

# ***Bravo Regulars***



**B Company 3/22**



***Vietnam Service***

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

**December, 2019**



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## President's Message

Art Gormley  
President  
(718) 317-9881  
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Greetings to my Bravo Brothers,

Veterans Day is past us now, but I hope all of you enjoyed the day and the great sense of pride we should all feel on that day for having served.

We received sad news in November that Jack Wood had passed away the day after Veterans Day. Jack served as Bravo's 1st Sgt. and later as battalion Sgt. Major. He was one of Bravo's originals and, while we served at different times, I knew him by reputation. Jim and Pam Adams represented Bravo at his service in Chillicothe, MO.

As I write this, we are just days away from Thanksgiving. Personally, it's my favorite holiday. Our home is always the central meeting place for family and friends. I'm looking forward to seeing some family members I only see once or twice a year. Every family has its differences large and small, but for Thanksgiving we always seem to manage to put those often petty differences aside and just give thanks to God for what we have.

Speaking of getting together, we have a very important date to add to your calendar, our bi-annual Bravo reunion is scheduled for next June 3-7 in Goldsboro, NC. Our thanks to host, brother Bob Best, for all his hard work in pulling this together for us. This issue of the newsletter includes a recap of what is planned for you in Goldsboro, along with the registration form for the event. Please plan to attend and complete the registration form as soon as you can. Knowing how many will attend will help in the planning and logistics.

I want to extend a special thanks to Pam Adams, who together with husband Jim hosted our 2018 reunion in Branson, MO. It ran like clockwork start-to-finish. Pam volunteered to help Bob Best plan and organize our 2020 get-together. I know Bob has been looking forward to hosting a Bravo Reunion for some years and I'm confident Pam's advice and assistance will help him make Goldsboro 2020 a great success.

Thanksgiving also marks the start of the Christmas Holiday Season, and I hope you all have a chance to enjoy this joyous season with family and friends. It is a time of giving and for sharing the Season's generous spirit with loved ones and strangers alike. Whether you do that in your home, through your church or by other means, please be mindful of those less fortunate. Christmas is the season of giving and that is the spirit that puts the joy in Christmas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Art Gormley', written in a cursive style.



## Reunion Update

Robert Best  
Reunion Host  
(919) 631-0179  
solveaprob@aol.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

By the time of this newsletter, post Thanksgiving, we have been very thankful for where we are with family, friends and life, have eaten way too much turkey and are now worrying over Christmas. So, sit back in your easy chair and make plans to attend the June 3-7, 2020 Bravo Regulars reunion in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

With this article is the registration form for the reunion. We are doing things a little different this time and I hope that this does not cause a great deal of confusion. Pam Adams has been helping with this reunion to make sure that every hat, shirt, meal and nametag is taken care of. Please send your Registration Form and fee direct to Pam. I have alerted the Board of Directors of this plan and they feel that this is not a problem. I assure you that this is very helpful for me. Pam and I have been working closely together organizing Bravo Reunion 2020 and are looking forward to seeing you one and all.

We are going to have professional filming of all the battle discussion groups. We have added a line on the registration form so please list the battle or battles that you participated in, so that we are sure to have a seat for all when filming. This is part of our nation's history and these accounts need to be contributed.

There has been some interest expressed in having a golf outing. Please note on the registration form if you would be interested in participating in a golf outing one afternoon, then I will handle the scheduling. We have two very nice golf courses in Goldsboro for you to play.

We are also looking into local fishing. If I remember correctly, we had some fishermen attend the reunion in Branson. If anyone is interested in fishing, please let me or Pam know so that we can make sure to find you water to fish.

Your hotel reservations need to be made by April 1, 2020. If you have issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. The Holiday Inn Express and Suites phone number is 1-919-778-0007 for reservations. Please be sure to use **Code BRC** when calling to ensure the Bravo rate.

We are asking that your Registration Form with Registration Fee of \$100.00 per person be sent to Pam by no later than May 1, 2020 to make sure that you have hats, shirts and nametag. Rest assured, there will be no one left behind should this deadline slip by.

Also, think about donating a state themed basket for the raffle. As usual, a quilt will be available for raffle provided by Lisa Young.

I have already received phone calls from Bravo Brothers who will be attending this reunion, which makes me happy. The City of Goldsboro is stirring and excited that we will be coming and I receive daily the question "How Can I Help?" which also makes me happy.

Please make your hotel reservations early and send your Registration Form with a check to Pam Adams at 17278 Highway HH, Mexico, MO 65265. We will make your visit to Goldsboro enjoyable.

*Bob*

## FUN THINGS TO DO IN GOLDSBORO

Nestled in the heart of eastern North Carolina, between Raleigh and the coast, we're a destination rich in culture and heritage. We could go on about our scenic state park, historic sites, legendary BBQ joints, and brag about the airshows we witness as F-15E Strike Eagles soar across our skies, but what Goldsboro's appeal really boils down to it is originality. We invite you to stroll the scenic streetscapes of our charming downtown. While taking in its quaint elegance, indulge in one of our fine eateries or make a literal "pit stop" for the best, authentic, pit-cooked BBQ in the state. Take a tour of some of the most significant Civil War Sites in North Carolina and mingle with folks whose hospitality is built into their very core. When planning a visit to Goldsboro, you're choosing a trip reflective of the simpler, more beautiful things not found in other destinations. Additional information on things to do can be located at [www.visitgoldsboro.com](http://www.visitgoldsboro.com)

### Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

The 90-foot high cliffs on the Neuse River's south bank show the magnificently chiseled results of "Mother Nature's" mighty force. The park encompasses over 1,000 acres and is a designated site on the NC Birding Trail.

### Wayne County Paddle Trails

The Wayne County Paddle Trails consist of over 70 miles of interconnected rivers, streams, and tributaries that twist and wind through Wayne County.

### Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course

The Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course, owned and operated by the City of Goldsboro Recreation and Parks, is a par 72 layout that golfers of all levels find enjoyable and challenging.

### The Paramount Theatre

Originally built in 1882 and reconstructed in 2008, this landmark is Historic Downtown Goldsboro's headquarters for the performing arts.

### Downtown Escape Room

Enjoy a one-of-a-kind adventure game where you and your team have exactly one hour to figure out how to escape by solving a series of clues, riddles and puzzles.

### Old Waynesboro Historical Village

The park is located on the site of the former town of Waynesborough, the original seat of Wayne County from 1787 until 1847. The park consists of a village featuring nine historic buildings from across the county. These include a school, lawyer's office, and Quaker meeting house.

### Civil War History Trail

Goldsboro was an important railroad junction during the Civil War. Confederate troops were stationed here to guard the city and report for duty by rail. These trail sites included Foster's Raid, Battle of Goldsborough Bridge and Battle of Whitehall. Breastworks were built to protect the city. Remains are still visible along Claiborne Street.



**BRAVO REGULAR 2020 REUNION**

**JUNE 3 – 7, 2020**

**GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

**REGISTRATION FORM AND NEEDED INFORMATION**

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per Person

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

Guest/Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Vietnam Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Battle(s) Participated In: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date Reunion: \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Reunion: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in Golf Outing: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Persons: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ :

REUNION Shirts: \$25.00 each SIZE: S M L XL XXL XXXL (Circle Size) Number ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

REUNION Hats: \$15.00 Number ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging information: HOLIDAY EXPRESS and SUITES: KING BED ROOM: \$96.00 PLUS TAX AND QUEEN BED ROOM \$96.00 PLUS TAX per/room per/night, QUEEN SSUITES \$106.00 PLUS TAX per/room/per/ night. Phone number 919-778-0007. Please use Code BRC when making reservations for group rate.**

Room Reservation need to be made by April 1, 2020 to make sure can receive Bravo Reunion Room Rate

Please complete this form, make checks payable to Bravo Reunion 2020 and mail to: **Pam Adams 17278 HWY HH, Mexico, Missouri 65265. By May 1, 2020.**

Information can also be emailed to [pammyanny@msn.com](mailto:pammyanny@msn.com). Pam's cell phone: 573-253-597

Host Contact Phone Number: Bob Best: 919-631-0179



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

*John*

## Association Business

Financial Report Income and Expenses	
Aug. 31, 2019 Balance	\$14,330.78
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$ 25.00
Total Income	\$ 25.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$ 379.42
Website Changes	600.00
Hosting Service	59.85
Bank Service Charge	15.00
Total Expenses	\$1,054.27
Nov. 30, 2019 Balance	\$13,301.51



## Editor's Notes

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

Welcome Back, Bravo Brothers! I sincerely hope this finds all of you well. We've heard that John Otte continues to improve while recovering from his stroke.

The 22nd Infantry Regimental Society has announced their reunion plans to meet in Dallas, Texas on ...you guessed it ...June 4 to 7, 2020. Just by chance we both have picked the same dates. I hope this does not create any hardships, but our plans were already made when we discovered the conflict. Host Bob Best has included his status report and a registration form. Our agenda will be arrival and registration on Wednesday, June 3, events and socializing on Thursday and Friday, June 4 and 5, and meetings and Memorial on Saturday, June 6. If attending the full event, you will need room reservations for June 3 through June 6, with departure Sunday, June 7. An itinerary will be included in our March newsletter. Honorary members are not expected to pay a registration fee, but we ask that you register anyway so we can plan for you. I have heard that there will be a Suoi Tre themed quilt offered as a free raffle open only to veterans of that battle, in addition to one being provided by Honorary Member Lisa Young. Please get your registration in as early as possible. If you later need to cancel, you will receive a refund. You may also register early and pay later, if desired.

**EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)**

Since sending out our September newsletter to everyone on our e-mail list, we added seven more converts to e-mail. We currently have 339 receiving by snail mail, 103 receiving by e-mail and 442 active members total.

I received a message from a member by "Facebook Messenger." I do not respond to that service because of the high incidence of hacking. Anyone wanting to contact me should use my published contact information.

We received an e-mail from Michelle Rowley Vechinsky (daughter of Ted Rowley) regarding a pen pal program she supervises. It and our responses are on the Bulletin Board. In about a year, I've received only two letters of a few sentences each, so it's not a bother to participate. If you change your mind, you can opt out directly or through our organization. Please consider signing up! For those who are not internet connected, everything can be handled by snail mail. She may be contacted at Rock Prairie Montessori, 5246 E. Rotamer Road, Janesville, WI 53546.

Blair Moran (Co RTO—69/70) has shared with us two written and one video account of our battle on Black Virgin Mountain in January, 1970. The two written accounts are on our Bulletin Board. The You Tube video can be viewed by logging onto Operation Cliffdweller and once on that page click onto 221 Signal. The video is six minutes long.

We received a complimentary e-mail from Mikie Sanders (1st Platoon) responding to the Jack Wood e-mail that I thought might be of interest. It is on our Bulletin Board.

We received an e-mail from Sherry Reyes (widow of Mario) responding to our offer for Honorary Membership. We have honored her request and placed her on our roster. Welcome! Details are on the Bulletin Board.

With great sadness I must report the passing of Jack Wood (B 1st Sgt/Bn Sgt Mgr.—Orig). Available information is on our Bulletin Board. A Bravo sympathy card was sent on behalf of the organization.

We received an e-mail from M C Toyer (CO—3/70-8/70) regarding my report on the passing of David Van Johnson in our September, 2018 newsletter. It is on the Bulletin Board.

We have moved two members to our Inactive List: Joe Hayes (1-68/69) at his request and Hershell Stroud (1st Platoon—9-66/67Orig) due to invalid contact information.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Our next issue will be out in March and we will be accepting submissions through the end of February. Until then, may peace be with you. Dee and I wish all of you a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year.

*Dave out*

## BULLETIN BOARD

**E-Mail received from Michelle Rowley Vechinsky**

Hi Dave, as the school year starts and we are planning for the upcoming months, I just wanted to touch base with you about our student and Veteran Pen Pals. I have been checking the Bravo Newsletter to see if any of our Veteran Pen Pals have passed away, and sadly found out that Larry Young, Richard Blanchard and Bruce Brinkman have passed away. My condolences to their families.

Following is a list of Veteran Pen Pals that we have been writing to; some respond often or at least once a school year, and others have not. If you find out that certain guys would rather not be on our Pen Pal list, could you let me know? I'll try to match up our kiddos with another Veteran. Also, if you mention our letter writing to any of the guys who have not received a letter but would like to become a Pen Pal, please forward their name and address to me and we will get them matched up with one of our students. I really appreciate it! Thanks for all you do!

Our 4th, 5th and 6th graders are paired up with:

Mike Detmer	Steve Earp	Don Schulte
Dennis Hawkins	Bill White	John Otte
Larry Robinson	Ted Silbereis	Charlie Weems
Robert Hostmeyer	Ted Rowley	John Gority
Carl Lammers	Max Torres	James Scruggs

Our 2nd and 3rd graders are paired with:

Gerald Kanoza	Ken Neveaux	Curtis McFarland
Cliff Weese	Dennis Amily	Eugene Trame
Phil Maceno	Patrick Toyama	Glenn Perkins
Jerry Mondt	Fran McRickard	Bob Best
Art Gormley	Hinton Whitehead	Richard Strebe
Bill Schamus	Robert Rasmussen	Joe Stein
Dave Lowell		

Our 1st graders this year are still developing into writers so currently we do not have them paired with Veteran Pen Pals. If you would be able to recommend 20 new guys willing to write letters, the 1st graders could send Valentines for Vets in February. So there are a few months to think about it ... Thanks so much for your letters and your help! We are enjoying some cooler Fall weather here in Wisconsin. Hope all is well with you in Arizona! Take care, Michelle Rowley Vechinsky, Rock Prairie Montessori School, Janesville, WI 53546—e-mail: sweetraisindanish@yahoo.com.

**Editor's reply to Michelle:**

Hi Michelle, thanks for the update. I'll post it on the bulletin board in the next newsletter, due out in December, and mention it in my column. Hopefully we'll find some volunteers. I'll also provide a way for those involved to conveniently opt out through our organization, to alleviate commitment concerns. I have not heard anything, negative or otherwise, about your program. It seems to benefit everyone. Best wishes to you and your kids.

**Art Gormley reply to Michelle:**

Hi Michelle, I always enjoy receiving a card from one of your children. Being part of teaching them to respect and appreciate the contribution of veterans is something all of us Bravo Regulars should welcome and appreciate. Please give my best to Ted.



## BULLETIN BOARD

**Submitted by Blair Moran (Co RTO—69/70)**

*Pacific edition of the Stars & Stripes—Black Virgin' Battle Rages On*—Heavy fighting on the cave-packed slopes of Black Virgin Mountain 55 miles northwest of Saigon in Tay Ninh Province raged into its second day Friday as U.S. 25th Inf. Div. GIs and massive American firepower killed 47 Communists in day-long fighting, a military spokesman said. Four Americans were wounded in the fighting on Black Virgin Mountain as 25th Div. infantrymen and armored cavalrymen combed the rocky, vine-covered slopes of the peak, seven miles north-northeast of Tay Ninh City. Inching forward, the GIs were met by squads of Communist soldiers firing down from behind boulders and out of craters made Thursday by U.S. Air Force jet bomb strikes, as well as from the mountain's natural caves. In a repeat of Thursday's performance, artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force F4 Phantoms and F-109 Supersabres once again clobbered the entrenched Reds. As the battle dropped off at dusk, 47 enemy soldiers had been killed, bringing the body count total to 109 Communists dead in two day's fighting.

*Tropic Lightning News—Regulars Make Mole Hill of Mountain*—Tay Ninh—After three days of scouring the cliffs of Nui Ba Den in Operation Cliffdweller, the Regulars of the 3rd Battalion, 22d Infantry killed 109 VC/NVA soldiers on the mountain's cave-pocked northern face. In a complex maneuver of blocking forces and sweep elements, Task Force Jones, consisting of two battalions, the Regulars and the Dreadnaughts of the 2d Battalion, 34th Armor succeeded in bottling up a large number of enemy troops in the caves of the Black Virgin Mountain, and her sister, Nui Cau. Bravo and Charlie Companies of the Regulars moved out from the top of the mountain while recon elements and sniper teams were inserted atop Nui Cau by the 187th Assault Helicopter Company in a daring combat assault, one ship every 30 seconds. The three elements of Regulars, under artillery and support cover from the 90mm guns of the Dreadnaught tanks moved down and around the mountain and found several caves and caches of enemy medical supplies and documents. In the early morning the combined force received small arms and automatic weapons fire. Pulling up as many men as possible the Regulars returned the fire of an unknown size enemy force with organic weapons fire. As the action continued, Delta Company was inserted. At approximately the same time ground forces called in air support from Air Force and Army aircraft. The FACs, marking the enemy's positions for Air Force Phantom jets led the way for a devastating air attack. Recon and sniper teams took a toll on the enemy forces, killing five from their position on Nui Cau. All three elements found numerous caves and buried bodies of NVA troops killed by air which preceded the morning's reconnaissance. The enemy soldiers found themselves pushed against a wall and caught in a ground and air crossfire, as the Regulars moved from cave to cave chasing the now dispersing troops. Toward early evening the battle took on an intermittent effect. The Regulars continued their slow march down the hill, still encountering numerous small groups of enemy hidden in tunnels. The NVA troops were forced to seek the refuge in the caves since their only escape route, the saddle-type valley between Nui Ba Den and Nui Cau, was completely sealed off at the bottom by tanks of Alfa Company Dreadnaughts. As night fell on the mountain, a platoon from the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Manchus was called in to provide security for the Armor Battalion. At the same time, the Regulars working their way down the mountain began setting up night positions. Reconning the area in which they were to set up their positions, the men found several more enemy soldiers still taking refuge in caves. After routing the enemy from these positions, the Regulars set up their positions and took a brief but much earned rest. Describing the days action, Captain John Gray of Austin, Texas, the battalion staff officer said, "this is the longest contact we've had on the mountain in months. Right now it looks like we've hit an enemy base camp or headquarters, but we'll have to check the area more thoroughly to be certain." In addition to the 109 enemy soldiers killed, the Regulars captured one carbine, one SKA, 10 pounds of documents, 5 pounds of medical supplies and assorted enemy web gear.

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Submitted by Michael Sanders (1st Platoon)**

Dave, Thank you for keeping track of us as we go up the line for the very last time. I sincerely hope you are the last man out. My daughter, Vy Nguyen Sanders, will be graduating with honors from Notre Dame University next Spring. I liberated her from a shoe factory in Vinh Long, Vietnam, in 2004 and next Fall she will be off to medical school. Wish you could meet her.

**E-Mail from Sherry Reyes (widow of Mario Reyes 1st Platoon—10-68/69)**

Hi, David, my name is Sherry Reyes and Mario Reyes was my husband. I would very much like to receive the newsletter and keep up with everything that's going on. I really would like the reunion information since I wasn't able to make the last one. Also, please let me know about the dues. Hope that you and your family are doing well. Have a wonderful day. And also thank you for the card you sent when my husband passed away two years ago. It meant so much to our family. Forever grateful—Sherry Reyes 209-826-1348—cell 209-509-8456.

**Editor's Reply to Sherry Reyes**

Sherry, I have taken the liberty of enrolling you as an Honorary Member and as such, you will automatically receive all future newsletters. I have attached our last newsletter, which will answer your questions regarding our next reunion. Honorary members are not expected to pay dues, and may attend our reunions without paying a registration fee. We ask that you register if attending anyway, so we can plan for your presence. Also attached is a current copy of our roster. The Honorary Member list is at the end. I'm signing you up for e-mail delivery, but if you prefer snail mail delivery, let me know and I will switch it for you. If you don't object, I will announce your joining us in the next newsletter and perhaps put your letter on our Bulletin Board if space permits. Welcome back!

**Submitted by Editor—Obituary**

Jack Leroy Wood (B 1st Sgt/Bn Sgt Mgr— Orig.), 89, a resident of Chillicothe, Missouri, lost his battle with melanoma early on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at the Missouri State Veterans Home, Cameron, Missouri. Jack was born Sept. 9, 1930, to Audie and Anna (Lipke) Wood in Jamesport, Missouri. Inspired by his brother Bill's service in WWII and with a desire to see the world, Jack enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17. He served 22 years, retiring with a rank of Command Sgt. Major. While he was stationed at Camp Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, he met Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Baynham at a USO dance. They were married November 23, 1954. The couple was blessed with four daughters, and military life kept the young family hopping across the country as well as to Germany. After living in Kansas City, Kansas for about 15 years, Jack and Libby returned to his hometown of Chillicothe in 1983 to put down roots and help his brother and sister-in-law as they grew older. Jack and Libby were married 44 years before Libby passed away in November, 1999. During his time in the military, Jack served tours in the Philippines, Korea (Battle of the Punch Bowl) and Vietnam (Battle of Suoi Tre). He was a member of the Third Battalion, 22nd Infantry, Fourth Infantry Division. Jack cared more about the safety and comradery of the men he served with than his military accomplishments, although those included a Bronze Star, a Silver Star for gallantry in action against the enemy, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Air Medal. A member of Bravo Company described him as "the enlisted man's general. The highest NCO in the battalion. A great guy." Following his retirement from the military, Jack worked 20 years for the U.S. Postal Service. He loved hunting and fishing with his grandsons, as well as keeping in touch with his Army buddies.

**Submitted by M C Toyer (CO—3/70-8/70)**

I read with great sadness and regret the passing of David Van Johnson. Sadness for the loss of an honorable man and a fine soldier who served in the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf. Regret because I've delayed for a year in responding and even more regret because I was never able to reunite with him in person. Sergeant Johnson was a Fire Team Leader on 31 May 1970 in Cambodia. His actions on that day saved the lives of his entire team and myself who had accompanied his patrol. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. He was one of the first men from my time in the company that I began looking for more than 20 years ago. I located an address in Houston and drove there only to learn from his wife that he was not presently living at home and she did not know where to contact him. She said their son might but he was not home at the time. I thanked her and left my address and phone number, then returned home disappointed to have gotten that close and missed. I wrote to David's son to tell him about his father's service and valor. More than a year passed and then I got a letter from David himself. As it happened I was heading to Houston soon for Father's Day so I called to see if we might somehow get together. Unfortunately that never worked out. We did manage more phone calls over the next few years. He told me that anytime I was in Houston on a Sunday morning, I could find him singing in his church choir.