



AIRMOBILE



News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>

January, 2004; Volume 13 Issue 1

President's Report

By John Long

Happy New Year Troopers!

As I write my checks and check my calendar, I am constantly reminded that we have started another year and I'm not quite finished with the last one yet. So much to do and so little time left to do it.

As more of us succumb to the inevitable, there is a tendency to want to drag our heels on our own mortality. This fact offers to remind us to take advantage of the time we have left and to make the most of our opportunities to be together.

We had another wonderful gathering of friends and families at my home on the eve of Veterans Day and again at the Wall the next day. Check out the outstanding photos of the Veterans Day activities on our web site at www.cav57.org. Special thanks to our outstanding 5/7 Color Guard consisting of Wes, George, Don and Joe. This event was our first opportunity to show off the 47 new battle streamers on the flag and they looked great!

Sticking with the theme of not missing opportunities, plan your schedule now for making the reunion in July. The necessary information is on the web site. I encourage all of you who plan to be there to contact a fellow trooper and extend a personal invitation, particularly to those that have not attended or have been to only a few reunions. In the same vein, advertise the existence of the 5/7 Association through wearing your 5/7 hat, jacket, shirt, pins, etc. Put a 5/7 decal on your car or truck. Make up a 5/7 business card and hand them out. We still have a lot of troopers out there that need to know that we exist and care.

I just finished reading a Christmas gift, a book by Robert McNamara titled In Retrospect, the Tragedy and Lessons of Viet-

nam

I highly recommend the book for several reasons. It provides an understanding and background of how the country got into the Vietnam mess and he explains in detail the flawed reasoning by himself and others. He admits mistakes (a rare occurrence by public figures), identifies some major concerns with the way decisions were made that are as relevant today as they were then. He also gives some recently unclassified information regarding the Cuban missile crisis that will shock you. Read it and let me know what

you think.

Suzy and I want to wish for you a healthy New Year and look forward to being with you in Cincinnati in July.



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Vice President's Report

by Karl Haartz

Greetings from "Krazy" Karl

Another holiday season has passed and now it is the 2004 diet season. Damn those Christmas cookies were good. They added 2 inches to my waistline. I will probably get back in shape just in time for Reunion VII in Erlanger, KY. It will add to my waistline also.

We had a very good turn out for Veteran's Day again. Thanks to all that came. The wreath Presenters this year were Truman Hamrick, B Co. 66, Jim "Red" Boulden D Co. 69 and George Hannaford C Co. 70. Our color guard also participated in the Parade of the Colors, honoring the 10th anniversary of the Women's Memorial.

I want to send a special thanks to Bob Hansen A Co. 66. I mysteriously came across a 1st Cav Roster. In the many pages of this I found a bunch of names of 5/7 troops. Some of these we had located before and lost though change of address and no zip codes. Some were new troops. I managed to get phone numbers on about 80 of these troops. Bob volunteered to call the ones we had numbers for. In the month of December I sent out 48, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, "Welcome Home Packers". Oh! Yeah Bob isn't on line and he did this the old fashion way. Telephone and fax.

Thank you Bob Hansen

This little bit is about the 1st. Cav. Assoc. and the 7th Cav assoc. This is just my personal experience with both Associations. I am a paid up member of both and will remain so.

I will list web sites and addresses both in newsletter.

The 1st. Cav Assoc. has a web site, which tells about 1st Cav Division. The present units of the division are listed. There are also links to the gift shop, etc. Not much changes at this site. They do have a guest book where one can leave a message. This part was really good until the Assoc. added pop-up messages to raise money for the assoc.

There still much interest at the guest book and a lot of it is quite interesting. These are messages from troops like you. If you join the 1st. Cav, they send you their newspaper called the "Saber". You will find very little if any mention of the 5/7 in it. Yearly subscription for the "Saber" is \$10.

The 7th Cavalry web site is boring (this is my personal opinion). They have not changed anything on it in over a year. It was a year ago when they removed the bulletin board, after yours truly left 2 messages on it about the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association. If you join the 7th Cav, they will send you a nice Life Member certificate, the current year's roster of people that joined that year. Your name will

probably be spelled wrong and you won't hear from them again. You will have to get 7th Cav news in the "Saber".

On the certificate there is a line, which reads "And is entitled to all rights and Benefits as a member of the Garry Owen. This is as long as you don't mention the 5/7.

The President of 7th Cav assoc. is working hard to bring the recognition of the assoc. back.

On a brighter note the Vietnam Veteran's of America Assoc. has helped us greatly.

Reunion VIII

We are still looking for a site for reunion 8. All those who need info on what you need to do, let me know and I will get you started. I am not opposed to Colorado Springs, making it our western reunion site. The year 2006 will be the 40 anniversary of the 5/7 leaving for Vietnam.

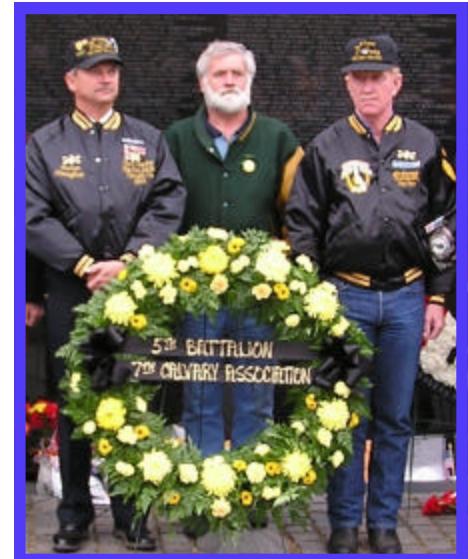
Info Request

Got an e-mail from Preacher Gary L Hall, FO C- 2/7, 12-65 to 12-66. He would like to talk to any of our FO's. Give him a shout guys. E-mail is:

Tarbucket33mike@juno.com

DID YOU LOCATE ONE OF YOUR BUDDIES TODAY?

*GARRY OWEN
"Krazy" Karl*



Veterans Day 2003

Reunion VII Update

Reunion VII is now only five months away. We sure hope you're making your hotel reservations and getting the family squared away to come to Northern Kentucky for a fun time with all your Cav 5/7 buddies.

The ground team is meeting on a monthly basis to make sure we have all the "I's dotted and all the "T's crossed. There are lots of great things to keep you busy while you're here in the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati area. Check out the enclosed flyer from the local convention bureau to get an idea of some of the great local attractions.

Just in case you need a reminder, Reunion VII will be held in Northern Kentucky at the **Holiday Inn Cincinnati-Airport. The address is 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd., ERLANGER, KY 41018. The phone number to make your reservations is: 859-371-2233.**

The dates for the reunion are **Monday July 26, through Saturday July 31, 2004.**

The reunion format will be very familiar to those of you who have had the opportunity to join us in the past. And as information for all here's what we have planned for you:

- Registration will begin on Monday July 26th. The registration room will be open each day of the week through the morning of Saturday, July 31. There will be a poster in the lobby to let you know the exact hours of operation.
- We will have a hospitality room Monday through Saturday. Typical hours of operation will be from 8:30 am to 11:00 pm. On Friday, July 30 we plan to close the hospitality room in the afternoon so the hotel can set up for our evening banquet. Check the bulletin board for the open and closing times each day.
- Each day of the week a continental breakfast and deli sandwich lunch bar will be served buffet style in the Hospitality room. Times for breakfast and lunch will be posted on the bulletin board.
- As in past reunions the hospitality room will have a full range of beverages for you to enjoy.
- Our Cav 5/7 PX and Memorabilia rooms will be in operation during the entire week. Hours of operation will be posted on the bulletin board.
- Monday, July 26 and Thursday, July 29 have been left open for members and their families to enjoy the sites and events Northern Kentucky and The Greater Cincinnati area have to offer. A few of these are:

The Cincinnati Zoo

The Newport Aquarium

Newport on the Levee --- Featuring Great Restaurants and Movies

Paramount Kings Island and Coney Island Amusement Parks

Cincinnati Reds Baseball --- They will be playing St. Louis in Cincinnati on July 26 – 28

Horseracing --- Turfway Park and River Downs

Covington Landing B & B Riverboats --- A great way to take in the Cincinnati Skyline

Gambling Casinos: Argosy, Grand Victoria, and Bel Terra

- Brochures for all of these and more will be available at registration. You can also visit the following web sites to gather more information before coming to the reunion: www.cincinnaticom and www.staynky.com.

Tuesday, July 27 we are planning to arrange a "Night Out". For Reunion VI, in St. Louis, we arranged a Dinner/Theater evening and in Nashville, for Reunion V, we had a Dinner/River Cruise with show. Details for the Reunion VII event are under development and we'll provide more information in our next newsletter. We plan to make it a fun night so don't hesitate to come to the reunion early.

Wednesday, July 28 we are making a golf outing available to all who wish to sign up. Make sure you make this known on the registration form.

Wednesday evening, July 28, we'll have our traditional FREE PIZZA evening from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the hospitality room. It is a great time to get acquainted and get together with old friends.

Thursday, July 29 and Friday, July 30, during the day, Battalion/Company meetings will be held. Check the bulletin board for exact times. All members are encouraged to attend to nominate new officers, review options for reunion VII and discuss new business. These two days will be another ideal time for family members and guests to get together with others and take in the Greater Cincinnati sites and events or shop at the 6 shopping malls in the area.

Friday evening, July 30 a Company photo session will start the evening's festivities which will include a cocktail hour and the Association Banquet. Times for each of these events will be posted on the bulletin board.

Saturday morning, July 31 we will have our Association Memorial Service. Those who attended the first reunion in Detroit will remember how great that first memorial service was. This Memorial Service will be a step back in time. The flags will fly over a beautiful flower arrangement in an ideal location in close proximity to the hotel. The Ground Team is working very hard to make this memorial service a very memorable and moving experience.

Saturday, July 31, in the evening, we will have a Bar-B-Q dinner and dance. Once again the cocktails will begin the festivities and a great Bar-B-Q dinner and dancing will follow.

Our host hotel is ranked in the top 1% of all Holiday Inns Worldwide and features an indoor pool, sauna, exercise room, airport shuttle, cocktail lounge, and restaurant. We think you're really going to be pleased with the accommodations. The Hotel has given us a great room rate of \$73.00 per night. When calling in your reservation don't forget to tell them that you are attending the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association Reunion; this way you'll be assured of getting the special room rate. In the event of any registration problems, our contact at the hotel is Erin Molley. She is normally available 8 am to 5 pm EST Monday through Friday. Her phone number is

We are happy to report our registration fee for the reunion this year will remain \$60.00 per person for adults, \$30.00 per person for children 6 – 12. Children under 6 are free. Included in the registration fee will be the Friday evening banquet, the Saturday afternoon Bar-B-Q and some nice gifts that you will receive at registration. There is a registration form included with this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it in along with your registration fee as soon as possible. We hope to see you all in Kentucky!!! GarryOwen!!!!

LETTERS

From The Swetts:

Cay and I are grateful for the Christmas and New Year cards we received from many of you. Cay's illness and subsequent surgery shortly before Christmas kept me preoccupied with housekeeping and Christmas preparations, so I never got around to sending our Christmas cards to you. The good news is that she is recovering nicely.

We hope that you had a Blessed and Merry Christmas, and we wish each of you and your families a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year.

GarryOwen, Troopers! Ted

Hi, in the July 2003 issue of the Airmobile newsletter there is listed a letter to the editor on page three from a Janie Callahan whose email address is given as janecallanan@msn.com. I have attempted to write her at this address and then at janecallahan@msn.com and a couple others I found on the net --- all to no avail. I knew her brother that she was writing about in her letter to the editor and helped pull him out of the wreckage of his helicopter on 19 April 68. I would like to get in touch with her but have been unsuccessful so far. Is it possible that her wrong email address is listed or do you have a snail mail address I can use for her? Thanks for your help.

Doc McBride D Company, 5/7 Cav 67-68.

Norman L. McBride, 4200 Larkwood Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516, 402-328-0339, normmcbs@alltel.net

On behalf of all the family, I would like to thank you for remembering my brother, CSM (RET) Troy G. Tippins, Jr. in your October Newsletter. Troy was a proud veteran of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry and the First Air Cavalry Division. Members of your association were very thoughtful and helpful during his battle with cancer and at his death. For this thoughtfulness, you have our heartfelt gratitude. I was a member of the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry in Vietnam during 1965-1966 and commend you on your Newsletter and your continuing efforts on behalf of your troopers.

CSM (RET) Billy J. Tippins

NEW TROOPS FOUND OR RELOCATED

A Company-

Rodney A Rush 67: 151 Baird Ave, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281; 330-336-6060; Relocated by Bob Hansen new address
Arne "Kenny" Jensen 67: drkjjen@earthlink.net; 2305 Olivia Drive, Avon Park, Fl. 33825; Kenny found us.

Gene Karenbauer 68: 498 Oneida Valley Road, Butler, PA 16001; 724-283-0215; Located by Bob Hansen

B Company

Robert K Powers: 8816 S. 2nd Ave, Hickory Hills, IL 60457; 708-598-4221; Located by Bob Hansen

C Company

Sonnie B Mottern 70: 279 Huckleberry Road, Bluff City, TN 37618; 423-538-6100; Located by Bob Hansen

D Company

Harold R Kohlheim 68: 2205 Barry Drive, Fort Meyers, FL 33907; 239-939-0666; HHRK23@earthlink.net; Relocated by Red Boulden

Jack E Hurley 69: 6184 Lakeway Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306-9719; 910-424-6059; JEH2887@aol.com; Relocated by Bob Hansen

Andrew Hulse 68: 1535 Seffner-Valrico Road, Seffner, FL 33584; 813-689-4315; Located by Bob Hansen

Dan Green 70: 2274 Forest Grove Cove, Memphis, TN 38119 901-767-4458; Located By Bob Hansen

E Company

Gerald D Fitch 69: 555 Devereux Court NE, Concord, NC 28025; 704-788-7741; Located by Bob Hansen

HQ Company

Frank Perez 68-69: 1568 Rose Arbor Lane, Simi Valley, CA 93065; 805-584-0431; Frankperez1@msn.com; Frank found our web site

Kenneth A Janes 68: 133 Farmers Row, Groton, MA 01450; 978-448-2769; Located by Bob Hansen

George Johnson 69: P O box 74, St. Charles, VA. 24282; 276-546-6833; Located by Bob Hansen

*Have you changed your mailing address recently? Remember to send your change of address to:
Treasurer, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, 43468 McLean Ct., Novi, MI 48375*

5th Battalion 7th Cavalry 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
Corgi HUEY Medivac or Gunship Reg. \$59. All Metal Const.	35
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

PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.

PLEASE INCLUDE \$2.00 POSTAGE ON ALL SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND \$3.00 ON ALL SHIRT AND HELICOPTER ORDERS.

SEND ORDERS TO:

**JOHN GOODPASTER
303 CORA DRIVE
CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268**

PHONE #937-855-7475

EMAIL: goody@infonet.com

A Word From Ted Swett

Troopers, as we head into the brunt of the election year, I am disturbed by the divisiveness and bad feelings that seem to result from each party's campaign program. We all have our opinions and our conscience, and free speech is part of our heritage, but it occurs to me that the following thoughts might be helpful for us all.

Shortly, in the middle of this election year, we will gather once again to enjoy the bonding which reflects the true character of the 5th Bn, 7th Cavalry. We are all patriots! We were patriots thirty-plus years ago, when so many of you were drafted citizen soldiers. We shall always be patriots. My hope is that each of us will remember this as we reminisce with our buddies in July, and that we will do our best to avoid political arguments which could detract from the unique bond that binds us together.

GarryOwen, Ted

VETERANS ADVISOR

The election campaigns are upon us in full force. I'm sure we'll be hearing about Veterans affairs from a multitude of candidates for all kinds of political offices. Recently CRSC and Medicare laws have been passed. We are all hoping good will come from these new regulations. For active duty soldiers and us veterans, soldiers of the past, it provides some entitlements now and also assists the young troops who are now on active duty and hopefully will make their retirement more secure when that time comes.

In our senior veterans' status, I see one of our roles is acting as spokespersons for the younger troops so they will have a future and also a reason for retention. Our Veterans deserve the BEST of care from the Veterans Administration: quality care by the best of those who treat us. Second best is not enough!

I would like for those who can attend service organization meetings and rallies to put in a positive word for all veterans, active, inactive and retired. Also, stay current on Veterans benefits by reading available information on veterans' health benefits and issues when they appear in your local newspapers or on the Internet. Don't be afraid to speak your mind when asked for your opinions (many of you paid in blood for that privilege) and write your opinions to your local government and congressional representatives.

Remember the song called "Some Gave All", well you did! All of us belong to the FIRST TEAM so let's pull together and continue to seek better treatment for the veterans in the present and for those in the future.

Soon, we'll be at Reunion VII. Kathy and I are looking forward to it. Somehow this time I would like to have a dinner get together with ALL MEDICS of all times. Let's share experiences, memories and where we have gone since those days. I can always remember my Drill Sgt telling us we would ALWAYS be 11 Bravos. Well my feelings are that it takes a special person to be a medic, even the 11 Bravos says HE WAS MY MEDIC.

Saddle Up and Move Out

Well, it's almost time for reunion VIII and for each of you to do me a big favor. I need each of you to call someone else from the 5th of the 7th and ask them to meet you at the reunion. This is going to be another great reunion and we need your help to make it so.

The ground team has some great plans for this reunion; some of the things we have never had the opportunity to do before. This will be a new LZ for this group. It is in Cincinnati area but we will be landing on the Kentucky side of the Ohio river in Fort Mitchell, KY. **Saddle up and Move out!**

Call in for those reservations today, than call a friend. This last part is as important as in the old days when you were checking your ammo and your buddies pack. Only today we need to check if the other guy made reservations.

Bill Purdy and his entire team have done a tremendous job; it's going to be a great reunion.

Your phone call to a friend is worth ten calls from me or anything that could be written in this newsletter, but be prepared to chat a spell on the phone. Getting your combat buddies to the reunion is what makes it a great reunion. If you've got a problem with a buddy's phone number check with www.whitepages.com or drop me a line at: drshipley@aol.com or to my mailing address: Calhoun, Ill 62419. Don't worry about any other part of address the postmaster has known me personally for years. It's one of those advantages of living in a small town.

We have a few people that have not sent in a change of address from rural route; those addresses need to be updated as soon as possible to prevent extra cost of returning newsletters.

GarryOwen, Don Shipley

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

First, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope this year brings you health and happiness. Now for the good news, we have Reunion VII coming up. It should be a great time in Cincinnati this July. From what I have been hearing, the ground team will be working hard to make sure we all have a good time. I believe we will have a large crowd this time. There are a lot of troopers who live in the area and will be attending. Make your reservations early so you get a good room at a great rate. I bumped into Larry Leksutin recently and he is doing great. Larry was in B Company and back in September attended a mini reunion in northern Michigan with some members of B and C Company at Larry Millers home. Larry told me they had a great time telling stories and playing cards. I wanted to make the mini reunion but I had to work and couldn't get out of it.

Now the bad news, since the last newsletter we have lost some more good men. Sgt. Major Meyer was really a great guy. He showed the whole Association that when we were in Colorado in 1994 by putting on a dinner for everyone there. We went to his local VFW and they had a dinner for all 250 people who came. He will be missed. I also will miss a very good person in Richard Murgatroyd. Rich was a big man who attended the Colorado reunion and the last reunion in St. Louis. He had a great smile, with a great laugh and always made those around him feel comfortable. Rich will be missed by those who knew him in B Company. We lost others but these were people that I personally knew. I would hope that those of you who know of someone who passed would take the time and write a letter to the Editor to keep everyone informed. It all goes to show how short life is. For those of us who made it home even though many of us have been home for 35 years, it still is too short. This is why you should come to a reunion to celebrate life with your friends. There are very few people who really understand us. Those who were in the 5th or the 7th understand.

Take the time to read the Financial Report. First, if you sent in money after Christmas, it probably won't be in this report. If you see any mistakes, let me know immediately. We are doing very well financially and I would like to thank those who are sending in dues. We want you to send in \$10 to join the Association. The yearly dues are strictly voluntary. However, if you are on-line and would like to save the Association some money, let us put you on the list

and you can download your Airmobile on your home computer instead of us sending you a "hard copy". Many of our newsletters are in color and if you have a color printer you will really enjoy it. By doing this you will save us about \$5 a year if you receive the Airmobile online. Garry Owen and I hope to see all of you in Cincinnati.

Jasper

Balance 9/30/03	\$22,536.57		
Expenses			
Troy Tippins Funeral	\$100.00	Strickland, James	\$10.00
Dean Meyers Funeral	\$41.03	Szymanski, Michael	\$20.00
Sgt. Major Meyer Funeral	<u>\$160.00</u>	Trujillo, Greg	\$30.00
Total Expenses	\$301.03	West, Dan	\$20.00
Income		Wilson, William	\$100.00
Donations/Interest		<u>Winningham, Jerry</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
Bank Interest	\$24.47	Total Dues and Fees	\$980.00
Peltier, Edward	\$5.00		
Swett, Trevor	Flow- ers	PX Sales	
Westmoreland, Wes	Flow- ers	Branan, Jim	\$10.00
Total	\$189.47	Branan, Jim	\$5.00
		Gonzales, Juan	\$28.00
		Hernando, Rafael	\$38.00
		Hodges, Brent	\$20.00
		Hrabik, Zbigniew	\$27.00
		Kubont, Michael	\$17.00
		Letts, Junior	\$12.00
		McClung, William	\$36.00
		McKenzie, Bob	\$33.00
		Mercer, Willoughby	\$52.00
		Peltier, Edward	\$12.00
		Purdy, Bill	\$150.00
		Schlieve, Greg	\$15.00
		Stocker, Ronald	\$89.00
		Thompson, Ken	\$22.00
		West, Dan	\$51.00
		West, Dan	\$28.00
		<u>Winningham, Jerry</u>	<u>\$12.00</u>
		Total Sales	\$657.00
		Total Income	\$1,826.47
		Balances 12/31/03	
		Checking	\$7,842.65
		Savings	\$16,219.36
		Total	\$24,062.01

Recognition comes for the U.S. soldier -- and it's long overdue

Detroit Free Press, December 29, 2003

BY JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY

Time magazine named the American soldier its Person of the Year for 2003. The American soldier (read: Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) has been my person of the year every year through four decades and three wars, beginning with Vietnam.

Largely unsung and unnoticed, the American soldier does the hard, dirty work of keeping freedom alive, year in and year out, in a world growing ever more violent and dangerous.

Soldiers put their lives on the line in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and the Sinai -- to name just a few of the 120 places around the world where American soldiers stand between people bent on killing each other, where they teach the soldiers of other nations and where they pursue the shadowy terrorists who would bring darkness to the world.

To those we owe so much we pay so little that the spouses and children of volunteer enlisted soldiers sometimes have no choice but to seek public welfare. They exist in shabby trailer parks on the outskirts of places like Ft. Hood and Ft. Riley and Ft. Stewart while their loved ones soldier in some foreign country for months, if not years. We should be ashamed.

The Army has changed much in the four decades since I first marched into combat in Vietnam. Then the majority of soldiers were draftees, young men who hadn't made it into college and were called to 2 years' service by their hometown draft board.

They didn't ask to be called, but didn't run away to Canada or turn up for their draft physicals wearing panty hose. They went when called and served where ordered, which meant in a hellish jungle war against a formidable foe.

They died by the thousands, were wounded by the hundreds of thousands. Those who made it home unscratched were by no means untouched. They carried the scars of witnessing brutal infantry combat at an age when they should have been home, dreaming of cars and girls. What a homecoming they received from a nation deeply divided over a war badly mismanaged by every president from Jack Kennedy to Jerry Ford.

But for their bravery and sacrifice I would not be here to write these poor words of praise for them. Ronald Reagan called Vietnam a "noble war." It was not. It was a mistake. But the soldiers sent to fight that war were noble. No one could explain to them

why they were there or what they were fighting for, so they did the only thing they could: They fought for each other. Each other was all they had.

Their era ended with the war they fought. The draft went away 30 years ago and a volunteer force took their place. The first job would be to rebuild the Army, which was shattered by Vietnam, broken by indiscipline, drugs and racial conflict. Those soldiers and other officers stayed around to rebuild something they loved, and they labored for a decade and more to create a finely trained and armed force.

That Army, and those new soldiers, stunned the world with what they did in the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm. In just 100 hours of swift ground combat they routed the hapless Iraqis and liberated Kuwait. If they had been given an additional 48 hours they could have finished the job, finished Saddam Hussein, and that would have been that.

Before the last soldier made it home from that outing, the Army was being cut back from 12 divisions to 10. It is ever thus. So the force would shrink but also grow more lethal.

The American soldier deployed again and again: Mogadishu, Grenada, Panama, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq one more time. The politicians of both parties seem so much more willing to draw the sword these days.

The Army was whittled to only 480,000 great soldiers. Too few called on to do too much. The National Guard and Reserves had to fill in the gap every time America moved militarily.

I see them sometimes in my dreams, and they are always the same, these American soldiers: Young, gaunt, burdened like pack animals, homesick, wary, weary -- and so proud to be serving their country.

They give so much and ask so little. The next time you see a man or woman in uniform just walk up, shake hands, and say: Thank you for your service.

And watch the tears come into their eyes.

JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY is the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers. Write to him at Knight Ridder Washington Bureau, 700 National Press Bldg., Washington, DC 20045.

IN MEMORIAM

Command Sergeant Major Robert C. "Bob" Meyer, Retired United States Army passed from life October 20, 2003. Bob was born January 17, 1928 in Newport, KY. His life was dedicated to serving his country. For 30 years he served in the United States Army.

He is survived by his wife Reba P.; three grandchildren; six great grandchildren; five sisters and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by daughter Sharon Zingaro. Graveside services were held at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO, on Friday October 24, 2003

Dana Merrill, H Co. 66: Dana died on Friday, January 15, 2004 from liver complications, from Agent Orange and a lot of PTSD in the past 18 months. Cards can be sent to his wife Virginia Merrill, 293 Deer Path Lane, Bridgewater, NH 03222.

1SG John Pang, D/5/7 1967-1968: Passed away June 8, 2003 in his home at the age of 72. 1SG Pang was Mike Sprayberry's 1SG and friend. Those of us assigned to the unit at that time were always treated with respect and I personally will miss him. He and his wife Margie were planning to attend this years reunion.

Home address is 264 North Day Drive, Baker, La. 70714, Phone 225-774-2111 for anyone wanting to contact Margie, I'm sure she will appreciate it.

Richard "Rick" Murgatroyd, B Company 1966. Rick died on December 13 and was buried at Bayport, Long Island, NY

5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Assoc.
1149 Southwood Ct.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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5th Battalion
7th Cavalry

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**REUNION VII
WILL BE HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN
CINCINNATI AIRPORT in ERLANGER, KENTUCKY
(In the Greater Cincinnati area)**

It will take place the week of July 25 through July 31, 2004.

Checkout the web site:

<http://www.walkupright.com/whi/hicincinnatiairport>

to learn more about the hotel and location.

Start planning your vacation for 2004!



Phone for Reservations: 859-371-2233

5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association Reunion VII
Northern Kentucky, July 26 - 31, 2004

Name: _____ Company: _____ Year: _____

Total Attending: _____ Arrival Date: ____/____/____ Departure Date: ____/____/____

Telephone numbers: Day: (____) _____ - _____ Night: (____) _____ - _____

NAMETAGS: Please provide names for you and your family/guests the way you would like them to appear on the nametag. Please indicate the relationship of your guests (e.g. spouse, son, daughter, friend etc.) This is for our records only. It will not appear on the nametags.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. If you would like to assist with registration/information, hospitality, transportation/logistics, banquets/meetings, and/or PX enter your name and indicate the function where you would like to assist.

If you cannot make the reunion, please let us know what's holding you back:

EVENTS	Check Appropriate Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If YES Indicate Number in Party
Organized Night Out for Early Arrivals (TBA) Tuesday Evening, July 27	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Golf Outing (Green Fee will be required) Wednesday Morning, July 28	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Free Pizza Night Wednesday Evening, July 28	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Banquet Dinner (Included in Registration Fee) Friday Evening, July 30	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Memorial Service Saturday Morning, July 31	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bar-B-Q Dinner/Dance (Included in Registration Fee) Saturday Evening, July 31	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Note: 5/7 Cavalry Hospitality Room will be open in the hotel Monday through Saturday with coffee and donuts in the morning and sandwiches mid-day. Hours will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

Registration Fees: Adults and Children over 12 \$60.00 per person. Children 6 to 12 - \$30.00 per person; under 6 are free. Make checks payable to the **5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association**.

Reunion Hotel: Holiday Inn Cincinnati-Airport, 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd., ERLANGER, KY 41018
Two Miles from the airport at I-275; East TO MINEOLA PIKE EXIT; right on MINEOLA PIKE.
Check out the hotel's web site:www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hd/cvgap

For Reservations Call: (859)371-2233 Indicate you will be attending the **5/7 Cavalry Reunion** and want to reserve a room(s). In the event of any registration problems contact Erin Molley 8AM to 5PM EST Monday through Friday.
Room rates are \$73.00 per night for reunion participants and their guests.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF YOU IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY!!!!!!

To register mail the completed form with applicable registration fees to **5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association**,
43468 McLean Court, Novi, MI. 48376

Please mail your completed registration form and registration fee to:

Treasurer
5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association
43468 McLean Ct.
Novi, MI 48375