

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

December 2015

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President's Message

Ted Silberies
President
ted9er@gmail.com
(408) 674-2759

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Personally I can't help but think back to how we spent Thanksgiving and Christmas when we were in country. Sure does make you appreciate what you have today, doesn't it?

Along those lines let's not forget that the holidays can be an especially lonely time not only for those deployed overseas but for many veterans as well. Now with that in mind, this month and throughout the coming year I'm hoping you will consider looking into volunteer activities at your local VA hospital or clinic and with other groups who serve veterans, active duty and military families.

Recently I spoke with our reunion host, Richard Ward. It sounds like he and Dorene are putting together a terrific event for us. I trust you've mailed in your reservations and have reminded those you'd like to visit with to do the same.

It's been a lucky year for me. I've been blessed to reconnect with four of my former brothers-in-arms and it looks like they will all be with us in Naples. We're planning to stay at the Best Western Plaza. I did discover, however, you have to call that hotel directly to book your room rather than going on-line or going through BW reservations. From past experience it works out well when we stay at the same hotel.

There is so much to see and do in Southern Florida that I hope you're planning on an extended stay. For those of you who have any extra time in the days following our get-together, the annual hot air balloon festival "Balloons Over Paradise" will take place on April 11th & 12th in Immokalee, FL (43 miles NE of Naples). Admission is free. I've never been to it before but it sounds worth looking into and we do have a few days before we fly home.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ted



Association Business

John Otte
Treasurer/Locator
bravo6xray@aol.com
(310) 539-0886

Financial Report Income and Expense

Sept. 1, 2015 Balance	\$8,708.63
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$3,815.00
Total Income	\$3,815.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Newsletter	\$502.88
Bank Service	\$15.00
Total Expenses	\$517.88
Nov. 30, 2015 Balance	\$12,005.75

Membership Dues Response

We've had an excellent response to our membership dues invoices. We have taken in \$3,815.00 since Sept. 1st.

If anyone planned to send their dues and haven't had the opportunity, it's never too late!

John

"Freedom is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it everyday.

And Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Ronald Reagan





Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
davidwlowell@aol.com
(520) 762-8609

Welcome back Bravo Brothers. Hope this finds all of you well.

Over the Veterans Day holiday I found an interesting post on Facebook citing statistics about the Vietnam War. I have seen others, but this one is new to me and it is at the top of our Bulletin Board.

Thank you, Dwayne Davis (3rd Platoon—70/71), for your response to the article about the battle of Suoi Da in our last issue. You have confirmed my suspicions that the author likely wasn't even there. The letter is on our Bulletin Board.

Thank you, John Kapor (3rd Platoon—Basic Only), for sharing information about paying respect at grave sites of veterans with coins, which I had never heard of before. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

Thank you, Lane Sterling (CO RTO/2nd Platoon—4/68-6/69), for sharing information with us about Agent Orange surveys being collected by an organization. His email is on our Bulletin Board. Those willing to participate will find the contact information there.

With great sadness, I must report the passing of Gerald DePhillip (2nd Platoon—4-68/69). His obituary is on the Bulletin Board.

Hope all of you had a peaceful Veterans Day, a fulfilling Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Our next issue will be out in March and we will be accepting input through the end of February. Until then, may peace be with you.

Dave out

"It is impossible for the Nation to compensate for the services of the fighting man. There is no pay scale that is high enough to buy the services of a single soldier during even a few minutes of agony of combat, the physical miseries of the campaign, or of the extreme personal inconvenience of leaving his home to go out to the most unpleasant and dangerous spots on earth to serve his Nation."

Gen. George C. Marshall, 1945

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—Sobering Statistics for the Vietnam War, published by Walter Woodworth

Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest veteran's age approximated to be 54 years old. So if you're alive and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last 1/3rd of all the U.S. Vets who served in Vietnam? ... don't know about you guys, but kinda gives me the chills, considering this is the kind of information I'm used to reading about WWII and Korean War Vets. **Statistics for individuals in Uniform and In Country Vietnam Veterans.** ... 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964—May 7, 1975). ...

8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug. 5, 1964—March 28, 1973). ... 2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam, this number represents 9.7% of their generation. ... 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters). ... 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965—March 28, 1973). ... Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964. ... Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack. ... 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam. ... Peak troop strength in Vietnam—543,482 (April 30, 1968). ...

Casualties ... The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him. ... Hostile deaths, 47,378. ... Non-hostile deaths, 10,800. ... Total—58,202 (includes men formally classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total. ... 8 nurses died—1 KIA. ... 51% of the men killed were 21 or younger. ... 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old. ... Of those killed, 17,539 were married. ... Average age of men killed: 23.1 years. ... Total deaths: 23.11 years. ... Enlisted: 50,274—22.37 years. ... Officers: 6,598—28.43 years. ... Warrants: 1,276—24.73 years. ... E1: 525—20.34 years. ... 11B MOS: 18,465—22.55 years. ... Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old. ... The oldest man killed was 62 years old. ... Highest state death rate: West Virginia—84.1% (national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970). ... Wounded: 303,704—143,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care. ... Severely disabled: 75,000—23,214 were 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations. Amputations or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than Korea. ... Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII. ... Missing in Action: 2,338. ... POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity). ... As of Jan. 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. ... **Draftees vs**

Volunteers ... 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII). ... Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam. ... Reservists killed: 5,977. ... National Guard: 6,140 served—101 died. ... Total draftees (1965-73): 1,728,344. ... Actually served in Vietnam: 38% Marine Corps Draft: 42,633. ... Last man drafted: June 30, 1973. ...

Race and Ethnic Background ... 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races. ... 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics): 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races. ... 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there. ... 70% of enlisted men killed were of North-west European descent. ... 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races. ... 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks. ... 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms. ... Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population. ... Religion of dead: Protestant—64.4%; Catholic—28.9%; other/none—6.7% ... **Socio-**

Economic Status ... Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups. ... Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veterans age group by more than 18%. ... 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle class/working class backgrounds. ... 3/4ths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds. ... Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations. ... 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service; 63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation. ... Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South—31%, West—29.9%, Midwest—28.4%, Northeast—23.5% **Drug**

Usage & Crime ... There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (source: Veterans Administration Study). ... Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison—only 1/2 of 1% of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes. ... 85% of Vietnam veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

BULLETIN BOARD

Continuation of Vietnam Statistics

... **Winners & Losers** ...82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will. ... Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms. ... **Honorable Service** ... 97% of Vietnam-era Veterans were honorably discharged. ... 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country. ... 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome. ... 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem. ... **Interesting Census Statistics & Those Who Claim To Have "Been There"**: 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures). ... During that same census count, the number of Americans claiming falsely to have served in-country was 9,492,958. ...As of the current census taken during August 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day. ... During this census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is 13,853,027. By this census, FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE Vietnam Vets are not. ... The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with error that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this erred index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Dept. of Defense. (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365). ... Isolated atrocities committed by American soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The U.S. sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of their strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers and school teachers (Nixon Presidential Papers).

Submitted by Dwayne L. Davis—3rd Platoon—70/71

The wannabe article was written by a one star general (retired). He wrote a book called "Moonscape, Thoughts of War." He also has a 20 minute you tube interview that's full of more lies. He didn't even get into country until April of 1967. He said he came into Chu Chi with the 101st, but the 101st had their first brigade come into Cam Rahn. The 2nd and 3rd didn't arrive until December of 1967. The Suoi Da article is word for word the same in his book, but in the book he is the hero of Suoi Tre. I have not read the whole book yet, but I'm positive this clown is a phony one way or another.

Submitted by John Kapor—3rd Platoon—Basic Only (Information from David W. Gehr)

Here is something I did not know. Military tradition is honorable and runs deep. While "Cleaning of the Stones" at the National Cemetery in Holly, I noticed a nickel placed on another stone. I was so touched with this that I took a picture (sorry, the nickel did not turn out). I googled about the coins and found this out. A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased soldier's family know that somebody stopped by to pay their respects, leaving a penny means you visited. A nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained at boot camp together. If you served with the soldier, you leave a dime. A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that soldier died. I AM VERY PROUD TO SHARE THIS.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Lane Sterling—CO RTO/2nd Platoon—4/68-6/69

From: ProPublica <noreply@dobt.co> Date: September 25, 2015 at 3:42:45 PM MDT
To: Lane <lsbravo6@gmail.com> Subject: Veteran reunions and 3,000 Agent Orange surveys
Reply to: <getinvolved@propublica.org> Hi Lane, **We've reached 3,000!** We wanted to let you all know that we reached our 3,000th story submission this week. Thank you all so much for sharing your stories. Every little bit helps our investigation. Our goal is to get to 5,000 surveys completed by vets or their family members. So, please, If you know a Vietnam vet or group that supports vets, please share our survey with them. Here's the link: <http://propub.ca/1FChJQJ>. We also wanted to give you a snapshot of who has submitted so far. Here's a quick breakdown of all the respondents: **Military Branch**—Army: 1,530, Navy: 663, Air Force: 407, Marine Corp: 390, Coast Guard: 12 **Location of Service**—South Vietnam: 2,517, At Sea: 224, US: 59, Thailand: 53, Korea: 20, Cambodia: 17, Laos: 9, Other: 69 **Did you handle any defoliants during the Vietnam War era:** - Yes: 550, No: 1,216, Don't Know: 1,222 **Do you think you were exposed to Agent Orange?** - Yes: 2,611, No: 38, Don't Know: 351
Best, Terry Parris Jr.—ProPublica—terry.parris@propublica.org; Mike Hixenbaugh—The Virginian-Pilot—mike.hixenbaugh@pilotonline.com; Charles Ornstein—ProPublica—charles.ornstein@propublica.org.

Submitted by Editor—Obituary

Gerald Lewis DePhillip, 67, passed away on September 18, 2015 surrounded by family. He served with Bravo Company's 2nd Platoon from 4-68/69. Jerry is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Elizabeth Wilson DePhillip and his beloved mother, Vera Robble Cwynar of Endwell, NY. Jerry graduated from Maine-Endwell High School and served in the US Army, joking that he went to the University of Saigon. He earned a Purple Heart in Vietnam and was proud of his Combat Infantryman Badge. Upon his discharge, he returned to Endwell and worked with IBM, Loral and Lockheed Martin. While with Lockheed Martin, he moved to Santa Barbara County in California, and later moved to Sunnyvale, CA. Ultimately, he was transferred to Jupiter, FL, where he retired. Outside of work, Jerry enjoyed building, and became a very accomplished carpenter over the years. His designs were unique and his creations were lovingly built. To his credit, many of those designs are still in evidence in the Triple Cities, California, and St. Augustine, Florida. Jerry loved to play pool, bowl, and golf. He got his hole-in-one, his 300 game, and God only knows how many racks of balls he ran. Jerry was also a passionate Yankees and Giants fan. His quick wit, funny stories, infectious laugh, excellent disco dancing and singing could light up the room and invariably made him the life of the party. After retirement, Jerry and Beth bought a home in St. Augustine, FL. He volunteered in that community with Habitat for Humanity, and worked as a starter at his local golf course. He travelled extensively visiting family and friends, with his favorite vacations being in Italy. Jerry was loved by all and will be missed by many.



Reunion News

Richard 'Crazy' Ward
2016 Reunion Host
crzyward@gmail.com
(239) 572-4796
Dorene Clark
Coordinator
bravoreunion2016@gmail.com

The only update I have is to request that people kindly get their reservations in even if they cannot pay at this time. I am having requests to get my head count in for the excursions and transportation and I have only received 16 reservations to date. I am told this is not unusual, however, I may not be able to accommodate people that delay into 90 days or less prior to the event and we do not want to see anyone miss out on excursions. The vendors need to know how many people they can handle outside of our group. Please submit your reservation, monies can be dealt with separately.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 6

All Day Check In
9-11:30 am Continental Breakfast
12:00-2:00 pm Buffet Lunch
3-5 pm Happy Hour
6-8 pm Buffy Dinner
7-9 pm Entertainment

Thursday, April 7

9-12 pm Check In
9-11:30 am Continental Breakfast
11 am Travel to Main Excursion
11 am—2 pm Naples Princess
12-2 pm Buffet Lunch
1 pm Welcome Speech
3-5 pm Happy Hour
6-8 pm Buffy Dinner
7-9 pm Entertainment

Friday, April 8

9-11:30 am Continental Breakfast
12-2:30 pm Free Time/Everglades Tour
12-2:00 pm Buffet Lunch
3-5 pm Happy Hour
6-8 pm Buffy Dinner
7-9 pm Entertainment

Saturday, April 9

9-11:30 am Continental Breakfast
10-12 pm Free Time
12-2 pm Buffet Lunch
2-3 pm Memorial Service
3 pm Group Photo
3:30 pm Board Meeting
3-5 pm Happy Hour with Raffle
6-8 pm Sit Down Dinner
7-9 pm Entertainment

Sunday, April 10

9-11:30 am Continental Breakfast

Richard and Dorene

BRAVO REGULARS 2016 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

April 6, 2016 thru April 10, 2016

REGISTRATION FEE: \$75 Per Person \$140 Per Couple		
CONTACT INFORMATION		
Full Name:		Number of Guests:
Street address:	Spouse Name:	Phone no.: ()
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Vietnam Unit:	Date of Service:	
Arrival Date:	Departure Date:	
Email Address:		

LODGING OPTIONS		
(Please Contact Hotel Direct Using <u>Group ID</u>)		
Inn at Pelican Bay: <u>Bravo Reunion 2016 Rate:</u> \$129 City View / \$149 Garden View Reservation Deadline 3/1/2016	<u>Address:</u> 800 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34108 (239) 597-8777	
Hilton: <u>Bravo Regulars Reunion 2016 Rate:</u> \$203 (20 rooms available) Reservation Deadline 3/7/2016	<u>Address:</u> 5111 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34103 (239) 430-4900	
Hawthorne Suites: <u>Bravo Company Rate:</u> Studio \$124 / 1-Bedroom \$134 Reservation Deadline 2/27/2016	<u>Address:</u> 3557 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, FL 34109 (239) 593-1300	
Best Western: <u>Bravo Reunion 2016 Rate:</u> Negotiations In Progress	<u>Address:</u> Christian Hernandez 6400 Dudley Dr. Naples, FL 34105 (239) 643-6655	
Reunion Shirts:	S M L XL XXL	Reunion Shirts: () () Reunion Hats: () \$23 each \$13 each
Number Ordered:	Circle	Total \$ Total: \$
<u>Naples Princess Luxury Yacht Tour</u>	<u>Captain Mitch's Everglades Air Boat Rides</u>	
Insert Names to Register	Insert Names to Register	
<u>Naples Trolley Tours</u> • <u>Naples Caribbean Gardens & Zoo</u> • <u>Naples Botanical Gardens</u>		
Discounted Rates Available		

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:		
Bravo Regulars Association 6017 Pine Ridge Rd., #273, Naples, FL 34119	EMAIL: BravoReunion2016@gmail.com	FAX: (239) 491-7001
Please include check with reservation or send email to bravoreunion2016@gmail.com & Request a PayPal invoice to pay with credit card Shirts & Hats are pre-ordered and require advance payment		