

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

December 2016



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President's Message

John Gority
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

I am very happy to wish all of you a belated Happy Thanksgiving. I am so thankful to be able to address the finest group of soldiers I know. Donna and I are also thankful to have been able to travel cross country by train on the California Zephyr and be able to post our travel pictures on Facebook for others to enjoy. We are thankful for our good health, except for my severe back and phantom limb pain.

On 5 November, 2016, the County of Blair had a Veterans Recognition Day at Fort Roberdeau, a reconstructed revolutionary fort that was to protect the lead deposits in the area. The guest speaker was a local veteran. He talked about his experiences in Vietnam and presented a slide show of his pictures. Later those attending were presented a fiftieth anniversary Presidential proclamation and a commemorative pin.

Now that the Presidential elections are over, please remember the President is at the top of our chain of command and, as Commander in Chief, should be given the respect and honor the position warrants.

Both of us wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Remember to keep Christ in all of your holiday merriment. May the New Year give all of you good health and wealth.

John

P.S. I have a couple of articles that may be of interest to everyone. The first article is titled "Were You In Combat?" It deals with the aftereffects of combat and how veterans deal with it. The second article is on the Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship Program. If anyone would like a copy of these articles or has a question on them, please feel free to contact me.



Vice President's Column

Charles Weems
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Well, brothers and sisters of Bravo Company, we are coming to the end of a year of political madness! Our country has been divided, which is not a good thing. I believe that together we stand, but divided we fall. It's time to mend the wounds of a bitter campaign. I look at it this way, no matter who won the Presidency, they have to be held accountable to, and respect the rights of, all Americans.

Enough of politics. I'm hoping all the heroes of Bravo Company (that's all of us) and your families are in reasonably good health. Here's wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Charlie



John Otte
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John

Association Business

Financial Report Income and Expense

Sept. 1, 2016 Balance		\$11,413.96
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$4,785.00	
Donations		
Total Income	\$4,785.00	
<u>Expenses</u>		
Newsletter	\$667.19	
Bank Service Charge	15.00	
Misc. Expense		
Total Expenses	\$682.19	
Nov. 31, 2016 Balance		\$15,516.77



Reunion Update

Jim Adams
Reunion Host
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Even though it seems like a while away, the planning has begun for the 2018 Bravo Reunion. Jim and I are excited so we ask that you mark your calendars for June 20-24, 2018, to meet in Branson, Missouri, in the Heart of the Ozarks.

Registration will start on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, with an afternoon of greeting, meeting and getting ready for adventure and friends. As you know, Missouri is the Show Me State, so we have lots to show you in this part of our state.

Branson is very veteran friendly and welcomes veterans with open arms. They expect everyone who qualifies to remember to ask "Do you give a veteran's discount?" while staying in their city.

The reunion will be held at the Radisson Hotel. Room rate negotiations are not complete at this time, but should be shortly. The room rate includes a Breakfast Buffet every morning that you are staying. The rooms will be reserved through the Branson Tourism Bureau. At the time you make your room reservation, should you need airline travel arrangements, you need to let them know. You will then speak to Sharon, who will make your airline reservations into St. Louis, Kansas City or Springfield as well as take care of your car rental. Once the room rate is established, I will provide that information and the phone number so that you can make your hotel reservation.

The plan is for you to have free time in the mornings after breakfast for shopping, golf or fishing, then meet for lunch and have a group activity in the afternoon, then return to the hotel for fellowship, fun and food. We are working with the possible agenda of a Thursday music show, a Friday tour of the Veteran's Museum, and a Saturday afternoon water tour following the business meeting. We then return to the hotel for dinner, entertainment, fellowship and dancing. Sunday morning will be our time to say our good byes following breakfast and depart for safe travels.

We will have the silent auction, 50/50 raffle, quilt raffle, shirts, hats and, of course, a registration fee. We also will have a Veteran Benefit Representative attending to present information to help with applying for your benefits, as well as answer questions for those who need it.

Should you need a place to park your travel trailer, please let me know so that we can make those arrangements. Please do not hesitate to let Jim and I know if there is anything special that you need or would like to do so that we can work hard to make it happen. My email is pammyanny@msn.com and my cell phone number is 573-253-5974. Jim's email address is jamesk923@msn.com. Our home phone with answering machine is 573-581-6824. Merry Christmas to all with a Happy New Year.

Jim and Pam



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
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Welcome back, Bravo brothers! Happy Veterans Day and thank you for serving, to all those who didn't hear it at the time. Our pride in having served under the most extreme circumstances is one of the few good things we have left from the war.

Walt Shugart (C.O.—1/67-4/67) was kind enough to share with us his personal experience at LZ Gold and Suoi Tre, which he wrote for the Virginia War Memorial, where he works as a volunteer. At 19 pages, it's too long to run in our newsletter, but it can be viewed at www.thebattleofkontum.com/memories/shugart.html. Anyone interested in those two events will want to read it. Combat reports for these events were run in our newsletter on August, 2011, March 2013 and December 2014 (Suoi Tre) and December 2013 (LZ Gold) for further references. I'll also add the article to our "Combat Reports" binder, so it will be available at reunions. Thank you, Walt.

Also regarding LZ Gold/Suoi Tre, we received word that there will be a 50th Anniversary Memorial Reunion to be held in Colorado in March, 2017. Details are on the Bulletin Board and additional information will follow when available. Our next newsletter will be out just a few weeks before then, so members planning to attend should act now. After missing the last one due to health problems, I am planning to attend this one. Hope to see you there.

Also on reunions, the 99th National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association Reunion: 1917-2017 has been set for August 13-20, 2017, also at Fort Carson, Colorado. Interest parties should contact them directly at www.4thinfantry.org.

Just after publishing our September newsletter, we received word that Mark DeLong (3rd Platoon—3-67/68) had suffered a heart attack on September 17 and was facing open heart surgery. Please join me in wishing him well and hoping for a speedy recovery.

Also, last September, we received notice of the passing of Rich Geib (XO—10/70-4/71) last March 31. His obituary is on our Bulletin Board. A belated Bravo sympathy card was sent on behalf of the association.

Editor's Notes—continued

We received a request from Dennis Earwood (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Original) to add William F. Madsen (non-member “original” 4th Platoon) to our Memorial Page. Dennis tried to contact Bill several decades ago and was told by a family member that he had died in a motorcycle accident. No further information could be found. I have added his name as requested.

We received two returns from our last newsletter mailing; Andre Fontenolle (no info) marked “Refused” and Perry Sheridan (4th Platoon—11-67/68) marked “Deceased.” Andre was placed on our “Inactive Member” list and Perry was moved to our Memorial Page.

In the past I corresponded with R. J. Del Veechio, co-author of “Whitewash/Blackwash, Myths of the Vietnam War.” There are 17 myths listed in all. Since I have space in this issue I’m printing the first, which can be found on our Bulletin Board.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Our next newsletter will be out in March and we will be accepting input through the end of February. Until then, may peace be with you.

Dee and I wish all our Bravo brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy and healthy new year!

Dave 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**Reprinted from 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Newsletter—re: Soui Tre Reunion—March 19-24, 2017**

To all my Brave Brothers that had fought at Soui Tre and survived that March 21st day in 1967. We will be having a get together for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Soui Tre on March 19th-24th. All units involved are invited to attend. There will be plenty of activities including a banquet, a surprise TV actor guest, a day at Fort Carson, with a Memorial Service at the Fort, complete with a 21 Cannon Salute on the 21st of March for our Brothers who were lost on that day and during the insertion into GOLD on the 19th. A tentative guided tour of the Air Force Academy is in the planning stages. In addition, optional trips to Wildwood Casino are being planned. There will be plenty of things to do, a luncheon/shopping for the wives, a special guided tour of the Air Force Academy, and the best part is that you can be with all your brothers, see old comrades and make new friends. The registration for this event will be \$65 per person, which includes the Banquette Dinner, the use of the Hospitality Room, buses to events, etc. This must be paid by 2-1-2017 so we have a final head count. This fee is to be mailed to **Bill King, PO Box 414, Florissant, CO 80816**. Special room rate is \$91 + tax for a Single/Double Standard Room. This rate includes a free hot breakfast buffet. The Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs will be our meeting site. **Hotel reservations for rooms must be made by 2-27-2017** in order to get the special rate. The Hotel Elegante telephone number is 1-800-981-4012. When you register, tell them you're here for the Soui Tre Reunion and Group # is 1612683. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on your unit's website. In addition, if you know of anyone who was at Soui Tre, please tell them about this event as this will be their final opportunity to commemorate the battle and meet with the participants. (This will be our last reunion.) For questions, contact Jim Neely at jimneeley1946@gmail.com or Bill King at billkingsouitre@aol.com.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries**Richard McCallum Geib, 71 (XO—10/70-4/71)**

Rich was a resident of Cape Coral, FL for the past nine years, formerly of Grapevine, TX. He passed away March 31, 2016 in Cape Coral. He was born February 13, 1945 in Washington, DC to Robert and Louise Geib, Jr., now deceased. A proud Vietnam veteran, Richard served in the Army with the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge for his service. He was a member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society. Richard was an avid boater and an officer with the Southwest Florida Yacht Club as well as a past Flotilla Commander in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He also enjoyed studying genealogy and was a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and Sons of the American Revolution. Richard was a graduate of Bridgewater College and the former owner and CEO of Tripmaster Corporation in Arlington, TX before retiring to Cape Coral. He was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ft. Myers, FL.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Whitewash/Blackwash—Myths of the Vietnam War

Myth #1—The US had no reason to be involved in Vietnam.

The Cold War, a face-off between the Western powers and Soviet-based Communism, erupted into view shortly after the end of World War Two, and ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It is not easy for those who did not live in those times to understand the degree of concern that gripped the United States and many other countries during the 1950s and early 1960s. A long list of countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, China, etc.) had been taken over by communists, using subterfuge, destabilization, and outright force, and the stated aim of international communism was to achieve world domination. A premier of Russia pounded a table in the UN and proclaimed to the American public “We will bury you!” With the Soviet bloc right on the borders of Europe, and China threatening Asia, the vision of a world possibly overrun by the Reds seemed all too real; and the reports from refugees of what life under Communism was like were more than enough to make Americans anxious to prevent that vision from ever coming true. The primary strategy of the US was the Containment Policy, whereby the US and its allies would do everything possible to prevent the continued takeover of countries by Communism. It was hoped/believed that over time the communist system would fall prey to inherent flaws and eventually fall apart. Communist insurgencies in Greece, Malaysia, Indonesia, and parts of South America were defeated, and South Korea was freed from the invasion by the communist North in a bloody war that was supported primarily by American troops. The atrocities committed by the communist troops, insincere and manipulative negotiations by the North Koreans, and horrific treatment of POWs were all aspects of communist actions that foreshadowed Vietnam. Early in John F. Kennedy’s presidency a crisis arose with a communist threat of missiles based in Cuba. This was resolved by brinkmanship diplomacy, but it served to maintain the resolve of the US to support the Containment Policy. Thus the threat of communists taking over all of Vietnam, which America had become well aware of during the 1954 division of that country as the French abandoned their imperial policy, was seen as the next incursion of expansionist Communism. And logically, the next place where every means had to be brought to bear to limit that incursion. The possibility that the other countries of SE Asia would then suffer communist subversion and eventual takeover was called the Domino Theory. While arguments have been made that the situation might have been handled differently, the resistance to the spread of Communism into Southeast Asia was entirely consistent with Containment. Since Laos and Cambodia share borders with Vietnam, and also border on Thailand, which borders on Malaysia, the avenues for the possible spread of communism across the region were obvious. Therefore, it is a myth that the USA had no stake in Vietnam, no real interest in the conflict.