

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

December, 2017



Radisson Hotel—Site of 2018 Reunion



**Shepherd Inspiration
Tower**



**Main Street Lake
Cruises**



**Butterfly Palace &
Rainforest**

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President's Message

John Gority
President
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John had severe aortic stenosis diagnosed a while back. He had aortic valve replacement surgery on October 24 using a valve constructed from bovine heart. He spent a week in the Cardiothoracic ICU at the UPMC Altoona Hospital. Then he went to an inpatient rehab facility for PT, OT, etc. for over two weeks to get his strength and functionality back. He was discharged from there on November 16 and we left for Harrisburg for the family gathering for Thanksgiving the following Monday. He started going to physical therapy/cardiac rehab this week at the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona. He will continue with that for the next few weeks. He also started back to work at his Sharpening Shop this week since he's now allowed to drive! He's tough!

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to seeing you in Branson!

Donna



Vice President's Column

Charles Weems
Vice President
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Seasons Greetings to my fellow comrades and Bravo family. I hope and pray that everyone is doing well. Now that the holiday season is near, it's time to remember those who are not as fortunate as others! The Salvation Army, Goodwill and the Order of the Purple Heart are good places to donate money and used clothing.

Before we know it, our reunion will be happening in Branson, Missouri. We should start now making plans to attend this one. At our age, we don't know how many we have left.

May God bless and keep Bravo Company and all who support us!

Charlie



John Otte
Treasurer/Locater
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Association Business

Financial Report Income and Expense	
Sept. 1, 2017 Balance	\$14,871.42
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$3,825.00
Donations	
Total Income	\$3,825.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$464.97
Website	79.80
Bank Service Charge	15.00
Total Expenses	\$559.77
Nov. 30, 2017 Balance	\$18,136.65



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
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Welcome back Bravo Brothers! Hope this finds all of you well. While I have your attention, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and good wishes for the new year from Dee and I.

I learned from Facebook that John Gority has recently undergone major surgery and is now in recovery. Donna Gority has submitted an update on John's condition, as a replacement for his column. Please join me in wishing him well.

Blair Moran (Co. RTO—69/70) has informed us of a Veterans Wall being erected in his home town of Perryville. Details on the Bulletin Board.

Editor's Notes (continued)

Phyllis Vickery (sister of Donny Tidwell) has let us know that she still plans to attend our Bravo reunion. Details on the Bulletin Board.

We received an e-mail from William Williams, also regarding Donny Tidwell, looking for information on him and our unit. Details on the Bulletin Board.

The film "The Vietnam War," a 10 part, 18 hour documentary carried on PBS stations, has come and gone. Rather than being a slave to a TV, Dee bought the set for me through Amazon. In my opinion, it strongly promotes the liberal viewpoint that PBS is known for, while denigrating the military and depicting us grunts as victims. Of the soldiers profiled, almost all became active with the anti-war movement after. It was nice seeing film footage from back in the day and I learned a lot about the politics behind the war. If any of you would like to borrow it for viewing, let me know and I'll send it to you. You would be obligated to return it to me when done, or send it to whomever is next on the list if there are more wanting it.

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the passing of Mario Reyes (1st. Plt.—10-68/69) and Walt Shugart (C.O.—1/67-4/67). Information on both is on our Bulletin Board. Sympathy cards and letters of condolence were sent on behalf of the organization. Additionally, John Otte sent flowers to Walt's funeral on behalf of the organization, funded by the Board members and Ted Silberies. A response from Shirley Shugart is on the Bulletin Board, followed by a eulogy from Roger Frydrychowski (2/22 Mech).

Thank you John Kapor for submitting an interesting history essay about the 4th Infantry Division. It is at the bottom of our Bulletin Board.

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

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.

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Submitted by Blair Moran (Co. RTO—69/70)

Dave, the next time you publish a newsletter, please mention the multi million dollar project now underway in Perryville, MO, which is 60 miles south of St. Louis on I-55. They are constructing a wall the same size as the Vietnam Wall in D.C. Punch up [Missouri National Veterans Memorial](#) and get some overview of the project.

BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Phyllis Vickery (sister of Donny Tidwell)**

Thank you for including me in your newsletter. This is all so new it has taken 50 years for me to reach out to anyone. When the time comes close, I would like someone to help me know what I need to pay and what I need to expect. (I have volunteered to sponsor her—Editor.) I will be so overwhelmed with grief after all these years, as I have never been involved with anything to honor my brother, PFC Donny Gay Tidwell. I am planning on being there with my son and his wife, plus my husband. Thank you for caring.

Submitted by William Williams, Associate Research Engineer, Texas A& M Univ.

Greetings Mr. Lowell, I am responsible for a memorial dedication for Donny G. Tidwell we will be having at my High School located at Diana, Texas on March 20, 2018. Donny and I attended the same school in the little North East Texas town. Donny was killed in action at the Battle of Good Friday on April 12, 1968. I have donated the funds for renaming our baseball field at our school along with a new flagpole with a memorial to Donny. I would like to talk with any members of Bravo Company who knew and served with Donny. I am also writing a brief story on the History of Bravo Company from say early 1965 to the close of the war. I am also interested in the artillery efforts/capability of Bravo Company during the duration of the war. I plan to publish this story in our regional newspaper here in North East Texas, along with information provided to visitors at our dedication. My contact information is 3135 TAMUS, Texas A&M University System, College Station, TX 77843-3135—w-williams@tti.tamu.edu. My home address is William Williams, 605 Brussels Drive, College Station, TX 77845. My office number is (979) 862-2297 but I prefer my cell number which is (979) 575-5200.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Mario Albert Reyes Sr. (1st Platoon—10-68/69) - Mario Reyes Sr. was born on July 29, 1944 in Tijuana, Mexico to his parents Ernesto and Mercedes Borjorquez. Sadly, he left us on August 1, 2017 at the age of 73. Mario grew up in Los Banos and attended local elementary schools, Los Banos High School and received an AA degree from Merced Junior College. At the age of 23, he was drafted into the United States Army and served from 1968 to 1970. During his military service, he served to protect our country during the Vietnam War. During his tour of duty with "The Regulars" of Company B, 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry, Mario survived numerous battles including human wave attacks by the enemy. He was wounded while in combat for which he was awarded numerous medals including the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars, one of which was for valor. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW organizations. Mario was a very hard-working man who always gave 100% effort. As a young man, he worked for various businesses and companies including 20 years for the Chevron Corporation. He then became a commercial truck driver for Trans Valley Transport. He later became employed by Santa Clara Transfer where he worked for the last 18 years. When he wasn't driving or cleaning his big rig, Mario enjoyed working in his yard, listening to Oldies But Goodies music and watching the news and Judge Judy. But more importantly, Mario loved people, especially his family. He had a great sense of humor and loved "getting the best" of other people. Mario had many, many friends all of whom he considered to be family, and he truly loved all of his family. He is survived by Sherry Reyes, with whom he shared 53 years, 48 of those as husband and wife, and 4 children. He is and will forever be greatly missed...until we meet again.

James "Walt" Shugart III (C.O.—1/67-4/67) - Colonel James Walter "Walt" Shugart III (Ret.) died at home in Midlothian, Virginia, at the age of 78. Walt is survived by his wife of 53 years, Shirley Tolman Shugart; and by his three children. Walt was born on July 28, 1939, in Fort Worth, Texas. In 1961, he graduated from Washington & Lee University and was commissioned as an infantry 2LT. In March 1967, as a company commander, Walt was awarded the

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Silver Star for Gallantry defending a fire base in Vietnam. Upon retirement from the Army, Walt and Shirley settled in Midlothian. From 1987 to 1996, he served as the first administrator of Richmond Hill, an ecumenical Christian retreat center. He was an active member of Epiphany Catholic Church and served in many positions.

Submitted by Shirley Shugart

Dave, please thank Bravo Company for the lovely flowers that were sent for Walt's funeral. The ceremony at Arlington will not be for a year. Arlington works with the local funeral home. I will be given three dates and will have to select one. I will have no idea of the date until we are notified. Carl and Helen Lammers and Mike and Marge Detmer attended Walt's funeral service. I was surprised and pleased. Thank you for your assistance.

Submitted by Roger Frydrychowski (2/22 Mech,)—Walt Shugart was a captain commanding Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry, in Vietnam when he, with exceptional valor and extraordinary leadership, directed his courageous infantrymen in the defense of an Artillery battalion, 2nd/77th Artillery, at Fire Support Base Gold. The fire base came under attack the morning of March 21, 1967 by almost 2,500 VC regulars, well trained and equipped, hard-core fighters from experienced Viet Cong units. The VC force, attacking out of heavy jungle growth in waves directly at and into Walt's company on the perimeter of the fire base, were engaged by the defenders in bitter hand to hand fighting ultimately well within the perimeter. Surviving officers and men estimated that they expected to be wholly overrun in no more than ten minutes as a reinforcing mechanized battalion, 2nd/22hq (Mech) infantry and armor arrived at the battle encircling the defenders. The VC left over 800 dead on the battlefield while defenders overall lost 36 killed in action with 190 wounded, many seriously. Having led that reinforcing column, spoken with survivors and studied the battle, I am convinced that had it not been for Walt's personal courage and leadership of the brave men in his company that held back the enemy attacking waves for an extended period of time, the base would have been overrun and most of the 300 US soldiers annihilated before our reinforcing column could have reached them. It is with pride that I knew and served on the same battlefield with Col (Ret.) James "Walt" Shugart, III. It was an honor, Walt. May it be said, well done.

Submitted by the Editor

Contact information is no longer valid for John Goral (2nd Platoon—69/70). He has been moved to our Inactive List.

Submitted by John Kapior (3rd Platoon—Basic Only)

Division Continues Rich History (Published in Iron Horse Newsletter)—The 4th Infantry Division prepares trained and ready expeditionary forces for deployment in support of combatant commander requirements; provides first-class support to Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and families; and enables unified action with community, state and interagency partners to accomplish all assigned missions. The division's historical nickname, the "Ivy" Division, originates with the design of its shoulder patch, four green ivy leaves joined at the stem and opening at the four corners. Ivy leaves were symbolic of tenacity and fidelity and were the basis of the division motto, "Steadfast and Loyal." The word "Ivy" was also a play on the Roman numeral four, "IV." In recent decades with deployment to Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, the 4th Inf. Div. became known as the "Iron Horse" Division. The 4th Inf. Div. has earned 22 campaign streamers for participation in World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and since World War I, 21 Soldiers were awarded the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romeha and Staff Sgt. Ty Michael Carter are two recent Soldiers to receive the nation's highest military award for extraordinary gallantry and selfless actions during the Battle of Kamdesh at Combat Outpost Keating, Afghanistan, Oct. 3, 2009. Capt. Florent A Groberg

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was the latest Iron Horse Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor from the president, Nov. 12, 2015. Groberg, formerly of the 4th Brigade Combat Team is the third Fort Carson Soldier from the unit to receive the Medal of Honor. The 4th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, was constituted Nov. 19, 1917, and activated Dec. 10, 1917, at Camp Greene, North Carolina. By June 1918, the entire division had arrived in France, and before entering combat in July for the Aisne-Marne Offensive, the 4th fought with distinction across France and received great praise for its heroic efforts during St. Mariel and the Muese-Argonne campaigns. With the Armistice signed on Nov. 11, the division moved to serve both the French and British sectors as well as all Corps in the American sector and was the first to crack the Hindenburg Line. The 4th Inf. Div. was reactivated in June 1940 and began training immediately for war. Sent to England in January 1944 for amphibious training prior to D-Day, the Ivy Division was first ashore, landing at Utah Beach June 6, 1944. After a successful landing and breakout from Normandy, the 4th pushed into France and liberated Paris. The division then moved to Luxembourg where its Soldiers became the first U.S. troops to breach the Siegfried Line and enter Germany. The 4th moved north to face the enemy in the bloody Hurtgen Forest and after weeks of brutal combat returned to Luxembourg for action in the Battle of the Bulge. The 4th halted the enemy advance in December, gained the offensive and attacked across the Rhine River and into eastern Germany during the spring of 1945. The Fighting Fourth was again called into action in the fall of 1965 and sent to Vietnam. The division was given a large area of the Central Highlands to control and a base camp was soon established at Pleiku. During the next four years, the 4th engaged the enemy in brutal combat, conducting search and destroy missions and constant patrols to defend its assigned territory. The 4th eliminated enemy incursions moving from the Ho Chi Minh Trail thru Cambodia and Laos. When the division departed Vietnam in late 1970, it had earned 11 campaign streamers and 12 Soldiers had earned the Medal of Honor. Ivy Soldiers returned to combat in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and would deploy multiple times during the next eight years. After arriving in April 2003, the division established Task Force Iron Horse at Tikrit and engaged the enemy north of Baghdad. In December 2003, the 4th, along with special operations forces, captured Saddam Hussein. The 4th Inf. Div. Headquarters returned in both 2005 and 2007 to command Multi-National Division-Baghdad, and the division's brigade combat teams also made multiple deployments in support of the war. During their service in Iraq, Iron Horse Soldiers would balance aggressive operations to eliminate threats with massive rebuilding projects and sophisticated training programs. The al-Qaida attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, resulted in a swift and unified action to destroy those responsible. The U.S. Army invaded Afghanistan in 2001 to search for and destroy al-Qaida, its sympathizers and its leader, Osama Bin Laden. The action became known as Operation Enduring Freedom and focused on eliminating the Taliban organization that supported al-Qaida and practiced domestic terrorism against the people of Afghanistan. As the war evolved, U.S. and NATO forces increased in number to also provide necessary security training and infrastructure development for a free and democratic Afghanistan. The Iron Horse Division cased its colors again, June 24, 2013, symbolizing the beginning of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion's one-year deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The division deployed part of its headquarters to support NATO's International Security Assistance Force Regional Command-South in its mission to support and development and governance in the Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan and Daykundi provinces. After returning from its deployment to Regional Command-South, Afghanistan, the 4th Inf. Div. received the Army's Regionally Allocated Forces mission in Europe. Arriving in Europe Feb. 13, 2015, the 4th Inf. Div. Mission Command Element serves as an intermediate headquarters for U.S. Army Europe, operating in support of Atlantic Resolve. The 4th Inf. Div. headquarters is the first division-level headquarters to deploy to Europe as part of the regionally allocated forces concept. The MCE is a headquarters element enhanced multinational training and security cooperation activities with allies and partners in Eastern Europe, to include countries of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Germany.



Reunion Update

Jim Adams
Reunion Host
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The lady that I have been working with from the beginning of the planning of the Bravo Reunion has left the Branson Tourism Bureau and went somewhere else. She left us and four other clients with lots of unfinished work.

I have a new person and she has worked with the hotel and tried very hard to make all of this work. The only hiccup is the large room that we were going to use for the reunion.

The solution is to move the dates of the reunion back by one day, starting on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 and ending on Friday, June 22, 2018. We will have the banquet on Friday.

The hotel has added the extra day at the Bravo Reunion rate of \$99.54 (with tax would be \$111.58) from Tuesday evening through Saturday evening with check out on Sunday.

We will have the large hospitality room for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This will give the attendees three full days to visit and have fun, before the Memorial on Friday.

I have attached the new agenda with the date changes.

I hope this is the only change.

Thanks,

Jim and Pam



2018 Bravo Reunion Schedule of Events

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

- 8:00 a.m. Reunion hall opens—all day check-in and placement of raffle baskets and other items
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome by Host Jim Adams with reception (food), fellowship and friends

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

- 6:00 a.m. Hotel complimentary breakfast until 9:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. Reunion hall opens for the day
- 9:00 a.m. Free time and fellowship, shopping
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Would like to offer visit to Vietnam Museum (group rate of \$12.28 with 15 or more attending)
OR
Would like to offer a Music Show (group rate of \$35.00 with 15 or more attending). **This is without providing transportation.**
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and fellowship

Thursday, June 21, 2018

- 6:00 a.m. Hotel complimentary breakfast until 9:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. Reunion hall opens for the day
- 9:00 a.m. Free time for friendship and shopping
- 1:00 p.m. Board bus for transportation to Cruise, food. Bus will then transport back to the hotel after the cruise (the cost of this is \$50 per person which includes transportation and meal)

Friday, June 22, 2018

- 6:00 a.m. Hotel complimentary breakfast until 9:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. Reunion hall opens for the day
- 10:00 a.m. Board and Membership Meetings (followed by photo opportunities)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. Memorial Service
- 2:45 p.m. Raffle drawing and time to be with friends
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and entertainment

The hotel room rate will be from Tuesday night to Saturday night with check-out at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Check-in is at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Thank you for coming to our part of the country and please be safe in your journey.

**BRAVO REGULAR 2018 REUNION
JUNE 19 – 24, 2018
BRANSON, MISSOURI
REGISTRATION FORM AND INFORMATION NEEDED**

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per Person

Full Name: _____

Guest/Spouse Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number Guests: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Vietnam Unit: _____

Date of Service: _____

Arrival Date Reunion: _____ Depart Reunion: _____

Email Address: _____

Wednesday offering: Vietnam Museum : # attending _____

Wednesday offering: 50's/60's Music : # attending _____

REUNION Shirts: \$25.00 each SIZE: S M L XL XXL XXXL (Circle Size) Number ordered:

REUNION Hats: \$15.00 Number ordered: _____

Thursday Cruise; Meal; Transportation to and From cruise: \$50.00 per person: Number going:

Lodging information: Radisson Hotel: \$99.54 plus tax 12.1% = \$111.58 per/room per/night, Single or Double: please make reservation through the Branson Tourism Bureau at 1-800-268-4014 or 1-417-334-8325. Mention Bravo Reunion for rate. Branson Tourism Bureau will also help with camping areas needs as well as air fare to Reunion. Room Reservations need to be made by May 1, 2018 to make sure you can receive the Bravo Reunion Room Rate

Please complete this form, make checks payable to Bravo Reunion 2018 and mail to Jim & Pam Adams, 17278 Highway HH, Mexico, Missouri 65265 by May 25, 2018. Information can also be emailed to JamesK923@msn.com or pammyanny@msn.com. Phones numbers: 573-581-6824 or Pam's cell phone: 573-253-5974.