



# AIRMOBILE



## News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>



December, 2005; Volume 14 Issue 3

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Maury Edmonds

#### Greetings and a hearty "Garry Owen"

to you all. Jane & I send our warmest best wishes to you and your family for a happy and prosperous 2006. All of us have much to be grateful for as we enter the New Year. The strong bonds on friendship among us - which get stronger as time goes on is a special blessing for each of us. God bless those among us who had the foresight years ago to begin to gather all of us in, resulting in the robust Association we have today. And bless all of you for stepping forward to join it, when perhaps it seemed a tough step to take at the time. On a personal note, I thank Don Shipley for getting me to Reunion II my first; and, I am thankful for the friendship and support I get from each of you.

It is with enormous pride that we celebrate the service of the marvelous young men and women, including their magnificent leaders, who have carried the 5/7 Cavalry Colors in Iraq with such courage and distinction for the past year. They have been dedicated to their mission and to each other. They have written a new chapter in the history of our great Battalion. We mourn those lost in battle and we suffer along with those who have been wounded. As this is being written, the return of the Battalion is being planned; by the time you read this, we pray they will be safely home at Ft. Stewart.

A giant thanks to those of you who responded with, and sent packages to, one or more of those deployed. Thanks, as well, for contributing to the several calls for support of the School Supplies, the Blankets for Wounded, and the Spurs projects, and for the Sponsorship Program. Special thanks to those of you who have been able to show up for the various ceremonies and memorial services at Ft Stewart honoring the Battalion

and its troopers. I assure you today's troopers appreciate our interest and our support.

We had a record number of our members in Washington for the Wreath Laying at the Vietnam Memorial on Veteran's Day. It was a sobering event, as always. Good fellowship, good Mexican food and drink were in abundance the night before at Guapos. Thanks to all who were there.

Now it's time to focus on Reunion VIII in Colorado Springs. I guarantee that those who attend will have a great time. I ask you to do two things: Make your plans now to be there yourself, along with your family if possible; and, call at least two or three others to get their commitment to meet you there. We'd like to have a record turnout.

As a final note, my sincerest thanks go to those who have handled the various affairs of the Association during the past year. You know who they are. How about letting them know you appreciate what they do in your behalf.

See you in Colorado Springs.

*Garry Owen!  
Maury*



### Veterans Day 2005 Attendees

Maury Edmonds  
 Ted Swett  
 Wes Westmoreland  
 Allen Patrick  
 Bill Prudy  
 Joe Williams  
 Frank Foreman  
 Bill Boyce  
 John Gogets  
 Roberto & Loida Matulac  
 Bob Hansen  
 Wayne Gibbs & Son Tim  
 Pat & Theresa Dockery  
 Will & Pegi Mercer  
 John Long  
 Chester Millay  
 Charles McHenry  
 "Moe" Goulet  
 Karl & Carol Haartz  
 Don Shipley & Karen Payne  
 "Red" & Linda Boulden  
 George Hannaford & Judy  
 Bill & Pat Jillard  
 Norman Lloyd  
 Eddie Ratcliffe  
 Richard Hawksby  
 Joe Berry  
 Harry Lee  
 Eldon & Gail Erlenbach  
 McGregor & Leanne Coffman  
 Jack & Emily Thomas  
 Steve Shear & Wife  
 Vince Laurich  
 Frank DeFino  
 Don Fredenburg  
 Marc Folden  
 Joe & Mary McVeigh  
 Jack & Pam Monahan  
 Jack Boyt  
 Neil & Mary Meyer  
 Mike Kieffer

# BATTALION DIRECTORY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
<b>President Emeritus</b> Ted Swett	301-530-9039 ted6@aol.com
<b>President</b> Maury Edmonds	904-280-8448 moedmonds@bellsouth.net
<b>Vice President</b> Karl Haartz	603-726-7080 Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net
<b>VP Membership</b> Don Shipley	618-863-2635 Donshipley@aol.com
<b>VP Operations</b> Allen Patrick	734-662-9612 editor@cav57.org
<b>Secretary</b> Jerry Houston	615-790-6325 JBhouston@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer</b> Royce Vick	817-926-1026 ravick@charter.net
<b>Sergeant At Arms</b> Hoss Dannewitz	815-786-8152 sandwichfair@prairienet.com
<b>Battalion Chaplain</b> Eddie Rape	828-657-9568 emr12r@juno.com
<b>Legal Advisor</b> Jim Harmon	516-747-3894 harfirm@aol.com
<b>Vet Affairs Advisor</b> Reinaldo Espada	espadar002@hawaii.rr.com
<b>DOA Liaison</b> Larry Budge	703-239-1761 lbudge@ida.org
<b><u>Company Trustees</u></b>	
<b>A Company</b> Joe Williams	503-662-8948 ljw007@fuse.net
<b>B Company</b> Jasper Catanzaro	248-380-6895 Jasper@twmi.rr.com
<b>C Company</b> Richard Bigelli	401-789-0155 Rbigelli1@aol.com
<b>D Company</b> Dennis Dickess	740-533-1605 kdickess@adelphia.net
<b>E Company</b> Bill Moore	386-668-1512 moore380@comcast.net
<b>HHQ</b> Joe Dzikas	203-934-9688 jcdjr250f@sbcglobal.net

## OTHER KEY MEMBERS

**Video**  
Phil Sierer 210-914-2203  
oldrebel@texas.net

# Vice President's Report

by Karl Haartz



## Garry Owen All & Happy Holidays,

Carol & I have just returned from a very, very moving & emotional trip south. Of course when you live in New Hampshire everything is south. The trip, which included visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Veterans Day Dinner & Ceremonies with the Association members, and ending with the Memorial service at Fort Stewart for the 3, 5/7 troopers KIA in Iraq on 19 Oct 2005.

The visit to WRAMC was the most inspiring moment of our trip. Talking with these troopers and seeing what they are doing to overcome their wounds is just simply amazing. There was a group of 12 that went to WRAMC. We split up and went to each trooper in smaller groups. We had 5/7 ball caps, crossed sabers, & cookies for all. It will help their morale if everyone would send them a Christmas card. Their addresses are:

Sgt. Patrick Hagood  
Spc. Maurice Burden  
Spc. Jeremy Goodman  
C/O Sgt Brown  
6900 Georgia Ave. NW  
Building 2, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rm. 6Z41  
Washington, DC 20307

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Holin  
6900 Georgia Ave. NW  
Mologne House  
Washington, DC 20307-5001

### **Memorial Service**

The memorial Service at Ft. Stewart is a tree planting ceremony at which an Eastern Red Bud tree is dedicated to each soldier who paid the ultimate sacrifice. These trees flank "Warriors' Walk" which is at Cottrell Parade Field. There were 26 trees added for the month of October.

The 3 from the 5/7 were:  
Sgt. Arthur A. Mora, Jr.,  
Age 23, from Ohio  
Spc. Russell H. Nahvi,  
Age 24, from Texas  
Spc. Jose E. Rosario,  
Age 20, from St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands

Maury & Jane Edmonds, Karl & Carol Haartz, Don & Cheryl Quick, Mike Milikin, Mike Sprayberry, Joe Berry, Jose Sanchez, Bealer Caudill, Eddie Ratcliffe attended the service. Steve Fainaru joined us at the service. Steve is a reporter from the Washington Post who has done 2 articles about the 5/7 in Iraq. He is also doing a piece on our sponsorship program and the link between the 5/7 Vietnam Vets and 5/7 Iraq. When he gets it done I will inform all.

**Veterans Day** was a warm windy day. Gathering was at the Kiosk at the south end of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial were 41, 5/7 troopers & 16 spouses and friends. Our 3 wreath presenters this year were, Eldon Erlanbach, MacGregor Coffman both of B Company 1970. The third presenter was Eddie Ratcliffe, path-finder with the 5/7 on numerous occasions, one being LZ Colt.

**Reunion VIII** ---Our next important date at hand is July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 5, 2005. Reunion 8 Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are putting some finishing touches on our plans. If you have never been to Colorado Springs there is more than one can see and do in a month. Bealer Caudill wants to go skydiving. Some want to white water raft. There is sightseeing galore. Best of all is our hospitality room where you can relax and tell BIG LIES. Make your reservations NOW!

**Return ov 5/7 Cav from Iraq:** There will be a Home Coming Ceremony for the 5/7 at Fort Stewart. This will probably be in March 2006. Nothing is written in stone at the present time.

### **SGT. Albert A. Mora, KIA 10-19-05**

Memorials may be made in the form of contributions to Mora Children's Educational Fund, c/o Sky Bank, Attn: Jon, 690 W. South Boundary, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

### **Spc. Russell H. Nahvi, KIA 10-19-05**

Donations can be made in Russell's name to the: Boy Scout Troop 389,4213 Straight Drive, North Ft. Worth, TX. 76126

# Update from Membership VP

**Reunion VIII** is closing in fast. There is a good chance the hotel will be filled to capacity so you need to make your reservations as soon as possible. If the hotel runs out of rooms there is another hotel right next door and they will book our over flow there. Apparently they do this quite often for larger groups, but advance notice is needed to make it work smoothly. So the word to the wise is book now!!

**The Academy Hotel**, 8110 N. Academy Blvd. Colorado Springs, Co. **1-800-766--8524** ---- make sure you tell them you're with *the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association* so you can get our special rate of \$79.00 per room night.

The return of 5/7 Cav troops from Iraq looks like it will take place some time in the January/February time frame. If you would like to be there to welcome the troopers home send me an e-mail and I will try to keep you posted with the latest information on their return date. The 1st and 8th Infantry out of Fort Carson are replacing the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> and have already started to arrive in Iraq. We have been told there will be a welcome home party for the 5/7 Cav troops after they return from block leave. We'll keep you posted on this dated once we have it confirmed.

Our Veterans Day trip to DC this year included a visit to Walter Reed Army Hospital and the wounded 5/7 Cav troopers that are recovering there. I can tell you that this was the most rewarding Veterans Day experience I think I have personally had since making the yearly trip to DC. The morale of the men in the hospital was overwhelmingly great. This also included a man we met in the lobby that had lost both legs at the hip in Iraq. He went to Iraq after being with the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav in Korea. He was overjoyed when he saw the Garry Owen Crest again and yelled "**Garry Owen**" when he spotted our group in the hospital lobby. Once you have it the Garry Owen Spirit never dies.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all,

*Don Shipley*

## PHOTOS FROM VETERANS DAY GATHERING IN WASHINGTON, DC



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).

# MY RETURN TO VIETNAM

## By Norm McBride

*NOTE: Norm McBride was an infantry medic with Delta Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division from September, 1967 until he was wounded in late April, 1968 in the A Shau Valley in the northwest sector of I Corps just south of the DMZ and about four kilometers east of the Lao-tian border.*

From August 13 to 28, 2005 I joined retired Marine Captain Ed Garr and 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Robert Burke who work with Military Historical Tours to participate in an anniversary tour for the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. A group of approximately seventeen were on the tour, including wives and a couple sons joining their fathers. The tour flew from LAX to Seoul, Korea, then on to Hanoi, and finally to Da Nang. The tour included visits to many historical sites in Hanoi, Da Nang, Marble Mountain, China Beach, Chu Lai, Quang Ngai, Tam Ky, My Lai, Hoi An, LZ Baldy, LZ Ross, Liberty Bridge, Hue, TT Woods, Hai Van Pass, Dong Ha, Lao Bao, LZ Stud, Camp Evans, Camp Eagle, Da Krong, Khe Sanh, Lang Vei, The Rockpile, Monkey Mountain, Elephant Valley, and many other sites in the I Corps area of operations. My old unit with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division overlapped many of the sites with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division.

My friend Bruce Jones, a forensic archeologist, who had been on two previous recovery excavations with JPAC, and had been attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in 1969, accompanied me throughout this trip and tried to keep me on the straight and narrow. We split off the main group tour for three days to venture into the A Shau Valley on our own little mission. We stayed at a guest house hotel in A Loui which was fairly simple compared to most of our other hotels in Hue, Da Nang and Hanoi. By simple I mean no air conditioning, cold shower in a small bathroom, mosquito netting over a small hard bed, and bugs, spiders, ants and an occasional roach and gecko for excitement.

Our purpose on our little excursion was to get back to Co A Nong Mountain or Tiger Mountain as we knew it in 1968 to check out current conditions, roads, trails and coordinates as we sought to find where six of our men are still Missing In Action (MIA). Three had been with me on April 25, 1968, the night I was wounded, and three had been shot down in a Loach (small light observation helicopter) looking for our three MIAs a few days after April 25. All six have been missing in this area for the past 37 years.

This area is still very primitive and has once again been overgrown with thick jungle vegetation, tall elephant grass, huge ferns and vines and undergrowth of all kinds. The east-west road running on the south side base of Tiger Mountain is now barely a jungle trail used primarily by the Montagnards and Bru tribes people. What had been utterly stripped of vegetation by multiple B-52 bombings in 1968 was now completely grown over with deep jungle, teeming with birds, wildlife of all kinds, snakes, and the inevitable leeches. The road that our unit could see in 1968 running south into Laos only four or five kilometers away is now a paved secondary road that continues around the west end of Tiger Mountain and connects to the main highway running through the A Shau Valley from Khe Sanh all the way through A Loui and much further south.

The area where the first platoon of D Company, 5/7 Cavalry was ambushed on April 25, 1968 is higher up on the west end of Tiger Mountain. Most of us involved in the battle remember large mahogany and teak trees with some large bomb craters from previous B-52 strikes in this area. Although the craters can still be found, they are seriously overgrown with elephant grass and other plant life. The trees, however, are gone from this area following fire caused by napalm and other causes. Only burned pieces of large trees can be found here and there. It was significantly disorienting not to find the trees and, unfortunately, I am not sure that I located the exact ambush site. Bru tribesmen have scavenged the area for scrap metal, brass and any other saleable items. There are little potholes all over the mountain where their metal detectors have located chunks of shrapnel or brass shell casings. I was able to locate and bring home several large pieces of shrapnel and one large bullet round which I didn't recognize, perhaps from a 37mm anti-aircraft shell, which we had encountered when we initially flew into the area on April 19, 1968.

Bruce and I were able to secure several GPS coordinates at or around the ambush site. However, we were unable to get near the relatively well-known location of the downed helicopter because of extremely dense jungle undergrowth. Our guides and both of us had machetes but we would still be copping our way into that site. We did encounter one very large snake, probably a boa or python, approximately four meters long, which the Bru promptly captured alive and planned to sell at a market further north.

I think we made excellent progress surveying current conditions and convincing the secret police and other politicians that our intentions were pure and noble; however, it was disappointing not to be able to obtain more precise coordinates on our MIAs. When we met with JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command) personnel in Hanoi we were told that ground losses were the most difficult to locate, because of the lack of a debris field (like in an aircraft crash). I now believe that more than ever, but we will never give up on this and hope to lead more eye-witnesses from the old platoon back to this area in the very near future. It is a steep and physically demanding area to get to, so one needs to be in decent shape to do this. As our troopers age it will become harder and harder to negotiate this terrain again.

Many will wonder what other sites I visited and what impressions I came away with. I will keep this section short, because my main focus was on the Tiger Mountain expedition and mission, but will tell you that 37 years has changed many of the sites very significantly. For example, the Khe Sanh airstrip and base is barely recognizable and will probably totally become a coffee plantation before many more years go by. I so remember it under siege by the NVA and how big and sprawling it was as we helped to relieve the situation there in 1968. The Lang Vei special forces camp has highway 9 going right through it and the huge North Vietnamese regimental bunker from which the entire Hue Tet Offensive was directed and for which the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division battled against for days in February, 1968 is now completely gone and only a memory as rice farmers harvest rice where it once stood in the TT Woods northwest of Hue.

My most emotional times occurred in Hanoi at the Hanoi Hilton where many of the US POWs lived for years, also at a site in central Hanoi where a huge piece of a B-52 still protrudes from a putrid algae covered pond, at My Lai in Quang Ngai province where over 500 civilians were murdered and the hamlet completely destroyed, and finally at LZ Ross where I spent some very wet, cold and muddy nights. My unit had patrolled the Que Son Valley, Quang Ngai province and Tam Ky area very heavily in the fall of 1967 before moving further north and it was good to see the area again back to life, rice growing and being harvested, water buffalo hard at work, pigs going to market and the hustle and bustle of everyday life in the country setting. Let me tell you, the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of Vietnam all assault your senses and will bring back many memories in a flood time after time as you move about the country.

We visited brick factories, silk factories and the marble cutters near Marble Mountain. We saw the Operation Starlite area near An Tuong (near Chu Lai) and LZ Blue where the first major regimental sized engagement of the war occurred in August 1965 and the Marines encountered serious resistance and where 37 year old Major Don Radcliff from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division was KIA in his attempt to rescue wounded Marines with his helicopter. (The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry base camp at An Khe was named after Major Radcliff in 1965) Throughout this area there are remnants of battles fought long ago, pieces of tanks, amtracs and weapons long ago made silent but made into monuments to this important piece of history of America's growing involvement in the Vietnam war.

*(Continued on page 5)*

---

***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<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association Reunion VIII**  
**Colorado Springs, CO July 30 – August 5, 2006**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone numbers: Day: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ Night: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

**NAMETAGS:** Please provide names for you, your family & guests the way you would like them to appear on the nametag. \_\_\_\_\_

**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	If YES Indicate Number in Party
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
TBD Night Out Tuesday Evening, July 27	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Golf Outing (Green Fee will be required) Wednesday Morning, August 2	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Free Pizza Night Wednesday Evening, August 2	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Banquet Dinner (Included in Registration Fee) Friday Evening, August 4	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Memorial Service Saturday Morning, August 5	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bar-B-Q Dinner/Dance (Included in Registration Fee) Saturday Evening, August 5	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Note:** The 5/7 Cavalry Hospitality Room will be open Monday through Saturday. Breakfast will be served each morning and sandwiches mid-day. Hours of operation and the day's events 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 your checks payable to:  
**5<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION 7<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY ASSOCIATION.**

**Reunion Hotel:**  
**The Academy Hotel, 8110 N Academy Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO**  
**Reservations: 800-766-8524**

Check out the hotel's web site: <http://www.theacademyhotel.com/>  
 Room rates are **\$79.00** per night for reunion participants and their guests.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF YOU IN COLORADO SPRINGS!!!!!!**

**To register, mail the completed form with applicable registration fees to:**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association, 3724 Shelby Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76109-2733**

**Mail to:**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association**  
**3724 Shelby Dr**  
**Ft. Worth, TX 76109-2733**

# 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 Carry 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: [Mrgoody@core.com](mailto:Mrgoody@core.com)**

*(Continued from page 4)*

Amazing to me is how concrete, brick, and tile have replaced bamboo, straw, and thatch as the building material of choice. I was also amazed at the Vietnamese use of the motorbike as the preferred choice of transportation. I have never seen as many motorbikes on a road at one time all moving in a variety of direction along with pedestrians, cyclos, trucks and cars. Venturing across a street one literally feels he has once again cheated death.

I was glad to see the new generation of women in Vietnam have rejected the old habit of chewing betel nut which blackened teeth when we were there in the late 1960s. Today's Vietnamese women are prettier than ever and have adopted western dress for the most part. They are very concerned for their skin color and attempt to cover up when they are outside for fear of becoming brown and thus, ugly. Many speak decent English and love to talk with Americans to practice their language skills.

I would highly recommend Military Historical Tours for anyone wanting to return to Vietnam. They have an outstanding website and seasoned veterans who will do their best to customize your tour and get you in to see what you want. It is worth your investment of time and money in this trip and I plan to go back with others from D Company, 5/7 Cav in the future as we continue our search for our lost comrades.

Norman L. McBride, Westmont, Illinois, September, 2005



August, 2005: Norm, on the old road from A Loui to the Laos border and near the northern end of Co A Nong or Tiger Mountain. This road was made of dirt in 1968 and frequently bombed by B-52s as trucks and tanks from North Vietnam made their way into the South through this part of the A Shau Valley. Note the very mountainous terrain overgrown with vegetation and heavy undergrowth.



August, 2005: Norm, in front of the ancient Chien Dan temple group which is over 1000 years old. This is in the south of Quang Nam province, in the Tan An commune, Tam Ky district.

# LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let my fellow 5/7 Cav brothers know how much it meant to me to be part of the ceremony on Veteran's Day in DC.

Veteran's Day 2005 will be one I will never forget. I would like to thank Gen. Edmonds and the Association for the honor and privilege of placing the 5/7 Cav, wreath at the Wall along with Mac Coffman and Eddie Ratcliffe. I just wish everybody in the 5/7 could feel what I felt that day. It was not about us but about our brothers on the wall. We will never forget them.

It was a very special reunion with family and friends of the 5/7 Cav. In D. C. I met up with guys that were with me in 1970 in Vietnam and Cambodia along with other who were there before us. As always, with the 5/7 Association, the fellowship is the highlight of our get-togethers.

Thank you and see you in Colorado Springs in 2006.

God Bless,

Garry Owen,  
Eldon Erlenbach, B Co. 69-70

## Editor's Note:

The following thank you note was sent to John Goodpaster as a result of John sending some items to Mrs. Zipperer's husband who serves with the 5/7 Cav in Iraq.

Dear Mr. Goodpaster,

Thank you so much for all of wonderful treats you sent. 5/7 Cav is quickly finding a soft spot in my heart and you all are wonderful to be so supportive. I know the soldiers are appreciative and my prayer is that they come home safely! My husband and I look forward to meeting you some time in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Joanie Zipperer

Editor,

Here is some additional information about Military Historical Tours, Inc.: their website is---  
[www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com).

Their address is 4600 Duke Street, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22304-2517, telephone is 703-212-0695 and fax is 703-212-8567

Our tour director was retired First Sergeant Bob Burke: (ri\_burke1@msn.com) and our tour host was Retired Marine Captain Ed Garr(captgarr@cox.net).

I would encourage members to contact Ed Garr as he has been on nearly twenty tours in Vietnam and knows the country very well. He was talking about putting together a tour for the 1st Cav in early spring of 2006 in case some would like to connect with that one.

If anyone comes to our reunion to discuss future possibilities it will probably be him and he could surely customize a great tour for us. He has the contacts there and his guides/interpreters are among the best.

This was quite an experience and I hope some others get inspired to go back and see what has happened in this country in the last 35-40 years since they were there.

GarryOwen,  
Norm McBride

Dear Editor,

Col Cox recently received an email from LTC Jody Petery about the school supplies the class has mailed to Iraq. He thanks the donors from the bottom of his heart. He talked about some additional needs of the children, saying that "This culture is still very sexist, even for the kids, so soccer balls for the boys, and animals for the girls is the way to go."

If you wish to follow up on Jody's suggestion, perhaps for Christmas, send the package by priority mail to CPT Mark Varga, Attn: School Supplies, HHT 5-7 Cavalry, FOB Paliwoda, APO, AE 09391.



To Members of the 5/7 Cav Association:

My wife and I have been married for 34 years. Prior to marrying me, she was married to Jon Dale Peterson who served in Vietnam with B Co 5/7 Cav. Jon was a sergeant (E-5), and was killed by hostile small arms fire on 04/01/69 in Long Khanh, South Vietnam. While in VN, he earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and several other medals and ribbons. Jon was an NCOC graduate from Ft. Benning GA., Class 1-69. I have always supported my wife and her feelings surrounding Jon's death. However, she has never been told the circumstances leading up to his death. I would like to find out how we could acquire information in relation to the orders that the B Co, 5/7 Cav., were operating under, after action reports and similar information relative to the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry area of operations in the III Corp Tactical Zone in 1969, in particular, March and April, 1969, and specifically, the after action report of the operation Jon was on when he was killed.

Any information that you can offer to assist us in getting this information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Robert Jones  
E-mail: [pflighfission@cablone.net](mailto:pflighfission@cablone.net)

**A Day of Memories and Moments:** I've made a ritual of visiting the Wall with my oldest son Tim (he saw action in 1989 in Panama in Operation Just Cause) and meeting up with fellow sky troopers from the 5/7 Cav. This year's trip started from Tim's home in Powhatan, VA. We arrived after 8 AM and met John Long at the ranger kiosk and waited for other members of the association to arrive.

The opening ceremony started at 1PM with a march down the walkway by members of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. This was the 40th anniversary of the battle of the Ia Drang Valley where the NVA learned about the GarryOwen spirit. Many people were taking pictures and filming the march to show their respect and gratitude for these troopers. It was an inspirational and emotional experience.

During the day Karl Haartz and I were approached by a marine that was looking for sky troopers that had been at the battle of Khe-San and Hue during the Tet offensive of 1968. He wanted to shake hands and express his appreciation and gratitude for the sky troopers who had saved his life and his fellow marines. I told him that several members of A Company who were in those battles were nearby. He brought some of his buddies over and they recounted the story of how the NVA fled upon sight of the combat air assault.

While in DC I visited the Smithsonian to see a new exhibit "Freedom - Americans at War" from the Revolutionary War to present day. The section on the Vietnam era was very impressive with actual photos and equipment including a Huey. There was also film footage of air mobile combat action with one piece narrated by Hal Moore. The crowds viewing the exhibit were very large.

I was thanked several times during the trip for my service.

On November 6 my father (87) and I were interviewed for a Veterans Day segment aired by a local news station. My Dad was a WWII veteran that saw action at the Battle of the Bulge and was taken prisoner and lost 60 Lbs while interned at Stalag IX-B in Orb Germany. He was liberated on Easter in 1945 (4/2/45). The young man doing the interview said his grandfather also served in WWII. He said he wanted to do a documentary on the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. I told him about our web site.

I've made my reservations for our Colorado Springs reunion and I plan on returning to the Wall next year for Veterans Day.

Garry Owen,  
Wayne R. Gibbs  
A Co 67/68



# TREASURER'S REPORT by Royce Vick

My family and I just enjoyed a very nice Thanksgiving week. I hope this can be said for each of you. My local Y just weighed each member and will do so again after January 1. All who maintain or lose weight during the holidays will be rewarded with another T-shirt --- a little incentive for us to take care of ourselves.

This is the end of my first year to serve as the Battalion Treasurer. I have certainly enjoyed this opportunity. I have received many notes, phone calls and e-mails from old and recently made friends. Thanks to each of you.

Many of you have been very generous with your time and money in buying school supplies for the active duty and in helping with the hurricane relief, but the Association has a deficit in our account for throws. Donations of only \$160.00 have been received and we spent \$480.00.

Each of you needs to review the status of your dues and mail any outstanding dues to me. Don't forget I just collect the dollars. Allen Patrick maintains the data base and can help with any questions concerning the status of your account. Mail your dues payment to me at Royce A Vick, 3724 Shelby Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109-2733.

In October I spent some time at the Academy Hotel in Colorado Springs. This is a great facility that is very conveniently located. The food was outstanding, and several other association members who have stayed there agree. Even though we have the entire hotel you need to make your reservations now because we anticipate a full hotel.

At this time our Association has approximately \$400.00 in outstanding bills. The bills are for the Veteran's Day wreath and three memorials to those who were killed in action. Your dues payment enables us to cover these expenses.

Garry Owen, Royce

## FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>BALANCE JULY 31, 2005</b>	\$24,045.85	<b>Dues (Cont'd)</b>	
		McVeigh, Joseph G	\$20.00
<b>Interest Income</b>	\$99.33	Nase III, Daniel R	\$30.00
<b>PX Sales</b>	\$350.25	Necharnicky, Paul	\$30.00
<b>Donations for Throws</b>		Nesmith Jr, Vardell E	\$30.00
Boulden, Jim (Red)	\$40.00	Nowlan, Philip	\$10.00
Coffman, McGregor R	\$40.00	Patrick Jr, Lee O	\$40.00
Erinbach, Eldon	\$40.00	Phares, Don	\$20.00
Hodges, Brent L	\$40.00	Plassio, James J	\$20.00
<b>Dues Paid</b>		Plourde, John F	\$50.00
Amy Jr, Sylvester I	\$20.00	Quick, Donald E	\$10.00
Antill Jr, Darrell M	\$50.00	Reber, Charles K	\$20.00
Aufdemkampe, David	\$20.00	Roberts, Joseph A	\$30.00
Berry, Joseph A	\$80.00	Rundles, Donald R	\$20.00
Best, Joseph A	\$20.00	Sarginson, Lawrence	\$50.00
Boulden, James T	\$50.00	Schlieve, Gregory A	\$20.00
Bryan, Edward M	\$20.00	Seabolt, David R	\$30.00
Bullock, Victor T	\$30.00	Serini, John P	\$10.00
Chitty, Charlie	\$50.00	Sirovy, Farrell L	\$50.00
Cooper, H L	\$20.00	Soza Jr, Henry	\$30.00
Dieker, William E	\$50.00	Spillers, Robert (BOB)	\$30.00
Dille, Allen E	\$10.00	Steenrod, Phil	\$20.00
Duarte, Gregory C	\$50.00	Storz, Gary	\$150.00
Fernandez, George R	\$30.00	Swett Jr, Trevor W	\$20.00
Fillion, Michael J	\$30.00	Tjaden, Steven	\$30.00
Friedt, James	\$20.00	Walsh Jr, John P	\$50.00
Gandy Jr, Raymond E	\$40.00	Weltman, Glen E	\$50.00
Garrett, Jerry	\$20.00	Wetzel, Norm	\$30.00
Giddins, Paul	\$20.00	Wirgau, Neil	\$40.00
Goulet, Maurice R	\$50.00	Wright, Robert	\$70.00
Griffin, Richard	\$30.00	Yeater, Joseph	\$30.00
Gunkel, Larry	\$20.00	Zimmerman, Johnny	\$10.00
Hare, Pearl A	\$20.00	<b>TOTAL DUES</b>	<b>\$2,120.00</b>
Hodges, Brent L	\$30.00		
Hoy, Clinton T	\$20.00	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Hrabik, Zgibniew	\$50.00	12 5/7 Cav Throws	(\$480.00)
Hussong Jr, William A	\$100.00	Sep Airmobile News	(\$758.09)
Julian, Claude	\$20.00	Academy Hotel Depos	(\$2,500.00)
Kenny, Mike	\$40.00	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$3,738.09)</b>
Laurich Jr, Vincent M	\$30.00		
Mattuccilli, Paul	\$30.00	<b>BALANCE OCT 31, 2005</b>	<b>\$23,037.34</b>

## Duty, Honor, Country

First award of Purple Heart was to 3 soldiers in 1783

By Robert F. Dorr and Fred L. Borch

*Special to the Times*

Because Gen. George Washington created it in 1782, the Purple Heart is America's oldest military decoration.

Washington gave it a different name, however. He called it the Badge of Military Merit.

On Aug. 7, 1782, Washington decreed that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear ... over his left breast ... a heart in purple cloth."

Three Continental Army noncommissioned officers received the award in 1783. William Brown, Elijah Churchill and Daniel Bissell had demonstrated great courage — Brown and Churchill in combat and Bissell as a spy who pretended to desert from American forces, enlisted in the British Army and obtained valuable information.

After the American Revolution, the Badge of Military Merit was forgotten. No comparable award was made to soldiers during America's wars of the 19th century.

When Army Chief of Staff Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived the award Feb. 22, 1932, and renamed it the Purple Heart, he intended the decoration to recognize meritorious service, which, in his interpretation, included being wounded as a result of enemy action.

In General Order No. 3, MacArthur announced that "the Purple Heart, established by ... Washington ... is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements."

The Army decided the new Purple Heart would be for "any singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service."

But the new award criteria also had a twist. By definition, any wound "which necessitates treatment by a medical officer" and was received in combat, was included in the definition of meritorious service. This was the beginning of the link between the Purple Heart and injured soldiers.

During the 1930s, the Army awarded a small number of Purple Hearts to World War I veterans for meritorious service and thousands and thousands to soldiers who had been wounded in combat in France in 1917 and 1918.

In later years, the Purple Heart was awarded to those killed in action and in 1942, the Navy obtained authority to award the Purple Heart to sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. In World War II, more than 200 Purple Hearts were awarded for meritorious service.

In 1942, however, it was decided the Purple Heart should be awarded only for those wounded or killed in action. As a result, the War Department changed its regulations so the Purple Heart was exclusively for troops wounded or killed in action with the enemy.

That changed in the 1960s when President John F. Kennedy expanded the definition of "enemy" so that Americans fighting in a undeclared war in Southeast Asia could receive the Purple Heart when wounded in firefights with guerrillas.

In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan changed the Purple Heart's criteria to include service members who suffered injuries as a result of an international terrorist attack. The medal retains its unique character as the only decoration that does not depend on a superior's favor or approval — every service member who suffers a qualifying injury or wound gets a Purple Heart.

Today, the Purple Heart is highly prized and is among the most recognized of all American decorations and medals. This is due partly to its beautiful design, but also because its unique history sets it apart from all other military awards.

Robert F. Dorr, an Air Force veteran, lives in Oakton, Va. He is the author of several books, including "Chopper," a history of helicopter pilots. His e-mail address is robert.f.dorr@cox.net. Fred L. Borch retired from the Army after 25 years and works in the federal court system. He can be reached at borchfj@aol.com.

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

FIRST CLASS  
MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
1039



5th Battalion  
7th Cavalry

***In This Issue:***

**PAGE 1:**

- President's Report
- Veterans Day Attendees

**PAGE 2:**

- Battalion Directory
- Crazy Karl's Report

**PAGE 3:**

- Don Shipley's Report
- Veterans Day Photos

**PAGE 4:**

- My Return to Vietnam

**PAGE 5**

- PX
- Return (cont'd)

**PAGE 6:**

- Letters

**PAGE 7:**

- Treasurer's Report
- Purple Hart

**PAGE 8**

- Contents
- Reunion Site

**REUNION VIII --- COLORADO SPRINGS  
JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2006**

**THE ACADEMY HOTEL  
8110 N. ACADEMY BLVD.  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80920  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-766-8524  
<http://www.theacademyhotel.com>**

