



The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Fall 2018

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

Volume III

The Gary Sinise Foundation Provides A House to Our New Member Nicholas Vogt

Nicholas Vogt recently joined our Association. While serving in Afghanistan with the 1/5th in 2011 he was severely injured resulting in both legs being amputated.

The "Gary Sinise Foundation" provides new homes specifically built to the needs of those disabled as a result of military service. Nicholas was lucky enough to be chosen recently to get a new home.

Nicholas joined our association recently and sent more information about himself. I was unable to get it in the last newsletter. Nicholas said:

See Vogt on page 2



Nicholas, his son & wife in front of their new home.

2019 Reunion Charleston, SC

TUE SEPT 3rd - SUN 8th
2019

"Charleston, the South Carolina port city founded in 1670, is defined by its cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages and pastel antebellum houses, particularly in the elegant French Quarter and Battery districts. The Battery promenade and Waterfront Park both overlook Charleston Harbor, while Fort Sumter, a federal stronghold where the first shots of the Civil War rang out, lies across the water."

If you attend our 2019 reunion in Charleston you will have the opportunity to visit the city voted as "America's Favorite Destination".

The Human Toll of the "Battle of Ben Cui"

By Andy Anderson - Bobcat 6 - 1968

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

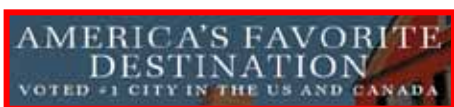
(See Human Toll on page 10)

Past President Bob Wood Dies

On 8 SEP Barbara Wood said, "God has called Bob home. His very brief but intense battle with cancer is over. He was here at home with Hospice care which began on Monday. Two of my daughters were here with me and we were prepared when he left us on Friday morning. We had a wonderful 60 years of marriage and although the past few brought some challenges, I am so very grateful for the time we had. And I am also grateful for each and everyone of you, his "band of brothers", for the many wonderful times enjoyed together.

(See Bob on page 2)

"I'll Try Sir"



While there you will be able to visit Fort Sumter where the first shots of the Civil War were fired. You will also be able to tour the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, USS Laffey (destroyer) and USS Clamagore (submarine), a Vietnam era support base, the US Medal of Honor Museum (USS Yorktown).

One of our tours includes a ride on a horse drawn carriage.

The Memorial Service will be held at the military college "The Citadel".

And of course the best part of the reunion will be your opportunity to meet with your brothers from your Army days.

(See Charleston on page 24)

The Winter 2018 Newsletter will be out DEC 2018/JAN 2019 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

"After my commissioning in 2010 I reported to FT Benning for Infantry Officer Basic Course (IBOCL), Airborne School and Ranger School. I successfully completed these in the summer of 2011 and reported to the 1-5th Infantry in FT Wainwright, which was already deployed near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Once in AFG, I replaced Anthony Formica as platoon leader of Rage platoon of B Company.

I was severely injured on 12 NOV 2011 by an IED during a foot patrol in Panjwahi, resulting in two leg amputations and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). My RTO Calvin Pereda died from the same explosion.

Following my extensive recovery and medical retirement in 2015 I first tried to earn a graduate degree. However, my TBI (which makes it difficult to remember things) caused me to stop this pursuit. I now work as a free lance website developer and really enjoy it. I am looking for a full-time, stay-at-home web developer job.

I met my wife, Lauren at Walter Reed as a patient and after two years we got married in 9/19/15. We currently



live in rural Ohio with our one year old son, Nathan."

Nicholas Vogt

5781 State Route 61 - Crestline OH 44827
Afghanistan 2011- nvogt10@gmail.com

Below is some more information about Nicholas that I found on the internet.

"US Army CPT Nicholas Vogt grew up in a small Catholic community in north central Ohio. He is the oldest of five siblings. At a very young age, Nich-

olas knew he wanted to join the military. He was accepted to West Point in 2006 where he began his formal military training.

During his deployment to Afghanistan in 2011, Nicholas served as a Platoon Leader. On November 12, 2011, he and his team were on foot patrol when they discovered a weapons cache. While investigating, Nicholas stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED). Immediately Nicholas was rushed to Kandahar, a city in Afghanistan, for



treatment. In late November, he was transported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for extensive surgeries.

Nicholas suffered both leg amputations at his hips, severe brain injury, and a seizure disorder. His recovery was extremely difficult with many complications preventing him from adapting to a wheelchair or prosthetics. He became frustrated and closed off.

A turning point came in June 2013 when Nicholas met his nurse, Lauren. They fell in love and married. Nicholas and Lauren currently reside in a small apartment in Virginia and welcomed their first baby in February 2017. The



Gary Sinise Foundation is proudly building the couple a specially adapted smart home to give Nicholas the accessibility he needs to be independent."

"Nicholas has recently volunteered to try and assist Randy Kethcart with our Association's webpage."

(Bob from page 1)

We'll celebrate his well-lived life on



Bob was president 2012-13

September 22. Thank you all and God bless!"

Barbara

A FAREWELL TO BOBCAT 3

It is with a heavy heart that I received the sad news of the passing of our brother Robert D. Wood. Bob died on my 90th birthday which made all my happy birthday activities pale in comparison with the demise of one of the finest officers I ever served with. Bob answered his last roll call when he was overcome with the insidious ravages of cancer. During my call to Barbara, she mentioned that Bob was under the care of hospice which is in reality an end-of-life situation of which I am very famil-



iar. Bob's passing came quickly and compassionately with Barbara and daughters Amy and Elise present.

It was in July 1968, when Bob as-

(See Bob on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Bobcats,

Hard to believe that we are already in September with December just around the corner. Sadly we are in the Hurricane season and the east coast is feeling the wrath of Florence with more storms forming in the Atlantic and headed west. Prayers for those in harm's way. On another sad note Robert "Bob" Wood passed away on 2 September, our condolences and prayer to Barbara and family

This past August 21 most of the survivors of the battle of Ben Cui attended a Memorial Service in Odessa Texas for the Bobcats that died in that battle. Odessa is the home of Marvin Rex Young, our Medal of Honor recipient for his actions of Heroism during the battle. The city of Odessa is very proud of Rex and were glad that the Bobcats chose Odessa for the Memorial Service.

Be safe and hope to see you at our next Reunion.

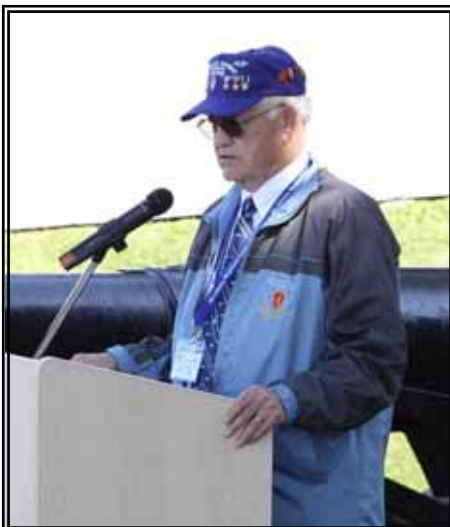
George Chavez

President
5th Infantry Regiment Association

(Bob from page 2)

sumed the duties of battalion operations officer (S3). This was a very fortuitous and timely event, as we began to take on elements of the 33 NVA & 275 NVA Regiments, in what became the: "Battle of Ben Cui". Bob as S3, CSM Ray Barrett and I worked as a team during these tense and very challenging times of close combat with a green uniformed and well armed enemy. Bob was not locked in at the tactical operations center but was out and about usually in our

chopper while I rode with Ray Barrett and my crew on track 53. If we still had enemy contact at dusk and late evening, I would go up with a chopper and could call for an assortment of supporting indirect fires. Bob gave me that option of ground vs air for which I was most



Bob presiding over one of our most memorable Memorial Services in 2014 at Lundy's Lane Canada.

grateful.

By the end of September, enemy contacts decreased and I asked Bob to undertake the gathering of documents necessary to support award of the "Presidential Unit Citation". I felt our Battalion met the stringent requirements for the Army's highest unit award. This PUC request was subsequently approved in 1970, and I give full credit for Bob's involvement in making this prestigious unit award happen.

On 29 October, while on a move to link up with a Wolfhound battalion, I was hit with the results of an enemy fired RPG that blew me off the top of my moving track. Regretfully and unwillingly, I had to leave my brother Bobcats. At the 12th Evac, I was under the care of Nurse Lt Grace Moore for a three day stay. As I lay on the hospital bed in a full body cast unable to move and aluminum shields with tiny holes over my eyes, our brigade commander came to see me. He placed a Purple Heart medal on my cast. Then he began to berate me by saying I should have been in my chopper. I had argued with other senior officers and his predecessor (who had been relieved) that I can be seen by my soldiers when I am on the ground with them and not in an aircraft. In my view, it is important that a commander be

(See Bob on page 4)

5th Infantry Association

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

Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 18** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 18. Please renew now!

Reunions

25th IDA Providence RI ... 8 - 13 OCT 2018
Charleston SC 3 - 8 SEP 2019

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

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

ROSTER

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

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

E-mail Changes & Additions:

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

Mercado (CSM-R), Victor - Change
vmerc717@comcast.net

Lost Members:

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

Anderson Jr., John "Andy", **McFadden**, Terri, **Blanton III**, Carl "Trey" A., **Jones**, Charles, **Reiter**, Kenneth, **Stankevitz**, Patrick E.

Roster Changes/Corrections:

McCaffrey, MG Todd B. -Add. change
CMR 489 BOX 314
APO AE 09751-0004

Young, Gary - New cell phone number
210-990-9912

Craig, Howard - Add. & Ph.# change
3436 Bailey Ranch Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
423-349-8285
tnfisher@charter.net

New Members:

Lempke, Jim (Brenda)
1620 Minneapolis Ave
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-420-5024
jrlnorthwoods@gmail.com
B Co, 2nd Plt, Command Track,
Mortars Dec 69/Nov 70

Langston, David (Peggy)
3980 Voltaire St
San Diego, CA 92107
619-939-2278
CSC, Scout, CO armory - 1974-77
dml3980@pacbell.net

Comments: Served Dec 1974 - Dec 1977. 1975 deployed to Guam, for Operation New Hope. I think of the 5th as my fraternity and all it's members as brothers. Bobcat!

Spradling, Eldon (Judy Ann)
248 Timberlake Drive
Ashland, OR 97520
541-552-0907
C Co 1st Bn 5th Mech -1968
eldon@spradling.net

Comment: *It's been 50 years and I'm still proud to have served with the Bobcats. Only there 3 months due to medevac to CONUS.*

Cope, Sean
236 Hayes Circle
Marina, CA 93933
otto1madd@yahoo.com

(Bob from page 3)

seen sharing the hazards of close combat that soldiers faced.

My departure from the Bobcats was not the end of my relations with Bob and Barbara Wood. We remained very close friends while still on active duty and during our retirement years. We even worked out a deal wherein the Woods could rent (read dirt cheap) my house in Alexandria. Bob was assigned to the pentagon staff, and I was stationed in West Germany. Subsequently, both of us were promoted and I had an opportunity to visit Bob in West Berlin. It was evident that he was doing a great job as a battalion commander and was well respected by his soldiers.

After our retirement, we continued our relationship through Bobcat reunions and planned visits. On one of our visits to Sebring, Lee and I were introduced to Bob's latest gem....a do it yourself kit-built fixed wing aircraft. Bob had become a licensed pilot and had assembled all the parts correctly and the aircraft was inspected and certified airworthy. So there stood pilot Bob, next to his creation wearing his signature smile that ran from ear to ear. What a versatile guy!

On another occasion, Lee and I were on a cruise ship headed to the caribbean with a stop at Port Canaveral. I called the Woods and we had a great Bobcat mini-reunion with a lengthy and leisurely luncheon. We treasured such unique opportunities to see our close friends that gave us so many wonderful memories. I also note that both of our marriages ran for 60 years and that is, in this day and age, most commendable.

Bobcat 3, you can stand down you have had a great run. All of us that knew you are thankful for your dedicated service with the Bobcats and to our Nation. You will be missed but then we

who remain must Soldier on, close ranks and continue to march. Perhaps in the hereafter, we can all look forward to a Bobcat family reunion arranged by our intrepid and dynamic duo: Carolyn & Randy Kethcart.

Till then, may God bless each and every member of our Bobcat family Real Good!

Andy Anderson

Bobcat 6 -1968

Obituary from Morris Funeral Home Sebring FL

"COL (Ret) Robert Dean Wood went to his heavenly home on September 7, 2018 after a brief battle against cancer. Bob was born January 15, 1937 in Edwards Co., IL....

He grew up on a farm near Mt. Carmel, IL and graduated from high school there. At the University of Illinois, he studied Agriculture, joined Army ROTC, attained his private pilot's license and, most importantly, met the love of his life.

One weekend in June 1958, he was commissioned a 2nd LT in the US Army Infantry branch, graduated with his bachelor's degree and married Barbara Burns, his wife of 60 years.

During his 28 year career in the Army, Bob earned his Ranger tab and was Airborne qualified. He commanded Echo Company, 187th Airborne Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. He served 2 tours in Vietnam, one with the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment (Bobcats) of the 25th Infantry Division. While working at the Pentagon, he received his MBA from George Washington University. During a 3 year tour of duty in Berlin, Germany, he commanded the 4th Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment. He graduated from the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA and served on the faculty there for 2 years.

His final assignment at MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL gave him the opportunity to travel extensively in the Middle East in his role as Executive Officer to the Commander of the US Central Command.

He received numerous military awards for exemplary service to include the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit.

After retiring from the Army in 1986, Bob served in a leadership position for MPRI, an Alexandria, VA based

(See Bob on page 9)

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

What Happened To This Kit Carson Scout?

At the Norfolk Reunion Patrick Manuel gave me a picture for the newsletter. I asked him who is it. (*Not sure I have his name spelled correctly.*)

"Fred, he was our Kit Carson Scout. There is some information on



Dana Huy Duy

the back of the picture. I don't know what happened to him After we stood down he gave me a Vietnamese coin collection kit. He was fluent in Vietnamese, English and French. And he was a hell of an artist. He painted paintings on all of our tracks in the 1st platoon. We learned a lot from him about Vietnam and its people. I and others would like to know what happened to him. Does anybody know?"

If you know what happened to him please let me know so I can share it with Pat and others.

17 Bobcats Killed

22 AUG 18

Sargent Rutherford and Sam Alvarado 51 Years Ago and Today

Recon Platoon



Joe Lex on Facebook this day 18 AUG wrote:

"50 years ago today the Bobcats (1st Bn, 5th Inf Reg, 25th Div) lost 17 men at the Battle of Ben Cui. RIP my brothers."

"Fred: had the chance to visit the Bobcats at Wainwright in March as a part of a DOD commission I'm on.. Great to see the really good looking Bobcats and get an intro to the Stryker in the snow...was a balmy minus 15 degrees..."

Ted Westerman
Bobcat 6, 1969-70 RVN

BTW making a contribution for the Ball on the site TGW

A Big Thank You!

I wish to sincerely thank the following for contributing articles and or pictures for the newsletter: MG-R Andy Anderson, Sam Kier, Roger Sperl, Bud Holochwost, LTC Sonny Rosales, 1LT Christopher Barber, Nicholas Vogt, Pat Manuel, Tom Frame, Randy Kethcart and COL-R Nevin Williams.

As you can see this newsletter would be a lot shorter and less interesting without the contributions from these individuals.

So I ask you to send me a short article/pictures etc. Don't worry about spelling or grammar - just send something.

Treasurer's Report

3rd Quarter Financial Report

(1 April - 30 June 2018)

April 2018:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$100
Norfolk Reunion registration for events, meals etc.	\$4486

TOTAL \$4586

Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$45.01
Miscellaneous (envelopes)	\$32.91
Winter Newsletter printing	\$659.10
Bank Service Charge	\$4

TOTAL \$741.02

May 2018:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$350
Quartermaster Sales	\$10
Norfolk Reunion registration for events, meals etc.	\$4031

TOTAL \$4391

Debits:

Quartermaster	\$1225.16
Donations (Bugles Across America)	\$50
Postal	\$12.87
Bank Service Charge	\$4.00
Miscellaneous	\$152.47
Bus Fare (DCM Phillips)	\$158
Banquet Food (Late comers)	\$974
Memorial Bag Piper	\$200
Reunion Refunds	\$376
Returned check	\$251
Norfolk Reunion Expenses	\$5179
Norfolk Reunion Tours	\$16745
Bus Driver Tips	\$600

TOTAL \$25927.50

June 2018:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$75
Quartermaster Sales	\$400
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	\$1890.78
Norfolk Reunion	\$451
Deposit Lost Check	\$500
Checking Account Error	\$0.50

TOTAL \$3317.28

Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$84.29
Postage	\$20.35
Bank Service Charge	\$4

TOTAL \$108.64

Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$15729.16
Savings Account	\$56770.48

TOTAL \$72499.64

Treasurer/Quartermaster

if you did not have a chance to donate at the meeting you can still donate to the scholarship fund.

If you have a grandson/daughter about to enter or is attending college and you are a member of the 25th Infantry Division Association they are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Encourage them to apply.

Donations to the Association

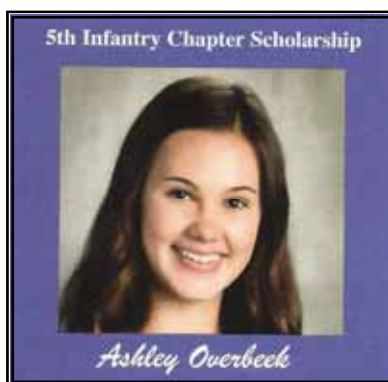
We are a 501c19 organization. Donations to our Association are tax-deductible.

Trish & Ed Brady - Scholarship	\$100
Shaun McCaul - Scholarship	\$100
Sam Kier - Scholarship	\$20
Edward Stokes - Scholarship	\$20
Jerome Yasher - Scholarship	\$100
Robert Megonigal - Scholarship	\$50
Ronald Hart - Scholarship	\$20
Terry Rountree - Scholarship	\$20
Chris Sharpe - Scholarship	\$100
Walter Rukke - Scholarship	\$100
Andy Anderson - Scholarship	\$100
Gary Robertson - Scholarship	\$25
John Snodgrass - Scholarship	\$50
Thomas Ward - Scholarship	\$250
John Dillon - Scholarship	\$25
John Ducey - Scholarship	\$20
Ken Krueger - Scholarship	\$100
Earl F. Weekes - Scholarship	\$100
Gary Young - In memory of Bob Wood	\$50

Scholarship Winner

Each year at the membership meeting at the reunion we take up a collection for the 25th Infantry Division Association's Scholarship Fund. One of the scholarships is named the "5th Infantry Chapter Scholarship"

Pictured below is this years winner.



We donate \$1500 to this 25th IDA but usually only collect about half that amount at the meeting.

As you can see in the next column,

Scholarship Fund

E-mail sent 27 June 2018

Dear fellow Bobcats,

"Every year when the 5th Infantry Regiment Association reunion is held, we pass the hat at our business meeting and collect for the 25th Infantry Scholarship Fund. Every year they hand out a scholarship in the name of the 5th In-

fantry Chapter. We usually present them with a check of \$1500 at the 25th business meeting that is held on Saturday morning of the reunion. I'm sending out this email for those of you that are unable to attend the reunion, but feel that the scholarship fund a worthy cause. The Wolfhounds and 3/4 Cav are able to donate 3 to 5 times what we usually contribute to the fund with their fund raising efforts. I hope this year you will take the old "I'll Try Sir" approach and give what you can afford. I know these are tough economic times with falling stock markets, higher fuel costs, and ever increasing prices. Education costs too are soaring and hopefully with our donations we can help a hard working deserving student earn a diploma.

You can donate easily with a charge card by signing on to the Website listed below, or by sending a check to:"

Chester Johnson
225 Summit Drive
La Grange TX 78945

Thank you so much,

Randy Kethcart

Webmaster and unofficial Scholarship Chairman.

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

Vietnam Wall--

"This is really sobering. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

Pass the link on to others who may be interested."

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

**Sent to me by Allan Azary.*

Van Riper Is Chaplain Of The Year

"We proudly congratulate our "Serving Our Sentinels" Team Member, Harry Van Riper, recipient of Pennsylvania American Legion 2018 Post Chaplain of the Year Award!"



"Harry and Sue Van Riper are an amazing couple, always putting God and Country first to help our Veterans!"



"Never interfere with the enemy when he is in the process of destroying himself."

- Napoleon

**Facebook post by Joe Lex*

Coins On A Tombstone?

"I have wondered often why we leave coins on tombstones? At our last reunion in Virginia, I asked around but no one seemed to know exactly what the coins represented. I googled it and according to SNOPE "Humans have been leaving mementos on and within the final resting places of loved ones almost from the beginning of the species. Excavations of even the earliest graves uncover goods meant to serve the deceased in the next world, such as pottery, weapons and beads.

The earliest known coins date to the late seventh century B.C., and as societies began embracing such monetary systems, the practice leaving of coins in the graves of citizens began as yet another way of equipping the dear departed for the afterlife.

Mythologies within certain cultures added specific purpose for coins being left with the dead. In Greek mythology, Charon, the ferryman of Hades, required payment for his services. A coin was therefore placed in the mouth of the dear departed to ensure he would ferry the deceased across the rivers Styx and Acheron and into the world of the dead rather than leave him to wander the shore for a hundred years. In England and the U.S., pennies were routinely placed on the closed eyes of the dead, yet the purpose for that practice was not clear — some say it was to keep the eyes of the corpse from flying open (even though the eyes, once shut by the person laying out the body, do not reopen).

In these more recent days, coins and other small items are sometimes discovered on grave markers, be they plaques resting atop the sod or tombstones erected at the head of the burial plot. These small tokens are left by visitors for no greater purpose than to indicate that someone has visited that particular grave. It has long been a tradition among Jews, for example, to leave a small stone or pebble atop a headstone just to show that someone who cared had stopped by. Coins (especially pennies) are favored by others who wish to demonstrate that the deceased has not been forgotten and that instead his loved ones still visit him."

Bring coins with you to our next reunion."

Jeff McGrath
Bravo, 68-69

One Name On The Wall

When the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall made its stop in Oak Island, I felt the need, an obligation to be there, if for nothing else than to pay my respects to the 58,307 names on the wall. As I walked the grounds, I read and recited the names of dozens of the soldiers who had given the ultimate sacrifice serving their country. Some names I randomly ran my finger across. It was a moving experience. I was struck by an enormous sense of loss and felt that I was standing on holy ground.

When I returned home, I Googled some of those names that I had remembered and was linked to the Virtual Vietnam Veterans Wall of Faces website. It was there that I found "John A Connell". As I read the short bio that included his hometown, rank in the Army, date of death and the manner in which he died, two facts jumped off the page. He came from the same "hometown" now call home (Southport) and on the day he was killed by a sniper's bullet, I was registering for the draft on my 18th birthday (August 20, 1968).



So began my journey to tell the story of First Lieutenant John Alexander Connell.

That was in 2015. After a number of dead-ends, including the fact that Connell didn't go to school in Southport (I checked yearbooks 1960 through 1963), and that his mother who had moved to Southport at some point and his grand-

parents, who lived here as well, were all deceased, I had hit a wall. No one local seemed to remember him. Time moved on, and so did I.

The Ken Burns PBS Vietnam documentary broadcast late in 2017 and the recent follow-up, "Stories from the Vietnam War", got me moving again, with a big breakthrough coming when I researched the Pilot's archived records a few weeks back. A small article on his death provided me with enough information to continue my search. It has been 50 years since John Connell passed, and here is his story as best I can tell it, with a big assist from one of his platoon mates.

John Alexander Connell was born on January 14, 1945, in Richmond, Virginia, to Suzanne McLaurin Connell and Allen Arthur Connell. He would visit Southport during vacations and stay with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John B. McLaurin, who lived on Brunswick Street overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway and the Yacht Basin. It was in Southport that John discovered sailing and his love of the sea.

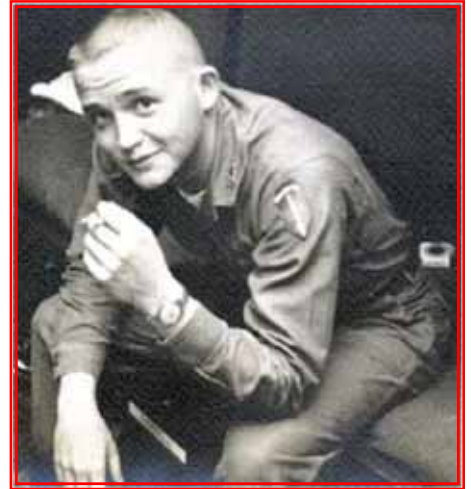
"John often told me of sailing up and down the Atlantic along the east coast from the Carolinas and how he planned to return to sailing when he got home. We thought we might crew together sometime. A sniper's bullet ended all John's dreams, but every time I feel a breeze in my face or look into the black sky filled with stars from horizon to horizon, I am reminded of a sailor I met over 30 years ago. Godspeed, John. We'll sail when we meet again."

John Holochwost (platoon sergeant) - January 2000 from TOGETHER WE SERVED.COM

John attended George Wythe High School in Richmond and was a 1962 graduate of the school. He was both the president of his homeroom and the Chemistry Club. John served as a student council representative as well. During his senior year he earned the National Merit Scholastic Award of Commendation.

After graduation, John continued his studies as a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, better known as Virginia Tech. By January of 1966, however, he had entered the Army. He was later commissioned as Second Lieutenant in

March 1967, after graduating from Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.



In October of 1967, John's tour in Vietnam began. By August of 1968 he had been promoted to First Lieutenant and was assigned as First Platoon Leader, Company A, Fifth Mechanized Infantry in Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam. As the head of a platoon, he was responsible for the 35 to 40 soldiers under his command; quickly earning their respect.

"You were short, a two-digit midget in our lingo and what were you doing in the field with a bunch of FNG grunts? Well, you were one of us, and because you didn't fit in with Army lifer officer types, you didn't get a nice cushy job in the rear to wait out your tour. So you were pounding the bush with us and we liked you for that. You were more than a platoon leader who gave orders, you were another soldier who we respected and cared about."

John Holochwost July 2002

August 20, 1968

The platoon this day consisted of four APC's (Armored Personnel Carriers) with 10 soldiers in each. Each vehicle was equipped with a LAW (Light Anti-Armor Weapon). John was walking with his platoon online between the APC's. They had been moving along the rows of rubber trees on the plantation at Ben Cui. The objective of the mission was search and destroy/reconnaissance.

"So who could know when we were

told to push in to the rubber trees a little longer that it would cost so much? You saw a concrete platform used to load rubber onto trucks and wanted me to use a LAW to destroy it, but as I was ready to fire you changed your mind. I closed and recapped the LAW, handed it to you and you turned to your right to put it back on the APC. ... It was then that the bullet struck you in left side of yow neck and exited the other side. You staggered a moment and then fell to the ground as I tried to help you get to safety behind the APC. ... I held your head on my lap and Jack tried to insert a needle in your arm to slow the bleeding. In the moments that followed Jack and I reassured you that you would be all right as we watched your life ebb. I have always hoped you believed that lie"

John Holochwost - July 2002

Historians recount that the fighting between the U.S. troops and the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) and the VC (Viet Cong) forces at Ben Cui between August 18 and September 20 was among the most intense of the war. This time has been called the Third Offensive, part of the Tet Offensive that saw the enemy change it's strategy from hit-and-run type ambush attacks to one of using major force. Thirteen members of John's platoon lost their lives in Vietnam during that year.

Lieutenant Connell's body was brought home to Southport, escorted by an honor guard from Fort Bragg, and was buried with full military honors. He was 23 at the time of his death.

As the only soldier listed from Southport to lose his life in the war, building S-15 at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point was renamed the John Alexander Connell Community Service Center in his honor. The plaque reads in part: First Lieutenant Connell served with, Alpha Company, First Battalion, Fifth Infantry Regiment, "Bobcats", 25th Infantry Division, "Tropic Lightning", United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV).

Among the awards given included: Bronze Star with "V" for Valor and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

The name John A Connell can be found on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. (panel 47W-line 007). His grave is located in Northwood Cemetery, Southport.

Writers Note: While the Vietnam War ultimately divided us as a nation, we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude, not

only to the 50,000-plus soldiers, like Lieutenant Connell, who gave their lives in service to the country, but also to the 100,000-plus who left a piece of themselves physically or emotionally back in Vietnam. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten.

**Article copied from the May 23, 2018 "The State Port Pilot" Southport NC and was written by Fred Ammann.*

**John Holochwost sent me this article and in a letter wrote:*

"This article appeared in the State Pilot and was sent to me by the author.

John Connell was our Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, Co A, for just a few weeks when he was killed on August 20, 1968.

It was very near to the location where Company C engaged the enemy on the 21st...."

Bud

(Bob from page 4)

firm of military veterans that provided training and education to U.S. and global forces worldwide.

In 1998, he retired a second time and he and Barbara moved to Sebring, FL.... Bob and Barbara remained dedicated supporters of his prior military organizations and participated in many reunions."

**Barbara our thoughts are with you and your family! Bob will be missed but remembered!*

"On September 22, 2018, a Memorial service was held for COL (Ret) Robert Dean Wood, at the First Presbyterian Church in Sebring, FL. This was followed by a Military Honors service on



Allan Azary Picture

the Church grounds. Barbara Wood and her family welcomed all who came to pay their respects to "Woody". Bobcat members Bart and Patti Stanzone, and Allan and Geraldine Azary were in attendance. Many relatives and friends came to remember the life of Bob Wood. The ceremony was poignant, emotional and at times funny, as Bob's brother Nelson related stories of the two of them growing up. This was followed by Bob's son-in-law LTC (Ret) Paul Huszar telling us about more recent events involving him and Bob and families, which were also emotional and humorous. The church service concluded with everyone standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and then the singing of Bob's favorite song, "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah". A collation, sponsored by the Rotary Club, was held after the service.

The 5th Infantry Association has lost a dedicated and active member, a fine man, and a good friend."

Bart Stanzone

A Visit With The Silva's



Randy and Carolyn Kethcart were on the west coast exploring future reunion sites when they paid a visit to Bill and Gail Silva.

As you can see Gail is recovering from a broken ankle.



The Human Toll of the “Battle of Ben Cui”

By *Andy Anderson* - Bobcat 6 - 1968

(Human Toll from page 1)
Ben Cui”.

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

When I reported to Major General F. K. Mearns (CG, 25th Infantry Division) at Cu Chi, I was on orders to be his G3 - - - but this was not to be. In a very relaxed mood and with his feet up on the desk, he said I was to assume command of the Bobcats the next day. The change of command took place on 27 June 1968, in a field near the Tan Son Nhut airfield. Our mission at that time was security of the American Embassy and other key installations in the Saigon area. We were subsequently relieved and ordered to road march to Tay Ninh and on to Dau Tieng some 40 kilometers to the east. Two battalions were with the 1st brigade headquarters at Tay Ninh and the Bobcats was the only maneuver battalion at Dau Tieng. So this was the home of the Michelin Rubber Plantation; an enormous growth of rubber trees that were still milked for their sap by the villagers during the entire Vietnam conflict. There were four villages numbered Ben Cui 1, 2, 3, and 4. The base also housed the Michelin Rubber Corporation offices in grand colonial style buildings with high ceilings and large open verandas. These facilities were also subjected to periodic enemy shelling by 82mm mortars and 122mm rockets. The base also had an airfield with a runway long enough to land a loaded C130 and was ringed with numerous bunkers and rolls of concertina wire.

The timeline of the “Battle of Ben Cui” begins with heavy enemy contact on 18 August and extends to 20 September 1968. On 18 August, Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General

Glenn Long directed a search and destroy mission on a suspected enemy regimental headquarters area. This resulted in an assault against a well dug in enemy unit employing 12.7mm machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, mortars and small arms. Repeated assaults supported by artillery, mortars, fast movers with 500 pound bombs and several aircraft with napalm plus our own division gunships helped to carry the day. The final assault against this well entrenched enemy required mopping up with dismounted infantry covered by the .50 cal machine guns on our armored personnel carriers.

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

The battalion task force now operating with various attachments then entered into a period of daily contacts with elements of the 5th NVA Division. Operations evolved around the villages of the Ben Cui and throughout the Michelin rubber plantation. Companies were rotated in static positions not far from the battalion base camp at Dau Tieng. These positions were astride known enemy routes leading to Cu Chi, headquarters of the 25th Infantry Division. All sites were well within range our own 4.2 mortars and our direct and general support artillery battalions.

After due consideration, it was the heroism of the battalion task force

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



Beyond the wire and in the field with my track #53. This picture was taken 29 OCT 68, the day I was hit with the RPG and evacuated. *Andy*

tigious award was approved in the name of the President by the Secretary of the Army.

It is fitting that the outstanding bravery and aggressiveness of “Charlie” Company in its reconnaissance in force mission is cited as an example in the award of the PUC. I was also well aware of the high loss of brave soldiers that included such men as Sergeant Marvin Rex Young whose heroics that day led to the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor. Despite the loss of 32 KIAs in five days of intense fighting we still had to continue our search and destroy missions and the need to keep the road network open between Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh. However, I also felt that while we had inflicted heavy losses on much larger elements of the 5th NVA

Division, I wanted to take the time to conduct a memorial service for our fallen brothers. I would also submit that I wanted to ensure that we "Get back up on the Horse" and keep our task force motivated, ready, and able to continue in our assigned missions.

We were still the only maneuver battalion at Dau Tieng. So on 1 September 1968, I conducted a memorial service at our base camp for our fallen. With guards posted, I had the battalion assemble in formation around a large cross composed of the "Soldier's Cross", a rifle with fixed bayonet inverted into the ground. After posting the colors, I proceeded to approach each rifle driven into the ground where a comrade who knew the fallen soldier would hand me his helmet. I would then place the fallen soldier's helmet on the butt of the rifle thus forming the "Soldier's Cross". I then made my comments ever mindful of the high cost in human lives lost in the "Battle of Ben Chi". This was indeed one of the most difficult days of my life but there was yet another sad and related day yet to come.

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

Contacts with the enemy began to taper off during October and I had a number of visits by senior commanders. Our then division commander, Major General Ellis W. Williamson was pleased with our task force operations to date and on his last visit wanted me to give up command of the Bobcats and come up to division as his G3. How ironic. I refused to do so citing the normal tour for battalion command was six months and I was not even close to that end date. He got quite upset and turned about and got on his chopper and flew off. About two weeks later, while on a mission to link up with a Wolfhound battalion, I caught an enemy fired RPG just under my jump seat that blew me off my moving command track. Temporally blinded, multiple compound fractures, numerous wounds, and bleeding profusely, I was on my way to the 12 Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi.

Thus ended my tour with the Bobcats on 29 October 1968. Did I make the right decision at the time I was offered

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

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

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

That this was a most solemn and emotional event would be an understatement.

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

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

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

I would also mention that we have a very active Bobcat chapter that conducts annual gatherings at various locations throughout the Nation. It is during these events that I am able to stress during our memorial service that we shall never forget our fallen. . .our brothers who never returned with us. I have always felt that the memorial service is the most important event of the annual reunion. Admittedly, I get emotional during these services and my words do not come very easily. And I am often asked why I continue to feel so strongly about memorializing our fallen brothers. My answer is always: "If we don't honor our fallen, who will?"

In closing and retrospect, I have

(See Human Toll on page 12)

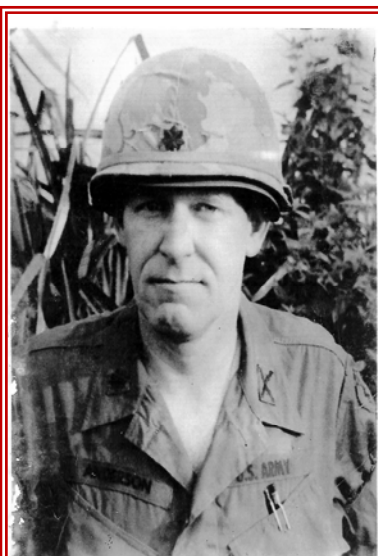
(Human Toll from page 11)

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

FRATES AETERNI

BROTHERS FOREVER

Happy 90th, Andy!



LTC Anderson, June 1968

I had an opportunity to preview MG-R Andrew Anderson's article, *The Human Toll of the Battle of Ben Cui*, before this issue of the Bobcat Bulletin went to press. I was reminded of our good fortune in still having the guidance and presence of that old warrior.

Andy, born in Brooklyn, NY, on September 8, 1928, mentioned turning forty at Dau Tieng, a week after conducting a memorial service for the 32 Bobcats lost in five days of intense fighting. It was

then that he truly understood the meaning of being the "old man" of the outfit and his bond with a bunch of "younger brothers" who were half his age.

Someone once told me that Andy was not an "eye-in-the-sky" commander. He was a "grunt-on-the-ground" leader who preferred to be down there with his soldiers rather than hovering above them in a helicopter. That worked to his detriment on 29 October 1968 when an RPG blew him off his command track, resulting in severe injuries and ending his tour with the Bobcats.

Some of you Vietnam vets have known Andy much longer than I have. I first met him at the Pittsburgh reunion, in 2005. Since then, because of our shared interest in our regimental heritage and in honoring our fallen warriors, we've worked together and I have learned to appreciate his wisdom and thorough approach to matters.

What started out as birthday wishes is beginning to sound a bit funereal, so I'll wrap it up. Happy birthday, Andy. May you always be our Bobcat Six.

Sam Kier

Remembering The Ben Cui Battle 50 Years Ago

See story and more pictures on page 21 & 23



Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

Did You Choose the 1/5th?

General Anderson,

"You and I talked briefly at the reunion about your being a Guardsmen prior to going on active duty. I went the opposite way being drafted, OCS and then finishing my career in the National guard. I have two questions;

Was there any opportunity given to you to choose which unit you would command in Nam? Did you know the history of the unit prior to taking command?

Not to be morbid but have you ever thought of writing a book on your life in the military. I mean you went from Cavalry to Mechanized Infantry?

I have just finished reading a book written by Eugene Ware "The Indian War of 1864". I found it very interesting as it described the life of the Cavalry in the western frontier. I read it hoping to shine some more light on the 5th but it did not.

I would love to get your input."

Sincerely,

Jeff Mc Grath

Bravo Company 68-69
510 304-4432 cell

Jeff,

"I found these books helpful in respect to the 5th Infantry:

Baldwin, Alice Blackwood, *An Army Wife on the Frontier*

Beal, Merrill D., *I Will Fight No More Forever: Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War*

Green, Jerome A., *Indian War Veterans: Memories of Army Life and Campaigns in the West, 1864-1898*

Morgan, R. Kent, *Our Hallowed Ground: Guide to Indian War Battlefield Locations in Eastern Montana*

Wooster, Robert, *Nelson A. Miles & the Twilight of the Frontier Army*

Quaife, M. M. (ed), *Yellowstone Kelly:*

The Memoirs of Luther S. Kelly

Happy reading."

Sam Kier

Information Regarding My Dad

Hi Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kier,

"The 5th Infantry Regiment challenge coin arrived and it's beautiful! What a great design!

I had written to CSM-R Chavez, requesting assistance with information regarding my dad, TEC 4 Stanley Julius Kulakowski, 5th Infantry Regiment, 71st



Infantry Division, WWII, yet I have not received any response. Would you be able to help me obtain further information? I am specifically trying to find out why my dad was awarded the CIB and the Bronze Star. I learned of the Bronze Star when the Army generously gave me replacement medals for my dad. They arrived last week, and inside, they included a Bronze Star. And although there was only one CIB in the package, my dad had two in his possession.

I have read the book, "The History of the 71st Infantry Division" and other historical data that I found online, yet I cannot find out anything specific regarding these medals. From dad's discharge papers, it seems he received the CIB in March of 1945.

Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Even knowing who to contact at the Army would be a help. I have emailed the Army using some website contact information, yet I haven't heard from anyone."

Very respectfully,

Mary Kulakowski

Hi, Mary

As a member of the 5th Infantry Regiment, your dad's combat experience began on March 11, 1945. The CIB was a brand new medal at that time. It was created to provide special recognition for infantrymen, who face worse conditions than other army assignments. There was no set days-in-combat requirement for the award during WWII. So it is quite possible that he was recommended for the CIB just several days after the regiment entered a combat zone and relieved the 398th Infantry in the Vosges Mountains in Alsace-Lorraine.

In 1947, a law was passed granting a Bronze Star Medal to every World War II infantryman who had qualified for the CIB. In Clinger and Johnston's History of the 71st Infantry Division there is a list of members of the 71st Division who received Bronze Stars for gallantry in action. Stanley Kulakowski is not on that list. I suspect that his Bronze Star was received as a result of the 1947 law. The only way to determine whether he was inadvertently left off Clinger and Johnston's list would be to do a search of General Orders issued by Headquarters, 71st Division for March though, let's say, December of 1945. Those records are at the National Archives in College Park, MD.

Who have you contacted? It sounds like you have already been dealing with NARA in St. Louis in regard to your father's records. Do you have your father's discharge document, AGO Form 55? It offers the best resume of what he did in the army."

Follow-up Email

The dilemma is made even worse by the fact that most of your father's army comrades have passed away. However, I have a friend who lives in Paso Robles, California who served with Company B, 5th Infantry during World War II. He probably didn't know your father but I know he would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have about the conditions that your Dad faced at Ft. Benning and in Germany and Austria. If you do have further questions, you might want to run them by him as well as me. His name is Donald Keefer and his e-mail address is dpkeef@att.net.

Sam Kier

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

Fellow Bobcats,

As always, the Soldiers of the First Battalion, Fifth Infantry Regiment have been busy and fast-paced. Multiple live fire exercises both at home in Alaska and in the "lower 48" have kept the companies of the Bobcat Battalion on its toes as we prepare for the winter training season and a rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) in California early next year. In the near-perpetual daylight of the waning summer, the Soldiers took part in squad live fire exercises at the Yukon Training Area (YTA), where Squad Leaders and their formations were drilled, evaluated, and certified in tough tactical scenarios. As the YTA uses some of the more rugged ground of Alaska, the Bobcats had to fight the terrain just as much as they did the enemy forces on their many objectives.

In July, Charger Company was sent on an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE). They first navigated the local obstacle course on Fort Wainwright, followed by testing their marksmanship skills, medical readiness, and mission command capabilities with radio equipment. As if a sign of more to come, Charger then deployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) for Operation Courage Ready in August. During the two week EDRE, the Soldiers of Charger Company fought their way through the Washington woodlands, conducting platoon live fire exercises, as well as, being part of a larger battalion attack with the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment.

The pace only picked up from there. Operation Arctic Fusion, simultaneous to Courage Ready, tested the staff sections on their ability to run battle planning and management, all from a field environment. Almost immediately after that, the battalion deployed to the Donnelly Training Area (DTA) for platoon live fire exercises. Here the Soldiers were treated with a combined arms affair, using attack aviation in the form of Apache gunships, air assaulting to their objective in Chinook helicopters, and seeing extensive use of both their Strykers and mortar elements on and off the objective. They also faced down a chemical attack — simulated with yellow smoke — that the Bobcats had to react to; sometimes while in the midst of treating casualties.

Now, with NTC looming just beyond the holiday horizon, the Bobcats prepare for Operations Arctic Avalanche and Arctic Anvil: the company and battalion live fire exercises respectively. We are also actively fund raising for our upcoming winter ball in December, and we want to express our sincere thanks to the Association for its hard work and assistance in this endeavor. As always, we invite you to join us on the Battalion's Facebook page ("1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment") the Bobcats continue to lead the way.

Sincerely,

Sonny T Rosales

Sonny T. Rosales
LTC, IN
Commanding

1/5th Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/1.5Infantry>



**CDR LTC Sonny Rosales &
CSM Brady Davis**



A Team Leader in Anger Company directs the movement of his Soldiers over the din of gunfire during squad live fire exercises at Yukon Training.



Charger Company Soldiers drag a casualty to safety while under fire during the joint battalion attack for the Operation Courage Ready EDRE at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

A special thanks to LTC Rosales and 1LT Christopher Barber for the article and pictures.



The assault team of 2nd Platoon, Bayonet Company, storms a breach in the wire during platoon live fires at Donnelly Training Area.



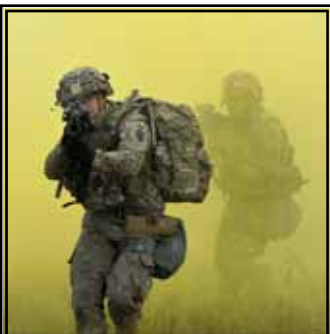
Bayonet Company Soldiers prep a SKEDCO litter during a simulated chemical weapons attack during platoon live fires at Donnelly Training Area.



A Stryker from Anger Company prepares to move out while a Chinook takes off during platoon live fires at Donnelly Training Area.



The leadership of a squad in Anger Company consolidate to discuss the mission.



A team leader of 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Charger Company, engages the enemy while breaching through the smoke concealing the breach in the wire.



Bayonet Company mortarmen fire their 60mm mortar from the objective at distant enemy targets during platoon live fires at Donnelly Training Area.



The Platoon Leader and his Radio Transmission Operator of 1st Platoon, Anger Company, advance to cover while the platoon repels a counterattack during live fire exercises at Donnelly Training Area.

More pictures on Page 28

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

The “Hawaiian Regiment” Goes to Korea

When the 5th Regimental Combat Team was transferred to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in the summer of 1949, it was severely under strength. Over the next year, the vacancies were filled, primarily by reserve NCOs and officers from the U.S. Army of the Pacific, rookies from the 5th Provisional Training Company at Schofield, and one hundred members of the 8292 Post Engineers who were abruptly informed that they were joining the infantry. With names like McClure, Kaapana, Kaneshiro, Chan, Kim and Ferreira, these replacements represented most of the immigrant groups that have contributed to Hawaii's rich history.

The people of Hawaii, who had extended a warm welcome to the 5th RCT in June, 1949, gathered at the dock in Honolulu on July 22, 1950 to wave goodbye to an army unit they had come to claim as their own. For the next three years, local newspapers would provide them with news of their favorite regiment. Once a stable mail system was in place, they were able to send guitars, ukuleles, cans of poi, packages of dried squid and news of home to their boys in Korea.

Eleele, Kauai, were recently brought to my attention. Both men went to Korea with that first contingent of the 5th RCT and both made it safely through until their replacements arrived in the spring of 1951. Following Korea, they took different paths but both men seem to have lived fulfilling and productive lives.

David Hanaloa Helela was born May 31, 1932 at his family's home in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17. Following basic training, he was assigned to Company M, 5th RCT and began a 36 year stint as a professional soldier. During his career, he commanded an infantry company, a mechanized infantry battalion, and an armored division brigade. He completed two combat tours in Vietnam where he received two Bronze Stars and a Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Helela completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees while on active duty. He taught infantry tactics at Ft. Benning and served as a staff officer in a NATO



David H. Helela

headquarters in Germany and in the office of the Inspector General at the Pentagon.

In 1956, young Lieutenant Helela was assigned to the U.S. Army Training Center at Ft. Ord. Soon after reporting there, he met a Honolulu native, Marlene “Winkie” Bernard, who was living in San Francisco. David and Winkie married in April, 1957. Following his retirement in 1985, they

returned to Hawaii and settled in Wailua on the island of Kauai.

During his years of retirement, David was involved in preservation of the cultural history of Kauai with a special focus on several nearby *heiaus*; ancient

places of worship. He also served on the Hawaii State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

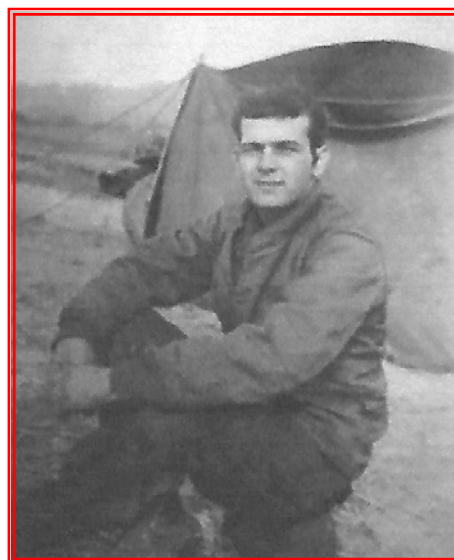
Winkie Helela died on Christmas Day in 2011. David survived her by more than six years. He died at Tripler Army Hospital on February 25, 2018. David and Winkie are buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch Bowl) in Honolulu. They are survived by their children, Kimberly and Steven and five grand kids.

During this past April, I corresponded with Bob Madeiros regarding his father, Richard, who passed away on March 1, 2018. Mr. Madeiros was preparing a statement to use at his father's inurnment ceremony at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe.

Richard Madeiros was born on September 20, 1929 to Gabriel and Emily Medeiros of Port Allen, Kauai. He was one of twelve children.

After dropping out of school and working as longshoreman, for a couple of years, 18-year-old Richard enlisted in the Army in April, 1949. He completed basic training at Schofield Barracks and was assigned to the 5th RCT as a rifleman. Those island boys assigned to the Fifth were generally happy with that outcome because they believed that their options were limited to occupation duty in Japan with the 24th Division or remaining in Hawaii with the combat team. However, all that changed when they were deployed to Korea in July, 1950.

Like many of the other members of



Richard Madeiros

the original combat team contingent, who survived the deployment, CPL Ma-

(See SAM on page 17)



Sergeants Muramoto, Corpuz, and Kauanui take a breather, armed with an M-1, a Thompson SMG and a uke.

The youngest surviving veterans of the 5th RCT are now in their mid-80's. The ranks become slimmer each year. The deaths of 85-year-old David Helela from Hoolehua, Maui and 88-year-old Richard Medeiros, originally from

(SAM from page 16)

deiros was in combat for ten months and seven days before his replacement arrived. He received the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Korean Service Medal with five bronze battle stars.

In May, 1951, Richard happily returned to Hawaii and was assigned to the 8309th Army Unit Hawaii Signal Operations Group at Ft. Shafter, Honolulu. It was there that he earned a Telephone System Maintenance MOS. Telephone maintenance must have been a critical specialty because his enlistment was extended involuntarily for one year. However, he served just five months of that extension before being discharged on August 28, 1952. He returned to Kauai.

Soon after his return, Richard was on the beach at Poipu when he spotted Marylene (Primitiva) Domingcil enjoying herself at a picnic. Love bloomed and they soon married and moved to the Bay Area in California. Richard found a job at Herrick Iron Works in Oakland, a company that has been doing structural steel work in California since 1921. He was as devoted to that job as David Helela was to the Army. Richard retired from Herrick after thirty-six years.

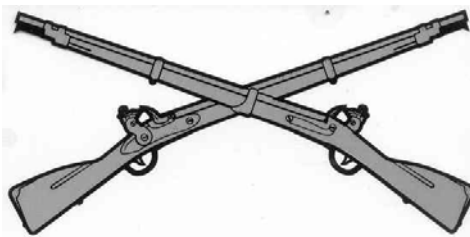
Richard is survived by his wife, Marylene, his children; Richard, Robert, Elizabeth, Kathleen and James and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Debora Ann, and his eleven siblings.

This past June, Richard's descendants took his ashes back to Kauai so that his spirit might rise in a familiar setting, enabling him to be with those family members who have gone before him and, perhaps, he has already run into David Helela and all those other island boys who contributed so honorably to our regimental heritage.

Sam Kier
Historian

VFW Post 5587 and American Legion Post 149

Sam Alvarado is in the black jacket.



Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Congressional Medal of Honor
is Awarded to:**

First Lt. Carl H. Dodd

1st Lt. Dodd, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. First Lt. Dodd, given the responsibility of spearheading an attack to capture Hill 256, a key terrain feature defended by a well-armed, crafty foe who had withstood several previous assaults, led his platoon forward over hazardous terrain under hostile small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire from well-camouflaged enemy emplacements which reached such intensity that his men faltered. With utter disregard for his safety, 1st Lt. Dodd moved among his men, reorganized and encouraged them, and then single-handedly charged the first hostile machine gun nest, killing or wounding all its occupants. Inspired



by his incredible courage, his platoon responded magnificently and, fixing bayonets and throwing grenades, closed on the enemy and wiped out every hostile position as it moved relentlessly onward to its initial objective. Securing the first series of enemy positions, 1st Lt. Dodd again reorganized his platoon and led them across a narrow ridge and onto Hill 256. Firing his rifle and throwing grenades, he advanced at the head of his platoon despite the intense concentrated hostile fire which was brought to bear on their narrow avenue of approach. When his platoon was still 200 yards from the objective he moved ahead and with his last grenade destroyed an enemy mortar killing the crew. Darkness then halted the advance but at daybreak 1st Lt. Dodd, again boldly advancing ahead of his unit, led the platoon through a dense fog against the remaining hostile positions. With bayonet and grenades he continued to set pace without regard for the danger to his life, until he and his troops had eliminated the last of the defenders and had secured the final objective. First Lt. Dodd's superb leadership and extraordinary heroism inspired his men to overcome this strong enemy defense reflecting the highest credit upon himself and upholding the esteemed traditions of the military service.

Order Form

All items are available on our website where you can pay by credit card. Go to: http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml

Name _____ Phone # _____
Street _____ E-mail _____
City, State & Zip _____

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ #1 = Hats - \$12.75 | _____ #8A = License Plate at "US Army" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #2 = 3 inch Patch (Like on hat) - \$4.00 | _____ #8B = License Plate "5th Infantry" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #3 = 5th Patch (4") with Tab - \$7.50 | _____ #14 = 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 |
| _____ #4 = 4 inch Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50 | _____ #15 = 5th Key Chain - \$23.00 |
| _____ #5 = Window Decals - \$4.00 | _____ #16A = MIA Bracelet (Black Small) - \$4 |
| _____ #6 = Pins - \$5.50 | _____ #16B = MIA Bracelet (Silver Medium) - \$4 |
| _____ #7 = Challenge Coin - \$10.50 | _____ #17 = 25th Decal with "Bobcat" above - \$4 |

- _____ **#9 = Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$41.00** (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) - Item #437M
- _____ A). With **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$52.00
- _____ B). With **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$59.00
- _____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$55.00
- _____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$55.00
- _____ ** Add \$1.50 for each size larger than XL
- Color:** (Circle Color) White Grey Black Forest Green Navy Blue
- Size:** Small (Without pocket only) Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

- _____ **#10 = Tri-Mountain 5400 High Peak Winter Jacket with 5th INF REG Crest - \$104** (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 5400]

- _____ A). With **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$115.00
- _____ B). With **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$115.00
- _____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$122.00
- _____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$122.00
- _____ ** Add \$2.00 for each size larger than XL

Color: (Circle Color) [1st color Outer Shell & 2nd color is lining/collar] khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/
Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large {4X, 5X & 6X-large & long sizes

Have the Bobcat #18 on page 19 put on the lower left sleeve of your jacket or shirt for \$7.50

khaki or black/khaki available in some colors}

- _____ **#12 = Long Sleeve Denim Shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$51.00** (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 8960]

- _____ A). With **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$62.00
- _____ B). With **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$62.00
- _____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$69.00
- _____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$69.00
- _____ ** Add \$1.50 for each size larger than XL

Color: (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

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

Have the Bobcat #18 on page 19 put on the lower left sleeve of your jacket or shirt for \$7.50

- _____ **#13 = T-shirt with logo as pictured on left breast - \$25.00** (Put # desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 29, P-131]

_____ ** Add \$1.50 for each size larger than XL

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

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

Special instructions for order: _____

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

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

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

Mail to: **Chester Johnson / 5th Infantry Chapter**
225 Summit DR
La Grange TX 78945

For information or questions contact
Chester at **979-966-9669** or
E-mail: jcjohnson4@verizon.net

5th Infantry Association Quartermaster

Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc. (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - 5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS") - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$41.00 Item #437M
 - 1). With Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$52.00
 - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$59.00
- 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 - \$51 and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge \$62 or \$69 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below (Picture #13) on left breast - \$29
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$23.00
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

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



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



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,

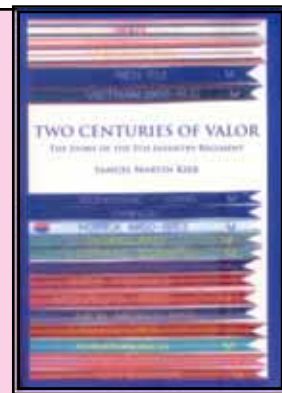
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

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 18** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

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

(Please Print)

Name: _____

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

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

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

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

5th INF REG ASSN PO BOX 569 Frankfort MI 49635-0569

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

Membership Application 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____

in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____

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

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

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

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

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

Remembering The Ben Cui Battle 50 Years Ago

Fred,

On August 21st. we gathered in Odessa Tx. to remember the men we lost on August 21, 1968 in the Battle of the Ben Cui, 50 years ago.

We also were very honored to have with us Nancy Mangan, sister of Michael Mangan and Thelma Harbottle Howse, sister of Jim Harbottle, and her husband Dave.

I don't think anyone can understand the healing that went on within those of us who served with Mike and Jim. Just to touch and hug a family member of one of our brothers who we fought so hard with, was exhilarating to say the least.

Ronnie Rains & Lori Scott helped us around Odessa with cars & trucks to get around, and took us out to dinner almost every night.

Ronnie & Lori even took us to a Smokey Robinson concert (almost front



Pictures provided
by
Ed Kawczynski



row) the evening of the 21st. to enjoy the music from back in the day.

Here are the names of the men who showed up:

Gen. Andy Anderson
John Snodgrass
Tom Frame
Burrell McKay
Stewart Eidem
Roy Bressler
Jerry Dutmers
George Chavez
Gary Young
Elwood Merring
Abe Cardenas
Nicky Fasselin
Ed Kawczynski
Gary Robertson
Ken McKenna
Jose Guerra
Don Adams

The Wilson/Young Medal of Honor Middle School Girls Dance performed
(See Ben Cui on page 23)



Trip Flare!

March 6, 1970. B-CO 1/5 Inf.

The dark and quiet night was interrupted by a loud pop and a bright light illuminating the front of 1st platoon's position on Bravo Company's perimeter. In the smoke of the flare, running forms were seen and the warning given, "they're in the wire"! 50 Cal machine guns fired at several fleeing forms by those pulling guard from the 50 caliber mounts on our M113 tracks. They were sappers. The most feared of enemy troops by those pulling guard in the darkness. The warning given by the trip



Roger with his grandson at Norfolk

flare alerted the company and allowed vital seconds for the defenses of Bravo Company 1/5th, to become effective. Without that warning this story would be very different.

The story of the Michelin firefight has been documented on the Bobcat website by Ralph Laubecher our company commander. Included in the article is a link to the sounds of the battle captured inadvertently by a cassette tape left running. The several hours of the battle are very well described on our web-site, bobcat.ws.

This is the rest of the story.

In response to intelligence indicating very large enemy units entering the Michelin Rubber Plantation, Bravo Company began the day from our Laager with a Reconnaissance In Force or RIF as we called them. One track from each of the 3 line platoons was left behind in the company laager but most personnel were included in the RIF. The intent was to intercept the enemy force and engage them. We needn't have bothered. The enemy was coming for us and knew exactly where we were.

As Bravo Company mounted up that morning, our Platoon Sargent ap-

proached me and said that I was to stay behind and perform a couple of small chores. I was to emplace the trip flares to our squad's front. Sounded good to me. I would get right on it and maybe have some time to enjoy my mail. Unfortunately, the Platoon Sargent didn't stop there. He continued on, instructing me that the other 3 squads in 1st platoon would be going on the RIF as well as all of 2nd platoon. I was to emplace trip flares for them along one half of the perimeter, a job 6 times larger than if every squad took care of their own front. My vision of an easy day vaporized and I knew I was looking at a hard days work.

Gathering tools and materiel, I made my way through the single coil of concertina wire and out to the wood line. I indulged in a little self-pity and copped an attitude and thought "Why me"? It felt good for a minute but it wasn't getting any work done. Turning around I looked at our position with my back to the wood line. For some reason the hair stood up on the back of my neck and I was seeing Bravo Company's position as the enemy was seeing it. I saw our vulnerability to a sapper attack and thought about what we were taught about sappers.

Sapper Special Forces.

In Charm School back in Cu Chi, Chieu Hoi sappers, former enemy who had gone over to our side, demonstrated their skills to each incoming class of Newbys. Their effectiveness at penetrating barbed wire and trip wires was legendary. The class was so frightening to many of the new arrivals that several went AWOL right then and there. Stripped naked and covered in camo or ash, the sappers could feel a trip wire with any portion of their body. Once a wire was felt, it could be followed by feel in the dark with their sandpapered fingertips to the flare where they would neutralize it. Sappers also carried a real punch in their satchel charges. 30 to 40 pounds of C4 in a sandbag and short fuse could knock out and crater any position or vehicle. If successfully penetrated, the targeted unit would

start out the battle with the center of their position demolished and no communications, leadership or mortar illumination. Sappers were considered the "Special Forces" of the enemy. They were good and they knew it. Many had been at war when we were still in Grade School. Experience was on their side.

Back in the Michelins.

Looking back towards our position, the hair on my arms also stood up. I had a strong feeling that it was a personal contest between the enemy and myself and I was motivated to win it. What could I use to my advantage? Perhaps I could use their "special forces" conceit. What did they think of the American Soldier? Lazy, sloppy, poorly trained. On average, all true. What if I gave them exactly what they expected? What if my first line of defense was a sloppy, poorly camouflaged hasty job done by somebody who had copped an attitude? And that is exactly what I did. I installed a hasty line that would only defend against a human wave attack but be easily disabled by a sapper team. My intention was to let the sappers think they had done their job. My next line of flares was imaginative. Low, concealed, and well camouflaged, a line of X's arranged so that you could not follow one wire without crossing another. The third line I constructed was concentrated in 3 shallow ravines leading up to the mound where Bravo Company was emplaced.

As I was finishing, I heard the sound of the returning APC's. Staggering back to the perimeter with the remaining supplies, tools and the weariness of a full day's hard work, the Platoon Sargent met me. He informed me that since I had the day off I would be expected to go on night ambush in one hour. Why me? I had put in 18 times the usual trip flare installation duty (6 positions X 3 lines), and I was ready for a break.

The ambush duty was a break as it turned out. The large ambush that was supposed to intercept the enemy force, instead just slipped through it. The ene-



my was already moving in around the company perimeter as we departed. As our ambush force moved towards our objective it soon became obvious that we had communication difficulties. The only reliable communications the ambush patrol had was with the Company position and they were to relay communications for us.

Back at the Company position, early in the evening, one of the mortar crew failed to get his hand out of the way of his out-going round. A dust-off was called and chose first platoon's front as his landing zone. (Another why me?) The dust-offs prop-wash set off 3 of my flares. Fortunately, and unknown to the enemy, there were many more.

Late that night when we heard the roar of the firefight I was fearful that if the Company were overrun we would be without communications and cut off. Early the next morning we heard our M113 APC's come into view. They had survived the battle and were coming to retrieve us. What a great sight!

For many years I had wondered whether it was my trip flare that alerted the Company. At the Columbus Reunion someone came up to me and asked if I was at the Michelin battle or on the ambush. I asked him if the trip flare that initiated the battle was in front of the first platoon. He said yes. I then told him that I was in both places. He asked me how that could be. I told him that I was on the ambush but it was my trip flare back at the perimeter that had detected the enemy attack. The guy kept coming around shaking my hand. Now I am really glad I put in the extra effort.

We won't always have the enemy's information, numbers, skill or experience. But if we have no other advantage, maybe we can outwork him.

Roger Sperl

**Thank you Roger for writing this story!
I bet many of you have interesting stories that you could write and send me.*

(Ben Cui from page 21)

in the Chapel under the direction of Mr. Blaylock, and speakers were: Lt. Gen. John Sylvester, CEO of Wounded Warrior Family Project. NOT THE OTHER W.W. group, David Turner, Mayor of Odessa TX and Bill Vallie, Director of the Sunset Memorial Gardens, offered the Chapel and canopy, chairs and cold water at Rex's grave site for a service.

Yep, HOT in Texas in August."

Tom Frame

Remembering The Ben Cui Battle 50 Years Ago

See story and more pictures on page 12 & 21



2019 Reunion Charleston South Carolina

Tuesday September 3rd - Sunday 8th

The DoubleTree by Hilton Charleston Airport



7401 Northwoods Boulevard,
North Charleston, SC 29406

\$124 Single / Double per night



- * Free parking
 - * Complimentary Shuttle Service to/
from the Airport & within a 6 mile radi-
us of the hotel based on request
 - * Breakfast included in Room Rate
 - * Free Wi-Fi in guestrooms
 - * Outdoor swimming pool
- To make reservations call:
[After September 15th 2018](tel:8435186200)
1- (843) 518-6200
and when booking tell them
"5th Infantry Regiment Association"
- * *Booking prices are good up to 3 days
before and after reunion dates*

Schedule of Events

**Hospitality Room: September 3rd -
September 7th (No fee)**

Snacks & Beverages are allowed.

Tuesday September 3rd

Arrival and Registration

WED SEP 4th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Historic Charleston City Tour and
Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Mu-
seum (Lunch Included) - \$69 pp**

The best way to see one of the most
historic cities in America. On the tour,
we will cover and pass by: Hampton



Park, The Battery, Rainbow Row, The
Old Exchange and Provost, Broad
Street, Church Street, St. Philips Church,
St. Michael's Church, the Four Corners
of Law, Meeting Street, site of Secession
Hall, Circular Congregational
Church, Charleston City Market, Market
Hall, Marion Square, the Old Citadel
(Embassy Suites Hotel), Charleston Mu-
seum, Charleston Visitor Center,
Chalmers Street, Dock Street Theater,
King Street, College of Charleston,
Mother Emanuel AME Church, Liberty
Square and the South Carolina Aquari-
um.

Patriots Point Naval and Maritime
Museum Tour with Lunch in the CPO
Mess. One of Charleston's premiere
venues, Patriot's Point features the USS
Yorktown (aircraft carrier), USS Laffey



(destroyer) and USS Clamagore
(submarine), a Vietnam era support
base, the US Medal of Honor Museum
(USS Yorktown).

THU SEP 5th 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM

**Fort Sumter Ferry Tour,
Lunch on your own in the City Mar-
ket Area & A Carriage Ride Tour -**

\$69 PP

Fort Sumter is an island fortification
located in Charleston Harbor, South Car-
olina. Originally constructed in 1829 as
a coastal garrison, Fort Sumter is most



famous for being the site of the first
shots of the Civil War (1861-65). U.S.
Major Robert Anderson occupied the
unfinished fort in December 1860 fol-
lowing South Carolina's secession from
the Union, initiating a standoff with the
state's militia forces. When President
Abraham Lincoln announced plans to
resupply the fort, Confederate General
P.G.T. Beauregard bombarded Fort
Sumter on April 12, 1861. After a 34-
hour exchange of artillery fire, Anderson
and 86 soldiers surrendered the fort on
April 13. Confederate troops then occu-
pied Fort Sumter for nearly four years,
resisting several bombardments by Un-
ion forces before abandoning the garri-
son prior to William T. Sherman's cap-
ture of Charleston in February 1865.
After the Civil War, Fort Sumter was
restored by the U.S. military and
manned during the Spanish-American
War (1898), World War I (1914-18) and
World War II (1939-45).

**CHARLESTON CITY MARKET
SHOPPING** - There's no better way to
get a feel for Charleston while support-
ing local artists and entrepreneurs than



(See Charleston on page 25)

Charleston Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name _____

_____ Number of additional guests

Names of additional guests

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

⇒ **WED** - Do you plan on taking "The Charleston City and Patriots Point Naval Museum Tour"?
_____ Yes _____ No

⇒ **THU** - Do you plan on taking the "Fort Sumter Ferry Tour"?
_____ Yes _____ No

⇒ **FRI** - Do you plan on attending the Memorial Service at the Citadel?
_____ Yes _____ No

⇒ **SAT** - Are you planning 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

See you in Charleston SC!

Registration Form Charleston SC

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
WED 4 SEP - The Charleston City and Patriots Point Naval Museum Tour - \$69 per person		
THU 5 SEP - Fort Sumter Ferry Tour - \$69 per person		
FRI 6 SEP - Memorial Service at the Citadel - \$49 per person includes Lunch		
SAT 7 SEP - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Grilled Vegetable Marinara - \$35		
2. Seared Free Range Chicken Supreme - \$40		
3. Grilled Atlantic Salmon - \$45		
4. Herb Roasted Prime Rib - \$50		
* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Seasonal Vegetable, Apple Cobbler, Freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
TOTAL		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO
Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to: Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477		

(Charleston from page 24)

with a visit to the Charleston City Market. If you're looking for locally hand-made items, one-of-a-kind gifts or memorable souvenirs, you'll have much to choose from. Among the many family-friendly vendors, you'll find everything from handcrafted jewelry to award-winning fine art paintings and sculptures from local artists. There's a little something of everything here!

Carriage Ride/Tour - Old South Carriage Company, owned and operated by the same family since 1983, features some of the finest tour guides, draft horses, and carriages in historic Charles-

ton. Stop by our stable at 14 Anson Street to meet our professional staff and



see for yourself the quality of our operation. Not only are our tour guides extensively trained, but when you see our sta-

(See Charleston on page 26)

(Charleston from page 25)

ble, our horses, and our carriages you will immediately appreciate the care and attention to detail that Old South Carriage Company dedicates to guarantee a quality tour and a wonderful carriage ride.

FRI SEP 6th 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**Memorial Service at The Citadel
Military College at Summerall Chap-**



Citadel above Summerall Chapel below
el A Cadet Guided Tour of the Citadel
College Catered Luncheon at the
Citadel - \$49 pp



Saturday September 7th
9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting
9:00 - 10 AM - Ladies Breakfast (No Charge)
10:30 - 11 AM Fragging
12 Noon - 5 PM - Free to explore Charleston

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails
6:00 PM - Dinner
7:00 PM - Program
8:00 PM - Approximate Auction

Can You Help?

1-5 Infantry's Bobcat Ball

Christopher Barber **1LT, IN**
 BN Historian/Unit Public Affairs Representative
 1-5 IN "Bobcats"
 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Arctic Wolves"
 Ft. Wainwright, AK

"Has reached out to our Association on behalf of LTC Rosales to see if our Association could donate to their Military Ball to help bring down the cost. The event is expected to cost in the range of \$30,000. I know it is always me looking to get funding from you all for one cause or another. That is because I have the means to reach you all through Mass Emails or through Social Media. I also realize that many of you just cannot afford to donate, but many of us can and will. I'm not asking anyone to give until it hurts, but rather give until it feels good whatever that may be. I have set our goal at least \$5000 and hopefully we can do better. Here is the link to go to if you would like to help out our active duty soldiers in Alaska."

<http://bobcat.ws/ft-wainwright-military-ball.html>

Thank you,

Randy Kethcart



* If you want to donate by using your credit card go to the link listed above. If you would prefer to send a check make it payable to "5th INF REG ASSOC" and mail it to:

5th INF REG ASSOC
 225Summit DR
 La Grange TX 78945

<http://www.bobcat.ws>

5th Infantry Regiment Association

5th Infantry's Bobcat Ball Donations

Chester Johnson	\$50
Jeffrey Mc Grath	\$50
Randall Kethcart	\$50
Robert Drake	\$100
Fred Deverse	\$100
Joseph Lex	\$50
Nicky Fasselin	\$100
Edward Stokes	\$25
Walter Rukke	\$100
Jim Caudle	\$250
Gerald Dutmers Jr	\$100
Andy Anderson (MG-R)	\$500
Nevin Williams (COL-R)	\$25
Bart Stanzione	\$100

Ted Westerman (COL-R)	\$300
John Holochwost	\$250
Ken Krueger	\$150
Jenny Diaz	\$50
Carolyn Cartwright	\$100
Jeffrey Mc Grath	\$50
Paul D Robinson	\$50
Myers Physical Therapy in Fairbanks Alaska	\$250
Ric and Shirley Myers	\$250
Gary Young	\$50
Jennifer Griffith	\$250
Your name could be here.	\$\$\$

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

-William F. Graham Jr.

1-5 IN BOBCATS Fort Wainwright Military Ball



December 13th, 2018

At The



Defending America for Over 200 Years

Individual Level Donations

Choose Individual Donation Level

PVT Level
\$10 to \$100



\$10



\$25



\$50



\$100



\$250



\$500



\$1000



\$2000

Corporate Level Donations

Choose Corporate Donation Level

SGT Level
\$250 to \$2000

Or Mail a Check to the Treasurer:
Made out to: **5th Infantry Regiment Association**
With Military Ball in the Memo Line

Chester Johnson
225 Summit Drive
LaGrange, Texas 78945



FT WAINWRIGHT HOMECOMING BALL 2012

1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment Pictures



An M240 gun team's tracers light up the objective as they provide suppressive fire during a night iteration at Donnelly Training Area for a platoon live fire exercise



Soldiers from Bayonet Company, part of a breaching team, cut through the wire surrounding the objective at platoon live fires at Donnelly Training Area.



The battalion S4 briefs the sustainment plan of the battalion operations order during Operation Arctic Fusion near Manchu PZ at Fort Wainwright Alaska.



A Soldier from Charger Company watches the road for possible enemy while his squadmates prepare to cross into concealment on the other side at the Yukon Training Area during squad live fires.

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

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