

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

June, 2020



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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. Stickel
	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	2016	Kurley Dorthard
	Roscoe Greene Jr.		Nolan Adams	2010	Steve March		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	2017	Johnny Larry
	Lawrence Baughman		Frank Roberts		John Brockman		Mark DeLong
	Charles Sheldon		James L. Roedel		Richard Prairie		Benito Luna
	Robert S. Schlegel		Michael Nordstrom	2012	Robert Hemphill		Lane Sterling
	Larry Augsburger		John A. Bender		Terry Shipley		Bruce Brinkman
	David Blanton		Edward Nidy		Jose Cosme-Rivera		Mario Reyes
	Wade McGowan		Frank Blue		Robert Ryan		Walt Shugart
	Mark Rowan		William Madsen		Darryle Funk	2018	James Murphy
	Douglas Wartella	2004	James Jones	2013	Curtis Daniels, Jr.		David Van Johnson
	Dwight Jessup		Louis Phillips		Albert Comeaux		Holger Graser
	Herbert Pruitt		Randy Schick		Joseph Mafot		John Kapior
	Joe Lappie	2005	Gary Reynolds		Nolan Price		Bill Meachum
	Jim Bakke		John Howe	2014	Allen Peteet		Thomas Schenk
	Charles Burns		William Samson		Peter Trapino	2019	Richard Blanchard
	Tommy Harris	2006	Jack Gainey		Norm Bergsma		Larry Young
	Peter McKenney		Gary P. Brown		Peter Heald		James Thyne, Jr.
	John Glass		Michael Nordstrom		Roger Clements		Jack Wood
	Larry Jenkins	2007	Alfred Warmesley		Tom Ragazzine		Fred Michael, Jr.
	Leroy Gregerson		George Hicks	2015	Traczyk Williams		Joel Shepitka
	Ernest Mencchaca		Roger Beegle		Frederick Barlow	2020	John R. Bode
	James R. Rhone		Ted Davis		Frederick Gray		
					Ernest Williams		



President's Message

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

Our biennial Bravo Reunion, originally scheduled for June 3-7, was a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic. A combination of travel restrictions, lockdown provisions, and a genuine concern for the health of our high-risk members and their families prompted a cancellation of this year's get-together. The Board voted unanimously to delay the reunion until June, 2021. Dave Lowell has more about this in his column. So let me just say, I look forward to seeing all of you next year in Goldsboro, NC.

This past Memorial Day was like no other that I have experienced. Here in New York, many cemeteries were closed, gatherings of any size were banned, Churches were shuttered and religious observations involving more than just a few people were vigorously discouraged.

The measures taken to suppress COVID-19 may well have been necessary to "flatten the curve", but it has also been a chilling reminder of just how quickly the Constitutional Rights and American traditions we fought to preserve can be suppressed by petty politicians. Hopefully things were far better handled where you live.

Remembering the fallen on Memorial Day has always been a mixture of sadness and pride. That said, I'm pleased to report that two of our fallen comrades—Sgt. Lonnie Lundy and Lt. Walter Hogans—were honored in video tributes by students of Westlake High School, outside of Austin, Texas. The school hosts an inspiring Virtual Vietnam Project that aims to honor each of the more than 58,000 named on The Wall.

That is certainly an ambitious undertaking, but to date nearly 5,000 of the fallen have been honored with a short video tribute about the early lives of these young veterans, the sacrifice they made and the families and friends they left behind. The videos for Sgt. Lundy and Lt. Hogans are still being reviewed by class instructors. But I will post links to the videos in a future newsletter. You will find more information about this worthwhile project on the Bulletin Board.

Here's hoping all of you and your families can enjoy a great summer. And that by the time we publish our next newsletter, much or all of the pandemic will be behind us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Art' followed by a stylized flourish.



Association Business

John Otte
Treasurer/Locator
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Financial Report Income and Expenses

December 1, 2019 Balance	\$13,301.51
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$ 50.00
Total Income	\$ 50.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$480.92
Hosting Service	59.85
Bank Service Charge	15.00
Total Expenses	\$555.77
Feb. 28, 2020 Balance	\$12,795.74

Our apologies to John for the incorrect December 1 balance in the Report in the March Newsletter. All other numbers were correct.



John

Financial Report Income and Expenses

March 1, 2020 Balance	\$12,795.74
<u>Income</u>	\$.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$ 409.76
Website Update	35.00
Domaine Renewal	11.16
Hosting Services	59.85
Bravo Reunion	3,500.00
Bank Service Charge	15.00
Total Expenses	\$4,030.77
May 31, 2020 Balance	\$ 8,764.97



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. I know that I say that routinely, but this time it is especially meaningful given the pandemic. Since this is our annual Memorial Day issue, you will find a current copy of our Memorial Page inside the cover.

Reunion Host Bob Best informed us that he did not think he could safely hold a reunion this year due to the pandemic, and he requested to reschedule the event to early June, 2021. The Board agreed and a new date has been set for June 9 to 12, 2021. Bob will retain the registration fees received to date, to avoid having to duplicate his work. If anyone would like their fee refunded in the interim, just ask Bob by calling him at (919) 631-0179 or emailing him at solveaprob@aol.com and it will be returned. Additionally, our Officers have all volunteered to continue serving until an election can be held. This information has been repeated on our Bulletin Board for easy reference. The 22nd IRS has scheduled theirs for May 20 to 23, 2021. Between us, we bracket next year's Memorial Day holiday. Very appropriate! I hope that we can both finally hold them.

The 53rd anniversary of the LZ Gold/Suoi Tre event (March 19 to 21, 1967) has passed since our last newsletter. As usual, there were many emails exchanged between veterans who were there. One claimed to have been "in the initial landing force at LZ Gold", which I took exception to as it was Bravo Company who was first in. His explanation was that he was told he was going into a hot LZ and he arrived just after us. I accepted that. Also mentioned were different casualty numbers from those I have always accepted as accurate. Louis Urso (HHS/2/77) provided an expanded list that includes two Air Force officers and five convoy members that were not originally included, which is on the Bulletin Board. There were also several other facts and figures that were different. Joe Engles (Gunner, #3, A/2/77, organizer of the Ft. Carson Memorial events and an authority on the topic) then joined the conversation and the exchange ended with several more relevant emails, all of which are on the Bulletin Board. Those wanting more information on these events should be reminded that we published after-action reports on LZ Gold in our Dec. 2013 issue and Suoi Tre in our Dec. 2014 issue which can be viewed on our website, bravoregulars.com.

We received an update regarding the ongoing effort to locate the grave sites at FSB Crook, by the Vietnamese. It is posted on our Bulletin Board.

James Dandles (4/67-12/67) has been moved to our Inactive List due to his contact information becoming invalid.

With sadness I must report that we received word of the passing of two of our Bravo Brothers, Fred Michael, Jr. (8-68/69) and Joel Shepitka (1/69-?). Available information is on the Bulletin Board. A Bravo sympathy card and honorary member invitation was sent to the Michael family. We also received word that Honorary Member Daphne Ellis has passed.

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 Art Gormley (3rd Platoon Leader—C.O.— 67/68) - Virtual Vietnam Remembrance Project

Westlake High School near Austin, TX has built an impressive Virtual Vietnam Remembrance website to memorialize those lost in Vietnam (<http://virtualvietnam.eanesisd.net>.) The project has been underway for at least several years and the number of video memorial tributes is fast approaching 5,000, of the more than 58,000 names that appear on The Vietnam Wall.

Earlier this year, two Westlake High School students reached out for assistance in researching two of our fallen Bravo Brothers: Sgt. Lonnie Lundy (KIA 09/11/68) and Lt. Walter J. Hogans (KIA 10/05/69). The two video tributes are complete and must still be reviewed by faculty advisors. Once the videos are available, I will post links to the videos in our next newsletter.

With nearly 5,000 videos posted already, I used the search engine on the Virtual Vietnam website to see if any other Bravo Brothers have been honored. I found video tributes to seven of our fallen Bravo Brothers already on the site:

1. Rodney R. Weed (KIA 03/19/67) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 bnfy8or/81478061>
2. Kenneth G. Blanton (KIA 03/21/67) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 in1tvmmk/81478061>
3. Virgil M. Ledford (KIA 03/21/67) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 2h9yfs2v/81478061>
4. James R. Watanabe (KIA 09/26/67) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 dsyada45/81478061>
5. Darrell H. Morey (KIA 11/28/67) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 fns3th89/81478061>
6. Randall J. Wicklace (KIA 01/16/69) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 6lvqcx2b/81478061>
7. David F. Tinsey (KIA 10/02/70) <https://eanes.tv/media/t/1 kizguxy/81478061>

The most expansive of the tributes was the video dedicated to Virgil Ledford, who died at Soui Tre. Virgil's video runs more than 12 minutes and contains comments from a number of fellow Bravo originals who served with him.

Personally, I am very thankful to the students and faculty of Westlake High School for taking on the enormous challenge of memorializing those who did not return from Vietnam. Should a Westlake student reach out to you for assistance with their video tribute to a Bravo Brother you served with, please make every effort to help. It is gratifying to know that young people are being taught to respect the sacrifice so many of our generation made in Vietnam.

Also, please keep in mind that the school also accepts recommendations for future tributes. If there is a Bravo Brother you would like to see memorialized in this way, please contact the Westlake High faculty advisors (<http://virtualvietnam.eanesisd.net/contact>) offering a name and, most importantly, a willingness to share photos, provide contacts and commentary that their students can use in assembling their remembrance videos.

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Submitted by Louis Urso (HHS/2/77)

Casualty List of Landing Zone Gold Assault March 19, 1967 (14 KIA, 28 Wounded)

1. SP4 Marlin Chris Eversgerd	B/3/22 Inf
2. SGT Thomas J. Dando	B/3/22 Inf
3. SP4 Jack Martin Gosnell	B/3/22 Inf
4. PFC Robert Lewis Linn, Jr.	B/3/22 Inf
5. SP4 Paul Joseph McGowan	B/3/22 Inf
6. SGT Fred Henry Patterson	B/3/22 Inf
7. SP4 Louis Sas	HHC/3/22 Inf
8. SP4 Donald Lee Schroeder	B/3/22 Inf
9. SP4 Donald Wesley Walters	B/3/22 Inf
10. SP4 Rodney R. Weed	B/3/22 Inf
11. WO James P. Barton	68th Assault Helicopter Company
12. SP4 John Noble Sheffield	68th Assault Helicopter Company
13. SP4 Gilbert Nolan Smith	68th Assault Helicopter Company
14. SP4 Johnny L. Washburn	68th Assault Helicopter Company



Casualty March 20, 1967 (1 KIA)

1. SP4 Richard Perez Cruz	C/2/77 Arty
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Casualty List of Suoi Tre March 21, 1967 (38 KIA, 190 Wounded)

1. SP4 Edward Mathew Amato	A/2/22 Inf	20. PFC William Earl Mallory, Jr.	HHC/3/22 Inf
2. SP4 Herman E. Anders, Jr.	B/3/22 Inf	21. SP4 Allen Stanley Mican	B/3/22 Inf
3. PFC Matthew David Atkins III	B/3/22 Inf	22. SP4 Edward Jerry Muller	B/3/22 Inf
4. AP4 Michael Arlin Balzer	A/3/22 Inf	23. SP4 Garland Andrew Newhouse	B/2/77 Arty
5. SP5 Norman L. Balance III	HHS/2/77 Arty	24. SP4 Thomas Douglas Peterkin	A/3/22 Inf
6. SP4 Larry Dean Barton	A/2/12 Inf	25. CPL John Francis Pezzulo	A/2/77 Arty
7. PFC Thomas Lynn Bell	HHC/3/22 Inf	26. SP4 Lawrence Edward Pollock	B/2/77 Arty
8. SP4 Kenneth Gene Blanton	B/3/22 Inf	27. SP4 David Clyde Rogers	C/2/77 Arty
9. SP4 James Dale Brewer	A/3/22 Inf	28. SP4 Thomas Martin Seklecki	A/2/77 Arty
10. SGT Joseph John Di Landro	A/3/22 Inf	29. SP4 Robert Joe Smith	HHS/2/77 Arty
11. SSGT Jack Eaton	C/2/77 Arty	30. SP4 Thomas Robert Talmadge	A/3/22 Inf
12. PFC Brian Francis Gibbons	B/3/22 Inf	31. SP4 Algernon Paul Thomas	B/2/77 Arty
13. PFC Charles Ray Goodwin	HHC/3/22 Inf	32. SP4 Larry Lyman Warnock	B/3/22 Inf
14. SP4 Willie Grant, Jr.	C/2/77 Arty	33. SP4 Alan Wayne Andrews	A/2/22 Inf
15. PFC Charles Robert Greer	B/3/22 Inf	34. SP4 Charles Eugene Fletcher	A/2/22 Inf
16. PFC Everette Eugene Harding	A/3/22 Inf	35. SP4 Charles Harry Haber, Jr.	A/2/22 Inf
17. PFC John Oliver Harris	HHC/3/22 Inf	36. CPL Jessie B. Rose	D Bat/71/23
18. SP4 James Raymond Hintz	B/3/22 Inf	37. CAPT Walter Henry Forbes III	19th/504th/7 AF
19. SP4 Virgil Madison Ledford	B/3/22 Inf	38. CAPT Tonie Lee England, Jr.	19th/504th/7 AF

Casualty List from convoy to Suoi Tre March 19, 1967 (Convoy was halted and went to Suoi Da) (5 KIA, 19 Wounded)

1. 2nd LT Dennis John Breda	A/2/22 Inf
2. PFC Bruce Anthony Corcoran	A/2/22 Inf
3. SP4 Barney Joe Kelly	A/2/22 Inf
4. SP4 Russell Lee Root	A/2/22 Inf
5. 1st LT James C. Tarkenton III	A/2/22 Inf

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor– Reunion Update

Our 2020 Reunion has been rescheduled to June 9 to 12, 2021. Host Bob Best will retain the registration fees. If anyone would like a refund, contact Bob at (919) 631-0179 or solveap-rob@aol.com. All Officers will remain in their current positions until an election can be held.

Submitted by Joe Engles (Gunner, #3, A/2/77)

I am sure that, like you, the fight at LZ Gold crosses your mind every day. After receiving a copy of the email this morning, I found it necessary to address some misconceptions. (1) There were exactly 51 of our Brothers lost including those lost on the 19th, 21st, and later in hospitals. (2) There were exactly 197 wounded. (3) The only participants in the battle from the 25th were Lt. Col. Vessey plus his Sgt. Major and two quad 50 teams from D-51 Air Artillery 25th ID. That is all for the 25th. (4) Referring to the story and photo in Tropic Lightning about the battle, Westmoreland never saw a camera he didn't like and the idea of the 25th claiming sole credit for winning the battle is incorrect. The 25th members there that morning fought bravely, but so did everyone else. Success has a thousand fathers. Also, the enemy body count of 647 is incorrect. The number 647 was taken from an after-action report written on the afternoon of the 21st. The real and final body count for the Battle of Suoi Tre is 831. This total was developed during the following five days after the battle, when the perimeter at LZ Gold was cleared out 1,000 yards in all directions. The final number of 831 was given to me personally by the CO of 3/4 Air Cav, who provided gunship air support during the battle; he saw the final number on the large engagement board at 25th HQ at Chu Chi. (5) The battle started just after dawn at half-light. The battle ended upon the arrival of relief by 2/12 and 2/22 infantry at 9:08 and 9:14 am respectively. (6) There were 42 Beehive rounds fired that morning by 2/77. Each round was vital to survival. If there was one round that stands out that morning, it wasn't a Beehive at all. It would be the HE round fired by Jim Flynn, B #3. He direct fired one HE round at the Quad 50 that about 20 of the enemy had overrun and had it turned 3/4 of the way to fire on us. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT RIGHT THEN. (7) Never suggest that any one unit saved the day. The incredible bravery and fight that morning by Bravo Regulars 3/22, Alpha Alphagators and the courage of the two D-71 Quad 50 teams, firing their Quads while their barrels began to warp from heat and their rounds began to corkscrew, can never be overstated. And 2/77 who absolutely exemplified the meaning of being an Artilleryman, and after 11 of our 18 guns were knocked out by the enemy, also experiencing first-hand what it is to be an infantryman. Those of us who actually fought together that morning when Hell touched down at LZ Gold, know with certainty the lines between Infantry and Artillery were blurred. (8) Let those of us who fought the battle, never forget how grateful we were to the 2/12 Infantry, 2/22 Infantry and 2/34 Armor for their determination and risk to get to us just in time that morning. If only our Command would have told us help was coming. Time for me to sign off. Peace to all my Brothers.

Submitted by Brian Neal (Recon Platoon, 2/12 Infantry)

Joe, thank you for clearing up the information, and also thank you for your hard work in setting up the memorials held at Ft. Carson. I was honored to attend the very great events to honor those lost during those days. I was interested in the enemy body count being actually 831 instead of 647 taken on March 21, as we cleaned up the area. I know as our 2/12 Recon Platoon patrolled the area out from the base over the next several days, the bodies we found were reported for body count. We also had to search the bodies for maps, etc. and report on uniforms and web gear to the brass that came from Saigon after the battle. If we found some that they had buried to prevent body count, we had to dig them up to search, count and rebury. We were also asked to bring in a sample of web gear they were wearing, not a pleasant task. They only asked for that once, due to the smell. I always wondered if those were counted and added to the mass burial count we did the day of the battle, and as you stated they were counted.

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Submitted by Bob Staib (Captain, USAF)

As a USAF FAC, I met many of the surviving heroes of Suoi Tre at the 50th Anniversary of the Battle. I was there and will never forget the mission I flew that morning, as I directed USAF fighters in support of your heroic defense of FSB Gold. I also learned more about the two USAF FACs who lost their lives at Suoi Tre. Their heroism had been unrecognized officially by the military, and I joined an effort to correct the record. In the process, I made the acquaintance of Walt Shugart, Bravo Company CO, as he and others helped prepare an appeal on behalf of the families of the FACs. Walt and I spoke about the details of the battle, and he wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Air Force to accompany our written appeal for consideration. I have an electronic copy of his brief letter if you would like it for your unit history. As we got to know one another's battle stories, we realized we had most likely been in radio contact as the battle erupted. Eventually, Walt opened up about his ongoing battle with cancer, and we exchanged our personal faith stories. Although our contacts were sparse over those months, they were very meaningful. I think of Walt as a friend. Our last exchange was on October 10. Walt was in hospice. He died October 28, 2017. Since the battle took place on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 1967, I thought it might be meaningful on this Holy Week Tuesday to the men who served with Walt to read a line from one of his emails to me: "God is a verb whose love encompasses all and is not at all bound by denomination". If there is a reunion next year in Dallas, I hope to be invited. The DFW metroplex has been my home for 43 years. I have your website in my "target" list.

Submitted by Errol Paige Lanier (2/77th FA)

To all, I am pleased to see so much information and contact about the Suoi Tre battle being discussed. I, along with Bill King (2/22 Infantry) have worked hard to keep the memory of those lost in the battle alive. Each year we work with the COs of the 2/12 Infantry and 2/77 FA to hold a memorial service. Some of the casualties happened on March 19th as that is credited as the start of the battle. The 2/77th has a Regimental room that covers from 1919. On one wall is a collage done by Bill King and his wife, Janice, that has a picture of all those killed during the battle, with all the information of rank and metals earned in the battle. Also, we have a bell with all the names engraved on it. Each year we hold a Memorial Service supported by the 2nd Inf. Bde., 4th Inf. Div. and the 2 BNs on active duty— 2/12 Inf. BN and 2/77th FA BN on March 20. This year we put things on hold until it is safe to hold the service. We try to get the word out and invite as many as want to attend to come and join with us for the Memorial Service. We get a lot of people to attend who were not in the battle but want to show support to our Military Family.

Submitted by Richard Magner (Tiger 38, D/229th—Smiling Tigers—1st Cav 68/69)

This is addressed to those I have sought out regarding the Battle of FSB Crook in efforts to assist the Vietnamese with the graves there. After nearly two years of research and seeking out veterans of the June 5/6, 1969 battle, there is movement afoot in Vietnam to explore the larger of the gravesites. Commencing June 10, the local military command will begin the exploration of the area. Three digs are planned. Below is a recent article (Google translation) from a VN online newspaper about a Vietnamese veteran's memory of the battle written prior to the now planned exploration. Any thoughts that may assist in the effort are welcome. I thank you all for your contributions. Images of the area of the planned dig can be viewed at [Crook-Aerial Overlay-2002.png](#), [Crook-Drawing Overlay-2002.png](#), [Crook-An Co-Chau Thanh Area-2019.png](#), [Veterans of Crook.jpg](#). I hope this finds you all well in this time of COVID-19 and unrest.

The attack of the 88th Regiment liberation on the military branch and the American artillery battle at the junction of Bay, Tay Ninh

For many years, Mr. Nguyen Van Kieu resided in Sam Son district, Thanh Hoa province, always concerned about 323 comrades of E88 and E2 units of F9 buried in a collective bomb pit, until now more than 50 years has not been brought to the martyrs cemetery to enjoy the smoke like other martyrs.

Terrible night June 6 and 7, 1969. Mr. Kieu enlisted in the army on June 22, 1968, was staffed to C-15-F338, in Quang Duc commune, Quang Xuong district, Thanh Hoa. After months of training, I marched to the South and went to B 2075 (Western Thanh Hoa). At the end of March 1969, he was assigned to C20 E88 (Tu Vu) - F9, based in Tay Ninh. He participated in the first battle at Dong Ban airport, Tan Bien district—Tay Ninh, a battle he will never forget. In his memory, on June 6/7, 1969, the 2nd Regiment of the 9th Division attacked but could not access the on-duty soldiers who sacrificed much. On the night of the 6th, the 88th Regiment (Tu Vu) broke through the second fence and it was revealed, at that time at 10:40 Mr. Kinh Hien—Regimental Chief of Staff along with 9th Battalion and 2 sapper platoons were brave overcoming the barriers, the remainder proceeds straight into the battlefield. The 8th battalion ambushed and

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attacked reinforcements to capture the air. North of Highway 13, about 700m from the center of the battlefield to the northeast. At this time the US military aircraft dropped flares, with 4 flares continuously dropping, as bright as day. The barracks and bridge blocks of the American troops started firing, our troops were still close to the battlefield. By 11 o'clock the AK, B40, B41 also promote all firepower, fire bullets on both sides red a corner of the Gulf Junction. At 11:30 there are 5 flat fish helicopters circling around the battlefield, then two shot down where our troops are fighting. At that time, our 12ly7 Battle of the Northwest began firing on five airplanes, 5 soared to avoid 12.7ly bullets, and all 5 helicopters launched missiles to the battlefield. 12ly7, our troops promoted fire less than 20 minutes. Artillery rigs of the US Army nearly 20 guns, 2 sapper platoons are not deep, lined, destroy most of the attack, until 12pm to rescue the US army was attacked by our troops, Display at the place poured around the battlefield, our army also sacrificed much. At 5 am, the US troops poured out to cover the outside circle, our troops just fought the inside troops, both against the outside troops, and took the wounded soldiers out, the battle was extremely fierce. At 8 am, the US Army again reinforces its second wave of troops at Dong Du base, a company used by helicopter to rush down Route 13, close to the base to the Northeast, until 9 am. The enemy swept into the regimental area where Mr. Drama was sitting to watch the phone. Mr. Hien, battalion commander of 8th battalion, telephoned Mr. Drama to be ready to fight but at that time Mr. Gun was not available, regiment officials like Mr. Ti and Mr. Can withdrew at 8:20 am. Overlooking Bai Chuong in front of us, the US Army came closer and closer, only about 130m and 100m away. Suddenly a reconnaissance platoon appeared, our AK guns exploded violently. Next is the AK R15, the bin bursts, AR15 bullets flew past the ears but did not hit any bullets. A few more Americans collapsed outside of Bai Che, the fighting was less than 20 minutes before it ended. The fighting point was only about 200m to the northeast. At 10:30, there were two planes, a long one and a small plane, hovering around the island and then rocketing into the nearby forests to clear the yard and then both beams to take the soldiers to fly to Saigon. When marching from northern Truong Son to South Truong Son was extremely arduous, when it came to fighting, it was even more arduous, from the Eastern battlefield to the Cambodian battlefield and then marched to the Western battlefield. In the long nights of rain all of our teammates rained badly, each of them took a breath to warm up and continued to march, in the hardships and sacrifices of the soldiers without any pen. In the battle of the Gulf junction, An Co commune, Chau Thanh district—Tay Ninh province, American veteran Richard and his teammates provided information, the number of soldiers sacrificing them buried in a pit, bombs in the north east of Vinh bridge are about 100-110m, on the north side of road 13 are about 40-50m and two small holes are on the south of the road. His teammates ate a tray, lay in the same cellar, when in the battle, they lived and died together, the injured were allowed to go back to the North, to integrate into life, in the social community, while remaining 323 dongs, lice of E88 and E2, F9 buried a bomb crater for more than 50 years but have not been to the martyrs cemetery to enjoy the smoke with his teammates, is what Mr. Drama always worries. He expected the authorities to make plans soon, so that 323 martyrs as his comrades were taken to the cemetery, which is what he always worried when his age was no longer healthy. In early March 2020, due to his advanced age, his family did not rest assured that he would return to the old battlefield alone, his son went with his father to Tay Ninh to re-examine the location and find the tomb of teammate Pham Van. Ngu and Mr. K Drama were hit by Claymo mines on the evening of May 19 1973, when he woke up, his comrades said comrade Ngu died and buried on the banks of the border, far from Ta Nu ferry wharf in Khanh Hung commune, Vinh Hung district is about 200m. Currently, two American veterans who have participated in the burial of 323 martyrs have provided coordinates for Mr. Nguyen Van Kich, so now those who are alive as he is trying to contact each other to coordinate in collaboration with the authorities, the 323 remains of soldiers who were his teammates were soon taken to the cemetery to be smoked like other martyrs.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Fred Michael, Jr. (8-68/69). Fred's wife, Karen, informed us that Fred had passed away on December 26, 2019. He was a Vietnam veteran and served in the Army from 1968 to 1970. He was 71 years old. No further information was available.

Joel Shepitka (1/69-?). We received word from Art Gormley who received a call from a brother-in-law of Joel's informing us that Joel passed away in December, 2019. He was born in Texas and had lived in Cheyenne, WY until his death. The caller mentioned that his wife had also passed away earlier in 2019. He said Joel had been badly wounded in Vietnam. He also made a point of telling me that Joel really looked forward to getting our quarterly newsletter and keeping up with information about Bravo.