

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

March 2017

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Infographic

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The memorial cost \$8.4 million, or \$18.7 million in today's money. All funds were raised privately.
NO FEDERAL FUNDS WERE USED.



More than **120 MILLION** people have visited the memorial since it opened in 1982.



The wall was designed by Maya Lin, a **21-YEAR-OLD** Yale undergraduate.



The deadliest day of the war was the first day of the Tet Offensive, with **245 DEATHS**. 1968 was the bloodiest year, with **16,592 DEATHS**.

The wall is **493 FEET LONG** and comprised of **142 PANELS**.

The shortest panels hold fewer than **10 NAMES**.

The names are grouped chronologically by the year the person was killed or reported missing.



Approximately **1,600 SOLDIERS** are still listed as POW/MIA.

The tallest panels hold more than **600 NAMES**.

There are currently **58,272** names on the wall, including 333 additions since 1982.

The first year listed is **1959** → The last year is **1975**

- ★ Enlisted men and women accounted for nearly **87%** of all deaths.
- ★ More than 900 service members died on their **FIRST DAY** in Vietnam.
- ★ More than 1,400 died on their scheduled **DEPARTURE DAY**.



151 MEDAL OF HONOR winners are listed.



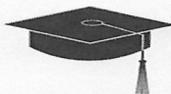
More than **150,000** items have been left at the wall.



16 CLERGY MEMBERS are listed, including two Medal of Honor recipients.



8 WOMEN are listed—all nurses—including Lt. Col. Annie Ruth Graham, who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.



54 GRADUATES of Philadelphia's Thomas Edison High School died, the most of any school in the country.

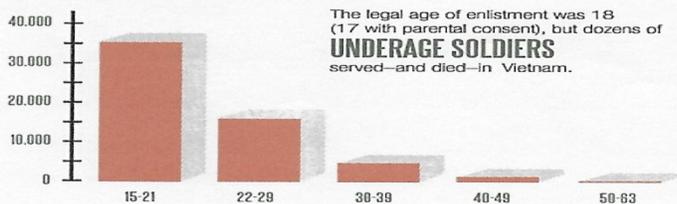


The most common surname is "Smith," with **667 NAMES**.

SYMBOLS ARE USED BEFORE OR AFTER EACH NAME TO INDICATE THE PERSON'S STATUS

- ◆ Confirmed dead
- + POW/MIA
- ◆+ Missing person is declared dead.
- + Missing person returns alive. *This has never been done.*

OF DEATHS



The legal age of enlistment was 18 (17 with parental consent), but dozens of **UNDERAGE SOLDIERS** served—and died—in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers and **3** sets of fathers and sons were killed.





President's Message

John Gority
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

I want to wish all of you a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Today I was surfing the web trying to find some information to pass on to you. Luckily, I found information on the upcoming anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Tre and LZ Gold that all attendees need to know. This is a historical reunion.

50th Anniversary Reunion of the Battle of Suoi Tre March 19-24, 2017

To all my Brave Brothers that had fought at Suoi Tre and survived that March 21st day in 1967. This will most likely be the last time the participants of the "Largest One Day Battle in VN War" will all be together again.

We will be having a get together for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Tre on March 19-24! 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 special guided tour of the Air Force Academy is set. In addition, there is an optional trip to Wildwood Casino. There will be plenty of things to do, including a luncheon/ shopping trip for the wives.

The registration for this event will be **\$65 per person**, which includes the Banquet Dinner, the use of the Hospitality Room, buses to events, etc.

You can find more information at the following web site: originalboatpeople.com.

Next year is our Bravo 3/22 Reunion.

John





Vice President's Column

Charles Weems
 Vice President
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Greetings my fellow Bravo Company heroes! Hope all is well in your part of the country! Over here on the East Coast we have been blessed with a mild winter so far. It hurts me to see so much bad weather and destruction in other parts of the country, affecting so many lives.

We are all seniors now! I don't know about you guys but I don't need a lot of stress in my life. It's been proven that stress causes other illnesses. I try to avoid it as much as I can. Never in my life would I have thought this country would be divided the way it is. It's so sad! Especially when we all want practically the same thing. I'm praying and hoping our leaders get it together!

I urge you guys to get ready for the reunion next year. Believe me that time comes fast! I know it will be a GREAT one because Bravo men know nothing less than greatness! Peace and Love to all of Bravo and their families.

Charlie

Association Business



John Otte
 Treasurer/Locator
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John

Financial Report Income and Expense	
Dec. 1, 2016 Balance	\$15,516.77
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$425.00
Donations	
Total Income	\$425.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$578.56
Bank Service Charge	15.00
Misc. Expense	
Total Expenses	\$583.56
Feb.. 28, 2017 Balance	\$15,348.21



Reunion Update

Jim Adams
Reunion Host
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Please mark your calendars for June 20-24, 2018 and plan to spend time in Branson, Missouri. Jim and I have been putting things in order and the final negotiations are almost done.

I can tell you that the polo shirts for the reunion will cost \$25.00 and we will have sizes to accommodate one and all. The reunion hat will cost \$15.00 with it being one size fits all.

The hotel has a very nice breakfast bar every morning that we are there. The hotel rate will be honored from three days before the reunion to three days following the reunion, should you decide to come early and stay late.

As in the past, we will have raffles, a quilt and 50/50 fun, as well as entertainment on Saturday night with room for dancing for all to enjoy.

There will be a photographer there throughout the reunion, so if anyone needs a special photo, they will be able to have that done.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to your visit to Missouri and to the Ozark Mountains.

Jim and Pam Adams

Things to Do in Branson, Missouri



Zipline USA



Ride The Ducks



Veterans Memorial
Museum



Thousand Hills Golf



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
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Welcome back Bravo Brothers! Hope this finds all of you well.

The Suoi Tre Memorial reunion is just a few weeks away. Details are in the President's column and full information is included at originalboatpeople.com. The website refers to how most of the 4th Infantry Division deployed. Because Bravo took top honors throughout training, we were selected to be 'advance party' and flew over by plane. We were there a month before the others arrived. Bill King asked me to remind all that everyone is welcome including friends, family and non Suoi Tre veterans. As of a few weeks ago, there were only three from Bravo attending, including myself (with Dee), Hinton Whitehead and Jim Slinkard. There are eight from A-3/22 registered. All total he is expecting 100 to 125 attendees. There is still time to join us if you can.

We received a letter requesting information about Donny Tidwell (KIA 4/12/68). The letter and a photo is on the Bulletin Board. Anyone with information about Donny, please contact him..

Gilbert Uriegas (2nd Platoon—1-68/69) sent us a letter reminiscing about his time with Bravo Company, which is posted on the Bulletin Board. Thanks for sharing "Short Round".

Thank you Lane Sterling (Co RTO/2nd Platoon—4/68-6/69) for contributing a poignant story about vets honoring vets at the Pentagon. It can be found on the Bulletin Board.

Thank you John Kapior (3rd Platoon—Basic Only) for sharing a story about entertainer Martha Raye with us. It is on the Bulletin Board.

Sadly, I must report that we received word from the family of Patrick Hoffman (1st Platoon—9-67/68) that he had passed away. His obituary is on the Bulletin Board. A Bravo sympathy card and letter of condolence was sent on behalf of the organization.

Also, we received word from Bob Turner (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) that Dennis Earwood (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) has passed away. Information was found on the internet and is on the Bulletin Board. A Bravo sympathy card and letter of condolence was sent on behalf of the organization.

The last newsletter sent to Tom Gallo (3rd Platoon—10/70-1/71) was returned due to outdated information. He has been moved from active to inactive.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Our next newsletter will be out in June and we will be accepting input through the end of May. 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 Editor**

This is a photo of Donny Tidwell that was submitted by William Williams. Donny was killed on April 12, 1968 at the Battle of Good Friday. William would like to talk with anyone who knew him. Donny was a great baseball player and was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers. His manager in the minor leagues was Tommy Lasorda. Donny and William are both from the small east Texas town of Diana. If you have any information, please let William know. He can be reached by mail at Texas A&M Transportation Institute, 3135 Tamus, Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas 77843-3135 or w.williams@tamu.edu.

**Submitted by Gilbert Uriegas (2nd Platoon—1/68-3/69)**

It was January 8, 1968, when I began my tour with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 3/22 Infantry in Dau Tieng, next to Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin Mountain). Oliver Stone, the movie guy, was there for a few months. So was SSGT Paul Jones. On my first patrols, Sgt. Luey Holland and later his replacement, Sgt. Bobbie Sikes, were KIA. I was alongside Robert Gray when he was KIA. On February 14 (Valentine's Day), I got my first Purple Heart (shrapnel). A few days later, a good friend, Machine Gunner Louis Martinez, was KIA. In March we did not lose a single comrade. But on April 12 our platoon was overrun in the Battle of Good Friday. My partner, Edward Beckwith, caught a hail of bullets (KIA). I caught two of those bullets and was awarded another Purple Heart. I spent one month in Cu Chi (convalescing) and one month in Cam Rahn Bay hospitals.

I came back in July to the platoon, but was declared unfit for infantry duty. While I was back I learned that my good friend Richard Beck was KIA, as were others. I was sent to Cu Chi to become a finance clerk. In Cu Chi, because of my combat experience, I was promoted to Sgt. I am one of the few that extended their tour in Vietnam. I departed in March, 1969.

I remember Andre Fontenolle saving me and Richard Beck from sniper fire with his machine gun fire. Fontenolle was a quiet, gentle giant. My name is Gilbert and I have a hard to pronounce last name, so if you are still alive, you all called me "SHORT ROUND".

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

Every Friday at the Pentagon. It really breaks your heart to know that we didn't know this goes on every Friday, well at least I didn't know. Instead, I guess the media feels it's more important to report on Hollywood stars as heroes. I hope this article gives you a sense of pride for what our men and women are doing for us, every day, as they serve in the armed forces here and abroad.

Mornings at the Pentagon by Josept L. Galloway, McClatchy Newspapers Over the last 12 months, 1,042 soldiers, Marines, sailors and Air Force personnel have given their lives in the terrible duty that is war. Thousands more have come home on stretchers, horribly wounded and facing months or years in military hospitals. This week, I'm turning my space over to a good friend and former roommate, Army Lt. Col. Robert Bateman, who recently completed a yearlong tour of duty and is now back at the Pentagon. Here's Lt. Col. Bateman's account of a little-known ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause and many tears every Friday morning. It first appeared on May 17 on the Weblog of media critic and pundit Eric Alterman at the Media Matters for America Website.

BULLETIN BOARD

Pentagon story continued

It is 110 yards from the "E" ring to the "A" ring of the Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine, the hallway is broad, and the lighting is bright. At this instant the entire length of the corridor is packed with officers, a few sergeants and some civilians, all crammed tightly three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands here. This hallway, more than any other, is the 'Army' hallway. The G3 offices line one side, G2 the other, G8 is around the corner. All Army. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way and renew. Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center. The air conditioning system was not designed for this press of bodies in this area.

The temperature is rising already. Nobody cares. 10:36 hours: The clapping starts at the E-Ring. This is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. This clapping is low, sustained, hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway. A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier in the wheelchair who marks the forward edge with his presence. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are still suppurating. By his age I expect that he is a private, or perhaps a private first class. Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Three years ago when I described one of these events, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder, perhaps in private guilt for not having shared in the burden ... Yet.

Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheelchair, also a combat veteran. This steadies the applause, but I think deepens the sentiment. We have all been there now. The soldier's chair is pushed by, I believe, a full colonel. Behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal, or sergeant assisted as need be by a field grade officer.

11:00 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. My hands hurt, and I laugh to myself at how stupid that sounds in my own head. My hands hurt. Please! Shut up and clap. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway—20, 25, 30 ... Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts.

They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along. Some insist upon getting out of their chairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching handshakes and smiling like a politician at a fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.

There are families with them as well. There is the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husband's wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this. The boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear is crying. Also, here are the older immigrant latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20s son, an appreciation for the emotion given on their son's behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.

These are our men, broken in body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home. This parade has gone on, every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

It was well recognized that Martha Raye endured less comfort more than any other Vietnam entertainer. I did not know this, I bet you didn't either. Don't let the sun go down without reading this about Martha Raye. The most unforgivable oversight of TV is that her shows were not taped. I was unaware of her credentials or where she is buried. Somehow I just can't see Brittany Spears, Paris Hilton, or Jessica Simpson doing what this woman and the other USO women, including Ann Margaret and Joey Heatherton, did for our troops in past wars. Most of the old time entertainers were made of a lot sterner stuff than today's crop of activist bland whiners. The following is from an Army Aviator who takes a trip down memory lane.

"It was just before Thanksgiving '67 and we were ferrying dead and wounded from a large GRF west of Pleiku. We had run out of body bags by noon, so the Hook (CH-Chinook) was pretty rough in the back. All of a sudden, we heard a 'take-charge' woman's voice in the rear. There was the singer and actress, Martha Raye, with a Special Forces beret and jungle fatigues, subdued markings, helping the wounded into the Chinook and carrying the dead aboard. Maggie had been visiting her Special Forces (SF) 'heroes' out 'west'. We took off, short of fuel, and headed to the USAF hospital pad at Pleiku. As we all started unloading our sad pax's, a USAF Captain said to Martha ... 'Ms. Raye, with all these dead and wounded to process, there would not be time for your show!' To all of our surprise, she pulled on her right collar and said 'Captain, see this eagle? I am a full Bird in the US Army Reserve, and on this collar is a Caduceus which means I am a Nurse, with a surgical specialty...now, take me to your wounded!' He said, 'Yes ma'am...follow me.' Several times at the Field Hospital in Pleiku, she would 'cover' a surgical shift, giving a nurse a well-deserved break. Martha is the only woman buried in the SF (Special Forces) cemetery at Ft. Bragg."

Obituaries

Patrick A. Hoffman (1st Platoon—9-67/68), Patrick, 68, passed away unexpectedly at Aurora Memorial Hospital-Burlington on October 8, 2016. Born January 1, 1948 in Sheboygan, WI. He spent his early life in Columbus, WI where he graduated from Columbus High School. He served proudly in the U.S. Army from April 1967 to April 1970, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Patrick did a tour in Vietnam (Sept. 1967 to Sept. 1968) with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. Patrick was a highly decorated veteran earning multiple commendations, including two Purple Hearts. After returning from his service time, he earned his BS from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Patrick retired from Western Publishing in Racine, after serving 27 years as the Director of Employee Benefits. He later spent 5 years at Johnson Diversey. He was a member of St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Burlington. He was also a member of the VFW in Columbus and the 25th Infantry Association. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Patricia.

Dennis Earwood (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Original). Dennis, 70, passed away on December 9, 2016 at his home. He retired from the Army after 20 years of service. He is survived by his spouse of 48 years, Marianne Earwood. Burial at Arlington National Cemetery will take place at a later date.