

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

August, 2012



- PAGE 2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- PAGE 3 REUNION UPDATE
- PAGE 4 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
- PAGE 5 EDITOR'S NOTES
- PAGE 6 BULLETIN BOARD
- PAGE 7 BULLETIN BOARD
- PAGE 8 ASSOCIATION BUSINESS



President's Message

Dennis J. Amily
President
amily.da@gmail.com
(330) 698-9412

Well regulars, it looks like the 2012 reunion is just around the corner. A couple of days and a wake-up! Hope everyone is ready for another great time. I hear that Max's better half has everything ready and waiting for us. I know how much it takes to prepare for such a big undertaking, so I will be the first to say thanks to all your family, the friends and neighbors who have helped you, and all other Bravo Regulars who have been part of the project. I will try to thank each and every one of them before leaving Pismo Beach.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the wives and families of the brave men who have passed. I have had the opportunity to know and respect Bob (Bull) Hemphill, Terry (my good friend and buddy, who I will never ever forget) Shipley, and a very special soldier I met while attending a veterans affair in Kokamo, IN. While viewing one of the moving walls, I was kneeling down crying uncontrollably when I felt a hand on my shoulder. I looked up and here was another 25th Infantry soldier who quietly told me that it took a man to be able to cry for his fallen brothers. He did not know me then, but a few years later I met him again at our reunion in Sacramento, CA; Bob (Smokey) Ryan, who became a very dear friend to me! And then there was my mentor, my teacher, and the best damn Platoon Sergeant anyone could ever want to serve under, especially in Vietnam—Sgt. Jose Cosme-Rivera! I personally believe that I and many others in first platoon owe our lives to that outstanding soldier, and many others just like him! Ladies, your husbands were like brothers to me, and my prayers go out to you and your families.

And now I would like to tell all of the B-Company regulars how much I enjoyed being President of this great family! I was very proud and appreciated this honor. I give a special thanks to Ted, another one of my mentors, John, Dave, Max and Walt who made this a fun adventure. Thank you also to the past officers who did themselves proud as our leaders. Good luck, Max!

Dennis J. Amily



Reunion Update

Max Torres
VP/Reunion Coordinator
Bravoreunion2012@hotmail.com
(805) 481-5554

Dear Bravo Regulars,

Well, we have 8 weeks until our Reunion on September 19th. Richard and I are putting the finishing touches on our reunion plans.

We will not be accepting any more reservations for our trip to Hearst Castle as the deadline was July 4th. If you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible at 805-481-5554 or 805-459-3468.

If anyone wants to come to the reunion at the last minute, we will squeeze you in. The more the merrier! It will be a really great reunion with good food, entertainment and fellowship.

The weather here has been nice and cool, about 70 degrees. Because it does get cool here at night, make sure you bring a long-sleeved sweater.

I am sure going to miss our Brothers that passed away this year. They were great soldiers and friends. God bless their families.

See you in September!

Max Torres



Ted Rowley
Chaplain
tedbarb813@yahoo.com
(688) 835-3753

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I was awakened this morning by the sound of two cranes flying over my open bedroom window, it reminded me of how lucky I have been. Every day after Vietnam has been a bonus for me. Two years ago, we were at the Paris, Missouri reunion with Larry and Lis' Young. Wow, how times flies!

In northern Wisconsin we have had the driest June in our history; so dry we found wood ticks on the catfish here.

It has been a busy spring. Trying to keep 1,100 tomato plants alive has been a full time job for me. The watering hose and I have become very attached to each other. Why I have been busier than a long tailed tom cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

I am sorry for not having an article in the last newsletter, first one I've missed in over 10 years.

We traveled to northern Wisconsin for a couple days of fishing, viewing some bald eagles, a loon and her baby up very close, a beautiful boat ride and found a 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 left alone in the woods. It was green up north and cooler than southern Wisconsin, but we finally got some much needed rain down here in the south and weeds in the tomatoes. But where weeds will grow, other things can grow also. Thank God for rain!

While traveling north, pulling the boat, we blew a boat trailer tire at 70 mph. We were very lucky. We had to travel 15 miles to get things fixed before proceeding further north. While getting the tires replaced and because of my vets hat, I met a guy who was a POW in Hanoi Hilton and lived to tell about it. He was 88 lbs when he got out of there. His last name was Kerry, but his first name wasn't John. He knew of Soui Tre and a guy named Schultz who was with the 77th Artillery there, who now lives near me. I'm in the process of trying to locate him now, which would be great. Sometimes things happen for a reason which is beyond our understanding.

I had time to reflect in the north woods of Wisconsin on the shores of Turtle Lake with two bald eagles perched on top of a pine tree. Almost 14 years ago, Joe Shields, Barb and I witnessed an eagle soaring as we drove to Mark Rowans resting place. To me, a sign of graceful peace, as I think about our most recent lost comrades: Bob Hemphill, Terry Shipley, Joe Cosme-Rivera and Smokey Ryan, who were all planning on being at the upcoming reunion.

Psalms 103

10. He does not punish us as we deserve or repay us according to our sins and wrongs.

11. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is His love for those who have reverence for Him.

15. As for us, our life is like grass. We grow and flourish like a wild flower, then the wind blows on it and it is gone—no one sees it again.

At our upcoming reunion in California, we will feel God's love, as we have reverence for Him, just as we have for all our fallen comrades. Think about Him feeding 5,000 people with just 5 loaves of barley bread and two fish, that a young boy had to share. No matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them, if we are just willing to let him. Love of the Lord is here to stay, but love isn't love 'til you give it away. When you share, love becomes real love, His love. Barb and I are traveling some 2,000 miles by car to California in September to honor Him and all our fallen comrades. Come share with us.

God, give me sympathy and sense and keep my courage high. God, give me calm and confidence and please, a twinkle in my eye.

God's blessing to all,

Ted Rowley



David W. Lowell
Editor
davidwlowell@aol.com
(520) 762-8609

EDITOR'S NOTES

When I see a map of Vietnam, a chill comes over my soul. It's not a bad feeling, but one of reverence. Take a close look northwest of old Saigon at the border area and see if you feel the chill as well.

The Bulletin Board has an entry from a researcher wanting contact from FSB Burt vets. If you are a Burt vet, please read this and help if you can. This is your chance to defend the honor of our company with someone who is eager to listen to the truth. If you don't want to do it for yourself, please consider doing it for all of us. For those who do, we would like to hear about your experience. We've had reports on Soui Tre and Crook for this newsletter and would welcome info on Burt as well.

Congratulations to Sonny Szejbach (I know what you're thinking ... I don't know how to pronounce it either) for receiving his long over due awards for his action at FSB Crook. Details are on the Bulletin Board. Thanks to Pat Boudro (4th Platoon—9-68/69) for attending the ceremony on behalf of all of us and supplying photos of the event. Sonny looks sharp in dress greens! Additional photos may be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/80395092@NO2/>. As to why it took so long, I'll quote his wife, Christine, "It is not surprising that all of this has taken so long as we have found his service number different in several places, the SS number wrong in addition to the spelling of his last name on the DSC citation. With a name like Szejbach, we are not surprised.



With sadness I must report the passing of four of our own. Information on each brother is on the Bulletin Board. I took Basic and AIT under Sgt. Cosme-Rivera and his 1st Platoon before moving to 2nd Platoon during guerilla warfare training. He was always the consummate professional soldier. In a conversation with Cosme at a prior reunion (Shingle Springs, 1998, thanks again to Doug and Cathy Smith for hosting) he told me he had returned for another tour with the 9th I.D. late in the war. It left him disillusioned because of the lack of direction for the mission and concern for the men; something those who served with us in later years can likely relate to. He thought we were the best he'd ever served with as well. All will be missed, but live on in our memories.

Attendees at prior reunions may have noticed that I wear an award on a neck chain. Doing so reconnects me to a time and place where Bravo Company faced dire circumstances and prevailed, admittedly with lots of help. Two of my closest friends wear their Purple Hearts, the most beautiful of all awards, which reconnects them to their own special time and place while serving in Bravo Company. If any of you would like to reconnect with your special time and place, feel free to wear your awards. We shouldn't feel awkward or embarrassed about having a special memento.

This is the last edition of the newsletter before the 2012 reunion. For those who are attending, we look forward to seeing you and wish you a safe journey. For those who can't, we'll be covering reunion news starting in the next issue.

Dave Lowell, out

Submissions may appear disjointed at times but are often edited for space, content and/or 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

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Information wanted for FSB Burt documentary

Received from Georgia Braham, Researcher — I am contacting you from a British production company called Blink Films and we are producing a documentary series called the Real Story. The show is an intelligent and high end documentary series for the Smithsonian Network in the US, Channel Five in the UK and BBC Worldwide looking at some of the biggest movies in the history of cinema. We explore the real story behind a movie and the making of that movie. The format is a combination of drama reconstruction about the real story (not the movie), forensic-style experiments to explain how elements of the movie worked in real life and documentary interviews explaining what happened in the real life. This series we are featuring Oliver Stone's *Platoon* and exploring the war realities of Vietnam presented in the movie. We are actively searching for some of the very brave men who were there and who may have fought alongside Mr. Oliver Stone, to find about their own experience of the war and about the real event that occurred during the Battle of Fire Support Base Burt on the 1st of January 1968 (the last scene of the movie). If you are able to help us contact any men who served in this Company or at that time, I would be extremely grateful. I've already contacted the 22nd Infantry organization and I've spoken to a couple of really helpful veterans about the events of Fire Support Base Burt, but we are very keen to hear more experiences of that night and Bravo Company in general. Contact: georgia.braham@blinkfilmsuk.com

Submitted by Editor—Clarence "Sonny" Szejbach (4th Platoon—68/69)—DSC Award

As published in Tri-City Herald.com on June 9, 1012—Clarence "Sonny" Szejbach performed heroically on June 6, 1969. Today, he will be recognized for his feat, more than four decades since receiving serious battle wounds while serving in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam. "I thought I was just doing what was expected of me in the heat of the battle," said Szejbach, 63, who lost his right hand and sustained severe neck and facial injuries during an enemy attack. Accounts of the incident show Szejbach unselfishly responded when a wounded enemy soldier threw an anti-tank grenade at his company commander. He "unhesitatingly moved in front of the officer, deflected the armed weapons, and then picked it up and threw it. The grenade exploded as it left his hand, inflicting severe wounds on him," said his company commander in his recommendation for Szejbach's citation. "Specialist Four Szejbach's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army," the recount continued. Szejbach spent 45 days in a hospital in Japan before he returned stateside. The prospect of receiving a medal never entered his mind. "When I finally got home and was discharged, I was happy just getting out. At 21 years old, I wasn't paying that much attention to my discharge papers to see if any awards were listed," he said. The Elk Rapids native returned home and never gave a thought to accolades. Szejbach married his wife, Christine, in 1970, they raised three daughters, have six grandchildren and run Sonny's Torch Lake Market. Szejbach recently visited Antrim County Veterans Office counselor Deborah Peters and she realized Szejbach had not received recognition for his heroism. "I saw there was not a Purple Heart listed on his documents," said Peters, who requested an Army review of Szejbach's service record. Peters subsequently received a correction notification that stated Szejbach wasn't only eligible for the Purple Heart, but he also was in line to receive the Distinguished Service Cross and eight other citations. "I was shocked when I realized what he was entitled to," Peters said. Szejbach voiced more than surprise when he learned of the impending—if long overdue—honors.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Robert Hemphill (C.O.—10/67-2/68), 69—as published in Scranton Times-Tribune

Robert Hemphill, 69, of Covington Twp. died in an early morning fire Sunday, April 22, in a remote area of southern Lackawanna County. He was a decorated retired Army infantry lieutenant colonel, community volunteer and author. He was killed when his two-story home on Freytown Road burned to the ground. He died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to smoke inhalation, according to Lackawanna County Coroner Tim Rowland. Mr. Hemphill's wife, Carol, was not home at the time of the blaze. Mr. Hemphill was deeply involved in the community through organizations from the Rotary and Masons to the VFW. Retiring as a lieutenant colonel, Mr. Hemphill was awarded a Purple Heart from Vietnam combat wounds, a Silver Star for gallantry in action, and four

BULLETIN BOARD

Bronze Stars with Vs for valor in combat. Mr. Hemphill wrote "Platoon: Bravo Company," which portrayed his time as an Army captain in Vietnam. Film director Oliver Stone was under his command in Vietnam from Oct. 1, 1967, to Feb. 18, 1968. Mr. Stone later directed the movie "Platoon." Mr. Hemphill wrote "Platoon: Bravo" in reaction to Mr. Stone's film, taking exception to the film's portrayal of American troops. Mr. Hemphill said the troops in the platoons displayed bravery and heroism and were too busy being soldiers to get into the kind of trouble depicted in the film. According to his author biography on *Amazon.com*, Mr. Hemphill grew up in Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1964 and a master's degree in international relations at John Hopkins University in 1973. A career military man, he served in the army from 1964 to 1989, retiring as an infantry Lieutenant colonel.

Terry Shipley (4th Platoon, Original), 71—as published in Tri-City Herald.com

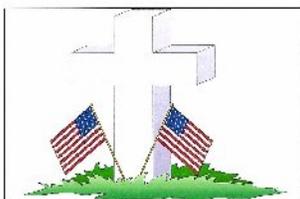
Terry was born in Denver, CO, on March 5, 1941, to parents William "Ivan" and Frances Shipley. The family moved to Poulsbo in 1951, where Terry made lifelong friends and graduated from North Kitsap High School in 1960. During his years in the U.S. Army, Terry was a recipient of the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Vietnamese Cross while serving his country in Vietnam. Terry was a boilermaker by trade and traveled the West Coast doing various construction projects. He was a lifetime member of VFW and was also affiliated with the American Legion, the Elks, and the Good Sam Club. Terry was actively involved with the Pony Colt League baseball program in Kennewick, Washington, when his sons were younger. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, golfing, and camping. He also loved to design and build wrought iron projects for family and friends. Terry was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Alta, and leaves behind his wife, Joy, sons, Michael (Angela) Shipley and Rodney (Melissa) Shipley, daughters Christi (Steve) Emery and Kathleen (Shad) Pruitt; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. Terry was a devoted father, grandfather, and friend, whose memory will be treasured and whose presence will be sorely missed.

Jose "Joe" Cosme-Rivera (1st Platoon—Original), 76—unknown publication source

Age 76, longtime Morena Valley resident and retired U.S. Army career Infantryman. Entered Eternal Rest Monday, June 4, at noontime, following recent decline in health, illness and hospitalization. Born in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, "Joe" was the beloved son of Valentin Cosme and Eufemia Rivera. A proud American citizen, Joe would serve his country during Vietnam as a Weapons Specialist and Infantry soldier. Joe spent two years in combat in Vietnam where he would receive the Army's Bronze Star, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and the Purple Heart. After retiring from military service, Joe would earn a degree in Administration of Justice from Riverside City College and continue to work for the government in Civil Service nearly another twenty years. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, Papi and friend. Joe leaves his wife, Anneliese Cosme, sons Andre and Orlando Cosme, five adored grandchildren: Rachel Losee, Robert, Bliss, Lucas and Mylee Cosme, his sister, Margarita "Maggie" Cosme-Rivera in Puerto Rico and a dear nephew, Jesus "Papito" Ortiz. Joe now joins his late parents, a son, Robeto, and his brother, Julio, in Eternity.

Robert W. "Smokey" Ryan, (1st Platoon—3/68-69) 65—as published in Home News Tribune

Robert W. "Smokey" Ryan, 65, of South Amboy died unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, with his loving wife by his side. Born in New Brunswick, he lived in South Amboy all of his life. Before retiring, he was employed by the U.S. Postal Service in Edison. A U.S. Army veteran, he served with the 25th Infantry in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 where he was awarded a CIB, 3 Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. He was a member of American Legion, Luke A. Lovely Post 62, South Amoy serving as post commander and service officer. He was a life member of Disabled American veterans, Benyei Connors Chapter 67, South Amboy, a life member of American Legion Post 6, Kokomo, Indiana and a life member of Vietnam Veterans Assn. He was an avid fan of Notre Dame, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Boston Red Sox. Son of the late William B. Ryan who died in 1991, he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Nebus Ryan, 2 daughters and sons-in-law, Krista and Chris Comitini of Breinigsville, Pennsylvania and Lisa and Rob Vega of Plainsfield; his mother, Charlotte Wist Ryan, of South Amboy; his brother, William Ryan, of South Amboy and his grandchildren, Kelli, Connor and Courtney Comtini and Arianna Vega.





John Otte
Treasurer/Locater
Bravo6x-ray@aol.com
(310) 539-0886

FINANCIAL REPORT Income & Expense

May 1, 2012 Balance	\$6,887.45
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$90.00
Dividends	
Total Income	\$90.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$1,012.08
Webpage	22.50
Miscellaneous Expense	
Total Expenses	1,034.58
August 30, 2012	\$5,942.87

Association Dues Invoice

As you can see it is time for our dues invoices to be sent to you. To make your response easier we have enclosed a return envelope for payment of your dues. Having said that, I must remind you all that dues are completely voluntary.



Bravo 3/22 Dues Invoice
Dues Period
Sept. 1, 2012 thru Aug. 2013
Annual Dues \$30.00



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

PLAT./ASSIGNMENT: _____ TOUR DATES _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Send dues to:

Bravo 3/22
1037 Koleeta Dr.
Harbor City, CA 90710

**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:

Oxford Suites

Pismo Coast Village

Quality Inn

Holiday R.V. Park

Motel 6

Pismo State Beach North Campground

Number attending trip to Hearst Castle

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.