



# THE BUGLE



December 2024; Vol 33.3

## 5/7 Cavalry Association News

<http://www.cav57.org>

Vietnam 1966 -1971, Iraqi Freedom 2005-2010 & OEF Afghanistan 2012-2013

### President's Report

Greetings to all our Troopers and families! The Holidays are fast approaching and I hope you all have the opportunity to give thanks, fellowship with family and friends, and enjoy the love of the season.

I would like to offer a word of personal thanks to Jack and Emilie Thomas and Vince Laurich for representing the Association at memorial services for Joe McVeigh and Blaise DuBree recently. I know that many of you have done the same at services for other members, as I do whenever there is an interment at Arlington Cemetery. The families of our fallen Troopers appreciate having their loved one remembered and honored by his combat comrades, so thank you to all who have done so.

Veterans Day: I was joined by Ian McAllister and Walt Zimmerman, and their families, this past Veterans Day. Ian and his grandson, Kade, presented our Association wreath at the annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation ceremony at the Wall. Sue and Kade's wife Kayden attended the ceremony as did Walt, Delores and some of their children. My thanks to Ian, Kade, and the McAllister and Zimmerman families for joining me and for taking part in the ceremony.



**5<sup>th</sup> Squadron:** I had the honor of attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers' Ball in Savannah, GA on November 22. The Squadron Commander, LTC Michael Hefti, his wife Kate, and our Association Liaison, 1LT Pete Rose were exemplary hosts and I was humbled that they invited Lily and me. We were joined by one of our Gold Star Families, Charles and Barbara Bilbrey. Their son Charlie was killed in action near Fallujah in July 2007. While it was an emotional evening for everyone, we all had a wonderful time and it was good to commune with the Troopers and the Bilbreys.

## President's Report Cont'd



Why don't more OIF/OEF Veterans get heavily involved in the Association? I have personally been wrestling with this since Howard Prince brought me aboard many years ago, and it is ALWAYS a topic of discussion at both reunions and Veterans Day gatherings. Here is something to consider.

The all-volunteer force that served in Iraq and Afghanistan often did two, three, or more combat tours. Their time in 5/7 Cavalry was often just one piece in the puzzle that is their life. They have several units with whom they shared combat, and often are members of more than one cohort of vets. I personally am a member of three unit veterans organizations that I went to war with and am active in two of them. So what, you may ask?

Today's vets have divided loyalties. They know that they are "future of this organization." Please tell them you're happy they came, make them feel welcome, and hope they will come back. This will require that we implement some changes that will encourage more of them to get involved. Shorter reunions, one annual event every year (either reunion or Veterans Day), more social media, maybe even more exciting venues. These are all things we discussed in San Antonio back in May, and we are moving out with the things we voted on at the reunion.

I realize change is hard, and many of you will be unhappy. Nobody is crazy about change, right? Will the younger generation step up? I certainly hope so, and I think they will as time passes. It probably won't happen as fast as you want, but remember that we started out as just a handful of 1966 guys getting together over a weekend. We've grown leaps and bounds since then, but now we are heading for the bottom of the bell curve. The great thing about bell curves.....they go back up.

Thank you for everything. Merry Christmas and have a blessed 2025.

GarryOwen!

Cliff Wheeler

President, 5/7 Cavalry Association



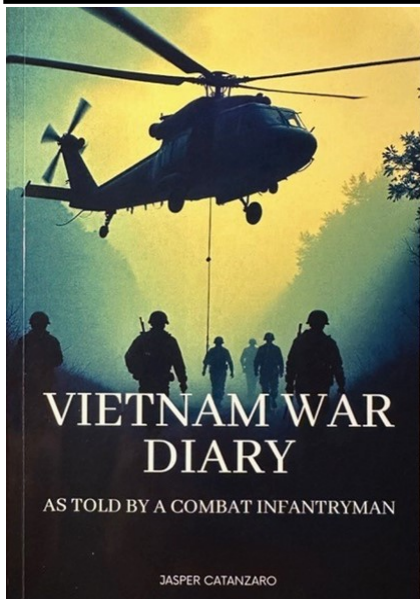
# Photos From 2024 Veterans Day in Washington, D.C



2024 VETS DAY



## Vietnam War Diary As Told By A Combat Infantryman by Jasper Catanzaro



This is a first-hand account of a war the U.S. should not have entered. It is easy to read from the first page to the last, and gives some history of Vietnam and the ignored warning signs. It is written by a combat infantryman, or "grunt," in the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry, a battalion formed to join the other battalions of the 1st Cavalry Division's airmobile operations.

He, along with a core group of soldiers who trained together for over eight months, was sent to Vietnam in August 1966, a "band of brothers" mostly made up of draftees. Over the next year, the unit saw numerous encounters with both the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army. In one battle, his company was literally wiped out. The bravery of these soldiers was shown by the numerous awards given to them, including one Medal of Honor winner.

Reading through the daily accounts, you will see why the 1968 TET offensive occurred, given what happened in 1967. You will read about the bravery of soldiers fighting for a country that didn't want them there. You'll read about the daily movements of soldiers from one firebase to another, using these soldiers as bait to draw out the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army in hopes of winning by attrition, or what was known as "body count."

So, take a walk in a grunt's boots as you journey through the pages of this diary.

"Jasper has been talking about writing this book ever since we came home. I was with him from Basic Training through most of our time in Vietnam and to the end of the book. We are still special friends today, formed by a special bond that only combat soldiers know." ~ *Mike Beaupre*

"A story that needed to be told by someone I was with." *Larry Miller*

Available on Amazon

## Membership VP Report

As I sit here pondering what to write for this Quarters issue of the Bugle my thoughts go not to the old membership of this organization. I have been to enough reunions and get togethers that they never stray far from my mind. The new friendships I have made, and the renewing of old ones speak volumes. I personally am indebted to one dedicated retired combat camera man who about 20 years ago made a phone call one evening that forever changed my life. His effort to make a film about an event that stuck in his memory was the seed that got so many of the guys I served with back together, and into this organization. Thank you, Norman.

I had been involved with Veterans activities for many years, even traveling back to Vietnam, with Vietnam Veterans of America in the late 1990's. I interacted with Veterans of all services from all over the country. Even a lot of Cavalry guys. As much enjoyment and fulfillment, I got from these associations with in VVA nothing has matched the joy that I get from "coming home" when I enter anything to do with 5/7. They are family. Those that went before and those that came after my time in country, we can all relate. You cannot get that just by being a member of the local VFW or Legion post. It is not the same. No way, no how.

While I digress a little, my focus this time is on the guys who have served since the **reactivation of 5/7 in 2004**. It is now time for you to step up to the plate. If you are discharged/retired and still in contact with those you served with talk to them and get them to join. This reiteration of the Battalion/ **Squadron now has over 20 years of history on their own**. How many troopers have come and gone from this outfit. Headquarters staff, Company Commanders, Platoon Leaders, Platoon Sgts, Squad Leaders and the members of each platoon. Where are you?

**To the present-day members of the Squadron.....I challenge you to join this Association. All it takes is a few moments of your time to fill out a form. For those on active duty there is no cost. Just filling out a form.** For all of us no matter what era you served, if you spent one day or 1000 days in this unit you are 5/7 now and forever.

So, what do I get for joining. You may not realize it for many years to come, but there will come a day when you wonder, like I did for many, many years, what happened to Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, or Private so and so. You will say I cannot wait for the next reunion to see those people that you lived through good times and bad. To receive that newsletter every now and again to find out what is going on within this great group of people who in any other lifetime would have not shared what we all have shared but thru their assignment to 5th of the 7th Battalion/ Squadron. To share with your spouse, if you have one, the camaraderie and memories of the time you shared by being part of this group. Reunions are family time. We all have this one thing in common. I shall now step off my soap box.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday. A Joyous New Year! It would make this old soldiers Christmas if I got news that Santa's mailbox was filled with applications to join this great Association. You will not regret it.

Ho, Ho, Ho!

Garry Owen, Jack Thomas, V.P. Membership

## Chaplain's Message

"Holiday Pie, a Command Decision" --- "What do Christmas Pies, Iraqis, and Arson have in common? A Command Decision! The Squadron had gone months without hot chow in OIF 3, January 2005- January 2006. We finally got an MKT up and functional and the Troopers were excited just to have warm food for once. We had a platoon/Troop at Anaconda and they had hot chow any time they wanted. Whenever patrols were out, and we could stop we would go to chow halls at neighboring units and Camp Anaconda. More times than not, it was MREs and occasionally some MKT chow. Around November of 2005, Brown and Root sent in contractors to build us and our replacements (who were due anytime) a new dining facility on FOB Paliwoda. All was up and running by mid-December and the Troopers were beside themselves anticipating Holiday chow in the new DFAC. The menu was published in a staff meeting so all Troopers knew we would have several types of Holiday pie: Apple Pie, Peach Cobbler, Pumpkin Pie, Sweet Potato Pie...and a few assorted cakes. The cooks in the unit had a place to call home as well for another month, or so we thought! In the same staff meeting, it was also decided by command to invite the Local Iraqi Soldiers, the Iraqi Chief of Police, the Balad Mayor and all their family members. As with most military customs and courtesies our guests were allowed to eat first.

Care to guess what happened next? Yep, no pies or desserts of any kind were left for our own Troopers. Needless to say, they were pleasantly pissed off and any hint of holiday spirit went out the new DFAC doors with the Iraqis.

Within the next two days, a couple of Troopers decided that "Operation Iraqi Pie" needed to happen and ASAP! Later that night around the 26th of December, the new DFAC was mysteriously consumed in flames. Our approximate 10 days of DFAC access was no more. I guess the Troopers figured if they couldn't have pie, no one could have pie. Moral of the story, don't set out all your pies for the purpose of military customs and courtesy, especially around Christmas when deployed. Enjoy your holiday pies this season and Merry Christmas ☺☺."

'For unto us a Child is Born...'

Mijikai "Mitch" Mason, Warpaint Shepherd 2004-2008, Association Chaplain, Garryowen





# 5th Squadron 7th Cavalry Monthly Newsletter

November 2024



Blackfoot Troop held their Change of Responsibilities ceremony—welcoming in their new First Sergeant, ISG Juan Rocha. ISG Rocha is a previous Platoon Sergeant in Blackfoot Troop, bringing enormous success for the Troop.



3ID held its annual Division ball and we had a great time partaking in the festivities. 5-7 had over 150 guests, selling a whole Brigades worth of allocations. Stetsons and spurs were plentiful across the room!



Troops competed against one another to see who would take the coveted Turkey Bowl trophy back to their headquarters. This year, that honor goes to Apache Troop, who was able to defeat last year's champs, Diesel, in the championship game. Congrats Apache!



HHT welcomed in their new First Sergeant, ISG David Cordero, during their Change of Responsibility Ceremony. ISG Cordero is Blackfoot Troop's previous First Sergeant. We look forward to the new heights he'll bring the Troop!



Two of our great Second Lieutenants, 2LT Rea and 2LT Sangvic were promoted to First Lieutenant. They've been a great addition to the team and we're privileged to be able to partake in their promotion!



We had the opportunity to present some of our Soldiers from across the Squadron with the "Order of St. George" and "Noble Patron of Armor" award. Congrats to all our recipients and thank you for your dedication to the unit!





# BATTALION DIRECTORY

**Name**                      **Home Phone**

**President**                      703-586-2369  
Cliff Wheeler                      umrebel88@yahoo.com

**President Emeritus**                      904-249-1175  
Maury Edmonds                      edmondsmo@gmail.com

**1st Vice President**                      xxx-xxx-xxxx  
TBD

**1VP Emeritus**                      603-530-2399  
"krazy" Karl                      cav571vpkk@gmail.com

**VP Emeritus**                      618-863-2635  
Don Shipley                      57don@24ktravel.com

**VP Membership**                      215-489-8811  
Jack Thomas                      firstcav70@aol.com

**VP Operations**                      910-508-0812  
Allen Patrick                      allenp@me.com

**Secretary**                      615-473-4128  
Jerry Houston                      jerrybhouston@gmail.com

**Treasurer**                      603-455-1047  
Dick Baker                      treasurer57cav@gmail.com

**Sergeant At Arms**                      xxx-xxx-xxxx  
TBD                      xxxx@yyy.com

**Battalion Chaplain**                      808-650-1850  
Mijikai Mason                      mitchmason43@gmail.com

**Legal Advisor**                      516-747-3894  
Jim Harmon                      harfirm@aol.com

**Veterans Affairs Committee Advisors**  
Reinaldo Espada                      espadar@hawaii.rr.com  
Gregory Holloway                      gregholloway@gmail.com

**Public Relations**                      xxx-xxx-xxxx  
TBA                      xxxx@yyy.com

## Company Trustees

**A Company**                      513-662-8948  
Joe Williams                      ljwa57@gmail.com

**B Company**                      805-889-5857  
Ian McCalister                      papaian@juno.com

**C Company**                      401-789-0155  
Richard Bigelli                      rbigelli1@verizon.net

**D Company**                      757-639-2561  
Glenn Koonce                      gkoonce@cox.net

**E Company**                      386-216-7062  
Bill Moore                      ginmoore114@gmail.com

**HHC**                      760-702-7328  
Duke Frey                      jduke06@dc.rr.com

## OTHER KEY MEMBERS

**Video**                      830-914-2203  
Phil Sierer                      oldrebel@satx.rr.com

**PX**                      630-297-2704  
Joseph Miechle                      joseph.miechle@yahoo.com

## Fiddler's Green



**Louis David Renoso, C Company 1966 passed on October 19, 2024. Photo is from the Renoso memorial service.**

**William Hynes, 1st Platoon, C Company, 1967-1968. Passed on August 5, 2024. Information was provided by William's son.**

**Claude Julian, 1st Sgt D Company, 1966 passed on November 12, 2024. Information was provided by Bob Colgrove**

## News from VFW Magazine, May 2024



**Greg Schlieve, C Company 1969, was featured in the May 24 edition of VFW Magazine**

**JERRY TAYLOR VETERANS PLAZA** The Jerry Taylor Veterans Plaza in Sunnyside, Wash.; has blossomed into one of the largest memorials for veterans in the Northwest since its first two walls were installed in 2014. Spearheaded by past **VFW Post 3482 Commander Greg Schlieve**, the Jerry Taylor Veterans Plaza is now halfway complete, with 22 of its projected 42 granite walls installed, each engraved with plaques of veterans from the northwest part of the country.

"It is very important to us that individual soldiers be recognized for their service to our country," said Schlieve, a Vietnam War veteran who deployed in 1969 with C Co., 5th Bn., 7th Cav., 1st Cav. Div.

Schlieve, who overlooks the project, added that the goal is to install two walls every year to honor more and more veterans. Each year, he collects orders from local veterans and families who want to order plaques for them-selves or their loved ones.

Each year, the new walls are unveiled in a special ceremony that Schlieve, along with Post 3482 and his Legion Post 73, coordinate and run along-side the town of Sunnyside for those in attendance.

"Our Post's Honor Guard is there, and we ring the bell as names are read off at the end of the ceremony, along with the wife of one of our members' wives who played "Taps" for us," Schlieve said. "It is a special ceremony."

# Financial Report by Dick Baker

Our cash balance is \$81,848 compared to \$94,643 at the beginning of the year and \$80,782 at the previous Bugle. Reduction in cash is attributable to our May 2024 reunion in San Antonio.

Through the USPS advanced mail notification, I know that a few members mailed dues to my NH address but I have not yet received it in Arizona. Sometimes USPS returns the mail as undeliverable. If this happens, please mail to my AZ address.

Future reunion suggestions have been to select a location and consider using every two years. Familiarity with the hotel and negotiations would be minimized.

We all like to know what is happening in your lives. Allen Patrick sends out periodic emails as information is received. Lately it has been primarily notification of a member passing away. What else is going on, any small gatherings etc. Notify Allen, your Company Trustee etc.

We will be having a mini reunion here in Sun City West AZ this coming March 1, 2025. Let me know if you are local and can make that date.

## Dues Paid

First	Last	Amt	Paid Thru
Charles	Ackerman	\$30	2025
Robert	Balicki	\$30	2028
Donald	Berube	\$30	2028
Wilbur	Bowe	\$20	2028
Donald	Boyd	\$20	2026
Charles	Bremer	\$30	2026
Hector	Campos	\$50	2026
Peter	Cangro	\$30	2024
Robert	Child	\$40	2028
Clarence	Colfack	\$100	2032
Barry	Cooley	\$20	2026
Mike	Dabney	\$20	2026
Dennis	Dagel	\$100	2032
George	Dean	\$50	2029
Bill	Fox	\$20	2024
John	Frohman	\$30	2026
John	Garbark	\$20	2025
Durwood	Green	\$60	2030
Larry	Gunkel	\$10	2025
Ray	Helton	\$60	2030
Tim	Kelly	\$20	2025
Robert	Kinder	\$30	2038
John	Lindler	\$70	2031
Mike	Livengood	\$20	2026
Richard	Lubarski	\$60	2025
Jamees	Lugo	\$30	2027
William	Major	\$10	2027
Orlando	Marcano	\$10	2025
Jerry	Mitchell	\$50	2028
David	Monk	\$50	2029
Larry	Mullins	\$10	2025
Robert	Oblad	\$40	2029
Boyd	Osler	\$50	2027

First	Last	Amt	Paid Thru
Edward	Peltier	\$50	2029
Danny	Roche	\$20	2026
Theodore	Salvati	\$100	2033
Greg	Schlieve	\$20	2026
David	Seabolt	\$30	2028
Shalon	Sledge	\$30	2026
George	Smiljanich	\$50	2029
Frank	Taylor	\$80	2025
Charles	Ward	\$20	2026
Tommie	Whittemore	\$20	2026

## Financial Summary

### Cash Balance

<b>August 2024 Balance</b>	<b>\$80,782</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Reunion Registrations	
Dues Received	\$1,660
Donations	\$550
Interest Earned	\$95
	<b>\$2,305</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bugle	(\$865)
Funerals	(\$312)
Mail Chimp	(\$62)
	<b>(\$1,239)</b>
<b>Nov 29 Balance</b>	<b>\$84,848</b>

Dues Checks should be made out to  
5/7 Cavalry Association

Richard Baker  
Treasurer  
P.O. Box 291  
Bristol, NH

Dues are \$10 per year.

## IN MEMORIAM—MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED IN THE LAST 7 YEARS

<b>2016</b>	Raymond Barraza C 66
Danny Grindler E 68-69	Benjamin B Weedman C70
Van C Mandakunis E 69	Edward R Canady A 66
Andrew Hulse D 68	Thomas Blue A 69
William N Dane D 69	Harold Baker B 68
Arlyn E Wood H 69	Walter "Frenchy" Bossuot B 67
Danny W Noth B 68	Kenneth Kuykendall A 68
Richard Hawksby A 68	Vardell Nesmith C 67
Randy R Simpson C 70	Harold Powell B 68
Claude B Jarrett B 67	Pat Malinka A 69
Johnnie L Smith B 67	George Bazal D 70
Willie G Middleton B 68	John Cecere H 66
Harold Kline B 68	Rnady Boyd C 66
Robert J Rivers B 70	<b>2021</b>
Willie Wilson H 70	Howard Prince B 68
<b>2017</b>	Edward Salisbury D 70
Charles Bunton C 66-67	Caesar Perez C 66
Lawrence T Sarginson B 68	Gene Gargile D 68
Gary J Creek C 66	Bill Hussong A 67
Lotis J Horton, Jr C 69	Steve "Mutt" Shear A 68
Peter G Olsen H 70	Edd Lewis A Co 70
Dale J Rhodes H 70	Royce Vick H 66
James L Ledbetter B 69	Cecil S Kiser B 69
Stephen R Allen B 67	Henry McDonald C 66
David W Greathouse B 69	Thurman Woods D 68
George Myrick B 69	Jerry Dover E 68
William D Chapman C 69	Andy Westin C 67
William Mintz A 68	<b>2022</b>
LeRoy Canty A 70	Daniel Dilloway C 68
Wallace Duggins H 70	Rod Henning D 67
Larry Reel A 66	Albert Tapia C 67
<b>2018</b>	Bob Greenwood C 67
James S Goemmer B 68	William Lerch D 04
Jerry Adkins A 69	Larry Nunez C Co 66
Terry D Dillon C 68	Hank Thomas D Co 67
Raymond A Judy B 66	Rudy Kozuh A 70
Charles K Reber B 66	Nicholas Filipak A 66
Hugo Lopez H 66	Ric Wetherbee D 67
Billy E Fisher D 68	Thurman Woods D 68
David W Condon A 70	Burley D Middleton D 69
Charles L McQuerry H 67	Charlie Talbot A 68
Ron Logterman C 66	<b>2023</b>
Alvin Zuber B 66	Larry Allen C 68
Dennis Baker H 70	Bill Litvjak C 69
<b>2019</b>	Truman Hamrick B 66
Larry D Fennem B 69	Patrick Dockery C 70
David Baker C 66	Mike Walker A 66
Marvin R Deckard C 69	Harold Dannewitz C 66
William L Parsons D 70	Joe Levatino D 66
Peter Ballo C 67	Danny White B 69-70
Carol D McIntosh C 67	Darrel Lockhart A 69-70
David Crowe C 66	Tim Armstrong B 68
Richard Gonzales C 66	Charlie Talbot A 68
James D Harmon C 66	Cornelius Floyd D 67
Thomas D Lent C 67	Myron "Mick" Davis D 68
Vincent B Mesa C 66	Robert Meadowcroft C 66
George R Clifford D 66	Terry Bowers C 69
Robert C Henzy D 69	<b>2024</b>
John Zepeda B 66	Joe McVeigh C 69
Larry Vanderveen D 68	Rick Howard D 66
<b>2020</b>	Gen John Wickham H 68
Melvin M Augustyniak A 69	George Brown A 70
John M Lary B 67	Sam Cathcart A 66
Everett E Easterday C 68	Luis Reynoso C 66
Michael "Hippie" Shurley D 67	Claude Julian D 66
Maurice "Moe" Goulet C 66	William Hynes C 67
	Blaise Dubree B 66
	Harold Sheumaker A 68

## Donations

Ray	Helton	\$100
Bill	Heckley	\$400
Mitzi	Dearborn	\$50
		<b>\$550</b>



5/7 Cavalry Association  
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Wilmington, NC 28405

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5th Battalion  
7th Cavalry

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# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year