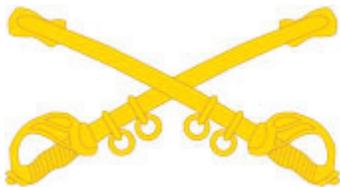


Some Thoughts from the Reunion

I agree with all my brothers of the Cav, I got the opportunity to speak briefly with one of the family members and I for the first time realized how much it impacted the family members from losing a loved one in a far away war, and never finding out how they died, and how much comfort it is to them to hear their family member never died alone or was forsaken or forgotten. It was my first reunion and I felt like 42 plus years all of a sudden had disappeared, and I traveled back in time emotionally. I knew a few from looking at my year book and quite a few I remembered their names, but time does change your appearance but not your voices or personality. I am very glad I got to spend some time with my Cav brothers from Vietnam, it was very healing and heartwarming to meet Joe Adams and Greg Beining two members of the crew I served with in Vietnam.

Going to the wall with the men I served with to honor our fallen brothers was very emotional for me. As the ceremony and list of names was read off I felt something in my eyes I hadn't felt in forty two years, as they filtered out of the corners of my eyes I felt that I was finally home again. I hope to see everyone at the next reunion, God willing.

John "Pee Wee" Handshoe 69-70 3rd Herd



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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Once again we had a very nice reunion this year. Keith Eaton and all the other people from Headquarters Platoon put together a very memorable experience. We had a great time in the hospitality room remembering experiences good and not so good. We came together again as brothers, then and now. We visited the Vietnam Memorial and paid respects to those fallen brothers and all the other casualties of the war. It was very solemn and humbling moment.

Our reunions have grown throughout the twelve years that we have been getting together. I can remember our first reunion in 2001. One month after nine-eleven. John Sharpe had placed a message in one of the service magazines looking for brothers to attend a reunion. No firm plans were made as to what we were going to do. Emails were exchanged and my wife and I told the other troopers that we would have a suite at the Stardust Hotel. The front desk was instructed to let the men up to our suite past the armed guard placed there because of the terrorist attack. I had brought beer and snacks and some memorabilia to display in the room. I don't know who showed up first but eventually there were 16 troopers that attended. I remember some of the guys were hesitant to knock on the door because they didn't know what to expect. The feeling was the same for my wife and I because it was over 30 years that I had last seen these men. It seemed like others brought pictures of us in Vietnam so we could remember each other as well. Some of the guys present I knew because they were in my platoon. However, some I didn't know but after introductions we became brothers again. We had a great time reminiscing about the past and learning about the present. Family members were there and that started our present family of wonderful people. John Sharpe made reservations at a Italian restaurant for dinner where tables were reserved for us. We all got to stand and tell everyone our thoughts about our get together. In all it was one of the best times of my life, at that reunion.

So that being said, for any trooper not sure whether to attend one or not, I can just say that it will be very worthwhile and a memorable experience.

Bob Taylor, 69-70 2nd Platoon

I would like to thank the following people for their invaluable assistance for the 2012 Reunion. Tom and Elda Lang, Bob and Nancy Curnell and Jim Clark of Headquarters platoon. Joyce Patrick for her work in having the White House tour a reunion event. Charlie Russell for working to get the Capitol Tour organized. And Dexter and Ileana Ros Lehtinen for their behind the scenes work helping Joyce and Charlie with their successful events. All in all our reunion showed that as a group we can make anything possible. With out your help none of it could have ever happened.

Keith Eaton Reunion Chair

Honoring our Fallen and their Next of Kin

Prior to the reunion last year I quickly put together a book listing A Troops KIA's and added copies of the information available on our web site. I also made a tri-folder with a list of their names, this I placed at the missing man table. I felt somehow just reading the names of these soldiers was not enough to honor their memory. That they were and are more than just a name on a black wall and someone some of us knew personally, not an imaginary person at an empty table. I decided to improve the book and add more information if I could obtain it.

I started by going back to our web site and copying all the pictures that I could find. I realized that despite all the efforts made by many people in the past, we did not have pictures of many of our fallen or that the pictures we had were so bad it was hard to recognize the person in the photo. I then set off in search of photos that would do justice to our KIA's

I contacted Charles Cooper and Diane Rebbec looking for contact information for the families of our KIA's. Using the information they provided and information from other troopers I slowly began to find information on our fallen and their families. Using Ancestry.com and Find a Grave web sites I began to find locations of the families Googling every name and after countless phone calls I began to amass the information I was seeking.

In talking to these families I found that some had no idea how their loved one died, so I attempted to find out and let them know what happened in their final hours. Others were not ready to go back into the past and revive the bad



Taylor Stamm Wehrle placing flowers by his uncle's panel.

memories of their loss. I spoke with 10 families and invited them to come to Washington DC and to join A Troop as they honored their loved ones at the Vietnam memorial.

We were honored to have 4 families represented at the Wall Ceremony. Each NOK was given a bouquet of flowers and a escort to assist them in their search for their name on the wall. These families have received a closure in a part of their lives and now know that their sons, brothers, and fathers will never be forgotten as long as a trooper lives and as long as memories prevail.

I am continuing to work on our remembrance book and on getting the web site updated with pictures and the stories of our fallen troopers. Next of Kin will always be welcome at our reunions to speak to those who knew their troopers, it helps all of us in the seeking of closure to our time in Vietnam.

Charles Russell 3rd Platoon 1970-1971



Next of Kin with the Troop Guideon before the Wall Ceremony: Left to Right Cathy Hall sister of Al Hall Kelsey and Taylor Wehrle niece and nephew of Monte Stamm Brenda Lowrance, Shiela Regan sisters of Melvin Tucker Savana Lowrance niece of Melvin Tucker Danny Hawn Guideon bearer Kayla Ryan sister of William Ryan Robert Lowrance brother-in-law of Melvin Tucker Jimmy Ryan brother of William Ryan





Row One: Merle Reed, Remley Campbell, Jim Rinaldi, Charles Russell, Ken Dye, Gary Thrappas, Gene Reiter, Tom Oldham, Brooks Styles
Row Two: Bill McShane, Bob Rebbec, Al Christine, Kent Drake, Jim Davis, Dexter Lehtinen, Jim Littlepage, Henry Adams, Neal Smith, Warren Swinford, Keith Eaton, Warren Congleton, Chuck Swiers USMC Honorary Trooper.
Row Three: Michael Gillespie, George Gibbs, Roger League, Willie Hunter, Dave Larson, Dennis Perrino, Bob Kerin, Jerry Montgomery, John Sharpe, John Handshoe, Ray Gavi, Bob Schlitzberger, Bob Curnell, Jim Clark, Joe Shue, Danny Hawn.
Row Four: Bob Taylor, Allen Anderson, Ken Kline, John White, Richard Parker, Greg Beining, Jeff Bloomquist, Tom Lang, John Smith, Denny Patrick, Floyd Weaver. Missing: Bill Garrison.

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Row One: Jeannie White, Teresa Cole, Jannelle Beining, Chris Christopher, Unknown.
Row Two: Sandy Dye Arnette Hunter, Emogene Handshoe, Joyce Patrick, Linda Rinaldi, Linda Eaton, Jan Davis, Nancy Anderson, Kayla Ryan, Janice Aune, Peggy Thrappas.
Row Three: Sybil Oldham, Evelyn Adams, Nancy Swinford, Ileana Ros Lehtinen, Lori Shue, Mary Weaver, Gerry Congleton, Ellen Styles, Dianne Schlitzberger, Trudi Russell, Diana Montgomery, Elda Lang.
Row Four: Diane Rebbec, Reda Reed, Cheryl Sharpe, Susan Christine, Vicki Kline, Janet Garrison, Cathy Parker, Linda Kerin, Connie Wolkiewicz, Laverne Brooks, Janine Drake.

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First Platoon: Row One: Jim Littlepage, Warren Swinford, Ken Dye, Gene Reiter, Joe Shue, Chuck Swiers” Honorary 1st platoon trooper.
 Row Two: Robert Kerin, Al Christine, Jim Rinaldi, Ray Gavi, Warren Congleton, Dave Larson, Richard “Doc” Parker, Brooks Styles, Jim Davis.



Second Platoon:

Row One: Tom Oldham, Merle Reed, Michael Gillespie.

Row Two: Dennis Perrino, Dexter Lehtinen, John Sharpe, Floyd Weaver, George Gibbs, Willie Hunter.

Row Three: Bob Rebbec, Danny Hawn, Neal Smith, John White, Jerry Montgomery, Bob Taylor, Roger League.



Reunion 2013 Emerald Queen Hotel and Casino Fife, Washington

The reunion this year will be in Fife Washington a suburb of Tacoma and Seattle Washington. The dates are Wednesday October 2nd through Sunday October 6th 2013. Registration will begin on Wednesday and the banquet will be on Saturday night.

Registrations need to be made thru the hotel, telephone numbers are 253-229-2000 or 888-820-3555 Be sure and use the Group name “ A Troop 4/12 Cav” when making your reservations that is the only way to get our special

Group room rate of \$82.00 per night. To qualify for the negotiated rate all reservations must be made by Wednesday September 11, 2013. All guests sharing accommodations must be indicated at the time of reservation.

Registration information will be posted on the Troop web site. Please feel free to contact Ken Dye for additional information.

Ken can be reached at “kendye7@msn.com” or by phone at 1-253-229-5796



Third Platoon:

Row One: Kent Drake, Gary Thrapas, John Handshoe, Bob Schlitzberger.

Row Two: Bill McShane, Greg Beinning, Henry Adams, Dennis Patrick, Charlie Russell.



Headquarters Platoon:

Row One: Jim Clark, Keith Eaton, Bob Curnell, Tom Lang.

Row Two: Ray Gavi, Allen Anderson, Tom Oldham, John Smith, Jeff Bloomquist, Dennis Perrino, Ken Kline, Jim Davis.

Missing : Remley Campbell



The Trooper would like to thank Shane A. Hinkle and Wendell Moore Studios for providing the Troop, Sisterhood, and Platoon Group Photos for this edition.

Chairmans Corner

I have always wanted to write something about the holidays in Vietnam, but the newsletter never seems to come before the holiday season. The majority of us, I am sure, think about it every Christmas and New Years. For me, it makes friends and family a little more special. Even though I live in the north with plenty of cold and snow, I still get a chill thinking about the monsoon season on the DMZ. On New Years eve, we came into Charlie 2. It was hardly a safe haven, but an improvement. I remember sleeping in a tent with a river running through it; so I moved to the bunker line.

At the stroke of midnight, we had an unauthorized mad minute. There was no "Auld Lang Syne" or kissing your wife or girl friend, but wishing everyone well seemed appropriate for the time.

We received care packages from stateside with donated items. Half the items on the list were missing, but we sent

the self addressed "Thank You" cards anyway. The mess hall at Charlie 2 served turkey that was better than the "Boned turkey& B3 unit in the c rations because it was warm.

I was walking through the knee high mud with Al Kirk when a jeep came rumbling along with two capitains and a guy who introduced himself as "Tarzan". I was about to tell him he had been in the bush too long, when Al recognized him as the actor Ron Ely who played Tarzan. I thought he was just another guy trying to get out of the army. If I were an actor playing Tarzan, I wouldn't be eating boned turkey on Charlie 2. It was a nice gesture.

January 2, 7:00 A.M. the bad guys had their "Mad Minute" Eight of our guys were wounded and that marked the end of the fun filled holiday season.

Happy New Year! We can count our Blessings,
John Sharpe

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Disclaimer

The 12th Cav TROOPER is an authorized publication of the A Troop 12th Cavalry. Articles or opinions expressed in this publication, however, reflect the views of the authors and do not imply endorsement by the Association.

Change of Address

Provide all changes of address to *The Trooper*, 5548 Hazelwood Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43229

c/o Keith Eaton



***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 Neal Smith, 3002 Arapaho Dr. Fitchburg, Wis. 53719 We will list all who donate in the next issue.



Thanks for your Support

PATRIOT

Thomas Sawyer

Henry Koster

William Bass

Kent Drake

Al Sack / Leslie W. Sutton

Warren Congleton

Ron Brundage

Gerald Fallon

Thomas J Lang

Henry Gregor / Charles Russell

Thomas Miller Jr. / Jim Good

Bob Richards

Larry Corso

Bruce Coleman / Neal Smith

Debbie Malan

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Patriot \$25 Trooper \$15 Scout \$10

Name _____