

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22 Inf

August 2009



As noted by our president, Denny Amily has been ailing; however, Bravo Regulars gathered to bring him back to health. From front to back left to right - Carl Lammers, Tom Malec, Denny, Paul Fritz, Mike Detmer: Richard Strebe, Joe Shields, Al Comeaux; Richard Blanchard John Edington, Phil Maceno, John Andrews, Robert Boone, Larry Crouch, Victor Elliot, Bob Hostmeyer, and Ted Rowley. Not pictured - Bill Brown (Photo by Marge Detmer) Ed note; Denny's now up and about!

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Bob Hemphill
Association President

From The President:

As I am sure everyone knows by now, Bravo Regulars VP Dennis Amily has had a rough time of it. In fact, I understand we almost lost him. Now, he's on the mend. We need to all let him know that he was never alone in his travails, and that he was always with us, both personally and in our prayers. I think it's time to keep him busy. If we all sent him a nice card, we could occupy his time for a week or so. Maybe he would even display some of them in his red Bravo Company trailer.... Hang in there, Dennis -- we're all in this together!

I hope every member of Bravo Regulars is planning to descend on Paris next summer -- Paris, Missouri, that is. Larry and Lis' Young are doing a great job in preparing for your arrival. They are developing a great agenda, both for your recreational enjoyment and for time for you to spend together with friends you may or may not have seen for a long time. Also, if you get there the first day, they are planning several really nice Mark Twain oriented excursions. Lis and Larry are have a few other surprises up there sleeves.

Now is the time to make plans to attend and to commit to be with your buddies by sending in your reserevation (see registration form on page 5 of this newsletter).

By the way, if the good Lord's willing and the creek don't rise, I'm going to try to make it that far (and maybe farther) on my motorcycle. I challenge others to do the same. Since it is in mid-America, it's not that far from anywhere in the country. If everybody who owns a motorcycle rides or brings it along, we could do the Rolling Thunder thing -- Bravo-style -- down the main street of Paris! So, what do you say? Any takers? And don't forget to bring along your flags to display on your bike. Should be fun! No guts, no glory!

One other thing that has been on my mind a lot for the last couple of years, and in fact, for a lot of years before that, is the collective national image of our service in Vietnam. As I have said in numerous talks to various groups over the past 2-3 years, I am sick and tired of hearing and reading the deceitful refrain about how the US military lost the Vietnam War! I have been happy to outline in those talks exactly how we accomplished the mission given us in that conflict. To undermine some of the negative pronouncements of those who would denigrate our sacrifices and success in that war, I have emphasized the legality of our entry into that situation under the auspices of the SEATO Agreement, exactly what our mission there was, why I believe the American military and our allies accomplished that mission, and how the American Congress sold out our Vietnamese allies and directly caused their downfall -- two years after our ground forces completed their mission and departed! Perhaps we can talk about these things during our reunion if you care to.

My bottom line here, is that -- to the combat troops who did their duty and accomplished their mission -- I Salute You!

Take Care --

Bob

Editor's Notes



Walt Shugart
Editor

It's surprising as well as satisfying to find that someone actually reads the newsletter. Earl in April I received a call from Salvadore "Shorty" Guterrez saying that he'd received calls identifying some of those whose names he'd forgotten. Then I received e-mails from Michael Sanders giving me a lead for the brigade photographer whom I wasn't able to find, John Kapor sent me a large amount of material which I was able to use, and, after the fact, Terry Shipley has promised to send me his pictures of the battlefield.

As far as the presentation itself, it went very well thanks the help of those mentioned above. It was a portion of the participants' part in a week long seminar led by distinguished faculty conducted as an alumni college offering at my *alma mater* entitled "Vietnam - A Retrospective." The seminar was attended by approximately forty men and women some of whom were Vietnam veterans including army, navy, air force, and marines.

On Wednesday evening, we participants were given the opportunity to share our experiences. It was obvious that many of the veterans had never shared with anyone. They knew what they wanted to say, but were unable to spit it out coherently. After a break in the evening, Shirley was asked to share what it was like for her at home with kids among all the civil tumult going on in the states while her husband was in combat. She represented all of the wives and loved ones who held the fort for us serving abroad. Shirley & I will tour Vietnam with a stop at Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng next February.

The attempts made by the veterans who had never shared convinced me of the wisdom of attending reunions where lies are swapped, stories shared, and the fellowship of brothers-in-arms is manifest provide the perfect venue for healing. If you haven't attended a reunion, register and attend next year's being coordinated by Lis & Larry Young in Paris, Missouri. You'll be doing yourself a favor.

Last month an exhibit came to Richmond entitled "Vietnam Graffiti" which is touring around the country displaying graffiti taken from troop ships carrying soldiers to Vietnam. Although you may have experienced more heat, humidity, and boredom aboard ship when you deployed, you might be interested enough to look at a You Tube clip (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtOedyH7Qgg>) or go to Fox News, do a search for Vietnam Graffiti, then click on "Vietnam Graffiti at Local" and the story will tell you what the exhibit is all about. You might also go to (<http://www.vietnamgraffiti.com/>) the website of the curators of the exhibit. Parenthetically, the 3d Bde, 4th ID deployed from Tacoma, Washington on the General Nelson M. Walker on August 15, 1966.

Walt Shugart
Newsletter Editor

Ed Note:



Denny Amily up and about with his pastor & trailer.

2010 Reunion News



Larry & Lis Young
Reunion Coordinators

We are really pleased by the support for the 2010 Reunion that is developing by our friends and neighbors in and around the reunion site. Just look at Judge Mike Wilson's letter of support on page 6 as an indication of the enthusiasm being generated in Mark Twain Lake region. The dates for our 2010 reunion are set and the site reserved for July 7 -11 at the Paris Community Center, Paris, Missouri. Lodging with discounts for reunion attendees has been arranged at Southfork Resort (southforkresort.net/); Lake Village (lakevillage.net/); Dry Dock Rest Bar Motel(573)565-3584; Americas Best Value Inn Shelbina ([/www.americasbestvalueinn.com/bestv.cfm?idp=805](http://www.americasbestvalueinn.com/bestv.cfm?idp=805)); and The Junction Inn (573)565-2665. For those of you who wish to camp, camping is available at both the Mark Twain State Park and Hank of Dry Dock also has camp sites available.

Although we're about a year away, here's the tentative (subject to change) schedule of activities:

Wednesday, July 7 Bus trip (\$25) to Hannibal, MO, Mark Twain's home town from 7:30 to 5:30 with opportunities for a river boat cruise with lunch (\$25); explore the Mark Twain Cave (\$10); visit seven Mark Twain museums (\$6) with prices per person. Just let us know when you register which of the sites you would like to visit. We will collect the money when you arrive. Supper and entertainment will be at the reunion site when the bus returns from Hannibal.

Thursday, July 8 - Reunion sign-ins and registration, Welcome by Judge Wilson and our president, Bob Hemphill, and Jerry Dyer from VA who will address the effects of Agent Orange as well as other veteran's benefits. Followed by fellowship, meals, and entertainment in the evening.

Friday, July 9 - Missouri National Guard Helicopters will visit and demonstrate. Friday evening we will have a fish fry for supper.

Saturday, July 10 - Bravo Company parades through Paris with a color guard and band provided by the Missouri National Guard. With meals and evening entertainment. (Ed note: See our President's suggestion on pg 2.)

Sunday, July 11 - Breakfast followed by farewells.

The registration fee is \$65 per person. Mail your checks payable to Bravo Reunion 2010 and mail it to the address at the top of the registration form on page 5.

As must be apparent, excitement is building here in Paris, and we can't wait to see you!

Lis & Larry