



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"

Fall 2019

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

Volume III

Bobcats Deploy to Iraq

"Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment are at it again. Over the past several weeks, your Bobcats have been departing Fort Wainwright to deploy in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. As members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team from US Army Alaska, your 1-5 IN Bobcats are back in Iraq. A far cry from the arctic conditions we are accustomed to, we have been enjoying and sweating through the nearly 70° increase in temperature as we get settled in our new desert environment!

On September 20th, we assumed authority of Task Force Jazeera, replacing our brothers and sisters in arms from 1/506th "Red Curahee" of the 101st Air

(See Iraq on page 16)

Winter Social

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

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

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

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

This year's social is being held at the same Hollander Boutique Hotel located in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg.

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

**Details for the Social are on page 9.*

Texas Alternative "Reunion"

11 Nov - 14 Nov 2019
San Antonio, TX

I put quotes around the word Reunion above because this is not a reunion like we are used to. It is more of a social gathering. We will not be having tours, meetings, a fragging, auction or a Bobcat banquet, etc.

But there will still be many interesting things to do. Please read the article to the right so you know what this reunion is and is not and what you might do in and around San Antonio.

If you want to attend then you must do two things:

1. Notify Carolyn Kethcart at:
carolynjk@bobcat.ws or
708-468-8624
2. Reserve your room at the **Holiday Inn Express (Airport)** by calling 210-308-6700 and tell them you are with either the "Bobcats" or "5th Infantry Regiment Association".

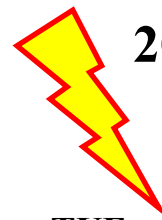
Reunion Location Change for 2020 and 2021

Plans were in place to have the 2020 reunion in Colorado Springs CO and the 2021 reunion in the Washington DC area so that we could visit the newly opened Army Museum. Well for various reasons it was decided to flip-flop those dates.

So now the 2020 reunion will be in Fairfax County VA (*Dulles Airport area*) from Tuesday August 25th thru Sunday 30th and the 2021 reunion will be in Colorado Springs CO.

**See details and plans on pages 24-*

"I'll Try Sir"



2019 Reunion Charleston, SC

TUE SEPT 3rd - SUN
8th 2019

CANCELLED

*But
Something new has been
scheduled for November in
Texas*

Hurricane Dorian got us! We were all set to have a great reunion with over 100 registered to attend. Carolyn and Randy Kethcart had worked hard to put together this reunion with some very interesting tours and a memorable Memorial service. But it so happens that hurricane Dorian wanted to attend our reunion.

I was planning to depart on Monday but with the threat looking ominous I decided to delay one day. It was a good decision since Carolyn Kethcart notified us that the reunion had been cancelled. We had no choice as the South Carolina governor declared a "State of Emergency" and the hotel cancelled our reunion.

Seeing on the news what destruction the hurricane did to the Charleston area cancelling was the right decision

I'm sure that our reunion coordinators Carolyn and Randy having put days and hours of work into planning this reunion were probably depressed over the cancellation.

I wasn't the only one to think the Kethcarts would be feeling in the dumps about the cancellation. It seems that Paul and Julie Robin-

(See Reunion on page 3)

Pictures From The 1/5th's Dinning Out



President Chavez Visits The 1/5th

"Recently I was invited to attend a Formal Battalion Dinning Out in Fairbanks Alaska. The event was for our active duty Bobcats.

This event was planned as a farewell for the Battalion's upcoming deployment to Iraq. The Bobcat BN trained hard and long in their preparations for this deployment. I met with the BN Officers and NCO's and can assure you that the 1/5th Bobcat BN is in great hands with their leadership.

Best Wishes and God's speed to our modern day WARRIORS.
'BOBCATS LEAD THE WAY!'"



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Bobcats,

"This year has been full of surprises, disappointments and catastrophes. Because of Hurricane Dorian our Charleston Reunion had to be canceled. Our prayers to the people of the Bahamas and to the residents of our east coast. This hurricane season has just started and more storms likely to happen. Please be mindful of the dangers these storms pose.

As those that were set to attend our Charleston Reunion in early September, acts of God cannot be predicted and many decisions had to be at the last minute. Carolyn and Randy Kethcart were meeting with Hotel management and tour coordinators before decisions were made. Many thanks to Randy and Carolyn for their efforts to ensure that that our concerns and safety were satisfied.

Information about our next reunion will be forth coming. But in the meantime a mini reunion is being organized for those who wish to attend. If you need information it is posted on our website.

God Bless and protect our Bobcats."

George Chavez
President.

(Reunion from page 1)

son's also thought so.

In fact Paul was motivated to put poetic braid cells to work and was able to compose a masterpiece.

"Julie and I were lamenting tonight about how disappointed you two must be today. All of that work, preparation, decisions, coordinating, contacts, scheduling, etc...

Wish that we could find some words to assuage your incredible heartaches, but, alas, I may be Irish but I sure

as hell ain't poetic...but, here's my best...

*There was a pair from the City
Who work hard for a party so pretty.
But a hurricane came
And, OH, what a shame,
For the weather was way far too shitty.*

Oh, well. My poetry's a bit like my pancreas...sick.

Hope to see you sometime soon.... perhaps a trip to Northwest Lower Michigan during the Fall colors?"

P & J

**But Hold-On Don't Despair -
New Plans!**

BOBCATS:

"I have been working on something today and with the help of Randy and Tom Frame I got it done I hope. During my call to General Anderson from the hotel he expressed his disappointment (as you all did) regarding this year's reunion being cancelled in SC. He asked me if there was anyway to get something still put together this year as he was looking forward to having us all together. I told him I was really stressed, and I was, trying to make so many calls but I would look into it. I think at the time I said it to pacify the General because I needed to get off the phone and make more calls. He was my first one.

Today, Randy and I are driving home and I get a text from Fred Deverse saying he had a call from the General last night and expressed his disappointment again and mentioned his desire to still have something this year.

I hate to disappoint the General. He holds such a loving spot in my heart, as he does yours also I'm sure. So this CSM, as some of you call me, put her thinking hat on.....what if????

Here are the details as I have them worked out. I'm in the car driving home so I have no hotel information right now, but trust me, I can get that done and hopefully get great rates.

The Bobcats can arrive into San Antonio on Monday, Nov. 11, 2019 (Happy Veteran's Day) or sooner depending on what the hotel tells me. That info will follow. We can have a mini reunion for 3 days, casual, not as much as our regular ones. We will find 1 or 2 small tours to do on Tuesday and Wednesday and find a place to all have dinner on Wednesday night. You can depart for home on Thursday morning if

(See Reunion on page 4)

5th Infantry Association

President - *George Chavez*
Vice President - *Nicky Fasselin*
Treasurer & Quartermaster- *Chester Johnson*
Secretary & Membership - *Fred Deverse*
Historian - *Sam Kier*
Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*
Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*
Past Presidents - *Bart Stanzione and Tom Frame*
Bobcat Board of Directors consists of the above and the following 5 elected directors:
Dan Curran, Robert Kiehm, Jeff McGrath, Gary Robertson, John Snodgrass
Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 19** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 19. Please renew now!

Reunions

San Antonio TX 11-14 NOV 2019
FL Social ST Petersburg 7-9 FEB 2020
Fairfax County VA 25-30 AUG 2020
Colorado Springs CO 14-19 SEP 2021

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

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

Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

George Chavez (MSG-R)

Distinguished Members of the Regiment

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

Honorary Members of the Regiment

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

Bobcat of the Year

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

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

ROSTER

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

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

Lost Members:

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

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

Roster Changes/Corrections:

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

Pruett, Michael - E-mail change
mpruett3660@att.net

Payne, Brian - New address
26 Sumner PL
FT Leavenworth KS 66027-1324

Wesbrock, Jason - New address
7139 Ardenes Loop
FT Hood TX 76544-1786

Williams, Willie - New address
PO BOX 4025
Deerfield Beach FL 33442-4025

Rockwell, Doug - New E-mail address
bobcat16xraydr1@yahoo.com

Whitaker, Fredrick - "Hi Fred, not a problem. I was 1st Platoon Leader/ A Company/1st of the 5th Mech from November, 1970 to April, 1971. My company commanders were Pitasnik and then Shields. Battalion base was in Camp Frenzel-Jones, and we operated in the Long Binh, Rung Sat, and Bear Cat/ Xuan Loc areas. Bobby Molter was a fellow platoon leader in A Co. and introduced me to the Association."

I replied and told him that I too was a platoon leader for a few months in A company in 1966.

To which he said, "What a nice coincidence. Do you remember where you were operating at the time? War Zone D, Boi Loi Woods, Iron Triangle perhaps?. I spent some time in that area with 2/34th Armor earlier in '70.

I replied, "Mostly in the Ho Bo and Boi Loi Woods." and Fredrick said, "Evil places."

New Members:

Messick, Mitchell (Allie)
7449 Courthouse Rd
Spotsylvania VA 22551
704-661-2962
2019 to present (*Active Duty*)
Bobcat 1 (Battalion S1)
Mitchell.k.messick@gmail.com

Taps:

Murphy, Norma - Reported on Face book in July that her son Steven Bremer died.

Sincock, Butch - A & B Companies
4/23 INF, 25th INF DIV - Former President and long time Executive Director of the 25th Infantry Division Association. Died suddenly on 8/31/19.
**See obituary on page 12*

Levy, Dr. Harold - Medical CO. 5th RCT Hawaii - Korea 49/50 - From Buffalo NY died 2 OCT 19

Website Expenses

An E-mail from Randy Kethcart to the 1/5th's Board of directors on 9/21/19.

"Our 3 year billing is due, permission to pay large expense needed, last paid 10/20/2016"

Charges for 10/20/2019

Weebly Premium Drag and Drop Builder = \$283.99

Site Backups and Restore = \$63.99

IPowerPro Hosting Plan = \$466.20

Total = \$814.18

Randy Kethcart

A motion was made and seconded and the vote to approve this expenditure was unanimous.

(Reunion from page 3)
you want.....

What do you say Bobcats? Please don't just smile or like this post, reply to it so I can get an estimated count before I call looking for hotels. I need to know, will you come to San Antonio..... We can do this if you all help me make it happen. I know it's short notice, but it will get us all together this year, or at least most of us.

You all still have monies invested in the SC reunion that I would be sending back, and we still will if you can't do this Texas trip, that's not an issue. If you want to come for a mini/ranch reunion, I can use some of those funds toward what we find to do in Texas. You may still get "change". I need answers sooner than later PLEASE.

Thank you all for your continued love and support. I love you all."

CSM Carolyn and PFC Randy

5 SEP 19

"I have talked to the Holiday Inn Express San Antonio Airport yesterday and today. Today Betty Young went to the hotel and talked to the manager, Victoria. I got on the phone with her and she has offered us \$97 per night/double room as the rate. This rate also includes breakfast. Not a bad deal. They have sent me a tentative contract to sign if I can promise them at least 20 rooms. I don't think that will be an issue, as all of you in this email have voiced that you will come to Texas for this.....

I don't want to sign anything for the hotel for group pricing before I know you are coming. There will be a phone number and /or direct link to make your reservations once I sign the contract.

Tom Frame, are you sure you made a reservation? They can't find you in the system at all, not even under Chris. I was going to have your reservation moved over if you wanted to. Let me know, I know you won't be home until tomorrow."

Thanks all,

Carolyn Kethcart

Texas Alternative Reunion

11 Nov - 14 Nov 2019
San Antonio, TX

(The following information was sent by

(See Texas Reunion on page 8)

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

Remembering and Saluting a Friend



"Had the honor once again to visit my special friend Ron Henry, this time it was 80 degrees warmer than the day we laid him to rest. Ron and I had a special relationship as we were both internet enthusiasts back when it was in its infancy and websites seemed to be the key to the future. I went on to develop the Bobcat website, Ron went on to make millions selling door bells and other security items on the internet. Ron was a huge generous supporter of the chapter and paid all of our internet related bills for well over a decade. Ron retired from the Army, then retired from Kroger security, then went on to his internet businesses. I'd like to say "rest in peace", but I doubt it would do any good. I doubt he is resting right now and has found many jobs in his afterlife. I know many of us miss him and it would be hard to come to this area and not leave him a coin."

Randy Kethcart (A Facebook post)

PX & Commissary For All Veterans

"Apparently some time within a year, all disabled veterans, regardless of disability rating, will get full base privileges, mainly PX/BX and commissary privileges. Currently these privileges are limited to only disabled veterans with a 100% rating."

N. WILLIAMS

Sam Alvarado's Facebook Posts

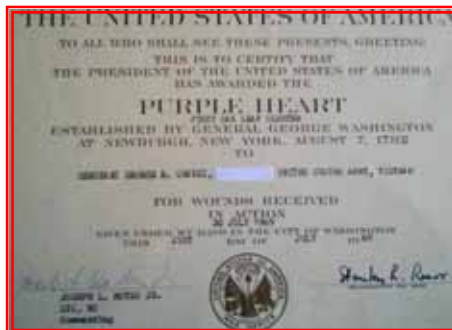


My guys! Recon Platoon 67-68

Took A Year To Learn To Walk Again

George Chavez on Facebook wrote:

"Was looking through some binders and found this. I remember that day (20



July 69) clearly, will never forget that day. Took me almost 1 year to learn to walk again."

Andy Gimma's Facebook Post



Andy, Jerry Yasher & Steven Solomon

LT Got Shot

"Hey so Summer Flashes comes, I open it and start to look at pictures before reading anything (always do this). Page 26 has a story about The Green Dragon, page 27. I'm looking at Track # 34, Now this is the Spooky part, the picture is from Aug 19, 1969, 51 years from the day I'm opening Flashes, 51 years from the day Co A made contact with a NVA unit. I lead 3rd platoon that day, we were point, LT got shot about 15 minutes into fight, so now I'm point Platoon and ranking guy in platoon. So anyway Frank (Goins) I thought you should know that your Track 34 made the Flashes and it only took 51 years. We lost 34 a very short time after this Picture (mine). Any way Frank I will miss you in SC. See you some Fred."

Chuck Kennedy

Remembering Gary Dobbins

"Gary and I served together with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. I was wounded on Aug. 19, 1968. On the 20th Gary came to see how I was doing and we spoke for a couple of hours about

(See Comments on page 6)

(Comments from page 5)
how we had some close calls the day



before. Little did we know the 21st
would be much, much worse. Rest In

Peace my brother."

Ed Kawczynski

Vietnam Monsoons

Quang Do said, "In VN war, I could do



without the bulletproof vest but would
not make a second day without the pon-
cho."

And Andy Gimma said, "While not
my unit this picture brought back many
memories."

And Tom Frame said, "Andy
(Gimma), I remember an ambush in a

graveyard and raining that hard."

And Sharon Ordy said, "I remember
that ambush too. It poured all night."

And Susan Mihalo VanRiper said,
"Harry has told me about the rainy sea-
son in Vietnam. I don't know how any of
you could make it through."

And David Daugherty said, "I re-
member more than a couple ambushes in
the pouring rain..."

And John Snodgrass said, "It sure
wasn't easy."

And Jim Fitzgerald said, "12 inches
of dust turned into 12 inches of rain
overnight in the rainy season."

And Shannon Schroeder said,
"Which turned into 12 inches of mud."

Not much left

Andy Gimma in a Facebook post
said, "March 31 1968, this is what was
left of our track after whacking a mine.
Luckily no major injuries, bumps, bruise-
es but all ok. Once again thank you Rog-
er Hayes for giving me a soft spot to

Paul Robinson said, "Found this while rummaging through old papers."

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	SYMBOLS
This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.	TELEGRAM	DL = Day Letter NL = Night Letter LT = International Letter Telegram
The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.		
817A PST FEB 9 69 LA078		
SYA135 (SY WA 120) XV GOVT PD FAX WASHINGTON DC 9 942A EST		
MRS JULIE L ROBINSON, DONT DLR BTWN 10PM AND 6 AM DONT PHONE		
CHECK DLY CHGS ABOVE 75 CTS		
11453 MEADOW CREEK RD EL CAJON CALIF		
THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND LIEUTENANT PAUL D ROBINSON WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN VIETNAM ON 8 FEB 69 AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION. HE RECEIVED FRAGMENT WOUND TO THE FACE WHILE ON COMBAT OPERATION WHEN HIT BY FRAGMENT FROM A HOSTILE GRENADE.		
HE WAS TREATED AND HOSPITALIZED IN VIETNAM. ADDRESS MAIL TO HIM AT THE HOSPITAL MAIL SECTION APO SF 96381. SINCE HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT SERIOUSLY WOUNDED NO FURTHER REPORTS WILL BE FURNISHED		
KENNETH G WICKHAM MAJOR GENERALUA C-1252 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL		
(1047).		
SF1201(112-65)		



land on!"

And Gary Young said, "That's the day I got hit in the wrist with shrapnel. I wonder if it might have been a piece of your track. I just remember getting hit and not what was happening at the time."

And Roger Hayes said, "This is what the armored personnel carrier looked like after burning and exploding for an hour-and-a-half, and cooling off overnight. It wasn't that bad when we helped evacuate our squad members. Good thing it was diesel; if it were gas powered, things would have been a lot different."

And Abe Cardenas said, "Amen my brothers."

And Laura Marie Gimma Willis said "Lucky you're still my favorite big brother."

And Paul E. Paradis said, "Amazing? Angels watching over you!"

Wear your Bobcat hat - Get a free meal?

My wife and I recently had breakfast at a Perkins' restaurant. The check came for about \$27. When I got up to pay I was informed that the couple who had been seated in the corner paid my bill. I did not know them and they were already gone so I could not thank them.

All I could figure was since I was wearing my Bobcat hat they recognized that I was a veteran and were thanking me for my service.

So wearing proof of service could result in having something paid for.

A Big Thank You!

I wish to sincerely thank the following for contributing articles and or pictures for the newsletter: Sam Kier, LTC Sonny Rosales, CPT Mitchell Messick, Teri Tringali, Paul Garland, Chester Johnson, Randy Kethcart, COL-R Nevin Williams, Paul Robinson, Joe Lex, and George Chavez.

Win a Free Trip Through VFW's "Return to Vietnam" Drawing

"If you received a Purple Heart for being wounded in Vietnam you could be one of nine lucky veterans to win VFW's "Return to Vietnam" trip. This in-country tour from April 16-29, 2020, will include Hanoi, Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), the DMZ, Khe Sanh, Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, Marble Mountain, Cu Chi and Tay Ninh. Airfare, accommodations and meals are included. Don't miss this chance to revisit battlesites and to share your experiences with fellow Vietnam veterans.

Entries must be received prior to the drawing on Nov. 29, 2019. Winners will be notified by mail or email immediately after the drawing. To claim their trip, winners must send a copy of their Purple Heart documentation to VFW National Headquarters by Jan. 3, 2020, and their passport by Feb. 7, 2020. If you do not have a passport, please apply immediately upon notification that you are a trip winner and that your Purple Heart has been documented.

The trip includes mainly Vietnamese meals but also will include American

food on occasion, long bus rides, excessive walking, and there are no handicap facilities anywhere on the trip. Everyone must participate in every inland trip and activity. Please consider these points of information before entering the drawing.

Note: Previous VFW-sponsored trip winners to various events are not eligible to participate in the "Return to Vietnam" trip.

*At least two winners will be selected from each VFW Conference.

Winners will receive:

- Economy airfare from their hometown to Vietnam.
- Single-room accommodations with three meals daily.
- Tours of sites listed above.
- Vietnam visa.

Send entries to: Adjutant General, Attn: Vietnam Trip, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111"

= Sent by Jeff Mc Grath (510 304-4432)

Fill out this form and send today!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

VFW Post No. _____

Location _____

Military Service, Unit: _____

Dates in Vietnam: _____

Non-member check to receive VFW membership information.

☐ Yes ☐ No

(Texas Reunion from page 4)
Gary Young)

'The reunion will start on 11 Nov at the hotel

Holiday Inn Express (Airport)
91 NE Loop 410
San Antonio, TX
210-308-6700

The hotel has a shuttle that will pick you up at the airport.

This is what we're calling a mini-reunion and is a replacement for the Charleston, SC reunion which was cancelled because of Hurricane Dorian. This mini-reunion is going to be somewhat different than all the reunions we've had in the past. There will be no group tours, no group dinner the last night of the reunion, no "Fragging" and no auction. All activities and/or sight-seeing will be at your discretion. The hotel does not provide a shuttle to the downtown area so, if you don't have your own vehicles, you will need to take Uber, a taxi, or the city bus service. Actually, because of the expense of parking downtown, you may want to consider leaving your vehicles at the hotel and utilizing one of these services anyway --- especially if you plan on drinking.....

San Antonio weather in November can be very unpredictable, it can be warm or what we Texans call cold (40 degrees) so it is suggested you bring a coat to keep you warm and possibly dry. This will be some of the Bobcats 5th year going to the ranch in November and we've been very fortunate to have had nice weather so far, but you never know. The ranch is in the middle of nowhere and the evening temps sometime gets cool even when the days are warm so Ronnie always builds a big bonfire for us to sit around and talk. Occasionally someone has brought their guitar and will give us a short performance of songs, so if you want to bring yours to you would be welcome to do so.

Betty and I have lived in San Antonio for over 50 years and here are some places we like that you may not read about at the San Antonio Convention & Visitors bureau

<https://www.visitsanantonio.com/>

Close to Downtown

Blue Star Micro-Brewery & Café:
<http://bluestarbrewing.com/> Good beer and good food.

Guenther House Restaurant:
<https://www.guentherhouse.com/> restaurant/ Note: if you want biscuits

and gravy here just order one biscuit, each one is real big.

Mi Terra: <https://mitierracafe.com/>
located at what is know as the Mexican market place

Riverwalk (Popular with tourists)

Lone Star Café:

<http://www.lonestarcafe.us/>

Casa Rio Mexican Restaurant:

<https://www.casario.com/>

County Line BBQ:

<https://countyline.com/>

river walk san antonio tx/

Saltgrass Steakhouse: [https://](https://www.saltgrass.com/locations.asp)

www.saltgrass.com/locations.asp
Click on "Select Locations" and go to San Antonio

Close to the Hotel (Hotel shuttle will take you there)

Sea Island Shrimp & Fish

<https://www.shrimphouse.com/>

Cheese Cake Factory [https://](https://locations.thecheesecakefactory.com/tx/san-antonio-51.html)

locations.thecheesecakefactory.com/tx/san-antonio-51.html

Soup or Salad:

<https://souplesalad.com/>

Cracker Barrel

<https://www.crackerbarrel.com/>

Pappadeaux Seafood [https://](https://www.pappadeaux.com/location/24)

www.pappadeaux.com/location/24

Logans Steak House:

<https://logansroadhouse.com/>

Saltgrass Steak House: [https://](https://www.saltgrass.com/locations.asp)

www.saltgrass.com/locations.asp Click on "Select Locations" and go to San Antonio

FT Sam Houston

To get onto Ft. Sam Houston you would either have to have one person with you with a military ID card or go to the Visitors Control Center at the Walters Street gate

Fort Sam Houston originates in 1845 when the Post at San Antonio was established in the Alamo City. The Army established a garrison and regional headquarters in rented buildings and a Quartermaster supply depot in the Alamo. After the Civil War, the Army began to move out of the city onto land donated by the City of San Antonio. In 1876, the construction of the Quadrangle began and the Quartermaster Depot moved into it in 1877. The garrison moved into tents west of the Quadrangle in 1879 and the Headquarters moved in 1881. The Post at San Antonio continued to expand with the addition of the Infantry Post in the 1880s. It was designated as Fort Sam Houston in 1890 and expanded again in 1905 with the Cavalry and Light Artillery Post.

These areas, plus the New Post of the 1930s, constitute the largest collection of historic buildings in the Department of Defense (800+) and form the Fort Sam Houston National Historic Landmark. Located in the heart of San Antonio, the post is the birthplace of military aviation and saw the development of the concept of airborne operations. The post evolved into the "Home of Army Medicine" after World War II and into the "Home of Military Medicine" with the establishment of the Medical Education and Training Campus in 2010. Many of America's finest military personnel have served at Fort Sam Houston. The post is proud of its historic role and the many initiatives to retain the historic character of the post while serving as a modern, model Joint Base for the future.

What to visit on Ft. Sam Houston:

Medical Museum: <https://ameddmuseum.amedd.army.mil/visit.html>

Historic General's houses: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/tx/tx39.htm>

Southern Command's HQ: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_South

Northern Command HQ: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_North

The Quadrangle was built between 1876 and 1879. Before that, the Army used a variety of buildings in downtown San Antonio to house its officers, troops and supplies. It is now the headquarters for the Fifth U.S. Army, also known as the Northern Command. Deer, ducks and peacocks roam the interior grounds of the Quadrangle. <http://www.texasescapes.com/SanAntonio/Tx/Quadrangle-Fort-Sam-Houston.htm>

Also inside the Quadrangle is the Ft Sam Houston Museum: <https://www.arnorth.army.mil/fsh-museum/Pages/default.aspx>

Make Hotel Reservations

Bobcats,

"I have sent the hotel the contract that they had me sign for the block of rooms. At any time now, you may call and book your rooms for your stay. The block begins on November 11th and goes through check out the morning of the 14th. I hope you can all make it on Monday so we can make the whole 3

(See Texas Reunion on page 10)

2020 Florida Winter Social

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

Hollander Boutique Hotel

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



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

(Pet Friendly Hotel - Handicap rooms available)

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

All Rooms Include

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

TERRACE



Heated Pool, Cabanas for Relaxing or Socializing and Outdoor Bar



Queen Bed Standard Room
\$127+ tax per night *(No Pool View)*



King Bed Room
Standard - \$137+ tax per night



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

RESERVATIONS

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

"Please do not book thru hotel"
To make reservations contact Teriann:
727-482-4564

TeriannsTravels@aol.com

Feel free to call anytime

Friday Dinner & Sunday Breakfast
information to Follow

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

Starlite Dinner Cruise - Sapphire Dinning Yacht

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

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

TERIANN TRINGALI

31 Crestview DR
Brookfield, CT 0804



Treasurer's Report

2nd Quarter Financial Report
(1 April - 30 June 2019)

April 2019:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$165
Quartermaster Sales	\$63.25
Charleston Reunion	\$1582.00
TOTAL	\$1810.25

Debits:

No Expenses	\$0.00
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May

Income:

Charleston Reunion	\$6062.00
Membership	\$25
Quartermaster Sales	\$12.75
TOTAL	\$6099.25

Debits:

R. Kethcart Colorado Reunion Planning	\$496.53
Chester Johnson Postage	\$49.33
TOTAL	\$545.86

June

Income:

Membership Dues	\$235
Quartermaster Sales	\$79.50
Charleston Reunion	\$178
TOTAL	\$492.50

Debits:

Wedgewood Resort- 5th INF Deployment	\$1200
TOTAL	\$1200

Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$1696.01
Savings Account	\$74399.70
TOTAL	\$76095.71

Treasurer/Quartermaster
Chester Johnson

Donations to the Association

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

Randy & Carolyn Kethcart - For a "piper" at the Charleston Reunion	\$200
Jim Caudle - Got & Paid for the Fragging name tape	
Ric Myers - Reunion refund	\$323
Carl Gilbert - Reunion refund	\$539
Jeff McGrath - Reunion refund	\$549
Wayne Overcash - Reunion refund	\$489
Barb Wood - Reunion refund in memory of former president Bob Wood	\$807

(Texas Reunion from page 8)

days out of it, especially for the ones that won't be going on to the ranch with most of us.

I urge you to do this as soon as possible so we know that you will be there for sure. The rooms are all double rooms, and the cost is \$97 per night, plus tax. This amount includes a breakfast each day.

Individual Call-in reservations can be made by calling **210-308-6700**. Please tell them either "Bobcat" or "5th Infantry Regiment Association".

Carolyn Kethcart

Carolyn,

"Could you let the folks who are coming to San Antonio know that if they are driving and have either disabled veterans or purple heart plates then they can park for free at downtown parking meters or city owned parking garages."

Gary Young

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.

New eligibility rules for Arlington cemetery



"Officials are moving to limit the number of individuals eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, restricting below-ground sites to combat heroes, battle casualties and a small pool of notable dignitaries.

Under the proposal, which still needs to be finalized through a public rulemaking process, some other veterans will still be eligible for storage of cremated remains at the famed site in above-ground structures, which will allow planners additional flexibility and space in coming decades.

The move by the Army, which administers the cemetery, is part of an ongoing effort to extend how long the cemetery can be used as a final resting place for America's service members. Army officials have for the last two years considered a series of site expansions and facility changes in an effort to deal with dwindling space at the site. "Arlington National Cemetery is a national shrine for all Americans, but especially those who have served our great nation," acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said in a statement. "We must ensure it can honor those we have lost for many years to come."

The 154-year-old cemetery, originally established as an overflow site for mounting Civil War casualties, has become one of the most hallowed military sites in America. More than 3 million visitors travel to the site annually.

Only about 100,000 burial sites are left at the cemetery, tucked between the Potomac River and the ever growing northern Virginia suburbs. Expansion plans are expected to keep burials on pace into the 2040s, but not much beyond that.

Under the latest proposal, 1,000 gravesites would be set aside for current and future Medal of Honor recipients, to

ensure space is reserved for those recipients of the highest military honor.

In addition to them, below-ground burials would be restricted to these other military groups:

- Troops killed in action, to include repatriated remains
 - Purple Heart recipients
 - Award recipients of the Silver Star or a higher honor
 - Combat-related service deaths “while conducting uniquely military activities”
 - Former prisoners of war
 - Veterans with combat service who “made significant contributions to the nation’s security” in other government posts
 - Former presidents and vice presidents of the United States
- Spouses of eligible individuals would also be allowed burial at their loved-ones plots.

Above-ground inurnments of ashes will be open to any veterans from World War II, military retirees, veterans who served in combat and spent at least two years in the ranks, and veterans without any combat service who “made significant contributions to the nation’s security” in other government posts.

Currently, any military retiree is eligible for below-ground burial at the site, and any veteran who left the service under honorable conditions is eligible for inurnment of ashes. The former group would only be eligible for inurnment now, while many of the later would not be eligible for any admission to Arlington.

The new restrictions are likely to cause controversy within the military community, since veterans groups have long opposed restricting eligibility at Arlington.

Army officials said the new changes will not affect any burials already scheduled, or any planned between now and the completion of the rulemaking process, expected to take at least nine months.

“Additionally, the proposed revisions will not affect veterans’ burial benefits or veteran eligibility at Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries,” the Army’s official release on the rules stated.”

**Copied from the Military Times Early Bird Brief <news@militarytimes.com> 26 SEP 19*

TALES OF CU CHI—THE CLEARING BARREL

BY
NEVIN R. WILLIAMS

“In 1967, I had the unenviable job of trying to command a headquarters company at the Cu Chi Base Camp in Vietnam. I was no stranger to being a company commander as I had had two previous commands.

However, this was my first experience commanding a headquarters company.

For those of you who are not familiar with a headquarters company, let me enlighten you. I was commanding “Headquarters Company & Band, 25th Infantry Division Support Command.” Although my company had a strength of over 200 soldiers, in fact, I commanded nothing. I commanded a First Sergeant, a Mess Sergeant, a Motor Pool Sergeant and maybe a couple of clerks. All my other soldiers worked for various staff sections. My company was augmented by an “ammo” Platoon which consisted of laborers—mostly misfits that had been expelled from combat units. This mob worked for somebody else—most likely the commander of the Supply & Transportation Battalion. However, as the Unit Commander, I did exercise “Article 15 Authority” or disciplinary authority over all assigned personnel.

The company area had a “clearing barrel” for clearing one’s weapon. This was a combat zone and all folks were to “lock & load” their weapon when leaving the division base camp. Upon returning to the camp perimeter, all personnel were to clear their weapons. As a final check, they were to clear their weapons when entering our company area. The clearing barrel consisted of a 55 gallon drum filled with sand. To clear one’s weapon, the soldier would point his weapon into the barrel and pull the trigger. If the soldier had cleared his weapon when he had entered the base camp, nothing would happen. One would hear the bolt of the weapon going forward but no explosion. If he had failed to clear his weapon upon entering the camp, an explosion would occur as the round in the chamber of the weapon was fired.

The Support Command Commander (a full colonel and my boss) called me in one day and said there were too many explosions at the clearing barrel. He was right in that. He told me to pass the word to the troops that the next violator (the next soldier who had failed to clear his weapon when entering the base camp and who fired a round into the clearing

barrel) would receive an article 15 (company punishment) from me, his company commander.

So, at the morning formation I announced the policy. The word was also spread to all the staff sections that the colonel “meant business.” Lo and behold, the very next night, I hear a loud explosion near the clearing barrel. I send the First Sergeant to investigate. He returns and tells me the name of the culprit.

I realize I am facing a quandary. The guilty soldier happens to be the Colonel’s driver. So I inform the colonel. He tells me to make no exception, to give the soldier an Article 15—the maximum I can give him.

So, I call the soldier in and proceed with the Article 15. As in all disciplinary cases, the soldier can insist on a trial by courts-martial. As is normally the case, the soldier elects company punishment. I have no recollection of what the punishment was, but I recall I gave him the maximum punishment, as the colonel had directed.

As with all matters of Article 15 punishment, this case was reviewed by the next higher commander. In this case, that man was the Colonel—the man who had directed the policy and the man who had directed the company punishment (of his driver).

The Colonel cancelled the company punishment of his driver. He was within his rights to do so. The question still remains in my mind, some 52 years later, why did he insist that I render the punishment if he knew that he would cancel it?”

New Memorial to Vietnam War Dogs Celebrates 'The Unbreakable Bond'

A new memorial to Vietnam war dogs opened in Motts Military Museum in Groveport, a southwest suburb of Columbus, Ohio.



Butch Sincock Former President and Executive Director of the 25th Infantry Division Association Dies

Morgan Joseph "Butch" Sincock, of Key West, FL and Dresher, PA, formerly of Chestnut Hill, passed away suddenly on August 31 at age 71. He is survived by Judith Murphy, MD, his beloved wife of 31 years.

Butch was born in Springfield, MA and lived in Natick, MA until college, but he dropped out of Boston University after one year, in 1966, to enlist in the Army during the Vietnam War. He attended Officers' Training School at Fort Benning and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation. He was sent to Vietnam as a member of the 25th Infantry Division, based in Hawaii,



serving in Tay Ninh and Cu Chi, among other areas, where he was awarded the Combat Infantry's Badge and 2 Bronze Stars for Valor. After his tour in Viet Nam he returned to the states and was assigned to Fort Belvoir, VA. He left the Army as a Captain. He returned to school, obtaining a Bachelor's degree from James Madison University in Harrisonburg VA and a Master's of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond VA.

Butch worked as a social worker in the Spinal Cord Injury section of the Richmond (VA) VAMC and then as Administrative Officer of the Medical Service at the same facility, where he met his future wife, Judith. Butch moved to Philadelphia to marry Judith, who had taken a position at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia. He joined the staff at the VA Regional Office in Germantown, from which he retired in 1997. He then joined the Travel Industry leading tours of veterans and their families first to Viet Nam, and later he took veterans from WWII and the Korean War, with their families, to battle sites in Asia and Europe.

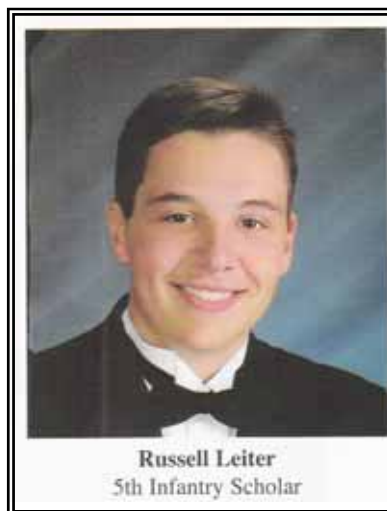
Butch also was active in the 25th Infantry Division Association, a group of veterans who served in the 25th Infantry Division, serving as their President from 1996-1998, and then as Executive Director from 1998 until he retired in 2016. Butch volunteered on the Board of the Philadelphia Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial, helping to oversee the recent redesign of the Memorial. Butch lived in Chestnut Hill until he and Judith moved to a retirement community in Dresher, PA in 2018. In 2000 Butch and Judith bought their "piece of heaven" in Key West, FL, visiting there as often as work allowed, and finally realizing their dream of the "endless summer"—summering in Dresher and wintering in Key West, this last year.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the 25th Infantry Division Association Memorial or Scholarship Fund, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031.

25th Infantry Division Association's / 5th Infantry Regiment Association's Scholarship Winner

Each year we donate \$1500 to the 25th Infantry Division Association's Scholarship Fund. They award that scholarship giving preference to a relative of a 5th Infantry veteran, if one who is qualified applies.

One requirement to get the scholarship is the applicant's 5th Infantry relative must have been a member of the 25th Infantry Division Association for at least one year prior to the application being submitted. The winner is:



Army officially unveils Expert Soldier Badge

As early as October, soldiers could be earning the Expert Soldier Badge - accoutrements targeted at everyone who isn't an infantryman, combat medic or Special Forces soldier.

The badge will test general soldiering skills, Command Sgt. Maj. Edward W. Mitchell, senior enlisted leader at the Center for Initial Military Training, said in an interview with Army Times. By offering testing and a badge, the Army hopes to provide incentive for units to train their warrior tasks and battle drills while in garrison and during peacetime.

The new badge, which is an initiative of Training and Doctrine Command, will be equivalent to the Expert Infantryman Badge and Expert Field Medical Badge and mirror how those badges test core infantry and combat medic proficiency outside of deployments.

"We wanted every soldier to make sure they understand that they are experts in their field," Mitchell said.

"Achieving the new badge ... requires a much higher standard, just like its cousins, which are the EIB and the EFMB." Pass rates during the ESB pilot testing were similar to that of the EIB and EFMB, the Army said in a statement Friday.

TRADOC Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy A. Guden in a service news release provided in advance to Army Times. "As it is now, not every Infantryman or Special Forces soldier earns the EIB and not every medic earns the EFMB," Guden said. "Keeping with the same mindset, this is a badge to award to those who truly deserve recognition as an expert in their career field."

Because no soldiers have the new badge yet, testing will be administered early on by soldiers with the other expert badges, since about 80 percent of the tasks will be the same.

The badge will require a five-day testing period. Test events will be based on the warrior tasks and battle drills first introduced at basic training, as well as up to five events selected by the brigade commander from a unit's Mission Essential Task List.

These could include reacting to an IED attack, marking CERN-contaminated sites or building a defensive fighting position.

To qualify to take the test, soldiers must pass the Army Combat Fitness Test, qualify as "Expert" on the M4 Carbine or M16 rifle and be recommended by their chain of command. The test will

then involve another ACFT, day and night land navigation, individual testing stations and it will end with a 12-mile foot march.

VA and Veterans News

Veterans benefits will see a cost-of-living bump this year, but how much?

"Veterans will see a cost-of-living increase in their benefits payouts later this year, but it likely won't be as big as the last one they received.

Last week, President Donald Trump signed into law the annual Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which guarantees that a host of veterans benefits will see the same annual boost as Social Security recipients.

Veterans benefits covered include disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation checks.

The measure is typically just a formality — it passed Congress again this year with no opposition — but is required annual work for lawmakers because federal statute does not link annual COLA increases for the two separate payouts. Legislative efforts in recent years to make the increases automatic for veterans have proven unsuccessful.

The official cost-of-living boost for social security beneficiaries won't be announced until next month, but multiple analysts have said they expect it to be below the 2.8 percent adjustment awarded last January....

The annual COLA calculation is based on a series of economic indicators, including the private sector wage growth. In the last decade, Social Security recipients (and individuals receiving veterans benefits) have gone without an annual increase three times. It has only gone about 2 percent twice in that span.

Frequently, lawmakers don't finalize the link between the veterans cost-of-living increase and the Social Security one until later in the fall, after the figure has been announced. Because of the timing of check distribution and the federal calendar, the increases in veterans benefits will be reflected in individuals' December payouts."

**From the "Military Times" 3 OCT 19*

More Veterans See Improvements in VA Health Care, VFW Survey Finds

"More veterans are giving a thumbs up to how they are treated when seeking Department of Veterans Affairs health care, according to the annual "Our Care" survey, released Sept. 27 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. And it found that they are feeling positive so far about the new Mission Act, with its private-care options, which went into effect in June. The survey of nearly 7,000 VFW members showed 74% reported seeing improvements at their local VA, compared to 64% in 2018. And 91% said they would recommend VA care to other veterans, compared to 80% in 2018."

**Week of September 30, 2019
Military.com*

A Million Veterans Have Looked Into Private Care Since Mission Act Rollout

"More than a million veterans have consulted with the Department of Veterans Affairs about going to a private doctor since the Mission Act rolled out three months ago, but there has been no immediate rush away from the VA health care system, officials said Sept. 25. "The bottom line is that the Mission Act is a success," said Dr. Richard Stone, head of the Veterans Health Administration. He added that the number of veterans enrolling in VA health care, or choosing to stay in the system, has actually increased since the Mission Act went into effect June 6. The new enrollments include veterans over the age of 65, when they become eligible for Medicare, he said at a hearing of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health."

**Week of September 30, 2019
Military.com*

VA Misses Deadline on Expanding Caregiver Program, Sets New Target

Military.com / By Patricia Kime

"Severely injured veterans from World War II through Vietnam who need around-the-clock care from a family member or friend won't be able to apply for the VA's Family Caregiver Program until "summer of 2020," the

Department of Veterans Affairs announced Wednesday.

The new estimate for enrollment is based on the department's expectations for establishing a new information technology system to handle the expansion, as well as making other improvements, including hiring more staff, before adding beneficiaries.

As part of the 2018 VA Mission Act, Congress required the VA to expand the program to veterans from previous wars. By law, the VA must have the IT system certified before it can grow the program.

The department was supposed to have the system in place by Oct. 1, 2018, with subsequent enrollment of veterans by Oct. 1, 2019. But it missed both deadlines, saying earlier this year it expected the new system wouldn't be ready until the end of fiscal 2020....

The new timeline will likely disappoint caregivers of veterans who served before May 7, 1975 -- the first planned expansion. Many had hoped they'd begin receiving support, health benefits and a stipend for providing care and assistance to their loved ones starting this year....

"Caregivers play a critical role in the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable veterans," he said in a statement.

The VA Family Caregiver Program currently provides benefits to those who care for seriously injured veterans wounded in combat or whose service-connected injuries have been aggravated, preventing them from performing activities of daily living by themselves, or who need supervision.

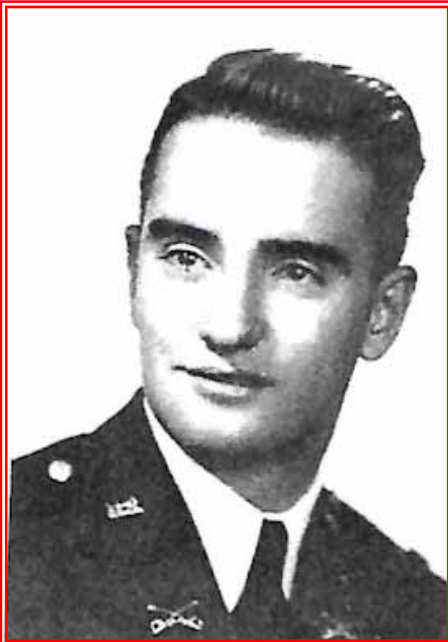
Caregivers can be a spouse, parent, child, family member or individual who lives with the veteran. The program has helped 38,000 post-9/11 veterans and their caregivers and currently costs more than \$900 million a year.

The plan is to expand the program to severely injured veterans of all eras, with the expansion to include those who served from May 1975 through Sept. 10, 2011, to occur two years after the Vietnam era and earlier veterans begin enrolling.

Under the timeline provided by the VA in a release Wednesday, it expects to roll out the new IT system, called the Caregiver Record Management Application, or CARMA, next month. In January, VA staff will prepare the system needed to manage stipends and, by summer, program applications from the new group will be accepted....

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier



LTC Terry De La Mesa Allen, Jr

"I've been re-reading Rick Atkinson's *An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943* and there is frequent mention of MG Terry Allen and his 1st Infantry Division. That reminded me that when I was stationed at Ft. Lewis, the general's only child, LT Terry Allen, Jr., was just down the street, serving as XO for Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion. My e-mail pal, Don Shipman, who was a sergeant in 1st Battalion, described young Allen as "very outgoing, friendly guy; young and full of P and V." It was said by others that he treated the soldiers around him with dignity and respect.

Terry Jr's army heritage went back to his grandfather, Samuel E. Allen, a West Point graduate who served 42 years as an artillery officer in the regular army. Samuel was married to Conchita Alvarez de la Mesa, the daughter of a Spanish colonel who came to the U.S. to fight for the Union during the Civil War.

When Terry Jr was 15-years-old, his father began intensively lobbying influential friends and politicians to ensure that his son would be admitted to West Point after graduating from the New Mexico Military Institute. Dad's cajoling plus a year of remedial tutoring at another military prep school finally led to "Sonny" securing a senatorial appointment to the USMA in 1948 at the

age of 19.

Terry finished second to the bottom of the class of 1952 but that was of little consequence. He demonstrated leadership skills that would prove more important to his chosen career than an aptitude for mathematics or engineering. When Terry was at Ft. Lewis, a numerical evaluation of his efficiency report placed him in the upper one-sixth of all 1st LT's in the Army.



MG Allen and Terry -
Father and son, 1944

Upon receipt of his captain's bars, Terry was assigned to the Continental Army Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. That assignment was followed by Command and General Staff School and, soon after that, marriage. In October, 1960, thirty-two-year-old Terry Allen married eighteen-year-old Jean Ponder of El Paso, Texas and they departed for his next assignment with the 8th Infantry Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. Jean gave birth to three daughters, Consuelo, Bebe, and Mary Frances, during the couple's six years in Europe.

In 1966, Terry returned state-side for a post with the U. S. Strike Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, but he soon received orders to report for duty in Vietnam on February 25, 1967. An assignment as S-3 for the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, First Infantry Division awaited him.

Meanwhile, back in El Paso, Jean Allen was hired by an ABC affiliate to anchor a weekly public-affairs show. She interviewed artists and authors on Sunday afternoons. She came into contact for the first time with people who were critical of the war in Vietnam and she quickly embraced their viewpoint and reasoned that if the war was wrong, so was her husband. Her letters became so alarming to him, that he took emergency leave and went home to try to salvage his marriage. He was not successful. Terry returned to Vietnam and,

in late July, assumed command of the battalion.

On 8 October, 2nd Battalion began conducting search and destroy operations west of the village of Chon Thanh. Chon Thanh is about 40 kilometers due north of Cu Chi on Highway 13. Four out of the five companies (HHC, A, B, and D) were involved. C Company was providing fire base security for the supporting artillery unit.

Delta Company engaged a large enemy force on 16 October directly south of the battalion's night defensive position. At least 30 VC soldiers were killed by direct fire, mortars, and artillery. Four members of D Company were wounded in action.

LTC Allen set his plans for the following day based on a two-company search-and-destroy operation led by A Company with the battalion command group and D Company in trail. The two companies would be protected by artillery "marching fire" to its front and flanks.

LT Clark Welch, commander of D Company and the most field-experienced officer in the battalion, had a better understanding of the enemy's capabilities and advised against going into the jungle under the prevailing circumstances. His advice was ignored.

Shortly before noon, Alpha Company's 65 men ran into two battalions, three to four hundred men, of the 271st VC Regiment. Two platoon leaders were immediately killed and the company commander, CPT James George, was blinded and deafened by an enemy Claymore. Nearly every man in A Company was killed or wounded in the first 30 minutes of action.

Company D formed a perimeter around the battalion command group. Enemy fire was heavy with small arms, machine guns and RPGs crashing through the underbrush into the Delta position. LTC Allen desperately tried to direct air strikes against the enemy, but they were ineffective due to the nature of the double-canopy jungle and the proximity of friend and foe. Practically all of D Company's radios had been destroyed or badly damaged. Communications were maintained by gathering damaged radios so they could be cannibalized.

At this point, LTC Allen ordered LT Welch to withdraw along their ingress route, but doing so would have required abandoning the wounded and Welch ignored the order. Enemy fire continued to hit the Delta perimeter from three directions and casualties continued to

mount. LT Welch was wounded five times but survived the fight.

At about 1400, some 2 ½ hours after the contact began, a relief force from B Company fought its way to the Delta perimeter. By that time, Terry Allen and everyone in the battalion command group was dead, Alpha Company was destroyed and Delta Company was more than decimated.

This battle of Ong Thanh, so named because it took place near a stream of the same name, resulted in the loss of 60 Americans. The Viet Cong left 163 bodies on the battlefield.

James Shelton, Terry Allen's S-3, described Terry as a first-class person and soldier. He had probably never considered what would happen if his lead company was knocked out immediately and that he would lose control over that entire company. He didn't foresee that air and artillery would be useless to him as the enemy closed on his unit. He didn't visualize that the Big Red One – the great division that his father had commanded - would be incapable of helping.

Terry de la Mesa Allen, Jr. received the Distinguished Service Cross, posthumously, for his actions during the battle of Ong Thanh. LT Clark Welch was also awarded the DSC.

MG John Hay initially portrayed Ong Thanh as an American victory because of the VC body count. However, the U.S. Army veterans who survived the ordeal were adamant that they had been ambushed and defeated by the 271st VC Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Terry Allen was buried at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso. When his father, Major General Terry Allen died on September 12, 1969, he was buried beside his son."

Sources

Maraniss, David, *"The War at Home, Texas Monthly, October 2003.*

Shelton, BG James E. Ret, *The Beast Was Out There, Cantigny First Division Foundation, 2002.*

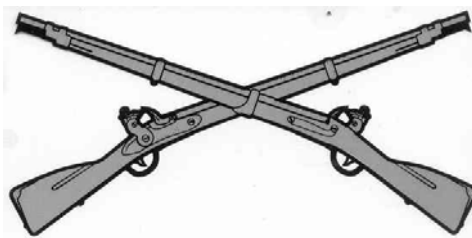
Wheeler, James S., *The Big Red One, University Press of Kansas, 2007.*

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination."

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who do nothing about it."

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

-Albert Einstein



Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Distinguished Service Cross
is Awarded to:**

PFC Joseph Martin Brady

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Joseph Martin Brady, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Private First Class Brady distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions extraordinary heroism while participating in a search and destroy operation against hostile forces near Tapang Son, Republic of Vietnam, on 5 February 1967. The lead elements of Private Brady's Company were suddenly taken under extremely intense and accurate gun fire from a Viet Cong force of undetermined size concealed in well fortified positions. The Third Platoon immediately maneuvered forward to flank the enemy positions, simultaneously drawing a heavy volume of enemy fire. As they maneuvered towards their objective, one of the armored personnel carriers was struck by an enemy (RPG-2) recoilless rifle round and burst into flames, seriously wounding all of its occupants. Without hesitation, Private Brady fearlessly exposed himself to the withering enemy fire as he dismounted his own vehicle and rushed to the aid of his wounded comrades. Private Brady, upon arriving at the flaming armored personnel carrier, entered the vehicle and assisted a wounded comrade out of the raging flames to the comparative safety of his own vehicle. Once again, he traversed through the bullet riddled enemy "Killing Zone," entering the vehicle and helping another wounded comrade to safety. Once he was assured that all of his wounded comrades were safely evacuated, Private Brady again returned to the flaming vehicle, attempting to extinguish the blazing flames. Realizing that the flames had spread too rapidly to completely extinguish, Private Brady crawled into the driver's compartment and shut off the master switch, completely disregarding the intense heat. Although knowing that the vehicle might explode at anytime, Private Brady then climbed into the cupola of the vehicle, exposing himself to the enemy fire, and began to place a suppressive volume of .50 caliber fire into the enemy positions, attempting to subdue the withering enemy fire and allow his comrades to flank the enemy positions. He quickly found his target, eliminating the enemy automatic weapons position and killing three of the enemy insurgents. Simultaneously, Private Brady began to receive heavy sniper fire into his position. Although uncertain of the enemy's location, Private Brady aggressively began to search for the insurgent by fire, spraying the area with a devastating volley of .50 caliber fire. Ignoring the enemy sniper rounds that were ricocheting off of his cupola, Private Brady continued to expose himself, trying to eliminate the enemy, until he was mortally wounded by the enemy sniper rounds. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his own safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, all of the wounded men in the burning armored personnel carrier were quickly evacuated; the flames were controlled and the vehicle eventually rescued, and the enemy automatic weapons position was silenced, allowing his comrades to overrun and disperse the enemy without sustaining any further friendly casualties. Private Brady's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself, and the Armed Forces of his country.

Department of the Army, General Orders No. 46 (October 26, 1967)
Home Town: Weston, West Virginia

Bobcats Are In Iraq

(Iraq Continued from page 1)

borne Division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. We held a ceremony to uncase our colors, a symbol of our complete assumption of Task Force Jazeera and all associated missions. We are now at the tip of the spear, continuing to work with our coalition partners to further the great work our predecessors have accomplished. Alongside our Iraqi partners, we are ensuring the total annihilation and defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

How are we accomplishing our mission? T.E. Lawrence said it best in his Twenty Seven Articles, published in 1917, "Do not try to do too much with your own hands... It is their war, and you are to help them, not to win it for them." This snippet has helped us understand how best to advise, assist, and enable (A2E) our Iraqi partners, which is our ultimate mission.

Together with our coalition partners, our continued work with the Iraqis will pay dividends in providing regional stability and, ultimately, lead to the defeat of ISIS. Your Bobcats are trained, equipped, and well led to accomplish this mission! Stay tuned for additional updates on the great work the men and women of the 5th Infantry Regiment are doing out here to defeat ISIS!"

Have a great day!

Respectfully,

Mitchell Messick

CPT, AG

Battalion S1

TF Jazeera, AAAB

1-5 IN, 1/25 SBCT

** CPT Messick is one of our newest members*



The 1-5 IN command team uncases the Battalion colors.

Photo credit: CPT Haileigh Combs



The 1-5 IN command team renders a salute to the Battalion colors, officially assuming authority of Task Force Jazeera. *Photo credit: CPT Haileigh Combs*

A special thanks to CPT Mitchell Messick for the article and CPT Haileigh Combs and SSG Jordan Weeg for the pictures.



CDR LTC Sonny Rosales &
CSM Brady Davis



An E-mail from Roger Sperl who lives in Fairbanks Alaska.

“Hello Fred, According to the Bobcats Facebook site 1/5th is now in Iraq. Their area of operation is the Mosul area where there has been a resurgence of ISIS or Daesh as they are called in Iraq. I have been in contact with the Ft. Wainwright Bn XO, 1Lt Keith Newsom. He has given the mailing address of our soldiers as :

(Soldiers Rank) First and Last Name
Company, 1-5IN, 1-25 SBCT
APO, AE 0933.

I have also requested to be included in Family Readiness and Support Group activities here in regards to welcoming committees in support of returning wounded soldiers and those being re-deployed.

Hopefully all our Bobcats will return safely and be welcomed home together in about 9 months.

Best to all.”

Roger Sperl

B Co. 1/5 Infantry - Viet-Nam 1970



Soldiers from Anger Company, 1-5 IN moving into their new living accommodations. As the saying goes, “home is where you hang your hat.” Photo credit: SSG Jordan Weeg



“On September 20th, 1-5 IN BN assumed authority of TF Jazeera from the 1-506th, as part of OIR: Task Force Iraq and Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve - عملية العزم الصلب. We are excited to support this coalition and **#defeatdaesh!**”

“September 25 - This morning, the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Bastogne" cased their colors as 1/25 SBCT "Arctic Wolves" uncased theirs, signifying mission complete for Bastogne and the beginning of a new mission for the Arctic Wolves. After a successful nine-month deployment, Bastogne will redeploy their remaining Soldiers back to Fort Campbell this week to reunite with their families and enjoy some well-deserved R&R.” (From the 1/5th Facebook page)

Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

From our Webpage's "Guestbook" 6/11/19

"Hello, my name is Nick MODZINSKI. My uncle Ferdinand Blechinger, was killed in Korea. Trying to find anyone that might have known him. He was killed in May of 51'. Any information would be great!! Thank you for your time.

Nick

Nick,

"Your Guestbook message regarding your uncle, PFC Ferdinand Blechinger, was forwarded to me.

In early May, 1951, the 5th RCT dug in on hilltops astride the Pukhan Valley near the ruins of a village called Masogu-ri. Your uncle was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion. On 15 May, they were warned to expect a Chinese attack. The attack began very early on the morning of the 17th. At 0150, Company G reported that it was engaging an estimated enemy battalion that was mounted on horseback (a rare sight in Korea.) The company withdrew to a tighter battalion defensive perimeter. They were subjected to a Chinese mortar barrage at around 4:00 A.M. Your uncle was very likely killed during those early morning hours of the 17th.

You expressed an interest in getting in touch with someone who might have known PFC Blechinger. According to the 2013 directory of the 5th RCT Association, there were around 15 living members of that organization who may have served with your uncle in Company G in 1951. Several, like he, were from the Midwest. I'll forward your message to Frank Jennings, editor of the 5th RCT Association Newsletter. Perhaps he can include your inquiry in his next issue. Good luck with your quest for information."

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Infantry Regiment

Dear Sam,

For some unknown reason your e-mails dated March 25 and June 17 have just appeared in my e-mails. I had been receiving Fred's e-mails but none from yourself.

The National Archives in St. Louis said they could not help me (at the mo-

ment I cannot find the letter to tell you exactly what they replied) sorry. I have attached all the information that I have.

I do know that when my Dad left the American Army. He went to Canada and joined up so that he could fight in the war. My brother informs that Dad wished he had stayed in America.

Thank you so much for your time and patience I really do appreciate it."

Cathy Coomber

Cathy,

"Thank you. There must be more documentation out there somewhere. I'll see what I can find. Meanwhile, I thought you might be interested in this article about one of your dad's contemporaries, Richard Hazel. At least you can get an idea of what was happening at the time your father was with the 5th.

Perhaps the e-mails you received were forwarded by Fred. I'll include him in this mailing."

Sam

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/transparency/atip/Pages/request.aspx?type=MIL>

Cathy,

"Have you checked with the above Canadian Archives for your father's Canadian Army records? His last enlistment in the U.S. Army, at Ft. Lawton, Washington, would have ended in June, 1941 and apparently he became anxious to get into the fight in Europe so he went north at that time, June, 1941, to enlist. Little did he know, at the time, that the U.S. would get into it six months later.

I'm also wondering how he lost his corporal's stripes. His discharges are all honorable. When he re-enlisted at Ft. Lawton he was, once more, a private. Had he been out of the Army for a period?"

Sam

Sam,

"Thank you for your quick reply and the information on Richard Hazel and the 5th, it is very interesting. I have no idea how he lost his corporal's stripes. All I have on his time in the American Army is the information that I sent to you. And as far as I am aware he was never out of the Army (*I was only 22 when my Dad passed away in 1978*).

I haven't pursued his Canadian Army career as I thought I would start at the beginning with America. I do know

the regiment he was in in the Canadian Army, his number, and have a piece of paper that says "From 8 Sept 38" So obviously I am wondering how he could be in two different Armies at one time?

He stayed in the Army until 1960 when my Mother made us all come to England as that is where she was from."

Cathy

Sam

"Copy of my e-mail I sent to you (Thank you for your quick reply and the information on Richard Hazel and the 5th it is very interesting

I have no idea how he lost his corporal's stripes, all I have on his time in the American Army is the information that I sent to you and as far as I am aware he was never out of the Army (I was only 22 when my Dad passed away in 1978)

I haven't pursued his Canadian Army career as I thought I would start at the beginning with America

I do know the regiment he was in in the Canadian Army, his number, and have a piece of paper that says "From 8 Sept 38"

So obviously I am wondering how he could be in two different Armies at one time?

He stayed in the Army until 1960 when my Mother made us all come to England as that is where she was from)

I am also having problems with my e-mail server and have been for the last few weeks, just had to telephone them again to access my e-mails and found yours in my spam box."

Cathy

Cathy,

"I hope you're having some success getting your e-mail fixed. So far, this is what you've been able to tell me about your father.

- He first enlisted in the Army in 1925 and was assigned to Company A, 5th Infantry Regt in Portland, Maine
- He re-enlisted in 1928 at New Haven, CT (the regiment participated in summer maneuvers throughout New England)
- He re-enlisted in 1931 at Portland, Maine
- He was discharged on 6 June 1938 at Ft. McKinley, Portland, Maine but

- Re-enlisted on the same day at Ft. Lawton, WA this is a real mystery because Ft. Lawton housed the Army Corps of Engineers and no infantry at that time. He would not have had to be physically present in two places to be discharged in Maine and re-enlist at Ft. Lawton and whatever he was doing at Ft. Lawton, there certainly could have been a recruiting officer there.
- He enlisted in the Canadian Army in September 1938. *Your brother said that he did so to get into the war but the British Commonwealth, of which Canada was part, did not declare war on Germany until September 1939. If your father, for some reason had been demoted in rank, reduced to private, as the recruiting records indicate, he might have soured on the U.S. Army and decided to quit and head north.*

You apparently did request your father's WWII service record (AGO form 24) from the National Archives but, unfortunately the vast majority of World War II-era Army service records were burned in a 1973 fire.

- At some point, your father re-entered the U.S. Army and served until he retired in 1960. Upon his retirement, he would have received a new service record, the DD214. This replaced the old AGO form 24 beginning in 1950. *So my question would be whether both his old service record and his new one were lost or whether it was just his AGO form that was destroyed in the fire. Hopefully you can locate the information that you received from NARA in St. Louis and/or make another request specifying that you want your father's DD214. (I exited the Army in 1956, four years before your father did, and my DD214 did survive the 1973 fire.)*

I don't know whether this is helpful or not. I'm just trying to help organize your search. Please let me know if some other information should pop up."

Sam Kier

Lisa,

"I'm sorry. I just noticed your January entry on the 5th Infantry Regiment website bulletin board and I was wondering if you've been able to learn anything more about your dad's army ser-

vice in World War II? You stated that his records were lost in the archives fire. That fire was in St. Louis not Washington DC. The 5th Infantry Regiment was never attached to the Big Red One (1st Infantry Division). During World War II, the 5th Infantry Regiment was part of the 71st Infantry Division. Folks frequently confuse the 5th Infantry Regiment and the 5th Infantry Division. A division is larger than a regiment. During World War II, there were three infantry regiments in every infantry division.

I notice that there is a Wiki-tree page for your father, Jefferson J. Phelps, suggesting that he served with the 5th Signal Company. That unit was part of the 5th Infantry Division. According to your father's dates of service, he would have been assigned to the 5th when it was first organized, then shipped to Iceland, then to England in August 1943 and then ashore at Normandy on July 9, 1944. Your dad survived battles in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes and Central Europe. Do you have his Purple Heart citation or was the only copy lost in the archives fire?

That business about "merging into the Big Red One" didn't occur until Vietnam. When the 1st Infantry Division deployed to Vietnam in 1965, it was understrength, so two infantry battalions from 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, at Ft. Devens, MA, were assigned to the 1st Division.

So, if you want to find out more about your father's army career, you need to focus on books and articles about the 5th Infantry Division in World War II. I noticed a 1st Division shoulder patch on his Wiki-tree page. That should probably be replaced with the red diamond of the 5th Infantry Division."

Sincerely,

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn

Tank Display

Hello,

"I apologize for reaching out to you without warning but I was wondering if you or another member of your organization might be able to help me. I am a volunteer at the American Heritage Museum and we are currently repainting one of the tanks in our Korean display to

match one of the 5th RCT's M4's in early 1951. We selected one of the vehicles from the 4th tank platoon as it has the most photographic reference (2 photos!) and also because we know the names of the crew members at the time. We were hoping to reach out to any surviving crew members and their families both to let them know that we are trying to honor them and their unit's actions in Korea and also to invite them to our museum when we are finally done with the project. Dan is our painter extraordinaire and he is determined to do this right. If you have a way of contacting the crew and/or their families (Cpl John T Clark, Sgt. Frank G Allen, Sgt Theodore R Liberty, Cpl William J Bohmbach, and Cpl James E Kishbough) we would be most grateful for the help. Additionally, if you know of anyone who might have more than the two published photos of this vehicle we would also love to talk to them, we want to get this one right! I have included a photo of the tank we are representing as well as a photo of where



we are in the project; it's a lot of work. . .

Thank you very much for your time and attention,"

Matthew Flegal

Matt,

"As you may already know, all five crew members survived the war. William Bohmbach died some time ago in

(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 - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$23.00
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

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



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



**New lower prices
 for shirts!**



DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

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

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

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

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

Ric Myers,

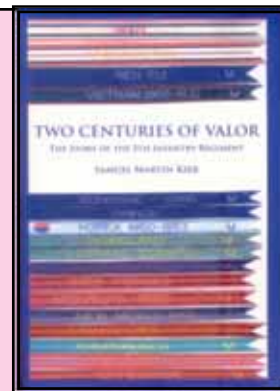
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

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

have participated in.

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



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

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

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

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

(Please Print)

Name: _____

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

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Application 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____

in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____

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

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

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

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

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

Letters From Vietnam

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

22 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

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

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

Now for the pictures. #15 is a MEDEVAC chopper taking off for another load after dropping casualties at the 25th Med Battalion. That's Nui Ba Dien in the background. #16 is not two bartenders or half of a barbershop quartet. They are medics from Alpha Company. That's "Blinky" on the left and "Ziggy" on the right. #17 is a combat-



hardened veteran, whose name slips my mind at the moment, but his initials are LEX. #18 is again our hero, armed with M-16, insect repellent and water purifi-



cation tablets. #19 was an attempt to catch the beginning of a rain storm. I'm afraid that the cloud cover was a little heavy. Well, that is about all for now. I'll try to dash off a note tomorrow between filling pill envelopes. Now off to the mattress.

Love Joe

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

23 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Lot's of action since the last letter. We got a rocket and mortar attack last night that sent everyone to the bunkers. Alpha company went forward to reinforce 4/23 (M) and turned the tide on the battle. An ARVN compound about 6 miles from here was overrun.

Then today we got the joyous news that we have a MEDCAP about 20 miles away in the same village that Alpha be searching ... and we have to leave at 300 hrs. Luckily enough that was cancelled a few minutes ago. Rick and the mechanics have been working feverishly to repair a broken torsion bar on the truck. Of course it is pouring rain. I helped them until 2030 when they announced there was a Mass in the mess hall. The priest was a Croatian Father from Minneapolis who goes home in 10 days.

Only one picture today. I caught the beginning of a rain storm before it got too dark. More later.

Love, Joe

26 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Hi!! Guess who I ran into today? Nelson, that's who! He's with a straight-leg unit (2/14) here in Tay Ninh. I also found out where about 12 other guys are. Nelson is coming back tonight and maybe we will go to the club together for old time sake (3 months ago).

Charlie company got ambushed this morning and I had to meet the chopper to get the information on everyone. Doc

is at the hospital now checking on the guys. Three were treated and released, but three were hit pretty bad and will have to go back to the states. They hit a command detonated mine followed by automatic weapons fire while sweeping roads.

We move to Dau Tieng tomorrow and I hope that it will be our rainy season logger site. It rains three times a day now and all this moving is ridiculous. Doc goes in to Cu Chi tomorrow and I'll be track commander with Rick driving and 3 new men in country as my "trusts".

Two pictures today of Bravo company moving in. Notice the Confederate flags and the writing (the Good, the Bad & the ugly).

Also of interest, 1/5th(M) will no longer be "Bobcat". Brigade is changing our call sign to (get ready for this one now----) "Jacob's Ladder"! Isn't that a rough tough fighting unit if you've ever heard of one? Besides, we are now stuck with a perfectly good Bobcat from New Mexico (maybe we could pass it off as a sick leopard). I am now "Jacob's Ladder one-six X-ray," which means I could forget what I was going to say before I finished my call sign.

More tomorrow if I'm not too tired after our trip.

Love Joe

30 July 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Please pardon the long delay, but since we hit Dau Tieng things have been rather hectic. On Sunday one of Recon's tacks hit a mine and I had to get the reports on them. Then on Monday the point men from Alpha company ran into a booby trap, so same-same. I don't know if it means much, but the Battalion CO and Doc said it was the best job of casualty reporting they have had in a long time and kind of appointed me "Forward Area Casualty Clerk" which means when anybody is hit I have to phone all over South Vietnam to find out who they are, where they are and what happened.

We pull a MEDCAP in the village of Dau Tieng tomorrow. Nobody cares for the idea of a MEDCAP because we kind of got horse waggled into it. Since Doc isn't out here, John our new 91C (SP6) and I are ranking men and the S-5 is a lieutenant. (Pardon me, S-5 is Civil Affairs & liaison). He sort of ordered us to hold a MEDCAP.

John has never been on a MEDCAP and is scared about setting up in a VC

held village. I don't mind the MEDCAP, but I don't like being afraid either.

I received the camera yesterday. Thank you much, I'll try to get some color shots to you as soon as possible. There is really nothing unusual to take pictures of.

I went looking for the nearest hospital the other day so I stopped in at 2/22nd (M) dispensary and lo and behold, there was Dwight Ricketts, one of my classmates And one of the medics was Fred Huff, a guy I worked with at VFGH before I started school. Then I did find the hospital (25th MED) there was Andy ("Monk") Anglin and Dan Blankinship, two guys from the class before mine. I guess it really is a small world when you think of it.

More later. I'm trying to finish a book tonight (In God WE Trust ... All Others Pay Cash) before bedtime. Bye.

Love, Joe

=====

1 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

First of all, belated birthday greetings. I didn't realize August followed July so quickly. I can imagine the birthday party consisted of unpacking 173 shipping crates.

We splurged a little bit today (yesterday was payday) and bought 6 lawn chairs. You can't realize how strange it is to sit in a chair for the first time in six weeks.

Now that John knows what is going on (sorry John is our new 91C) and Doc is out here for few weeks, I'll be going back to Cu Chi for a few weeks. I'm going to try and grab a supply plane sometime tomorrow. I really don't want to go back, but I must.

I can finally say the rainy season is here for good. We don't even bother to go to the showers any more. At 1900 hours we go outside without fear of wasting water. Of course it is about 60 degrees so you don't stay out long anyway.

Little more to write now. More soon.

Love, Joe

=====

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Well that rickety old flying boxcar made it from Dau Tieng yesterday, but not before the crewman scared the wits out of us. "Good afternoon. Our flying

time to Cu Chi should be about 29 minutes. If we have difficulty in the flight, we shall attempt to land at a friendly base. If no friendly bases are near, we will land anyplace possible. If an emergency landing is required please remove all items from pockets and glasses. We will jettison all baggage and equipment. Put your head between your knees and brace yourself for the crash." On this encouraging note, we flew.

I sent two rolls of film to be developed today. While up at Dau Tieng last week, I picked up some almost expired 35 mm film for \$1.50 per roll (20 pictures), so I'll probably use that next.

In the rear here, it's as boring as ever, but nobody is shooting at us. Bravo company was on a search and destroy today and somehow signals were crossed. One of our ships fired on them. Results: 1 squad leader killed, 6 people injured, including one of our medics. I imagine that this will be hushed up like most such incidents.

I got your map of Havana today and found Orange St. What corners are we near? Also where is Dad's office?

I'll write more tomorrow. Bye for now.

Love Joe

=====

5 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Hi. Sorry I didn't write yesterday, but I was squaring away some of my "social obligations". I wrote to Monica, Bob, Harry's wife and LTC & Mrs. Frey. If I'm still in Cu Chi next Sunday I'll write the grandmothers and Aunt Mary's and Uncle George's (I need the address) and possibly the Johnson's. Sunday is the best day to write since they play "mood music" all day on the radio. Then I don't mind sitting down and forcing out a few words on paper.

I'm sending my last two pay vouchers so you can keep them for me. I believe the others are in my desk. As you can see, they are holding \$200 per month at 10% interest for me. I checked at Division Surgeon, Finance, Personnel and management today before I found out that I couldn't draw proficiency pay. The Army figures that it cost so much to put a person through 91C school they should try and keep them as long as possible, so the extra \$75 per month comes only if it's a 6 year enlistment or in a "reup". They can keep their \$75 per month.

The picture is of Dan Clark and myself in front of our Cu Chi Aid Sta-

tion. Dan is the 91C who had encephalitis and had everyone wondering whether he would live or not. Other than being a little shaky and tired all the time, he's been fine now. He is just mad because the new SP6 took his slot and now he can't get SP6. Those shirts are operating shirts which are quite cool in the heat over here except that they are unauthorized for Infantry Battalions (what they don't know won't hurt 'em).

Well, time to sign off. More later.

Love, Joe

There are no secrets to success. It is a matter of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

-General Colin Powell

New Hat For Sale

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

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



for \$15.50. That price includes shipping.

You can purchase the hat from our quartermaster Chester Johnson.

Chester can be reached at:

979-966-9669 or

E-mail: jejohnson4@verizon.net

(Sam from page 19)

Lincoln, NH. A quick online search did not reveal obituaries for the other four. My best source of information about the location of some of our Korean War veterans is a roster of the 5th RCT Association that was published in 2013. Unfortunately, it appears that Bohmbach was the only one of the five to join that organization.

Communicating with other men who served in Tank Company in that 1951 period might be an avenue to find contact data for any surviving crew members of the "Easy 8" in the picture and they would certainly be interested in the exhibit. I've attached a few names and addresses that might bear fruit.

February, 1951 ushered in the Year of the Tiger on the Chinese astrological chart, so our tankers painted snarling tigers on their tanks, hoping that it would unnerve the Chinese. There is little evidence that it did. I'm thrilled that your museum is exhibiting a 5th RCT tank. I wish I lived closer to Indiana so I could hop over and see the exhibit."

Sam Kier

Generals Assigned to the 5th?

(Gary Young sent Sam links to these pictures)

"Thanks, Gary. Those were interesting times. Several flag officers, including Daniel Butterfield, the composer of Taps, were assigned on paper as commanders of the 5th Infantry but were



BG George Sykes



MG John Reynolds

nowhere in the proximity of the regiment. The "hands-on" commander of the 5th Infantry, at the time, was LTC Thomas Ludwell Alexander. Perhaps the practice was to guarantee them a regular army job if the Civil War were to end suddenly. Their ranks, as generals, were in the U.S. Volunteers rather than in the regular army."

Sam Kier

2020 Reunion - Fairfax VA

25-30 August 2020

Bobcats:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

next, regardless of what your Newsletter says. Hope all will be ok with this. Randy and I have seen the outside of the Army Museum and pictures of the inside. You will be so amazed, you'll want to spend extra time there.

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

Love all my Bobcats."

Carolyn Kethcart

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

Carolyn & the Bobcat Family,

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

Warmest regards to all."

Andy Anderson

General Anderson,

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

Love you bunches

Carolyn

The Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport



2200 Centreville Road
Herndon VA 20170



\$129 Single / Double per night



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

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

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

Reservations must be made by 26 July 2020

Schedule of events

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

Tuesday August 25th

Arrival and Registration

Wednesday AUG 26th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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



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

**Taste Award Winning Wines
Along The Journey**

Bull Run Winery



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

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

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

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

Thursday August 27th

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

Washington DC Memorials & Monuments Day

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

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

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

(See Reunion on page 26)

National Army Museum



(Continued from page 25)

Memorials & Monuments Day

Pictures of some that will be visited



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

**Picture of Army Museum above*

Saturday August 29th

9:00 - 10 AM - Membership Meeting

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

10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

Free to explore Fairfax County

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Auction - Approx. time

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

National Army Museum Memorial Service, Luncheon, and Tour

(See Reunion on page 27)

Fairfax VA Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name _____

_____ Number of additional guests

Names of additional guests

Phone number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

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

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

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

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

⇒ Are you driving? Yes _____ No _____

⇒ Is this your first reunion?
Yes _____ No _____

COMMENTS:

Mail to or contact:

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

Registration Form

Fairfax VA - 25-30 AUG 2020

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
WED 26 AUG - The Air & Space Museum & lunch at Bull Run- \$79 per person		
THU 27 AUG - Washington DC Memorials and Monuments Day - \$59 per person		
FRI 28 AUG - Memorial Service Tour & Luncheon at The National Army Museum - \$89 per person includes Lunch		
SAT 29 AUG - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Tuscan Chicken - \$45		
2. Baked Cod - \$50		
3. Grilled Crusted New York Steak - \$55		
4. Vegetarian option upon request - \$45		
* All dinners include fresh Caesar salad, Chef's Selection of Accompaniments, Dessert, Freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
TOTAL		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO

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

Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477

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

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

(Reunion from page 26)

Dinner Choices

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

Bordelaise

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

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

Westin Washington Dulles Airport Hotel Welcome

The sign greeting Randy & Carolyn Kethcart when they arrived to check-out hotels for a 2021 reunion in the Washington DC area.



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

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