



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 2019

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

Volume IV

Meet the new 1/5th Battalion Commander

Being with the 1/5th in Iraq makes this LTC Garland's fourth deployment to a combat zone.

"Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Tim R. Garland graduated from George Mason University and entered active duty in 2002. Then assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry at Fort Stewart, GA, LTC Garland deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Upon redeployment LTC Garland served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and later deployed to OIF III. Upon graduating the Captain's Career Course LTC Garland served as a Battalion Assistant Opera-

(See BN CDR on page 7)

Winter Social

Are you attending?

The Winter Social is in jeopardy of being cancelled because as of December 12, 2019 only nine people have notified Teriann Tringali that they are attending.

So, if you are planning to head south for warmer weather and attend the Winter Social you need to contact Teriann "As Soon As Possible".

It looks like The Hollander Hotel will honor the rates they offered for the Social even if the Social is cancelled. Teriann said, "I called the hotel and was told the rates would remain the same if anyone decides not to cancel...."

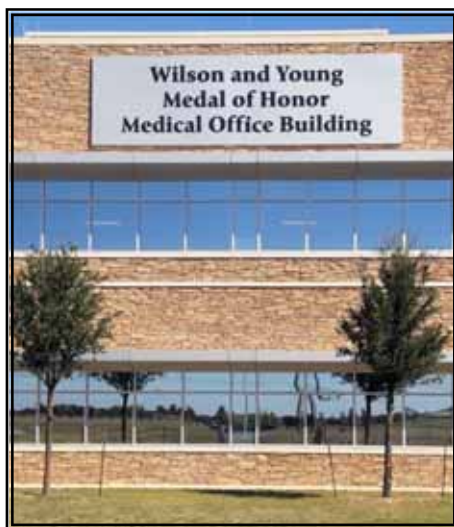
Teriann is planning something for the Spring of 2021 in a New Location.

Teriann will notify you if the Social is cancelled.

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

Office Building Named for Medal of Honor Recipient Marvin R. Young

Staff Sargent Marvin Rex Young



while serving with C Company in 1968 in Vietnam for his heroic actions was awarded the Medal Of Honor.

A few years back a middle school in Odessa Texas was name in honor of both Young and Marine Corporal Alfred Wilson who was also awarded the MOH. Now a medical office building has been named after the two MOH awardees.

This was accomplished through the efforts of one of our honorary members Ronnie Rains and others.

In a Facebook post the naming was announced. "This is the new sign on the west side of the Medical Center on Faudree Road in Odessa TX. The money

(See MOH Continued on page 2)

"I'll Try Sir"

Bobcats Won't Be Defeated *And They Don't Give Up*

As you know our much anticipated reunion in Charleston SC was "blown away" by hurricane Dorian. Many were disappointed but our Reunion Coordinators Carolyn and Randy Kethcart just lived by our motto of "I'll Try Sir" and put together a substitute.

A visit to Ronnie Rains' Granite Ranch had already planned for November. So, in coordination with Tom Frame who works with Ronnie with arrangements for Granite Ranch the Kethcart's put together a no-frills reunion in San Antonio Texas.

San Antonio/Granite Ranch

From Monday 11 November thru Thursday 14 November many Bobcats bivouacked at the Holiday Inn Express located at the San Antonio Airport.

On Thursday the 14th many boarded a bus for Granite Ranch.

A message from our "Honorary Colonel of the Regiment"

BOBCAT FAMILY REUNION OF 2019

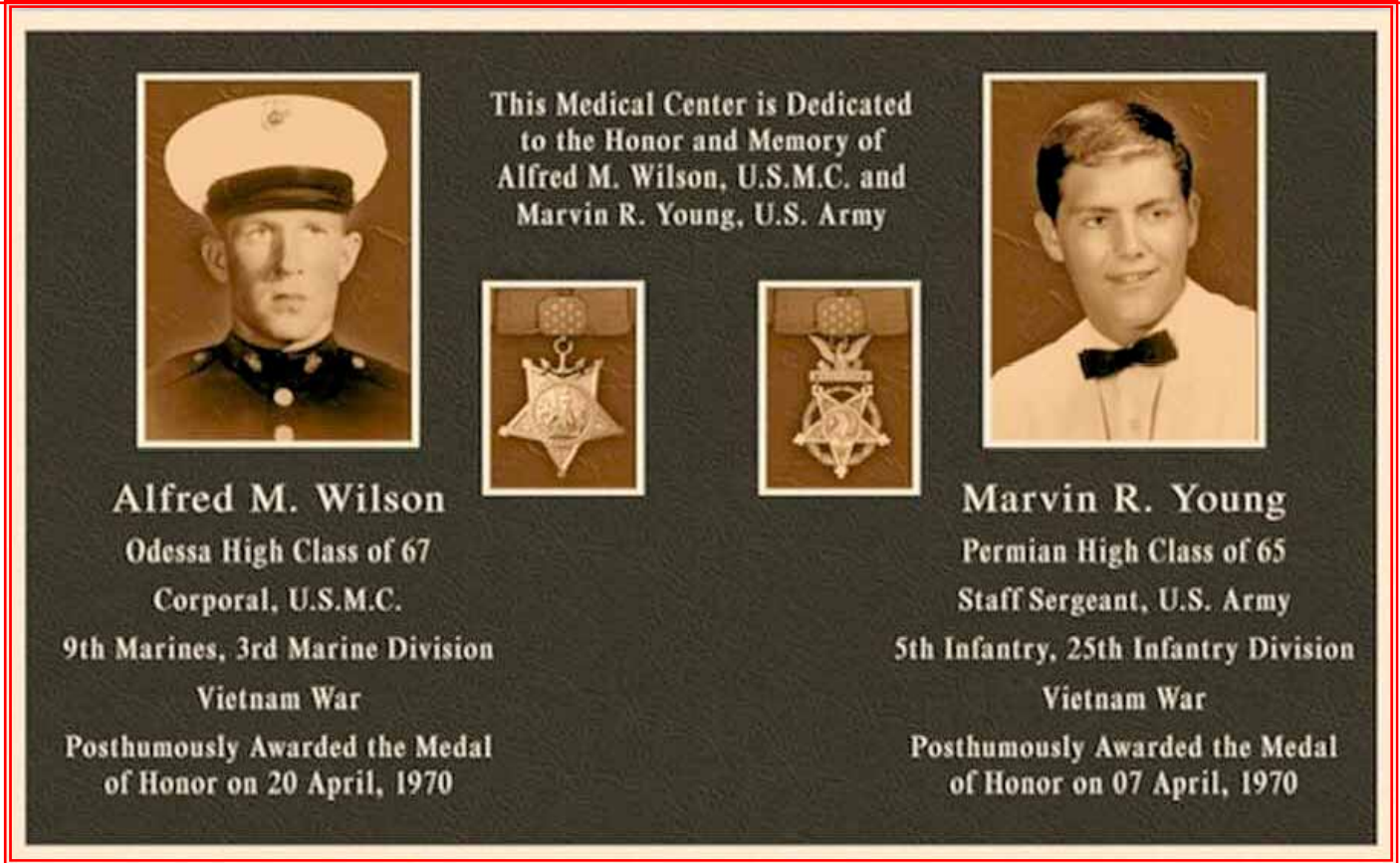
"These are some thoughts and reactions relative to our recent Bobcat Family reunion of 2019. When the morning of the planned trip to Charleston arrived, Bud Holochwest and I were locked and loaded ready to move by his RV to what would be another great reunion with our brothers and sisters. As we all know now," Mother Nature" had other plans. With sinking hopes of even having a reunion due to the hurricane mov-

(See Ranch Continued on page 2)

(MOH Continued from page 1)

for this sign was raised in the Heroes of Odessa Event held recently. Steve Oien of the Purple Heart Association, John McCollum, US Navy Vietnam Era Veteran and a classmate of Rex at Permian, Ronnie Rains along with me had approached the medical center about the renaming of the building.”

Billy Mac Brown



(Ranch Continued from page 1)

ing up the east coast we both sensed this was to be a no go event. The governor had decreed a mandatory evacuation and all roads were one way - - - out. So there was no way to even get into Charleston.

Carolyn and Randy were already at the host hotel and called me to relay the bad news. There goes my chance to see Fort Sumter so it still remains high on my bucket list. I then wondered is there some way we could fall back, regroup, and somehow manage to salvage our annual reunion? I have always viewed our gatherings as the high point event of my year. Apparently, Carolyn and Randy were on the same wave length as I was and rapidly moved to make all the pieces fall in place for a reunion in Texas.

Our intrepid reunion coordinators with the aid of Tom Frame, Gary Young, George Chavez and others were able to organize a mini-reunion at the Holiday Inn hotel in San Antonio. We would then move to the Granite Ranch at the invitation of Honorary

Member Ronnie Rains and Lori Scott.

Granite Ranch is a 3200 acre piece of heaven on earth located in the Hill Country of South Central Texas. One of several attractions is a wide range of diverse wildlife that includes our own domestic Texas longhorn, Angus cattle, Elk, Whitetail deer as well as exotic species of Antelope, Gazelle, Fallow Deer from Europe, Africa, India and China. Lakes, rivers and streams afford fishing opportunities and Tom Frame can attest to successful outings. Ronnie also has a shooting range set aside for firing handguns, rifles, and submachine guns. I led off the extensive shooting with Ronnie's specially crafted, 45 caliber, M1911 pistol with a sparkling chrome finish and a hair-trigger. You will have to ask other shooters if I even hit the target let alone the bullseye. Randy & Carolyn Kethcart were an accurate dynamic duo - - - so criminals beware. In addition to Ronnie's extensive collection of weapons, I find George Chavez is also a collector that has acquired numerous Army issued

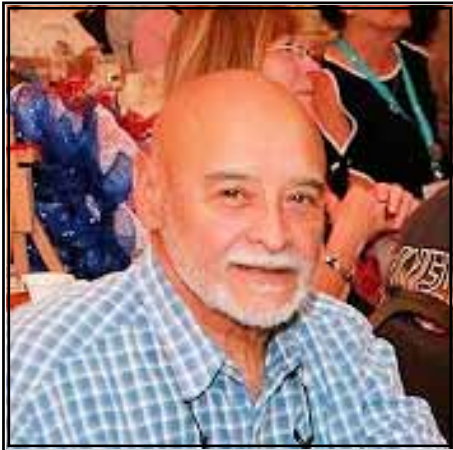
weapons and also enemy pistols, revolvers, and rifles recovered from the battlefields of Vietnam. His pick-up truck was handy in hauling a good number of assorted weapons including ammunition to the range. Despite all this weaponry combined with eager shooters, Ronnie did not have to replace very many targets.

Considering the forgoing comments, it was then I knew the dismal failure to convene at Charleston, has been replaced by a very interesting, joyful and amazing period of events thanks to our gregarious and gracious hosts. Ronnie provided everything: ground transport, housing, meals, open bar, all of which promoted a high state of camaraderie. It is during our reunions that many of us can then recall in some detail the many life and death challenges we all faced in Vietnam.

Ronnie is also an Army Veteran who served with an aviation unit in Vietnam. In his youth, he had very close ties with SSgt Marvin Rex Young of

(See Ranch on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Bobcats,

"As 2019 comes to an end, let us reflect on events of 2019.

Our Reunion scheduled for September in Charleston SC was canceled because of Hurricane Dorian. Many were disappointed, but Randy and Carolyn Kethcart, our events coordinators, started planning a mini reunion. San Antonio, TX was chosen with a follow-up to Granite Ranch and hosted by Honorary member Ronnie Rains.

Fun was had by those attending both events.

Many thanks to Ronnie Rains. At the Granite Ranch gathering Grace Moore was presented with a Plaque honoring her as a Honorary Member of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association. It was presented to Grace by General Anderson.

Our active duty Bobcats departed their home station to serve a tour of duty in Iraq.

2020 promises to be a great year with several events scheduled. Those being our 2020 reunion in Virginia, a possible return to Granite Ranch and the return of the 1/5th Bobcat Battalion from their tour duty.

Until then have a Safe and Merry Christmas and may 2020 be Great for everyone."

George Chavez
President

(Ranch from page 2)

Odessa, Texas. Rex, as he was known, was KIA on 21 August 1968. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in saving many lives at the loss of his own, and now rests in the Odessa cemetery. Ronnie ensures that the cemetery is well cared for and continues to fly the American and MOH flags on a large and well lighted flag



pole next to Rex's gravesite.

The attached photo provided by Gary Robertson depicts my presentation of the last challenge coin that I have passed to fellow Bobcats since the Tennessee reunion, thanks to Ron Henry. On one side is my two star general officer's flag and the other side our battalion crest and the number 299. On behalf of the Bobcat Family, I said: "Despite the high number of 299, the generosity and hospitality of Ronnie, Lori and their volunteer staff are really number ONE in the hearts of the Bobcat Family".

As a widower living alone, I look forward to our annual reunion which is truly a therapeutic experience for me. With 91 years behind me, I thank my blessings and take the future one day at a time. In fact, each day is a gift. So to me, each reunion is priceless and cannot come too soon!

To the widespread Bobcat Family, to include our deployed active duty members, I wish all a healthy and happy New Year."

Andy Anderson
Bobcat Six -1968

A New Membership Secretary

At the San Antonio/Granite Ranch Reunion Tom Frame, a past president stepped up and volunteered to be our new Membership Secretary. Tom Replaces Paul Robinson who was forced to resign due to some extremely serious health issues.

5th Infantry Association

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

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

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

Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

Reminder !

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

Reunions

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

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

Andy Anderson (MG-R)

Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

George Chavez (MSG-R)

Distinguished Members of the Regiment

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

Honorary Members of the Regiment

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

Bobcat of the Year

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

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

ROSTER

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

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

Lost Members:

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

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

Roster Changes/Corrections:

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

Lempke, Jim - New address
1848 SE Joan Rollins AVE
Crystal River FL 34429-9523

Vunak, Lawrence - New address
1522 Harbor Creek PKWY
Canton GA 30115-9569

Clegg, Marshall B. - Address, phone
& E-mail change
2015 County Road 18W
Clanton AL 35045
901-355-7764
bobcat470408@gmail.com

Harris, Joe E. - New address
1365 E Bright Angel DR
Oro Valley AZ 85755-9301

New Members:

Taps:

Dillon, Michael - A Co. 4th PLT 12/66-11/67 - Died 31 JUL 19

**See E-mail notification and picture this page*

Pruett, Mike - A Co. 3rd & 4th PLT
2/5/70-1/15/71

"Hi Fred, I've just been contacted by an old Nam brother that Mike Pruett passed away. He is a member of our

Regiment and I served with him in Nam. He was in the mortar platoon of A Co. 1/5m during 1970. I went on line to verify his obituary and this is what I found. 'Michael Pruett. Richmond, Texas. Died October 17, 2019.....'

I know that Mike had been seriously ill earlier this year and had spent some time in the hospital. I contacted him after that and he responded that he has been real sick but was on medication and getting better. Sadly, that didn't work out. Not the kind of news I like sending."

Theron Clough

Accident:

Randy Kethcart shared a link to the group: 5th Infantry Regiment Association.

"I just received this from Roy Bressler's son. Let us all keep Roy in our prayers!"

"I am Eli Bressler, Roy Bressler's son. Roy is a member of the Bobcats from Vietnam, and I know he's very close to some of his friends he served with, being a part of this organization is



very important to my Father. I am very thankful for that.

I wanted to write to let his fellow Bobcats know, Roy had an accident and he's in the hospital right now. He had an emergency brain surgery to relieve pressure in his brain. my sister and I have started a webpage to provide updates to anyone who knows or cares for my father. <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/roybressler>

Please feel free to share the link as appropriate, I am also available to help if there are questions. I know that the relationships my dad had established with his fellow soldiers is very important to him. I would appreciate any help in getting that link to any of his friends.

thank you."

Eli Bressler

Illness:

On 12 December I received this message from Billy Smith.

"Henry Powers is in ICU at St. Francis Medical Center in Midlothian, Virginia (Richmond).

See Kathryn's note below.

Please keep Henry and Kathryn in your prayers."

Billy Smith

"Thought I'd let you know Henry is in ICU at St. Francis again. He had a stroke on Monday.

We are not sure of everything yet but hope to get some more answers this am.

Please lift him up to the Lord in your prayers."

Kathryn Powers

Michael Dillon Dies

Dear Fred,



"I am saddened to report my husband, Michael Dillon, has passed away this summer, July 31. He was a life time member of the 25th and life member of the Bobcats. Mike served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1969 serving 2 tours of duty."

Sincerely,

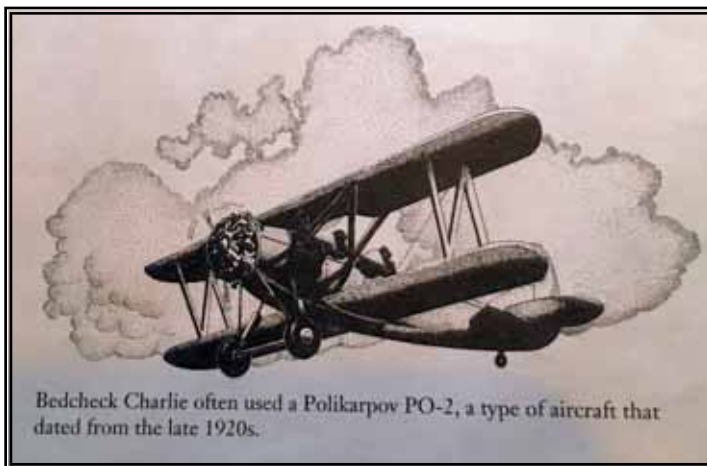
Janet Dillon

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

Bedcheck Charlie

Paul Garland writes: "Was cleaning up my files. Came across this picture of "Bed Check Charlie".



If you were on front lines you probably heard the missing engine after dark (Korean War)."

Paul

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"Healing Ground for Veterans"

Fred,

"I am on the board of this, Healing Ground for Veterans. As things progress, I will keep you informed, also I am putting you on the electronic mailing of the quarterly newsletter (sent out about 14,000). Please contact me with any questions. This year a parcel of land was given to the High ground; 350 acres; bunkhouse with kitchen and dining room; six hunting blind; insulated and heated, doors wide enough for wheelchairs or walkers, with room for a coach, golf carts to take the veteran to the stand, stocked pond with fish, 500 apple trees, and all the equipment to maintain the facility. Scheduled are retreats for veterans (men and women) medics and people with PTSD. Called Camp Victory. Runs strictly on donations, no government funds allow. Neat Huh? Thanks"

Lt. Dan (Curran)

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Sam Alvarado Reflecting On His Past

"Sitting out in the balcony at Kahala Resort (Hawaii) thinking, feeling, flash-backs & emotional...

Surviving a year in the Infantry in Vietnam, almost drinking & drugging myself to death when I came back.

No alcohol, no drugs for 35 plus years.

Involvement with the VA, VFW, Military Order Of The Purple Heart, Awesome group of Veterans at Veteran's Treatment Court as a Mentor,

Judge Jodi Debbrecht Switalski, Judge Kelley Kostin, Judge Kuhn, I can't say enough about how these Judges help our Veterans today.

Rhett Reader you are the Best ! My Family, my wife Tena, sons Jeff, Marty, daughters Allyssa & Jody have given me so much support throughout the years. They have no idea ...

Yes a Reality Check Here...

I am So Grateful ...

Thank you all for the kinds words you have expressed."

*A Facebook post on 24 OCT 19

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Did You Know Jim Carter

"Hello. I may have the wrong military association but maybe you can help. In 1991 I bought a zippo lighter from a flea market in Saigon. I no longer need this item and I'm wondering if you can trace the owner or his relatives.

On one side is the "I'll Try, Sir" motto and crest along with Cu Chi RVN. On the flip side is Jim Carter, 1st (M) INF, 25th INF DIV. and the date 1969 - 1970.

I'd be happy to return this if it has any value to Mr. Carter or his family."

Many thanks
Donald McDowell
Toronto Canada.

Mr. McDowell-

"You have the right Association. Thank you very much for your kind offer. I will forward to our Webmaster, our Facebook Contact and the



lead for the Bobcats!
Let's see if we can help with this!



Thanks Again"

Doc Ashley

Hello Doc Ashley,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

"I just want to follow up on your attempt to find the owner of this Vietnam war era zippo lighter. It'd be great if I could return it to Jim Carter.

Let me know if there are any other avenues for contacting him."

Best regards

Donald McDowell

Mr. McDowell-

"I apologize that no one has contacted you! Here is the email address for the webmaster for the Bobcats veterans. webmaster@bobcat.ws Send him a direct email <https://bobcat.ws/index.html> their website! I also sent a note to their Facebook contact.

I hope this helps... let me know how it goes."

Good luck in your search!

-Doc Ashley

Hello Fred

"Randy Kethcart suggested that I forward this message to you. I am trying to locate the owner of this zippo lighter and I'm wondering if you can post a message on your webpage. I'd be happy to return the item to Jim Carter or his family. Regards."

Donald McDowell,

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A message to our Webmaster Randy Kethcart.

A Picture to Memorialize Bobcat KIA's

"On October 10, 2004, my unit was involved in a major firefight. I am raising funds in order to get our encounter memorialized, so that it can never be forgotten. The explanation of what occurred and will be portrayed is below.

It was morning facing the west, in a wadi. There were two Hum Vees (traveling north) the first vehicle in the convoy was on fire from the hood. Ethan Ranz, Tod Lanki, and Brian Hobbs were returning fire using the Passenger side of burning hood as cover. Joey Banegas fireman carried 1LT Drew Sloan from the burning vehicle behind the trail vehicle. I returned fire with the drivers side door of the second vehicle as cover and Alex Haislip manned the .50 cal on top of the 2nd truck. CPT Rich Ducote (C Co, 2-5 IN Commander) was behind the rear passenger tire trying to get communication on the ASIP Radio. There was also another Soldier, SSG Dwight Hammons on the passenger side of the not burning Hum Vee direct laying 60 MM mortar rounds. We were retuning fire from a corn field on our left, after an ambush from well over 20 Taliban. SSG Brian Hobbs would pass 4 days later after an IED strike And SGT Ethan Ranz passed just after we re-

deployed after being hit by a drunk driver.

I would appreciate any donations to this cause so that this chapter of our lives can be memorialized forever.

If interested you can donate at this site:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/battle-memorialization?share-type=teams&member=3209574&pc=f_b_co_campmgmt_m&rcid=r01-15745484811-5ee288733d4e45f2&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fb_co_campmgmt_m

"..... All the proceeds will go towards paying the artist for painting the picture of what our Brothers did on that day. When it's all said and done, we would like to ensure that every Bobcat knows what his Brothers have done before him."

Regards,
Ron Bailey

*Ron can be contacted at:

ronbailey11183@icloud.com

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"The men I served with in Vietnam" George Chavez



A Sam Alvarado Facebook Post



(BN CDR Continued from page 1)

tions Officer and later a Rifle Company Commander in the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment at Fort Drum, NY. As a company commander he again deployed in support of OIF VI.

LTC Garland was then selected to



serve at Fort Meyer, VA with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) as the Regimental Chief of Operations and then commanded HHC/4th Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment. After command he was selected as the Aide de Camp for the Commanding General of the US Army Military District of Washington at Fort McNair, Washington DC. Upon graduating the Command and General Staff College in 2013, he served as a Division Future Operations Planner for the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, WA. Continuing his time at Fort Lewis, LTC Garland was then assigned as the Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, in the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. LTC Garland's most recent assignment was in the Republic of Korea as a G35 Future Operations Planner assigned to 8th Army.

LTC Garland holds a MA from the School of Advanced Military Studies in Kansas and a MA in International Relations from Webster University in Missouri. His awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, one Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, one Presidential Unit Citation, one Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Korea Defense Service Medal. He also earned the Ranger Tab and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

ALTC Garland is married to Katrina and together they have five children, Cora (10), Clarissa (7), Caleb (5), Carrah (4), and Chloe (1)."

TALES of CU CHI -- THE PERIMETER TOWER

"During my first tour in Vietnam, while stationed at Cu Chi with the 25th Infantry Division, I was assigned to the DIVISION SUPPORT COMAND or DISCOM as it was commonly known. I was a Captain and I was assigned as Company Commander, Headquarters Company & Band, DISCOM.

The perimeter of the Cu Chi Base Camp included Security Towers. These towers were approximately 20 foot tall, were constructed of wood, and the platform sat on 4 huge 8" x 8" pillars. See below.



I do not recall that the towers of Cu Chi were sandbagged. I recall that they had 4 sides made of lumber only which was no protection from bullets or other lethal material. Note that access to the observation area was by ladder—not a stairway, but a ladder only.

These towers were occupied 24/7 by two armed soldiers. Although one of these towers was in my company area, I had no responsibility for them. I assume they were the responsibility of the installation commander or his designee.

One day the tower in my company area became the center of attention. The two guards were "horsing around" and one guard's weapon discharged wounding the other guard. I assume that immediate first aid was applied and then evacuation of the soldier to the Division medical facility was started. Guess what? They could not get the wounded soldier out of the tower! Several attempts were made to lower the wounded soldier down the ladder with no success. The ladder itself was a challenge to a

perfectly healthy person to climb up or down. Getting this wounded soldier down was soon determined to be an impossible task. If I recall correctly, the soldier was in great pain and was screaming.

I was observing all of this and I commented to another observer that the rescuers would most likely have to remove the tower roof and employ a "Medevac Chopper" (helicopter). That is what occurred.

Several soldiers with tools went up the ladder to the platform where they commenced removing the roof of the tower. I believe they used power saws and cut the roof off which was then pushed to the ground. Later a medical evacuation helicopter appeared which lowered a basket. The wounded soldier was placed in the basket, winched up to the helicopter, removed to the helicopter which then proceeded to the 25th Infantry Division hospital. I soon left Cu Chi so I never heard any reports regarding the soldier's recovery. I also never heard of any disciplinary action taken against the soldiers. I have no idea if any actions were taken to improve the ingress or egress of security towers. I do know that at my next assignment, at Long Binh Post, the same type of tower was used to secure the Ammunition Dump. So, maybe there was no "lesson learned" in this particular incident

Just another day in the life of REMF's in a combat zone in the Republic of Vietnam."

COL-R Nevin Williams

"Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation."

"America has fought five wars since 1945 and has gained its objectives in only one of them, the gulf war."

"The tragedy of America is that it entered all the wars with a consensus in favor of them, but within a defined period, the legitimacy of the war became a major domestic issue, with some people arguing that withdrawal was the only legitimate objective."

-Henry Alfred Kissinger

Honor Flight - Paul Garland

by Mark Garland

"Last sun 10/13 I had the pleasure of going on the Honor Flight from Buffalo NY to Washington DC

It was fantastic. Really enjoyed the whole day.

We were honored by all."

Paul Garland

"As many of you know, my dad Paul and I took what is called the Honor Flight on October 13, 2019. This is a one-day trip from Buffalo, NY to Washington, DC starting very early in the morning and finishing very early in the morning. This is a way to honor the veterans of our past foreign wars: WWII, Korea, Viet Nam and the cold war. There were 57 veterans on this trip and each had a guardian to assist them throughout the day, usually a close family member. There were 17 WWII vets, 30 Korean war vets, and the rest were a mixture of Vietnam and cold war. I was privileged to join Dad for a day that neither of us will ever forget.

I have tried to recount the day to my wife Victoria, but I have yet been able to talk about it without breaking down. As I am writing this letter to you, I am fighting back the tears. It is an unbelievable sight to see 57 men and women all travelling down an airport concourse in a loose formation. Breathing is all I can say.

We started the trip with a meet and greet on the Saturday before the trip, held in Elma, NY. This was a time for us to get all of our supplies for the next day. The veterans had nice white shirts and the guardians had red. This made a very striking sight when we were all travelling together, which we did throughout the day. We had a nice lunch served to us, and it was very apparent to us from the minute when drove up to the meeting, that this was not going to be just another trip. I like to think that I am well organized, and have put some pretty good activities together in my life, but boy was I out classed at every turn.

This was the most organized event I have ever been a part of. From the registration, to the food, the programs, replete with a lady's trio signing live band music, the flag ceremony and everything in between and especially flight day. The most amazing thing is there were about 50 volunteers there that day, including Girl Scouts to help you find your table and get seated. The honor flight organization in Buffalo has over 50 volunteers on their committee. They do a flight that costs over \$78,000 per flight. 33 Honor Flight personnel went with us. This included 3 registered nurses and one EMT. There were three buses full of us and there was a nurse assigned to each group of which we were the red bus. There wasn't a thing that they didn't think of. We met a

nice couple, a vet named Francis, and his daughter Mary, who we paled with that day and on the trip. They were special people too.

Our day was not without humor. The guardians had a meeting during the meet and greet which was held in a store across the parking lot (we were under a tent). Dad had to use the restroom which was located where you had to walk through the group of guardians where they were meeting so they had to stop talking every time one of them passed through, which was frequent. So, dad took his walker and we interrupted the meeting to get to the bathrooms. I am trying to listen with one ear and keep track of dad with the other. The very first rule that was told to us was "stay with you veteran no matter what". This is for safety purposes as you can imagine. I turn around to check on dad and his walker is nowhere to be found. I just broke the first rule, I lost my veteran. Long story short, I was frantically looking for him



running in and out to the tent panicking that he was down somewhere. Then, he comes out from the store and I am yelling at him, yes raising my voice so probably everyone could hear me asking where he was, and that I was scared to death. He simply said he was in the store window shopping. I had never been so upset and relieved in my life. For those of you that know my dad, even though he has difficulty walking without assistance, when he gets going with his walker or a grocery cart he is hard to keep up with. That was the end of our excitement for the day. We returned home with thoughts of getting to bed early so as to make for a good day on Sunday. I went out to eat with Ian and Dianne and then we all went back to mom and dad's for coffee. Thus, the end of our first day of a remarkable weekend.

Mom, Dad and I all set our alarms for 4 am. We were supposed to be at the VFW

post in Cheektowaga at 6:15 but if you know Dad and me just a little bit, we will be early for our funeral. We both like to leave a little "fudge" time just in case the unexpected happens. Dianne said she would call me to make sure that I was up, and sure enough at 4 am on the dot I got a text from her. I had been up since about 2 am so I replied very quickly to her that I was up and moving. Dad shared with me that he did not sleep too soundly because he wanted to make sure he woke up. We were both amped up, so it's no wonder we slept at all if we did. The neat thing was that mom got up with us too, to send us off. We got underway right about 5 am or maybe a little sooner, and headed to Timmy Ho's, where else did you think we would go first?

We grabbed the thruway and headed to Walden Avenue to the Post. Funny story. Several weeks ago, I jumped on Google Maps and scouted out the post, where it was, and what the building looked like. I had it clear in my head where we were going. Dad had something totally different in his head so when it came time to get off on Walden, he told me to go left and I told him we were going right. I decided since I was driving that I would go my way much to the dismay of dad. We travelled down to the Post and I turned in. It is a very non-descript building with just a small sign on it that says Leonard VFW. Before dad saw the sign, he said "this isn't it!". I then drove around to the front and he saw the sign. I didn't boast at all, I was just relieved that we were at the right place and on time. There weren't many cars there yet but most conspicuously there were about thirty or so motorcycles with large American flags hanging from poles behind them. I thought maybe they were just parked there overnight. We soon found out that they belonged to a motorcycle troupe called the Patriot Guard but more on that later.

We parked the car and went into the post where there were about 10 vets and guardians and all of the motorcycle riders. We got our name badges attached to a lanyard and our boarding passes for the flight were in them. We sat down and waited for our next instructions. When everyone arrived, we received some brief instructions and then we were rustled onto the tour buses for the 10-minute drive to the airport. We travelled light. I had purchased a small, light backpack for the trip to keep medicine and other small items in to carry with us. When we got on the bus, the Cheektowaga police showed up for our escort. As they pulled out, all of a sudden, the motorcycle troupe fell in behind the police cars and with their flags flying and we followed them to the airport. The police blocked traffic at all of the intersections so that we never had to stop until we got to the airport. It was quite a sight and sound and I thought that this was

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2020 Florida Winter Social

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

Hollander Boutique Hotel

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



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

(Pet Friendly Hotel - Handicap rooms available)

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

All Rooms Include

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

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Heated Pool, Cabanas for Relaxing or Socializing and Outdoor Bar



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



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



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

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

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

TeriannsTravels@aol.com

Feel free to call anytime

Friday Dinner & Sunday Breakfast
information to Follow

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

Starlite Dinner Cruise - Sapphire Dinning Yacht

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

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

TERIANN TRINGALI

31 Crestview DR
Brookfield, CT 06804



Treasurer's Report

3rd Quarter Financial Report
(1 July - 30 September 2019)

July 2019:

Income:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Donation for Bagpiper | \$200.00 |
| Quartermaster Sales | \$142.50 |
| Charleston Reunion | \$16260.00 |
| TOTAL | \$16602.50 |

Debits:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Schulenburg Printing - Quartermaster Supplies | \$25.00 |
| Mastercraft Printers - Summer Newsletter | \$750.75 |
| Postage Newsletter | \$161.91 |
| TOTAL | \$937.66 |

August 2019

Income:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Charleston Reunion | \$674.00 |
| Membership | \$150.00 |
| Quartermaster Sales | \$109.50 |
| TOTAL | \$933.50 |

Debits:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Charleston Reunion Refund | \$300.00 |
| Randy Kethcart - Virginia Reunion Planning | \$272.44 |
| Schulenburg Printing - Quartermaster Supplies | \$209.75 |
| Charleston Reunion supplies - Fred Deverse | 151.75 |
| TOTAL | \$933.94 |

September

Income:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Donation to Association | \$2362.00 |
| TOTAL | \$2362.00 |

Debits:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| R. Kethcart - Charleston Reunion Supplies | \$23.43 |
| Charleston Reunion Re-funds | \$23297.00 |
| Virginia Reunion Deposit | \$800.00 |
| TOTAL | \$24120.43 |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Checkbook Balance | \$8746.41 |
| Savings Account | \$54399.70 |
| TOTAL | \$63146.11 |
| Treasurer/Quartermaster <i>Chester Johnson</i> | |

Commissary, Military Service Exchange, and MWR Access Extended to More Veterans Beginning January

"Starting Jan. 1, 2020, the Department of Defense is expanding access to military commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation facilities for certain Veterans and caregivers. Those eligible for access include:

- ◆ All service-connected disabled Veterans
- ◆ Purple Heart recipients
- ◆ Former Prisoners of War (POW)
- ◆ And those approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans.

To acquire the in-person privileged access, all eligible Veterans must obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC).

To verify your eligibility go to:
ShopMyExchange.com/Vets

HOW TO ENROLL

CALL 1-877-222-VETS (8387)
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8 A.M. UNTIL 8 P.M. EASTERN

APPLY ONLINE AT
WWW.VA.GOV/HEALTHBENEFITS/ENROLL

VISIT YOUR LOCAL VA MEDICAL FACILITY

HOW TO GET A VHIC

VISIT YOUR LOCAL VA MEDICAL FACILITY

**Information sent by Gary Young*

Need A DD-214

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

(Paul from page 8)

one of the coolest things ever, but the best was yet to come.

We pulled right up to the baggage claim at Buffalo Niagara International Airport about 7 am. We pulled up behind the police and the Patriot Guard. There were several volunteers there with wheelchairs waiting for those who needed them. I was able to commandeer one for dad. There were people of different mobility in the group. Everyone was ambulatory to some degree, but most needed some type of assistance to get from point a to b. You will learn later that after we got to DC, there was a wheelchair for every vet regardless of how well they moved.

Now, I knew there were going to be several events that were going to take place that Dad did not know about but even though I knew they were coming, it still took my breath and emotions away. We wheeled into the baggage claim, and I knew there would be people there to greet us but had no idea what would actually take place. There was a receiving line starting at the doors that stretched all the way around the conveyors of the baggage claim area. We were greeted by Cheektowaga police, Junior ROTC, current military personnel, VFW members and once again the Patriot Guard standing around the platform holding the flags of the different branches of the military. There was the Buffalo Niagara band there playing rousing patriotic songs and the icing on the cake was about 150 people that just came out to see us off. All told there were easily over 200 people down in that area cheering, shaking hands, signs and flags waving. It was almost too much. I should have been prepared for later, but I thought this was going to be the emotional part of the day. Not even close.

There was about a 15-minute ceremony, greeting all of the members of the military and the public and thanking them for their support and encouragement. Channel 4 news was there and followed us to DC and back. Once again, it was very well organized and relevant to the day's activities. After that gathering adjourned, we all prepared to go up to the gate. First of all, we had to go through security of course. What I forgot to tell you is that in the guardian meeting on Saturday, they had four TSA agents come to the meeting to answer any questions and explain what would happen on Sunday morning. First, they were opening two dedicated lines for just the Honor Flight so there was no waiting. Then, they did special things like they didn't make them remove their shoes or belts, (even though dad did the first time through). I wouldn't say they relaxed the rules, but they took into consideration who these men and women were and were very respectful and gentle with them. We got through that just fine and we all convened at the gate. We travelled Southwest Airlines which I failed to mention there was a representative from Southwest at our guardian meeting too. At the gate they started to board the vets that needed the most assistance. I expressed my desire to the nurse at the gate that I hoped Dad would be able to be

(See Paul on page 11)

(Paul from page 10)

one of the first to board. She said that he was on her list. Again, I have no idea how they knew to do that, but I didn't complain. We were about the tenth people on board. All of the vets were to sit by a window so that worked out and we got to sit together which wasn't necessarily a guarantee.

It took quite a while, probably an hour or so to get everyone on board and situated. They boarded the regular passengers last. It was neat to see, that as the regular passengers walked down the aisle all of the guardians and vets were thanking them for being patient and the passengers in turn were saying thank you for your service. It was a great exchange of appreciation. Our flight to Baltimore was smooth. Dad did great. We touched down at about 10:30 am and as we were heading to the terminal, the fire brigade was parked on either side of the tarmac and sprayed the plane as we passed. This is only done for very special occasions. Unfortunately, Dad and I were talking and missed it, only realizing what had happened by the water on the windows. I hate we missed it.

We pulled up to the gate and started to disembark. There weren't wheelchairs readily available at the gate which surprised me a bit, but I think they just hadn't gotten them out of the baggage hold yet. Dad and I started walking up the jet bridge and dad stumbled. God at that moment sent a very nice young man down the jet bridge at the right moment with a wheelchair to put dad in. It was a bit of a close call, but we made it. At the top of the bridge I was told what would be there, but it just still kept catching me by surprise at how much more brilliant things were. There was a whole set of volunteers for Honor Flight in Baltimore to greet us. They were dressed in bright green shirts and were stationed all down the concourse. As we approached the top of the jet bridge there was one of the bright green shirts there and just as we crested the top, he shouted "here he is!". At that moment there was a very loud ringing of a bell by a man dressed in colonial period costume, and was the town crier. He was amazing announcing Dad's arrival and ringing that bell so they could here all up and down the airport. There was also a receiving line of about 50 people there with signs and flags waving to greet us. They directed us down to about two gates away for our next staging area. It was at that time that we switched over to the wheelchairs that we would ride in the rest of the day. From here on out, every vet had to be in a wheelchair whether they could walk or not. This was to keep them from tiring. Several of them would get up for pictures and such but for the majority of the time they were sitting. I was fortunate that I had kind of a little guy to push around.

We assembled at the gate and they formed us in rows, five or six across which would have made us about 20 or so deep. It was quite an entourage. The town crier got out in front and started ringing his bell and the concourse got very quiet. Then you would hear a smattering of applause then it got louder and louder and all of a sudden everyone passenger in sight was on their feet clapping and cheering, reaching out to shake hands. It was the most amazing thing I had ever witnessed in my life. As we traveled down the concourse people were getting up clapping, people were coming out of the gift shops and Starbucks to stand and watch, and they kept it up all the way down and as we turned there was another group of passengers there to cheer. I don't even know how they knew what was going on. Passengers that were rushing through the airport dragging



their suitcases, stopped in their tracks to clap. I can try to describe it to you, but I would fail at every attempt. It was actually loud. It seemed to go on forever until we passed the last passenger. I said to Mom when we got home, that you hear in the news how our country is broke, and that there is no unity in our country. Well I am here to attest that for a few moments in time, in an airport in Baltimore, Maryland, there was unity among hundreds of strangers and Americans. I still cannot even write or even think about it without getting emotional. It was truly overwhelming.

We got to our buses. We were designated red, white and blue. As mentioned earlier we were on the red bus which was also the lead bus which was the best bus to be on. I'll

explain in a minute. We loaded up the wheelchairs in the bus and then found our seats. We would keep these seats for the duration of our travels.

We knew that we were going to have a police escort throughout the day. I envisioned a train of police cars from front and back, maybe a helicopter escort. I thought this thing would be done over the top like everything else. We pulled out of the airport led by a lone motorcycle cop. I thought that this was just an escort to lead us to the real escort. However, this was it! Up to that point I felt that this whole experience didn't miss a detail, but I must admit I was very disappointed. I was very premature in this. This motorcycle cop was the most amazing thing I have almost ever seen. You wouldn't think that a lone rider on a motorcycle with a few lights and a siren could com-

mand a train of buses but that is exactly what he did. He was all over the road keeping it clear for us. We travelled thirty miles from Baltimore to DC, all around DC and back to Baltimore having never stopped for a single light or stop sign, ever! As we would go through an intersection he would take both hands off of the handlebars, put his hands straight out from his sides, palms up and stop traffic dead. It took guts to not only take your hands off the bike but also not be worried about getting hit. The really amazing thing is what he did on the parkway. As we were travelling from Baltimore to DC on the parkway, the traffic seemed a little heavy for a Sunday morning and I thought well this is where we get stuck in traffic because where else do you go when both lanes are backed up? Well why not up the middle? As traffic was backed up on both lanes, the cop came up behind them with lights and sirens. He was riding up the middle of the traffic. He was instructing the cars to move over on their respective sides of the road. Tom, the president of Honor Flight said to us, "you are going to see the parting of the red sea". As cars pulled over our bus driver went right up the middle straddling the white dotted line with the other two

busses right behind. And away we went without missing a beat. At that point, I was just as impressed with our driver as I was with the cop. The cop would not have anyone not getting over. When the road was open, if you were coming up an entrance ramp and not slowing down, he would pull over right next to you then point to the shoulder. He was the nicest guy and stayed with us the entire day from sunup to sundown. Not having to stop for traffic and having to wait in long carlines really made the trip that much nicer. I don't know his name, but he was remarkable. The red bus was the best because we got to watch him all day.

We went straight to the Air Force me-
(See Paul on page 12)

5th Infantry Regiment

“With its lineage extending back to 1808 when the Army organized the 4th Infantry, the 5th Infantry Regiment is one of the Army’s longest serving infantry units. In 1815, several regiments, including the 9th, 13th, 21st, 40th, and 46th Infantry Regiments, were consolidated to form the 5th Infantry. Elements that formed the 5th took part in several notable campaigns, including Tippecanoe in 1811, and Chippewa and Lundy’s Lane in 1814 during the War of 1812.

Following the War of 1812, the 5th was assigned to the American frontier to explore and protect America’s vast territory. The regiment was later sent to Florida to combat the Seminoles. For much of the nineteenth century, the 5th Infantry would be engaged in numerous campaigns against a number of Indian tribes.

The 5th Infantry was in Texas when war broke out with Mexico in 1846. The regiment was immediately assigned to BG Zachary Taylor’s army and took part in the American victories at Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterey. The 5th was later reassigned to MG Winfield Scott’s army which was to advance on Mexico City. After participating in the American landing at Vera Cruz, the 5th fought at Churubusco and Molino del Rey. During the final assault on Mexico City, the regiment took part in the storming of the fortress of Chapultepec. Among the junior officers in the assault were James Longstreet and George Pickett, both of whom would later distinguish themselves as Confederate generals in the Civil War.

After the Mexican War, the 5th Infantry remained in the western United States, fighting hostile Indians such as the Comanche and serving as the primary infantry unit on the frontier. The regiment also assisted in quelling the Mormon uprising in the Utah Territory in 1857. During the Civil War, the 5th Infantry remained out west, taking part in only one campaign of the war, New Mexico 1862.

After the Civil War, the 5th Infantry was heavily engaged in fighting Indians and protecting settlers. In 1869, COL Nelson Miles, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the best Indian fighters in the Army, took command of the regiment and led it in campaigns against the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Nez Perce.

The 5th Infantry did not see service

in the Spanish-American War, but briefly served in the Philippines during the insurrection. During World War I, the regiment was assigned to the 17th Division. While the regiment did not take part in combat operations, it did perform occupation duty in Germany after the Armistice.

In the years before World War II, the 5th Infantry spent time assigned to the 5th and 9th Divisions. On 10 July 1943, the 5th was assigned to the 71st Light Division, an experimental unit that was soon converted to a regular infantry division in 1944. The 5th arrived in France with the 71st Infantry Division in January 1945. During the war in Europe, the 5th, commanded by COL Sidney G. Wooten, took part in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns and fought through southern Germany, becoming the first American unit to cross the Danube River and the first to enter Austria. After performing occupation duty, the 5th Infantry was inactivated at Salzburg, Austria, on 15 November 1946.

On 1 January 1949, the 5th was reactivated in Korea and briefly served there until all U.S. combat forces were withdrawn later that year. When North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950, the 5th, under the command of COL Goodwin L. Ordway, was rushed to the Korean peninsula from Hawaii to help stem the Communist advance. Arriving at Pusan on 31 July, the 5th, which formed the core of a regimental combat team (RCT) that included the 555th Field Artillery Battalion, 72d Engineer Company, and a regimental tank company, was immediately pressed into service in support of the 25th Infantry Division. During fighting near Chinju from 9 to 13 August, the regiment’s 3d Battalion conducted a successful attack on enemy positions, seizing its objectives and inflicting heavy casualties. The actions at Chinju earned the 3d Battalion a Presidential Unit Citation. On 26 August, the 5th RCT was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, replacing the division’s badly mauled 34th Infantry Regiment and 63d Field Artillery Battalion. The 5th RCT fought as part of the 24th Division until January 1952, when the 24th was replaced by the 40th Infantry Division. For the remainder of the war, the 5th RCT operated as an independent unit, first under IX Corps and later X Corps control. In ad-

dition to the Presidential Unit Citation for Chinju, the 5th earned three Korean Presidential Unit Citations. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, also earned a Presidential Unit Citation for heroic actions at Songnae-dong. Two soldiers from the 5th earned the Medal of Honor. In all, the regiment lost 867 killed, 3,188 wounded, and 167 taken prisoner or missing in Korea.

During the Vietnam War, the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mechanized), served with the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. During its time in Vietnam, from 19 January 1966 to 30 April 1971, the 1/5 Infantry earned twelve campaign streamers, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Valorous Unit Citation, and several decorations from the Republic of Vietnam.

Today the 5th Infantry continues its proud legacy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The regiment’s 1st Battalion is assigned to the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light), a Stryker Brigade Combat Team that is part of Task Force Olympia in northern Iraq.

POSTED IN: ARMY HISTORY CENTER - Found on the National Museum of the United States Army’s Website

(Paul from page 11)

morial for lunch. Firehouse Subs supplied the sandwiches and chips and Honor Flight did the water. They offered us water all day to keep hydrated. The nurses were patrolling this. We spent about 45 minutes there and then we were off again to the Tomb of the Unknowns for the changing of the guard. Again, we never had to stop for traffic, and we pulled right up to the tomb in our buses. We got off and into our wheelchairs and amazingly we got to wheel right up to the guard area very close to where the guards were changing. Dad could have reached out and touched one of them he was so close. This ceremony is always very moving but today it had special meaning. To see all of these vets lined up around these guards and really appreciating the significance, it was moving to say the least. An interesting thing happened that Tom told us about, was how the guards honor the WWII vets. If you have ever seen the changing of the guard, you know that they step with precision every step just so. Well, to honor the vets, somewhere is their walking the 21 steps they will scuff their heel. They are not supposed to do this, but they do it anyway out of respect. The changing of the guard was perfect. Dad got some really good video of it. I have seen this many times but never enjoyed it more. After

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the ceremony, we gathered around a nearby flagpole for a chat with one of the guards who happens to be from Clarence, NY. He did a question and answer for us, which was very enlightening. Everyone enjoyed that. Back to the buses we went to visit the memorials. I should mention that it was a gray day which made the temperature pleasant, but rain seemed like it was hanging in the air. It sprinkled at our Q&A but stopped about as quickly as it started.

We travelled onto the WWII Memorial where we spent about 45 minutes. The first order of the day was to take a group picture with all of the vets in it. The WWII guys were seated in the middle and the rest of the vets flanked them on either side. They held a banner that read "Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight". It was quite a sight to see all of these men that gave their duty to our country, all in one group at the beautiful memorial. It is quite striking. If you have never seen it, it is the largest of the war memorials. The neat thing was that there were so many visitors to the memorial that stopped and took pictures right along with us. They were inquiring about what the occasion was and who they were. There were many people just standing there taking photos or just being reverent in the moment. It was amazing that everyone fit into the picture and there was something else amazing about that picture that I will share later.

It started to rain a little harder now as we travelled back to the bus. By the time we got back to the bus and in our seats, it was coming down pretty steady. I texted Victoria and told her that just when we were about to go to the Korean Memorial it was raining. She tried to encourage me saying maybe it would be brief. Since the memorial was just a few hundred yards away I was very skeptical. "Lord, forgive my unbelief". In the minute that it took us to drive over to the next stop, it had quit raining and the sun was peaking out. Amazing.

We got off the bus and into our wheelchair and headed to the Korean Memorial. It is no surprise that most of our group were headed there too. I know I am partial, but it is my favorite memorial for how real it is. There are statues of nineteen soldiers about nine feet tall walking in a loose formation. Dad said they walk about five yards apart which this scene was laid out just like that. This was so if they came under mortar fire, all the of soldiers would not be killed at once. The memorial played that out perfectly. We took several pictures together there, and I took several of dad. We went to the small reflecting pool where the record of the losses during the war were inscribed. The long granite wall that runs the length of the other side of the memorial is etched with faces from the war. This included all nationalities and religions. My biggest regret of the day is that I did not get a picture of dad at the

wall, but we were too busy taking it all in. The highlight of the visit to the memorial as you might guess was the vets. Someone had the idea (it was not planned as such) to get all the Korean vets in a picture. That was remarkable. Once again, we fit everyone in. The worry that I had was that we were taking up the entire width of the walkway and I was concerned that the other visitors to the memorial were going to get upset and impatient. I should have known by now how they would respond. They stopped and were taking as many pictures as we were. It was a good five minutes from the time we set up the shot and finished. No one said a word. Afterward, so many people came up to thank them for their service. The waterworks just kept on flowing by our group and regular visitors alike.

We left the memorial to head over to the Vietnam memorial. It is very striking in its own right. I was concerned about the time to get back to the bus. I thought it was fifteen minutes earlier than it actually was, so I was afraid we would not have time to see it and make it back. I knew the schedule was tight to make it for the banquet. And, I would not be honest if I didn't say that I was getting rather tired and there was a good size hill at



the memorial. I asked dad if it was okay if we passed and he assured me it was. We took some good pictures at the Lincoln Memorial and a good shot with the Washington Monument in the background. Another neat thing was I never had to ask for someone to snap a picture of us. Ordinary people were almost falling over themselves to take our picture. I think we all felt a little like royalty.

We got back to the bus and it was nice to have a few moments of rest. We then headed on to the Hilton Hotel in downtown DC for our banquet. We had chicken and chocolate cake. There was not a fancy program planned just a few announcements and appreciation plaques given out to the corporate sponsors who joined us on the trip. There were a few skits performed as a competition between the buses which was fun. They usually declare a winner, but this year Tom said that everybody won. He got

some boos for that. The highlight of the night was yet to come. Several weeks ago, I approached Mom, (Hannah assisted too), about getting people, friends and family, to write a letter of appreciation to Dad. This was done for all of the vets. The way we had it set up, was that after the people wrote the letters, they would mail them to my sis Dianne, and then she would gather them and send them to Honor Flight. At that point, they prepared a package of mail for the vets and included in their bag were letters from school children from around the Buffalo Niagara area. All told I guess there were about fifty letters in Dad's bag. I must say everybody did their part perfectly because Dad never had a clue. Thank you for all of your invaluable assistance. If you are reading this and sent a letter to dad, thank you so much!

They called out Dad's name and we raised our hand and they brought the bag of mail to us. This entire exercise was to imitate the days of "mail call" that the men would receive in the field, which was always met with great anticipation. Dad got his envelope and just set it on his lap not opening it. All of the other vets were tearing into their bag and started reading the letters. Dad still just sat there. I finally coaxed him into opening his bag. (In fairness to Dad, he thought it was just promotion material related to the flight, so he wasn't in a hurry.) When he finally saw what it was, he was blown away. He could not believe the number of people that would take the time to write him a personal note. He started to read them, absolutely smitten with what was written. We couldn't get through all of them because we had to go, but I tell you on the bus ride back to the airport and then on the plane, he read every letter over what seemed like one hundred times. That was my second-best favorite part of the trip, the best is still yet to come. I don't like to speak for Dad, but I don't think there is one part of the trip that he didn't absolutely love. The next morning when we woke up, he went through them with mom yet another time.

So, we are heading back to Baltimore to return home. They gave us our boarding passes on the way. We got our usually escort which it was dark now which made our traffic monitor stand out even more. He led us right up to the main door for security. It took a little while for all of us to get through, but we were still on time for the flight.

Now, for what I think was the most amazing part of the trip. As we travelled down the concourse to the gate, we were met with another standing ovation. It didn't quite match the first trip through the airport, but no one is complaining. As we all congregated around the gate to board, we were waiting for the plane to be serviced. There were people all around us thanking the men for their service. It seemed like a crowd of at least one

(See Paul on page 15)

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier



Fr. Thomas E. Waldie, S.S.S

"In early August, 1951, the 5th RCT was ordered to secure a ridge north of Line Wyoming near the village of Sangyang-ni. Second and Third Battalions moved out around four in the morning while First Battalion remained on the line. The attacking units progressed rapidly up the steep terrain with the exception of I Company, which had come under heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. When King Company linked up with Item Company, they were able to continue the advance and force the Chinese troops to withdraw.

Father Tom Waldie, the 5th RCT's Catholic chaplain, had been in Korea since January 1951. He would often stop by the regimental command post in the evening to see what was being planned for the following day. He wanted to be where he was most needed and was allowed to accompany patrols and attacking units, in spite of orders from the medical officers to stop aggravating his high blood pressure by walking up and down hills.

Chaplain Waldie was with 3rd Battalion during the attack near Sangyang-ni. When one man was wounded by a grenade, he quickly organized a litter crew to retrieve him. However, the enemy fire became so intense that Waldie told them to return to their positions.

When night fell, knowing full well that the Chinese are masters at night fighting, he returned, unarmed and

alone, to the wounded man. Then half-dragging and half-carrying, he succeeded in getting the soldier back safely to the combat team's position and rushed him to the aid station. The man survived. It was not the first time that Father Tom had risked his life to save the wounded. He had previously driven his shrapnel-scarred jeep through heavy artillery fire to rescue others. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for these brave actions that he considered were just part of his job; taking care of his boys.



Col Lee Alfred presents Bronze Star for Valor to Father Waldie, November 1952

Father Waldie served with the 5th RCT in Korea for eighteen months, moving from company to company to conduct services and counsel the men. He remained there long after he had accrued the requisite thirty-six rotation points to go home. He refused to go on R & R in Japan, concerned that there would be no one to replace him while he was gone. He would joke that he was probably the only person in the world who wanted to be in Korea.

Thomas Waldie was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 20, 1911; one of seven sons born to Dr. Thomas E. and Anna McGuire Waldie. Following his graduation from Fordham University, he entered the novitiate of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Quebec, Canada and was ordained to the priesthood in April, 1938. He taught theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Cleveland until April, 1943 when he joined the Air Force as a chaplain.

Waldie was posted in China, toward the end of the war, and remained there as part of an allied mission that attempted to work out a peace treaty between the Chinese Communists and the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-

shek. He returned home to Cleveland in 1948, taught there for a year and then spent the next two years in Melbourne, Australia. When he heard that chaplains were needed in Korea, he volunteered.

Father Waldie did not leave the Army after serving in Korea. He was assigned, as a chaplain, to the 101st Airborne Division. The 53-year-old found that jumping out of airplanes was "fascinating and exhilarating" and vowed to remain a paratrooper as long as his "parachute keeps opening." Fortunately, it opened for more than 850 jumps.

In the early 1960's, Waldie completed all requirements to become a Green Beret. He was assigned to serve as a chaplain with a special forces unit. In 1971, after several tours of duty in Vietnam, Father Waldie retired from the U.S. Army as a "bird" colonel.

He then fully reinserted himself into the life and mission of his religious order, fulfilling various responsibilities in Ireland, England and the United States. Whenever he could, he would attend reunions of the 5th Regimental Combat Team.

In 1996, veterans of the 5th RCT threw a surprise birthday party for Father Waldie. He was presented a book of written tributes from soldiers who had known him. It also contained pertinent photos and news articles. One of the articles was written in 1953 by a 5th RCT veteran from Kentucky named John Whelan. Mr. Whelan stated that "*Father Waldie's message seems to be that whatever happens is all part of God's plan and through faith in Him, one can attain the peace that a soldier's tension-wracked mind seeks. Such an attitude is tonic for the men. As the Father travels from position to position, chatting, kidding, talking seriously to some lad who needs his help, he carries with him an aura of safeness and security. His effect on all men is quieting, refreshing and relaxing.*"

A veteran of K Company wrote: *When I returned home after the Korean War, Father Waldie, I went to my rabbi and told him that I wanted him to see a picture of my rabbi in Korea. I then showed him a picture of you. That says it all.*

Soon after the birthday celebration, Thomas Waldie developed cancer. On October 17, 1999, he went home to be with his "Boss upstairs." A funeral mass was celebrated on October 21 and interment took place in the community plot at All Souls Cemetery in Chardon, Ohio. An honor guard from Ft. Knox,

Kentucky provided pall bearers.

Joseph Karam, Heavy Mortar Company, 1951-52, delivered a graveside eulogy. He closed with, "If we truly love our brother Thomas, If we have learned any lesson from his silent, humble eloquence of example. If we wish to prolong his teachings and memory, let us vow to walk these days that are left to us and answer his obvious question – "Who will take my place?" with the motto of the 5th – I'LL TRY, SIR."



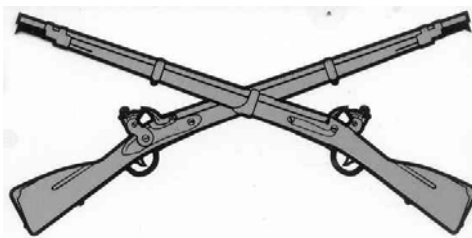
(Paul from page 13)

hundred people or so. All of a sudden, one of the ticket agents from the gate next to ours starts singing the Star-Spangled Banner over the PA. It was beautiful. Looking around you saw people removing their hats and placing their hands over their hearts, I'm talking everybody within ear shot of the song. People were just awe struck. I am not sure why, but he stopped singing in the middle of the song. Without missing a single beat, everyone kept singing the song very loud and proud. It was better than any choir that I have ever heard. I myself could not get a word out, I was about in the floor. I have never experienced anything like that. Again, ordinary Americans took a brief moment out of their busy lives to honor these men and our country. We might be a little bent but I'm here to tell you we are not broke. No matter what your politics are we still live in the greatest country on the planet. If I didn't believe that before, I do now.

We preboarded the plane again and got great seats. I had to get a cup of water from the attendant, I almost forgot dad's medicine. The pilot made a special point to come out of the cockpit (before we took off) and pay tribute to the vets. That was pretty cool. The flight was smooth, and we landed in Buffalo at about midnight.

Now for the grand finale. After we deplaned, we all lined up one more time to travel down the concourse. This time the halls were devoid of anybody. We had the place to ourselves. There was a bagpipe band ready for us when we got there. They led the processional down the hall. Those bagpipes sounded magnificent with the reverberation of that open space. Now, I knew that

(See Paul on page 24)



Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Distinguished Service Cross
is Awarded to:**

Staff Sergeant Bobby Q. Brock

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3309

29 August 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

BROCK, BOBBY Q. STAFF SERGEANT United States Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, APO 96225

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date of action: 13 June 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Staff Sergeant Brock distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 June 1969 while serving as a platoon leader of an ambush patrol on the Bau Dieu peninsula.

When an enemy force opened fire, Sergeant Brock maneuvered among his men directing fire and pointing out targets. Although wounded by shrapnel, he moved through the fusillade to an injured comrade to administer first aid. He then assisted in loading casualties on the medical evacuation helicopter, and when the aircraft was shot down while lifting off, he rushed to the wreck age and removed the crew to safety. Despite being wounded again by a rocket grenade, he directed his men into a defensive perimeter and called in supporting artillery fire to cover the approach of another ambulance helicopter. Not until all of the casualties had been extracted and a reinforcement element had arrived did he allow himself to be evacuated for medical treatment. Staff Sergeant Brock's extra ordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

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

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



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

Friends and Alumni of the Bobcat Battalion!

I wish to extend to you a quick update and Seasons greetings from the Euphrates River Valley.

Our Soldiers are working hard in accomplishing our mission in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The discipline, commitment, and professionalism they bring to work each day makes us all proud. Some tasks are not as exciting as others but no matter the requirement, our Soldiers work hard because they care. This impresses leaders and other organizations making the Bobcat reputation a solid one here at Al Assad Air Base, Tactical Assembly Area AQ, and all through Task Force – Iraq. We firmly hold the trust of our leaders, our coalition partners, and our allies in the Iraqi Army (IA).

1-5 Infantry has made tremendous strides in developing the IA through tactical training and operational planning. The IA remains willing to fight and do the heavy lifting this struggle requires, and they continue to not disappoint. The Bobcats work hard to focus the IA's operations in ways that effectively defeat Daesh (ISIS) on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. Through technology, intelligence, security, and good staff work, we are both helping the IA in this fight while developing them for the long term.

The Bobcats are training hard themselves and accomplishing our individual and collective tasks. We are working our way up to squad live fire exercises in each company. This not only makes the time go by quicker, but more importantly prepares us for the dangers still out there. We increase our readiness to meet any challenge that may arise from our west or east. These skills not only ensure our success but protect our Soldiers from any threat that foolishly chooses to keep us from succeeding. We exercise constant vigilance and ensure the risk remains low as we both train and execute operations. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers in this regard, keep them coming!!

Service to our nation often requires separation from loved ones which is difficult no matter the time of year, but is especially hard during the Holiday Season. This is an opportunity for the Bobcats to come together and forge the relationships that will enrich their lives for years to come. These are the kinds of relationships you all know too well. As our Soldiers enter into the Alumni ranks, we proudly add the latest chapter of the Regiment's history through our service in OIR. Thank you all for your support, thoughts and prayers, and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays as you bond with family and friends.

Tim Garland

LTC Tim Garland
Bobcat 06



CDR LTC Tim R. Garland &
CSM Brady Davis



SPC Smith's reenlistment



GLADIATOR COMPANY'S SPC GUTIERREZ
AT THE GRENADE LAUNCHER RANGE



SPC Cone and SPC Ostrander with an
Iraqi Army Soldiers during a KLE soon
after our arrival.

Pictures from SFRG November Newsletter



Anger Company



Bayonet Company



SPC "Doc" Camerella checks vitals on one of the Military Working Dogs attached to Charger Company



1st PLT conducting Primary Marksmanship Instruction on the M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun - Charger Company



DISTRO AND MAINTENANCE PLATOONS - GLADIATOR CO



TF Jazeera's LNO, COL Musa, showing LTC Garland the Area of Operations



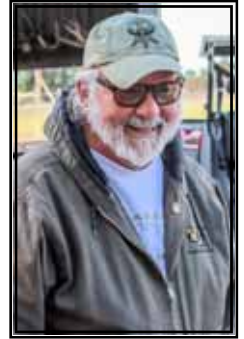
Members of Scout Platoon stand guard at the 7th Iraqi Army HQ



Weekly Arabic Classes taught by one of resident linguist - Anger CO.

Pictures from the “BOBCAT FAMILY REUNION”

San Antonio/Granite Ranch





Pictures were provided by Ed Kawczynski, Carolyn Kethcart, Gary Robertson and George Chavez.
Thank you all!



5th Infantry Association Quartermaster

Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

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

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



1
2

1A



3



9



13



14



17

**New lower prices
for shirts!**



5



6



7



4



Khaki/Navy

10



12



8



15



16

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

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

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

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

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

Ric Myers,

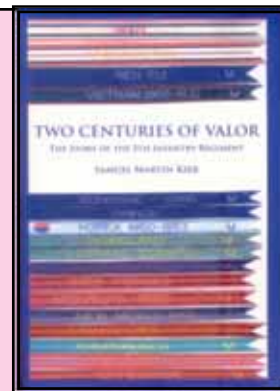
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

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

have participated in.

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



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

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

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

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

(Please Print)

Name: _____

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

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Application 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____

in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____

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

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

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

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

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

Letters From Vietnam

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

16 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Hiya! Still nothing interesting around here. Old Charlie must have gone on R&R, cause there's nothing cookin'!

I got to perform 2 operations today, removing a cyst and drawing water from an elbow. It wasn't much but it kept me busy. We also finally got our TV set working by putting up a 25 foot aerial. I'm writing now before Jonathan Winters comes on.

I'm hoping that I can get someone to pick up all my film at Cu Chi. I turned in 2 rolls of colored film several weeks ago and we moved out before I could pick it up. I don't remember if I told you, but they have a special on colored slides up here. A 20 shot roll with pre paid marks for \$1.60 / roll. I grabbed about 8 of them, but there haven't been any interesting pictures to be taken.

Not much to say. More tomorrow."

Love, Joe

17 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Rowan & Martin is over and I'm writing during Red Skelton's monologue. Unlike the states, Saturday nights is the best TV watching time over here.

We went scrounging today through the base camp (we're the only Battalion left) and came up with 12 light bulbs, 4 extension cords, 2 boxes of 45 ammo, Playboy Centerfolds, a book shelf and a foot locker full of paperbacks. We now have the best day room around, bar none.

At 0359 this morning I woke up for some reason. Five minutes later the phone rang and the conversation went something like this. "Me one-six, Specialist Lex, sir. Hi: this is Division orderly room. Have you heard any incoming rounds? Me I've heard some explosions but haven't been able to tell whether they were outgoing or (eeeeeeeta boom) incoming!! See ye (click).

We took 41 mortar rounds and 5 rockets, one directly into Bravo Company's mess hall. We didn't yet get a call about casualties until about 0505, when Charlie walked 5 rounds across the motor pool. There were only 7 people injured none seriously. They put us on

amber alert tonight, as my flak jacket, steel pot, M-16, gas mask and aid kit are within reaching distance.

Well it is about time for "The Silent Spot; I'll sign off. More tomorrow."

Love, Joe

18 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"It all started out as a typical quiet Sunday until about noon when we got word that Recon was in contact with the enemy. Alpha and Charlie Company hurried out to support and then the stuff really started to fly. They didn't break contact until about 1700 and when the final score was in, U.S. 0 killed, 7 wounded. Them: 42 killed, ? Wounded. And of our 7 wounded, 6 were treated and released. We also captured 5 AK-47's, three 51 caliber machine guns, 5 122MM rockets and destroyed plenty of RPG's. They're expecting plenty tonight and we are on "Red Alert". That means we sleep (if here) with our boots on and all equipment on or in position to be donned in 30 seconds (have you ever tried to sleep wearing a flak jacket and steel pot, with an M-16, aid bag and gas mask over your shoulder with an ammo belt around you?)

By the way these troops today were not V.C. they were uniformed North Vietnamese Regulars, the guys who fight the same way we do. The next time that Xuan Thee mentions that NVA regulars are not infiltrating the south, you can laugh along with the rest of us.

So much for the personal war report. More later."

Love, Joe

20 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Please excuse me if my writing is a little strange, but I've just been through 24 hours of hell. I believe that I told you on 18 Aug that we killed 42 and only had 7 of our own men wounded. Yesterday Bravo and Charlie Companies went out to the same area expecting to clean up. They were in a fire fight with about the same results as the day before and everybody was real happy. They then got the word that all the V.C. in that area were moving up to the bridge. They had

to go over the bridge as it leads to the only entrance to the base camp. This was at 1800 hours and at 1805 we were placed on red alert. The tracks took of a blazing at 30 per with .50 calibers cutting into everything in sight, Charlie Company in front, Bravo following. We heard stray shots going over head and it sounded like we were "givin'em hell". Tiny and I jumped into our ambulance PC and Clyde Sparkes jumped into the other and we took off at about 40 per to the gate to meet them coming in. The first track in the wire had Charlie Company's senior medic and with a bullet through the head. E pulled 4 more wounded from the tracks and dashed them to the hospital. Then suddenly there were no more tracks. Charlie rear point track said they looked back at the bridge and Bravo Company had disappeared. We rushed frantically to the nearest radio and heard that Bravo had been ordered to turn back and pick up 4 tracks from 3/4 Cavalry and protect them on the way in. We sat around the dispensary nervously until 2100 waiting and listening. Then suddenly all hell broke loose on the bridge. We ran outside and there were rounds flying all over the place. The V.C. had over 3000 men set up in a 2-mile long ambush! The fighting was hot and heavy with tracks and gunships all over the place. We heard that there were 1 killed and 6 wounded and went inside to prepare. Soon all f the medics at the dispensary showed up at the hospital and the tracks made it inside the wire. The ambulances didn't even bother to pick any up, they just led the tracks to the hospital.

When they got there we started pulling people out of and off of the tracks. It was just a scene from a movie about an asylum.. People were staggering around screaming, some just sat and stared, other were crying and beating their fists on the ground. I don't think that I ever ran so fast with a litter to the last track. Everybody was pulling them off the front tracks and nobody had started from the rear. I grabbed a few people who could still walk and started hustling litter patients inside. It was absolute bedlam. Nobody knew what was suppose to happen and little was being done. The V.C. had followed the tracks up to the wire and the bunker line and the bunker line had cut loose to mow them down. We dusted off 36 in helicopters to Long Binh, Cu Chi and Tay Ninh and still kept coming in.

Then, finally when it looked like everything was under control, mortar rounds started dropping in around the

hospital and we had to shove everyone into bunkers. The attack lasted from 10 to 15 minutes and we took over 50 mortar rounds in the area.

About 2300 everything was squared away and we got the final count: 10 killed, 82 wounded. I was asked to help identify the dead and went out back to the morgue. That was the first thing all night that really shook me up. Two buddies of mine were among those to be identified. Both had taken AK-47 rounds



to the head and didn't know what hit them, thank god. One was a cook and the other was a mechanic, whom I had gotten to know pretty well. Another man had taken a direct hit to the abdomen with a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) and was splattered all over the place. Everyone else with one exception was killed immediately (bullet in the brain) and didn't realize what was happening.

About 0100 this morning we got back to the dispensary and started doing paper work. Charlie hit us with a mortar and rocket attack and sent everyone scurrying for the bunkers.

It is now 1400 hrs. on 20 AUG. We are still on massive red alert and expecting an attack at anytime. There are enough people left in Bravo Company for a possible short manned platoon. Alpha Company is in Tay Ninh and Charlie is back in a sweep. We have not had a convoy in 3 days and all supplies except ammunition and mail have been cancelled for the next 10 days. The mess

halls have closed down and we are back on C-Rations. There are at least 3 regiments of N.V.A. and V.C. (5,000 - 10,000 men) surrounding our base camp. We have 1 1/2 Infantry Companies plus medics, artillery, engineers and cooks to protect the base camp (800 men). Believe me we are not looking forward to tonight. I'm going to sign off now and try and get some sleep before darkness comes. We'll probably end up down at the hospital tonight also. Please say an extra prayer for us.

Bye for now.

Love, Joe

=====

26 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Please forgive me if I may have worried you by not writing, but this is my first chance since last Tuesday. I don't want to go into all the details about what has happened, but whatever you heard on the news in the states was probably wrong. It is true that the 5th Mech has killed over 600 V.C. in the last week, but it wasn't worth the loss to us. We ended up with 30 dead, 18 missing and 200 wounded.

I was out in the field with the men for a few days and their morale is really down. Doctor Gilbert, who has less than three weeks left, went out on a sweep with Charlie Company as a line medic to help bolster the morale.

The Mech usually doesn't get hit so hard but the Commanding General of the 25th Division has been sending one of companies out on a mission which would normally require 3 battalions. He's finally coming to his senses and bringing in more troops to defend this area.

All of the line medics are being put in for Silver Stars for this last weeks action. Two senior company medics were hit but not too badly. They should be back with us in two or three weeks.

Tell you what. I'll write again tomorrow on a more cheerful note."

Love, Joe

P.S. I got a package today. Thanks you much.

=====

28 AUG 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Not much happening here the last few days. Right now I'm listening to the mixed strains of a 3 month old "Gunsmoke" episode and Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor ("another battle

between the purists and the realists").

Most of the last few days have been spent changing bandages on guys who were hit last week. Some time has been spent regaining calm by reading. I'm now on a 4 book set of "The complete Short Stories of W. Somerset Maugham". Not really exciting, but enough to hold my attention.

By the way I don't know if I told you or not, but everyone really appreciated the soup. It's the closest thing I've had to home cooked in a long time. We also had enough candy to munch on for about 2 months, so we really won't need any for a long time. I also don't recall telling you that another of my classmates is up here with the Wolfhounds (2/27th INF). We spent time together talking over "the good old days".

Not much more to say I'll try to write more often now that things have settled down a lot.

Love, Joe

New Hat For Sale

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

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



for \$15.50. That price includes shipping.

You can purchase the hat from our quartermaster Chester Johnson.

Chester can be reached at:

979-966-9669 or

E-mail: jcjohnson4@verizon.net

(Paul from page 15)

there was going to be a reception, but I had no idea what was coming. We turned the corner leading out to where the ticket counters are and there were hundreds of people waiting for us. This dwarfed the morning reception. There was a color guard waiting for us, signs, flags and there were even young ladies dressed in 1940's and 50's period costume. It was almost deafening. There was a men's chorus singing military verse. It was incredible, the perfect ending to a perfect day. I can't describe any of this to you with any degree of accuracy, you just have to take our word for it. They handed out bags to each vet as they came through the line. In it was a pin, a lighter and would you believe a framed print of the picture that was taken of all of them at the WWII Memorial just a few hours before. They thought of everything.

One of the Patriot Guards led us back to the post. We got in our car and arrived back to Hamburg about 2 am. I was honored to join Dad on this weekend. I will never forget it. It will be a memory that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I know that many of you were praying for us and especially Dad, and I have to say he travelled beautifully. He is a great travel companion. If you get a chance, ask Dad about this journey. By his own admission he doesn't talk much, but if you're lucky he might just give you a little nugget that you can hang on to

Frank Jennings responds

"Great to hear about your Honor Flight. My wife and I are both on the Board of Space Coast H/F Florida our next flight is Oct.26... No.7 this year. So far we have taken 1525 since we started. We have met a lot of great Veterans...."

"Thank your Dad, I love you. Hello Paul, Your sons story of your Honor Flight was well written. My wife and I enjoyed reading it.

I am about ready to go to our park for our 7th. and last flight of the year from Florida. Our Vets are due to arrive at 1:15 AM. It is always a joy to see all the Veterans as they are amazed at the clockwork of the trip

My favorite story is----Upon return, If the veteran is thrilled with energy and the guardian is tired, it was a great trip.

Thanks to your Son..."

Frank & Maxine Jennings 5th.RCT

"To live under the American Constitution is the greatest political privilege that was ever accorded to the human race."

-Calvin Coolidge, born July 4, 1872, died January 5, 1933

2020 Reunion - Fairfax VA

25-30 August 2020

Bobcats:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love all my Bobcats."

Carolyn Kethcart

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

Carolyn & the Bobcat Family,

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

Warmest regards to all."

Andy Anderson

General Anderson,

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

Love you bunches

Carolyn

The Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport



2200 Centreville Road
Herndon VA 20170



\$129 Single / Double per night



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

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

* Booking prices are good up to 3 days before and after the reunion dates
Reservations must be made by 26 July 2020

Schedule of events

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

Tuesday August 25th

Arrival and Registration

Wednesday AUG 26th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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



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

**Taste Award Winning Wines
Along The Journey**

Bull Run Winery



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

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

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

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

Thursday August 27th

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

Washington DC Memorials & Monuments Day

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

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

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

(See Reunion on page 26)

National Army Museum



(Continued from page 25)

Memorials & Monuments Day

Pictures of some that will be visited



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

**Picture of Army Museum above*

Saturday August 29th

9:00 - 10 AM - Membership Meeting

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

10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

Free to explore Fairfax County

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Auction - Approx. time

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

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

(See Reunion on page 27)

Fairfax VA Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name _____

_____ Number of additional guests

Names of additional guests

Phone number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

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

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

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

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

⇒ Are you driving? Yes ___ No ___

⇒ Is this your first reunion?
 Yes ___ No ___

COMMENTS:

Mail to or contact:

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

Registration Form

Fairfax VA - 25-30 AUG 2020

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

| | Number | Cost |
|--|--------|------|
| Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple | | |
| WED 26 AUG - The Air & Space Museum & lunch at Bull Run- \$79 per person | | |
| THU 27 AUG - Washington DC Memorials and Monuments Day - \$59 per person | | |
| FRI 28 AUG - Memorial Service Tour & Luncheon at The National Army Museum - \$89 per person includes Lunch | | |
| SAT 29 AUG - Banquet Dinner Choices | | |
| 1. Tuscan Chicken - \$45 | | |
| 2. Baked Cod - \$50 | | |
| 3. Grilled Crusted New York Steak - \$55 | | |
| 4. Vegetarian option upon request - \$45 | | |
| * All dinners include fresh Caesar salad, Chef's Selection of Accompaniments, Dessert, Freshly brewed coffee and iced tea. | | |
| Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.) | | |
| TOTAL | | |
| <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.*

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

(Reunion from page 26)

Dinner Choices

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

Bordelaise

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

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

Plaque To Be Placed at the New National Army Museum

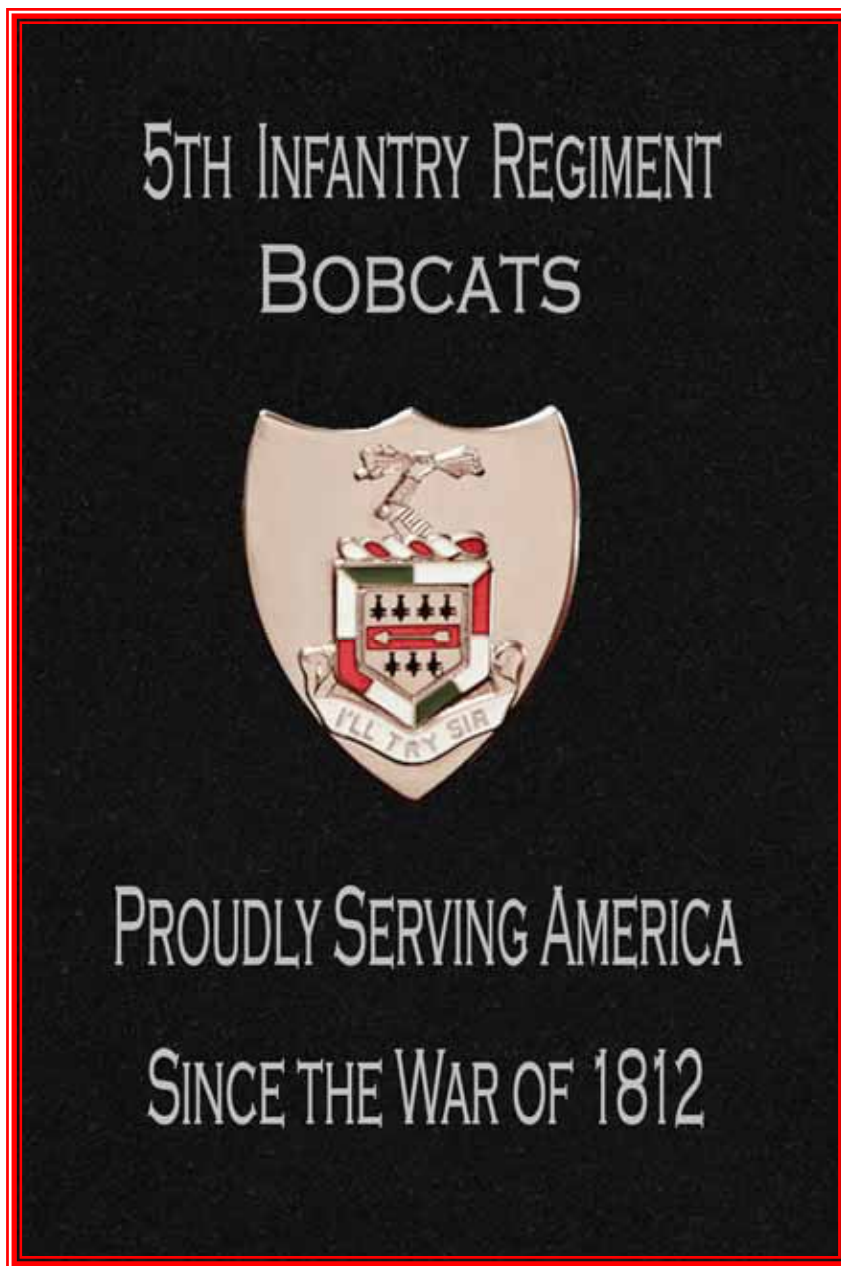
The United States Army is the only service without a national museum. That distinction will end next year when the new "National Museum - United States Army" will open at Fort Belvoir Virginia located just south of Washington DC.

The "Army Historical Foundation" has been working hard for years to raise money to build this museum. I know because they have been soliciting donations from me many times a year for the past four or five years. Many corporations and veterans groups and over 178,000 individuals have donated. The 25th Infantry Division Association donated \$10,000 towards the museum.

As a fund raiser the Army Historical Foundation offered to veteran's organizations to place a plaque of their design in a prominent location for a donation of \$5000. I presented this offer to your board of directors over a year ago thinking that this museum is going to be visited by millions and that it would be nice to have our plaques displayed for these millions to see. After some delay your board unanimously approved the purchase of this plaque.

As you can see in this newsletter we will be having our 2020 reunion in Virginia close to this National Army Museum. So you will be able to see this plaque if you attend the reunion because our annual memorial service will be held on Friday at the museum.

Sam Kier designed this plaque which is simple with a powerful message.



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

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