



THE 12TH CAV Trooper



Semper Paratus

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

Volume XII, Issue 1

January, 2014

Chairmans Corner

Well, another year and another reunion. It was a great success. Ken Dye and other members of the first platoon put on a wonderful reunion. The Pacific Northwest is a beautiful place. Many of us served at or were discharged from Ft Lewis.

Well over one hundred brothers have been to a reunion, but our mailing list is about 450; so this might be a good time to mention how the location and host are determined. Each year a different platoon is responsible for hosting the reunion. The guys in that platoon pick the time and place for the reunion. Generally speaking, one person is usually in charge and makes the organizational plans. We seem to have the best attendance in Las Vegas and Washington D.C. ; however, I am inclined to think that we neglect the Midwest. Many of our members have stated that they will attend the reunion no matter where it takes place. Anyplace in the country close to a major airport has great possibilities. Timing of the reunions are usually based on hotel room availability or some event ie. Veterans Day Parade. I have heard comments that we should try to avoid hunting season and harvest. My hat is off to anyone who wants to host a reunion.

With this being said, the next reunion will be held at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The week end of November 1st. Melissa Washington, Jim Davis's daughter was kind enough to bid out six other venues

in Las Vegas, but the Gold Coast still provided the best of everything we were looking for at a cost we can afford. The gold Coast has been completely remodeled since our last reunion there in 2011. Please look to page two of the newsletter for additional reunion information.

Cooper had a great idea some years back to have some of our members become life members of the "Society of the Fifth Division". This meant that someday, when our numbers dwindle, we can have a "camp" with their reunion. That will probably happen someday. I called Bobby Moody, the President of SOFD. Great guy, 11B from 1/11 Inf 1968-69. Bobby stated that they had about 200 WWII vets when he joined in 1994 in attendance, now that number is just five. Aren't those guys just a generation older than us? The truth is, there are 15 brothers who attended 4/12 reunions in the past, that are no longer with us. Our reunions are extremely successful, especially when you consider we are only One Troop from a three year period. The SOFD is an entire division from WWI until deactivation in 1992. Of the units that were attached to the 5th Infantry division in Vietnam only 1/77 Armor and the 4/12 Cav have independent reunions.

The 93rd SOFD reunion will be held Sept 25th thru Sept 29 in Nashville, Tennessee. I am going to try to attend and would like to hear from others who would like to go.

The SOFD may need our help in the future.

On another note, we are trying to have our monument placed in Arlington National Cemetery. This has proven to be no easy feat. The original plan was to have it at the Patton Museum at Ft Knox. However they are moving the museum and its' monuments to Ft Benning. The SOFD is installing their monument at Benning. I would suggest that if we do not have a location by the next reunion, we have our monument placed in the vicinity of the 5th Infantry monument. The SOFD is soliciting donations for their monument. Their goal is \$26000, and they have in advance pledges for almost \$5000 to date.

John Sharpe
Chairman A 4/12 Cav.
2nd Platoon 1969-70



David July, John Sharpe and Bob Richards at the 2013 Banquet

Reunion 2014 Gold Coast Hotel and Casino Las Vegas Nv

Tuesday October 28th Thru Sunday November 2nd 2014

Trooper Name _____	Registration \$50.00 _____
Guest Name _____	Dinner @ \$50.00 per person _____
Guest Name _____	
Guest Name _____	Total Cost _____

Please make your Checks out to **A Troop**

Mail Checks to: Ken Dye
 10908 66th Avenue East
 Puyallup, Wa. 98373

Reunion Information

This years reunion is being held at the Gold Coast Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas Nevada. The Hotel is located at 4000 West Flamingo Road , Las Vegas Nv 89103. Reservations can either be made on line or by phone. The phone number for reservations is 1-888-402-6278. The website for on line reservations is (<http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups>). When making your reservations remember to use the Troop Reservation Code **ATROOP4** this will get you the negotiated rate. We have a block of rooms reserved but reservations must be made prior to September 28th to receive the reduced rate.

At this time reunion details have not been finalized so watch for additional information later in the year.

In the mini registration form above. The \$50.00 Registration fee is for the Trooper only. The meal costs of \$50.00 per person; pays for the cost of the meal, taxes, tips, and helps cover the cost of the bar tenders working our event. Negotiated Room rates are listed below.

Delux Room Rates Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday and Sunday \$32.00 Friday and Saturday \$56.00

Premium Room Rates Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday \$39.00 Friday and Saturday \$72.00

If you are planning to arrive early or stay after the reunions, reserved block of rooms you must call for reservations you will be given the best possible rate available for those additional days.



Reunion Raffle Prizes



Etched Mirror with LED backlighting



Books and quilts



Original Lucky Lou Drawing
The Cav's Retreat LZ Nancy

Sergeant Vic

By
Albion A. Bergstrom

“L-T are you alive or not?”

The voice of Sergeant (Sgt) Victor Locke, the track commander for my M-113 command track, rang out from above.

It was 1970, and we sat on the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Vietnam, two weeks before Christmas. I had been knocked on my back side by a sniper's bullet and was having trouble breathing. The bullet hit my flak vest just over my heart. The experimental vest I was wearing had ceramic inserts that dispersed the bullet's impact. I struggled to my feet while receiving a constant stream of verbal harassment about falling down on the job.

Locke better known as “Sgt. Vic” finally let up on me: “It’s an early Christmas present, L-T,” he said. “Hope you don’t get more like that.”

Sgt Vic was on his second tour. He used his warrior skills to mentor new soldiers. He also eagerly assisted the platoon sergeant in distributing mail and care packages, especially the cookies he loved so much.

Sgt. Vic’s previous combat experience and sense of humor were a real plus. Of Native American heritage and raised in the West, he had a style of direct, honest feedback that could be humbling to the uninitiated. In spite of his slow talk, he was fast to respond in the toughest of situations.

I served with some very special men in the Third Platoon (“Third Herd”) of A Troop, 4/12 Cav. I look at Gary Pflaster’s and George Potts’s names on The Wall and remember the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country. Others, like Gary Thrappas, Tom Sawyer, “Tex” Anderson, “John Wayne” aka Charles Russell, Terry Buchalski, David “PD” Gahagan and Ripp Smith, who is now a physician and godfather to my son, were great soldiers who made successful transitions to civilian life.

Sgt Vic and I made plans to get together at The Wall in Washington, D.C. but something always came up, and it never happened. On November 20, 1999, I retired from the Army and dedicated the ceremony to him. He was only 51 years old, but very ill from the long-term effects of Agent Orange and unable to travel, so we videotaped the ceremony for him.

He called a few days later after viewing the tape. He spoke of how proud he was of being in the “Cav” and the fact that I was finally a Dad. Our daughter, Victoria, named in honor of him, was five months old then, and he was thrilled to see her on the tape. He died the next day.

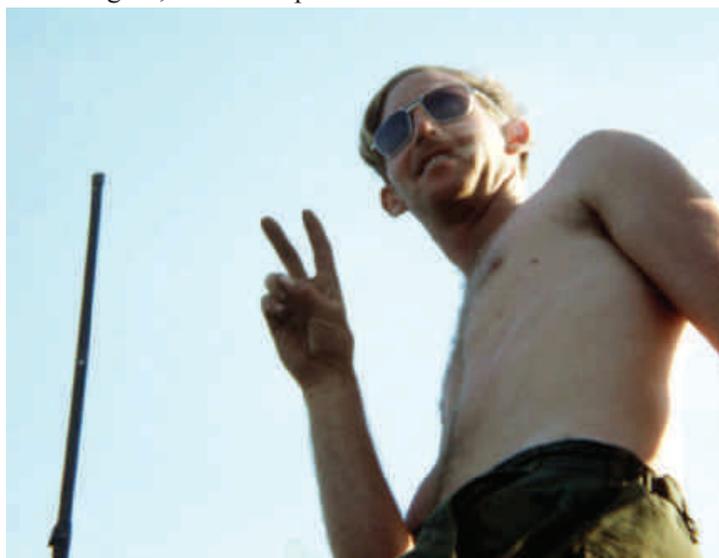
At his funeral in Arizona, I wore my Army uniform for one last time. We were disappointed to be told that the active duty honor guard had been diverted. In their place, a van pulled up with a group of elderly veterans from a local

service organization. Some needed help getting out of the van, but their demeanor was professional to the core. These old soldiers presented their rifles and rendered the rifle salute to Sgt Vic with great precision. They folded the flag to present to his children with equal pride. Then they returned to their van to go to another ceremony.

They did Sgt Vic proud. He wanted a simple casket and a simple ceremony, and these men from previous conflicts respected a much younger veteran’s wishes.

Sgt Vic always gave me a special greeting to start the day. My daughter, “Miss Vic”, gives me a big smile and a “hooah” each morning, and I am reminded of Sgt. Victor B. Locke, Jr. a dedicated soldier who believed in his family, friends and the greatness of our country.

This article is from “The American Patriot: A tradition of Service” compiled by Jan C. Scruggs, VVMF Washington, D.C. 2006 p 5-7



Sgt Victor Locke



Third Herd Mini reunion November 10th 2013. Gary Thrappas, Charles Russell, Richard Perry, and Al Bergstrom. Al, Trap and Charlie went to Conway N.H. to see Richard



Jim Clark, Dennis Perrino, Brooks Styles and Merle Reed discussing the advantages of ageing.



A one of a kind Cav Guideon mirror part of this years silent auction. Bidding between Charles Cooper and his wife Barbara ended with Barbara winning this unique gift.



Headquarters Trooper Allen Anderson with wife Nancy.



Newbi, John Hestand and reunion regular Jim " Rag" Rinadli both 1st Platoon members.

Society of the 5th Division Reunion 2014

This reunion will be held from Sept 25th thru Sept 29th. At the Nashville Airport Marriot

600 Marriott Drive Nashville Tn 37214

All events and schedule have not been firmed up at this time but will be available in future issues of the Red Diamond.

12th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion 2014

This years reunion will be held Sept 10th Thru Sept 14th at the Welk Resort in Branston Mo. Their events schedule includes a BBQ Dinner on Wednesday, a Dixie Stampede Show and Veterans Memorial show on Thursday , Hits of the 60's on Friday and a banquet on Saturday evening. Contact the hotel directly for reservations (800) 808-9355 the cut off date for reservations is August 10, 2014.

For further information you can either check the 12th's web site or contact Doug Warden (dougwarden444@hotmail.com)

Remember These guys from the 1st and 2nd Squadron were all Air Cav. Not Armored like we were.

Comrades Forever

When we men were young by choice or by chance,
 We were ushered into war.
 Wouldn't it have been great if in the war's incipient stage,
 Nobody Came?
 This didn't happen for us;
 So we did what young men do best;
 We fought.

This group of boys from our past (We were the best),
 "A" Troop 4th Squadron 12th Cavalry,
 An elite unit of dedicated Cav Soldiers
 Who were leaders in conflict.

Because of the call, we met the challenges of war
 Like General Patton in a more popular war.
 According to the news, a quote from higherup, a general or
 somebody,
 "A Troop can go anywhere and do anything for anybody
 at anytime",
 And we did,

In this frightening, challenging, trying time of war,
 Lasting friendships were forged into eternal bonds
 I am very proud to have served
 With you and for you and all of our brothers
 We made it together,
 And our journeys will be forever intertwined
 Long live the Cav!
 Brothers in life, Comrades Forever

Jim Littlepage
 Tacoma, Washington
 10-5-13



Seated L to R: Jeannie White, Rita Maher, Barbara Rosenbaum, Jan Davis, Linda Rinaldi, Sandy Dye, and Linda Eaton
 Standing L to R: Diane Smith, Linda Blancett, Nancy Anderson, Vicki Kline, Janine Drake, Lori Shue, Sherri Taylor, Linda Kerin, Susan Christine, and Mary Mendoza

The Sisterhood of the Cav, had their own field trip at this years reunion they visited the Tacoma Museum of Glass, here they are pictured on the Chihuly Bridge of Glass. It is a 500 foot long overpass that links the museum to downtown Tacoma and it's cultural corridor. After seeing the exhibits and active glass blowing demonstrations the ladies had an enjoyable lunch at the Harmon Bar and Grill in downtown Tacoma



Jan and Jim Davis, George Gersaba and Brooks and Ellen Styles enjoying the Banquet facilities and our Cav Family



Jeannie White, Carol Centala, Rita Maher, Linda Eaton, Cheryl Sharpe, and Janine Drake at a summer reunion.

A Year to Remember

At times some troopers think I am crazy for driving long distances to attend our annual reunions. I am not crazy even though Linda thinks so at times. This years reunion trip capped off a great year for Linda and I with the Cav. In March we were able to attend a mini reunion held at Jeannie and John Whites home in Ft Myers Florida. Jeannie provided some great food to go along with the great fellowship there always is when Troopers and their better halves get together.



Kent Drake, Dennis Perrino, Jim Good, Jim Rinaldi, John White, and Keith Eaton

As good as the impromptu reunion in Florida was, in June John Sharpe gave us a call and ask if we wanted to get together with some other Troopers at their home in Michigan. It took about 2 minutes to decide yes we would be there. So in mid July we headed to Linden, Michigan for our second Mini reunion of the year. We arrived on Thursday and we stayed until Sunday morning. We toured Frankenmuth's Christmas store and the Michigan Military Museum. You can guess who went where. There was a large amount of food prepared so no one went hungry. Dennis Perrino created a beautiful breakfast frittata for the whole crew.



John Sharpe, John White, Dennis Perrino, Keith Eaton, Kent Drake, and Stanley Centala

As great as the mini reunions were, by the end of the summer we were ready for our great trek west for the reunion in Fife, Washington

In the time before the reunion sadness again came to the Troop as our brother Bill McShane lost his battle with cancer that began before the 2004 reunion. Needless to say Linda and I saddled up one more time to bid a brother goodbye. Heading east we made plans to meet with Earl and Betsy Schorpp and to provide our support and that of the rest of the Troop to Peg and her family. The joy and excitement or reuniting with our A Troop family is often tempered with the passing of men that we have shared so much of our lives and memories with at our reunions.

In September we began our grand trek to the reunion we drove West stopping in Bloomington, Ill. and having lunch with Bob Rebbec. Going West from there we went thru Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, and then into Montana. In Montana we were happy to get together with Mike (the Kid) Davis and his wife Susie. Their hospitality could not be beat we sat and talked for hours, met one of their sons and ate a delicious meal in Columbia Falls.



Mike, Susie, Linda and I

From Columbia Falls we traveled to Spokane Washington where Jim Clark met us at our hotel and took us on a walking tour of some of downtown Spokane. We then went to Jims house where we met Bobbie and then went out to dinner. It was great to finally meet Bobbie since we had talked on the phone alot during the last 10 years. From Spokane we headed West toward Tacoma. On the way Ken Dye called and we met at the Pacific Raceway where we watched some vintage auto racing and met the people that Ken was working for as crew chief. After Ken made some adjustments to the car and installed a new head gasket we headed to his home.

After we got to Ken's home we stopped and relaxed with a cold beer sitting in the garden with some great conversation. We then went to a great restaurant that overlooked the sound and Vashon Island.

The next morning Ken drove us to the dock in Seattle where we boarded our cruise ship for our trip to Alaska. Once on board we met up with fellow troopers

John White and Dennis Perrino and their wives for a 7 day cruise to Alaska and Victoria B.C.



Dennis Perrino, John and Jeannie White, Linda Eaton at the Mendenhal Galcier out side of Juneau, Alaska

When we got back to Seattle Ken and Sandy Dye picked John and Jeannie and Linda and I up at the dock and took us on a tour of downtown Seattle. The high lights of the tour were Pike Place Market and the Space Needle. Everyone enjoyed the tour then we headed to the Emerald Queen the site of the 2013 A Troop reunion.

As the week wore on more and more Troopers and their families arrived. The hospitality suite opened, greeting old friends and making new ones as we had two newbies attend this years gathering.

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 week flashed by and all too soon the Banquet and the reunion was over.

From the reunion we headed west and south traversing the Washington, Oregon and California coasts, heading to Las Vegas and then to New Mexico.



In Albuquerque we met Bob Richards and his daughter Robin. After dinner Linda and I followed Bob to the Airport where we met a group of Blue Star Mothers and Lined up with American Flags and Service flags to welcome home two of our servicemen from their tours in Afganistan.

After the welcome home we said a sad fairwell and headed back to the hotel getting ready for the last three legs of our journey.

Sunny skies greeted us as we left Albuquerque heading East to Oklahoma City and more friends.

In Yukon, Oklahoma we met Super Sport and his wife Karen. They had just moved into their new home after the old one was destroyed my the May tornado that raised havok in the area. We had a great meal and a long discussion of all the events that have happened since we last saw each other.



Ron and Karen Chabiel Linda and Keith Eaton

After our dinner Ron and Karen left us at the hotel and we were ready to finish out trip and our year to remember. If you are traveling remember you have friends all over don't be afraid to contact them. You will not regret it. Life is to short to miss the friendships we had so long ago and those we have made in the years since we returned from Vietnam.



Making Do



Due to the Government Shut Down, 3rd Platoon had to play it by ear to replace a tour of Ft Lewis that was canceled by the Army. Ken Dye went above and beyond and took the Troop to the LeMay Museum "Americas Car Museum" this was a great adventure we spent a couple of hours wandering thru the galleries of old cars and the American classics of the 60's and 70's. As far as I could tell everyone had a great time looking at the cars and eating at the cafe. While the men were enjoying the car museum, The Ladies of the Cav had their own tour.

Business Meeting Notes

John Sharpe called the meeting to order in the meeting room of the Emerald Queen Casino. The minutes of the last business meeting were read and approved.

Neal Smith gave his treasurers report in 2012 we have kept the status quo. the Troop received \$5,744.81 and spent \$5193.77 for a net increase of \$551.04. Most of the costs being for the newsletter. Neals report was moved for acceptance by J. Rinaldi and seconded by D. Perrino. and was accepted by those in attendance.

Ken Dye leader of the reunion committee, Related the fact that the Federal shut down had canceled the tour of Ft. Lewis and that the excursion to the LeMay Car museum was substituted. The banquet is to be held at the main casino across the road and a shuttle service will be provided.

Keith Eaton discussed the Newsletter, and requested articles and photos would be appreciated for the next newsletter and for future editions. Keith also stated that

topica had kicked 20 troopers off the net and that he was attempting to get those people connected again.

Keith and Coop relayed the latest information regarding the Troop Monument. For us to be able to place the monument at ANC we need to get a outside independent study done for a site survey. And Coop brought forward that we needed to put a deadline for placing our memorial somewhere. Its been sitting in Schlitzenbergers garage for two years.

Coop has a copy of the Troop poster and will burn CD's for anyone who would like a copy. Also Troopers that have new historical information should submit it to the Troop web site. Georg Gersaba stated that he is in the process of uploading photos to the web site.

Bob Taylor gave a report on Agent Orange information and updates.

John Sharpe, reported that Second Platoon has the reunion for next year and it will be held in Las Vegas. Time and place are yet to be determined. a collection netted \$1000. for the Troop fund.

A Troop Fife Washington



Row 1.) John Sharpe, Merle Reed, Ken Dye, Charles Cooper, Joe Shue, Jim Littlepage, Glenn Costanza
Row 2.) Neal Smith, John Hestand, George Gersaba, Danny Hawn, Ken Kline, David July, Skip Padrick, Jim Davis, Jim Bryant, Brooks Styles.
Row 3.) Dave Larson, John White, Bob Taylor, Kent Drake, Keith Eaton, Jeff Bloomquist, Bob Richards, Alan Anderson, Jim Clark, Dennis Perrino, Jim Rinaldi, Al Christine, Keith Anderson, Robert Kerin
Missing from Troop Photo: Don Scott, George Gibbs, Wally Mendoza

The Sisterhood of the Cav



Row 1.) Natalie Dye, Kylie Vidovic, Cassidy Larson, Kaylee Larson
Row 2.) Diane Smith, Reda Reed, Linda Rinaldi and Kaylee Dye, Unknown, Val Larson, Theresa Cole, Unknown, Jan Davis, Jeannie White, Linda Eaton
Row 3.) Ellen Styles, Kim Vidovic, Sherri Taylor, Susan Christine, Lori Shue, Laverne Brooks, Cheryl Sharpe, Unknown, Janine Drake, Barbara Cooper, Rita Maher, Barbara Rosenbaum, Nancy Anderson, Unknown, Joanne McNary, Sandy Dye



First Platoon

Row One: Jim Davis, George Gersaba, Glenn Costanza, Ken Dye, Charles Cooper, Joe Shue.
Row Two: Brooks Styles, Bob Kerin, Dave Larson, Jim Littlepage, Jim Rinaldi, Al Christine



Second Platoon

Row One: Jim Bryant, George Gibbs, Merle Reed, Dennis Perrino
Row Two: Danny Hawn, John White, John Sharpe, Neal Smith Bob Taylor



Third Platoon

Kent Drake, David July, Keith Anderson



Headquarters Platoon

Row One: Ken Kline, David July, Skip Padrick, Jim Davis

Row Two: Keith Eaton, Jeff Bloomquist, Bob Richards, Allen Anderson, Jim Clark, Dennis Perrino

A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry
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Columbus, OH 43229



Disclaimer

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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, Wisc. 53719 We will list all who donate in the next issue.



Thanks for your Support

PATRIOT

Albion Bergstrom

Thomas Beadle

Remley Campbell

Bob and Nancy Curnell

Jim Good

David Kagimoto

Dave Larson

Gerald Fallon

Eddie Reed

James Rodell

Thomas Miller Jr.

Paul Shannon

Joseph P. Shipp

I Support *The 12th Cav TROOPER*

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

Name _____