



# The 12th CAV Trooper



## Semper Paratus

Serving Those A/4-12 Cav Troopers who Served In The Republic of Vietnam 1968 - 1971

Volume VI, Issue 1

February, 2008

### A Troop Invades Mississippi, Reunion 2007

The 2007 Reunion at Tunica, Mississippi is now history. Held for the first time outside of Las Vegas or Washington, DC, it was led by Greg and Jenelle Beining, with the assistance of other 3rd Platoon Troopers. It was a rousing success.

By best count we had 12 first-time troopers: Butch Bass, James Cox, Tony Hunter, James Littlepage, Dan McAuliff, Jerry Montgomery, John Reedy, Gene Reiter, Don Scott, Joe Shue, Comer Smith, and Matt Spruill. On the down side there are just 4 troopers who have attended all of our reunions: Ken Dye, Keith Eaton, Dennis Perrino, and Jim Rinaldi.

Many of our troopers and their families took advantage of some of the local outside activities. Trap shooting at the resort's range left some asking why there were no tracer rounds or belts of ammo to fire at the clay pigeons. Needless to say, the pigeons had a good time and the troopers were left to say, "Wait until next time". Other families traveled to the Mississippi River Museum and took the riverboat ride up and down a portion of the Mississippi River.

On Friday, the wives, lady friends, and daughters of the Cav enjoyed the second annual Ladies Luncheon. The luncheon was followed by the annual Business Meeting held in the hospitality suite.

Saturday's activities were limited to enjoying the hospitality suite, followed by the evening social hour, group photos and the banquet. Dennis Perrino entertained the group with photos and a brief talk about the trip to Vietnam taken by some of our troopers. Those missing the reunion because of the Vietnam trip were Jim Good, Dennis Patrick, and Charlie Russell. They had a great trip visiting our old AO, along with other points of interest.



Row 1 L-R Dennis Perrino, Gene Reiter, Tony Hunter, Butch Beatty, David Boshell, Bob Curnell, John Reedy, Don Scott, Darell Ivory, Joe Adams, James Littlepage. Row 2 L-R Warren Swinford, John Richardson, Michael Gillespie, Joe Byrne, Neal Smith, Keith Eaton, Matt Spruill, Dave July, Dennis Nivens, Kent Drake, Charles Cooper, Ken Dye, Andrew Bellendir. Row 3 L-R Albert Christine, Jerry Montgomery, Joe Shue, Comer Smith, Gene Clark, Merle Reed, John White, Jim Rinaldi, Ian Losee, Walt Ferguson, James Cox, Bob Rebbec, Greg Beining. Row 4 L-R John Tillman, Dave Larson, Jerry Malan, Chris Phillips, Ron Chabiel

## 2007 LTee Frank Canda Award

At the 2007 Reunion, we honored a fellow Trooper, acknowledging the time, energy, and effort he has given over the past years, by presenting him with the **LTee FRANK CANDA AWARD** (formerly the KEEPING THE FLAME BURNING award.) This recognition is given to individuals who have made significant contributions above and beyond the call of duty with regard to the troop's website, committees, trooper locating, and other actions that have benefited A Troop.

The award is not presented every year; only six have been granted to date. At the 2006 Reunion, Jim Clark (HQ 69-70) said, *"I think the best thing about this award is that it is not one you can set out to win, but a testament to the character shown when no one is watching."*

What is character? It's an intangible quality, easily recognized, but difficult to define.

HONEST      LOYAL      UNSELFISH      HUMBLE      RESPECTFUL

These are just a few of the traits associated with this year's recipient. He is also a responsible individual who handles whatever comes his way, never making excuses or trying to build himself up at the expense of others. He is positive, confident, and will look you straight in the eye. You know he is "with you to the end." He makes his own personal commitment toward excellence, and gives without expecting reciprocity.

He has served as the original Troop Quartermaster and the Reunion Unit Leader for 2004. Presently, he is the Commo Net Unit Leader, and Editor for the Troop Newsletter. These are only a few of his achievements.

He is dedicated to the troop, and has a willingness to share his feelings and experiences with fellow troopers—THEN AND NOW.

This is why we have honored, and are proud to have presented to **KEITH EATON** (HQ 69-70) the **LTee FRANK CANDA AWARD**.

**Charles Cooper**

Keith Eaton's acceptance speech:

"I don't really feel worthy of this award. Ol' Frank was a hell of a man. When Rag and I went up to the funeral, his family took us in just like we were their own. Just like Frank did for everybody here. He wanted to keep us together and to keep us coming back every year. I am really happy to see all of the new faces here tonight.

I don't know what all to say other than I want to thank you all for being my Brothers and I hope to see you again next year because I am running it again next year. Vegas, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast. Be there!

I want to thank everybody for this award. I will hold it right close to my heart just like I hold every one of you as my friends and my Brothers and my Sisters, too. These wives are the glue that holds us together and if it wasn't for you we would probably be drunk in some alley some place. THANK YOU."



LTee, Frank Canda 2002

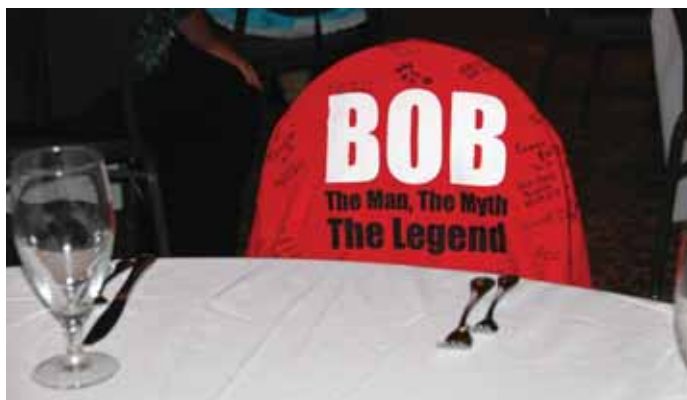


Keith with Frank Canda Awards





Mississippi Riverboat ride, One of the outside activities available to Troopers and their significant others. This Merry Group consisted of L to R ( Andrew and Kathy Bellendir, Ian Losse, Walt and Wendy Ferguson, Sherrill and James Cox, James Littlepage and Teresa Cole.)



Bob Taylor 2007



Joe and Lori Shue, enjoying the dinner festivities

## Reunion 2008 Las Vegas Nevada

Location Gold Coast Hotel and Casino

October 9th, 10th, and 11th 2008

If you don't have access to a computer Please contact Keith Eaton at 614-888-8848 or Jim Clark at 509-448-2927



**1<sup>ST</sup> PLATOON**

ROW 1 (L-R) Chris Phillips, Gene Reiter, Charles Cooper, Walt Ferguson, Ken Dye, James Littlepage

ROW 2 (L-R) Ron Chabiel, Albert Christine, Jerry Malan, Dave Larson, James Cox, Andrew Bellendir

ROW 3 (L-R) Joe Shue, Gene Clark, Ian Losee, John Tillman, Warren Swinford, James Rinaldi

A Troop, would like to thank John and Pam Fowler for Providing picture files for our group photos



**2nd PLATOON**

ROW 1 (L-R) David Boshell, Dennis Perrino, Bob Taylor, John Reedy, John Richardson.

ROW 2 (L-R)

Merle Reed, Bob Rebbec, Jerry Montgomery, Tony Hunter.

ROW 3 (L-R) Comer Smith, Michael Gillespie, John White, Neal Smith, Joe Byrne

***The 12th Cav Trooper***

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**Mission Statement**

The driving force of the Association is to continue promoting camaraderie of A Troop 4/12 Cavalry (Vietnam Era) through reunions, memorial services, and communications.

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**The 88th Reunion Society of the 5Th Division**

August 28th thru September 1, 2008

Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

Come and enjoy the Capital area with it's military and political history, it's Museums and it's beauty.

A variety of tours will be offered and plenty of time for exploring the area, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Our Keynote speaker: Recently retired Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ronald E. Neumann. Ron was a lieutenant with 1/11 Infantry in Vietnam and is a life Member of the Society of the Fifth Division.

Complete Registration Information by March 1st in "The Red Diamond" newsletter of the Society of the Fifth Division or at [www.societyofthefifthdivision.com](http://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com) Troopers of A/4/12 Cavalry are especially invited to attend.





3rd PLATOON  
ROW 1 (L-R) Don Scott,Darell Ivory, Joe Adams.  
ROW 2 (L-R) Greg Beining,David July, George Nivens,Kent Drake.



HQ PLATOON: Row 1 (L-R) Bob Curnell, Joe Byrne,Matt Spruill, George Nivens.  
Row 2 (L-R) Raymond Beatty,Keith Eaton, Greg Beinning, Dennis Perrino



1st Platoon Troopers and wives enjoy the weather on the veranda of the Tunica Grand Hotel. L to R Linda Rinaldi, Sandy Dye, Ken Dye, Gene Clark, Jim Rinaldi, Ian Losee, and Gene Reiter



Morris and Helen Smith



L-R Merle and Reda Reed,Minerva and John Richardson,John and Jeanie Smith

## Vietnam Revisited

*By COL Dennis Perrino*

In January, 1971 I boarded a Continental Airlines flight in DaNang, Republic of Vietnam with no thought of ever returning to that place. I had just spent my one-year rotation in that country with the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), first as a cavalry platoon leader and troop XO, then as an assistant Tank Battalion S4 and finally as assistant S1.

I have been an affiliated member of the 12th Cavalry Association since about the inception of the Regimental System. In June of 2001 I became associated with A Troop 4-12th Cavalry Association Vietnam. We had our first reunion in September, 2001 at the Stardust Casino in Las Vegas, NV. Four years ago one of our members, Jim Good, reported on a tour to Vietnam and the purported cost was around \$5,000. I was not prepared to spend that much on a vacation for myself.

However the thoughts of returning to Vietnam began to intrigue me. In February of this year, Jim Good, sent me a brochure from Military Historical Tours in Washington, D.C. A 12-day tour "Steel Tigers Return" (1st Bn, 77th Armor) highlighting most of the areas in which we served, was being offered for \$3000. I was interested, but still leery of spending that much on a vacation for only myself. My wife, Rita, decided that she would like to go.

We made our reservations and made preparations to go. September 28th we headed for LA, and met the rest of the group, three leaders from MHT, 5 troopers, Jim Good, Dennis Patrick, Charlie Russell, Ray Garvi and myself from A, 4-12Cav, two Grunts from 1-11Inf, a marine from the 3d Marine Div, and 7 tankers from the 1-77th Ar. LAX to Incheon, ROK, change planes Vietnam Air to Hanoi, through customs and flight to Hue/Phu Bai. Three nights in Hue where Capt. Ed Garr, USMC, Ret guided us through the battle of Hue, Tet, 1968.

A bus trip North to Quang Tri Province LZ Nancy, LZ Sharon, Wonder Beach, Quang Tri Citadel, Dong HA, Jones Creek, Gia Lin, brought a flood of memories to those who served some 38 years ago. Cam Lo, Fire base Charlie 2, Alpha -4(Con Tien), the Razor back, the Rockpile, Firebase Vandergriff, Camp Carroll, the Ba Long Valley, My Loc, Khe Son to the Lao border.

It was during this part of the tour we were joined by a Vietnamese gentleman introduced as COL Dzang Anh. He was the Viet Cong Chief for Quang Tri Province. His home is just East of Dong Ha. He spent most of a day with us as we toured these sites in his and our AO. We talked of some of the operations, but he couldn't remember specific incidents. Of course we were only there for a year. Anh was there for the duration. As we were trying to find the remnants of the combat base at Quang Tri, several of us walked about a mile down a dirt road. COL Anh told us we had gone too far. We were standing in an area where a Viet Cong Bde was camped. While we were discussing these ventures he presented me with a medal. We shook hands and saluted each other on the bridge over Jones Creek.

We headed South to DaNang stayed at a resort on China Beach, toured Marble Mountain, then flew North to Hanoi. We were given a briefing by the assistant Cdr of Detachment 2, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), toured the Vietnam Army Museum, and the "Hanoi Hilton", where John McCain spent 6+ years.

Air to and From LA, all hotels and bus transportation, and about 80% of the meals were included in the price of the trip. Many of the servicemen on the trip exorcised demons on these LZs and Firebases. For myself, romping in the surf of the South China Sea at Gia Lin brought me back 38 years. I highly recommend this trip to anyone who served there. Military

Historical Tours will tailor a tour to any itinerary. Call John Powell, (1-800-722-9501) or [jpowell@miltours.com](mailto:jpowell@miltours.com).



Vietnam Revisited: LtoR  
Bob Basner 1/77 Armor, Charlie Russell, Tanh  
our Vietnamese guide,  
Dennis Perrino, Denny Patrick, Rita Perrino



## A Troop Takes on Memorial Project

During the Business meeting the members present voted to go forward with the construction of a monument to be placed in the Armor Memorial Park at Fort Knox, Ky. Two troopers, Bob Schlitzberger and John Richardson, have volunteered to be a part of the memorial unit but not to take the leadership role. At this time we have a unit and are seeking someone to lead this unit to the completion of their mission.

Our wives have decided to provide the kickoff project for this Memorial to A Troop. Pat Ivory is leading the effort to create and sell a Cook Book comprised of the favorite recipes of the families of our Troopers. The profits from this endeavor will be used as seed money for this project. Several suggestions were presented at the business meeting as to the design of the plaques placed on the monument several of the suggestions are as follows:

- a.) A listing of our Troops Kia's
- b.) The Troop Guidon with script yet to be determined
- c.) 12th Cavalry Crest with Script yet to be determined
- d.) A listing of Troop Commanders and dates of Service

If you would like to participate in the Memorial Unit as a member or leader please contact John Sharpe, Troop Chairman (John@sharpestuff.com) or Charles Cooper Troop Secretary (coop444@earthlink.net)



Sample monument At The Armor Memorial Park

### Cook Book Project

Do you have any favorite recipes that you would like to share. Currently Pat Ivory and Darell Ivory 3rd platoon 1968 are collecting recipes from Troop members for an A Troop Cookbook . Revenues from this project will help support our Troop Monument Project. They can be reached at (cavsister-pi@hotmail.com) or Pat Ivory Box 638 D'Hanis, TX 78850



"The New Sisterhood Of The Cav"

From Left to Right: Nancy Curnell, Wendy Ferguson Diane Smith, Marge Gillespie, Donna Byrne, Kathy Spruill, Arnette Hunter, Patricia Ivory, Jenelle Beining, Evelyn Adams, Jeanie White, Lori Shue, Reda Reed, Minerva Richardson, Karen Schneider, Nancy Wade, Nancy Swinford, Linda Eaton, Janie Drake, Linda Rinaldi, Val Larson, Sherill Cox, Kathy Bellendri, Teresa Cole, and Barbara Cooper Not Pictured Karen Chabiel, Susan Christine, Sandy Dye, Debbie Malan, Deloris Phillips and Helen Smith

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**Change of Address**

Provide all changes of address to *The Trooper*, 1612 Culberson Mesquite, TX. 75150 c/o Charles Cooper



***The 12th Cav Trooper Needs Your Support***

We hope you enjoy receiving *The 12th Cav Trooper*. As you can see, the format and contents are new and will continue to improve. The production of such a quality newsletter, however, is not inexpensive. The newsletter constitutes one of the highest expenses of the Association budget. Many thanks to those who have contributed. Many more contributions are needed. Please send your check (Payable to A Troop, 12th Cavalry) along with the form below to Bob Taylor, P.O. Box 2152, Globe, AZ 85502. We will list all who donate in the next issue.



**Thanks for your Support**

Patriot

*Don Henderson / Robert Kerin*

*Al Bergstrom / Jerry Wessel*

*Sherri Taylor / Jim Good*

*George Gibbs / Ray Gavi*

*Andrew Scheffler*

*Anthony Shouse*

*Ron Brundage*

*Terry Gookin*

*Brian Mannix*

*James Cox*

*Richard Geib*

*Warren Congleton*

*Marty Walker*

*Jerry Montgomery*

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