



# 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"*

Winter 2015

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

Volume IV

### 2016 Reunion Columbus/FT Benning GA

TUE 17 May - SUN 22 May

HI BOBCATS!!

"It's time to get ready for the 2016 Annual Reunion in Columbus, GA,



hometown to Ft. Benning, home of the Infantry. There are so many exciting things planned for this Reunion. You will not want to miss it. The dates are May 17 through 22, 2016, but the hotel has given us the block for 3 days before and 3 days after. So get there early and get things started.

Official registration starts on Tuesday the 17th and the Hospitality Room will be open for us starting then. The hotel block room rate is an unbelievable \$83 a night and it includes a free breakfast, Wi-Fi and parking. The location is great for shops and restaurants.

We are planning 3 full days of events and tours, all of which are shown on the website with the complete details, <http://www.bobcat.ws/reunions.html>. Start by going there and sending me your pre-registration form so I know you are planning to be there. This helps me when I am watching the hotel list. It is important that I get yours sooner than later, so please do that now if you have not already done it.

(See Reunion on page 25)

### Tony Beckler Recognized For His Service

*"I came back (home), and I was actually scared to get off the plane. I didn't know what to expect."*

"The memory of March 6, 1968, will forever be burned into Sgt. Tony Beckler's mind.

"I say I picked up two guardian angels that day," he said.



Not far from Saigon, during one of the Vietnam War's hardest years of fighting, Beckler's unit, a mechanized unit of the U.S.

See Tony on page 7

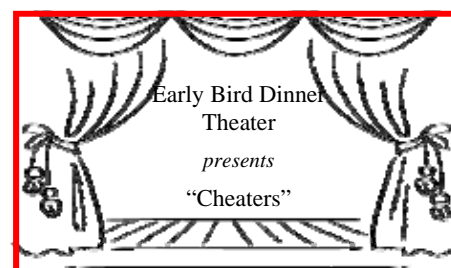
*"I'll Try Sir"*

### Florida Winter Social

THU MAR 3 - to SUN MAR 6 2016

The 2016 Florida Winter Social will have a different twist to it. Instead of doing a Saturday evening dinner cruise which we have done for many years the 14th annual winter Social will feature a play and dinner at the "Early Bird Dinner Theatre" on Saturday March 5th starting at 4 PM.

Teriann Tringali has made arrangements with the "Early Bird Dinner



Theater" for us to attend the performance of "Cheaters", a hilarious comedy.

Teriann has also made arrangements with a Clearwater Beachfront hotel.



**Quality Beach Resort**  
655 S. Gulfview Blvd  
Clearwater Beach, FL

(See Social on page 17)

The Spring 2016 Newsletter will be out MAR/APR 2016 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

## 25th Infantry Division Association's Springfield IL Reunion

The 25th Infantry Division Association had their 66th Annual reunion the week of 28 September thru 3 October in Springfield Illinois. This was a joint reunion held with the 4th Infantry Division Association.

### Why 25th & 4th Together?

The 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions had a relationship of sorts during Vietnam. When the 25th was deployed to Vietnam in late 1965 early 66 their 3rd Brigade deployed to Pleiku in the north and the 1st and 2nd brigades went to Cu Chi. Later that year the 4th INF DIV deployed their 1st and 2nd brigades to Pleiku and their 3rd brigade to the Cu Chi area. After a short period of time the 25th 3rd brigade in Pleiku was made their 3rd brigade and their 3rd brigade in the Cu chi area became the 25th 3rd brigade. So this relationship led to the idea of having a joint reunion being hatched.

As you can see from the pictures on this page Jon Blickenstaff participated in the 25th Infantry Division Association's Memorial Service playing the bagpipes. His playing added something special to the service.

Members in attendance were Bart Stanzione, Randy and Carolyn Kethcart with their grandson Jacob Flick, Hildreth Buterbaugh (Not pictured) and Fred and Carolyn Deverse.

Springfield IL, the birthplace of President Abraham Lincoln, had a lot of interesting sites. The state of Illinois' Memorial honoring those who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam was impressive.

Carolyn Kethcart posted the picture below on Facebook and said: "Jacob (Flick) had an opportunity to meet our keynote speaker from the 25th ID, Col Christopher Cardoni, all the way from Schofield Barracks, HI. He told Jacob he was going to keep an eye on him. Um, maybe a future soldier?"



Joe and Tina Kruchek Bobcats but not members





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



"Well, once again Fred Deverse tells me it's time to put together some words that should be strung together to form intelligent sentences so that he can publish them for the Newsletter. However, he was no help in giving me any subjects to write about.

Hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday.

Since the Reunion in New Orleans it has been a quiet few months. I was able to attend the 25th Infantry Division Reunion in Springfield, Illinois and enjoyed myself. I met a few people from past times as well as making new acquaintances. Springfield was a nice place with a number of historical homes and buildings. Fred and Carolyn Deverse as well as Randy and Carolyn Kethcart and grandson Jacob also attended. Also attending was Jon Blickenstaff who participated in the 25th Infantry Division Associations' Memorial Service by playing the bagpipes.

We are galloping to the Christmas and New Years' Day festivities and then we start to gear up for the Winter Social in Florida which Teri has organized.

The 2016 Winter Social will take place from March 3-March 6 and this year we have a change from the past. We are not doing a Dinner Cruise but instead Teri has booked an Early Bird Dinner Theatre where we will be treated to a comedy show and also dine buffet style.

Consider attending and check the Bobcat web site and this newsletter for further information.

Then we are in the home stretch for the 2016 Reunion at Fort Benning and hopefully many of you have made your plans to attend and booked your hotel

rooms. It promises to be a great time.

I have been fortunate in my tenure as President that I have been able to have the help and support of our Members on the Board of Directors and they have been instrumental in keeping the Association vibrant, active, and running smoothly and providing balance and perspective on many matters. My thanks to them. I also wish to commend the entire membership as you have strongly supported the Association by your attendance at our events, and your generosity at our auctions as well as the times that you have unselfishly donated to various requests to help raise money for active duty soldiers. My thanks go out to you also.

May everyone have a Happy, Healthy, Merry Christmas and New Year, and God bless you and your families, bless and protect our troops, and 'God Bless America.'

**Bart Stanzione**

## Invited to our FT Benning Reunion

"Tom Frame and I have been talking about hopefully arranging with our Board of Directors a invitation for an Odessa, TX businessman (and friend of mine) to attend our Ft. Benning reunion as a special guest. Tom talked to Bart about this and they both agreed that I should be the one to approach the Board with this request.

Ronnie Rains knew Rex Young when they were teenagers and has done a lot to honor his name. He was instrumental in getting the post-office named after Rex, was the driving force in getting the Wilson-Young medal of Honor Middle School named (including making a large donation to have it remodeled), and then sent his private jet to Austin to fly 6 Bobcats to Odessa for the school dedication. (Mike Elam, Stan Baker, George Chavez, chaplain Don Just, Oleh Babski, and myself) He also offered to pay all expenses for Tom Frame and Elwood Merring to come to the school dedication from Pennsylvania. Elwood took him up on this offer. Tom had family obligations and couldn't come.

Ronnie, a Vietnam veteran himself,

(See Rains on page 25)

## 5th Infantry Association

President - *Bart Stanzione*

Vice President - *Tom Frame*

Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*

Secretary & Membership - *Paul Robinson*

Historian - *Sam Kier*

Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*

Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*

Past Presidents - *Robert (Bob) Wood and*

*Jon Cartwright*

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

*Jon Blickenstaff     Andy Gimma*

*John Snodgrass     George Bates*

Chaplain (Appointed) - *Myron Peterson*

## Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.

2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 15** (only the last two numbers) on the address label your dues expires 31 DEC 15. Please renew now!

## Reunions

Florida Winter Social ..... 3-6 MAR 16  
Columbus/FT Benning GA ... 17-22 May 16

## HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

### Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

*Andy Anderson (MG-R)*

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

### Distinguished Members of the Regiment

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

### Honorary Members of the Regiment

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

### Bobcat of the Year

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

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

# ROSTER

## The Denis McDonough MORNING REPORT

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

*[paulandjulier@gmail.com](mailto:paulandjulier@gmail.com) or*

*PO BOX 569, Frankfort MI 49635-0569  
or 231-651-0052*

### E-mail Changes & Additions:

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

**Drake, Robert** - Change

[carrier50@yahoo.com](mailto:carrier50@yahoo.com)

**Whalen, Frank** - Change

[whalen711@gmail.com](mailto:whalen711@gmail.com)

**Sliger, Samuel** - Change

[sliger@windstream.net](mailto:sliger@windstream.net)

**Tollefson, Raymond "Cliff"** - Change

[cliff1369@hotmail.com](mailto:cliff1369@hotmail.com)

**McWilliams, Kenneth** - Change

[follow\\_me\\_11b@yahoo.com](mailto:follow_me_11b@yahoo.com)

### Lost Members:

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

**Anderson Jr., John "Andy"** - He was a LT in Vietnam and is a Life member.

**McFadden, Terri** - A life member.

When he joined in 2013 he was active duty assigned to the 1/5th at FT Wainwright Alaska

### Roster Changes/Corrections:

**Robinson, Paul** - Phone # change  
231-651-0052

**Tringali, Teriann** - New address  
800 Main Street - Lot 416  
Dunedin FL 34698-5113  
727-482-4564

**Payne, COL Brian** - New address  
7116 Ardennes Loop  
FT Hood TX 76544-1786

**Stankevitz, Patrick** - New address

11140SE Dixie HWY APT A  
Hobe Sound FL 33455-5116

**Horney, Robert** - New address  
16275 Wintun RD  
Apple Valley CA 92307-1548

**Amedio, Carl D.** - New address  
1820 Division ST  
Murphyboro IL 62966-2302

**Giustino, Ronald** - Correction  
45 West 67th ST - APT 24A  
New York NY 10023

**Chaney, Allen** - New address  
192 County Road 3355  
Valley Mills TX 76689-2582

**Claffy, John** - Change  
3389 Lunarridge ST  
Las Cruces NM 88012-7771

**Nolan, Je U U** - Change  
3211 Brownlee RD  
Jackson GA 30233-5904

**Stokes, Edward J.** - Change  
12191 Cuyamaca College DR E  
Unit 613  
El Cajon CA 92019-4344

**Postovoit, Andrew** - Change  
6249 Serene CT  
Chino CA 91710-3728

**Guin, James** - Change  
2057 Barret DR  
Frisco TX 75033-5207

**Blanton III, Carl "Trey"** - Change  
229 Interstate 45 North #1216  
Conroe TX 77304

**Fazio, Michael J.** - Change  
22 Palladio DR  
Stafford VA 22554-6582

**McWilliams, Kenneth** - Change  
1717 E. Peyton Street  
Sherman, TX. 75090  
[follow\\_me\\_11b@yahoo.com](mailto:follow_me_11b@yahoo.com)

*\*Kenneth served with both the 1st BN 2007-2009 in Iraq and the 2nd BN 2010-2013 in Afghanistan. Kenneth is still serving as a Sergeant with the 144th U.S. Infantry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard.*

*Commented: "Thank you, sir for your time; I do enjoy the newsletters and the work that y'all do to promote our great organization."*

### New Members:

**Forleades, Nick (Cheryl)**  
6667 Dorsett Shoals Rd  
Douglasville, Ga 30135

770 - 489 - 6059  
B Co, 3rd PLT 1969-70  
[nickforleades@bellsouth.net](mailto:nickforleades@bellsouth.net)

*\*Army/5th Infantry experience: "9/69-9/70 in country. Company B 3'd PLT medic for a while then moved to Crip for approximately six weeks to two months. Transferred back to 3'd PLT until a little after Dau Tieng then I was transferred to the Battalion aid station at Dau Tieng. After that went to Cambodia with Angel track and on to Xuan Lac.*

*After leaving the Army, I was a bartender for a while. I moved to Atlanta to manage a short order restaurant. After a year or so I opened a music store with a partner. Married Cheryl and have two children. I sold my share to my partner and went to school to learn about computers. I was employed with Macy's computer department on mainframes. I transitioned to computer networks and was employed with Nielsen Consumer Marketing Research. I advanced to administrator for Malware prevention on their global network. Retired in March 2014. That's about it."*

**Robinson, Dane (Liza Jane)**

8791 Universe Avenue  
Westminster, CA 92683  
714-801-3777

1/5 (M), Co C, 3rd PLT Korea (2nd INF DIV) 88/89

[robinsonfamily1@earthlink.net](mailto:robinsonfamily1@earthlink.net)

*Comments: 2 Korea DMZ Tours with C Co 1/5 Infantry Summer to Fall 1988 and Summer to Fall 1989. (SSG US Army Retired (Medical retirement))*

### Illness:

**Barrett (CSM-R), Ray** - In conversation with Andy Anderson I learned that Ray is now residing in a VA home.

### Taps:

**Lovett, Elton** - Died 18 JAN 14 - C Co.  
5/67-10/68 & 4/69-11/70

*\*Denis McDonough left the following message: "Elton served as a mechanic with the 1/5th Mech in Vietnam in 67/68/69/70. He was always in the field with his fellow Bobcats. He never like staying at the base camp. He was a great soldier and friend. He was loved by all the men he served with. I'm going to miss you Elton."*

*\*Jeff McGrath wrote: "Words are our deepest sympathy to the family. RIP fellow Bobcat. You have done well."*

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

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

# **A Veterans Day Tribute**

"November 11, a day punctuated by a pause, when we remember our veterans. Soldiers who have served this nation in foxholes and on patrol, sailors and airmen who have served out on the deep blue sea and in the wild blue yonder. These are men and women who have traveled a rough and rugged road, who have gone into enemy territory, who have come under enemy fire, who have served on the battlefield, who have been in the mine field and who have given us a clear definition of American Valor.

I remember soldiers engaged in intense fighting and you could look and see the faces of youth with a mark of concern but you could also see a devotion to duty and a determination for victory. I recall soldiers pinned down by enemy fire and you could look and



see in their faces a shadow of the hour's darkness but you could also see a glorious determination for life and liberty. For the veteran the test has been severe and the challenge great but he has performed at his best for duty, honor and country.

On this Veterans Day may the trumpet sound a note once more for the daring, the gallant and the heroic. I might also direct your attention to the Wounded Warrior Project at [www.helpwwp.org](http://www.helpwwp.org).

Happy Veterans Day to all."

**Stewart Eidem**

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"My tribute today as we get closer to Veteran's Day, is to the infantry, the boots on the ground guys, the guys who won WWI and WWII with their blood and guts. These men pictured above are from another era, Vietnam, still very brave and still leading the fight, and still winning the battles. I served with these men and know first hand that they loved their country enough to fight for what they believed in, right or wrong. Some are gone now but their memory lives on through Veteran's Day."

**Bruce Cotta**

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"Thanks for posting this Bruce. Front row, L to R: SSG Philip Clarke, Novak behind him, James Grusek, (died Nov. 24, 2006) Gerald Bigham, Platoon Leader 1Lt Joseph Rex. Chuck Kennedy, Paul G. Rossi, Washington, Witherspoon, and SSG Scott. Back row L to R: Phillip McFarland, Tom Goins, and William M. Clarke, Jr. (KIA 5/22/68). Photo by former platoon Bro Donald Mousseau, battalion photographer. Never forgotten."

**Tom Goins**

*See Comments on page 6*



## Treasurer's Report

### 3rd Quarter Financial Report

(1 July - 31 September 2015)

#### July

##### Income:

Dues	\$25
Quartermaster sales	\$126.50
1/5 Gala Banquet Event	\$250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$401.50</b>

##### Debits:

Summer Newsletter- Printing	\$520.50
Postage (Summer Newsletter)	\$168.89
Bank Service Charge	\$4
1/5 Gala Banquet Event	\$4800
Albuquerque MCM Hotel Fee	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5993.39</b>

#### August

##### Income:

Membership Dues	\$135
Quartermaster Sales	\$10.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$145.50</b>

##### Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$82
Bank Service Charge	\$4
Prep Taxes for 2014	\$30
Postage	\$133.59
FT Benning Reunion Hotel	\$250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$499.59</b>

#### September

##### Income:

Dues	\$125
Quartermaster Sales	\$22.50
PayPal Internet Sales	\$830.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$977.60</b>

##### Debit:

Bank Service Charge	\$4
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Quartermaster Purchases	\$32
Book Sales (Author)	\$66.68
Filing Fee - Michigan	\$20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$122.68</b>

##### Assets

Checkbook balance	\$1638.16
Business Account - Savings	\$48710.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50348.79</b>

*Jim Caudle,*

Treasurer/Quartermaster

### Donations to the Association

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

**Theron Clough** - FT Benning \$50  
Reunion Hospitality Room

**George Bates** - FT Benning \$50  
Reunion Hospitality Room

Your name could be here! \$

*(Comments from page 5)*

"Tom the first soldier, unknown, is SSG Philip Clarke from Boston. He was our platoon sergeant. Saw him in Orlando with the 25th ID reunion. Treated him for wounds the same day you were hit."

"Tom, Phil was shot in the thigh. Had to give him morphine. He initially didn't want it but the pain was too much. Had to drag him back to the track. He and I were on the third track that rode into the ambush."

**Bruce Cotta**

"To my many Brothers and Sisters in Arms, you have my thanks, respect. It was an Honor to have served with you for 26 plus years. WE DID OUR BEST."

**George Chavez**

### Frank Leota Rides

Many of you probably remember Frank Leota who was most recently

Command Sergeant Major for the US Army Pacific Command. Frank spoke at one of our reunions but recently retired.



Frank Leota

Well it looks like from this recent Facebook posting that he has taken up riding a Harley motorcycle.

We wish him happy and safe motorcycling.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN...

### VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANT

"It looks like we did some good after all!

On Saturday, July 24th, 2010, the town of Prescott Valley, Arizona, hosted a Freedom Rally.

Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means.

He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam veterans.

Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say:

"Thirty-five years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream.

I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Viet-

*(See Comments on page 9)*

*(Tony from page 1)*

Army's 25th Infantry, was going on a sweep of what was left over from the Tet Offensive. The first bullet hit one of his two best friends, Joe Seibert. His other friend, Tony Patrizzi, stepped forward to help, but was shot and died immediately.

"They were my two best buds," he said. "My whole outlook changed." Joe was alive yet, and Beckler tried to drag him to safety.

"He said, 'Just lay me down, Tony,'" telling Beckler to come back for him later. "I knew 'Man, there is no way I'm going to see you again.'"

Beckler found Joe the next morning where he had left him. He was dead with a rosary wrapped around his hand.

The group had a saying they had promised to recite to each other if one of them died: "Better you than me." Joe had told Beckler, "Don't forget the saying."

"But I couldn't say it," Beckler said. "You can't explain the bond you have with the guys with you. You make some very close friends, but then you lose some friends."

Despite being hurt three times, Beckler, returned to the front lines after not more than a week's recovery. The first time, Beckler was walking through a graveyard. The bullet hit a tombstone and split, leaving shrapnel in his hand. Another time a mortar exploded next to him, picking him up and throwing him back into the track of the tank and peppering his legs with 18 pieces of shrapnel.

"I got the ground stuff," he said of the explosion. The shrapnel was like pins sticking his pants to his legs.

Someone in his unit asked him if he was OK: "I said, 'Man, my legs are burning.'"

The final time, his unit was surrounded by a regiment of NVA soldiers. He was given a bazooka-like gun. He was told to drop it and run immediately after firing. He had set his M-16 on the ground beside him.

"By the time I found my 16, it was too late," he said. The Vietnamese opened fire with RPGs. "When the smoke settled, I was standing," he said. But he would end up with shrapnel in his skull.

While pinning on his third Purple Heart in a Japanese hospital, the general

asked Beckler "Son, when are you going to learn to duck?"

"If I was a cat with nine lives, I would have used it all up," he said. "You've got to be on your toes," Beckler said of his time in combat.

He had one man under his command who would fall asleep all the time, and Beckler had him written up. Yet, the same guy continued to fight in a tough battle, manning the machine gun even while he was injured and blood ran down his face.

"He wouldn't get off the gun," Beckler said, so Beckler put him in for a

"I'd yell 'I got a wedding to go to. Then they'd yell 'Whose wedding?' and I'd say, 'Mine.'"

There was only one thing that would have kept Beckler in the military: his younger brother.

Beckler was the middle child of three boys. His older brother was in the National Guard in the '60s.

If his younger brother's draft number had come up, Beckler said he was going to re-enlist to keep his brother from having to go because the law only required one son to serve at a time.

"I didn't want him to come over," he



medal.

When asked why the contradiction, Beckler said, "He deserves both."

For his final six months, Beckler was sent back to the U.S. to train Army Rangers at Fort Benning, Ga.

Beckler, who was engaged to his wife, Jean, before being deployed, said sometimes he thought the only reason he made it was because he was trying to get home to her.

He had a battle cry with his friends:

said. "I don't know if he could have taken it .... He had a high number, thank God."

While he was overseas, Jean wrote Beckler every day, sent care packages with canned food. He saved Swiss steak in a can and said it would be their Easter meal, but his two friends were killed before that.

"We ate C-rations all the time," he

*(See Tony on page 8)*

# ENEMY TANKS SPOTTED

On a clear day in Cambodia we received the sporadic benefit of aerial reconnaissance. Whatever the source, the report caught our attention in a big way. Two enemy tanks were observed moving south in Bravo Company's direction!

It was common knowledge that we did not have a reliable means of dealing with such a threat. Everyone knew that the M72 LAW suffered a 25% failure rate each week when transported inside our vibrating M113 tracks. It had been over a month since we had been re-supplied with the shoulder-fired rockets. The fragile "quick-match" linking the trigger with the rocket motor was guaranteed to fail in that length of time. No worries though. Sheer genius existed in our platoon leaders and first shirt.

The center of our position became a beehive of activity. Top brought out a couple of 40 pound shaped charges and the platoon leaders were busy cutting up 30-second sections of fuse and medical tape. I was so fascinated with the process that I climbed up on top of our track to get a better view. Soon the happy and excited platoon leaders held up the fruits of their labors. They were so proud, happy and excited that if they had tails they'd have wagged them.

Now you active duty types still practice this right? The 40 pound run, dodge and jump? The concept was obvious. Sweep aside the infantry screen with our superior anti-personnel firepower and the rest is easy. All that was needed was a little fire and movement and then a couple of volunteers would...

Maybe I was a little slower at grasping the complete tactics, but it seemed as if the spectators were thinning out. I couldn't just slip behind something myself as I was exposed on top of the track. I was hoping I hadn't inadvertently made eye contact!

A further report was received that the enemy tanks had reversed direction and were out of sight. A lucky thing for them! After all, if your proud, happy and excited platoon leader holds out his 40 pound invention and tells you to run down a couple of tanks, you know what you're going to say, you're a Bobcat! You say, "I'll Try Sir".

*Roger Sperl*

-----  
*Thank you Roger for sending this story! Please write something about your military experience and send it to me for the newsletter.*

## Veterans' Suicide Rate

"For those who serve, the struggle does not always end when they return to American soil. A U.S. military veteran commits suicide every 65 minutes, on average, according to a recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An older, less detailed government analysis reported that about 18 former service members kill themselves each day. But a recent, more precise study of veteran suicides from 1999 to 2010 shows that the number is heartbreakingly higher: 22 deaths per day."

*(Tony from page 7)*

said. Those with beans and weenies and peach cocktails were always picked first. One time, his unit was brought a steak dinner. Right after getting his steak, mortars came in. Beckler's steak fell in the dust but he grabbed it before taking cover.

"I'm going to wash it off and eat it anyway," he told the other guys. There was also a young girl, 8 or 9 years old, who Beckler nicknamed Rosie, after his mother. She would bring things for the troops to buy and managed to find Beckler some Seagram's 7 whiskey.

"If she didn't show up, you better watch out," Beckler said, because that usually meant an attack was coming. Drafted when he was about to turn 21, Beckler has been out the Army for 46 years.

"I came back (home), and I was actually scared to get off the plane. I didn't know what to expect," said Beckler, worried how things had changed while he was gone.

Beckler would later be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. It's been 40 years, and he's still walking. He worked as a carpet layer for three years then for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. as a dispatcher for 29 years before the doctor told him to quit.

I don't know if it was Agent Orange related or not," he said, but he can remember seeing animals coming out of the forest deformed and there were many times they would lay in that same brush during an ambush.

Of his three kids, his two sons each have a birth defect that less than 1 percent of kids get.

One good thing that came out of the war is now young soldiers are treated as they should be, according to Beckler, who said he feels bad for soldiers who go back four or five times.

"You can't keep doing that," he said. "I think they're going to have more PTSD than the Vietnam veterans. I give all these young guys credit, but I don't know how long they're going to make it."

*Link sent to me by Charles Kennedy  
- Copied from the Bismarcktribune.com  
Page 4A Wed. Sep 30 2015*



(Comments from page 6)

name-American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud United States citizen and here is my proof.

It took me eight years waiting in endless lines to get it, but I got it, and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968 when I was six years old.

Now you might want to question how a six year old boy could remember anything.

Trust me, those images can never be erased.

I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

I left South Vietnam thirty-five years ago for political asylum.

The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again.

I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the U.S. Somehow, my family and I were reunited five months later in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now.

It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight.

I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way.

My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills.

I proved him wrong. I finished college.

You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment.

By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between so-

cialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That was my experience.

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

Fast forwarding, I somehow finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

One day when I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said, "Yes."

I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked.

This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

You see, America is not just a place on the map, it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here.

Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well.

In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in.

Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the United States Constitution.

It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and, to this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words.

It's not easy. But if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I knew this 46-page docu-

ment, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy.

I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial.

You are my heroes. You are my founders.

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand.

I thank you for my life.

I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today.

I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand.

On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all.

**Quang Nguyen**

Creative Director/Founder  
Caddis Advertising, LLC

*\*Sent by John Barnard*

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## Proud of Military Career

Dear Family & Friends:

"As all of you know I am very proud of my military career and that it was my privilege to serve this country. For the last few years I have taken part in some Veterans Day activities in the Kirkwood area. On Tuesday I along with many other veterans spent the day speaking to the students at Kirkwood High School. These students are being taught about what all of us did in the service to preserve our freedoms. These students were really interested and had many good questions.

On Wednesday I attended our parish St. Peter's grade school children's mass. There were about 50 veterans from all branches of the military and conflicts from World War 2, Korea, Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

After the mass we attended a reception and a program given by the students. It was inspiring to see these young people being taught that serving our country is a noble profession and to honor those who do.

There was a reporter from the St. Louis Review who took pictures and interviewed several veterans. I have attached a link to the article. <http://stlouisreview.com/> When the St Louis

*(See Comments on page 10)*

# 83 And Misses The Army

"I am attaching a few photos, mostly of me, from my 1954 tour. I joined the 5th RCT in January of '54 and rotated back to the US in October of 1954.

Initially, on arriving in Korea, I was an ammo bearer in the 60mm Mortar section of Co A, 1st Bn. I think that was punishment for having arrived as a stateside Corporal. Up until then I had never even seen a 60mm tube.

Having been Infantry Training Cadre, a Field First Sgt. (acting), DI, at Ft Leonard Wood for almost 2 years, Korea was almost a relief.

I moved into Hq. 1st Bn as an Operations clerk and so remained throughout the movements of the Regt. from Chip Ori to Kojedo thence to Pusan and the October rotation to Ft. Lewis. I was promoted to S/Sgt (E5) in the summer of '54 in Korea.

At Ft Lewis, with the Regt. being attached to the 71st Inf. Div. I participated in Winter Warfare Training at both the Bn and Regimental levels. We trained for a road trip to Alaska.

I was accepted by the Army Language School (Now Defense Language Institute, at the Presidio of Monterey,



At desk in BN CP Pusan Summer of 1954

CA, in mid-1955 My Language was Finnish, the first time class.

I graduated in mid-1956 and was recruited to attend the Intelligence School at Ft. Holabird in Baltimore, MD. Subsequently I was assigned as a Central European Intelligence Specialist to a unit in Munich where, with no locally usable language skills, I had to do a quick self study to learn German fluently

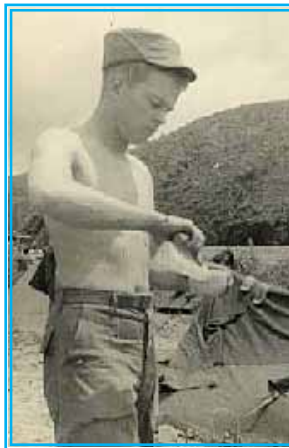
in 8 months.

I served, and well, as an Agent Handler until September of 1959 when I opted to end my career as I could not pass an eye exam to accept a direct commission as offered to me. Big regrets.

On returning to Dallas, and within 4

days, I was employed as the Assistant Director of Security at Neiman Marcus. I stayed with NM off and on for some 30 years but in Security for only 11 months. Not much money in operations in those days. I attended SMU, majoring in Journalism. Over years I have been in advertising, client relations, newsletter writing and publishing. Most recently I operated my own marketing website selling French Cookware's and Restaurant supplies. I retired that three years ago and now all I do is grandchildren, TV and books.

So, here I am, now 83 and enjoying



On bivouac late summer of 54



Learning to Parasail Flying Tandem Cicitek

the so called good life. I miss the Army. It was good to and for me.

Sam Kier served with me for a long time at Ft. Lewis. He "found" me a couple of years ago quite by accident and we have become good email friends.

I continue with "I'll Try Sir".

Thank you for your Service!"

**DONALD R. SHIPMAN**

(Comments from page 9)

Review page is displayed click on the link "Veterans Day" and it will take you to the story. I had no idea they took the picture and was surprised to see it.

On Monday night November 16 the St. Louis Blues will be honoring veterans. As most of you know my son Chris works for the Blues and has done something very unique to honor his father. He is in charge of the camera crew and responsible for what you see on the jumbo Tron. He also does all the in house videos. Yesterday I had to go down to Scottrade Center to be interviewed. He will take that interview along with pictures of me and my troops in Vietnam and make it into a short film clip that will probably be shown on the jumbo Tron before or during the game. Before the game I will be in my dress blues on the ice saluting the flag during the singing of the national anthem. The game is televised on Fox Sports Midwest starting at 6:30 pregame. I don't know for sure if this will be shown on local TV. I'm sure that depends on commercial breaks.

Have a great day

**Vic Frome**

## Survived A Head Injury

"Earlier this month, I had taken a road trip to see my son and his family in New York. Eli is a captain in the Marine Corp stationed at Stuart Air Base in New Windsor, NY.

After having a great time with the family especially the grandchildren, Marley and Henry. I decided to make a stop in Fredrick Maryland to see my FO from Viet Nam before heading home.

Steve Ranney was my LT. Artillery FO during the time in August of 1968. Being the Artillery RTO we were always with the HQ platoon of Charlie Company of the 1/5 Mech infantry. Steve (LT Ranney) had only been with us for 3 weeks before we encountered the NVA during the time of Aug 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> of AUG. In the battle on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, Steve had been, along with several others, injured with RPG shrapnel, hitting him in the head.

As we pulled back to the clearing and as the fighting subsided, we started

(Continued on page 11)



# Doc Alvarado And Purple Heart Monuments

## Visits Dunedin Memorial

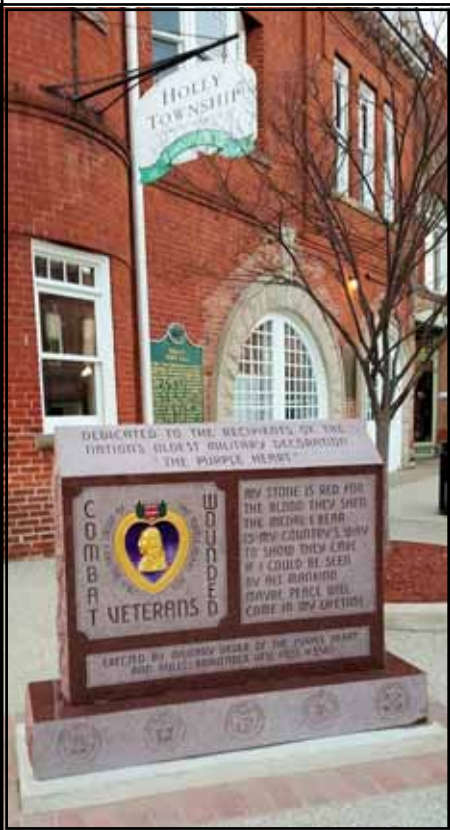
Doc Alvarado says, "Dunedin Florida has a Purple Heart Monument in town, along with the names of their Purple Heart Recipients carved in bricks"



Teri Tringali says, "I had bought Denis a brick that was placed on the ground in front of the monument. We were both involved with the Purple Heart Assoc. that made this idea come true! It's a place that I can visit often that makes me feel closer to Denis... missing him so much !!"

Theron Clough says, "Yes, it is our good friend Denis McDonough who helped get this memorial established."

## And Helps With the Dedication of one in his Hometown



(Comments from page 10)

to call in dust offs. With his head injury, Steve was taken away in the dust offs.

That was the last time I saw him until November 2, 2015.

John Snodgrass has been in communication with Steve and had given me the information that Steve was alive and well.

Over the years we had been in contact via telephone and e mails. It was truly a wish come true when I was able



Steve and Roy

to meet Steve face to face and see for myself that he had survived the head injury and was functioning very well. We had a nice visit before I headed back to Minnesota."

**Roy Bressler**

## Anniversary of Inchon Landing

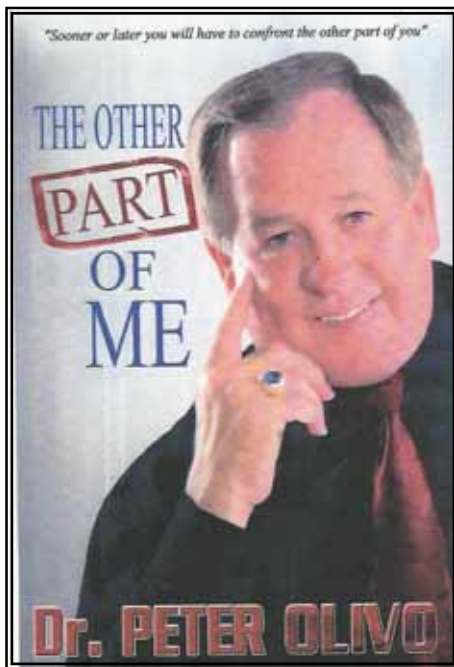
"On Sep 15 this year I had (and 30 other Korean War Veterans) had the honor of receiving a medal commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the In-



(See Comments on page 12)

## **Book Review**

### ***The Other Part of Me* by Dr. Peter Olivo**



“There is an abundance of advice in the post-traumatic stress literature for warriors who have suffered the loss of comrades in combat. Some of these measures include writing about your grief, forgiving yourself for staying alive, seeking solace and comfort through your religious faith, accepting the support of friends and family, and reaching out to others who are suffering. These behaviors describe writer Peter Olivo of St. Cloud, Florida.

On May 16, 1969, Olivo, of Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, was involved in a sweep near Cu Chi when a direct hit from an RPG round destroyed his legs. It occurred to me, while reading Peter's, *The Other Part of Me*, that his struggles, during his long period of recovery, were not unlike those of a soldier who has lost two dear friends.

Peter attributes much of his emotional recovery to the growth of his Christian faith, the love from his family, and his work with Hope for Children, an organization that he founded that serves needy children in several countries including Vietnam. He knew that he was healing on the day that his question “Why me?” changed to “Why not me?”

Physical pain and painful memories are still part of Peter's life. He writes about measures that he has taken to deal with this suffering and encourages the reader to do the same. There are blank areas in the book that encourage the reader to make notes pertinent to his or her own painful situations.

The central message that I drew from this book was that, despite the tragedy that befell Peter Olivo, he made some very beneficial decisions and went on to become a much-loved husband and father, successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and generally happy human being. I am looking forward to meeting him at the Bobcat reunion in May 2016.”

**Sam Kier**

*\*Dr. Peter Olivo is a member of our Association.*

### **E-mail conversation**

Sam:

“I think you captured the essence of Peter's journey. Please excuse me Peter, but Sam, Peter suffers from episodes of phantom pain that would bring a lesser man to his knees and give up. It is his profound faith in God and Jesus Christ that sustains him through these trying times that reinforces his faith and spirit that he constantly reaffirms and shares with others as living proof that if you want to “Get 'er Done”, the Holy Deities are there to support you. Thanks Sam and may God bless Peter.”

**Jon Blickenstaff**

“Thank you, Jon, for introducing me to Peter.”

**Sam Kier**

### **Are You Getting This Newsletter by E-mail?**

If you did not receive this newsletter in an E-mail that means we do not have your “correct” E-mail address. Please send your E-mail address to me at:

**[fpd@bobcat.ws](mailto:fpd@bobcat.ws)**

*(Comments from page 11)*

chon landing. Gen Choi Retired Korean



Gen. did the presenting.

The lady in one of the pictures is Sunny Lippold who was six years old in



Seoul at the time. She is very active with the Korea Veterans here in Buffalo.

Thought you might be interested in seeing them.”

**Paul Garland**

### **60th Anniversary**

Our Historian Sam Kier and wife



Betty recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their four daughters.





### A Facebook Posting

George Chavez says, "Had a great time with Gary and Betty Young (seated) at Olive Garden."



### Danny Yearly

*Vietnam*  
A Company 12/68-12/69

## Death Notice

**Warren Curtis**, veteran of HHC, Recon Platoon, 1/5 from 1964 until 1967 from Bakersfield CA died 8/7/15. He also was a veteran of the 25th Shotgun program. Warren died in Aug 2015.

*\*Received this notice from Ronald Dressler*

## Song About Rex Young

Melvin Rex Young a Bobcat from Odessa Texas was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. As you may remember from the last newsletter a Middle school was named after him and another who was awarded the Medal of Honor.

"I just received this email from an acquaintance of mine named Ronnie Rains. He knew Rex and was the businessman who sent his private jet to Austin to fly six Bobcats to Odessa for the ceremony renaming a Junior High School in honor of Rex and another Odessa hero who also earned the Medal of Honor, Alfred Max Wilson.

The song was written and sung by Billy Brown (bmbrown@grandecom.net) who also knew Rex. Billy was the coordinator of the three events that several of us Bobcats have attended ... the post office dedication for Rex, the post office dedication for Wilson, and now the ceremony for the school renaming.

Anyway, they both said it was all right to share this song with other Bobcats.

"Fred. My friend gave me the wrong information about the song. It was actually written and performed by John Colgin and Mike Campbell. Randy has the song posted on Rex's memorial webpage and at the bottom of the page he has the lyrics. Sorry about the wrong info.

*Gary Young*

## Rex So Young

Rex so young  
Blessed with a combination ... seldom found  
Strong but meek, with both feet on the ground  
A special kind of grin that made you wonder what he'd done  
Rex so young  
liked by all the guys, wanted by all the girls  
His country packed him up and sent him half way 'round the world  
We will never know what he might have become  
Rex so young

### Chorus:

He could have been a rancher, a coach or a CPA  
An all-star catcher for the Dodgers in LA  
We're just left to wonder about the things he might have done  
Rex so young  
We've heard it said that all gave some, well some gave all  
Just to have their names etched on a cold black marble wall  
We will not forget one of Odessa's favorite

*(See Comments on page 18)*

## Important Notice

Please go to the website <http://www.bobcat.ws/> if you are on the internet and then go to the **Current Members Page** under the **Association Tab** <http://www.bobcat.ws/current-members.html> . Then check to see if all your information is:

Posted on the website  
Information is correct  
Email Address is current  
If correct do nothing  
If incorrect contact Randy Kethcart a [randy@bobcat.ws](mailto:randy@bobcat.ws)

Thank you,

**Randy Kethcart**  
Webmaster

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



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-SBB-CO

10 December 2015

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Bobcat Bulletin

Fellow Bobcats,

Update from 1-5 IN here at Ft. Wainwright, AK, where we are in the full swing of winter and temperatures are well below zero. The sun is up for about four hours a day, and snow is prevalent.

The Arctic Bobcats have responded to the rapid change in season by embracing the environment and training hard in it. Each Soldier has conducted arctic mobility training in the proper use of our tents, arctic stoves, snow shoes, skis and other equipment and stand ready to train, fight, and win in the farthest northern Army post in the world.

Over the last few months, the battalion has deployed to the field and conducted Stryker Gunnery, where we qualified our crews on their weapons systems. The battalion also conducted team and squad simulated training exercises, where Soldiers conducted battle drills, including bunker and room clearing, and integrated the use of Strykers.

This week 1-5 IN accommodated Mrs. Hernandez for the Gold Star Family Snowball Express Send-off. Mrs. Hernandez has been a great advocate of the battalion, and we thank her for her service and sacrifice to the Nation, and we continue to honor her husband, SGT Irving Hernandez Jr., with our wall of honor here at the battalion.

The Arctic Bobcats will be working through the holidays, as we are the Quick Reaction Force for NORTHCOM, as well as handling various duties around Ft. Wainwright. We will continue to stay motivated through the winter, and prepare for future operations.

Very Respectfully,

LTC Thomas Hough  
CDR, 1-5 IN  
1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
Ft. Wainwright, AK



LTC Thomas Hough & CSM Arvento Collins



## Arctic Education

Lt. Gen. Stephen Lanza, I Corps Commanding General, visited some of the Arctic Wolves in their natural environment: a Stryker gunnery range and bivouac site. Leaders from 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment showed him how they set-up an arctic tent and how they survive and operate in an extremely cold environment. *(From the Alaska Post Website - 30 OCT 15)*



"Congratulations to SPC Romy for earning the prestigious Ranger Tab. The US Army Ranger course is the premier leadership course in the US military - not for the faint of heart."





LTC Hough briefs the Soldiers trying out for the Bobcat Arctic Winter Games team. The tryout consisted of a 10 kilometer cross country ski, followed immediately by a downhill ski. The team will compete in the annual US Army Alaska Arctic Winter Games in February.

LTC Hough, CPT McGrath (HHC Commander), CPT Knudtson (A Company Commander), 1SG Martinez (C Company), 1SG Conley (HHC), and CPT Cory (C Company) serve Thanksgiving dinner to Soldiers in the Dining Facility on Thanksgiving Day.



A Company soldiers train and practice on setting up their arctic tents. Soldiers competed against each other in teams to see who would set their tent up the fastest. In temperatures that regularly reach -40 degrees, it is important to be well versed on set up of the tent and stove.

## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS



**PFC BILL LATHROP AND GUNSKIRCHEN LAGER**

The men of 3rd Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry were six miles northwest of Lambach, Austria on May 5, 1945 when they came to a railroad crossing flanked by many empty boxcars on a long siding. In front of each car was a huge pile of emaciated corpses ready to be hauled off to a mass grave. The American G.I.'s had arrived too soon for the German Waffen SS troops to conceal this horror. Third Battalion had stumbled upon Gunskirchen Lager, a concentration camp filled with dead and dying Hungarian Jews. The guards had abandoned the camp on May 2.

The infantrymen entered six log buildings where they found 18,000 inmates in a space designed for 1800. Those still alive didn't have the strength to drag the corpses outside, so they continued to lie next to their decomposing bodies. The dirt floors had degenerated into foul muck.

A captain from 71<sup>st</sup> Division Headquarters said, "Of all the horrors of the place, the smell, perhaps, was the most startling of all. It was a smell made up of all kinds of odors – human excreta, foul body odors, smoldering trash fires, German tobacco – which is a stink in itself – all mixed together in a heavy dank atmosphere, in a thick muddy woods, where little breeze could go."

Third Battalion soon organized things. Water was brought in German water wagons and a German Army food warehouse was located three miles from Gunskirchen. Austrian civilians were drafted to transport stocks of dried noodles, potatoes, soups and meat from the warehouse to the camp.

When the war ended at 0001 hours on May 7, Companies K and M, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, were still involved in the clean-up of Gunskirchen Lager. They spent several days transporting the living to hospitals, supervising the German prisoners who were burying the dead and trying to eradicate the stench coming from the barracks.

As they left Gunskirchen, the G.I.'s felt as though they had suddenly escaped from a prison of the damned. The terrible smell had permeated their clothing and stayed with them. The images that had been etched in their brains would never leave them. If any of them had had questions about the purpose of the war against the Nazis, they now had their answer.

This past May I received an e-mail from Debra Kirk, the daughter of the late William A. Lathrop of Chugiak, Alaska. She wrote that her father had served with Company M, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry in World War II and that he was reluctant to talk about his war-time experience. She had been doing some internet searches and wondered if he might have been involved in the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp. Debra sent me Mr. Lathrop's entire personnel file.

I immediately confirmed her suspicion that PFC Lathrop's battalion had liberated Gunskirchen Lager and that he would have been one of four hundred men who remained behind to clean up the camp and care for the survivors while the rest of the regiment moved on to its final destination. I could certainly understand his reluctance to talk about his experiences in World War II.

Bill Lathrop was born in Tucson, Arizona on March 12, 1925 and was raised in Junction City, Kansas. His father deserted the family when Bill was 14 leaving his mother as sole support for the four Lathrop children.

In June, 1943, before completing graduation requirements at St. Xavier Catholic High School, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army and, on July 8, reported to the Reception Center at Ft. Leaven-

worth.

From Leavenworth, he journeyed west to Camp Haan, California, a coast artillery anti-aircraft replacement training center near Riverside. This dismal tent city in California desert country is near the current location of March Air Force Reserve Base. Bill made arrangements, at this time, to have \$28.50 of his \$50 monthly base salary sent home to help provide for his mother, his younger brother and two older sisters.

After 16 weeks of gunnery training, Bill's MOS was listed as Heavy Machine Gunner. He qualified on the 50-caliber MG, and fired expert with the carbine and sharpshooter with the M-1 rifle.

In July and August 1944, replacements began to trickle in to the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Bill Lathrop was assigned to Company M, a heavy weapons company, and was immediately promoted to Private First Class.

In December, the regiment had been alerted for shipment to Europe. Christmas leaves were cancelled and the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry was primed to engage in one last round of maneuvers before deploying abroad. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Bill and several other soldiers were in the barracks listening to a radio broadcast of Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas* and decided that they were going to hitch-hike home and spend Christmas with their families. They walked out the door.

On December 23, Bill called a Military Police unit near Junction City and turned himself in. On January 10, a summary court convened and it was recommended that Bill be reduced to the grade of private, restricted to the company area for thirty days and forfeit eighteen dollars of his next pay check. The punishment was approved and ordered executed by COL Sidney C. Wooten, regimental commander. Despite this blemish on his record, Bill's character and efficiency ratings remained "excellent" throughout his time in the Army. He regained his PFC stripes when he got to Europe.

Bill Lathrop's 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry went into combat near St. Louis Les Bitche, France on March 12 and, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> entered Germany through a break in the Siegfried Line. Two days later the battalion attacked Lingenfeld, while receiving heavy artillery and snip-



er fire within the city limits.

During April, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion crossed the Rhine, Naab and Danube Rivers, seizing Coburg and Straubing. They took 1900 German prisoners and began to find the emaciated corpses of many Russian slave laborers. They crossed into Austria on May 2 and three days later were confronted with the horrors of Guns kirchen Lager.

At war's end, those soldiers who were married, had the most time in combat and the most medals for valor were shipped home first. Bill remained in Germany until March 1946. When the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry was deactivated, he was transferred to the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was serving with Company E of the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry, when his demobilization orders came through. He was honorably discharged at the Ft. Leavenworth Separation Center on April 14, 1946.

In September 1951, Bill married LaVonna Ausherman of Abilene, Kansas. Shortly after their marriage, the young couple bought a dump truck and a 43' house trailer and moved west so that Bill could find work at various mining operations in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

By 1965, Bill and LaVonna had six children and his nomadic work style wasn't paying the bills. Since several of their Colorado friends had bettered their lives by moving to Alaska, the Lathrops headed north. They bought a small cabin in the community of Chugiak, on the outskirts of Anchorage and Bill found work as a mechanic at a gas station in nearby Eagle River.

At one point, during his seven-year tenure at the gas station, Bill and another worker were carrying a fuel tank. Bill slipped on the icy pavement and the tank landed on his leg, breaking it in three places. During the six months that Bill was unable to work, he passed his high school GED equivalency exam.

In 1972, LaVonna decided that she wanted to move back to Kansas. She took the three youngest children with her. Bill remained in Chugiak with the three oldest, who opted to stay there and finish high school.

Bill's and Lavonna's marriage ended just about the time that construction of the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System was beginning. Bill hired on as a welder and worked long hours flying out to job sites all along the line from Prudhoe Bay

to Sheep Creek, just outside the terminus at Valdez. After the pipeline was finished, he continued to work at remote sites around the state. With some good money coming in he was able to refurbish the small house in Chugiak.

Bill Lathrop retired in 1990. He bought a brand new Roadtrek motor home, hitched an aluminum skiff behind it and traveled the south central portion of Alaska for days at a time, catching salmon. He got into making ceramics and volunteered with the Arthritis Foundation. Occasionally he thought about moving back to the lower 48 so he would be nearer to his family but he never did. Bill never remarried.

On August 11, 2004, Bill Lathrop succumbed to cancer. He was survived by his former wife, LaVonna, sons, Greg, Ron, and Steve, and daughters, Debra, Yvonne and Nan, sisters, Della and Aileen and brother, Bob. He left twelve grandchildren.

Regular readers of my biographic sketches of our Bobcat Forebears know that most of the men featured have been professional soldiers who brought honor and fame to our regiment. Bill Lathrop's story, on the other hand, is that of being born into a family that struggled during the Great Depression, was deserted by his father, and subsequently dropped out of school. Soon thereafter, he was marching through Austria and witnessed a spectacle of inhumanity at Guns kirchen that most G.I's were spared.

When Bill returned to civilian life, he struggled for years to provide for his family. His marriage failed and he was well into mid-life before he got a taste of the good life. And yet, despite all the hard knocks, Bill remained an honorable man who took care of his family and defended his country. We can be grateful for the Bill Lathrops among us.

by Sam Kier

## A Big Thanks!!

A big thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter by sending me articles and pictures. Without their input the newsletter might be smaller.

**THANKS !!!**

(Social from page 1)

### Hotel Room Rates:

(Group Rates Valid between MAR 3-8)

City View - \$139 per night

Partial Gulf View - \$139 per night

Beach Front View - \$149 per night

(All Room Rates are Subject to Local Sales & Occupancy Taxes Currently 13%)

### Amenities:

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

2 Free Drink Cards per room, Free Valet

Parking

Call Teriann (727-482-4564) at ASAP with Credit Card to hold Reservation without charge

(Please Do Not make reservation directly with Resort)

**Dead line - 2/01/2016**

On Saturday afternoon we will depart the hotel about 3:15 PM to drive to Clearwater to the **"Early Bird Dinner Theater"** (13355 49th Street North Clearwater FL 727-446-5898) for a buffet dinner that starts at 4 PM and the play ends at 8 PM.

Some entertainment will be presented while we are eating. The meal will be followed by their presentation of the comedy "Cheaters".

Regarding Cheaters the NY Post said it was - *Downright Hilarious!* And The New Yorker said it was - *"Welcome heights of hilarity!"*

At the "Early Bird Dinner Theater" you will pay at the door...\$36 per person plus tax. **Pay by check or cash only. Teriann needs a head count by Feb. 15, 2016. Notify her at: 727-482-4564**

### "Cheaters"

"Allen and Michelle have been living together for 18 months. It is the first real relationship for both of them. Michelle thinks they should marry; Allen isn't sure. His hesitancy drives her home to her parents for advice. Michelle's father isn't aware that it is Allen's mother he has been seeing for the last 6 months and would now like to get rid of, nor does Michelle's mother know that it is Allen's father she has just spent the night with and would like to see more of. The pieces fall uproariously into place when the parents decide to meet the young lovers over dinner to lend their maturity and experience for the benefit of their children's relationship. It's suddenly everyone for himself in this wild, rollicking look at love and romance.

### Important Deadlines:

1. Hotel: Call Teriann NLT FEB 1st
2. Dinner show: Call Teriann NLT FEB 15

**Teriann: 727-482-4564**

## Heroics Revealed 40 Years After The Vietnam War

"Veteran's Day is a time to honor heroes. For Hawaii veteran Patrick Manijo, Veteran's Day is also a painful reminder of the ultimate sacrifice from a fellow soldier -- a soldier Manijo now fights for. The Vietnam War ended long ago, but that conflict has stayed with Manijo, who served with the 5th Cavalry, 1st battalion, Charlie Company. "Looking at me on the outside I look OK, but on the inside I'm all messed up," said Manijo. Part of that is because of what happened on May 9th, 1968. "The mortars exploded down the line to my left. Right there, all hell broke loose. There was small arms fire, mortars exploding, everything just started erupting" The battle of Quang Tri was one of the deadliest battles of the war. "We went in there with 180 men, we came out with 20." Fighting near Patrick, was Peter Olivo. Olivo was wounded while protecting the line of soldiers, then injured again when he tossed Manijo more ammo during that deadly day. "I started yelling for the medic and he kept waving the medic off. He could have left, but if he did he knew we would be overrun. So he knew he was dying and he stayed on the gun and kept fighting until he died "Heroic efforts that could have earned Olivo the Medal of Honor, if those acts of heroism were ever told. After that fateful battle, Manijo said he couldn't talk about what happened, especially to Peter's mother or father, even though he had made a promise to Olivo just one day before he died. "Pete says if you go home first, you see my family and if I go home first I'll see your family. I said OK, but don't worry about it cause we're going to go home together" Instead for 40 years, Manijo carried with him the guilt of surviving when so many others died and the knowledge that Olivo's actions were worthy of more than just the Bronze star he received. Manijo finally shared that story, two years ago with Olivo's younger sisters. It was difficult to do, he said, because he had to re-live the horrors of the Vietnam War. "I found it made me worse. I'm not going to find healing, not at this time "One day, Manijo hopes he will be able to tell his fellow fallen soldiers, including Olivo, that he is finally finished with the war. "To carry all this for 44 years is really hard. I want to go to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, see the names of C Company, touch their names and tell them it is over for me. "It took Manijo 40 years to keep his promise because while he recovered from his injuries on the mainland, he was on burial duty. There he watched a mother grieve over the coffin of another soldier. She then turned to him and said "It should be you in here instead of my son". Manijo feared hearing those same words from Olivo's mother. Since telling the Olivo family, Manijo has pushed for his fallen friend to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Recommended "

*\*I was looking for information for Peter Olivo, our member, and found this article thinking it was our Peter. So I sent it to him. He was surprised to find that there was another Peter Olivo who served in Vietnam.*

(Comments from page 13)  
sons

Rex so young  
I can see him walk the halls of PHS in Prender Blue  
Or a black and white number 60 football jersey, too  
You know how sometimes you just miss someone  
Rex so young  
**Repeat chorus:**  
Every time TAPS is played or Amazing Grace is sung  
I'll remember Rex so young  
We lost Rex so young

*\*Lyrics sent by Randy Kethcart  
\* The song can be heard our Website. Go to Rex Young's Memorial Page.*

### Bill introduced to allow exchange, commissary privileges for veterans

•National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr. called upon DAV members to support H.R. 1292, a bill that would authorize service-connected veterans receiving disability compensation and their dependents access to Department of Defense exchange and commissary facilities. Their access to these facilities would be on the same basis as if they were military members or dependents entitled to retired or retainer pay.

*\*Copied from the DAV magazine*

## "Il Silenzio" - "Silence"

### Bobcat KIA's Honored and Their Sacrifice Remembered & Appreciated.

*A few years back I corresponded with a Dutch citizen who had adopted the grave of one of our Bobcats that is buried at this cemetery.*

"About six miles from Maastricht, in the Netherlands, lie buried 8,301 American soldiers who died in "Operation Market Garden" in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall and winter of 1944.

Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries, has been adopted by a Dutch family who mind the grave, decorate it, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of "their" American soldier in a place of honor in their home.

Annually, on "Liberation Day," memorial services are held for "the men who died to liberate Holland." The day concludes with a concert. The final piece is always "Il Silenzio," a memorial piece commissioned by the Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20th anniversary of Holland's liberation. It has been the concluding piece of the memorial concert ever since.

This year the soloist was a 13-year-old Dutch girl, Melissa Venema, backed by Andre Rieu and his orchestra (the Royal Orchestra of the Netherlands).

This beautiful concert piece is based upon the original version of taps and was composed by Italian composer Nino Rossi.

*\*This is a beautiful moving performance by this young girl. I encourage you to sign on to the internet and listed to it. You will be glad you did.*

*The website to hear this performance is:*

<http://www.flixy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm>

*"Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of the way."*

General Patton

*Bobcat Awarded Medal of Honor Twice*

## FRANK D. BALDWIN, MEDAL OF HONOR (1OLC)



BRANCH OF SERVICE

U.S. Army

RANK

Major General



HOMETOWN CONSTANTINE, MI

HONORED BY

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Double Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. One of only 19 United States servicemen to be awarded the Medal of Honor twice, and one of only 14 to be awarded the United States' highest military honor for two separate actions. He served in the Civil War as Captain and commander of Company D, 19th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He was awarded his first CMOH for his bravery in the Battle of Peach Tree Creek, Georgia on July 12, 1864. His citation for that Medal reads "Led his company in a countercharge at Peach Tree Creek, Ga., under a galling fire ahead of his own men, and singly entered the enemy's line, capturing and bringing back 2 commissioned officers, fully armed, besides a guidon of a Georgia regiment". His second award was for his bravery at McClellans Creek, Texas on November 8, 1874 during the Indian Wars while serving as a 1st Lieutenant in the 5th United States Regular Infantry. His second citation reads "Rescued, with 2 companies, 2 white girls by a voluntary attack upon Indians whose superior numbers and strong position would have warranted delay for reinforcements, but which delay would have permitted the Indians to escape and kill their captives". Both Medals were awarded on December 3, 1891. He served through the Civil War, fighting in all his regiment's battles from 1862 to 1865. Upon the post-War re-organization of the Army, he was commissioned into the 19th United States Regular Infantry as a 2nd Lieutenant. He eventually was assigned to the 5th US Infantry, with whom he fought in the various frontier conflicts with the Indians. His actions in an attack on an Indian village on the Red River in Montana on December 18, 1876 earned him a brevet of Captain, US Regular Army (awarded on February 27, 1890). He led troops during the Spanish-American War and during the Philippines Insurrection, where he skillfully defeated a Philippine force at the May 2, 1902 Battle of Bylan. He was promoted to Brigadier General, US Regular Army on June 9, 1902. In 1906 he was advanced to Major General, and he retired from active duty.



*\*Nevin Williams with suggestions from Sam Kier made this entry on the "Registry Of The American Soldier" Website. Website is:*

<https://www.usarmyregistry.org/Registry/Plaque.aspx?honoreeID=565978>



### Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

Subject: Company Rosters

"Greetings Sam, I trust that all is well with you. I am writing to you because I have a few questions that you may be able to answer. Would you know if company rosters are available for D company from 1930-1936. this was the company my dad was in while stationed at Fort Preble and Fort Williams in Maine. Also, would there be any records on the rifle and pistol teams that he was on during those same years. According to army records he was first listed as MIA and a year later he was listed as KIA. His name (along with thousands of others) appears on a tablet of the missing in the national cemetery in Manila. My last question is, when these soldiers were and are listed on these tablets do they get any formal service as such or are their names just written down?"

Yours Truly,  
**George Hazel**

-----  
George,

"It's always good to hear from you. There are some unit rosters archived at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. If I were looking for specific rosters, I would probably hire one of the local researchers there. They can be found at:

*(See sam on page 20)*



## Our Army is breaking

By Robert H. Scales - Monday, Aug. 3, 2015

Last month, Gen. Raymond Odierno, outgoing Army chief of staff, and Gen. Mark Milley, his successor, testified to the difficulties faced by the Army. I'd like to make the same points by telling a story.

When I was a boy, tonsillitis was dangerous. In 1952, it kept me in Tokyo General Hospital for weeks. I shared a cramped ward with dozens of soldiers maimed in Korea. My dad came from Korea to visit me. He was operations officer for the 2nd Engineer Battalion. He told me how poorly his men were prepared for war. Many had been killed or captured by the North Koreans. "We have no sergeants, son," he told me, shaking his head, "and without them we are no longer an Army."

In the early '70s, I was the same age as my Korean-era dad. I had just left Vietnam only to face another broken Army. My barracks were at war. I carried a pistol to protect myself from my own soldiers. Many of the soldiers were on hard drugs. The barracks were racial battlegrounds. Again, the Army had broken because the sergeants were gone. By 1971, most were either dead or wounded or had voted with their feet to get away from such a devastated institution.

I visited Baghdad in 2007 as a guest of Gen. David Petraeus. Before the trip I had forecasted another broken Army. But the Army Petraeus showed me was holding on and fighting well in the dangerous streets of Baghdad. Such a small force should have broken after so many deployments to that hateful place. But Petraeus said that his Army was different. It held together because junior leaders were still dedicated to the fight. Sadly, the Army that stayed cohesive in Iraq and Afghanistan is now being broken by an ungrateful, ahistorical and strategically tone-deaf leadership in Washington.

The Obama administration just announced a 40,000 reduction in the Army's ranks. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter recently said that the Army will not have enough money for most soldiers to train above the squad level this year. The Army will not replace its Reagan era tanks, infantry carriers, artil-

lery and aircraft for at least a generation. Fewer than a third of the Army's combat brigades are combat ready.

After 13 years of war, young leaders are voting with their feet. As sergeants and young officers depart, the institution is breaking for a third time in my lifetime. The personal tragedies that attended the collapse of a soldier's spirit in past wars are with us again.

To be sure, the nation always reduces its military as wars wind down. Other services suffer reductions and shortages. But only the Army breaks. Someone please tell those of us who served why the service that does virtually all the dying and killing in war is the one least rewarded.

My grandson is about the same age I was when I was recovering at Tokyo General. Both of his parents served as Army officers, so it's no wonder that in school he draws pictures of tanks and planes while his second-grade classmates draw pictures of flowers and animals. The other day he drew a tank just for me and labeled it proudly: "Abrams Tank!"

Well, sadly, if he follows in our footsteps, one day he may be fighting in an Abrams tank. His tank will be 60 years old by then. At the moment I'd rather he go to law school.

*\*Robert H. Scales, a retired Army major general, is a former commandant of the U.S. Army War College*

Copied from the Pittsburgh TribuneReview's Webpage.

(Sam from page 19)

[www.archives.gov/research/hire-help/military.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/hire-help/military.html)

The closest thing that I have to a roster for Company D was that listing on the Thanksgiving Menu for 1935 that you provided to me. The little that I know about the Maine- period rifle and pistol teams comes from a brief history of the regiment published at Ft. Riley in 1961. I've attached those three pages.

As far as I know, the names of all of the 36,286 American servicemen that went missing in action in the Pacific Theater were engraved on the memorial in Manila in 1960 and the memorial was dedicated on 8 December 1968. There

(See Sam on page 21)

## New Coin For Sale

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

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

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



the coin online on our Website at:

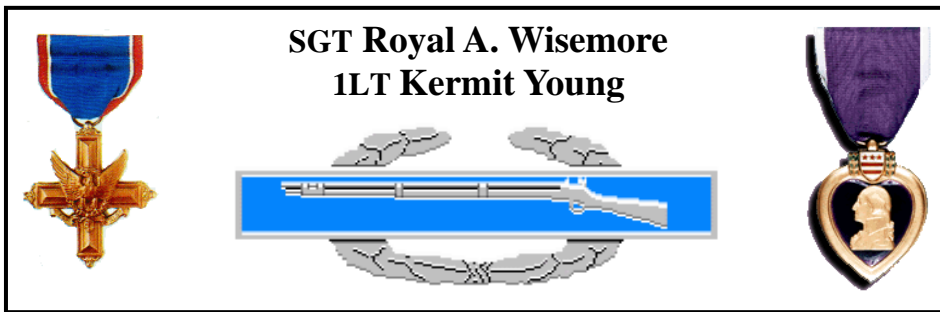
<http://www.bobcat.ws/quartermaster.html>

Or you can send a check made out



to "5th INF ASSN" to:

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



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

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

#### **WISEMORE, ROYAL A. (MEDIC)**

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Royal A. Wisemore, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the Medical Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, on November 28, 1950, in the vicinity of Kasan, Korea. On that date, Company I's defensive positions were attacked by a numerically superior enemy force supported by intense artillery and mortar fire. Working tirelessly, Sergeant Wisemore moved among the friendly troops, giving medical aid to the many wounded. As the battle raged, enemy troops infiltrated the friendly defenses and Sergeant Wisemore, in order to evacuate the seriously wounded, was forced to move across terrain occupied by the enemy. Although it meant exposing himself to the concentrated fire of the hostile force, Sergeant Wisemore evacuated two men in this manner. After moving these men to positions of safety, he returned to Company I's defense line and found a man with a badly wounded foot. Upon attempting to carry him to the rear, Sergeant Wisemore found that the route was cut off by the enemy. He then carried the wounded man toward a road which he had observed earlier. Upon reaching the road, he found two men, who were cut off from the friendly forces which had withdrawn to a new defense line, engaged in a fierce firefight with the enemy. Joining them in a position which was subjected to the concentrated fire of the enemy, Sergeant Wisemore used his own body to shield the wounded man from the many enemy grenades being hurled at them. As Sergeant Wisemore and his comrades distracted the enemy, the wounded man attempted to drag himself to safety. After remaining in their position for twenty minutes, the men, believing that the wounded man had reached the friendly lines, withdrew through the surrounding enemy to the new defense perimeter. As they reached a position of comparative safety, Sergeant Wisemore heard the wounded man, who had not been able to reach the friendly lines, call for help. Unhesitatingly, he rushed back across the fire-swept terrain and carried him to cover.

*Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 875 (November 11, 1951)*

***And***

#### **YOUNG, KERMIT**

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Kermit Young, First Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. First Lieutenant Young distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Sobuk San, Korea on 22 August 1950. On this date Lieutenant Young was given the mission of taking a hill in the Sobuk San area. He moved his company out coolly and efficiently up the hill routing the enemy and securing the

objective. During the ensuing seventy-two hours he and his company received considerable small arms and mortar fire. He continually exposed himself, going from

foxhole to foxhole encouraging his men and directing their fire. Although painfully wounded he refused to be evacuated, and remained in command of his unit until his position was completely secured. The gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Young on this occasion reflects great credit on himself and the military services.

*Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 89 (October 1, 1950) Home Town: Marshall, Alabama*

*(Sam from page 20)*

was a dedication ceremony at that time but I would doubt that there would have been individual memorials for any of the individuals on the list unless families have held them in the years since the dedication of the memorial. As I recall, your father's reclassification from MIA to KIA was based on witness testimony rather than discovery of remains. As long as your father's "earthly resting place is known only to God" his name should remain on the Manila memorial. You probably recall that MG-R Andrew Anderson read your father's name at the 5th Infantry Regiment Association's memorial service on June 7, 2013 at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA.

George, are you working on some kind of a project that deals with your father and the days that the regiment was garrisoned in Maine? If so, please keep me in the loop.

***Sam Kier***

-----  
Sam,

"Thanks for sending. My uncle was listed as MIA/KIA having been a Bombardier on an Army Air Corp plane over China when it was shot down. When at the Punch Bowl Cemetery in HI I looked for his name. I could not find it so asked at the cemetery's office why his name was not there and was told that they drew a line in the Pacific and all MIA/KIA's west of that line were me-

*(See Sam on page 27)*



# Order Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$61.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$61.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00

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

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

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

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

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

**Color:** (Circle Color) Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

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

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

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

# 5th Infantry Chapter Quartermaster

## Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc. (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - \$5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS") - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt - Item #437M
  - 1). With 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
  - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$38.00
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest and CIB or CMB Badge - \$61 or \$66 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 11). Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$60 or \$66 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - \$29 with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge or \$40 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below on left breast - \$19
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$15.50
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting  
our Quartermaster Jim Caudle at:

757-588-0056 or

E-mail: [jecaudle@cox.net](mailto:jecaudle@cox.net)



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





## Free Lessons and Golf Clubs

"On Monday, I played the Disney, Lake Buena Vista course. As usual the starters matched me with three other players. After a few holes we began to get to know each other a bit. One fellow was rather young and had his wife riding along in the golf cart with him. I noticed that his golf bag had his name on it and after closer inspection it also said "wounded war veterans".

When I had my first chance to chat with him I asked him about the bag. His response was simply that it was a gift. I then asked if he was wounded and he said yes. When I asked more about his

injury, his response was "I'd rather not talk about it, sir".

Over a few holes I learned that he had spent the last 15 months in an army rehabilitation hospital in San Antonio, Texas. His wife moved there to be with him and he was released from the hospital in September. He was a rather quiet fellow; however, he did say that he wanted to get good at golf. We had a nice round and as we became a bit more familiar I asked him about the brand new set of Ping woods and irons he was playing. Some looked like they had never been hit.

His response was simple. He said that this round was the first full round he had played with these clubs. Later in the round he told me the following. As part

of the discharge process from the rehabilitation hospital, Ping comes in and provides three days of golf instruction, followed by club fitting. Upon discharge from the hospital, Ping gives each of the discharged veterans, generally about 40 soldiers, a brand new set of custom fitted clubs along with the impressive golf bags.

The fellow I met was named Ben Woods and he looked me in the eye and said that being fitted for those clubs was one of the best things that ever happened to him and he was determined to learn to play golf well enough to deserve the gift Ping had given him. Ben is now out of the service medically discharged just a

(See golf on page 25)

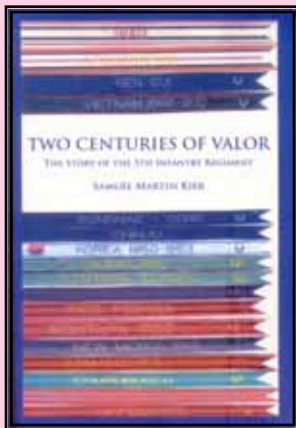
**Notice:** If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 15** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

Membership Application	
5th Infantry Regiment Association, Inc.	
25th Infantry Division Association	
(Please Print)	
Name: _____	
_____ New Member _____ Renewal (Complete only items that need changed)	
Street: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____	
Unit (BN/CO/PLT etc.): _____ Dates with 5th INF: _____	
E-Mail Address: _____	
Membership: (Please circle your selection)	
1 Year - \$15 2 Years - \$25 5 Years - \$60 Lifetime -Ages 1-49 = \$200 50-64 = \$150 65+ = \$100 Active Duty - \$5.00 per year	
Donations: (Tax Deductible); General Fund _____ Scholarship _____ Newsletter _____ Reunion _____	
Make checks payable to "5th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail this application to:	
5th INF REG ASSN PO BOX 569 Frankfort MI 49635-0569	
(You can join or renew online and pay using a credit card. Go to www.bobcat.ws and follow the directions.)	
Membership Application	
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION	
Name _____	Spouse _____
Street _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Unit Served With _____	
in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____	
*Attach copies of your DD-214 or other documentation of service.	
DUES: _____ Annual = \$30.00 _____ Lifetime - Your age: _____ Less than 30 = \$770 _____ 31-40 = \$645 _____ 41-50 = \$500	
_____ 51-60 = \$350 _____ 61-70 = \$225 _____ 71+ \$200	
Please make all checks payable to: '25th Infantry Division Association' and send to:	
25th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown PA 19031-0007	

## History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

This book *"Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment"*

written by Sam Kier our Historian traces the history of the 5th Regiment from its beginning up to the present day. Many of our members are mentioned in the book as are



events and battles that you may have participated in.

You can purchase this book by going to our website at: [http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter\\_master.shtml](http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml) where you can pay for the book using your credit card or you can contact Sam at: 831-646-8025 or [samkier@montereybay.com](mailto:samkier@montereybay.com)

## DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

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

I also received my copy. Your book is quite an intensive research endeavor, considering the minute details that you have included over the span of the history of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Every person who has ever served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment should have a copy of this book for personal reference, and for a sense of pride in our military heritage.

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

**Ric Myers,**  
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

(Golf from page 24)

month ago. He is as fine a young man as you would ever want to meet.

Ping, whose products are made with pride here in America (Arizona), has the good judgment not to advertise this program. God Bless America and the game of golf."

Thank you PING!

*George Bates sent me this article.*

(Rains from page 3)

is also **very** active with both Wounded Warriors and the Medal of Honor Society and sits on the Board of Directors of the Wounded Warriors Family Support. He has, on numerous occasions, flown Wounded Warriors and their family's from all over the U.S. to his 3,300 acre ranch for a week of entertainment. He tells them all they have to bring with them is their toothbrush and change of clothing. They can hunt, fish, swim, play golf on his 9 hole golf course, practice golf on his putting green, view his private classic car collection, or whatever they wish to do while there. He also arranges for them to tandem jump from his private helicopter if they wish to.

Ronnie has also extended an open invitation to the Ben Cui survivors to have a mini reunion at his ranch; his house there offers 24 bedrooms."

**Gary Young**

Ronnie Rains has been invited to our FT Benning Reunion where he will be given the opportunity to speak to the members at our membership meeting. He will also be presented a Certificate of Appreciation at the meeting.

He will be recognized at the Saturday Bobcat Banquet as an "Honorary Member" of the Association.

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



(Reunion from page 1)

You will be amazed at our day at the Ft. Benning itself. They have several things planned for us and will keep us busy for the day, including a lunch in their mess hall.

We will be back on Friday to do a day at the National Infantry Museum, which will include our Memorial Service at the Vietnam Memorial Wall and a basic training graduation ceremony on the parade grounds, sure to bring back some good memories for several of you who did your basic at Ft. Benning. After a lunch in the museum, you will be able to spend the afternoon touring all of the exhibits on display. Randy and I have done this; I promise you won't be disappointed.

We will start our tours on Wednesday by doing Callaway Gardens and the Little White House, which will be an historical event.

It's time to get started. Don't hesitate, as this is going to be a big turnout and we want to make sure you get your room booked while the block is available. All counts for each tour that we are offering must be turned in by April 17th, 30 days out from our start date. So please make sure you have all your tours and meals ordered by then so we aren't waiting to see who is going and who is not. This is a very important issue for me, so please make sure you get it done before the deadline.

Call the hotel as soon as possible, even if you aren't sure that you can make it. You can always cancel if your plans change, but at least you will have your room in the block before it runs out. Call the hotel direct and make sure you tell them you are part of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association and remember you can book 3 days before or 3 days after if you want to spend time there on your own. Hotel number is 706-327-6868.

Any questions, email or call me. I'm here to help all I can. Hope to see you all in GA next May. If you miss this one, you will be missing the best one we will ever have."

**Carolyn Kethcart**

16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-468-8624 (home) - 708-288-0193 (cell)  
[carolynjk@bobcat.ws](mailto:carolynjk@bobcat.ws)

**For more information on this reunion turn to pages 26 & 27.**



# 2016 Reunion Columbus/Fort Benning GA

*Tuesday May 17th - Sunday 22nd 2016*

## The Columbus DoubleTree



DoubleTree by Hilton  
\$83 Single / Double per night  
Free parking & Breakfast included  
To make reservations call:  
1-706-327-6868  
and when booking tell them  
5th Infantry Regiment Association  
\* Booking prices are good up to 3 before  
and after reunion dates



## Groome Transportation Airport Shuttle

\$76 round trip (no discounts)  
If you are flying into Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport there is a shuttle that you can take to the hotel or the Groome terminal minutes from the hotel. If you ask we are told that they will drop you at the hotel. If not the hotel shuttle will come and get you.

## Schedule of Events

Hospitality Room: May 17 - May 21  
(No fee)

### Tuesday May 17th

Arrival and Registration

### Wednesday May 18th

## Callaway Gardens and



## the Little White House



## Thursday May 19th

### Fort Benning Day

#### Tentative schedule of events

- 9:00-11:00 AM Basic Airborne School Overview possible exit from 34 foot towers
- 11:30-1:00 PM Lunch at the NCO Academy Dining Facility



- 1:30-3:00 PM Armor & Cavalry Restoration Facility (the collection for the future Armor Museum is housed here)
- 3:30-5:00 PM Clarke Simulation Center (Bradley, Abrams, and VBS3)

## Friday May 20th

Memorial Service at the National Infantry Museum



- 8:30 AM - Basic Training Graduation at Parade grounds
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 Memorial Service



at Vietnam Wall

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch at the National Infantry Museum
- 1:00 - 3:00 PM View exhibits at the National Infantry Museum

## Saturday May 21th

- 9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting
- 10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging
- Free to explore Columbus

### Bobcat Banquet

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

### Dinner Choices \$35 \*

1. Braised Beef
  2. Red Wine Chicken
  3. Grilled Salmon
  4. Vegetable Lasagna
- \* All dinners include house salad, mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, iced tea and coffee

>Kids Meal \$15

Chicken Fingers, potatoes, and green beans

## Columbus Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Names of additional guests

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

E-mail Address:

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

⇒ Do you plan on taking the  
"Callaway Garden and Roosevelt  
White House Tour"?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Do you plan on attending FT Ben-  
ning Day? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Do you plan on attending the me-  
morial service at the National In-  
fantry Museum? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

Mail to or contact:

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

-----  
**See you in Columbus/  
FT Benning!**

## Registration Form Columbus GA/FT Benning Reunion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

	Number	Cost
<b>Registration fee</b> - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
<b>WED 18 May</b> - Callaway Gardens and the Little White House with Luncheon - \$60 Per Person		
<b>THU 19 May</b> - Ft. Benning Day with lunch at a Mess Hall - \$25 Per Person (Includes lunch)		
<b>FRI 20 May</b> - Graduation, Memorial Service at the Vietnam Wall, Lunch, and National Infantry Museum - \$45 Each		
<b>SAT 21 May - Banquet Dinner Choices</b>		
1. Braised Beef - \$35 Per Person		
2. Red Wine Chicken - \$35 Per Person		
3. Grilled Salmon - \$35 Per Person		
4. Vegetable Lasagna - \$35 Per Person		
5. Kids Meal - Chicken Fingers etc. - \$15 Per Person		
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.*

(Sam from page 21)

morialized in Manila and those east at the Punch Bowl."

**Fred Deverse**

Fred,

"That checks. George Hazel's father, Richard, also died in China. He was attached to the Nationalist Chinese Army and died near Hengyang, an important railroad junction in Southeastern China. But now I'm not sure whether there are 36,000 names on the Manila memorial or 36,000 when you include those at the

Punch Bowl."

**Sam Kier**

-----  
"I took another look at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial booklet on the webpage. There are actually 36,286 names of the missing engraved on the memorial walls at Manila. 16,919 of them were Army and Army Air Corps. I downloaded the booklet because it contains a concise, well done synopsis of the war in the Pacific."

**Sam Kier**



# Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial

## Springfield Illinois



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

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