



# 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 2020

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

Volume II

## Reunions Rescheduled

This year's reunion cancelled  
New dates for both the 2021 and 2022 reunions

### Reunions cancelled two years in a row!

It is hard to believe but two years in a row unforeseen events have forced us to cancel our scheduled reunions. First it was Hurricane Dorian that forced us to cancel the September 2019 reunion that was to be held in Charleston South Carolina. It was going to be a very well attended reunion.

Next came the reunion scheduled for this year in late August for Northern Virginia (*Washington DC area*). This time it was Covid 19 virus that has resulted in governments ordering us to "social distance" or stay at least six feet away from each other.

I feel very sorry for Carolyn and Randy Kethcart our "Reunion Coordinators" who put a huge number of hours and travel into planning these two reunions only to have them cancelled.

### Reunions Rescheduled

This year's Northern Virginia reunion has been rescheduled for 10 to 15 August 2021.

The Colorado Springs Colorado reunion that was scheduled for 2021 has been rescheduled for 13 to 18 September 2022.

### Message & Details From The Reunion Coordinator

Bobcats and others:

"Some of you may have already gotten an email from Randy today, but this is the official email regarding the

(See Reunion Continued on page 24)

### Scholarship Winner

Each year the 25th Infantry Division Association awards a "5th Infantry Chapter" scholarship to a deserving applicant because we donate at least \$1000 to their Scholarship Fund.

This year's winner is Sean Daily who is a grandson of John Snodgrass



**Sean Daily**  
5th Infantry Chapter  
Award

and attends the University of Alabama on a full scholarship.

(See Scholarship on page 10)

## MEMORIAL DAY 2020

By *Stewart Eidem*

"On the morning of 2 March, 1968 the soldiers of Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry



Division began a search and destroy operation in Hoc Mon, Vietnam. The author of 'UNFORTUNATE SONS' begins the book:

"The first two pieces of shrapnel hit one after the other penetrating the soles of Dan McKinney's boots and passing straight through both his feet. For an instant he felt nothing but the sharp jerk caused by the impact of the jagged pieces of metal as they struck. Then the burning began, like a hot iron pressing against the soles of his feet. Then shock. Surprise, even. He had been hit. The pain was unbelievable, but it was only his feet. It could have been worse.

Another explosion and now shrapnel tore through his legs, on the back of his right leg and the front of his left just below the knees. Like the wounds to his feet the first sensations were of two sharp blows followed, after an instant of no feeling at all, by a fierce burning. This time in the muscles of his calf. The intensity of the new pain took everything else from his mind. The fire in his feet were nearly forgotten.

The next blast engulfed him with

(See Memorial Day on page 2)

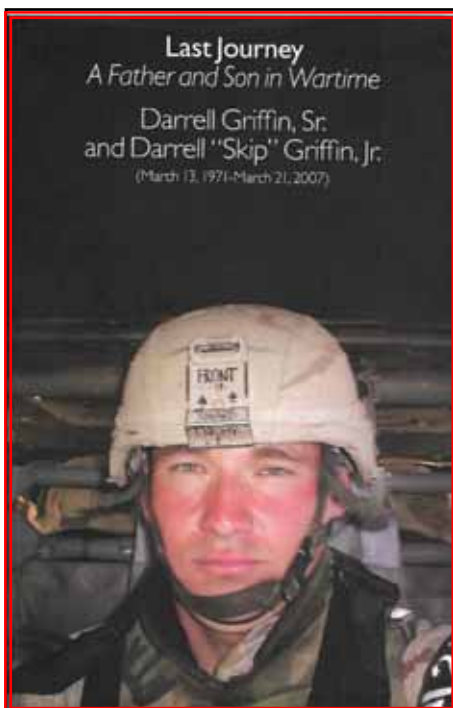
*"I'll Try Sir"*

The Fall 2020 Newsletter will be out SEP/OCT 2020 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

## A Review of Last Journey: A Father and Son in Wartime

by Sam Kier

*A book written by a Bobcat*



"Ironically, now that the library is closed for the duration of the pandemic, sheltering in place at home has afforded me a lot of extra reading time. So I've been re-reading books that I've enjoyed in the past; Rick Atkinson's *The Guns at Last Light*, General Erwin Rommel's *The Rommel Papers*, and Charles Eastman's *The Soul of the Indian*. I just finished re-reading *Last Journey: A Father and Son in Wartime*. *Last Journey* is a composite of biographical narrative written by Darrell Griffin, Sr and e-mails and journal entries from his soldier son, Darrel (Skip) Griffin, Jr. During much of his time in combat, Skip served in Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry in Tal Afar, Iraq.

In the beginning of the book, Darrell Sr, recounts the story of his grandparent's migration from Oklahoma to California to scratch out a living in the "promised land." Darrell was born when his parents were sixteen years old and he, in turn, fathered Skip when he was a 19-year-old college student.

Darrell's first marriage failed and Skip was subsequently raised by two successive stepmothers. He was rebellious and unmotivated before he reached the teen years. He became a school drop-out, and yet, could quote from Plato's *Republic* and other philosophic works to make his point.

Skip joined the army when he

turned 18. As might be expected, he wasn't ready for the army and it wasn't ready for him.

Over the next few years, Skip completed substance abuse treatment, met and married a nice girl, reconciled with his family, completed EMT training and went to work for an ambulance company in Compton, CA.

In July, 2001, Skip re-enlisted in the army. He went back in as an E-4, MOS 11-Bravo. He and his wife, Diana, packed up and drove to Ft. Lewis, Washington.

Skip's initial assignment was Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry. By the time that the Bobcats deployed to Iraq in October, 2004, he was serving as a squad leader in 2nd Platoon of Company A. From that point on, the book is largely devoted to Skip's e-mails and phone calls from Iraq as he describes the horrors he's witnessing and his attempts to understand them in light of his knowledge of philosophy and his, quite understandable, wavering faith in God.

Prior to reading *Last Journey*, my knowledge of the Bobcat's fight with the insurgents in northern Iraq was limited to a battalion history prepared by LTC Todd McCaffrey's staff, a newsletter called *Paw Prints* that McCaffrey and CSM Victor Mercado sent to the families at Ft. Lewis and to the Bobcat Bulletin, and several press releases that dealt primarily with battalion casualties. Skip Griffin's writings add another interesting dimension of the war in Iraq as seen through the eyes of a gallant and complex young squad leader."

*(Memorial Day from page 1)*

numbness followed by searing pain above his right ear where a red-hot piece of metal had carved a deep furrow as it skidded along his skull. Blood flowed freely from his feet, legs and head, soaking the cloth of his shirt and pants.

McKinney jerked his right hand back, instinctively, when another piece of shrapnel drilled between the bones of his index and middle fingers. The seventh wound, a bullet this time, hit him squarely in the back with the force of a baseball bat. The soft tissue of his skin and muscle did not alter the bullet's course or slow it down much. It wasn't until it struck a rib, breaking it, and dissipating enough energy for the copper-

jacketed lead nose to mushroom slightly as it burrowed into his chest cavity before coming to rest in the spongy tissue of his lung."

At just after 0900 hours Charlie Company had walked into an ambush. In less than eight minutes, forty-nine of the ninety-two soldiers of Charlie Company were dead or dying, twenty-eight were wounded. In only minutes the ambush had destroyed Charlie Company's ability



to work as a unit. Now it would be individual valor and every man for himself.

Medic Ron Slane was perhaps ten yards away when he saw McKinney get hit, but in the killing zone of an ambush even ten inches can mean everything. Not one of the ninety-two men of Charlie Company sprawled on the ground could determine any place that was safe. Just being alive and uninjured was powerful enough reason to stay put---I'm alive, unhurt, maybe they can't see me---so the few men still able to react were not inclined to move. But medic Ron Slane did not have the luxury to stay put.

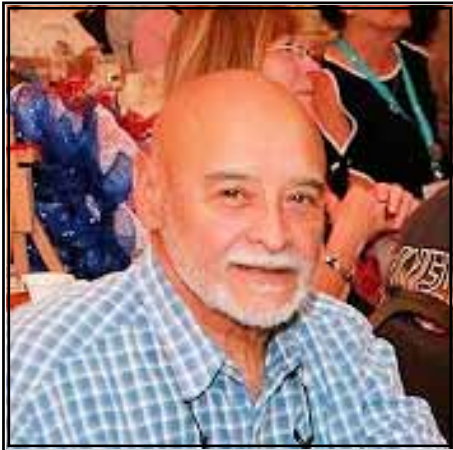
It wasn't until after 1500 hours that afternoon that the 4th Battalion 9th Infantry had gained the upper hand and Delta Company was able to reach Charlie Company's location and begin to recover the wounded and dead. They saw the blood-caked clump of Dan McKinney and thought he was dead and began to move on. "Hey" McKinney said, "Hey".

The motionless form lying next to McKinney was the body of medic Ron Slane surrounded by the items he had pulled from his aid bag to work on McKinney. He had managed to pull the

*(See Memorial Day on page 3)*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



### Greetings to all the Bobcat families,

"It has been a pleasure and an Honor to have served as president of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association these past two years. To have the privilege to represent our organization at various events was a duty I was proud to do.

As I write these comments our Active Duty Bobcats are returning from a successful tour of duty in the Middle East. Keep them in your prayers. They have expressed their gratitude for all the support we have provided them.

During my tenure as president the last two reunions have been canceled due to circumstances beyond our control, Hurricane Dorian (2019) and the COVID 19 Pandemic (2020). Many Bobcats expressed their sadness and disappointment for the cancellations. Being with my Bobcat family is a highlight in my life that I look forward to every year.

Every year we lose members and spouses of members to illnesses or accidents. So to me it is especially sad when a reunion is canceled. I pray that our next reunion happens as planned so we can gather with our brothers and sisters to enjoy the time we have together.

Our new president will be Nicky Fasselin, and he will guide us with much enthusiasm.

So my fellow Bobcats and families I wish all good health and a Long life

*Fred it has been a pleasure and an honor, thank you for your support."*

**George Chavez**  
President

(Memorial Day from page 2)

vial of morphine from his bag, jabbed the needle through the cloth of McKinney's pant leg and into the flesh of his hamstring. This is what perhaps saved his life."

"This is a story of the sacrifice and price some Americans have paid in service to their country. I also have to men-



tion, because I must not forget, the three soldiers that died on the battlefield when I was with the 3rd platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division from January to June of 1968."

**Thomas Loback 2-19-68**

**Bruce Dent 2-24-68**

**Charles Rehberger 3-02-68**

Have you heard the blow of the trumpet echoing through the trees  
Or the muffled sound of the drum beating out its plea.

-Have you stood on the grassy hill side beside the tombstones there

-And listened to the eulogy and bowed your head in prayer.

A soldier's gun is silent, his helmet and boots at rest

-The ribbons and medals awarded, arranged upon his chest.

-zest for life and youthful pride which marked his daily brand

-It's buried now beneath the ground, bound by death's demand.

-In service to the nation, it was duty and honor he chose

-Now he lies in a field, white stones stand proudly in rows.

-So on Memorial Day, pause, be silent, join the patriotic few

-And give him a moment of your life, he gave his life for you.

**Stewart Eidem**

"Thomas Paine said "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it".

## 5th Infantry Association

President - *George Chavez*

Vice President - *Nicky Fasselin*

Treasurer & Quartermaster- *Chester Johnson*

Membership Secretary - *Tom Frame*

Historian - *Sam Kier*

Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*

Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*

Past Presidents - *Bart Stanzione and*

*Tom Frame*

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

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

Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

### Reminder !

1. Notify Tom Frame about changes in address and phone number etc.

2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 20** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 20. Please renew now!

### Reunions

Fairfax County VA ..... 10-15 AUG 2021

Colorado Springs CO ..... 13-18 SEP 2022

## HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

### Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

*Andy Anderson (MG-R)*

### Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

*George Chavez (MSG-R)*

### Distinguished Members of the Regiment

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

### Honorary Members of the Regiment

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

### Bobcat of the Year

*Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04, Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart 07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09, Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11, Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13, Jim Caudle 14, Sam Kier 15, Ed Kawczynski 16, Carolyn & Randy Kethcart 17, Gary Robinson 18*

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

# ROSTER

## Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

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

## Lost Members:

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

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

## Roster Changes/Corrections:

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

**Stokes, Edward J.** - Address change  
 12191 Cuyamaca College Dr E #505  
 El Cajon CA 92019-4310

**McBride, Don** - New phone number  
 603-651-9466

**Weisgram, Don** - New E-mail address  
**weisdroid@gmail.com**

**Lempke, Jim** - Address change  
 202 N Country Club DR  
 Crystal River FL 34429-5379

**Eidem, Stewart** - Address change  
 112 S Roosevelt AVE Unit 103  
 Pasadena CA 91107-7011

**Postovoi, Andrew** - Address change  
 CMR 467 Box 4607  
 APO, AE 09096

**Garland, Tim** - New address  
 1313 Bastogne CT  
 FT Wainwright AK 99703-1373

## New Members:

**Wilken, Jerry**  
 3684 SW 47 Street  
 Redmond, OR 97756  
**jervilken@gmail.com**

**Hernandez, Pedro**  
 27 County Route 49  
 Slate Hill NY 10973-3713  
**boricuapete52@gmail.com**

## Taps:

**Snodgrass, Cathy** - Wife of John  
 died April 8, 2020. Cathy and John  
 attended many/most reunions.



John & Cathy Snodgrass

**Just, Don R.** from Blowing Rock, NC  
 who was a Chaplain with HQ 68-69  
 died on 4/27/2020

## **Rev. Dr. Donald R. Just** *Obituary*

"Donald Ray Just, 80, of Avery County, North Carolina, passed away April 27, 2020 from complications of atypical Parkinson's disease....

Rev. Just was commissioned as Captain in the US Army Chaplaincy in



June, 1967 and served for five years, including one year of combat in Vietnam. While there, he served with two distinguished and decorated battalions in the Tet Counter Offensive operations and was awarded Bronze Stars for service and valor and the Purple Heart. From 1969-1972 he was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC as Brigade Chaplain with the 82nd Airborne Division....

Memorials, if desired, may be made to Grace Lutheran Church (Boone, NC), Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care



Picture of Don (holding the canteen) tending to Jon Snodgrass who was wounded at the battle of Ben Cui.  
 Randy Kethcart sent me this picture.

**Engelke, Henry "Hank"** - of Tumwater OR passed away C Co, 3rd PLT & HHC 6/67-6/68 (Reported by Randy Kethcart on 29 May.)



John Snodgrass said, "RIP my Brother. Hank and I were stationed together before Nam, we're together in Nam and were close together after Nam. I've known Hank for over 53 years. A great officer and a good man."



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

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

### Butch King Remembers A Mini-Reunion

On our Association's Facebook page Butch King remembers a mini reunion that four of them had in 2012. Pictured below are Peter A. Olivo, Butch King, Jim (Spo) Sposato and Hippie Smith.



Picture below: Doc Paul Weiss - Butch King - Jim Smith (Hippie) - Jim Sposato Spo) All 1969, Butch thinks that Spo and Hippie left country in January '70, not sure about Doc. Think he was '69.



### "ever day above ground is a good one"

*On April 10th Tom Frame posted on Facebook the following.*

"As I sit with my first cup of coffee, looking out at the beautiful sunrise, my thoughts flash back to 52 years ago I stepped onto a land that would change my life forever.

I met and served with the finest America offered and continue the brotherhood to this day.

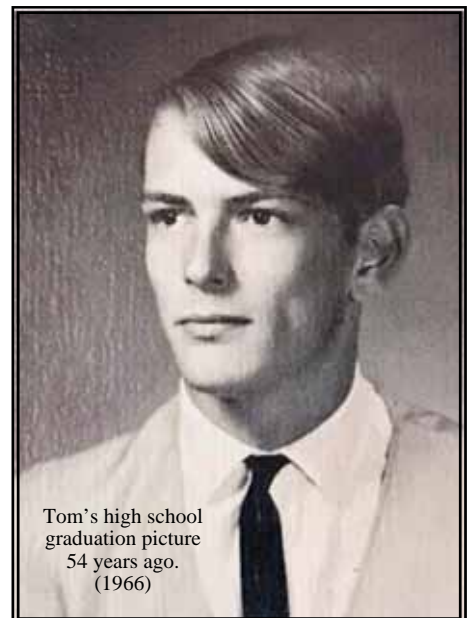
It's hard to write when the river of tears flow so freely. But the memories I carry in the gray matter sometimes are overpowering.

I thank God every day for the time he has given me on this good earth, the loving wife who has stood by me in tough times, and my children who now know what a drill sergeant sounds like. My love for this country has never diminished and would do it all again without question.

A phrase I remember from Vietnam and still hold dear today is: "everyday above ground is a good one"

We're in some tough times right now, but we will survive.

That's the America I know. Peace to all."



Tom's high school graduation picture  
54 years ago.  
(1966)

ps: 52 years....HOLY SHIT....52 years!"

=====

(Continued on page 6)

# Looking Back To The Early Years Of Our Association

*We started as a Chapter of the 25th Infantry Division Association*

## 1993 Roster

I think our organization came in existence in 1989 when it was chartered as a Chapter of the 25th Infantry Division Association at their reunion in Chicago IL.

I became a member of our Association/Chapter in, I think, 1992. Recently while sifting through stuff in my cluttered work area I came across a Membership Roster from 1993.

In 1993 we had 85 active members. Listed as members in 1993 and still members are the following 29:

Andy Anderson MG-R, Donald Atkins, Allan Azary, Tony Beckler, Joseph Bellows, Otis Brooks, Jim Caudle, Allen Chaney, Art Cook, Fred Deverse, Waymon Dominy, Mike Elam, Randy Facemier, Tom Frame, Dennis Hackin, Frank Harvey, Samuel Jenkins, Gil Lewis, Charles Kennedy, George Maxwell, Jerry Myers, Railford Rosson, Chuck Rutherford, Ronald Seflick, George Smith, Edward Stokes, Fred Washington, Frank Whalen and Bob Whaley.

Of the 85 active members that I know of I think the following nine have died: Joe Barlow who I understand is one of the founders of the organization, Butch Bonn, Tom "Doc" Dillon (*See Picture on next page*), Joe Franklin, Bob Hedstrom, Alfred Hohmann (*German immigrant*), MG-R Thomas U. Greer, LTG-R Stanley Larsen, Dick Stewart and Al Virgilio.

## LTG Stanley "Swede" Robert Larson

*Even though LTG Larsen was not a Bobcat he was a member of our organization in 1993 so I thought you would like to know a little bit about him.*

**BIRTH:** 11 Nov 1915 Honolulu, Hawaii  
**DEATH:** 1 Nov 2000 (aged 84)  
Talladega Alabama  
**BURIAL:** Oak Hill Cemetery Talladega, Alabama

He attended West Point graduating in 1939.

During World War II he served in the 35th Infantry Regiment leading its 2nd Battalion in the Second Battle of

Mount Austen during the Guadalcanal Campaign.



During the Vietnam War he served as commander of Task Force Alpha, later renamed I Field Force, Vietnam, from 4 August 1965 to July 1967

### Award of the Distinguished Service Cross

"The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the **Distinguished Service Cross** to Major (Infantry) Stanley Robert Larson (ASN: 0-22094), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of an Infantry Battalion of the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, in January 1943. Major Larson assumed command on 16 January 1943 of a battalion which had recently suffered heavy casualties. Under exceptionally trying circumstances Major Larson, by superior leadership, unusual initiative and great personal force, succeeded in welding the battalion into a compact fighting unit, imbued with confidence and determination to annihilate the Japanese who were occupying a strongly, closely coordinated strong point on a heavily wooded jungle ridge. This enemy position, composed of 40 machine gun emplacements,

had held against a three-week attack of an infantry regiment, and constant pressure over two weeks by an infantry battalion. Major Larson, employing plans based on thorough, personal and hazardous reconnaissance of the front line, directed the reduction of all enemy resistance in this area to a successful conclusion. During the mopping up stage of the campaign, Major Larson voluntarily and personally led several patrols into the Gifu strong-point position. With utter disregard for personal safety, he at all times led the patrol at the point. He displayed extraordinary heroism in all actions and narrowly escaped being shot several times, once at point blank range by a Japanese officer. He captured one prisoner and personally killed four of the enemy. His fearless leadership at this time restored confidence, the offensive spirit and desire to kill, in officers and men alike. Major Larson's heroic leadership, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 25th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

## Tom "Doc" Dillon

C Company - 1969

**THOMAS EDWARD DILLON JR (1947-1998)**

"Thomas E. "Doc" Dillon Jr was born in Germantown on October 3, 1947.

He died at his home in Aston, PA on June 12, 1998. He was 49.

He was a veteran of the U S Army, serving as a medic in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, and a Purple Heart.

Tom was a member of the 25th Infantry Division Association's Fifth Infantry Chapter and was active in its annual reunions....





Tom was a driver for UPS for 19 years, retiring on disability in 1998.

Survivors include his daughter Pamela, sisters Margaret and Elizabeth, nieces, nephews and many friends.

A Liturgy Outside Mass was held at White-Luttrell Funeral Home in Aston, followed by burial in Arlington National Cemetery."

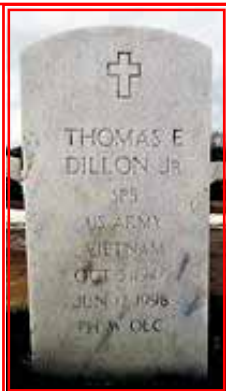
*\*Copied from the Hatboro-Horsham (PA) High School Website*

What I remember most about Tom was he attended every reunion and was usually the first in the hospitality room and the last to leave. He loved the Association. He was a caring kind person.



Tom was very close to Dick Stewart who died SEP 9, 2011. Dick lost both legs when wounded and I believe Doc Dillon was the medic who treated him in the field.

Tom's sister Peggy Soderstrom is an Honorary Member of our Association. Peggy made extremely generous donations in memory of Tom after his death to the Association. It was at a time when we were rather "poor" and the money was really appreciated.



## Homer Bell, Traitor or Patriot?

by Sam Kier



Ten years ago, when I was doing research for *Two Centuries of Valor*, I ran across a very intriguing story about the child of a 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry cook and a German war bride. It claimed that the boy had served in the German Army in World War II. As interesting as it was, I decided that the story was too peripheral to the topic to include in the manuscript. That turned out to be a good decision. In 1919, the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was deployed to western Germany to serve with the allied army of occupation. Regimental headquarters, the support companies and First Battalion were garrisoned at Andernach, near Koblenz, on the Rhine River.

When the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry was alerted for shipment home in early March, 1922, there were demonstrations of severe regret by the German citizens. The large group of German brides that accompanied their American soldier husbands to a new country, spoke eloquently for the manner in which regulations against "fraternizing with the enemy" had been consistently ignored. The German civilians' disappointment in losing their American captors was compounded by the announcement that France would assume occupation duties in western Germany. Some French general, with a sense of humor, assigned the task to African troops.

According to articles in the August 31 edition of the *Muskogee County Weekly Phoenix* and the September 2, edition of the *Daily Oklahoman*, Lee Bell, a former cook with Supply Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, brought his German wife, Christine, and their two young children to a small community near

Braggs, OK in 1930. Lee used his veteran's bonus of \$375 to make a down payment on a small tavern and butcher shop.

Lee's venture was unsuccessful. Before long the money was gone and additional debts forced him to sell the business. Mrs. Bell was able to find a job in a local restaurant that paid \$1 a day plus tips. At that point, Lee gave the keys to the pick-up truck to her and took off, never to be heard from again.

The articles went on to state that Christine Bell received word, in 1937, that her parents had died and that she should return to Germany to settle their estate. She did so, accompanied by ten-year-old Homer and his younger sister, Eleanor.

By the time they reached her homeland, Adolph Hitler had seized control of Germany and young Homer was forced to join the Hitler Youth. At age 16 ½ he was said to have been drafted into the German Army and sent west to help stem the Allied invasion.

As the story goes, Homer was captured and eventually imprisoned at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, just outside of his former hometown of Braggs. The German prisoners were assigned to work on farms in Muskogee and Cherokee Counties.

A couple that had known Homer as a child maintained that they were standing at an intersection in downtown Muskogee one day in 1944 and Homer hailed them from a POW bus that was returning to Camp Gruber. By the end of August, 1944, everybody from Muskogee was talking about Homer's return, despite the fact that the reporter from the *Daily Oklahoman* had checked with Camp Gruber and found no record of a prisoner named Homer Bell. It was the first hint that the 1944 story was a pile of horse pucky.

"Homer would roll over in his grave if he got wind of it," said his widow, Mary Ann Bell of El Paso, Texas. Neither she nor Homer Bell's sister, Eleanor Bell Steele of Phoenix, AZ, had heard the story until they were contacted by a reporter from the *Washington Post* in 2010.

Eleanor doesn't recall everywhere they lived after Muskogee but records from Roswell City Schools in New Mexico show that Homer was enrolled there in 1940-41. Their father, Lee, is listed in the records as a house painter. Eleanor said that her family never went to Germany when they left Muskogee. According to Mary Ann Bell, Homer did serve a tour in Germany with the U.S.

*See Homer Continued on page 8)*

# REGISTRY OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

“Any American Soldier who has ever worn the Army uniform throughout our nation’s history is eligible to have a registry page. (Soldier must have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions). Search or add the name of yourself, your family and friends that have earned their place in the National Museum of the U.S. Army for their distinguished and selfless service to this country.

The Registry of the American Soldier will be on permanent display at the Museum, and accessible via the search below. Please consider enrolling yourself, or honoring a friend or family members.

Those interested can order a personalized plaque that replicates the information displayed on the Registry along with a beautiful National Museum of the United States Army medallion.

You can also download the form and mail it in."

*= For your convenience you can use the form at the right.*

***= If you prefer to register online the Web address is:***

[www.usarmyregistry.org](http://www.usarmyregistry.org)

## All Bobcats Awarded the MOH and DSC Are Registered



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY  
*REGISTRY OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER*

The *Registry of the American Soldier* provides a unique opportunity to recognize and honor Soldiers who are currently serving, and those who have served, in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. The Registry will be prominently displayed at The National Museum of the United States Army. Any Soldier who has ever worn the Army uniform throughout our nation's history and has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions is eligible to have a special registry page on the Museum website. To enroll yourself, or to honor a friend or family member, please log on to [www.usarmyregistry.org](http://www.usarmyregistry.org) or complete the form below. If additional space is needed, please use the back of this page. (PLEASE PRINT)

**Soldier's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hometown:* \_\_\_\_\_ *State:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

☐ U.S. Army    ☐ Army National Guard    ☐ Army Reserve

☐ *Army Air Corps*      ☐ *Army Air Forces*

**Service Description:**

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Phone:* (     )                      *Email:*

Relationship to Honoree: ☐ Self ☐ Other

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

MAIL TO:  
PO BOX 96281  
WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6281

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
(800) 506-2672  
WWW.ARMYHISTORY.ORG

← All Bobcats from the Korean and Vietnam Wars who were awarded either the *Medal of Honor* or the *Distinguished Service Cross* are registered thanks to COL-R Nevin Williams. At the left is a picture of what the registry page looks like that Nevin did in registering these Bobcats.

-- "Character is much easier kept than recovered."

-- Those who want to reap the benefits of this great nation must bear the fatigue of supporting it."

-- "A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it the superficial appearance of being right."

-Thomas Paine

(Homer Continued from page 7)

Army and had made an unsuccessful attempt to find his mother's family.

Eleanor maintains that they were living in Roswell when Homer got tired of picking cotton and enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps. At some point he transferred to the Army and served in both Korea and Vietnam. He retired as a staff sergeant and went to work for the U.S. Department of Justice. Homer died in El Paso in 2008 and is buried in the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.

I don't know what prompted me to revisit this matter ten years after I decided not to use it in my book but I'm glad I did. Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, "we know the rest of the story."



(Comments from page 5)

## Twice A Bobcat

“How many DOUBLE BOBCATS  
does the organization have?

I am a 5th Infantry "BOBCAT"

also

I am an Ohio University "BOBCAT"

I attended OU from fall 1952 to 1955 ,  
graduated and commissioned in 1955.  
Ohio U athletic teams are known as  
BOBCATS. Ohio U was founded in  
1804 (before my time.)

*COL-R Nevin Williams*

## My 1st Platoon Leader

Fred,

“Thank you for the article about Lt.  
Short. He was my first of many platoon  
leaders I had while with 2nd platoon B  
Company. I do not remember the names of  
the others but I do remember him. I  
also remember after leaving B Company  
he was with HCC when he was killed.  
Interesting that he attended Upper Mari-  
on High School that is now being re-  
placed. Besides the street maybe we  
could do something in his memory with  
the new school.”

*Elliott Barkin*

B Company 2nd Platoon 66-67

## Sam Alvarado Posted This Picture Of Track 009



And Shannon Schroeder said, “Who  
is that youngster? Hard to believe it has  
been over 50 years. Did you ride 009, I  
thought you were on 007.”

.....

And Sam Alvarado replied, “When  
I first joined Recon I was the other med-

ic & on the Platoon Sgt’s track, Sgt  
Mace, then when Doc Randall left I was  
transferred to 007 Commander Bond .  
Then other medic, Smitty came onto 009  
Pussy Galore.

Here is a picture of Smitty & I. He



was from Farmers Branch Texas. I tried  
many times to locate him, no luck. Not  
sure if he survived.

## Humor--ARMY NCO'S ARE THE GREATEST

“As a newly commissioned infantry  
lieutenant, I was eager to set an example  
for my platoon by cleaning my own M-  
16 rifle. While we were working on the  
weapons, one Soldier complained about  
the unusual notched shape of the M-16’s  
bolt and chamber, which makes it diffi-  
cult to clean. “Lieutenant, they need to  
make something to clean this with,” the  
Soldier said. “They do,” piped up a ser-  
geant. “Really,” I said with surprise,  
wondering why we had not ordered such  
a tool. “Yes, sir,” replied the sergeant.  
“It’s called a Soldier.”

*\*Sent by COL-R Nevin Williams*

## George’s Newest Family

*11 May*

“I have been blessed to have be-  
longed to several elite agencies and  
groups. First was the US ARMY, served  
over 26 years . Second was the ALAMO  
RANGERS, for close to 9 years. Be-  
came a Certified Texas Peace officer in  
the late 90's and finally a Department of  
the Army Police Class 06. Have enjoyed

retirement since 2010. The present group  
I proudly call Family are my Brothers  
and Sisters of the 5TH INFANTRY  
REGIMENT! I have been  
BLESSED !!!”

*George Chavez*

## Worried About Surgeries

*11 May 20*

“Bleeding signs are up. Long day at  
San Diego VA. It looks like a ghost  
Town. In order to enter you have to have  
a Doctor’s appointment. I had Pre op  
surgery & some mandatory tests. June  
4th I will have several surgeries - expan-  
sion of throat & esophagus. These are  
the ones that worry me. I had about a  
week being sick bleeding. A little nurse  
called me every morning. I did not ask  
for a feeding tube.

*Abe Cardenas*

## “We were Brothers and Sisters”

“After serving 2 years and getting  
out of the military I tried being a civilian  
again, I gave up less than 2 years later. I  
came back into the military (Army) and  
made it a career for 26+years. You  
might ask why, we wore the same uni-  
forms, we were brothers and sisters. We  
had each other’s back. We would have  
died for our brothers and sisters in the  
military. The military has structure, dis-  
cipline, esprit do corps and a camarade-  
rie few would understand. To bad the  
Draft ended.”

*George Chavez*

## Memorial Service

San Francisco Reunion  
2013



*Picture posted by Ed Kawczynski  
On Facebook on 9 June 20*

## Treasurer's Report

1st Quarter Financial Report  
(1 January - 31 March 2020)

### January 2020

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$85
Quartermaster Sales	\$254.35
Virginia Reunion	\$579
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$918.35</b>

#### Debits:

Postage stamps & mailings - Tom Frame	\$11
Internet Service: Vast AB (keep adds off guestbook)	\$14.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25.95</b>

### February 2020

#### Income:

Membership	\$90
Quartermaster Sales	\$125
Virginia Reunion	\$1829
Sam Kier Book	\$34.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,078.95</b>

#### Debits:

Sam Kier (book)	\$33.64
Postage Stamps (Tom Frame)	\$22.00
Postage- Bulk Mailing	\$240.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$295.64</b>

### March 2020

#### Income:

Membership	\$315.00
Charleston Reunion	\$4,226.00
Quartermaster Sales	\$295.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4836.64</b>

#### Debit:

Mastercraft Printers- Roster	\$381.00
Army Historical Foundation (Virginia Reunion Deposit)	\$1,250.00
Randy Kethcart-I-Power	\$34.00
Quartermaster Purchases	\$19.00

25th Infantry Division Scholarship Donation	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2684</b>

<b>Checkbook Balance</b>	<b>\$2,083.48</b>
<b>Savings Account:</b>	<b>\$54,396.73</b>
<b>\$52.31 Interest</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,480.21</b>
Treasurer/Quartermaster <b>Chester Johnson</b>	

(Scholarship from page 1)

If you have been a member of the 25th Infantry Division Association for at least one year your relatives/ grandchildren are eligible for this scholarship.

.....

Randy Kethcart writes, "For the past 2 years we have not been able to have our annual reunion due to hurricane Dorian and now Covid-19. At the Reunion we pass the hat and usually get around \$1000 for the attendee's for the scholarship. Well as promised I'm passing the hat. As always don't give until it hurts, but until it feels good! Just use the link below!"

<http://bobcat.ws/5th-infantry-scholarship.html>

Or you can send a check made out to  
"5th IRA"

to:

Chester Johnson  
225 Summit DR  
La Grange TX 78945

### Donations to the Association

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

Jerome Yasher - Scholarship	\$50
Wayne Overcash - Scholarship	\$100
Bill Silva - Scholarship	\$100
Jeffrey McGrath - Scholarship	\$100
Bob Drake - Scholarship	\$100
Shaun McCaul - Scholarship	\$100
Bart Stanzione - Scholarship	\$100
Joe Lex - Scholarship	\$50
James Moore - Scholarship	\$50

## Vietnam War Veterans Health Issues

*A message from the VA*

"It's important to understand the health care needs of Vietnam War veterans because of the long-term effects of military service during the Vietnam War era. If you served during the Vietnam War, you may be at risk of certain health conditions. Understanding these needs will allow you to receive better care. Learn about these conditions and what to do next to take care of your health. Health risks related to Vietnam War

- Diseases related to Agent Orange: A toxic chemical used to clear trees and plants that can cause long-term health effects.
- Hepatitis C: A disease that can harm your liver
- Hearing problems caused by noise: Harmful sounds from guns, explosives, rockets, heavy weapons, jets and aircraft, and machinery that can cause or add to hearing loss and ringing in the ears
- Illnesses or injuries caused by job-related hazards: Chemicals, paints, radiation, and other hazards you may have come across

What you can do now

Take these steps to make sure you're taking care of your health:  
Talk to your primary health care provider or your local VA environmental health coordinator about other health concerns related to your military service. Remember, you can use Secure Messaging (sign in required) to send a private note to your doctor if you have any questions or worries.

Ask your local VA environmental health coordinator about getting a free Agent Orange Registry health exam.

Find out if you can get benefits from any illness or injury caused, or made worse, by your active-duty service, such as illness-related to agent orange or contact with hazardous materials.

Be sure your (See War Continued on page 11)

### Need A DD-214

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



# The Vietnam War - Did We Win?

## North Vietnamese General Giap Admits Near-Defeat

"General Giap was a brilliant, highly respected leader of the North Vietnam military. The following quote is from his memoirs currently found in the Vietnam war memorial in Hanoi:

"What we still don't understand



is why you Americans stopped the bombing of Hanoi. You had us on the ropes. If you had pressed us a little harder, just for another day or two, we were ready to surrender! It was the same at the battles of TET. You defeated us! We knew it, and we thought you knew it.

But we were elated to notice your media was definitely helping us. They were causing more disruption in America than we could in the battlefields. We were ready to surrender. You had won!"

General Giap has published his memoirs and confirmed what most Americans knew. The Vietnam war was not lost in Vietnam -- it was lost at home. The exact same slippery slope, sponsored by the US media, is currently well underway. It exposes the enormous power of a biased media to cut out the heart and will of the American public.

A truism worthy of note: Do not fear the enemy, for they can take only your life. Fear the media far more, for they will destroy your honor."

\*\*\*\*\*

"For anyone who believed that the Vietnam war was lost militarily, now you know the truth from the enemy's point of view."

**SFC Chuck Grist**

[www.AmericanRanger.blogspot.com](http://www.AmericanRanger.blogspot.com)

\* Sent to me by Lynn Pruitt

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom Frame commented on it by saying:

"Lynn,

I hope this e-mail finds you and Yvette in good health during these trying times.

I've read this report before and as we see today the media continues to be the low sludge of our society. I'll guess you've heard the phrase, if you could have a beer with anyone from our past who would that be? In my case it would be General Giap and of course Ben Franklin, who some believe coined the phrase, "I know God loves us because he gave us beer".

Thanks for the info and again hope everyone in your family are safe and sound."

**Tom**

*(War from page 10)*

doctor knows if you have a history of Agent Orange exposure. Because of the possibility of increased cancer risk, your doctor may suggest cancer screening tests and to report any symptoms as soon as they appear.

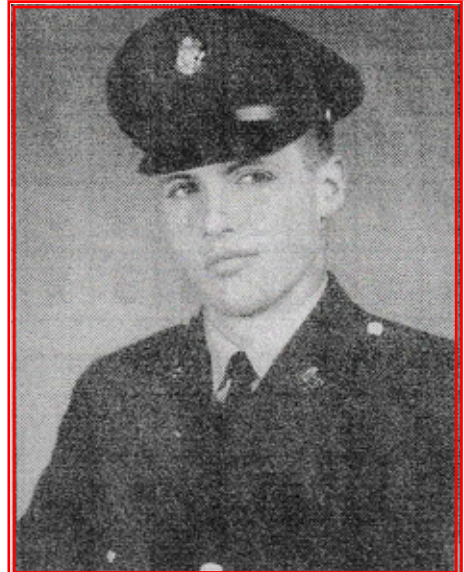
Veterans are at risk for many types of cancer just like everyone else, even if they haven't been exposed to Agent Orange. You can lower your risk of cancer and other diseases by quitting smoking, staying at a healthy weight, getting regular physical activity, and eating a healthy diet.

If you have a My HealtheVet Premium account, you can easily reach out to your health care teams with Secure Messaging (sign in required) about taking steps to improve your health.

## Francis William (Bill) Richardson

HHC - 65-67

*Bill's death was reported in the last Bulletin but no obituary was available. His wife Donna sent the obituary below.*



"Francis William (Bill) Richardson, 72, of Wilton, peacefully passed away at home on Saturday, December 7, 2019 surrounded by his loving family.

Born August 15, 1947 in Brooklyn, NY, he was the youngest son of the late George Howard and Rita Richardson.

Mr. Richardson served in the U.S. Army, 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry, the division responsible for establishing the base in Cu Chi, Vietnam. Trained as a mechanic, his principal job while in Vietnam was driving a wrecker. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, quite an accomplishment since he was not trained as an infantry soldier. He was later awarded an Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service.

After his service in the Army, Mr. Richardson spent many years as a member of the Mason Local 77. During his career, he worked his way up from laborer to small business owner, then went on to work for large construction firms such as Turner Construction Company, BBL and VMJR Companies as a highly successful project manager. He retired from construction in 2001.

Interment with military honors will be held at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Schuylerville, NY.

If you wish to express your online condolences or view the Obituary, please visit our website at [www.compassionatefuneralcare.com](http://www.compassionatefuneralcare.com)."

## Challenges remain 2 years after VA's expansion of caregiver program

"This week, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF) submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs over its proposed rules to improve and standardize the VA Program for Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), more commonly known as the VA Caregiver Program. EDF's recommendations were developed by our policy experts, in collaboration with our Dole Caregiver Fellows who represent the 5.5 million Americans providing care to a loved one wounded, made ill, or injured during their military service. While VA's proposed rules address many challenges for which EDF has long advocated, we remain concerned regarding how the department plans to implement such a robust and ambitious program for millions of veteran caregivers nationwide, given the two years of delays implementing the VA Mission Act of 2018.

Sen. Elizabeth Dole and our EDF team worked tirelessly with our partners on the Hill to pass the VA Mission Act, which pledged an unprecedented level of support to family caregivers of all veterans, regardless of when they served. Since passage of the act in June 2018, we have been anxiously awaiting the new regulations for the VA caregiver program, which were set to outline exactly how the department planned to finally expand caregiver benefits to the approximately 4.4 million Americans caring for veterans who served before Sept. 11, 2001.

Unfortunately, the last two years have been fraught with delays and administrative challenges; aging IT infrastructure has become a significant obstacle to expanding the caregiver program, effectively blocking millions of potential applicants from receiving critical support. The proposed rules released last month still do not hold VA accountable for a date for full expansion. Given the pressing needs of caregivers for pre-9/11 veterans, VA should move urgently to designate a specific date for expansion and, until that date is determined, publish monthly updates on progress towards publishing a final rule and full expansion.

Additionally, VA must address the biggest concern of caregivers — the process for evaluating program applicants. Since the caregiver program launched in 2011, VA has not used a consistent protocol for evaluating applicants, which has led to frustrations and anxiety across the caregiver community. While VA has identified clinical tools for assessment and established centralized eligibility teams to oversee this process, none of these important changes are included in the proposed rules. These processes and tools should be included for public comment. Furthermore, VA should increase transparency and consistency for how these tools will be used by making them publicly accessible. Most of the challenges faced by caregivers occur when an individual VA medical center or integrated service network releases information that is inconsistent with national guidance.

Despite these challenges, a number of the proposed changes represent a welcomed shift to the program and align with long-advocated reforms. We specifically commend VA for adopting many of the recommendations supported by the Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee chaired by Senator Elizabeth Dole. The work of this advisory committee can be seen throughout the proposed regulations, including the addition of a 60-day notification period when a caregiver and veteran are discharged from PCAFC and a reduction in annual reassessments for caregivers of the catastrophically injured who are expected to need the same amount and degree of care over time. While technical in nature, these

## Unusual War Machinery

*I was in Vietnam in 66-67 & never saw these strange looking pieces of equipment.*



Andy Gimma posted on Facebook this photo and asked: "Does anyone recall seeing anything like this? And Brandon Kibbey from [VietnamWarHistoryOrg](http://VietnamWarHistoryOrg) replied, "This is the [LeTourneau G175] 80 ton tree crusher being tested by the 1st Log Comd at Long Binh."



Andy Gimma shared this post for Shaun McCaul. Brandon Kibbey replied, "This is PFC Charles L. Slagel of Pekin, Illinois a dozer operator with the 27th Land Clearing Team. It is hot dirty work. [Between Long Binh and Xuan Loc.]"

changes will have a profound effect on the lives of veteran caregivers nationwide.

We also strongly support VA's proposal to expand program eligibility beyond caregivers of veterans with injuries to include service-connected veterans whose disabilities are caused by illnesses. This represents a policy change that EDF and our caregiver network have long advocated. Often times, caregivers supporting veterans with cancer, ALS, and other diseases have not had access to this program, and we thank Secretary Wilkie and VHA's Executive in Charge, Dr. Stone, for spearheading these changes to support veteran families nationwide."

*\* Copied from Army Times 7 May 2020 Website*



## Thanking Randy For Re-membering Clyde And All The Other KIAs

E-mail written by *LYNDA A. HILLNER* for Jenny Diaz and sent to Randy Kethcart on May 12, 2020

**Sgt. Clyde Wesley Lawrence, Jr.,**  
KIA, May 16, 1970

"Clyde was a fine young man with the strength & courage of youth. The devastation of this loss is firmly & forever embedded in our memories & hearts. Love always Jenny Lawrence Diaz"

It is with infinite feeling & gratitude we would like to honor Clyde's heroes



that fateful day.

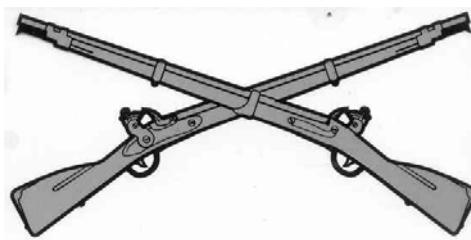
Dave Hensel, KIA, May 16, 1970  
Bill Silva & Chester Johnson  
Chris Sharpe & Hector Saenz  
Edwin L. Bowers, CW3, US Army, retired, Clyde's escort home (my Uncle)

They were all instrumental in ensuring that Clyde & Dave made their final trip home to their families. We are eternally grateful for their kindness & dedication.

We owe always a debt of gratitude to Randy for his continued devotion to keeping the memories of the regiment alive & the families connected. Randy has given us so many gifts in the form of memories, photos, friendships & information.

Thank you all for your friendship, for sharing your memories & for making me always feel so welcome.

**Jenny Lawrence Diaz**



## Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Distinguished Service Cross  
is Awarded to:**

**SFC LEROY L. DAVIS, JR**

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

### AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

3 October 1970

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

**DAVIS, LEROY L. JR** SERGEANT FIRST CLASS United States Army, Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, APO 96225

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date of action: 10 April 1970 Theater: Republic of Vietnam

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

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Sergeant First Class Davis distinguished himself on 10 April 1970 while defending his bunker against an aggressive enemy assault. As the sergeant began placing heavy automatic weapons return fire toward the aggressors, an enemy rocket struck his bunker and seriously wounded him. Although his wounds rendered him almost blind, he reassumed his fighting position, fully exposed to the enemy fire, and continued to place suppressive fire on the enemy. Soon thereafter, a second enemy rocket struck the bunker, seriously wounding Sergeant Davis a second time. Refusing to yield to his multiple wounds, the sergeant remained in his exposed position and placed fire on the enemy until he collapsed. His determined actions prevented the enemy from overrunning his position and contributed immeasurably to the success of the allied defensive effort. Sergeant First Class Davis' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

### James Alward Van Fleet



“On November 1, 1952, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry was relieved on Line Minnesota, in Eastern Korea, by a battalion from the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard. The combat team would remain in reserve until the month of January.

On Thanksgiving Day, they were visited by General James A. Van Fleet, 8th Army Commander, and his wife, Helen. The general had not randomly decided to dine with 2nd of the 5th. As a young major, he had commanded the 2nd Battalion in 1933 at Ft. Williams,

Maine and had then served as regimental executive officer until July of 1935.

When asked what had transpired at Fort Williams, Van Fleet quipped that he had overseen the construction of a duck pond in the northwest corner of the parade field. During the depths of the Great Depression, the Army's primary assignment was to organize, equip and lead the Civilian Conservation Corps.

James Van Fleet was born to William and Mendora Van Fleet in Coytesville, New Jersey on March 19, 1892. Soon after his birth, the family moved to Florida. His father was instrumental in establishing the first railroad company in Florida.

James entered West Point in 1911. He played fullback on the academy's football team that went undefeated during his senior year. In 1915, he graduated 92nd in his class and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry. Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley and Mark Clark were classmates.

LT Van Fleet's first active duty assignment was with the 3rd Infantry Regiment at Sackett's Harbor on Lake Ontario. In April, 1916, the 3rd Infantry was deployed to Eagle Pass, Texas. The regiment was tasked with guarding the southern border while Brigadier General John Pershing led an expeditionary operation into Mexico to tangle with the paramilitary forces of Pancho Villa.

As the US entered World War I, Major Van Fleet, left the 3rd Infantry and, taking command of the 17th Machine Gun Battalion, went to France with the 6th Infantry Division. His unit saw action in the Gerardmer Sector and the Meuse-Argonne offensive. He managed to receive two Silver Stars before he was wounded in November 1918 near Sedan in north eastern France. He remained on

occupation duty with his battalion until its return to the United States in June 1919.

A year after the 6th Division re-deployed to Camp Grant, Illinois, Van Fleet landed a series of ROTC jobs at Kansas State, South Dakota State and the University of Florida. During the latter assignment, he doubled as head football coach for the Gators. His team

racked up twelve wins and four losses while he was there.

In February, 1925, Van Fleet returned to active duty and was assigned a battalion command with the 42nd Infantry in the Panama Canal Zone. Three years later, he returned to the United States to become an instructor at the Infantry School at Ft. Benning. After completing the Advanced Course at Benning, Van Fleet returned to the University of Florida as a professor of military science and tactics. He left there in 1933 to build the 5th Infantry duck pond at Ft. Williams. In 1936, he was finally promoted to colonel.

In June, 1944, Van Fleet assumed command of the 8th Infantry Regiment. He conducted rigorous combat training, amphibious exercises and maneuvers at Fort Benning, Camp Gordon, Fort Dix and Camp Blanding, Florida. The regiment deployed to Europe in January 1944 and was selected to spearhead the landing of the 4th Infantry Division at Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6.

*(See D-Day Photo on next page)*

8th Infantry Command Staff, 1944

This photo was taken in the marshaling yard in Plymouth, England just before loading for the D-Day invasion. Col Van Fleet is in the front row, second from left. Officer on the far right in the rear row is LTC E. H. Strickland, 2nd Bn. He will go on to command the 5th Infantry Regiment in 1954-55.

Following fierce combat from the beach to the city of Cherbourg, General Marshall, along with Generals Eisenhower and Bradley crossed the channel to inspect the front. General Eisenhower mentioned to General Marshall that Colonel Van Fleet deserved great credit for his leadership and successes and that, for the past several years, each of Van Fleet's commanders had recommended that he be promoted but nothing had happened. He asked why his old classmate had had such a tough time making rank. Marshall replied that he had been turned down because he was an alcoholic. Eisenhower informed Marshall that Van Fleet had always been a teetotaler. Apparently Van Fleet had been confused with another officer. His promotions came rapidly thereafter. In August, 1944, he was assigned as deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Division and promoted to brigadier general.

Three months later, Van Fleet was promoted to major general. He took command of the 4th Infantry Division on the Siegfried Line in late September, 1944, and then led the 90th Infantry Di-



Gen. Van Fleet (center) serves soldier in G Company mess tent, Thanksgiving, 1952.





8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Command Staff, 1944

*This photo was taken in the marshaling yard in Plymouth, England just before loading for the D-Day invasion. Col Van Fleet is in the front row, second from left. Officer on the far right in the rear row is LTC E. H. Strickland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. He will go on to command the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in 1954-55.*

vision from October 1944 to February 1945.

On March 17th, 1945, Van Fleet was placed in command of the III Corps at the Remagen Bridgehead. From there his corps spearheaded the First Army's advance deep into Germany and turned north to encircle the Ruhr Pocket. The III Corps attacked the east face of the pocket and, by April 16, had taken its assigned objectives and 105,000 German prisoners. The III Corps was reassigned to the Third Army on April 17 and, during the last two weeks of the war, advanced rapidly across southeast Germany to the foot of the Austrian Alps.

When hostilities ended in Europe in May 1945, Van Fleet's III Corps headquarters was sent to Camp Polk, Louisiana to prepare for deployment to the Pacific Theater. Happily, Japan's surrender, three months later, made that trip unnecessary.

Following several years of Army Area level jobs on the East Coast and Germany, Van Fleet received his third star and, in February 1948, was appointed director of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory and Planning Group in Athens, Greece. He provided operational advice and guidance to the Greek military in their successful effort to eradicate the communists. A statue of General Van Fleet stands in the town square of Kasto-

ria in Northern Greece. Greece also donated a bust of Van Fleet that is displayed in front of the III Corps Headquarters building at Ft. Hood, Texas, not to mention providing a seasoned battalion of Greek infantrymen to the United Nations effort in Korea.

Van Fleet returned to the U.S. in August, 1950 to assume command of the Second Army at Ft. Meade, Maryland. That job was short-lived because in April, 1951, he was appointed Commanding General of the Eighth Army and sent to Korea to relieve General Ridgeway. Under Van Fleet's

command, the U.S. Army and other United Nations troops kicked the North Koreans and Chinese out of South Korea. At that point, Van Fleet was ordered to halt and go on the defensive in order to achieve an armistice. He received his fourth star in July, 1951.

Tragedy struck the Van Fleet family in April, 1952 when the general's only son, LT James A. Van Fleet, Jr. was listed by the Fifth Air Force as missing in action. The young B-26 pilot and his two-man crew failed to return from a night bombing run near Suncheon in Northwest Korea. They were diverted from their target – a rail center – by fog and low clouds. At 3:15 A.M., Van Fleet reported that his fuel supply was too low to permit a strike on a secondary target. That was his last message. Air searches carried out the following two days were unsuccessful. The remains of the three young men have never been located.

During his tenure in Korea, General Van Fleet instituted a retraining program and established numerous army schools. He also established a Korean "West Point." The Koreans erected a life-size bronze statue of him in front of the military academy and refer to Van Fleet as "The Father of the Korean Army."

Thirty-eight years proved to be enough soldiering for James Van Fleet. He retired in 1953. The following summer, President Eisenhower asked him to

travel to the Far East and survey the military, economic and political situation. Then, in 1961, President Kennedy drafted him to conduct a survey of National Guard and Special Service Forces units. After that he lived out his days writing, hunting, and working on his ranch outside of Polk City, Florida. He died on September 23, 1992 at the age of 100. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

## Did You Know David Berry

*B Co. - KIA 7/21/66*

Hi Fred,

"I (*Andy Gimma*) came across Jimmy R Berry Sr. looking for anyone who knew his brother **David Loyall Berry** KIA 7-21-1966 from Bravo Co., 1/5th



Infantry. I believe I came across this on the 25th Division's website. It's been a while and my memory isn't what it used to be.

Fred Deverse and John Snodgrass suggested I talk with Ted Jagosz. Did so and Ted did remember him.

Talked to both Jimmy and Ted yesterday at length and emailed them each their contact info.

Ted has an excellent memory and is a joy to talk with! We agreed we had met at the Framingham reunion.

Jimmy would like to hear from anyone who knew his brother."

Jimmy R Berry Sr.  
178 Coral Gables  
Trinity TX 75862  
Phone # 936-581-3483  
jimmyrberry@outlook.com

*If you knew David please contact Jimmy.*

# Letters From Vietnam

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

16 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Change 17a, paragraph 6!! We have no idea when we are going to move or where, but this morning the "Big Angel" pulled out with the doctor Lieutenant, John & Rick. I was all set to go when Rick asked John when he was going out to see what the action was. John got so mad that he told me to stay back in a day or two.

I just found out that we are set up Ben Cui #2 treating all injured people from last night. We dropped over 500 artillery rounds in the village. They'll be back in a day or two.

Well, I'm sorry to say there's nothing else to write about. I'm sure that the move when and if it comes off will bring many more interesting subjects. More later."

Love Joe

20 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Three times the last three days I've sat down to write a letter, I gave up after about eight lines because there was nothing new to say. That's the trouble, when there's a lot of stuff to write about, there's no time to write.

We did however, get some more medics in (9 yesterday & today, possible 2 more) which puts us over strength for the first time in months. We are scrambling around trying to find aid kits for them. Doc got to keep his, I got to keep mine, and we kept one for each vehicle. Everyone else in the area had to turn their's in.

Received "first" (?) birthday package with picture of Mark on front page. Do you recall the name of the school teacher in the "Our Gang" comedies?? Wasn't her name Miss Crabtree?? Also received a can of onion rings which mysteriously disappeared and reappeared empty in the Big Angel. Of course nobody knows a thing about it. If you can send some more and I'll hide them.

Do you really want me to take R&R in Hawaii? If you want to go there, I'll arrange it (Not until January or February though). I do want to go some place where there are "round eyes" and they speak English though (i.e. Hawaii or Australia).

I got to fire my M-16 for the first

time in 4-months today. We test fired from the bunker line.

I'll be letting you know how things are as they progress (very slowly now). We've been on 3 hour notice for about a week now with no moving in sight. Maybe Christmas.

Bye for now,"

Love Joe

22 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Sunday again and nothing much is happening. I must admit that being in a base camp does have advantages. At least there is a Sunday mass at 1100 hrs. It use to be at 0800 and we couldn't go because of sick call.

I got package #2 (?) last night with the books in it. GREAT!! Those books were the best thing to happen around here in a long time. Also everyone was fighting to blow their minds on the blocks. It took 16 man hours before all the colors showed on four sides. Other guys are still working on it now.

We finally got a mascot to replace lady. He is a little puppy who looks like a beagle with the markings of a German shepherd. He looks like he is about 7 or 8 weeks old. We named him "Cannabis", which means something in Latin although we're not sure what. He'll get his shots this week.

We fixed the potato soup and it was great. We didn't have milk so we used cream....

Well I guess I'll sign off and get some more letters written. More soon."

Love Joe

P.S. Did you get some letter asking you to have some girl write me before you said this "old friend" of mine would write?

24 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"I'm sitting down in the bunker listening a speaker while everyone else is upstairs celebrating a birthday. Since I didn't write yesterday, I figured that I'd better take the time to do it today.

The guys must have gotten frustrated with the instant insanity blocks, because yesterday morning I found the pieces scattered all over the place.

The packages have been arriving

every other day for some reason. I got the peanuts last night.

That dog we got is doing just fine. We can't get him his shots for a couple of weeks or so (he has to be 3 months old). I've been wondering about taking him home with me, but I keep forgetting he won't be a puppy forever. Right now he's as cute as a button, but there is no telling what he'd look like in 7 months.

I got a birthday card from Julie Johnson today with pictures of her and Mark, Karen, Big hat Charlie, Bette and Suzie and Sam. They are cute cats.

"I'm happy to see that fellow Vietnam vets are posting pictures from The Bad Old Days. Bruce "Blinky" Cotta just posted an outrageous photo of his younger self. It has me just a little sentimental and thinking about what seems many lives ago. I'm posting this picture of Richard "Tiny" Hopkinson, who was one of the best medics I ever saw. De-



Joe with Tiny

spite his girth, he could practically get under his helmet when the situation called for it, and he moved like a cat when one of his guys was hurt and down. He died a few years ago before I could tell him how he had inspired me. Welcome Home, Tiny."

Sorry there is nothing more to write about but things are calmed down considerable."

More later,  
Love Joe

25 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

(Parts of this letter were cut off making it impossible to see all words.)

"Hi ya'll!! A couple of inserts in today's letter. The picture is one that has



been sitting with my photograph equipment for sometime now. It wasn't the day that we moved from Cu Chi to Dau Tieng and we stopped for lunch at Tay Ninh. I went in to see Nelson and one of the guys snapped this picture of us together. It didn't have preservative put on it until today, thus explaining the da-guerreotype look about it.

Also is a notice from the Commanding General of Field Force II (Saigon, Tay Ninh etc.) about 1/5th. Explanation of Army talk follows: LTG - Lieutenant General (3 stars), Body Count - verified number of enemy killed from the many units under his command - about 80 battalions. Right now the battalion is being written up by the commander of troops in Vietnam (Gen. Abrams) for the Presidential Meritorious Unit Citation for action between 1 AUG and the present. It will take about a year before it is approved, but it will be a permanent medal for anyone in the unit at the time of action.

I got a letter from Bette Johnson today, and it was great to hear "folksy" from the old hometown. So Julie really is in Junior High already?? It is like Karen just left it last year!! I still do a slow burn when I think of Becky's husband doing his two year service as an orderly in a hospital. But that it neither here or there. Indistinguishable get enough to feed everyone. Have you ever heard of chicken vegetable-noodle soup with broth? It wasn't too bad.

I had a picture of Cannibis to send you, but someone purloined it during the day. I'll take another to send tomorrow. He seems to get cuter every day. His eyes are definitely beagle - brown... Also concerning today's birthday card ... an .... Alternative Wednesday's wouldn't quite hit it .... With the animals around here, but thanks any .... this way. Mary you do a poor job of forging Dad's signature. I wouldn't suggest trying it on a check. (Nothing personal!!!)

That's it for tonight. More soon.

*Love Joe*

P.S. *Being 21 over here doesn't mean a thing. Charlie still throws rockets and mortars at me!!!*

=====

26 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

How are things in your part of the world? I'll probably cast a pox upon myself all around me by saying this, but things are dull around here. We haven't even seen sniper rounds in days. We spend the early morning with sick call,

late morning in bull sessions and making soup, early afternoons taking turns at one hour naps, late afternoons at the swimming pool, evenings for sick call, and night having serious discussions (more bull sessions). I disappear into the bunker (decorated in early O.D.) to write letters at 2000 hrs. That is when the 1/2 hour of folk music is on. Usually the rest of the night is spent drinking beer, but (horror of horrors) we ran out today. Everyone will probably hit the sack early tonight.

I know I promised you a picture of the dog, but someone used my last picture this morning. And I won't have enough money to buy more until payday. Also someone ate my Dutch chocolate pudding and won't admit to it (That makes me mad!!). And as long as we are talking about thefts, please send me one colorful pair of swim trunks, size 38, as the local laundry disclaims any knowledge of having lost them. If I see a VC running around in orange swim trunks, I'll never trust that laundry again.

I've rambled enough for the eve. No package, letter or newspaper tonight, so they will probably start stacking up on me again. More later.

*Love Joe*

=====

27 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

It's that time again (2000 hrs.) and I'm sitting in our neo-cong bunker listening to folk music as I write. Any more I look forward to this hour, even though three is usually nothing to write about.

I did get my first issue of "Esquire" today (September issue) with the cover of Michael Pollard, Arlo Guthrie & Tiny Tim on the cover. Everyone sat around and drool over the college fashions, none of which were in olive drab.

I took the dog to the vet today to have his throat checked. He came up with the diagnosis as we did, something stuck. He told us to feed him bread soaked in gravy. He said he didn't learn that in college, it was always something his mother told him when he got a fish bone stuck in his throat. Ahhhh, to have an education!!!

Swimming today was nothing unusual, except that we played "follow the leader" (Also known as "instant Fracture") and I learned to do a backflip... the hard way. I also freaked them out with my belly flop and forward dive where I grabbed my ankles and folded into a ball HAH!! That will show'em.

Wonder of wonders, Armed Forces Radio-Television service (AFRTS) FM just played a protest song!! The words actually were "bring me peace when there's talk of war". Amazing!! I'll bet whoever chose the song is court-marshalled within 24 hours.

Soupy (Ron Soppe), one of our medics, is really getting the works next week. He receives the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and three Purple hearts from a four star, plus being chosen Vietnam's "Soldier of the Month". This from a draftee who once said his idea of a good time was "drinking a few Pepsis and watching Lawrence Welk". He's a good medic though and deserves everything he gets (Except the Purple Hearts of course. Nobody "deserves" a Purple Heart.) You'll probably read about him in the stateside newspapers. By the way, what is our daily newspaper.

That's all for tonight. More soon."

*Love Joe*

=====

30 SEP 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Sorry about the recent lack of letters, but we finally made the move they promised us. And where we moved to!! I'll have to take some pictures because the place is really unbelievable. It's a two-story French villa. The bottom floor, our dispensary, looks like a basement with ugly cement posts all over the place. But the second floor!! There are two outside staircases both going to balconies. Walking inside from the east balcony, you come into the "playroom" with a bar to seat 8 or stand about 20 when you have to. We also have our TV on top of the refrigerator and my radio on the back shelf. (Of course like any red-blooded American GI ... can't spoil the image you know) we have Playboy centerfold's, etc., hanging over the back of the bar. The bedroom are about 40' X 40" with a 29' ceiling. The officers of course have their own with six guys sleeping in the other one. And each room has (get this) bathtubs and flush toilets. That's the first thing everyone did when they came in was flush the toilets. Of course the old sucker volunteered for permanent CQ, so I have my own little cubby hole under the stairway. But Tiny sleeps in his pharmacy, so I'm not alone downstairs.

Well, it's time to wake everybody up and make use of the bathroom facilities. I'll try to drop a few lines tonight.

*Love Joe*

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



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment  
3214 Santiago Avenue

Friends of the Bobcat Battalion,

I am excited to report our transition with the 82nd Airborne is underway and our first main body flight is making their way home. The next thirty days are going to hit the Bobcats fast and furious as we account for multiple tasks and a shrinking team. It's a fine art of communication, teaching, certifying, closing out tasks, handing off tasks, all the while ensuring everyone remains safe and the mission is accomplished. The leaders and Soldiers are more than capable and as they return from this mission and enjoy some well-earned rest.

This letter is the final one of our deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. The Bobcats worked an extraordinary mission through some spectacular circumstances. On point for the nation, protecting and supporting an ally, facing down rogue militia groups, reacting to rocket attacks, surviving a ballistic missile strike, and working our way through a global pandemic, the Bobcats never missed a step and are always ready. I am very proud of this organization due to its discipline and caliber of Soldiers. Proud and also humble when I take in what this team has accomplished together over the last ten months.

We recognize the country has largely changed since we left last fall. With COVID there are new conditions waiting for us that we must learn to understand. The battalion remains vigilant and disciplined in protecting each other from infections. Although there are some cases in Iraq, the number remains small and there are no cases at Al Assad. Our pro-activeness in fighting the virus is helping to keep us safe and on the path to return home. Soldiers are plenty motivated to protecting themselves and each other.

I simply wish to thank everyone of you for all your support, thoughts and prayers. You are patriots in your own right and thank you for reaching out to us over the course of this deployment. I hope to meet as many as possible when I return to Alaska and please don't hesitate to reach out. We appreciate the lineage we inherit from your service in the 5th Infantry Regiment and understand the importance of carrying that legacy forward.

Very respectfully,

*Tim Garland*

LTC Tim Garland  
Bobcat 06



CDR LTC Tim R. Garland &  
CSM Brady Davis



PVT Lawler during the ARFEX



K9 "Boss" Leading from the  
Front



**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE - BOBCAT - "HEROES OF THE MONTH"**



Gladiator Co – SPC Giles is a 92F, Petroleum Specialist, and a member of the Distribution Platoon. SPC Giles works tirelessly assisting in any way he can around the motor pool and conducting movement missions for TF West. Specifically, SPC Giles executed the recent installation of Force Protection systems increasing base security for all of AAAB.



Anger Co - PV2 Matthew Lawler, performs during a recent Aerial Response Force Live Fire Exercise. He provided essential awareness on maneuver progress and application of direct and indirect fires.



Bayonet Co – SGT Holland is the NCOIC of vehicle search at the base entry control point. His leadership drives his Soldiers to maintain daily discipline and attention to detail to prevent contraband from entering onto the base. SGT Holland and his his contributions to both security and intelligence are immeasurable.



Charger Co - While serving as a member of TF Charger, SPC Nunez has fully embraced the mission by mastering all current SOPs, dominating Team LFXs, and is 100% able to defend AAAB no matter the threat. He consistently out performs his peers, fully understanding the roles and responsibilities two levels above.



HHC - As a seasoned NCO,SSG Kaley Maben has demonstrated her vast knowledge on a daily basis. She has helped create numerous SOPs, responsible for accurate medication orders and inventory, and has built a rapport with all platoons across HHC further building trust and relations amongst assigned personnel and the medical platoon.



1LT Sundaresan awarding his Soldiers for a job well done



SGT(P) Lacher giving a block of instruction on the use of a plotting board to the MTR Section.

## Our Historian Sam Kier Helping Others

### 5th RCT Breast Patch

1 May 20

"Hello! I am seeking information on the 5th RCT breast patch worn by the infantry. It is the one with the crossed



rifles on it. Specifically when were these worn by the men of the 5th RCT!"

Thank You!

**Mark D. Hunt**

524 Lake Street  
Chadron, NE 69337  
402-741-0353

Hi Mark,

"Do you happen to have a picture of the patch being worn on the breast? I joined the 5th Infantry in 1954 around the time that the 5th RCT was reverting to the regular regimental configuration and we wore " U.S. Army" over one breast pocket and our name over the other. I do not recall wearing or seeing a regimental breast patch.

All infantrymen, regardless of their assigned unit, have worn the crossed-muskets insignia since 1875. It stands for infantry. It has been worn on the jacket lapel of dress uniforms and on the collar of duty uniforms but never, to my knowledge, on the breast. The insignia for the 5th RCT was a red pentagon with

a white border. The soldier wore it on his left shoulder in Korea and then switched it to his right shoulder when he transferred out of the combat team. Sometimes the pentagon was worn on the helmet-liner as well.

I'm intrigued by your question. Please tell me more."

**Sam Kier**

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn

"**Sam**, I received your email by way of Randy Kethcart. Attached is a picture of one of the two fatigue shirts I recently acquired.



I taught high school history for 32 years and have collected / researched / written about U.S. military insignia.

Thank you for any information you can provide on this interesting and somewhat rare insignia.

**Mark D. Hunt**

"Well, I'll be dipped! The only 5th RCT pentagons I've seen were 2" from top to bottom. I don't know when that larger one would have been authorized. An Erving Carr is listed in the deceased section of the 5th RCT Assn directory. He served in Company B in 1952-53. The 5th Infantry Regiment was deactivated at Ft. Lewis, Washington in August, 1956 and re-activated the following month at Ft. Carson, Colorado as part of the 8th Infantry Division. (see the division patch on the left shoulder of the shirt pictured in the next column.) The regimental colors and trophies went to Ft. Carson but the men and equipment stayed primarily at Ft. Lewis as the 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th



Division. Apparently SGT Carr wound up serving with the 5th again. The 5th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division served in Germany from the Fall of 1956 until it rotated back to Ft. Riley, Kansas in September 1958. Erving Carr died sometime in the 1980's. There was no address for him in the directory."

**Sam Kier**

"When I was in Korea we were on line fighting. no one had any patches on.. I have the master list of men of the 5th.RCT.> 18000 names.

The name JEGERIS. is not on my list.

Even when I returned stateside I never saw this patch.

I made a phone call to one of the Founding Members.. He tells me there was a Pentagon Patch with Cross Rifles And one with a Lightning Bolt .....He says they were sometimes worn.....BUT ---they were not Military authorized.. They may have been made in Japan I hope this will help you.

**Frank Jennings**

"Thank you, Frank. That does help. The use of the lightning bolt is interesting. Sounds like a 5th RCT/25th Infantry Division hybrid.

**Sam**

(See Sam on page 21)



## WELCOME HOME, VETERANS!

The Department of Defense expanded in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges as well as MWR retail facility use to all:

- > Veterans with service-connected disabilities
- > Purple Heart recipients
- > Former Prisoners of War
- > Primary registered caregivers

For more information visit [shopmyexchange.com/vets](http://shopmyexchange.com/vets)



**George Chavez said, “Group tour of Vietnam 2015, 27 beautiful days. So much has changed.”**

“Yes Fred that’s me in the Brown shirt. I was the only Bobcat to be in the tour group. All the females in the picture were spouses or girlfriends. All branches of service were represented and were Vietnam Veterans.”



Independence Palace HoChiMinh City - VietNam

04-02-2

(Sam from page 20)

### Uncle's Service In Korea

Julie,

“Paul Robinson forwarded your letter to me since I am serving as historian for the 5th Infantry Regt Assn. I then checked with Frank Jennings of the 5th RCT Assn because he has a master list of the 16,000 men who served with the 5th RCT from 1950-54. The incomplete listing simply states “Hitoshi Sasaki,

PFC, A Company, 1950.” Unfortunately, there was no mention of his Army serial number nor military occupational specialty, MOS, (his job.)

Incidentally, there was another Sasaki serving at the same time; Kishio R. Sasaki, US50003482, Company E. Kishio's MOS was 4745 (Light Weapons Infantryman). I don't know why they didn't give similar information for Hitoshi. Is Kishio a relative?

Was your uncle a native of Hawaii? In 1950, many members of the 5th RCT were young Hawaiians. They set sail from Honolulu on July 22, 1950 for Pu-

san, Korea. That first group of soldiers went home around April of 1951 so that would not explain how Hitoshi could be involved in action around the 36th Parallel in December 1951. Second tours of combat with the same unit were quite rare.

In December, 1951, the 5th RCT (attached to the 24th Infantry Division) was dug in on Line Missouri. That main line of resistance became the center line of the DMZ following the enactment of the truce in July, 1953. It wasn't called the DMZ in 1951 because nothing was

(See Sam Continued on page 24)

# 5th Infantry Association Quartermaster

## Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75 or 1A (Blue) - \$15.50
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc. (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - \$5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS") - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$35.00 (*With or without pocket*)  
*Colors: white, black, ash, forest, green, navy, light blue, maroon, oxford, royal, safety green or orange & red*
  - 1). With Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$35.00 (*With or without pocket*)
  - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering on "Right" sleeve - \$43.00 (*With or without pocket*)*+ There is a \$1.50 Charge for each size larger than XL (XXL + \$1.50, XXXL + \$3.00)*
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest \$104 and CIB or CMB Badge - \$115 or \$122 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$49.50 and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge \$49.50 or \$57 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below (Picture #13) Embroidered on left breast - \$25 (*In 51 different colors*)  
*+ There is a \$1.50 Charge for each size larger than XL (XXL + \$1.50, XXXL + \$3.00)*
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$7.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$23.00
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting  
 Quartermaster Chester Johnson at:  
 979-966-9669 or  
 E-mail: [jcjohnson4@verizon.net](mailto:jcjohnson4@verizon.net)



1A



3



9



13



14



17

**New lower prices  
 for shirts!**



5



6



7



4



Khaki/Navy

10



12



8



15



16



## DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

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

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

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

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

**Ric Myers,**

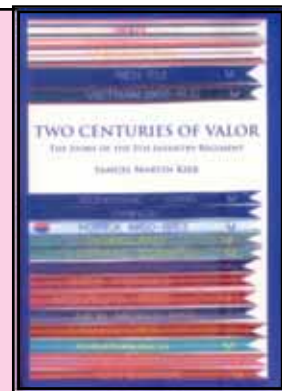
*Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68*

## History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

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

have participated in.

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



[http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter\\_master.shtml](http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml)

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

**Notice:** If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 19** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

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

(Please Print)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

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

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

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

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

### Membership Application 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Unit Served With \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

(Sam Continued from page 21)

de-militarized. I have copies of the 24th Division's General Orders for the period of time that the 5th RCT was attached to the 24th and I can't find a Bronze Star citation for Hitoshi Sasaki. Did he keep a copy of those general orders?

If you have not requested a copy of his DD214, Report of Separation from the Armed Forces from the National Archives in St. Louis, I would encourage you to try to do so. They didn't lose all of the records in that fire. I checked and mine were there from 1954. The DD214 would reveal his period of service in Korea, his military job, his awards and decorations and other pertinent information.

I'm sorry I can't be more helpful at this time. Please let me know if you are able to get his DD214 and we can go from there."

Best,  
**Sam Kier**  
Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn

Hi Sam,

"Thank you so much for your reply. Somehow it went to my spam box, so I am now just reading it. I'm sorry for the late reply.

I'm glad at least my uncle appears on the master list - thank you to Frank Jennings for checking. Hito Sasaki was not a native of Hawaii, however, he was Nisei (2nd generation Japanese American). I'm guessing this is one reason he got assigned to the 5th RCT because there were many Nisei in the unit while it was assigned to the Schofield Barracks.

My understanding is that my uncle was a squad leader of heavy weapons. His gravestone at Riverside National Cemetery reads SFC, so sometime he must have gotten promoted to PFC.

Unfortunately Kishio Sasaki is not a relative (Sasaki is a very common Japanese name, like Smith). I'm glad you asked anyhow.

I will try to order his DD214 even though I do not have his serial # or SSN. If I am lucky enough to obtain it, I will get back in touch with you.

Thank you so much,"

**Julie Sasaki-Hom**  
c 248-797-4586

"The boss fixes the blame for the breakdown. The leader fixes the breakdown.  
The boss says, "Go," the leader says,  
"Let's go."  
- H. Gordon Selfridge

## 2021 Reunion - Fairfax VA

10-15 August 2021

(Reunion Continued from page 1)

upcoming 2020 Fairfax, VA Reunion.

The Board of Directors, and myself, had a virtual board meeting this afternoon using Zoom. The purpose of this meeting was because Randy and I have received "not such good news" from our vendors in Fairfax regarding them being open or ready for our group in August. The worse calls were from the CVB in Fairfax and our contact person at the new Army National Museum. Both of these calls were to let us know that the Museum is not going to be totally ready for us in August. They plan to open, but they are about 60 days behind in having all their rooms ready to be utilized. Some of those rooms were areas that we would be using for our lunch and Memorial Service.

The Metro is down for construction through the rest of the year, making it difficult for anyone wanting to use it on their own to go to the DC area to see the sights. While it is working, it won't be working from our area of the hotel where we were staying.

Randy and I then talked to the hotel in Dulles where we contracted, the Crowne Plaza. The Sales person there was willing to work with our group for a later date this year or a new date next year. The only thing with changing to a date this year, there was not guarantee that the Museum or the Metro would be ready. Based on that, the Board took a vote and decided it was in our best interest to cancel the reunion for 2020 altogether. I know you are all as sad as Randy and I are, as this was going to be very well attended as we can see. That, plus the fact that we had to cancel Charleston last year.

Now the issue of changing the Fairfax reunion to 2021 was also going to be an issue. Before this virtual meeting Randy and I also called the Hotel Elegante' in Colorado Springs, CO, where we were contracted for 2021. Yes we had already changed this once with them and we had no idea how they would react if we asked them to change it again. But to our surprise they were willing to work with us AGAIN and agreed to a few dates in 2022 without changing the price they quoted us for rooms. How happy that made us.

The story is, the Annual Reunion in Dulles (Fairfax) VA is officially cancelled. The Board voted on a new date

for August 10, 2021, which is the date that the Crowne Plaza offered us with no price changes. Then the Board voted on September 13, 2022 for the reunion in Colorado Springs, CO.

If you have made your hotel reservations for this reunion in 2020, do nothing, the hotel is wiping that slate clean. At this time they can't take reservations for the August 2021 reunion until August, 2020. I will post something at that time and Fred Deverse will put it in the Newsletter to remind you all that you can begin making the reservations. Please do not attempt to cancel this reservation or make a new one at this time.

That being said, monies have to be returned, the Board voted not to hold anything from you if you paid. This is because no one knows who can or can't make the new date. If you sent by PayPal, Randy has already returned your monies with the exception of 5 people who it wouldn't go through. He notified Chester Johnson who those 5 people were and Chester will be mailing you all a check.

If you paid by check to me directly, Chester has a record of that also and he will issue you a check for your payment. Theron Clough and Gary Robertson, I received your checks just recently and have not even forwarded them to Chester yet. Please confirm if you'd like that exact check back or if I can just tear those 2 checks up.

Mine and Randy's hearts are broken to have to do this all over again, especially after last year, but there was no other choice. For that we are sorry.

Please send me any emails with concerns or questions. I'll be glad to answer them.

Love you all and praying that you and yours remain safe and well through this horrible virus."

**Carolyn Kethcart**  
Reunion Coordinator  
5th Infantry Regiment Association  
16054 Pine Drive  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-468-8624  
708-288-0193

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary person, but is braver five minutes Longer."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



# The Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport



2200 Centreville Road  
Herndon VA 20170



\$129 Single / Double per night



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

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

\* Booking prices are good up to 3 days before and after the reunion dates

**Reservations must be made by 26 July 2020**

## Schedule of events

Hospitality Room: TUE AUG 10th -  
SAT AUG 14th (No fee)  
Snacks & Beverages are allowed.

**Tuesday August 10th**

Arrival and Registration

**Wednesday AUG 11th**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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



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

**Taste Award Winning Wines  
Along The Journey**

**Bull Run Winery**



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

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

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

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

**Thursday August 12th**

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

**Washington DC Memorials & Monuments Day**

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

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

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

## Fairfax VA Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Names of additional guests

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

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

Mail to or contact:

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

## Registration Form

# Fairfax VA - 10-15 AUG 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

	Number	Cost
<b>Registration fee</b> - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
<b>WED 11 AUG</b> - The Air & Space Museum & lunch at Bull Run - \$79 per person - <u>Circle your choice of sandwich:</u> 1. Chicken Caesar Wrap 2. Tuna Sun Dried Tomato 3. Turkey BLT with Avocado 4. Buffalo Chicken Wrap with Blue Cheese 5. Veggie Roasted Red Pepper Hummus		
<b>THU 12 AUG</b> - Washington DC Memorials and Monuments Day - \$59 per person		
<b>FRI 13 AUG</b> - Memorial Service Tour & Luncheon at The National Army Museum - \$89 per person includes Lunch		
<b>SAT 14 AUG - Banquet Dinner Choices</b>		
1. Tuscan Chicken - \$45		
2. Baked Cod - \$50		
3. Grilled Crusted New York Steak - \$55		
4. Vegetarian option upon request - \$45		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO

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

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

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

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

(Reunion from page 27)

### Dinner Choices

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

### Bordelaise

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

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



# National Army Museum



(Continued from page 25)

## Memorials & Monuments Day

*Pictures of some that will be visited*



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

*\*Picture of Army Museum above*

## Saturday August 14th

9:00 - 10 AM - Membership Meeting

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

10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

Free to explore Fairfax County

## Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Auction - Approx. time

## Friday August 13th 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM \$89 PP

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

(See Reunion on page 26)



# Pictures of and from the United States Army Museum

*Pictures from the 3/4 Cav  
Newsletter*



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

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