

# Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

June 2019



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



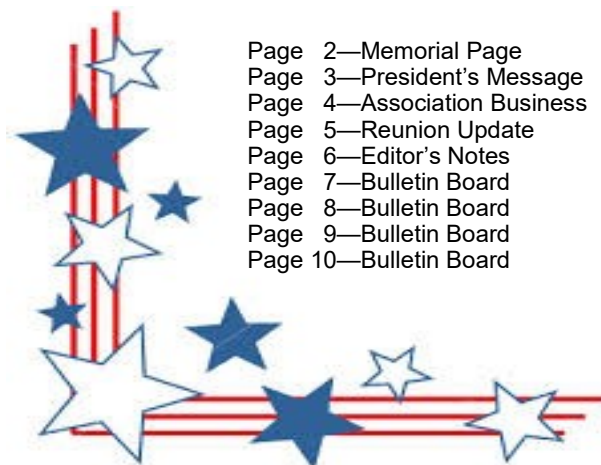
**Memorial  
Day**  
*Never Forget  
Ever Honor*



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



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# In Memory

## Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry



### COMBAT CASUALTIES

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

### POST-COMBAT PASSINGS

1970	Joe Rennison		Charles Dearden	2008	Charles Rock	2015	Charles Ellis
	Charles W. Long		Franklin Benhart	2009	Larry Thomas		Gerald DePhilip
	David Reyes		John Medicinetop		Gary Tetting		Donny Tew
	David R. Stalker		Roy Davidson		Robert Duncan		Richard Wiltshire
2003	Tex Richards		Robert Gregory		Louis Biengiel		Kurley Dorthard
	Roscoe Greene Jr.		Nolan Adams	2010	Steve March	2016	Allen Haskin
	James Clark		James Genoff		Charles Putman		Lester Lemon
	Tom Vargo		Cornell Brown		Richard Wood		Richard Geib
	William Mosley		John J. Roche		Ernie Rice		Richard Ward
	Gary Patton		Gerald Lyda		Allen Bateman		Perry Sheridan
	Anthony Giavonni		Warner Surphin		Alvin Bess		Patrick Hoffman
	Hector Rosado		Larry Eason		Marion Hiers		Dennis Earwood
	John Ellison		Allen Lavigan		Tommy McKamey		Johnny Larry
	Lawrence Baughman		Frank Roberts		John Brockman	2017	Mark DeLong
	Charles Sheldon		James L. Roedel		Richard Prairie		Lane Sterling
	Robert S. Schlegel		Michael Nordstrom	2012	Robert Hemphill		Mario Reyes
	Larry Augsburger		John A. Bender		Terry Shipley		Walt Shugart
	David Blanton		Edward Nidy		Jose Cosme-Rivera		James Murphy
	Wade McGowan		Frank Blue		Robert Ryan	2018	David Van Johnson
	Mark Rowan		William Madsen		Darryle Funk		Holger Graser
	Douglas Wartella	2004	James Jones	2013	Curtis Daniels, Jr.		Tom Ragazzine
	Dwight Jessup		Louis Phillips		Albert Comeaux		Bill Meachum
	Herbert Pruitt		Randy Schick		Joseph Mafot	2019	Richard Blanchard
	Joe Lappie	2005	Gary Reynolds		Nolan Price		Larry Young
	Jim Bakke		John Howe	2014	Allen Peteet		
	Charles Burns		William Samson		Peter Trapino		
	Tommy Harris	2006	Jack Gainey		Norm Bergsma		
	Peter McKenney		Gary P. Brown		Peter Heald		
	John Glass		Michael Nordstrom		Roger Clements		
	Larry Jenkins	2007	Alfred Warmesley	2015	Traczyk Williams		
	Leroy Gregerson		George Hicks		Frederick Barlow		
	Ernest Mencchaca		Roger Beegle		Frederick Gray		
	James R. Rhone		Ted Davis		Ernest Williams		





## President's Message

Art Gormley  
President  
(718) 317-9881  
ag31782@aol.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

Memorial Day has passed, and I trust all of you observed it in your own special way. As we do every year, Bravo's list of combat casualties and post-combat passings is front and center in our June newsletter. We honor the lives and sacrifices of all our fallen and departed brothers when we remember them as they had lived.

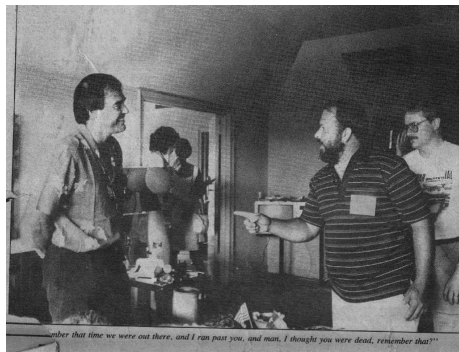
We noted the passing of Larry Young in our last newsletter, and on April 30 he was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Bob Garland was there to see his friend off and represent Bravo. He attended the ceremony along with Larry's widow, Lis' Young, and other family members. Following the service, Bob said he toured the expansive breadth of Arlington and found the experience inspiring and very moving.

In March, we received a DVD from Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68) with more than 50 photos from his tour. Thank you, Larry! Dave Lowell has sent the photos to our webmaster for inclusion on the Photo page of our website. Among the photos were two of a 1987 reunion for surviving members of 2nd Platoon hosted, and paid for, by former 2nd Platoon member, Oliver Stone. The reunion followed Stone's Best Picture/Best Director Oscars for his 1986 movie, Platoon. The two photos are shown below.

Well, it's June and that means we are just 12 months away from our 2020 reunion in Goldsboro, NC. Let the countdown begin. It is certainly not too early to begin planning your trip to Goldsboro. While things are still coming together, our reunion host, Bob Best, has provided some details about what he has planned for us.

If you haven't yet signed up for email delivery of your quarterly Bravo newsletter, please reconsider. It saves big on printing and postage and lets us get important information to you in a very timely way. Just send your email address to Dave Lowell and he will add you to the distribution.

Here's hoping all of you and your families enjoy a great summer.



L to R: Oliver Stone, Mike Blodgett,  
Larry Robinson



Rows (L to R): Top: Larry Robinson, Jimmy Dana (1st Cav)  
Center: Crutcher Patterson, Lonny Newsome, Ben Fitzgerald (1st Cav), Oliver Stone, Andre Frontenelle, Jack Pellitier, Mike Blodgett; Front: Freddy Holland, Dick Ware, Jim Cline



## Association Business

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

Financial Report Income and Expense		
March 1, 2019 Balance		\$15,417.74
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ .00	
Total Income	\$ .00	\$15,417.74
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank Fees	\$ 5.00	
Newsletter	410.01	
WebSite Charge	59.85	
Domain Registration	11.16	
Website Update	75.00	
Total Expenses	\$561.02	
May 30, 2019 Balance		\$14,856.72

John



## Reunion Update

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

Please mark your calendar for June 4 to 6, 2020 and prepare for travel to Goldsboro, North Carolina to spend time with your Bravo Brothers at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. The cost of the rooms with a king bed or two queen beds will be \$96.00 plus 12.75% tax. Also available are queen studio rooms with two queen beds and a pullout for \$106.00 plus tax. There will be a special code to use when making hotel reservations, which will be available later. Please keep in mind that the hotel cutoff date will be April 20, 2020 at which time we will lose our block and special pricing. After that time, you will need to reserve a room, if available, at the normal rate. I hope that this information will help you make your plans for Goldsboro 2020. The hotel provides a complimentary breakfast every morning including Saturday and Sunday. This room rate is good with check-in on Wednesday and check-out on Sunday.

Goldsboro offers the Wayne County Museum, two golf courses, parks, as well as 432 places to shop.

The airport to use is in Raleigh-Durham which is 70.9 miles from Goldsboro with a driving time of 1 hour and 30 minutes to the hotel. If I remember correctly, it took me 17 hours to drive to Branson, if that is of any help.

There are some plans still in the works, but know that there will be shirts, hats, raf-fles, a hospitality room and other fun items for this reunion. I am working on a special dinner with entertainment for Saturday evening.

More to come in the September, 2019 newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

*Bob*



## Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell  
Editor  
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davidwlowell@aol.com

Welcome back Bravo Brothers,

I hope all is well with you and yours. This is our annual Memorial Day issue and contains our Memorial Page. I put it opposite our cover, so it would have an attractive backing for those who save it separately.

After our last newsletter was out, we learned that Larry Young (2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) would be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on April 30. Bob Garland (3rd Platoon—3-67/68) volunteered to attend on behalf of our organization. Larry's family also held a memorial service at the Madison, MO Community Center. Jim Adams (2nd Platoon—9/66-10/67 Orig.) attended representing Bravo Company. Charlie Weems (2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) submitted a eulogy which is on our Bulletin Board.

Jim Adams (2nd Platoon—9/66-10/67 Orig.) has submitted an update on how Jack Wood (B 1st Sgt/BN Sgt Major —Orig.) is doing, which can be found on our Bulletin Board.

The 22nd Infantry Regiment Society newsletter had an announcement about an upcoming PBS TV special regarding the Battle of Suoi Tre. Unfortunately I didn't see the notice before the date it aired, so I missed seeing it. That announcement is also on our Bulletin Board.

I received word just after publishing our last issue that Ft. Carson would be hosting a memorial ceremony for the fallen at LZ Gold/Suoi Tre. During the exchange about the memorial, we received an interesting article about the history of Vietnam through postage stamps. I have posted both on our Bulletin Board for your information.

Richard Renfro (Battalion X.O.-11/65-4/67) has been moved to the inactive list due to his address no longer being valid.

Blair Moran (Co. RTO—69/70) wanted to share with us a video on the internet hosted by actor Sam Elliot honoring Vietnam veterans. It is worth a listen just to hear his great voice. You can find it at [www.youtube.com/embed/aVeBtfnAxP8](http://www.youtube.com/embed/aVeBtfnAxP8).

Chet Johnson (Co. XO—1/66-5/67) shared an interesting list of entertainers from our early lives and their military service. It can be found on our Bulletin Board.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Our next issue will be out in September and we will be accepting submissions through the end of August. Until then, may peace be with you.

*Dave out*

**BULLETIN BOARD****Submitted by Charlie Weems (2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) ... Eulogy for Larry Young**

What are the makings of a MAN? Loyalty, honesty and dignity. This was my friend and brother, Larry Young. I can remember the first time we met. Little did we know that we would be close friends and comrades. We were all young men from different states, different races and beliefs. We were both in the same platoon from basic training until Vietnam! Larry was the type of guy who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it, but he was no pushover! Matter of fact, Larry was the smallest in the Weapons Squad and the toughest! His toughness passed on to all of those in the platoon. Larry was not a hard guy to get along with. A no nonsense, quiet guy who loved his wife, his horses, family and friends. It's hard to say goodbye to friends and loved ones, but the Bible tells us that weeping may endure for a night but joy will come in the morning! If Larry were here, he would say 'Don't cry cause I'm gone. Keep me in your hearts and I'll never leave.' My prayers go out to his wife, Lis', his daughter, Christina, and the rest of the Young family. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!

**Submitted by Jim Adams (2nd Platoon—9/66-10/67 Orig.) ... Update on Jack Wood**

Jack is now not mobile except in a wheelchair. His spirit is good and he appreciates your thoughts and prayers. His appetite remains reasonable.

**Submitted by the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society in their newsletter**

May 20, 2019 7PM—The Minnesota Connection to the Battle of Suoi Tre on PBS—In 1966, a significant number of Minnesota men entered the army together, trained together, deployed to Vietnam together, were assigned together in units of the 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions, and found themselves fighting together in the bloody Battle of Suoi Tre on March 21, 1967. The Fire Support Base at Suoi Tre was commanded by then Lt. Colonel Jack Vessey, a Minnesotan, who received the nation's second highest award for valor at Suoi Tre and went on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest ranking military officer during the Reagan Administration. Major General Rick Nash, the recently retired Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, will give a brief overview of his extensive knowledge of General Vessey's leadership skills. Retired Army Chaplain Colonel John Morris will give an overview of the battle based on his research for the book he is writing on General Vessey, and numerous veterans of Suoi Tre will discuss their varied participation in the battle. This program is a collaboration between Twin Cities PBS, the Minnesota Military Museum, and Concordia University.

**Submitted by Bill King (C 2/22 1967)**

Ft. Carson will be hosting a ceremony honoring the fallen of the Battle of Suoi Tre at 10:00 AM on March 21. It is being put on by the 2/77 artillery and the 2/12 Infantry. Again, this is not a full scale reunion but a yearly honoring of us and the fallen by the present day soldiers of our units from the battle.



## Submitted by Editor

# WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

## VIETNAM

**Status:** Socialist Republic in Southeast Asia

**Population:** 96,160,163 (2017 est.)

**Area:** 127,881 sq miles

**Currency:** Dong | U.S. \$1 = 23,300 dong (₫)

Vietnam is located on the eastern coast of the Indochinese Peninsula. About the size of New Mexico, it is the 15th most populous country in the world. As part of the Chinese Empire for a thousand years, the Vietnamese were exposed to the more advanced Chinese civilization but resisted Chinese attempts to assimilate them. They defeated the Chinese in 939 and established an independent state that developed a unified administration and expanded Vietnamese control from the Red River Delta southward. By 1757 Vietnam had reached approximately its current boundaries.

In 1516, Portuguese traders arrived in Vietnam. They in turn brought Christian missionaries. When the missionaries faced serious persecution in the 19th century, they turned to the French for help. France responded with a military expedition to Saigon, which resulted in France acquiring three southern provinces as a colony by treaty on June 5, 1862. The French used a French merchant's dispute with the Tonkin authorities as the pretext for a military expedition against Hanoi. An 1874 agreement granted France special privileges in the north. Vietnamese efforts to enlist aid from China led the French to force the government in Hue to agree to make all of Annam and Tonkin French protectorates on Aug 25, 1883.

Stamps of France were used in their territories after 1851. French Colonies stamps were used from 1859 until 1886, when specially overprinted stamps were introduced in Cochin-China. French Colonies stamps specially overprinted for Annam and Tonkin were released on Jan 21, 1888.

In 1887, Paris decided to unite Cochin-China with the protectorates of Annam and Tonkin -- along with Cambodia -- under a single governor general as French Indochina. (Laos was added in 1893.) While two provisional stamps overprinted "Indo-Chine" appeared in 1889, the first full set of Indochinese stamps was issued in 1892 -- a 13-value set of the Navigation and Commerce series.

With the fall of France in 1940, the Japanese moved into Indochina. In the last months of World War II, they interned or executed the French authorities. After the Japanese surrendered, the communist Vietminh under Ho Chi Minh seized power and declared Vietnam an independent democratic republic.

The Vietminh overprinted Indochinese stamps in 1945. The French returned in 1946 and by the end of the year the long Vietnamese War had begun. The French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 led to the Geneva agreement which divided the country at the 17th parallel, creating a Communist North Vietnam and a non-Communist South Vietnam. Each issued its own stamps.

Skirmishes between the two sides intensified, as did U.S. involvement as an ally of South Vietnam. Communist insurgents in the south, the Vietcong, created the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam in 1960 as their political arm in the South, and this group also issued stamps. The first set of three appeared December 20, 1963, to commemorate the third anniversary of the group's founding. These stamps remained valid until 1977.

After several years of Vietnamization -- withdrawing U.S. troops and transferring responsibility for prosecuting the war to South Vietnam -- the last U.S. Marines pulled out of Saigon on April 30, 1975, and North Vietnamese forces took control of the city. On July 2, 1976, the two Vietnams were united as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Stamps produced since 1977 have been inscribed "Viet Nam Buu Chinh" (Viet Nam Post).



Viet Minh  
(Scott 1L19)  
Overprint of  
4c Indochina  
(Scott 25).



30-piaster  
Emperor Bao-Dai  
(Scott 13).



Undenominated  
1965 Military  
stamp (Scott  
M10).

1961 6xu Gherman  
Titov's Test Flight  
(Scott 174).



Red Cross  
semipostal  
with Empress  
Nam-Phuong  
(Scott B1)





**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Submitted by Gordon 'Chet' Johnson (Co. XO—1/66-5/67)**

The Hollywood of yesterday. Some of the old time stars who served their country. Quite different from the ones of today. Most of these WWII veterans have passed away. Kirk Douglas, still going at age 102, has outlasted all of them.

Sterling Hayden, US Marines and OSS. Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia and parachuted into Croatia ... James Stewart, US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General ... Ernest Borgnine, US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c, destroyer USS Lamberton ... Ed McMahon, US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.) ... Telly Savalas, US Army ... Walter Matthau, US Army Air Corps., B-24 Radioman/Gunner and cryptographer ... Steve Forrest, US Army. Wounded, Battle of the Bulge ... Jonathan Winters, USMC. Battleship USS Wisconsin and Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. Anti-aircraft gunner, Battle of Okinawa ... Paul Newman, US Navy. Sub-chaser in the Pacific. Wounded in action and medically discharged ... Robert Mitchum, US Army ... Dale Robertson, US Army. Tank Commander in North Africa under Patton. Wounded twice. Battlefield Commission ... Henry Fonda, US Navy. Destroyer USS Satterlee ... John Carroll, US Army Air Corps. Pilot in North Africa. Broke his back in a crash ... Lee Marvin, US Marines. Sniper. Wounded in action on Saipan. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Sec. 7A next to Greg Boyington and Joe Louis ... Art Carney, US Army. Wounded on Normandy beach, D-Day. Limped for the rest of his life ... Wayne Morris, US Navy fighter pilot, USS Essex. Downed seven Japanese fighters ... Rod Steiger, US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the Doolittle Raid ... Tony Curtis, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus. In Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan ... Larry Storch, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus with Tony Curtis ... Forrest Tucker, US Army. Enlisted as a private, rose to Lieutenant ... Robert Montgomery, US Navy ... George Kennedy, US Army. Enlisted after Pearl Harbor, stayed in sixteen years. ... Mickey Rooney, US Army under Patton. Bronze Star ... Denver Pyle, US Navy. Wounded in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Medically discharged ... Burgess Meredith, US Army Air Corps ... DeForest Kelley, US Army Air Corps ... Robert Stack, US Navy. Gunnery Officer ... Neville Brand, US Army, Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart ... Tyrone Power, US Marines. Transport pilot in the Pacific Theater ... Charlton Heston, US Army Air Corps. Radio operator and aerial gunner on a B-25, Aleutians ... Danny Aiello, US Army. Lied about his age to enlist at 16. Served three years ... James Arness, US Army. As an infantryman, he was severely wounded at Anzio, Italy ... Efram Zimbalist, Jr., US Army. Purple Heart for a severe wound received at Huertgen Forest ... Mickey Spillane, US Army Air Corps. Fighter Pilot and later Instructor Pilot ... Rod Sterling, US Army. 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific. He jumped at Tagaytay in the Philippines and was later wounded in Manila ... Gene Autry, US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater ... William Holden, US Army Air Corps ... Alan Hale, Jr. US Coast Guard ... Russell Johnson, US Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman who was awarded Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down by the Japanese in the Philippines ... William Conrad, US Army Air Corps. Fighter Pilot ... Jack Klugman, US Army ... Frank Sutton, US Army. Took part in 14 assault landings, including Leyte, Luzon, Bataan and Corregidor ... Jackie Coogan, US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines ... Tom Bosley, US Navy ... Claude Akins, US Army. Signal Corps., Burma and the Philippines ... Chuck Connors, US Army. Tank-warfare instructor ... Harry Carey, Jr., US Navy ... Mel Brooks, US Army. Combat Engineer. Saw action in the Battle of the Bulge ... Robert Altman, US Army Air Corps. B-24 Co-Pilot ... Pat Hingle, US Navy. Destroyer USS Marshall ... Fred Gwynne, US Navy. Radioman ... Karl Malden, US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force, NCO ... Earl Holliman, US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged after a year when the Navy found out ... Rock Hudson, US Navy. Aircraft mechanic, the Philippines ... Harvey Korman, US Navy ... Aldo Ray, US Navy. UDT frogman, Okinawa ... Don Knotts, US Army, Pacific Theater ... Don Rickles, US Navy aboard USS Cyrene ... Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Served aboard an LST in the Battle of Okinawa ...

## BULLETIN BOARD

## Continued from previous page

Soupy Sales, US Navy. Served on USS Randall in the South Pacific ... Lee Van Cleef, US Navy. Served aboard a subchaser, then a mine sweeper ... Clifton James, US Army, South Pacific. Was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart ... Ted Knight, US Army, Combat Engineers ... Jack Warden, US Navy, 1938-1942, then US Army, 1942-1945. 101st Airborne Division ... Don Adams, US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal, then served as a Drill Instructor ... James Gregory, US Navy and US Marines ... Brian Keith, US Marines. Radioman/Gunner in Dauntless dive-bombers ... Fess Parker, US Navy and US Marines. Booted from pilot training for being too tall, joined Marines as a radio operator... Charles Durning, US Army. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. Shot multiple times. Awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. Survived Malmedy Massacre ... Raymond Burr, US Navy. Shot in the stomach on Okinawa and medically discharged ... Hugh O'Brian, US Marines ... Robert Ryan, US Marines ... Eddie Albert, US Coast Guard. Bronze Star with Combat V for saving several Marines under heavy fire as pilot of a landing craft during the invasion of Tarawa ... Clark Gable, US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner over Europe ... Charles Bronson, US Army Air Corps. B-29 gunner, wounded in action ... Peter Graves, US Army Air Corps ... Buddy Hackett, US Army anti-aircraft gunner ... Victor Mature, US Coast Guard ... Jack Palance, US Army Air Corps. Severely injured bailing out of a burning B-24 bomber ... Robert Preston, US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer ... Cesar Romero, US Coast Guard. Participated in the invasions of Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport USS Cavalier ... Norman Fell, US Army Air Corps. Tail Gunner, Pacific Theater ... Jason Robards, US Navy. Was aboard heavy cruiser USS Northampton when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also served on the USS Nashville during the invasion of the Philippines, surviving a kamikaze hit that caused 223 casualties ... Steve Reeves, US Army, Philippines ... Dennis Weaver, US Navy Pilot ... Robert Taylor, US Navy Instructor Pilot ... Randolph Scott. Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected due to injuries sustained in US Army, World War I ... Ronald Reagan, US Army. Was a 2nd Lt. in the Cavalry Reserves before the war. His poor eyesight kept him from being sent overseas with his unit when war came so he transferred to the Army Air Corps Public Relations Unit where he served for the duration ... John Wayne. Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries, he nonetheless attempted to volunteer three times (Army, Navy and Film Corps) so he gets honorable mention ... And, of course, we have Audie Murphy, America's most-decorated soldier, who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Would someone please remind me again how many of today's Hollywood elite put their careers on hold to enlist in Iraq or Afghanistan? The only one who even comes close was Pat Tillman, who turned down a contract offer of \$36 million over three years from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the US Army after September 11, 2001, and served as a Ranger in Afghanistan, where he died in 2004. But rather than being lauded for his choice and his decision to put his country before his career, he was mocked and derided by many of his peers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I submit to you that this is not the America today that it was seventy years ago. And I, for one, am saddened. My generation grew up watching, being entertained by and laughing with so many of these fine people, never really knowing what they contributed to the war effort. Like millions of Americans during WWII, there was a job that needed doing that they didn't question, they went and did it, those that came home returned to their now new normal life and carried on, very few ever saying what they did or saw. They took it as their "responsibility", their "duty" to Country, to protect and preserve our freedoms and way of life, not just for themselves but for all future generations to come. As a member of a later generation, I'm forever humbly in their debt!