



# The BOBCAT Bulletin

## 5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Summer 2017

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

Volume II

## Albuquerque Reunion

Horace Greeley newspaper editor in the 1860's, said "Go west, young man, go west" and for our 2017 reunion we did just that by going to Albuquerque New Mexico.

Albuquerque turned out to be a nice sized city that was easy to negotiate with plenty to see and do. And if you liked Mexican food there was plenty of that to choose. I think our only disappointment was that not as many of our members living in the west, as we had hoped, showed up. But still we had a decent number attend.



The location did not discourage some member from traveling long distances. Roger Sperl traveled from Fairbanks, Alaska and Theron & Susan Clough drove from Maine. Many members took advantage of being in the west and did a lot of sightseeing/vacationing in the western area both before and after the reunion. Maybe the only negative regarding this reunion was the weather

(See Reunion on page 2)

## HOLD THIS DATE - BOOK EARLY !!

## BOBCAT WINTER SOCIAL

FEB. 8, 2018 to FEB. 11, 2018

(RATES SAME FOR LONGER STAY)

INCLUDES : FREE PARKING & SHUTTLE TO AREA  
ATTRACTIONS

(Other Amenities Possible)

*New Location*

## Hollander Boutique Hotel St Petersburg

421 4TH AVE North, St. Petersburg, FL



The Hollander Hotel is located in the heart of Downtown St. Petersburg and is in walking distance of restaurants, shops and attractions. We are centrally located near the Salvador Dali Museum, The St. Petersburg Pier, Museum of Fine Arts, The Mahaffey Theatre, Tropicana Field and St. Petersburg Beach. Our new Hotel in downtown

(See Social on page 21)

## 2018 Reunion - Norfolk, Virginia

Tuesday May 15th - Sunday 20th 2018

The DoubleTree by Hilton  
\$99 Single / Double per night

(See Norfolk on page 14)



*"I'll Try Sir"*

The Fall 2017 Newsletter will be out SEP/OCT 2017 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

(Reunion from page 1)

was a little cooler than what was expected.

We had a nice hospitality room that seemed to be busy with a lot "stories". The hospitality room was always stocked with beer, wine, soda, water and



many snacks all provided by the Association. Surprisingly water seemed the most popular liquid drink - I guess we just don't drink alcohol like we use too.

### Wednesday

On Wednesday a tour of the International Balloon Museum and the Al Unser Racing Museum was offered and most



members who were in attendance participated. Both were interesting but I partic-



ularly enjoyed the balloon museum. Albuquerque is recognized as the hot-air balloon "capital" of the world.



In the picture at the bottom of the 1st column Ronnie Wright gets to compete in a simulated race.

After the museums we traveled to "Old Town" Albuquerque where we had time for lunch and shopping

### Thursday

On Thursday the tour was a ride on the Sandia Peak Tramway to the top of Sandia Peak at 10,378 feet. This was a



2.7 mile very scenic ride. It was cold at the peak with a dusting of snow on the ground.

After visiting the peak we had lunch at a very good Mexican restaurant.

One unique benefit the Elegante Hotel gave us were two free happy hour



Free drinks at the bar

drinks in their bar which was conveniently located next to our hospitality room. Come to think of it maybe this was one reason less than usual alcohol was consumed in our hospitality room.

### Friday

On Friday we were bused to the "New Mexico Veterans' Memorial", a beautiful site, where we held our annual memorial service.



In attendance were Peter Fernandez, brother of Daniel Fernandez, Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient, and his wife Priscilla (Pictured below left).

President Tom Frame (Picture page 3) started the service with a welcome and the posting of colors by a very



unique honor guard from Kirkland AFB made up of three US Air Force NCO airmen, an Army NCO and an Army major. As (MG-R) Andy Anderson commented this is the 1st time he has ever seen a major carrying the American flag & leading a color guard.

An invocation was given by our chaplain John Snodgrass. Next Historian Sam Kier and 'Honorary Colonel of the Regiment' Andy An-



derson read the names of Bobcats who died since the last reunion and Bobcats who were killed in action from the state of New Mexico.

The memorial service was concluded by a bugler's playing of Taps and a benediction.

After the memorial service was over we had time to explore the grounds of the New Mexico Veterans Memorial and to visit their museum. The grounds



(See Reunion on page 3)



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I hope everyone had a wonderful time at our Bobcat reunion in Albuquerque N.M. and had safe travels home. Days spent with our brother Bobcats and their wives was special for me. To renew old friendships and make new ones, and visit a beautiful part our country.

For Chris and I it started with a trip to visit an old friend, Nick Fasselin and Barbara Todd. We traveled from Salt Lake City to Albuquerque N.M. stopping along the way to see the wonders of the southwest. And the ride didn't let us down. I continue to be at a loss for words when someone asked how our trip went, and what we saw.

Then on to Sedona Az. to visit with family, and when you didn't think it could get any more beautiful, it did. How lucky are we to live in the greatest country on earth.

Chris and I would like to extend best wishes to all the Bobcats and there families for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Peace to all,

**Tom Frame**

President  
5th Infantry Regiment Association

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

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

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

(Reunion from page 2)

had many interesting thought provoking monuments, plaques and memorials. What I read on one such plaque made me angry. It said, "Robert McNamara in his 1995 book, *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam* revealed to the degree to which he consciously sabotaged President Johnson's orders to win the war.

In the museum they had a display



honoring Daniel Fernandez.

It was also in the museum where we had a very nice catered buffet lunch.

### Saturday

On Saturday morning we had our membership meeting at 9 AM while at the same time the ladies had breakfast



that was free.

At 10:30 we surprised Abe Cardenas by Fragging him. Abe received



many unique and funny gifts.

(See Reunion on page 4)

## 5th Infantry Association

President - *Tom Frame*  
Vice President - *George Chavez*  
Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*  
Secretary & Membership - *Paul Robinson*  
Historian - *Sam Kier*  
Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*  
Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*  
Past Presidents - *Robert (Bob) Wood and Bart Stanzione*

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

*Jon Blickenstaff Andy Gimma*  
*John Snodgrass George Bates*  
*Jon Cartwright*

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 17** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 17. Please renew now!

## Reunions

Florida Winter Social ..... 8 - 11 FEB 2018  
Norfolk VA ..... 15 - 20 May 2018  
25th IDA Providence RI ... 6 - 15 OCT 2018

## 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), Bob Wood (COL-R), Bart Stanzione*

### 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*

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

## ROSTER

### The Denis McDonough MORNING REPORT

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

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

*paulandjulier@gmail.com or*

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

#### E-mail Changes & Additions:

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

**Overcash, Wayne** - Update  
604 Breckenridge RD  
Kannapolis NC 28083  
704-773-1947  
B Co. Artillery FO 11/68-4/69  
**Waycash@aol.com**

**Fyle, Timothy** - Change  
**tfyle@mediacombb.net**

#### Lost Members:

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

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

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

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

**Stankevitz, Patrick** - Address does not work & post office is "unable to forward". If anyone knows his new address please advise.

#### Roster Changes/Corrections:

**Levy, Dr. Harold** - Address change  
735 Renaissance DR APT 224  
Buffalo NY 14221-8042

**Tringali, Teriann** - Address change  
2 Mountainview Terrace  
Danbury, CT 06810

**Leota, Frank** - Address change  
103 Winter Sunrise DR  
an Antonio TX 78244-3270

**Coleman, Edward** - Address change  
3278 Jefferson DR

Fairbanks AK 99709-5036

**Shipman, Donald R.** - Address change  
6033 Melody Lane APT 446 (Only the APT number changed.)

**Zwach, Ken** - Address change  
5153 Stoney Bridge Court  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

\*Co. B Crip Nov 69, March 70, Co. Clerk March to October 70

**Wright, Ronnie** - Address correction  
1209 E Brown LN  
Deer Park TX 77536

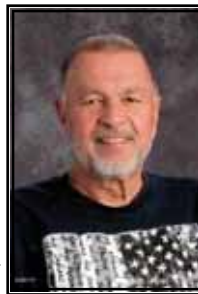
#### New Members:

**Molter, Robert W.**  
728 Blackfriars Loop  
Cary NC 27519  
703-599-6801  
1/5Mech 8/70-2/71

**robertwmolter@gmail.com**

#### Taps:

**Pagan, Christopher** -  
As reported by Ronnie Wright died on 19 JAN 17 →



(Reunion from page 3)

#### **Bobcat Banquet**

Saturday evening's Bobcat Banquet started with a social hour at 5 PM. And at 6 PM with the sound of the bugle "Mess Call" and "Attention" we sat down and started the banquet.

The colors were posted by the same Army/Air Force Color Guard that was with us for the Memorial Service. Chaplain John Snodgrass gave an "Invocation" followed by Paul Robinson conducting "The Missing Man" ceremony.



ny.

Toasts were offered to the country, Commander in Chief, others and the ladies.

President Frame also recognized the Horary Colonel of the Regiment, Distinguished and Honorary members of the Regiment and Bobcats of the Year. He also recognized members of the Fernandez family. Peter (brother of Daniel) and Priscilla Fernandez and their son Michael Fernandez and his wife Kim.



Carolyn Deverse also led us in the singing of God Bless America and the Army Song.

#### **Bobcat of the Year**

After dinner we started with naming Carolyn and Randy Kethcart as joint recipients of the "Bobcat of the Year".



What a great choice this was naming two who do so much for our Association. Randy has created maybe the best Veteran's website and with Carolyn leading the way the two have put together some of our best reunions.

Retired Major General and our "Honorary Colonel of the Regiment" Andy Anderson made remarks talking especially about recently deceased retired Command Sargent Major Ray Barrett

(Ray was our Honorary Command Sargent Major) saying what an outstanding CSM he was and how much he depended on him.



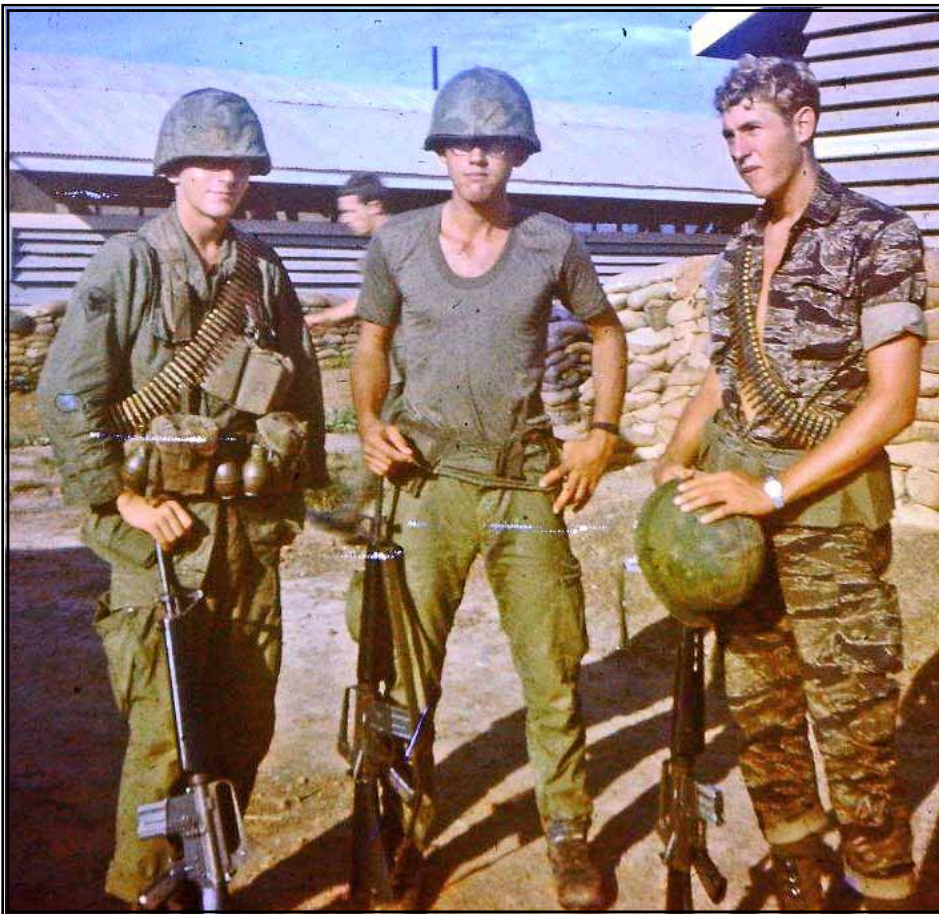
(See Reunion on page 7)



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

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

### Two Pictures From Roger Hayes' Facebook Page



Waiting for dark to embark on an Ambush patrol with Tom Kirkham and Ted (Chad) Chadwick

*I was not sure who was who in the above photo so I wrote Roger and below is his response.*



Roger with Leroy Thomas (I think) and Jim Bell. Bell is wearing his t-shirt backwards. Not sure why.

Hi Fred,

"It's me on the left (never went anywhere without lots of ammo), Tom (Kirk) Kirkham, and Ted (Chad) Chadwick.

Kirkham (that's his correct surname, but I'm not 100% positive of his first) was on his second tour in Vietnam. When he arrived they said that since this is his second tour, they'd let him choose which division he'd go to. "Well, I was with the 25th the first time, so I'll go back to them." When he arrived in Cu Chi, he was offered his

choice of battalions, and since his first tour was with the 1/5 (Mech) he chose them. That was repeated down through company, platoon, and squad. So he served two tours in the 3rd squad of the 2d platoon of Charlie Company, 1/5 (Mech), 25th Infantry Division. Probably a record.

We were in Tay Ninh waiting for darkness to embark on a platoon ambush. Summer of 68.

Chadwick is wearing ill-fitting tiger-striped fatigues he bought locally."

**Roger Hayes**

### Chavez Retires After 23+ Years

"Fred this picture is of my youngest son, Robert S. Chavez, upon his retirement from the US Army after 23 plus



years. His retirement is effective as of 31 March 2017. He was surrounded by



part of his family. Robert was also present at my daughter's commissioning to 2nd Lieutenant."

**George Chavez**

*(See Comments on page 6)*

## Treasurer's Report

1st Quarter Financial Report  
(1 January- 31 March 2017)

### January 2017:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$415.00
Quartermaster Sales	\$55.00
Donations	\$575.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1045.00</b>

#### Debits:

Postage	\$18.80
Deposit for reunion tours	\$250.00
Bank Service Charge	\$4.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$272.80</b>

### February 2017:

#### Income:

Pay Pal Internet Sales	\$3282.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3282.72</b>

#### Debits:

Bank Service Charge	\$4.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>

### March 2017:

#### Income:

Membership Dues	\$180.00
Quartermaster Sales	\$13.00
PayPal Internet Sales	2147.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2340.38</b>

#### Debits:

Quartermaster Purchases	\$444.00
Check: From checking account to savings account	\$8000.00
Bank Service Charge	\$4.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8448.00</b>

#### Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$11670.80
Business Savings Account	\$56745.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68416.62</b>

Jim Caudle,

Treasurer/Quartermaster

## Donations to the Association

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

Jenny Diaz - Hospitality Room	\$50
Roger Sperl - Hospitality Room	\$50
Jeff Bernson -Hospitality Room	\$50
Shirley Curran - Hospitality	\$100
Lark Kerlee - In memory of SGT Kelly Grant KIA 4 May 68 (3rd Platoon C Company)	\$100
Jon Cartwright - Donated can-	\$280
Lynn Pruitt - Hospitality Room	\$25
Jerry Mahaffey - NM Reunion	\$25
Ric Myers - NM Reunion	\$100
John Shorkey - NM Reunion	\$100
Bill Correia - NM Reunion	\$215
Ken Smith - NM Reunion	\$30
Bob/Barb Wood - NM Reunion	\$95
The Cartwrights - NM Reunion	\$280
Carl Gilbert - At the auction	\$140
Gary Young - At the auction	\$45
<i>Your name could be here!</i>	\$\$\$

## NM Reunion Pictures



(Comments from page 5)

Ed & Beth Kawczynski



Are looking good in a recent Facebook posting

## Lives Saved - Who Saved Them

"12-3-68- I believe it was Hoc- Mon or Gou-Da-Ha, general area, heavy fighting well armed NVA - & allied forces, as we were advancing I found myself in an area of sandy ground that was peppered with unexploded 40 mm helicopter rounds, SSgt Lang just happened to glance to the left flank & told me to stay in place, he was going to walk me out of that area. He sure did. He notified our CO for the day. I kept telling SSgt Lang thank you for saving my life. One day I mentioned thank you and he said, I did not save your life, the Lord did. You need to thank the Lord which I already do every day & night. SSgt Lang, I thank you until we meet again."



"We were in the general area of Kotum & the French Fort. One of our tanks activated a huge mine. A piece of track went airborne. James and I were close by the airborne piece of track heading toward us. James got mesmerized looking at it. I kept yelling at him but he did not answer. The noise/friction of the flying track was unbearable. I had to jump & knock James down & drag him away. The flying piece of track missed us by a few inches. It took a few seconds for James to recuperate. He kept telling me "Cardenas you saved my life" over & over. I kept saying, I did not save your life, the Lord saved your life. I was close to SSgt Denis Lee a few years



back. SSgt Denis Lee sent me James' address. I sent him a letter few days later. He wrote me back thanking me for saving his life. The next time I wrote, in big letters I said, "I did not save your life, the Lord saved your life". James passed away a few years back. R I P my brother James Cahee. We had Armor personnel casualties that day."

*Abe Cardenas*

## MG-R Andy Anderson



**As a LTC in Vietnam 1968**

*Picture submitted by Sam Kier*

## Andy Gimma Celebrated 5 Years of Friendship With Harry VanRiper On Facebook



*Andy posted a picture of Harry from 1968*

*(Reunion from page 4)*

We ended the formal part of the Banquet the retiring of the colors and



with a 15 minutes break.

After the break we pulled the ticket for the beautiful quilt that was made by



Don Fuller winner of the quilt raffle in the middle and Susan Kiehm on the right

Susan Kiehm & her quilting club. This quilt was obviously admired by many since its raffle made \$770.00.

Next came the part of the evening where our "pick your pocket" auctioneer, Bart Stanzone, squeezes your remaining money out of you with our auction. Bart



was assisted with robbing us by Patty Stanzone, Carolyn Kethcart and Carolyn Deverse.

We want to thank both those who brought and donated some interesting, valuable and odd things for the auction. And we also want to thank those

who parted with their money by buying items in the auction.

Like the raffle the auction was very successful making \$2365.00 which will help pay for reunion expenses.

Other incomes generated at the reunion were money collected by passing the hat at the Saturday's Membership Meeting and donations from generous members. Money collected by passing the hat that is used to fund our \$1500 donation to the 25th Infantry division Association's scholarship fund collected \$715. Many members were generous by donating \$1220 to help with reunion costs. Those who donated are listed on page 6. Some who donated did not even attend the reunion.

## Thanks Again

And we have to give a very big thanks to Carolyn and Randy Kethcart who together put together another well planned and executed reunion. Having organized many reunions myself I know how much work it takes to put together a great reunion and I believe no one could have done a better job. Thank you millions, Carolyn and Randy!!!

## Honorary Command Sargent Major

Since our 1st Honorary Command Sargent Major (HCSMOR) Ray Barrett died we needed to appoint a new one. George Chavez was unanimously chosen by the Board of Directors to be nominated to be our 5th Infantry Regiment's "Honorary Command Sargent Major". The 1/5th Infantry at FT Wainwright approved the nomination and the De-



*(See Reunion on page 17)*

## To My Brothers

*Written by an Army friend. You will understand.*

May the New Year give you all you need  
Look to Him, but do not plead  
For though our health slowly wanes  
We should give thanks for all our gains

We made through those long, dark nights  
When whistling rockets gave us fright  
Flares, green tracers were quite the sight  
Now, this Eve they give delight

Some stayed in and some got out  
No one helped us thru the drought  
We did not know what was the matter  
In those old days there was no chatter

In our hearts we grieved for Brothers  
Lost to children, wives and mothers  
No one knew the load we bore  
It often ate us to the core

We went to work oft in a daze  
To wend our way the daily maze  
How we made it, I do not know  
Twas for self, not for show

Now we're in our latter years  
We've looked to G-D and faced our fears  
To cry and laugh, a daily thing  
Each New Year's Eve, we pray for Spring

I hope and pray for each new day  
For someone just to hear me say  
To all my Brothers, Red, White and Blue  
May this New Year be the best for you!

GOD Bless, from a Brother from another  
Mother!

*\* Sent by Paul Robinson 2 JAN2016*

## Ex-Spouses Have No Claim to VA Disability Comp

"The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that state courts cannot order military retirees to divide their disability pay with ex-spouses to compensate for a drop in shared retirement triggered by the disability compensation award. The landmark 8-0 decision May 15 in Howell v Howell could impact contested military divorce settlements nationwide, although lawyers caution that family courts generally are reluctant to reopen settled divorce agreements."

*\*Military.com | Week of June 05, 2017*

## My Hero

"This article was inspired by the photo of SSG James Cahee (*that was on page 6 of the Spring 2017 newsletter*), 1st platoon squad leader, Charlie Co., 1st BN 5th Mech.

I arrived in country 18 NOV 67 and was assigned to Charlie Co.'s 1st Platoon. After orientation, company stand down and Thanksgiving dinner I was choppered out to join the company. The next week or so was pretty uneventful until 16 DEC 67. We had been providing security for combat engineers. This was our second day in a perimeter defensive position with the engineers and a company of tankers. We did a sweep of the area in the A.M. and returned back inside the wire to set up guard rotation. I drew first guard and climbed up on track 13 to sit behind the 50 cal in the T.C.'s hatch. Charlie must have followed us back. Once seated in the T.C.'s hatch our track was hit with an RPG round which struck the rear quarter panel. The gas tank was struck and exploded, engulfing the track and myself in flames. I jumped from the track in flames and did the stop, drop and roll maneuver learned in grade school. During this time the ground around me was being peppered with small arms fire. Then my guardian angel appeared in the form of SSG Cahee. SSG Cahee drug me out of the line of fire without regard for his own safety. I was medevac'd and spent the next 6 months on the burn ward at Brook Army Medical Center at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio TX.

Fast forward through the next 46 years when Denis Lee and Denis McDonough found me. During all that time I didn't know who my guardian angel was. While talking to Denis Lee one day I mentioned that all I recalled of that day was a tall skinny black guy dragging me to safety. Well Denis figured out that it had to be Cahee. Sadly SSG Cahee has since passed away. I was able to talk with SSG Cahee's brother which was very rewarding. So as you can see my hero does not wear a cape. He wore dog tags. Rest in peace SSG Cahee. And thanks for running his photo."

**Bob Drake**

C Company 1/5  
NOV 18 – DEC 16, 1967

*\*I hope that SGT Cahee received an award for his actions on 16 DEC 67.*

*Fred Deverse*

## Veterans can register now for chance at early access to online military exchange shopping

All honorably discharged veterans interested in shopping online at the military exchanges can begin their verification process immediately, exchange officials said, and some may be able to shop prior to the program's full launch.

Some veterans who register at [VetVerify.org](http://VetVerify.org) will be invited to be beta testers, with the ability to shop online earlier than the planned Nov. 11 launch date. Officials said the sooner veterans register on the site, the better their chances of being chosen as a beta tester.

The exchange websites offer tax-free shopping, as well as discounted pricing. Actual online pricing can be seen only by those who are authorized to shop at the websites:

[shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com)  
[shopcgx.com](http://shopcgx.com); [mymcx.com](http://mymcx.com)  
[mynavyexchange.com](http://mynavyexchange.com)

*\*From Military Times.com Website - 6/5/17*

## NM Reunion Pictures



Board Meeting





# Cpt. Fr. Robert Falabella, Catholic Chaplain—a follow-up story

(see *Spring Bobcat Bulletin*, Fr. Robert Falabella / Jim Marschewski page 21)

The Article on page 21 describes the details of Catholic Chaplain Fr. Robert Falabella's heroic deeds for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

Fr. Robert was a 25th Infantry Division chaplain in Vietnam, 1967-68, as-



Fr. Falabella saying Mass in an F.S.B.

signed to the Bobcats and both Wolfhound battalions. Three years after he left Vietnam he published a book, 'Vietnam Memoirs, A Passage to Sor-row, about his Vietnam tour in the Infantry in which he expounds on his experiences as a combat chaplain and candidly expresses his personal reflections in a way that every soldier who served in



Fr. Falabella and Cpt. John Theologos, with nuns at an orphanage

combat can relate. He mentions several Bobcats by name that he served with including Cpt. John Theologos, CO Charlie Co., Lt Mickey Miller, XO Charlie Co., John Snodgrass, CO Charlie C., and a medic called "Tiny".

He went on ambush patrols, carried an M-16 rifle, which he used in a few firefights when necessary to save the lives of soldiers, explored a tunnel (because he was the only one who fit), and slept in the mud along with the other infantrymen. He spent the majority of his time during this assignment to these units in the field with them, which necessitated finding novel ways of trans-

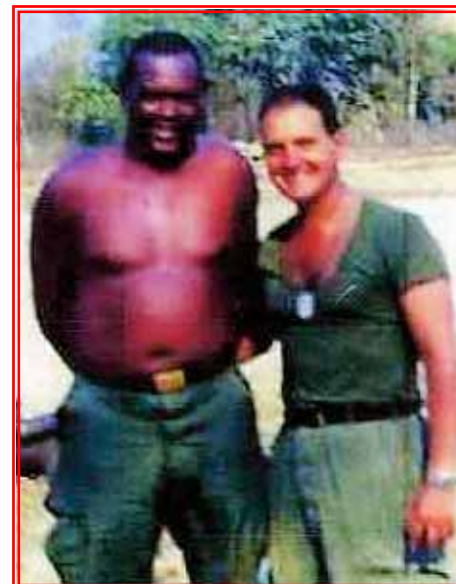
portation, and hitchhiking, to get out to them. Wherever the combat soldiers were that is where he felt a need to be.



Fr. Falabella with his M-16 in front of his 5th Mech hootch (flattened during Tet '68)

To those of us who were fortunate enough to get to know him more personally his many acts of heroism, including the one described in the article by Lt. Jim Marschewski, came as no surprise.

We also got to know his personal side. He was quite a delightful person who was always smiling. His gentle and pleasant demeanor made him easily approachable to everybody.

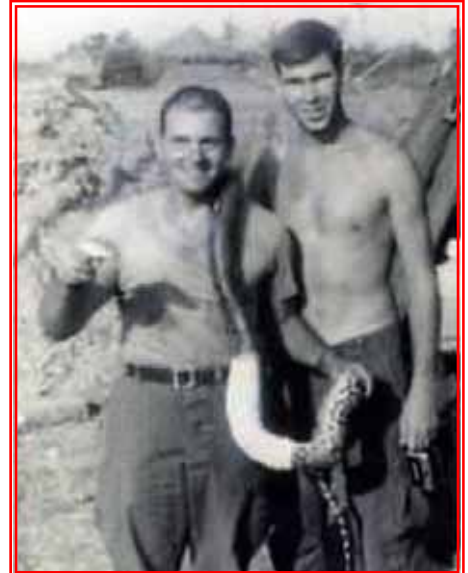


Fr. Falabella with Mortar Plt. Sgt.

He was a very compassionate listen-

er and soldiers of all religious denominations were comfortable chatting with him, or seeking his counsel--and not only when there was bad news from back home, or to hash out the pressures of being in a combat zone.

He had a grand sense of humor (see photo with snake), and enjoyed light



Fr. Falabella and Ric Myers in an F.S.B., with wounded python snake

hearted conversations with everyone which made him a very popular chaplain. It was, however, his strong belief in God, and his deep innate spirituality, that was his primary source of inspiration to those who met him.

There have been many accounts of heroic combat chaplains, and Fr. Robert Falabella certainly ranks among the best of them, as Judge Jim Marschewski has attested. Fr. Falabella was truly a combat soldier's chaplain.

Fr. Falabella is retired from his administrative duties in the Church, but he still actively performs Religious services, visits the sick, etc. He would enjoy hearing from anybody who remembers him in Vietnam, or who would just like to chat and reminisce with him.

His address is:

Fr. Robert Falabella  
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church  
2252 Woodruff Road  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
(864) 288-4884 or (864) 607-4103

**Ric Myers**  
Recon Medic  
6/67-12/68

## Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

### What Was The Name Of Your Company?

Sam,

"Quick question for you that came up today, hopefully you'll be able to shed some light. We had COL-R Bucky Howle visit us today. During his time with the Bobcats he was the Company Commander for B Co. He tells us that at the time (1983-84) they were known as "Bad Company" (and made a lot of use with the song!). Today B Co goes by the "Berserker" moniker. The incoming B Co Commander here brought up the question of what B Co went by prior to "Bad Company" and I was wondering if you had any idea."

All the best,

**Christopher Barber**

1LT, IN

BN Historian/AS5

[christopher.c.barber4.mil@mail.mil](mailto:christopher.c.barber4.mil@mail.mil)

Chris,

"The official documents that I have for the late 70's and the 80's continue to list Companies A, B, and C as Alpha, Bravo and Charlie along with HHC and a Combat Support Company. That doesn't mean that there weren't other company nicknames used by the soldiers but I have no record of them. I've kept a number of e-mails that I received from men who served in the 70's and 80's at Schofield Barracks and they refer to their former companies by either the standard alphabetic designation, A,B,C or the army alphabet, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie. In the mid-'80's, Charlie Company called its pet labrador "Charlie" so I'm sure that Company C was sticking to the traditional nomenclature. In my 1950's Army we still used the WWII designation "Baker Company."

I'm copying this to Tom Person, who served as battalion S-4 in the 80's. Maybe he remembers a designation other than Bravo Company."

**Sam**

*If your company had a unique name contact LT Barber at the above E-mail address and let him know.*

"Sam is correct in that all the com-

panies went by their Alpha, Bravo etc. However; I think the Berserker and Bad Company were and are nick names. Charlie was known at one time as Cold Steel.

So everyone is correct. When I was the exec for CO B it was Bravo Co but we called ourselves Bad CO. Just nick names. The OFFICIAL designations were as Sam said. Bravo CO, Charlie Co, Combat Service or CSC. Headquarters.

I do remember answering the phone...."CO B 5th Infantry sir/ma'am!"

It was the BEST unit I ever served in including the Ranger Regiment."

**Tom Person**

"I'll Try Sir!"

### Was the 101st with the 5th RCT?

Hi Fred,

"I just got on your mailing list. My dad was in the Korean War part of the 5th RCT on his DD214. He thought he was part of the 101st for some reason, but the 101st Airborne Division never deployed to Korea. Was there a 101st unit with the 5th RCT or was the 5th RCT Airborne qualified? My dad has been gone for ten years and I can't ask him these questions but would like to ask someone else who knows."

**LTC James Marques**

US Army Reserve

"I can't answer your question but I'm including Dr. Sam Kier our historian in this reply. He can probably shed some light on what you are asking."

**Fred**

James,

"During the Korean War, the 5th RCT was passed around from one division to another. During the three years of combat, it was attached to the following: 25th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 24th Infantry Division, 40th Infantry Division, 45th Infantry Division, 3rd Infantry Division and at times to higher echelons like IX US Corps and 8th Army. When it rotated home in 1954, it was part of the 71st Infantry Division. You can imagine the confusion in the ranks. Who do we belong to today? Of course, there were a number of airborne qualified men in the 5th

RCT but the only airborne outfit in Korea was the 187th Airborne RCT. They made one jump.

Your dad's DD214 should indicate when he was in Korea. If I knew that I could tell you the combat team's parent organization at the time.

Incidentally, from 1968 until 1987, a 3rd Battalion of the 5th Infantry in Panama was part of the 82nd Airborne Division. Company A was an airborne unit and B and C were traditional straight-leg rifle companies.

So let me know when your dad was in the Far East and I can probably tell you the 5th RCT's parent division."

**Sam Kier**

Hi Dr. Kier,

"My dad's DD214 reads as having two years in the Army from July 1950 to July 1952. I don't see anything that states when he was in Korea. Should it tell me somewhere specifically? It only indicates that he was with the 5th RCT. FYI- his buddy was blown up as a result of stepping on a mine and my dad injured as a result. He was in a military hospital in Japan for a year."

**LTC James Marques**

"On the DD214, what is entered in sections #28 "Most Significant Duty Assignment" and #29 "Wounds received. . ." (#29 asks for place and date) Does it give his assigned company with the 5th RCT? If I had that information, I could probably tell you what was going on around him at the time. Send me a scan of the DD214 if you'd like."

**Sam Kier**

"Thanks sir. I will get you my dad's DD214. In the mean time, the city did a ceremony for my dad this past weekend along with other vets. Here is a link to those events. By the way, I'm still in the Army Reserve today.

<https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleVeterans/>

How was your reunion in Albuquerque?

LTC James Marques

Well, thank you, Colonel. Great photos! Hometown Memorial Day events are the same all over the country. I love 'em.

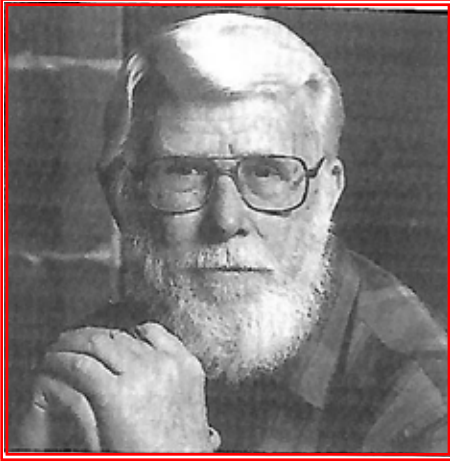
(See Sam on page 16)



## OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

Dr. Edward J. Zebrowski died at home in Plainville, Connecticut, on April 22, 2017. Zebrowski, a 91-year-old veteran of World War II, was a former member of our 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association. He served with Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, HHC, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in 1944-46.



SGT Edward Zebrowski, M.D.

In a previous article in this “Bobcat Forebears” series, I described an audacious move, conceived and led by regimental commander Sidney Wooten, to occupy Steyr, Austria and preserve the bridges across the Enns River without firing a shot. Ed Zebrowski described that situation in his 1994 memoir, *My Brother, Hail and Farewell*.

On May 5, 1945, three days before Germany surrendered, COL Wooten, his S-2, MAJ Walter Reese, CPL Zebrowski’s twenty-man I&R Platoon, and two war correspondents climbed into ten jeeps and set off, through the German lines, for Steyr. Machine guns had been removed from the vehicles and personal weapons were stowed under tarps on the floors. As the little convoy slowly traversed the 50 kilometers from Lambach to Steyr, the Americans yelled *krieg kaputt*, the war is over, to puzzled German soldiers and civilians.

When they reached the village of Bad Hall, one of the correspondents approached an SS trooper and said, “Krieg kaputt, pistole” and stretched out his hand to receive the German’s Luger. The SS trooper pulled out his pistol, pointed it at the man’s chest and fired three times, fatally wounding him. “Doc” Neuman, the platoon medic, stayed with the dying reporter until the regiment’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion arrived in Bad

Hall.

After a 30-minute stop in Steyr, COL Wooten decided that he would like to check things out north of the city. When they reached an intersection about four kilometers away, they came under artillery and machine gun fire, killing the driver of the lead jeep. Sidney Wooten returned to Steyr to bring up 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion while I&R Platoon remained pinned down in a concrete pigpen, their weapons remaining beneath the tarps in the jeeps.

According to Zebrowski, a young German soldier, appearing to be about 16-years-old and carrying a white flag, suddenly appeared in the doorway and said, in flawless English, “My commanding officer demands your immediate surrender.” In response, an American officer pulled his .45 and shot the young man between the eyes.

I&R Platoon had been pinned down

*flanked and destroyed the enemy pocket of resistance.”*

Zebrowski’s tale of May 5, 1944 presents a little different perspective than the above citation issued by 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Headquarters. He was sickened by the death of the naïve correspondent, who had obviously been brought along to chronicle the event. He felt that his jeep driver friend would have survived the war if the colonel had been content with staying in Steyr until 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion had arrived and he had been shocked by the murder of the young German soldier. He basically felt that Colonel Wooten and Major Reese realized that they were about to run out of war and wanted to “play soldiers one more time.”

Ed Zebrowski was discharged from the U.S Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey on June 6, 1946 and entered Dartmouth college that fall. Nine years later, after completing his M.D degree at the Uni-



5th Infantry entering Steyr Austria May 1945 (NARA)

for about four hours when 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion finally arrived and employed tanks and mortars to wipe out the German positions. Three days later, the war was officially over.

COL Wooten received the Distinguished Service Cross for his daring capture of Steyr, Austria. The citation includes the statement “*When fired upon by hostile 88-mm. guns near his objective, this gallant officer skillfully deployed his meager force to contain the enemy. He then courageously retraced the hazardous route to the rear, located his leading battalion and personally led them to a position from which they out-*

versity of Rochester and his internship in San Francisco, Ed and his wife Elizabeth settled in Plainville, Connecticut, where he opened his general medical practice and began raising a family.

Ed retired from medicine in 1991 in order to devote more time to his second love; writing. He authored four books. He also worked passionately to establish a local branch of the Combat Infantryman’s Association and attended several of their national conventions. For several years, he belonged to both the 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Association and the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association.

*\*Andy Gimma alerted us to his death*

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



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

"This spring, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment embarked on a month long training event on the Korean Peninsula called Operation Arctic Tiger. This was certainly not the first time the Bobcats have made the journey across the Pacific. Rather, it is continuing the legacy of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, a unit who, as the 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, was involved in all phases of the Korean War, earning ten distinct campaign streamers. While this foray into the Korean Theater was more peaceful than that of 1950, many aspects remain the same.

The Bobcats continue to demonstrate a readiness and capability for rapid response. The 5<sup>th</sup> RCT had been the first unit outside of Japan to reinforce the Peninsula while the Bobcats today have proven we are ready to deploy to the area just as quickly. Through incredible hard work and determination, the staff and Soldiers of the Bobcat Battalion planned and executed a rapid deployment to the Korean Peninsula. The Battalion arrived prepared for more than just a month of difficult training in a new environment. We stood ready to deter hostile actions from an aggressive adversary to the north.

The Bobcats also stand ready to fight and win tonight, a phrase that epitomizes the US Army's mission on the Korean Peninsula as much today as it did over six decades ago. Through tough and realistic training during Operation Arctic Tiger, the Bobcat Battalion has shown a lethality and proficiency that keeps us at the forefront of this mission. Our training consisted of numerous blank and live fire exercises, each of which tested the skill and determination of our Soldiers. Training highlights included the incorporation of indirect fires, air support assets, and, most uniquely, joint-training with the Republic of Korea Army.

Finally, through extensive work with our South Korean allies, the Bobcats have worked to keep the partnership between our two armies as strong today as it was when we fought shoulder to shoulder at the Pusan Perimeter, the Punchbowl, and the Iron Triangle. This work, quite plainly, would not have been possible if the Bobcat Battalion had not had the incredible opportunity to train on the Peninsula.

The lessons learned, partnerships fostered, and intense training conducted in Korea during Operation Arctic Tiger has made the Bobcats the best equipped and most prepared unit in the Pacific Theater. Our proven readiness, improved lethality, and experience conducting joint operations ensures that we stand prepared and committed to continue the Bobcat legacy of two hundred years of valor."

Christopher Barber  
1LT, IN  
BN Historian/AS5



LTC R. Blake Lackey



CSM Ronald D. Corella

## 5th Infantry In Korea

*Article Published in the 2nd Infantry Division's "INDIANHEAD"*

"The First Battalion, Fifth Infantry Regiment from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, arrived last month on the Korean Peninsula for the first time in over twenty years. The Bobcats, as the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry is called, has had a long legacy of working and fighting in Korea; as recently as 1992 the Bobcats fell under the Second Infantry Division, deterring a hostile North Korea and interweaving the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's two hundred years of valor with 2ID's century of being second to none.

As the Army's third oldest unit, dating back to 1808, legacy is important to the Bobcats. Following that legacy is a key component of Operation Arctic Tiger, our training event on the Peninsula. The Bobcat relationship with Korea goes back to 1950, when an aggressive North Korea pushed South Korean and American forces to the Pusan Perimeter. The 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team (5<sup>th</sup> RCT) was the first American unit outside of Japan to reinforce the line, demonstrating proficiency for providing a rapid response; this proficiency remains the Bobcat standard today, proven by our successful move to Korea. A rapid response to North Korean aggression is well within the Bobcat capability.

Because of their rapid response, the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was engaged in each major campaign of the Korean War. The Bobcat Legacy does not end with a rapid response or being ready to merely fight tonight. Rather the Bobcats have the drive, determination, and capability to see the mission through to its conclusion. In the final months of the war, the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT found itself once again on the front lines of the fight. Having previously been positioned in the east fighting at the Punch Bowl, the Bobcats, by sum-

"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

*Colin Powell*



mer of 1953, had been moved to help defend allied lines at the Iron Triangle. Key to this defense was a hilltop known as OP Harry.

OP Harry is located 60 miles north



Republic of Korea's 6th Infantry Division presents the Bobcat Battalion with barbed wire taken from the 5th Regimental Combat Team's defense of OP Harry in 1953.

of Seoul. With a height of 1,280 feet, it was considered by both the United Nations and the Chinese to be a piece of key terrain. At the time, that portion of the line was held by the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. In June, the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was attached to the 15<sup>th</sup> and began to support the defense. Given the terrain, one Company per day was tasked with defending the hilltop. Nearby, on Star Hill, the Chinese were mobilizing for a major offensive. Over two reinforced Chinese regiments had been spotted preparing to push against a single company. The defense was a perilous mission. The defenders were ordered to "hold at all costs."

The first company of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT to see action at Harry was Baker Company.



1LT Barber, 1-5 IN Battalion Historian, instructs the Bobcats on the history of the battle at OP Harry.

A Company of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry had originally been charged with holding OP Harry. Baker was nearby on Hill 361. On 11 June, 1953, around 2300 hours, the Chinese attacked. Baker was forced

to quickly maneuver to reinforce, and, despite being outnumbered 10-to-1, the combined forces of both Companies managed to hold the hill. The next morning, Able Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT was sent to replace the battered Baker.

When the Soldiers arrived, it was widely reported that the trenches were filled with debris, barbed wire, and, most striking, dead Chinese Soldiers. The trenches had to be cleared by hand before being usable again, and many of the fortifications had to be rebuilt. The Soldiers of Able Company worked all day and by the time the Chinese launched their second offensive, the defenders were ready. Facing them on the night of 13 June was an entire regiment of Chinese.

Within an hour of the battle commencing, the Chinese had overrun the right flank. The Company Commander, 1LT James Evans, called in artillery fire on his own position. The smoke and debris became so thick that neither side



Soldiers of the RoK 6th Infantry Division briefed Bobcat leadership on the terrain of OP Harry and the DMZ.

could clearly see. The Chinese continued to push, resulting in ferocious hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches. Finally, at 0420 hours, the Chinese began to withdraw. By daybreak, five waves of attacks had been beaten back. Able received a Distinguished Unit Citation for their actions at OP Harry. The award came at a price however; they had suffered an 80% casualty rate.

A special thanks to LTC Lackey and 1LT Christopher Barber for the articles and pictures!

Charlie Company relieved Able, but the Chinese never again attacked in such large numbers. The hill of OP Harry is today within the DMZ and the demarcation line runs along the crest. It stands as a memory of the bravery and courage of the defenders in the summer of 1953.

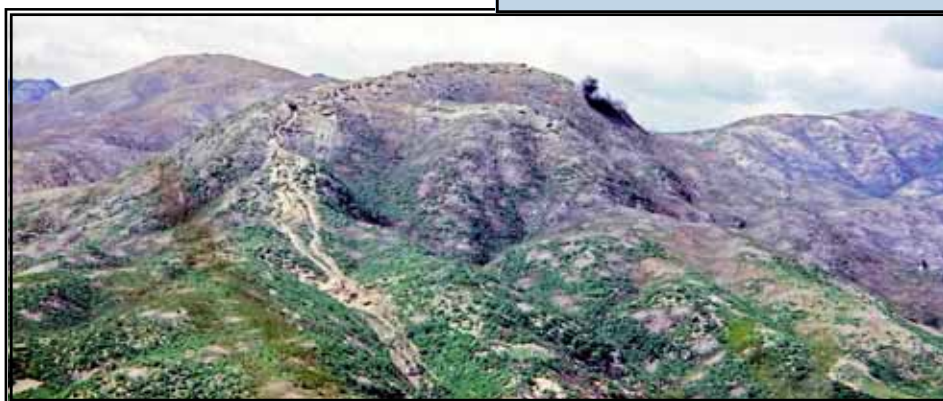
Today the Bobcats, back in Korea again, have returned to OP Harry after nearly sixty years. Given the location of the hill on the demarcation line, it was necessary for the Bobcats to view Harry from the observation tower at nearby OP Cheongsong. Formerly called "Blue Star Hill", Cheongsong is currently occupied by the ROKA 6<sup>th</sup> Division. Historically, it was this Division that fought alongside the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT during the defense of the Iron Triangle.

The Observation Post has been open to tourists for several years, including a group from the OP Harry Survivor's Association. The Bobcats, however, became the first uniformed American military personnel to see OP Harry from Cheongsong since the post was available. This coordination highlights the importance to the Bobcat Battalion of fostering relationships with our allies, a key part of the Bobcat legacy.

The Bobcats came to the Korean Peninsula to follow the Bobcat legacy. As we continue our tough and realistic training through Operation Arctic Tiger, alongside our historical connections to the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT, the Bobcats will continue to not just follow, but continue the Bobcat legacy."

Christopher Barber  
1LT, IN  
BN Historian/AS5

Photograph of OP Harry during the battle for the Iron Triangle in 1953.



# 2018 Reunion Norfolk Virginia

Tuesday May 15th - Sunday May 20st 2018

(Norfolk from page 1)

\* Free parking

\* Complimentary Shuttle Service to/from the Airport & within a 3 mile radius of the hotel based on request

\* 15% Discount at Max & Irma's Restaurant

\* Free Wi-Fi in guestrooms

\* Pet Friendly with a \$50 fee

\* Indoor swimming pool

To make reservations call:

1-(757) 466-8000

and when booking tell them

5th Infantry Regiment Association

\* Booking prices are good up to 3 before and after reunion dates

## Schedule of events

Hospitality Room: May 15th - May 20th (No fee)

Snacks & Beverages are allowed.

## Tuesday May 15th

Arrival and Registration

## Wednesday May 16th

### The Military Aviation Museum

9:00AM - 3:00 PM \$49 Per person

Depart via motorcoach with your Guide to visit one of Virginia Beach's most revered attractions, the Military Aviation Museum, home to one of the largest private collections of World War II and Korean War era fighters, bombers, trainers and seaplanes in the world. Many aircraft have been fully restored to their World War II condition and are used for flight demonstration, movie production or commercials. Enjoy a guided tour of the galleries and shopping in the gift shop which is stocked with all things flight related

Next, enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city and get the pulse on current day in Virginia Beach. See the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry where the English colonists first came ashore in 1607 prior to settling at nearby Jamestown. Walk out on the overlook to see where the bay and the ocean meet, and where the famous Battle of the Capes took place during the Revolutionary War.

Enjoy a stop at the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse, built in 1792, this lighthouse was active until the late 1800's and is currently a Virginia Historic Landmark. Guests may choose to climb to the top of the Lighthouse (small admission fee, pay on own) or shop in the gift shop for all things Light-

house related.

Ride down the resort strip, see the historic Cavalier Hotel as well as the Tidewater Veterans Memorial, a unique structure which pays homage to veterans everywhere. Enjoy free time to stroll the Boardwalk and enjoy lunch on own.

## Thursday May 17th

### Naval Station Norfolk Tour & Spirit of Norfolk

9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Luncheon Cruise \$79 Per Person  
Depart via motorcoach with your guide to tour the Norfolk Naval Base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet. This naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now houses flag officers.

## Friday May 18th

### Memorial Service at the MacArthur Memorial, Tour of Norfolk, Lunch and Tour of Nauticus & Battleship Wisconsin

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM \$69 Per person

A Riding Tour through Norfolk, lunch at the Freemason Abbey, and a self guided tour of Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin.

Visit the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. Upon arrival, a memorial service will be conducted prior to the Memorial opening to the public. (Estimated time of service is 1 hour. Service will be planned and conducted by the reunion committee)

After the service, view the outstanding collection housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the short film which chronicles the General's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop

with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.

Next, learn about Norfolk's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District and the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest.

## Saturday May 19th

9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting

9:00 - 10 AM - Ladies Breakfast @ Max & Irma's

10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

12:00 - 5 PM Free to explore Norfolk

## Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Approx. Auction

Dinner Choices

1. Roasted Sirloin of Beef \$50

*Made with a homemade rosemary and peppercorn Au jus*

2. Chicken Marsala \$50

*Pan sautéed breast of chicken with crimini mushrooms in a Marsala wine sauce*

3. Baked Tilapia \$50

*Served with a white wine scampi sauce*

\* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Chef's dessert display, wild rice or red potatoes, vegetable medley, freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.

\*If you wish to make a donation to help cover the expenses in hospitality room, any amount appreciated.

For information contact Carolyn Kethcart: [carolynjk@bobcat.ws](mailto:carolynjk@bobcat.ws)

Carolyn Kethcart  
16054 Pine Drive  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-468-8624

Method of payment - You can pay via PayPal on the Bobcat website at: [www.bobcat.ws](http://www.bobcat.ws), or send a check to Carolyn.

*Make checks payable to the "5th Infantry Regiment Association"*

For more Information, pictures and a video go to: <http://bobcat.ws/reunions.html>



## Norfolk Reunion Pre-Registration

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Names of additional guests

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

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

⇒ Do you plan on taking "The Military Aviation Museum Tour"?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

⇒ Do you plan on taking the "Naval Station Norfolk Tour & Spirit of Norfolk Tour"?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

⇒ Do you plan on attending the Memorial Service at the MacArthur Memorial?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

⇒ Are you planning on attending the Ladies Breakfast 9 AM SAT morning at @ Max & Irma's ?  
\_\_\_\_ 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 Norfolk VA!**

## Registration Form Norfolk VA Reunion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

	Number	Cost
<b>Registration fee</b> - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
<b>WED 16 May</b> - The Military Aviation Museum, A Riding Virginia Beach Tour, Free time on Virginia Beach's Boardwalk -\$49 per person		
<b>THU 17 May</b> - Naval Station Norfolk Tour & Spirit of Norfolk Luncheon Cruise - \$79 per person		
<b>FRI 18 May</b> - Memorial Service at the MacArthur Memorial - \$69 per person includes Lunch		
<b>SAT 19 May - Banquet Dinner Choices</b>		
1. Roasted Sirloin of Beef \$50		
2. Chicken Marsala \$50		
3. Baked Tilapia \$50		
* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Chef's dessert display, wild rice or red potatoes, vegetable medley, freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
TOTAL		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO

Make check payable to **5th Infantry Association** and mail to:

**Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477**



(Sam from page 10)

On Monday, I'll be singing the "Armed Forces Medley", among other patriotic numbers, with my barbershop chorus in front of the Monterey, California City Hall.

"Things went well in Albuquerque. There were about 80 of us. We draw a bigger crowd when we assemble on the East Coast. That will probably be the case next year in Norfolk, VA.

I take it that your dad never belonged to the 5th RCT Assn. I have their directory and he's not listed. That would probably have given me his company and period of time in Korea. Once I get that from his DD214, I might be able to steer you to living veterans who were with the same company at the time that he became a casualty."

**Sam Kier**

---

## 5th RCT Part of Patton's 3rd Army

"My wife's uncle Roy Friske passed away about a year ago and while going through his papers, etc., we found many letters from 1946. When looking on line I cannot seem to find anything about his service. All of his letters show a number 46047235 and they show 5th infantry except one which shows company B 2nd platoon.

Any idea where I can find this information.

Thank you,

**Richard Hussey**

---

"The 5th Infantry Regiment, part of the 71st Infantry Division, fought in World War II with Patton's 3rd Army. Second Platoon, Company B, was part of the regiment's 1st Battalion. Following the war, the 5th Inf Regt became part of the Army of Occupation in Germany and was posted in Augsburg, Bavaria, from February 1946 until it was de-activated, temporarily, in November 1946. When Mr. Friske was discharged from the U.S. Army, he was presumably given a paper entitled "Enlisted Record and Report of Separation -Honorable Discharge, Form 53." That would give you a lot of information about the campaigns that he was involved in, any medals and decorations, his military occupation specialty, etc. If he didn't keep that for veterans' benefits, etc., you might be able to get one from the Na-

tional Archives Personnel Records Division in St. Louis.

I devote a chapter to the 5th Infantry in World War II in my book "Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment."

([www.twocenturiesofvalor.com](http://www.twocenturiesofvalor.com)).

Reading his letters may generate a lot of questions. Please let me know how I can help."

**Sam Kier**, Historian  
5th Infantry Regiment

*PS - One of our members, Donald Keefer, served with 2nd Platoon, Company B from 1944-46.*

-----  
"Carolyn Kethcart forwarded the picture of the William Lehman Trophy to me. I don't know who Mr. Lehman was, but it was, and still is, not unusual to name a trophy after someone who was significant figure in Army athletics. I checked lists of officers in the 71st Division as well as a list of all men in the division who received medals for valor and found no William Lehman. I don't have a list of the men who played on the regimental basketball team. When the 5th Infantry Regiment moved to Augsburg, Germany in February, 1946, basketball season was just winding down and baseball was gathering steam.

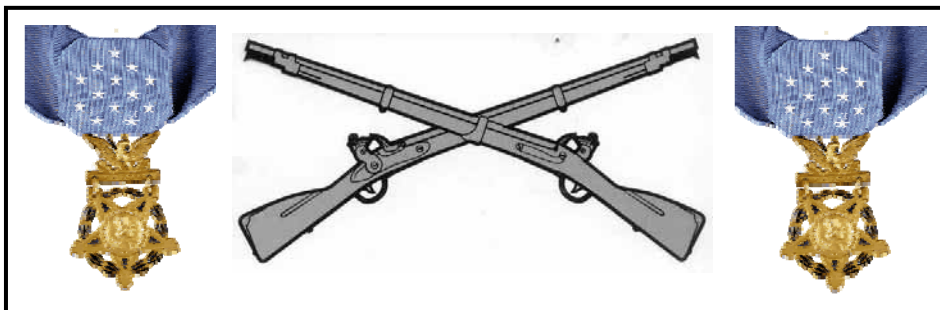
The 71st Division nine, that included some 5th Infantry players, won 19 out of 22 games and took home the Third Army championship."

**Sam Kier**  
Sam,

## NM Reunion Pictures







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

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

**RODENBURG**, PVT Henry, Company A, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "gallantry in action." Born: Germany

**ROMEYN**, 1<sup>ST</sup> LT Henry, Bear Paw Mountain, 30 September 1877. Issued 27 November 1894. "Led his command into close range of the enemy, there maintained his position and vigorously prosecuted the fight until he was severely wounded." Born: New York.

**ROONEY**, PVT Edward, Company D, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "gallantry in action." Born: New York.

**RYAN**, PVT David, Company G, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "gallantry in action." Born: Ireland.

**SHEPPARD**, PVT Charles, Company A, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "bravery in action with Sioux." Born Missouri.

**TILTON**, MAJ Henry R., Regimental Surgeon, Bear Paw Mountain, 30 September 1877. Issued 22 March 1895 for "fearlessly risking his life and displaying great gallantry in rescuing and protecting the wounded men." Born: New Jersey.

**WALLACE**, SGT William, Company C, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "gallantry in action." Born: Ireland.

**WHITEHEAD**, PVT Patton G., Company C, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "gallantry in action." Born: Virginia.

**WILSON**, CPL Charles, Company H, Cedar Creek campaign. Issued 27 April 1877 for "gallantry in action." Born: Illinois.

## **Medal of Honor**

Best I can figure the 5th Infantry Regiment has had 56 men awarded our nation's highest military honor the "Medal of Honor". Four Medals of Honor were awarded during the Vietnam War and three for action during the Korean War.

I have previously printed the citations for the seven from the Vietnam and Korean wars.

In this newsletter and until I have printed all 49 of the other recipients of the Medal of Honor I will provide information about these men.

Inherently 20 of these 56 recipients were immigrants who were born in a foreign country. Most of these immigrants were born in Ireland.

Two recipients 1st LT Frank D.

Baldwin and 1ST SGT Henry Hogan were awarded the Medal of Honor twice.

The majority of these 56 recipients were awarded the medal for action during the wars against the Indians in the late 1800's.

Forty-nine were awarded the MOH for action against the Indians. Listed above are the nine remaining who have not been named in previous newsletters.

(Reunion from page 7)

partment of the Army appointed George.

George was not able to be with us at the banquet and so was presented with his certificate Friday evening.

To help you get to know George better his biography is below.

### **George E. Chavez**

#### **Honorary Command Sargent Major**

#### *Biography*

"George E. Chavez was drafted into service on 1 December 1967. Received Basic and AIT training at Ft Polk Louisiana. Was sent to Ft Benning Georgia for Non-Commission Officers Course training. Arrived in Vietnam Oct 1968. Assigned to C Co 1st PLT. Was med-vac back to the US in July 1969 to recuperate from fragmentation wounds. ETS'd from active service in 1969. Reenlisted back into the Army in early 1971. Remained on active duty until retirement in August 1993. Retired with 26 plus years.

Assignments include Infantryman 1/5 Mech Infantry Regiment (Vietnam), squad Leader 1/26 Infantry First Infantry Division (Germany), Platoon SGT B Co 1 23rd Maintenance BN (Korea), First Sergeant HHC DISCOM 32nd Support BDE (Germany), First Sergeant ANCOC (Aberdeen Maryland), and S-4 NCOIC 17th Armored Brigade (Ft Irwin Ca). Schools attended Leadership preparation Course, Non-Commission Officers Course, Basic Non-Commission Officers Course, Advanced Non-Commission Officers Course, First Sergeant School and the Sergeants Major Academy.

Awards and decorations include: Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V devise and Oak Leaf, MSM, PH w/Oak Leaf, ARCOM w/oak leaf, AAM, Good Conduct Medal 8th award and was selected as Soldier of the week of June 8th 1969 and placed on The Tropic Lightning Combat Honor Roll"



Another group in our hotel was the "Semper Fi Team". We visited each other and we donated \$200 to them. They help wounded warriors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

Make the check payable to: 5th INF ASSOC

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

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



# 5th Infantry Association Quartermaster

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

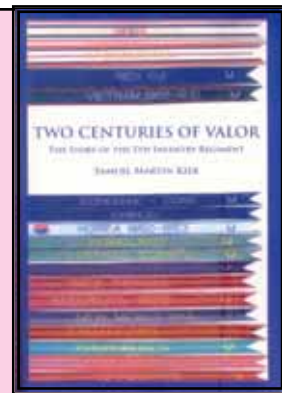
*Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68*

## 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:



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**Notice:** If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 16** 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.

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

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

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(Social from page 1)

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## RANDOM MEMORIES, OR VERY SHORT STORIES

By Frank (Tom) Goins

### 'I'm taking a leak'

For some reason, I walked tail on ambush patrols a lot of the time. On a moonless night in the Fil Hol, we were walking in an overgrown wooded area when we stopped. This wasn't unusual, probably the point man and patrol leader going over directions. We all crouched down in the dark with a couple of meters between us. Since I was the last man, I knew no one was behind me, or so I thought. I caught site of someone walking beside me to the left a few meters away. I couldn't alert anyone without giving away my position. The figure saw me aiming my M16 at him and said "Hey, it's me, I'm taking a leak." The guy ahead of me went around to take a leak. Lucky night for both of us!

### 'Rat sniffing my ear'

While sleeping in a bunker at Katum, I woke up with a rat sitting on my chest sniffing my ear. I jumped up, grabbed a machete and began swinging wildly in the dark. I never slept in a bunker again after that. It wasn't a problem because after we left Katum we didn't often stay in one place long enough to build sleeping bunkers, so I slept on the ground.

### 'Same thing every day'

Mount up on the tracks in the morning, ride to some location hoping you don't hit a mine or get hit with an RPG or run into some snipers. Dismount and walk. And walk and walk. On dirt roads, in jungles, woods, rice paddies or rubber plantations. Same thing every day. Going on sweeps, patrols and S & Ds, looking for enemy weapons and food caches or looking for Charlie and hoping to find him before he found us. Late afternoon, mount up and ride to a temporary base camp somewhere, grab some chow and get ready for ambush patrol, perimeter

guard or LP. Then it would start over again the next day. That was during the dry season. Sometimes in the wet season hueys would pick us up in the morning, drop us off and pick us up again late in the day. Same thing, just a different way to get there and back.

### 'Like writing your will'

"Feel like I'm fixin' to die." Mike and I crouched in a bunker in the jungle at Katum. We were told to expect to be over-run by the NVA that night. We sat there with our M16s, an M60 and boxes of grenades waiting for the onslaught. To pass the time, we talked and told

leading to Katum, each of us would be dropped off in the morning at hundred or so meter intervals and go several meters into the jungle to sit and watch for enemy action, then be picked up late in the afternoon. This was a lonely time. On one of those occasions, I got behind a fallen tree and watched. My mind began to wander. What would I do if a bunch of NVA approached my location? I was alone with no back up. Would I go down in a hail of bullets fighting til the last?... No. Surrender?... No. Commit suicide?... No. Being captured was out of the question. Deep thoughts. There was a small mud puddle near me and I noticed the most beautiful dragonflies I had ever seen hovering around it. One was scarlet red and the other was indigo blue. Yes, there were beautiful things in Vietnam.



Bomb crater Katum - Photo by Tom Goins

each other things, like Mike's Dear John letter and my past fuck-ups, things we probably wouldn't have told each other if we expected to see the dawn. Usually conversations between grunts stayed on a superficial level, jokes and things to do with the immediate situation. We didn't let ourselves get too emotionally involved because we didn't know who would be around or alive the next day. As it turned out, the night was quiet and we weren't attacked, but I'll always remember that night in the bunker with Mike. Kind of like writing your will.

### 'Would I surrender?'

Sometimes while guarding the road

### The Chaplain

The only time I recall ever saw a Chaplain in Vietnam was when we were in the Boi Loi Woods. The Chaplain came out before dusk and held a service in a ravine. Not being religious myself, I and several others volunteered to stay at the top of the ravine and pull guard. Sky Pilot?

### Bullet whizzed by

After chow one evening, I was standing out in the open in the dried rice paddies near Rainy Tower Village getting ready to go on bush when I heard a bullet whiz past my ear. The funny thing is that I never heard the shot being fired!

### Can you dig it?

Tropic Lightning Leadership Academy, or Shake & Bake NCO school. It's a blur. The only thing I remember is a Wolfhound sitting below me on the bleacher writing "Can you dig it", "FTA" and drawing obscene pictures while pretending to take notes.



# Reunion Attendees



I tried my to get a picture of everyone but I'm sure I failed.

# Medal of Honor Recipient Daniel Fernandez Honored

By Deborah Fox - Valencia County NM - News-Bulletin Staff Writer - 31 May 17

LOS LUNAS—The bright sun and breezy May morning marked the Fifth Infantry Regiment Association's Memorial Service.

It was held at the Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque and Los Lunas hero, Specialist 4th Class Daniel D. Fernandez, was honored at the event.

Fernandez's Company C belonged to the Fifth Infantry back in 1966 when



he gave his life to save his fellow troops during the Vietnam War.

In October 1965, the Fifth Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "Bobcats," were alerted that they would be going to Vietnam, said veteran Jerry C. Peal, who was a staff sergeant at the time.

"On the first of January 1966, we departed Hawaii on ships and landed at

Vung Tau, South Vietnam, which is south of Saigon," Peal said....

"My interactions with him were more on a company level where we would be doing things in training and this or that and I would run across him in the course of teaching classes or we were out doing maneuvers and learning to be soldiers," Peal said. "My recollection of him, visual, was that he was a handsome young man, but several of his friends, recently deceased, at a reunion laughed because that was not their impression of him."

The 22-year-old Los Lunas native and his fellow soldiers were trying to save a wounded troop when an enemy soldier launched a rifle grenade in their midst. "Daniel shouted, 'Move out,' and he vaulted over the sergeant and threw himself on the grenade as it exploded," said Andrew Anderson, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. "He gave his life to save four of his comrades."

Anderson went on to say that in April 1967, Daniel Fernandez's parents were flown to the White House, where they posthumously received their son's Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson.

Among the audience at the recent memorial sat Fernandez's younger

brother, Peter, and his wife, Priscilla "Lollie" Fernandez. They had been invited to the memorial and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the soldier's Medal of Honor award. "Being the 50th anniversary, it's really nice that we were invited to this memorial," Peter said. Lollie talked about the girls in the National Honor Society at Valencia High School who are advocating to have the Rio Grande bridge in Los Lunas named



Daniel Fernandez's brother Peter, Army Veteran Jerry Peal, Peters wife Priscilla "Lollie" and their son Michael Steven

in his honor and said her brother-in-law is a true hero.

"Our children today need that — they need to know what a true hero is," Lollie said.

At the event, the Los Lunas couple were given a Fifth Infantry Regiment commemorative coin.

*\*Information about this article was provided by Randy Kethcart*

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