

# Bravo Regulars

B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

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

June 2016



2016 REUNION ATTENDEES

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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**Memorial  
Day**  
*Never Forget  
Ever Honor*



# In Memory

## Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry



### COMBAT CASUALTIES

12/18/66	William J. Madsen	08/19/67	Baxter H. Ellis	05/14/68	Edward D. Crow
	Scott S. Webber	09/26/67	James R. Watanabe		George L. Mundy, Jr.
12/21/66	Edward L. Brock	10/22/67	Larry R. McDuffie	09/11/68	Eldon D. Coldren, Jr.
	Marvin T. Hughes	11/01/67	Louis E. Armstead		Lonnie E. Lundy
	William D. Mullins		Bertmann E. Miller	09/20/68	Daniel B. Persons
	Norman Toennies	11/28/67	Darrell H. Morey	01/16/69	Roger A. Dixon
	Vincente Zuniga	12/02/67	George L. Duplessis		Giuseppe Magri
01/21/67	Louis J. Wandler	01/02/68	Odell Stokes, Jr.		Randall J. Wicklace
03/19/67	Marlin C. Eversgerd	01/15/68	Kenneth R. Howell	02/23/69	Scott M. Sibson
	Jack M. Gosnell		Ernest T. Martin	03/12/69	Franklin M. Lanier
	Robert L. Linn, Jr.		Thomas R. Watts	04/13/69	Louis Castro
	Paul J. McGowan		Charles W. Irby		Roger W. Hood
	Louis Sas		Richard H. Walker		Michael D. Howard
	Donald L. Schroeder	01/31/68	Lucy V. Holland	05/11/69	David A. Trinkala
	Donald W. Walters	02/10/68	Robert R. Gray	06/06/69	William M. Crusie, Jr.
	Rodney R. Weed	02/19/68	Donald P. Roemer	08/08/69	Bruce A. Eamick
	Thomas J. Dando		Bobbie E. Sikes	10/05/69	Walter J. Hogans
	Fred H. Patterson		John E. Milanowski		Elvis E. Mullen
03/21/67	Herman E. Anders, Jr.	02/23/68	Louis A. Martinez	10/25/69	Florencio Q. Marquez
	Matthew D. Atkins III	04/12/68	Edward C. Beckwith	01/30/70	Luis A. LeBron
	Kenneth G. Blanton		Alan P. Butkus	02/16/70	George O. Boatwright
	James R. Hintz		John E. Cunningham, Jr.	03/28/70	Bobby G. Swanson
	Brian F. Gibbons		Robert W. Ellsworth	08/31/70	Gary R. Metz
	Charles R. Goodwin		William E. Maxwell		James E. Duckworth
	Charles R. Greer		Robert L. Melton, Jr.	10/02/70	William I. Allsbrook, Jr.
	Virgil M. Ledford		Glenn L. Moller, Jr.		Bruce J. Stickel
	Edward J. Muller		Reynaldo N. Orozco		David F. Tinsey
	Larry L. Warnock		David Strupp		Jimmy W. Westbrook
04/01/67	Allen S. Mican		Donny G. Tidwell		Kit Carson Scout Bui V.T.
04/08/67	Jimmy C. Harper		Douglas R. Weiher	11/02/70	Stephen J. Kaster
04/10/67	Salvadore M. Nava		Billy J. Brown	11/13/70	Robert H. Gumm
06/02/67	Albert Graham, Jr.	05/14/68	Richard G. Beck, Jr.		
07/06/67	Jerry R. Beebe				

### POST-COMBAT PASSINGS

1970	Joe Rennison	Peter McKenney	2004	Randy Schick	2012	Darryle Funk
	Charles W. Long	John Glass	2005	Gary Reynolds		Pete Heald
	David Reyes	Larry Jenkins		John Howe	2013	Curtis Daniels, Jr.
	David R. Stalker	Leroy Gregerson		William Samson		Albert Comeaux
2003	Tex Richards	Ernest Menchaca	2006	Jack Gainey		Joseph Mafort
	Roscoe Greene Jr.	James R. Rhone	2007	Ted Davis		Nolan Price
	James Clark	Charles Dearden		Alfred Warmsley	2014	Allen Peteet
	Tom Vargo	Franklin Benhart		George Hicks		Peter Trapino
	William Mosley	John Medicinetop		Roger Beegle		Norm Bergsma
	Gary Patton	Roy Davidson	2008	Charles Rock		Roger Clements
	Anthony Giavonni	Robert Gregory	2009	Larry Thomas	2015	Frederick Barlow
	Hector Rosado	Nolan Adams		Gary Tetting		Ernest Williams
	John Ellison	James Genoff		Robert Duncan		Frederick Gray
	Lawrence Baughman	Cornell Brown	2010	Steve March		Charles Ellis
	Charles Sheldon	John J. Roche		Charles Putman		Gerald DePhilip
	Robert S. Schlegel	Gerald Lyda		Richard Wood		Donny Tew
	Larry Augsburg	Warner Surphin		Ernie Rice		Richard Wiltshire
	David Blanton	Larry Eason		Allen Bateman		Allen Haskins
	Wade McGowan	Allen Lavigan		Alvin Bess	2016	Lester Lemon
	Mark Rowan	Frank Roberts		Marion Hiers		
	Douglas Wartella	James L. Roedel		Tommy McKenny		
	Dwight Jessup	Michael Nordstrom		John Blockman		
	Herbert Pruitt	John A. Bender		Richard Prairie		
	Joe Lappie	Edward Nidy	2012	Robert Hemphill		
	Jim Bakke	Frank Blue		Terry Shipley		
	Charles Burns	James Jones		Jose Cosme Ribera		
	Tommy Harris	Louis Phillips		Robert Ryan		





## President's Message

John Gority  
President  
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

First, I want to thank Richard "Crazy" Ward and Dorene Clark for planning and implementing a great reunion! "This was a wonderful reunion" - words I heard many times as we were saying our good byes and leaving for home. Donna and I stayed at the Best Western hotel, as did many others. It was a very good place to stay; clean, centrally located and comfortable. The reunion venue, the Naples Italian American Foundation, was excellent with air conditioning, great food, plenty of seating, cash bar service and parking readily available. We had memorable speakers and musical presentations from young and old alike.

Dennis Amily, as always, brought his educational "war wagon" with lots of memorabilia, weapons and equipment that we used in Vietnam. He also had photos from many of the past reunions on display. This year he had a new diorama model of the battlefield at Suoi Tre. Denny, thanks for your commitment to education. Those who come into contact with you learn what we experienced In Country.

Our excursion on the Naples Princess around the Bay was excellent! The weather cooperated, so we had lots of Florida sunshine to enjoy. We were amazed at the gorgeous mansions and yachts that we saw. The meal was very good, as were the conversations with our traveling companions. The crew took very good care of us and we encourage anyone going to visit Naples in the future to consider including the Princess in your itinerary.

Thanks to Chaplain Ted Rowley for bringing his symbolic tribute to our fallen Bravo Company brothers and for conducting a meaningful memorial service as he always can be counted on to do.

I'd like to thank everyone for the faith they have put in me to serve as your President for the next two years. Charlie Weems from Glen Burnie, MD, was unanimously elected to serve us as Vice President. We had a wonderful problem in that three members stepped up to offer to host our next reunion. After voting, we selected Jim Adams' proposal to have the reunion in Branson, Missouri. We're looking forward to our visit there in 2018; hope we'll see you all there.

Many of our communities have special events for Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Flag Day (also known as the US Army birthday!); I hope many of you were active participants in these recognitions.

Have a great summer!

*John*



## **Vice President's Column**

Charles Weems  
Vice President  
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Greetings Brothers of Bravo!

I'm hoping all of you and your families are in good health, doing well and in good spirit! This year is really moving fast. Half of the year is gone already! I would like to thank Richard Ward and Dorene Clark for being such GREAT hosts in Naples. We all had a wonderful time greeting old friends and meeting new ones. A big shout out to Ted and Judi Silberies for all they do for Bravo Company. They are always going ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY!

Thank you guys for electing me as your Vice President. I'm just praying that my PTSD will not get in the way. I'm also praying that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Charlie*





John Otte  
Treasurer/Locator  
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## Association Business

### FINANCIAL REPORT

**March 1, 2016 Balance** **\$11,683.54**

#### Income

**Dues** **\$802.00**

#### Expenses

**Newsletter** **\$553.43**

**Bank Fees** **15.00**

**Total** **\$568.43**

**May 31, 2016 Balance** **\$11,917.11**

### **BRAVO 3/22 GENERAL MEETING REUNION 2016, NAPLES, FLORIDA APRIL 6, 2016**

President Ted Silberies called the meeting to order.

Introduction of the new board members: President—John Gority, Vice President—Charlie Weems, Treasurer—John Otte and Secretary/Newsletter Editor/Publisher—Dave Lowell. All officers elected (unopposed).

2018 Reunion Host: We had three members offering to host our next reunion: John Dandles, Jim Adams and Robert Best. Jim Adams was selected to host in Branson, Missouri.

#### New Business:

1. Design sympathy card rather than sending flowers.
2. Create guidelines to assist reunion hosts.

Special thanks to Sandy Perkins for her efforts with 50/50 raffle, to Lisa Young for the quilt and to Judi Silberies for her assistance in so many ways. Also, a big thanks to Dorene for working with Richard in making the reunion great.

*John*



## Guest Column

Walt Shugart

(804) 739-5288

Email: [swshugart@verizon.net](mailto:swshugart@verizon.net)

Shirley and I missed this year's reunion for the first time since the St. Rose reunion in 2000. We made our reservations, paid our fees and were all set to attend, when on 20 October 2015 I was struck with multiple myeloma and hospitalized for three weeks. After five months of dialysis three times a week and seven and a half months of chemo therapy which is continuing, I'm well on the way to recovery despite the fact that multiple myeloma is only maintainable, not curable. While she was caring for me, Shirley broke her ankle in late January, so the care receiver became her principle care giver. She too is now able to drive, leave the confines of her bed and care for herself, but travel in early April to the reunion in Florida was an impossibility.

All that said, my son traveled from Texas to visit us in early December to help his mother and check on Dad. While here he did internet research on multiple myeloma and found that the VA recognized the disease as caused by exposure to Agent Orange, and makes those veterans of Vietnam who suffer from it eligible for disability compensation. In fact, this VA web site lists veterans diseases which are attributable to Agent Orange exposure <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>.

I would encourage all to visit the web site and share it with any Vietnam veterans whom you know. There is no time limit for applying for disability compensation, so examine the site and, if eligible, apply for your earned compensation.

In closing, Shirley and I wish to thank all who called, emailed, or visited us both during and following the reunion. In truth we were sustained by your best wishes and prayers.

*Walt*



Remember -  
our fallen heros.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.



## Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell  
Editor  
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Welcome back Bravo Brothers! Hope this finds all of you as well as can be expected for geezers our age. The cover art shows the reunion attendees for 2016. I was unable to attend due to health problems, which are now improving. I'm confident I'll be able to make the next one. To commemorate Memorial Day, you will find a current copy of our Memorial Page to help you in honoring our fallen brothers.

Thank you Jim Adams (2nd Platoon—9/66-10/67 Original) for volunteering to host Reunion 2018 in Branson, Missouri. It will be held in late June. Further information will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Also, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society has announced their reunion will be held May 4 through May 7, 2017 at The Orleans Hotel, Resort and Casino, 4500 W. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada. Additional information is available directly from them.

Thanks to Walt Shugart (C.O.—1/67-4/67) and Lane Sterling (Co. RTO/2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Original) for contributing articles relating to Agent Orange exposure. We all need to keep current on this constantly changing situation. Details are in a guest column and on the Bulletin Board, respectively.

Welcome Charlie Weems (2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Original), our newly elected Vice President. Charlie and I served together as Originals with 2nd Platoon, so I'm looking forward to corresponding with him. He's already submitted a column for this issue.

I just learned from Facebook on May 29 that Ted Silberies (3rd Platoon—1-69/70) has broken his leg and is in the hospital. Please join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Melissa Greene is seeking information about the Battle of Good Friday and William Earl "Rick" Maxwell, who was KIA there in April, 1968. Anyone who served at that time, please help if you can. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

Thank you, Dorene Clark, Event Coordinator for Reunion 2016, for submitting a recent newspaper article about the reunion. It can be viewed on the Bulletin Board

Thanks again to John Kapor (3rd Platoon—Basic Only) for sharing fascinating information about the origin of Taps. It is especially appropriate for our Memorial Day issue. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

For the last quarter, three members have been moved to the inactive list due to no longer valid contact information (Dave Anderson, Ron Ferrell, and Donald Roberts) and one passed away with no information available (Lester Lemon).

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Our next issue will be out in September and we will be accepting input through the end of August. 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.



## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Submitted by Lane Sterling—Co RTO/2nd Platoon—4/68-6/69**

I received some information on Agent Orange that I felt was important to pass along. This information was sent to me by Terry Parris Jr. of ProPublica. First, the committee concluded that even after 40 years since the end of the Vietnam War, there's still not enough Agent Orange research underway, especially related to potential health consequences for the children and grandchildren of vets who were exposed. "Although progress has been made in understanding the health effects of exposure to the chemicals," the committee members wrote in the report, there are still "significant gaps in our knowledge." We wrote a story about this. Check it out: <http://propub.li/1Mnt5vn>. Second, the report moved three illnesses from "inadequate or insufficient evidence" of Agent Orange association to "limited or suggestive evidence" of Agent Orange association. Those illnesses are: cancer of the urinary bladder, Parkinson's-like neurological disorders (only Parkinson's disease is covered now) and hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid). The IOM has previously found a similar level of evidence for an association between Agent Orange and hypertension and strokes. These illnesses are not currently covered by VA and the department will have to decide whether to adopt them. The VA also doesn't compensate vets with hypertension or who have had a stroke, despite previous IOM reports linking those conditions to Agent Orange. The VA is not bound by the committee's recommendations. The researchers listed more than 30 past suggestions—including calls for additional government-led studies—that apparently haven't been pursued by the VA, or other agencies. In less than a year on this project, 4,084 vets or their family members have submitted a story about how Agent Orange has impacted their lives. These stories are incredible and heartbreaking and frustrating. And every story helps our reporting in some way. We are looking for more. We are asking vets, their family members or their children to fill out the survey on <http://propub.li/1L7uCKR>.

### **Submitted by Melissa Greene**

(Her father was best friends with William Earl "Rick" Maxwell who was KIA at the Battle of Good Friday.) Thanks everyone for your service and for anything you might be able to share. I remember an email from someone years ago, but lost it. I've been researching the Good Friday battle and would like to hear from those of you who made it through. I'm a journalist and have dealt with posers before and I know you all are the real deal. So any memories of that day are welcome and respected. Just a couple weeks ago, I finally found Rick's brother and arranged a meeting between him and my Dad. Bittersweet for both, as they hadn't seen each other since the day Rick shipped out for Tay Ninh and Dad was being sent to Germany. (They enlisted and volunteered for Vietnam together, but Dad had kidney damage from a major car wreck so the Army wouldn't let him into combat, nor would they let Dad home for the funeral.) One more question, Rick's brother gave Dad a stick Rick carried that has segments and a dragon head. I believe it might have been used to count down time in country. There are seven segments left, and it looks like part was carved or cut off at the bottom. Curious what insight you all might have to offer. You may contact me at [wilrite4fd@yahoo.com](mailto:wilrite4fd@yahoo.com). Thanks.



**BULLETIN BOARD****Submitted by Dorene Clark, Event Coordinator, 2016 Reunion—Article from the Collier Citizen—Band of Brothers: Vietnam War infantry veterans meet in Naples to remember, reconnect.**

Their bond was forged in battle, and has lasted a lifetime. The Army infantrymen of Bravo Company don't look like they did on March 21, 1967, the day they were suddenly thrust into one of the fiercest, most intense ground engagements of the Vietnam War. The years have grayed their hair, added pounds to their frames and depleted their ranks. But these soldiers still care enough about the friendships formed in the heat of conflict to get together as a group, almost 50 years later. Have you ever heard of Suoi Tre? It doesn't have the name recognition of Khe Sanh, or the Tet Offensive, let alone the battles of earlier wars such as Iwo Jima, Normandy or Bunker Hill. But for 450 Army "grunts," the quiet jungle outpost turned into a maelstrom of enemy fire and sustained hand-to-hand combat they can never forget. Bravo Company, of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th, and later 25th Infantry Division, earned a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions at the battle of Suoi Tre, an abandoned village 90 miles from Saigon that the Army moved into to set up a fire support base, or FSB, to provide supporting artillery fire for operations in a Viet Cong hotbed. Knowing their advantage in numbers, somewhere between 1,500 and 2,500 insurgents launched a surprise attack at dawn, attempting to overrun and wipe out the base. With every soldier taking up arms, and prompt relief from American ground and air forces, the 3rd Battalion held their position, despite having their perimeter overrun and nearly running out of ammunition. While attacks came from three directions, Bravo Company was on the eastern defenses, subject of the main Viet Cong onslaught. Four hours after it began, the battle was essentially done, with the Viet Cong routed and retreating under fire from the pursuing U.S. relief forces. The Army tallied 647 dead V.C. attackers, with a loss of 31—or 36, the accounts vary—U.S. soldiers killed and approximately 190 wounded. The survivors of Bravo Company, men who served from 1967 through 1969, have gotten together every other year for decades, at locations all across the country. In 2014, they met in Utah, and in their meeting Saturday at the Italian-American Club on Airport-Pulling Road, one item of business was to choose the host for the next gathering in 2018. They were in Naples this year because of former soldier Richard Ward, who lives here, but had health issues that made him late to the reunion on Saturday. He showed up, though, in time for the group photo, in a wheelchair, determined to be part of the group. Ward's business partner, Dorene Clark, served as event coordinator for the four-day gathering. Ward was greeted by the newly chosen president of the group, John Gority of Duncanville, Pennsylvania, who lost a leg above the knee in Vietnam, to what we now call an IED, or improvised explosive device. "We just called them booby traps," said Gority, remembering the day. "We were on patrol in the Michelin rubber plantation, in a forest of rubber trees. I guess we were there to protect the corporate French interest." The soldiers remember their war experiences in different ways. Veteran Ted Rowley made a winged wooden plaque, 6 feet across, titled the "Circle of Love and Peace," that includes brass nameplates for the 101 of their comrades who did not come home alive from the fighting. "I still get choked up saying the names," said Rowley. "You got to come to peace with the people you felled, and the people who felled you." He wrote a poem about his wooden tribute: "Cedar, oak, maple or pine—these guys were just friends of mine." Dennis Amily of Apple Creek, Ohio, drove all the way down with the truck he has fitted out as a museum of the conflict and his unit's part in it. Inside, enough weaponry to interest the Department of Homeland Security, the rifles, machine guns and mortars both that the soldiers fired, and examples of V.C. ordinance including the AK-47 Kalashnikov and RPG-2, a rocket-propelled grenade we might call a bazooka, are displayed with clippings, battle flags and a copy of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded by President Lyndon B. Johnson. "The AK-47 was a terrific weapon in those conditions," said Amily. "You could drop it in the mud, and come up firing. We wouldn't dare do that with out rifles." Outside, he set up a diorama showing a portion of the Suoi Tre battlefield, with soldiers defending their line against a massive contingent of attackers. The group's time in Naples included a lot of just socializing with their old buddies, although they did get out for a cruise on the Naples Princess and listen to music from veteran Tie Dye Ted, as well as dancing with their spouses. In all, 53 veterans came to the reunion with a total contingent of 96. The group considered bids for the 2018 reunion from members in North Carolina and Albany, New York, but when the ballots were tallied, the winner was Branson, Missouri.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Submitted by John Kapor—3rd Platoon, Basic Only

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings out a new meaning of it. Here is something every American should know. We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps....' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elli hears the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born. ***The words are: Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes. From the hills. From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh. Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the Sky. Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night. Thanks and praise. For our day. Neath the sun. Neath the stars. Neath the sky. As we go. This we know. God is nigh.*** I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before. Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country. Also Remember Those Who Have Served and Returned; and those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

