

# **Bravo** **Regulars**

**B Company 3/22**



**Vietnam Service**

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

**AUGUST 2011**



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# Presidents Message

July, 2011

To Bravo Regulars and Their Families

Wow! It has been about one year since our great reunion in Missouri with Larry and Lis' Young. It seems to me like every one of them just keeps getting better. One year gone, and one to go. From what I have heard, 2012 will be just as exciting as the previous one. It looks like Max and Rosemary Torres, and Richard Villarreal are working diligently to make our California reunion very special. I, for one, would not miss this for the world.



*Dennis J. Amily*

**President**

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**(330) 698-9412**

I am not a political person, but what is happening in the world right now is just plain disgusting. Whatever happened to "We the People?" It just seems like our elected officials have forgotten all about us, from the president all the way down to our city officials. I am, however, a religious person, so I still pray for them all. In the end, God will have his way! Sorry, Ted, don't mean to step into your territory. One should not fish in another person's pond they say!

I am looking forward to seeing some of our west coast troops; David Conte, Dennis Hawkins, Dennis Samperi, Bob Caperelli, Jose Cosme Rivera, John Andrews, Joe Shields, Patrick Toyama, Peter Sabala, and Jerry Wilhelm.

Guys, I am taking the B-Company "War Wagon" so that you can see it. Please try to attend. That goes for any other troops who have not had that opportunity. I also hope that Lt. Hayes will make an appearance. I hope to see John Bender and his family at the 2012 reunion. I'd better see Terry Shipley and Gordon Storey!

Seeing that we are all about 60 to 70 years old now, we have to realize that this may be the last reunion for some of us. It is such a reality to me since I almost did not see the 2010 one due to a life threatening medical blunder! Keeping that in mind, it would be very special to me as the president if this reunion becomes the largest we have experienced yet.

Love Always,

*Dennis Amily*



**Ted Rowley  
Chaplain  
tedbard813@yahoo.com  
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## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

It's been hot here in Wisconsin this summer, as in many other states around this great country. Our next door neighbors' big pine tree in his front yard took a bark peeling lightening hit a couple of weeks go and got our telephone line, which also got our computer. The good Lord works in mysterious ways sometimes.

Before we left for Vietnam, our Lt. Hinton Whitehead, was at ranger school, trying to get his ranger's patch. I recall he was struck by lightening so wasn't able to get the patch. Maybe that is why when we were in Vietnam he seemed fearless to me; that is my perspective. Having been wounded the day of LZ Gold, he was disappointed he missed the Battle of Soui Tre. I would say to him, don't feel bad about missing Soui Tre. I have many sad memories of Soui Tre, God spared Hinton of that, thank God!

Been busy with my garden and hobby farming, ya might say. The morning of July 26th, a bright sunny day, with blue skies and calm breezes so far. I'll try to harvest my wheat and rye today, with my ol John Deere 30 combine, pulled by a Case 830. I'll be thinking of days gone by and the memories of all the great guys I served with in Vietnam. Such great men. I'll be watering my tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins and squash and thinking about all the good things the good Lord has blessed me with, especially my wife, Barb, who has put up with me for 45 years. I have to admit she deserves the Medal of Honor. Much like another gal I know named Shirley Shugart, who has been putting up with a guy named Walt, for it must be close to 50 years now, right? Shirley once told me at the Pennsylvania reunion when I needed a quick line to give to the first platoon guys, "second platoon is second to none." A great memory.

Start thinking about the great memories you can have from the next reunion in Sept. 2012 in California hosted by Max Torres, Richard Villarreal and their families. It will be special, as all the reunions before have been.

With God's love and blessings,

*Ted*



**MAX TORRES**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT/  
REUNION COORDINATOR**  
**Bravoreunion2012@hotmail.com**  
**(805) 481-5554**

I hope everybody had a great Memorial and 4th of July. Our thoughts and prayers were with the folks from Joplin, MO; especially Will and Debb Smoot.

Debb is the niece of Virgil Ledford, a member of Bravo Co. 3rd Platoon. Virgil gave the ultimate sacrifice at the battle of Soui Tre and will always be remembered by his brothers in arms.

Well, a little more than a year left before our reunion in Pismo Beach, CA. Richard Villarreal, my wife, Rosemary, and I are still working to make our reunion a great success. I have verbal commitments from the following members; Andy Solis, Rudy Candalaria, David Conte, Jose Cosme Rivera, Bob Garland, Bob Hemphill, Bill Setser, Paul Zumfelde, Patrick Toyama, Jim Ash, Fran McRickard, Dennis Hawkins, Bill Turnpaugh, Ron Thompson and Joe Velis.

I will keep calling members to encourage them to attend our reunion. We have only received one application from Larry and Lis' Young. Please remember that we need your applications filled out and sent to us. We need to know as soon as possible so we can start making proper arrangements.

Please make all checks payable to Bravo Regular Association. Its \$75 per person for the reunion and \$50 for the Hearst Castle trip. Lunch will be provided for the Hearst Castle trip. We'll need to have at least 40 committed to going to Hearst Castle by March 31, 2012.

We will have Polo Shirts for sale at our reunion, so please state the number of shirts and sizes you would like.

Lis' Young has graciously offered to make a Bravo quilt to be raffled for our 2012 reunion. If you have photos you can share with Lis', please email Lis' at [bravoreunion2010@yahoo.com](mailto:bravoreunion2010@yahoo.com).

#### **Accommodations**

Oxford Suites \*\*\*\*  
For reservations call: 1-800-982-7848  
Fax: 805-773-5177

Quality Inn \*\*\*  
For reservations call: 1-805-773-1841  
Fax: 805-773-1944

Motel 6 \*\*1/2  
For reservations: 1-805-773-2665  
Fax: 1-805-773-0723

#### **RV Parks and Camping**

Pismo Coast Village RV Resort \*\*\*\*  
For reservations: 1-888-782-3224  
Fax: 1-805-773-1507

Holiday RV Park \*\*\*  
For reservations: 1-800-272-3672  
Local number: 1-805-773-1121

Pismo State Beach North Campground  
For reservations: 1-800-444-7275  
Local number: 1-805-473-7223

#### **Airports**

**San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport ([sloairport.com](http://sloairport.com)) 1-800-781-5205**

**Santa Maria Public Airport ([santamariaairport.com](http://santamariaairport.com)) 1-805-922-172**

Early registration will be a great help in the planning of the upcoming reunion. **Please register as early as you can so that we can make plans** that accurately reflect the number of people planning to attend. We don't need the registration fee for a while, but if you are attending, **please send in your registration form to: Max Torres, 251 Anita Ave., Grover Beach, CA. 93433.** If you have questions, you can call me at 1-805-481-5554 or 1-805-459-3468. Because it's too early for hotels to commit to rates, I still haven't received prices. They all assured me that they will give us the best rates.



David W. Lowell  
Newsletter Editor  
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(520) 762-8609

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. We had very little input for this issue so I'll go with what we have.

The cover photo of our Memorial Shield (Thank You, Ted Rowley, for creating and maintaining it) was taken by me at the St. Rose reunion in 2000 (Thank You, Carl Lammers and Mike Detmer for hosting).

Any time I don't have a submitted photo, I will dip into my reunion photo file to find something of interest to us all. I personally will never grow tired of seeing our shield because of the emotions behind it.

We have a new find to report. He is Carrol Lejeune, (Original, Mess Hall), P. O. Box 373, Morse, LA 70559. Cell phone 337-581-5560. Thank you, Bill Brown (Original, Mess Hall) for the referral.

Anyone with new finds, change of address information or any other association business may make submissions to me. If I can't handle it, I'll get it to someone who can. Submissions for the newsletter need to be received by the last week of the month preceding the date of the newsletter. The completed newsletter is then posted on our website the last day of the month of the newsletter. It can be downloaded from there by those who want a paper copy.

A while back I recorded a movie off an obscure channel in the middle of the night based only on its name, "The Siege of Firebase Gloria." It is a fictional account set during Tet, 1968. A fire support base near the Cambodian border was surrounded by 2,500 Viet Cong regulars, leaving the defenders with 5 to 1 odds against them, and attacked for the purpose of annihilation. Their perimeter was overrun and the defenders had to fall back under close combat. In the end they prevailed and won the battle. If this sounds familiar to some, it's because it's the same scenario and numbers we faced at Suoi Tre in March, 1967. Very curious! It is a low budget movie, but worth a look if you get the chance.

Dee and I have just sent our reunion registration form to Max Torres. I also have a verbal commitment to attend from Richard "Crazy" Ward. All those planning to attend should register now, so that Max has the numbers he needs to plan the event. This will be our first reunion in a month other than July. Hopefully those members who were unable to attend previously due to summer commitments can make this one. Dee and I are looking forward to seeing lots of new faces as well as old friends.

*Dave*

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 Dave Lowell - Original**

**Reprinted in part from Fall, 1985, Vietnam Combat Magazine, Battle of Suoi Tre**

At 0630, an ambush patrol from the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry, engaged a large force of Viet Cong moving toward the base and at the same time the base came under heavy mortar attack. Over 600 rounds pounded the camp as waves of Viet Cong emerged from the jungle, firing recoilless rifles, rocket grenades, automatic weapons, and small arms. The ambush patrol was quickly overrun and was unable to return to the base.

The enemy concentrated against the east side of the perimeter until, at 0711, Company B reported that its 1st Platoon had been overrun. A reserve force of artillerymen helped to reestablish the perimeter, but forty-five minutes later the enemy had again broken through the 1st Platoon. Within a few minutes, positions on the northeastern portion of the Company B perimeter were completely overrun by a human wave attack. Company A sent a force with desperately needed ammunition to assist Company B. Then, on the northern perimeter, the Viet Cong swarmed over a quadruple 50-caliber and attempted to turn it on the defenders, but the weapon was blown apart by the artillery. To make matters worse, Company A reported penetrations in portions of its northern perimeter.

To the northwest the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry, advancing on foot, had reached the defenders to secure the western sector of the fire base. The mechanized forces were ordered to enter just south of the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry, and swing around the perimeter, consolidating the remainder.

Artillerymen were firing beehive rounds, steel flechettes released at the muzzle of the weapon. When the supply of beehive was exhausted, they switched to high-explosive direct fire at point-blank ranges. The eastern sector of the perimeter had fallen back under heavy pressure to positions around the artillery pieces. The Viet Cong were within five meters of the battalion aid station and within hand grenade range of the command post.

Into this chaos came the tanks and APC's, crashing through the last few trees into the clearing. The noise was overwhelming as the new arrivals opened up with more than 200 machine guns and 90-mm. tank guns. The ground shook as tracked vehicles moved around the perimeter throwing up a wall of fire to their outside flank. They cut through the advancing Viet Cong, crushing many of them under the tracks. The Viet Cong, realizing that they could not outrun the encircling vehicles, charged them and attempted to climb aboard but were quickly cut down. Even the tank recovery vehicle of Company A, 2d Battalion, 34th Armor, smashed through the trees with its machine gun chattering. Most of the crew, who were all mechanics, were throwing grenades, but one calm mechanic sat serenely atop the vehicle, his movie camera grinding away.

Relief was evident in the faces of the defenders as tracked vehicles quickly tied in with the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry. "It was," exulted Lieutenant Colonel John A Bender, the fire base commander, "just like the late show on TV, the U.S. Cavalry came riding to the rescue." Master Sergeant Andrew Hunter recalled. "They haven't made the word to describe what we thought when we saw those tanks and armored personnel carriers. It was de-vine." With victory almost within grasp of the enemy, the tanks and APC's had turned to tide. When the smoke cleared, it was apparent that the enemy had not only been defeated but had lost more than 600 men.

**Editor**—I would very much like to see that movie, if anyone can track it down!



**JOHN OTTE**  
**TREASURER/LOCATER**  
 1037 Koleeta Dr.  
 Harbor City, CA 90710  
 bravo6xray.com  
 (310) 539-0886

## Downloading the Association Newsletter

Since our Altoona Pennsylvania Reunion we have been trying to get expenses under control. Our major expense is the publication and distribution of our association newsletter. During a meeting in Altoona, PA, the elected officers of the association brain stormed about ways to cut expenses and put us on a sound financial footing. The first suggestion was to reduce the number of newsletters sent each year from four to three, saving around \$1,000 a year. The second idea was to deliver the newsletter electronically. At the time we mentioned email, but we gave it some additional thought, it was decided that the best way to handle this was to download the newsletter from our webpage (bravoregulars.com). There are simple instructions as to how to download the newsletter. The newsletters should be available for downloading by April 30, August 31, and December 31 of each year. So for all our members who have the ability to receive the newsletter over the internet, please let me know so that I can remove from our hardcopy list.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### *Income and Expense*

April 1, 2011 Balance \$9,858.48

#### Income

Dues	\$30.00
Dividend	\$ 4.44
Total Income	\$34.44

#### Expenses

Newsletter	\$1,009.80
2012 Reunion	\$3,500.00
Webpage	\$ 22.50
Total Expenses	\$4,532.30

July 31st, 2011 Balance \$5,360.62

### Dues Invoice

**\$30.00**

Aug. 1st 2011 to July 31st 2012  
 Return Envelope Enclosed

**\$30.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address

Street Number & Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip ; \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Form - Bravo Regulars 2012 Reunion  
September 19-23, 2012—Pismo Beach, CA**

***Registration Fee—\$75.00 Per Person***

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bravo Company, Vietnam Unit and dates of service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**There will be (number)\_\_\_\_\_ in my party.**

**Names of those accompany you:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan to arrive on (date) \_\_\_\_\_. I will depart on (date) \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I will travel by (means of travel) \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I will be lodged at:**

\_\_\_ **Oxford Suites**

\_\_\_ **Pismo Coast Village**

\_\_\_ **Quality Inn**

\_\_\_ **Holiday R.V. Park**

\_\_\_ **Motel 6**

\_\_\_ **Pismo State Beach North Campground**

\_\_\_ **Number attending trip to Hearst Castle**

\_\_\_ **Number of polo Shirts Wanted**    \_\_\_ **XXXL**    \_\_\_ **XXL**    \_\_\_ **XL**    \_\_\_ **L**    \_\_\_ **M**    \_\_\_ **S**

**Send completed form to:**

**Max Torres, 251 Anita Ave., Grover Beach, CA. 93433**