

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

September, 2017



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President's Message

John Gority
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

My local Vietnam Veterans group, Fire Base Eagle, brought a one-man show to the historic Mishler Theater in downtown Altoona on July 23rd. The show was called "Vietnam...Through My Lens". The creator/performer, Stu Richel, tells of his experiences before, during and after his service in Vietnam. He shares on-stage a series of short stories along with photos that he took as a combat photographer. Many people were moved by the presentation, and I was especially taken by his letter regarding the infantryman's experience. His website is www.vietnamthroughmylens.com.

As you may be aware, Ken Burns has put together a PBS 10-part film, "The Vietnam War". This will begin airing in September, and will have a community outreach at the local level. Our local PBS affiliate at Penn State University has a radio component called Story Corp. I was one of several local Vietnam veterans chosen to tell of my experiences in the war. www.kenburns.com.

I have had a busy summer filled with travel and golfing. I hope you are all in good health, and have a meaningful Veterans Day.

Yours in comradeship,

John





Vice President's Column

Charles Weems
Vice President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

Summer has really come and gone very fast. Hope everyone had an enjoyable one! Before we know it, our 2018 reunion in Branson will be on us. I encourage everyone to start making plans now. None of us are getting any younger so we better plan to attend this one! I'm working on bringing my son, so he can feel the Bravo spirit. Don't forget your dues! Congratulations to John Gority for winning a golf tournament. Glad to see Ted Silberies back up and around after several arm surgeries. Hope everyone in our Bravo family is doing well. Enjoy the rest of the summer and may God bless each and every one of you!

Charlie



Reunion Update

Jim Adams
Reunion Host
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jamesk923@msn.com

Plans are continuing for the 2018 Bravo Regulars reunion in Branson, Missouri. One cannot come to Branson without going out on the water so we have planned an outing with transportation and a meal, that we hope all will enjoy. There is also golf and shopping available for those who would like to take that in. There will always be a place for you to just sit, visit and share pictures and stories. For those of you who have not been to Branson, there is a Vietnam Museum to visit. I understand that some have been there and found that it is not something that is for everyone. We have thought about adding additional water events, because sometimes you cannot help but enjoy the Duck Boat ride and all its fun.

Please remember baskets from your state if you would like to add one to the raffle, or anything else you would like to donate. We are also gathering additional items for the raffle as well. Please let us know if you will be contributing. A quilt will also be raffled as in the past. We have added a couple of new twists to Reunion 2018 and hope that you will enjoy attending. Those of you you have visited Branson in the past know that there are many things to do. If you have questions or needs, please do not hesitate to let Jim or I know so that we can make your stay enjoyable. Jim and I are excited to have you visit our state and look forward to seeing everyone June 20-24 in Branson.

Thanks,
Pam and Jim

Association Business



John Otte
Treasurer/Locater
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bravo6xray@aol.com

Financial Report Income and Expense	
June 1, 2017 Balance	\$15,115.85
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$335.00
Donations	
Total Income	\$335.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$564.43
Bank Service Charge	15.00
Total Expenses	\$579.43
Aug. 31, 2017 Balance	\$14,871.42

Dues News

It's that time again to send in your dues. On behalf of the organization's officers, thank you for your support. Although from looking at the financial report it may appear that we are doing pretty well, there is a reunion coming up and we can do more with a little extra cash. Thanks for all your support.

John Otte, Treasurer



Bravo 3/22 Dues Invoice

Dues Period Sept. 2017 thru Aug. 2018
Annual Dues \$35.00



NAME: _____

Send dues to:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Bravo 3/22
1037 Koleeta Dr.
Harbor City, CA 90710

PLATOON /ASSIGNMENT: _____ TOUR DATES: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

All dues are completely voluntary and are used only to support the activities of the group.



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
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davidwlowell@aol.com

Welcome back Bravo Brothers! I hope this finds all of you as well as can be expected for geezers our age. My sympathy goes out to those brothers who live on the gulf coast and are enduring the aftermath of Harvey. Kent Carnes (2nd Platoon—3-67/68) had damage with power and water loss, but his home and life are still intact.

Reunion 2018 plans are continuing and it is now only about nine months away. Because of the central location and many attractions, I expect this one to be heavily attended. Our personal raffle donation box has 30 items in it and we're still collecting.

Another question that came up at the Suoi Tre reunion was "Is our regiment currently active?" Yes, it is! The 22nd Infantry Regiment is currently fighting under the banner of the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan. These troops are specially trained as mountain warriors. The 22nd Infantry Regiment Society tracks their activities in their newsletter.

In the last issue I listed the casualties from LZ Gold/Suoi Tre with several platoon assignments unidentified. Thank you, Ted Rowley, for responding with new information. The list and his letter are on the top of our Bulletin Board. I also believe that Dando and Patterson were new guys with 4th Platoon and were on the chopper carrying Top Jones, the only survivor, that crashed next to me on LZ Gold.

We received a request for information on the downing of the two Forward Air Controllers (FACs) at the battle of Suoi Tre. The letter is on our Bulletin Board. Although there, I was too busy at the time to notice. If anyone can help, please do.

John Kapor (3rd Platoon—Basic Only), a frequent contributor to our newsletter, has announced that he is donating \$100 in dues to Bravo Regulars in the memory of Greer, Gibbons, Ledford and Muller (all 3rd Platoon casualties of Suoi Tre) who he knew and trained with in basic. Thank you, John, for your generous gift.

We received a letter from Skip Hawk asking for information on what happened to Lawrence Pollock, a casualty of Suoi Tre. They both entered the service at the same time, Skip with the Navy and Larry with the Army, and he never saw him again. With help from Brad Hull at the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, it was determined that Larry was with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery, and Skip was referred to that unit's website.

We received an email from Terry Schroeder, nephew of Donald Schroeder (KIA 19 March 67 at LZ Gold), asking for information about his uncle's passing. His request is on our Bulletin Board. I have personally responded and invited him to attend our reunion in Branson, Missouri. If you can help, please do so.

We also received a letter regarding Gary P. Brown (12-67/68) from his nephew, Will Brown, informing us of his passing in 2006 and asking for contact with anyone who knew him. Gary was never a member of Bravo Regulars. His name was added to our Memorial Page and an invitation was extended to attend our Branson reunion in 2018. If anyone remembers serving with him, please share your memories with his family.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTES—CONTINUED

Regretfully, I must inform you of the passing of Lane Sterling (Co RTO/2nd Platoon—4/68-6/69) on March 13, 2017 in Montrose, Colorado. No further information could be found. Lane and I corresponded on several occasions about our shared 'chronic wasting' and assorted gastric problems that we both felt was due to PTSD, but the VA would not agree. He will be missed!

Judi DeLong has accepted our offer of an honorary membership in Bravo Regulars and will continue to follow us through our newsletter. And, of course, honorary members are always welcome at our reunions.

Clark Seaman (2nd Platoon—4-68/69) has been moved to our Inactive Roster due to his contact information no longer being valid.

Thank you, John Kapior, for submitting three poignant articles, all related to our shared experience of being a combat veteran. They are on page 8. of our Bulletin Board.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of our newsletter. Our next issue will be out in December and will include the registration form for the 2018 reunion in Branson. We will be accepting input through the end of November. Until then may peace be with you.

Dave out

BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Ted Rowley (2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Original)**

Great job on the newsletter. It's important to all. James R. Hintz was in 2nd Platoon, a transfer from 196th to us just before Suoi Tre. He died behind us trying to get back to the CP area. I believe he was the only KIA 2nd Platoon had the day of Suoi Tre. Don Schroeder was one of my closest friends. He was our age, born in 1946, and lies at rest just a few hundred yards from Lincoln's tomb at Oakridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. He had a heavy beard so maybe looked a little older, but he was our age. I don't remember Dando and Patterson, different platoon perhaps? The day of Suoi Tre I would guess that the artillery unit had the most losses. When I walked back there after the battle, six or eight guys lay dead around one gun. Mathew Atkins III was 1st Platoon also. I would guess Dando and Patterson were 4th Platoon.

3/19/67

Marlin C. Evergerd	2nd Platoon
Jack M. Gosnell	2nd Platoon
Robert L. Linn, Jr.	2nd Platoon
Paul J. McGowan	4th Platoon
Louis Sas	4th Platoon
Donald L. Schroeder	2nd Platoon
Donald W. Walters	4th Platoon
Rodney R. Weed	4th Platoon
Thomas J. Dando	4th Platoon?
Fred H. Patterson	4th Platoon?

3/21/67

Herman C. Anders, Jr.	1st Platoon
Mathew D. Atkins III	1st Platoon
Kenneth G. Blanton	4th Platoon
James R. Hintz	2nd Platoon
Brian F. Gibbons	3rd Platoon
Charles R. Goodwin	3rd Platoon
Charles R. Greer	3rd Platoon
Virgil M. Ledford	3rd Platoon
Edward J. Mueller	3rd Platoon
Larry L. Warnock	1st Platoon

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Bill King (C/2/22 1967)

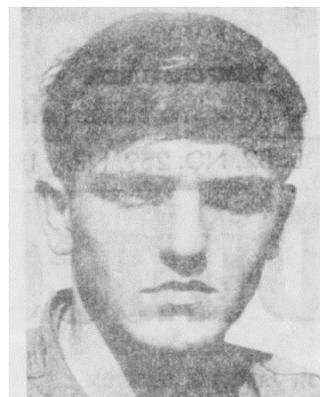
Anyone who was an eye witness to the shooting down of the 2 FACs at Suoi Tre, please contact me asap. A program is being put together to do a memorial for Terry Forbes at his University and they are sharing the same information with Capt. Englands' home town, Palatine, TX. billkingsouitre@aol.com. Home phone 719-748-8219 or cell phone 719-494-3590.

Submitted by Editor

My name is Terry Schroeder. I am a retired USAF MSGT, and nephew of Donald Lee Schroeder. I was very young when Donald died, only 11, but I do have very fond memories of my uncle prior to his death. I write because I and many of my cousins (Donald was the second youngest of nine kids, so there are a bunch of us!) are very curious as to whether anyone had more details about the circumstances of Donald's death. He was killed on 19 March 1967. At that time he was initially reported MIA, then subsequently confirmed KIA. As you can imagine, my grandmother was extremely bitter, so much so that she refused any benefits as a result of his death and refused to allow his burial in a military ceremony, or in a military cemetery. She remained bitter and refused to even discuss Donald's death for the remaining 22 years of her life. At the time of his death, we were told that Donald was killed when a helo was struck on the ground, and parts of the aircraft struck him and several other soldiers. I have tried over the years to find more information about the operation and perhaps find someone who could shed more light on what happened. I was looking at your web page and, in the photos section, I saw that Bill Schamus contributed three aerial photos of LZ Gold. In two of the photos he indicates that there are helicopters burning on the ground. This would seem to lend some validity to the story the family was told about how Donald was killed. I would be curious to know if there are any members of the organization who may remember Donald and would be willing to share any information about that particular operation and what happened. I would also like to ask if there is any way your group would allow me to attend one of the reunions? I would love to meet some of my uncle's comrades in arms.. Thank you for your time, and thank you for your service. Terry Schroeder—fly310@mchsi.com.

Submitted by Editor

Mr. Lowell, my uncle Gary P. Brown served in Bravo Company from 12/67-12/68. Gary passed away in April 2006 from esophageal cancer. I found a newspaper article at my grandmother's house about the Good Friday battle, then another about Gary being promoted to sergeant. After reading it I began doing some light research on the battle and came across your site. Our family recently found out that Gary had a child that evidently was kept a secret for 40 years. Gary was never able to have a relationship with his daughter, but thankfully now we have the opportunity to get to know her and maybe help her know her dad who struggled with PTSD and schizophrenia.



I would be honored if you would add my uncle to your registry. Also, if there is anyone you might know that served at the same time as Gary who might remember him, I know myself, my dad and Emily (his daughter) might appreciate visiting to maybe understand a side of Gary that was lost. That being said, I also understand how sensitive many of these memories are for some and have no desire to cause pain or grieve. If that is the case, please forgive me for asking. William T. Brown, DO, MPH—Nocona Medical Clinic Family Medicine—325-668-3855—wbrown710@gmail.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Gold Star Mothers and Families Day — On the last Sunday of September each year, we pause to pay tribute to the Gold Star Mothers and Families whose loved ones paid the supreme sacrifice in their service to the Nation. As we sit down at the dinner table on Sunday night, let us remember that in the homes of these patriotic families, there will be an empty chair. On the mantle of their fireplaces rests a special flag of the United States of America, folded in the shape of a triangle with white stars ablaze on a field of blue. For many families, the flag represents the final day spent with their loved ones. In 1930, James A. Moss in his definitive book, "The Flag of the United States, its History and Symbolism," he wrote, "The Flag is carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, reminiscent of the hats worn by the soldiers who fought the War of the Revolution and won American independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of the night." In that flag, we find the constant thread of our Nation's character—the truth that America endures because it is home to an unbroken line of patriots willing to lay down their lives for the land they love. It is hard to imagine the pain of a mother who loses a son or daughter, the wife or husband who loses their life partner, or the child who loses a father or mother. Just as we honor our brothers and sisters who stood beside us, only to give their last full measure of devotion, we in the Military Order of the Purple Heart hold close and honor their Gold Star Families left behind. On this day, let us remember our commitment to the Gold Star Mothers and Families who carry on with pride and resolve despite unthinkable loss. As a grateful Nation, we declare that we will never forget their sacrifice, and renew our promise to build a future worthy of that devotion. At the same time, let us not forget our Nation's sons and daughters who continue to serve, putting their lives on the line each day to protect the freedoms many Americans have come to take for granted. Those of us who have shed our blood to defend them know that freedom is not free; it comes at a great cost. Long after the battle is over, our Nation must continue to give our military and Gold Star Families the care and support they deserve—whether a listening ear, a comforting shoulder, a helping hand, or just a moment shared to keep alive the memories of their Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. May God bless our Gold Star Mothers and Families, and may God bless America.

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

Our Vietnam brotherhood is unique because...we were strangers in our own land when we returned home. It took blood, sweat and tears and many years to form the bond we have with each other now. Our war was real to us then and it is real to us now. It has defined our character and our resolve. It was never popular to be a Vietnam veteran then. Now the times have changed. However, we remain the same with a renewed purpose. We carry each other in our heart, we are no longer strangers, we are brothers. We remember the cost of freedom, we remember our fallen brothers. We who fought and served in Vietnam have paid freedom's debt with interest. We suffer with PTSD, many of us are poisoned with Agent Orange. The suicide rate among Vietnam veterans is staggering, and still we are ignored. As of late we have had to fight for benefits once promised to all veterans. Our veterans healthcare is corrupt and broken and we are denied our claims time after time. When we apply instead of gratitude, we receive attitude. When we question the system, we deserve answers and all we get are excuses. Through it all, we survive. If we are fortunate enough to do so, we know that there are many of us who are going through the same process. We take no comfort in knowing that we are not alone in the fight, and that it takes a fight to get the benefits deserved. It just shouldn't be a battle for us to live, we are not the enemy. We are Vietnam veterans. We are proud of our service. We love our country, and we are honored to stand among the ranks of this honorable brotherhood.

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

The Soldier Dream — I dreamed the soldier dream last night; it came to me so clear. I dreamed I saw my old platoon; they seemed to me so near. I dreamed I heard again the sounds that only soldiers understand. And I dreamed I smelt the jungle smells of that far distant land. And in the dream I felt the heat, and the heavy monsoon rain. And I felt again the comfort of the ground, in the places I have laid. I dreamed I saw the blood red stain of the hard red laterite soil. I saw again the thick jungle slopes, through which we had to toil. And the dead and jumbled trees caused by Agent Orange sprays. Devastating to the jungle and the effects will last us all our days. I dreamed I heard the insects, mainly the mosquitoes angry scream. And I saw my legs festooned with leeches, after crossing any stream. I dreamed I felt again the familiar feel, of rifle, web and pack. And I felt again my shoulders pain and the weight upon my back. I dreamed of being out of water, and the terrible, burning thirst. I felt of all the deprivations, the lack of water is the worst. I dreamed of the itch of Tinea that stretched from toes to waist. And I dreamed of taking Paludrine and its bitter awful taste. I heard again the rifle shots, and saw machine guns tracer lines. I heard again the crash of shells, and the blast of Claymore mines. I dreamed I smelt the cordite and the strong iron smell of blood. And I dreamed of finding bodies and the wounded in the mud. I dreamed of our wounded soldiers, dusted off to waiting aid. And I dreamed of other soldiers and the sacrifices they had made. I dreamed of empty hours, doing sentry in a gun pit in the sun. I dreamed of fear filled sentry nights, in that pit behind the gun. I dreamed of all these things, and it was if it were but only yesterday. As I slept that restless sleep that twists the sheets in which I lay. I awoke to find that the world was as I'd left it, when I went to bed. The soldier dream was real for me to see, but now only in my head.