



The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Summer 2018

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

Volume II

Norfolk Was Another "Great" Reunion

The Kethcarts know how to put together memorable reunions!

We have had some really good reunions in recent years and Norfolk was no exception. Just some of the factors making it another great reunion were: a great hotel, enjoyable and interesting tours, a large number of attendees and an interesting former Bobcat keynote speaker.

This was a kind of joint military reunion involving or visiting all the services. On tours we visited joint Army/Marine base FT Story as well as Norfolk Naval Base. And our color guard for the Memorial service banquet was Air Force.

It seems many more attendees arrived earlier to this reunion than to previous reunions. I arrived on Monday May 14th and some were already there. The hospitality room was set up with banners, flags and memorabilia as well as drinks and snacks by Monday evening. In total we had well over 100 in attendance.

Since there were no planned activities Tuesday most early attendees spent the day socializing in the hospitality room. Roger Sperl traveled the furthest coming from Fairbanks Alaska a distance of nearly 4400 miles. He brought along his grandson Xavier Lawrence who lives in Erie PA.



And mascot "Bob" the bobcat was brought to the reunion by his guardians Charles and Diane Kennedy.

Wednesday started off with an all day tour. We began by visiting the "Military Aviation Museum" which is home to one of the largest collections of World War II and Korean War era fighter,

bombers, trainer and seaplanes in the world. What was interesting is most can still fly. In fact while we were there we were able to watch some take off and land.

As we were traveling from one site to another we got a tour of Virginia Beach's downtown business area. Also we got to walk on the boardwalk/beach area and see



(See Reunion on page 2)

"I'll Try Sir"

2019 Reunion Charleston, SC

TUE SEPT 3rd - SUN 8th
2019

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

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



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

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

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

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

(See Charleston on page 24)

(Reunion from page 1)



the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry. We went to joint base FT Story where we saw Cape Henry Lighthouse built in 1792.

Thursday was the day we toured the Norfolk Naval Base the largest Naval installation in the world. It is home to 78 ships ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines,



26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133



aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet. We were also able to see the Norfolk area from the water as we went on a luncheon cruise.

Since he had to leave the reunion early, at the luncheon on the cruise ship "Spirit of Norfolk", Gary Robertson was



honored with a plaque naming him the "Bobcat of the Year" for 2018

Friday we had a riding tour through Norfolk learning about it's colorful history of over three centuries.

But more importantly we visited the



five star General Douglas MacArthur Memorial. When we first arrived at the MacArthur Memorial we held our annu-



al Memorial Service honoring and remembering the 10 Korean War and seven Vietnam War state of Virginia Bobcat's killed-in-action. We also honored the 44 Korean era and six Vietnam era veter-



ans who died during the past year. Two of the Vietnam Vets Jon Blickenstaff and Jon Cartwright who died during the past year were members of the Board. And Cartwright was also a past president. The tour also included lunch and a tour of the Battleship Wisconsin and Nauticus. Both Thursday and Friday were capped off with a large number of attendees enjoying the friendship, snacks and drinks in the hospitality room.



Saturday was a big day filled with many activities. The day started at 9 AM with the membership meeting and at the



same time the women had breakfast together.

At 10:30 everyone gathered for a fun-filled fragging of Ed Kawczynski.



Ed received many gag-type gifts which each seemed to result in a hilarious re-



mark or gesture from Ed.

Saturday evening started off a social hour with cocktail/drinks at 5 PM



followed by the Bobcat Banquet at 6 PM.

Those in attendance were called to order for the banquet by the sounding of a bugle playing Attention and the Adjutant's Call.

The colors were posted by an Air Force Color Guard from

(Go to page 3)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Much has happened this year. New president and vice president plus 6 new Board members were installed as we said goodbye to departing Board members. Leaving the board were Jim Caudle, George Bates and Andy Gimma. Joining the Board of directors were Chester Johnson, Dan Curran, Gary Robertson, Rob Kiehm and Jeff McGrath. Our new Vice President is Nicky Fasselin. Welcome to all new board members.

A very important event will occur on 21 August 2018 in Odessa Texas as most of the survivors from the Battle of Ben Cui will gather to honor the brave men who lost their lives in that battle.

The location was chosen mainly because it is the home town of Marvin Rex Young, Medal of Honor recipient for his Bravery and Heroism on that fateful day 50 years ago, 21 August 1968.

To all who attended the Norfolk Va. reunion, thank you and hope to see you at the next Reunion.

George Chavez

President
5th Infantry Regiment Association

Joint Base Langley. An invocation was given by Myron Peterson and honored attendees were recognized. Of note in attendance were Jenny



Diaz whose husband was killed in Vietnam and Cheryl Koehs



whose husband recently died. Also present with

her husband was Army Nurse Grace Moore (*Being presented a coin by Andy*) who probably took care of many members that were wounded who were in attendance.



We gave a Pledge to the flag and Carolyn Deverse led us in the singing of "God Bless America" and the Army Song.

We also raised our glasses toasting the Army, the President MIA's and others. LTC James Pochopien, Carolyn Kethcart's nephew, gave the "Missing Man Ceremony". LTC Pochopien also helped us get the color guard and our guest speaker. LTC Pochopien is assigned as an instructor at JFSC/JCWS (College).



Dinner was served and I can't speak to the beef or chicken meals but my fish might have been the best seafood meal I ever had at a banquet.

We had an interesting guest speaker.

Dr. Fred R. Kienle, Professor of Strategic Leadership at the Joint Forces College, National Defense University gave a very enthusiastic interesting speech.



Dr. Kienle was commissioned an Infantry Officer in 1978 and his first assignment was with the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks Hawaii.

After 31 years of service Kienle retired as a colonel. He earned three masters degrees and a doctorate.

Dr. (COL-R) Kienle seemed impressed with our Association and promised to join and encourage others he knew to join.

After dinner Jim Caudle was presented with a plaque recognizing his over 25 years of dedicated



(Continued on page 4)

5th Infantry Association

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

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

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

Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 18** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 18. Please renew now!

Reunions

25th IDA Providence RI ... 8 - 13 OCT 2018
Charleston SC 3 - 8 SEP 2019

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

Andy Anderson (MG-R)

Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

George Chavez (MSG-R)

Distinguished Members of the Regiment

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

Honorary Members of the Regiment

Sue Caudle, Carolyn Deverse, Shannon Henry, Carolyn Kethcart, Teri Tringali

Bobcat of the Year

Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04, Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart 07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09, Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11, Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13, Jim Caudle 14, Sam Kier 15, Ed Kawczynski 16, Carolyn & Randy Kethcart 17, Gary Robinson

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

ROSTER

The Denis McDonough MORNING REPORT

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

*paulandjulier@gmail.com or
PO BOX 569, Frankfort MI 49635-0569
or 231-651-0052*

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.

Lost Members:

We have no information on these members. Please contact us if you have information (Address, Phone # & E-mail).
Anderson Jr., John "Andy, McFadden,
Terri, Blanton III, Carl "Trey" A., Jones,
Charles, Reiter, Kenneth, Stankevitz, Patrick E.

Roster Changes/Corrections:

Reid, David - Address change
1842 E Rhea RD
Tempe AZ 85284-3465

Whitmore, Michael - Address change
419 Trail Ridge PL
Santa Rosa CA 95409-6437

Williams, Clifford - Correction
6636 Clearfork Road
Bastian VA 24314

Johnson, Chester - Phone number change - 970-966-9669

Brock, Bobby - New address & E-mail
107 Arrowhead Rd Apt B
Fort Benning GA 31905-2450
706-992-6748
bbrock@gmail.com

Manning, Patrick - New phone #
509-520-8062

New Members:

Kettleman, Ralph (Donna)
3686 Old M 51
Crosswell MI 48422
810-357-2122

HHC - Radar 64-65 (Vietnam)
**Ralph was in Vietnam prior to the deployment of the 25th Infantry Division as part of the radar section.*

Reinhardt, David "Jake" J. (Virginia)

3825 Crestmore RD Space 416
Riverside CA 92509-4689
951-683-3530
HHC (Recon PLT) Track 003&4
1-4/68
jakereinhardtteam21@yahoo.com

Mott, John (Kathy)
270 Phelps Road
Barre, Vermont 05641-9778
802-249-3054
1st PLT B Company 1973-74
johnmott769@yahoo.com

Walton, Dennis (Valerie)
1812 Washington Street
Beatrice, Nebraska 68310
402-560-5190
B Co. 2nd PLT 1970/71 (Vietnam)
1932deuce@windstream.net
Comment: Randy Kethcart said, "I'm buying a 1 year membership for Dennis. He took over driving the 'Jumpin Jack' when I went to the rear."

Greetham, Geoffrey
534 Fox Hollow Way
Manchester, NH 03104
603-748-7026
Bravo Co, 3/5 INF & HHC, 3/5
INF. 193d INF Bde (CZ) 76-78
g-l-greetham@msn.com

Vogt, Nicholas (Lauren)
5781 State Route 61
Crestline, OH 44827
Afghanistan 2011
nvogt10@gmail.com
Comment: "My time in the 1-5th IN RGT was cut short due to a combat injury in 2011. I was officially posted at Ft. Wainwright, but I went to Afghanistan as soon as I landed there since the Bobcats were already deployed."

Moon, Gregory
1700 Lexington Ave S #303
Saint Paul MN 55118-3611
651-788-2492
A Co
stromme3@aol.com
**See Greg's comments on page 5*

service as our treasurer and quartermaster. Jim's wife Sue was also noted on the plaque for her assistance to Jim and her contributions to our association and she was presented with a bouquet of flowers. We thank both Jim and Sue and wish them well in the future.

When the banquet dinner was done the colors were retired and after a short break we raffled off the



afghan that Sue Caudle made (Won by Bill & Gail Silva) and the quilt made by Sue Kiehm and won by Chris & Nichole Sharpe. The raffle made \$950. A big thanks to the two Sue's!



Next came our annual auction. Auctioneer Bart Stanzione with assistance



from his wife Patti, Carolyn Kethcart and Derek and Russell Leiter emptied almost everyone's pockets of money.

Thus came to an end the 29th annual reunion. And to me I consider it another enjoyable, successful and memorable (One of the best) reunions. A very large "thank you" to Carolyn and Randy Kethcart for their efforts. The auction was very successful bringing in \$5522. (When the hat was passed for the scholarship fund during the membership meeting \$849 was collected)

I also want to thank Ed Kawczynski for providing me with copies of his pictures. Most of the reunion pictures in this newsletter were taken by Ed.

"Awesome Reunion"

"This years Bobcat Reunion was Awesome! What the staff of the Norfolk Airport DoubleTree did after one of our tours was truly unexpected and took all of the Bobcats by surprise. To me it was the welcome we wished for all those years ago. To receive it half a century later from people born after the Vietnam War was very moving. To the staff of the DoubleTree, thank you from a grateful Vietnam Veteran!

George Chavez

(See Reunion on page 26)

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

Former Bobcat Commander Has New Assignment

"Major General Todd B. McCaffrey, Commanding General, First Army Division East, Fort Knox, Kentucky to Chief of Staff, United States Africa Command, Stuttgart Germany."

**MG-R Andy Anderson sent me this information on 5 APR 18.*

"Major General McCaffrey commanded 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Washington, leading the battalion through its transformation into a Stryker Infantry Battalion and a combat deployment to Iraq. Following attendance at the Army War College, he 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. After brigade command he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-357 at US Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii."

Bobcat On CBS This Morning Show

Granddaughters all are serving

On the morning of 6 April I was watching the "CBS This Morning" show. They had a feature honoring "Those Who Serve" and were interviewing three sisters all who were serving their country by being in the military. One was an officer on active duty serving in the Air force as a pilot. Another was in her senior year at the Naval Academy. And one in her second year at West Point. All three girls' mother was the daughter of Bill and Catherine Pelfrey.

Catherine is an Associate member living in South Carolina.

Bill was an active member who attended every reunion until he died in 2008. He served in A Company 1st battalion 5th Infantry in Vietnam as a company commander 1966-67. Comments made to me by other members who served with him thought he was a very good company commander.

In the feature they were focusing on how the family through many generations served the United States in the military.

They surprised the three sisters and their mother by showing a short (about 10 seconds) clip from a CBS "60 Minutes" episode about the tunnels of CU Chi in which Bill was being interviewed.

Bill retired from the US Army.

Greg Moon,

"I just stumbled across this E-mail and apologize for losing it for so long. I will put it in the next newsletter.

Don't know if I told you but I also was a PLT LDR. Third and weapons in C Co. and 3rd PLT in A Co. in 66-67. I stayed in the Army reserve for 28 years and got a retirement from it.

Is your son still in medical school or in the Army yet?

I frequently struggle to get material for the newsletter so please consider writing something for the newsletter. Also pictures are good and if you can identify people in them it is even better."

Fred Deverse

From: Greg Moon

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 12:06 PM

To: Fred Deverse

Good Morning Fred!

"You may wish to note that I served with the 1st BN, 5th (Mech) Infantry, from 01 OCT 70 to 12 APR 71. I arrived at Cu Chi on 01 OCT 70, having previously served with the 2nd BN, 47th (Mech) Infantry, 3rd BDE, 9th Infantry Division (from 01 JUL 70 through 30 SEPT 70).

On 03 OCT 70 we departed Cu Chi for Bear Cat, which ironically, was also our rear area with the 3rd BDE, 9th Infantry Division. New unit, same rear area.

I became the 3rd Platoon Leader of A Company, 1st BN, 5th (Mech) Infantry. I was wounded in combat on 13 OCT 70, from a shrapnel wound from a fragmentation grenade booby trap. On 23 NOV 70, I became the Weapons Platoon Leader of A Company.

I became the Asst. S4 for the BN on 04 JAN 71. I returned to the field as the Weapons PL of A Company for a second time on 26 JAN 71.

We started our stand down on 05 APR 71 at Camp Frenzel Jones, part of the Long Binh complex. I departed Vietnam on 12 APR 71 from the Tan Son Nhut Airport.

I stayed in the Army Reserve for nine years and five months after my departure from Vietnam. I served with the 360th Psyops BN at Fort Snelling, MN.

Fred, I have a thousand slides from my service in Vietnam. Kept a lot of memorabilia, which I possess to this day. Have my complete 201 File in a 3-ring binder. Made a copy for my son as well, since he is in medical school, and will become an Army physician upon graduation.

Plan to pursue writing a book on my experiences as an infantry platoon leader in Vietnam. Will send you my first 18 pages.

You should note that I thought about coming to the Reunion, but my grandson turns three on 20 MAY, so will probably defer until next year. It would have been fun, but my grandson is at a great age of discovery, and I want to be there for him.

Thanks for taking on the huge responsibility of being the Newsletter editor. As a writer, I can appreciate all that you are doing for the Association.

Please email me, or call me on my iPhone at (651) 788-2492. Thanks for reaching out. I'm looking forward to becoming involved with the Association, now that I have joined the organization.

Best wishes,

Greg Moon

(651) 788-2492

Regarding The Picture Of SGT Jackson

4 April 2018

"Happy Easter. Hope this finds you folks well. Short time and we will see you in Va. So I got the newsletter today. Though I and Gen Anderson were the only ones that had that picture of Sergeant Jackson. It was taken by Don Mousseau (Frenchy). On morning of Sep

(See Comments on page 6)

Norfolk Reunion Donations

Attendees Were Generous

Jim Caudle	\$50
Frank Villanueva	\$100
Jenny Diaz	\$50
Myron Peterson	\$156
Andy Anderson	\$38
Stan Baker	\$25
George Bates	\$100
Roy Bressler	\$111
George Chavez	\$100
Theron Clough	\$25
Bruce Colton	\$25
Ken Cosimano	\$20
Dan Curran	\$25
Ace Decker	\$37
Nick Fasselin	\$50
Tom Frame	\$100
Don Fuller	\$29
Carl Gilbert	\$50
Andy Gimma	\$50
Bud Holochwest	\$100
Chester Johnson	\$50
Ed Kawczynski	\$50
Charles Kennedy	\$55
Rob Kichm	\$31
Cheryl Koehs	\$32
Jerry Mahaffrey	\$25
Pat Manuel	\$25
Jeff McGrath	\$50
Ken McKenna	\$25
Elwood Merring	\$10
Jim & Grace Moore	\$25
Steve Murphy	\$25
Ric Myers	\$100
Doug Rockwell	\$38
George Sharke	\$25
Chris Sharpe	\$50
Bill Silva	\$50

Barry Smith	\$25
John Snodgrass	\$25
Ron Soppe	\$250
Roger Sperl	\$50
Bart Stanzione	\$50
Roger Pederson	\$30
Ronnie Wright	\$50
Bob Wood	\$200
Anonymous	\$75

Donations to the Association

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

Roger Pederson - Newsletter	\$10
Carolyn Cartwright - Newsletter	\$50
Bobby Brock	\$50
Edward and Ellen White and Stewart Grant- in honor of their brother, SGT Kellum Grant (KIA 5/4/1968) - See picture below	\$300
Patrick Manning - Scholarship	\$100

Your name could be here. \$\$\$



Left to Right Joseph Gallagher (KIA), Andy Gimma, Kellum (Kelly) Grant (KIA) Steve (Solly) Solomon, Dennis Hacken and kneeling Jimmy Sutton - Photo courtesy Jimmy Sutton

(Comments from page 5)

16 1968, Jackson was standing beside track 11 of A Company. The other pictures that I have shows the 50 Cal . being shot up pretty bad, and this is when Sergeant Wimberly was killed. There is a picture of me standing at that track, Gen Anderson had a story in the Army Times and they used the picture that I was in for the story. This was the 2nd Human-wave attack that Co. A had at this base in 5 days.

As to Lt Robinson and when he was wounded, it was early Jan of 69. I left DEC 13, 1968 and Jackson was fine. You can check with Steve Murphy, they were 'dusted-off' at the same time. Steve lost his leg and Jackson was shot in the arm. I'm sure they were in the HoBo Woods at the time. Jackson was the best man we ever had. He showed me how to be a real infantry sergeant. I have searched but never found him or ever head of him and that is a shame."

Charles "Chuck" Kennedy



John Pughe

Facebook Picture

Memorial Day Remembrance

"This Memorial Day I remember:

**Bruce Bartlett
James Bowden
Ed Coffee**

Jose Colon-Rivera
 Jerry Combest
 Rich Damsehn
 Gary Dobbins
 Ed Dull
 Jimmy Harbottle
 Mainor Lang
 Dave Ledbetter
 Michael Mangan- **DSC**
 Hubert Martin
 Jesus Rivera
 Jimmy Rush
 Delbert Stogsdill
 Rex Young- **MoH**

They gave of themselves at the Battle of the Ben Cui, 8-21-68. I think of them every day."

Thomas Frame
 (Facebook posting)

"We went to Russel's for chow and then some of us went to visit our friend Albert Lazzarotto who was killed in Vietnam on Sept 11, 1968."



Jeff Bernson

Final Roll Call

"In 1998, I attended my first Vietnam reunion in Valley Forge. It also happened to be my former commanding officer, MG Andy Anderson and CSM Ray Barrett's first as well. As survivors of the Ben Cui, we hung around together because everyone else served in 1966-67 and we had no idea who they were.

We went to the Medal of Honor grove and met a WWII combat vet who gave us a poem he proudly wrote. The three of us felt it was his catharsis from PTSD.

Every year since that first reunion, I recite it at one Memorial Day celebration or another. This Monday will be no different.

To honor that old vet, here is his poem. Please feel free to share it in his

honor."

**Posted by Bruce Cotta on Facebook
 Poem is in the red box below.*

(See Comments on page 8)

Final Roll Call

Did you hear the news today?
 Another warrior has passed away.
 Called by the Supreme Commander over all.

Today, he made his final roll call.

Come follow vets, let us reverently pray
 To our comrade who has fallen this day.
 Drape his casket with banner of beautiful hues,
 Those glorious colors, the reds, whites, and blues.

That Star Spangled Banner he fought to defend,
 Unyielding, undaunted, he fought to win.
 He fought bravely and passed every battle test.
 Now the Supreme Commander grants him eternal rest.

With warriors honor, he's committed to the ground.
 The rifles will volley and Taps will sound.
 Military honors rendered somberly and sadly.
 Old Glory will be folded and given to his family.

At Memorial Day, we'll recall old comrade's names,
 Attest that their sacrifices were not made in vane.
 Their lasting legacy left for all generations:
 Is to respect our flag and defend this great nation.

So close ranks aging warriors, for our ranks are thinning.
 We must keep fighting and must keep on winning.

With pride and honor we'll march and stand tall,

And proudly salute Old Glory 'till we make our final roll call.

578 Bobcat KIA Names Read

"The Vietnam Traveling Wall came to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and was on display from June 1st through June 6th, 2018.

The mission of The Vietnam Traveling Wall is: "To honor the more than 58,000 servicemen and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. This 3/5 replica stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end and is an excellent copy of the original monument in Washington, D.C. This trailer loaded and very portable display was motorcycle escorted to and erected at VFW Post 5118 in Easton. This is so that family and friends, along with many on the Eastern Shore, can experience the overwhelming impact of this memorial"

This event was a solemn presentation of the Vietnam Wall Memorial, and as such had an air of reverence, honor and respect. Grief counselors were



Rubbing of KIA Marvin Rex Young MOH

available to assist those dynamically impacted during their visit. The wall was open 24/7 for the benefit of everyone at all times.

During this six day period every name listed on the Wall was read aloud by volunteers. I was given the time (over three days and on a loudspeaker) to read the 579 names of our fallen brothers KIA during the six years that the Bobcats were in Vietnam. This was a very emotional and difficult task but very necessary that we remember and honor those who did not come home with us.

In sum, it was a large number of volunteers coupled with very generous donations and detailed organization and execution that produced an outstanding, well received, and much appreciated event.

Andy Anderson
 Bobcat Six, 68

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

THE NATIONAL
PURPLE HEART
HALL OF
HONOR



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

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

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



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

Sent to me by Paul Robinson

(Comments from page 7)

Army 2-star, former Bobcat dies just days before retirement

"Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Bannister, a for-



mer commander of the 10th Mountain Division who was preparing to retire, died Sunday, the Army announced....

According to medical examiners, Bannister died of natural causes while running around Lake Murray near Lexington, South Carolina, the Army said Wednesday....

Bannister was commissioned through ROTC as an infantry officer after graduating from Campbell University in 1984....

He also served in 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry in South Korea...."

**Copied from the 30 May 18 Army Times' "Daily News Roundup*

(See Comments on page 11)

Caudle Retires Johnson Takes Over

Jim caudle has been our faithful and dedicated Treasurer and Quartermaster for over 25 years. Jim has decided it is time to retire. We wholeheartedly thank Jim for his many years of service. *Below is pictured Jim with his wife Sue.*



Chester Johnson has graciously stepped up and agreed to be the next Treasurer and Quartermaster. We are very appreciative of Chester for volunteering. *Below is pictured Chester and Janice Johnson.*



Bobcat vs. Rattlesnake: Wildcat Fights Diamond- back on Arizona Sidewalk

"A bobcat and a rattlesnake had a brawl on an Arizona sidewalk, stunning onlookers as the wildlife fight tumbled into human territory.

Laura Lucky... a real estate agent was working when she saw a diamondback rattlesnake bite the bobcat. That's when she started to record. 'The rattlesnake had come up and bit the bobcat on the lip,' she told the sta-



tion. "The cat flew. It was very surreal."

The video clip starts with the bobcat biting at the rattlesnake at the edge of the sidewalk and then picking it up with its mouth. The snake continues moving and the bobcat loses its grip, then starts to go after the slithering snake with its paws. The snake gets a couple of hits in, but the bobcat keeps coming.

After a lot of slashing at the snake with its paws, and stepping on it, the bobcat finally gets the rattlesnake securely into its mouth and rushes off with its prize....

In the video clip, the black-and-white stripes of the snake's signature tail, lying next to the rattle, whip around as it tries to fend off the bobcat.

These rattlesnakes are pit vipers, meaning they have pits in their heads that detect heat and help them seek out prey. They can be found throughout the Southwest: In addition to Arizona, they are in New Mexico, California, Texas and Oklahoma, and parts of northern Mexico.

Western diamondback rattlesnakes feed on rodents, lizards, birds and other small animals.....

The bobcat, meanwhile, can be identified by the spotting in its short fur, which tends to be reddish in the summer and gray in the winter. Bobcats, also known as wildcats, eat things like rabbits, birds and squirrels. The nocturnal animals are found in most American states as well as parts of Canada and Mexico."

**Copied from an April 6th Yahoo homepage.*

- I wonder if the Bobcat was smart enough to know that the snake was poisonous? Of course he was all Bobcats are smart!

A Tom Frame Facebook Post



CHEST FULL OF PRIDE

*By M/SGT Buddie E. Brimberry
Company F, 5th RCT, 1950-51*

Men of the Fifth, we stood side by side.
Some were captured, other men died.
But they're still with us and it hurts inside,
As we stand straight and tall, with a chest full of pride.

We stand at attention, when the colors go by,
And if you look close, you'll see a tear in our eye.
Never forgotten our buddies, who are not by our side,
As we stand straight and tall, with a chest full of pride.

From Sobuk-san to near Sinuiju,
All along the way, we lost quite a few,
Attacking, withdrawing, and getting hit from the side,
We fought like young heroes with a chest full of pride.

Many years have passed since we've done our thing,
But the thought of the big guns still makes our ears ring.
The war that we fought, that time tried to hide,
Still makes us stand tall with a chest full of pride.

The Fifth Regimental Combat Team, I will never forget.
I've seen many units, but they can't match it yet.
My old combat buddies are still at my side,
As I stand straight and tall with a chest full of pride.

*Buddie Brimberry stood straight and tall until he passed
away in Hutsonville, IL on June 5, 1995. (Sam Kier)*

*In an E-mail Sam said, "Every time I've opened the 5th RCT Assn
roster to get an address, I've noticed this poem."*

Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

72 Year Old Ashtray

"I have an ashtray 71 Inf. Division, 5th Inf. Regiment Augsburg Germany. I want to sell it but can't find much on it. I see you have a photo on your website of one. It's the only thing I have found about it. Can you help with history and value?"

Flo Woods

I really cannot tell you about the value, it would depend on the condition and if there was a collector or museum out there that wanted it. I'm copying our historian to see if he can give us any insight. Can you send me a picture of it?

Fred Deverse

Flo,

"The only thing I can tell you is that the 5th Infantry Regiment arrived at Augsburg in February, 1946 and remained there until it was de-activated in November of that year. Therefore the ashtray has to be 72 years old.

I'm copying this message to my friend Don Keefer who served with the regiment in Augsburg. He may be able to give us a rough idea of the PX purchase price of such an item in 1946 and whether they were limited in number or popular. Ultimately, you may have to consult with an expert in military memorabilia."

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Infantry Regiment

"My name is JW Sternickle, I am the editor of the Taro Leaf magazine, the official publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association.

I am looking for info about the attached photo. I understand that the soldiers were part of the 5th Regimental Combat Team's Company A, which was attached to the 24th Infantry Division.

This Pulitzer-nominated photo, taken by Al Chang during the Korean War when he was with the Army Signal Corps, appeared in the 1955 book "Family of Man," by Edward Steichen. The Aug. 28, 1950, photo shows a grief-stricken American infantryman as he is comforted by a soldier after his buddy was killed in action. In the background

of the photo, a corpsman methodically fills out casualty tags.

Do you know anyone who might have additional information about the photo and the soldiers pictured?

I am looking for the names of the soldiers in the picture."

Thanks.

JW Sternickle, Taro Leaf Editor
24th Infantry Division Association

JW,

"Although I didn't receive a forwarded copy of the photo, I'm sure that your question is about the Al Chang picture of Master Sergeant Frank Chandler trying to comfort an infantryman from the 1st Bn, 5th RCT, whose buddy was KIA on 18 August 1950. CPL Joseph Villaflor, a medic from Elelee, Kauai, is filling out casualty tags in the background. The photo was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize."

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn

Korean Photos

"5th RCT, Korea 1954 Taegu, Korea (most likely).

I have tried to send the photos which had the most number of unit members who could be identified. There are also many of a parade, football game and volleyball game all from a distance. There are more photos of the camps and tents, from a distance, and many of Korean children and villages he visited or from train windows. Please let me know what might be of interest."

Jean

Jean,

"Randy Kethcart sent me copies of your uncle's photographs. Please include me in any further photo sharing. I'm the historian for the 5th Infantry Regiment. I reported to Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 5th RCT, in the fall of 1954 so I would not have known Dr. Mullaney but I did associate with several members of the 5th Medical Company who had been at Chipori. I do have contact info for four men who served with 5th Medical at that time if that would help with your project.

Chipori is about 40 kilometers due north of Seoul on the highway to Kum-

wha (Geumhwa). It isn't on my map either so I just added it. The nearest significant town is Hungnyongsa.

I do have current (?) contact info for four men who served with 5th Medical Company during 1953-54 if that would help with your project.

Thanks for stumbling across our website."

Sam Kier

Pacific Grove, CA

Accounting For a POW

"The Spring 2016 issue of the Defense POW/MIA magazine "The Quest" announced that as of March 18, 2016, listed the names of those who remains have been accounted for.

The remains of Pfc Aubrey D. Vaughn, RA14369506, Company C, 5th Regimental Combat Teams, who was taken prisoner on 4/23/51 and died 7/23/51 while a POW, was listed as being accounted for.

That's all the information I could get from the "Quest".

Wes Morrison

F/21st Inf, Korea 50-51

Past President, 24th IDA

"Given the date of capture, PFC Vaughn was taken prisoner south of Kumwha during the same fight in which James Garner was strafed by a U.S Air Force pilot. If I can learn more I'll let you know."

Later E-mail Response

"Actually this casualty was already listed on Wes Morrison's 5th RCT Honor Roll. Vaughn was from Union County, South Carolina.

Sam Kier

Hello there,

"I recently met a 97 year old member from Company K, 5th Regiment Combat Team assigned to Korea. He came directly from Hawaii to fight for his country. He received a silver star for his contribution during a critical battle to secure high ground. I'm trying to determine how to ensure his story is accurately portrayed. His name is Lt. Col Burk but I'm finding nothing in the history records recognizing his contributions. He was actually wounded in November

(See Sam on page 11)

(Sam from page 10)

21, 1950 during another battle in Korea and still we have very little account of his contributions. He spent most of his time in the war room preparing battle plans. I would like to honor him and help him get some recognition for his gallantry in action. What would you recommend to help his story be told?"

Renee Fischer

Renee,

"What is LTC Burk's full name? Is his last name spelled Burk or Burke?"

Hall of Heroes lists just two Burkes (but no Burks) who were recipients of the Silver Star during the Korean War: CPT Sherman H. Burke and Thomas F. Burke.

My directory of 5th RCT veterans contains the name of Thomas J. Burke, who served with K Company, but he did not report to the 5th RCT until 1953. If your LTC Burk came from Hawaii with the original contingent, he probably would have been transferred out of the combat team by April 1951.

On the date that LTC Burk, Burke (?) was wounded, the 5th RCT was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division. I perused a set of the 24th ID General Orders for the period Sept 1950 through January 1952, hoping that they might have recommended him for his Silver Star, but could find no mention of it. It's possible that it was recommended earlier by either the 25th Division or the 1st Cavalry for which I have no records.

Would LTC Burk willing to provide you with copies of his service records to help verify the details of his story?"

Sam Kier, Historian
5th Inf Regt Assn

"Good day to you,

Not only can I provide his service record, I also have his award certificate (please see attached). I do not have every single DD214 because his service record spans 30 years. I greatly appreciate your attention to this man because I believe he has been forgotten in the mix."

Renee

"Wow! Renee, thank you. I'll get back to you after I've read them. Can you scan a photo of Leroy Burk, circa Korean War or thereabouts and send it to me? The DD214 is blotchy and difficult to read. In boxes 3 & 4 does it read
(See Sam on page 12)

Court ruling could extend disability benefits to thousands of injured veterans

6 April 2018

"WASHINGTON — Thousands of veterans previously denied disability benefits for pain issues related to their military service may now be eligible for that assistance, thanks to a federal court ruling this week.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a 19-year-old precedent used in more than 11,000 VA claims denials that stated veterans had to have a clear medical diagnosis connected to their pain in order to be eligible for those disability payouts.

Advocates said the ruling could be life-changing for individuals who are unable to work because of service-connected injuries but excluded from veterans assistance because of medical technicalities.

"This was an all-or-nothing issue," said Bart Stichman, executive director and co-founder of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. "This isn't about arguing over the degree of disability where is the difference of \$2,000 or \$3,000 a month in help. These are people who are getting zero benefits, despite their pain."

The court challenge, which was brought by NVLSP, involved Army veteran Melba Saunders, who served in first Gulf War. She injured her knees during her seven years in service, a fact that military doctors noted in her files without determining a specific medical diagnosis of the issue.

When she left the service and applied for veterans disability benefits, her claim was denied. VA officials acknowledged the problem stemmed from her time in service but the Board of Veterans' Appeals cited a 1999 Veterans Court decision which held that "pain alone is not a disability for the purpose of VA disability compensation."

The new court ruling erases that precedent, at least for now. Veterans still need to show a clear connection between their pain and their military service to be eligible, but would no longer have to have a specific medical reason for the pain to apply for benefits.

VA officials can appeal the decision, although it's unclear if they will do so.

In a statement, Saunders' lawyer, Mel Bostwick, called the court case "a significant victory for disabled veterans"

and a long-overdue correction in VA policy.

Congress recognized that the nation owes these veterans for their sacrifices, and the court today vindicated the common-sense notion that this debt does not depend on whether a veteran's disabling pain can be labeled with a specific medical diagnosis," she said.

Stichman said veterans who have previously been rejected for disability benefits — or who have avoided applying in the past because they assumed they would not be eligible — should now reapply to see if the new ruling will allow them to qualify.

We just don't know how many veterans this could affect," he said. "We know the Board of Veterans Appeals has cited this precedent in more than 11,000 cases. But we don't know about all the other veterans who never even applied."

**Copied from the Army Times' "Daily News Roundup".*

(Comments from page 8)

Today's Number is 15,851

Report by the Congressional
Research Service

Since 2006, a total of 15,851 active-duty personnel and mobilized reservists have died while serving in the U.S. armed forces. Seventy-two percent of these casualties were unrelated to war, and 28 percent have died while serving within the territory of Iraq and Afghanistan.

** Sent to me by COL-R Nevin Williams*

50 Years Ago

"50 years ago today I set foot in a place that will continue to haunt me until my end. And I will again be with my brothers who I've missed all these years."

**From Facebook by Tom Frame 4/10/18*

A Candy From Mars and America's Sweetness

How M&Ms and VOA sustained my dreams as a girl in Vietnam.

By
Oanh Ngo Usadi

In the early 1980s, my family would gather at night around our battery-powered shortwave radio, listening to Voice of America. Back then I knew the broadcast only by its acronym, VOA, which I assumed was a Vietnamese word. Inside our thatched hut among rice paddies of the Mekong Delta, the radio delivered forbidden news of a world beyond Vietnam.

I was 11, and America captured my imagination. My three siblings who escaped Vietnam a year earlier had just been accepted into the U.S. But more important in my young mind, America was the birthplace of M&Ms, a candy I had recently discovered.

Seven years into communist rule, the Mekong Delta was running out of food. The area was often referred to as the rice bowl of Vietnam, but the Communist Party's collectivization of farmland, along with successive typhoons and floods, had decimated the harvests. Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia and short war with China in 1979 had further battered the economy. Harsh sanctions imposed by the West and indifference from Vietnam's allies meant there was little outside aid.



One day my father came home to our village from Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, with a gift that had reached us from my siblings in America. He handed my older brother and me a brown, waxy paper package that sounded as if it was filled with marbles. Though the bag was sealed, I detected the scent of chocolate, which I had once tasted before the communist takeover, when our family had not yet been exiled from Saigon and life's small luxuries were within reach.

I tore open the bag, took out one M&M, and gave another to my brother.

Holding our candies between thumb and forefinger, we examined them from different angles. Then we looked at each other and, in unison, popped the chocolates into our mouths.

As the hard shell dissolved into a sweet creaminess, my taste buds, long deprived of pure, clean sugar, burst to life. My brother, looking at me with an expression that must have mirrored my own excitement, suggested that we should eat only three each day, stretching out the stash as long as we could.

Until the M&Ms ran out, eating them was a daily highlight. Sitting by the deck inside our hut with our feet dangling over a pond, we competed to see who could eat them slowest. At first we speculated what the small "m" imprinted on each candy might mean, but then we moved to debating the colors. My brother thought each had a different flavor, but I was sure they all tasted the same. Long after we had finished the M&Ms, I still thought about them at night as I drifted off to sleep, my hunger tamed by the fantasies.

In 1983 the rest of my family escaped Vietnam during the mass exodus of "boat people." A year later we joined my siblings in Texas. I soon learned that my two strongest associations with my new homeland both made their debut during World War II: M&Ms as a treat for American soldiers, and VOA as a way to broadcast America's optimistic view of the world. Four decades after their inauguration, they provided comfort and inspiration to a young Vietnamese girl on the other side of the world, herself in need of a morale boost.

Ms. Ngo Usadi is the author of the new memoir "Of Monkey Bridges and Banh Mi Sandwiches."

** Sent to me by COL-R Nevin Williams.*

(Sam from page 11)

LTC and O5? I'm trying to make out the date that he was medically retired and it appears to be 24 Oct 1967. Right?"

Sam

"He retired as an LTC O-5 rank on Oct 24, 1967. I have also included a link of Mr. Burk that was an interview of him 11 years ago that I thought you might find interesting. I will work on getting a photo."

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.64847/>

Renee

"Does Colonel Burk still live in Rancho Cordova? My daughter lives in nearby Gold River, California. I would like to visit him the next time that I'm in the Sacramento area. The video was very helpful. I have plenty of information now to write an article about him for the 5th Infantry Regiment Bobcat Bulletin and the 5th RCT Assn's newsletter but do need a photo when you can get it to me."

Sam

"He does still live in Rancho Cordova and I'm very close with the family. I can easily get a photo to you. I am also sure he would appreciate a visit. I will forward the information."

Renee

Local Artist Donates Paintings

Jim Caudle commissioned local amateur artist Yvonne Thibeault to paint



three paintings, two Bobcat paintings and one of Virginia's lighthouses. Miss Thibeault donated these paintings which were auctioned off at our Norfolk reunion raising money to support the Association and its veterans.

Thank you Miss Thibeault!

Vietnam Memorial Wall Facts

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are in alphabetical order.

It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison

High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the

Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters.

There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, and those who DO Care.

I've also sent this to those I KNOW care very much, and I thank you all for caring as you do.

** Sent to me by COL-R Nevin Williams*

Need a DD-214?

You can get a new DD-214 by going to <http://members.com/forvets/dd214.htm>

Veterans Administration

As someone who served in the military you are eligible to use the VA health system. Here are some facts regarding the VA.

- ◆ 9.7 Million - Number of Veterans who used at least one VA service in fiscal 2016.
- ◆ 377,000 - Approximate number of VA employees, making it the second largest federal government agency (behind the Defense Department).
- ◆ 1988 - Year the Veterans Affairs Department became a Cabinet-level agency, via a law signed by President Ronald Reagan.
- ◆ 1231 - Number of VA outpatient facilities.
- ◆ 300 - Number of VA vet centers.
- ◆ 145 - Number of VA hospitals.
- ◆ 135 - Number of VA-run national cemeteries.
- ◆ 491,685 - Recipients of either veterans or survivors pension from VA, with an average payout of \$10,400.
- ◆ 73,539 - VA pension and disability claims in the department's backlog, as of March 31, 2018. That's down from 611,073 in March 2013.
- ◆ 3 Million - Approximate number of active participants in the VA loan program.
- ◆ 2.7 Million - Approximate number of VA disability compensation recipients treated for either tinnitus or hearing loss - the most commonly treated ailments. Post-traumatic stress is third, with nearly 888,000 cases

** Copied from the "Army Times" 16 APL 18.*

"He who makes his chief business a seeking for happiness never finds it. If he makes his chief business service to others, happiness will seek him.

The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make other people happy."

-Dr. Eric Rush

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:

June 19, 2018

Fellow Bobcats,

On the 25th of May, I had the honor of taking command of the 5th Regiment's 1st Battalion. The change of command ceremony followed a change of responsibility ceremony that occurred in March, as CSM Brady Davis became the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment's Command Sergeant Major. Having served with 2-5 Infantry Battalion Bobcats previously, I am well aware of the rich traditions, history and lineage of this great unit, as well as the high standards of excellence established by the chain of command. CSM and I pledge that we will continue to live up to the legacy established by our predecessors and look forward to continuing to strengthen the bonds between the Battalion and the Association.

During the last few months, the Leadership of the Bobcats has changed dramatically. Headhunter Company (HHC) is now commanded by CPT Charles Bruce with 1SG Raymond Agan. Anger Company (A CO) is now commanded by CPT Jonathan Beck with 1SG John Ryle. Bayonet Company (B Co) is now commanded by CPT Oleg Sheynfeld with 1SG Derek Leach. Charger Company (C Co) is now commanded by CPT Alexander Purdy with 1SG Justin Estelle. Gladiator Company (G Co) is commanded by CPT Unna Lee with 1SG Jeromiah Platt.

Our Battalion, under the command of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team (1/25 Infantry Division), continues to be aligned with US Army Alaska (USARAK), and stands prepared to support any operation in any environment. This month we celebrated the Army's 243rd birthday as we joined the rest of Fort Wainwright in a formation run.

In the coming months, the Bobcat Battalion will prepare for the next deployment to the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, California. As we prepare for this deployment, the Battalion has plan to conduct squad and platoon live fires. In addition, the Bobcats will participate in a Brigade planned Company Live Fire exercise called Arctic Avalanche and a Battalion Field Training exercise called Arctic Anvil.

My family and I are tremendously excited to be in Alaska and a part of the Bobcat Family past and present. I am truly honored to serve the Soldiers of the Battalion as Bobcat 6. I look forward to the coming two years with anticipation for the next chapter of the Army's third oldest regiment. If I can ever assist you in any way, please contact me at sonny.t.rosales.mil@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Sonny T Rosales

Sonny T. Rosales
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

LT Barber mentions their Facebook page. There are some great pictures and videos on the page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/1.5Infantry>



**CDR LTC Sonny Rosales &
CSM Brady Davis**

New 1/5th Battalion Commander LTC Sonny Rosales

Fred,

"I'm not sure if you remember me, but I was with the 2-5 In Bn Bobcats out of Fort Bliss.

I was the BN XO and Bn S3 for the 2-5. Served and deployed with LTC Brady and the late CSM Gunny Barreras. FYSA -- I still maintain contact with Barreras family. Just to let you know that Gunny was just inducted to the Ranger Hall of Fame in Fort Benning last week. Great news for the Bobcats.

It was unfortunate that I had to inactive 2-5 In Bobcats, but very fortunate to be a Bobcat again, especially as the Commander.

I noticed that the 5th Inf Association website has some pictures from the 2-5 In Bn Ball. Good times.

Anyway, looking forward in working with you and keeping you and the association updated on the Bobcats."

Thank you.

I'll Try, Sir!

Sonny T. Rosales

LTC, IN, Commander



Then MAJ Rosales, LTC Brady and CSM Barreras on the 2/5th's 2013-14 Afghanistan deployment. Barreras was KIA.

A special thanks to LTC Rosales and 1LT Christopher Barber for the article and pictures.



Soldiers of Bayonet Company after earning their Expert Infantryman Badges.



Soldiers of Headhunter Company after earning their Expert Infantryman Badges.



Lt. Col. Blake Lackey addresses the formation for the last time at the Change of Command Ceremony, May 25, 2018.



An Anger Company Soldier quickly reloads during his Team Live Fire iteration.



An Anger Company Team Leader directs one of his riflemen during Team Live Fire exercises.



Bobcats joined the rest of Fort Wainwright for a formation run in honor of the Army's 243rd birthday.

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

In the fall of 1954, a 700-man remnant of the 5th RCT sailed from Pusan, Korea to Seattle, Washington aboard the Navy transport *General Randall*. The re-deployment was overseen by Colonel Erasmus Hardin Strickland and Sergeant Major Silas S. Jones. Despite being assigned to regimental headquarters, I learned very little about the Army careers of these two gentlemen. They were both personable and approachable, but our daily conversation rarely ventured beyond, "Good morning, Colonel. . . Good morning Sar'n Major. . . Good morning, soldier."

I recently tried to find out more about the lives of these two World War II veterans. Through an online search, I learned that LTC Strickland went ashore at Utah Beach on D-Day with his 3rd Battalion of the 8th Infantry Regiment. The men of the Eighth were the first Allied troops to hit the beach. The other fellow, Captain Silas Jones, CO of Headquarters Company, 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, was captured six months later during the Battle of the Bulge.



Erasmus H. Strickland

According to anecdotes in Connolly's book, *The Mortarmen* as well as Strickland's citations for valor, he was an officer who led his men from the front, inspiring them to get off the beach, smash through the hedgerows, and break out of the Normandy beach-head. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on 21 June 1944 while leading a tank-infantry as-

sault near Ruffosses, France.

Strickland's 3rd Battalion was ordered to spearhead an attack to break through a formidable German defense line. Despite withering fire, he made a personal reconnaissance of the approaches to the fortified area and determined that tank support was necessary. He went to the rear, directed the tanks forward and led a tank-infantry assault against the objective. He personally killed and wounded many of the enemy.

On August 2, 1944, the 8th Infantry ran into determined resistance by the 116th Panzer Division near St. Pois, France. Strickland was wounded. When he returned to duty, on November 6, 1944, he was appointed regimental executive officer. He arrived just in time for that regiment's horrific battle in Germany's Huertgen Forest.

I found one post-war reference to COL Strickland in the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*. He had been serving on Guam as a post troop information and education officer before being transferred to the Pentagon in October, 1949.

Strickland assumed command of the 5th Regimental Combat Team on May 3, 1954 in Pusan, Korea. He remained in command until August 30, 1956, when the men and equipment at Ft. Lewis became the 22nd Infantry Regiment and our own 5th Infantry colors were moved to Ft. Carson, Colorado.



Silas S. Jones, Jr.

Silas Spear Jones, Jr. was born on August 28, 1918 in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard

in August 1935, shortly before turning seventeen.

Jones was called to active duty in September 1940. He graduated from the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning in July 1942, just as the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion was being organized at Fort Riley as an element of the 9th Armored Division. Jones was assigned to the 52nd and deployed to England in July, 1944.

By the time that his battalion crossed the channel to Normandy in late September, Si Jones had been promoted to captain and had assumed command of Headquarters Company. The battalion first went into line on 23 October 1944, patrolling a quiet sector along the Luxembourg-German frontier. However, when the Germans began their winter offensive in the Ardennes in late 1944, the entire 9th Armored Division, with no real combat experience, found itself suddenly engaged in heavy fighting.

On the morning of December 19, the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion was completely surrounded by an entire Panzer Division. The battalion commander reported that 597 of his officers and men were missing in action. Those missing included CPT Si Jones as well as the commanders of Companies A, B and C. Two hundred and twenty-five of the missing men were able to get through the enemy lines and link up with the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne. The actions of these men who participated in the defense of Bastogne resulted in a Presidential Unit Citation for the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion.

Si Jones was captured by German troops during the withdrawal to Bastogne. He eventually arrived at a prisoner-of-war stalag across the Lahn River near Limburg an der Lahn.

In early March, 1945, lead elements of the 9th Armored Division discovered that the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen was intact. They exploited the bridgehead, moving south and east toward Limburg, freeing Captain Jones and thousands of other Allied prisoners.

Si remained in the U.S. Army following the war. He returned to Germany and served with our army of occupation. In 1953, he was deployed to Korea and assigned to the 5th Regimental Combat Team. In 1956, he remained at Ft. Lewis with the 22nd Infantry.

At what point, Captain Si Jones reverted to enlisted status is unclear. There were periods of demobilization after both World War II and Korea, which resulted in shrinking of the officer

(See SAM on page 17)

(SAM from page 16)

corps. Company grade officers with less than two years of college and field grade officers without a college degree were confronted with these educational requirements and many agreed to become non-commissioned officers in order to stay in the army.

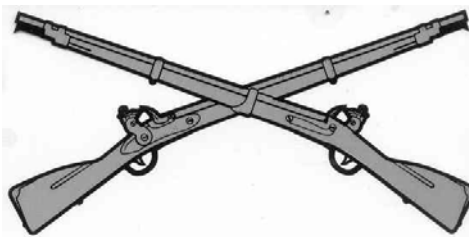
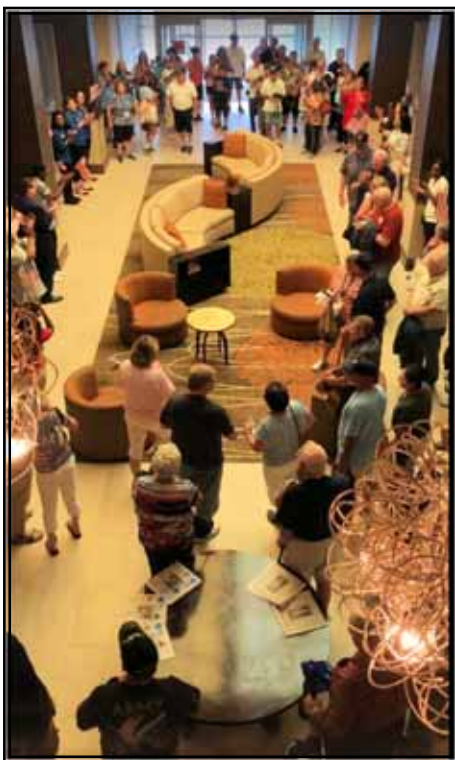
Due to time-in-grade, however, Si Jones was able to retire at the rank of captain in 1966. He moved, with wife, Janie, and children, Gary and Ava, to Dallas, Texas. He became involved with the JROTC program of the Dallas Independent School District and was active in the Knights of Columbus, the VFW and the Dallas Metroplex Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War. Si passed away in August of 2011.

I have not yet been able to find out anything about the post-army life of COL Strickland. He died in November, 1986 in his home state of South Carolina.

“Awesome Welcome”

At the Norfolk Reunion when we returned from one of our tours and entered the doors of the DoubleTree hotel we were greeted by what appeared to be the entire hotel's staff with a cheering, clapping enthusiastic welcome. It was truly an unbelievable heart warming experience.

Thank you Norfolk DoubleTree!



Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Congressional Medal of Honor
is Awarded to:**

Specialist Four Ardie R. Copas

Specialist Four Ardie R. Copas distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity 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 grenades, 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. Ignoring his own wounds, Specialist Four Copas quickly 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 safely evacuated. Undaunted, Specialist Four Copas continued to place fire upon the adversary until he was mortally wounded when hit his vehicle. Spectacular action resulted of his comrades. Spectacular extraordinary heroism cost of his own life, call of duty, are in the best traditions of military great credit upon him-United States Army.



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

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 - \$23.00 |
| _____ #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** - \$61.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$61.00
_____ 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) [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}

Have the Bobcat #18 on page
19 put on the lower left sleeve
of your jacket or shirt for \$5.

#11 = Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). (circle size & color and number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 5400]

- _____ 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) Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss.

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large 5X-Large 6X-Large (Circle Size)

Have the Bobcat #18 on page
19 put on the lower left sleeve
of your jacket or shirt for \$5.

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

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

Color: (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

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

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

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

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

Special instructions for order: _____

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

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

Make the check payable to: 5th INF ASSOC

Mail to: **Chester Johnson / 5th Infantry Chapter**
225 Summit DR
La Grange TX 78945

For information or questions contact
Chester at 970-966-9669 or
E-mail: jcjohnson4@vrizon.net

5th Infantry Association 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 - \$61 or \$66 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 11). Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss 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 - \$23.00
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting
Quartermaster Chester Johnson at:
970-966-9669 or
E-mail: jcjohnson4@verizon.net



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



DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

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

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

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

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

Ric Myers,

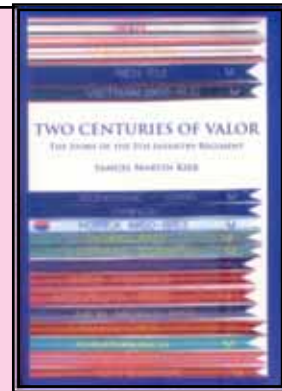
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

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

have participated in.

You can purchase this book by going to our website at:



http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml

where you can pay for the book using your credit card or you can contact Sam at:

Notice: If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 18** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

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

(Please Print)

Name: _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal (Complete only items that need changed)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

Donations: (Tax Deductible) General Fund _____ Scholarship _____ Newsletter _____ Reunion _____

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

5th INF REG ASSN PO BOX 569 Frankfort MI 49635-0569

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

Membership Application 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____

in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____

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

DUES: _____ Annual = \$30.00 Lifetime - Your age: _____ Less than 30 = \$770 _____ 31-40 = \$645 _____ 41-50 = \$500

_____ 51-60 = \$350 _____ 61-70 = \$225 _____ 71+ \$200

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

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

Treasurer's Report

3rd Quarter Financial Report

(1 April - 30 June 2018)

April 2018:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$100
Norfolk Reunion registration for events, meals etc.	\$4486

TOTAL \$4586

Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$45.01
Miscellaneous (envelopes)	\$32.91
Winter Newsletter printing	\$659.10
Bank Service Charge	\$4

TOTAL \$741.02

May 2018:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$350
Quartermaster Sales	\$10
Norfolk Reunion registration for events, meals etc.	\$4031

TOTAL \$4391

Debits:

Quartermaster	\$1225.16
Donations (Bugles Across America)	\$50
Postal	\$12.87
Bank Service Charge	\$4.00
Miscellaneous	\$152.47
Bus Fare (DCM Phillips)	\$158
Banquet Food (Late comers)	\$974
Memorial Bag Piper	\$200
Reunion Refunds	\$376
Returned check	\$251
Norfolk Reunion Expenses	\$5179
Norfolk Reunion Tours	\$16745
Bus Driver Tips	\$600
TOTAL	\$25927.50

June 2018:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$75
Quartermaster Sales	\$400
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	\$1890.78
Norfolk Reunion	\$451
Deposit Lost Check	\$500
Checking Account Error	\$0.50

TOTAL \$3317.28

Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$84.29
Postage	\$20.35
Bank Service Charge	\$4

TOTAL \$108.64

Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$15729.16
Savings Account	\$56770.48

TOTAL \$72499.64

Treasurer/Quartermaster
Jim Caudle

The Secretive Wild Feline: A profile of bobcats

"Among the many wild animals that roam our farms, fields and forests, there is one native midsize carnivore that goes largely unnoticed: the bobcat....

Pet or predator?

Bobcats resemble domestic house cats with a few key differences. They are considerably bigger—about twice as large as typical pet cats, ranging in size from approximately 15-40 pounds and 29-39 inches in length.

They have a stocky build and notable pointy tufts of black fur at the tips of the ears. They also have that characteristic 'bobbed' tail for which they're named. Their short tails have a distinct dark band near the tip and their coats range from grayish brown to yellowish brown in color. They have a mix of dark stripes and spots on their coats that are also highly variable—from barely noticeable to distinct. Their stomachs are typically white and contain dark spots, with each animal having its own unique spot patterns. Bobcats also have a 'ruff'

of longer fur around their faces that helps give these animals a distinct look.

Range

Bobcats can be found in suitable habitat throughout most of North America.



Our own Bobcat - Charles Kennedy houses "Bob" and brought him to Norfolk.

from central Mexico northward to include many parts of Canada, therefore encompassing most of the continental United States....

While bobcats can be found occupying many different habitat types, they seem to favor areas with dense vegetative cover with interspersed openings. Their affinity for these rugged types of habitat that people tend to shy away from may contribute to the fact that people do not commonly see them.

Occasionally, however, people do hear them vocalize, which eerily sounds like a baby screaming.

On the prowl

Bobcats are efficient carnivores and mostly nocturnal, or active at night. They feed primarily on small mammals such as birds, mice and voles, rabbits, squirrels and woodchucks. However, as opportunistic predators, they sometimes feed on carrion (decaying meat) and may on occasion even take larger animals like deer.

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

"Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late."

-Benjamin Franklin

RANDOM MEMORIES, OR VERY SHORT STORIES

By Frank (Tom) Goins

Letters Home

When I wrote letters home, I only told my family general things so they wouldn't worry, but no details about what was actually going on. My mother saved most of the letters and I read them several years ago. One thing that I wrote surprised me. "When I get out of here I'll never be the same." Little did I know at the time how prophetic that statement was.

Spider Hole

While on a sweep in the Boi Loi Woods, I discovered what looked like a tunnel entrance. I guess my squad leader figured since I found it, I should be the one to go in and check it out. I was given a 45 and a flashlight and told to go in. I didn't want to, but had no choice. I very slowly lowered myself in and began to look ahead, expecting to be killed on the spot. I was relieved to find out it was only a spider hole about five feet deep. It was a "real" spider hole. I saw a spider bigger than my hand and quickly backed out.

New Co. Commander

We got a new Company Commander who had previously been with Special Forces. I think he expected us to be the equal of the Special Forces he had worked with before, but we weren't. We were good soldiers, but we were just a bunch of kids doing our best to stay alive and keep each other alive.

Lives Changed Forever

One of our platoon brothers was severely wounded by friendly fire from an M60 at close range. A stupid accident that would change two lives forever.

New M-16

The first M16 I had was the one with the fork tip muzzle flash suppressor. It was good for opening the wire on boxes of Cs, but seemed to jam a lot. We were blamed for weapons jamming for not keeping them clean. We did our best, but living in dust, rain or mud, and being on the move all the time, it was kind of hard to keep them clean. Then we were issued new M16s with the round tip muzzle flash suppressor. They were a

little better, but still jammed. Found out many years later on the 5th Inf. Reg. site that the cause was faulty ammo. The powder used in the bullets didn't have enough kick to properly eject the shell casing. When the military discovered this, they started using a better powder, but the new bullets were mixed in with the old, so there was no way of knowing what you were loading into the magazines.

Free Candy

Goodie boxes were sent out to us in the field. They contained cartons of cigarettes, candy, writing paper, soap and other goodies. The Marlboros and Winstons always went first, the Kents, Pall Malls and Salems last.

Canary In The Coal Mine

I wonder how much Agent Orange we consumed. Most places we went, everything was dead. Trees, grass and bamboo. War Zone C, III Corps Tactical Zone was one of the most heavily sprayed areas in all of Vietnam. Katum was the second most heavily sprayed place in Vietnam surpassed only by Phouc Vinh, and we spent two months at Katum. I don't remember ever seeing or hearing a bird while we were in the jungles up there. The canary in the coal mine?

Dog Fight

There was a dog fight in the air above us one afternoon. Only time I saw a North Vietnamese plane. I don't know how it ended, they both flew out of our visual range toward the Cambodian border at the Angels Wing.

21 And Old

Looking back, it's hard to believe that most of us were so young, teenagers. I turned twenty-one half way through my tour and was one of the "older" guys!

Naked Without It

Strange how that M16 becomes part of your body. You carry it, sling it over

your shoulder, eat with it, sleep with it, clean it and never let it out of your sight. Then when you are wounded or DEROS and they take your M16 away, and you feel naked and lost without it.

Resentment

The haves and the have-nots! Naturally there was some resentment and maybe jealousy toward the haves, those who lived and worked in the large base camps. They slept in hoochs on beds or cots with mosquito nets, ate in mess halls and had hooch maids to clean and do their laundry. Of course, their jobs were essential to support the have-nots who spent our tours in the boonies. But the resentment was still there.

Sleeping LT

The sleeping Lieutenant. We were heading out of Cu Chi after a brief stand-down. A young 2Lt. who I had met earlier was riding on our track to our new location. He was a good guy and I liked him. He told me he needed to get some shut-eye and would I wake him up if anything happened or when we got to where we were going. I said I would. I tried to stay awake, but fell asleep while leaning on the 50 gun turret. The Lt. was rudely awakened by a slap on the foot by the Company Commander when we got to the location. He didn't get into any trouble over it, but I always felt that I let him down.

True Heroes

I don't think anyone could praise our medics too much. I saw two of our medics killed while trying to save the lives of wounded Bobcats. One of them had only been in country for three weeks. To me, they are the true heroes. Many of us are here today because of the heroic actions of our medics. Salute "Doc Blinky"!

Sharp As Razors

Walking through the elephant grass at French Fort, northeast of Nui Ba Den was a sleeves-down area, as some found out the hard way. The elephant grass could be sharp as razors.

Snake

I don't remember if it was Fil Hol, Boi Loi or Ho Bo Woods, but I heard a guy call "snake". I went over to see. By the

time I got there, someone threw a sand-bag over its head and cut it off with a trenching tool. Turned out to be a pit viper, one of the deadliest snakes in the world.

Hot Kool-Aid

One of the dumbest things I did was to fill my canteens with Kool-Aid before heading out for a day long sweep, walking in the 90 plus degree heat. Hot Kool-Aid was NOT refreshing!

Empty Eyes

While going out on LP one night, we had to walk across a narrow log across a creek. I slipped off the log into chest deep water and spent the rest of the night wet, cold and shivering. It wasn't all bad. There were some true friendships and good times with the guys, some beautiful landscapes and spectacular sunsets, but we left our youth and innocence behind forever. Empty eyes!

My Memories

These memories and very short stories were written over a period of months, and for some reason these are the things I remember and wrote about with irony and my wry sense of humor. Of course I have many other memories that race through my mind at odd times as I'm sure most other Bobcats do. Memories that will never be put into words.

Tom Goins,
3rd Platoon, Alpha Co. 67-68

Thanks Tom!!

And what about you?

The last six editions of the Bobcat Bulletin have contained portions of Tom's "Random Memories". Tom has made a significant contribution to the newsletter. I can't thank Tom enough for his efforts!

I sure enjoyed what Tom wrote. I'm sure our members would also enjoy hearing about your Army experiences and memories. Please write and send me your "random memories" or stories. Your contribution will make me happy and others will enjoy reading them.

Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting 5/16/18 Norfolk, VA

Present at the Board meeting:

Tom Frame - President, George Chavez - Vice President, Nicky Fasselin, Jim Caudle - Treasurer, Fred Deverse - Newsletter, Randy Kethcart - Webmaster, Chester Johnson, Gary Robertson, Jeff McGrath, , Dan Curran, Rob Kiehm, Bart Stanzione, Andy Gimma, George Bates, Carolyn Kethcart, Reunion Coordinator

Absent:

John Snodgrass - Chaplin, Paul Robinson - Secretary, Sam Kier - Historian

"Tom Frame called the meeting to order and asked for reports.

Tom Frame welcomed the new members, Nick Fasselin, pending Vice President, Chester Johnson, pending Treasurer/Quarter Master, Dan Curran, Jeff McGrath, Gary Robertson, and Rob Kiehm; Tom also thanked George Bates and Andy Gimma for their past Board services as their 2 years were over.

Fred Deverse gave report on the Newsletter: Approximately 390 copies of the Newsletter are distributed quarterly. 60 Newsletters go to 1/5 at Ft. Wainwright. Fred requested articles and pictures for the upcoming Newsletter to make it complete. There is a new printing company for the newsletter.

Paul Robinson was absent and the membership report was given by Fred Deverse: 468 current members, of those there are 443 regular members, 25 Associate member, and 164 life members. We may lose 30 members for non-payment.

Jim Caudle gave the Financial report and is now part of the record.

Randy Kethcart gave a report on the Website: 262,996 hits on the Website. All bills are paid for 3 years on the website. Randy let the Board know that Sam Kier, Historian, provides a lot of the information for the website. Randy will inform Board if there is an increase in the amount to continue it.

Sam Kier was absent. The Historian report was sent and put on record.

Old Business: Bart Stanzione stated that there was nothing and all was well.

New Business:

Discussion was made to move the reunion to September going forward if Charleston will agree to change the con-

tract. Carolyn will contact the hotel in Charleston for confirmation and inform the Board of the decision.

A motion was made and seconded to send George Chavez, incoming President, to Alaska to meet the new Battalion Commander. All Board members voted in favor of the motion and it was passed.

Discussion was brought up on the 2020 Annual Reunion: Colorado Springs and Denver were discussed. There was a motion made for the site visit. Voted on and seconded and all members voted in favor and it was passed.

Snazzi Stitches has a new owner and the prices have gone up substantially. It was discussed that Randy would get pricing from another vendor (Don's Sporting Goods in Illinois) and pass that information onto the Board for confirmation to change over to another vendor who could provide the clothing/hats for the Association.

Motion was made to send the 25 Infantry Division Association \$1500 for their Scholarship program. It was seconded, voted on and confirmed by all members.

Motion was made to add new members, Nicky Fasselin, Chester Johnson, Dan Curran, Rob Kiehm, Gary Robertson, and Jeff McGrath. It was seconded and confirmed by all members.

George Chavez was promoted to President of the Association.

Motion was made to make Nicky Fasselin Vice President of the Association. It was seconded and passed by all members.

Motion was made to make Chester Johnson Treasurer/Quartermaster of the Association. It was seconded and passed by all members.

Motion was made to give 11 challenge coins to the guest of the Association and the Honor Guard for this reunion. It was seconded and passed by all members.

Members coming off the Board: George Bates, Andy Gimma, Jim Caudle

Motion was made to adjourn the Board meeting by Tom Frame. It was seconded and passed by all members.

*Minutes recorded by Carolyn Kethcart
6/8/18*

2019 Reunion Charleston South Carolina

Tuesday September 3rd - Sunday 8th

The DoubleTree by Hilton Charleston Airport



7401 Northwoods Boulevard,
North Charleston, SC 29406

\$124 Single / Double per night



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

Schedule of Events

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

Snacks & Beverages are allowed.

Tuesday September 3rd

Arrival and Registration

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

\$69 PP

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



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

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



(See Charleston on page 25)

Charleston Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name _____

_____ Number of additional guests

Names of additional guests

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

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

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

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

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

⇒ Are you driving? Yes _____ No _____

⇒ Is this your first reunion?
Yes _____ No _____

COMMENTS:

Mail to or contact:

Carolyn Kethcart
16054 Pine Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-468-8624
carolynjk@bobcat.ws

See you in Charleston SC!

Registration Form Charleston SC

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
WED 4 SEP - The Charleston City and Patriots Point Naval Museum Tour - \$69 per person		
THU 5 SEP - Fort Sumter Ferry Tour - \$69 per person		
FRI 6 SEP - Memorial Service at the Citadel - \$49 per person includes Lunch		
SAT 7 SEP - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Grilled Vegetable Marinara - \$35		
2. Seared Free Range Chicken Supreme - \$40		
3. Grilled Atlantic Salmon - \$45		
4. Herb Roasted Prime Rib - \$50		
* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Seasonal Vegetable, Apple Cobbler, Freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
TOTAL		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO
Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to: Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477		

(Charleston from page 24)

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

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

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



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

(See Charleston on page 26)

(Charleston from page 25)

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

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

Memorial Service at The Citadel Military College at Summerall Chapel



Citadel above Summerall Chapel below
el A Cadet Guided Tour of the Citadel College Catered Luncheon at the Citadel - \$49 pp



Saturday September 7th
9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting
9:00 - 10 AM - Ladies Breakfast (No Charge)
10:30 - 11 AM Fragging
12 Noon - 5 PM - Free to explore Charleston

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails
6:00 PM - Dinner
7:00 PM - Program
8:00 PM - Approximate Auction

Norfolk Reunion Pictures & Page 27





The New Army Museum

“From on high, you appreciate the massive scale of the National Museum of the U.S. Army as it takes shape.
185,000 square feet on 84 acres!”



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

Address Service Requested

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