

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

DECEMBER, 2011



Presidents Message



November 25, 2011

Well Gentlemen,

Hello to all my B-Company family.

I hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving dinner or gathering. It looks like 'Old Man Winter' is creeping up on us. That means Christmas is not far off so I guess I should offer my Christmas greetings now. Ho, Ho, Ho, and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Now that I have gotten that out of the way, let's get down to real business.

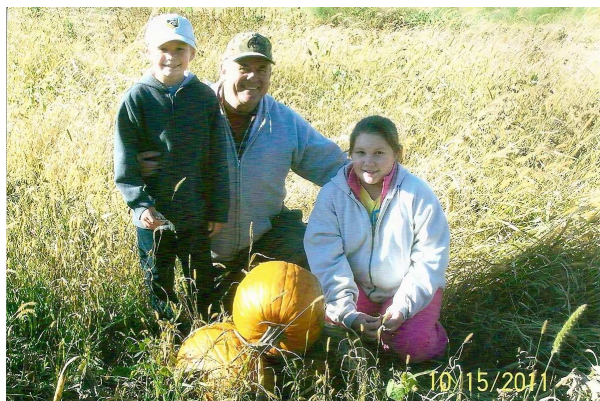
OK everyone. Tickets purchased? Hotel reservations made? Travel arrangements done? Forms filled out and sent to Max and his wife? Going to buy a hat, shirt, Polo shirt? Going to see the castle? Is there anything else? Oh yeah! I want everyone who is a member of Bravo Company to write a letter, or call if possible a member who has not been to one of our great get-togethers, or for some reason has missed the last few. I know that I will try to get in touch with as many 1st Platoon Regulars as I can. All of us need to urge them to come. If they have heard from me, and then get a couple more calls from you, it just might help them to get off their butts and get to the reunion. All of us can help by contacting fellow platoon members or a buddy you might know that really could use the healing power of a B-Company Reunion.

So let's each and everyone of us try to make the 2012 reunion a super success!!! I have talked to Max. He told me that he believes we'll be proud of him, his family, and his friends for the party they are going to have.

Love You All,

Dennis J. Amily

P.S. If anyone has a picture of Lt. Hayes, would you please send me one for a picture I am putting together for my War Wagon. Thanks.



**Ted Rowley
Chaplain
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(688) 835-3753**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Three Pumpkins in a Pile

I've grown pumpkins for many years, never had this happen before, one pumpkin growing on top of the other two. My two grandkids there with me, to take in the special October day. Madeline 12 and Macadam 9 would never have existed if I had not made it back from Vietnam, like so many of my great comrades. Every day after Nam has been a bonus for me and I thank God often for that opportunity.

Three pumpkins, it is like the Holy Trinity, three devine persons in one God. Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, a tough one to digest in one's mind. Mother earth can supply us with all our food, and also a lot of food for thought. As you can see in the picture, there are a lot of weeds in my field, but not enough to keep my pumpkins from working their magic. When the frost cleared the leaves, there the three were right amongst us, as they are every day. I've never seen Him but have felt His presence; sometimes in the smile, touch, or words of a friend, even in music. He respects us when we pray and loves us when we sing, even if we don't sing well, right?

A visit to the north for a Thanksgiving day with friends and a walk in the woods for that elusive buck, only turned up a track in the snow. A pink and purple sunrise and then a ghostlike fog that crept into the woods from an old cranberry bog, reminded me of the Soui Tre battlefield. Fog instead of smoke, visibility not very far, but quiet, no smell of powder, just the smell of pines and leaves. This is something I can deal with 44 years later in the serenity of pines, hemlock and tamaracks on a Thanksgiving day.

This year in Wisconsin at the capitol in Madison, because of our new Governor Walker, we are having a Christmas tree not a Holiday tree, like in recent years past. The governor has taken a lot of flak for changes he has made since he has taken office, but Wisconsin is not broke, and we have Christ in Christmas again. People have to learn to make sacrifices in their life for the good of all, for He, like our fallen comrades made the greatest sacrifice of all, for us.

Christmas Blessings,

Ted



Max Torres
Vice-President/Reunion Coordinator
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(805) 481-5554

Dear Bravo Regulars,

I hope everybody had a great Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. I am praying that we will all have a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are getting closer to our Reunion. Richard and I are still working hard to make our reunion a great success. We don't know if this will be our last large reunion, but we want to make it a memorable good time for everyone. **Please call your friends and encourage them to come to the reunion in 2012.** You will love sunny California! We'll have good fellowship, good food and beautiful weather! It will be wonderful to see our old friends and especially some friends that haven't come to the previous reunions.

Our reunion site is at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 660 Bello St., Pismo Beach. We also have added New Life Church, 990 James Way, Pismo beach, for our Memorial on Sat., Sept. 22, 2012.

A few people have asked about the deadline for registration and fees. Reunion registration is \$75 per person and the Hearst trip is \$50 per person. **Our deadline will be July 4, 2012.** If you decide to come after the deadline passes, you will still be welcome. If you sent in your registration form for the reunion or the Hearst Castle trip but didn't send in your money, now is a good time to get the money in.

We need your registration form and fees paid as soon as possible. This will enable us to better prepare for all the upcoming events we have planned. We need the numbers to plan on the amount of food, number of polo shirts, people to help us and much more. Without the numbers it is hard to plan, so the sooner you can send us the information, the better we can plan for our great reunion!

Here is the latest information and rates for the motels. I urge everyone to get their reservations in quickly. To get the negotiated group rate, make sure you say that it's for **Bravo Reunion 2012**. This is a tourist area and the motels fill up pretty fast. It's basically a "first come, first served" basis. Both Oxford Suites and Quality Inn will not increase the rate during the weekend, but Quality Inn will require a 4 night minimum stay to get the reduced weekend rate. Both Oxford Suites and Quality Inn have agreed to honor the negotiated group rate for a day or two before and after the reunion date. Motel 6 and the RV Parks and Campgrounds would not give us a group rate and their rates may change by 9/12.

Accommodations

Oxford Suites ****
For reservations call: 1-800-773-3773
Fax: 805-773-5177
Reservations due by 8/19/2012
\$85+tax per day. Full breakfast, 2 drinks & hors 'oeuvres

Quality Inn ***
For reservations call: 1-805-773-1841
Fax: 805-773-1944
\$69+tax per day. Continental breakfast

Motel 6 **1/2
For reservations: 1-805-773-2665
Fax: 1-805-773-0723
Sun-Thurs: \$50.39+tax Fri-Sat: \$72+tax

Airports

San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (SLOAIRPORT.COM) - 1-805-781-5205
Santa Maria Public Airport (SANTAMARIAAIRPORT.COM) - 1-805-922-1726

RV Parks and Camping

Pismo Coast Village RV Resort ****
For reservations: 1-888-782-3224
Fax: 1-805-773-1507
Wed-Thurs: \$42+tax
Fri-Sat: \$44+tax

Holiday RV Park ***
For reservations: 1-800-272-3672
Local number: 1-805-773-1121
\$31+tax

Pismo State Beach North Campground **
for reservations: 1-800-444-7275
Local number: 1-805-473-7223
Call them for rates.



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EDITOR'S NOTES

As I pen (I still do it that way) this issue's column, it is the week after Thanksgiving, but you won't read it until after Christmas. Dee and I hope all of you had a great holiday season and would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year.

In my last column, I wrote about the movie "The Siege of Firebase Gloria." Dennis Earwood (4th Platoon, Original) sent me a tip that the movie can be purchased over the internet on www.craftsclassics.com. Thanks, Dennis! Again, it is a low budget movie that uses (I believe) the scenario and numbers from our battle at Soui Tre. However, the battle itself bears no resemblance to ours. It stars R. Lee Ermy, (Full Metal Jacket and many others) who I regard as a great actor who looks the part, and Wings Hauser, who I regard as a bad actor who looks good.

Lis' Young is still looking for pictures from Nam, to use for a new quilt for this reunion. She has received some, but still needs more. My pictures were on the first quilt, so I have already given! If you are hesitant about sending off all of your photos, consider contacting Lis' by email or phone and describing what you have. She can then advise you if they can be used for her project. Lis' can be contacted at bravoreunion2010@yahoo.com or 573-721-2311.

Dee and I have been in frequent contact with Rosemary and Max Torres as they continue their hard work to make this reunion one to remember. Rosemary is doing a great job keeping Max organized and motivated. Sending in your registration now is important so that Max has the numbers he needs to effectively plan this event for us. If you are planning to attend but aren't sure, register now and you can withdraw the registration if need be. The fees can be submitted later when you are sure. Max needs your help to make this a success.

Dee and I have planned our 2012 vacation around the reunion, and look forward to seeing all of you there.

Dave

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 Kenneth Neveaux— 4th. Platoon (69/70)

My name is Kenneth Neveaux. I was in the battle at Firebase Crook as a Platoon Sergeant in B Co. I arrived in Feb., 1969. Our Company Commander was Captain Thomas. We moved from FSB Washington to FSB Crook to patrol the Cambodian border. At about 2 a.m. on the morning of the 6th, Captain Thomas visited each bunker and alerted everyone on what was about to happen. Like the article stated, at 3 a.m. we began three days and nights of incredible battle which I will never forget. We watched them dig fox holes and move close enough to where they were trapped between us and the artillery on the wood line. They came close to getting into the compound, one strand of wire away. They were trained NVA's and we were trained American soldiers. Everyone did a great job those three nights, holding our ground. Thanks for putting that article in the newsletter.

Editor—Ken may be contacted at Kenneth.Neveaux@usa.apachecorp.com.

Submitted By Cliff Weese—3rd. Platoon (67/68)

Interesting Veterans Statistics of the Vietnam Memorial Wall

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. ... The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. ... Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E—May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W—continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself. ... The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965. ... There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall. ... 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger. ... 8,283 were just 19 years old. ... 33,103 were 18 years old, the largest age group. ... 12 soldiers were 17 years old. ... 5 soldiers were 16 years old. ... One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock, was 15 years old. ... 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. ... 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam. ... 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. ... 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia, so many from one school. ... 8 women are on the Wall. ... 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall. ... Beallsville, Ohio, with a population of 475, lost 6 of her sons. ... West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall. ... The Marines of Morenci—they led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day. 1966. Only 3 returned home. ... The buddies of Midvale — LeRoy Tofoya, Jimmy Martinez and Tommy Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Six and Seventh Avenues. They lived only a few yards apart they play ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field and they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967 all three would be killed Leroy was killed on Wednesday, November 22 the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving day, Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on December 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 2415 casualties. For most Americans who read this. they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces and feel the pain that these numbers created. We are until we to we to pass away, haunted with these numbers because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars just noble warriors.

**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 @ \$50 per person**

___ **Number of Polo Shirts Wanted** ___ **XXXL** ___ **XXL** ___ **XL** ___ **L** ___ **M** ___ **S**

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. Please send your registration form and fees to: Max Torres, 251 Anita Ave., Grover Beach, CA 93433 The checks can be made out to Bravo Regulars Association or Max Torres. If you have questions, you can call me at 1-805-481-5554 or 1-805-459-3468. The email is bravoreunion2012@hotmail.com.

Financial Report

Income and Expenses

August 1, 2011 Balance	\$5,360.62
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$2,800.00
Dividends	\$1.35
Total Income	\$2,801.35
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$1,027.19
2012 Reunion	
Webpage	\$45.00
Total Expense	\$1,072.19
November 30, 2011 Balance	\$7,089.78

Dues Response

The response to our recent dues invoices was really great and is much appreciated and much-needed. Any of you that were planning to send your dues but have not gotten around to it yet, I have good news, it's not too late. As you can see from the financial report we are doing very well thanks to some cost savings efforts initiated since our 2008 reunion. Times are tough in this current economy but working together as we have, I feel very confident in Bravo Regulars future.



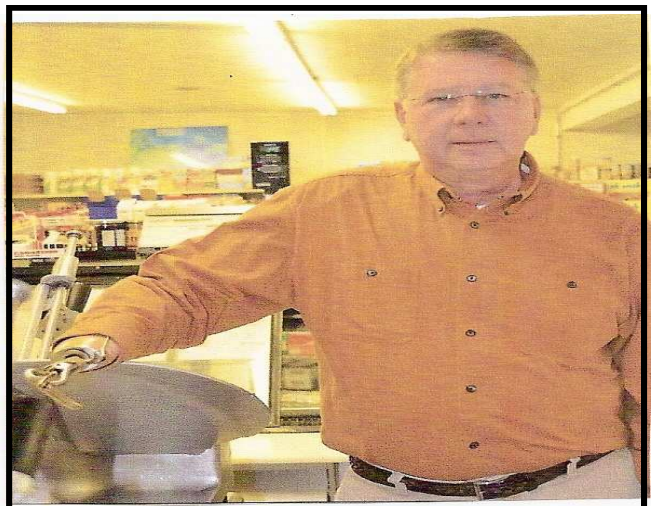
Better Late Than Never

I received a very interesting e-mail from the wife of Sonny Szejback who served with Bravo Company in 1969 and was seriously wounded during the battle at fire support base "Crook". It seems that Sonny recently visited a veterans service officer to see if there might be other veteran benefits he was entitled. The service officer sent for his military records. When the service officer contacted Sonny when the records arrived and asked Sonny if he was aware that he had been awarded the the "Distinguished Service Cross" the second highest award for valor that our nation can bestow. Sonny had not even been aware that he had been submitted for the award. Strange as it sounds, they are planning an awards ceremony to present Sonny's Distinguished Service Cross 42 years after the fact.

It seems very strange that as I write this piece for the newsletter I look at a story about the stolen valor act on the same page. It seems to me that our government, or at least our Federal Court system seems more concerned with the rights of liars and imposters than it does about making sure that somebody who served his country with such valor receives the recognition he rightfully deserves. It was pure luck that Sonny and his family ever found out about the award.

The Stolen Valor Act

The Supreme Court said recently that it will hear an emotionally charged dispute over a federal law that makes it a crime to lie about being a war hero and earning military medals. The stolen valor act was passed in 2006 by the Congress of the United States. The law has been declared as unconstitutional by a federal district court on the grounds that it violates the First Amendment freedom of speech. It's been recently announced that the case will be heard by the Supreme Court in 2012 just another example of political correctness run amok.



Sonny Szejback