

# Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

JUNE, 2013

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



**Memorial  
Day**  
Never Forget  
Ever Honor



Remember -  
our fallen heros.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.

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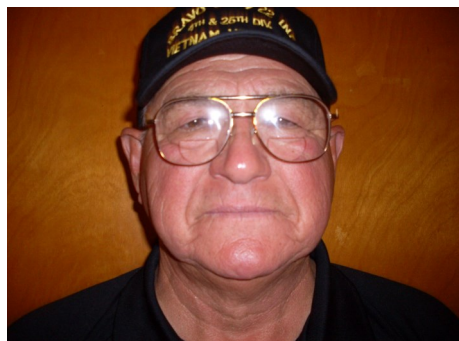
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Max Torres  
President  
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## President's Message

Dear Bravo Company:

On Memorial Day I get depressed, feeling for the loss of our friends who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. But I also give thanks to God for His love, hope and forgiveness. God Bless America. I will always remember our Bravo friends.

I would like to thank the friends of Vincente Zuniga who spoke to Vincente's brother at our Pismo Beach Reunion. Vincente and I graduated from the same high school. Vincente was a great friend and soldier.

On another note, let's keep our focus on the next reunion. We need to start inviting our members; especially the members who have never been to one of our reunions. John Hogstad, this is your invitation to our reunion in Utah in 2014. I hope to see you and everyone else there.

*Max Torres*



John Otte  
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## Association Business

### Financial Report Income & Expense

<b>January 1, 2013 Balance</b>	<b>\$8,732.75</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
<b>Dues</b>	<b>650.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,150.00</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>\$1,223.91</b>
<b>Webpage Expense</b>	<b>33.75</b>
<b>2014 Reunion Advance</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$4,757.66</b>
<b>June 30, 2013 Balance</b>	<b>\$8,125.09</b>

### DEEDS NOT WORDS

The motto of the 22nd Infantry Regiment as you all know is "DEEDS NOT WORDS". David Lowell exemplified this in Vietnam, and is now doing that in his job as Secretary, Editor and Publisher of our newsletter. Since Dave has taken over this job he, with his wife Dee, has consolidated all jobs pertaining to the newsletter in one place. He has updated the membership roster and continues to maintain it. They are also doing several jobs previously done by outside vendors, enabling us to publish on a quarterly basis again, and still save us at least \$1,000 a year.

There is something that you can do to help them in their efforts, and that is to provide them with interesting material for future newsletters. These can be stories of your time in Vietnam, or something of interest to vets.

*John Otte*



**Ted Rowley**  
**Chaplain**  
**tedbarb813@yahoo.com**  
**(688) 835-3753**

## ***CHAPLAIN'S CORNER***

### **A Memorial Day Tribute**

Forty-six years ago is like yesterday for me—the memory of my brave comrades is always there.

I attended a Memorial service downtown today where most of the people attending served at one time or another. I was a bit disappointed by that fact. I guess other events are more important than giving honor to those who gave everything.

**In all I think and say and do  
I long, O God, to honor You.  
But, may my highest motive be  
To love the Christ who died for me. (D.H.)**

People and things come and go, from Vietnam until now. As one gets closer to the autumn of his life, you count your blessings every day.

As I think about our Lord 2,000 years ago, feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, remarkable. We were up north for a couple of days and I had a hard time catching five fish big enough to eat. I lost the biggest one in the dark, that fell off my hook as it slapped against the pier. I was in the dark a lot in Vietnam in more ways than one, kind of like the bat that hit my fishing line the other night. It shouldn't have happened, but it did, even experts can make a mistake in the dark.

I pray each day for all the guys who are sick or have passed, even those who I don't know about and find out about later. It happens more and more as we get older. As I said to Louis Sas as I held him at LZ Gold and could do nothing for him, everything is going to be alright, for I believed he would soon be in the Lord's arms instead of mine.

I pray for Al Comeaux and Andres Solis and Peter Sabala and Curtis Daniels, just a few that I have heard about lately.

On this Memorial Day I ask for the Lord's healing hands over all our fellow comrades, ones I've met and ones I only know by name, and their wives and families. Such great people God has blessed me with.

**With God's Blessings to all,**

*Your Chaplain,*

*Ted*







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## Reunion News

Hello Bravo Regulars. This is an update to our 2014 reunion plans. The dates selected for the reunion are July 23-27, 2014. The reunion will be held at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Salt Lake City, UT. Ted and Barb Rowley will be attending and will host our memorial service. Dennis and Dorothy Amily will also be in attendance and they will be bringing the war wagon. Larry and Lis' Young are preparing another quilt for the raffle. We have arranged for a bus tour on Thursday of downtown Salt Lake City. The cost will be \$50 per person with meals. We have arranged for camping at the KOA campground at a current rate of \$46.99 per night. For information call 1-801-328-0224. Hotel arrangements have been made with the Hampton Inn near the site for easy access at a rate of \$75 per night. For reservations contact Shawn at 1-801-886-0703. Indicate Bravo Company Reunion 2014.

We are interested in having a talent night where members can sing, play an instrument, etc. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email. We will be looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Salt lake City Bravo Company Reunion. Till then, God bless and take care.

*Tony and Roxanne*



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## Guest Column

Hope you guys are enjoying this summer, because for me it is just flying by. I guess the good thing about that is it makes the next Bravo reunion get here quicker. I have just finished a new project for the war wagon. I have made an 8'x8' model of the battle of Soui Tre from my recollection of that day. I have read many articles and personal accounts from outfits who said they were there. Some of the articles were very good and interesting, but it was their interpretation of that day. Being one of the soldiers who was fighting for his life that day, I believe the late Robert (Bull) Hemphell wrote a very good account of that battle. Not actually being there, it was very easy to see he did interview men who were present. I found some things that I disagreed with, but overall the article told about the bravery of all who were there.

It also paid tribute to the brave individuals who gave their lives and limbs that day and gave a lot of credit to the outfits who came to help. This miniature structure of the battle site is my recollection of the area. It is not intended to be exact in any way. I guess I could have involved others, but it would have extended the time and cost of this project. I want to thank Steve Earp for the donation of the helicopters. Hope to see a great turnout in 2014, when I plan to bring the war wagon to Utah!

*Denny*





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## Editor's Notes

Hello Bravo Brothers! The cover art for this issue was easy to find on the internet. Those who receive it by email can also enjoy the spectacular colors. The rest who get it by snail mail, think all red, white and blue. Page 8 is a new Memorial Page to help focus your thoughts when practicing what the holiday was set aside for, which we do year 'round.

I have received emails from several members that were not sent by them. The name is correct, but the email address is not theirs. Be careful what email you open. We opened one and found it to be a weight loss program. Anyone who has seen me lately knows I don't need that. Speaking of weight, since the last reunion I have gained 18 pounds, my diet has expanded back to near normal and I am feeling much better and stronger. Thanks to all who were concerned for me.

We have a new find! He is John Rainbolt, 5718 Misty Ridge Creek, Indianapolis, IN 46237-2736—(317) 989-7275—1st Platoon Medic—1/70 to 7/70. He sends us all the message "Wishing all my brothers good health and long life, you deserve it. Regulars, deeds, not words." I have added John to our roster and sent him one. Be reminded that rosters are available any time upon written request and **MUST** include your complete and current personal information.

I want to remind you that Bravo Company has a Facebook page which can be located by typing in facebook.com/bravoregulars on your search engine. It's just being lightly used so far. I think it will be a great asset around the reunion dates for members to share travel plans and other timely information.

Thank you Paul Boggs (Plat. Sgt. 69/70) for contributing the combat action story for the Bulletin Board covering the fight for FSB Crook, as published in Tropic Lightening News on June 16, 1969. Steve Earp (68/69) has posted the same story on our website.

While perusing the website for Charlie Company 3/22, I found an undated letter noting the passing of Major Hacia and have included an excerpt from it. The full text can be found on their site at c322association.org. Charlie Company also holds reunions, but on odd numbered years. This year's meeting is in Orlando, FL. If they ever have a reunion near me, I would certainly plan to attend. I'll reach out to them before our next reunion to see if they have any like-minded members. I'm not aware of any others from our regiment who meet.

M C Toyer (C.O.—3/70-8/70) is looking for anyone with information on or recollections of Bobby Gene Swanson who served with our 3rd Platoon in late 1969. If you can help, please do so. The details are on the Bulletin Board.

Our reunion dates have been set for July 23 through 27, 2014. Details are covered in Tony's column. Looks like a great location. Dee and I will definitely be there. In the next issue we'll have more information and registration forms!

We have a journalist looking into our unit's history who has introduced himself on our Bulletin Board. I have already been interviewed by Nick and found it a great experience. We covered our history from training at Fort Lewis through LZ Gold and Soui Tre. The format is very convenient. He makes an appointment to call and interviews by phone. I put it on speaker to avoid arm and ear fatigue and he speaks very clearly so even the hearing impaired like me could understand him. I didn't yell what? at the phone a single time! He's been interviewing with Charlie Company, 2/22 Mech. Inf., and the artillery group from Burt as well, but would like more interviews from Bravo Company. Please contact him if you can help. This is your chance to be a part of our true history.

Our next newsletter will be in September and will focus on reunion plans and registration. Submissions must be received by the end of August to be included. Until then, may peace be with you.

### *Dave out*

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 Paul Boggs—Plat. Sgt. 69/70**

During two nights of deadly close-in fighting, Bravo Company of the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry, turned back two NVA regiments. In two separate back-to-back ground attacks Thursday and Friday nights on Fire Support Base Crook, eight and a half miles northwest of Tay Ninh City the outnumbered Regulars held firm and killed off the charging NVA. Both battles saw the NVA forces soundly defeated. The enemy initially tried to breach the perimeter with sappers but failed. At no time was the Regulars' bunker line penetrated. Supporting fires for Crook were supplied by Cobra gunships, tactical air strikes, spookie, shadow (C119 gunship) and a host of artillery batteries. Alpha Battery of the 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery, fired point blank into the on-rushing enemy as rocket and mortar fire slammed into Crook. "Throughout both attacks my men performed remarkably. Even during the height of the in-coming rounds, they got out of their bunkers and fired the guns. They knew they had to do it, so they stayed low and we came out like bandits, taking very few casualties," said the battery commander, Captain Dick Neal of San Antonio, Texas. As Bravo Company left the perimeter to sweep the area the following morning they were greeted by hand grenade-throwing NVA who tossed the grenades out of well-camouflaged spider holes. Bravo returned to its perimeter and had spookie hose down the area with its deadly mini-gun. Alpha Company was dropped off four kilometers north of Crook by the 187th Assault Helicopter Company to spoil the enemy's rapid retreat. Following a trail of commo wire they met head-on with the NVA regiment's headquarters. First Lt. William Ervin of Richmond, VA, called for tactical air strikes as he maneuvered his men against the enemy. Darkness forced Alpha to return to Fire Support Base Washington before enemy casualties were known. The second night of fighting seemed to be an instant replay of the previous night's action. The only difference was that a fresh NVA regiment hit from the opposite side. As mortars, rockets and RPGs slashed into the fire support base, First Lt. **Curtis McFarland** of Midland, TX, readied his platoon. Again, the sappers were stopped before they breached the perimeter. On both nights Major Joseph Hacia of Wethersfield, Conn., ran the entire show. He gained the prospective of the situation by rapidly moving between his tactical operations center, tower and bunker line. "I'm really impressed with the men of Bravo Company," said Hacia, the battalion's XO. "They performed to perfection and fought just as if they were at a turkey shoot. The real key to our success was early warning. Our electronic devices hand them zeroed in several hours before they actually reached the perimeter. We knew they were coming and we were ready for them. The men on the bunker line knew exactly what to do and caught the sappers before they had a chance to do any damage." Specialist **Thomas Belan** of Pittsburgh was one of the first to spot the sappers as they attempted to crawl under the wire on the southwest side of the perimeter. Belan literally burned up the barrel of his machine gun. The quick-thinking of SFC Donald Neal of Columbus, GA, proved to be fatal for the unsuspecting sappers. Neal grabbed two grenade launchers and several bandoleers of ammo before heading for Belan's position. Together they popped out the grenades and sent the sappers heading back for the nearby woodline. "They were all heroes," said Captain Larry B. Thomas of Camp Hill, PA. Thomas directed his Bravo Company while running back and forth on the bunker line determining where the areas of greatest threat were. "The men knew what to do before I had a chance to direct them. They performed beyond expectations, and I'm proud of every one of them." A last-ditch effort was made from the northeast section where the initial attack was fairly light. Machine gunner Specialist 4 **Richard C. Marroquine** of Floresville, TX, made an immediate assessment of the situation and turned back the on-rushing enemy with his M-60. The desperate NVA answered his volley with a wave of rocket-propelled grenades. But Bravo had constructed their fortifications well. Many bunkers and fighting positions received direct hits and withstood them. "I saw them coming," said Marroquine. "This place was lit up like the Fourth of July and we could spot out targets as they came out of the woodline." Twelve enemy soldiers were riddled with machine gun bullets in front of Marroquine's position, and several blood trails led off to the woodline. Battalion Commander Lt. Colonel Robert Carmichael of Columbus, GA, had nothing but praise for his Regulars. "Everybody reacted to perfection to defeat the enemy force. We had one hell of a battle on our hands, and it directly involved the entire battalion. Our support elements provided everything we needed as fast as it could possibly be done. Alpha, Charlie and Delta companies all got into the action at Crook by sweeping wood lines after the battle. Even our recon platoon was out there clearing away the bodies and counting the captured weapons. I'm proud of every man in the unit and especially proud of those men in Bravo Company who pushed back two NVA regiments in two nights." After two nights of fierce fighting, the number of enemy killed on the battle-marked terrain around Crook reached 400. One GI died in the action and 8 were wounded.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Submitted by Editor**

Major Hacia was the Battalion Operations Officer when two NVA assaults were made upon FSB Crook in June of 1969. FSB Crook was located northwest of Tay Ninh very near the Cambodian border. Charlie Company had worked this area of thick jungle for over a year before building this FSB. During the time of the attacks, Charlie Company was at nearby FSB Washington while Crook was defended by Bravo Company. It was Major Hacia who was at the base and coordinated the Artillery and Air Force supporting fires. He did this from atop the tower at the base and from the operations bunker. This is not an easy thing to do as although the maximum support is desired, collision of helicopters, shells, and planes must be avoided. He did this with great precision. He had pre-planned the support and had coordinates and compass directions for all forms of support. Throughout the two nights he called in artillery from several surrounding bases, brought in napalm and spookie gunships from the air force, and used helicopter gunships as well. His work was so effective that two human wave assaults were driven back. Almost 500 NVA bodies were abandoned near the wire around the base. Many more NVA soldiers had been dragged off into the surrounding jungle. The area around the base had been decimated by napalm and artillery shells. Only one life was lost to a Bravo Company soldier. The toll could have been much larger.

### **Submitted by M C Toyer—C.O. 3/70-8/70**

I have recently been in contact with the family of Bobby Gene Swanson, who was KIA 28 March 1970 while assigned to the 1st Brigade 25th Division Aero-Rifle Platoon. Bobby had previously served in the 3rd Platoon of Bravo Company. Bobby was assigned to Bravo Company in June 1969 but in early 1970 volunteered for a special unit attached to the 1st Brigade known as the Aero Rifles and/or Mini Cav. He was apparently detached for temporary duty as he is listed as a member of Bravo 3/22 in the official records. I have sought information regarding this assignment and details of his death for many years since his name was added to our KIA Memorial. I do know he was in the 3rd platoon and have talked to several who remember him. I have a couple of photos from Peter Vander Zander's collection in a group with several other 69/70 veterans. Recently I was contacted by Bobby's platoon leader in the Aero Rifles. He had been trying to identify the casualty on 28 March but was not sure of his name. From the details he provided there was no question it was Bobby and together we made contact with a family member. She had also been seeking information for all the years since his death but without any success. She is very interested in hearing from anyone who knew Bobby or can provide any information about his service in Bravo Company. Please get in touch with me and I will hook you up: M C Toyer, 600 East Main St., Pilot Point, TX 76258—phone anytime: 940-453-2780—email: mctoyer@hotmail.com. Bobby is survived by his mother, one brother, and two sisters. His father passed just last year. As I understand, he was the oldest child. The family member I spoke with expressed an interest in attending the next company reunion.

### **Submitted by Nick Carey, Journalist**

I am Nick Carey, a journalist and occasional war reporter, putting together a living history of your unit. My focus is primarily on the battle of Soui Cut or Fire Support Base Burt, on January 1, 1968, based on interviews with the men who were there. My account will also touch on Soui Tre, Ap Cho and Good Friday, in order to put the battle of Burt in context and depict some of the history of the units that were there. I am looking to interview men from Bravo Company who were at Burt, but including "originals" and other "replacements" to talk about their lives before, during and after Vietnam. I can be reached at nick.carey@reuters.com or on my cell phone at 312 636-8837.





## *In Memory*

### **Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry**



#### **COMBAT CASUALTIES**

12/17/66	Jessie Y. Gomez	06/02/67	Albert Graham, Jr.	05/14/68	Edward D. Crow
12/18/66	William J. Madsen	07/06/67	Jerry R. Beebe		George L. Mundy, Jr.
	Scott S. Webber	08/19/67	Baxter H. Ellis	09/11/68	Eldon D. Coldren, Jr.
12/20/66	James F. Harris	09/26/67	James R. Watanabe		Lonnie E. Lundy
12/21/66	Edward L. Brock	10/22/67	Larry R. McDuffie	09/20/68	Daniel B. Persons
	Marvin T. Hughes	11/01/67	Louis E. Armstead	01/16/69	Roger A. Dixon
	William D. Mullins		Bertmann E. Miller		Giuseppe Magri
	Norman Toennies	11/28/67	Darrell H. Morey		Randall J. Wicklace
	Vincente Zuniga	12/02/67	George L. Duplessis	02/23/69	Scott M. Sibson
01/21/67	Louis J. Wandler	01/02/68	Odell Stokes, Jr.	03/12/69	Franklin M. Lanier
03/19/67	Marlin C. Eversgerd	01/15/58	Kenneth R. Howell	04/13/69	Louis Castro
	Jack M. Gosnell		Ernest T. Martin		Roger W. Hood
	Robert L. Linn, Jr.		Thomas R. Watts		Michael D. Howard
	Paul J. McGowan		Charles W. Irby	05/11/69	David A. Trinkala
	Louis Sas		Richard H. Walker	06/06/69	William M. Crusie, Jr.
	Donald L. Schroeder	01/31/68	Luey V. Holland	08/08/69	Bruce A. Eamick
	Donald W. Walters	02/10/68	Robert R. Gray	10/05/69	Walter J. Hogans
	Rodney R. Weed	02/19/68	Donald P. Roemer		Elvis E. Mullen
	Thomas J. Dando		Bobbie E. Sikes	10/25/69	Florencio Q. Marquez
	Fred H. Patterson		John E. Milanowski	01/30/70	Luis A. LeBron
03/21/67	Herman E. Anders, Jr.	02/23/68	Louis A. Martinez	02/16/70	George O. Boatwright
	Matthew D. Atkins III	04/12/68	Edward C. Beckwith	03/28/70	Bobby G. Swanson
	Kenneth G. Blanton		Alan P. Butkus	08/31/70	Gary R. Metz
	James R. Hintz		John E. Cunningham, Jr.		James E. Duckworth
	Brian F. Gibbons		Robert W. Ellsworth	10/02/70	William I. Allsbrook, Jr.
	Charles R. Goodwin		William E. Maxwell		Bruce J. Stickel
	Charles R. Greer		Robert L. Melton, Jr.		David F. Tinsey
	Virgil M. Ledford		Glenn L. Moller, Jr.		Jimmy W. Westbrook
	Edward J. Muller		Reynaldo N. Orozco		Kit Carson Scout
	Thomas R. Talmadge		David Strupp	11/02/70	Stephen J. Kaster
	Larry L. Warnock		Donny G. Tidwell	11/13/70	Robert H. Gumm
04/01/67	Allen S. Mican		Douglas R. Weiher		
04/08/67	Jimmy C. Harper		Billy J. Brown		
04/10/67	Salvadore M. Nava	05/14/68	Richard G. Beck, Jr.		

#### **POST-COMBAT PASSINGS**

1970	Joe Rennison	Mark Rowan	Werner Sutphin	2010	Steve Marcy
	Charles W. Long	Joe Lappie	Allen Lavigna		Charles Putman
	David Reyes	Charles Burns	Frank Roberts		Richard Wood
	David R. Stalker	Tommy Harris	James L. Roedel		Ernie Rice
2003	Tex Richards	Peter McKenney	Michael Nordstrom		Allen Bateman
	Roscoe Greene Jr.	John Glass	John A. Bender		Alvin Bess
	James Clark	Larry Jenkins	Edward Nidy		Marion Hiers
	Tom Vargo	Leroy Gregerson	Louis Phillips		Tommy McKamey
	William Mosley	Ernest Menchaca	Randy Schick		John Brockman
	Gary Patton	James R. Rhone	Gary Reynolds		Richard Prairie
	Anthony Giavonni	Charles Dearden	John Howe	2012	Robert Hemphill
	Hector Rosado	Franklin Benhart	Ted Davis		Terry Shipley
	John Ellison	John Medicinetop	Alfred Warmesley		Jose Cosme Rivera
	Lawrence Baughman	Roy Davidson	George Hicks		Robert Ryan
	Charles Sheldon	Robert Gregory	Roger Beegle		Darryle Funk
	Robert S. Schlegel	Nolan Adams	Charles Rock		Pete Heald
	Larry Augsburger	James Genoff	Larry Thomas	2013	Curtis Daniels, Jr.
	David Blanton	Cornell Brown	Gary Tetting		
	Wade McGowen	Gerald Lyda	Robert Duncan		