

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

March 2018



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President's Message

John Gority
President
(814) 935-0220
jfgority@aol.com

Bravo Brothers, Donna and I are looking forward to the Branson, MO reunion in June. Jim and Pam are working hard to make it a success. Please register as soon as possible so we have a good head count for planning activities and outings.

Something I came across from a friend of mine. England's Stonehenge, Egypt's Karnak and Abu Simbel have nothing on us. Our memorial even has a plaque pedestal to explain it all. Archeologists of the future won't have to guess what the site is all about. Why is it so under-publicized?

At precisely 11:11 A.M., each Veterans Day (Nov. 11), the sun's rays pass through the ellipse of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States. The Anthem Veterans Memorial, located in Anthem, Arizona (north of Phoenix on I-17), is a monument dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. The pillars provide a place of honor and reflection for veterans, their families and friends, and those who want to show their respects to those servicemen and women who have and continue to courageously serve the United States. The memorial was designed by Anthem resident Renee Palmer-Jones. The five marble pillars represent the five branches of the United States military. They are staggered in size (from 17 feet to 6 feet) and ordered in accordance with the Department of Defense prescribed precedence, ranging from the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard. Additionally, the brick pavers within the Circle of Honor are inscribed with the names of over 750 U.S. servicemen and women, symbolizing 'support' for the Armed Forces. The pavers are red, the pillars are white, and the sky is blue to represent America's flag. The circle represents an unbreakable border. Anthem resident and chief engineer, Jim Martin, was responsible for aligning the memorial accurately with the sun.

John





Vice President's Column

Charles Weems
Vice President
(443) 306-4764
charlesweems@icloud.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

Well it's February of a new year already and time is really moving fast. Before we know it summer will be here. The reunion is coming soon, so we should be making our plans if we are attending! So much has happened since the last reunion that it puts a question mark on how many more reunions we have in us. My wife doesn't fly any more, so we drive everywhere we go. I don't mind driving, but it's been a long time since I've driven a long distance. We will work out something. I still plan on coming! Hope all you guys and your families are doing well and hoping to see you soon if God is willing.

Charlie



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

John

Association Business

Financial Report Income and Expense

Dec. 1, 2017 Balance	\$18,136.65
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$ 535.00
Dividend	
Total Income	\$ 535.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter	\$ 478.53
Webpage Hosting	59.85
Webpage Update	55.00
Bank Service Fee	15.00
Total Expenses	\$ 608.38
Feb. 28, 2018 Balance	\$18,063.27



Editor's Notes

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

Welcome Back Bravo Brothers,

Hope this issue finds everyone well. My condolences to everyone who does not live in southern Arizona, where I retired to. The weather everywhere else seems to be so chaotic. A note to others living here—Garret's Family Steakhouse, 9431 E. 22nd Street, Tucson has "Military Mondays" where all vets get one-half off the entrée. They also have "Teacher Tuesday's" and "First Responder Wednesday's." Just let them know you are a vet when placing the order to get the discount. I observed one vet buy for a whole group of eight presumably getting the full discount. They open at 4:00 pm and are usually packed after 5:00 pm, so Dee and I get there before then and are there usually every other week.

I have a warning for those of us who use a computer. I often receive email messages in the name of family or members of our organization, asking that I click on something to open the message. If the e-mail address from the sender does not match our records, I assume it is a hacking attempt and delete it without opening. I suggest you do the same.

Since our last newsletter, we have had seven members move without notifying us. The Post Office supplied new addresses for five, while two (Kenneth Brown and Earl Jones) have been moved to inactive. If you change your address, please let us know if you want to stay active with the organization.

Gordon 'Chet' Johnson (Co. XO—1/66-5/67) submitted a poignant story on why you should attend our next reunion. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

Bill King (2/22 Mech.) has notified us that the troops at Fort Carson, Colorado have initiated the first annual Heritage week to be held March 20-22, 2018. Numerous plans have been made to honor the fallen at the Battle of Suoi Tre. Details can be found on the Bulletin Board.

The 22nd Infantry Regiment Society has scheduled their next reunion for October 4-7, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia. Full details can be found on their website at www.22ndinfantry.org.

EDITOR'S NOTES—CONTINUED

Michelle Rowley-Vechinsky has sent us a thank you email regarding a Pen Pal Program between her students and some of our members. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

We received an email from the Mesothelioma Center regarding help for veterans suffering from asbestos exposure. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

Plans to honor Donny Tidwell (KIA 4-12-68) are being finalized and the date of the ceremony has been set for March 20, 2018 in Diana, Texas. Any Bravo Regulars living in the area are invited and encouraged to attend. Full details are on the Bulletin Board.

While pursuing Charlie Company's website, I found several combat after action reports that were new to me. One covered the Battle of Good Friday where Donny Tidwell, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, was KIA. I have posted it on the Bulletin Board. The after action report from Bravo Company was published in our June, 2014 issue, which can be viewed on our website.

Reunion 2018 will take place only one or two weeks after our next issue, so consider this to be your last reminder to register and make your reservations. Dee and I plan to attend and provide current rosters to attendees. If anyone not attending wants a roster, please contact me directly.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of our newsletter. Our next issue will be out in June and we will be accepting input through the end of May. Until then, may peace be with you.

Dave out

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Gordon 'Chet' Johnson—CO XO—1/66-5/67 (Author Unknown)

Why Men Who Have Been To War Yearn To Reunite—I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures, not to weep or laugh. Comrades gather because they long to be with the people who once acted their best; who once suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men, they were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation ... the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were all willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will thank of them all every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thoughts will be of my family, and my comrades. **SUCH GOOD MEN!**

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Bill King—2/22 Mech.

Greetings to my brothers and your families. On March 20-22, 2018, the 2/77 Artillery and the 2/12 Infantry at Fort Carson have initiated an annual Heritage week and ceremony to honor and remember the fallen at the Battle of Suoi Tre. Their intent is to have all of their troops be well educated on the history of their unit. They are in the process of making a memorial to The Battle of Suoi Tre to be placed in front of the Brigade Headquarters. They are also making a historical library in their conference room with the Battle of Suoi Tre as a highlight, with some of our pictures and the memory boards of the fallen hanging on the wall. This is not a reunion for ourselves, but an invitation to attend the units historical event. The Hotel Elegante is honoring a \$97 per night plus tax special for those who make reservations under the code name Suoi Tre. They have also offered their hospitality room if we need it. Suggested arrival dates would be March 20th for an evening get-together at the Red Leg Brewery for socializing and pizza. The morning of the 21st, at the Brigade Headquarters at Fort Carson, there will be a reading of the names of the fallen, followed by a 21-gun salute. There will be a few guest speakers—Colonel Menendez, Lt Colonel Don Cherry, Paige and myself and anyone else who would like to speak or who will read the names (volunteer?), followed by mingling with troops on base. Depending on attendance, we could organize an afternoon and evening event on the 21st. Departure would be on the 22nd??? Depending on the response and how many wish to attend, we will examine making a further agenda. There are no registration fees, no banquets, no other speakers, etc. planned. Anyone who knows family of a fallen brother in arms, feel free to extend an invitation to them also. If you have any questions, call Bill King or Paige Lanier. Bill—719-748-8219 (home), 719-494-3590 (cell), Billkingsouitre@aol.com (use this spelling). Paige—719-330-6638 (cell), 719-597-6517, Paigemm@msn.com.

Submitted by Michelle Vechinsky (Ted Rowley's daughter)

I'd like to thank all of you who have written a card or a letter to your Pen Pal from our class. This Pen Pal Letter-Writing program has been something near and dear to my heart for many years. I've tried to have students at the many schools I've taught in to connect with someone from Bravo Company. Currently I teach at Rock Prairie Montessori School in Janesville, Wisconsin. Our elementary classroom is a multi-age setting with 36 students in grades 1-6. No matter their age, the kids LOVE our version of mail call. Thanks to all who have written or mailed a card. We love it! Attached is a photo of our school's main bulletin board. We decided to honor you with a "Valentines for Vets" display. All the notes we've received from the beginning of the school year through January are displayed for all to read and celebrate. Today alone, we received four more cards in the mail. :) Thank you for your military service, and thank you for writing to this younger generation!



BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Marissa Krick—Public Outreach Department for The Mesothelioma Center

Countless veterans are currently suffering from life-threatening illnesses that are a result of exposure to asbestos, a material that was commonly used in hundreds of military applications, products, and ships because of its resistance to fire. Veterans who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma even qualify for special benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Additional information can be found at www.asbestos.com/treatment/ or www.asbestos.com/veterans/.

Submitted by William Williams, P.E., Associate Research Engineer, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Greetings Dave! I hope you and yours are well. I wanted to send you and your members an invitation to our memorial dedication for renaming our high school baseball field in honor of Donny G. Tidwell ... KIA April 12, 1968 at the Battle of Good Friday. Donny was a member of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Our field will be named "Donny G. Tidwell Memorial Field." We will also be dedicating a new granite monument with a new flagpole for the American flag, in Donny's honor, at the ballpark. A historical narrative of Donny's life will be cast on a bronze plaque, which will be mounted on the monument. I hope you and others from Bravo Company can attend ... we would make you welcome! We are expecting hundreds in attendance along with some local media news coverage. Thanks again. w.williams@tamu.edu



**MARCH 20, 2018 4:00 PM
DEDICATION OF NEW DIANA H.S.
BASEBALL FIELD - "DONNY G.
TIDWELL MEMORIAL FIELD"**

Where: New Diana High School
Baseball Field, Diana, Texas
Please join us for the dedication of the New Diana High School Baseball Field. Dedicated to Donny G. Tidwell, Exemplary New Diana High School Student Athlete, KIA, South Vietnam, April 12, 1968 For More Information - William Williams, 979-575-5200, w.williams@tamu.edu

1964 All State
Texas HS
Quarterback

1966 Pitcher
for Los
Angeles
Dodgers Minor
League Team

Member Bravo
Regulars, 3rd
Batt., 22nd Inf.
Regiment, 3rd
Brigade, 25th
Inf. Division



8" x 10"

Space
Reserved

Donny G. Tidwell Memorial

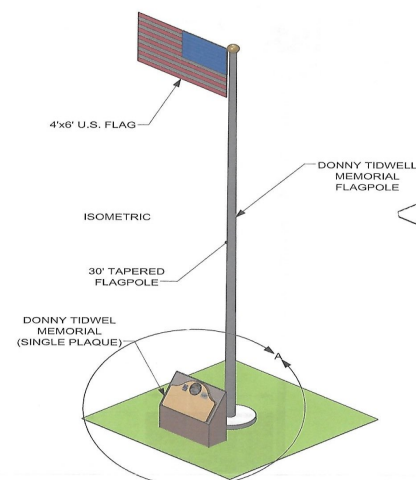
Donny G. Tidwell was born April 2, 1947 to Billy and Mildred Tidwell. Donny was the second oldest of five children. He grew up on a small farm on Lazy Daisy Road, approximately 2.5 miles northwest from this location. He attended school at New Diana where he proved to be an exceptional athlete in several sports including baseball, football, track and basketball. Donny achieved 1st Team All-State Honors at quarterback in Class B football in 1964. While Donny excelled in baseball, New Diana did not have an organized baseball team. Donny joined the American Legion Baseball League where he was an outstanding hitter, slugger, and pitcher. At 16, he was recruited by Pro Baseball Scouts at the American Legion level. Donny graduated from New Diana High School in May 1966.

In June 1966, Donny signed a professional baseball contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He reported to the Ogdens Dodgers Baseball Club (Los Angeles Dodgers' rookie league affiliate) in Ogdens, Utah. The Ogdens

Dodgers were a minor league baseball team that played in the Pioneer Baseball League from 1966 to 1973. The Ogdens Dodgers Baseball Club was managed by now Hall-of-Fame Coach Tommy Lasorda. Donny spent the summer of 1966 playing for the Ogdens Dodgers rotation and had 4 wins and 3 losses with a 4.01 Earned Run Average (ERA).

In November 1966, Donny volunteered to join the U.S. Army. He reported to Fort Polk Army Base in Vernon Parish, Louisiana for basic training. After basic training in July 1967, Donny arrived at Fort Campbell, Kentucky for advanced training. In January 1968, he joined Company B, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. The unit was operating in the 3rd Corps area of South Vietnam, north of the Mekong Delta region northward to the southern edge of the Central Highlands Region. This area included Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). The 25th Infantry's 3rd Brigade operated from Dau Tieng Base Camp located approximately 50 miles to the northwest of Saigon.

In early April 1968, several companies from the Brigade, including Bravo Company, were airlifted from Dau Tieng Base Camp to a remote area approximately 15 miles northwest to patrol a hostile enemy area near the Cambodian border. In the early morning hours of April 12, 1968, Donny's patrol unit was attacked by a heavily armed regiment of North Vietnamese Regulars (NVA). Donny and 15 other U.S. soldiers were killed in the attack and another 47 U.S. soldiers were wounded. This battle became known as The Battle of Good Friday. Donny Tidwell was buried in Mattox Cemetery, located approximately 2.5 miles northwest from this location, near his childhood home. Donny Tidwell is honored on Panel 49E, Row 37 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This memorial serves to honor Donny Tidwell's exemplary life ... as a son, brother, New Diana student athlete, Major League baseball player, and patriot in the U.S. Army.



Submitted by Editor—Battle of Good Friday after action report by Charlie Company

On 4/11/1968, the 3rd Bn. 22nd Infantry, climbed from choppers into a remote jungle area 13 miles north of Dau Tieng. In the few hours before darkness, the Regulars established a perimeter of hastily prepared foxholes. In the darkness, they made themselves as comfortable as possible. At twenty minutes past four o'clock on Good Friday morning, all hell broke loose. Companies B, C. and D had "combat assaulted" into the area and carefully swept the outskirts before establishing three ambush patrols and listening posts. The laager position was arranged in a clearing surrounded by jungle, ranging from single to triple canopy. Scattered trees and anthills caused some obstruction, however, the flat terrain provided good fields of fire. The Battalion Commander, LTC Roy K. Flint, employed the three companies on the defensive perimeter, holding the Reconnaissance Platoon as a reserve. At approximately 0230 hours, the perimeter received light probing fire from the west. The Regulars answered it with small arms, automatic weapons, and Claymore mines. Between 0330 and 0400 hours, the enemy launched a heavy and accurate mortar attack on the perimeter using 61 and 82-millimeter mortars. Approximately 125 rounds landed inside the perimeter. The mortar barrage reached peak intensity at about 0405 hours and a massive ground attack followed. Bravo Company received the main thrust of the attack. Charlie Company held the right flank and Delta the left. Using small arms, automatic weapons, 90 mm recoilless rifles, hand grenades and bayonets, the Infantrymen repulsed the enemy as fast as they came on. As the attack grew more intense, LTC Flint called for artillery support and it arrived quickly. Launching more and more "human wave" assaults, the enemy penetrated the defensive line. Bravo Company was forced to pull back approximately 50 meters as they were being overrun. Elements from the Recon Platoon and Delta Company moved across the beaten zone to reinforce Bravo and deliver ammunition. Charlie Company turned its left flank machine guns upon the advancing enemy as they streamed across Bravo's bunkers. This crossfire caught the enemy in a vice between Delta and Charlie Companies, as reinforced Bravo Company fought its way back to the main bunker line. Combined with tactical air strikes, gunships, artillery, and the fast approach of the 2nd Bn. 22nd Infantry (M), the foot soldiers of the 3rd Battalion repulsed the enemy and the perimeter was secured by 0630 hours. Fighting had been extremely fierce during the push to regain the bunker line. Some of the enemy died at a range of 5 meters and, in some instances, hand to hand combat occurred. 127 enemy died within the perimeter. As morning light appeared, the 2nd Bn. 22 Infantry (M) merged into the 3rd Battalion's perimeter. They had battled pockets of resistance through five miles of jungle, at night, to get to their American counterparts. As Captain Bill Allison, Commanding Charlie Company, 2/22 Infantry (M) and his troopers approached firing their fifty calibers', the enemy fled west into the jungle. All contact was broken by 0730 hours. The enemy left behind 153 bodies along with a substantial amount of equipment. At 0800 hours, 12 April 1968, Brigadier General Gleason, Assistant Division Commander of the 25th Infantry Division, arrived to survey the battlefield and present awards. The following men received "impact awards" of the Silver Star; our Nation's third highest award for gallantry in action: Cpt. Gerald White, Commanding Officer of Delta Company; 1LT Richard Prairie, Commander of Bravo Company; SFC Robert E. Nelson, Company D; Sergeant Edward D. Crow, Company B; SP/5 Carl L. Felgenhauer, Company C Medic and SP/4 David Chedister, Recon Platoon Medic. Captain White's and SP/4 Chedister's Silver Stars were later upgraded to The Distinguished Service Cross. General Creighton Abrahms, US Commander in Chief in Vietnam, came to Fire Support Buell in January 1969 to present these two awards. The following data was submitted after the battle: 16 US Killed in Action, 47 wounded, 153 enemy Killed In Action and 53 additional enemy KIA reported forward of the perimeter. Weapons and equipment captured included numerous AK Assault Rifles, Light Machine Guns, RPG-2 Rocket Launchers, Carbines, Hand Grenades, and ammunition. The Regulars departed the perimeter the following morning after burying the enemy dead. They spent Easter Sunday at Dau Tieng.



Reunion Update

Jim Adams
Reunion Host
(573) 581-6824
jamesk923@msn.com

Hello from Missouri. Pam and I feel as if we are on the downside of the Bravo Branson Reunion, but we know that is not so. We have registrations coming in, but of course we need more. We hope that all have started their baskets of your state items for the raffle. Larry and Lisa have been working on the quilt for the raffle as well. Please do not forget your albums and pictures that you wish to share during your visit with your Bravo Brothers. We have also allowed for Branson sightseeing time. For some of you that have not been to this area before, down the road is Silver Dollar City that offers fun, food, folklore music and artisan crafts.

A couple of items worth noting. Hotel reservations need to be made by April 20, 2018. After that date, it will be on room availability only for our reunion time. Also please get your registration to us by May 20, 2018 if at all possible. That will give us time to get shirts and hats made and make sure that everyone has a meal.

The cruise will be for dinner, so we will leave the hotel at 3:00 P.M. and the boat leaves land at 4:00 P.M. We will arrive back on land around 6:00 P.M. or a little after. We have heard from Bravo members and others that have not been to a reunion before and are excited about coming to our area. Please mark your calendar for June 19 through 24 to spend some time in the Ozarks of Missouri with your Bravo Brothers.

Jim and Pam



BRAVO REGULAR 2018 REUNION**JUNE 19 – 24, 2018****BRANSON, MISSOURI****REGISTRATION FORM AND INFORMATION NEEDED**

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per Person

Full Name: _____

Guest/Spouse Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number Guest: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Vietnam Unit: _____

Date of Service: _____

Arrival Date Reunion: _____ Depart Reunion: _____

Email Address: _____

Wednesday offering: Viet Nam Museum: # attending _____

Wednesday offering: 50's/60's Music: # attending _____

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

REUNION Hats: \$15.00 Number ordered: _____

Thursday Cruise; Meal; Transportation to and from cruise: \$50.00 per person: Number going: _____

Lodging information: Radisson Hotel: \$99.54 plus tax 12.1% = \$111.58 per/room per/night, Single or Double: please make reservation through the Branson Tourism Bureau at 1-800-268-4014 or 1-417-334-8325. Mention Bravo Reunion for rate. Branson Tourism Bureau will also help with camping areas needs as well as air fare to Reunion. Room Reservation need to be made by May 1, 2018 to make sure can receive Bravo Reunion Room Rate

Please complete this form, make checks payable to Bravo Reunion 2018 and mail to Jim & Pam Adams, 17278 Highway HH, Mexico, Missouri 65265 by May 25, 2018. Information can also be emailed to JamesK923@msn.com or pammyanny@msn.com. Phones numbers: 573-581-6824 or Pam's cell phone: 573-253-5974.