



# AIRMOBILE



## News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>

### In This Issue

#### PAGE 1:

- President's Report

#### PAGE 2:

- Battalion Directory
- Memorial Day

#### PAGE 3:

- VP's Report

#### PAGE 4:

- REUNION VI News
- VA Hotline for Agent Orange

#### PAGE 5:

- PX
- Chaplain's Corner
- Informative Web Sites
- Battalion Secretary

#### PAGE 6:

- Treasurer's Report

#### PAGE 7:

- Tribute to Edwin Beitiks

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Long

Garry Owen to all you Cav 5/7 troopers, families and friends. Its spring, finally, and I for one am glad to see it arrive.

The big news first. We have a 2002 reunion site and dates. It will be in St. Louis the first week of July.

The hotel is the Renaissance Hotel, the same hotel we were in three reunions ago.

I know St Louis was not one of the sites originally selected at the last reunion; however, most of the sites selected did not pan out and we were offered such a good deal in St. Louis that we just could not turn it down.

Some of the advantages are a great room rate (\$69 a night), great facilities (hospitality, memorabilia, registration, meeting rooms all on the spectacular top floor), convenient transportation (airport next door and light rail into town), a hotel staff that treated us well before and who want us back. Plus we have a lot of troopers in the area to act as a ground team.

Details, costs, sponsored events, popular attractions to see, etc. will be included in future issues of the Airmobile.

Allen Patrick, in charge of communications and the Airmobile, has volunteered to be the take the lead on this reunion with the help of Jasper Catanzaro.

Their job is the absolute toughest there is, as Jerry Houston will attest to.

Allen and Jasper need your support to make this reunion a truly memorable occasion.

Those of you that live in and around St Louis, please make yourself known to Allen and Jasper and volunteer your services.

With a lot of people in-

volved, nobody has to bust their "butt"!

Since we are still early in the planning stages, those of you that have ideas as to improving the activities, scheduling things differently, etc., please make them known. It is easy to get into a rut and if we can do things better, we need to do so.

My compliments to Allen Patrick on his most professional Airmobile newsletter and 5/7 web site at <http://www.cav57.org>. The site will be particularly useful for keeping abreast of reunion news.

I plan to be at the Vietnam Memorial on Memorial Day, May 28th. For those of you who can join me, we usually meet in the vicinity of the kiosk across from the Lincoln Memorial by 1200 hrs for a 1300 hrs ceremony.

If you're in town for the Memorial Day weekend, don't miss the sight of 30,000 motorcycles heading to the mall at about noon on May 27<sup>th</sup> (most of them vets). It's very impressive.

The identification of new troopers to add to our rosters has slowed down considerably. We would like to see that effort continue since there are many of our battalion veterans still unaccounted for.

Let's all make a special effort to get those that have been identified to come to the next reunion.

Have a good spring and stay in touch. Use the battalion directory in the newsletter or on the web site. We want to hear from you!



# BATTALION DIRECTORY

| Name                            | Home Phone                    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>President Emeritus</b>       | 301-530-9039                  |
| Ted Swett                       | ted6@aol.com                  |
| <b>President</b>                | 410-551-6167                  |
| John Long                       | jonlong@earthlink.net         |
| <b>Vice President</b>           | 603-726-7080                  |
| Karl Haartz                     | krazykc@eagle1st.com          |
| <b>Communications Officer</b>   | 734-662-9612                  |
| Allen Patrick                   | apatrik@mediaone.net          |
| <b>Secretary</b>                | 615-790-6325                  |
| Jerry Houston                   | jerryait@aol.com              |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                | 248-305-8405                  |
| Jasper Catanzaro                | jcatanza@ford.com             |
| <b>Sergeant - At - Arms</b>     | 303-980-0804                  |
| Will Mercer                     | willie.mercer@rrcc.ccooes.edu |
| <b>Battalion Chaplain</b>       | 304-453-4914                  |
| Eddie Rape                      | ERape12@aol.com               |
| <b>Legal Advisor</b>            | 516-747-3894                  |
| Jim Harmon                      | harfirm@aol.com               |
| <b>Veterans Affairs Advisor</b> | 816-364-5158                  |
| Doc Maxwell                     | papadoc@aol.com               |
| <b>Dept. of Army Liaison</b>    | 703-239-1761                  |
| Larry Budge                     | lbudge@ida.org                |
| <b>COMPANY TRUSTEES</b>         |                               |
| <b>A Company</b>                | 520-647-7605                  |
| Tom Spalding                    |                               |
| <b>B Company</b>                | 706-685-0464                  |
| Don Diggs                       |                               |
| <b>C Company</b>                | 618-863-2619                  |
| Harold Dannewitz                | hoss_dannewitz@yahoo.com      |
| <b>D Company</b>                | 740-533-1605                  |
| Dennis Dickess                  | kdickess@zoomnet.net          |
| <b>E Company</b>                | 407-668-7881                  |
| Bill Moore                      | moore367@aol.com              |
| <b>HHQ</b>                      | 806-364-5158                  |
| Doc Maxwell                     | papadoc@aol.com               |
| <b>Battalion Historian</b>      | 410-488-4930                  |
| Patrick Dockery                 | vvidoc@erols.com              |
| <b>Memorabilia</b>              | 816-746-6384                  |
| Bill Brown                      | missouribill@juno.com         |
| <b>Video</b>                    | 210-914-2203                  |
| Phil Sierer                     | oldrebel@texas.net            |

# MEMORIAL DAY

The location of the first observance of Memorial Day is in dispute. Some claim the custom of honoring war dead began in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.

Others claim the custom was originated by some Southern women who placed flowers on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers after the Civil War.

According to one writer, the first Memorial Day service took place on May 30, 1866, on Belle Isle, a burial ground for Union soldiers on the St. James River, at Richmond, Virginia. The school superintendent and the mayor planned the program of hymns and speeches and had the burial ground decorated with flowers.

In 1966, however, the U.S. government proclaimed that Waterloo, New York, was the birthplace of Memorial Day.

On May 5, 1865, the people of Waterloo had honored soldiers who had died in the Civil War.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War), named May 30th as a special day to honor the graves of Union soldiers.

The selection of May 30th is attributed to a Virginian of French descent, Cassandra Oliver Moncure, who may have selected this date because it was "The Day of Ashes" in France, the day that Napoleon's remains were returned to France from St. Helena.

## EULOGY FOR A VETERAN

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the Gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight,

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there, I did not die.

Author Unknown



## JOB OPENING

Our 2nd Vice President and Battalion Locator, Ed Perry, has found it necessary to resign his position. We understand how the civilian world demands can often get in the way and we wish Ed well in his other endeavors. We will certainly miss his resourcefulness in our search for new members and records retrieval. We are looking for other Cav 5/7 troopers to take over from Ed. If you have a desire to help out the association and have a computer, please let the editor or one of our officers know. Or if you know one of our troopers who could fill the role but is too shy to speak up, give us his name and we'll follow up. GARRY OWEN!

# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By "Krazy" Karl Haartz

As I two finger type this article it is still snowing here in New Hampshire. To quote Allen Patrick, "if you see spring anywhere, send it here", PLEASE!

**DUES-DUES-DUES** One of the keys to our successful association is our dues. On past issues of the newsletter your mailing label indicated the year that you had paid your dues through. This was missing on your last two issues. This issue's label has corrected that oversight.

Check out this month's label. It will indicate the year through which you are paid up. If you see you're not up to date, send your \$10 for each year you're behind or pay ahead if you want.

Send your dues to Financial Secretary, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, P.O. Box 1013 Novi, MI 48376.

In the future, if you have trouble remembering if you're up to date on your dues, check the mailing label or you can send \$10 every time you get the "Airmobile" and we will send you a notice when you are 20 years in advance. It sounds fair to me.

Yes, my dues had run out because I didn't see it on the label. The \$10 yearly helps cover the cost of the "Airmobile" and reunion mailings, and a few clerical supplies. ANY OTHER DONATIONS will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

For those of us who are using the internet there are many sites which involve the Cavalry and Infantry.

One of the sites is [www.militaryconnections.com](http://www.militaryconnections.com) I found 6 different groups at this site with connections to the Cav 5/7 and all I searched was 5<sup>th</sup> Bn + A Co. If we all could list under 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. 7<sup>th</sup> Cav, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div, we could have one of the biggest sub chapters listed there. You can list in as many sub chapters, as you want. Check it out!

I have been asked to send all new addresses to everyone on my Battalion e-mail list, which I have started doing

and I hope they will get in the newsletter also. If you are not getting e-mail from me, send me your e-mail address. My address is [krazykc@eagle1st.com](mailto:krazykc@eagle1st.com).

We have at present 168 members on the e-mail list. If you get a new address send it to me. If I send e-mail to you and I get a second "failure to deliver" notice, you become DELETED from the e-mail list. We don't want this so please make sure I have your latest e-mail address. We want to keep everyone we have found.

**MEMBERSHIP SEARCH** The apple doesn't usually fall too far from the tree. So let us put our heads together and see whom we can find.

There are still a few thousand troops we have not located. I have been using *Yahoo/ People Search* and *Verizon Super Pages*.

All you do is type in the name, the state and hit the search button. You will get a list of anyone in that state with that name. Give one of them a call and ask questions. Quickly you will have found another one of your buddies from Vietnam.

Anyone who doesn't have a computer, call me, or mail me a name and I will send you a print out of addresses and phone numbers so you can start.

**"GO FIND A  
CAV 5/7 TROOPER  
TODAY"**

Remember you don't have enough computer memory to search for Smith, USA.

**PX OPEN FOR BUSINESS** As the good old Summer time approaches, it's T-shirt weather and PX Goody wants to know what to order. He has just finished the re-supply of the pins, decals, badges, etc. Check out the updated PX list in the newsletter and on our web site ([www.cav57.org](http://www.cav57.org)).

**INFORMATION INQUIRY** Keith Bodine was a door gunner with the 227<sup>th</sup> Aviation, the Medivac Guys. He e-mail'd us with a request about the evac flight of Col. Canham and a trooper that was shot quite severely. He is trying to find out if the trooper survived or not. He has been thinking about this since the incident in February of 1967. If you have any info that could help Keith, send it to me or the Airmobile editor ([editor@cav57.org](mailto:editor@cav57.org)).

**ANOTHER INQUIRY** Carrie Clay is the sister of Sgt. John Brix, KIA 25 Nov 68. Since Sgt. Brix' death someone has been placing flowers on his grave in Seattle, WA.

This happens on his birthday, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and other Holidays. The family thought it might be a relative, but now are quite certain it is not.

Carrie's Mother recently passed away and her Father would like to thank this "special angel."

Anyone that was with Sgt. Brix who could shed some light, get in touch. It is so great when you can help someone put closure to our Vietnam Trip.

**COMMUNICATION** We have to do this to continue to grow. Stay in contact. It's time to sign off; my two index fingers are worn out. Until later!

*GARRY OWEN  
'Krazy' Karl*

**SECIAL REQUEST:** The family of 2nd Lt. Craig Pinchot, HHC (KIA 1967), would like to make contact with any troopers who served with him in VN. E-mail [Bret.Coulson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bret.Coulson@mail.house.gov)

# GREAT NEWS!! REUNION VI

## JUNE 30 THRU JULY 6, 2002

### ST. LOUIS RENAISSANCE HOTEL



The 2002 Reunion VI site has been selected.

We're going to St. Louis Missouri.

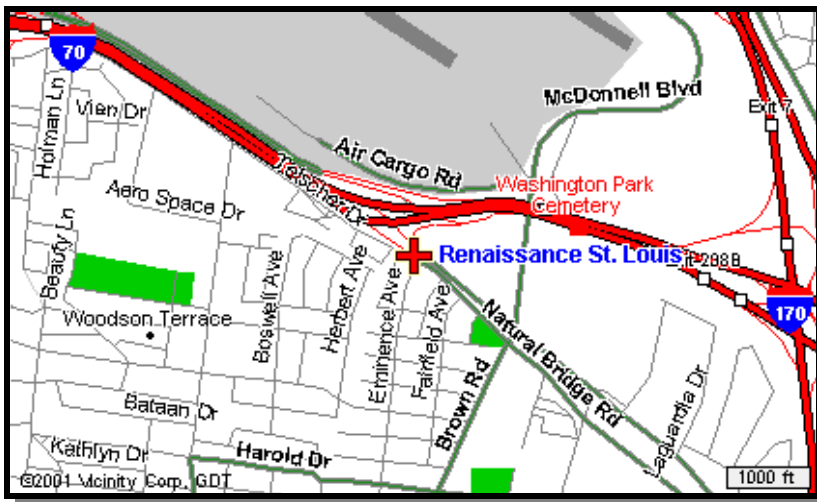
Yes, it will be the second time the reunion has been held there but we could not pass up the great facilities and excellent arrangements the hotel has made available.

The hotel is adjacent to Lambert International Airport, it is minutes from downtown St. Louis and the city's popular cultural and entertainment attractions. The famous Gateway Arch, St. Louis Science Center, riverboat gambling, and the historic shopping and dining district of Laclede's Landing are a short drive from the hotel, which provides complimentary shuttle service to Metro Link rail station for travel to other points of interest.

Future issues of the Airmobile will include more details about the events that are being coordinated by the ground team. There will

be a reunion sign-up sheet similar to Reunion V. This will allow you to tell us who is planning to attend and how many of your family and friends will join in.

We're all looking forward to having a great time together! Garry Owen!!!



**RENAISSANCE HOTEL**

**9801 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63134  
USA**

**Phone: 1-314-429-1100**

**Fax: 1-314-429-3466**

<http://www.renaissancehotels.com>

## New VA Hotline For Agent Orange

(EXCERPT) WASHINGTON, March 9 /PRNewswire/--

Vietnam veterans now have a new national toll-free help line to answer their questions about Agent Orange exposure, health care and benefits.

The new help line -- 800-749-8387 -- is part of the continuing efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reach America's 2.3 million Vietnam veterans.

Callers can speak directly to VA representatives Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Standard Time, or access a 24-hour automated system. They can leave voice mail messages to have information sent to them or listen to recordings about exposure to Agent Orange, VA benefits, health care and disability compensation.



## 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry PX

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 7th Cav Baseball Hat                                    | \$10         |
| Full Size Garry Owen Crest                              | 4            |
| Min. Garry Owen Crest                                   | 3            |
| 1st Cav Div Patch Crest                                 | 3            |
| 1st Cav Patch Air Mobile                                | 4            |
| 1st Cav Patch Air Cavalry                               | 3            |
| CIB Miniature   | 3            |
| Bong Song Hat Pin                                       | 3            |
| AnKhe Hat Pin   | 3            |
| 1st Cav Shoulder Patch                                  | 5            |
| 1st Cav Vietnam Sticker                                 | 2            |
| Garry Owen Sticker                                      | 2            |
| 7th Cav Crossed Sabers Porcelain Pin or Tie tack        | 5            |
| 1st Cav Div Pennant                                     | 5            |
| 1st Cav Div Coin  | 9            |
| 1st Cav Div Flag  | 18           |
| 7th Cav Glass Mug                                       | 10           |
| Polo Shirt w/Garry Owen Crest & Cav 5/7 (silk screened) |              |
| Small, Med, & Large                                     | 18           |
| XL & XXL  | N/A          |
| N'Ville Reunion V Videos                                | \$10 + shp'g |

**PX Orders should be sent to:  
John Goodpaster  
303 Cora Drive  
Carlisle, Ohio 45005-3268**



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I write this article we are preparing to celebrate perhaps the most important event in Christianity, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For most of the world this event has become just another holiday. Does the fact that Jesus Christ physically came forth from the grave mean anything to us 2000 years later? I would like to share with you the significance of this celebrated event.

To know the resurrected Christ replaces fear with peace. In all of my years of ministry I have encountered fear in many forms. We fear losing our jobs. We fear for the future of our children and for many of us the future of our grandchildren. We fear the loss of health and the ultimate fear is the fear of death. The one response that Jesus explicitly refuses his people to luxuriate in is fear. His most frequently repeated command in Scripture is "fear not."

Happiness is a virtue of the world but joy is a distinction that is granted by the Risen Christ. The key to joy is a life that is open to the companionship and reality of the one who was resurrected that first Easter Morning. So Easter to me is peace and joy.

Nancy and I celebrated the birth of Dalton Wyatt Rape, our newest grandchild, born February 3rd. I pray that this Easter season will find you well and happy.

*Garry Owen*

*Chaplain Eddie Rape*

### INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

- Department of Veterans Affairs -- <http://www.va.gov/>
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs Eligibility Reform -- <http://www.va.gov/health/elig/>
- VA Links Agent Orange and Diabetes -- <http://www.va.gov/opa/fact/Diabetes/index.htm>
- VA Agent Orange Home Page -- <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/index.htm>
- New Movie On the Ia Drang Valley Expedition -- We Were Soldiers Once and Young: <http://www.ravecentral.com/weweresoldiers.html>
- LZ Xray - Ia Drang Valley -- 1965: <http://www.lzray.com/prolog.htm>
- 1st Cavalry Division Web Site -- <http://www.vvm.com/%7Efirstcav/>
- The American War Library -- <http://members.aol.com/veterans/>

## BATTALION SECRETARY

**by Jerry Houston**

Time really flies. We are in a new fiscal year for our association and I have filed the necessary paperwork for us to continue as a tax-exempt organization.

During a conference call in early April the executive committee chose St. Louis as the site for Reunion VI. We will be at the Renaissance Airport hotel again, which was a supper location for Reunion III. Dixie and I are really looking forward to returning to St. Louis because there is a lot to do and the hotel setup really cuts down on the administrative burden of running the reunion.

Now is the time that we need to start looking for a location for Reunion VII. It would really be nice to have some information about potential sites before we get to the next reunion. Anyone that might be interested in hosting a reunion let one of the association officers know and we will get you some information on what we need to make a sound decision. I really would encourage each of you to give it some serious thought so we can get ahead of the planning curve.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jasper Catanzaro

I hope that everyone is doing well.

It's hard to believe that we had our Nashville reunion about 9 months ago. The time is really flying by.

We are presently working on our next reunion site. In fact, while I am working this column, it might have been finalized. For those of you who don't know, we have narrowed our sites down to Detroit and St. Louis. The Detroit location is actually closer to Ann Arbor, Michigan than Detroit but it is still close to the heart of the city.

The St. Louis location is the same hotel we had in 1996 - The Renaissance hotel next to the airport. If we don't have it finalized in this issue, it will be done in the next issue.

Well, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that we still have a sound treasury. However, as you will soon see for yourself, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see we could be in financial trouble soon.

The reason is lack of support from the majority of people we have found. You see we have found about 1,400 people and only about 500+ have joined our Association. Of that number about half are sending in yearly dues and donations.

These dues and donations have built our Treasury up from \$2,000 when we left Detroit in 1992 to over \$15,300 when we left Nashville. However, since our return from Nashville, we are spending more than we are bringing in.

Our biggest drain on the Association funds is the "AIRMObILE" newsletter. We have tried to keep everyone informed by sending out the "AIRMObILE" to each person.

It costs about \$1 including postage to send each person a newsletter. The last two issues were sent to everyone on our roster. Our goal was to share the excitement and fun we had in Nashville and to draw out those who haven't come to a reunion and to get them involved.

It didn't quite work out the way we wished. So, we need your support if you wish to keep on receiving the

"AIRMObILE".

We want to send everyone a copy but without the resources coming in, we soon would be bankrupt.

This issue will only be going out to those who have joined the Association or paid their dues.

We will be asking for you to keep up your dues so that we can keep you informed of the reunions, veteran's news, and information which only someone who served in our outfit would enjoy and understand.

WE ARE UNIQUE. We are members of a very elite group of soldiers. WE ARE COMBAT INFANTRYMEN. Believe me, there are many who actually wish they were part of our organization. We alone can say we were.

If you don't know where you stand on dues, please read the mailing label. It will have the words DUES followed by the year you are paid through.

If you want this Association to keep the "AIRMObILE" then you must do your part and support it. I don't pass judgment on anyone. Only you know if you can afford to support this Association and the "AIRMObILE".

Following this article is a complete report of what we spent and what has come in since Jerry Houston passed on the finance job to me.

Take the time to go over it.

Also, take the time to write or call me. If you find any mistakes please inform me. My work phone number is 313-322-7656 or page me at 888-624-4915. The pager is toll free and I usually return all calls as soon as I receive them.

When paying your dues make out your check to 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association and mail it to Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 1013, Novi, MI 48376.

*Garry Owen,  
Jasper*

Funds at the end of Reunion V \$15,325.27

(as of March 21)

| <u>Dues</u>             |            |       |                    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|--------------------|
| Member                  |            | Years | Amount             |
| Bennet                  | Michael C. | 00    | \$10.00            |
| Bernier                 | Charles    | 01    | \$10.00            |
| Bortell                 | Ted        | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| Bowyer                  | Tim        | 00-01 | \$20.00            |
| Bruneau                 | Robert     | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Catanzaro               | Jasper     | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| Cole                    | Robert     | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Dzikas                  | Joe        | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| Garvin                  | James      | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| Gibbs                   | Wayne      | 01    | \$10.00            |
| Goulet                  | Maurice    | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Griffin                 | Richard    | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| Haartz                  | Karl       | 02-11 | \$100.00           |
| Kenny                   | Michael    | 01-05 | \$50.00            |
| Kilber                  | Gary       | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Krus                    | Alvin      | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Litvjak                 | William    | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| McKnezle                | Robert     | 00-02 | \$30.00            |
| Miller                  | Davy       | 01    | \$10.00            |
| Oblad                   | Robert     | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Ravnaas                 | Orvin      | 99-00 | \$20.00            |
| Reber                   | Charles    | 01-02 | \$20.00            |
| Steenrod                | Phillip    | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| Tjaden                  | Steve      | 02    | \$10.00            |
| Welling                 | John       | 01-03 | \$30.00            |
| <u>Donations</u>        |            |       |                    |
| Bortell                 | Ted        |       | \$20.00            |
| Bruneau                 | Robert     |       | \$70.00            |
| Dzikas                  | Joe        |       | \$5.00             |
| Goulet                  | Maurice    |       | \$20.00            |
| Litvjak                 | William    |       | \$25.00            |
| <u>Association Fees</u> |            |       |                    |
| Henson                  | Chris      |       | \$10.00            |
| P.X. Sales              |            |       | \$270.10           |
| Bank Interest           |            |       | \$13.23            |
| Total Income            |            |       | \$1,083.33         |
| <u>Expenditures</u>     |            |       |                    |
| Septmember AirMobile    |            |       | \$1,493.65         |
| December AirMobile      |            |       | \$1,401.44         |
| Bank Charges            |            |       | \$76.00            |
| Veteran's Day Wreath    |            |       | \$166.95           |
| PX Mailing Charges      |            |       | \$18.72            |
| PX Mailing Charges      |            |       | \$67.09            |
| PX Refunds              |            |       | \$28.00            |
| PX Supplies             |            |       | \$304.23           |
| Total Expenditures      |            |       | \$3,556.08         |
| <u>Funds on Hand</u>    |            |       |                    |
| Checking                |            |       | \$1,514.02         |
| Savings                 |            |       | \$1,338.50         |
| Kent Bank CD            |            |       | \$10,000.00        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>     |            |       | <b>\$12,852.52</b> |

# Edvin Beitiks Gone To Fiddler's Green

Like a lot of people I imagine, I looked forward quite a bit to meeting Edvins for our occasional lunches at downtown Market Street restaurants near where we both worked—places where the waiters all seemed to know him as a man about town and a veteran reporter for Hearst's premiere daily paper and so always seemed to have a special table for us.

It was partly due to the realization that there would be no more lunches with him that I was surprised and saddened on my return from a trip abroad to learn from a radio broadcast that Edvins Beitiks, A 5/7, who served as a squad leader with the battalion in 1967-1968, died this past January 7 on his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I still tend to narrowly focus on the loss of a brother who I could talk to about the Garry Owen combat experiences we shared in what seems like another life a long time ago. But of course the deeper reasons that have become more apparent to me in the past few months for why it's most sad to lose an exceptional guy like Ed is because of the family he leaves behind.

Yes, the friends and coworkers, and the buddies, and fellow veterans all loved the guy, but the people who most especially feel the loss and will never stop missing him are of course his wife of 23 years, Kathleen O'Donnell Beitiks, a spirited and exceptionally talented lady in her own right, and the two bright young daughters, Meghan and Caitlin, and his son, Mikelis, who only recently finished high school as a star athlete.

Ed, a reporter and much respected writer for the San Francisco Examiner, where he worked for 20 years, planned to attend our Nashville reunion, but had to miss it because of a recurrence of multiple myeloma, which was the cause of his death.

As many members know, at the time of our reunion he was in a Little Rock, Arkansas, hospital receiving bone marrow transplant treatments for his condition, which the V.A. has linked to Agent Orange exposure.

When he was finally back in San Francisco starting to work at the paper again in late November, Ed told me he was surprised and deeply touched at the get well postcards a number of our members sent him from the Nashville reunion last July.

Over lunch at Le' Charm, a favorite French restaurant in downtown San Francisco frequented by newspaper reporters and editors, Ed said he would never forget the morale boosting lift the postcards gave him in his Little Rock hospital room as they

arrived in the mail from over a dozen of our battalion association members attending the reunion.

Earlier last year, some of us got to know Ed when he phoned a half dozen of our association members around the country to find out what we thought about Senator McCain's presidential race for an article he wrote.

He described our battalion in his article as "an Army battalion that spent more time in Vietnam than almost any other." The front page Examiner story went on to quote a lively collection of our members' opinions about Senator McCain and the continu-



ing effects of the nation's longest war on national politics.

Ed, who died after a decade-long struggle with his recurring multiple myeloma, which is a form of bone marrow cancer, was awarded three Purple Hearts, including one for near fatal gunshot injuries to the face that he eventually came to be able to joke about.

At services following his death reported in the Examiner, Ed's friends and newspaper associates paid tribute to him and especially to his advocacy on behalf of veterans in numerous articles he wrote about the effects on veterans lives of their military service.

A county veterans services director wrote the newspaper to express gratitude for Ed's perceptive articles, saying that Ed would "continue to serve as an inspiration to all veterans and veterans advocates who tell the story of forgotten veterans, deceased

and alive."

The former post Chaplain of San Francisco's Presidio Army post described Ed as one of life's heroes in a letter to the editor that went on to describe his role in the 1986 creation of a controversial chapel memorial honoring Vietnam veterans.

In the face of opposition to the memorial from those who "wanted to forget that Vietnam ever happened," the Chaplain recalled that Ed wrote "one of his penetrating stories that reached out and touched the community."

The resulting support for the proposed tribute to Vietnam vets led to the wilting of the opposition, and ultimately to the building of a memorial that the Chaplain said was "better than we ever dreamed of at the time."

When it was constructed in the late 1980s, the shrine was reportedly the only memorial to Vietnam veterans on an active U.S. military post, his letter said.

In a front page Examiner Veterans Day article last November, Ed wrote about aging combat veterans who continue throughout their lives to try to make sense of the war they served in, which he said frequently furnishes the most indelible experiences of their lives.

In the article, Ed described what makes us attend Veterans Day observances or reunions, which is "the universal wish to have our war service and sacrifices remembered as important." "It's not really about getting what's coming to you." "It's about 'Remember me,' the same thing at work . . . in family portraits propped on top of the TV set" and in "the look in the eyes of men and women marching down Market Street Sunday afternoon in the Veterans Day parade, and the time you spend alone in a cemetery dappled with flags."

## Garry Owen, Edvins. We'll miss you.

Donations in Ed's name may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Northern California, 1390 Market St., Suite 1200, San Francisco CA 94102-5306, or the International Myeloma Foundation, 12650 Riverside Drive, Suite 206, North Hollywood CA 91607-3421, or your favorite veterans organization.

*Contributed by Gerhard C. Brostrom C 67  
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**GARRY OWEN !!!**