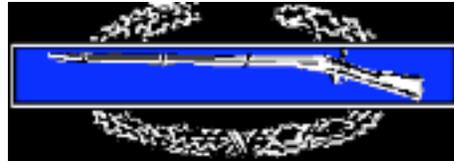


*Bravo  
Regulars*



*B Company 3/22 Inf*

April 2009



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**Bob Hemphill**  
**Association President**

## ***From The President:***

We have had a couple of months now with our new US President. Whether we like him or not, he is our President, and we owe him our allegiance -- or at least, to the country for which he is now responsible. If he was your choice for President, you should be happy. If he was not your choice, then you have the next election to look forward to. In any event, for the next four years, Barack Hussein Obama is the Commander-in-Chief.

To put this election in perspective, let me tell you a story. I remember back to John Kennedy. I considered Kennedy reasonably strong internationally, especially after the Cuban Missile Crisis, but I disagreed with most of his domestic politics. I mean, I **really** disagreed with him. However, when I heard that he had been shot in Dallas, I was so angry that I put my fist through the wall where I was

working. Of course, it was only a sheetrock wall, but I really demolished it! I was really pissed off that someone would have the audacity to attack **my** President. Whether I agreed with him or not, he was **stilly** President! Please think of President Obama in the same vein -- whether you agree with him or not, he is **st our** President!

Hopefully, elsewhere in this newsletter, there will be a report from Larry and Lis' about our progress toward our next reunion in Missouri in 2010. It is not too early to begin planning your trip to the Ozarks. Our association exists principally to organize reunions so that our members have the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, reminisce about events long ago (some rendered somewhat vague by time and circumstance), and -- of course -- tell war stories. If our members -- you -- do not attend our reunions, then we are not living up to our purpose. So -- please don't let your comrades down -- plan to come to the reunion in Missouri. It is in mid-America -- not too far from either coast and all area in between. Remember Missouri's motto -- Show Me. Hence, Show Me you care about your Bravo Company comrades -- come to Missouri in 2010. More information about registration will be forthcoming as we get closer to reunion time.

I hope you had a Happy Easter or Passover, as appropriate.

Take care --

***Bob***

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## ***Editor's Notes***



**Walt Shugart**  
**Editor**

December's newsletter evoked a couple of responses which will help provide guidance, direction, and, perhaps, some help for our members and associates. First, when you turn to page 6, you'll find information regarding an award to those suffering from illness as a result of exposure to Agent Orange, and, looking at a map of zones covered by the herbicide found on the internet, all of us were exposed.

Then Salvador "Shorty" Guetierrez is seeking our help to identify some of the soldiers with whom he served. You'll find a piece devoted to his quest at pages 7 and following.

Now, I have a favor to ask. If any of you have pictures of the action at Fire Base Gold, Soui Tre, please send them to me. I'm making a presentation at a seminar conducted at my university this summer as a participant in the Vietnam War. During the battle, I was otherwise occupied during the battle and I didn't carry a camera. I have searched the internet and found some pictures both at our and the 2/77 Arty web site, and have found a few, but your contributions would make my presentation much more intimate. If you mail them, I'll return them.

***Walt Shugart***  
***Newsletter Editor***

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# 2010 Reunion News



**Larry Young**  
2010 REUNION HOST

Things are beginning for the 2010 Reunion at Mark Twain Lake and State Park, Stoutsville, Missouri. A reservation for a site for the reunion has been submitted for one of the last three weeks of July, and it should be confirmed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources by the next newsletter.

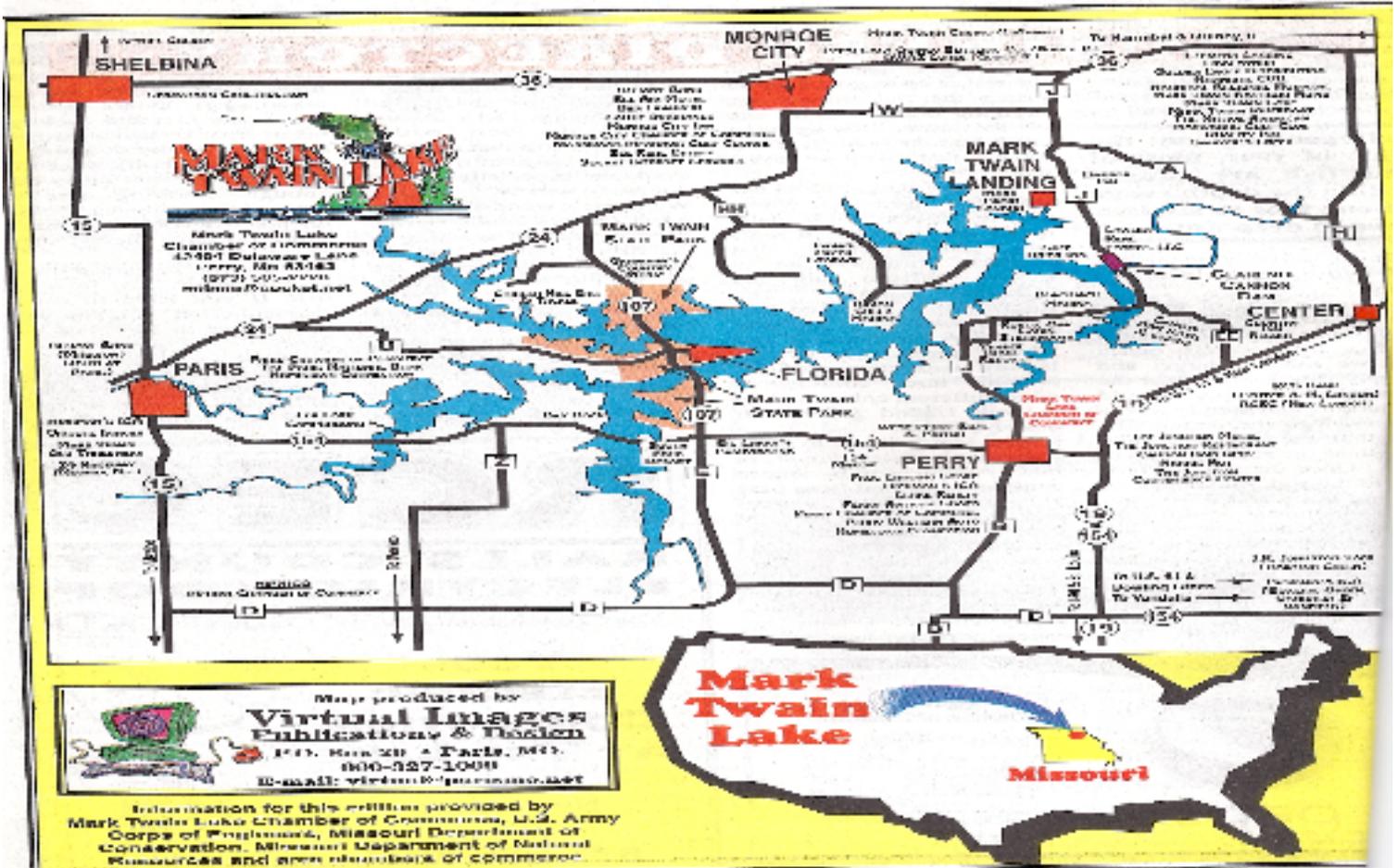
Four nearby lodging locations have agreed to provide a group discount for Bravo Regulars. Additionally, the reunion site has cabins which might appeal to those who prefer a rustic existence. Details for reservations will become clearer as the reunion approaches.

'Country' will describe the theme of the reunion with country fare for food and entertainment with speakers, sponsors, items for raffle, and, of course, the beautiful surroundings providing the background still promising a good time filled with fond memories.

The map below will provide an orientation to the reunion site.

Look forward to emerging details in each coming edition of the newsletter.

## Lis & Larry



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**Ted Rowley**  
**Association Chaplain**

## *Chaplain's Message*

Some reflections worth quoting from my in Vietnam with Company B.

\*Friendly fire - isn't.\*

\*Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you.\*

\*If you are short of everything but the enemy, you are in the combat zone.\*

\*If you find yourself in front of your platoon they know something you don't.\*

### **Easter Time :**

This is written in March - not my favorite month by any means. It goes back 42 years ago for me to thoughts that envelop my existence.

Who am I to ask why I made it through those



March days so long ago. Be who you are and say what you feel, because those that matter don't mind and those that mind don't matter. I guess the good Lord had other things in mind for me to do in my life., Maybe just a simple thing like writing this article for the newsletter. Lord make me an instrument of your Peace. Maybe a little prayer as simple as that is all that is required of me. His everlasting gift of renewal is coming soon, the cranes have started to return here in Wisconsin, and soon the frogs will be alive in the pond with their unforgettable nightly song.

Retirement is good, but after being in business for myself for twenty-five years, it is hard to tell old customers that I am no longer doing electrical work. It is like letting people down, especially retired ones who are on a fixed income. But now, I'm in that same boat. For me it is somewhat the same feeling the day I left Vietnam. I was glad to leave, but, yet, I felt bad about leaving my comrades. It's a bitter sweet time of transition, I guess, adjusting to the future way of living. Forty -two years ago Where did all that time go? "Life like a box of chocolates, ya never know what you're gonna get, Forrest."

At Easter, let us not forget what Jesus did 2,000 years ago and what we did for the

South Vietnamese people, forty-two years, but not so long ago for freedom.

May we in this country today find freedom from the greed of wall street, They don't have a clue what the cost of freedom is, they are too busy counting their money.

May you share in a victory garden this year, seed sales are up by 70% around the country. It might be the one thing that brings this country back down to earth.

Mother earth will take care of us if we take care of her. Greed and jealousy are very ugly words when they raise their heads.

Let us bow our heads at this special Easter time, not only this time of year, but time in this great universe. Take note of the special sounds of spring - a time of renewal, the bird songs, frogs croaking, a turkeys gobble, rain falling on a roof, or a piano playing at Easter. Special also applies to something that is admired and precious and which can never be replaced. Every Easter is special in it's own way, just as every reunion we have is special in it's own way.

Jesus Christ is very special. Special is a word that describes something one of a kind, Easter. Social relationships are also special and are not about getting ahead of everybody else.

In Jesus' day, in Wisconsin, the natives had a Christ like social relationship with each other . They traded things like arrow heads for fish - an even trade. Getting ahead was not important, survival was. Perhaps during winter, if they ran out of food they could get enough from their neighbor to survive. The social relationship was more important than being rich or better off It's too bad that isn't true today. I think that's why veterans are closer than most. Self sacrifice was our standard for the good of all.

### ***Ted***

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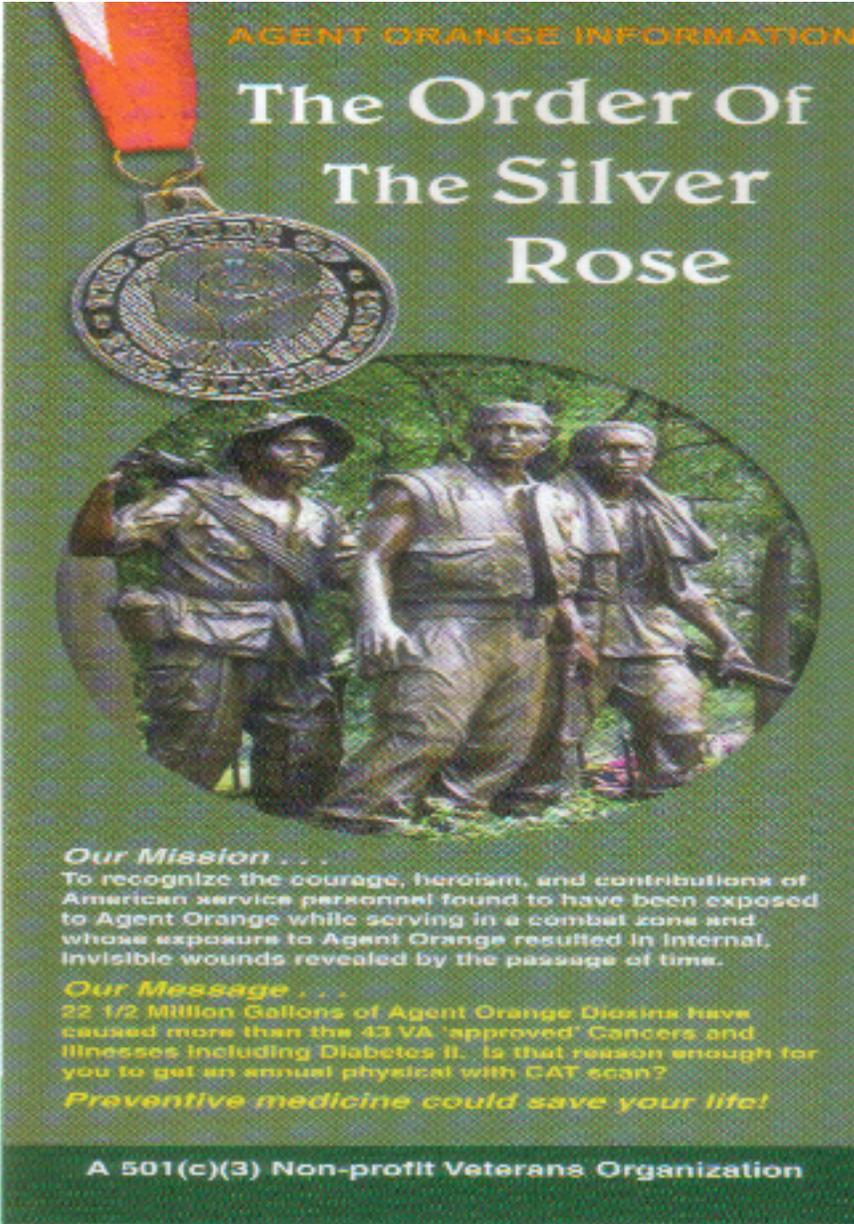
E-mail: teddbarb813@yahoo.com

## ***Agent Orange Casualties***

Jack Zuverink, the RTO for the Artillery forward observer at LZ Gold and the battle of Soui Tre, with his wife Judy are South Carolina Directors for The Order of The Silver Rose awarded to any Vietnam veteran who suffers from any of the other 74 plus illnesses recognized by the V A. More information regarding the toxic, long term effects of agent orange at [www.va.gov/Agentorange/](http://www.va.gov/Agentorange/).

Jack, who plans to attend the 2010 reunion, would like to present the Order of the Silver Rose to qualified recipients. Complete information regarding the award can be found at [www.silverrose.info/](http://www.silverrose.info/).

(Editor's Note: The VA recognized after lengthy documentation, that my diabetes is the result of exposure to Agent Orange.)



**AGENT ORANGE INFORMATION**

# The Order Of The Silver Rose

**Our Mission . . .**  
To recognize the courage, heroism, and contributions of American service personnel found to have been exposed to Agent Orange while serving in a combat zone and whose exposure to Agent Orange resulted in internal, invisible wounds revealed by the passage of time.

**Our Message . . .**  
22 1/2 Million Gallons of Agent Orange Dioxins have caused more than the 43 VA 'approved' Cancers and illnesses including Diabetes II. Is that reason enough for you to get an annual physical with CAT scan?

**Preventive medicine could save your life!**

**A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Veterans Organization**

## ***Shorty's Buddy Search***

After the December newsletter, Salvador "Shorty" Guitierrez sent pictures from his tour with Bravo Company asking the help of Bravo Regulars to identify soldiers who were important to him at the time and have become important to him below. Shorty remembers the names of some and the rest are identified with question marks. If you are able to identify any of the unknowns in the following pictures, please let Shorty know by either calling him at (505)535-2901 or dropping him a note at P.O. Box 1, Cliff, NM 88028.



**Unidentified (?)**



**Unidentified (?)**



**(?) Ron Rowley, & Shorty**

***Shorty's Buddy Search cont'd***



**Gary Hayes, (?), & Adolph Soloman**



**Gary Hayes & (?)**

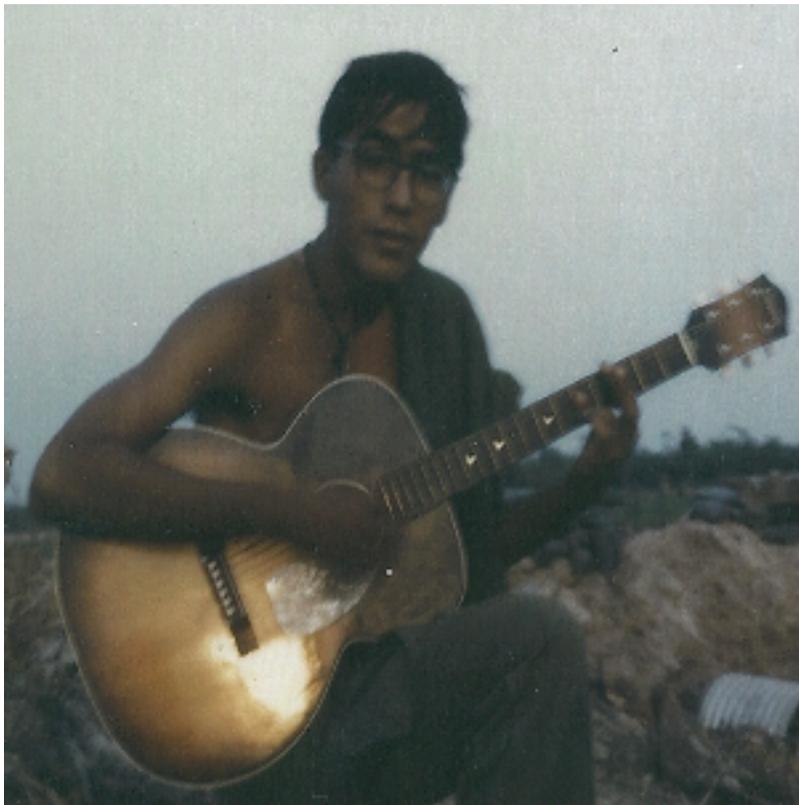


**Shorty, Thomas Ibenz, (?) &(?)**

***Shorty's Buddy Search concluded***



**Unknown (?) Cheers!**



**Unknown (?) Musician**

## Unopened Claims Letters Hidden at VA Offices

A new report about Veterans Affairs Department employees squirreling away tens of thousands of unopened letters related to benefits claims is sparking fresh concerns that veterans and their survivors are being cheated out of money.

VA officials acknowledge further creditability problems based on a new report of a previously undisclosed 2007 incident in which workers at a Detroit regional office turned in 16,000 pieces of unprocessed mail and 717 documents turned up in New York in December during amnesty periods in which workers were promised no one would be penalized.

“Veterans have lost trust VA” Michael Walcoff, VA’s under secretary for benefits, said at a recent hearing “That loss of trust is understandable, and winning back that trust will not be easy.”

Unprocessed and unopened mail was just one problem in VA claims processing mentioned by Belindaq Finn, VA’s assistant inspector general for auditing, testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Auditors also found that dates recorded for receiving claims, which in many cases determine the effective date for benefit payments, are wrong in many cases because of intentional and unintentional errors, Finn said.

The worst case uncovered by auditors involved in New York regional office, where employees testified that managers told them to put later dates on claims to make it appear claims were being processed faster. A review found that 56% of claims had incorrect dates, although no evidence was found of incorrect or delayed benefit payments. Finn said workers reported that this practice had been used for years

### *Financial Report*

January 2009 Opening Balance	\$9478.84
Income	332.00
Expense	979.86
January 2009 Closing Balance	\$8830.98
February Opening Balance	\$8830.98
Income	41.90
Expense	33.20
February Closing Balance	\$8839.68
March Opening Balance	\$8839.68
Income	1.69
Expense	0
March Closing Balance	\$8841.37

## Major Battles for Battling Bravo

Three major battles from January thru April.  
 Battle of Soui Cut was fought January 1, 1968.  
 U.S. Casualties 23 killed, 153 wounded.  
 Viet Cong Casualties 351 killed.  
 Bravo KIA's; 1

Battle of Soui Tre was fought March 21, 1967.  
 U.S. Casualties 31 killed and 109 wounded.  
 Viet Cong Casualties 635 killed, 7 captured.  
 Bravo KIA's: 12

Battle of Good Friday was fought April 12, 1968.  
 Bravo KIA's: 13



### TREASURER/LOCATER

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Editor's note: John is the glue that holds our association together. His is probably the first contact many of us had with our Bravo Regular companions in years. John works diligently to bring our shared past to the present for fellowship healing. Help John and the Bravo Regulars by receiving the newsletter on line, thus saving us postage. The newsletter will be posted at the web site, [bravoregulars.com/Home.html](http://bravoregulars.com/Home.html), three times each year at the end of April, August, and December