



# AIRMOBILE



## News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>

December, 2004; Volume 13 Issue 4

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Maury Edmonds

#### A loud and proud "Garry Owen" to all,

I am pleased to report that the health of our Association is strong and getting stronger.

First, more and more of our fellow troopers are being located and encouraged to join with us in the grand fellowship of our Association.

*We continue to need your help in finding others and persuading them to re-establish those bonds forged in battle. Let them know how much their presence and participation would mean to us and, we believe, to them.*

Over forty of us were in Washington over the Veterans Day period in November to honor those troopers who fell in battle, troopers who, while doing their duty, paid the ultimate sacrifice. We are grateful that we knew them and we will mourn their loss forever.

We gathered at the Wall on the morning of the 11th to lay our specially designed wreath as part of the large ceremony conducted there each year. Hoss Dannewitz, Bill Lityjak and I escorted the wreath to its position next to the Wall in what is always a somber and moving experience. It seemed to me that our group of over forty was larger than any other group there. The night before, we gathered at Guapo's Restaurant in Bethesda, Md. for good food and fellowship -- all arranged by Ted Swett. Thanks again, Ted. You remain our leader and our inspiration.

Norman Lloyd, who was with the Battalion in Cambodia in 1970 and who is producing the documentary on the Battalion's service, was with us in Washington to continue his research and filming; and, to be inducted as a new member in the Association. Indications are that the project will be completed around mid to late summer next year. We all look forward to seeing it.

We got great news last month when we learned from former Battalion Adjutant Jim Carson (HHC '70) that the original Battalion Colors had been recovered and are available for presentation to the current 5/7th Cav at Ft Stewart. Tentatively, that ceremony is scheduled for the first week in January, just before the Battalion deploys. We'll get the word out as soon as we know for sure, in case any of you wish to attend.

Lastly, I ask that we all keep the troopers and leaders of the Battalion, and their families, in our prayers as they go in harms way. It will be a dangerous mission, but we can be comforted by knowing that each of them is well trained, that their leaders are good, and that they are all committed to their mission and to each other. God Bless them all.

*Garry Owen!  
Maury*



**God Bless America**

### VETERANS DAY 2004



Bill Litvjak, Maury Edmonds and Harold Dannewitz place the 5/7 Cav wreath at the Wall.

#### A Day To Remember

This past Veteran's Day I was fortunate enough to travel to Washington with two men whom I had met some 39 years ago: my good friends Pat Fox from Minnesota and Frank Valdez from Iowa. Frank had just gotten a new 35' motor home and the three of us decided to travel to Washington for the Veterans Day activities since we are not getting any younger. It was one of the best weeks of our lives. Upon arriving there we had breakfast with General Edmonds Wednesday morning and he asked if this was our first time to visit the wall on Veterans Day, I told him it was. He then asked if I would assist him and Bill Litvjak in laying

(Continued on page 3)

# BATTALION DIRECTORY

## Name              Home Phone

President Emeritus	301-530-9039 Ted Swett
President	904-280-8448 Maury Edmonds
Vice President	603-726-7080 Karl Haartz
VP Membership	618-863-2635 Don Shipley
VP Operations	734-662-9612 Allen Patrick
Secretary	615-790-6325 Jerry Houston
Treasurer	817-926-1026 Royce Vick
Sergeant At Arms	815-786-8152 Hoss Dannewitz
Battalion Chaplain	828-657-9568 Eddie Rape
Legal Advisor	516-747-3894 Jim Harmon
Vet Affairs Advisor	
Reinaldo Espada	espadar002@hawaii.rr.com
DOA Liaison	
Larry Budge	703-239-1761 lbudge@ida.org

## Company Trustees

A Company	503-662-8948 Joe Williams
B Company	248-380-6895 Jasper Catanzaro
C Company	401-789-0155 Richard Bigelli
D Company	740-533-1605 Dennis Dickess
E Company	386-668-1512 Bill Moore
HHQ	203-934-9688 Joe Dzikas
Battalion Historian	410-488-4930 Patrick Dockery

## OTHER KEY MEMBERS

Video	210-914-2203
Phil Sierer	oldrebel@texas.net
Active Battalion Liaison	
Charley Baker	904-246-4958 Fastflanker3@aol.com

# Vice President's Report

by Karl Haartz

## Happy Holidays

With the Holidays fast approaching I hope all are well and have a prosperous New Year. We had a great turn out for Veteran's Day in Washington, DC. There were many old troopers and a few new ones and all had a good time. As usual many stories were told, some very believable and others, maybe a little shaky. Thanks to all that attended.

**Believe this,** the original colors that we carried to Vietnam in 1966 along with the National colors have been located. At present there will be a quick ceremony the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January, 2005 at Fort Stewart to transfer these colors to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 3<sup>rd</sup> ID to take to Iraq with them. In the true "Garry Owen" style our colors will again be part of history.

## RECORDS, RECORDS, RECORDS, we need copies of your records to help find more troopers!

The National Records Center is putting all records on disk and they are doing away with hard copy records. These are the original paper records. This is being done to conserve space and they will be able to store records in different locations in case of another fire. Many records were lost at the records center some time ago in a fire. Now is the time to request a copy of your records. You will still be able to get them later but it will probably take longer.

We use the old records to search for your buddies that we have not found yet. I keep reminding everyone that copies of your records are critical in our effort to find troopers who served in the 5/7 Cav in Vietnam. They really do help us.

Phil Sierer, John Goodpaster, and I have searched for Hector Campos for 12 years. Hector came from south Texas; we thought it was somewhere along the border with Mexico. We called many strangers and asked if they were the right Hector or knew Hector; all of this was to no avail. At reunion VII in Kentucky this summer, Larry Nunez said I remembered Hector writing to his Mother in Freeport, Texas. Guess what, we went searching the phone directory in Freeport, and, yes, we found Hector Campos who served with us in '66 & '67.

Hector sent me copies of all the orders he had and is going to send for the rest of them. Among these were his mustering out forms from Oakland and his home address. On these orders was the name and address of one of our Reunion VII ground team members --- if I had only had a set of these orders when we located the ground team member Hector would have been found much earlier.

You can all meet Hector Campos at reunion VIII. He is planning to be there.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** send today to request a Standard Form 180. When you receive it, fill it out and send it back by return mail to:

**National Personal Records Center**  
**9700 Page Boulevard**  
**St. Louis, MO. 63132**

This can also be done on line at the following web site:

[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/vetrecs/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html)

Follow the instructions on the web site. You will still have to download and print a signature verification form to send to the records center.

## Later, Krazy

If you would like to be on Krazy Karl's e-mail updates list, please send him your e-mail address. Karl sends out news flashes and frequent updates. He does not forward your address. Karl's e-mail is: [Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net](mailto:Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net).

## LETTER FROM BILL LITVKJAK

### Greetings to all my fellow 5/7 CAV Troopers,

I am writing simply to say thank you to everyone. Many of you are aware of my grandson, Hunter Stahl, and of his physical disabilities which are being corrected by various procedures. While attending this year's Veterans Day ceremony in Washington, DC, Hunter underwent corrective surgery for his jaw. Indications are the surgery went very well. I would like to share with everyone, what occurred while he was recuperating at the hospital.

LTC. Jody Petery, commander of the 5/7 CAV "War Paint" Battalion, sent a battalion representative to visit him. The soldier, who visited Hunter was SSgt. Billy Armstrong. SSgt. Armstrong was kind and considerate to my family and especially Hunter.

As a family, we are honored and humbled by the thoughtfulness shown by LTC Petery and SSgt. Armstrong. Hunter was presented several items which included a set of spurs. He has already informed my daughter and son-in-law that he would like to start wearing his spurs. He keeps asking me for his saber, but I don't know about that one just yet.

(Continued on page 3)

# Update from Membership VP

## Its time of year again!

After a fantastic evening at Guapos restaurant in Bethesda, thanks to our hosts Ted Swett and Maury Edmonds, we all had a great day in DC for Veterans Day. The weather and gathering of our 5/7 Cav friends was the best.

Again we heard from other Cav units how well our group was organized. It's been that way for 35 years we told them.

Colorado Springs plans are still in the planning stages and you'll find more info on this topic in the newsletter. Rest assured it's going to be a great reunion in 2006.

Membership is climbing again thanks to the addition of the newly activated 5/7 Cav personnel on our rolls. As of November 11 we had over 100 of the new troopers sign up for membership in our association.

We have been informed that the new 5/7 Cav unit will most likely be deploying to Iraq in January. We discussed the need for sponsorship of the newly deployed troopers and their families at our gathering in Bethesda and we're investigating how we can best fill this need. Check out the article from Charlie Baker and you can learn more about possible ways to support the new unit and their families while they're deployed in Iraq. We all remember how it is to be several thousand miles from home.

Veterans Day evening, when it was mentioned that the new unit was deploying, I almost wished I was going over myself. Old and decrypted as I am, I would make a good joke along side these well trained disciplined troops.

For those jumping on the sponsorship list, check out the article on page 4..

Over the Holidays is probably as good a time to call old buddies as you can get so make those calls. It will do you both good.

Every Christmas I get requests for rosters so people can update their Christmas card addresses. You need to hurry and get your request in as time is running out.

Happy Holidays to all! **Don Shipley, Vice President of Membership**

## 5/7 CAV MEMBERS AND FAMILY THAT PARTICIPATED IN VETERANS DAY 2004 IN BETHESDA & WASHINGTON, DC

Maury Edmonds	Jerry Martz	Bill Lityjak	Karl & Carol Haartz	Eddie Ratcliffe	Charlie & Marty Baker
Ted & Cay Swett & family	Bob Hansen	Will Mercer / Sons Ed & Will	Don Shipley & Karen Payne	Richard Hawksby	Dave Hensley
Wes Westmoreland	Wayne Gibbs / Son Tim	John Long	Red & Linda Boulden	Eldon & Gail Erlenbach	Steve Shear
Allen Patrick	Pat & Theresa Dockery	Chester Millay	George Hannaford	McGregor & Leanne	Vince Laurich
Bill Purdy	Frank Valdez	Charles McHenry	Bob Lewis	Coffman	Lorenzo Clark
Joe Williams	Harold Dannewitz	Moe Goulet	Norman Lloyd	Jack & Emily Thomas	Joe McVeigh
	Patrick Fox			Truman Hamrick	Perry Lampkin

## A Day to Remember

(Continued from page 1)

ing the 5/7 Cav wreath at the wall. I told him it would be an honor and a privilege.

I couldn't have been any prouder marching up to the wall with all the other troopers who had served with the 5/7 Cav and laying a wreath to honor the men who fought in one of the best battalions of the Vietnam War.

It was a day I will never forget realizing how lucky we were to be sitting in the audience rather than having people pay tribute to us.

On the way back to our homes we talked about the week we had together, and hoped that someday all the other men that served with us would have the opportunity to come to Washington some Veterans Day to experience the feelings and thoughts that we were able to have. We decided that at least one advantage had come out of that war and that was after 39 years we still know each other, we still have a purpose to get together, and to still think as much of each other as we did 39 years ago when we trained together.

GarryOwen,  
Harold "Hoss" Dannewitz  
Sergeant At Arms  
C 5/7 1966-1967

(Continued from page 2)

The trip to Washington was very special for me. I would like to thank Gen. Edmonds and the Association for allowing me to place the Battalion wreath at the Wall along with Hoss Dannewitz. It will never be forgotten.

The camaraderie with all of you is a very good thing for any trooper if they are willing to be a part of the 5/7 CAV Association.

To the ladies of the Association, a special thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness!

Lastly, Allen thank you for hosting the meal at the Sports Pub on the 11<sup>th</sup>, you did a superb job. I've kept in contact with waitresses and they have assured me your bread is still coming to the table, eventually. GarryOwen, Bill Lityjak

## The 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association

### Honors Our Veterans

#### Article Submitted to the 1st Cav Saber by Charlie Baker

The **5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association** laid a wreath at The Wall on Veterans Day, November 11, 2004, as part of the annual Veterans Day Observance. Jan Scruggs, who gets much of the credit for the Wall's existence, presided over the ceremonies which included many fine speeches by distinguished citizens.

In what has become an annual mini-reunion for the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, forty three members met for dinner on Wednesday night before the ceremony. Along with the outstanding First Cavalry Division Color Guard, we were conspicuous among the many thousands of veterans, families and onlookers at The Wall that day.

Among the group was Colonel Trevor Swett, the first commander of the battalion who converted them from mechanized infantry at Ft. Carson, trained them in light infantry tactics, and took them by boat (ship to Navy people) to South Vietnam in 1966 to give the First Team a ninth maneuver battalion.

Also attending were Col (Ret) John Long, recent President of the Association, and Maj. Gen. (Ret) Maury Edmonds, our new President. CSM Wes Westmoreland, who served three tours in Vietnam with the battalion, was there as he always is.

Our group spanned the ranks from Private to Maj. General, all with one thing in common – a deep pride in their service with the **5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry**.

General Edmonds, who commanded the battalion near the end of the Vietnam War, presided over our wreath laying squad. At The Wall that day were thousands of veterans in full regalia, representing all the branches of service. The weather was crisp and clear, and it was a great day to be an American.

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Rides Again

On 21 July the colors of the 5th Battalion, 7th U. S. Cavalry were unfurled for the first time since 1978 at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Association President, Col. (Ret) John Long, had the honor of passing the colors from the Brigade Commander to the Battalion Commander, LTC Jody Petery. Along with remarks by the Brigade Commander and LTC Petery, General Jim Vaught, who commanded the battalion at Hue, Khe Sanh and the A Shaun Valley in 1968, gave another of his legendary talks to the troops on parade.

The 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry is an integral part of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. As part of the army's reorganizing around the brigades being total force units, our guys are the scout battalion for the brigade. They are an armored cavalry unit by MOS. The 1st Brigade consists of an armored battalion, a mechanized infantry battalion, a scout battalion and an artillery battalion. The Brigade Commander now has his own recon, armor, infantry and artillery. An idea that is long over due. Reminds me of Operation Wallowa in the Que Son Valley in the Fall of 1968, when 3rd Brigade operated as a separate brigade with B Troop, 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cav and the 1/21st Arty Bn attached.

The 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry now has four line troops. A, B & C Troops each have four platoons. Three of the platoons are built around Bradley Fighting Vehicles, organized in sections of two vehicles each. Each Bradley has a driver, two men in the cupola, and a scout in the back. Two men in each vehicle are designated as "dismounts" that can move out on foot to secure the vehicle or to scout ahead. The fourth platoon has up-armored Humvees. These three troops are led by:

A Troop: Captain Joel Jackson  
1SG Bobby Neil

B Troop: Captain Ralph Elder  
1SG Perry McNeil

C Troop: Captain Phillip Poteet  
1SG Steven Jones

Delta Troop consists of three platoons mounted in up-armored Humvees. Delta is led by Captain Eric Prost and 1SG Terry James.

HH Troop has a como platoon, medic platoon, mortar platoon, maintenance platoon, and a platoon for the fuelers, NBC people and clerks, and a platoon for the Staff Sections and drivers. HH Troop is led by Captain Chris Fairley and 1SG Gregory Boone.

The battalion has completed its training at the national Training Center in Camp Irwin, CA, and is now engaged in intensive training at Ft. Stewart. I had the pleasure of riding with Capt. Phil Poteet in his Bradley fighting vehicle during a night live fire exercise on Red Cloud Range at Ft. Stewart. Two of his platoons went through the course, using their thermal night scopes to see and destroy targets. The range and training facility is very high tech; nothing like we experienced in our day. The troopers of 5/7 Cav are gaining the Garry Owen spirit every day at Ft. Stewart. Flying outside the Headquarters Building is the biggest red and white guidon in the history of guidons.

I also attended the Family Readiness Group (FRG) which is geared to providing support to the families, particularly when the battalion is deployed to the combat zone. Clarissa Petery has taken firm hold on the overall FRG, to the great fortune of 5/7 Cav. Each company has a FRG Leader, and they are an outstanding group. The company FRG leaders are those spouses in each company with the most leadership ability, regardless of their husband's rank. Becoming a resource for the FRG is where association members can make a difference to this unit. D

Do not hesitate to establish contact with your old company by mail. To send mail to any of the companies of 5/7th Cav, the Address is:

Troop  
Battalion, 7th Cavalry  
1810 William H. Wilson Ave., Suite 100  
Ft. Stewart, GA 31314

The battalion is scheduled for block leave for a two week period beginning November 22nd. Indications are that the 3rd ID may be returning to Iraq some time after that, and our prayers and support need to be with them at this time.

GarryOwen,  
Charlie Baker  
Liaison Officer



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
Building Better Lives for America's  
Disabled Veterans

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Disabled American Veterans

National Headquarters  
3725 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076  
Phone: 859-441-7300

### Denvel D. Adams

National Service  
&

Legislative Headquarters  
807 Maine Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024  
Phone: 202-554-3501

### Web Site

<http://www.dav.org/>

## SPONSOR A 5/7 CAV TROOPER IN IRAQ

**What is a Sponsor?** A Member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association who develops a one on one relationship with a Trooper through e-mail and regular mail. Sponsors get to know the soldier, serve as someone to talk to, send cards and letters, and if desired, send occasional care packages.

**Do all the Troopers in 5/7 Cav want or need a sponsor?** So far 138 troopers, ranging from Private E2 to Captain, have requested to be included in the Sponsorship Program.

**How do I become a Sponsor?** Don Quick is the Association's coordinator for the sponsorship program. Contact Don at:

E-Mail: [dquick@communicomm.com](mailto:dquick@communicomm.com)  
Telephone: 334-863-4419

Alternatively, you can contact Krazy Karl at [cav571vpkk@adelphia.net](mailto:cav571vpkk@adelphia.net) or Don Shipley at [Donshipley@aol.com](mailto:Donshipley@aol.com)

**What do Soldiers need in care packages?** Don Quick will send you a list of ideas based on past experience of other units with similar programs.

*Have you changed your mailing address recently? Remember to send your change of address to:  
VP Operations, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, 1149 Southwood Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48103*

# 5/7Cav PX

Baseball Cap 5/7 embroidered	\$10.
Miniature Garry Owen Crest pin	3
1st CAV cloth shoulder patch	5
1st CAV window sticker (no Vietnam)	3
1st CAV Div. challenge Coin	10
Full size CIB	4
1st CAV Hat pin (1")	3
Combat Medic pin (new)	3
Air Medal Pin (new)	3
M16-A-1 Hat pin (new)	4
Combat Cavalry pin (gold wreath - new)	4
5/7 Guidon bumper sticker (new)	2
Garry Owen/American flag pin (new)	4
7th CAV Crossed Sabers (no 5)	3
Reg. Garry Owen Crest Pin	3
Miniature CIB pin	3
AnKhe Hat pin	3
5/7 porcelain tie bar pin	5
1st CAV Div. Flag 3x5'	15
Raised letter CAVALRY pin (new)	3
1st Cav Hat pin (5/8") (new)	3
UHI Huey pin (new)	3
Miniature Purple Heart pin	3
M60 Machinegun pin (new)	4
Huey Hat pin (black/gold)	4
5/7 Crossed Sabers lg. pin (new)	4
Claymore Mine Pin (new)	4
Garry Owen Canvas Tote Bag -- Great Xmas Gift	7.50
White Polo shirts button-up with collar Embroidered 5/7 Cav. and Garry Owen Crest all short sleeved, order by size	23
5/7 Cav Denim Shirts Embroidered with Garry Owen Crest. Order by size, colors are Blue, Khaki, Green; Men or Ladies; Short Sleeves or Long Sleeves	25
Irish Green Golf Shirt with Embroidered Garry Owen Crest. Black Cav 5/7 Lettering under Crest. Quality Jerzee Brand. M, L, XL, XXL	25
New Adult T-Shirt with large Garry Owen Crest screen print on front. M, L, XL	10
New Child's T-Shirt w/silk screen 1st Cav patch on left chest & "Cav Kid" lettering under patch. Sizes: 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16.	9
Baby Brutus the Bear dressed in Army green sweater w/Garry Owen crest and 1st Cav patch. Pocket in front for favorite soldier's picture.	20

**PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.**

**PLEASE INCLUDE \$2.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND \$3.00 ON ALL SHIRT AND BEAR ORDERS.**

**SEND ORDERS TO:**

**JOHN GOODPASTER  
303 CORA DRIVE  
CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268  
PHONE #937-855-7475  
EMAIL: [goody@infonet.com](mailto:goody@infonet.com)**

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I write this message to you I am on the verge of celebrating Thanksgiving with my family. I know you are as well. We have so many things for which we should and must be thankful. God has so blessed Nancy and me that to recount them for you would require this entire publication and more.

By the time you read this we will be well into the Advent Season. During this time of year we look forward with anticipation as we celebrate the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. His is the coming that changed the world forever. It is also with anticipation that we look for His Second Advent. It is that yearned for event that will bring peace on earth forever.

Today we again have young men and women in harms way in the horror that is war. We certainly await the day when war and death and pain and suffering will be swallowed up in the triumphant final victory of the Prince of Peace.

I pray God's richest blessing on all of you and your families this holiday season.

Gary Owen,  
Eddie

## In Memoriam

- James Garvin of Newton, Massachusetts A Company 67 - 68, passed away on September 28, 2004.
- Sharon Hodges, wife of Brent Hodges, C Company 66, passed away on October 8, 2004.
- Ron Gow of Naugatuck, Connecticut, B & C Company Medic 66 – 67, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2004.

## DAVID BIELSKI AWARDED SILVER STAR

David Bielski, a member of Delta company, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry, 1967, was honored on Veterans Day, 2004 in Kalamazoo, Michigan with the awarding of the Silver Star. Capt. James Sprayberry, Bielski's CO at the time presented him with the medal. Sprayberry received the Medal of Honor for the same incident.

"I wanted to return something I feel I owe to an old friend," said Sprayberry. Sprayberry traveled from Arkansas for the ceremony.

Bielski recounted that he was Sprayberry's radio operator when a portion of their platoon became trapped by enemy fire. Bielski and Sprayberry made their way to the free the trapped troops encountering heavy fire from the enemy along the way. In route to the trapped soldiers Bielski voluntarily gave his rifle to Sprayberry when the captain's rifle became inoperable. Bielski continued to face the enemy with only his pistol and a bayonet.

Through Bielski's and Sprayberry's efforts the platoon was rescued with the exception of four troopers who were killed and three missing in action.

Bielski said "the true heroes were the ones that gave their lives."

The delay in awarding the medal was due to paperwork complications.

## 5/7 CAV Jackets

Many of you that attended Reunion VII in northern Kentucky requested information on how to order a Cav 5/7 jacket like the ones worn by our Honor Guard at the memorial service on Saturday morning.

The Jackets are made up on a special order basis by our supplier in Portage, Indiana. The contact information is shown below:

**T-Shirts America  
2536 Portage Mall  
Portage, Indiana 46368  
Telephone #219-763-1880  
Bill or Jane are the owners**

Checks, Money Orders or Credit Card are accepted methods of payment.

When ordering make sure you tell them you want the 5/7 Cav traditional lined jacket. You also need to provide them with the years you served in Vietnam, your name and rank, if you choose. They will also want to know if you want the GarryOwen crest and/or the 1st Cav patch on the jacket and if you want any other insignias or patches included.

They do not have an e-mail address or web site so ordering by phone is the best method.

(This info is provided by John "Goody" Goodpaster --- the official 5/7 Cav Association PX Man)

# LETTERS

## **Eddie Ratcliff's Ride Home from Veterans Day -----**

I was at MM 55 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just starting to lean into the curve when a LARGE buck jumped out to the center line. I straightened up to try not to hit him but it was too late. I smacked him with the left side of the bike, and now that I was straightened up, I couldn't make the curve. I laid the bike down on the left and drifted off of it as it slid up the side of the mountain. I slid off the side of the road and was doing just great till I slid off into a ditch full of rocks the size of coconuts. That part was a bumpy ride at best.

I called the park rangers on the cell and started picking up bike parts that were littering the road and trying to walk as best I could. The meat wagon arrived 15 min later and they hauled me to Lynchburg, VA hospital.

My wife came up that night from home and we took back the bike in the back of the truck.

I'm just bruised up with few brakes here and there, really no big deal. This is just part of life to me. I never was much of a couch potato and you pay the price, some time, for sticking your neck out too far. This one was NOT my fault. The deer that jumped me will get his as it was the first day of hunting season in that neck of the woods.

I'm ordering my new Goldwing as we speak. I hope I will be well enough to ride it when it arrives. The soreness will be with me for a while as I'm not 18 anymore.

Garry Owen,  
Eddie Ratcliff

*Editor's Note: Thanks Eddie for letting us know you made it home safe. We look forward to being with you next year. Maybe you should consider driving your truck next year.*

## **Note from Joe McVeigh -----**

What a fine time it was to have dinner with my Garry Owen brothers and then go to The Wall for Veterans Day ceremony! See you all next year and at the Colorado Springs Reunion!

Garry Owen  
Joe McVeigh, C Co. 69-70

## **Note from Gen Edmonds to LTC Pe- tety regarding return of Unit Colors**

Jody: The original 5th Bn 7th Cav colors, and the National Colors which went with them, dated from 1966, have been located. Jim Carson, the last Bn S1 of the Battalion in Vietnam, called me with the information that he has the colors and wishes to present them to you and your troopers.

Jim brought the colors back from Vietnam when the Battalion, and its colors, were retired and inactivated. He kept them stored away hoping for an opportunity to return them. He learned of the reactivation, hence his call to me.

To me and to Ted Swett, and I'm sure to all the others of our Association, there could be no better and permanent link between the Battalion of our generation and the Battalion of today and tomorrow than the transfer of these colors. We hope you'll accept them.

Garry Owen!  
Maury

## **Finance Report**

BALANCE 9/5/2004	\$29,073
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Reunion VII	(\$1,412)
PX Re-stocking	(2,164)
Reunion VIII Planning Trip	(600)
Sept. Airmobile	(946)
Memorial	(100)
Total Expenses	(\$5,222)
<b>INCOME</b>	
N. Kentucky Conv. Bureau	\$720
PX Sales	\$12
Interest	\$16
Refund	\$40
<b>Dues and Fees</b>	
Ballo, Peter	\$50
Dusz, Thomas	20
Healy, Thomas	20
Petary, Jody	10
Prokop, Kenneth	20
Putback, Walter	20
Skinnon, Neil	20
Total Income	\$949
BALANCE 11/30/04	\$24,800

Dear Editor,  
I am seeking information from anyone who may have served with SP4 Michael J. Dunn, US 51 577 516 Co B 5<sup>th</sup>Bn, 7<sup>th</sup> Cav., 3rd Bde, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Michael was KIA on 19 Jan 1968 in Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam, from wounds received "when hit by fragments from a short friendly artillery round". Michael arrived in country on 5/20/67. I would like to speak with anyone who may have known and served with Michael. They can contact me at [sherifffb@buffnet.net](mailto:sherifffb@buffnet.net). Thank you.  
Tom Beilein

## **INTERIM TREASURER'S REPORT**

I'm glad to report our 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association balances are in good shape. Reunion VII with all its great memories is behind us and we are working hard on plans for Reunion VIII in Colorado Springs in the summer of 2006.

Just before our gathering in DC for Veterans Day I was able to make a trip to Colorado Springs to meet with the core elements of our ground team there. Hugo Lopez (team leader), Bob Colgrove, Mac McQuerry, Claude Julian, and Red and Linda Boulden joined me as we reviewed four hotel properties as possible reunion venues. The hotels we visited were The Double Tree (formerly The Red Lion), The Sheraton, The Wyndham and the Antlers Hilton. All the hotels are great properties and each has submitted a proposal with financial terms for our consideration. We are in the process of negotiating terms and hope to have a decision on the preferred site by no later than the first quarter 2005. There will be an update on Reunion VIII in the first newsletter in 2005 and if we have results earlier we'll make sure it is posted on our web site.

Royce Vick, our new Treasurer, has set up the necessary accounts at a bank near his home town in Ft. Worth Texas so make sure your dues and are sent to his address: 3724 Shelby Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76109.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas and prosperous New Year.  
GarryOwen,  
Allen

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Top Photo: View of The Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak

Bottom Photo: Colorado Ground Team Meeting (left to right) Frt. Row: Bob Colgrove, Hugo Lopez, Linda Boulden; Bk. Row: Mac McQuerry, Allen Patrick and Red Boulden