



# The BOBCAT Bulletin

## 5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Winter 2018

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

Volume IV

### Sisters Attempting To Get Their Fathers Silver Star Upgraded To The "Medal Of Honor"

Dear Mr. Kier,

"I obtained your information from the 5th Infantry Regiment Association website. My sister and I are in the process of putting together a Medal of Honor request for our father. With the assistance of my Congressman's office, I have contacted an organization who helps families with medal requests/upgrades. The Executive Director from the organization assigned me with a few research tasks, and I am hoping that you can help me.

In the Korean War, my father, Maurice William Mosher, served in the 24th Infantry Division, Company H, 5th Infantry Regiment. He received a Silver Star for his heroic actions near Seoraksan, Korea on April 25, 1951 (see attached Record of Award of Decoration and newspaper articles), and it is this event for which we are requesting an upgrade to the Medal of Honor. On May 25, 1965, my father was killed in action in Vietnam, an event for which he was awarded a second silver star.

In regards to the research, I was hoping you could tell me where I can find the names of the commanding officers and the names of the men who served with my father during the Korean War or more specifically, who were with him on April 25, 1951. Also, do you know where I may be able to find any additional documentation (i.e. photos, personal recollections, after-action reports, etc.) and more details about the events of that day. Given that our father was single handedly responsible for over 300 casualties of the enemy, I would imagine that there is more information about this event. At this time, I have only been able to obtain numerous US

newspaper articles and the minimal description of the events in his military records.

I would be very grateful for any guidance that you may be able to provide."

Sincerely,

**Mary Mosher Barnard**

*\*See "Our Bobcat Forebears" on page 12*



**SGT Maurice Mosher**

*"I'll Try Sir"*

### 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".

**AMERICA'S FAVORITE  
DESTINATION**  
VOTED #1 CITY IN THE US AND CANADA

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 in 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 25)*

# “Operation New Life”



Battalion Commander LTC Michael L. Ferguson pictured above & below. BG Mike Ferguson is still alive and lives in Pensacola, FL.



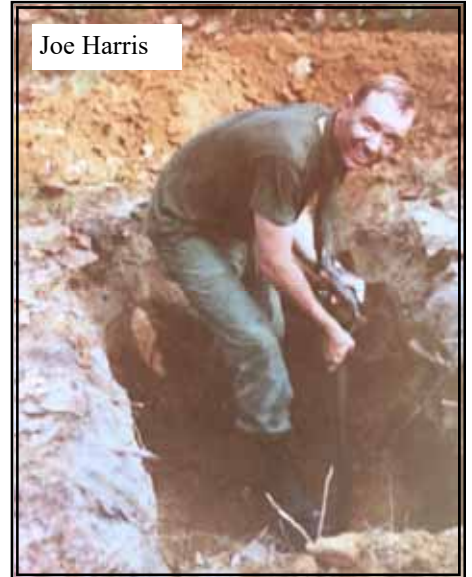
Joe Harris sent these pictures. He served in the 1/5th Battalion as a Company A rifle and mortar platoon leader in 1973-1975.

When Saigon fell in 1975 the 1/5th located at Schofield barracks was alerted for deployment, possibly to Saigon. But they went to Guam where they were to receive the refugees fleeing Viet Nam.

It turned out they received up to 110,000 refugees. They set up/built, a virtual city where they fed and provided health care and all the services that were required while the refugees were being processed for resettlement.

Among the refugees were two Vietnamese Army battalions which turned out to be problematic.

Joe Harris



Joe was digging in 1972-75 in the picture above and it seems he is still digging in this recent picture.





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Fellow Bobcats,

As 2018 comes to an end, let us reflect on events that happened during 2018.

Our reunion this past May in Norfolk Va. was a big success. Our tours were exciting and our banquet was excellent. Thanks again to Randy and Carolyn for all your hard work. Our host hotel surprised us with a very special welcome after one of our tours. To many to was a welcome we never received upon our return from Vietnam.

A sad note also we lost former association president Bob Wood. Bob will be missed.

On 21 August we had a 50th year mini reunion in Odessa TX to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Ben Cui. Many of the survivors of that fateful day were in attendance.

Odessa was chosen because it is the home town of Marvin Rex Young, our Medal of Honor recipient for that major battle.

Our annual visit to Granite Ranch was also a highlight to end our functions for the year.

Many thanks to Ronnie Rains and his group of volunteers who made our stay so memorable. While at Granite Ranch we try to do something different every time we go. This year we had a shooting competition with 45-70 Buffalo Rifle. All present were allowed one shot to try to hit a spent 12 game shell from approximately 65 feet distance. The very first one to shoot was Gary Robertson and he hit it. Everyone else took their turn but everyone missed. Gary owns bragging rights for one year. All in all 2018 was a great year.

Merry Christmas to all and have a Happy New Year.

*George Chavez*

President

5th Infantry Regiment Association



**James "Jim" E. Lowe**

"Jim" (1st PLT A CO 64-66) died Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

## VA hospitals often the best option for medical care, study finds

"WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials are touting a new study praising VA hospitals for outperforming most private-sector medical options, but rejecting the authors' conclusions that the findings undermine the administration's support for shifting more veterans care into the private sector.

The study, conducted by Dartmouth College researchers and published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* this week, looked at 121 regional markets with at least one VA facility and found the department-run medical center provided better care than private options in most cases. In only a few cases, VA was the least desirable option for most patients.

VA hospitals were frequently the best option for patients in treating heart ailments and pneumonia. They study also rated more than half of the VA hospitals reviewed as the best local option for death rates among patients with surgery complications and treatment of bloodstream infections after surgery."

\* Copied from the Army Times Website-12/13/18

## 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

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 18*

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

# ROSTER

## Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

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

## Lost Members:

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

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

## Roster Changes/Corrections:

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

**Smith, Billy** - Change  
**BillyS8@comcast.net**

**Peal, Jerry** - Add. & phone change  
941 W Rio Magdalena  
Green Valley, AZ 85614  
503-867-1927  
\* Comments:

Paul,  
"Please note address change...moved from Oregon in June to Green Valley, AZ 20 mi south of Tucson. Health issues with Parkinson's and lung about got me down. Hope you and yours are okay. Missed last few reunions. Hope to make it if out west sometime."  
I'll Try Sir

**Jerry C Peal**  
C 1/5 65-66

**Contreras, Sal** - Address Change  
13742 Elwyn DR  
Baldwin Park CA 91706-2944

**Ruley, Jack**-Add., Ph. & E-mail change  
115 Brixton Ridge  
Lebanon TN 37087  
615-965-2333  
**coocomaroo@verizon.net**

**Vass, Eddie** - Address change  
10000 Miller CIR APT 149  
Oklahoma City OK 73162-5519

**Cochran, Robert** - Address change  
81 Clinton ST  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
315-257-0129

**Cook, Gregory** - Changes  
PO Box 36  
Jensen Beach FL 34958-0036  
772-200-0304 - 954-523-6600  
**cookjbfl@yahoo.com**

**Clemmer, Ronald P.** - Change  
37Babiak LN  
Springfield IL 62702-3554

**Rains, Ronnie** - Corection  
PO Box 1386  
Odessa, TX 79760-1386

**Shipman, Donald R.** - Change  
5915 Harvist Hill RD APT 1080  
Dallas TX 75230-1217

**Burdick, Linda N.** - Change  
9205 NE 70th CIR  
Vancouver WA 98662-4463

**Wesbrock, Jason** - Change  
7224 Tunisia Loop  
Fort Hood TX 76544-1778

**Smith, Mike** - Change  
5800 NE 131st ST  
Vancouver WA 98686-4945

## New Members: None

## Taps:

**Reyes, Benjamin** of San Antonio TX  
HHC 1/5 Inf 65-66 died 25 OCT 18

"This is Orlando Reyes  
(**orlandoreyes07@yahoo.com**) . My father Benjamin Reyes passed away on the 25th this month. His rosary will be in San Antonio at Castillo's funeral home on the 7th and the church service will be at 285 Oblate Dr. at 12 before he goes to Fort Sam for his funeral at 1:45.

*I sent a notice notifying members with a San Antonio address of Benja-*



*Orlando sent me pictures of his father in Vietnam and a recent picture.*

*min's death and received the following reply.*

"Thank you for the notice on the



passing of Ben Reyes. Ben was a good soldier whom I got to know well. He was a member of the Como section and would always come to Recon to visit with Orlando Garza and myself being that we were from San Antonio. I am a member of the Honor Guard at Ft Sam Houston and will pay my respects. We are better known as Memorial services detachment Ft Sam Houston with 5 squads for 5 days of the week honoring our Veterans."

**Ernest Gamez,**  
In God we trust

**Schmitt, William J.** of Tucson AZ and HQ Co. 66-67 Died July 13, 2018  
"William was born on August 28, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois, passed away at age 72 on July 13, 2018, in Tucson, Arizona. William served in the Army from 1965 to 1968 in the Vietnam War and he also worked in the Printing Industry as a lithographer until he retired in 2000."

**Lowe, James E.** "Jim" - (This death was reported in the Spring "Bobcat Bulletin" but his wife Carol recently sent a picture and obituary. **See picture on page 3**)

"Jim" (1st PLT A CO 64-66) died Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

Jim was a retired Major in the United States Army. He served three tours in Vietnam, and one tour with Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He was also a member Past Master of the Waco Masonic Lodge #92, and involved with Karrem Shriners."

"If forced to choose between the penitentiary and the White House for four years, I would say the Penitentiary, thank you."

*-William Tecumseh Sherman*



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

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

## Bob Drake honoring Joseph T. Gallagher at the Philadelphia Vietnam Memorial.

A Facebook post



## A Memorial Day Remembrance

George Chavez

May 27

"Memorial Day is a Day of remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Great Nation. To remember them is to HONOR them. To those of us who fought beside them their names will never be forgotten. They were young men who never got the chance to grow old. A slow salute to all those BRAVE MEN.

**Curtis Ray Crum KIA 1 DEC 1968**  
**Joseph R Thornton KIA 5 DEC 1968**  
**Jack Lee Rexrode KIA 19 March 1969**  
**Charles L. Hathorn Jr. KIA**  
**7 APR 1969**

I knew these men well."

A Facebook post

## Thanks for the Picture and the Hospitality

"Fred, we received your picture (I sent Derek a copy of the Ben Cui paint-

ing) for Derek today. I haven't given it to him yet, but we will after school today.

Thank you so much for your generosity. He really wanted that picture but we couldn't justify that price. You will make him very happy and I'm sure he will contact you.

On another note. I want to thank all the members for welcoming my family to the reunion, especially for the wonderful treatment of Derek and Russell. They were overwhelmed by the wonderful hospitality and meeting all the great members. They are both looking forward to our next reunion. Hopefully they will be able to come earlier and spend more time.

If you put this in the newsletter, I want to say a special THANK YOU to all that were there and the treatment of my boys.

Thanks one more time."

George Bates

## Veterans Day at School

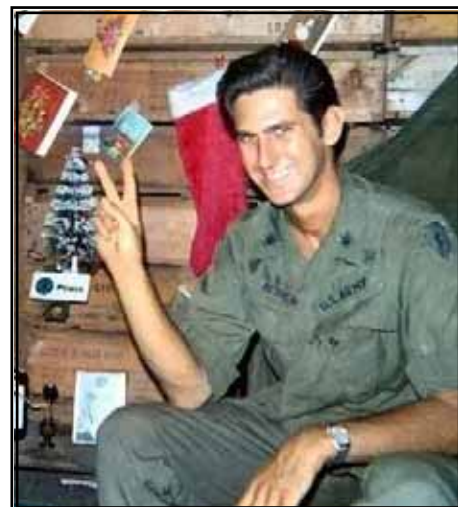
"I got choked up by today's Veterans Day event at Patterson Elementary school. My Granddaughter Olivia was



beautiful in her Stars and Stripes dress after coming up to me and giving me a Big Hug and saying thank you for your service really got to me. Other children came up to me shook my hand and said Thank you for your service too."

Sam Alvarado

## A Veterans Day Facebook Post by Randy Kethcart



## A Joe Lex Facebook Post



Sigler, Tiny Hopkins, Washington

## Needs List Of KIAs

"Because of Flood"

E-mail to Randy Kethcart

"Randy: you may recall that I told you about the unfortunate flood to my garage that destroyed all the records I had about my tours in RVN to include my files on the 1/5th. One of the things that I lost were the personnel rosters, but also the list of KIAs that happened on

(See Comments on page 8)

## Treasurer's Report

3rd Quarter Financial Report  
(1 July - 30 September 2018)

### July 2018:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$25
Quartermaster Sales	\$44.50
25th INF DIV Scholarship	\$945
Fred Deverse Overpayment	\$100
Sam Kier Book Sale	\$34.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1149.14</b>

#### Debits:

Quartermaster Sales - Coins	\$1617
25th INF DIV Scholarship Donation	\$1500
Miscellaneous (envelopes)	\$32.91
Spring Newsletter printing	\$840
Spring Newsletter Postage	\$190.53
New Check Blanks	\$10
Colorado Reunion Trip Planning	\$433.45
Sam Kier book sale	33.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4714.32</b>

### August 2018:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$85
Quartermaster Sales	\$84
25th IDA Scholarship Fund	\$200
FT Wainwright Ball	\$2300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2669</b>

#### Debits:

Dayton Reunion Planning	\$97.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$97.52</b>

### September

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$275
Quartermaster Sales	\$29
FT Wainwright Ball	\$750
Robert Wood Memorial	\$350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1404</b>

#### Debit::

Reunion Planning Trip to Ontario CA	\$357.78
Postage	\$21.25
Corporation Fee	\$20
Business Cards for Randy & Carolyn K. and G. Chavez	\$43.63
Deposit Charleston Double tree for Reunion	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$942.66</b>

#### Assets:

<b>Checkbook Balance</b>	<b>\$5409.66</b>
<b>Savings Account</b>	<b>\$67169.11</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72578.77</b>

Treasurer/Quartermaster  
**Chester Johnson**

## CORRECTION

In the last (Fall) newsletter it was reported that Jennifer Griffith, Senior Human Resources Director, of the "Geneva Foundation" donated \$250 to the Bobcat Ball. This was a mistake on our part. She intended the donation to be as a Memorial in honor of Robert "Bob" Wood who had died.

Our secretary Paul Robinson had written Jennifer thanking her for her donation to the 5th's Ball. Jennifer wrote back correcting him. Paul then said: *"We will ensure that your funds are placed where you want them. Thank you"*.

Jennifer replied to Paul saying: *"You are very welcome. Although it appears I may have clicked a wrong button somewhere. We intend to make a memorial donation to the general organization on behalf of COL (Ret) Robert Wood from The Geneva Foundation where his daughter Elise Huszar is our President. If it can be transferred to the general organization that would be great, and if not, I certainly understand and it is still a donation to a great cause benefits our Veterans! Thank you!"*

## Need A DD-214

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

## Donations to the Association

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

Jennifer Griffith - In memory of Bob Wood	\$250
Jerry Yasher - Scholarship	\$50
Robert Meginigal - General Fund	\$40
Jenny Diaz - Military Ball	\$50

## Military Ball Donations

The 1/5th Infantry Battalion is having a Military Ball on 13 December. This Ball will probably cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000. They asked us to help lower the cost to the soldiers by making a donation. Our fundraiser Randy Kethcart asked for donations. As of 8 DEC we raised \$3100. We thank those who donated.

Your Board of Directors took a vote and decided to make a donation of \$5000 for the Military Ball.

Our president George Chavez was invited to attend and is planning on attending.

## Scholarship Donations

*A successful fund raising!*

At the membership meeting at our Norfolk reunion we voted to again donate \$1500 to the 25th Infantry Division's Scholarship fund.

In order to help pay for this donation we passed the hat. We collected around \$800.

In order to help make up the difference our very successful fund-raiser Randy Kethcart asked for donations. There was also a request for donations from Randy placed in the Fall newsletter.

The fund raising was successful and we were able to raise the \$1500 so it did not cost our treasury.

So a check for \$1500 was sent to the 25th INF DIV Association in June.

A big "THANK YOU" to all that donated.

## It's official: Army approves 'pinks and greens' uniform on Veterans Day

"The Army was able to straighten out its congressionally mandated notification requirements in time to announce on Sunday, Veterans Day, that the much anticipated "Army Greens" will indeed be your next service uniform.

Formerly known as the "pinks and



greens," the World War II-era officers uniform could go Army-wide as soon as 2020, according to a release that was posted Sunday to the Army's website but was not shared through any of its social media channels.

"The current Army Blues Uniform will return to being a formal dress uniform, while the Army Greens will become the everyday business-wear uniform for all soldiers," the release said.

The standard uniform set-up will require pants and brown leather oxfords for both men and women..... Everyone will also be able to buy a leather bomber jacket as an outerwear option.

*\*Copied from the 13 NOV 18 "Army Times Daily News Roundup".*

## Darn good question?

Irony

Darn good question.

That always bothered me that judges get treated like royalty.

Irony:

Whoever posed this question has good insight into the ironic double standards of modern society.

# "I AM A VETERAN"

by Andrea Christensen Brett

"You may not know me the first time  
we meet  
I'm just another you see on the street  
But I am the reason you walk and  
breathe free  
I am the reason for your liberty  
I AM A VETERAN

I work in the local factory all day  
I own the restaurant just down the way  
I sell you insurance, I start your IV  
I've got the best-looking grandkids  
you'll ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker  
Your child's schoolteacher  
I'm your plumber, your barber  
Your family's preacher  
But there's part of me you don't know  
very well  
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell  
I AM A VETERAN

I joined the service while still in my  
teens  
I traded my prom dress for camouflage  
greens  
I'm the first in my family to do some  
thing like this  
I followed my father, like he followed  
his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt  
I married my sweetheart before I  
shipped out  
I missed Christmas, then Easter  
The birth of my son  
But I knew I was doing what had to be  
done

I served on the battlefield, I served on  
the base  
I bound up the wounded  
And begged for God's grace  
I gave orders to fire, I followed  
commands  
I marched into conflict in far distant  
lands

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains  
and shores  
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen  
floors  
While I fought on the ground, in the air,  
on the sea  
My family and friends were home pray  
ing for me

For the land of the free and the home of  
the brave  
I faced my demons in foxholes and  
caves  
Then one dreaded day, without  
drummer or fife  
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on  
But forever was changed  
The perils of war in my memory  
remained  
I don't really say much, I don't feel like  
I can  
But I left home a child, and came home  
a man

There are thousands like me  
Thousands more who are gone  
But their legacy lives as time marches  
on  
White crosses in rows  
And names carved in queue  
Remind us of what these brave souls  
had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong  
mighty band  
Of each man and each woman  
Who has served this great land  
And when Old Glory waves  
I stand proud, I stand tall  
I helped keep her flying over you, over  
all"

I AM A VETERAN

*\*Sent by Paul Robinson*

The Judges who said we don't need to  
stand up for the National Anthem expect  
us to stand up when they enter the room.

What do you suppose would happen if  
the Judge came into the courtroom and  
people "took a knee?"

Just asking.

*\*From John Barnard*

**"Never interfere with the enemy  
when he is in the process of destroy-  
ing himself."**

**- Napoleon**

*\*A Joe Lex Facebook post*



(Continued from page 5)

my watch. From your files do you have those names? It would be from Dec '69 to July 70... I'm going to Washington next month and as I always do visit the Wall. I'd like to have that list with me if you can help me reconstruct it."

**Ted Westerman**

Battalion Commander - 12/69 -7/70

---

## 15 Years Old When KIA

*Daniel Fey to VietnamWarHistoryOrg*

"I went through boot camp with Dan Bullock. Although no one knew it, he was 14 years old. While making a second attempt to retrieve depleted ammunition, during an attack at An Hoa combat base he was shot multiple times and died instantly. He was 15, at this time, making him the youngest US KIA, in the Vietnam war. When he was to be buried, his true age was discovered. Because he used a false birth certificate, making him older, his enlistment was



deemed fraudulent. He was buried unceremoniously and laid in an unmarked grave for 21 years. Talk show host Sally Jessy Raphael heard of this, and paid for a proper head stone. My friend and I had an opportunity to visit his grave last year. Semper Fi marine."

**Dan Fey USMC**

*\*George Chavez Facebook post*

---

## Who Is This?

**MYSTERY** - The picture below I got from someone or maybe I even loaded it off of Facebook. Anyhow I don't remember where I got it. If you sent it to me I apologize.

Anyhow do you know who is in the picture.



---

## Veteran's Day Gift

"Check out this cool pen a friend



gave me on Veteran's Day. It came in a little gun case. Pretty cool!

I don't know where she got it."

**Paulie** (Robinson)

*\*You can get the pen at:*  
[www.bgartforms.com](http://www.bgartforms.com) 888-717-4302

## "The Night He Was Wounded"

"My son actually found this information while helping me find some kind of closure for me. My father, Karl Wesley Drapp passed away on 24 November 2002 after a long illness and he never talked about the war or what happened to him the night that he was wounded. After tracing back into some of the items he kept from that time period (I presume my grandmother - his mom - saved these things) it appears that my father was one of the wounded men on that night in Dau Teing. My father suffered severe wounds that night that nearly cost him his life and I am forever saddened by the loss of both Clarence Ray, their patrol leader and the other man who was wounded along with my dad.

For years I always wanted to know the story behind the large circular scar around my dad's stomach. It reminded me of almost an "X" marking the spot as it had lines going through it, almost like it was unfolded and closed again. My mother and step mother both told me stories of his nightmares, and of the little bits of shrapnel that would push out of his skin over time.

There is such a huge story between my dad and I. One that would take almost a lifetime to go over, but for now I would want Clarence Ray Chaffin and any of his family to know that he is loved and will always be in the hearts of my son and I. My son, who shares the Wesley name and was born the day after his grandpa in 2003, never got to meet his grandpa but he loves him just the same. I told him as a small child that grandpa lived in the clouds and watched over him all the time. The boy was obviously too smart for his own good because on his first airplane flight he said he wanted to see grandpa on his cloud. OK...let's explain that one to him...none the less

He and I are planning a trip to Washington DC so we can go to The Wall and pay our respects. For years I wore the name of another soldier, Joseph Pringle of West Virginia (if memory serves), who went missing on my father's birthday of 2 Feb 1968. I looked at it as a sign to wear it and keep in contact with his family until he was found. Thank the Lord, his remains were located and given to his family. I sent them my bracelet because I thought it would let them know someone thought of him as they did. I visited him on a traveling

(See Comments on page 10)



# What Happened to #11?

*Used Vietnam boy's hair to make a paint brush.*

Dear Fred,

"I brought along the "Bobcat Bulletin" that had the picture of Track 4 behind the RPG screen with a hole in it to our Nashville reunion.

Andy Anderson added his recall of the track as being "GIDDIE UP GO" #11 track of Alpha Company's 1st Platoon.

I had hoped to learn if anyone remembered what might have happened to #11. We who served on her would enjoy knowing if she was still running strong when I left the field in October 1968.

My own encounter of #11 began shortly after I joined the 1st Platoon of Company A in November 1967.

I was one of a group that arrived at Cu Chi to become replacements just in time to join the march to Katum.

Among the usual questions a new guy was asked was like: where are you from? And another question was: what did you do in civilian life?

When I answered I was a sign painter, one of our drivers was interested more than anyone else.

His name was Purcel Jenkins and he wanted me to do a favor for him. Could I paint GIDDE UP GO on his track.

I told him I would like to but had no paint or brushes to do the job right.

But somehow not much later a one

pint OD can with yellow lettering stenciled on it appeared at Katum, it said: "Paint Yellow Enamel".

Now we had paint but still no brush. Purcel did not see this as a problem and expected GIDDE UP GO would appear on his track any day.

Where were we going to get a paper lettering brush on the road between Katum and Jay Linn?

Then one day while we were by the French Fort as I was on guard sitting on the APC I noticed some local children walking on the road.

Fragile looking youngsters walking slowly under the searing tropic sun. Each with straight jet black hair. A fine lettering quill is made using French squirrels tail hand picked and sorted and held fast in a goose quill wired tight. But could I use Vietnamese child's hair to make a brush?

We had to barter some C-rations to acquire some clippings and I managed to create something that might pass as a brush, at least enough so that I did paint GIDDE UP GO on both sides of Purcel's APC.

Purcel was delighted! But I was so disgusted with the results that I ended my Vietnam painting career that day."

**"Bud" Holochwost**

A Company 1967-68

## Purple Heart Reserved Parking

We were attending a University of Pittsburgh basketball game in Pittsburgh and entered a parking garage when the attendant noticed my Purple Heart license plate. She informed me that they had slots reserved for Purple Heart recipients.

It was nice to be able to park close. It was also appreciated that your service and sacrifices were recognized and remembered.

**Fred Deverse**



## Snake Saves The lives Of 2 Viet Cong

*An encounter with an Asian Vine snake*

I've been asking members to write and send short stories about their Army experiences. So I decided I should practice what I preach by writing one myself.

In the summer of 1966 I was the platoon leader of the 3rd platoon of C Company 1/5th.

One day company commander Captain Blair calls me on the radio telling me that a helicopter spotted two Viet Cong crossing an open area. He orders me to have 3rd Platoon "go get them" capture or kill.

He gives me the map coordinates of where the VC were and it was only about one mile away.

So off we took at a high rate of speed with four armored personnel carriers. My APC was the second in the col-

umn. All of a sudden the lead APC stops so suddenly that the rear of the track raised up, the rear ramp dropped and everyone vacated the track in what seemed like a second. My first thought was that a grenade had been lobbed into the track.

I quickly found out that it wasn't a grenade. It was a poisonous Asian Vine snake. The track had passed under a tree, maybe brushing against a limb, when this Vine snake dropped right between the legs of the driver. The driver immediately yanked back on the laterals as hard as he could bringing the track to an abrupt stop. The driver and everyone else abandoned the track.

I quickly discovered it was a snake and not a (Continued in the next column)

grenade that caused the track to come to a sudden stop. I really wanted to get those two VC and told them to get back in the track. They ignored me until the snake had been removed. We emptied the track of its contents searching for the snake but it was nowhere to be found. We finally concluded that it maybe had ended up under the metal floor where there was usually some oil floating and that the oil killed it.

By the time the thinking was that it was safe to reload the track and get back in maybe 10 minutes had passed. So the track was reloaded. Everyone got back in and we resumed the high speed jaunt to capture the VC.

Needless to say we never found any VC. I'm not sure, but maybe the Asian Vine snake was a VC sympathizer. Or maybe those two VC were just lucky. But I have often thought that the snake saved the lives of those two VC.

**Fred Deverse**

# How I Lost The War

29 May 2017

Hello Fred and Carolyn.

"So good to see you in Albuquerque. Thanks for all you do. Yesterday I heard a voice on the phone I hadn't heard in many decades. Hector Saenz called! I was so surprised. I had hoped that he would be in ABQ as he is only 9 hours away in Texas but unfortunately his wife is ill. Hector was our 1-6 and then B-co XO after serving in Charlie co. He is a fantastic source of knowledge and I hope he will be able to attend future reunions.

I am including another article that I hope will be of interest. Let me know if the attachment comes through."

Thanks,

**Roger Sperl**

---

## How I Lost The War

"Ok men! Knock it down! On the orders of the Fire Chief I stepped up to the dining room window on the gable end of the house and opened up my charged 1-3/4 inch line. The house was fully involved. As I fought the flames, suddenly the entire gable end of the structure collapsed outward on top of me. I did the only thing I could. I stepped forward and allowed the dining room window to crash around me. Surrounded by flames I knocked them down to get clear. Late that night when the hard work of restocking the trucks and hanging the wet hoses in the tower was done I thought about the compensation the City gave us for those 8 hours. \$5. However, it was customary to donate the \$5 to the equipment fund. Net compensation. \$0. A true Volunteer Fire Department.

Last year I received a check from the Jury Clerk for 3 days of jury service at \$12 a day. That's far less than minimum wage and barely covered the cost of gas, but a compulsory civic duty.

In 1969 as we heard the words from the surface of the moon, "That's one small step" I re-read the letter sending me GREETINGS. My next paycheck was less than \$100. The service to our country was at a great personal cost and a very real financial hardship for many families.

In all these cases the compensation offered was not nearly equal to the ser-

vice rendered and we understood that as being necessary for the well being of our community, society and country.

In the late 80s I had a temporary job on Fort Wainwright. At that time the "All Volunteer Army had been in effect for over a decade and fewer of the old draftees were around. To attract sufficient numbers into the Army the pay scale had to nearly triple. It was almost a living wage.

I was working with engineering inspection as a temporary contract inspector and was asked by my boss to assume the duties of an engineer on staff who went on vacation. One of his duties was that of Corps Coordinator. Any communications by Fort Wainwright to the Corps of Engineers went through the Corps Coordinator to verify the validity of contract warranty claims. Responding to a complaint of no heat on the third floor of a recently remodeled barracks I opened the door into the third floor hallway. Completely blocking the hall was an NCO board exam in progress.

The tactical problem the candidates were being tested on was the deployment of the M-18 claymore mine. Now this should be interesting, I thought. I decided not to interrupt the exam and leaned back against the wall to observe. I watched as the candidates carefully and with exaggerated movements placed the dummy claymore halfway down the hall with a careful pace count. Then watched as they carefully and with exaggerated movements read the "FRONT TOWARD ENEMY" on the front, then carefully read the "BACK" on the rear of the mine. The candidates knew they were being graded. They placed a pencil, which they just happened to have, through the sights to aim the mine. Next they cautiously inserted the blasting cap into the blasting cap well and unrolled the electrical wire back to the examiners desk.

As the last NCO candidate finished the drill, the Senior NCO examiner loudly complimented the candidates on a job well done and exclaimed that they were a fine bunch of men and that they "Volunteers" were so much better than the DRAFTEES WHO LOST THE VIET-NAM WAR!!!

BOOM!!! I exploded in place and saw red. But unusually for me, I managed to keep my mouth shut. I felt like I had been slapped in the face. I thought about what I had just seen. The candidates' procedures were per the manufacturers directions but so very far from reality. Almost all the 100 plus times I have emplaced a claymore has been in the dark. Done by feel. The electrical cord anchored at my squads' position to guide me back. Coming back to another position in the dark would get you blown away. A real test of the procedure would be where the candidates were blind folded.

Perhaps we Draftees could yet teach them something. Being paid 3 times more does not automatically make you 3 times better. Never judge the value of a man's service by his compensation. You might miss something that could save your life.

The following is taken from a plaque outside the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning. I noticed and photographed it during our 2016 reunion. It says it better than I can."

**SOME VOLUNTEERED.  
OTHERS CAME WHEN SUMMONED.  
ALL MADE THE CHOICE.  
STANDING STRAIGHT TO FACE THE CALL.  
WE HEARD THE CALL:  
WE ANSWERED WITH OUR SERVICE.  
WE PAID THE PRICE FOR OTHERS.  
LET THEM REMEMBER.**

**ALBERT NAHAS**  
VIETNAM '68 – '70

Thank you all.

**Roger Sperl**

---

(Comments from page 8)

wall almost two decades ago in Ohio when I lived there. I wrote him a letter and left him a rose. He needed to know that someone remembered him if his family was gone.

I've babbled enough, again thank you for this website. It offers so much to those of us that came from the men who fought and died or lived with a million demons. Thank you."

(See Comments on page 11)



(Comments from page 10)

**Mrs. Catherine Meyer**  
Test Coordinator  
Heavy Combat Systems  
TRAX Test Services  
US Army Yuma Proving Ground

Catherine,

"I assume that the accounting below is that in which you speak of. I will see that your dad is added to our 'Gone but not Forgotten Page'.

Thank you for the great letter!"

"On October 29, 1968, at 1705 hours, a convoy being escorted by elements of the 1/5th(M) received small arms and RPG fire north of Thanh An. The enemy fire was returned with unknown results. Two soldiers were wounded in the contact.

That evening, an ambush patrol from Company B 1/5th(M) set up in Dau Tieng, near the Catholic Church overlooking the graveyard. At 2300 hours, after several hours with no activity, the patrol leader took half the ambush patrol and commenced a roving patrol in the general area.

The patrol moved south and then turned down an alley. About 75 meters down the alley the patrol came upon a fence blocking the alley, with a gate in the middle. The point man pushed on the gate to open it and there was an explosion. The pointman was killed and the patrol leader and two other Bobcats were wounded. The remainder of the patrol was sent for and the unit then moved to the bridge, where a dust-off was called in." (From our Website)

**Randy Kethcart**

### Commenting On Andy Anderson's Eulogy Of Bob Wood

"What a perfect eulogy for Bobcat 3.

I can honestly and proudly say I served with the finest officers the Army ever brought to the battlefield.

RIP, (Bob) Cat 3

Thank you General Andy."

**Tom Frame**  
Papa Charlie one one



by Ryan Guina, Last updated: October 30, 2018

### New Federal Veterans ID Card Now Available – How to Apply for the New VIC

"Update – 2018: The VA has begun issuing ID Cards. I applied for mine in early 2018 and received it in May 2018. I have heard from several other veterans who have received their ID cards. The VA has stated it can take up to 60 days to receive your ID card, so please be patient with the process.

The House and Senate unanimously passed the Veterans Identification Card Act in 2015. President Obama signed the act into law on July 20, 2015. The Veterans Identification Card Act authorized the VA to begin issuing a national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) to all veterans with an honorable discharge, something many veterans have been requesting for years.

The bill authorized the VA to issue ID cards as soon as early 2016, but the process took much more time to develop and implement....

The VA had to establish the processes to verify military service, design an ID card, ensure they have the procedures, materials, and personnel in place. Delays pushed back the initial issue date until November 2017. Even then, unexpected issues caused multiple delays, and many veterans had to submit their email to a waiting list before being able to apply for their VIC.

#### VETERANS ID CARD – A SOLUTION MANY VETERANS HAVE BEEN SEEKING

Prior to this law passing, there weren't many easy options for military veterans to prove their service. The military only issues ID cards for current service members, retirees, and certain veterans with a 100% disability rating.

There are, however, several ID card options veterans can use to prove their military service. These include a VA Health Identification Card used for health care (if eligible), or a state-issued drivers license with a Veterans Designation (most, but not all states currently offer this).

Here are the instructions provided by the VA:

1. Visit <https://www.vets.gov/> and click the "Sign in" link in the upper right corner.
2. Sign in with an existing account by selecting "Sign in with DS Logon" or "Sign in with ID.me".
3. If you don't have an existing account, select "Create an ID.me account". In the top right corner of the screen, select "Account" under your name and then select "Apply for a Veteran ID Card"
4. If you do not see the "Apply for a Veteran ID Card" link in your profile, you can go directly to <https://www.vets.gov/veteran-id-card> to view detailed information."

\*Copied from the <https://themilitarywallet.com/veterans-id-card/> Website

## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier



**M/SGT Maurice Mosher**

"In 1895, Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem in a cockney accent and entitled it "The 'eathen." Near the end of the piece, he penned:

*The 'eathen in 'is blindness bows down  
to wood and stone.*

*He don't obey 'is orders unless they is  
'is own.*

*The 'eathen in 'is blindness must end  
where 'e began.*

*But the backbone of the Army is the Non  
-commissioned Man.*

Sergeant Maurice Mosher had been part of the backbone of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry long before it pulled into the coastal town of Chindong-ni on the evening of August 2, 1950, and encountered the advance guard of the North Korean People's Army. The young machine gunner was not a newcomer to Korea. He had served there with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in 1948. When the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was activated on January 1, 1949, in Seoul, Korea, Mosher's unit became Company H of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. His combat team sailed to Hawaii in June of 1949 and returned to Korea in July, 1950.

On 13 August 1950, SGT Mosher heard that American troops had been ambushed in the village of Raksang-ni. He entered the village under heavy small arms and mortar fire and discovered that all the Americans had been killed or

captured. He was able to retrieve a truck, two machine guns and a large quantity of small arms ammunition.

On 29 January 1951, the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was directed to move to Ichon and attack northward toward Subuk-san, a series of ridges on the far side of a wide valley. SGT Mosher was tasked with firing his machine gun in support of a platoon from F Company as they ascended a hill. When he realized that he could not adequately support the assault from his position, he moved his gun, through intense enemy small arms fire, to an exposed crest of a ridge. His continuous and accurate fire forced the Chinese to take cover, allowing the riflemen to overrun the enemy positions. Mosher received the Bronze Star and an Oak Leaf Cluster for his bold actions at Raksang-ni and Subuk-san.

By April 1951, those members of the original contingent of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT who had been deployed from Schofield Barracks in July 1950 had accrued enough rotation points to leave Korea as soon as they were replaced. Most of the replacements arriving were too young to vote for, or against, the government that had sent them to Korea. It was a good time for those waiting to be relieved to approach each day with caution.

Maurice had another reason to watch his step. During his 1948 deployment, he met a young Korean woman named Insook Choi and they had renewed contact when he returned to Korea with the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT. On February 18, 1951, during a relatively quiet period for the combat team, Maurice and Miss Choi were married in Taegu. She was purportedly America's first Korean War bride. They had very little time together because the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT, as part of General Ridgeway's Operation RIPPER, crossed the Han River on March 5 and attacked north, reaching the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel on March 31.

Following a few days in reserve, the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT replaced the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry on line near Unjimal and prepared to attack north toward Kumwha on the following day, April 21. The patrols that were sent forward encountered a lot of enemy activity from squads and platoons. These skirmishes concealed the assembly of 337,000 members of the Chinese 20<sup>th</sup> Army, just itching to regain the initiative.

When evening fell, the men of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion heard shrill bugle calls and hunkered down in their fighting positions. Hundreds of Chinese soldiers, guided by the light of a full moon, struck the boundary between Easy and Fox

Companies while another assault troop hit the boundary between Fox and George.

When it became apparent that 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion had been flanked on the left, the regimental commander, COL Arthur Wilson, ordered them to withdraw. At 0915 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 24<sup>th</sup> Division directed the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT to pull off the hill and occupy an assembly area in the rear. By early afternoon, Chinese battalions were clearly spotted moving along the ridges that flanked the road south.

Then, shortly before midnight on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> Army's new commander, General James Van Fleet, ordered the army to fall back to Line Lincoln, a few miles north of Seoul. Second Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the 5<sup>th</sup> Tank Company and Company D, 6<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion were directed to wait until the 8<sup>th</sup> Ranger Company extricated itself from the Chinese attack and joined them on the valley floor and then to serve as rear guard during the withdrawal.

The stragglers from the ranger company didn't reach the assembly area until 4:30 in the afternoon. By this time the CCF had had time to set up their blocking positions astride the road near Pisigol and two additional Chinese battalions moved into the heights east of the village.

At 5:30, the Chinese sprang their ambush, directing intense automatic weapons fire and mortar rounds toward that section of the convoy that included elements of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and the 555<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. The driver of a ¾-ton truck and trailer was killed and the vehicle jack-knifed, blocking the road. A few of B Battery's trucks skewed out of control, turned over, caught fire and exploded. Here and there, small groups of riflemen fought their way up the ridgeline to assault the Chinese but their uncoordinated actions lacked momentum, enjoyed no fire support, and failed to dislodge the entrenched Chinese. Losses were severe.

The men of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, boarded trucks and the backs of tanks and rushed southward to help their ambushed comrades. Maurice Mosher's Silver Star citation describes what happened next.

*For courageous action near Soraksan, Korea, on 25 April 1951. His machine gun section was part of a convoy making an organized retrograde movement which was suddenly ambushed by a heavily armed enemy roadblock. The vehicle ahead of his was hit by enemy fire and forced to stop, halting the rest of the convoy behind it. With the convoy stopped, the enemy started pouring over*



a small rise to one side of the road in mass numbers. He immediately stood up, completely exposing himself to the intense enemy fire and began firing a light machine gun with deadly accuracy at the small draw the enemy was using as his principal approach route. Burning out the barrel of his weapon, he raced to the vehicle behind him and seized another machine gun, setting it up in the middle of the road as enemy mortar shells burst all around him. As his second weapon burned out, he ordered his men to withdraw as he held the enemy at bay with a pistol and hand grenades. As he led his men back toward friendly lines, he unhesitatingly stopped to improvise a litter to carry out a wounded comrade. He is estimated to have personally inflicted over 300 casualties on the enemy. Sergeant Mosher's out-standing leadership and magnificent courage, in the face of tremendous odds against him, reflect the highest credit on himself and are in keeping with the honored traditions of the United States Infantry. (GO 507, HQ 24<sup>th</sup> ID)

Maurice Mosher was promoted to master sergeant and transferred to the Korean Military Advisory Group so that he would have a little more time in country to make arrangements for his wife's journey to their new home. They boarded the U.S. Army's rotation ship *Red Ball Express* in August 1951 and sailed for Hawaii.

On February 19, 1965, M/SGT Mosher reported to Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group near the village of Ben Soi in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam. With the build-up of conventional forces, the role of the Green Berets was shifting from that of training and directing the indigenous minorities of the country in order to keep them in the fold to one of finding the enemy and assisting in the introduction of U.S. and ARVN units into remote areas. On May 25, 1965, M/SGT Mosher was accompanying an Army of Vietnam unit on a search and destroy operation when they encountered a hostile force. When the unit returned to its initial location, Mosher was missing. His body was recovered on the 28<sup>th</sup>. He had died of a head wound.

Have you ever wondered where America gets men like Alvin York, Audie Murphy, and Maurice Mosher? A childhood lacking in material comforts might be one common denominator. SGT York was born in a two-room log cabin in a Tennessee backwater, and Murphy was the son of poor Texas sharecroppers.

Maurice Mosher was five years old when his father died. His mother placed him and his seven siblings in the Hebrew Orphans Association Home in Jersey City and left them there despite remarrying. She did give young Maurice written permission to join the Merchant Marine Service during World War II when he was in his mid-teens.

Shortly after the war ended, Maurice enlisted in the U.S. Army and served a tour in Germany. When his enlistment was up, he went to live with his sister in Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania, but soon realizing that he missed the army, he re-enlisted in 1947 leading to his first deployment to Korea.

At the time of his death, Maurice was survived by his mother, his wife, Insook, sons Harry and Sidney, and daughters, Jean and Mary. His daughters are currently working with their local congressman to obtain an upgrade of the Silver Star that M/SGT Mosher received for his courageous actions during the ambush at Pisi-gol. Hopefully they will succeed.

### **Wear Your Veterans Hat It Pays!**

"Wore my VFW cap today. In line at Walmart. Put credit card in machine. Bill is \$66+. Guy behind me in line is pushing and finally shakes my hand. He says "Take your card out, I am paying." Cashier says take your card, you are paid. Having learned to follow orders I do that. I shake the guy's hand. He says "Merry Christmas." I say same to him and leave.

He keeps the receipt--OK since he is paying. The "checker" at door ignores me. Good. We are home free with \$66 of merchandise!

Previously a lady admired my cap and asked me if I had served. (Do people wear VFW caps that have not served?) I tell her that I have served all my life and I am still serving but I no longer go to work. She thanks me for serving--which happens every day once, twice, or more. (I am always wearing a veteran's cap and usually an Army sweatshirt.)"

**SO, WEAR YOUR CAP!**

**COL-R Nevin Williams**

*I always wear my hat and get thanked frequently. At an airport a TSA agent put me in the priority line when he saw my Veteran's hat & shirt.*

## **Army Alaska identifies soldier who died in barracks shooting**

By: Michelle Tan

"Sp. Mason James Guckavan died Oct. 26 from a gunshot wound in his barracks. (Army) A soldier assigned to U.S. Army Alaska died Oct. 26 from a gunshot wound, officials announced Thursday.



Spc. Mason James Guckavan, 21, was shot in his barracks at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, officials said in a statement.

Special agents from Army Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the incident, but there is no official determination on whether the discharge of the firearm was intentional or accidental, officials said.

Guckavan was an infantryman with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He joined the Army from Middletown, Pennsylvania, in August 2016.

After completing initial entry training, he was assigned to 1st SBCT, 25th Infantry in December 2016.

"Specialist Guckavan was a key member for the Bobcat Battalion over the past two years. He was a dedicated and loyal soldier, committed to the mission," said Lt. Col. Sonny Rosales, commander of 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, in a statement. "We are devastated he is no longer with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Our priority right now is to take care of them, ensuring they have all the resources they need during this critical time."

*Copied from Army Times News Roundup - INOV*

# 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

December 17, 2018

Fellow Bobcats,

Time has flown by over the past few months as the First Battalion, Fifth Infantry Regiment ran full-sprint from the summer into another long winter in the last frontier. In past several months, the Bobcat Battalion led the way in numerous training exercises as we look ahead to our upcoming rotation at the National Training Center.

The first training event was Arctic Avalanche in September. The Bobcats executed company-level blank and live-fire exercises through the rugged terrain in the Yukon Training Area. Soldiers seized multiple objectives, including a trench complex, integrating Strykers, Unmanned Aerial Systems, and indirect fires.

In October, the Bobcats deployed to the Donnelley Training Area with the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team for Arctic Anvil. This Brigade Field Training Exercise, the Bobcats performed exceptionally well against the enemy (kindly played by Soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), ultimately emerging victorious as a stronger and deadlier team.

After Arctic Anvil, the Battalion rapidly executed NTC pre-deployment requirements that included 24 hours maintenance to get vehicles to fully mission capable standards, rail and line haul operations and container load out. In addition, our Bobcat Lieutenants conducted a one week leader development training event called LT Academy. This training event prepared officers in their profession as a tactical, technical, and physical leader in the US Army.

With the winter in full swing and the holidays rapidly approaching, we of course took the opportunity to celebrate with our families with a Battalion Halloween event, a Thanksgiving meal being served by the command teams at the dining facility, and most noticeably the Bobcat Battalion Ball. For the Battalion Ball, we were fortunate enough to be joined by George Chavez, our wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association President. He inspired us with gracious wisdom. The Bobcats are very thankful and appreciative for the great support from the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association for our 2018 Bobcat Battalion Ball.

I'd like to wish a happy and healthy holiday season to the extended Bobcat Family and, as always, I invite you to join us on the Battalion's Facebook page ("1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment") as we look ahead to another eventful year.

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

Bobcats test their marksmanship in freezing temperatures.



Bobcats engage targets after nightfall during tough winter training.



LTC Rosales (left) and CSM Davis (right) after promoting CPT Isaac Graham (center).



A special thanks to LTC Sonny Rosales and 1LT Christopher Barber, 1LT Michael Zantello and SPC Christian Garcia.



The Bobcats seize an objective as the sun sets during Arctic Avalanche.



Association President George Chavez poses with Colonel Matthew Brown, 1/25 SBCT Commander, at the Bobcat Battalion Ball.



The Bobcat Family celebrates in costume at the 2018 Battalion Halloween Fest.



Bobcat command teams served Thanksgiving dinner to Soldiers.



Bobcats with Bayonet Company survey the perimeter after taking their objective during Arctic Avalanche.

## Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

### Finding Your Father's War

"Hey, this is Dominic Decaro I'm George Corbett's grandson. First off just want to say thanks for going and seeing granddad while he was in the hospital. So the reason I'm emailing is Grandma said that you might have a way to get some of his old papers from the war. Specifically I'm looking for his papers that show when he arrived and left a city (I got an attachment of one page he had) and then I would need a detailed map or maps like an engineer's map from the time of the war. If there's money involved I'll pay for it and if it's just not possible that's cool."

*Sincerely, Dom*

Hello Dominic,

"There would be no way to know when your grandfather arrived and left a city, but there are ways to find out when his unit arrived and left a city. That's the reason why I asked your Grandmother to get this paperwork so you can keep it and get information from having it. Detailed maps of Europe during WW2 is not hard to get either, as everything is on the internet available for purchase.

I can hook you up with a military historian if you want.

Again, sorry about your Grandfather. He was a great man."

**LTC James Marques**

Simulations Officer  
166th Ave BDE  
Fort Hood, TX 76544  
603 819 9022/8145

Sam and Larry,

"Domenic (included in this email) is a young man who just lost his grandfather and wants to learn more about where his grandfather served during World War 2. His Grandfather was in a unit called the 259 FA Group. Is there any books written about this grandfather's unit?

Like me waiting for my father to die before looking into his service, Domenic decided to wait until his grandfather died before looking into his military history, so here we are."

**LTC James Marques**

Dom,

"As you may know by now, the 259th Field Artillery Battalion, equipped with 4.5" howitzers, fought in the European Theater and participated in the Battle of the Bulge and the fight for the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen among other events. There is an oral history in the library at the University of North Texas, in Denton, TX, that was dictated in 1981 by John L. Hancock, a veteran of the 259th. I'm sure its digitized so you can obtain to read. It's entitled The Third Reich Finale as Witnessed by John L. Hancock, 259th Field Artillery Battalion.

A book that has helped me immensely in the search for records of World War II soldiers is Finding Your Father's War: A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II US Army. The author is Jonathan Gawne. I believe I bought my copy from Amazon.

Good luck in your quest to learn more about your Grandfather's war."

**Sam Kier**, Historian  
5th Infantry Regt Assn

### C Company Received Mortar Fire

Good evening,

"I've been doing research to find out more on the death of my great uncle in Vietnam. This article on your website details his death:

*At 1528 hours, Company C received 5 or 6 rounds of 60mm mortar fire in the area of XT 522518. One Bobcat was killed.*

My question is in regards of the statement "...in the area of XT 52218." What kind of mapping or area code is this? I would like to find the place where he was killed. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best regards,  
**Josh**

"On a cruise with limited internet, it refers to a map gridding system used by military to define location, Google map gridding explained. If you look in the history maps you may find the map and grid used. Best info I can give from my phone at sea, I will copy our historian."

**Randy Kethcart**

Josh,

"I assume your great-uncle was Bernard Mattson. His Company C was patrolling in the Michelin Rubber Plantation on that day, January 12, 1968. That was the northern-most point in the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment's area of operations, a short distance north of Dau Tieng, off Highway 14. That series of letters and numbers XT522518 is a set of coordinates. They're like the capital letters in the margin of a civilian map that are used for locating a town, except that coordinates are more precise and can be used for pin-pointing artillery and air support. There was a lot of hostile activity in that area in January 1968 because a number of Viet Cong troops were infiltrating south through the plantation to launch their Tet offensive in and around Saigon during the following month.

Is this the type of information you were seeking?"

**Sam Kier**  
Historian, 5th Inf Regt

### Attempting to get the "Medal of Honor"

Dear Mrs. Bernard,

"I've always referred to that action on 25 April 1951 as the ambush near Pisigol. The location has sometimes been referred to as "Death Valley." On the previous day, the 24th Division had been ordered to withdraw and the 5th RCT was to serve as rear guard in the process. Your father's 2nd Battalion was ordered to wait for the survivors of a Ranger company so they didn't get started south until around 4:30 PM on the 25th. By that time, they knew they were surrounded by Chinese and would have to fight their way out.

COL Arthur H. Wilson, Jr was the regimental commander. I do have a copy of his command report for April 1951. He had sent LTC Albert N. Ward, commander of 2nd Battalion ahead and Wilson remained with your father's battalion. COL Wilson does not mention your father nor any other enlisted man in his April Command Report nor does he do so in ensuing command reports. Some commanders did note medals awarded during the month on their command reports. COL Wilson didn't. He died in 2004 and COL Ward died in 1994 so they're not available for interview. COL Wilson remained in com-



mand until September, 1951 so he must have been the commander who forwarded the request for your father's valor award to 24th Division Headquarters, since the Silver Star was awarded in July, 1951. I don't have the name of Maurice's H Company commander but it could probably be determined by perusing a copy of the 2nd Battalion S2-S3 Journal for April/May 1951. I don't have that particular document but it should be available from the National Archives in Maryland. Then again, the company commander could be gone as well.

The unit commander's recommendation wasn't always followed. It's very possible that COL Wilson put your father in for the Distinguished Service Cross and the brass in division headquarters downgraded the final award. I'm not sure how you would get your hands on that initial paperwork.

I'm sending a copy of this correspondence to Frank Jennings and Paul Garland of the 5th RCT Assn. Perhaps they know some living survivors of the fight at "Death Valley" or know of documents that might help you."

Sincerely,  
**Sam Kier**

Dear Sam and Paul,

"It looks like they already have a lot of great information about their fathers' actions. I cannot obtain any more than what they have to date. Other than this book that I have noted more accurate information would be written in the book "Hills of Sacrifice, The 5th RCT in Korea" written by Michael Slater. There is a full chapter about the battle called "Death Valley".

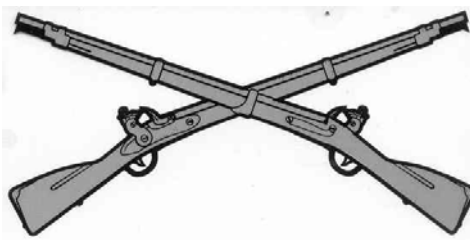
From all information I have found record keeping was not recorded. April 1951 was a difficult time to make the reports because of high personnel turnover, wounded, transferred or rotation. April command reports were actually written in late June of 1951.

Best wishes and I sure hope that the sisters can achieve getting their fathers' medal."

**Frank Jennings**

Dear Mrs. Bernard,

"I received the following response from Frank Jennings of the 5th RCT Assn. I re-read the chapter from Michael Slater's Hills of Sacrifice: The 5th RCT in Korea this morning and there is  
(See Sam on page 18)



## ***Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!***

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

**M/SGT MELVIN O. HANDRICH**

**Rank and organization: Master Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company C, 5th Infantry REG**

**Place and date: Near Sobuk San Mountain, Korea, 25 and 26 August 1950.**

**Entered service at: Manawa, Wis.**

### **Citation:**

M/Sgt. Handrich, Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. His company was engaged in repulsing an estimated 150 enemy who were threatening to overrun its position. Near midnight on 25 August, a hostile group over 100 strong attempted to infiltrate the company perimeter. M/Sgt. Handrich, despite the heavy enemy fire, voluntarily left the comparative safety of the defensive area and moved to a forward position where he could direct mortar and artillery fire upon the advancing enemy. He remained at this post for 8 hours directing fire against the enemy who often approached to within 50 feet of his position. Again, on the morning of 26 August, another strong hostile force made an attempt to overrun the company's position. With complete disregard for his safety, M/Sgt. Handrich rose to his feet and from this exposed position fired his rifle and directed mortar and artillery fire on the attackers. At the peak of this action he observed elements of his company preparing to withdraw. He perilously made his way across fire-swept terrain to the defense area where, by example and forceful leadership, he reorganized the men to continue the fight. During the action M/Sgt. Handrich was severely wounded. Refusing to take cover or be evacuated, he returned to his forward position and continued to direct the company's fire. Later a determined enemy attack overran M/Sgt. Handrich's position and he was mortally wounded. When the position was retaken, over 70 enemy dead were counted in the area he had so intrepidly defended. M/Sgt. Handrich's sustained personal bravery, consummate courage, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect untold glory upon himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.



## Every Week, Vietnam War Vets Wash Their Memorial Wall. Today, They Had Powerful Help

The Vietnam War Memorial is hallowed ground.

In a city of gleaming white marble monuments and pink cherry blossoms, the black, sunken facade, etched with the 58,307 names of the fallen, stands out as a haunting tribute to the sacrifice of a generation.

The memorial itself stirs emotion. When anyone, young or old, looks into the polished volcanic rock of the wall, it looks back. At its highest point the wall is over 10 feet tall. It envelops its visitors with names of those who lost their lives in a war which lasted nearly two decades.

It can be overwhelming to visit. For the hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans still alive, it is a place of eternal significance.

The wall itself is open to the public 24 hours a day 365 days a year. It is our nation's most embraceable monument. You can touch it, rest your head against it and cry on it. No one will stop you.

Paper and pencils are even provided at the memorial to encourage guests to make a stencil of an engraved name.

Due to the hands-on nature of the memorial, it is imperative that the wall remains polished and immaculate, not just for the many millions of visitors a year, but for the legacies of the fallen etched within it.

However, the wall has not always been maintained at the level one would hope.

Veterans visiting the wall during the Clinton-era began to notice that the traffic to the memorial was increasing, yet it was only being cleaned once a month. It was becoming dingy. These veterans got angry and did something about it. The Washington Post reports:

In 1998, dissatisfied with the job that the National Park Service was doing and upset that bird droppings had filled in some of the engraved names, Jan Scruggs of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund took action. He handed 37 toothbrushes to visiting vets from Wisconsin, who scrubbed the filth away.

In order to keep the memorial in pristine condition, local veteran groups offered to help with maintenance of the hallowed ground. The Park Service agreed. Now, approximately once

every weekend in peak tourist season (spring and summer), a different veteran group or community service will arrive at sunrise, long before the throngs of tourists show up, to wash the wall.

The labor is intensive but in the end, every inch of the 247-foot wall gets sprayed down, scrubbed by hand and polished.

Many of the men and women who show up to clean are veterans themselves, cleaning a memorial built in their honor.

So it was on the morning of Sunday, April 9, when Virginia and Maryland chapters of Rolling Thunder rode into the memorial before sunrise. Clad in leather motorcycle gear with a colorful array of patriotic patches sewn in, a dozen members of the iconic biker club, most of them veterans, readied for an hour of washing and scrubbing the black wall.

Today, however, they had some extra help. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke



would be scrubbing alongside them. Zinke has taken an immersive approach to his new job, which happens to include oversight of America's national parks and monuments. The Secretary rode a horse into the office on his first day, shoveled snow off the Lincoln Memorial steps after a snowstorm, gave stunned tourists a personal tour of the cavernous cathedral beneath the Lincoln Memorial, and has engaged in international sock diplomacy.

Today, the Trump appointee and Navy SEAL continued his hands-on approach to the office by hand-scrubbing the smudges and bird droppings off the Vietnam War Memorial.

*\*Article written by Benny Johnson and sent to me by Bob Whaley*

*(Sam from page 17)*

no reference to M/SGT Mosher nor to Company H. There are references to 2nd Battalion and to Company H's sister unit, Company G. Reading it, though, would give you an understanding of the chaotic nature of the event and how it would be difficult to verify a Chinese casualty count of 300 or more individuals. The author did mention an officer of 2nd BN that survived Death Valley and, I think, may still be living and I will send you that information as soon as I've verified it.

**Sam Kier**

Dear Mr. Kier,

"Thank you for your quick response, and thank you so much for the information. The additional details about the event are very important to me, not only for my research but also for me personally. I was two years old when my father was killed so everything that I learn about his military career and his life are extremely valuable to me.

I will use the contact information to reach out to Mr. Perry...fingers crossed. I'm just curious how you found that he was with my father during the ambush.

Also, do you know how the newspapers obtained information about the event and my father's actions? Would it have been through the documentation for the recommendation of the award?

Thank you again for everything!!  
Regards,"

**Mary Mosher Barnard**

Mary,

"Mike Slater interviewed LTC William Oliver Perry, Jr. prior to writing his book *Hills of Sacrifice* in 2002. Then Captain Perry was a member of 2nd Battalion and serving as Battalion S-3, or operations officer. He, like your father, joined the withdrawing column of tanks, trucks and jeeps at about 4:30 on the afternoon of the 25th.

You mentioned in your second e-mail that Colonel Perry's home in Aurora was sold by his son. I fear that may mean that the son inherited the house from his father's estate. Perry retired from the Army in 1965, earned a law degree and served as an assistant district attorney in Denver. I suspect he would have been a good source of information. I imagine that war correspondents in Korea received the details of your father's actions from the 24th In-

*(See Sam on page 23)*



# “A Night in the Jungle”

“In November, 1967, Alpha Co, 1/5 Mech was in the jungles of the Boi Loi Woods conducting sweeps and Search and Destroy missions. During the day we would roam the woods and jungles mostly on foot with the tracks close behind, looking for the NVA and VC known to be in the area. In the late afternoon we would meet up and return to the base camp where the tracks were set up for the night. Some of us would stay in the perimeter and man the 50 cal. machine guns mounted on the APCs, some of us would go out on LP in front of the perimeter and some of us would go on night ambush patrol.

One evening as we were headed in, those of us on 3rd platoon track 33 were

looking good. After eating some Cs, we assessed our situation. Here we were, a broken down tank and a four grunts from the 1/5th Mech alone in triple canopy jungle miles from any reinforcement, and we had no idea where we were. We hoped the tank crew knew because we didn't. Soon it was very dark. So dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. We knew that a squad of NVA with a couple of RPGs could have easily taken us out. Mike and Frank were sent out about eight meters on the left side of the tank to pull LP (or early warning, or bait, or whatever you want to call it) and Terry and I were sent out about eight meters to the right side of the tank. This is where we were to

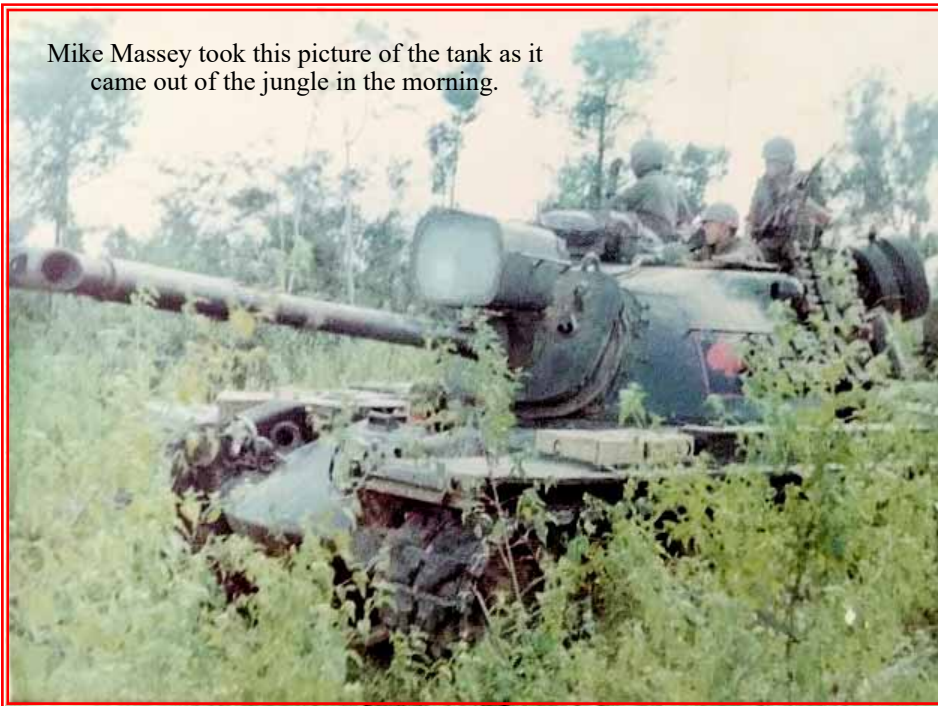
crew heard or seen something out there? The tank crew didn't tell us anything, and before we could ask, there was a flash and one of the loudest explosions I had ever heard. I felt like my head exploded and I was left reeling, wondering if I was dead. Mike, Frank and Terry felt the same. I thought we must have been hit by an RPG. We couldn't see or hear anything for a few minutes. Without a word of warning to us Bobcats, the crew of the tank fired off a 105mm round, and in the closeness of the jungle and stillness of the night, it was much louder than it normally would have been. The fact that we didn't know it was coming made it all the worse. We never did know why they fired off that round. Did they see something, was it a warning or were they just goofing around. After I regained my senses I thought now they have given away our position and any NVA within a mile would know where we were, and we were very vulnerable with no possible back up.

After a short time Mike and Frank, Terry and I were sent back out to the positions where we were before being called in. As I mentioned, we were not well prepared for this. We were vulnerable and we knew it. We stayed alert, knowing our position had been given away. It got very cold in the jungle that night as we laid on the cold floor of the jungle with only our jungle fatigues to keep us warm. It was so still, and dark. We tried to take turns getting a little sleep but it was impossible being hungry and shivering all night, listening to the sounds of the jungle. It's amazing how long a night can be when you're waiting for dawn.

Finally, when morning came, the tank crew called us in and we ate some Cs they gave us while we waited for the tank recovery vehicle to come and fix the thrown track. When the tank track was repaired and able to leave the site, our platoon came and picked us up to go on another day of Search and Destroy. No rest for us. Once we were back on track 33, Mike managed to get a picture of the tank as it came out of the jungle in the morning. I recently talked with Mike and Frank about that wild night. We all agreed that it is one of those nights in Viet Nam that stands out in the memory, every detail, not so much for what happened, but what could have happened. I don't think any of us expected to make it through the night.”

**Tom Goins,**  
3rd Platoon, Alpha Co. 67-68

Mike Massey took this picture of the tank as it came out of the jungle in the morning.



told we wouldn't be going back to base camp with the rest of the platoon. The other tracks headed in for the night, but we were sent deep into the jungle without knowing why or what was going on. At dusk we found our objective. It was a disabled M48, probably belonging to the 2/34 Armor, that had thrown a track. The tank crew was there alone, stranded in the jungle, miles from anything. Our mission was to guard the tank for the night because it couldn't be repaired or moved with night closing in.

Four of us, Frank Davis, Mike Massey, Terry Brady and I were left at the site to guard the tank. Things were not

spend the night. We were not well equipped with ammo because we didn't know what the mission was until we got there. All we had was our M16s, eighteen - twenty magazines and a few grenades each. We weren't sure what the tank had to back us up except it's 105mm. Terry and I tried to stay alert, listening to the sounds of the jungle at night, and listening for any movement in the dark in front of us.

After a couple of hours out in the pitch black, the tank crew called us back to the tank and we all got in the open back of the tank. None of us Bobcats knew what was going on. Had the tank

# 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 - \$35.00 *(With or without pocket)*  
*Colors: white, black, ash, forest, green, navy, light blue, maroon, oxford, royal, safety green or orange & red*  
 1). With Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$35.00 *(With or without pocket)*  
 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering on "Right" sleeve - \$43.00  
*(With or without pocket)*  
 + There is a \$1.50 Charge for each size larger than XL (XXL + \$1.50, XXXL + \$3.00)
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest \$104 and CIB or CMB Badge - \$115 or \$122 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt with 5th INF REG Crest - \$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) Embroidered on left breast - \$25 *(In 51 different colors)*  
 + There is a \$1.50 Charge for each size larger than XL (XXL + \$1.50, XXXL + \$3.00)
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$23.00
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

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



**New lower prices  
for shirts!**



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 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Every person who has ever served in the 5<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**Ric Myers,**

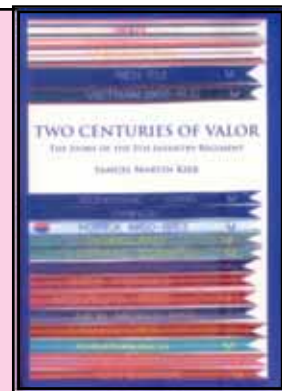
*Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68*

## History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

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

have participated in.

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



[http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter\\_master.shtml](http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml)

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

**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](http://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**

# “United By Sacrifice”

*If you are a member of the 25th Infantry Division Association then you are aware of the memorials they built first at Schofield Barracks Hawaii and then more recently at FT Benning GA. These two memorials in order to continue “looking good” require periodic maintenance. Your financial help is needed in order to fund this maintenance. You can help by mailing a donation to the: 25th INF DIV Memorial Fund, PO BOX 606, Flourtown PA 19031-0606 or by purchasing a brick. To purchase a brick go to:*  
<http://dittmerdesign.com/memorialfund/bricks.html>

“Some members believe that the work of the Memorial Fund is over. “One-and-done.” Over the past 15+ years we have accomplished more than one memorial project. Our most famous is the first; the “United By Sacrifice” Memorial at Schofield Barracks. After that installation, we worked with the Veterans and citizens of Coleman, Michigan, to allow them to use our design to develop their community memorial park to honor the military of all eras.



**United by Sacrifice Memorial at Fort Benning**

As we were working with Coleman, we were planning to erect a final replication of the United By Sacrifice Memorial along the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia.

The Benning project evolved from a realization that the general public would not see our wonderful Memorial at Schofield Barracks. Although it is well known at Schofield and a commercial company even includes a stop there on its tour of Oahu’s historic military sites, the vast majority of US citizens will never have occasion to see it. It is on a tightly secured military base on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

The United by Sacrifice Memorial at Fort Benning is seen by tens of thousands of visitors a year. The Walk of Honor is outside of the security perimeter of Fort Benning. It is next to the parade ground where all classes (basic, AIT, OCS, Jump School, Ranger School, etc.) have their graduation ceremonies. Those ceremonies are attended by thousands of family and friends, and thousands more visit the nearby National Infantry Museum. Many visitors to the ceremonies and the museum take the time to walk the winding pathway among the two-dozen monuments along the Walk of Honor. Only two memorials along that path have life-size statues of Soldiers and only our Memorial has statues representing four generations of Soldiers.

The United by Sacrifice concept was expanded, first with a vision at Coleman that a female Soldier should be represented. We checked with our 25th Infantry Division Historian based with the 25th at Schofield. He told us that by 2010 over 10,000 female Soldiers had deployed to combat zones wearing the Tropic Lightning patch.

When we had the dedication of our Memorial at Fort Benning, we had a contemporary female Soldier standing next to her male counterpart honoring the fallen represented by the Soldier’s Cross. Then in 2016,

we rededicated our initial United by Sacrifice Memorial with the addition of the female Soldier statue.

Over the decades that we have established and then expanded our initial memorial project, we have been involved in actively working with several of our Brigades to erect their own memorials.

When we were in Alaska for our 2009 reunion, we helped raise funds for the 1st Brigade Combat Team’s memorial project at Fort Wainwright. We got even more involved with our 4th Brigade (Airborne) Combat Teams memorial project at Fort Richardson.

Our role with the 4BCT became the model for assisting the brigades. The brigades, working with their JAGs to keep within the statutory bounds, raised funds and transferred those funds to our Memorial Fund. Our Memorial Fund paid the bills of the brigade projects from the funds we were banking for them and we fulfilled all the reporting requirements to the IRS for these projects. The brigades paid a fee that covered the Memorial Funds accounting and reporting expenses.

This mode of operation was adapted when we worked with Family Support Groups (FSGs) of our 2nd and 3rd BCTs at Schofield to build their memorial projects. Both of those memorials are located nearby the brigade headquarters at Schofield and both have been pictured in the pages of Tropic Lightning Flashes over the years.

A long-term goal of our Memorial Fund and leadership at Schofield is to relocate both brigade memorials to Weyand Field, nearby the United by Sacrifice Memorial. Weyand Field is centrally located and the location of many military and community activities year-round, whereas the current location of the brigade memorials are not heavily trafficked. A number of commanders with interest in this concept have been supportive of the effort, but it has yet to get off the ground because of the frequency of command rotation.

In addition to the physical relocation of several memorials, our Memorial Fund has the responsibility for maintenance of our Memorials. This includes the statues, their platforms and the Memorial Brick Courtyard at Schofield Barracks. The courtyard has been expanded several times and a permanent concrete base poured to support the bricks and blocks. However, because of the arrangement by units and the continuous expansion of those units in the courtyard, there have been a number of shifts in locations. It has been necessary to avoid permanently emplacing individual bricks.

Given the tropic climate and lack of talking between the bricks, weeds grow and must be periodically removed by hand. At some point in the not too distant future, the main Memorial Courtyard will fill and a second Courtyard will have to be emplaced. At this time it will be possible to permanently set the bricks and blocks in the main Courtyard. Meanwhile, the Courtyard requires continuous maintenance.

Our memorial projects have been a learning experience for all involved. About six years after the memorial at Schofield was dedicated, we



began to get reports of problems with the lighting embedded in the concrete base. At first, problems were resolved like many light problems are – by changing out the bulbs. Over time, however, new bulbs did not work. The initial thought was to replace the fixtures. Then the electrician hired to replace the fixtures and wiring reported that the wires to each light had not been run through conduit. The wire had been laid in wet, now cured, cement. There was no way of replacing the in-ground lighting without major drilling/digging in the concrete base. The in-ground lighting was then abandoned and lighting placed in the trees surrounding the memorial.

Another challenge at Schofield has been an unexpected environmental factor. At the time of dedication, the Soldier's Cross, contemporary Soldier (and later the female Soldier) were all cast in bronze and finished with a bronze patina. The WWII, Korea and Vietnam Soldier statues were also cast in bronze, but finished with a ghostly gray patina that conveyed their long-ago history with the 25th.

The statues all retained their color well with annual cleaning and waxing by Lynn Weiler Liverton, the sculptor who brought our concept to life. Ms. Liverton lives on Oahu and charges the Fund a nominal fee for this service. However, several years ago, before the widely reported volcanic eruption by Kilauea on the Big Island this year, that same volcano spewed forth giant clouds of volcanic gas that went into the atmosphere and then came back down over a wide area. This atmospheric condition is known as VOG.

When the VOG blew over Oahu, it caused discoloration of our statues. The contemporary Soldier statues took on a darker hue and our Soldiers of history statues went from gray to dark green. In fact, their new color was similar to the hue of fatigues of the 50s & 60s.

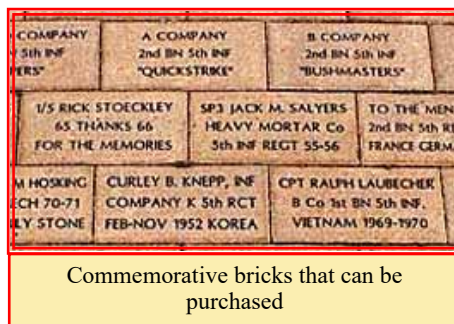
The statues at Fort Benning have encountered their own problems. We made a mistake when we installed the statues at Benning. A decision was made to not apply a coat of lacquer as a sealant. We thought and the sculptor thought that the patina applied by the foundry would act as a sealant. It has not.

The statues at Benning are now discolored. The contemporary male and female Soldier statues have darkened. The WWII, Korea and Vietnam statues have lost much of their gray patina and now appear blotchy. Additionally, the copper in the bronze has reacted with moisture in the atmosphere and turned parts of the statues a moldy green. And, this copper green has puddled on the memorial's concrete base under some of the statues.

While our memorial building projects appear to have come to a stop, the fact is that we are bound to maintain that which we have built and correct errors as they are noted. The most apparent problem, that is seen by more of the public than any other of our projects, is the deterioration of the surface on the statues

at Benning. The statues themselves have substantial structural integrity. They are not paper-thin. Each weighs 300-400 pounds.

The foundry in Utah that has cast all our statues, and those of Coleman, has offered a couple of optional fixes. Another foundry in Ohio has also offered options. Whatever option is chosen will cost several thousands of dollars. And there will be no permanent fixes. Each memorial project will, in time, require some work. Repairs to other projects may crop up from time to time. A memorial bench near the 4BCT memorial at Fort Richardson was damaged last winter in a storm. The Memorial Brick Courtyard will require continued modification until it is full at



which a time a new Courtyard must be begun.

We continue to live in a dangerous world and, as you see elsewhere in this issue of Flashes, our 25th Soldiers continue to be deployed worldwide. Future conflicts may produce a need to recognize the sacrifices necessary to defend our national interests.

So the work of the Memorial Fund will continue into the future reliant on the donations of the members as well as funds realized from the sale of bricks & blocks for the Courtyard. At some point in time, the current leadership and volunteers, primarily from the Vietnam generation, will have to pass the torch of responsibility to younger Veterans. So our generation is faced with two challenges – raising the funds necessary to maintain our current memorials and recruiting younger members to assume responsibility....

(Sam from page 18)

fantry Division Public Information Officer or PIO.

I have attached an excerpt from my book *Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the Fifth Infantry Regiment* and a map of "Death Valley" which might be helpful to use along with the article.

You mentioned that you have some of your father's military records. What documents do you have? I would like to learn more about him."

**Sam Kier**

*\*See article on page 1 and "Our Bobcat Forebears" on page 12*

## Bayonet Training, M-60 Barrels In The Well And Draftees

Hello Fred,

"Maybe this article can make the Newsletter, call it just some memories.

Spending a full tour with the 1st of the 5th from March of 68 til March of 69 I always have to laugh about the following. Remember basic training where we had Bayonet practice. Parry left, Parry right and of course butt stroke and hold with the fine M14 rifle. Fast forward past AIT at Ft. Polk and it's Vietnam, now it's the M16 and never was a Bayonet issued? If nothing else a bayonet would have helped when you couldn't find a P38 for your Cs.

Next to reflect on is what us field troopers received out in the field. No I'm not talking about the infrequent hot chow brought out from the base camp. I humped the M60 for 5 months and asked many times for a cleaning kit. I never got one and was told if the gun was screwing up due to a dirty barrel "get a new barrel and throw the old one down a well!" I did the best I could with only diesel fuel. I was told later we tax payers paid \$600 for each barrel.

The following has bothered me since I heard it 15 years ago. I was drafted in 1967 and showed up for my responsibility, said farewell in 69 as a Sergeant. In 2003 the US went into Iraq and Donald Rumsfeld, along with an Air Force General were giving a Press conference. When asked by a reporter if they thought the draft would be brought back because of the War they replied "NO". That reply would have been fine with me until they added the following. "Draftees have been shown to be in-effective in combat". Excuse me but what do two Air Force guys know about combat? Tell that to those draftees that gave all, or that came back with wounds and decorations, and with no acknowledgment for years."

Stay well all,  
**Wayne Grindstaff**

## A Big Thank You!

I wish to sincerely thank the following for contributing articles and or pictures for the newsletter: Sam Kier, Roger Sperl, Bud Holochwost, LTC Sonny Rosales, 1LT Christopher Barber, Tom Frame, Randy Kethcart, COL-R Nevin Williams, Tom Goins, John Barnard, Joe Harris and Wayne Grindstaff.

# Letters From Vietnam

*From Joe Lex to his family*

20 JUN 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Hello again back in the world. Again nothing new here, except that we painted the inside of our newly built shower in black, white, OD, yellow, red, orange (my suggestion), pink, blue and various other hues. It looks bad but it is colorful.... And so are the guys that painted it.

The artillery shells have been flying over head all day (ours). Earlier they sent out a volley of 5 double charges. Even the old guys jumped at that.

Just about everyone at the Aid Station is due to leave in July, so they stay very close to the bunker at all times. We also get a new guy in, so at least there is someone who leaves after I do.

Right now we're just sitting round watching television, a typical evening activity. Even though we are on duty 24 hours per day we only work about 4 hours and get between 8 and 10 hours sleep per night.

Sorry that there is no more to write about, but more to tomorrow.

*Love, Joe*

21 JUN 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

"Happy first day of summer! (Over here you can't tell. I understand that they didn't have a bit of snow last winter.)

I just wrote postcards to both grandmothers and to the Johansans, so you'll probably be hearing about it..

Since we had nothing better to do today, we hooked up a speaker from my radio into our psychedelic shower-latrline. We now have one of the few johns in Vietnam with FM music piped in. It really makes it a pleasure to take a shower.

I haven't gotten a letter for 3 days, so I figure everyone must be busy moving junk into the storage shed. I'm sure it is more fun than filling sandbags.

Horror of horrors, the only television network went off the air tonight and everyone had to listen to real music and read. They are all walking around with a glazed look in their eyes.

Well, that's enough for tonight. More tomorrow in an exciting Saturday.

*Love, Joe*

P.S. *This is the last of the stationary.*

*The next letter will have a helicopter on top.*

peanuts.

There is an ugly rumor about (I hope that is all it is.) that old Charlie is going to pull a fast one. Supposedly he has some Russian helicopters brought down the north through Cambodia. On 28 June he is suppose to launch a full scale helliborne attack on Saigon and Tan Son Nhut. I'll be back in Tan Son Nhut by then, so needless to say I hope it is just a rumor.



It is very possible for him to do it, though. As you can see in the picture above, a Huey can carry 6 people. The US travels in groups of 19 choppers called "slicks" or "Eagle Flights". The VC or NVA could easily get in this formation and fool everyone until it is too late. I mean, after all, who'd shoot at an Eagle Flight (other than Charlie).

More tomorrow. Good luck with the new shop.

*Love, Joe*

## Campaign Streamers

"The Army has fought in eleven wars and conducted 190 campaigns over more than 240 years. Those hard-fought honors are represented by campaign streamers attached to the Army flag as a reminder of the selfless service and courage of the more than 30 million men and women who have served the nation during times of war and peace.

The history of battle streamers dates back to the 1830s to the custom of inscribing "battle honors" on Regular Army colors. During the early months of the Civil War, following action at the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Mo., Major General John C. Frémont commended troops from Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri for their efforts and ordered the word "Springfield" to be emblazoned on their unit colors. The following year, the War Department authorized that all regiments were permitted to have the names of battles in which they had shown particular skill or bravery inscribed on their national colors.

*\*Sent by COL-R Nevin Williams*

22 JUN 68

Dear Mom, Dad & Mark,

Well it was another typical Saturday. It rained most of the day, as it is doing right now. We did no painting, no wiring. All I did was fill syringes with injections and change dressings. I also got to drive around in the jeep (in the rain). When it's dry out no one lets me drive (That is they attempt to stop me. I tell them I need the practice.)

You asked about the package. I've received 3 so far, but none with the large can of



"One more Nam photo today. Nelson Mead (now Eran Deran) and I were roommates at Valley Forge General Hospital. We studied together and both ended up in the top 5 of the class. He went to Golden Dragons (14th Infantry Regiment), I went to Bobcats (5th Infantry Regiment); our paths crossed in Nam once or twice. We then went to Fort Gordon together. After 51 years, we are still friends, along with the third member of the triumvirate Harry Lawrence who was with Big Red One. Also tagging Dwight Ricketts." *A Joe Lex (Left) Facebook post.*



# 2019 Reunion Charleston South Carolina

Tuesday September 3rd - Sunday September 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 26)*

## 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](mailto: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
<b>Registration fee</b> - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
<b>WED 4 SEP</b> - The Charleston City and Patriots Point Naval Museum Tour - \$69 per person		
<b>THU 5 SEP</b> - Fort Sumter Ferry Tour - \$69 per person		
<b>FRI 6 SEP</b> - Memorial Service at the Citadel - \$49 per person includes Lunch		
<b>SAT 7 SEP - Banquet Dinner Choices</b>		
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.)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO
Make check payable to <b>5th Infantry Association</b> and mail to: <b>Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477</b>		

(Charleston from page 25)  
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 27)



(Charleston from page 26)

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 Chapel**



Citadel above; Summerall Chapel below

**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**

## **SO Korean Presidential Unit Citation**

Aloha,

"I am currently researching Korean War Fallen Heroes and veterans for a educational projects sponsored by the American Battle Monuments Commission and National Cemetery Administration. In July I, along with 8 other teachers will be honoring the soldier through an eulogy at the service members gravesite at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. I will also be creating a webpage memorial and educational activity for the cemetery.

During this project I found myself drawn to the story of the 5th Regimental Combat Team as so many young men from Hawaii were part of the group. I along with several other soldiers I am researching:

Cpl. Thomas Friday Hema - 5th RCT, 2nd Battalion, Company G (KIA Sep 4, 1950) Cpl. Tomoyoshi Miyashiro - 5th RCT, 2nd Battalion, Company G (KIA Oct 2, 1950) Honoring twin buried at Punchbowl MSg. Norman L. Bannister - 5th RCT, 3rd Battalion, Company K (MIA Nov 28, 1950) My husbands family member

I am writing to you to share a document I found in the Tropic Lighting Museum at Schofield Barrack in Hawaii. I was surprised to find the original copy of the South Korea Presidential Citation in the file. FC.01B.5.11 titled "History: Background on 25th Infantry Division" by HG Eight U.S. Army 1952, June 6. It states "This citation carries with it the right to wear the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon by each member of the 5th Regimental Combat team who served in Korea during the stated period.

I have also spent multiple days at the National Archives reviewing the early days of the Korean War though the 5th RCT Unit History records.

Thank you for your time and I hope you can pass this document along to your group,

**Amy Boehning**

Mililani High School Teacher

Amy,

"I'm going to forward this on to our Association Historian Sam Kier. Thank you for sending it I will find the appropriate place to put on our website."

**Randy Kethcart**

"Mahalo, Amy. I didn't have a copy of the Syngman Rhee PUC. Your mention of M/SGT Bannister rang a bell and then I remembered reading about 3rd Battalion's terrible ordeal on the night of 28 Nov 50. You have listed Norman Bannister as MIA but I was under the impression that he died of a head wound on that night. There's a good description of the fight in Michael Slater's book, Hills of Sacrifice. I do have some copies of 5th RCT monthly Command Reports and Battalion Logs (1st Battalion only) if you need further information. They are not digital copies so I would have to sift through them to answer specific questions. Then again, they just log info about events and rarely mention the names of personnel. Whatever.

**Sam Kier**

5th Infantry Historian

---

### **PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION**

The president of the Republic of South Korea takes profound pleasure in citing

#### **5th Regimental Combat Team 5th Infantry Regiment**

For exceptionally meritorious service to the Republic of South Korea during the period 31 July 1950 to 27 July 1953.

The 5th RCT, demonstrated the highest degree of initiative in developing the defenses of the Masan area and later advanced successfully against the enemy as part of Task Force Dean.

The unit spearheaded the break-out of the Pusan perimeter, and followed this action with a punishing defeat of the enemy. Maintaining contact with the retreating enemy, the unit engaged in a spirited and effective pursuit.

Preparatory to offensive action, the 5th RCT conducted a successful retrograde movement and rear guard action under difficult circumstances. The unit counter attacked and seized positions, and consolidated them. The unit then launched a brilliant counter-attack against the Chinese Communists.

During the almost 3 years cited, the 5th RCT fought almost continuously, superlatively organized with a high sense of responsibility and standards of performance. Of special commendation was its ability to execute with brilliance the highly difficult sequence of tactical operations in the face of a numerically superior and ruthless enemy.

The valorous achievements of the RCT reflect honor on its heroic members. The service rendered is in keeping with the highest traditions of the US Army.

*\*This is a condensed and edited version of the citation. The actual citation contained many more words that heap praise on the 5th RCT.*

"The Sun-Times almost got the caption right. This is Gary Young, one of the medics during the Battle of Ben Cui." *From a*



C Company, First Battalion Mechanized of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, was ambushed in an area northwest of Saigon and pinned down by elements of a North Vietnamese regiment. While a medic treats a wounded man, another soldier dashes for a new position in the forest. (AP)

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

*Address Service Requested*

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oakland MD 21550  
Permit # 4  
Non-Profit Org.