

Bravo Regulars



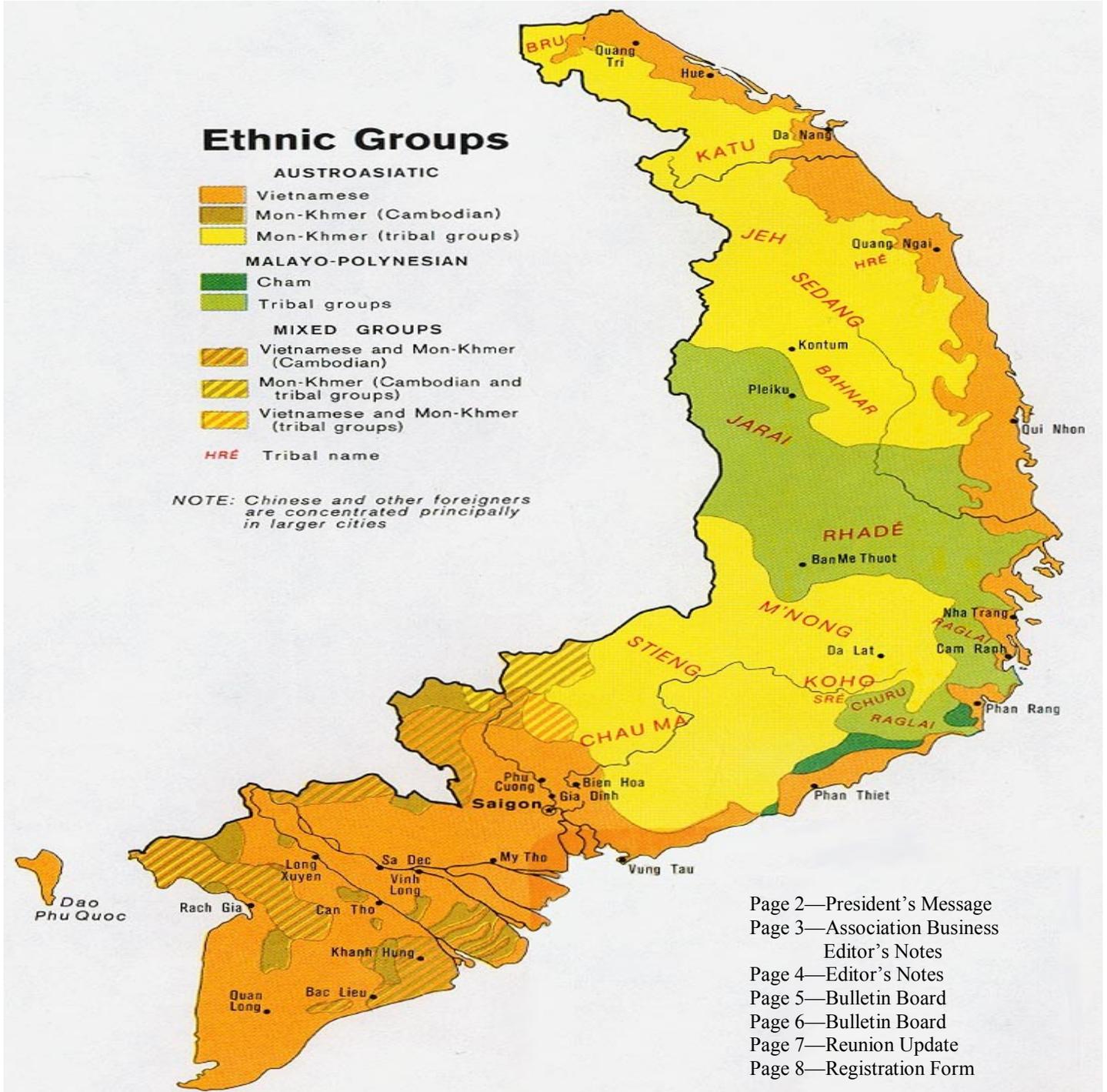
B Company 3/22



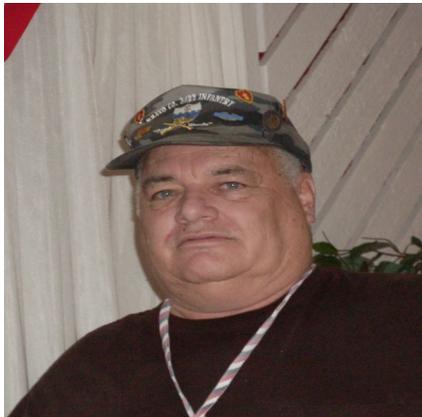
Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

March 2015



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President's Message

Ted Silberies
President
ted9er@gmail.com
(408) 674-2759

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you healthy and content, especially those of you on the East Coast and elsewhere experiencing record snow and ice. I personally have had a great month. Just prior to leaving for warm, sunny Florida I was presented with a quilt by the South Bay Blue Star Moms for my service in Vietnam. I know a few of you have also experienced this heartwarming honor.

Recently I had the pleasure to reconnect with a few of our Bravo brothers while traveling here in Florida. I met up with Sonny Szejbach (3rd Platoon, Co. RTO) and his wife, Christine, while we were vacating in Cape Canaveral. We realized we hadn't seen each other since June 6, 1969, when he was being medevaced out during the battle at FSB Crook. It was good to reminisce about old times and how we're doing now. I'm trying to convince him to join us at our 2016 reunion.

I also had the pleasure of dining with Carl and Helen Lammers a couple of times in the Port St. Lucie area. We had a good time discussing the reunion held at the park in St. Rose, IL and the "USO" show. As always, it was great to see them again.

On the opposite side of the state I spent a couple of hours with Richard Ward at his home in Naples checking out the area and the proposed 2016 reunion site. I'm really looking forward to what has been planned, including the possibility of Doug Smith roasting another pig like he did when he hosted our 1998 reunion in his backyard in California. In this issue of our newsletter there is a reunion registration form. Please fill it out and send it in as soon as possible as Richard needs to know how many people to plan for.

While on the subject, it's never too early to consider hosting our 2018 reunion. Bravo has no set policy on the type of venue, activities, food, etc. This is entirely up to the reunion host. It can be held indoors, outside, or both. Food does not need to be professionally done, and activities can be whatever the host feels appropriate for our group. The important consideration should be our age and abilities, of course.

Hope to see all of you in 2016. All the best until next time,

Ted



Association Business

John Otte
 Treasurer/Locator
 bravo6xray@aol.com
 (310) 539-0886

Financial Report Income and Expenses

December 1, 2014 Balance \$13,398.66

Income

Dues	\$ 105.00
Miscellaneous	<u>30.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 135.00

Expenses

Newsletter	\$ 605.63
Reunion Start-Up	3,500.00
Bank Service Fee	<u>5.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,110.63

February 28, 2015 Balance \$ 9,423.03

John



Editor's Notes

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

Welcome back Bravo Brothers! Hope this issue finds everyone healthy and happy. My condolences to all who don't live in Florida or the Southwest. This winter has been a tough one for most of our nation. The cover of this issue is another map of Vietnam, chosen mostly for its great colors. The ethnic distribution is interesting.

The Suoi Tre Reunion and Memorial event at Fort Carson, Colorado is still on for March 19-24, 2015. Walt Shugart (C.O.—1/67 to 4/67) plans to attend. Anyone wanting information should contact Joe Engles (jcengles@twc.com or 951-696-9565).

Editor's Notes (Continued)

For several years I have been corresponding with Brad Hull (22nd Infantry Regiment Society Registrar, Vietnam 7/69 to 7/70 Alpha Company, 2nd. Bn (Mech), 22nd Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division) who has helped me several times with roster and memorial page information. By mutual agreement, we have been copying each other with our newsletters. I finally broke down and joined them, so will be tracking what they're up to and will report anything of interest in this column.

Unfortunately, I must report that two of our brothers have had health problems. Fran McRickard (3rd Platoon Leader—3-67/68) was diagnosed with melanoma in April, 2014 and underwent extensive treatment. He's been recovering since January. Also, Mark DeLong (3rd Platoon—3-67/68) fell receiving serious facial injuries in late January. Please join me in extending wishes for a speedy recovery for both.

Three members have been moved from our inactive list to active. They are: Doyle Hughes, (5 Medic—12-68/69) 3808 Northwood Drive NW, Cleveland, TN 37312-3805—423-476-8976; Ron Rowley (3rd Platoon—8-68/69) 13385 SW 86th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34473-6855—352-304-8148; and Terry Smith (2nd Platoon RTO/Commo—Orig.) 7718 Dutra Drive, Hemet, CA 92545-8847—951-325-5120—e-mail: izzzy65@yahoo.com. Welcome back to all.

John Kapor (3rd Platoon—Basic only) is a frequent contributor of interesting material to our newsletter. This issue he has contributed Military Rules and Orders, which I'm sure you'll enjoy reading. John is one of two members I am aware of who served with us during early training at Fort Lewis, but were then pulled for other jobs within the battalion. I found his story in the December 2002 issue of The Ivy Leaves and have posted it on the Bulletin Board.

Gary Reeves (7-69/70) submitted some kind words on behalf of Roger Clements, whose passing was reported in the last issue. An excerpt is posted on our Bulletin Board.

I received a request for information from Steve Chicoine regarding one of our fallen, Steven Kaster, KIA November 2, 1970, and have posted an excerpt on our Bulletin Board. Anyone with information is asked to respond.

In the last issue, I mentioned a new program to provide e-mail notification in the event of a member or their spouse passing. The Board has also approved providing flowers and a sympathy card if notified in a timely manner. President Ted Silberies will provide full details at our 2016 reunion in Naples, Florida.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of our newsletter. Our next issue will be out in June and we will be accepting input through the end of May. It will have a Memorial Day theme and input on that or any other topic will be welcome. 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 J. Walter Shugart III—(C.O. 1/67-4/67)

As I've reported previously, I volunteer at the Virginia War Memorial twice a month and was asked to participate again this year in its annual Vietnam seminar, which involved veterans sharing their experiences with high school students from across the state. Upon arrival at the Memorial, I was given a packet for the day's activities which included the button pictured. After seeking the source of the button, contact was made with the Department of Defense. They advised that a law was passed in 2008, where the Department was directed to facilitate organizations to assist the nation in honoring



Vietnam Veterans upon the commemorative 50th anniversary of the conflict. I was asked to have Bravo Company join with over 7,000 organizations nationwide to become a Commemorative Partner, which would involve seeking to honor all Vietnam Veterans through outreach programs and other activities. Bravo Company first became involved in the war with its activation fifty years ago this year. By its very existence and reunions every two years, as an inclusive organization, we reach out and honor all our members for the contributions they have made in the service of our nation. We will take part in an initial commemorative event at Ft. Carson where General Jack Vessey will address those who participated in the Battle of Suoi Tre, forty-eight years ago. We'll hold our own event at our reunion hosted by Richard Ward in Naples, Florida in April of 2016, just about a year from now. Not wishing to seem cynical, it does seem that the honor being directed toward us is a little bit late in coming. You can learn more about the commemoration at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/>.

Submitted by Editor—Reprint from *The Ivy Leaves*, December 2002—re: John Kapor

It all started with a letter "Greetings from the President of the United States" around Thanksgiving Day, 1965. By December 10, I reported to the Induction Center in downtown Chicago. After a brief reception at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, we were assigned our final destinations for Basic Training. I was on my way to Ft. Lewis, Washington. On January 2, 1966, I started basic training with B Co 3/22 Infantry, 3rd platoon. After returning from basic training leave, my platoon Sgt. Doberman told me to get my gear together as I was being assigned to HHQ 3/22, "Davy Crockett" platoon, which I thought at the time was a "joke". It was no "joke" as I was soon to learn. S/SG Catron was our platoon instructor. It was a "nuclear weapon system". After "someone" determined they were not going to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam, all the personnel were reassigned to other units for further training. I was attached to HHQ 3/22 under Captain Bray. I was with Recon, 106 recoilless rifle, Lt. Goff, platoon leader. Then I trained on the 81-mm mortar. After leave before going to Nam, I was assigned to A Troop 1/10 Cavalry, 4.2 mortar track #29. On June 14, 1967, I was wounded and my squad leader Sgt. Montoya was killed and posthumously awarded the Silver Star. I was hospitalized for 13 months (6 months at Great Lakes Hospital in Illinois and then 7 months at the Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver, Colorado) and finally medically retired from the Army. After all these years, I came in contact with my former Captain and 1st Sergeant who recently wrote affidavits in support of my Bronze Star with "V" device which I received on 7-13-01. In closing I want to say I was spared the "Real Horror of War" that my basic training buddies experienced at "Suoi Tre". "Unwanted or Just Lucky?" - you be the judge, I personally know which one I am.

Submitted by Editor—Letter from Gary Reeves

Roger Clements was the best man on the M-60 that I served with. We didn't see extensive action, but I was sure glad he was there. I'll bet a few others like Page, Burns and Selzler, and some I don't remember, would say the same. R.I.P. Roger.

Submitted by Editor—Letter from Steve Chicoine

I am an historian and author in Minnesota. My website is www.freedomhistory.com. My latest book project, which I am well into writing, is THE VETERANS OF FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY. I am profiling veterans from 1820 all the way through the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Among those is Lt. Stephen J. Kaster, who was killed in action with Bravo Company on November 2, 1970. I am in touch with his family and they are providing me some information. I am interested in talking or corresponding with anyone who served with Lt. Kaster and would be willing to share any insight, stories, photos, etc. I appreciate anything you can do to help my efforts. Thanks for serving. Steve Chicoine—steve@freedomhistory.com—11530 Landing Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

Bulletin Board

Marine Corp Rules

1. Be courteous to everyone, friendly to no one.
2. Decide to be aggressive enough, quickly enough.
3. Have a plan.
4. Have a back-up plan, because the first one probably won't work.
5. Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everyone you meet.
6. Do not attend a gunfight with a handgun whose caliber does not start with a '4'.
7. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
8. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. (Lateral and diagonal preferred).
9. Use cover or concealment as much as possible.
10. Flank your adversary. When possible, protect yours.
11. Always cheat; always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.
12. In ten years, nobody will remember the details of caliber, stance or tactics. They will only remember who lived.
13. If you are not shooting, you should be communicating your intention to shoot.

Navy Seal Rules

1. Look very cool in sunglasses.
2. Kill every living thing in sight.
3. Adjust Speedo.
4. Check hair in mirror.

US Air Force Rules

1. Have a cocktail.
2. Adjust temperature on air-conditioning.
3. See what's on HBO.
4. Ask "What is a gunfight?".
5. Request more funding from Congress with a "killer" Power Point presentation.
6. Wine and dine "key" Congressmen, invite DOD and defense industry executives.
7. Receive funding, set up new command and assemble assets.
8. Declare the assets "strategic" and never deploy them operationally.
9. Hurry to make 1345 tee-time.
10. Make sure the base is as far as possible from the conflict, but close enough to have tax exemption.
11. Always have ICE CREAM.

US Army Rangers Rules

1. Walk in 50 miles wearing 75 pound rucksack while starving.
2. Locate individuals requiring killing.
3. Request permission via radio from "Higher" to perform killing.
4. Curse bitterly when mission is aborted.
5. Walk out 50 miles wearing a 75 pound rucksack while starving.

US Army Rules

1. Curse bitterly when receiving operational order.
2. Make sure there is extra ammo and extra coffee.
3. Curse bitterly.
4. Curse bitterly.
5. Do not listen to 2nd LTs; it can get you killed.
6. Curse bitterly.

US Navy Rules

1. Go to sea.
2. Drink coffee.
3. Deploy Marines—Go Navy

(You've got to love the military, and God bless them all.)

U.S. Navy Directive 16134 (Inappropriate T-Shirts)

The following directive was issued by the commanding officer of all naval installations in the Middle East. (It was obviously directed at the Marines.)

To All Commands: Subject: Inappropriate T-Shirts—Ref: ComMidEast for Inst. 16134//24—All commanders promulgate upon receipt. The following T-shirts are no longer to be worn, on or off base, by any military, or civilian personnel, serving in the Middle East.

1. 'Eat Pork or die' (Both English and Arabic versions).
2. 'Shrine Busters' (Various. Show burning minarets or bomb/artillery shells impacting Islamic shrines. Some with unit logos.)
3. 'Goat—it isn't just for breakfast any more.' (Both English and Arabic versions.)
4. 'The road to Paradise begins with me.' (Mostly Arabic versions, but some in English. Some show sniper scope cross-hairs.)
5. 'Guns don't kill people. I kill people.'
6. 'Pork. The other white meat.'
7. 'Infidel'

The above T-shirts are to be removed from Post Exchanges upon receipt of this directive. In addition, the following signs are to be removed upon receipt of this message.

1. 'Islamic Religious Services Will be Held at the Firing Range at 0800 Daily.'
2. 'Do we really need "smart bombs" to drop on these dumb bastards'

All commanders are instructed to implement sensitivity training upon receipt.

BRAVO REUNION 2016

Naples, Florida Welcomes Bravo Company



Presented by Co-Hosts Richard Ward & Dorene Clark

All systems are GO in Naples, Florida and we are pleased to present details of the 2016 Bravo Reunion in this edition of the newsletter. We have carefully chosen the [Naples Italian American Club](#) as the venue location with a seating capacity of 200 and catering services provided by **FRISCO'S**

Everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy two featured excursions:

- Cruise aboard a Luxury Yacht for a narrated tour and a buffet lunch on the Naples Princess where you may catch a spool of dolphin's playing in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Florida Everglades Airboat Tours by Captain Mitch, the oldest family in the airboat rides industry of south Florida.

Details of both events are listed below with photos and you can sign up for these and other discounted events on the Registration Form.

We are proud to offer this 2016 Bravo Reunion at the same price as previous years. Your early registration will help us make this a memorable event.

Cruise Aboard Naples Princess Luxury Yacht...



Cruise aboard the most elegant luxury yacht in all of southwest Florida where you will experience the spectacular homes, breathtaking sites and natural beauty of Naples Bay and Port Royal. Relax in fully enclosed and air-conditioned interior salons or bask in the warmth of the sun in the fresh-air outdoor seating. Enjoy the beverage of your choice from either of two full-service bars and unwind as we cruise the calm waters of Naples Bay.

The Naples Princess sails from her dock at the [Port-O-Call Marina](#), Naples, FL - conveniently located near downtown Naples, directly adjacent to the shopping of Famous [Tin City](#), Naples, Florida.

Discounted Lodging:

- Best Western \$89-\$109
- Inn at Pelican Bay \$129-\$149
- Hilton \$203

Airboat Tours on thousands of acres of private swampland with [CAPTAIN MITCH'S](#) Airboat Tours of the Everglades.

See the THRILLING Florida Everglades in this preserved state and enjoy an Everglades City Airboat Ride you will not soon forget!

Captain Mitch's Airboat Tours



BRAVO REGULARS 2016 REUNION

REGISTRATION FORM

April 6, 2016 thru April 10, 2016

REGISTRATION FEE: \$75 Per Person \$140 Per Couple

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name:		
Street address:	Spouse Name:	Phone no.: ()
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Vietnam Unit:	Date of Service:	
Arrival Date:	Departure Date:	
Number of Guests:		

LODGING OPTIONS

(Please contact hotel direct using Group ID)

Inn at Pelican Bay: Bravo Reunion 2016 Rate: \$129 City View / \$149 Garden View	Address: 800 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34108
Hilton: Bravo Regulars Reunion 2016 Rate: \$203 (20 rooms available)	Address: 5111 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34103
Naples Grand Beach Resort: Group ID & Rate: Negotiations In Progress	Address: 475 Seagate Dr., Naples, FL 34103
Quality Inn & Suites Golf Resort: Group ID & Rate: Negotiations In Progress	Address: 4100 Golden Gate Pkwy., Naples, FL 3416
Reunion Shirts: S M L XL XXL XXXL	Reunion Shirts: () Reunion Hats: ()
Number Ordered: Circle	Total \$ Total: \$
<u>Naples Princess Luxury Yacht Tour</u>	<u>Captain Mitch's Everglades Air Boat Rides</u>
Insert Names to Register	Insert Names to Register
<u>Naples Trolley Tours</u>	
Discounted Rates Available	
<u>Naples Caribbean Gardens & Zoo</u>	<u>Naples Botanical Gardens</u>
Discounted Rates Available	Discounted Rates Available

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

Bravo Regulars Association 6017 Pine Ridge Rd., #273, Naples, FL 34119	EMAIL: BravoReunion2016@gmail.com	FAX: (239) 491-7001
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