

Bravo Regulars



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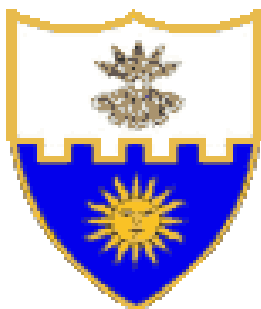
Vietnam Service

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December, 2021



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President's Message

Art Gormley
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

Hope everyone had a fine Thanksgiving celebration. Black Friday sales are underway and the countdown to Christmas has begun.

COVID-19 has changed lots of things in terms of get togethers with family and friends. We had a houseful of family over for Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone was vaccinated, and we were just grateful to spend quality time together without talking endlessly about COVID-19. It's not over yet. But at least in my household, it is no longer the only thing we talk about.

By the time you read this, we will be just six months away from our long-delayed Bravo Regulars Reunion, scheduled for June 1-5, 2022, in Branson, Missouri. Many thanks to Jim Adams wife, Pam, for all her hard work in pulling together all the organizational aspects of our coming reunion. From working with the folks at the Branson Tourism Bureau and the Radisson Hotel to dealing with the vendors that will supply the Bravo Regulars shirts and hats we'll wear at the reunion, and more.

Inside this newsletter you will find a Reunion Update, with basic information about making hotel reservations and registering for the reunion. There is also a day-by-day Schedule of Activities for the reunion. You will see we have programmed in time for you to explore Branson's attractions, go shopping or just relax in our Hospitality Room to talk, reminisce and catch up with old friends and new. Finally, there is a copy of the Registration Form you will need to complete to register for the event.

If you have never been to Branson before, know that it is a very veteran friendly town. In fact, every year Branson is the site of a great many veterans' reunions. There is also plenty to do there. We have lined up two optional musical entertainment venues for your consideration.

First, a musical revue at one of Branson's many theaters, and second, a 2-1/2 hour cruise out on nearby Table Rock Lake aboard the Showboat Branson Belle. The cruise includes dinner, entertainment and round-trip transportation. There is a modest additional cost for each. You can register for one or both events as part of the registration process.

We had a great turnout for our 2018 Reunion in Branson, and we are hoping to see even more of our Bravo Brothers in 2022. If you enjoyed yourself in 2018, reach out to a Bravo Brother who didn't attend our last reunion. Share your positive experience and encourage them to register for Branson 2022. We are all still young enough to enjoy a good time with old friends.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Art'.

Reunion Update

Thanksgiving has passed, and we are into the bustle of the Christmas season. The count-down to the 2022 Bravo Regulars Reunion in Branson, Missouri has also begun.

We have finalized many things, but as always it remains a work in progress until June 1, 2022, when Bravo Brothers and their guests start to arrive.

This newsletter contains the final Registration Form needed to complete your registration, purchase reunion shirts and hats, and sign up for one or both optional entertainment events we have on the schedule.

Please note that the Registration Form needs to be completed and submitted by all Bravo members attending the Reunion. Checks this year must be made out to Bravo Reunions.

Completed Registration Forms and checks should be mailed to Pam Adams, 17278 Highway HH, Mexico, Missouri 65265-6824. The basic Reunion Registration Fee is \$100.00 per person. Please see the Registration Form itself for additional reunion purchases. Do not hesitate to contact Pam (1-573-253-5974) should you have questions or need help with anything. Also, if there is a particular place, show or attraction in Branson that you would like to see, please let Pam know.

We have also included the current agenda to let you know there will be free time built into the schedule for fishing, shopping or visiting many of Branson's other attractions.

Do not forget to start thinking about and planning the contents of your State Basket for the Raffle. There will be a 50/50, and a quilt raffle as well. Please remember that the additional dollars collected here help pay for this reunion.

Our Hospitality Room will be a central place for all to meet, greet, tell stories, share memories as well as scrap books and other memorabilia brought for Show and Tell. The room will be open and available until the last Bravo Brother goes to bed.

Hotel reservation information for all: The Radisson Hotel nightly room rate for the Reunion will be \$120.60, tax included, for single or double occupancy. You can reserve the reunion package online at www.mybransoneventplanner.com by entering **Tour 28270, Key Phrase: BRAVO**. You can also phone in your hotel reservations by calling, 1-800-268-4014, Monday thru Friday, 9am to 5pm. When you use your credit card to make your hotel reservations, please be aware your card will be charged in full within 72 business hours of making your reservation.

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 20, 2022. Reservations made after the deadline will be accepted based on availability and cannot be guaranteed.

Campground reservations: Branson Tourism (1-800-268-4014) will also be able to help those who need campground reservations.

Getting to Branson by air: The closest airport is in Springfield, Missouri, which is about one hour from Branson. Uber service is available if needed. There are also airports in St. Louis and Kansas city. These are further away from Branson, and you would need to rent a car.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you in Branson June 1-5, 2022.

2022 Bravo Reunion Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

- 8:00 a.m. Hospitality Room opens—all day check-in and placement of raffle baskets and other items
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome by Bravo Reunion Committee with reception (food), fellowship and friends

Thursday, June 2, 2022

- 6:30 a.m. Hotel complimentary breakfast until 11:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. Hospitality Room opens for the day
- 8:30 a.m. Free time and fellowship, shopping
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Music Show (\$35.00 per person, group rate pending). **Show is in downtown Branson. Transportation not provided.**
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and fellowship

Friday, June 3, 2022

- 6:30 a.m. Hotel complimentary breakfast until 11:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. Hospitality Room opens for the day
- 9:00 a.m. Free time for friendship and shopping
- 2:30 p.m. Board bus for Dinner Cruise. Bus will transport you back to the hotel after the cruise (the cost of this is \$50 per person, which includes R/T transportation, entertainment, and dinner)

Saturday, June 4, 2018

- 6:30 a.m. Hotel complimentary breakfast until 11:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. Hospitality Room opens for the day
- 10:00 a.m. Board and Membership Meetings (followed by photo opportunities)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Provided
- 1:45 p.m. Memorial Service
- 2:45 p.m. Raffle drawing and time to be with friends
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and entertainment

The hotel room rate will be from Wednesday night to Saturday night with check-out by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Check-in is at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

BRAVO REGULAR 2022 REUNION**JUNE 1-5, 2022****BRANSON, MISSOURI****REGISTRATION FORM AND NEEDED INFORMATION**

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per Person

Full Name: _____

Guest/Spouse Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number of Guests: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Vietnam Unit: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Battle(s) Participated In: _____

Arrival Date Reunion: _____ Depart Reunion: _____

Thursday Afternoon Music Show: (\$35.00/person group rate pending) Number of Persons: _____**Show is in downtown Branson. Transportation not provided.****Friday Evening Dinner Cruise with entertainment and transportation included: (\$50.00/person)****Number of Persons: _____**

REUNION Shirts: \$30.00 each SIZE: S M L XL XXL XXXL (Circle Size) Number ordered: _____

REUNION Hats: \$20.00 Number ordered: _____

Lodging information: Radisson Hotel: \$120.60 per/room/per/night, Single or Double: reservation can be made by calling Branson Tourism Bureau at 1-800-268-4014 or 1-417-334-8325. Mention Bravo Reunion for group rate. Branson Tourism Bureau will also help with camping area needs as well as air travel to Reunion. Room Reservations need to be made by April 20, 2022 to ensure you receive the Bravo Reunion Room Rate.

Reservations can also be made online at www.mybransoneventplanner.com: Tour#28270. Key Phrase: BRAVO

Please complete this form, make checks payable to **Bravo Reunions** and mail to: **Pam Adams 17278 HWY HH, Mexico, Missouri 65265. By May 1, 2022.**

Information can also be emailed to pammyanny@msn.com. Pam's cell phone: 573-253-5974Other Questions please contact: President Art Gormley at: ag31782@aol.com



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
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Welcome back Bravo Brothers! I hope this finds all of you well. Dee and I recently had our COVID booster shots, having reached the six month point since being vaccinated. By staying current now, we will be clear for our next booster just before the next reunion in June, 2022. That will give us maximum immunity while traveling. If you are considering getting vaccinated or a booster, now is a good time to do it!

Thank you, Blair Moran for sharing with us an essay on the meaning of the flag to a veteran. It is at the top of the Bulletin Board.

With sadness I must report the passing of three Bravo Brothers in Arms. They are Daniel Webster, Anthony Ardeese and Paul Dell. Available information is on the Bulletin Board. Bravo sympathy cards were sent to the families of all three.

Thank you, M.C. Toyer for sharing memories of serving with Paul Dell. It is on the Bulletin Board.

Dennis Phelps (2nd Platoon—1-68/69) has been moved to the inactive list due to his contact information no longer being valid.

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.

Dave out



BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Blair Moran (Co RTO—69/70) - Received from Lt. Colonel Orson Swindle, USMC (Ret)**

Some friends of mine, patriotic citizens all, were discouraged by the actions of one of the members of their City Council. This member of the City Council refused to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of each City Council meeting, as was customary. The council member refusing to stand was Hispanic-American, and said, essentially, the Flag did not represent her. She was born in the USA. On Flag Day 2021 I was asked by my friends what I thought of her conduct. I sent the following comment to them.

The American Flag by Lt. Colonel Orson Swindle, USMC (ret)

I could not help but reflect on a day long ago—March 4, 1973—and being at the airfield in Hanoi, North Vietnam, awaiting a big, beautiful C-141 aircraft to fly me and my fellow POWs home after years of incarceration and pain—6 years and 4 months for me. We patiently waited, still in the grip of the Communist troops. Then, at a distance, we saw the C-141 on its approach to land. It was like a dream and, after so many years, really hard to believe. The aircraft landed and began to taxi to the area where we were being held before release. As it approached us, the aircraft became more visible—and, there before our squinting eyes, was a big, red, white and blue American Flag emblazoned on the tail of the aircraft moving closer and closer. Among the dozens of Americans standing by, soon to board that aircraft for freedom, I am pretty sure there was not a dry eye among us. You see, the Flag is more than a piece of cloth or an ornament to be disrespected. It represented the glue that held us together for all those years of abuse, torture, deprivation, uncertainty, fear and pain. We all knew it represented us, our indomitable spirit, our courage, our hopes, our dreams, our faith and our love for our Country. We resisted our captors day in and day out, in my case, for 2,305 days. We often paid a painful price for our resistance, for remaining loyal to our Country and our Flag. Our motto was *Return with Honor*. We had lived in fear of dishonoring that flag in any way. We were inspired by it and even made little flags from cloth we stole in prison. We were beaten for possessing those little scrap cloth flags. And, every night in our cells, we looked toward home year after year, and we said the Pledge of Allegiance together, although we were often detained in solitary confinement in solid-walled cells, apart from our fellow prisoners of war. The Flag, the Pledge, our Country and each other, meant a lot to us—and, they still do.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries**Anthony Lee Ardese (70) - 10/70-4/71**

Information was received from his wife, Janie Ardese. Anthony Ardese, of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, passed away on August 6, 2020. A graveside service with full military honors was held on August 10 at North New Garden Cemetery. Cause of death was stated at "multiple health issues due to exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam"

Daniel Paul Webster (77) - 2nd Platoon—3-67/68

Information was received from Deanna Webster (cousin) - 1-805-0986. Daniel Webster, of Creston, California, passed away on July 13, 2021. Daniel was born on April 6, 1944. Cause of death was stated as COPD and complications from overall bad health.

BULLETIN BOARD

Obituaries (Continued)

Paul E. 'Sonny' Dell, Jr. (71) - 1st Platoon—1/70-5/70

Information was received from granddaughter, Caitie Beatty, and a published obituary. Paul Dell, of Mill Creek, Pennsylvania, died on November 21, 2021. Born July 8, 1950, in Huntingdon, he was a son of Paul E. and Lucille (Park) Dell of Mill Creek. He was united in marriage to Teresa Ann Crotsley, who preceded him in death. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, having served with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd and 25th Infantry Divisions, from January 1970 until receiving a Purple Heart on May 20, 1970. He worked for Sperry New Holland and its successor, Case New Holland, in Belleville for 35 years as a supervisor. Paul enjoyed restoring antique cars and trucks. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 28 as a youth.

Eulogy from M.C. Toyer—C.O.—3/70-8/70

Paul Dell served in the 1st. Platoon from January until 20 May, 1970 when he and one other man were seriously wounded in Cambodia while on a 5 man recon patrol. I did not remember either's name until a few years ago when Paul mentioned the incident in the newsletter. He attended the 2018 reunion in Branson and we were able to piece together some details of the incident. David Van Johnson, who passed away recently, was the squad leader that day and his quick response undoubtedly saved all our lives. As the medic rushed forward, he found a gaping wound in Paul's groin. Paul told me he spent some time in rehabilitation stateside but did not have any permanent disability and had fathered two children. I still have not identified the second man but would be grateful for any leads.



Association Business

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John



Financial Report Income and Expense

Sept. 1, 2021 Balance		\$14,368.91
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$2,750.00	
Total Income	\$2,750.00	
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank Fees	\$ 25.00	
Returned Check	2.00	
Account closed	35.00	
Newsletter	361.15	
Website Update	45.00	
Domine Renewal	63.21	
Total Expenses	\$531.36	
Nov. 30, 2021 Balance		\$16,587.55