



The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Summer 2023

Web Page Address: www.new.bobcat.ws/

Volume II

Next Reunion - Valley Forge PA

12 - 17 September 2023

For details see pages 16, & 17

Future Reunions

20-25 AUG 2024 - Dayton OH &

2025 - Lexington KY

Join us in September for a reunion in maybe our country's most historic area. It is where our country and freedom were born.

Some of the things you can experience while in Valley Forge are:

Valley Forge Park



"While the park's trails are reason enough to visit, the show's real star is the area's historical significance. As the site of George Washington's camp from December 1777 to June 1778, Valley Forge can lay claim to one of the most important periods of the American Revolution. Historians and park officials have painstakingly recreated the encampment itself, and some of the original buildings even remain, like Washington's headquarters. If you are interested in the Revolutionary War or just want to learn a little something and check out some cannons, Valley Forge

(See VF Continued on page 4)

Obituary for Ret. Major General Andrew Herbert Anderson

Major General Andrew H. (Andy) Anderson (Ret.) and former Talbot County council member died on April 19, 2023. He was 94. After a more than 40-year military career, General Anderson moved to Talbot County, following retirement from the Army in 1986.



Son of immigrant parents, Hjalmar and Annie (Rjatah) Andreasson from Sweden and Finland respectively, he was born and raised in New York City. General Anderson's father was a steelworker and foreman who worked on major skyscraper construction including the twin towers of the World Trade Center. His mother was a devoted wife, mother and homemaker. A brother Ken-

(See Andy Continued on page 2)

"I'll Try Sir"

A New Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

MG-R Todd McCaffrey

**See page 23 for an introduction.*

Jim Caudle Dies

Jim Caudle, one of the oldest members of the Association died on 21 March 2023.



Jim was a member and the Association's treasurer when I became a member in 1992. Jim was also the Quartermaster. Jim started the quartermaster by putting up for sale t-shirts and hats about 25 years ago.

Jim was also one of the first member to be named by the Department of the Army as a "Distinguished Member of the Regiment".

Jim along with his wife Sue attended every reunion every year up until recently when their health started deter-

(See Jim Continued on page 2)

The Fall 2023 Newsletter will be out June/July 2023 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

(Andy Continued from page 1)

neth preceded him in death.

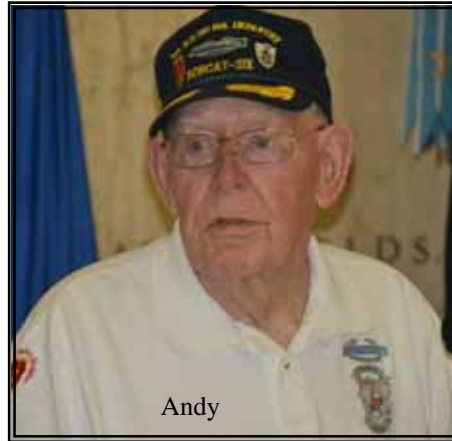
General Anderson's long and distinguished military career began during World War II. At the age of 16, he enlisted in the New York State Guard, 14th Infantry Regiment, and subsequently transitioned to the New York National Guard. He was serving as a tank platoon sergeant in the 101st Armored Cavalry Regiment during which time he received a commission to 2d Lieutenant. He was called to active duty as a 1st Lieutenant during the Korean Conflict in 1954. As an armor officer, he then embarked on the first of four tours in Germany.

During his first European tour, he met his wife Ellen Lee Miller of Arcadia, FL, while she was working abroad. After a very short courtship, they were married in Aschaffenburg, Germany in 1956. As commander of the Regimental Tank Company, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Infantry Division, Anderson utilized his soldiers and tanks in his wedding ceremony. He and his bride rode astride a tank with its cannon at max elevation, the turret stenciled 'TOO LATE', they proceeded thru the town of Aschaffenburg from chapel to the officers' club. When questioned about his "shotgun wedding" and "gross misuse of government equipment," he explained that this event came under the heading of the daily requirement of exercising equipment: all 22 tanks to be combat loaded and to be in readiness to repel Russian & East German forces. Anderson was one of 20 company commanders and was the lowest ranking officer, all others were captains with WWII & Korean combat experience. Shortly thereafter, he received a direct (competitive) commission in the Regular Army in 1957. Normal command, staff and school assignments followed including an unaccompanied tour in Korea.

In 1968, after completing a three-year assignment in the Pentagon, Anderson volunteered for Vietnam where he was to command the 1st Battalion (Mechanized) 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. It was during heavy fighting in the Michelin rubber plantation and the "Battle of Ben Cui" that his battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Army's highest unit award. He was subsequently wounded by enemy launched, rocket propelled grenade fire and was evacuated to the United States. He was severely injured, requiring medical treatment for seven months at Valley Forge General Hospital. At this time his wife would dutifully visit him only on weekends as she was a teacher with the

Fairfax school system.

Since retirement and moving to Talbot County in 1986, Anderson served more than thirty years as a commissioner of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (a Governor's appointment), was designat-



Andy

ed a MD Veteran of the Year and served as president of the MD Joint Veterans Committee. In addition, he served as board president of the Mid- Atlantic Maritime Festival, photography committee chairman Waterfowl Festival, an election judge, AARP tax-preparer, and as a long-time director of the Talbot County Paramedic Foundation. Anderson was elected and served from 1990 - 1998 as a member and vice-president of the Talbot County Council. He was the Council 'point man' in the establishment of both the local high school Naval JROTC program and the Talbot County community pool. These were but two of the numerous projects taken on during his two terms of service, as a County Councilman. During this time he also served on the board of the Talbot County Arts Council and again as member of the board of the Arts Council from 2001 through 2007-as vice president and then president. And, again served on the Arts Council from 2008-2014, as chairman of the Mini-Grant Committee, and the Nominating and Bylaws Committee. He was subsequently elected as president emeritus of the Talbot County Arts Council and also serves as president emeritus of the Military Officers Association of America Upper Eastern Shore Chapter and president of the state council, charter chapter and Maryland department commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Honorary Colonel of the 5th Infantry Regiment (a Secretary of the Army appointment) and past president of the 25th Infantry Division Association.

.....
Fred, After thinking about the passing of

(Jim Continued from page 1)

orating.

Jim was stationed with the 1/5th in Hawaii in 1966 when the 25th Infantry Division was deployed to Vietnam.

He served as the Radio-telegraph operator (RTO) for B Company under Commander "Vic" Vickery in 1966.

Obituary

"James Edwards Caudle, 77, passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in Norfolk, VA. He was born in Traverse City, MI to the late Paul and Marie Caudle. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Wanda Sue Caudle. James was a distinguished US Army veteran, he was a radio operator for the 1/5 of the 25th Infantry Division, "Bob Cats" during the Vietnam conflict and he earned a Bronze Star for valiant service to his country. After his active duty years he continued to work for our country serving in the Civil Service as an Electrical Engineering Technician. James was also a member of the American Legion, Post 327. He is cherished in memory by his son, John Caudle and his partner, Jean Seeds; siblings, Janet O'Grady and Charles H. Caudle; stepbrother, George Gorney; niece, Jana Lynn O'Grady; nephews, Matt and Timmy Caudle.



Interment will be at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens where US Army honors will be rendered."

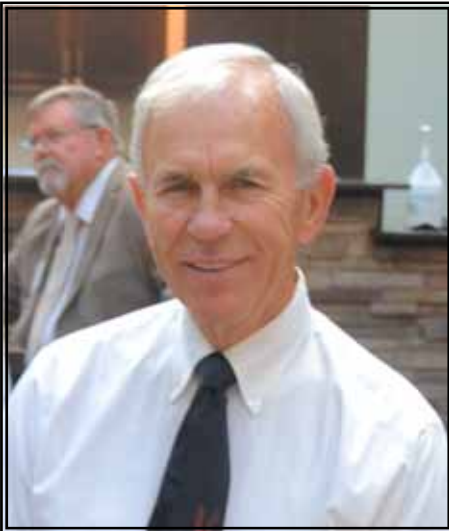
The Association offers it heart-felt condolences to Jim's family for the loss of one of our most "distinguished" long serving members. Jim you and your wife Sue are missed!

Fred Deverse

Niles (a good friend and contemporary of mine also 85), I now feel that perhaps I am pushing my luck on a daily basis. With this thought in mind, I am sending this article that I have written, for publication in a future issue of the Bobcat Bulletin. I would dedicate my thoughts to: CSM Ray Barrett & 1st Sgt Ron Hen-

(See Andy Continued on page 8)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greeting Bobcats,

"It's a sad entrance to the news letter this quarter as the passing of Major General Andrew Anderson caught us all off guard. I had talked to him only a few weeks before that and he was looking forward to spending time with us at the reunion in Pennsylvania this Sept. His title for the Regiment was HCR, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

At the board meeting in April we voted to ask Major General, retired, Todd McCaffrey to assume that title. He had exposure to the 5th Infantry in his history and was gracious enough to accept the title of Honorary "Colonel of the Regiment". Check out the newsletter for information on Todd. We look forward to seeing him at the reunion in Sept.

While on the subject of the reunion, I hope everyone has their reservations for hotel and tours, it's going to be fun. Thanks to Randy and Carolyn for the great job of getting this all set up.

The new scholarship is progressing nicely. Funds have been rolling in a brisk pace. Thanks to all that have contributed to the fund in either time or monetary ways. The time the committee has put in is a tribute to the "I'll Try Sir" commitment of the 5th Infantry Regiment.

I hope all of you can get out and celebrate the Memorial Day weekend activities in your areas. This is to honor our fallen brothers, People will say

"thanks for your service" but that's a different holiday. This is to for those that gave the last measure to the defense of freedom. May you rest in Peace.

Enjoy your summer and we'll see you all soon."

Peace Out, **Gary Robertson**

Chaplain's Corner

"This edition of the Chaplain's Corner will be different. Change has happened in our 5th Infantry Regiment family, with the passing of our dear General Anderson change has come more swiftly than we could have imagined. My mind goes to a Biblical account of such change, Deuteronomy 31:7 "And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it".

The question will be asked a thousand times, how can we honor the General? This biblical text is about the death of Moses and the movement of one Joshua to take the lead. I believe in my heart we must GO ON! The best way to honor a leader is for those who followed him, who had contact with him, those like me who wished I could have met him, is to CONTINUE FORWARD. Like Joshua there are more things to do, more people to connect with, yes even more battles in life to conquer. In the book: *Deep Survival, author Laurence Gonzales describes-"The essential point is that sometimes there is a fate lying just around the corner that we have never, EVER considered, but will have to react to". Change is hard and is not welcomed on most occasions, especially the loss of a dear friend. I as the Chaplain of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association, I dedicate myself to pray for all our associates in this brotherhood and sisterhood."

Kerry J. Collins, Chaplain of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association

P. S. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Valley Forge PA, let's make this one BIG for the General SALUTE!!

*book source <https://themilitaryleader.com/sadr-city-2008/>
(please reach out if you need me)

I want to thank my wife Carolyn Deverse for proof-reading this newsletter!

5th Infantry Association

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

Robert Kiehm, Jeff McGrath, Bill Silva

Chaplain (Appointed) - **Kerry Collins**

Reminder !

1. Notify Tom Frame about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 22** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 21. Please renew now!

Reunions

Valley Forge PA 12-17 SEP 2023
Dayton 20-25 AUG 2024
Lexington KY 2025

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment
Todd McCaffrey (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 Robertson 18, Chester Johnson 19, Nicholas Vogt 20, Tom Frame 22

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

ROSTER

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

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

Lost Members:

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

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

Roster Changes/Corrections:

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

Garland, Tim - Address change
629 Grant AVE
FT Leavenworth KS 66027-1303

Robinson Jr., Samuel - Address change
1201 Old Boonesboro RD
Winchester KY 40391-9202

Stevenson, Alan L. - Address change
104 Garden CIR
West Chester PA 19382-7318

Peal, Dolores - Address change
51577 SE 2ND ST APT2112
Scappoose OR 97056-4564

Mobley, Arthur - New E-mail
taleart4him@cfl.rr.com

Stanzione, Bart - Address change
18 Stoneham DR
Riverside RI 02915

Need Information:

The following members information is needed.

Need E-mail Address for:

Edwards, James "Dusty"
Hill, Gary
Landry, Robert

Please send needed information to:
fpd@bobcat.ws

Taps:

Anderson, MG-R Andrew from Trappe MD died on 19 April 2023 - Andy was our "Honorary Colonel of the Regiment who was the 1/5th's Battalion

Commander in 1968 when the battalion was awarded the "Presidential Unit Citation"

**See page 1 for more details*

Bernardo, Peter R., died on 21 May 2022 from University Heights OH who served with C Co. 1st PLT 11/68-4/69



"Pete attended Ranger School and had a distinguished military career. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, three Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge." Peter worked at John Carroll University. Peter was a member for a few years.

**See DSC Citation on page 22*

Caudle, James - died on 21 Mar 2023 from Norfolk VA who served with B Company 1964-66. Jim was a "Distinguished Member of the Regiment" and our Treasurer/Quartermaster for many years.

**See page 1 for more details*

Illnesses:

Drake, Bob - Is needing a heart valve replacement

Young, Gary - Has a badly infected left foot and had his leg amputated below the knee.

"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.

To educate a man in mind and not in morals, is to educate a menace to society."

-Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

(VF Continued from page 1)
is the place for you."

Philadelphia PA

"The country's first World Heritage City, Philadelphia is also the birthplace of the United States, where our Founding Fathers met, discussed, debated and formed a new country.

Lucky for 21st-century visitors, so much of Philadelphia's history has been preserved. That includes, of course, two of the city's most important attractions:



Independence Hall (one of the only World Heritage sites in the country and where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were drafted and signed) and the Liberty Bell....

It also includes the historic houses, government buildings, museums, churches and cemeteries that make up Independence National Historical Park, the "most historic square mile in America" run by the National Parks Service that sees millions of visitors every year."



Randy Kethcart being awarded the "Order of St. Maurice" at FT Wainwright Alaska.

Did You Know?

You can renew your membership or make a donation and pay by credit card. Just go to :

<http://fifth-infantry-regiment-assoc.herokuapp.com/registration>

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

Contact Information for Billy Smith

"All my friends and relatives on Facebook. They finally found a way to block me.

I no longer have a Facebook Account because I refuse to send them the things they asked for to unblock me. If you want to contact me, please send to my email address:

BillySmgma@gmail.com

Billy Smith



Kethcarts & Robinsons Meet For Lunch

In April Randy & Carolyn Kethcart had lunch with Julie & Paul Robinson (Pictured above).

Mel Barnes Honored

Hello!

"I hope this email finds you doing well!

I'm Cathy. I was a friend of Steve Stubblefield. Dear Steve will be gone 9 years in August! I think about him all the time. Sigh...

Here's a little something if you're

(See Comments on page 19)

Searching for Rosario

Reply to article in last newsletter..

April 15, 2023

"My name is Arthur D. Mobley. I served with Acosta R. in Viet-Nam on the day of his capture (August 22, 1968). I was the 3rd M-60 machine gunner that day of C & B Companies, 1/5 INF, 3rd PLT, 2nd squad. I have direct knowledge of Acosta's actions.

I am sorry to say I do not have any information on DeLorenzo. He was the M-60 machine gunner from first platoon. He was found dead. The three M-60 machine gunners' instructions were to lay down a base of grazing fire while the company withdrew from enemy contact. Then the company would lay down fire as the three of us withdrew to them. We would do this a couple of times until we were told to stop. The gunners knew when to move by the volume of fire power being put out.

Acosta and I would fire couple hundred of 7.62 ammo and we would withdraw with each other in sight as much as possible due to terrain. We would repeat these actions several times. We were able to pick up more ammo as we leap-frogged back and we would pick up some grenades to throw also.

Soon after a couple of withdraws it came time for Acosta to move back, so I fired a few more rounds trying to give him more time to move. It was evident Acosta was not going to move. We popped grenades as we moved as cover and as a signal to each other we were ready to move and were moving.

At that time Acosta was on his M-60 machine gun firing 20-30 round bursts of 7.62 mm. Then that turned into a 50 round burst of 7.62mm. His actions were to draw the enemy away from me because I was on his right flank. In his last moment of Freedom he knew what he was doing and why he was doing it. In that moment I still recall each round going off as it was saying to all "I'll help. I'll help". And he did. In that moment in the jungle, many thousands of miles from America, a tracer from his gun could be seen streaking through the air.

He gave all to us that day knowing he may never return so you and I could have what we see as Freedom.

I do not know the platoon leader's name. He did serve around August 19, 1968 and he was wounded on that day. There was an E-4 named Duffy who I was told had further information.

Sometime in August 1968 the Com-

pany Commander CPT. Dagit (spelling may not be correct) was relieved of duty by a Commanding General. The new commander was CPT. Hayward.

I had been in contact with Acosta's brother "T" and his one sister many years ago but things never went any further.

Respectfully,
SFC Arthur D. Mobley
U. S. Army Retired Infantry

Fred

I must tell you my heart is twisted in knots. I have waited many years to write this letter about Acosta R. on August 22, 1968. I had about one month left in country.

On 8-22-1968 1/5 INF was placed under 1/27 INF for the day's operation. We went west into the area of Ben Cui then south paralleling Highway 19. Company B+ moved on towards the west. Company C was south about 500 meters then turned west into Ben Cui. The 2/27 INF were located to the rear of Company C. At that time all units reported negative contact.

Soon Co. B+ moved west from where Highway 239 turns south and Highway 19 goes west. The plan was to check out the abandoned Ben Cui air strip. Some NVA web gear was found and some hand grenades.

About that time Co. B+ came under heavy contact just west of Highway 239 and 19 split.

(I have no information on DeLorenzo (gunner) on that day because he was too far away from me. Regards to him and his family.)

Acosta and I were on this staggered line with Co. B along with some APC's that were being used for covering fire as we were ordered to withdraw to break fire from the enemy.

The M-60 machine guns would come on line, fire couple hundred rounds of grazing fire of 7.62 mm while the company would withdraw, then the company would lay down a base of fire and we would repeat this until we were told to stop. The gunners would pop grenades to let each other know when we were ready to move or were moving.

On our last withdrawal Acosta did not pop his grenade to signal his movement. I was on Acosta's right flank. In his last moments I could not see him. The last sound came from his gun firing steady about 50-60 rounds nonstop. As each round was being fired it was saying

(See MIA Continued on page 19)

Replacement for Vietnam-era M-113 armored personnel carriers

"After a decade in development, the Army's brand new armored personnel carrier has finally joined the service's fleet of ground vehicles.

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division became the first Army unit to officially field the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) to soldiers as a replacement for the M113 family of armored personnel carriers that entered service in 1961, the service announced on Tuesday.



Featuring "improvements in survivability, protection, weight, size, power, cooling and compatibility with future technologies," according to the Army, the AMPV also shares a common powertrain and suspension with the M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and the M109A7 Paladin self-propelled howitzer to reduce "logistical and mechanical burdens among ABCTs."

The AMPV comes in five variants: a general-purpose model to provide protected maneuver for soldiers; a medivac model; a medical treatment model; a mission command model that provides formations with a boost in command-and-control and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities; and a mortar-carrier model to provide aggressive fire support for units....

The initial fielding of the AMPV comes amid a push within the Army to accelerate the acquisition of the new armored personnel carrier to replace the hundreds of M113s transferred to Ukraine....

"AMPV is a more rugged, reliable, and capable platform than the M113s that it replaces, bringing more capability to our ABCTs and allowing our formations to transform how they are able to fight,

**Sent by Gary Young (From Army Times)*

4 Important Things to Know About Vietnam Veterans

"The Vietnam Era was one of the most turbulent times in American history, with the war abroad and mass civil unrest at home. As a result, Vietnam veterans returned to a homecoming unlike any generation of veterans before or since. Simply put, the "welcome home" wasn't always welcoming due to opposition toward the war.

Nearly nine million Americans served during the Vietnam War Era, and as of the 2020 Census, they are the largest cohort of veterans in America, with an estimated 6.4 million living vets at a median age of 71. In honor of their service and of March 29 being National Vietnam Veterans Day, here are a few important things to know about the Vietnam generation.

1. Most Vietnam War Veterans Were Volunteers.

Media and pop culture often like to portray Vietnam veterans as a generation of men sent over to fight a war they didn't understand against their will, but the reality is most of those who fought in Vietnam volunteered to be there.

Of the 8.7 million troops who served in the Vietnam Era between 1964 to 1973, 3.4 million deployed to Southeast Asia and 2.7 million served in South Vietnam. Out of all the people on active duty at the time, only 2.2 million were drafted, and only 25% of the total number of troops in combat zones were drafted.

2. It Was the First Major Conflict Fought by a Fully Integrated Military.

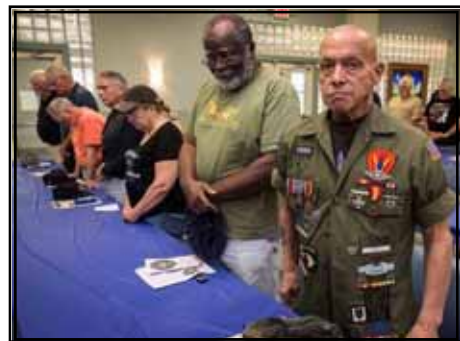
President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order that integrated America's armed forces in 1948. Although the Korean War was fought between 1950 and 1953, the U.S. military was still experiencing growing pains with the new policy.

By the time the United States began increasing its involvement in South Vietnam, American military units were fully integrated, with an estimated 340,000 African Americans, 80,000 Latinos, 42,000 Native Americans and 35,000 Asian Americans serving in Vietnam.

3. There Are Still Service Members Missing in Action in Vietnam.

Not all Vietnam veterans made it back home; 2,646 Americans were unaccounted for at the end of the Vietnam War, in all theaters of operations. Since the end of the war and the repatriation of American prisoners of war in 1973, the

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has recovered or identified 1,062 of those. That means 1,584 U.S. service members are still waiting to come home. Sgt. 1st Class Billy David Hill was killed in action during the Vietnam conflict Jan 21, 1968, but his remains weren't recovered and identified until 2015. (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency/ Staff Sgt. Erik Cardenas)



Vietnam Veterans bow their heads during the invocation during the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, N.J., May 20, 2016. (U.S. Army/ Master Sgt. Mark Olsen)

4. Vietnam Veterans Today Are Largely Like Any Other American.

An estimated 30% of Vietnam veterans suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder during their lifetime, according to the 1988 National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study, the last time such a study was done. Still, 97% of Vietnam vets hold honorable discharges, and the unemployment rate for veterans of the Vietnam War was only 4.8% in 1987, compared to the 6.2% rate for the rest of America.

As Vietnam vets began to reach retirement age in 2018, the Congressional Budget Office looked at their long-term prosperity. They had the similar median incomes as nonveterans of the same age. The only disparity found that nonveterans took in more income from investments, while veterans took in income from VA disability compensation.

- Blake Stilwell - "Army Insider"

"Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same."

-Ronald W. Reagan

Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes to the Zoom meeting March 27, 2023 at 7:05 pm eastern time by President Robertson.

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Attending : Gary Robertson, Bart Stanzione, Tom Frame, Randy Kethcart, Bill Silva, Chester Johnson, Jeff McGrath, Rob Kiehm

Absent: Nicky Fasselin, George Chavez, Fred Deverse, Sam Kier

A Quorum was established.

Old Business

Scholarship, Jeff reported the incorporation of the regiment papers can not be found.

Therefore Rick couldn't get the paperwork done in time to apply and receive any grant monies for the scholarship fund and Rick couldn't find any paper where we are in good standing with the state of Michigan where Paul Robinson (past membership chair and past President) could have filed the paperwork.

Question was asked if Greg Moon was staying on the Scholarship committee and Jeff explained he will be staying on committee.

Jeff mentioned that if a committee member wants to be removed from scholarship committee that decision is made by committee and not the Board of Directors.

Subject of the review board is the committee members and after their review of candidates it will then be sent to the Board of Directors for final approval.

If an application for scholarship is by one of the scholarship committee member's relatives, the committee member will recuse themselves.

Scholarship committee is also looking at developing cook books for sale by the regiment and color coded, in gold, silver and bronze certificates to pass out.

Bill Silva came on line 11:24 into the meeting.

Randy reported Nick Vogt is building a donation page for scholarship donations and should be up and running in a few days.

Motion by Randy and second by Tom to name the scholarship " The MG (Ret.) Andrew H. Anderson 5th Infantry Regiment Association Scholarship"
Passed

Randy & Carolyn Kethcart will travel to Alaska for the Regiment Ball.

Discussion about up front money

for the start of the cook book. Motion to have the regiment general fund front the money for the cook book and monies collected from the sale of the cook book be paid back to the regiment.

Motion by Bart, second by Tom. Motion passed.

And the board discussed how the scholarships would be handed out. Each year a scholarship would have to be reapplied for, even if a student was continuing their education. The Scholarship Committee will put together the sequence of how the Scholarships will be awarded and present to the Board of Directors for approval.

Chester reported that the regiment has to stay under \$50,000 gross income to keep our 501C19. But if we go over the \$50,000 threshold we would have to itemize all monies that come in.

Randy said he'd call Paul Robinson about our incorporation.

Gary asked Jeff if any criteria had been set up for the scholarship process and Jeff reported it's in the works.

Bobcat of the Year & Fraggee were selected.

Question about our web site and Nick is having trouble but Randy thinks it should be up and running better in the near future.

With no further business the zoom meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Any changes or corrections please let me know as I save these minutes to folder.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Frame

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Minutes of Board of Directors Zoom meeting of the 5th Infantry Regiment called to order by President Robertson at 12:04 pm EST on April 22, 2023.

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Attending meeting: Gary Robertson, Tom Frame, Bart Stanzione, Randy Kethcart, Jeff McGrath, Bill Silva, Chester Johnson, Nicky Fasselin, Sam Kier, Fred Deverse

Not attending: George Chavez
Rob Kiehm messaged the board of his resignation from the Board of Directors on April 19, 2023.

Old Business:

Gary asked Randy & Carolyn Kethcart if they were still going to Alaska for the Bobcat Ball, and they answered, yes.

No update from the Scholarship Committee, Bart reported that Patti Stanzione has received about 40 recipes for the cook books.

Jeff said he got in contact with the Bobcats in Alaska, to ask their wives to submit recipes also.

New Business:

Discussion about the letter sent by Rick Brown about the direction of the Regiment.

Jeff reported that Rick, in submitting for grants and was dealing with a liquor company who needed information about the Regiment, and when he went to find the information requested and found the Regiment hasn't completed some of the information needed and missed the deadline for a grant.

Fred reported that the different tax laws should be looked at so we have no problems in the future. He also said that corporations are very strict about the groups they give money to.

The original incorporation of the Regiment is held in Michigan in 2008. Found out Cathy Snodgrass did all the incorporation for the Regiment at that time.

Gary reported that in the state of Delaware it's good for profit organizations but not so good for non profit. We want to make sure we are legal in our incorporation and taxes.

Randy said we should have an address for the Regiment and we'll stay in Michigan.

Bill Silva will call Chris Sharpe who is an attorney and ask direction from a legal standpoint about what is the process is for establishing a non profit in the state of Michigan.

Tom Frame made a motion to have this years reunion in Philly dedicated to General Andy Anderson. Second by Bart. Passed

Motion by Tom Frame to reconsider the vote for Bobcat of the Year. According to Roberts Rules: "The motion to reconsider may be made only by a member who voted on the prevailing side in the original vote (such as someone who voted "yes" if the motion had passed or voted "no" if the motion was defeated" Motion to change the Bobcat of the year to Andy Anderson, second by Bart.

Passed 8-yes 1-no

Discussion about how much money we're willing to spend on inviting the family of Gen. Anderson's family to the reunion.

Randy made a motion that the Regiment will pick up the expenses for Friday's memorial service, Friday's lunch and dinner on Saturday night at the banquet meal. Second by Chester. Passed

Discussion on replacing the Hon-

(See Minutes Continued on page 18)

(Andy Continued from page 2)

ry and all other fallen Bobcats past and present. Hopefully, this article will be of interest to all Bobcats that experienced the challenges of combat in distant lands.

Andy

The Human Toll of the "Battle of Ben Cui"

"Numerous battles occurred during the course of the Vietnam War but at least one always stands out in the memory of those who fought and lost comrades in close combat with a well-armed and tenacious enemy. I had the honor to serve as the commander of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized) 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division then stationed at the Michelin Rubber Plantation, Dau Tieng, Republic of Vietnam. site of this battle. Two solemn events that I shall describe are at the heart of what I now call the human toll of the "Battle of Ben Cui".

Prior to requesting assignment to a unit in Vietnam, I was about to end a three-year tour in the Pentagon. During the last year I worked in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army on a classified weekly document titled: Army Buildup Progress Report. A popular page in this report listed all the commanders and their units down to battalion level. To me there seemed to be quite a bit of turnover in battalion commanders and that gave me hope for an opportunity to command a battalion. But then it would be helpful to have a staff job initially to at least get acclimated to what was actually happening on the ground instead of reading about it in the ABPR.

When I reported to Major General F. K. Mearns (CG, 25th Infantry Division) at Cu Chi, I was on orders to be his G3 - - but this was not to be. In a very relaxed mood and with his feet up on the desk, he said I was to assume command of the Bobcats the next day. The change of command took place on 27 June 1968, in a field near the Tan Son Nhut airfield. Our mission at that time was security of the American Embassy and other key installations in the Saigon area. We were subsequently relieved and ordered to road march to Tay Ninh and on to Dau Tieng some 40 kilometers to the east. Two battalions were with the 1st brigade headquarters at Tay Ninh and the Bobcats was the only maneuver

battalion at Dau Tieng.

So this was the home of the Michelin Rubber Plantation; an enormous growth of rubber trees that were still milked for their sap by the villagers during the entire Vietnam conflict. There were four villages numbered Ben Cui 1, 2, 3, and 4. The base also housed the Michelin Rubber Corporation offices in grand colonial style buildings with high ceilings and large open verandas. These facilities were also subjected to periodic enemy shelling by 82mm mortars and 122mm rockets. The base also had an airfield with a runway long enough to land a loaded C130 and was ringed with numerous bunkers and rolls of concertina wire.

The time line of the "Battle of Ben Cui" begins with heavy enemy contact on 18 August and extends to 20 September 1968. On 18 August, Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General Glenn Long directed a search and destroy mission on a suspected enemy regimental headquarters area. This resulted in an assault against a well dug in enemy unit employing 12.7mm machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, mortars and small arms. Repeated assaults supported by artillery, mortars, fast movers with 500 pound bombs and several aircraft with napalm plus our own division gunships helped to carry the day. The final assault against this well entrenched enemy required mopping up with dismounted infantry covered by the .50 Cal machine guns on our armored personnel carriers.

It was then determined that we had run into elements of the 33rd and 275 regiments of the 5th Division NVA. These units were well equipped and wore green uniforms. After the TET offensive there was little left of the local VC and their survivors were being used primarily as guides for the NVA units entering our area of operations. After seizing and securing our objective, the ADC landed and stated that it was indeed a text-book operation and a classically fought battle in every sense of the word. I was also pleased that we had no KIAs and our WIAs were few in number. General Long then helped in evacuating our wounded to the 12th Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi.

The battalion task force now operating with various attachments then entered into a period of daily contacts with elements of the 5th NVA Division. Operations evolved around the villages of the Ben Cui and throughout the Michelin rubber plantation. Companies were rotated in static positions not far from the

battalion base camp at Dau Tieng. These positions were astride known enemy routes leading to Cu Chi, headquarters of the 25th Infantry Division. All sites were well within range of our own 4.2 mortars and our direct and general support artillery battalions.

After due consideration, it was the heroism of the battalion task force against a numerically superior enemy that led me to seek the award of the Presidential Unit Citation for our actions during this period of constant and intense contact with the enemy. AR600-8-22 cites: "The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission in extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Distinguished Service Cross to an individual. Only on rare occasions will a unit larger than a battalion qualify for award of this decoration". About 12 months later this prestigious award was approved in the name of the President by the Secretary of the Army.

It is fitting that the outstanding bravery and aggressiveness of "Charlie" Company in its reconnaissance in force mission is cited as an example in the award of the PUC. I was also well aware of the high loss of brave soldiers that included such men as Sgt. Marvin Rex Young whose heroics that day led to the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor. Despite the loss of 32 KIAs in five days of intense fighting we still had to continue our search and destroy missions and the need to keep the road network open between Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh. However, I also felt that while we had inflicted heavy losses on much larger elements of the 5th NVA Division, I wanted to take the time to conduct a memorial service for our fallen brothers. I would also submit that I wanted to ensure that we "Get back up on the Horse" and keep our task force motivated, ready, willing, and able to continue in our assigned missions.

We were still the only maneuver battalion at Dau Tieng. So on 1 September 1968, I conducted a memorial service at our base camp for our fallen. With guards posted, I had the battalion assemble in formation around a large cross composed of the "Soldier's Cross", a rifle with fixed bayonet inverted into the ground. After posting the colors, I proceeded to approach each rifle planted in the ground where someone who knew

(See Andy Continued on page 9)

VA Life insurance program coming January 2023 for Veterans with service connection

"In January 2023, VA will launch a new life insurance program called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), which provides guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to Veterans age 80 and under, with any level of service-connected disability. Some Veterans age 81 and older may also be eligible.

What is Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance?

Guaranteed acceptance is a whole life policy that does not require a medical exam or ask health questions. It also does not have a limited two year window to sign up. Whole life insurance provides coverage for the entire life of the individual policyholder, provided that premiums are always paid. Premium rates are locked in for the life of the policy, and unlike term policies will not increase as the policyholder ages.



What benefits does it offer?

Created by Public Law 116-315, the new program meets the needs of service-connected Veterans who may not have previously qualified for life insurance with VA. VALife offers guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage that lasts for an individual's entire life and provides the following benefits:

- All service-connected Veterans age 80 and under with 0-100% VA disability ratings are eligible.
- Fully automated online enrollment with instant approvals.
- Coverage comes in increments of \$10,000, up to a maximum of \$40,000, and premiums are compet-

itive – or better – than what's available in the private sector. There is a two-year waiting period for full face value coverage to take effect.

- No medical requirements for enrollment.
- Cash value that builds over the life of the policy after the first two years of enrollment.
- Rates are best the earlier you sign up. Once locked in, premiums will never increase.

Who is eligible?

All Veterans age 80 or younger with a VA disability rating of 0-100% are eligible for VALife, with no time limit to apply.

Veterans who are 81 or older may apply for VALife within two years of receiving a new service-connected disability rating if:

- They applied for VA disability compensation before age 81, and;
- They received a new service-connected disability rating after turning 81.

How does this impact other VA Life Insurance programs?

VALife opens life insurance coverage to more service-connected Veterans than ever before. In contrast to Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI), VALife has no medical requirements and there is no two year time limit to apply if a Veteran is age 80 or under.

Veterans who currently hold an S-DVI policy can either keep their current coverage or apply for VALife when the application goes live. Veterans can keep their S-DVI policy until the full coverage of VALife begins two years after enrollment as long as the application is received between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2025.

S-DVI will close to new enrollment after Dec. 31. Veterans interested in S-DVI should apply by this date, even if they are interested in applying for VALife in the new year. Applying for S-DVI now allows eligible Veterans to have life insurance coverage while waiting the two-year period for their VALife coverage to become available.

How can you apply for both?

The application for VALife will go live on Jan. 1, 2023. Stay tuned for more information on VALife and the application process. Once the program is open,

the application will be available online at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/VALife.asp>.

If you are interested in applying for S-DVI before VALife opens, or would like to learn more about the coverage, please visit the S-DVI webpage at: <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/s-dvi/>. Where can I learn more?

To learn more about VALife and whether it's the right choice for you and your family, please visit the webpage at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp>.

If you would like to receive email updates about VALife, please sign up at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVALI/subscriber/new>.

* Copied from Army Times

(Andy Continued from page 8)

the fallen soldier would hand me his helmet. I would then place the fallen soldier's helmet on the butt of the rifle thus forming the "Soldier's Cross". I then made my comments ever mindful of the high cost in human lives lost in the "Battle of Ben Chi". This was indeed one of the most difficult days of my life but there was yet another sad and related day yet to come.

Seven days later I turned 40 years old. In doing so, I became "The Old Man" in both name and fact. Commanders in the old brown shoe Army were often called that regardless of their age. In my case, this milestone reminded me that I was twice as old as the average soldier in my battalion. So, I had already come to realize that all my fellow soldiers were indeed my younger brothers.

Contacts with the enemy began to taper off during October and I had a number of visits by senior commanders. Our then division commander, Major General Ellis W. Williamson was pleased with our task force operations to date and on his last visit wanted me to give up command of the Bobcats and come up to division as his G3. How ironic. I refused to do so citing the normal tour for battalion command was six months and I was not even close to that end date. He got quite upset and turned about and got on his chopper and flew off. About two weeks later, while on a mission to link up with a Wolfhound battalion, I caught an enemy fired RPG just under my jump seat that blew me off my moving command track. Temporally blinded, multiple compound fractures,

(See Andy Continued on page 10)

(Andy Continued from page 9)

numerous wounds, and bleeding profusely, I was on my way to the 12 Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi.

Thus ended my tour with the Bobcats on 29 October 1968. Did I make the right decision at the time I was offered the G3 job? The answer had to be there was no way that I would willingly forsake my Bobcat brothers. So for the rest of my one year Vietnam tour, I spent the next eight months at Valley Forge General Hospital. It was at VFGH that I received some good news that I would soon be a student at the Army War College, class of 1970. In early February, I received an invitation to attend a Medal of Honor award ceremony at the White House. I drove initially to the Pentagon and then rode with General Williamson to the White House.

On 7 April 1970, President Richard Nixon presented the Nation's highest award for bravery to the families of 21 American servicemen killed in Vietnam. It was the largest number of Medals of Honor to be presented in a single ceremony during the Vietnam War. About 1430 hours, military unit representatives arrived at the Diplomatic Entrance and proceeded to the East Room and took their assigned places. This was followed by family members with their escort officers. They formed a semi-circle in front of a platform. Secretaries Laird and Resor, General Palmer, and Sargent Major of the Army Dunaway then moved to the platform and the President entered the East Room at 1500 hours. He made opening remarks and Army Secretary Resor then read a brief and generalized Medal of Honor citation. It did not include any details with regard to the specific deeds performed by the deceased recipients.

Secretary Resor announced the names of each recipient and President Nixon made the presentation that included posing for photographs with each family group and congressmen attending the ceremony. Staff Sergeant Marvin Rex Young's name was the fourth announced by Secretary Resor. The box framed Medal of Honor with engraved name plate was handed to Rex's father who had traveled from Alaska where he was then living. This did not go over very well with Rex's mother who came from the family home in Texas. At the conclusion of the ceremony. I assured Mrs. Young that I would seek another copy of the MOH for her. But my quest came up blank for there are no duplicates made of the MOH. At the conclusion of the presentations, the President

returned to the platform and invited the guests to remain for refreshments in the State Dining Room and then they were conducted on a special tour of the White House.

That this was a most solemn and emotional event would be an understatement. All of these soldiers honored this day were cut down in the prime of their lives. What a terrible loss for their families and for our Nation as well. I said little on our return to the Pentagon and my drive back to Carlisle alone was also somber as I was overwhelmed with thoughts of what Rex Young had done that clearly merited the MOH.

Not included in the official citation are the following comments concerning the heroic stand of Sergeant Young as the enemy force engulfed his position. He clearly elected to remain behind with his M60 machine gun and gave heavy blocking and covering fire as the order to withdraw and regroup was being carried out. He was in a perfect position to execute his self-imposed mission. Rex had been shot through his left knee and his left eye was shot out. He was last seen by Sergeant Abe Cardenas when Rex said: "Abe, get out of here, I have had it and there is no need for you to die here also, now get out". Sergeant Young had given his life in order to save others. How can anyone forget such a gallant deed?

By order of the Secretary of the Army, I have been honored to serve as: The Honorary Colonel of the 5th Infantry Regiment. This has allowed me to help a number of Bobcats to receive awards such as the Silver Star, Bronze Star (both meritorious & valor), Purple Heart and the coveted Combat Infantryman Badge. I submit that my untimely departure may have been responsible for failure to make valorous awards in a timely manner. Hence, I am committed to correcting a situation over which I had no control but for which I still feel responsible. Fortunately, we can state with pride that the Bobcats received the Presidential Unit Citation and that we collectively made that happen.

I would also mention that we have a very active Bobcat chapter that conducts annual gatherings at various locations throughout the Nation. It is during these events that I am able to stress during our memorial service that we shall never forget our fallen... our brothers who never returned with us. I have always felt that the memorial service is the most important event annual reunion. Admittedly, I get emotional during these services and my words do not come very

easily. And I am often asked why I continue to feel so strongly about memorializing our fallen brothers. My answer is always: "If we don't honor our fallen, who will?"

In closing and retrospect, I have cited the following comments on a number of occasions since they seem to encapsulate the essence of my thoughts and feelings on this subject. It is on the battlefield that a sense of brotherhood is born; unit esprit de corps developed, and a trust of each other with their lives emerges. That is the nature of the brotherhood established in combat that takes on a life of its own. Shakespeare perhaps said it best in his: "Henry the V at the Battle of Agincourt". "For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother". Veterans who survived the ordeal of Vietnam shall never forget their fallen brothers. So sadly and respectfully, I salute our departed brothers, ever mindful of the high cost in human lives we paid in fighting a mortal and tenacious enemy on the other side of the world."

FRATES AETERNI
BROTHERS FOREVER

Andy Anderson Bobcat Six - 1968

Could you be in danger?

Hello Fred,

"I came across this article that was given to me by our county's Veterans Affairs. This is what caused Michael's death.

I thought I would share it with you with the hopes that it could save another veteran.

Hope all is well with you.
Take care...."

Cheryl Koehs

Mike Koehs a longtime member of our Association died from this disease in 2016.

.....

"Hitchhikers" in the March/April 2014 issue reported on parasites from war zones and the illnesses they have caused. One of the most insidious is the liver fluke-*Opisthorchis viverrini* or *Clonorchis sinensis*-a freshwater-fish-borne flatworm that causes cholangiocarcinoma (cancer of the bile duct).

Cholangiocarcinoma is widespread

(See Liver Continued on page 22)

Randy Kethcart awarded “Order of St. Maurice”



Randy and Carolyn Kethcart represented us at the “Bobcat Ball” held Saturday 3 June 2023. At the ball Randy was awarded the “Order of St. Maurice”.

“I (Carolyn Kethcart) waited to make this announcement because I didn’t have the pictures until today. CSM Travis Ellis puts on the Order of Saint Maurice Medal in picture on page 4, Patron Saint of the Infantry, while Lt. Colonel Don Kanase makes the announcement that 1-5 Bobcats, Arctic Wolves nominated and awarded Randy Kethcart this honor.

It reads: The Order of St. Maurice: A nominee for the Order of Saint Maurice must have served the Infantry Community with distinction; must have demonstrated a significant contribution in support of the Infantry; and must represent the highest standards of integrity; moral character, professional competence, and dedication to the Infantry.

The Order of St. Maurice and the Shield of Sparta are awarded by the National Infantry Association and the Chief of Infantry. This is to recognize the significant contributions made by Infantrymen, Infantry Supporters, and Spouses.”

Carolyn Kethcart



Vietnam 1967

Fred,

‘Here are a couple of photos of my platoon returning to the field after almost two months of the Junction City operation in early 1967. One of me in hospital pajamas reflects the three weeks I spent at the 93rd Rehab Hospital in Vung Tau in May 1967.

The other photo of me depicts our fruitless and unnecessary efforts to locate VC commanders by checking villagers’ papers. We scared the sh*t out of them for no valid reason at all.”

See you in Valley Forge!

Jim Cuthbertson



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



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment
3214 Santiago Avenue
Fort Wainwright AK 99703-8000

June 6, 2023

Fellow Bobcats,

"The past few months have been incredibly busy for the First Battalion, Fifth Infantry Regiment. The long Alaskan winter has seen the Bobcat Battalion conduct a Brigade level training exercise, battalion-level combined arms live fire exercises, a Change of Responsibility ceremony, and multiple Changes of Command.

In February, we completed our Fire Support Coordination Exercise (FSCX), consisting of live fire training in conjunction with 2-8 Field Artillery Battalion and 1-25 Aviation Battalion in the Yukon Training Area. One week following this exercise, we returned to the field to complete our Task Force Situational Training Exercises (TF STX). FSCX and TF STX prepared us greatly for the next challenge we conquered, JPMRC 23-02.

March brought the challenges of the Brigade's Combatives tournament "Fight like a Wolf (FLAW)" and Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) 23-02. The Bobcats dominated the Brigade Combatives tournament, winning the rights to bear the Brigade's Battle Flag for the months to follow. The Bobcats easily won the tournament with two 1st place finishes, two 2nd place finishes and a third place finish.

The Bobcats served as the opposing force element fighting against the 2-11 "Spartans" Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) for JPMRC 23-02. This event was a Brigade-level exercise where the Spartans met the Bobcats on the field of battle. The field of battle was the heavily snow covered Yukon Training Area (YTA) located between the two forces. The Bobcats facing an overwhelming force with over five times the Soldiers, once again showed their arctic and light infantry superiority by easily crushing the Spartans. The Bobcats proved to the 11th Airborne Division that we are the Army's premier Arctic ground force.

April and May consisted of recovery and after operations maintenance. However, the Bobcats continued to prove that they are not only great in battle, but in generosity as well. The Bobcats were recognized for leading the Army in donations for the Army's Emergency Relief (AER). The Bobcats gave more money than the entire 82nd Airborne Division during the fund raising campaign. We also participated in lethality week, Bobcat Ball and the Arctic Angel Rendezvous week.

The Bobcats have been on an incredible winning streak over the last several months. The Soldiers have won the Winter Games for the third consecutive year, won FLAW Combatives tournament, recognized as the most generous battalion in the Army, and demonstrated why they are the most lethal Arctic Battalion. With these "wins," the Soldiers have adopted an addition to the "I'll Try Sir" motto, with the reply of "Bobcats Win." The Bobcats will always accept the toughest task with the "I'll Try Sir," however we will take that task with the "Bobcat's Win" attitude.

Going into June, we saw the Battalion's Change of Command, welcoming LTC Jonathan E. Doiron to our formation. He is a proven Arctic Leader who served in Alaska as a Major and as the previous Battalion Commander for 3-21 "Gimlets". We are excited to be under new leadership and are confident that we will continue to win in everything we do!

LTC Kanase leaves the Bobcats with this statement, "Bobcats! This is my last entry as Bobcat 6 and I have a whirlwind of emotions going through me. "Winning" describes our Bobcat experience these past couple of years. Whether as active duty Soldiers in the field or getting out and winning at life, Bobcats have been winning. We also recently hosted the Bobcat Ball with guest speaker COL (R) Tom Hough (Bobcat 6, 2014-2016). The Bobcat Ball was the Best Ball I have EVER attended. Thank you, Randy and Carolyn Kethcart, for attending the Ball and all of our busy functions to enjoy a week with the Bobcats! Your presence made the week truly magical. We love you. We love every Bobcat. Being a Bobcat has been, by far, the best experience I ever had since I enlisted in 1998. - Don Kanase, signing off the net."

Travis Ellis
Command Sergeant Major



**CDR LTC Don Kanase &
CSM Travis Ellis**

B Company Change of Command



Thank you LTC Kanase for the update and pictures!



Visiting The Bobcats In Alaska

Bobcats: Our Alaskan trip started off with our flight and 4 days in Fairbanks, arriving on May 31st. When we arrived at the airport, we were met by LT Col Don Kanase. CSM Travis Ellis and Lt. Vincent Kasholo (his new name is "My Cousin Vinny" and I will explain later). They were holding up a banner that said "Welcome Home Bobcats" and we were completely overwhelmed with



the greeting. We were given a welcome bag by Lt Col Kanase filled with all kinds of goodies, (pictured on the floor). Lt. Kasholo was ordered to ride with us to our hotel and make sure we got settled in. The hotel is right on the base.

On Thursday he was our chauffeur around the base (this is how he got the name "My Cousin Vinny") and he asked us to call him Vinny. The day started off with a formation of the troops. Randy asked to address all the troops



and he brought them up to date on the need to remain part of the Bobcat organization. He also helped unveil the new Battalion Flag Stand..... (Pictured on top of next column.)

After the formation Lt. Kasholo took Randy and me to so many places on



the base, it was hard to keep up. We



were at the HHQ, where CSM Ellis allowed me to sit at his desk, saying it was only right since I have that title from my own Bobcats. We went to different companies where we met so many Bobcats. We even went to the motor pool, and gym, and ate lunch at their D-FAC, the new name for the mess hall, lol.

That afternoon we were invited to a Promotion Ceremony for Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Johnson being promoted to Warrant Officer 3, The 2nd ceremony



we were invited to was a combination of 2 different Changing of Command for the outgoing Bayonet Company Commander, CPT Sam Morell, and the incoming Commander, CPT Christian Nill (Picture page 20). The consecutive ceremony we attended was a Hatchet

(See Visit Continued on page 20)

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ **MG-R Anderson's Arlington Funeral Arrangements** ★
★ "I did post this on our Face- ★
★ book page, but I wanted to send an ★
★ official email also. The General's ★
★ daughter-in-law, Julie sent me a ★
★ message earlier today with the ★
★ information for the burial at Ar- ★
★ lington National Cemetery for ★
★ General Anderson. ★
★ The date is Friday, August ★
★ 18th at 9 am. I have been able to ★
★ obtain a block of rooms, for any- ★
★ one wishing to attend, at the Holi- ★
★ day Inn National Airport in Ar- ★
★ lington. I will have a link for the ★
★ reservations tomorrow or Thurs- ★
★ day for sure so that you can make ★
★ your own reservation. The rate is ★
★ \$109 per night with an airport ★
★ shuttle. Breakfast is not included ★
★ but the hotel has a restaurant." ★
★ **Carolyn Kethcart** ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Donations to the "MG-R Andy Anderson Scholarship Fund"

Joe Harris	\$100
Anonymous	\$100
Anonymous	\$305
Randy Kethcart - In honor of Ron DiBartolomeo, Fran Harter, Randy Ellis - KIA's 1970	\$245
Bill Silva	\$100
Andy Gimma	\$100
Bruce Cotta - In honor of Ovitis Hinton, Billy Baldwin, SGT Wilson, Gary Jewett, Bob Hoop	\$500
Bart Stanzione - In honor of Ralph Laubecher	\$199
Wayne Overcash - In honor of Jimmy Miller, Bill Deboer, Robert English, Alvin Fritz, Harold Richardson	\$500
Nick Voigt	\$4.55
Robert Cochran	\$500
Greg Moon - In honor of Phillip Monson	\$250
Ron Soppe	\$500
Burwell McKay	\$100

Treasurer's Report

4th Quarter 2022 Financial Report

(1 OCT - 31 December 2022)

October 2022

Income:

Membership Dues	\$55.00
Stephen Duerk - Donation General Fund	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$155.00

Debits:

Mastercraft Printers - Newsletter - SUM News	\$710.00
Randy Kethcart- Small Markets Convention Re- union Planning	\$387.95
Newsletter Postage	\$214.51
ORM Computer Services - New server	\$614.64
Perkioman Tours & Trav- el - Valley Forge Reunion Busses	\$624.00
Randy Kethcart Reunion Planning	\$395.59
Schulenburg Printing - Quartermaster Supplies	\$134.90
Vista Print - Gary Robert- son Business Cards	\$33.16
TOTAL	\$3,114.75

November

Income:

Membership	\$5.00
TOTAL	\$5.00

Debits:

None

December

Income:

Membership	\$85.00
Quartermaster Sales	\$211.95
TOTAL	\$296.95

Debits:

Mastercraft Printers - Newsletter	\$668.25
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Newsletter Postage **\$246.92**

TOTAL **\$915.17**

Checkbook Balance **\$2509.27**

Savings Balance **\$60,065.03**

TOTAL **\$62,574.30**

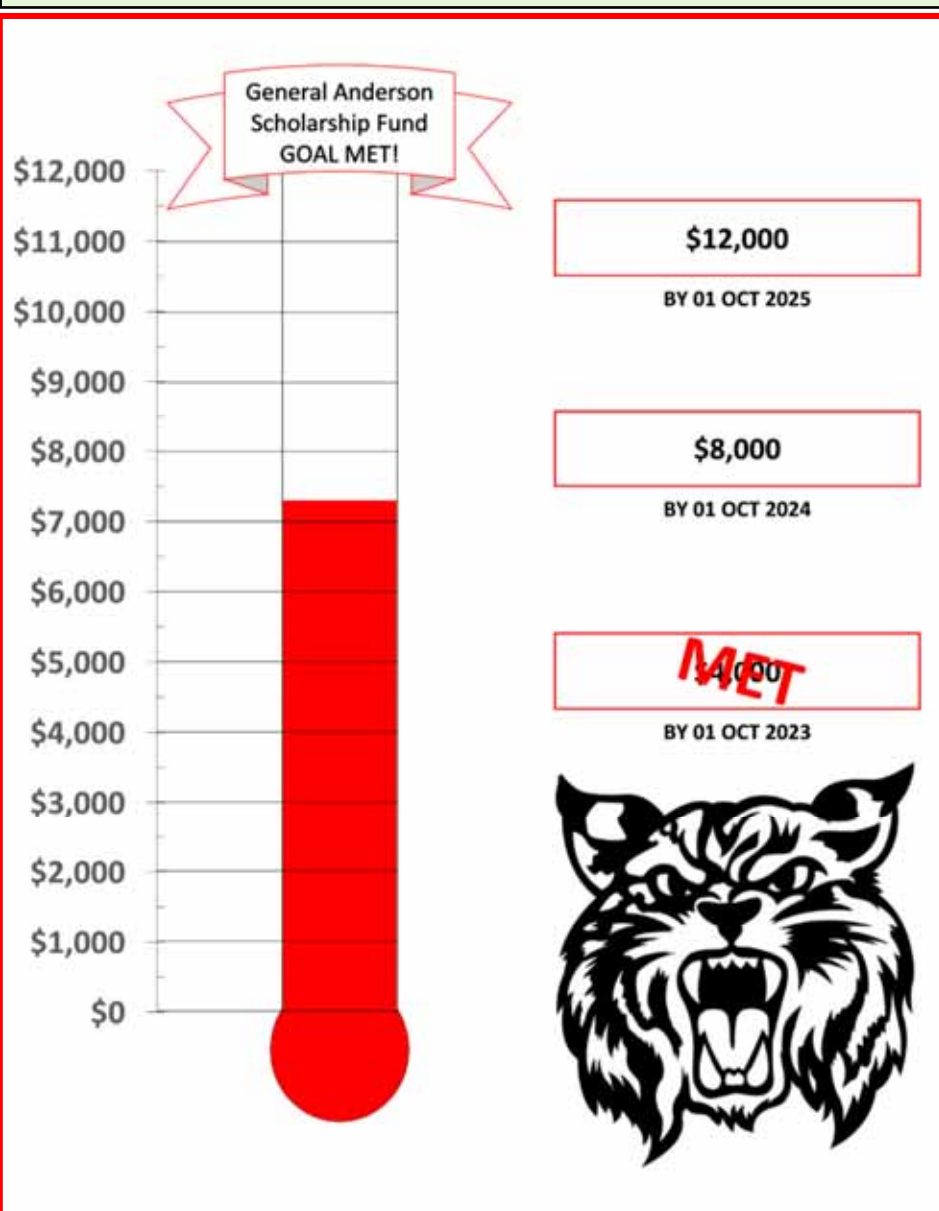
Treasurer/Quartermaster
Chester Johnson

Donations to the Association

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

Decker, Alton - Reunion	\$350
Clough, Theron - Reunion	\$559
Holochwest, John - Reunion	\$571
Soppe, Ron - Reunion	\$750
Anderson, Steven - Reunion in the name of MG-R Anderson	\$1,000
Anderson, James - Scholarship Fund - In the name of MG-R Anderson	\$1,000

5th INF Association's Anderson Scholarship Fund



2023 Reunion - Valley Forge PA

12-17 September 2023

Hotel

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia West



640 Fountain Road,
Plymouth Meeting PA 19462-1003

Hotel Amenities:

- Free parking
- Breakfast for 2 included in Room Rate
- Free Wi-Fi
- Uber, Lyft, or Yellow Cab for appx. \$50. No Airport Shuttle.

Cost:

- King 2 Room Suite - \$109
- Queens 2 Room Suite - \$109



Call (610)-834-8300 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 Friday, August 12, 2023.

Tuesday, September 12th

Hospitality Room Open

Wednesday, September 13th,

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Valley Forge Guided riding tour,

Lunch and Winery

Cost at \$79 - Per Person

Stone & Key Winery



Valley Forge

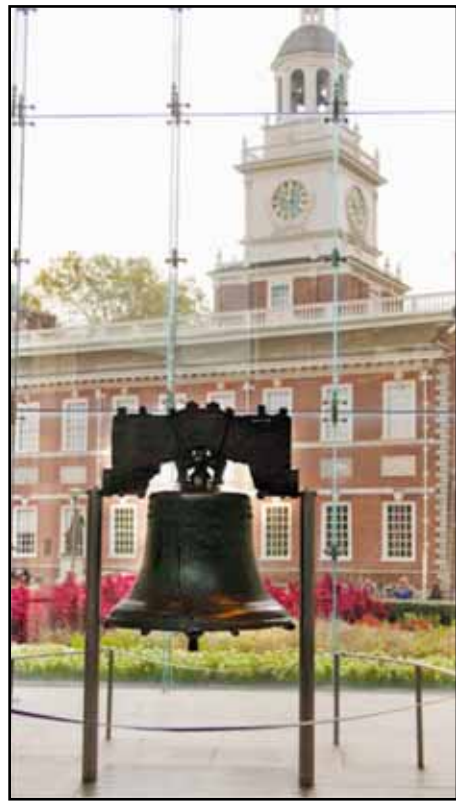


Thursday September 14th

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Philadelphia City Tour / with guide.

Visit Independence Hall Congress Hall, the Liberty Bell and much more



that Philadelphia has to offer - Cost at \$49 Lunch on your own, suggested at Marino's for their famous Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich

Friday September 15th

9:00 – 3:00 PM

Memorial Service at George Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge

Memorial - Luncheon at Maggiano's

Cost at \$65 Per Person

Inside G. Wash. Memorial Chapel





Outside G. Washington Chapel

Saturday September 16th

Morning Schedule:

9AM - 10AM - General Membership Meeting

9AM - 10AM - Ladies Breakfast

10:30AM - 11AM - Fraggling

Feel free to explore the surrounding area, Valley Forge, while waiting for the evening banquet.

Evening Schedule:

5PM - 6PM - Cocktail Hour

6PM - Bobcat Banquet

Dinner Choices

- ♦ Classic Chicken Piccata - \$49
Lemon-Caper Beurre Blanc, Rice Pilaf
- ♦ Salmon Dijon - \$49
Herbed Jasmine Rice, Tarragon Supreme
- ♦ Petit Filet Mignon & Grilled Shrimp - \$59
Merlot Demi-Glace, Garlic White Wine Butter and Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes
- ♦ Vegetable Lasagna - \$49
Slow Roasted Tomato Sauce

*All Dinners Include Three Courses

1. **Artisanal Rolls** and Sweet Butter, Fresh Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee and a Selection of Black, Oolong, Green and Herbal Teas and Iced Tea on Request

2. **Salad** of Iceberg Wedge Diced Tomato, Bacon, Bleu Cheese Crumbles, Champagne Vinaigrette or Blue Cheese Dressing

3. **Dessert**; Strawberry Short Cake

More Details to follow
Prices subject to change

<i>Registration Form</i>	
Valley Forge PA - 12-17 SEP 2023	
Name _____	
Street _____	
City _____	ST _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____	E-mail: _____
Number attending _____	Date arriving _____

	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
WED 13 SEP - Valley Forge Guided riding tour, Lunch and Winery Tour - \$79 per person		
THU 14 SEP - Philadelphia City Tour / with guide. \$49 per person		
FRI 15 SEP - Memorial Service and Lunch - \$65 per Person		
SAT 16 SEP - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Classic Chicken Piccata - \$49		
2. Petit Filet Mignon & Grilled Shrimp - \$59		
3. Salmon Dijon - \$49		
4. Vegetable Lasagna - \$49		
Reunion Donation (<i>Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.</i>)		
TOTAL		
<i>Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)</i>	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.

* Registration can be completed online at :

<https://new.bobcat.ws/reunion?>

(Payment can be made by credit card at the same site online).



Valley Forge



Stone & Key Winery

Letters From Vietnam

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

18 JAN 69

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Well, my patience was finally rewarded today when I received two letters, one from each of you. I'm glad to hear that you're finally feeling better. In



answer to Dad's question, yes I would like to join the VFW. It will probably be one of the few local organizations worth joining, (along with K. of C.... By the way, my last membership card I was listed as 3rd Degree. How'd that happen, I thought I was only 1st Degree).

I believe I told you that I went to the K-nights of Southern Cross (Equivalent to the K of C) in Australia, but it was closed (on a Sunday, yet!!).

I was awakened 3 times last night by little-enemy-with-slant-eyes (similar to Nguyen-with-smiling-face). He was close enough last night to set of several trip flares and once. There was an explosion about 400 hrs followed by several 50's going off on the bunker line. This morning when they swept the area they found what caused the explosion, a Bangalore Torpedo, the kind that are slipped under barbed wire and blown. Then a Chien Hoi we picked up today told us that the VC had been reconning our wire every night for the last week or so looking for the weak spots. And today Charlie decided to drop his harassment 82mm mortar at the time I decided to use our euphemism (commode, etc, etc.) Some of the guys said I really looked funny running to the bunker with my pants down around my ankles. I never did get to finish my business though.

Doc and several other guys went on a MEDCAP today where they saw about 300 patients. We are now pulling 2 MEDCAPS daily in order to help the

Paris peace talks along. Doesn't make sense? Let me explain: the Army classifies villages as 1. Friendly to GI, 2. Tolerant to GI or 3. Questionable 4. VC. Now, all the villages around here are V. But the powers to be feel that if we can hold MEDCAP's and not get our butts shot off, they can say "How can you claim this village is VC when we can send a doctor in with no incidences. They at last tolerate GI's!! "Let's hear it for Henry Cabot Lodge!1

At least we got even with some of them today. Our Bravo company found an NVA payroll \$250,000.

The only other occurrence of interest is when 3 cooks from Charlie Company, lacking anything better to do, chased a snake down a hole, filled the hole with gasoline... and lit it. Result: one dead, the other two with 2nd and 3rd degree burns of the face, chest & arms. (Clever, weren't they).

More later.

Love, Joe

19 JAN 69

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Happy Sunday night (here). I just got back from evening Mass, and even though it's early, I thought I'd write now any way. We had a Requiem Mass today for all the Catholics in the Battalion killed in the last 2 months or so.

No letters from home today but I got a nice little 3 page message from Sue McMinn, the girl that I wined & dined in Australia. She said her mother ("Mum") received your thank you note and that she was so happy that she showed it to the President of the Australian American Association. The granny that sponsors the "dinners at an Aussie home" program. It seems that with over 1500 servicemen a week visiting over 1000 homes for dinners, this was the first occasion they had ever had the parent write a note, along with the G.I. It's strange how we take for granted, (common and for uncommon courtesy), are completely overlooked by other people. I'm very glad that our family is like that.

Things were fairly quiet after I wrote last night, except when 2 RPG's landed next door at Arty. around midnight. After that we didn't get any incoming, but the noise of our mortars and artillery kept me awake for several hours. Charlie also changed the time of his harassment mortars to early morning catching us all slightly unaware. No one hurt though.

I played "white tornado" today and

really got the place looking good while everyone else was at MEDCAP. The guys are starting to call me "mamma son" and "house mother" which is exactly what I'm starting to feel like.

Ron Soppe "Soupy" is going to get the "Distinguished Service Cross" (2nd only to the Medal of Honor) in a day or so, and everyone is happy to see him get it. This gives the Medical Platoon the following awards for the last year; 1 DSC, 17 Silver Stars, 78 Bronze Stars, 123 Purple Hearts and that is for less than 50 guys. One man alone (Blinky) has 2 Silvers, 3 Bronzes and 4 Purple Hearts and Tiny is right behind him with 2, 2 and 4 (by the way Tiny leaves tomorrow).

Not much more happening, so I'll sign off. More later.

Love, Joe

(Minutes Continued from page 7)

orary Colonel of the Regiment.

Fred reminded us that a Honorary Colonel of the Regiment must be a rank of Colonel or above.

Under consideration: Guy Laboa, Todd McCaffrey, Ted Westerman

Motion By Jeff to ask Todd McCaffrey to become the next HCR. Second by Bart. **Passed**

Fred will send him a e-mail and Jeff will call and ask Todd McCaffrey if he would except the offer to become the next Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

Randy made a motion to highly recommend to make dress semi formal in honor of the General. Coat & Tie. Second by Chester. **Passed.**

Jeff made a motion to change the Scholarship name to the Major General Andy Anderson Memorial Scholarship Fund.. Second by Tom Frame **Passed**

Discussion on the conduct of Rick Brown and after discussing, Gary will write a letter or e-mail and send it to the board for approval and send with the backing of the Board or Directors about his conduct. Jeff will also talk with Rick.

Discussion on the web site and it's still being built.

Motion to adjourn unintelligible but second by Nicky at 2:10 pm EST

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Frame

"I'd rather be optimistic and wrong than pessimistic and right."

-Elon Reeve Musk

(MIA Continued from page 5)
"I will help. I will help".

The soldiers were moving in front of the APC's. Enemy contact remained heavy receiving RPG fire and automatic weapons fire. Two APC's had been hit and Co. B had five wounded. Fighting was intense with an occasional lull. Artillery fire was being called as fast as we could get it.

All units were on somewhat of a line. The line was staggered and confusion was in the air in abundance due to a lot of factors."

Arthur D. Mobley

.....
Art served in Vietnam with B Company's 3rd platoon, 2nd Squad from September 1967 until September 1968. He was awarded 3 Bronze Star medals with the "V" device for heroism and 3 Purple Hearts.



Art said, "He was 'young and dumb' and wanted to stay out front when moving.

"The designated driver program, it's not a desirable job. But if you ever get sucked into doing it, drop them off at the wrong house.

Now it is true I married my wife for her looks.... But not the ones she's been given me lately."

-Jeffrey Marshall Foxworthy

(Comments from page 5)
looking for content for your newsletter.
Mel Barnes was recognized locally on Memorial Day. If you scroll down the article (link below) to the "photo gallery" section you'll see a nice photo and caption of Mel you may wish to include.



"Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Santa Clarita, awards Veteran, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Mel Barnes with a certificate of achievement during the Purple Heart Award ceremony for the Memorial Day Tribute 2023 at Eternal Valley Memorial Park and Mortuary in Newhall Calif., on Monday, May 29, 2023"

Local Purple Heart recipients were given certificates from the city of Santa Clarita as part of the tribute. A total of 19 recipients of the award were honored at the tribute."

<https://signalsev.com/2023/05/eternal-valley-hosts-35th-annual-memorial-day-event/>

THANK YOU!!
Sending my best!
Cathy

=====
Our arrival at Fairbanks Airport, Lt. Col Don Kanase, Command Sgt. Ma-



jor Ellis and Lt. Kasholo, now that's what I call a great Meet and Greet.

Taps

"A bugle call not a song"

"In my opinion this short version of the history of Taps, and the fact that it was written by a Bobcat Medal of Honor recipient, should be read at each of our Memorial Services just before the rendering of this bugle call during our reunions. It is a honored part of our Regiment's history". --- **Gary Young**

"The music for "Taps" was changed by Major General Daniel Adams Butterfield in July, 1862. Butterfield was not pleased with the call for "Extinguish Lights" feeling that it was too formal to signal the day's end and also to replace the customary firing of three rifle volleys at the end of burials during battle. With the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, he created "Taps" while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia following the Seven Days' battles during the Peninsular Campaign.

Oliver Willcox Norton wrote about the experience later in his life: "One day, soon after the seven days' battles on the Peninsular, when the Army of the Potomac was lying in camp at Harrison's Landing, General Daniel Butterfield sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for "Taps" thereafter in place of the regulation 'Extinguish Lights' call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night." It became a standard component to U.S. military funerals in 1891

The 1896 Pattern Medal of Honor was awarded to Daniel Butterfield, "for distinguished gallantry in action at Gaines Mills, Va. June 27, 1862"

"There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air."-**Oliver Willcox Norton**

Taps" is a bugle call – a signal, not a song. And, as such, there are no official lyrics.

Visiting The Bobcats In Alaska

(Visit Continued from page 14)

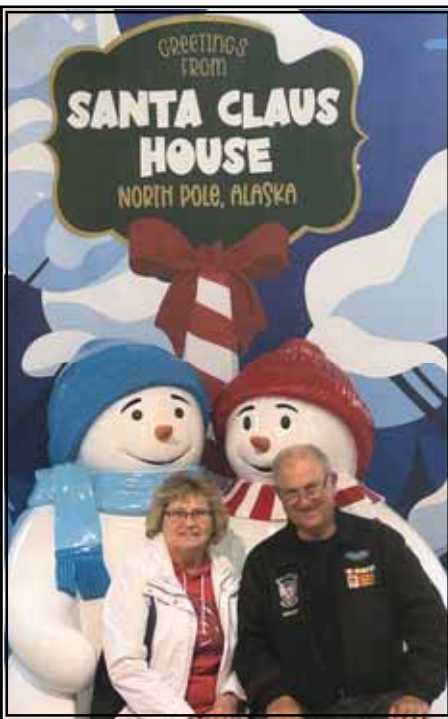


CPT Christian Nill

Company Change of Command Ceremony for outgoing Commander CPT Thomas Bowe and incoming Commander CPT Samuel Morrell. Both of these ceremonies

were given by Col Sean Lucas and CSM Joseph Gaskin. At all of these ceremonies, Lt Col Kanase made sure that Randy and I were recognized for being there.

On Friday, we were on our own until the evening. Most of the guys were given the day off to be ready for the ball on Saturday evening. We went to North Pole, Alaska where we met Santa Claus



and saw his list of good boys and girls, his reindeer, and Mr. and Mrs. Frosty the Snowman. We also visited downtown Fairbanks. There are some sights, but not very many. We got in what we could. We entertained ourselves on Thursday evening with a short vaudeville-type show at Pioneer Park.

On Friday evening Randy and I were invited to Lt. Col Kanase's farewell party. You had to be a CPT or

above and of course, there were 2 CSMs there, me and Travis. We were treated like royalty the whole evening. Let me tell you, the Bobcats can do some drinking, all of them and it got crazy later into the night. Col Kanase was given 2 going-away gifts. They were pretty large,



and he has to move them to his next duty station, Schofield in Hawaii. We didn't know he was leaving until our arrival, but it's always 2 years in Alaska and then you're gone. The whole Bobcat group at Ft. Wainwright loves him. It showed that evening with all the toasting and speeches. And there was no doubt that Randy and I got our toast and small speech in also.



On Saturday morning, we went back to Pioneer Park. We were told there was always something going on there during the day. Well not really, so we walked the park and left. We ended up going to The Museum of the North. Now that was really fun. You walked into this large picture of dinosaurs and go around to where the exhibits start. Randy and I found our first bear sighting in Alaska. He just wasn't that scary. They had an excellent screen where you could watch so many pictures of the Northern Lights changing, something that we didn't get to see on our visit because it's mostly in the winter when they have so much darkness. But I took pictures of their

pictures. Not a very big museum but it was very interesting.

Back to the hotel to get dressed for the Bobcat Ball, This is what we came for and I was very excited to be going. It started with Randy and I being asked to be in the reception line for over 750



Bobcats and their wives. What an honor that was. So many young Bobcats thanked us for what we do, and me thanking them all for their service and telling their wives they looked beautiful. I was in awe at all these Soldiers and their wanting to be where they are. They love Alaska! Are they crazy? Don't they know it gets really cold up there? At the beginning of the Ball, Randy was given the honor of receiving



the Order of St. Maurice, which is given to Infantrymen for outstanding duty to the Army and their Country. I posted it on Facebook so you can look there to see what the actual Order reads

To sum it all up, Randy and I were thrilled about the opportunity that this organization gave us to take this trip and spend 4 days at Ft. Wainwright. I had the time of my life and met so many people that I will never remember all their names. We were treated so well and with such respect by these young Bobcats. They are a special group. Thank you to the Board for sending us. It was definitely our pleasure to represent the 5th Inf Reg Association.

After the Ball, Randy and I started a 14-day land/sea tour right out of Fairbanks and were able to see the Northern part of Alaska. It was amazing. If you follow up on Facebook I'm sure you saw all the pictures of that part of the trip.

Carolyn Kethcart

.....

Randy Spoke to the Battalion

"Hi, my name is Randy Kethcart and I'm here representing the 5th Infantry Regiment Association. My wife Carolyn and I would like to personally thank Lt. Col. Donald Kanase and his entire staff for this special invitation to be here with you all this morning. We are here from Tinley Park, IL



I served with the 1st Battalion 5th Infantry in 1970 in Vietnam & Cambodia, I Carried the M-60 Machine Gun and drove a 113A1 Armored Personnel Carrier. In the late 1990's with the ever-growing internet, I started to try and piece together my time in the service and look up people I served with.

At that time, it seemed like an impossible task as many people have the same name and move around a lot. In 1998 I joined, what then was the 5th Infantry Chapter of the 25th Infantry Division which had about 90 members at that time. Later that year I became the webmaster and with the tutelage of my children, gave us a presence on the internet. We soon grew to a membership of about 500.

Through the past 20 years, I have self-taught myself HTML, CSS, and PHP to keep the website up to date, however, I've grown old and technology has passed me by.

I have given that job up to Nick Vogt (Cpt-R) who is an Afghanistan veteran who is building a new site geared toward mobile technology.

Our membership is rapidly declining. The sad truth is we are dying off at a very quick rate, as the bulk of our membership is Vietnam veterans. We have a few Korean vets left, but our WWII vets are all gone. It seems that the way the modern Army moved its people around so often, that they were deployed and redeployed multiple times, and in doing that, finding loyalty to a singular unit is more difficult.

In less than the last 100 years, the 5th Infantry has served with the 71st Division, 24th Division, 25th Division, the 1st Armor Division, and now the 11th Airborne Division and I may have missed a few.

In 2008 the decision was made to Incorporate and leave the Chapter of the 25th Infantry behind and become the 5th Infantry Regiment Association and later this year we will now have our very own Scholarship, The General Andrew H. Anderson Memorial fund that will be open to all members after a year in good standing.

We as an organization have annual reunions held around the country. Over the years we have supported the active unit when called to do so.

In the past we have supplied unit coat of arms pins to the FRG, stocked the barracks for the active units returning from deployments, and several times we have raised money to help finance the Military and Homecoming Balls. As I said we will soon have our very own scholarship that will be awarded to our member's children, or grandchildren toward college or trade school.

We are in need of new and younger Bobcats to pick up the flag and carry on our Battalion colors and traditions when we no longer can.

We are taking an aggressive move, drastically reducing the cost of life memberships to our active-duty men and women. It is on a graduated scale according to rank and we hope you will find it very affordable. I will leave the details with 1LT Channell, and I hope you will all give it the "I'll Try Sir" and we see you as members in the near future.

Carolyn and I, again, thank you all for your gracious hospitality while we were here. We are having a wonderful time getting to know you."

Randy Kethcart



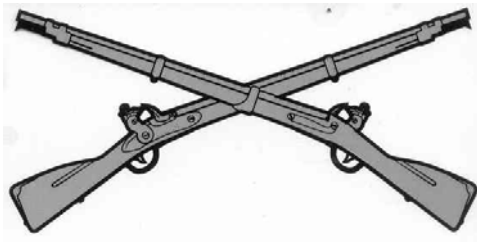
Lt. Channell was my go to person in getting everything set up for our trip to Ft. Wainwright.



CPT Morrell, his wife and CPT Bowe

Promotion Ceremony





Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Distinguished Service Crosses
Awarded to:**

1st LT Peter R. Bernardo

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

BERNARDO, PETER R - FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY
United States Army, Company C 1st Battalion
(Mechanized), 5th Infantry,

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: First Lieutenant Bernardo distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 23 February 1969 while serving as a platoon leader on a search and clear mission. His company came under intense small arms, automatic weapons, rifle grenade, and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an enemy force concealed and entrenched only a few meters from the friendly unit. Seeing that the heavy hostile fire was preventing his fellow soldiers from effectively returning fire and regrouping, Lieutenant Bernardo quickly assaulted and silenced one of the enemy automatic weapons positions. As he continued providing suppressive fire, his unit was able to withdraw and call in supporting fire. During a second assault on the enemy, Lieutenant Bernardo rushed two more enemy fortifications and destroyed them with hand grenades. As the company again withdrew he placed devastating suppressive fire on the hostile fortifications to cover the withdrawal. On a third assault he was wounded seriously, but he refused medical evacuation until his unit had completed its mission. First Lieutenant Bernardo's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

(Liver Continued from page 10)

in areas of South-east Asia due to the popularity of traditional dishes in which fish is either raw or insufficiently cooked to kill the parasite. Many veterans who served in or near Vietnam acquired the parasite.

What makes liver fluke infection especially ominous is that the parasite can live and reproduce in the bile duct for thirty years or longer. This causes chronic inflammation that eventually creates cancerous cells before producing noticeable symptoms. Although detection and elimination of the parasite are easy at an early stage, all too often the infection is not discovered until a patient has Stage IV cancer. Typically, the first visible signs include jaundice resulting from a blocked bile duct. At this stage, the prognosis is dismal, and the same cancerous blockage that causes jaundice also locks in a still-thriving colony of liver flukes, preventing their detection in stool samples;

Liver flukes often cannot be detected by the usual method, because they are sealed into the bile duct. A non-invasive test is being developed that would detect liver fluke infection by determining species-specific antigens in the urine. This is described in a 2016 article from Thailand, published in the journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

All in-country Vietnam veterans are encouraged to get tested for liver flukes before cancer symptoms appear. In the worst cases, the test would provide survivors with the information to help prove service connection when applying for VA benefits. Unfortunately lack of information and the resultant confusion about this cancer have continued to obstruct such claims, making them more difficult for veterans and their families.

Today, the evidence and explanation are clear and widely available. Several informative and accessible articles are listed below. These range from scholarly papers to information published by nonprofit organizations such as the American Cancer Society, as well as government agencies. See also vaveteran.org/34-2/34-2_parasites.html for additional information. Recent studies have focused on increased awareness, education, cancer treatment, and early diagnostic methods.

what makes liver fluke infection especially ominous is that the parasite can live and reproduce in the bile duct for thirty years or longer. This causes chronic inflammation that even-

(See Liver Continued on page 23)

A New Honorary Colonel for the 5th Infantry Regiment Association

MG(R) Todd McCaffrey



Todd B. McCaffrey, Secretary of Veteran's Affairs for South Carolina, has agreed to serve as Honorary Colonel of our 5th Infantry Regiment Association. Following the recent death of MG (R) Andrew H. Anderson, the Bobcat Board decided to approach McCaffrey about the possibility of his filling the vacancy. He enthusiastically agreed to do so. His appointment to the position then required an endorsement from LTC Don Kanase, the active-duty commander of 1st Battalion/5th Infantry at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, and final approval by the Chief of Infantry at the Department of the Army.

McCaffrey, a native of Hudson, Ohio, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1986 with a major in organizational effectiveness. During his career he commanded units at all echelons through division level.

In 2002, LTC McCaffrey, took command of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Ft. Lewis, Washington. At the time, the 1st Brigade, 25th Division, was in the process of re-organizing from a light infantry brigade, with no armored vehicles, to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Todd McCaffrey's battalion was deployed to Iraq in October of 2004 just in time to participate in the second battle of Fallujah. The following month, they were sent north to Mosul to help deal with increased insurgent activity in that area and provide on-the-job training for the Iraqi Army.

First Battalion, 5th Infantry received the Valorous Unit Award for its fight to

secure Mosul during January and February, 2005. Seven months later, the Bobcats returned to Ft. Lewis where McCaffrey was relieved of its command and 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry was re-flagged as the 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Soon thereafter, McCaffrey was promoted to colonel and assumed command of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. His brigade was deployed to Iraq in November, 2007, for a 15-month tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 2nd Stryker Brigade was based at Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad.

It was during this period that the Iraqi government decided to legalize a paid militia of pre-dominantly Iraqi Sunnis who would carry weapons and man checkpoints in an effort to curb sectarian violence. The U.S. Army welcomed the idea of this program and trained and paid the local units.



Colonel McCaffrey greets Iraqi sheiks prior to their signing a contract to maintain checkpoints northwest of Baghdad, May 2008.

In September, 2012, McCaffrey was promoted to brigadier general while serving at the Pentagon as Director of Training. He left there in 2016 to return to the 25th Infantry Division in Honolulu and worked as its chief of staff until June of 2016. While there, he was promoted to major general.



MG(R) Andy Anderson attends BG Todd McCaffrey's promotion ceremony at Ft. Myer, VA in September, 2012

In June of 2016, McCaffrey reported to Fort Knox and spent the next two years commanding those Army Reserve and National Guard units that comprise the 1st Army Division East. His final army assignment was with the United States Africa Command. He served as chief of staff at its headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. He retired from the army in July, 2020 after 34 years of service.

Immediately upon retiring, Todd became Director of Military Affairs for the University of South Carolina. During his tenure, the university was elevated to one of *Military Times*' "Best Schools for Veterans."

On March 16 of this year, the South Carolina Senate unanimously voted to confirm Todd McCaffrey as the new Secretary of the South Carolina Department of Veteran's Affairs. It has occurred to the 90-year-old veteran writing this article that we should focus on getting some young blood in this outfit who can keep up with the likes of our new honorary colonel, Todd McCaffrey.

Sam Kier

(Liver Continued from page 22)

ually creates cancerous cells before producing noticeable symptoms.

The National Institutes of Health reprinted this 2011 article from the Korean Journal of Radiology, "Liver Flukes: The Malady Neglected," by Jae Hoon Lim, MD.

The National Cancer Institute of the NIH provides treatment information and a useful illustration of the bile ducts and their connections.

The American Cancer Society has a thorough and informative article on cholangiocarcinoma.

Smithsonian magazine published this article about liver flukes and bile duct cancer in 2009.

The Centers for Disease Control describes and illustrates the life cycle of the liver fluke and its connection to cholangiocarcinoma:

[cdc.gov/dpdx/opisthorchiasis](https://www.cdc.gov/dpdx/opisthorchiasis)

For anyone who has traveled to Southeast Asia and eaten local food but has no symptoms, testing is worthwhile and simple. It can be done through the VA or a private physician. If liver fluke infection is detected, it is easily treated using the following guidelines from CDC:

[cdc.gov/ddpx/opisthorchiasis/tx.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ddpx/opisthorchiasis/tx.html)

MG-R Anderson's Funeral

Easton MD - 4 May 23



Association's
Flowers



"Dinner last night with the Bobcats after the General's wake. The Frames, Grace Moore and Gary Young are missing from picture. Chuck and Diane Kennedy, Barb Wood, Bruce Colton, Nicky Fasselin, George Chavez, Bruce Cotta and Bob Drake" *Picture & comment from Carolyn Kethcart .*

5th Infantry Regiment Association Inc.
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