

# *Bravo Regulars*



**B Company 3/22**



*Vietnam Service*

[www.bravoregulars.com](http://www.bravoregulars.com)

**APRIL 2011**



This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi palace, now home to the 4th Infantry division. It will eventually be shipped home and put in the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

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## Presidents Message

Here it is guys, 2011! It has been 44 years since my time in Nam. It seems to me that a movie was made (The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly) that had the title backwards. Relating to Nam, I'd call it the Ugly, The Bad, and The Good. The ugly was Viet Nam. The bad would be our return to the states where we were treated so badly. Lastly, the good is what we have right now. Bravo Regulars! That is what I call 'Brothers in Arms'. I have met and talked with a lot of veterans. They do not have the camaraderie that we experience. They are all shocked when I tell them about us. They just cannot see how we can be one big happy family; officers, the fighting soldiers, the wives, and the good friends who help put together our reunions. We really have something to be proud of. Let's keep it going!



**Denny Amily**  
**President**

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I do not know about the rest of the Bravo Regulars, but March 19 and 21 are very tough on me. It seems like I recall L.Z. Gold like it was yesterday. Do many of you feel that way about BURT? After talking about it with some of the vets who served there, I seem to get a picture of that battle also. God, we were all so lucky to get out of that country! I guess that is why we have our memorial services, so that we can honor the buddies who paid the ultimate sacrifice! I am very proud of the vets we had that came home injured, or worse, lost limbs. It seems like our guys were so tough. I see the guys at our reunions and am impressed. They have sound bodies and minds. The jobs they hold and the lives they have, WOW!

I'd like to share a little information with all Bravo Regulars. Three years ago I retired from my job after 36 years of service. Before I retired, I was able to admit that I was becoming, or was, an alcoholic. I never missed work because of it and was able to justify that I couldn't be an alcoholic. But I was one, and was to blame for causing it to happen. After I retired, it got worse. My wife said I was getting almost unbearable to live with. That is when I decided to get help, I went to the VA. I had a long talk with a few doctors who found that most of my trouble was PTSD related. Gentlemen, I haven't had a drink for three years since that evaluation. I curbed my anger, and my wife called it a blessing. If I can do it, so can anyone else!

It seems like Max and Richard really have a good handle on our next reunion. Start making plans. See all of you in 2012 in sunny California.

Live Always,,

*Dennis J. Amily*



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Reunion Coordinator  
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## *Bravo Regulars*

### *2012 Reunion Update*

Dear Bravo Regulars,

Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. Richard Villarreal and I have been working to have a great 2012 Reunion in Pismo Beach, CA.

We would like to inform you that we have cancelled the trip to Chumash Casino. Instead we will have Casino Night on Friday, September 20, 2012 at our Reunion Site. This should be a lot of fun for everyone!

Our trip to Hearst Castle on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, will stay as planned. If you have not visited Hearst Castle, you're in for a lot of history, art, and beauty.

I would like to let Melvin Yardley, Weapons Platoon, know that I have spoken to Andres Solis and he guaranteed me that he would be coming to our reunion. Andres has never attended one of our reunions. Andres was a great friend to all of us that knew him and was also a great warrior and hero. God bless him.

Others that plan on coming: Jose Cosme Rivera, David Conte, Bob Garland, Rudy Candalaria, Joe Velis, Paul Zumfelde, Bill Setser, Mark Delong, Larry & Lis' Young and Bob Hemphill.

I've had the pleasure of getting to know Virgil Ledford's niece, Debi Smoots, and Virgil's sister, Jodie Kendall. Virgil made the ultimate sacrifice in the battle of Soui Tre. Richard Villareal said, "Virgil was a man of few words and all action." Debi was born about one year after Virgil's death. Debi would like to thank Bravo regulars, Bill Setser, Joe Velis, and a young high school student from Texas, Michele Huddelston, for making a memorial for Virgil. Debi feels like she now has an extended family in Bravo Company; please keep her in your prayers. Here is the link to Virgil's memorial: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58A18tA-vA>.

We plan to have full information and a registration form in the August, 2011 newsletter.

*Max*



**Ted Rowley**  
**Chaplain**  
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## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

It is a gloomy Sunday dawn in Wisconsin; the 19th is passed now for me for this year. It is cloudy, raining, with some early morning lightning to boot. The robins and red winged black birds are back, and the neat sounds of the sand hill cranes have filled the skies and marshes. It is the signs of renewal on this journey of our lives.

I lost my dad of 96½ years old on Feb. 27, he lived a long life, being born less than 50 years after the end of the Civil War. A humble man who had many different jobs over his lifetime, he was always working at something. In his 80's was still working at the church. I don't remember him ever drawing unemployment. He worked as a young man during the great depression in a CCC Corp in northern Wisconsin planting a million trees and building bridges for \$1 a day and had to send home \$25 a month to his folks. 1934 era, like many of our fathers, they made a lot of sacrifices. I thank everyone who sent me a card on behalf of losing my dad.

We also lost another great supporter of B Co., Margaret Zeier, March 8, who along with her late husband, Norb, made many beautiful quilts which they donated to our past reunions. B Co., gave a beautiful arrangement of flowers, which the family deeply acknowledged to me to forward to the Bravo Co. Regulars. My dad and Margaret are on their journey, which many before us have gone on. So life goes on...but to those who truly believe, this is not the end.

Now tomorrow March 21st, I can't avoid the memories of 44 years ago. I have to work on processing those memories so I can move forward with my life in a normal manner. I recommend a book for all guys, gals and family members that has helped me more than any physiologist. It is called Tears of a Warrior, by E Anthony and Janet J. Searhorn. I believe it is free from the VA. He, Anthony, was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He didn't go through exactly what us grunts did, but much of his PTSD is the same. As I looked in the dictionary on how to spell physiologist, I noticed pianist on the same page. Now what's pianist have to do with physiologist? The key to that answer is, to note what the pianist has to say about what plays such an important part of ones' life. You can only control your own actions, you can't control the actions of anyone else. Some of the best advice I've ever received in life.

You guys and gals who have met me at reunions know I can be emotional and I'm not ashamed of that, for even Jesus was emotional when his friend Lazarus died, and I am not nearly as strong a person as Jesus was when he was here on earth.

The sound, smell and feel of spring is in the air here in the Great State of Wisconsin as Joe Shields would say. Easter is on the horizon, something to look forward to, we can celebrate the gift Christ gave us, freedom of sin and everlasting life, oh what a guy!

I'm talking about Jesus, March 20, 2011, and guess who calls me? Richard Crazy Ward! He says remember Soui Tre 1967, and remember Ted, we are all brothers. Quite a statement, especially when I was just writing to everyone else about Jesus. Coincidence, maybe?? I'm still amazed today how the good Lord works in such mysterious ways.

It is the morning of March 21 now, today a lot better than 44 years ago. 8:50 here overcast like it was that day in 1967, but no jets scraping over the tree tops above our heads, just two big cranes down by the pond picking around. I wonder what my ol medic friend, Bill Schamus, down in Georgia is doing. On March 19, 1967, when I was holding a dying, Loius Sass, in my arms and calling for a medic, Bill was the guy who came through explosions and fire to help me with Louis and never received any medal. How could that happen? Over 1200 medics died in the Vietnam war, that is like 2% of the total lost in the Vietnam war. Bill can hold his head high for I know how brave he was, medals or no medals, a mere shadow of Christ.

I look forward to this Easter season, Sunday, April 24, with a dream. That we will have a new holiday called Mother Teresa Day, to honor her, for all the things she has done for all. No matter what color your skin is. She is our intercessor to God. Like Jesus dying on the cross, she died honoring His name and Memory. Deeds not words.

Happy Easter, *Ted Rowley*



**David W. Lowell**  
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## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

A welcome side benefit of my having accepted this duty assignment for Bravo Company, is being more closely involved in all the great things our members do on behalf of our organization. A case in point is the memorial to Virgil Ledford (details in Bulletin Board). Simply being involved as an intermediary has given me a source of pride. I can only imagine the pride Max T. must be feeling. A few tips to help you enjoy viewing it follows.

Instructions for viewing [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

In the search line, type in the name Virgil ledford. For those not familiar with videos, there is a pause button on the lower left corner which looks like a double bar when the video is running and like an arrow when in pause. On the other side of this same line is a box which will let you expand the video to full size. To back up the video, use the cursor to drag the moving ball at the bottom of the video back wherever you desire

Thank you, Cliff Weese (3rd 3/67-68) for submitting our cover photo for this issue. Additional information about the photo is as follows:

**“The statue was created by an Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad.**

**Kalat was so grateful for the American’s liberation of his country; he melted three of the heads of the fallen Saddam and made the statue as a memorial to the American soldiers and their fallen warriors. Kalat worked on this memorial night and day for several months.**

**To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms.”**

The new Bulletin Board is proving to be a great way for our members and others to reach out to each other, whether to reconnect or get help for new missions. Hope you guys enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed being involved with the contributors.

Submissions may appear disjointed at times but are often excerpted from larger personal communications between members. Submissions can be sent to either my email or home address (880 N. Solar Drive, Vail, AZ 85641) or to any Officer. Any photos submitted by mail will be scanned and returned.

*Dave*

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Submitted By Donald Signs - 1970**

I arrived in Vietnam in March, 1970. My first time out was to FSB Washington about three miles from where FSB Crook was, which had been torn down. We pulled security for the 1st of the 5th Mechanized Unit which had made a probe into Cambodia. They waited until the next day when a mobile portable bridge mounted on three tracked vehicles came to forge the river. As we patrolled, we didn't realize it was a forerunner of operations to invade Cambodia, which we did in May, 1970. When we came out of Cambodia, we were re-assigned to the other side of Nui Ba Den at Dau Tieng at FSB Kien across the river from the Boi Loi, straight Edge and Hobo Woods. Then to FSB Lynch. My address is 5219 Old State Road, Milan, Ohio 44846—(419) 499-8825 or 1-803-646-2582 or e-mail kountrykat6701@yahoo.com.

### **Editor**

Don mentioned he would welcome contact from anyone else there at the time.

### **Submitted by Donald Signs—1970**

#### **Reprint from June/July 2008 VFW Magazine of Crook Battle**

Though many nights stand out in the Vietnam War, those of June 6-8, 1969, are still exceptional. Perhaps the most lopsided casualty-producing battle of the war occurred over these three evenings of incredible combat. Firebase Crook was located 10 miles east of the Cambodian border and 13 miles from Tay Ninh. It was occupied by B Co., 3rd Bn., 22nd Inf., 25th Div.; the 4.2-inch mortar platoon and radar section of E Company; elements of the 125th Signal Company; and a battery of the 7th Bn., 11th Artillery. In all, there were up to 225 men there. When the first barrage hit at 3 a.m., one soldier was KIA by a mortar round as a listening post was pulled in. He was the only American fatality of the entire engagement. The defenders were hit with the full force of the 272nd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment. But the Communists were mostly (16 breached the wire) stopped short of the perimeter by artillerymen who lowered their tubes and fired point-blank into the ranks of the enemy. Those NVA left exposed were annihilated by AC-47 and AC-119 gunships. The second attack was preceded by a 90-minute shelling. FSB Crook was hit with 150 rockets and mortar shells a minute. Yet only three GI's were wounded. The two battalions of the assaulting 88th NVA Regiment were decimated. Surrounding fields were strewn with hundreds of dead Communists. A third attempt at breaching the perimeter was half-hearted and quickly stopped in its tracks. A, C and D companies of the 3rd Battalion finally broke through on the third day to relieve the besieged Americans and drive off the attackers. David Cuellar, who served in the Radar Section of E Company, recalled: "We were totally surrounded and cut off. The NVA had been ordered to eliminate the fire base because it posed an imminent threat to their infiltration routes. Had it not been for artillery and air support, we no doubt would have been overrun. After the battle, we gathered up over 750 enemy dead. Most of the dead had green sisal ropes tied around their necks to facilitate dragging their bodies away to hide the real body count." (The NVA KIA count varies, depending on source. Another figure mentioned is 402 killed.)

**BULLETIN BOARD - PAGE 2****Submitted by Blair Moran—1969-1970**

Blair Moran has been notified by the Missouri American Legion that he will receive "The Distinguished Legionnaire Award" at their state convention in July of this year in Jefferson City. Moran has been active in veteran affairs throughout southeast Missouri for the past several years.

**Submitted by Larry Bentley— HHC 1967-1968**

Brothers, my name is Larry Bentley. I served with HHC during Dec. 1967 to Dec. 1968. Initially I was assigned to Heavy Weapons Plt as 11C, and reassigned to S3 Operations where I worked in the TOC and provided support services within Battalion Headquarters. Occasionally, I was sent as a replacement to various FSB's for wounded or KIA's, however, I could usually be found at the Dau Tieng or Tay Ninh Base Camps. I am currently pursuing through networking, and attempting to locate former HHC members, to reconnect and to establish a dialog. My ultimate hope is to have a gathering/reunion for those interested. This past week I contacted Bill Schwindt, C3/22 locator and he has been quite helpful. At this time, including me, we have four former HHC members from the 67-69 era. If any of you or others with the Bravo family have any contacts, or thoughts on how to contact former HHC personnel, I would appreciate hearing from you. Address is 2539 Maple Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062 and my e-mail is ipbentley@aol.com.

**Submitted by Editor**

As your Editor, I received the following letter: **"Dear Mr. Lowell: My name is Michelle Huddleston, and I am creating a memorial page at the Virtual Vietnam link honoring Virgil Ledford at our school website. I hope to gather information in order to properly convey Virgil's service, and I hope you might be willing to share information, photos, or other contacts you might have concerning Virgil from before, during, or after the war. If you are interested in my school's virtual wall honoring the soldiers who died in Vietnam, please follow this link: <http://www4.eanesisd.net/~vietnam/>. If you have any concerns, please contact my teacher, Sandra Coker, and if you wish to respond, please copy your response to her. Thank you."** Intending to run the letter in this issue, I passed it on to Max Torres in the meantime as both he and Ledford were "Originals" in the 3rd platoon. Max and several others have collaborated with the author and the site is now up and running. It is a fitting tribute to one of our fallen and a moving experience to watch. Thank you, Max, mission well done!

**Submitted by Lis' (Larry) Young—Orig.**

Hey Bravo guys, a new quilt is being made for the 2012 reunion in Pismo Beach. We are looking for ideas and most importantly we need your pictures to start making the layout. Please forward your ideas and pictures to me at [bravo2010reunion@yahoo.com](mailto:bravo2010reunion@yahoo.com) or mail to 29442 Route P, Paris, MO 65275. (Photos to be returned). Also please include any information you have about the picture, platoon #, names of guys in picture, dates, etc. We want to make a great quilt for Max's reunion and for that we need your help. Thank you, Lis' Young



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TREASURER/LOCATER

## Financial Report

*Income and Expense*  
*Dec. 1, thru Mar. 31, 2011*

Dec. 1, 2010 Balance \$7,456.36

Income

Reunion Inc.	\$3,500.00
Dividend	\$ 1.88
Total Income	\$3,501.88

Expenses

Newsletter	\$1,099.76
Total Expenses	\$1,099.76

Mar. 31, 2011 Balance \$9,858.48

## Hat's Off to Larry and Lis' Young

It's been about nine months since our 2010 Reunion in Paris, Missouri, which gives us a chance to reflect what a great reunion we had and the great job Larry and Lis' Young did in hosting the reunion. They raised quite a bit of money through donations of cash, food and merchandise. They secured a location that was perfect for our needs. They also arranged many events such as a parade through the streets of Paris, a Army helicopter to make a personal appearance, and a bus trip to the birth place of Mark Twain in Hannibal Missouri, as well as all sorts of entertainment.

They did such a good job of obtaining donations that they were able to return the entire amount of \$3,500.00 the association had advanced for start-up costs. In these times that will be a big help for the association financially. We have already been able to send the new reunion hosts \$3500.00 so they can meet any up-front expenses.

## Visit to Pismo Beach

My wife and I recently stopped by to visit with Max and Mary Lu Torres. We had an opportunity to look over the plans Max has for the 2012. We visited the site of the reunion and it was a beautiful place and perfect for our needs. From what I see if you have never attended a reunion before this would be a great one to make your first. All our reunions are unique and a great time. Everyone brings something different to their reunion, and Max is no exception. Max let us know how much his co-host Richard Villarreal has helped him with the planning of the reunion



Pismo Beach Sunset



Hurst Castle—Roman Pool

**Registration Form  
Bravo Regulars 2010 Reunion  
September 19-23, 2012—Pismo Beach, CA**

**Registration Fee—\$75.00 Per Person**

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bravo Company, Vietnam Unit and dates of service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**There will be (number) \_\_\_\_\_ in my party.**

**Names of those accompany you:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan to arrive on (date) \_\_\_\_\_. I will depart on (date) \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I will travel by (means of travel) \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I will be lodged at:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oxford Suites                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Pismo Coast Village                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Inn                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday R.V. Park                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motel 6                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pismo State Beach North Campground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Number attending trip to Hearst Castle  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Number attending trip to Chumash Casino |   |

**Early registration will be a great help in the planning of the upcoming reunion. Please register as early as you can so that we can make plans that accurately reflect the number of people planning to attend. We don't need the registration fee for a while, but if you are attending, please send in your registration form to: Max Torres, 251 Anita Ave., Grover Beach, CA 93433. If you have questions, you can call me at 1-805-481-5554 or 1-805-459-3468.**