



MERRY CHRISTMAS



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL. WASHINGTON, DC

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President's Message

By Denny Amily



Well Troops,

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday. It always seemed to me like my belt gave out at that time of the year. It seems like I run out of holes in the buckle. Is it just me that it happens to, or does it happen to any of you?

**Denny Amily
President
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I took my War Wagon to the VA Hospital in Brecksville, Ohio. They really enjoyed it. I listened to some of the World War II, Korean, and VN stories from some of the patients and was really blown away. People who were never in combat would think it was a line of crap, but I know better!!! Speaking of the War Wagon, which is what I named my VN Trailer (only because no one sent me any ideas which I asked for in the last President's letter), I'm trying to figure out how I am going to get it to California. But Max, be ready for me because I **WILL BE THERE!**

I sure hope the economy picks up a little by the next reunion. I know it has hit some of us very hard. You think you saved up enough money, but the government always seems to find a way to take it from you.

I'm going to end this letter by wishing everyone in the B-Company family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Have a safe and happy time.

Love You All (the wives more than the guys). Not really! I love my whole Bravo Company Family.

Dennis J. Amily
President

P. S. From Dee to the wonderful Bravo Company wives: You'll always be in my heart I respect and admire all of you for the loyalty you have



Editor's Notes

Dave Lowell
Editor
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This is my first column as Editor of our newsletter. As most of you would guess, my wife, Dee, will be doing all the work while I get my picture in the column every issue. We will do the best we can with the new experience. Thank you, Walt Shugart, for Handling this job for us

in the past, as well as hosting a reunion and all the other things you've done for Bravo Company.

In the April, 2010, newsletter, Walt Shugart recommended Philip Jennings' book titled *The Politically Incorrect Guide To The Vietnam War*. I found it to be a good read and recommend it for everyone interested in the politics behind the war. Also mentioned was the battle report for Suoi Tre. This is available online at americans-remembered.org. It is a fascinating read. Hopefully someone will do reports for the Burt and Crook battles as well.

There will be a new section in the newsletter titled "Bulletin Board." It is a forum for announcements, stories, exchanging ideas and personal experiences, looking for information and other items of interest to the organization. This section is entirely driven by membership input. The more submissions we receive, the better the column will be. These submissions may appear disjointed at times but are often 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.

Dave

Chaplains Message

By Ted Rowley



I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante-garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50's, 60's and 70's and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love... I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what gives us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face.

So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself any more. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it), especially cherry delight.

MAY OUR FRIENDSHIP NEVER COME APART, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART! *Author Unknown*

I can't take credit for this article, but I know we can all relate to it. After writing messages for this newsletter for over 10 yrs, one can use some messages like this now and then, a welcome addition.

My Christmas message, keep Christ in your life and everything will turn out all right

Love, Ted



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Bravo Regulars

2012 Reunion Update

Well, it's another month closer to our next reunion. First I would like to thank Larry & Lis Young for their hard work and dedication that made the reunion in Paris, Missouri a great success. We all had a great time. Well, maybe not Bob Hemphill; hope you are feeling a lot better. It was a great pleasure to see our friend Billy Setser. We had not seen him since Vietnam. **I hope we can all encourage one Bravo regular to attend our next reunion.**

I also want to thank Walt Shugart for emailing me about David Hodges. David and I talked for about an hour; we had a great time catching up with old memories and our lives after Vietnam. Talking to David made my heart feel full; thank you David. If you guys have a chance, give David a call at 1-804-966-5698.

Since our last newsletter, I was able to get Richard Villarreal to become a co-host for our reunion. Richard will be a great help, and in my book, was a great soldier and friend. Richard came very close to making the supreme sacrifice for his country. The reunion will be at the Veteran's Memorial Building from Sept. 19-23, 2012, in Pismo Beach, CA.

We plan to have full information and a registration form in the August, 2011 newsletter.

Max

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Walt Shugart—1/67-4/67

The VA has added B cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease, and Ischemic heart diseases as conditions related to Agent Orange and is now accepting claims for service connection for these newly designated conditions.

Submitted by Michael C. Toyer—1970

I recall an incident when Paul Dale and another man were wounded but was never able to confirm their names. I don't believe either returned to the company.

We were in the second phase of the Cambodia operation. The company had just moved from our initial A/O west of Tay Ninh to replace the 1st Cav as FSB X-ray in the Fish Hook north of Tay Ninh.

I was out with two platoons on a patrol when one of my 1st Platoon squad leaders reported finding a hospital complex. I wanted to verify it personally before reporting so I returned to the area with the squad. Sgt. Van Johnson was on point, another sergeant, whose face I can clearly recall but not his name, was next in file then an M-79 gunner, myself, and a rifleman.

The rest of the company was left in the patrol base a few hundred meters away. Approaching the area where he had previously found the hospital, Sgt. Johnson alerted on some movement to his front and hand signaled to hold up. Immediately we were sprayed with several bursts of AK fire. A grenadier and rifleman on either side of me were hit in the initial fire and went down. I had left my helmet and carbine behind and had only the .38 I carried on my belt. I also did not have a radio.

As best I recall, the grenadier was hit in the chest and his ammo vest may have deflected a direct hit but he was in severe pain. The rifleman had a bullet wound to his groin. They may have had other wounds but at this time I was unable to check. The two sergeants were not hit and were returning fire but pinned down. I was able to position the two wounded men defensively, then called out for help. My 1st. Platoon responded and secured the area while the wounded were medevaced.

The company searched the area but found no signs of any enemy or casualties. The "hospital" was little more than a couple of huts with some scattered medical supplies which we evacuated.

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Submitted by Ralph Hawk—1969/1970

A photo in a recent Bravo Regulars newsletter brought back some memories—some sad—but some good memories as well.

We were coming in from a mission waiting on choppers to return, when Sgt. Stickel called on the radio and said he and his squad were going in next and mine would go in last with the CO. He was acting platoon leader on this mission. Cap said to let him go ... and as their chopper was trying to lift off, they dumped Hoot Gibson off for less weight.

A few minutes later there was a black cloud of smoke. The chopper went down, and by the time we got to the site, it was too late. We lost my friend, Sgt. David Tinsey, Bruce Stickel, and everyone on board. David Tinsey's wife used to send him some good care packages. He really enjoyed them, along with pipe tobacco that he would always share with me. I remember it well. A great guy!

I now live in Florida and one day Raymond "Weasel" Sprague, also in the picture, showed up at the site where I was building my house. It was good to see him, a nice surprise. Ron Olsen is also pictured and I used to play Hearts/cards with him in the bush to kill time—all great men. I wish them all well

Submitted by Michael C. Toyer—1970

I would appreciate whatever info George Baxter has on the 2 Oct 70 helicopter crash. I only heard sketchy details in the rear and was unable to verify all the casualties before I DEROSSED a couple of days later. Several years ago, I was able to identify the casualties with the help of the photo and others from the platoon. I have corresponded with the widow of Bruce Stickel and most of the other survivors in the photo and others in the platoon and company at that time.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expense
Aug. 1, thru Nov. 30, 2010

Aug. 1, 2010 Balance \$8309.66

Income

Member Dues	\$354.00
Miscellaneous Inc.	<u>\$56.00</u>
Total Income	\$410.00

Expenses

Newsletter	\$1044.7
Miscellaneous Exp.	<u>\$371.02</u>
Total Exp.	\$1415.80

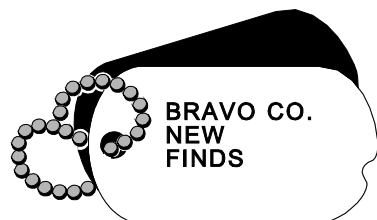
Nov. 30, 2010 Balance \$7303.86

John Otte

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The financial report gives you a snapshot of financial transactions from 8/1/10 through 11/30/10. We have recently done an in depth analysis covering a two year period between 2008 and 2010 Reunions. This analysis showed that over this period of time our income is sufficient to cover our expenses. However, the margin is paper thin, meaning that any reduction in income or increase in expenses will require some corrective action. I have set up a program to continue the analysis on a monthly bases. As long as current income covers current expenses we will be able to keep a healthy balance for any unexpected expenses.



Michael Hopper
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 3rd Platoon

**Steve Marcy****Charles Putman****Richard Wood****George Hicks****We need Your Help!**

The Bravo Company officials need your help to make our newsletter interesting and fresh. We need stories from anyone who may have experienced something they feel is of interest or unusual. These types of stories should be directed to David Lowell our new newsletter editor.

I of course can use any information that you may have regarding any of our brothers not found yet, or you just want to find someone who you remember and would like me to try and find them, give me a call. You will notice the new find on this page, well he was located by Garry Thorn and Salvadore "shorty" Gutierrez and handed to me on a silver platter. This just shows what can be done with effort and hard work. It doesn't require any special skills, I should know I've found hundreds of guys, it just takes desire and the tiniest scrape of information.

Max mentioned in his piece that he would like to have every Bravo Regular planning to attend the 2012 Reunion get in touch

with someone on our Association Directory and get them to attend a reunion, which is a great idea. I would like to ask that you make efforts to find someone heretofore not found. Call me and I will be glad to help.

Reunion Quilt for 2012 Reunion.

At the 2010 Reunion they raffled off a Bravo Company quilt, The quilt was a big hit with all those that attended.

I received a call from Lisa Young co-host of our 2010 Reunion in Missouri. She would like to make a quilt for all future Bravo Reunions. Lisa would like any input from anyone that saw the original quilt raffled off at the last reunion. She would like to know any idea's you may have to improve the original design. Please contact Lisa Young:

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