

FOR THE MEN, AND THEIR
FAMILIES, OF THE 2ND BATTALION,
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

**WE TRY
HARDER!**

2/503d
VIETNAM
*****newsletter



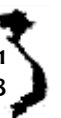
March-April 2020, Issue 91
Contact: rto173@att.net

See all issues to date at the 503rd Heritage Battalion website:
http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue_index.htm

~ 173d Photo of the Month ~



“Elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade Arrive in Saigon From Okinawa, 1965”
(Caption & photo source: DoD Vietnam Studies, 1989)





We Dedicate this Issue of Our Newsletter in Memory and Honor of the Young Men of the 173d Airborne Brigade & Attached Units We Lost 50 Years Ago In the Months of March and April 1970



"You have done your duty, to honour you is ours."

Deandrea Hamilton

Paul Vernon Adams, 20

SGT, D/1/503, 3/7/70

(Incident date 3/3/70)

10/6/03: "You will always be remembered. Dear Paul, I wanted to take the opportunity to just thank you for everything you did for our country and the people during the war. Your dedication to this country is evident and you are greatly respected. I don't know much about you, but you're a hero to our generation and generations to come. Thank you and may you rest in peace. Sincerely, Ashley." **Ashley Kiefer**



Danny Ray Allen, 18

SGT, E/17th Cav, 3/16/70

11/20/10: "Danny is buried at Allen Cem, Harrison Co, MS. His military stone says TRP E, 7 CAV, 173 ABN. BSM ARCOM PH." **Robert Sage**



Ross David Anton, 19

T/BDR, 1 FD REGT RAA, 3/22/70

"From Sydney NSW. Anton was accidentally killed in his tent at Nui Dat on 22nd March 1970 when he went to sleep with a grenade in his pocket. He had been in Vietnam for 11 days. He left a wife and son. Northern Suburbs Crematorium. NSW."



John Bressington, 23

L/CPL, 8RAR, 3/6/70

"Hurstville NSW. Bressington was promoted in the field only days before a VC booby trap killed him in an action in Phuoc Tuy on 6th March 1970. Buried The Keith Payne VC Hostel, Memorial, Evans Road Toukley, NSW."



Ralph North Bright, 22

CPL, B/2/503, 4/21/70

2/4/11: "We Remember. Ralph is buried at Peoria Cemetery, Orange Park, Clay County, FL. BSM ARCOM PH."

Robert Sage



Gerald Winston Byrns, Jr., 24

SSG, D/4/503, 4/27/70

2/4/11: "We Remember. Ralph is buried at Peoria Cemetery, Orange Park, Clay County, FL. BSM ARCOM PH."

Robert Sage



Ronald Duane Carey, 21

SGT, B/3/503, 3/5/70

3/5/16: "Uncle Ronnie, it has been 46 years today since you have left us behind. However I have chosen to follow you in your footsteps in serving this great country that I like to thank those who served prior to me. I know you look down on me every day and keep me safe. I never got the chance to meet you but from what mom has said you're a great man. I love you so much!!"

Destinee Surber



John Marez Chavarria, 18

CPL, D/4/503, 3/4/70

8/17/16: "Tribute. I served alongside of John. He was a good soldier but even a better friend. I think of you every day. RIP."

SSGT John W. Adkins 173d Abn 69-70



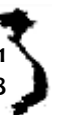
Raymond Duncan Clark, 21

PTE, 6RAR, 3/8/70

"Scotland. Clark was killed during a contact in a bunker system 8th March 1970. Buried Springvale Crematorium Melbourne, VIC."



(continued....)



Michael Duane Clickner, 20**SGT, A/3/503, 4/11/70**

"This is difficult for me. It was 25 years ago, on April 11, 1970, that our oldest child, Michael Duane Clickner, was hit by a booby trap in Vietnam. Michael was born May 1, 1949 in Menomonie, Wisconsin at Myrtle Worth Hospital. He attended first grade at Peck School near Knapp, Wisconsin. In 1956 we moved to Wabasha, Minnesota, where Mike continued his education, graduating in 1967. He entered the Army in 1968, and took his basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he received a plaque for M14 Rifle Marksmanship. In October of 1969 Michael entered Advanced Infantry at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for Special Forces Training. Mike reported on June 28th, 1969 to the Overseas Replacement Station at Fort Lewis, Washington. Mike was then sent to Vietnam. After ten months in Vietnam, he went on R&R to Japan for five days and nights. We received a phone call from him while he was there. Ten days later in Vietnam while on patrol, he was breaking in a new man, William Krieger, to take his place, because Mike would be leaving Vietnam to come home soon. The group was tracking in an area that was heavily mined when a booby trap was triggered. Mike was killed, April 11, 1970. He had been assigned to Company A, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry. Michael was posthumously promoted to Sergeant after his death. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal and two Vietnam medals. Patrick L. Welch, Captain of Mike's Infantry division, wrote, 'Mike was well-liked and respected by all who knew him.' My husband, William Archie Clickner, was in Kuruming, China for two years during World War II. He was in the Engineers, and helped with the building of the Ledo Road. He knew Claire Chennault of the Flying Tigers. The reason I mention this, is because I wanted to express my feeling about almost losing my husband in World War II, and then losing our son in Vietnam in 1970 in a senseless 'conflict'. At least World War II was a just war. For almost 26 years I have saved all of Mike's letters. I have also saved my husband's letters when he was in China for two years. I intended to make the letters into a book; but you know, the pain was too much for a long time. My 28-year-old son died in a trailer fire in 1982, and my dear husband died on February 18, 1994. This book will be fulfilling my desire." **Ardath Clickner, mother of Michael Clickner**

**Rafael Colon-Santos, 21****SGT, A/3/503, 4/17/70**

9/28/17: "Happy Birthday. Hello my love.....today you would have turned 69.... wow...hard to believe it's been that long... almost half a century Jr.....missing you as usual and loving you always...wish I could hug you and feel the warmth of your body, but someday soon, my love....the Lord has been good to me even with all the sorrows and I thank Him every day for having you to love and for giving me a part of you in our daughter, Tracy....hope you met Michael, her brother, another special gift from God...I love you and hope you're smiling with all love surrounding you....loving and missing you, your Candy." **Adele Huryn**

**Marcus Raymond Davis, 23****SSG, A/3/503, 4/4/70**

4/27/04: "I want to thank all the great people who knew my dad and have taken the time to put up a memorial in his honor. I only wish that I could have met him. I was not born until July and he was killed in April. That is a great misfortune. I salute you, Mark. You were a great man. Thanks..... I Love You, Laura Ann. From his daughter," **Laura Morris**

**Fernando De La Cruz, 23****SSGT, E/17th Cav, 3/16/70**

9/27/11: "We Remember. Fernando is buried at Mont Meta Memorial Park, San Benito, Cameron County, TX." **Robert Sage**

**Kenneth Alan Duffy, 21****PTE, 6RAR, 3/8/70**

"Brisbane QLD. Duffy was killed in Phuoc Tuy 8th March 1970, the day before his birthday. Buried Cleveland Cemetery, QLD."



(continued....)



Victor Del Greco, Jr., 21**SGT, 173d LRRP, 3/2/70****(Virtual Wall states N/75 Rgrs)**

3/25/05: "A Friend Remembered. I will always remember you Victor and being friends when we were just kids. Warm summer nights playing Little League baseball, you helping me with my paper route and riding our bikes all over the place. I will always remember your smile and the sacrifice you made for our freedom. I still remember the sadness I felt when I saw the news of your death in Vietnam. I visited the Vietnam Memorial in 1997 and found your name. I had a chance to spend some time with you again. I also visit the Vietnam Memorial in our hometown of Manchester, Connecticut whenever I am back there." **Charlie**

**Robert Floyd Dice, 20****CPL, A/3/503, 3/17/70**

12/2/15: "Never forget. Robert I'm married to your little brother Danny and he always talks about his big brother Bobby, and how much he misses you and the day you passed as if it was only yesterday. I just wanted you to know THANK YOU and how much you meant to him." **Tina Dice**

**Carter Wayne Dowd, 21****SSG, C/3/503, 4/1/70**

12/4/13: "To my brother. I was only 14 years old when I was woken and given the news. The years may have past but sometimes it just feels like it was yesterday. Even now as I write this I feel as if I am fighting back the tears. We have always been proud of you. Mom passed in June 2012 and left me your flag and medals and I keep them in an honored place in my home. My son is now in the Army Airborne. He went to Ft. Benning as you did. He and his wife just had their first child and named him 'Carter'. I believe they did this for me and in remembrance of you. We will always miss you brother. Thanks for all the times we had when we were young. I will see you again someday." **Unsigned**

**John Frederick Downing, 19****SSG, C/2/503, 4/16/70**

2/16/99: "Thank you. John, I remember your face as if it were yesterday, we were seniors at Tempe High and after you graduated you went to war. We were so young. I'm sorry that you had to give your life. I'm proud to have known you. We just had our 30th high school reunion, and you were there in spirit. Luv ya man," **Jim Schermann**



11/12/05: "Not Forgotten. John is buried in Arlington National Cemetery next to his father, George Dowell Downing (1912-1988), a WWII veteran."

Ray Downing**Jack Fitzgerald, 41****WO2, AATTV (RAINF), 4/17/70**

"Wagga Wagga, NSW. He served in Vietnam, advising South Vietnamese soldiers based at Quang Tri. Fitzgerald was killed 17th April 1970 by enemy mortar fire in Thua Thien Province. Buried Wagga Wagga General Cemetery, NSW."

**Robert Gene Floyd, 22****SGT, C/3/503, 4/1/70**

7/4/13: "I talked to you Big Brother Bobby..... Oh how I remember so clearly that we talked just the day before all that mess happened to you and your buddies.....I miss you all the time! RIP big brother."

P. Floyd, little sister

[See Page 42 for Robert's DSC citation]

Bernard Anthony Garland, 23**1LT, 4 FD REGT, 4/22/70****(Also listed as 1 Field Regiment)**

"Sydney, NSW. Garland was killed by an enemy mine in Phuoc Tuy on 22nd April 1970. Buried Norwood Park Crematorium, ACT."

**Anthony Golson, 20****CPL, D/1/503, 3/3/70****Salley Soldier Dies In Action**

SALLEY – Pfc. Anthony Golson died March 3 as results of wounds received in action in Vietnam.

Funeral plans are incomplete and will be announced later by Robinson Funeral Home in Wagener.

Pfc. Golson was a 1968 graduate of the A.L. Corbett High School where he was captain of the basketball team, co-captain of the football team and a school bus driver. Before entering service he was attending Richland Technical Education Center in Columbia. He was a member of Sardis Baptist Church.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Golson of RFD 1, Salley (and an extended family).



(continued....)



Robert Edward Hughes, 20**PTE, 7RAR, 4/22/70**

"Port Augusta, SA. Hughes died at 24 US Evacuation. Hospital, Long Binh of wounds received in Phuoc Tuy on 22nd April 1970. Buried Stirling North Cemetery, Port Augusta, SA."

**Raymond Sidney Kipp, 21****SP4, E/3/503, 3/17/70**

5/21/00: "Raymond Kipp was the first casualty of war that I ever saw. I flew helicopters and had been in country less than a month. His death had a dramatic impact on me then and continues till this day. May God bless him and his family."

John L. Davis, 7/17 Cav.

**Raymond Stephen Inslee, 19****SGT, A/1/503, 3/29/70**

9/23/06: "I am Bobby Inslee, Raymond's little brother. Danny and anyone out there who would like to contact me please do so. Airborne all the Way. From his brother," **Robert Inslee** jumpbootbob@verizon.net

**Larry Leon Jordan, 21****CPL, C/4/503, 3/24/70**

11/4/17: "My Uncle. Uncle Larry, I do wish that I could have met you! I often wonder who you would have been more like, I think maybe Grandma! I know that you and her had a wonderful day of celebrating when she went to heaven to be with you and Grandpa! Thank you for your ultimate sacrifice!! I have always been proud to say that you are my uncle!!" **IAMACHEVYGIRL**

**Graham Robert Kavanagh, 21****PTE, 7RAR, 4/21/70**

"Adelaide, SA. He died of dehydration and extreme high body temperature while on operations in Phuoc Tuy on 21st April 1970. Buried Centennial Park Cemetery, SA."

**Stanley James Kidd, 26****LT, RNZIR V4, 4/17/70**

"Killed in action, 17 April 1970 – gunshot wound to body in contact. Born in Auckland, Stan was the only son in a family of seven children. Moving to Rotorua and then Christchurch, he worked as an entertainer before joining the Regular Force from the Territorial Force in 1967. Posted to Terendak, Malaysia, he arrived in Vietnam as a replacement Platoon Commander with V4 Company in November 1969. On 17 April 1970 Stan's platoon were leading a company advance during Operation Townsville – V4's final operation – when they contacted the enemy and he was killed in action. His name appears on the Rotorua Boys' High School Memorial."

**James Leonard McQuat, 21****PTE, 8RAR, 4/30/70**

"Dalwallinu, WA. McQuat died when ambushed and shot by the VC, 10 minutes after midnight on 30th April 1970. Buried Allambie Park Cemetery, WA."

**Richard Allen Mohr, 20****SGT, E/3/503, 3/17/70**

3/28/00: "Pats love. Dearest Rick, No months go by that I still do not recall your memory and what your life would have meant to me. Grief over what might have been for us remains forever. Perhaps our next life together will be one of peace. I miss you and our laughs together. Terry "doc" visited me after your death and we were in touch for several years but not quite a few now. I still have the photos you sent, your letters, and you still have my love now and through eternity. Please rest in peace my love." **Pat Knouse**

**Truman D. Norris, 29****Cowboys, 3/17/70**

10/31/16: "My Father. There is not a day goes by that I do not miss my father. I am his first born daughter. He sacrificed his life, his family and everything he loved to fight for his country. I can think of no words to describe the loss I feel for my father. I cannot even express in words the sadness I have felt for so many years wondering if he had survived how my life would have turned out. I feel for those that have lost a parent, farther, mother, daughter, or son in these wars, because I know what it feels like to carry the feeling of loss in your heart. I miss you Daddy."

Cynthia Carolyn Kreimer



(continued....)



Stephen James O'Dal, 20**PTE, 8RAR, 3/6/70**

"Melbourne, VIC. Wounded by a mine explosion at lunchtime on 6th March 1970 during an extensive ambush operation in Phuoc Tuy, he died of his wounds in 1 Australian Field Hospital two hours later. Buried Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne. VIC."

**Te Wa Moana Paenga, 21****PTE, RNZIR V4, 3/19/70**

"Killed in action, 19 March 1970 – shrapnel and gunshot wound to head during ambush in bunker system, Nui Dinh Hills. Mo was one of nine children who grew up in Whangara, 30km north-east of Gisborne. From a farming background, he went to a farming college in Te Urewera where he met Nehe Karauria, the head shepherd from Paparatu Station. Nehe had served with W1 Company in Vietnam. It was perhaps no surprise then when Mo followed in Nehe's footsteps and went to Vietnam as a rifleman with V4 Company. On 19 March 1970, less than two months before the end of his Tour of Duty, Mo was killed in a major contact during Operation Waiponamu in the Nui Dinh Hills. Four other New Zealanders – Bill Keatch, Olly Taukamo, Beau Heke, and Tom Tuhiwai were wounded in the same action."

**Larry Parker, 30****SSG, B/4/503, 3/21/70**

6/20/11: "We Remember. Larry is buried at Owyhee Cemetery, Owyhee, NV. BSM-20LC AM PH." **Robert Sage**

3/21/19: "In Honor. Larry Parker, You are remembered. Another senseless death – mistaken for enemy." **John Braun**

**James Allen Parker, 21****SGT, A/4/503, 3/4/70**

2/19/15: "A Company, 3rd Platoon, 4/503, 173rd Abn Bde. Parker was a good friend and a good soldier, always had a big smile. I miss him but I am sure he is in a good place. He was killed when his squad was ambushed. We lost another platoon member that day that attempted to rescue Parker, his name is James M Stanley. May they both rest in Peace, God Bless."

Doc Helbing

Photo posted in connection with tribute to James.

**David Paterson, 25****2LT, 3RAR, 3/20/70**

"Adelaide, SA. He was shot during an enemy contact on 20th March 1971 in Phuoc Tuy. Buried Centennial Park Cemetery, SA."

**Edmund A. Petrechko, Jr., 19****CPL, D/4/503, 3/4/70**

1/10/03: "Wish I Could Have Met Him. I never got to meet Eddie, but everybody told me he was a really nice and funny guy. I wish I could have met him so I could have found out for myself. For my grandma I'll say this, 'He made us all proud.'" **Katy Petrechko**



This image was posted on the *Wall of Faces* in connection with Ms. Petrechko's tribute to Edmund. We suspect the lady is Katy touching Eddie's name. Ed

(continued....)



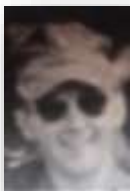
John Gordon Pettit, 33
WO2, AATV (RAINF), 4/4/70

"Goondiwindi, QLD. Pettit did three tours of Vietnam with the US Forces. Wounded in action on 22nd June 1966, he died in Dok Seong 4th April 1970. Buried Mt Thompson Crematorium, QLD."



Malcolm Jerome Pickett, 18
PFC, A/4/503, 3/25/70

3/19/18: "I found your picture. My name is Krysteen Wescott and I am the daughter of Sgt 1st Class Robert H Wescott Jr. It meant a lot to me to find your picture. You are remembered." Krysteen Wescott



Robin Christian Pothof, 21
LT, 7RAR, 4/26/70

"The Hague, Holland. A mine detonated by his APC and killed Lieutenant Pothof on 26th April 1970 in Phuoc Tuy. Buried Canberra, ACT."



Daryl Poulson, 20
PTE, 8RAR, 4/3/70

"Melbourne, VIC. Killed in an enemy contact in Phuoc Tuy on 3rd April 1970, his body was not recovered until the following day. Buried Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne, VIC."



Robert Edward Power, 22
L/CPL, 3/8/70, 6RAR

"Belmore, NSW. He died in an enemy contact on 8th March 1970 in Phuoc Tuy, Buried Rookwood Crematorium, NSW."



Armand Ervin Ristinen, 22
SSG, C/1/503, 4/25/70

4/13/16: Husband and Father. 46 years this month as we remember your life and love. Always in our heart, forever 22."
Bettie Ristinen Lustick



Photo posted in connection with Ms. Lustick's tribute to Armand, surely his wife and their child. Ed

Robert Rodriguez, 24
SGT, E/17th Cav, 3/16/70

"My dad's best friend. Hi, My dad, Albert Riojas, has always told us stories about you, sir. You were his best friend when the two of you were younger in the Army. My older brother, Robert, was named after you. Thank you for your service. Your memory has not been forgotten. I have yet to see the wall and hope one day to see it and find your name. Rest in Paradise."

Monica Riojas Wozniak



John Roger Powers, 23
SGT, 173d Eng, 4/25/70

10/28/13: "Not Forgotten. Rest in peace fellow Sky Soldier. I was in the 1st Platoon 173rd CBT Engr Co. at the time he was KIA. I will always remember him. Airborne All The Way Sgt. Powers." Jerry Sandwich



(continued....)





Photo posted in connection with tribute to Robert Rodriguez. "2nd PLT – E Troop – 17th Cavalry, 173rd ABN BDE. SPC4 Roberto Rodriguez (L), Wichita Falls, TX. PFC Mark Metcalf, Ft. Dodge, IA. PFC Kevin Brown, Punxsutawney, PA, display a captured flag while on an operation near Phu My."

(221st Signal Corps – SP Brian Billings 19 February 1970)



Douglas Ray Roest, 19

SGT, A/1/503, 3/13/70

7/18/13: "My Uncle. I never knew him and this makes me sad. He is buried in his and my hometown of Kenosha, WI. The brother to my mother, aunt, and uncle. I was privileged to read his last letters to home and it broke my heart. I thought of how my mom and her siblings and especially their mom, my grandmother Dorothy Greski felt reading those letters today and especially back then upon receipt. His fear at the time of war and his sadness of missing home and family really came through in those letters and I am glad to have been able to read them. Although I never got to meet him, I am very proud to call him my Uncle Dougie."

Amanda Hoff



Ground Casualty



On March 13, 1970, an explosion occurred inside a bunker manned by paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, killing teenaged enlisted men SGT Douglas R. Roest, SGT Allan Ruttimann, and CPL Thomas J. Urquhart. SGT Goings, a 21 year-old "shake-and-bake" NCO from Ohio, reported a communist rocket had struck the bunker, but other men in the unit had their doubts. Another NCO and several enlisted men came forward and told the chaplain of their suspicions that the explosion had not be caused by enemy action but by a Claymore mine detonated by Goings himself. On previous occasions they claimed Goings had referred to the victims as "potheads" whom he "had to get rid of," and he was seen near the bunker just before the explosion took place. The chaplain informed the battalion commander of the story and a CID investigation was initiated. Goings denied that he had caused the explosion and a search of the area uncovered fragments he claimed were part of the enemy rocket. Investigators also located several Claymore mines detonators but these were found inside the bunker. Sufficient evidence was eventually assembled to refer the case to trial but a general court-martial acquitted Goings of all charges.

[Taken from coffeltatabase.org and the book *Fragging* by George Lepre]

Posted 2/27/16 on *Wall of Faces* by W. Killian

Note: Sgt. David W. Goings died in 2010, he was 62.

Allan Ruttimann, 19

SGT, A/1/503, 3/13/70

2/18/00: "Remembrance. Allan, I will always love you and miss you. You were everything a big brother should be, you were so full of love and kindness. And I will never forget you. Love Always, Your little sister, Pearl." **Pearl Wass**



(continued....)



**Danny Gilbert Ruybal, 19****CPL, B/3/319, 4/11/70**

1/26/02: "Danny, i still think back when we met before going to Vietnam in Avondale. You didn't know about Vietnam but I told you to keep your head down and you'll come home. But, I didn't know you would be killed by a mishap. Yeah, I remember when you said you and I were going to come home together and get drunk. But I never expected to bring your body home. Danny I'll never forget you and your family for allowing me to escort you home so I could be with my family. Thanks, love Ernie 'The Herd.'" **Ernie**

**Rafael Salas Santos, 23****SSG, 46th PIO, 4/12/70**

1/23/14: "I still remember. One major incident stands out far beyond any other. It happened in 1993 at my parents' home in Florida. My father invited the next-door neighbors over to see me. They were close to my ailing parents and visited them often. The neighbors were originally from Guam, which made me ask questions about their family ties. The couple and my parents were wide-eyed when I mentioned details about a Guamanian photographer (who) went by the name of Ralph, who was in the next office before he transferred over to HHC. The couple turned out to be the aunt and uncle of SSG Rafael Salas Santos. He was KIA (12Apr70) while on a Huey photo recon. I gave them much of my 173rd memorabilia including a yearbook, 173rd magazines, the Wall rubbing of his name, photos, and postcards. I asked them if they could give them to his parents. I felt that was the least I could do. I still look for his name on the Wall." **Ralph C. Higgins, Jr.**

**Kimball H. Sheldon, 22****Cowboys, 3/31/70**

7/6/04: "We Remember. Kimball is buried at Riverside Cem, Rochester, NY. He was in the 335 Avn Co, 164 Avn Gp."

Robert Sage**Robert Duane Shipman, 26****SSG, B/3/503, 3/6/70**

5/15/03: "DAD. I was only about 18 months old when you died. I wish you would have made it home to watch me grow up. I am 34, married to a wonderful woman and we have 2 beautiful boys. Johnathan is 13 and Tyler is 7. Mom never remarried and raised me on her own. Love your son, Stephen." **Stephen Shipman**

**Rosendo Flores Silbas, 21****PVT, B/3/319, 4/11/70**

9/16/12: "Ross. I came home from Ft Bragg to bury my friend and present our flag to his newly wed wife. His father and mother are with him now and (he) has lost a sister also. I grew up with this family and know firsthand the love this family shared with everyone. Ross and his family are always in our thoughts." **Roberto J. Sepulveda, DDS**

**Ronald Keith Smith, 19****PTE, 7RAR, 4/3/70**

"NSW. Shot by a sniper killed on 3rd April 1970, in Long Khanh. Buried Rookwood Cemetery, NSW."

**Henry Jan Stanczyk, 21****PTE, 7RAR, 4/30/70**

"Stade, Germany. A VC RPG killed Stanczyk and wounded four others from 7RAR on 30th April 1970. Buried Centennial Park Cemetery, SA."

**James Mitchell Stanley, 20****CPL, A/4/503, 3/4/70**

2/19/15: "A Company, 3rd Platoon, 4/503rd, 173rd Abn Bde. I served with Jim in Vietnam, he was killed in an ambush attack while attempting to come to the aid of a fellow platoon member that was also killed that day, his name was James Parker. I wear wrist bracelets with both of these very honorable soldiers names engraved and they shall never be forgotten. God Bless these brave young men." **John "Doc" Helbing**

*(continued....)*

Forrest Darryl Sumter, 19**CPL, E/17th Cav, 3/16/70**

6/19/01: "Friends are Forever. We joined the Army together on the buddy system and volunteered for airborne training. After basic and AIT we were both sent to Fort Bragg, NC. Forrest left for Vietnam in January of 1970 and was KIA in March of same year. I went to Nam in Sept of 1970 and served with the 11th ACR and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Many years have gone but I still remember my friend and visit his gravesite yearly. Till we meet again my brother!!! Your friend," **Glenn McLendon**

**Michael Peter Tognolini, 19****TPR, 3 CAV REGT, 4/20/70**

"Sydney, NSW. He died of his wounds in 1 Australian Field Hospital after the APC in which he was travelling struck a mine on 20th April 1970. Buried Rookwood Cemetery, NSW."

**Thomas J. Urquhart, 19****CPL, A/1/503, 3/13/70**

5/30/16: "My brother. Gone but never forgotten you would be proud of your son Trenton ... he has grown up to be a great man ... I miss having a big brother like you in my life ... I love you my brother ... one day we will see each other again." **Unsigned**

**Gordon Sutherland Watt, 24****SGT, RNZAF NZSMT, 3/1/70**

"Killed in action, 1 March 1970 – booby trap. Sgt Gordon Watt was the RNZAF's only fatal casualty of the Vietnam War. He remains the only air force member killed as a result of enemy action since 1945. Originally buried in Singapore, Sgt Watt's body was exhumed from Ulu Pandan Cemetery, cremated, and his ashes returned to New Zealand. His ashes were then reburied in Te Henui Cemetery, New Plymouth on 1 May 1976."

**David Welch, 20****CPL, D/3/503, 4/1/70**

4/1/10: "Hello David. 41 years ago today David, you gave it all man. Just wanted to let you know that we tried to get there for you guys that night."

Lloyd "Burt" Burton C/3/503rd/173rd ABN**Clifton P. Wheelhouse, Jr., 19****SGT, C/3/503, 4/1/70**

10/21/01: "IT STILL HURTS SON. We will always remember the love and compassion you showed for the little children and why you went to NAM." **Clifton P. Wheelhouse**

**Thomas Edward Wilson, 20****SSG, C/3/503, 4/1/70**

12/19/09: "We Remember. Thomas is buried at Flint Memorial Park in Mount Morris, MI. BSM ARCOM PH."

Robert Sage**David Nelson Wright, 23****PTE, RNZIR W3, 3/19/70**

"Wounded in action during operations in Phuoc Tuy province, 30 January 1970. Medevaced to Sydney, Australia but died of wounds, 19 March 1970."

**John Edward Young, 20****CPL, C/3/503, 4/1/70**

7/2/18: "Tribute to Sky Soldier. On behalf of all the paratroopers who served with you in the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and all who followed, we offer our respect and remembrance of your ultimate sacrifice. May you never be forgotten and your family and friends take comfort in your valor in serving."

Mike Switzer**Ceremony of the Empty Boots**

"New jungle boots but never enough, all lined in a row
signifying all the young soldiers who wouldn't grow old
It is our custom to show them all our respect
These were the heroes of the 173d."

Excerpt from poem by the late Steve Welsh, C/2/503



~ Sky Soldier Extraordinaire ~

Carmen James Cavezza, LTG (Ret)

CO A/2/503 RVN, '65/'66

A long way from the 2/503d and the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta....

From general to civilian leader, Cavezza was 'the perfect man for the perfect time'

By Chuck Williams
October 21, 2018



Carmen

In the summer of 1961, Carmen Cavezza and his bride, Joyce, pulled into Columbus for the first time. The recent graduate of The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was reporting to Fort Benning for the Infantry Officer Basic Course.

Columbus, which did not have a four-lane highway coming in or out of the city at the time, made a bad first impression on Cavezza — and Joyce.

"When we were driving into Columbus and my wife said, 'Where are you taking me?'" Cavezza recalled. He was taking her on the first step of their journey — one that has now survived 58 years of marriage, a distinguished 33-year Army career and three wars. And, time and time again, that journey would lead them back to Fort Benning and Columbus.

But their first night here was one Joyce won't forget. They had trouble finding a place to live because they had a cat. So they settled on a trailer park at the end of South Lumpkin Road near the Fort Benning gate.

"Something blew up that night," Joyce said. It was the stove. They were out of there the next morning, finding an apartment on Benning Drive.

But it wasn't just a rocky first night that caused concerns for Carmen, a New Yorker, and Joyce, a Charleston, S.C. native whom he had met and married while attending The Citadel.

"After we got here and I learned more, I was concerned about crime. Downtown did not have a good reputation, and my wife was a shopper," he said. *"I told her if she wanted to go downtown and shop, 'You go with me.' We had a lot of apprehension, not about Benning, but about Columbus."*

That apprehension eventually faded into adoration. Columbus grew on Cavezza and he grew on Columbus. Over the next 57 years, he became one of the city's most influential leaders across military, government, educational and volunteer lines.

Columbus has changed since the early 1960s and Cavezza is one of those people who helped drive that change. Today, he's nearly 81 years old, walks with a slight hunch and has difficulty hearing....

(continued....)



....But he stands as one of many military leaders brought here through the wisdom of the Army, but ended up making Columbus their home.

Cavezza, a Vietnam combat veteran who was seriously wounded during a January 1966 battle, rose to the rank of three-star general before retiring in 1994. His leadership style transcended the military.

He led Columbus 96, the nonprofit organization that ran the softball portion of the Atlanta Olympic Games. He moved from that role to city manager in 1997 and then into a leadership position with Columbus State University after he left the city in 2004.

And he used the same leadership style through it all. Cavezza wasn't one to bark or scream orders in the Army and that served him well in the transition to the civilian workforce, said Chuck Walls, who served under Cavezza's command at Fort Benning and worked closely with him in a civilian role during the Olympic Games.

"He is always calm, measured and professional — and that was as a general officer or as a city manager," Walls said. "That's a great leadership quality and for that reason you had a lot of people who wanted to work for him. And a lot of those people did not want to let him down. I love the guy."

An Infantry man connected to Fort Benning falling in love with Columbus did not happen overnight for the Cavezza's.

As he moved through the ranks as an infantry officer, the Home of the Infantry was a frequent destination.

After being wounded in Vietnam and fresh out of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Cavezza found himself back at Fort Benning where he worked on the staff for a year at Building 4 before going to the Advance Course as a captain. He came back in 1981 to command the 197th Infantry Brigade on a rare three-year assignment. He tacked on a fourth year to the Fort Benning assignment as chief of staff.

"That block really endured me to Columbus because I got to know a lot of people," Cavezza said. "I got to appreciate what Columbus was all about."

Joyce was also finding a home. *"Not knowingly, we are putting down some roots here,"* she said.

And a big part of those roots were the relationships they were building. Gen. David Grange essentially ordered Cavezza to attend the North Columbus Rotary Club meetings every Tuesday in town.

"I would be in the field and I would say, 'Oh, God, I got to go change my uniform and go to Rotary,'" Cavezza recalled. *"It was kind of a pain, but what it did was establish relationships. With Rotary you meet a lot*

of people, the movers and the shakers. I soon learned there were some pretty nice people down here."

Soon, Cavezza, raised in Elmira, N.Y., began to feel at ease in Columbus.

"Benning has always been held in high regard and people in uniform have always been well received in Columbus," Cavezza said. *"At Rotary I was making more friends."*

Then during his tenure as chief of staff the family seriously began looking to retire in Columbus. He realized it when he got a call from the Pentagon about a possible job in the nations' Capitol. *"I hated Washington,"* Cavezza said.

They wanted him to come up for an interview. *"I said, 'I just as soon not. I like it here and I would like to stay where I am,'"* he remembered. *"We were very comfortable. It was four years in one place and I was asking for more. That was crazy. But at that point, it was: Do I get out of the Army now or do I go up for this interview?"*



Major Gen. Michael E. Spigelmire, left, and Major Gen. Carmen J. Cavezza, right, are photographed during a Change of Command ceremony at Fort Benning.

ALLEN HORNE LEDGER-ENQUIRER FILE PHOTO

There was something that might entice him to retire and stay in the Chattahoochee Valley. *"The county manager's job of Harris County came open,"* Cavezza said. *"I called them and said, 'I might be interested in that.' I don't even remember who I talked to, but he said, 'You know we are a small county and we don't pay much — maybe around \$20,000.' I said, 'Never mind, I am going to Washington.'"*

(continued....)



As a colonel, who made the decision to ride his military career as far as it would take him, Cavezza left Fort Benning in 1985 for Washington.

After that assignment, which included multiple jobs and a brief stint in Korea, he became assistant commander of the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. He then became commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, Calif.

As Cavezza was moving into high commands, Joyce was becoming more comfortable in her role — though she was not as comfortable in her role as an Army officer's wife early in her husband's career.

She was working as a secretary when she met Carmen as a 19-year-old and did not like the fact that wives were strongly encouraged not to work outside the home.

She expressed her concerns about the rules concerning mandatory social gatherings and other orders to the wives that came from on-high. Joyce was ahead of her time in that role, Cavezza said, more like a military spouse of today than one of the 1960s.

"She was part of that transition," Cavezza said. "She went through that, 'You got to do this, you got to wear a hat to this, you got to do that.' I basically said, 'Joyce, if you don't want to do it, don't do it. If I can't make it on my own, I am not going to make it.'"

There was no need to try to pressure his wife into doing things she didn't want to do, Cavezza said.

There is a lesson in that, Joyce said. *"When you try and pressure somebody into doing something that they don't feel is right, your marriage is not going to last,"* she said.

Commanding general

In 1989, the Army sent Cavezza back, this time with two stars and the assignment as the post's commanding general. It was a long way from the second lieutenant who reported to Fort Benning just before Independence Day 28 years earlier.

Riverside, commanding general's residence at Fort Benning, was a couple of miles from the South Lumpkin Road trailer park where they spent their first night in Columbus, but it was now home.

The road the Cavezza's had traveled was not lost at that point. *"It is quite an honor to be the commander of Fort Benning,"* Cavezza said.

Cavezza's Army leadership style and his reputation were well established by the time he commanded Fort Benning.

"You call it servant leadership here, but it's a little different in the Army," Cavezza said. *"But it's taking care of people, letting them show what they can do, prove themselves. You drive them and drive them."*

Some people fall apart when they get driven too hard. I am not sure my leadership style changed."

Joyce's style was coming through, too. She threw the parties that are expected of a commanding general's wife, but she did them her way. None of them were mandatory and she didn't bring in a staff to handle the cooking or pre-party house cleaning. And they were not formal functions.

"I don't like formality," she said. Joyce was doing the work by choice. *"That's me,"* she said. *"It's got to be done my way. I didn't want anybody fooling with food but myself."* And it used to drive her husband crazy, at times

"She would pull out the recipe book and it was something she had never made, and she would say, 'I think I am going to try this,'" Cavezza said. *"I would say, 'We got 50 people coming in, Joyce. What if it doesn't work?' She would say, 'It'll work.'" And it did. But there was a method to what she was doing.*

"We tried to get people to relax and be themselves," Joyce said.

As the Fort Benning tenure came to close, the roots in Columbus were getting deeper. The couple had purchased a cabin on the Backwaters.

When he got orders to leave Fort Benning in 1991 and become commanding general of I Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash., Cavezza faced another difficult decision — retire or march forward and take the third star and the prestigious command in the Pacific-Northwest.

"My first concern was, 'How is my family going to adjust to this?'" Cavezza said. *"When I thought Fort Lewis, 'I thought cold, windy, miserable.' It's not that way at all, but it sure gets marketed poorly. I said, 'Joy, we are going there for a couple of years.'"*

They packed and moved and two years turned into three. And that turned into retirement.

Back in Columbus

If the Cavezza's story ends at Fort Lewis, it is an amazing story of a kid from upstate New York who liked to race hot rods becoming a leader in the U.S. Army. But the story does not end there. In many ways the ending of the military chapter is where the real story starts. And, like much of the Army story, it is set in Columbus.

Cavezza came back to Columbus with three stars on his resume' and a closet full of university degrees. He had a master's in government from the University of Miami — one that he earned while he was an ROTC instructor still recovering from his Vietnam wounds.

(continued....)



He picked up a second master's in international affairs from George Washington University during one of his D.C. assignments and completed a doctorate of philosophy from George Washington while commanding I Corps at Fort Lewis.

"He was always working, but if there were little spaces of time, he was going to school," she said. "He's got all these degrees on the wall. Here is he, going to Florida right after being wounded in Vietnam, he's doing ROTC, and yet he's going back to school to become a city manager," Joyce added.

But continuing his education was about more than the degrees, Joyce said. *"It wasn't getting the degrees, it was just staying up on things," she said. "When he went to the college, he was studying every night. He was reading and studying. When he was doing the Olympics from the ground up, he was teaching at night. There's no free time."*

But even with all that there was uncertainty as he moved back to Columbus without a job.

As the boxes were being brought into a home in Brookstone that was purchased a few years earlier, Cavezza got a phone call from Mat Swift, who at the time was an executive at the W.C. Bradley Co.

"It was poor timing, here the moving truck was here and all that chaos, and I looked at Joyce and said, 'You are in charge. I got a meeting downtown,'" he remembered. "She was like, 'What, not again.' I went to see Mat and we talked to about the Olympics job. My first thought was, 'This is too good to be true.'"

Joyce was used to sudden changes of plan. *"That was just kind of the way everything always went," she said. Her husband's investment in the community while still in uniform was starting to pay dividends.*

"Once you get into Columbus, you get to know people and treat them right, good things start to happen," Cavezza said.

His first job in Columbus could not have been any different from his command posts in the Army. His new army was mostly volunteers eager to make Columbus look good in front of the world, while at the same time pulling off the Olympic softball competition for the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Columbus was a late addition to venue lineup, was 100 miles removed from the heart of the games and had a lot of work to do. *"He was the perfect man for the perfect time," Walls said.*

And it worked for a number of reasons — because Cavezza knew how to build consensus, said former deputy city manager Richard Bishop. *"He invests a lot of effort and time into his people," Bishop said. "That served him well when it came time to make those decisions."*

Retired Columbus State University President Frank Brown was one of those people in Columbus who knew Cavezza when he was a colonel making himself known in the community. Brown was still climbing the ladder at CSU, at the time. *"The first thing that I see when I see Carmen Cavezza is he's such a human being," Brown said. "For so many people the adjustment from the military to civilian life is difficult. And it may have been difficult for Carmen, but he never showed that." Brown said he admired Cavezza's ability to delegate the most. "He is extremely clear in his expectations," he said. "And if you understand those expectations and are doing your job, he's going to stay out of your business."*

Throughout his retirement, the jobs continued to come, much like an Army officer going from station to station on assignment.

"He didn't get out of that job before they are asking him to be city manager," Joyce said. "And he's not even out of that job before they wanted him over at the college and then they wanted him down at the museum."



Retired Lt. Gen. Carmen Cavezza, who led the Columbus '96 committee that ran the 1996 Olympic softball tournament, returns to Golden Park for a few thoughts on the games 20 years later.

ROBIN TRIMARCHI RTRIMARCHI@LEDGER-ENQUIRER.COM

Once the Olympics were over and the softball venue had been one of the most successful efforts of the Atlanta Games and the Sports Council had been established, Cavezza got a visit from then-Mayor Bobby Peters.

(continued....)



"He came over and said, 'I would like for you to be my city manager,'" Cavezza said. "I said, 'Bobby, you got a city manager.' And he said, 'Not for long.' He evidently had a plan."

Peters calls it the *"the best decision I ever made."* *"And I never had to make another decision for seven years," he joked.*

Cavezza talked to the council and told them it was an honor to be considered. *"I told them I don't have any experience in that, but it all boils around leadership," he said,*

Peters and Cavezza made a good team for nearly two terms. *"We never had a problem," Peters said. "He used to say that one of the reasons we got along so well was he couldn't hear half of what I said."*

But the city manager's job was still demanding. *"Somebody came to me and said, 'How does it compare with being the city manager to commanding a corps?" he recalled. "I said, 'Well, commanding a corps, I say forward march and thousands of soldiers step off with their left foot. Here, I say, forward march and you get three nays and a motion for denial.' So, it's totally different leadership you have to use."*



Carmen Cavezza

(MIKE HASKEY mhaskey@ledger-enquirer.com)

For nearly 25 years after leaving the Army, Cavezza served in key roles. Now 80 with his health in decline and his best days in the past, ask Cavezza if there is anything he would change and he takes a long pause.

"I sure wouldn't go back to New York," he said. "Nah. Probably not. Joyce and I talk a lot about this. Things just kind of fell into place. One good thing led to another good thing."

And many of those things led to Fort Benning and Columbus, Cavezza said.

"It's a nice place to be."

Web source:

Ledger-Enquirer

www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/local/military/article219912955.html

A Few Pics of Carmen with the 2/503



L-R: Carmen Cavezza, Bobby Tharp and Capt. Oliver at Camp Zinn in 1965.



On left, Carmen Cavezza and A Co. Command Group, Than Duc, November '65.



L-R: LTG Heintges, Carmen Cavezza and Fred Henschell, Courtenay, December '65.

(Photos & captions from Bn Cmdr COL George Dexter's collection)

All The Way, Cap!



2/503d **VIETNAM** Newsletter / March-April 2020 – Issue 91
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INCOMING!!!



Never Trust The D.I.'s In Basic

I thought you Sky Soldiers should know about this SSgt. on perhaps the first, or maybe the second day of basic training at Ft. Ord.

The Drill Sergeant had us all lined up (sort of) and made an announcement. *"We just got a request from the highway patrol for some additional candidates. If anyone wants to quit the army and join up, take one step forward now."*



About half the platoon, with their bald heads, excitedly stepped forward, only to discover their new assignment was to pick up the trash on Route 1.

Never trust ol' Sarge.

**Jim Robinson, 1LT
B/2/503**

P.O.S.H.

While in the Army, my son attended POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) classes. During one session, the sergeant said to his men, *"Before you tell a joke, ask yourselves, 'What would my mother think?'"* My son replied, *"Sergeant, there's a problem with that."* *"What is it?"* asked the Sergeant. *"If I listened to what my mother had to say, I wouldn't have joined the Army in the first place."*

(From a Digger with the RAA)

**Happy Belated 60 Year Wedding Anniversary to
BDQ Roy and his bride Carol on
December 28, 2019**



**B/2/503 CO LTC Roy Lombardo
with his beautiful CO and bride Carol.**

Bravo Bulls

**Announce the
Van Campen Remembrance
B/2/503
2020 Annual Reunion
May 6-9, 2020 / Jaffrey, NH**

For complete details and agenda, please contact
Bob Warfield, B/2/503 at
foxlair@aol.com



**Thomas Charles Van Campen
KIA-MIA 24 June 1965
Hometown: Oroville, CA**

Happy Birthday To Another CO*

Happy Birthday this April to **Regine (Reggie) Smith**, Sky Soldierette Extraordinaire, known to many Sky Soldiers throughout the country and the world for opening her heart, home and refrigerator to them as they fought that enemy, PTSD. Happy Birthday, Doll.

*Mike Sturges, A/2/503, gave Reggie her lofty rank.



(INCOMING!!! continued....)



Airborne Forever! A Cowboy wish



Thought I would write, and relay a story that happened to me. A little background first.

My name is John (Jack) Fromhartz. I was in A Company, 82nd Aviation Battalion. I arrived in Nam on May 1st, 1965. Five days later the 173rd arrived from Okinawa. It looks like we were there at about the same time. I was stationed at Vung Tau my first 5 months, and then sent to Bien Hoa, for the next 14 months.

In 2002, I was working at a country club in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I by chance ran into a fellow trooper who told me to go on line and look up the 173rd Association. I joined the association that week. I read that the 173rd was having their reunion in Daytona Beach in about a month. So 30 days later I arrived in Daytona.

The reunion was at a nice hotel right on the beach. I walked in and started mingling with my fellow troopers. There were three large tables pushed together. On the table was a block diagram of all the different units of the 173rd brigade. The 3 Infantry Battalions, Artillery Companies, Headquarter Company. I noticed there was no Aviation Battalion, even tho they arrived in country with their own chopper company called the Caspers.

My company was called the Cowboys. We had 26 Hueys and we were assigned to the 173rd Brigade. Needless to say, I felt a little slighted. Just something I've never forgot.

A few months later, I was on line and found the group that I belong too, the 335th Assault Helicopter Company. I still attend all the reunions, just went to my 9th in Panama City, FL.

I'm going to download your newsletter, and see what's happening from your end.

Airborne forever,

Jack Fromhartz
82nd Avn Bn/335th AHC

Update – Faces Of Our Fallen



On the last day of December, nationwide, there are 309 KIA images still missing at the Vietnam Memorial – down from 341 at the end of November. So, during December, 32 pictures were located from all over America; that means 1,429 pictures were found in 2019.

Ken Smith, COL (Ret)
CO A/D/2/503 RVN

Father Sampson

Amongst the 13,348 U.S. Army paratroopers jumping into Normandy, only 13 were chaplains. One of them was Father Francis L. Sampson, who would go on to earn the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart medals. He later wrote of his experience jumping into Normandy, *"It will always remain a mystery to me how any of us lived. I collapsed part of my chute to come down faster. From there on I placed myself into the hands of my guardian angel."*



He nearly drowned when he landed in a swamp and his heavy 120-pound sack containing his combat and religious gear kept him down. He was able to get up for air with the help of a gust of wind and quick thinking with his knife. Sampson heard the screams of bullets zipping around him; he watched a frantic pilot steer a C-47 into a nearby field and disappear into a blast of orange fire and thick, black smoke. He crouched and hurried alone, praying for each of the fallen he passed until he found fellow paratroopers huddled in a grove and joined them.

Chuck Dean
HHC/1/503 RVN

Chuck's books of war and healing:
<http://www.amazon.com/author/chuckdeanbooks>

(INCOMING!!! continued....)



173d Airborne Brigade Deploy To Middle East



“Paratroopers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade prepare to board a C-130 Hercules plane during an airborne exercise at a drop zone near Pordenone, Italy, Dec. 3, 2019. Soldiers with the 173rd are deploying to the Middle East, a brigade spokesman said Monday.”

(PAOLO BOVO/U.S. ARMY)

VICENZA, Italy — Soldiers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade are deploying to the Middle East, a brigade spokesman said Monday.

"We do have troops from the brigade that are deploying to posture to defend U.S. personnel and property as directed," said Maj. Chris Bradley, a spokesman for the Italy-based brigade.

He declined to discuss the deployment further, including how many paratroopers would deploy and where, until after a Pentagon announcement.

The deployment will add to the thousands of troops sent to the region following a U.S. drone strike that killed Iran Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iran-backed Iraqi militia leaders in Baghdad on Friday. The deaths unleashed calls among Iranian and Iraqi supporters for revenge.

Excerpt from *Stars and Stripes*.

Read entire article at:

<https://search.yahoo.com/search?p=173rd+Airborne+deploys+to+lebanon&fr=yfp-t&fp=1&toggle=1&cop=mss&ei=UTF-8>

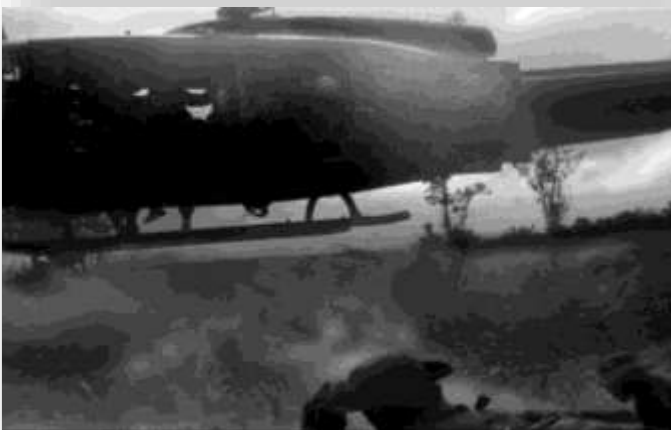
(INCOMING!!! continued....)



With 173d LRRPs Near An Khe

Another name for a hundred page newsletter (Issue 90) is an "Encyclopedia Set". That is a lot of work and obviously a labor of love. Good work.

I was a combat photo officer with the 221st Signal Company, 1st Signal Brigade. I joined a LRRP patrol of the 173rd for a sneak and peek in the mountains west of An Khe in 1968. The patrol leader was Sgt. Sylvester Brocato. Unfortunately, I don't remember the names of the other four gentlemen.



If you are interested I have a dozen or so photos and can write up an interesting summary of the patrol.
Best Regards

Roger Hawkins



Note: We thanked Roger and look forward to sharing his photos and story in a future issue. Ed

Reunion Speakers



General "Mike" Scaparrotti
Former Cmdr U.S. Eur. Cmd.
and
NATO's Supreme
Allied Commander Europe



Dr. Scott Fairchild
Psy.D
Baytree Behavioral Health
Melbourne, FL
LTC (Ret), 82nd Abn Div

Gang, it's late Thursday night but I could not wait to relate to you some good news.

Four Star General Curtis Michael "Mike" Scaparrotti has agreed to step forth as our guest speaker at the Dayton reunion. As the former commander of the 173d and 82nd he has graciously agreed to greet and to speak to us. He commanded the American forces in Europe before retiring early this Spring. A wonderful guy to speak with over the phone. He is a Herd brother and he is delighted to step forth. This makes it all the more wonderful.

We also have Doctor Scott Fairchild who specializes in PTSD, and who performed much of the early work on the illness for the Army at Walter Reed. Kimberly and I are arranging a conference room for him to speak following Saturday morning's General Meeting. His insights are valuable and should be of great interest to all those inquiring into it.

Everything is falling together, gang. Here's hoping for a fine reunion.

Airborne! All The Way!

Bill Terry
A/3/319th

P.S. Forgot to mention that our good buddy **NILES HARRIS** will be attending the Dayton reunion. He was instrumental in the Big and Rich hit song *8th of November*, about the 173d.



(INCOMING!!! continued....)



Sky Soldier Ball Players

Art Stang, CO A/2/503 (see Issue 90, Page 53), played first base on our brigade baseball team on Okinawa in 1964 until the Gulf of Tonkin Incident broke up the league and all of us on special duty were sent back to our units. He was by far the most talented player on our team. Not only was he a great ballplayer, but he was also a great guy and made all of us "enlisted scum" realize that not all officers were assholes!



The late first baseman
Capt. Stang, Col. (Ret)

We were tied for first place at the time the incident occurred, and we were pissed that our special duty gig was cancelled before we had a chance to win the league championship. Looking back, I would say Art would have done well playing minor league ball, though I doubt he would have made it to the major leagues.

Dave Block, who was assigned to the brigade finance unit, was also a member of the team and signed a professional minor league contract after he returned from Vietnam. He played for three years and made it as far as Double AA ball until he quit over a contract dispute. He died of cancer in 2016 after retiring as a school teacher in New York State.

My writing days are over. After seven novels, with only one a relatively minor success, I've decided to cease trying to write the next Great American Novel. I'm fast approaching the old age of 78 and realize it's time to stop and smell the flowers while I still can.

I don't know about you, but the light at the end of the tunnel is growing dimmer by the day. I'm just thankful I made it through Vietnam and 31 years of police work intact.

Take care, Brothers,

John Taylor
B/2/503



Box Score

In addition to his career in law enforcement and that of a novelist, John was a professional ball player too, a catcher, having played in the Phillies' and Yankees' systems. Three other baseball players of mentionable skill from the ranks of the 173d include Larry Paladino (B/2/503), Jerry Sopko (D/4/503) both still playing inside the lines to this day because they think they're still 19, and Lew "Smitty" Smith (HHC/2/503), no doubt among many other Sky Soldier ball players. Ed

Rumor has it, baseball is more fun than war....



John, living the dream.



Larry, leading off?



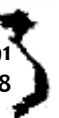
Lefty Jerry doubling.



And Smitty safe at third.

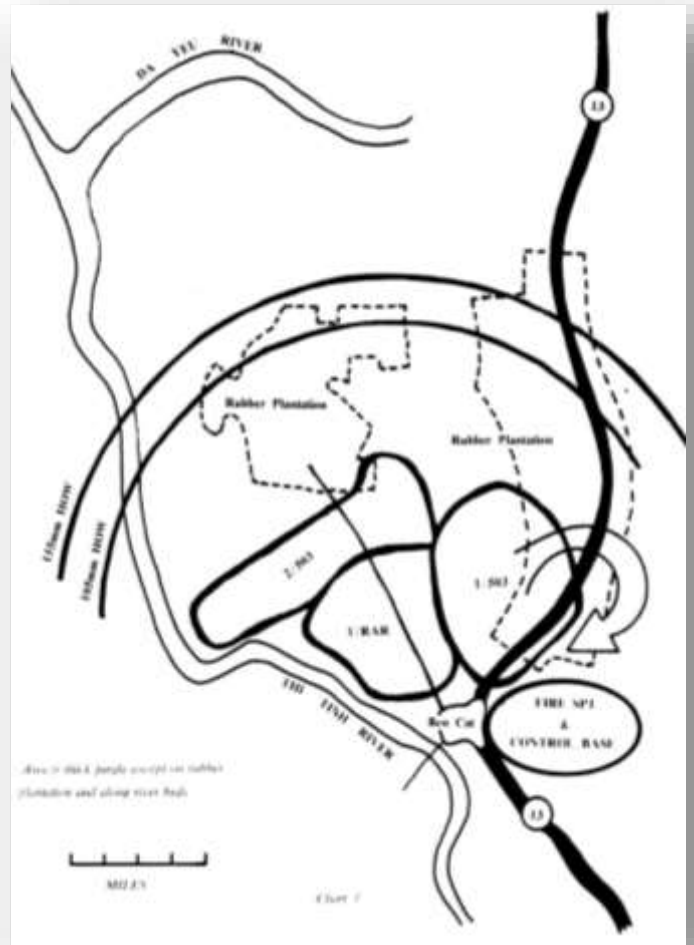
OH, somewhere in this favoured land
the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere,
and somewhere hearts are light,
And somewhere men are laughing,
And somewhere children shout;
But there is no joy in Mudville—
Mighty Casey has struck out.

Excerpt from
Casey At The Bat, by Phineas Thayer



UNITED STATES ARMY ground combat in Vietnam has become of age. When the 173d Airborne Brigade arrived in Vietnam in May 1965 it found that military operations were always executed in succession rather than simultaneously in support of each other. Artillery was fired, then air support was used, then troopers were moved, then other things happened. Now with fully developed fire support control centers, with the use of good communications, good observation and multiple means of movement, many activities are being effectively executed in concert.

On 14 September, a large operation was begun with the mission of finding and destroying enemy forces and installations in the general Ben Cat area and of making the area safe for the introduction of the arriving elements of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division. With the movement of the heavy fire support elements overland and the Infantry foot elements by helicopter, we introduced into the area three Infantry battalions, one cavalry troop, one armor company, one engineer company, a logistical operation center, and a five-battery artillery battalion in rapid time with minimum exposure (Chart 1.)



The first phase of the operation consisted of saturation patrols searching for worthwhile bits of intelligence upon which to plan future maneuvers of units, augmented by civic actions that were designed to win the support of the local people.

The saturation patrol efforts (see charts) consisted of each Infantry battalion sending out approximately 30 small patrols each day. As enemy contacts were made and information was gathered, patrols were converged or battalions were assembled to lash out at the enemy targets. As shown in Chart 1, the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry assembled and moved, even outside its originally assigned area, in an entire battalion sweep to clear an area where an enemy battalion was reported to be assembling to move out.

(continued...)





Brigade Commander, BG Ellis Williamson

As the intelligence picture developed and the enemy targets were found to be in the northwest corner of the operational area, battalion-size patrol bases and artillery support weapons were maneuvered into position to support future large operations. Numerous small patrol units were lifted by helicopter to get in behind small enemy units.

Artillery was dragged forward. In one case the terrain was nearly impassable. It took seven hours to move one 102mm howitzer battery just three miles and this was accomplished only after hooking armored personnel carriers in tandem and literally dragging the howitzers through the jungle mud. The New Zealand 105mm howitzer battery, however, was moved more easily since its weapons could be folded and placed inside the APC's.



"Paratroopers of the U.S. 2nd Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade hold their automatic weapons above water as they cross a river in the rain during a search for Viet Cong positions in the jungle area of Ben Cat, South Vietnam, Sept. 25, 1965. The paratroopers had been searching the area for 12 days with no enemy contact." (AP Photo/Henri Huet)

As these deployments were being accomplished, a B-52 bomb strike was requested and the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry made ready for its helicopter lift behind the enemy installations which included a reported 2,000-man force. The B-52 bomb strike was denied because of the possibility of hitting a nearby village; however, 50 in-country fighters were made available.

The 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry made its helicopter landing immediately behind massed artillery, air strikes, and helicopter preparatory fires. The landing was almost unopposed but it was immediately obvious that we were deep in the enemy's backyard. The next day the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry was also helicopter-lifted over the enemy force and placed in his rear.



2/503 Sky Soldiers load up at the Snakepit on Bien Hoa AFB enroute to Ben Cat.

(2/503 Bn Cmdr Col. George Dexter photo collection)

These two battalions with the able assistance of the firepower from the Australian Support Base (two artillery batteries) and the Australians providing the anvil on which the enemy was driven, were able to destroy an enemy support base of a fantastic proportion. (Chart 2.)

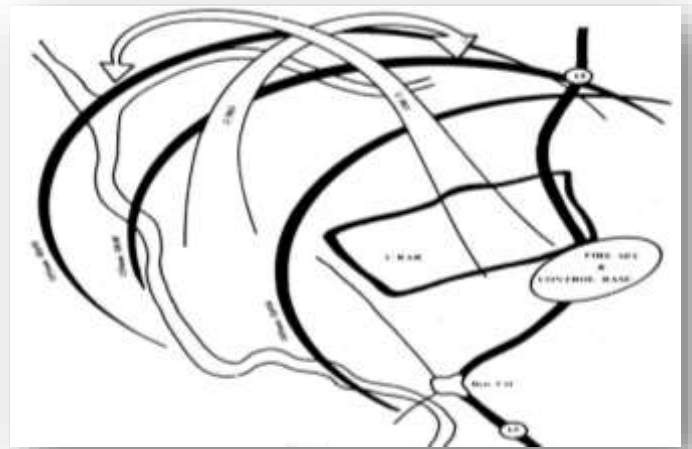


Chart 2

(continued....)





"Wilderness Rd, Lt Lancaster & SGM Mish, Ben Cat, Sep."
(George Dexter photo)

After a brief fire fight in which 12 enemy were killed, the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry destroyed a combination signal school, signal repair shop, psychological warfare school, and long-range radio station. Thirty-six radios were captured at this location. The 1st Battalion came upon two large enemy hospitals that would accommodate approximately 400 patients. One of the many wounded patients that were captured stated that he personally saw eight dead men carried out while he was left to be captured. The 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry continued its move to the south and just prior to reaching its helicopter lift-out area discovered an extremely large weapons and ammunitions cache. Among the items captured were 62 new Russian-made sniper rifles with telescopic sights, numerous other types of weapons, several thousand hand grenades, mortar and recoilless rifle ammunitions, plus molds for the manufacture of grenades and mortar ammunitions. Simultaneously the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry was taking its toll of enemy installations to include three different battalion-size training camps, which appeared to have been a high-level headquarters, and numerous small caches of ammunition and supplies.

After six days of working deep in the enemy's rear, the 1st and 2d Battalions, 503d Infantry were heli-lifted out of that operational area and the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment was given the job of bringing the fire support equipment to a hard-surfaced road. Once again nearly impassable terrain was encountered as it took over 48 hours to move just four miles.

During this period of time our civic actions were used to explain our purpose to the local people. We held sick call, we gave dental assistance, we donated food, and assisted in church services. These actions began to pay off. The civilian populace became friendly. On three different occasions the Viet Cong attempted to solicit the assistance of the civilians and were turned down. In several instances civilians told us of the location of mine fields, of enemy personnel concentrations, of enemy supplies, and of enemy future plans. In one case a woman identified a Viet Cong spy and through this lead we were able to capture the entire roster of the Viet Cong Phu Loi Battalion. Finally, one friendly civilian, seeing a Viet Cong about to throw a grenade at one of our vehicles, physically wrestled the

terrorist to the ground. Both were wounded. They were taken to the hospital and treated and the terrorist was then taken to the interrogation center.

After a short rest, we turned our attention to the southwest and tore apart the great unknown, the Iron Triangle. The area known as the Iron Triangle had long been considered a place of myth, dread, and fear. Many tales had been told of the strength and power of the Triangle but none had been confirmed or denied. (Chart 3.)



Chart 3

(continued....)





The Iron Triangle was thoroughly searched and investigated

When the civilians saw us on the move again, going after the Viet Cong, their response and appreciation was evident. Men, women, and children along the road jumped up and down and clapped their hands. Even the district chief stopped on the road and passed out free soft drinks. We had won friends among the people and they had seen by example that when we closed with the enemy we, in fact, destroyed him or pushed him out.



2/503 firing 81mm mortar in Ben Cat.
(George Dexter photo)

The Iron Triangle was destroyed by just the reverse of the tandem-type operations that were prevalent when we arrived in Vietnam last spring. Under the cover of the noise and confusion of two B-52 bomb strikes, the artillery, cavalry, tanks, and brigade command and control elements were moved to positions immediately beside the Iron Triangle. As the noise and confusion continued, the Australians moved up the road, turned west from Ben Cat, and were in position for an overland assault. The "second echelon" of the landing battalion was also moved forward by helicopter and placed in a ready position.

As soon as the last bombs of the B-52s fell, the Australians stormed across the river. Some 16 Air Force sorties and the fires of 24 artillery pieces began preparation of the landing zone. Instead of lifting as the 1st Battalion approached, the fires were shifted slightly to the south. The armed helicopters strafed and made the first close reconnaissance. They skirted around the firing zones and the lead (half) of the 2d Battalion, using some 65 helicopters, landed on LZ White. The second echelon, having been pre-positioned only 10 minutes away, was on the ground immediately behind the 1st echelon. The helicopters then returned to Bien Hoa, refueled, and shuttled in the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry as quickly as possible. (Chart 4.)



Chart 4

The Iron Triangle was thoroughly searched and investigated and all enemy troops and installations were destroyed. (Chart 5.) Within a three-day period 105 enemy were killed and 130 captured. When the sweep was completed the Australians and the 2d Battalion moved north along the western edge of the Triangle, along Highway 13.

(continued....)



When the enemy continued his resistance, the 1st Battalion was left in the area to complete the destruction. The 2d Battalion, the 1/RAR, the tanks, and the cavalry were moved into position to destroy enemy forces east of the river. As an indication of how tenaciously the enemy held to his ground, we had five C-123 aircraft and nine helicopters hit by ground fire in a two-day period, although not a plane was lost and no crew member seriously hurt.

One enemy captive said that the previous night our massed artillery had caught his entire battalion in a stream bed just as they were preparing to move out.

The enemy used relatively few men and large numbers of electrically-detonated mines and booby traps.



... we ... continued our drive against his static defenses.

This caused us to make a momentary change in our formations. Instead of continuing the large-unit sweeps, we immediately broke down again into small, widely dispersed units and continued our drive against his static defenses. After placing the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry, the 1/RAR, and two separate companies in position to cover the west bank of the river, the 1st Battalion was safely helicopter-lifted out of the Iron Triangle. Our return to Bien Hoa Air Base area was uneventful; however, we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had done a good job.

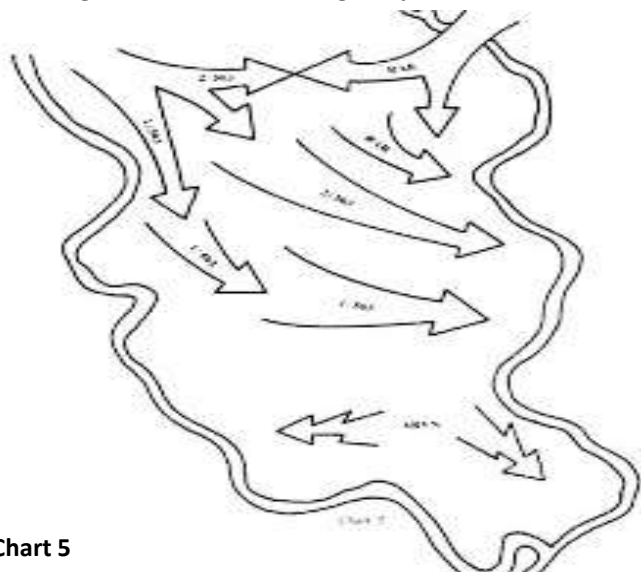


Chart 5

The Viet Cong losses were impressive. Some 2,200 civilians left VC-controlled territory and began life anew in the Ben Cat area. Those who already resided in the area had a feeling of increased security. There were 173 Viet Cong killed, 195 captured, 45 radios and 83 weapons taken. Also taken were over 11,000 pieces of ammunitions, 35 tons of rice, 600 pounds of salt, 500 pounds of medical supplies, plus the destruction of camps, huts, training centers, an ammunition factory, and a headquarters.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Coordinated simultaneous activities are essential to save time and protect formations.
2. Heli-borne operations to get behind the enemy are essential when he has concealed routes of withdrawal.
3. The forward logistic operations center greatly facilitates resupply of isolated areas (almost all maneuver elements remain isolated during this type operation).
4. The parachute drop of supplies into the forward logistic operations center is preferable to helicopter-lift of supplies.



173d resupply
(web photo)

5. Booby traps and electrically-detonated mines can be defeated by alert, aggressive men operating in widely dispersed formations.
6. Immediate response to intelligence information is necessary.
7. Think during the operations. Change the plan if appropriate.

Thanks to Bob Millner, A/2/503, for sending in this article by BG Williamson. Most photos added.

(continued....)



Additional Photos & Captions of the Ben Cat Operation From Col. George Dexter's Collection



Preparing to move out to Iron Triangle, Sep



Lynn Lancaster, Paul Sutton & Bob Warfield, Ben Cat, Sep



Lai Khe Rubber Plantation, Ben Cat Opn, Sep



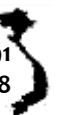
Bomb Crater, Iron Triangle, Oct



Choppers bringing in rations, Ben Cat, Sep



Les Brownlee and Bob Carmichael in Plantation CP, Oct



Col. Don Phillips, Sr. HHC & C/2/503, '66/'67 Passes

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Don Phillips Sr. (Shreveport, Louisiana), who passed away at the age of 85, on February 19, 2020. Family and friends can send flowers and/or light a candle as a loving gesture for their loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Don Phillips Sr. to show support.



<https://www.everhere.com/us/obituaries/la/shreveport/don-phillips-sr>

He was loved and cherished by many people including his parents, Mabel Moore Phillips and Alphonse Phillips; his wife Myrtle "Mopsy" Davenport; his children, Col. Don Anthony Phillips, Kimberley Phillips Boehm, Michael Lee Phillips and Mark Richmond Phillips; his grandsons, Peter Alexander (Nina Maria-Elena Shmorhun), Don Ross (Dana Louise Phillips), Michael Leighton (Matthew Brian Phillips) and Mark Richmond (Shanti Mae Phillips); and and also, Dawna Ross Phillips, Marcus F. Boehm, Lisa Savage Phillips and Dolly Breen Phillips.

Visitation will be held on Monday, March 9th 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Berry O. Waddy Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 14476 Northumberland Hwy, Heathsville, VA 22432. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, March 10th 2020 at 11:00 AM at the St. Frances de Sales Catholic Church, 154 E Church St, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

Remembering Don

I remember Don from when I came closest to getting killed in Nam.

It was a very rainy night and I was coming off radio watch when Capt. Phillips was in charge of the command tent. Heading back to my hooch in the muck, suddenly lightning flashed and lit up the area in front of me, showing a guy on his back spread-eagled on the ground and another kneeling by his side. The kneeling one swung his rifle at me and I was only standing a few feet away. I froze, held by hands up high like in the cowboy movies and rapidly said and repeatedly so, "Don't shoot, don't shoot!" Must have been a hundred times I said it or so it seems. The soldier kneeling

looked at me, then slowly lowered his rifle. I said, "I thought you were going to shoot me." He said he was and the rifle was on full auto. Turns out they had gone into a nearby Montagnard village and gotten plastered on some local brew and thought he was on the outer perimeter instead of dab smack in the middle of the battalion. I slowly retreated backwards and back to the command tent, informing Capt. Phillips of the incident. He got up and told me to show him. As we proceeded through the dark and heavy rain, I was saying out loud "Guys, we're coming, ok?" When we got there the kneeling guy swung his rifle up and at us and we both (Phillips and I) took off ducking and running back to the command tent. When back, Capt. Phillips was trying to radio over to the company in that area. Then SFC Willard Dockery walks in, coming on his watch. The captain and I looked at each other as Dockery had to have walked right by them. We both asked him if he noticed anything. He said he met a couple of drunk soldiers, disarmed them and turned them over to their company. As I remember, the two guys were tied up and spent the night in an open foxhole getting drenched and sober.

I liked Phillips. Most of the officers were good people.

Jerry Hassler

RTO, S-2/Recon, HHC/2/503, '66/'67

Cap...A Good Man & Leader

I remember Don from when he and I both served in HHC/2/503 in '66. I DEROSSED in December of that year leaving Don and others to continue their war fighting. Don would go on to make the combat jump in '67.

What I most remember about "Cap", is he was a young Captain who was easily approachable, and genuinely cared for the well-being of all the young men under his charge – I always respected him for that.

In late '66 they gave us a unit album, "The First Three Years", and one of my last acts in-country was to ask Don to sign my copy, which he did (below).

I regret never having hooked-up with him after the war. Don was a good man and a good leader; he was a soldier's soldier. Rest easy Colonel, job well done, Sir.

Lew "Smitty" Smith

RTO, S-2/HHC/2/503, '65/'66



Veterans, Officials Mark 75th Anniversary of Key WWII Battle

Jan. 9, 2020 | By C. Todd Lopez , DOD News

World War II veterans and military attachés from Australia and the Philippines commemorated the 75th anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II in the Pacific in Washington today.



The Battle of Luzon took place on the largest island in the Philippines, which is where the nation's capital, Manila, is located.

Jan Scruggs, the founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, spoke during a ceremony at the National World War II Memorial.

"General MacArthur made a promise. ... He said, 'I shall return,' and this is exactly what he did. Victory would come in 1945, after the long and bloody battle of Luzon."

Jan Scruggs, founder, Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Battle of Luzon, Scruggs said, dealt a severe blow to the enemy forces and placed the Allies one step closer to total victory and ending the war.

On March 11, 1942, Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia, Scruggs said. In his place, Army Gen. Jonathan Wainwright took over as general of the armies of the Philippines. Army Maj. Gen. Edward P. King Jr. served as commanding general of the Philippine-American forces.

On April 9, 1942, Scruggs said, King surrendered to the Japanese at Bataan. About 75,000 U.S. and Philippine forces were part of that surrender. Later, as part of the Bataan Death March, thousands of them would die.

Less than a month later, Wainwright and about 10,000 soldiers also surrendered.



On Jan. 9, 1945, 175,000 U.S. troops landed on Luzon and established a 20-mile beachhead, Scruggs said. The Australians provided air and sea power to assist in the invasion. The Mexicans also provided air support to help in the liberation.

"Filipino and American troops fought back [and] took very heavy casualties, particularly when they moved into Manila and had to fight house to house at very close range and in difficult fighting," Scruggs said. "By May 1945, most of the fighting was over in the Philippines. There were some scattered Japanese units who actually fought until the end of the war and stayed deep in the jungle. But the liberation of Luzon avenged the harsh treatment and defeat of the island and achieved a major objective for the war in the Pacific."

As part of the Battle of Luzon, about 10,000 American service members gave their lives. The

Japanese suffered about 200,000 combat deaths. Between 120,000 and 140,000 Filipino civilians and combatants were also killed, Scruggs said.

"Today we remember the brave soldiers who fought for freedom and to end World War II," he said.

Wreaths were laid at the National World War II Memorial in honor of combatants from the United States, the Philippines, Mexico and Australia who fought at Luzon.

Ira Rigger of Cockeysville, Maryland, participated in the presentation of those wreaths. While he didn't participate in the Battle of Luzon, he said, he did serve in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II, and he provided construction support to that battle as a Navy Seabee.



(continued....)





Rigger joined the Navy in January 1943. His first assignment was to Guam. "We built a harbor there," he said. "The harbor that is used now to bring all the cruise ships in. When we got there, you couldn't even go in there with an outboard."

Later, he said, he was moved to Peleliu, an island about 1,000 miles southeast of Luzon. He said the island came to serve as a supply base to the Battle of Luzon. "It was used as a storage place, a supply base for the Philippines," Rigger said. "That was the idea of it. MacArthur wanted it. It cost 4,000 Marine lives. We built a way to get the supplies in. It was a canal, a channel."

Rigger said he also served on Iwo Jima. "I'm one of the very few people who have ever been underground at Iwo Jima," he said. "They were mining sulfur there. So Iwo Jima was actually a mine, not just an air base for the Japanese. They took the sulfur back to make gunpowder. I snuck down there one day when I didn't have anything else to do."

While he didn't fight the Japanese at Iwo Jima, he said, the Japanese fought him: "I had bullets come all around me — they just missed."

Rigger said he was proud to have participated in the commemoration and proud to have served in World War II. Most importantly, he said, he was proud to have contributed to the Allies winning the war.

"It was crucial that we won," he said. "That's the point. If we hadn't have won, we'd have been serfs."



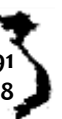
1st Sergeant Leonard A. Funk, Jr. 82nd Airborne Division, WWII

Army 1st Sgt. Leonard Funk served in some of the most pivotal campaigns in the European theater of World War II, making him one of the war's most decorated paratroopers. After jumping into Normandy on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne Division, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross during Operation Market Garden. His Medal of Honor was earned toward the end of the war when he led the capture of a German garrison during the Battle of the Bulge.



Funk was born Aug. 27, 1916, and grew up east of Pittsburgh. He enlisted in the Army as a 21-year-old in June 1941, months before the U.S. entered World War II. He volunteered to be a paratrooper and was assigned to Company C of the 82nd's 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Funk was stationed in England for much of the war, although he didn't see action until June 6, 1944 — D-Day, the largest land, air and sea invasion in history.

(continued....)



On that day, the small unit he commanded landed nearly 40 miles inland. They fought for several days before breaking through enemy lines to rejoin their regiments closer to the coast. Everyone in Funk's unit survived that mission, and he earned a Silver Star Medal.

But that's a story for another time. Today we're focused on his heroics during the Battle of the Bulge.

On Jan. 29, 1945, Funk found himself in waist-deep snowdrifts with other American forces who had been fighting a massive contingent of German troops since mid-December. His unit had managed to advance 15 miles in a driving snowstorm so they could attack the German-held town of Holzheim, Belgium.

When the company's executive officer went down, Funk stepped up to take his place. He realized they didn't have enough infantrymen to take out the German garrison, so he gathered a platoon full of clerks — soldiers with noncombat jobs — and turned them into a fighting force.

Despite facing direct artillery shelling and gunfire, Funk's men moved in. They attacked and cleared 15 houses without suffering any injuries. With the help of another American unit, they quickly overran the town, taking about 80 German prisoners who were placed under a four-man guard. The rest of the dilapidated American forces, including Funk, scanned the town to mop up any isolated points of resistance.

A few hours later, an enemy patrol managed to trick the Americans acting as guards, freeing the German prisoners. They had begun to get into place to attack Company C from the rear when Funk returned to check on the prisoners. He walked right into the enemy patrol.

A German officer, poking a pistol into Funk's stomach, ordered him to surrender. The first sergeant pretended to comply with the order, slowly unslinging his submachine gun from his shoulder. But instead of giving it up, he quickly fired, emptying a full magazine into the German officer and his counterparts, all the while shouting to his American comrades to seize the enemy's weapons.

Within minutes, 21 Germans were killed, many more were wounded and the rest were captured.

Despite being outnumbered and facing certain death, Funk's actions were directly responsible for the recapture of a force that was much larger than his own. His actions also allowed the other units of Company C to continue their attack plans unfettered.

Funk received the Medal of Honor for his actions on Sept. 5, 1945, at a ceremony at the White House. He's one of the most decorated paratroopers of World War II, having also earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters.

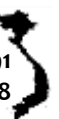
Funk left the Army after the war and went on to work for the Veterans Administration in the Pittsburgh area. He and his wife, Gertrude, have two daughters. Funk retired from the VA in 1972 and lived in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, until his death on Nov. 20, 1992. The 76-year-old is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

His legacy lives on. In 1995, a section of road where he lived was renamed the Leonard A. Funk Jr. Highway. In May 2018, he was inducted into the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame.

This article is part of a weekly series called "Medal of Honor Monday," in which we (the DoD) highlight one of the more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients who have earned the U.S. military's highest medal for valor.



ATW ISGT!



Sand Bags For the 4th Div... Remembering Buddies

By Les Fuller, A/2/503

My story begins when we were on the move up north.

We in A Co. went by convoy in deuce and half's. That was a pretty good ride all by itself. When we stopped we were in Pleiku. There were above ground bunkers that were about half finished where we were dropped off. There was PSP laying around along with sand bags and piles of dirt. Our orders were to finish the bunkers and to set up on them.



No DEROS Alpha Trooper, Les, by his bunker.

We all thought that we were going to guard that side of the airstrip, so we, or at least some of us, worked fast and hard to finish ours. Me, Carter and Barker were finished and kicking back real proud of our handy work. Well, wouldn't you know it, along came Captain Milton checking the line and wanted to know why we were not doing anything. I tried to explain that we were finished with our work. He said that since we were so good we should find somebody that needed help with theirs. Well, I thought that was very unfair and expressed my feelings to reflect that. Since the dirt piles were going fast, Captain Milton suggested that me and Barker dig a hole to provide the others with dirt so they could finish.

Captain Milton was the most diplomatic man I've ever known. He gave us our orders in such a way that we almost thanked him for the task that he gave us to do.

Later on, the 4th Div started to move APC's in and setting up. We wondered what was going on until the next day when we were told to saddle up because the 4th was going to take over our positions. That was the last time we ever saw those bunkers. At least we left them with a nice burn pit.

Some of the time lines may be off a little, but the facts remain the same. Here are some pictures of me and Barker and our bunker. They made us wear those flack vest for some unknown reason while we were there. Unfortunately, a couple of weeks later on 8 June, both Barker and Carter were killed by a grenade.



Leonard James Carter, KIA 6/8/67



Jeffrey Lawrence Barker, KIA 6/8/67.



Chattanooga Times Free Press

Rossville veteran was part of elite group in Vietnam

November 11th, 2019 / by Jay Greeson



Staff photo by C.B. Schmelter / Veteran Mike Griffin poses at his home on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 in Ringgold, Ga.

Mike Griffin is reluctant to speak of his time as a soldier in Vietnam. Very reluctant.

"I don't have beers with the guys and talk about any of that," Griffin said. *"That's not how I am or how I wanted to be with my family."*

"I think about (serving) every day."

Griffin's strength and resolve are clear in his message and his words. He's proud of his service, and prouder still of how it allowed him to create a life for his family in the decades since his year in the jungles of Asia.

He went from active duty to being a police officer in Atlanta. He advanced to serve on narcotics units and become a homicide detective up to the rank of major in the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and was the commander of all field operations.

He went to John Marshall Law School in Atlanta and graduated from the FBI academy.

He turned that into profitable runs as head of security for a couple of Fortune 500 companies.

BIO

Name: Mike Griffin

Age: 71

Branch of military: U.S. Army

Years of service: 1968-70

The Rossville, Georgia, native who had a deferment from service joined the military moved back to the Chattanooga area so his son, Michael, could attend McCallie School, where his wife, Theda, works as an executive assistant to the headmaster.

And while he doesn't discuss his time in Vietnam — *"We saw a lot of action,"* he said with a long pause. *"A lot."* — he believes the ground work for his success was laid in his service.

That service, though, was game-changing — for Griffin and in some ways for the American military effort.

He was part of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, a tight unit that specialized in ambushes and small-group attacks.

They went by the nickname Holloway's Raiders and SRAP — Short Range Ambush Patrol — and in a big-picture sense, were some of the foundations and forerunners for SEAL teams and other special operations units and the elite tactical forces.

"We were handpicked," Griffin said. *"It was an elite group."*

Griffin, in his ever-reluctant way, did not want to talk about the action and the acts of war but did say he and his group went on close to 70 missions in the central highland mountains of Vietnam.

"What did we know, we were kids, but we became men — fast," he said. *"Kids will do a lot of things that adults would stop and ask, 'What are we doing?'"*

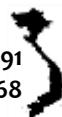
His decorated career — he was awarded three Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, two Air Medals and a slew of other medals and awards — also gave him an inner strength that has never left him.

As a 19-year-old sergeant and squad leader, he frequently led the small team assaults, and he still finds himself looking and scanning scenarios in everyday life for possible dangers.

"Fear? I don't know the last time," he answered when asked if he could remember the last time he was afraid.

"Everyone handles fear differently. I learned long ago to talk to myself and remain calm under the gun."

[Reprinted from the web, of
Chattanooga Times Free Press]



DOD Identifies Army Casualties

Feb. 9, 2020

The Department of Defense announced today the death of two soldiers who were supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Both soldiers died February 8, 2020 in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, as a result of wounds sustained while engaged in combat operations. The incident is under investigation. The deceased are:



**Sgt. 1st Class* Javier Jaguar Gutierrez, 28,
of San Antonio, Texas.**



**Sgt. 1st Class* Antonio Rey Rodriguez, 28,
of Las Cruces, New Mexico.**

Both soldiers were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. * indicates posthumous promotion

Rest Easy Forces Brothers

Terry Adam Bryson and Capt. (Moe?) Elmore Cousin looking for buddies

I found **Capt. Elmore** and just finished a lengthy chat with him on FB Messenger! I'm thrilled!

I'm seeking anyone who may have known my cousin, **Terry Adam Bryson**, HHC/2/503, 173d Airborne Brigade, November 1969-1970, based at LZ English. If you didn't know him, any leads would be appreciated.

Terry was KIA in Binh Dinh Province on 2 February 1970, by hostile action--possibly a booby trap. Terry may have been in the Recon Platoon.

If you knew Terry and have some memories of him to share, please contact me.

Thank you,

Deborah (Bryson) Kitchens

Phone 336-302-6560

Email dbkitchens6@gmail.com



**PFC Terry Bryson
KIA - 2 February 70**



Please share this with lady troopers, your wives, daughters, granddaughters and lady friends....

New 3-D mammogram option the next step in diagnosis, treatment



Chief Hospital Corpsman Naomi Perez, a certified mammogram technician (left), conducts a mammogram for a patient at Naval Hospital Pensacola. A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray procedure used to detect the early stages of breast cancer. A policy change effective Jan. 1, 2020, will allow digital breast tomosynthesis, or 3-D mammography, to be used to screen for breast cancer.

(U.S. Navy Photo by Mass. Comm. Spec. 1st Class Brannon Deugan)

12/19/19

After nearly a year's effort, a policy change effective Jan. 1, 2020, will allow digital breast tomosynthesis, or 3-D mammography, to be used to screen for breast cancer. While the procedure may not be offered at all military treatment facilities, the expanded benefit will be available as a screening and diagnostic tool for beneficiaries with TRICARE coverage.

The procedure – known technically as digital breast tomosynthesis or DBT – will be offered to primarily women age 40 and older, and women age 30 and older who are considered high-risk for breast cancer. Practitioners can offer DBT to other patients should a diagnosis determine the presence of a risk factor.

The procedure's three-dimensional images provide a more thorough means of detecting the disease – particularly in patients with dense breast tissue. The digital breast tomosynthesis technique is similar to that of a CT (computed tomography) scan. The source of the CT X-ray repeatedly sweeps over the breast at spaced intervals. The final imagery offers a cross section of "slices," or adjacent segments, of tissue.

"Mammography is the gold standard in detecting breast cancer, and the DHA is pleased to bring this advanced form of imaging to our patients," said Dr. Paul Cordts, chief medical officer for the Defense Health Agency. "We know how important it is to our patients to have access to the latest technology to improve their health outcomes. Digital breast tomosynthesis allows for earlier detection and diagnosis of smaller cancers and, if discovered early, it opens up more options to treat it quickly while in a nascent stage, with improved outcomes and potentially less side effects."

According to Amber Butterfield of TRICARE's Medical Benefits Reimbursement office in Aurora, Colorado, the expanded benefit for breast cancer screenings is allowed through provisional coverage authorized by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Thomas McCaffrey. Provisional coverage is a special authority that allows extension of coverage for items that are undergoing evaluation or have beneficial effects not yet proven.

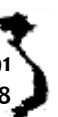
Between 2016 and 2018, roughly 80,000 TRICARE beneficiaries were diagnosed with either malignant abnormal growths of the breast, called carcinomas, or pre-cancerous cells, called neoplasms. To address this, leaders at the DHA were determined to find a way to expand breast cancer screenings using the DBT technology, while adhering to congressional requirements as they pertain to provisional authority.

"By regulation, TRICARE follows guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for preventive services," Dr. James Black, medical director of the Clinical Support Division at DHA, said. "This includes the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, which gives recommendations on provisional preventive services."

Although the task force has yet to recommend DBT for cancer screening, the decision by DHA leadership to expand DBT to annual cancer screenings was made a year ago. Since the USPSTF does not currently recommend DBT as a more effective screening tool than 2-D mammography, the DHA had to find a way to offer coverage under current statutes that govern what health services TRICARE can provide beneficiaries.

Black cited the efforts of retired Navy Vice Adm. Raquel C. Bono, the former DHA director, along with subject-matter experts from the services, who provided guidance that led to the provisional adaptation of DBT coverage.

(continued...)



Their focus included which commercial insurance carriers cover DBT and other coverage criteria. From there, DHA's medical benefits and reimbursement section put together a provisional coverage determination and submitted it to the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs – who, by law, is the approval authority for any such changes.

The coverage determination was approved in September and coverage will begin Jan. 1, 2020. Although the task force has yet to recommend 3-D breast DBT for cancer screening, DHA leadership is confident that within the five years DBT has been approved on provisional authority, the USPTF will obtain enough research to reach a firm recommendation.

Beneficiaries who have questions about DBT services offered in locations convenient to them should contact their TRICARE provider or regional customer service call center.

Source:

<https://www.health.mil/News/Articles/2019/12/19/New-3-D-mammogram-option-the-next-step-in-diagnosis-treatment>

UK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PHOTO



Image of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, The Red Arrows flying over New York streaming the Red, White and Blue. (Picture: UK MOD/Crown 2019)

A Pic From The Past



I found this old, almost 55 year-old, picture of myself and Sgt. Jesse Wynn from the 2/503 Recon Platoon. This is about a month after we arrived in Vietnam, in 1965. Thought you might want to add it to your collection.

Notice the old .45 cal grease gun that I traded an Air Force guy for some C's.

John "Top" Searcy

HHC/2/503, '65/'66

Buddy Looking For Buddies

First, I'd like to thank you for all you do with the 2/503rd newsletter. I'm sure it is a labor of love, but it surely is also a lot of work and giving up many hours too.

I recently met a 2nd Bat guy named **Donnie Cornet**. He served in 1968 and was LTC Hurbert's pointman. Donnie got shot up really bad and is still suffering from his wounds. He lives near you in Florida and would like to connect with other 2/503 guys. Could you please put his info in your newsletter and note that he would like to hear from 2/503 guys, especially from 1968.

Donnie Cornet

3874 Radley Drive, W. Melbourne, FL 32909

Thank you very much.

Bruce Matthews

HHC / S-5 173rd BDE 1969

A/2/503 1969

E/2/503 1969 & 1970



George Burnell Coursey, Jr. A/2/503, RVN Passes

George Burnell Coursey, Jr., age 71, passed away at Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin GA after a brief illness.

The Montgomery County native grew up in a time of turmoil for the United States. The war in Vietnam was fully involved and by the time he graduated high school; George heeded the call of service to his beloved country.



Upon enlisting in the US Army, he served two tours in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne.

His service to the country ultimately resulted in him being combat wounded. As such, he was awarded many meritorious service medals including a Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, Air Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.

Upon returning stateside, he did not allow his combat injuries to hold him back. Ultimately he owned or managed multiple mobile home dealerships throughout Georgia and Alabama.

In his free time he was very active with the Vidalia Moose Lodge and VFW in Vidalia. He found great joy in giving of himself to others. He found great peace in the great outdoors, but he was most at ease when he was fishing in his beloved Ohoopsee River.

A great patriot, a wonderful friend, and a true American hero; he will be missed by all that knew him.

Left to cherish the memories of a life well lived are his wife, Wanda Coursey; a son Andy (Jennifer) Coursey; two step daughters Samatha Ricketson and Erica Fields; 3 sisters, Helen Shouse, Peggy Surles, and Judy (Jimmy) Cowart; 8 grandchildren including Jameson Courtsey, 5 nephews, 1 niece, a lifelong friend, Willie J. Freeman, a host of other relatives and friends made along the way.

A private memorial service was held at a later date.

Thomas Mercer Collier Jr. PhD B/2/503, RVN Passes

Thomas Mercer Collier, Jr., PhD, 72, died Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Mercer was born in Hampton,

Virginia, and retired to Williamsburg in 2012. He was a longtime member of St. John's Church. An Army veteran, he served proudly in the 173rd Airborne Division during Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart. Mercer received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida, his master's degree from St. Cloud University in Minnesota, and his PhD from Old Dominion University.



As a clinical Psychologist he held the designations of LPC, LMFT, Counselor, and had been a Professor at both ODU and Regent University.

Mercer was a proud parent. He loved cats, ODU basketball, and a variety of music.

Preceded in death by his parents, Elisabeth Irwin and Thomas Mercer Collier, Sr., survivors include his loving wife of 25 years, Mary Beth Collier (née Hacic); his son, Thomas Mercer Collier, III, "Murphy"; his step-son, Patrick J. Haase; his sister, Mary Taylor Fowler and husband, David; Dr. Nina Brown, his mentor and friend at ODU; and other family members and many friends.

A funeral service was conducted on February 5, 2020 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Hampton, VA, with burial in the church cemetery following military honors.

Memorials may be made to the Heritage Humane Society: 430 Waller Mill Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185, Big Cat Rescue: 12802 Easy St, Tampa, FL 33625, St. John's Church: 100 West Queens Way, Hampton, VA 23669, Glaucoma Research Foundation, 251 Post St., Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105, or any charity which assists veterans.

Rest Easy Brothers





Army 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing



Jan. 13, 2020 | By Katie Lange , DOD News

In the past few decades, several service members from the Civil War have received posthumous Medals of Honor for their actions in keeping our nation together more than 150 years ago. One of them was Army 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing, who helped stop Confederate soldiers from breaking through the Union line at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Cushing was born Jan. 19, 1841, in Delafield, Wisconsin. His father died when he was 6, so his mother moved the family to Fredonia, New York, where he was raised with his three brothers, who also served in the Civil War.

After high school, Cushing attended the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, graduating in 1861 around when the Civil War began. He was assigned to the Army of the Potomac's Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery, II Corps.

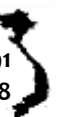
Cushing trained volunteer troops and served as an ordnance officer and topographical engineer. But more importantly, he fought in several major battles over the first two years of war — at Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, among others. The American Battlefield Trust, a charitable group that aims to preserve U.S. battlefields, said Cushing was well-liked. The group's website notes that he was known for his "poise under fire, radiant grin and infectious smile, which gave a soothing effect during the chaos of battle." So, it's no surprise that the 126 men the 22-year-old led on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg followed his direction loyally.



On July 3, 1863, Cushing was commanding Battery A and six cannons positioned on Cemetery Ridge. Some of Confederate Gen. George Pickett's roughly 10,000 men were about to push through a hole in the Union's defensive line.

When Pickett's soldiers fired their cannons on Cemetery Ridge, Cushing directed his artillery to return fire. After a few hours, all of Cushing's officers had been killed, and all but two of his cannons were destroyed.

(continued....)



Cushing was wounded by shrapnel in the fight and was urged to move to safety, but he refused. He then ordered his cannons to move closer to the front and continue firing. He was struck again and suffered critical abdominal injuries.

Cushing still refused to abandon his men. With the help of 1st Sgt. Frederick Fuger — who also earned the Medal of Honor for his actions that day — Cushing stood up and continued to direct artillery fire onto the rebels headed their way.

A short time later, Cushing was hit in the head by a bullet and died. The American Battlefield Trust said he died just as the final rounds from his battery tore through the advancing enemy lines.

Thanks to Cushing's dedication, courage and training, Union soldiers were able to push the rebels back. From that day forward, the Confederacy never managed to mount another major offensive.

Cushing was buried at West Point and posthumously promoted to lieutenant colonel; however, he wasn't formally recognized for his heroics until a nearly 30-year campaign by his family to award him the Medal of Honor.

On Nov. 6, 2014, that dream was realized. President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to one of Cushing's two dozen descendants who attended the White House ceremony. Shortly after that, the Navy's guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg renamed its officers' dining hall the Cushing Wardroom in Cushing's honor.



This article is part of a weekly series called "Medal of Honor Monday," in which we (the DoD) highlight one of the more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients who have earned the U.S. military's highest medal for valor.



DOD Identifies Army Casualties

Jan. 12, 2020

The Department of Defense announced today the death of two soldiers who were supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Both soldiers were killed in action yesterday when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The soldiers were conducting operations as part of NATO's Resolute Support Mission. The incident is under investigation.

The deceased are:



**SSG Ian P. McLaughlin, 29,
of Newport News, Virginia**



**PFC Miguel A. Villalon, 21,
of Joliet, Illinois**

Both soldiers were assigned to 307th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

For more information regarding Staff Sgt. Ian Paul McLaughlin and Pfc. Miguel Angel Villalon, media may contact Lt. Col. Mike Burns, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Officer at (910) 432-6189 or michael.j.burns34.mil@mail.mil



Rest easy young All Americans





REUNIONS OF THE AIRBORNE KIND

~ 2020 ~



506th Airborne, 2020 Currahee Reunion, Fort Campbell, KY, May 20-23, 2020. **Web:** <http://506infantry.org/event/currahee-reunion/>



Casper Aviation Platoon Reunion 2020, Las Vegas Tropicana Hotel & Resort, Las Vegas, NV, March 30 – April 2, 2020. **Contact:** Ned Costa, **Phn:** 562-682-3100, **Eml:** NCHuey721@aol.com **Web:** <http://www.casperplatoon.com/Reunion2020.htm>



3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division "Rakkasans" Reunion, Fort Campbell, KY, May 11-15, 2020. **Contact:** Tom Martin, **856-332-7030**, tomsml96@yahoo.com



2020 Currahee Reunion, The Riverview Inn, Clarksville, TN, May 20-23, 2020. **Contact web:** <http://506infantry.org/>



173d Airborne OEF X Reunion 2020, Denver, CO. As details become available we'll include them here in future issues. Ed



173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion, Crowne Plaza, Dayton, OH, June 3-6, 2020. **Contact:** Bill Terry, **Eml:** weterry2@gmail.com



3/325 Abn Battalion Combat Team (ABCT) Reunion, June 5-7, 2020. **Contact:** Joey King, **615-485-1616**, jbkranger@aol.com



2020 All-Era 508th PIR Reunion, El Paso, TX, Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, El Paso Downtown July 1-5, 2020. **Contact:** Treasurer@508PIR.org



74th Annual Convention 2020, 82nd Airborne Division, Houston Marriott Westchase, Houston, TX, August 5-9, 2020. **Contact web:** <https://texaslonestar82.org/convention.html>



75th Annual Reunion, 101st Airborne Division Association, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI, August 12-15, 2020. **Contact web:** <https://screamingeagle.org/annual-reunion-2020/>



2nd 502 Reunion, Grand Rapids, MI, August 12-16, 2020. **Contact web:** Randal Underhill, **931-431-0199**, 101exec@screamingeagle.org



11th Special Forces, Youngstown, OH, August 11, 2020. **Contact:** Dave Nesline, **330-618-5855**, tndnesline@sbcglobal.net



101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans 26th Annual Reunion, Fort Bragg/Fayetteville, NC, August 26-30, 2020. **Contact:** Ron Long, **310-977-4253**, **Eml:** ronlong71@msn.com

Note: If you are aware of any upcoming "Airborne" or attached unit reunions, please email complete details to rto173@att.net for inclusion in our newsletter.

173d DAYTON REUNION SCHEDULE

June 3 - Wednesday

1200-1800 Registration
1300-1900 Vendors Area Open
1300-2200 Hospitality Area Open

June 4 - Thursday

1000-1800 Registration
0900-2000 Vendors Area Open
1300-2200 Hospitality Area Open
0830-0900 Load bus to Golf Outing
0900-0930 Load bus to Wright Patterson Museum
1730-2000 Barbecue/Band Concert

June 5 - Friday

0800-0830 Load bus to Nat. War/Mem. Museum
0930-1000 Load bus to Carillon Historic Site (Brewery, restaurant)
0900-2000 Vendors Area Open
1300-2200 Hospitality Area Open
0900-1400 Registration

June 6 - Saturday

0800-0930 Board of Directors Meeting
0930-1130 General Meeting
0900-1200 Registration
1030-1200 Ladies Lunch
1200-1330 Gold Star Lunch
0900-1700 Vendors Area Open
1300-1700 Hospitality Area Open
1730-2100 173d ABN BDE ASSN BANQUET
2100-2300 Hospitality Area Open

See Reunion Registration Form on Following Page.

Airborne....All The Way!





SKY SOLDIERS DESCEND ON DAYTON, OHIO

Land of the Wright Brothers - Hosted by Chapter 17

June 3 to June 7, 2020



Name: _____ Phone (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Unit Served: _____ Dates Served: _____

Guest Name 1: _____ Male/Female _____

Guest Name 2: _____ Male/Female _____

Guest Name 3: _____ Male/Female _____

Registration Fees

_____ \$173.00 Association members (includes hospitality room, banquet meal, gift bag)

_____ \$173.00 per guest members (include banquet meal, hospitality room)

_____ \$55 per Gold Star Family applicant

_____ \$100 per Active Duty Member not on orders

_____ FREE, Active Duty Member on orders

Optional Activity Fees

_____ \$25.00 Bus Tour – Wright Patterson Air Force Museum

_____ \$25.00 Bus Tour – Carillon Historic Park (Lunch on own-Culps Café/Carillon Brewing Co)

_____ \$40.00 Bus Tour – National Veterans Museum in Columbus OH

_____ \$30.00 Golf Outing (includes: Cart rental, transportation and lunch)

_____ \$25.00 BBQ – Levite Pavilion Concert grounds (next to main hotel)

_____ \$20.00 Herd Challenge Coin

_____ \$50.00 non-registered banquet only ticket

_____ \$10.00/daily Hospitality Room nonregistered

_____ \$10.00/each Raffle Ticket – Win \$1000

_____ Donations – Always appreciated

Must Register to attend the following:

_____ FREE Gold Star Luncheon

_____ \$15.00 Ladies Luncheon

Vendor Fees

_____ \$125.00 Association member vendor registration (One table, two chairs.)

_____ \$150.00 Non-Association Member vendor registration (One table, two chairs.)

Vendor Extras:

_____ \$100.00 per additional table

_____ \$50.00 Electricity at vendor table



To register and pay on line, visit www.173dreunion2020.com

Make checks payable to 173d Airborne Brigade Association

SUBTOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Mail to: Chapter 17 P.O. Box 24852 Columbus, OH 43224-4521

Hotel reservation: Crowne Plaza 33 East 5th Street Dayton, OH (1-937-224-0800)

Reserve hotel room early to acquire handicap room as hotel is limited in these rooms.

For additional information contact Bill Terry at 614-476-3060 E: weterry2@gmail.com

One must be registered to take part in all listed activities.

Registration does not include any mini reunions (such as 2d Battalion etc.)





Casper Aviation Platoon

Casper Platoon Story



Viet Cong Go Fishing, Net Hot Lead

Reprinted from Fire Base 173 Newspaper 1969

Submitted by Ned Costa, Caspers



BONG SON, RVN - A suspicious looking fishing basket spotted by a 173d Airborne Brigade helicopter pilot led to the death of 29 Viet Cong in recent action along the north central coast of South Vietnam.

WO1 Robert R. Rousseau, of the 173d Aviation Platoon from North Hero, VT, was conducting a first light reconnaissance in a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) when he spotted the fishing basket and a poncho filled with coconuts.

"What seemed strange," Rousseau said, **"was that there were no fishermen around. The brush seemed thin enough to see through but I couldn't spot anybody so I circled back."**

Swooping down on the remote island he saw five Viet Cong trying to hide beneath the underbrush.

"When we closed in on them the VC opened up with small arms fire," Rousseau added. Then the Casper Platoon pilot and his crew chief fired on the enemy with mini-guns killing them all.

(Casper Platoon website photo from Ned Costa)



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THIS MOST HEROIC UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICEMAN WHOSE NAME SHALL LIVE FOREVER MORE

SERGEANT ROBERT GENE FLOYD served with Company C, 3d Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade and was posthumously awarded the
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



FLOYD, ROBERT GENE Specialist Fourth Class U.S. Army

Company C, 3d Battalion
503rd Infantry Regiment
173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
Date of Action: 31 March - 1 April 1970

~ Citation ~

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Robert Gene Floyd, Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 3d Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Specialist Four Floyd distinguished himself while serving as a member of a night offensive position in Phu Yen Province. During the late evening hours of 31 March 1970, specialist Floyd and his squad were positioned outside a small Vietnamese village when they were attacked by a numerically superior force of enemy soldiers. During the initial attack, the friendly machine gun position was heavily damaged by the enemy fire. Specialist Floyd disregarded the devastating enemy fire to run to the aid of the disabled machine gun crew.

After administering to the wounded crew, Specialist Floyd carried the machine gun to the heaviest point of enemy contact. From his exposed position, Specialist Floyd placed devastating fire on the enemy elements forcing them to retreat. The enemy regrouped and launched a second attack and advanced to within thirty meters of Specialist Floyd's position. However, the determined defensive fire of Specialist Floyd and his comrades again repulsed the enemy. The enemy regrouped and launched a third attack on the position from a different direction. Specialist Floyd moved through the intense enemy fire again to position his machine gun at the heaviest point of enemy contact. As his comrades fell wounded beside him, Specialist Floyd refused to withdraw. He continued placing devastating machine gun fire on the enemy until he was killed instantly by a barrage of enemy rocket fire. Specialist Floyd's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

HQ US Army, Vietnam
General Orders No. 2067 (26 June 1970)

Sergeant Floyd was also a posthumous recipient of the:

PURPLE HEART
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL
and was entitled to wear the
COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE
and
ARMY PARACHUTE WINGS

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN
NOR SHALL YOU EVER BE

Posted on the *Wall of Faces*, 30 July 1999



Robert Floyd, 22





Operation Silver City

The “D” Zone Jungle

LZ Zulu-Zulu



Fifty-four years ago this March

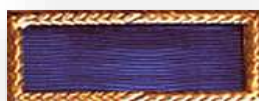
“On March 16, 1966, during Operation Silver City at landing zone Zulu-Zulu in the heart of War Zone ‘D’, one U.S. paratroop battalion suddenly found itself surrounded by a reinforced enemy regiment. At the end of the fiercely fought five-hour battle, although outnumbered 3-to-1, the paratroopers could claim one of the most significant victories in the war.”

Time Magazine

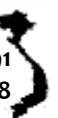


**On the late afternoon of 15 Mar 66, Sky Soldiers of the 2/503 arrive
LZ Zulu-Zulu in the “D” Zone jungle.**

(Photo by RTO Wayne Hoitt, HHC/2/503, '65/'66, wounded at Zulu Zulu)



Operation Silver City.....2/503d Presidential Unit Citation



Son Looking For Buddies Of His Father, Alvin Ealey, Sr., B/2/503



Hello, my name is Alvin Ealey. That is a picture of my Dad, Alvin Ealey, Sr. My dad served in the Vietnam War, I think 1966 and 1967. He passed in 2007 from cancer. The family kept him away from me and I only received a phone call telling me that he died. He was cremated and I never got to say goodbye. They took that away from me. I don't know if a flag was given. I know nothing about his military service in death. Please, I'm looking for any information I can get. I am his first-born child. Thanks for your help. Alvin Ealey, Jr.

Alvin's email: alvinealey@gmail.com

DHA Director discusses vision for future



Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, Director, Defense Health Agency, visits with the staff of the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic in Germany. Since becoming DHA Director, Lt. Gen. Place has focused on creating great outcomes for the beneficiaries who rely on the Military Health System for their health care.

Read report at:

<https://health.mil/News/Articles/2020/02/25/DHA-Director-discusses-progress-vision-for-future>

MyCommissary online portal



MyCommissary Portal Open to New Patrons

FEB. 28, 2020

FORT LEE, Va. – With the launch of the new patron access initiative on Jan. 1, customers in the new categories of disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and their certified caregivers can now sign up for an account on the Defense Commissary Agency's eCommerce portal.

System changes now allow everyone in the new customer categories to create an online account on the [MyCommissary portal](https://mycommissary.com) so they can register for their Commissary Rewards card, view commissary sale flyers with prices and use the curbside CLICK2GO service where available.

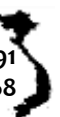
The registration fix came through cooperative efforts by DeCA and the Defense Manpower Data Center, which is used to confirm shopper privileges.

"In the event a new shopper is still receiving an error message when trying to create an account, they should check with the Veterans Administration to ensure their information and privileges are correctly entered into the system," said Clayton Nobles, a DeCA system engineer. "For those receiving a new Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC), there may be a delay between when the veteran receives the card and when the system allows them access. This delay can take up to 30 days."

On Jan. 1, millions of new shoppers became eligible to shop their local commissary thanks to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. Commissaries welcomed these new customers back to the store, or in some cases for the first time, and tens-of-thousands are taking advantage of their new benefit.

COMMISSARIES.COM

Visit www.commissaries.com to learn more about the Defense Commissary Agency: check out the latest news, find a store near you, see what's on sale, create a shopping list, learn of food and product recalls, scan employment opportunities, read frequently asked questions, submit a customer comment form online through DeCA's Your Action Line and more.



ADVENTURE TO HANOI VIETNAM WITH THE VALOR ADMINISTRATION

November 2019

By Terry Aubrey
E/2/503, RVN

On October 30, 2019 with much excitement, apprehension and curiosity I meet up with 10 other patriots at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport to begin my return journey back to Vietnam -- Hanoi to be precise.

Fellow Sky Soldiers, Paul Reed, Tim Austin and I joined other veterans and board members of the Valor Administration for the inaugural trip to Vietnam. We were joined by Dr. Rick Miller (Army), Ken Watterson (USMC), former POW Col. James Williams (USAF), Maj. Matt Baan and his wife Adriane, Mike Brown (USAF), DT Nguyen (a benefactor and Board member of Valor) and Silas Reed (Paul Reed's son).

Valor Administration has developed a four-step program for dealing with PTSD and closure for Veterans. Vietnam Veterans and in particular the 173d Airborne Brigade has been the initial focus group due to their mission and level of combat activity. However, Valor is enhancing their program to assist the GWOT veterans. I must admit that I had forgotten about the air time flying to Vietnam. We spent sixteen hours in the air from Dallas to Tokyo, Japan. It was interesting that the sun was shining in Dallas when we lifted off and it was still shining when we landed in Tokyo 16 hours later.

We were invited to spend our layover time in the Sky Lounge. That was a welcomed pause from the long flight unlike my original flight in 1969. After a much deserved break we flew the remaining five hours to Hanoi, Vietnam.



Arrival at the very modern Nội Bài International Airport in Hanoi

We finally left the plane and walked into a very cosmopolitan airport not unlike those I've seen in Germany, France, Italy and the US. After getting our luggage and exiting the secure area we were met by a local TV crew to document our time in Hanoi. It was interesting to see that this third world country had evolved into a contemporary city complete with a modern airport, multi storied buildings and all the trappings of a modern city of nine million people. The TV crew was quick to capture the moment as we proceeded to the Zephyr Suites Hotel to check in for a much needed rest.

With nothing on the schedule our first day in Hanoi we had a delightful late breakfast at the Zephyr before venturing out into the Hoan Kiem District of Hanoi. As we left the hotel I must admit I felt a little uneasy being unarmed in a place none of us GI's ever wanted to be.

In spite of my apprehension the people were very friendly and unimposing, all nine million of them.

Hanoi is blessed with numerous lakes, parks and the Red River. The small lakes were home to centuries old pagodas and temples along the shore or on their own island in the lake. It has been reported that a former Emperor used the Ngoc Son Temple at Hoan Kiem Lake to meet with his courtesans after hours.



Terry, in 173d colors, on the bank of
Hoan Kiem Lake in Hanoi

(continued....)



On Friday the streets around the lake are closed to traffic. Street vendors from artists, musicians to electric cars/tanks for the kids fill the area for a weekend festival. I was in culture shock, this was not what I had expected. I expected to see oppression in the faces of the workers, poverty at every level except the Party Members. The Vietnamese people seem to have evolved into a unique blend of Communism and Capitalism. Everyone may choose a career path, educate themselves abroad and pursue their chosen field of employment. We observed the construction of multi-storied buildings going on in many areas of the city. The only catch is the Party owns all the land and collects revenue each year.

We ended our urban tour with a stop at the famed five-star Metropole Hotel Hanoi. This place was a time capsule of elegance fit for kings and potentates. Originally built in 1901 in the French Colonial architectural style the hotel continues to be host to Presidents, Prime Ministers and even Jane Fonda and Joan Baez. In fact there is a signed album from Joan Baez left during her visit proudly displayed in a case along the hall of fame. Jane Fonda was reserved for the video screen just down the way. As we entered the Bamboo Bar it was as if Bogey and Bacall were sitting in the oversized rattan chairs deep in conversation and cocktails. It's that kind of place.

That evening we arrived at the home of Lo Son Nguyen (DT's wife's cousin) for dinner. Sounds unimposing but as it turned out this was also his office compound and quite a banquet was prepared for us veterans in the main hall. I was seated at my table and soon joined by four former Viet Cong soldiers and officers. One of the officers sitting next to me spoke English and was very impressed that we would make such a journey and meet with him and his fellow veterans. After a generous buffet and entertainment by the military singers introductions were made on stage. As it turned out there were three groups of veterans in attendance.



Dinner at the home of Lo Son Nguyen in Hanoi

The North Vietnamese Army/VC, American Veterans and for the first time a South Vietnamese Officer, Hai N. Nguyen stood alone on the stage and was applauded for his service. At the conclusion of our introductions and comments everyone stood and applauded us in honor of our being a professional soldier and ambassador of goodwill. I must note that many of the Vietnamese recognized my patch or knew of the 173d Airborne Brigade. And so ends my first encounter with a former combatant. I'm glad I was there.

The next few days were interspersed with sight-seeing and meetings. In our wandering around we got off the main streets and into the crowded alleyways right under all the new development. Here shop owners were selling meat, vegetables and no telling what on the sidewalk in front of their store/home. People would stop and get a meal cooked right on the sidewalk. At the end of the day dishes, etc. were washed with a hose and drained into the gutter. Butcher shops amounted to a four-by-four foot piece of plywood laden with all manner of animal parts.

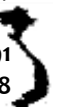
We were invited to tour the Ford Motor Plant nearby. They make a van and crossover car. The crossover cost about eighteen thousand in the United States and over forty thousand in Vietnam. The government adds on about sixty five percent in taxes and registration fees.

Hanoi is not unlike Washington, DC in that this is the showplace of the evolution of Vietnam and is host to many National Museums and historical sites too numerous to mention in a short article. We visited the Vietnam Military and Vietnam History Museums which was informative and interesting. They had been at war long before our involvement.



B-52 crash site in downtown Hanoi

(continued....)



During the French Colonial period HOA LO Prison (Hanoi Hilton) was constructed by the French in the early 1900's to confine the local dissidents and political prisoners. As we walked through the restored section of the prison there was no mention or display of American Prisoners until we reached the open courtyard. Along the open walls framed photographs were mounted depicting various statements of remorse and disparity of the American Soldier. We quickly recognized two photos of the 173d. One is the iconic photo of War Is Hell and Rocky Stone leaning against a tree at the conclusion of the battle for Hill 875. They mentioned in the caption that the soldier from the 101st Airborne was lamenting over the battle at Mincemeat Hill. Not to worry I have corrected the error and let them know that the 173d Airborne Brigade took Hill 875 in the face of a well outnumbered enemy. But that's not the end of it.

As we moved on down we found another photo of the American prisoners being released at the Armistice. One of the first two prisoners in the photo was Col. James Williams a former POW. Col. Williams promptly told our guide the photograph was of him leaving the Hanoi Hilton. At the end of the tour we met with the Prison Chairman in his conference room at which time they had removed the photo and presented it to Col. Williams as a token of goodwill. I must say that I have the utmost respect for Col. Williams in that he came on this adventure knowing full well that he would walk the same walk some 45 years ago and did not quiver a step. As a token of his appreciation he asked all of us vet's attending to sign the photo.



Photo of then Maj. Williams with his fellow prisoners at Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi

Probably the most effectual meeting we had with the North Vietnamese was at the Roundtable. This event was hosted by Nguyen Tam Chien the former Ambassador from Vietnam to the US. He now serves as the President of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations and we gathered at his office complex for the meeting and lunch to follow. We first met with the Ambassador and the Secretary General BUI VAN NGHI in his conference room to discuss the mission of his

Organization as it related to Veteran Affairs. He was most encouraged that we came as fellow Veterans to meet and talk with Vietnamese Veterans, soldier to soldier.

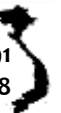
As we entered the assembly room I noticed portraits hanging on the walls. Many of whom were not friendly to the US such as Castro, Arafat and Picasso. I later discovered that these were leaders who lent aid and friendship to Vietnam after they obtained their independence. We were seated at the roundtable so as to mix the two groups. The Ambassador opened the meeting with introductions and then asked the attending Vietnamese Veterans to speak. There were four NVA attending that actually fought against the 173d. One was a General who was wounded by the 173d and stated that we were the strongest unit to come against. No one wanted to engage the 173d. He told us that he came down the trail with 144 men and he was the only survivor to return home.

After some discussion it was determined that one other veteran was actually in an engagement with Tim Austin's unit.

I must admit that the Vietnamese were quick to extend a hand of respect and friendship from one professional soldier to another. There was no braggadocios comments only those of respect and appreciation. One interesting moment was when NGUYEN HONG MY the MIG 21 pilot who shot down the first American aircraft of the war asked to meet and show his respect to Col. Williams.

At the conclusion of the Roundtable I asked that all Veterans sign two 173d Flags one of which would be left with the Ambassador to be installed in the hall as a testament to this very special event. After I signed the flag the General and MIG Pilot stepped up and asked if they could sign beside my name. This was a demonstration of their utmost respect from one warrior to another.

Let me summarize my feelings about the trip with this analogy. I was at Gettysburg many years ago and noticed an interesting photo. It was taken during the 50th Anniversary of the battle and more importantly at the stone wall. Veterans from both North and South were reaching across the wall from their respective sides shaking hands. That is what the Valor Administration was able to facilitate fifty years after the Vietnam War. It was a trip I never thought I would want to make but as a result I have closure. I am blessed by being a part of this awesome adventure.

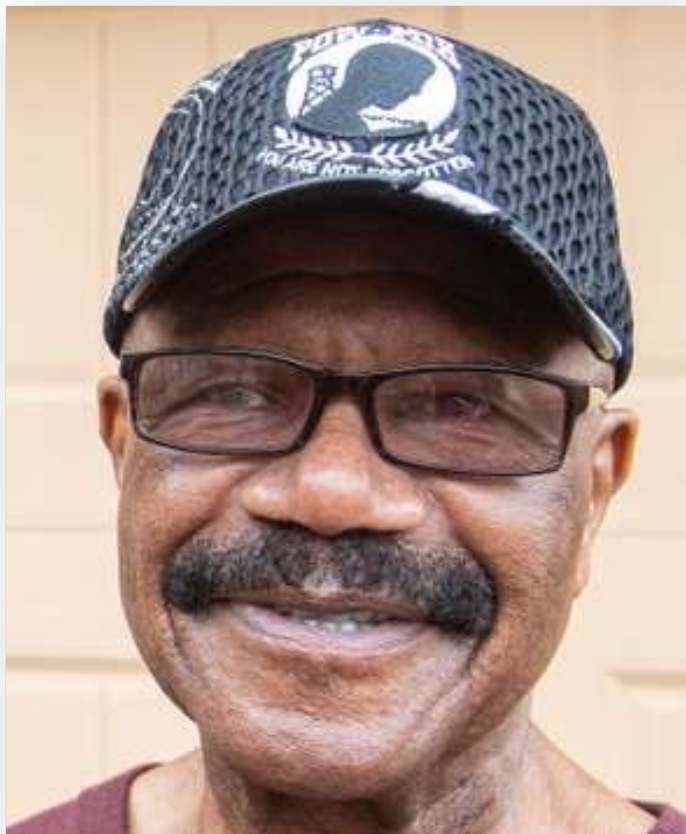


Memphis native, Vietnam War POW meets widow of pilot who shot his plane down

MAX GARLAND, *The Commercial Appeal* (Memphis)

www.commercialappeal.com

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Memphis native Lt. Col. James W. Williams, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, poses for a portrait in front of his sister's home in Cordova, Tenn., on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019. (Photo: Ariel Cobbett / commercialappeal.com)

Lt. Col. James Williams has something better than a bucket list.

"I don't like the word 'bucket list' because it makes it feel like you're getting ready to die," said the North Memphis native and Vietnam War veteran. *"I call it my 'living list.'"*

Williams completed a significant piece of that list in November, when he and other veterans returned to Hanoi, Vietnam, to gain closure from their time at war. North Vietnamese forces captured Williams after his jet was shot down in May 1972 and held him prisoner until March 1973.

"The whole purpose, in a nutshell, was it being a healing mission to put us back in that environment," said Williams, 75, of the trip organized by the Valor Administration, Vietnam-USA Friendship members and North Vietnamese combat veterans.



Lt. Col. James Williams, a Vietnam War veteran and North Memphis native, meets Nguyen Thi Lam, the widow of the North Vietnamese pilot who shot his jet down during the war. Williams learned more about her late husband, Do Van Lanh, and gained some closure during a recent trip to Vietnam. (Photo: Courtesy of the Valor Administration)

What Williams didn't know ahead of time was he would meet the widow of the North Vietnamese pilot who shot his jet down. Through Nguyen Thi Lam, he learned more about her late husband, Do Van Lanh. Williams felt uneasy when he first met her. Once they started talking through an interpreter, that tension began to fade and Williams found some closure. Lam shared pictures of Lanh, and she said she was sorry it had to be her husband who shot Williams down.

"That kind of broke the ice a bit," Williams said.

Air engagement leads to capture

Williams, a Douglass High School graduate and Tennessee State University alum, was soon to wrap up his tour when his F-4D Phantom fighter jet got shot down on May 20, 1972. He was part of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy's bombing campaign against North Vietnam known as Operation Linebacker I.

"It was air-to-air engagement," Williams said. *"That particular day, there were 40 days left on my tour. In fact, I was on my 228th combat mission."*

(continued....)





Lt. Col. James Williams, a North Memphis native, sits in in a cell where he was interrogated and tortured during the Vietnam War as part of a recent trip back to Vietnam to gain closure.

(Photo: Courtesy of Valor Administration)

His jet hit by a missile from Lanh, Williams was forced to eject and North Vietnamese forces captured him. He ended up imprisoned at Hoa Lo Prison, or the "Hanoi Hilton," for 313 days.

Williams endured solitary confinement and around-the-clock interrogation. He said they tried to break him down for information, while he stuck with his created story that he was only on his 12th combat mission and had been in the country for just three weeks. Williams was finally released on March 28, 1973 after the war's end.

Williams sees new Hanoi

Williams spent 28 years in the military, retiring from service in 1995. He then launched an Air Force Junior ROTC program in a Georgia school system, where he taught for 20 years. Today, Williams is on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs POW Advisory Committee.

Earlier this year, Williams connected with a Valor Administration representative who notified him of the trip to Vietnam, a golden opportunity to complete part of his living list.



Memphis native Lt. Col. James W. Williams was a prisoner of war in Vietnam. After his plane was shot down, he was imprisoned at Hoa Lo Prison, or the "Hanoi Hilton," for 313 days. (Photo: Ariel Cobbett / commercialappeal.com)

"Some of the guys kept saying, 'Have you told Colonel what we plan on doing?'" Williams said. "The plan for me was to meet the pilot who shot me down, but he passed away in 1980, so they had me meet his wife." Beyond meeting Lam and many veterans on the North Vietnamese side, Williams got to experience how much Hanoi had changed since he left as a just-released prisoner of war in 1973. The mental picture he kept — a landscape altered by bombings — was replaced by its transformation into a modern city.

"It was something that I wanted to do but didn't think I would have the opportunity to do," Williams said.

Max Garland covers FedEx, logistics and health care for *The Commercial Appeal*. Reach him at max.garland@commercialappeal.com or 901-529-2651 and on Twitter [@MaxGarlandTypes](https://twitter.com/MaxGarlandTypes)

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Hoa Lo Prison & POW Photos



DOD Identifies Army Casualty

January 6, 2020

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Octave Shield.

Spc. Henry J. Mayfield Jr., 23, from Evergreen Park, Illinois, was killed Jan. 5, 2020, during an attack in Manda Bay, Kenya. The incident is under investigation.



Spc. Henry Mayfield Jr., 23, seen here with his mother Carmoneta Horton-Mayfield, was among three Americans killed* in an early morning attack Jan. 5, 2020, in Kenya after their military base was overrun by al-Shabab fighters. FACEBOOK

Mayfield was assigned to 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group, Fort Rucker, Alabama.



58th Aviation Insignia

For more information regarding Spc. Henry J. Mayfield Jr., media may contact Jimmie Cummings, Fort Rucker Public Affairs Officer, at 334-255-2590 or jimmie.e.cummings.civ@mail.mil.

* The other two Americans killed in the attack were defense department contractors whose names we were unable to identify at this time. Ed

2 U.S. Pilots Killed In Afghanistan Crash

January 29, 2020



Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf, 30, of Hudson, New Hampshire and Lt. Col. Paul K. Voss, 46, of Yigo, Guam, were killed in the crash of a U.S. Bombardier E-11A aircraft in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 27, 2020. (U.S. Air Force photos)

"The Pentagon has identified the two U.S. Air Force pilots killed on Monday when their E-11A aircraft crashed in a Taliban-controlled area in central Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Paul K. Voss, 46, of Yigo, Guam, and Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf, 30, of Hudson, New Hampshire, died Monday.

Voss was assigned to the Headquarters Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia and Phaneuf was assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

The statement released on Tuesday reiterated that there were no indications that the crash was caused by enemy fire.

A mechanical issue is believed to have caused the E-11A to crash, a defense official said. A second official told ABC News that the pilots had declared an in-flight emergency." (Excerpt from *Stars & Stripes*)



The wreckage of a U.S. military aircraft that crashed in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, is seen on Jan. 27, 2020.



VA equips 200,000 Veterans with lifesaving naloxone

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program announced that from May 2014 to September 2019, the program issued naloxone — a medication used to block the effects of a potentially fatal opioid overdose — to more than 200,000 Veterans.

VA is a leader in naloxone distribution to health care patients and has documented more than 700 successful opioid overdose reversals resulting from its use.

"Veterans are twice as likely to die from accidental overdose compared to the general U.S. population," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. *"Given the opioid crisis, it is our duty to do everything we can to help Veterans avoid opioid overdose and thanks to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016, naloxone education and naloxone prescriptions are free to Veterans enrolled for VA care who may be at-risk of opioid overdose."*

VA's OEND program takes a multidisciplinary approach which educates vulnerable patients about opioid risk and provides them with naloxone. VA has also standardized patient and provider education, clinical guidance, clinical decision support tools identifying patients in danger of an overdose and national clinical notes to improve care post-overdose. The department recently launched a Rapid Naloxone Initiative consisting of three elements, including, OEND, VA Police Naloxone and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) cabinet naloxone.

One hundred sixteen facilities have equipped 2,785 police officers with naloxone and 56 facilities have placed naloxone in 693 AED cabinets, with 126 opioid overdose reversals (120 by VA Police and 6 with AED cabinet naloxone).

OEND is one of many initiatives VA has implemented to address the opioid epidemic. VA's Opioid Safety Initiative has made significant progress reducing reliance on opioid medication for pain management by more than 53% since 2012 and offers pain care options that are safer and more effective in the long run such as yoga, acupuncture, tai chi and behavioral health approaches.

VA also offers specialty substance use disorder treatment at every health care system using evidence-based psychosocial treatments and medications to effectively treat opioid use disorders and other substance use disorders.

Valor Awards of Men of the 2/503d RVN



Gentlemen & Surviving Family Members, hello:

We've begun the process of producing a publication honoring as many of our men as possible who served with our battalion in Vietnam and who are recipients of the **Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V Device** or **Army Commendation Medal w/V Device** in recognition of their heroic acts during combat with the 2/503d RVN.

We will publish the highest valor award citation of each trooper, or the valor award specified by recipients, who were on the roster of the 2/503d or received a valor award while attached to our battalion for their acts while in combat with our battalion. If citations cannot be obtained, where possible, we will list the names of 2/503 troopers and the valor award they earned.

If you are the recipient of one of these valor awards while on the roster of or attached to the 2/503d in Vietnam, please email a copy of the official Army citation, and a VN era or current photo of yourself, to rto173@att.net. Also, if you are in possession of a valor citation of a 2/503 buddy, please send that in too.

Once we believe we've compiled all the valor award citations and photos possible, we will email the completed document to you and all Sky Soldiers on our list for your keeping. Also, it will be provided to the 173d Association, the University of Florida's Military Digital Library, and the 503rd PRCT Historical Battalion websites for their permanent posting.

The next two pages include a sample of how this publication may appear, and it is produced for the purpose of creating a consolidated historical record for our men, their families and descendants, as well as researchers and educators. Kindly forward this to your 2/503 buddies.

We understand countless men of our battalion, particularly many of those who lost their lives, were never formally recognized for their heroic acts during combat. But, what we can do is create this lasting document in their honor and in honor of those Sky Soldiers of the 2/503d who were so recognized.

Honor one, honor all.

(continued....)





Valor Award Recipients Of The 2/503d RVN



Photo of the hands of SFC Charles B. Morris, A/2/503, holding his Medal of Honor.

This publication will present citations of valor earned by numerous but not necessarily all of the men of the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) who are recipients of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V Device or Army Commendation Medal w/V Device in recognition of their acts of heroism during combat in Vietnam. This will also be published in honor of the countless men who served in the 2/503d in Vietnam, particularly those men who lost their lives, yet were never formally recognized for their heroic acts during combat.

It is because of men like these, men like us are alive today.

Produced by Sky Soldiers of the 2/503d RVN

(continued....)



2/503d VIETNAM Newsletter / March-April 2020 – Issue 91

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Valor Award Recipients of the 2/503d RVN

Their extraordinary heroism during the Vietnam War was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon themselves, their units, and the United States Army.



John A. Leide
C/2/503

For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Captain Leide distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 3 July 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this day, Captain Leide was serving as Commanding Officer of Company C when the Viet Cong launched a coordinated, determined attack against the company perimeter. At the time the attack occurred, the unit was preparing to move from the perimeter to continue conducting search and destroy operations. Captain Leide immediately made an estimate of the situation and placed those who had been pulled out of the line to form a point for movement back into position. He calmly moved to the perimeter and moved up and down the lines surveying the situation. Constantly exposed to a hail of fire and hand grenades, his appearance along the lines had a positive, reassuring effect on his men. He then moved under intense fire back to his command post and directed all aspects of the battle from an exposed position. He made maximum use of air strikes and artillery fire. His calmness under fire and personal appearance in the most intense periods along the front was no doubt the major factor in the successful outcome of the contact. He personally supervised the evacuation of the casualties and dead during the latter stages of the fight even under intense fire. Captain Leide's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



Sergeant Schimpf, with two others, voluntarily made a hand grenade assault against a fortified weapons bunker that had the lead element of the company under fire. Only after he had expended all of his grenades and ammunition did he fall back to another position. Sergeant Schimpf, still exposed to enemy fire passed information on for a successful airstrike against the enemy held village. After the airstrike, Sergeant Schimpf joined in the initial assault of the village and was wounded. The outstanding actions of Staff Sergeant Schimpf were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



Donald A. Rice
HHC/2/503

For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Private First Class Rice distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 16 March 1966 during a combat mission in the Republic of Vietnam. On this day, Private First Class Rice was participating in an operation against the enemy when the Viet Cong 271st Regiment attacked the Battalion's perimeter. Immediately after the Viet Cong attack was launched, Private First Class Rice started firing return mortar fire against the enemy, while under heavy incoming hostile automatic, small arms, and mortar fire. Having expended all available mortar ammunition, Private First Class Rice retrieved an incoming ammunition resupply and moved forward to carry ammunition to the front lines. This was done on frequent occasions under continuous, heavy enemy fire. On almost every occasion, Private First Class Rice had to fight and maneuver his way to troops in need of ammunition. Yet, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he continued to fight and assist others in whatever manner possible in order to defeat the enemy. Private First Class Rice's aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



John J. Schimpf
B/2/503

For gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Schimpf distinguished himself by exceptional gallantry on 7 July 1965, while serving on a search and destroy operation with a combat unit near Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. The lead elements of Sergeant Schimpf's company encountered heavy enemy automatic weapons and machine gun fire from well concealed positions as they approached a small village. The unit was pinned down and began receiving numerous casualties.



(continued...)



2/503 Valor Award Recipients Identified To Date

Thus far, we've compiled official army citations of valor and/or photos for the troopers named below, except as noted:

MOH – Medal of Honor

DSC – Distinguished Service Cross, SS – Silver Star

BSV – Bronze Star w/V Device

ACMV – Army Commendation Medal w/V Device

Thomas W. Aikey, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Charles A. Bell, B/2/503, SS (photo/citation needed)
James A. Bednarski, C/2/503, BSV
Jan Bobowski, A/2/503, BSV
Patrick Bowe, HHC/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Nathaniel Brown, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
R.L. Les Brownlee, B/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Karl L. Bullard, B/2/503, DSC
Robert B. Carmichael, HHC/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Carmen Cavezza, A/2/503, SS (citation needed)
George S. Colson, II, B/2/503, BSV
Michael J. Cosmo, C/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Gary Cox, D/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Charles R. Crews, A/2/503, BSV
Eugene R. Davis, B/2/503, DSC
Michael Deeb, HHC/2/503 (citation needed)
Richard Eckert, B/2/503, BSV
Samuel A. Eidson, A/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
Mile Le Roy Ellis, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Frederick W. Fassett, HHC/B/2/503, SS
Gerald N. Floyd, A/2/503, BSV
J.L. Frazier, Sr., A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Leslie A. Fuller, A/2/503, BSV
Amador B. Garcia, Jr., HHC/2/503, BSV
Pedro L. Garcia, HHC/2/503, SS
Robert P. Gipson, B/2/503, DSC
Michael J. Gladden, B/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Robert A. Gray, C/2/503, SS (photo/citation needed)
Steven Haber, C/2/503, BSV
William T. Hagerty, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Philip P. Hayden, C/2/503, DSC (photo needed)
Rudolph Hernandez, B/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
Richard E. Hood, Jr., A/2/503, SS (photo/citation needed)
Ross T. Hulslander, A/2/503, BSV (photo needed)
Vladimir Jakovenko, C/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Donald R. Judd, A/2/503, SS
Harold J. Kaufman, C/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Michael J. Kiley, A/2/503, SS
Richard N. Kimball, Jr., D/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Charles Knecht, A/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Kenneth M. Knudson, A/2/503, SS
Rodger M. Koefod, B/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Gregory S. Kowaleski, A/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
Johnny H. Leake, A/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
John Leide, C/2/503, BSV
John L. Leppelman, C/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Robert R. Litwin, A/2/503, DSC
Richard Lock, B/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
Carlos J. Lozada, A/2/503, MOH
Gregg P. Lyell, A/2/503, ACMV
William H. Marshall, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Martin T. McDonald, HHC/2/503, DSC

Daniel F. McIssac, E/2/503, BSV
Stephen Adam Mika, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
David A. Milton, A/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Willie C. Monroe, A/2/503, BSV
Charles B. Morris, A/2/503, MOH
Timothy J. Murphy, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Daniel L. Negro, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Michael D. O'Connor, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Milton L. Olive, III, B/2/503, MOH
Jerry L. O'Neal, C/2/503, SS (photo/citation needed)
Charles E. Owens, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
William Palenske, A/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
Freddie Parks, A/2/503, SS
Alfred J. Paul, III, C/2/503, BSV
Leo A. Pellerin, A/2/503, BSV
Elbert D. Poff, D/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Billy W. Ponder, Sr., C/2/503, DSC (photo needed)
George A. Poor, Jr., A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Charles L. Raiford, Jr., C/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Jerry R. Rebits, B/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Donald A. Rice, HHC/2/503, BSV
Eric Ribitsch, C/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Edward L. Richardson, A/2/503, ACMV (citation needed)
James H. Robinson, B/2/503, ACMV
James P. Rogan, B/2/503, DSC
William A. Ross, D/2/503, BSV
John J. Schimpf, B/2/503, SS
Dale A. Schram, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
James C. Schultz, A/2/503, BSV
Peter J. Schutz, A/2/503, SS, (photo/citation needed)
John W. Searcy, HHC/2/503, BSV
Frederick L. Shipman, D/Recon/2/503, SS
Irwin W. Short, B/2/503, BSV (photo needed)
Donald L. Smith, Jr., HHC/2/503, BSV
Lewis B. Smith, D/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Charles H. Snow, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
John R. Stalter, C/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Arthur C. Stang, III, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Johnson A. Steidler, A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Robert L. Steven, Jr., A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Robert Sweeney, C/2/503, BSV
Truman R. Thomas, HHC/2/503, BSV
John R. Tighe, B/2/503, BSV (citation needed)
Robert Toporek, B/2/503, BSV
William J. Tucker, A/2/503, BSV (photo/citation needed)
William C. Vose, BSV, A/HHC/2/503
Conrad N. Walker, 2/503 (Attached), SS
Robert A. Warfield, B/2/503, SS
Charles J. Watters, 2/503 (Attached), MOH
Frank W. Webb, B/2/503, SS (citation needed)
Alexander C. Zsigo, Jr., A/2/503, BSV (citation needed)

This project will likely take a number of months to complete.



What's Your Funniest Salute Story?

Recently, the Veterans Administration sent out a request to vets asking them to send in their funniest salute story. Thinking that a fun idea, we asked our 2/503 buddies to send us their funniest salute stories.

1965 Outside of Bien Hoa, Camp Zinn

We had just returned from an ambush patrol. We set up in an area that became muddy after it rained. The patrol leader had me take a report or something to the CP.

While I was in the CP a chopper touched down and a leg LTC stepped out and walked toward B Co's CP. As I passed him I said *Airborne Sir!* and continued to run to my tent to get cleaned up. I don't know where this leg LTC came from but he tried to jack me up for being dirty and for not saluting him. I offered that if I saluted him there was a 50% chance he would be sniped at and the other 50% was that I would get sniped. He kind of ducked down and I continued to my tent.

I just thought that that LTC didn't have the sense to know you don't salute in combat.

Bryan Bowley, B/2/503

Damn Impressive

It was early 1964 and I was in AIT at Ft. Ord, California. One Saturday morning I had gotten out of the barracks before they could snag me for a detail and had wandered down by the Main PX.

As I was walking I saw a man coming towards me, brown shoes, knee high socks with a tassel at the top, tan shorts, tan pants, beard, and a huge turban with a huge sunburst on the front. I instinctively knew he wasn't one of ours. He looked like a damn general so I whipped a smart salute on him and bellowed, well, as much as I could bellow being five feet nothing, *"Good morning Sir!"* He stopped, looked at me and in a clipped British accent and said, *"Thank you old man, but actually, I'm a Sergeant Major."*

With the candor of a private I said, *"Well, you look damn impressive."*

George "Scotty" Colson, HHC/B/2/503



Bryan



Scotty

They Considered Us Transients

After 12 months in hell and a bottle of Jack shared with buddy Bill Bills (C/2/503), one could say we had zero respect for the rear echelon brass, especially a leg. This speaks volumes about not making E5. Plus, Bill and I were both US so all the hardcore RA's in the 173d considered us transients.

Roger Dick, C/2/503

Note: These two Chargin' Charlie 'transients' are both survivors of Dak To. Ed



Roger

I Truly Didn't Mean To Do That

During my first tour of duty in Alaska I was coming back from having a few days off. I went home to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and as I was returning, we landed during a very foggy, very early morning. The small plane landed and we exited and started walking across the airfield when I noted several soldiers walking in front of me with an officer walking toward them. They all rendered a sharp salute to him and he returned a very snapping salute -- he was a Canadian Officer, and they salute with the open palm.

Me, a 17-year-old Leg, if you will, not knowing shit from shine-no-la, I snapped my own very sharp salute to him, with his salute offered in return. His salute was so snappy, in fact, when he returned my salute to me he had a little smile on his face, then continued to walk on to his plane. It then hit my thick brain, I had saluted him with the same open palm as he had saluted me! I truly didn't mean to do that and never did that again.

Jim "Top" Dresser, A/HHC/2/503



Top

(continued....)



Lesson Learned

This is my favorite salute story:

I am a brand new 2LT. I had very recently arrived at the Field Medical Service School, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas (my favorite duty station). It was a few days before I began the Officer's Basic Course, so I spent my time walking around the post in my brand new suntan uniform; my gold bar gleaming opposite my highly polished silver MSC emblem. (To me, that uniform epitomized the U.S. Army at its finest).

I'm walking along the road, back ramrod straight, cap sitting squarely on my head, snapping off salute after salute when two soldiers riding in a jeep approached me. The passenger, a young Sp4 (the same kind of smartass mentioned in the other story) turned around in his seat as if to snap me the mother of all salutes. I was ready for it. I snapped my best salute in return. However, the trooper merely adjusted the bill on his cap and rode on.

Lesson learned. After that, I took my time returning salutes.

Samuel "Sam" Evans
Captain MSC, Medical Operations Officer
2/503, '66-'67

Holy Shit! You're A Lieutenant!

In 1969 I was on my second tour after having received a commission after my first tour with the 173rd. I was with the 25th ID at Cu Chi.

One day in the base PX I ran into a friend from high school, he starts joking and hitting me on the back like old friends do when all of a sudden jumps back and comes to attention, "*Holy Shit! Your A Lieutenant!*," and gives me a proper salute.

We had a good laugh at the 30th high school reunion.

Joe Logan, B/2/503, '65 – '66

I Bet You Won't Forget Again. Will You?

Back in 1963, I was Squad Leader in C Company 2nd Battle Group, 501st Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. Passing Division HQ I approached a female Captain, I automatically saluted and said, "*STRAC SIR!*" I did not get back the anticipated reply, "*AIRBORNE!*" from the Officer. Instead, she said, "*SIR? What are you, a smartass Sergeant?*" She then chewed my ass until it looked like she finished I bet I said 20 *Yes Ma'am's!*

In 30 years of service I never got my ass chewed out like I did in 1963.



Joe

To some of the younger Paratroopers *STRAC* stood for *SKILLED, TOUGH, READY, AROUND, CLOCK*, and a returned salute from the Officer came back with *AIRBORNE!* Naturally, Enlisted had their own version of *STRAC...SILLY, TROOPERS, RUNNING, AROUND, CLOCK!*

Jake Jakovenko
C/2/503, LRRP



What The Hell Just Happened?

Let me preface this story by saying you should never doze off during the class about military etiquette.

I was just off of the bus from Ft. Knox after basic. I was at Ft. Gordon, GA for pre airborne infantry AIT...I was in khakis and looking as good as a PFC could look. Did you know that if a car comes by with stars on the flags you are supposed to salute the car? Well, I missed that little tidbit of information in class.

I was diddy-bopping along when a car with these red flags with 2 stars on them came by. Well, the infantry has never been accused of having high IQ's and as you have probably guessed by now, I did not salute the car. Tires squealed and out stepped a 2-star General. He said, "*PRIVATE! Why didn't you salute my car?*" I just stood there not knowing what to do. He then said, "*Why don't you just go ahead and drop and give me 10?*" So I did. Of course I did not get down fast enough. Yes, you guessed it -- 10 more and I don't think I have to tell you how the rest of it went.

After about 40 Airborne pushups the General said, "*I bet you won't forget again, will you?*" I gave him a snappy Airborne salute and said "*NO SIR!*" Then he got back in his car and left, leaving me standing there thinking WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED? as I gave his car an AIRBORNE SALUTE.

Les Fuller, A/2/503



(continued....)



Funny As In Strange

In the fall of '68, I was stationed at Bragg with the 2nd of the 04. One day the CG of XVIII Airborne Corps was driving in his jeep with the two stars waving off the bumper. He passed a group of basic trainees and the sergeant in charge failed to get the men to salute the General. He got his nose bent out of shape so the command came down that everyone on Post had to salute anyone of higher rank.

So for a week we went around saluting each other; privates saluting everybody above their rank, PFC's saluting E-4s, etc., all the way up the chain of command. Thought it was one of the weirdest and funniest things I had ever seen or participated in -- funny as in strange. Later,

**Joe Marquez, C/1/503d, '69; N/75th, Juliet, '70;
A/2/503d, '70**

A Not So Smart Airborne Salute

After Vietnam I was sent to the 509th Airborne in Germany to complete my last year in the army – the Peter Principle having kicked in at E-4, and knowing I'd never be promoted again, ever, I was heading to civilian life within a couple weeks.

Somehow, I was charged with marching a small squad of young paratrooper privates to a duty station at Lee Barracks and while doing so I saw a jeep approaching with a young LT in the passenger seat, possibly a Leg. Knowing there was little chance I would end up in the stockade or lose one of my cherished two stripes, plus being a smartass (which may explain the two stripes), I turned to the troopers in the detail and said, *"I'm gonna salute this guy left-handed, don't say anything."*

The jeep approached, I gave the young man my best left-handed Airborne salute and he saluted back. Then, the jeep came to a screeching halt! The driver quickly backed up and the young LT jumped out and jumped in my face.

"You saluted me left-handed, soldier!!" he also screeched. *"No Sir, I saluted you right-handed,"* I innocently offered back. *"No you didn't!!"*

The young CIB-less LT then noticed the 173d combat patch on my right shoulder. *"Well, don't do it again."* He and his smiling driver drove on, as I led my smiling squad to their detail. Two weeks later my saluting days were over. Sorry, LT.

Lew "Smitty" Smith, HHC/2/503, '65/'66



Smitty

Not a funny salute story, but an amusing tidbit

Years ago a squad of us visited LTC Bob Carmichael, our former Bn XO/CO '65/66, and his family at their home in Austin, TX, to present him with a certificate announcing his having been named a *Distinguished Member of the 503rd Infantry Regiment* on behalf of Col. Ken Smith, CO A/D/2/503, and By Order of the Secretary of the Army.

Following the presentation, Col. Les Brownlee, B/2/503 CO, Bob's friend and former Secretary of the Army, called to congratulate Bob. I was given the phone to say hello, then, with Bob sitting before me, I placed the phone against his ear so they could talk again, but Bob didn't reach for the receiver, instead he just let me stand there holding the phone against his ear while they talked for the longest time. Bob's wife, Exie, standing next to me, whispered in my ear, *"Still an RTO"*. **Smitty**

My Favorite Salute



And here, his RTO Smitty salutes his friend, the late LTC Bob Carmichael, in Ft. Worth at 2/503 reception during 173d reunion. Continue to rest easy RBC, I got your radio, Bob.



(continued....)



Don't Salute In A Combat Zone

It was my 2nd tour where I was the battalion's non-commissioned officer in charge of our battalion's civil affairs program. I had my own separate hooch, my own jeep, access to trucks in the place they kept vehicles, I could come and go as I pleased and reported to Col Sigholtz about once a month. I really do not remember ever saluting him or anyone else.

In my first tour, Sgt. Yrimino became our Platoon Sgt. He called us out the first time he got us and proclaimed we were the most miserable bunch he had ever seen and he was going to straighten us out. Shortly after that, we ended up in an ambush where Milton Olive jumped on a grenade and blew himself up. Sgt. Yirmino was one of the people Olive saved. When we got back to base camp we had one last platoon meeting. He said we could do whatever we wanted in base camp. So we took up the position we were not soldiers we were American fighting men.

So about a month before my 2nd tour was over they tried to replace me with some really, really green LT (I think they put him in that position because they did not want him in the field). Anyway, on his first day, I did not salute him. He was furious. I explained to him in the most bullshit way that we were in a combat zone and it was not safe to salute. It went downhill from there.

One day I said to him, "Sir, did you know that people have been known to get blown up in their tent?" He went bonkers and claimed he was firing me. I told him he could not fire me I was quitting. So off to Col. Sigholtz where he did his little dance and told the Colonel he was firing me. Col. Sigholtz asked me if I had anything to say, and I explained to him that he could not fire me because I was quitting. The Colonel agreed with me, asked the LT to leave and said to me, "Why didn't you tell me he was this bad, I would have gotten rid of him."

So off to B Company again. We were on some other crap mission and I said to myself, you got two weeks left you better find a way out of this. So I do not remember what I did but it definitely pissed off the Company Commander so bad they sent me back to base camp and forbid me to do anything. Needless to say that insubordination probably kept me alive. I did not remember ever saluting again.

Robert Toporek
B/2/503



No Hands On Desk Please

I was in basic training at Fort Knox in late '67 and one weekend our 4th platoon had "Guard Duty". So on Friday afternoon we all fell out for the officer who would ask us about the chain of command, checking to see if we had a recent haircut along with starched fatigues and a clean shave, and also checking out our posture as he was in our faces.



"Whip"

I was fortunate to have spit-shined my brass and boots (getting ready down the road to be a paratrooper), and knew the chain of command backward and forward.

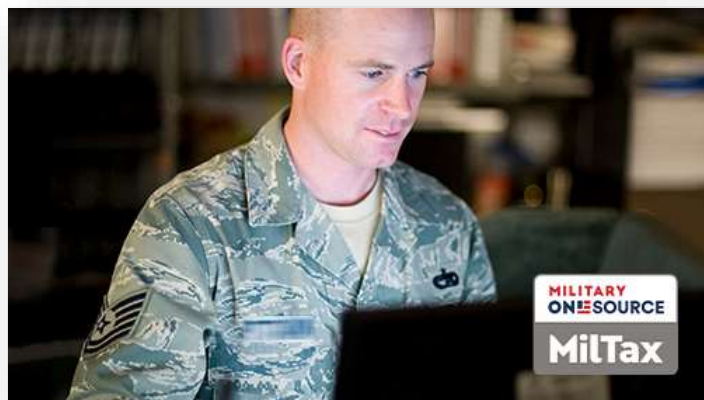
So I was chosen to be the Colonel's Orderly, which meant I had a 3-day pass for that weekend, in which I left the company and caught a ride to Louisville where I boarded a bus to Motown to be back with my friends for the weekend.

However before I left the company, I had to report to the Lt Colonel to receive my pass. So I knocked on the door and came up to his desk and with my hands on the desk (no salute), told him why I was there. That man straightened me up and lit into me. I was quite shaken up because here I thought my stuff didn't stink. However, I did get the pass!

I had two other guard duty details, but fortunately I was the Colonel's Orderly for both of those. I guess I was a real "suck up"!!

Rich "Whip" Whipple
HHC/2/503, '68





MILTAX: TAX SERVICES FOR THE MILITARY



This tax season, start with MilTax from Military OneSource and the Department of Defense. MilTax free tax services include tax prep and e-filing software and personalized support that address the realities of military life – deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals, multistate filings, living OCONUS and more.

Free Tax Prep and Filing Software

MilTax Preparation and e-Filing Software is available through mid-October. Powered by an industry-leading tax service provider, it's designed to address situations specific to the military. This easy-to-use, self-paced tax software walks you through a series of questions to help you complete and electronically file your federal return and up to three state tax forms. Calculations are 100 percent accurate – guaranteed by the software provider. Visit the software details page for more information.

Ready to get started? Use your Military OneSource account to access the software. Log in or create an account using the link below to be directed to the software start page.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/miltax-software>

DOD Identifies Army Casualties

FEB. 14, 2020

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom-Horn of Africa.

Pfc. Walter Lewark, 26, from Mountainair, New Mexico, died Feb. 13, 2020, at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, from a non-combat related incident. The incident is under investigation.

Lewark was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 200th Infantry Regiment, 93d Troop Command, New Mexico Army National Guard, Rio Rancho, New Mexico.



FEB. 13, 2020

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Spc. Branden Tyme Kimball, 21, from Central Point, Oregon, died Feb. 12, 2020, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from a non-combat related incident. The incident is under investigation.

Kimball was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Drum, New York.



VA taking on the challenges of aging with PTSD

Strategies that help older Veterans

February 25, 2020 Vantage Point

New challenges appear with age. Those challenges can make the symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) more noticeable, cause them to come back after many years or even to occur for the first time.

"It really wasn't until after I retired and moved to be with my family that the [PTSD] symptoms began to be bothersome and disrupt my life, disrupt my family's life," says Mary Martin, an Air Force Veteran.



Mary Martin

Don't assume that these changes are a given or that it's just what happens with getting older. Memories or impacts of trauma can be addressed at any age. You're never too old to get help, and older adults can benefit from effective PTSD treatments, even for people who experienced trauma decades ago.

It's common for older adults to minimize and deny the pain they experience from past traumas. They're more likely to try to cope with these issues by themselves instead of seeking mental health treatment. However, strategies that once seemed to help with PTSD symptoms can be more difficult to maintain as people get older.

Common challenges and strategies

You're never too old to get help.

Dr. Elissa McCarthy, clinical psychologist at the National Center for PTSD, and Dr. Joan Cook, associate professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine, shared some common challenges faced by older adults and strategies for how to deal with those challenges:

CHALLENGE: More free time. Increased amounts of free time can make unpleasant memories more frequent.

STRATEGY: Create structure and maintain a routine or organized schedule. Spend more time on hobbies or doing other enjoyable activities that you may not have made time for earlier in life. For example, learn to play an instrument, bake, start a blog or make a scrapbook with old photos.

CHALLENGE: Loss of purpose. Retirement can be challenging if work was a large part of your identity.

STRATEGY: Learn new skills or volunteer. For example, many older Veterans enjoy giving back by mentoring Servicemembers or younger Veterans.

CHALLENGE: Loss of loved ones.

STRATEGY: Having a network of supportive people is important. Maintain relationships with people you care about and make new friends, too. For example, look for social groups who enjoy your hobbies or an activity you want to learn.

CHALLENGE: Changes in physical ability.

STRATEGY: Replace hobbies with other similar activities. For example, if poor eyesight makes reading difficult, try audiobooks or podcasts instead. For those who are homebound or have limited mobility, there are other options, like telehealth, for receiving counseling and care from home.

CHALLENGE: Medical problems. Living with untreated PTSD can make other mental and physical health issues worse.

STRATEGY: Don't assume this is how aging needs to be, be proactive in managing health conditions and get treatment for PTSD symptoms that arise.

Symptoms may worsen

As people age, their PTSD symptoms may suddenly appear or become worse, causing them to act differently. It may be unsettling to see these changes in a loved one, but it's nothing to fear. Changes are common and treatment can help. If a loved one is living with PTSD, these tips can help:

Take time to understand what friends or loved ones went through and what they're now experiencing as they live with the symptoms of PTSD.

Be supportive and nonjudgmental. Think about how to respond better if a loved one says they've experienced trauma or may have PTSD. Responding negatively, even unintentionally, can shut someone down. Thank them for sharing their personal story with you.

Connect them with care. If being the main support person for a loved one becomes too much to handle, connect them to help and remain in a loving, supporting role. Don't forget that loved ones need help and support, too.

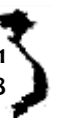
Give hope. Understand that symptoms can come and go throughout different times in a person's life. Remind loved ones that they've successfully coped in the past, and can do it again.

Visit the National Center for PTSD website for information, videos and tools to help manage PTSD. For more information on older adults with PTSD, download the Understanding PTSD and Aging booklet.

If you care about someone with PTSD, download the Understanding PTSD: A Guide for Family and Friends booklet to learn more about how to support your loved one and take care of your own needs.

Joan Cook, Ph.D is a psychologist at the Nat. Center for PTSD Evaluation Div. and an associate professor in the Yale School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Elissa McCarthy, Ph.D, is a clinical psychologist and PTSD Consultation Program consultant with the National Center for PTSD.

<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>



Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside Vietnam



Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the United States.

The Department of Defense gave VA a list of dates and locations of herbicide tests and storage. View dates and locations:

- [In the U.S. – Herbicide tests and storage](#)
- [Outside the U.S. – Herbicide tests and storage](#)

[View all as PDF: Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside of Vietnam](#) (Department of Defense List) (224 KB, PDF)

VA benefits

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including an [Agent Orange Registry health exam](#), health care, and disability compensation for diseases associated with exposure. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. Learn more about [benefits related to Agent Orange exposure](#).

Need help determining exposure?

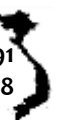
VA will help determine exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service after you [file a claim for compensation benefits](#).

Veterans may be eligible for a free [Agent Orange Registry health exam](#). You don't have to file a disability compensation claim to receive the exam. Contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) about getting an Agent Orange Registry health exam.

[Download free viewer and reader software](#) to view PDF, video and other file formats.

Note: See on-line report for links to sources listed:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/tests-storage/index.asp>



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

COVID-19

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is leading the federal government's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) response efforts, VA is monitoring the situation through its Emergency Management Coordination Cell and collaborating with public health officials from HHS and the Centers for Disease Control to ensure Veterans benefit from the latest prevention, testing and treatment protocols and develop emergency management plans for medical centers.

Veterans who are concerned they may have symptoms of COVID-19, flu or cold are encouraged to contact the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center at 1-877-741-3400 (toll free). Clinical staff are available to provide 24/7 virtual care and support, including nurse advice and triage. This service is available at no cost to Veterans enrolled for care in [VISN 8](#).

The most important thing individuals can do is prevent the spread of any illness is:

Get the Flu Shot

Sanitize your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleaners

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—throw it away immediately after you use it

Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue

Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth—Germs often spread this way

If you are ill, stay home and if needed call your doctor

A guide for Veterans is located at the following link:
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/72072/coronavirus-be-informed-and-call-your-provider-if-symptoms-develop/>

Source:

North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Healthcare
veteranshealth@public.govdelivery.com



VA's judge employment peaks, as department continues record breaking appeals progress

March 2, 2020

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) hired seven new Veterans Law Judges (VLJs) effective March 1, to help the Board continue its record-breaking progress adjudicating Veterans appeals.

These new hires bring the Board's total number of VLJs to 102 – the largest since the Board's inception in 1933.

"2019 was a historic year for the Board and we look forward to reaching new milestones in 2020," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

"In fiscal year 2019, the Board issued 95,089 decisions to Veterans and held more than 22,000 hearings – both are record numbers."

Eight months after implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA), VA announced its plan to resolve legacy appeals by the end of 2022. The appointment of the seven VLJs will help VA towards meeting that goal.

Veterans Law Judges are both experienced attorneys and subject matter experts in Veterans law.

Following an initial screening, the chairman of the Board recommends a list of candidates to the VA secretary. The selected VLJs are then appointed by the secretary with the final approval coming from the president.

Source:
Department of Veterans Affairs





Faces On The Wall Sky Soldier Photos Still Missing

6 Sky Soldier Pictures remain missing:

1/503d Infantry Battalion

MINO, Robert E.

Sep 21, 1945 - Feb 27, 1968

New York, NY

B/1/503

2/503d Infantry Battalion

CRAWFORD, Claude

Feb 20, 1949 – Nov 20, 1967

Los Angeles, CA

HHC/2/503

WILSON, Herbert Jr.

Aug 26, 1947 - Mar 3, 1967

New York, NY

C/2/503

3/503 Infantry Battalion

ZIMMERMAN, Terry

Sep 9, 1948 - Mar 16, 1968

New York, NY

D/3/503

4/503 Infantry Battalion

ARNOLD, Louis George W

Oct 9, 1948 - Nov 20, 1967

Detroit, MI

A/4/503

C/75th Rangers

LARACUENTE, Ernesto Luis

Feb 22, 1948 - Nov 4, 1969

New York, NY

C /75

Anyone in possession of one or more of these photos,
please email them to me at: kvsmith173@gmail.com

Ken Smith, Col. (Ret)
CO A/D/2/503, RVN

Sky Soldiers Doing Good Work...As Usual

February 11, 2020



Yesterday a group of us was at the McDonald House Charities to present the Chapter's annual donation of \$1000.00. Afterwards the House granted us a conference room in which to conduct a mini-meeting on matters concerning the Dayton reunion.

Things are falling together. Got a big help from Ike Mellinger as his family and friends who are willing to step forth.

Will be needing volunteers to rotate at working the Chapter's vendors table. Hopefully we have the bodies out there who are willing to help. Will get back with this during the Chapter's March Meeting.

Working at loading the tour buses should be no issue as I have simplified this, allowing it to have no interference on those who volunteer.

Again, let's go over this at the March Meeting, to be posted later.

Bill Terry

A/3/319 RVN



In this picture, top and left to right are: Bill Terry, John Schulte, Mark Mitchell, Official Katherine McCave, Ike Mellinger and Mark Wieland.



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Landmine Policy

JAN. 31, 2020

Statement attributable to Vic Mercado, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities.

Effective today, the Administration is rescinding the Presidential Policy concerning anti-personnel landmines (APL), in favor of a new United States landmine policy that will be overseen by the Department of Defense. The United States remains committed to working to minimize risks to civilians posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. The United States also remains fully committed to complying with its treaty obligations regarding landmines and explosive remnants of war, as contained in Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, annexed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Landmines, including APL, remain a vital tool in conventional warfare that the United States military cannot responsibly forgo, particularly when faced with substantial and potentially overwhelming enemy forces in the early stages of combat. Withholding a capability that would give our ground forces the ability to deny terrain temporarily and therefore shape an enemy's movement to our benefit irresponsibly risks American lives. The United States will not sacrifice American servicemembers' safety, particularly when technologically advanced safeguards are available that allow landmines to be employed responsibly to ensure our military's warfighting advantage, and limit the risk of unintended harm to civilians. These safeguards require landmines to self-destruct, or in the event of a self-destruct failure, to self-deactivate within a prescribed period of time.

The Department of Defense's new policy allows planning for and use of APL in future potential conflicts, including outside the Korean Peninsula, while continuing to prohibit the operational use of any "persistent" landmines (landmines without a self-destruct/self-deactivation function). Under this policy, if combatant commanders authorize the use of landmines in a major combat situation, those landmines will include the aforementioned safeguards that will prevent them from being a threat to civilians after a conflict ends.

The United States will continue to lead in international humanitarian demining efforts that locate and remove landmines and explosive remnants of war that pose persistent threats to civilians living in current and former conflict areas around the world. The rescission of the previous policy does not reduce this national commitment, and it does not exacerbate the problems associated with unexploded munitions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the prior U.S. landmine policy being replaced?

A: DOD's study determined that the U.S. military faced a critical capability gap, making it less prepared for future security challenges, due to restrictions previously imposed.

Q: Why not keep landmine policy at the Presidential level?

A: The President decided that landmine policy, like policies for all other conventional (non-nuclear) weapons, falls squarely within the Secretary of Defense's responsibilities.

Q: Does this change the U.S. Government's legal obligations with respect to landmines?

A: No, U.S. international legal obligations have not changed. The new landmine policy provides more protections for civilians than are required under CCW Amended Protocol II.

Q: What's changed since the last Administration committed to pursue Ottawa Convention accession?

A: The strategic environment has changed since 2016. We face an era of strategic competition that requires our military to become more lethal, resilient, and ready for future contingencies.

Q: Does the new policy distinguish between anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines?

A: No. All landmines in DOD's operational inventory have safety features to limit unintended harm to non-combatants; thus, this distinction made in the prior policy is not necessary.

Q: How reliable are current U.S. mine safety features?

A: Reliability of self-destruct and self-deactivate safety features in the current inventory is very high: there is only a 6 in 1 million chance of a U.S. landmine being active after a pre-determined period.

Q: How many landmines in the U.S. inventory are persistent? Does the new policy change this?

A: There are no persistent landmines in the U.S. operational inventory; the new policy does not change this.

Q: What's the new policy's impact on NATO countries that are party to the Ottawa Convention?

A: The United States would expect other countries to abide by their legal obligations, including obligations they may have assumed by becoming Party to the Ottawa Convention.

Q: Why are landmines still needed in modern war?

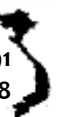
A: Such area-denial systems are a "force multiplier" in key operational contexts; they can obstruct, channel, and delay/stop numerically superior adversaries and prevent them from outflanking friendly forces.

Q: Is the change in policy due to the current situation with Iran?

A: No. It is the result of DOD's policy review and the President's imperative to equip our warfighters with the appropriate means to implement the National Defense Strategy.

Source: Department of Defense

www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2071692/landmine-policy/source/GovDelivery/



For families and buddies, the war never ends...

173RD HERD BROTHER

Felix F F Leyva-Parra-Frias. I remember we, 2nd Platoon, going to help 3rd Platoon. We found your body in the lead and the bodies of the LT and his radioman. We secured your bodies and carried everyone back to base camp. You and everyone will not be forgotten. There is a 173rd Memorial at FT. Benning, Georgia.

Jaime (Jimmy) Castillo

C/2/503

AIRBORNE! ALL THE WAY!!

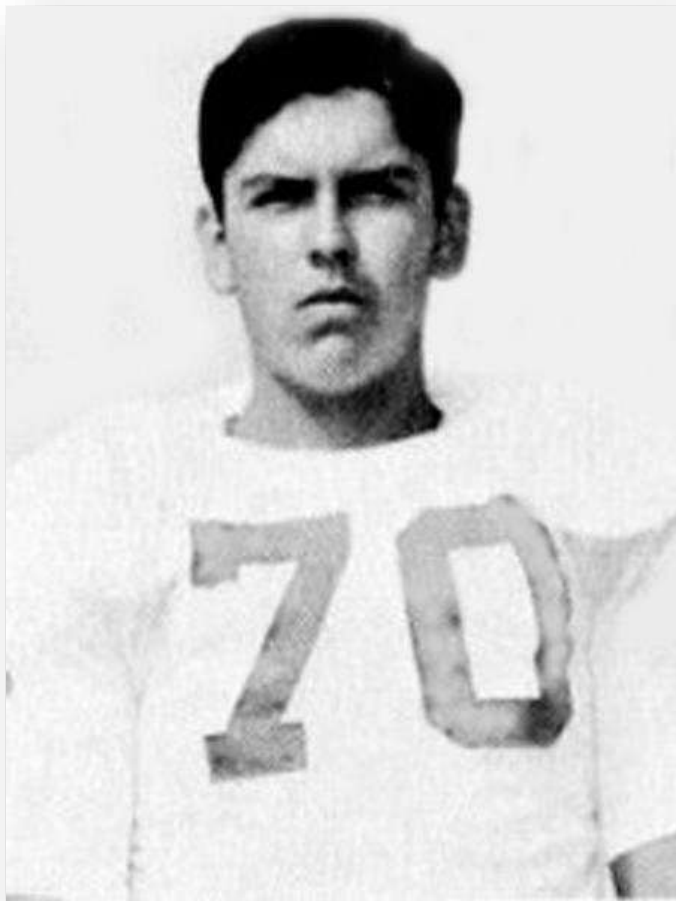
In a note to Jimmy from the nephew of Felix:

Sir,

I found this on the internet today, PFC Leyva was my uncle. I was only 3 when he died. Thank you so much for your service to our country and for never leaving a Brother behind!

God bless,

Brian



Felix F F Leyva-Parra-Frias

KIA 4/8/67

Jefferson Barracks gets its first memorial for Vietnam veterans in a 2019 milestone



County Council Presiding Officer Ernie Trakas speaks during the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Vietnam memorial dedication Oct. 3 at Jefferson Barracks Park. Pictured to the right of Trakas is the memorial bench outside of the Old Ordnance Room Musuem. Photo by Erin Achenbach.



The commemorative stone from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, located outside the Old Ordnance Room Museum at Jefferson Barracks Park. Photo by Erin Achenbach.

"In remembering our fallen we believe they shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, nor shall age not weary them. Nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we shall remember them," said Terry Aubrey, president of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association. "Our national association has picked up with a vengeance this bench project and we've planted these benches in VA (Veterans Affairs) hospitals, national cemeteries, and now it is so fitting that this is the first occasion at this beautiful site because we were the first. We were first in and, I forgot to mention, we were the last army combat unit to leave Vietnam. Hopefully in many years to come this will be the last bench to be carried out of here."



Photo & Caption Believed to be After 173d Arrival
at Bien Hoa AFB. Sky Soldier unit unknown.



“Before moving out, the troops check their weapons and equipment.”
(National Archives)

"IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC WITH THE 503 - 1942-1945"

Norman F. Petzelt / 503rd PIR, WWII

Down where there may be no tomorrow,
and a man can raise a thirst,
were the outcasts of civilization,
victims of life at its worst.

There in that tropical jungle
were the men that time forgot,
who battle the ever present fever,
the itch and the jungle rot.

The heat to 120° down
in that sweltering zone,
with a war to be fought
many thousand miles from home.

We lived with blood sucking leeches
and deadly ticks to pick off each day,
no where to raise hell for an evening,
just work and sweat all day.



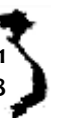
Vermin at night in your poncho,
ills no doctor could cure,
Hell no, we were not convicts,
just Troopers on a foreign tour.

A woman's face but a picture,
whose form we had almost forgot,
and pray not to contact malaria
end up in that jungle to rot.

There is one consolation,
gather round while I tell,
when they die these Troopers go to heaven,
they have done their stretch in Hell!!

Norman F. Petzelt

Courtesy of Paul Whitman, 503rd PRCT Heritage Battalion
website.



The other day my grandkids were having fun, with their mother and grandmother, about their granddad always wearing his hat, while suggesting he likely showers and sleeps with it on. We all enjoyed some fun laughs at my deserved expense. Their good humor prompted these few words about the subject of their attention. Ed

The Hat

By a Sky Soldier
VN Vintage

The hat is something special to many of us, to thousands, tens of thousands of us and more. We wear the hat for different yet similar reasons.

The hat is often emblazoned with doo dads, little trinkets pinned thereon, which only other wearers of the hat understand. Shiny things such as CIB's, PH's, stars of silver and bronze, and the occasional wings all surrounding a linen patch perfectly centered on its face, often referring to a branch, not of a tree or office, but branches of the military with which the wearers so proudly served in their youth.

The hat will often announce to onlookers, yeah, I was a sailor, an airman, a Marine, a Coast Guardsman, an army grunt, and for some of us, a paratrooper. Sometimes the hat will state the wearer was once a private, a corporal, a sergeant, a lieutenant, a captain, a major, a colonel, and the doo dads with their special meanings, many earned with sweat, blood and greater sacrifice are also exhibited on the hat for all to see.

And for those of us who earned those special trinkets many years ago in the rice paddies, jungles, waterways, air space and mountain ranges of Vietnam and other battlegrounds, as well as the towers at Benning and similar venues, we don the hat with pride; we're proud of what we endured for our country.... and that too is another reason we wear the hat. For many of us, it wasn't always that way.

For us, countless of us, we never once thought of wearing the hat, we didn't know the hat existed. The last thing we ever wanted to do was call attention to ourselves, instead struggling only to distance ourselves from that year or two or more when, unknown to us at the time, we were making a down payment to later one day wear the hat, but we never wore it. *Me? A Vietnam vet? No sir. Can I have the job?*

And then years slipped by, many years, 30+ years and more for some of us. Many of us became retired, we became 50 years old and older, and at that mark we looked back, and we looked back at our youth. *"Hey, I'm a Vietnam combat vet, I'm not a baby killer! I served my country like my dad and uncle and brother, and I carry a certain hurt after having done that. I'm proud of all that I did, even though our kids hardly knew,"* might be a common refrain.

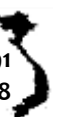
And in time people came to see that. They finally saw we were not baby killers, we were simply young patriots fulfilling an oath more important and bigger than any one of us alone - and yes, that's another reason we wear the hat.

In time we found ourselves looking for war buddies, we anxiously signed-up for our first reunion, we began reading about and studying the Vietnam war, and we began hurting for those young boys we knew who were killed during our time at war, other young oath takers but who were never afforded the chance to wear the hat. And we saw old men who looked like us, wearing the hat.

Then one day two old paratroopers while donning their hats were having breakfast in Tampa, Florida, when a young boy approached their table. With them seated, the lad, about ten years old stood before them at eye level. *"Thank you for your service,"* said he in a youthful, sincere, soft voice. Five little yet powerful words spoken by a little boy. *"Thank you,"* the two old soldiers were able to nervously and uncomfortably mutter back, hoping to hide the tears attacking them. That boy was the first ever to express thanks to those two aging Sky Soldiers. That boy had seen the hat.



The Hat



Farewell to Troopers of the 173d Abn Bde & 503rd PRCT and Attached Units Who Made Their Final Jump

Harold Antoine, 80
Lafayette, LA
January 29, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Curtis Ray Baker, 70
Glendora, CA
January 24, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Paul A. Barronon, 73
York, ME
November 10, 2019
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Julius B. "Bennie" Bradley, 76
Newport News, VA
December 24, 2019
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Thomas Mercer Collier, Jr., 72
Hampton, VA
January 22, 2020
B/2/503, RVN

George Burnell Coursey, 71
Dublin, GA
November 17, 2019
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Herb Creaseman, 69
Lenoir, NC
Notice on February 24, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

James L. Delaney, 69
Bangor, PA
January 27, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Kim "Dobber" Dobbins, 72
Oshkosh, WI
January 25, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Michael R. Flynn, 73
Greenfield, IN
January 5, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Bryce Faisal Gaffar, 31
Overland Park, KS
February 2, 2020
173d Afghanistan

Jim Gerloff, 72
Rifle, CO
February 19, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Charles "Chuck" Hathaway, 75
Spring Hill, KS
January 8, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Stephen B. Hayes, 69
Ottawa, OH
February 21, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Sammie J. "Doc" Kinnett, 70
Lakeland, FL
December 23, 2019
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Danny Jones, 72
Vancouver, WA
January 15, 2020
3/319th Artillery, RVN

Edward Charles Lamphier, 78
Roscoe, NY
January 1, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

David McWilliams, 70
Edmond, OK
January 30, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Lee Byer Milner, MD, 79
Leavenworth, WA
January 11, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Joshua R. Minton, 32
McCutchenville, OH
4/319, Afghanistan
January 15, 2020

Gordon Harry Olson, 74
Utah
January 29, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Raymond "Butch" Pantoja, 79
Corpus Christi, TX
January 17, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Don Phillips, Sr., Col., 85
Shreveport, LA
February 19, 2020
HHC/C/2/503, RVN

Jack L. Polvado, 74
Morristown, AZ
February 8, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Russell Robert Reed, Jr., 73
Murphy, NC
January 24, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Wade C. Schaefer, 32
Charleston, IL
January 10, 2020
173d Abn Bde, Afghanistan

William H. Schryver, LTC, 79
Cibolo, NY
January 20, 2020
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Clarence F. Smith, 67
Andover, OH
October 31, 2019
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Paul Williams, 77
Pikeville, KY
December 23, 2019
173d Abn Bde, RVN

*Rest Easy Sky Soldiers
We Remember You*

