

Over the next few months, I will continue to talk to my Soldiers about staying connected with the association.

We also had Randy and Bart here over the weekend representing the Association at the Battalion Ball. I'm really glad they were able to attend, especially since the Association's generous donation made the event possible.

Thanks again for everything."

**Ed Brady**

(See 2/5 on page 11)

## Donations to the Association

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

Denis McDonough - 2/5 Ball \$100

Dr. Harold Levy -General fund \$50



(McCaffrey from page 1)

Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Washington, leading the battalion through its transformation into a Stryker Infantry Battalion and a combat deployment to Iraq in 2004-05.

Todd returned to Schofield Barracks and the 25th Infantry Division, assuming command of 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and led it during the brigade's 15 month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq from 2007-2009.



MG McCaffrey with his wife Lisa and his son's Michael (left) and Andrew and daughter Sara

He most recently served sequential assignments as the 25th Infantry Division's Deputy Commanding General for Support and then for Operations.

Presently he is assigned as "Chief of Staff" US Army Pacific.

The Association wishes Todd great success with his new rank and assignment.

**Note:** Both MG-R Andy Anderson and I were invited to attend MG Todd McCaffrey's promotion ceremony in Hawaii. We both had attended his promotion ceremony in Washington DC when he was promoted to Brigadier General. Neither of us attended but both of us sent messages congratulating Todd. Below is Andy Anderson's message.

Greetings Lisa and Todd,

"This is certainly great news and so well deserved for a great Army family. It would be a treat to attend this special occasion but Lee and I will be on a RCCL cruise and unable to attend. We are now experiencing some early winter weather and look forward to reaching a much warmer climate in a few days. I often wondered when I received my first button (which came as an unexpected surprise) did they make a mistake? So when one receives a second button the lingering question is answered. To say I am delighted with the recognition of your leadership talents, as a couple, would be an understatement. Todd, the next step is command of the 25th Infantry Division, which I trust will happen in due course. So, Lee and I send our warmest greetings and best wishes. Also, know that we will be with you in spirit on the 25th. This date may even be a good omen for your eventual command of the Tropic Lightning Division. Aboard the 'Grandeur of the Seas' on the 25th; it should also be a formal night and we may be dining with the ship's captain as we have during past cruises. In any case, we intend to raise our glasses and render a toast to the McCaffrey clan for continuing success in all their future endeavors. God bless and take care of each other."

Andy



## Snodgrass' Memorial to the KIA's at Ben Cui

John Snodgrass built a memorial in his front yard that commemorates those that were killed-in-action at the Battle of Ben Cui. The plaque to the right of John and Tom Frame lists the names of those



who were killed.

Both John and Tom participated in the Battle of Ben Cui. The 1/5th was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for it's heroic efforts.

"Tom Frame recently (October) spent three days visiting John Snodgrass and while he was there, he assisted John with putting new medals on the Ben Cui



Memorial that is located in John and Cathy's circle driveway."

### Membership Chairman's Duties

Because of Denis McDonough's illness mentioned on page four I have become the "acting" membership chairman. So if you're renewing your membership and mailing in dues mail it to me at:

138 Glenrise RD - Swanton MD 21561

Fred Deverse

The most casualties in a single month in the Vietnam war was May 1968 - 2,415

## Copas' name on vet home?

### Army Sgt. is St. Lucie's only recipient of Medal of Honor

By Keona Gardner

ST. LUCIE COUNTY —  
"Choosing a name for the state veterans nursing home at Tradition is simple: Sgt. Ardie Ray Copas.



The County Commission in a 5-0 vote Tuesday passed a resolution to name the state veterans nursing home after Army Sgt. Ardie Ray Copas, of Fort Pierce, who died May 12, 1970, during combat in the Vietnam War when he was 19.

"He is our only local Medal of Honor recipient in St. Lucie County and it is only fitting the building is named after him," County Veterans Services manager Wayne Teegardin said.

The resolution now will go to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, which will consider bestowing the honor on Copas or 15 other deceased Florida veterans who also are Medal of Honor recipients.

"It's like getting candles on the cake, to get this named after a Fort Pierce resident," Commission Chairwoman Frannie Hutchinson said. "I feel like we already have the icing by getting a veterans nursing home." Teegardin said he will ask Fort Pierce City Commission and Port St. Lucie City Council

to pass similar resolutions.

Copas, a machine-gunner, returned fire after his armored vehicle was hit by the enemy and continued to fire until four fellow soldiers wounded in the attack could be evacuated.

Copas died from his wounds.

President Barack Obama in March awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to Copas and about two dozen other Army veterans, who were worthy but previously denied the nation's highest military honor."

*Article sent by Ardie's daughter Shyrell Herrera*

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*(Copas from page 2)*

Dad was killed in Cambodia in the Vietnam War 5/12/1970, at only 19 years old, when I was 6 mos old. He NEVER got to see me, not even a picture as far as we know. Letters my mother sent him came back sealed... to my 17 year old widowed mom. My Dad is the only soldier to earn the Medal of Honor killed in Cambodia and possibly one of the youngest to ever receive one. There have only been 3,490 Medals of Honor ever presented in United States History, only 1 to a woman. Please google Ardie Ray Copas and read the citation and what my Dad did to receive the Medal of Honor that took our Congress 44 years to realize he did some amazing things, as have many of our soldiers. You will also see me, Shyrell Copas Herrera, his only child, with President Obama at the White House and some videos as well. I say "some amazing things" because you can only receive one medal for each act, and my Dad was pretty amazing receiving them all except the Medal of Honor until now. One soldier received the Distinguished Service Cross (2nd highest medal) and the Medal of Honor in a single War. My Dad just reminds me of like Forest Gump, really, just like a real live War movie and he truly was a real live War Hero just like I've always known and now I want everyone to know what he did at such an amazing young age, 19. Congress didn't want to admit we were ever in Cambodia, however, after this they obviously have. My whole life I wondered why my Dad didn't receive the Medal of Honor then, now a few things are a little more clear, especially since I've actually spoken to the men. My Dad saved their lives re-

mounting an Army tank while on fire and shot to save them, his fellow soldiers, his family and our GREAT country. I have a huge story to tell and have wanted to tell before this ever happened (even about the Pentagon not knowing who I was and almost giving my Dad's Medal of Honor to someone I don't even know). I live east of Nashville, TN and my family and I need to make several trips to FL for many meetings and projects I'm working on to honor my Dad, which I'm not able to afford as I'm retired/disabled. I'm in the process of writing a book, which also costs money, but most of all I want to start a non-profit organization to assist Veteran's with all types of home repairs, home maintenance and home assistance, not just wounded Veterans. Our Veterans are getting older and are in much need of many small home repairs and simple projects they can NOT afford. November 8, 2014, there will be a re-dedication ceremony placing a new grave marker to reflect the Medal of Honor for my Dad with a huge heroes ceremony he NEVER (like many other Vietnam Veterans) received. Also, I'm working with congressmen, the VA, the State of Florida and many other entities about getting some things done to properly honor my Dad after all these years he has been forgotten. Now I'm asking as many as possible to help me please raise the money I need to do the things I need to do to honor my Dad in the proper way. Also please notice the picture of him with the machine gun in front of an Army tank. I'm also working to have it made into a bronze statue which is going to cost about \$60-\$75,000. Please help and pass this along to everyone you know and honor a true War Hero! Thank you and God Bless, especially to ALL our Veteran's. I sure appreciate ALL your sacrifice!"

If interested in helping Shyrell you can donate at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/mohardieraycopas/donate>

Or by mailing a check to:

**GoFundMe's  
PO BOX 711798  
San Diego, CA 92171**

*If mailing a check make sure you indicate that it is for Shyrell Herrera.*



## **3rd ANNUAL BOBCATS REUNION CRUISE**

***FEB. 15 to 20, 2015***

***5 DAY EASTERN CARIBBEAN - CARNIVAL SUNSHINE***

Port Canaveral / Nassau / Sea / Grand Turk / Sea / Port Canav-



eral  
(Port Canaveral - Orlando, FL.)

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

RATES: Include All Taxes / Meals / Entertainment  
Interior: Main Deck / Mid Ship - \$551.19 per person  
Ocean View: Main Deck / Mid Ship - \$641.90 per person  
Balcony: Deck 6 - Mid Ship - \$806.90 per person  
(Triple & Quad Cabin Rates Available Upon Request)  
Discounted Rates May Apply prior to Final Payment

### **AMENITIES:**

On Board Credit (Amt. To Be Announced)

### **PAYMENT:**

1st Deposit - \$25.00 per person) - Due 9/25/14  
2nd Deposit: \$175.00 - Due 10/30/14 - Cabin Assigned  
(Full Refund - Cancel by 12/1/2014)  
Final Payment: Due 12/14/14  
Valid Passport Suggested

## **BOBCAT WINTER SOCIAL**

***Feb. 20, 2015 - Friday to Feb 22, 2015 - Sunday  
(Group Rates Valid between 2/11/15 - 2/18/15)***

QUALITY BEACH RESORT - Clearwater Beach, FL



RATES: (Request Queen or King Bed)

City View - \$131 per nite

Partial Gulf View - \$139 per nite

Beach Front - \$149 per nite

Pool Cabana Rm - 2 King beds - \$171 per nite

(All Room Rates are Subject to Local Sales Tax & Occupancy  
Taxes Currently - 12.%)

### **AMENITIES:**

10% Discount all Meals at IHop Restaurant (on Premises)

1 Free Drink Cards per room, Free Parking

Call ASAP with Credit Card to hold Reservation without a  
charge

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

**CONTACT TERIANN TO BOOK RESORT & CRUISE**

Teriann - 727-482-4564 / Teriannstravels@aol.com

### **DINNERS:**

ISLAND WAY GRILL - Clearwater, FL



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

## **STARLITE DINNER CRUISE - MAJESTY DINING YACHT**

SATURDAY FEB. 21, 2015

Boarding - 6:30 PM



(Delicious Food & Entertainment)

Rate: \$48.75 per person / Includes Taxes & Gratuity

*This Year must be paid by check or Money Order Only*

Make out to: Teriann Tringali

Mail to: 1201 Orange Avenue / Dunedin, FL 34698

## Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

### 5th Infantry During the Spanish American War

*Message to our Webmaster Randy Kethcart on 14 OCT 14. Randy forwarded it to Sam Kier.*

To Whom It May Concern,

"I have been working on my genealogy for a while and I came across a family member who was in the 5th infantry Company D during the Spanish American War. I found a letter he wrote from the Philippines while he was there in 1900. I am trying to get more information on him and a better understanding of the 5th Infantry and Company D. I am hoping I can find people who have heard of him or had ancestors that were with him in the Army. Who can I contact that might be able to help me with my research?"

Thank You

**Henry Schwartz**

Hello Henry,

When trouble began brewing in the Philippines, the 5th Infantry was garrisoned at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. In July 1900, 1st Battalion, composed of Companies A, B, C and D, caught a train to the Presidio of San Francisco to be processed for shipment. When they arrived in the Philippines they were deployed in Abra Province in Northern Luzon, where they conducted sweeps and local patrols in the neighborhoods of suspected Filipino insurrectionists. February 2, 1901 was probably Company D's darkest day. On that day, a mounted detachment from Company A was ambushed on a trail between Tayum and Bucay. Men from Company D heard the firing and hurried forward to aid their comrades. They were bushwhacked also and four men from D Company lost their lives that day. PVT James O'Brien received the newly-authorized Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in that fight. They were involved in a similar action on the outskirts of Tayum on February 8.

The 1st Battalion left for home in June of 1903 on the transport ship Kilpatrick. The voyage home was via the

Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to New York Harbor; a distance of 12,000 miles in 72 days. They came ashore on September 12, 1903 and took the train to Plattsburgh Barracks, New York. The 5th Infantry remained at Plattsburgh until 1914 when they sailed south, at the onset of World War I, to provide security for the Panama Canal.

As you can see, your relative would have had a lot to talk about when he got home. Where his records might be, is a good question. If he enlisted prior to January, 1900, they could be at the National Archives in downtown Washington, DC. On the other hand, since he would have been discharged during the 20th century, they could well be at the Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. In either case you might be able to get them by going to [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com). Henry, if you feel comfortable sharing a copy of your relative's letter with me, its content might point out some other places to look for information. Just e-mail me a scan or postal mail a copy."

**Sam Kier**  
Historian

### Unit Citations Awarded?

Fellow Bobcats,

"I served in 1-5 IN from 2009-2012, and was part of OEF 11-12. I am trying to find out if the BN was awarded any unit citations for that time period, or authorized any additional "combat patches". I haven't been able to get a hold of anyone in the unit S-1, so thought y'all might be able to help answer those questions.

Thanks in advance."

v/r,

**Jim Guin**  
SFC, USA  
OC/T  
1-335th IN  
Camp Atterbury, IN

Hello, Jim,

"According to the website for the U.S. Army Center of Military History, no unit citation has yet been awarded 1st Battalion for its deployment in Kandahar Province in 2011-12. That webpage was last updated in March of this year. I'm copying your inquiry to LTC Hough, the current battalion commander, just in case he has heard something to the contrary."

**Dr. Sam Kier**  
Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn.

### List of Battalion Commanders Requested

15 OCT 14

Gentlemen-

"I am the current 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment's Adjutant to LTC Thomas Hough. We are currently remodeling our Regimental Room and Command Wall and I want to ensure that we get the correct list of Commanders beginning with COL James Miller through LTC Jason Wesbrock. I just need those in command of the Regiment itself. (From what I understand, the 1st Battalion Commander is the acting Regiment Commander. If this is inaccurate please let me know.)

I figured if anyone would have the most accurate list it would be the association, otherwise I have to place a request together for the Military Historian at Human Resource Command which can take a few months.

If you have this information, please let me know.

Thank You for your help."

Very Respectfully,

**SETH M. WILLIAMS**  
1LT, AR  
Battalion Adjutant

LT Williams,

Here's my list. It's a work in progress and it's been several months since I amended it. It begins with COL Alexander Parker in 1808. In 1963, when the Army reverted to a brigade structure, there was no longer a COL commanding 3 rifle battalions and a provisional bat-

(See Historian on page 13)



## "LOST BATTLES OF THE VIETNAM WAR"

*Did we loose the Battle of Ben Cui?*

1 NOV 14

Hi Fred,

Wanted to ask if an article by Carlton Meyer could be posted in our newsletter so some of the men who were in the Ben Cui on Aug. 21st could see how this guy reports we lost the battle.

I think it's up to those of us who were there that day to straighten this guy out.

Just go to "Lost Battles of the Vietnam War" and scroll down to the Battle of the Ben Cui.

I think we should all send Meyer a letter to have this short paragraph removed from the site.

There is no truth to the report as we didn't lose any battle.

And this guy is a former Marine. What a disgrace!

Right now Denis Hackin, John Snodgrass and I are responding to this false reporting.

Thank you.

**Tom Frame**

Below is what Tom is referring to and some information about the site.

*"G2mil is a collection of articles on military and space affairs, authored by Carlton Meyer, a former Marine Corps officer who participated in military operations around the world. He had written dozens of articles for military magazines, but became frustrated that editors fearful of upsetting their corporate advertisers or government sponsors ignore important issues. G2mil has grown over the past twelve years, and includes facts not found in the corporate controlled media...."*

**Warning: This post may be controversial reading for some of my readers. Lost Battles of the Vietnam War is a guest post...the author has completed extensive research and compiled this standout list of 70 specific battles:**

**Battle at the Ben Cui Rubber Plantation** – American mechanized units had the firepower and mobility to rout any NVA

force. An exception occurred in 1968 during a routine road sweep when Company C, 1st Bn (Mech), 25th Division ran into an aggressive NVA regiment. It quickly lost 5 APCs (pictured below), with 17 killed (leaving just one officer),



and two dozen wounded before it retreated to its home base, leaving most of its dead behind."

The sites address is:

<http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/2014/01/23/lost-battles-of-the-vietnam-war/>

You can contact the author by E-mail. Write to:

Carlton Meyer  
[editor@G2mil.com](mailto:editor@G2mil.com)

(2/5 from page 6)

### Awards For The 2/5

Sam Kier,

"We (2-5 IN) were submitted for both the Meritorious and Valorous Unit Awards for this deployment (2013-2014 in Herat Province). Both are working their way through the approval process. I'll make sure we update you as soon as we know something (the unit award approval process has slowed since the height of the wars).

LTC Ed Brady

### 25th Infantry Division Association's 2015 Reunion

Springfield Illinois  
SEP 28 - OCT 3 2015  
Hilton Hotel - \$99 Per night - 800-445-8667

Historic Joint Reunion with the 4th Infantry Division Association

## Pictures & 'Souvenirs' Needed

Fred-

"I was just about to email you some of our pictures. Attached is some of the winter training we have begun in the last month of October. LTC Hough is down in the lower 48 states at Fort Irwin right now and will have his write-up in by the first week of December. We have a Platoon Competition Event on December 5th and I know he wanted that included.

I have a question about something we are doing here at 1st Battalion in Alaska. LTC Hough found it very critical to re-open a Regiment Room that was neglected during the years of Deployment to Afghanistan. I have collected various items (trophies, pictures, etc.) and our Regiment History Book that was hand-written. These items (most of them just found throughout numerous storage areas) have been pictures dating back to the 1800s and even originals from WWII. We organized them by



campaign and created an entire hallway dedicated to the Regiment (pictures attached). My question to you is the following:

1) We are conducting a "Ribbon Cutting" Ceremony sometime in the near future and wanted to know if there were any former 5th Infantry alumni coming to the area in the near future. I have Mr.

(See Pictures on page 12)

(Pictures from page 11)

Roger Sperl as the only local alumni in the Fairbanks area, but wanted to know if there are more.

2) Would we be able to reach out and see if any alumni have any pictures or important 'souvenirs' from their time in the Regiment? An example is MAJ Spencer Williams from Camp Casey in 1989 sent us a jacket that he had embroidered during his time.

We are just trying to preserve the Regiment has much as possible from this time forward. I just figure it would be nice to have a few items that may have meant something of value to the Soldier during their station that maybe they don't want anymore.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can help you with."

**ILT Seth Williams**

(Comments from page 5)

## Great Men Kept Me Alive!

"Happy thanksgiving to all from the independent state of Louisiana. (I have already wrestled my alligator for today)

I have so much to be thankful for, it would forever to express it.

One thing I have to be thankful for is the great men I served with & kept me alive to go back home under very difficult conditions. (That is every day of my life). We are looking forward to seeing all again this summer. Already got the 2nd weekend in June marked.

Happy thanksgiving, Love all."

**Gregg & Pat Wilbanks**

## Awards For The 1/5th?

Sir-

"As of right now, the unit has not been awarded anything from the previous deployment. We have submitted the award through Brigade and HRC a couple of times, but there have been a few 'hiccups' in trying to get the Brigade Level award approved and the Battalion Award has been intermingled with it. Myself (other adjutants) and the BN S1 have been working the issue for over a year with the same results each time. I will definitely let the Association know

once they are approved. Sorry for any inconveniences."

Very Respectfully,

**ILT SETH M. WILLIAMS**

## Youngs & Frames Meet Shanasty

"The Youngs and Frames met up in Kaufman, TX while the Youngs were



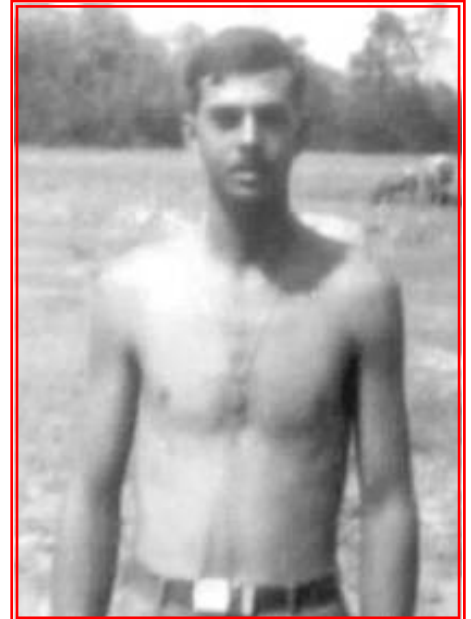
visiting the Shanastys. I think he was a medic."

**Carolyn Kethcart**

## Remembering Charlie Rehberger With A Poem

"The attached poem came after finding Charlie's name on the Vietnam

Memorial wall, but he has been in my thoughts throughout my life. I have no memory of Charlie that is not smiling and positive and know of no one who could say an unkind word about him. While I'm not certain that he was the first of my Kenwood High School classmates (1965) to die, it must be close."



Website picture - Courtesy of Roger Robinson

"On luck life turns. We all lived in a blue collar area of suburban Baltimore where some were able to go to college and defer the draft, but ours was an area where few shirked their duty when the call came. When I eventually heard of Charlie's untimely death, so near to the end of his tour of duty, I pledged myself to living life well and remembering the details of loves, family, children, accomplishments, and sorrows, so that if I was worthy to make it to heaven, we might sit for a long time in contemplation of that for which he gave his life. I know that someone as good as Charlie must already be there."

Sincerely,

**John W. Kelsey, PhD.**

Spc 5

First Infantry Division

2nd/33rd Artillery

\*E-mail with poem sent by Randy Kethcart.



## Seeing The Guys We Lost

"There's one song that takes me straight to a dark place but I have it on the computer and I still feel compelled to close my eyes and listen. It's a shame the words are so hard to understand, but I know them by heart. And I think it just may be the music more than the words that get me. My mind sees the guys we (I) lost.

Brothers in Arms by Dire Straits:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dqok5m4lqeE>

Take care!

**Robert Whaley**

### Brothers in Arms

These mist covered mountains are home  
for me now  
But my home is the lowlands and always  
will be  
Someday you'll return to your valleys  
and your farms  
And you'll no longer burn to be brothers  
in arms  
Through these fields of destruction, Bap-  
tisms of fire  
I've watched all your suffering as the  
battle raged higher  
And though they did hurt me so bad, In  
the fear and alarm  
You did not desert me my brothers in  
arms  
There's so many different worlds, So  
many different suns  
And we have just one world but we live  
in different ones  
Now the sun's gone to hell and the  
moon's riding high  
Let me bid you farewell, every man has  
to die  
But it's written in the starlight and every  
line on your palm  
We're fools to make war on our brothers  
in arms

During the Korean War the 5th Infantry Regiment then called the 5th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) had 949 men Killed-In-Action, 3,188 wounded, 151 taken as Prisoners of War and 16 were listed as Missing in Action.

(Historian from page 10)

talion so, from that point on, I have listed the battalion commanders. Hope it serves your purpose.

**Sam Kier**

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn.

(Editors note: Sam's list of commanders starts with the first commander in 1808 and continues up to the present. The list includes 122 names.)

=====

### Did the 2/5th Receive the Army Superior Unit Award?

6 DEC 14

"My name is SFC Andre McMicheal. I served in the 2nd Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment from 1995 until 2000. I was wondering was the Regiment awarded the Army Superior Unit Award or was it just for one battalion?"

-----  
Andre,

"That Army Superior Unit Award was given only to 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry. In 1997, 1/5, out of Ft. Lewis, had been involved in training exercises at both Ft. Irwin and Fort Polk that contrasted digital and analog communications. The battalion used analog equipment at Fort Polk and digital (computerized) equipment at Ft. Irwin. The award was for the battalion's contribution to the modernization of light infantry capabilities. Several years later, the digital equipment became standard as the Stryker brigades were organized. First Battalion reorganized as a Stryker outfit in Spring, 2002. Your battalion was authorized to do so in December 2003."

**Sam Kier**

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn.

=====

### Questions from Australia

7 DEC 14

Hi,

"We are trying to research a family member who was actually born in Scotland around 1808, and have just found another attestation for 1847 indicating that he was in the 5th Inf / A - Not that we even totally understand much more

than 5th Infantry but not sure of the A? Division..?

We are in Australia and of course not able to get into the main source of the USA records.

So I have just found one article describing the 5th as being called the Bobcats, we have found some further census that are likely to be him, but trying to be certain if he was injured in the Mexico War or not, as it seems he ended up as a pauper at some point sadly, but still noble to find his death.

I will include what we have.

Would you happen to know how we could find out if he was injured, on his ....first.... 1836 Attestation there is a small annotation with P.O 1857 we are presuming that is Pensioned out ?

And, where we could source more info about his actual Units participation.

**Sue**

-----  
Sue,

"The lists of those men killed and wounded in the Mexican War can be found online at [www.dmwv.org](http://www.dmwv.org). Just go to that site and click "Roll of Honor." I did a quick scan of that and didn't find William Spink of Company A, 5th Infantry on the wounded list, but you might want to check the lists yourself. Companies A thru K (there's no company J) were the ten companies of the 5th Infantry Regiment that served with Clark's Brigade, Worth's Division during the War with Mexico. Brigades and Divisions, at that time, didn't have a number. They took the name of their commanders. So, it's possible that William survived the war without a visible scratch but possibly suffering from trauma that prevented him functioning well after the war, since, as you say, he ended life as a pauper.

What is the source of the "attestations" that you mention? Are they census records or just family notes? Can you e-mail me a copy of the one that mentions "P.O. 1857?" I've never seen that notation used for anything other than "Post Office or purchase order" but maybe I can figure it out from the context.

I covered the 5th Infantry's role in the Mexican War in my book, Two Cen-

(See Historian on page 19)

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



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 2, 2014

Bobcats,

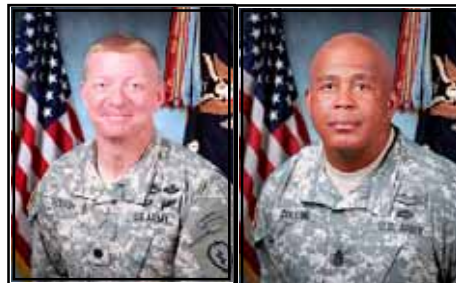
Winter seems to have arrived to Alaska right on time this year. With temperatures above and below zero as well as over one foot of snow throughout the training areas, Mother Nature has provided 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the ability to train Arctic Mobility. Though the darkness has surpassed the amount of daylight within 24 hours, our Arctic Bobcats and their families continue to persevere with high morale and audacity through the tough winter climate.

Before the end of summer, the Bobcats completed a large-scale Combined Arms Exercise, Operation Chapultepec. This event included Joint Fire Mission Command, Aerial Medical Evacuation Training, ICV Stryker Gunnery, Advanced Reconnaissance Training, Team thru Platoon Live Fires, and digital systems training with the 25<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Task Force from Schofield Barracks, 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineers Battalion, and 2-377<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Regiment from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. This 42- day training event culminated with the entire Battalion conducting a Defense to protect critical infrastructure from enemy destruction. Soldiers improved individual and team skills that assisted in preparing the Battalion for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

Immediately following Operation Chapultepec, the Arctic Bobcats quickly moved into a vigorous recovery plan that included preparing equipment, vehicles and weapons for railhead operations and transportation to Fort Irwin, California. Soldiers also had to ensure that marksmanship qualifications and personnel/medical actions were up to date for meeting the required timelines provided by the National Training Center. Soldiers also found time to train their survival techniques and utilize their Arctic equipment by completing their annual Cold Weather Indoctrination Course requirements. The Arctic Bobcats reviewed and trained the proper dress codes for extreme cold temperatures, proper identification/treatment of cold weather injuries, and the ability to sleep outdoors overnight without the use of a heated shelter.

In the upcoming months, the Arctic Bobcats will deploy to Fort Irwin, California as well as open the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Hallway here at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. It is our goal to preserve the heritage and honors of the Regiment so that all Soldiers understand a lineage that has directly impacted and influenced the history of our great nation.

Thomas M. Hough  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army  
Commanding



LTC Thomas Hough & CSM Arvento Collins

## SGT Jonathan Hunt Named NCO of The 4th Quarter And is Awarded an Army Commendation Medal



Sgt. Jonathan Hunt of Denver, Colorado, C Company 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the 4rd Quarter. (Photo by Capt. Matt Baldwin, USARAK Public Affairs 10/31/14)

Hunt became an NCO Oct. 1. Originally from Denver Col., he joined the Army in 2012 as an infantryman. Fort Wainwright is his first duty assignment, where he serves as a team leader. His goals include staying in the military and going to Airborne and Ranger schools.



He plans on working towards a degree in criminal justice and is shooting for the rank of sergeant first class.



Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Gardner, command sergeant major, USArmy Alaska awards the Army Commendation Medal in recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by Sgt. Jonathan Hunt who was named USARAK's Non-Commission Officer of the Quarter

*Pictures provided by 1LT Seth Williams - Battalion Adjutant*



1LT Josh Sandler Bobcat Ice Team



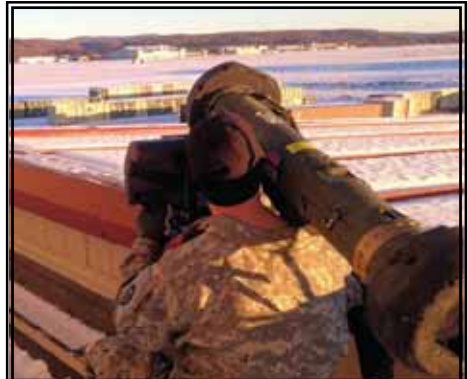
Berserker Company



Charger Arctic Mobility Team



Brigade Walk and Shoot Rehearsals



Amarok Javelin MILES Training



1LT Sandler Arctic Shooting





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

### Message from Bobcat 6,

"As of the end of October, all of our Soldiers have finally returned to Fort Bliss from western and southern Afghanistan. During those 11 months, your Bobcats established a reputation as a disciplined and aggressive unit who made a difference during the last year of "combat operations" in Afghanistan. I really believe we were able to disrupt the enemy enough to provide the Afghan Security forces time and space to continue to improve...the rest will be up to them. As I often tell my Soldiers, they should be proud of their contribution to the legacy of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment; one which has never let our country down.

I wanted to thank the members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association for their overwhelming support shown to our battalion during the deployment. Our Battalion Homecoming Ball, held on 15 November, was an absolute success that was made possible by your generous donations. This was only one of the many ways that you supported us. More important for me and Trish was the friendship and shoulder to lean on during tough times....Bob, Bart, Randy, Carolyn, Fred, Sam to name a small few. Speaking of the Battalion Ball, thanks to Stanziones and the Kethcarts for attending; your presence really helped to make the event special.

For those of you that haven't heard, the army has decided to deactivate the light infantry brigade at Fort Bliss as part of its overall downsizing plan. Unfortunately, that means that 2-5 Infantry will once again case its colors next spring. There currently aren't any plans to move the battalion's colors to another location but I think once the army's reorganization is completed in a couple of years, 2-5 IN will again be reactivated (we're all hoping back under the 25<sup>th</sup> ID).

Today's Bobcats are extremely proud to be a part of the lineage that you have helped establish before us. Thanks for always "watching our six."

**LTC Ed Brady**

### 2-5 IN "Bobcat" Battalion Ball

"On November 15th, 2014, 2-5 IN held a Battalion Ball in order to commemorate the triumphs and remember the Bobcats of the past that paved the way. Preparations for the event began seven months prior and it was clear during the open events that it was becoming an evening to remember. The event was held at the historical El Comino Real, located in downtown El Paso, TX. Members of the late CSM Martin "Gunny" Barreras' family and individuals from the 5th Infantry Regiment Association mingled with the Battalion and all contributed to the overall success of the event.

The evening started out with a social hour and a receiving line where Soldiers of 2-5 Infantry were able to introduce their significant others to the command team, LTC Edward Brady and SGM Samuel Banogan, as well pay their respects to members of the Barreras family. Upon entering the Grand Ballroom, attendees found their places. Each table was decorated with an elegant theme of Infantry blue ribbons and table cloths, as well as a script and a memorabilia mug representing the Bobcats' recent deployment to Afghanistan.

After dinner, a memorial and inspirational video was played commemorating the military service of CSM Martin Barreras, who was wounded in combat on May 5, 2014 and succumbed to the wounds taken on 13 May, 2014. With "Bad to the Bone" as the soundtrack, it didn't take long for emotions to be high with stories and memories of Gunny. Upon completion of the video, LTC Brady spoke some inspirational words about the Bobcats' accomplishments, and opened the Grog Ceremony. The ingredients of the grog included different beverages representing past conflicts that the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment has taken part in, from the War of 1812 through the Mexican War of 1846-48, World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terror. Once all ingredients were added, the final touches were made by the command team and Andy Barreras, who added Arizona Sweet Tea, his late brother's favorite beverage. When SGM Banogan gave his approval to the concoction, the whole battalion erupted in cheers and chants of "Bobcats."

The night closed with music and conversation among members of the Battalion and their significant others. Bobcats of the past and present all combined to make the night unforgettable."

**Sonny T. Rosales**  
MAJ, IN  
BN XO



LTC Edward Brady spoke to the battalion as the grog ceremony ended, capping the ceremony with words of inspiration and pride.



Mr. and Mrs. Barreras, parents of the late CSM Martin "Gunny" Barreras, honored the battalion with their presence.



HHC SFC McCants and his wife relax with their fellow Bobcats, celebrating the unit's history and outstanding record.



Andy Barreras, brother of CSM Barreras, adds sweet tea to the punch in memory of his brother.



## 2-5 Bobcats Receive Awards For Valor

“Five Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, received awards with V devices, Oct. 29.



Staff Sgt. Albert H. Buchinski, right, Scout Platoon sergeant, Co. D, 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Regt., speaks with Lt. Gen. Patrick J. Donahue II after receiving an Army Commendation Medal with V device. Photos by Sgt. Adam Hinman

“Personally, I do not feel like I individually earned this award, I believe that the Soldiers in my platoon, all 22 of us earned this award,” said Bronze Star Medal recipient Sgt. 1st Class Casinova G. Jackson, platoon sergeant, Company D. All of the awards were earned during a deployment the battalion had recently completed. Staff Sgt. Augustine O. Cortinas, section sergeant, Co. D, earned a Purple Heart Medal and an Army Commendation Medal with V device. Additionally, 10 more Soldiers from across the battalion, received Purple Heart Medals because of injuries sustained while in combat.”



Staff Sgt. Augustine O. Cortinas, right, section leader, Co. D, 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Regt. receives a Purple Heart Medal at Fort Bliss, Oct. 29. Cortinas had already received an Army Commendation Medal with the V device for valor.

At least 5 men killed in Vietnam were 16 years old and 12 were 17 years old.

## 2-5 IN “Bobcats” Return Home

“On September 11, 2014, 2-5 Infantry Battalion, “Bobcats,” returned to Fort Bliss, Texas, from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan that began on December 13, 2013. 2-5 Infantry was tasked with base security for Shindand Air Base, located in Herat Province in Regional Command West. The mission focused on partnership and training with the Afghan National Security Forces and providing security for the personnel operating on the multinational air base. The mission also required close partnership with other US Army units and government agencies, members of the Italian armed forces, and a US Marine Special Operation Command detachment.

The Bobcats fought their way through numerous challenges, increasing Afghan National Security Forces’ capabilities, providing them with counter-Improvised Explosive Device training, and partnering with them to disrupt the hostile activity of the Taliban on the local population. The Bobcats also manned the Base Access Control point, screening local nationals entering the base to ensure the safety of the base’s residents. Together with the Afghan National Army, the battalion also pressed deep into areas around the base that were formerly under strict Taliban control, forcing the Taliban out of their strongholds around the base emboldening the Afghan military to new found heights.

The deployment came to a close as they landed at Biggs Army Airfield on Fort Bliss; the Bobcats brought home a powerful sense of accomplishment and unit pride. Soldiers proudly filed out of the plane and were greeted by the command team of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, as well as members of the garrison and post command teams. The band regaled the Bobcats with triumphant marches as they walked across the flight line to their waiting friends and family.

Prior to being released, the Bobcats gathered around for words by LTC Edward Brady, the battalion commander, and SGM Samuel Banogon, the battalion command sergeant major, reminded the Soldiers of all they had accomplished, thanking them for a job well done. The Bobcats were joined by Andy Barreras, brother of late Command Sergeant Major Martin “Gunny” Barreras, who died of wounds sustained on May 5th, 2014. Mr. Barreras told the Bobcats that CSM Barreras was and would have been proud of each and every Bobcat. He would have stated that “the mission goes on, so take a knee, drink some water, and we will see you on Monday.”

As the Bobcats marched their way into the reception area to hundreds of emotional friends and family, thus ended but one of the many heroic chapters from the Bobcats past and present service men and women.”

*MAJ Sonny T. Rosales*



LTC Roede, CDR of 3rd BDE, welcomes Bobcats home.



Friends and family were gathered to welcome the Bobcats home from Afghanistan. Family and friends displayed their patriotism, cheering for their Bobcats as the Soldiers disembarked the plane.



# 2-5 IN “Bobcats” Revisit Unit’s Past

By *ILT Aaron Lawless*

“In March 1862, less than a month before the Battle of Shiloh was fought in the East, the Civil War was in full swing on the western frontier. Confederate General Sibley and his Texas Mounted Brigade had left San Antonio months before, headed up the Rio Grande into Arizona and New Mexico Territory. Their goal: to disrupt the Santa Fe Trail, breaking the connection between Union forces in the East from Colorado and Arizona Territory, and capture the New Mexico Territory for the Confederacy.

The Confederates had taken Santa Fe, and were intent on marching north to Colorado, visions of gold mines in their heads. However, a Union force from Denver, comprised of Federal troops, including the 5th Infantry Regiment, and the Colorado Volunteers, met them east of Santa Fe at Glorieta Pass, a strategic spot on the Santa Fe Trail. The terrain, a junction of a large mesa and the southern tip of the Rockies, funneled the Union and Confederate troops towards each other, into an inevitable battle.

Union troops occupied the high ground on either side of the pass, recognizing the importance of a commanding view and fields of fire. Leadership, or the lack of it, was crucial on both sides, as was the initiative of junior commanders. As the Union troops were pushed back from the pass, the ferocity of their defense allowed a Union reserve force led by Major Chivington, acting without orders, to descend from the mesa through difficult terrain and destroy the Confederate supply train. As the fighting ended, the Confederates believed themselves victorious, until they learned of the loss of the supplies. A tactical victory had become a strategic defeat for the Confederates.

2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd IBC, 1st AD, conducted a staff ride to the Glorieta Pass battlefield site on November 20, as a continuation of a leadership study focused on the unit’s company-grade officers. The leadership lessons offered by the battle are numerous, and parts of the battle reminded some of the recent deployment to Afghanistan.

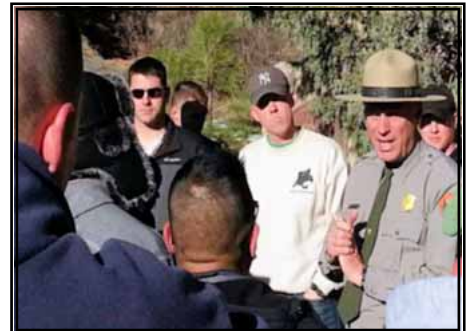
The officers of 2-5 IN were given a tour of the battlefield by Park Ranger Roger Clark, who had experience with Civil War battlefields in National Parks in the Eastern United States. Ranger Clark told the group, “In many ways, this battle was closely tied to what was happening back East. The Confederacy wanted to connect geographically with Rebel sympathizers in Arizona, and [Confederate President] Jefferson Davis dreamed, even then, of a transcontinental railroad. He wanted it controlled by the South, and the Confederate retreat from Glorieta Pass was a defeat of that plan. This battle put an end to Confederate expansion into the west.”

The tour covered key terrain of the battlefield, and demonstrated the importance of holding the initiative, conducting good reconnaissance, and taking control of important locations to control the fight. “What’s old is new again,” LTC Edward Brady, 2-5 IN Battalion Commander, reminded the group. “As a leader, you have to instill an ability to take initiative in your subordinates, and that has to happen in training. If your radio fails or you’re taken out of the fight, your Soldiers will freeze without your guidance, unless you’ve trained them to take initiative, just like Chivington’s Union troops coming down off the mesa to destroy the Confederate supply train. Once you lose the initiative, the enemy is making you react to him, and that’s not how we want to fight. The enemy should be reacting to us.”

The story of the battle, including the tremendous physical hardships endured by the Confederates, traveling without proper logistical support and in rags, as well as the Union troops, who performed a forced march on foot of over 400 miles in 14 days, reminded the 2-5 IN leaders of case studies from “Lieutenant University” conducted two weeks before. The case studies, drawn from WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Iraq, focused on the incredible accomplishments of individual Soldiers, fighting with determination in the face of hardship. “I don’t know how these men did all this,” Ranger Clark told the group. “They were in rags, their shoes were worn through, they were starving, and still both sides put up a terrific fight here in the pass.”

The staff ride concluded with a group discussion, led by LTC Brady, emphasizing the lessons learned. Officers pointed out the impact of leadership in the outcome of the battle, from an absentee Confederate General Sibley, to Union Colonel Slough and his ability to lead his Soldiers from Denver to Glorieta Pass. Other examples discussed were Union Major Chivington and his initiative in destroying the Confederates’ supplies, forcing them to end the campaign in the west, and Confederate Major Shropshire, who led an uphill assault against Union marksmen on Sharpshooters Ridge, stealing control of the battlefield from the Union forces. The 2-5 IN officers departed the battlefield with a fresh appreciation for the profession of arms, and renewed by having trod in the footsteps of their 5th Infantry predecessors.”

*MAJ Sonny T. Rosales*



NPS Ranger Clark describes the events of the battle to the Soldiers of 2-5 IN.



LTC Brady leads a discussion on the terrain, pointing out the importance of Sharpshooters Ridge.



## Plaque Presented In Appreciation

In appreciation of the money our members donated to help fund the 2/5th they presented to us a plaque. Seen below receiving the plaque at the 2/5th Ball are Randy Kethcart and Bart Stanzione.



The Plaque reads, "With Great Recognition and Appreciation for Your Loyal and Dedicated Support to the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment (Bobcats).

The Level of Commitment You have Shown this Battalion has been Unwavering and Serves as an inspiration to all. Your Actions Demonstrate True American Pride in Supporting Our Nation's Military and greatly Enhanced Morale within the Entire Bobcat Community."

(Historian from page 13)

turies of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment, so let me know if you have further questions."

Sincerely,

**Sam Kier**

Dear Sue,

"I believe that I've received all of the documents that you sent. I was particularly excited to receive that roster of officers of the regiment and enlisted men in Company A that was compiled during the summer of 1847 in Puebla, Mexico. The short stay in Puebla was a pleasant interlude in the war for the men of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Puebla is at a high altitude so they had a break from the heat and humidity of Vera Cruz. The area was, and probably still is, known for its rich agricultural lands and beautiful women. The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry left Puebla on August 5, 1847 and marched toward Mexico City.

The picture that I'm getting is that William Spink was born in St. Andrews, Scotland and emigrated to New York sometime before 1836. In 1836, after some employment as a clerk in a pharmacy(?), he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to Company H of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. He served as a hospital attendant at Fort Marion, Florida. He re-enlisted in 1839, was assigned to Co D, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and continued serving as a hospital attendant. In 1841, while serving at Ft. Harrison, Virginia, they changed his job title to "hospital steward." (One of the steward's jobs was to procure medicines and mix prescriptions, a job that was in line with his civilian work experiences.) However, he was still a private in rank. (This changed during the Civil War, when the Army placed greater value on the hospital stewards and paid them at the same rate as an artillery sergeant.) When he re-enlisted in 1844, he was still PVT William Spink.

I couldn't determine when William transferred to Company A of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Since, the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry were in the same brigade during the Mexican War, the transfer probably happened during the early campaigns of the war. On September 14, 1847, Mexico surrendered and the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry stayed on as part of an army of occupation. On

July 5, 1848, the regiment left for home. William's troopship sailed to Pass Christian, Mississippi, where hospitals had been set up to care for the sick and wounded. It looks like, from one of the records that you sent me, that William was assigned to work in a hospital in nearby East Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Apparently you're right about "P.O" meaning pensioned out. There was something in one of the reports about William retiring from the Army in 1856 after completing 20 years of service. He would have been 45 years old at that time. That doesn't jibe with the civilian William Spink who is declared a pauper in Pennsylvania in the census of 1850, six years before William retires from the Army. Sue, please check the records carefully. I may be wrong on that.

I believe you said that you were unsure about his year of death and his final resting place. Have you approached the National Archives in Washington DC, [www.archives.org](http://www.archives.org), to see if someone requested a veteran's head stone for him? The application would provide important information about his final situation. I've done that for my Civil War ancestors and William may have died late enough in history to have been granted the same veteran's benefit.

I hope all is well in Sydney, Australia. We're finally getting some nice rains here on the central coast of California after three years of drought.

Please keep me in the loop, if you should find out more about our 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry "Bobcat" ancestor, PVT William Spink."

Best regards,

**Sam Kier**



"The Bobcats new Mess Hall cook is ready for action."

# 2015 Reunion - New Orleans LA

*Monday May 4th - Friday May 8th*

## The Holiday Inn Superdome



**\$99 Single / Double per night**  
**\$109 Triple / Quad per night**  
**\$15 per day parking**

To make reservations call: 1-800-535-7830  
and tell them "5th Infantry Regiment Association" when booking.

### Schedule of events

Hospitality Room: May 4 - May 8 (No fee)

#### **Monday May 4th**

Arrival and Registration

#### **Tuesday May 5th**

**Super City Tour & Natchez Steamboat River Luncheon Cruise \$65**

Travel through three centuries of history, legends and romance as you encounter "The City That Care Forgot!"

Absorb the sights & sounds of the world famous French Quarter and historic Jackson Square, home of the Cabildo and Presbytere Museums.

Visit one of our historic ceme-



teries, referred to as "Cities of the Dead," and learn about this unique above ground burial system.

Marvel at stories of voodoo and piracy on Bayou St. John, the waterway used by Jean Lafitte and his band of pirates, as we make our way to City Park, the 5th largest urban park in America. Here you may visit either the Morning Call Cafe or the Besthoff Sculpture Garden. Follow the path of the St. Charles Avenue streetcar, the oldest continuously operating passenger railway system in the world (until service was disrupted by Hurricane Katrina). See the homes of former Kings & Queens of Mardi Gras, stately mansions and the world-famous, exclusive Garden District. View Tulane and Loyola Universities across from Audubon Park, home to one of the top five zoos in the nation, The Audubon Zoo.

### **Natchez River Luncheon Cruise**

The harbor cruise departs from



shores of the French Quarter and takes you on a voyage back in time to when cotton reigned as king and life was slow and peaceful. Before the cruise is over, from the decks of the Steamboat NATCHEZ, you'll see up close and personal one of



the world's most active ports as it can be seen the best.

-----  
**Wednesday May 6th**

**Oak Alley Plantation Tour with Cajun Buffet \$75**



Feel the gentle breeze of Southern hospitality on a tour that takes you back to the glory of the Old South! You'll experience a bygone era in one of the South's most beautiful settings- Oak Alley Plantation, built in 1839.

Marvel at the unbelievable quarter-mile long alley of 28 magnificent Oak trees, each over 250 years old, and view the Majestic Cypress Trees in Louisiana's swamps bordering the Mississippi River.

Your guided tour will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its history. Perhaps the most photographed plantation ever, Oak Alley has been the setting for such motion pictures as Interview with a Vampire, Primary Colors, and the wedding of Bo and Hope from the daytime soap opera, Days of our Lives.

Note: Due to the home's historic nature, access to the second floor is by stairs only.

Walking the grounds is an integral part of this experience.

No video is allowed inside the plantation home. Lunch included.

-----  
**Thursday May 7th**

**Memorial Service at the World War II Museum \$65 \***

\*Memorial Service Portion is free. If you want to return to the hotel afterwards the bus will be available. Charges are for muse-



um / movie admissions and a luncheon show with the Victory Belles.

**Schedule**

10:00 AM - 11:30 Memorial Service  
11:45 AM - 12:45 Lunch at the

Stage Door Cantina  
12:45 PM - 1:45 The Victory Belles present America's Wartime Sweethearts: A Tribute to the Andrews Sisters  
2:00 PM - Movie Beyond All Boundaries by Tom Hanks  
2:45 - 4:30 View exhibits at the WWII Museum

-----  
**Friday May 8th**

9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting  
10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

(See NO Reunion on page 22)

<b>Registration Form</b>		
<b>Bobcat New Orleans Reunion</b>		
Name _____		
Street _____		
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____		
Phone # _____ E-mail: _____		
Number attending _____ Date arriving _____		
	Number	Cost
<b>Registration fee</b> - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
<b>TUE 5 May</b> - Super City Tour & Natchez Steamboat River Luncheon Cruise - \$65		
<b>WED 6 May</b> - Oak Alley Plantation Tour with Cajun Buffet - \$75		
<b>THU 7 May</b> - Memorial Service at the World War II Museum Lunch & show - \$65		
<b>FRI 8 May - Banquet Dinner Choices</b>		
1. Filet Mignon 8 oz. - \$42		
2. Broiled Tilapia - \$35		
3. Grilled Chicken - \$30		
Reunion Donation ( <i>Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.</i> )		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
Is this the first reunion you have attended (circle one)	YES	NO
<p><i>Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to:</i></p> <p><b>Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>		

(NO Reunion from page 21)

Free to explore New Orleans

### Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails  
6:00 PM - Dinner  
7:00 PM - Program  
7:30 PM - Approx. Auction

### Banquet Dinner Choices

1. Filet Mignon \$42

8oz. Filet Mignon aged to perfection. Served with our very own three peppercorn sauce.

2. Broiled Tilapia \$35

Farm-Raised Flaky, White Fish Served with Rice pilaf and Topped with Baby Gulf Shrimp in a Beurre Blanc Sauce.

3. Grilled Chicken \$30

Marinated with Italian Seasonings and Olive Oil. Served with Crawfish Sauce.

-----  
If you wish to make a donation to help cover the expenses in hospitality room, any amount appreciated.

For information contact Carolyn Kethcart:

[carolynjk@bobcat.ws](mailto:carolynjk@bobcat.ws)

Carolyn Kethcart  
16054 Pine Drive  
Tinley Park IL 60477  
708-468-8624

Method of payment - You can pay via PayPal on the Bobcat website at: [www.bobcat.ws](http://www.bobcat.ws), or send a check to Carolyn.

Make checks payable to the "5th Infantry Regiment Association"

### Important Message Regarding New Orleans Reunion

HI BOBCATS:

"Just got off the phone with Holiday Inn Superdome in NO. I was told that the week before our reunion is Jazz Fest and rooms are not going to be available long if you want to go to NO before our actual Reunion.

In our contract we have a "shoulder" for rooms, but they are not officially in our block, they are available 3 days before and 3 days after our dates of May

4th through the 9th. The rate is still \$99, but if you want to come early or stay later, you need to make your reservations now because these shoulder rooms are only based on availability.

If you are thinking about coming sooner or staying later, I suggest you call the hotel directly to make your reservation. The number on the website is the "800" general reservation number and they are not seeing the "shoulder dates". So call 504-581-1600 ext. 4102 and ask for Juanita Toefield, she will make your reservation. You can even call that number just for the regular dates. Her hours are 8-4 CST but she doesn't work everyday, so you may have to leave her a message or call back. Again, this is New Orleans, all the rooms fill up quickly so please call today if you are planning to make this Reunion.

I don't want anyone missing the block because they hesitate in calling. Even if you aren't sure about coming, but think you are, make the reservation now. You can always cancel it down the road if your plans change.

Please remember to also go to the website and send me the pre-registration form. Fill it out, hit submit once and it will come directly to me and you will be registered. Also, all the events and the food choices are on there and you can safely use PayPal to order everything you want from the site.

If you prefer, all the events and food choices' are also listed in the most current Newsletter. Fill it out from there and mail it to me with your check. Please make all checks payable to "5th Infantry Regiment Association"

I must have all the orders in no later than April 1, 2015. I have to call all the vendors with our numbers by this date. Please don't make me hound you..... you know I will. The right thing would be get it done sooner than later, then we have no issues as we get closer.

Website Reunion Information is at:

<http://www.bobcat.ws/reunions.html>

Any questions, you know how to reach me. Thanks and See you there!!"

**Carolyn Kethcart**  
Reunion Coordinator  
[carolynjk@bobcat.ws](mailto:carolynjk@bobcat.ws)  
708-468-8624 (Home)  
708-288-0193 (cell)

## Community invited to Pearl Harbor, Medal of Honor ceremonies

"On Sunday, 7 Dec. 2014, the Florida Medal of Honor Committee conducted a dedication of a monument at The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial Park here in Sebring, Fla.

This dedication was for Florida's newest Medal of Honor recipient (posthumously) to a Tropic Lightning Bobcat by the name of Ardie Ray Copas. Sgt. Copas (then Spc.) was KIA on 12 May, 1970 while serving with C. Company, 1 Bn.(M) 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

At the ceremony, a memorial stone was placed with those of the other Florida recipients in the Tranquility Garden.

Ardie Ray Copas lived in Ft. Pierce, Fla. prior to serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Viet Nam.

At the ceremony was his then wife, his



daughter and grand daughter.

I have attached some photos of the event and presentation of the Flag, that covered the monument prior to its unveiling, to his daughter. She was 5 months old at the time of her father's death."

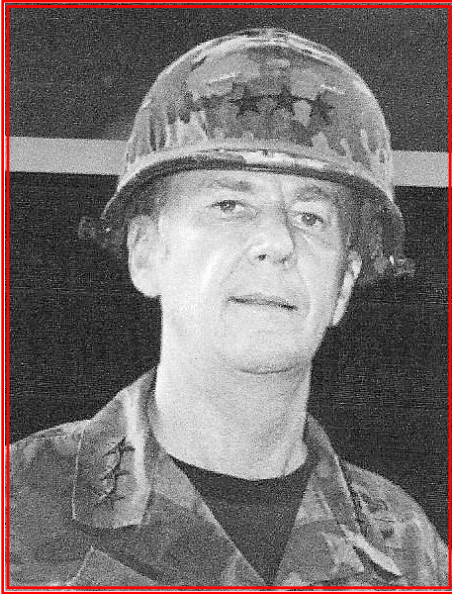
**Allan Azary**  
B. 1/5 (M) '67-'68





## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier



### LTG Hank Emerson

*Served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars having earned 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 5 Silver Stars and 2 Bronze Stars.*

In August, 1950, the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was placed on a ridgeline to the left of the 25<sup>th</sup> Division and facing a higher ridgeline called Sobuk-san, which was in the hands of the North Korean 6<sup>th</sup> Division. Things remained relatively quiet until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month when the commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion summoned CPT Robert Timmons and told him to take his A Company on a reconnaissance in force for some three miles in front of the friendly lines. The company moved out with the platoons of LT's Hank Emerson and Charles Worley taking the lead.

When they reached a small knoll with a few scraggly trees on it, the company stopped to re-organize. They were immediately caught in a maelstrom of criss-crossing fire and the crunch of 120mm mortar rounds. A machine gun round pierced LT Worley's heart and a few minutes later CPT Timmons was mortally wounded. Emerson assumed command of the company and led its surviving members in a successful attack against an enemy position located on a small rise to the front.

LT Emerson was informed that two hundred Chogi bearers, South Korean porters, were on their way with a re-supply of water and ammunition. They never arrived. North Korean soldiers overran the unarmed, overloaded porters, who fell shrieking to the ground as the North Koreans emptied their burp guns and tossed grenades into the screaming mass of helpless souls.

In light of the re-supply failure, Emerson was given permission to withdraw to the MLR, secure ammunition and water and repeat the attack on the following morning. He was now confirmed as the CO of A Company.

The next morning, Hank Emerson led his men back up another hill which they captured after a brisk firefight. For the next nineteen days, Able Company repulsed assault after assault as the enraged NKPA attempted to retake the hill.

For four of those days, LT Emerson, having lost all of his platoon leaders, was the only officer on the hill. He personally laid wire and mines, exposing himself to enemy machine guns, small arms, mortar, artillery and grenade fire. During twenty-seven vicious enemy assaults, he moved from position to position encouraging his soldiers and directing their fire.

On 7 September, 25<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters issued verbal instructions for the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT to prepare for a relief in place. The forty-one surviving members of Company A walked down the hill.

Henry Everett Emerson, who was born in Washington, D.C. in May of 1925, spent much of his childhood at the Presidio of San Francisco while his army surgeon father was on staff at Letterman General Hospital. He was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1947.

Emerson was serving as the executive officer for Company L, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry in Korea in 1949 when he and many other 7<sup>th</sup> Division soldiers were transferred to fill the ranks of the newly-formed 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team. He went to Hawaii with the regiment in 1949 and returned with it in 1950 as a platoon leader in Company A. In 1952-53, he served as Aide-de-Camp to General Mark Clark in FECOM Headquarters in Japan. In 1954, through the efforts of his former 5<sup>th</sup> RCT commander,

John Throckmorton, Hank returned to West Point to teach in the Department of Tactics. He credits former Bobcat commanders John "The Rock" Throckmorton and Lester Wheeler, among those who inspired and guided his army career.

Hank Emerson's next combat tour occurred in 1965-66 when he served as a battalion commander for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Vietnam. In January 1968, he returned to Vietnam as Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, until he was wounded in August. He suffered severe burns after his helicopter was shot down in the Mekong Delta and returned to the United States.

Emerson gained recognition during the Vietnam War for his tactical ability. He was credited with having conceived such methods as the *checkerboard concept* that involves small groups covering grid squares to seek out an enemy, and *jitterbug* tactics which are complex maneuvers using helicopters and ground troops to surround and destroy an enemy. He demonstrated that American soldiers could effectively "out-guerrilla" the Viet Cong.

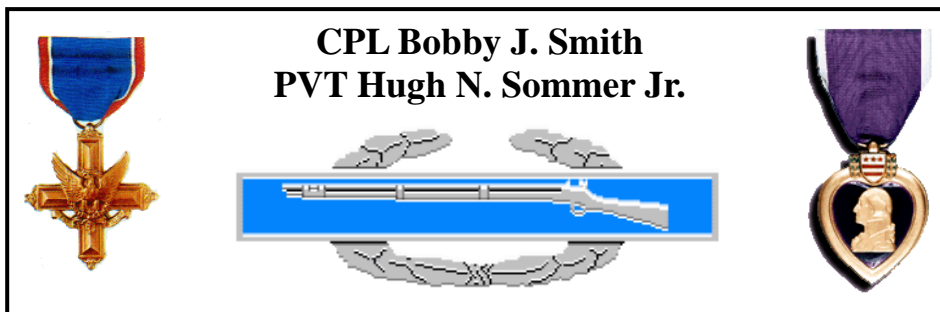
Soon after Vietnam, Emerson was promoted to major general and assumed command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in Korea. When he received his third star in 1975, he was appointed commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. He remained in that position until his retirement in June 1977.

Following his army career, Hank Emerson worked briefly for a firm in Fayetteville, North Carolina that provided support services to international building contractors. He is now completely retired and living in a remote area of Montana.

Emerson received the Silver Star for his valiant leadership of Company A on Sobuk-san Mountain. That was the first of five Silver Stars. His other decorations include two Distinguished Service Crosses, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

"We are apt to forget that we are only one of a team; that in unity there is strength and that we are strong only as long as each unit in our organization functions with precision."

-Samuel J. Tilden



**CPL Bobby J. Smith**  
**PVT Hugh N. Sommer Jr.**

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

### **Distinguished Service Cross Awarded to**

**SMITH, BOBBY J.**

**Citation:** The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Bobby J. Smith, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Corporal Smith distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Waegwan, Korea, on 19 September 1950. When his platoon leader, platoon sergeant, and other ranking non-commissioned officers had been wounded, and he himself had been seriously wounded, Corporal Smith tenaciously remained in his position, firing his Browning Automatic Rifle with deadly accuracy against the enemy. When he had expended all his ammunition, he made his way to a machine-gun ammunition bearer in order to obtain more. He noticed that a gunner and assistant gunner of a nearby machine-gun had been wounded and their gun temporarily put out of action. He manned the gun and continued to deliver fire against the enemy until reinforcement arrived. In the ensuing action when, as a result of his heroic achievements, the platoon once more began to advance, he was morally wounded by enemy fire.

*Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 189 (December 5, 1950) Home Town: Anderson, South Carolina*

**And**

**SOMMER, HUGH N, JR**

**Citation:** The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Hugh N. Sommer, Jr., Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Private Sommer distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces at Yonghwa-dong, Korea, on 22 April 1951. On that date, Private Sommer's platoon was attacked by a numerically superior foe supported by intense artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire. After bitter fighting, the platoon was ordered to withdraw to a more tenable position and Private Sommer's squad remained to cover the retrograde movement. Later, while attempting to withdraw through positions previously held by another unit, an enemy soldier silhouetted on a ridgeline was mistaken for a friendly soldier. Calling out that he was bringing his squad through, Private Sommer received an affirmative answer in English. As the squad approached, the enemy soldier tossed grenades, and although the squad opened fire, the enemy soldier succeeded in rolling grenades into their midst before he was eliminated. While attempting to dispose of a grenade in the position during this action, Private Sommer lost his life and his comrades were wounded. However, his courageous and inspirational leadership greatly encouraged the remaining members of his unit and they successfully evaded enemy forces and rejoined friendly elements participating in a counterattack the following day.

*Department of the Army: General Orders No. 18 (February 18, 1953) Home Town: St. Louis, Missouri*

## **New Coin For Sale**

It was decided that we should design a new updated challenge coin. A committee was appointed made up of Sam Kier, Bart Stanzione and Jim Caudle. They came up with a new coin pictured below.

5th Infantry Regiment Challenge coin is 2 inches in diameter. It is made from brass and has a diamond cut twisted edge. Both sides are in color with a clear epoxy finish.

The price, which includes shipping, for this coin is \$10.50. You can pur-



chase the coin online on our Website at:

<http://www.bobcat.ws/quartermaster.html>



Or you can send a check made out to "5th INF ASSN" to:

Jim Caudle / 5th INF ASSN  
1501 Baychester AVE  
Norfolk VA 23503



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

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

(Please Print)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

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

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

**5th INF REG ASSN 138 Glenrise RD Swanton MD 21561-2317**

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

Membership Application  
**25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

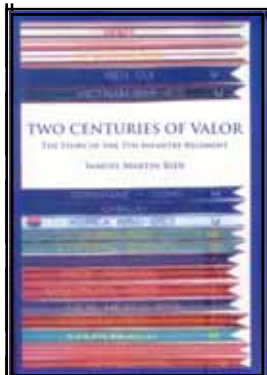
\*Attach copies of your DD-214 or other documentation of service.

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

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

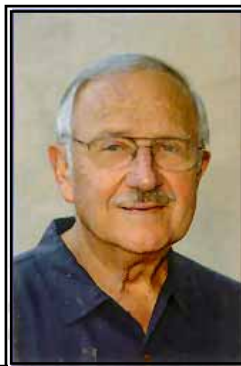
**25th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown PA 19031-0007**

## History of The 5th Infantry Regiment



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

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



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



# Order Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

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

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

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



# 5th Infantry Chapter Quartermaster

## Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

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

Order these items by contacting  
our Quartermaster Jim Caudle at:  
**757-588-0056** or  
E-mail: [jecaudle@cox.net](mailto:jecaudle@cox.net)





# Certificate of Appreciation

is presented to

*5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association*


For your outstanding support to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats" during our welcome home ceremony on 11 September 2014. Your selfless service and dedicated support ensured that all Soldiers received a warm welcome upon our return. Your actions are exemplary and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army.

*This 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of September 2014*

**"I'LL TRY SIR!"**

  
SAMUEL G. BANOON  
SGM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major



  
EDWARD A. BRADY  
LTC, IN  
Commanding

## WE ARE APPRECIATED

Many members donated to help welcome the soldiers back from Afghanistan. We were able to help with their "Stock the Barracks" program. And we were able raise and donate \$6,500.00 to help reduce the cost of the 2/5th Ball. Our donation, made possible by your donations was appreciated. We received the certificate shown above where the 2/5th thanked us .

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

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