

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

March, 2026



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President's Message

Mike Detmer
President
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Hello Bravo brothers and families,

It's been a cold winter here in Southern Illinois, and we're looking forward to the warmer days of Spring. I hope everyone had a good Christmas, and had the opportunity to spend time with family and loved ones.

Our crazy family decided to share Thanksgiving and Christmas together in early December. The family named the event "Thanks-mas!". It worked out great because no one had to leave to celebrate with their "in-laws" or "outlaws!".

I want to say thank you to all comrades who replied to the mini-survey to help us decide if it is feasible to host another reunion. Your responses are helpful. It has been decided to host another reunion, and the local Bravo members and I are now in the planning stages. The following has been decided:

Dates: Bravo Reunion—October 20, 21 and 22, 2026.

Location: St. Rose Development Club Building
8004 South 1st Street, St. Rose, IL 62230

Please mark your calendars!

One of the reasons for holding a reunion this year is because the year 2026 marks sixty years since Bravo Company was sent to Vietnam. There are a number of local Bravo members who were sent to Vietnam that year.

We are all getting older, and traveling is not as easy as it used to be. This makes it harder for many to attend a reunion. Therefore, I feel the need to have a discussion at this upcoming reunion - should be our last hurrah???

Marge and I have been blessed, as we have been able to attend every reunion ever held, with the first one being held in Glendora, Michigan, hosted by the late Mark Rowan. Every reunion has been great, offering the opportunity to meet up with friends, old and new! I encourage everyone to make a serious attempt to attend this upcoming reunion. If you need assistance, you're welcome to have a friend(s) or family member(s) attend the reunion with you. The registration form and all necessary details will be available in the next newsletter.

The Reunion Committee and I hope to see you there, so stay healthy!! So Long for now!

Mike



Vice President's Message

Kenneth Neveaux
Vice President
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Hello Everyone,

I hope that all is well and the winter months were not too bad for you.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the next reunion. Please try to attend, we would be happy to have you.

Our little town here has plans to honor their veterans. They were going to put their pictures in the Military Museum we have here. That changed to where now they will display pictures at different business places around town.

I've had a visit from a couple of brothers who were in the 1st Platoon with me in Nam. Sure was nice to see them, enjoyed their visits.

Again, please try to attend the next reunion. Time is flying by, it's already March.

Your Vice President,

Ken





Association Business

Matt Flikkema
 Treasurer
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Financial Report Income and Expenses		
Nov. 30, 2025 Balance		\$7,649.57
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$370.00	
Donations		
Total Income		\$370.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Newsletter	\$355.66	
Website Update	55.00	
Total Expenses		\$410.66
Feb. 28, 2026 Balance		\$7,608.91

Thanks for continuing support from those sending dues in, much appreciated.

Matt



Editor's Notes

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Welcome back Bravo Brothers! I hope all of you are as well as possible.

My local newspaper prints a column titled "Today In History". On February 22, 2026, they listed eight historic events from 1732 to 1997. One of these was:

"In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Viet Cong stronghold near the Cambodian border."

This was the beginning of the operation that included a fire fight in Phase 1, LZ Gold and Suoi Tre in Phase 2 and a long brutal search and destroy operation in Phase 3. It is nice to be remembered.

Jim Felich (6-68/69) has taken our roster and set it up to be accessed by categories, to make it easier to use to locate members living near you. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

This years Suoi Tre event will be small. Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the battle and presumably will be bigger. I'm planning to attend both our and Suoi Tre reunions, but I'm not sure past that.

While in country at Dau Tieng, I viewed a paper titled "Murphy's 50 Laws of War" which I and others found hilarious. It has now grown considerably. Since I had room to spare, it is on the Bulletin Board.

With sadness I must report on the loss of two Bravo Brothers. They are Lloyd Albers and Raymond Sprague. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

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

Dave out

BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Jim Felich (6-68/69)**

I have taken the roster and sorted it into four different categories—name, zip code, area code, and city. If anyone is interested in obtaining this converted roster, please contact me at jim@felich.com. If you would prefer to reach me by phone, my number is 408-429-1433. I can also be contacted at my home address: 209 Golf Club Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-2122. I will be happy to send you a copy.

**Submitted by Editor—Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations by the ITS Crew
(<https://www.itstactical.com/author/admin/>)**

We've mentioned the venerable Mr. Murphy here on a few occasions and today we'd like to provide the bible of Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations. While the Murphy's Law is contested to this day, the version we tend to side with is mentioned on the Murphy's Law [Wikipedia entry](#).

Arthur Bloch, in the first volume (1977) of his Murphy's Law, and Other Reasons Why Things Go WRONG series, prints a letter that he received from Goerge E. Nichols, a quality assurance manager with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Nichols recalled an event that occurred in 1949 at Edwards Air Force Base, Muroc, CA that according to him, is the origination of Murphy's Law, and first publicly recounted by USAF Col. John Paul Stapp. An excerpt from the letter reads:

The Law's namesake was Capt. Ed Murphy, a development engineer from Wright Field Aircraft Lab. Frustration with a strap transducer which was malfunctioning due to an error in wiring the strain gage bridges caused him to remark—"If there is any way to do it wrong, he will" - referring to the technician who had wired the bridges at the Lab. I assigned the Murphy's Law to the statement and the associated variations.

Murphy's always along for the ride no matter if you're conducting combat operations or living your daily life. If you're not familiar with him and his antics, you've probably just never known he was with you all along. Here's the list of 113 of Mr. Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations.

1. Friendly fire— isn't.
2. Recoilless rifles— aren't.
3. Suppressive fires— won't.
4. You are not Superman; Marines and fighter pilots take note.
5. A sucking chest wound is Nature's way of telling you to slow down.
6. If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.
7. Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo and not want to waste a bullet on you.
8. If at first you don't succeed, call in an airstrike.
9. If you are forward of your position, your artillery will fall short.
10. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself.
11. Never go to bed with anyone crazier than yourself.
12. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.

BULLETIN BOARD

Continuation of Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations

13. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
14. The enemy diversion you're ignoring is their main attack.
15. The enemy invariably attacks on two occasions; When they're ready or when you're not.
16. No PLAN ever survives initial contact.
17. There is no such thing as a perfect plan.
18. Five second fuses always burn three seconds.
19. There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole.
20. A retreating enemy is probably just falling back and regrouping.
21. The important things are always simple; the simple are always hard.
22. The easy way is always mined.
23. Teamwork is essential; it gives the enemy other people to shoot at.
24. Don't look conspicuous; it draws fire. (For this reason, it is not at all uncommon for aircraft carriers to be known as bomb magnets.)
25. Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you.
26. If you are short of everything but the enemy, you are in the combat zone.
27. When you have secured the area, make sure the enemy knows it too.
28. Incoming fire has the right of way.
29. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
30. No inspection ready unit has ever passed combat.
31. If the enemy is within range, so are you.
32. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
33. Things which must be shipped together as a set, aren't.
34. Things that must work together, can't be carried to the field that way.
35. Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support. Corollary; Radar tends to fail at night and in bad weather, and especially during both.
36. Anything you do can get you killed, including nothing.
37. Make it too tough for the enemy to get in, and you won't be able to get out.
38. Tracers work both ways.
39. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will get more than your fair share of objectives to take.
40. When both sides are convinced they're about to lose, they're both right.
41. Professional soldiers are predictable: the world is full of dangerous amateurs.
42. Military Intelligence is a contradiction.
43. Fortify your front; you'll get your rear shot up.
44. Weather ain't neutral.
45. If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed towards you.
46. Air defense motto: shoot 'em down; sort 'em out on the ground.
47. "Flies high, it dies; low and slow, it'll go.
48. The Cavalry doesn't always come to the rescue.
49. Napalm is an area support weapon.
50. Mines are equal opportunity weapons.
51. B-52s are the ultimate close support weapon.
52. Sniper's motto: reach out and touch someone.

BULLETIN BOARD

Continuation of Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations

53. Killing for peace is like screwing for virginity.
54. The one item you need is always in short supply.
55. Interchangeable parts aren't.
56. It's not the one with your name on it; it's the one addressed "to whom it may concern" you've got to think about.
57. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
58. The side with the simplest uniforms wins.
59. Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps.
60. If the Platoon Sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.
61. Never stand when you can sit, never sit when you can lie down, never stay awake when you can sleep.
62. The most dangerous thing in the world is a Second Lieutenant with a map and a compass.
63. Exceptions prove the rule, and destroy the battle plan.
64. Everything always works in the HQ, everything always fails in the Colonel's HQ.
65. The enemy never watches until you make a mistake.
66. One enemy soldier is never enough, but two is entirely too many.
67. A clean (and dry) set of BDUs is a magnet for mud and rain.
68. The worse the weather, the more you are required to be out in it.
69. Whenever you have plenty of ammo, you never miss. Whenever you are low on ammo, you can't hit the broad side of a barn.
70. The more a weapon costs, the farther you will have to send it away to be repaired.
71. The complexity of a weapon is inversely proportional to the IQ of the weapon's operator.
72. Field experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
73. No matter which way you have to march, it's always uphill.
74. If enough data is collected, a board of inquiry can prove anything.
75. For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. (in boot camp)
76. Airstrikes always overshoot the target, artillery always falls short.
77. When reviewing the radio frequencies that you just wrote down, the most important ones are always illegible.
78. Those who hesitate under fire usually do not end up KIA or WIA.
79. The tough part about being an officer is that the troops don't know what they want, but they know for certain what they don't want.
80. To steal information from a person is called plagiarism. To steal information from the enemy is called gathering intelligence.
81. The weapon that usually jams when you need it the most is the M60.
82. The perfect officer for the job will transfer in the day after that billet is filled by someone else.
83. When you have sufficient supplies & ammo, the enemy takes 2 weeks to attack. When you are low on supplies & ammo the enemy decides to attack that night.
84. The newest and least experienced soldier will usually win the Medal of Honor.
85. A Purple Heart just proves that were you smart enough to think of a plan, stupid enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.

Bravo Regulars

BULLETIN BOARD

Continuation of Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations

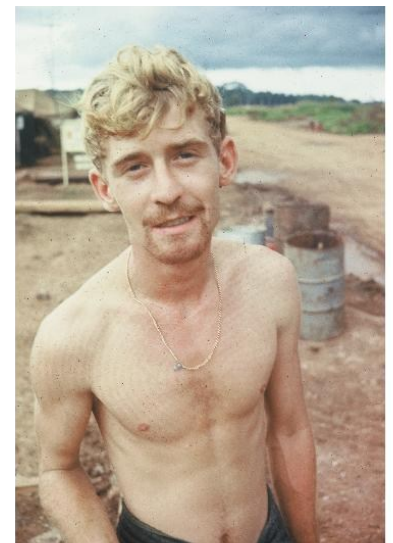
86. Murphy was a grunt.
87. Beer Math—2 beers times 37 men equals 49 cases.
88. Body count math—3 guerrillas plus 1 probable plus 2 pigs equals 37 enemies killed in action.
89. The bursting radius of a hand grenade is always one foot greater than your jumping range.
90. All-weather close air support doesn't work in bad weather.
91. The combat worth of a unit is inversely proportional to the smartness of its outfit and appearance.
92. The crucial round is a dud.
93. Every command which can be misunderstood, will be.
94. There is no such place as a convenient foxhole.
95. Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last and don't ever volunteer to do anything.
96. If your positions are firmly set and you are prepared to take the enemy assault on, he will bypass you.
97. If your ambush is properly set, the enemy won't walk into it.
98. If your flank march is going well, the enemy expects you to outflank him.
99. Density of fire increases proportionally to the curiousness of the target.
100. Odd objects attract fire—never lurk behind one.
101. The more stupid the leader is, the more important mistakes he is ordered to carry out.
102. The self-importance of a superior is inversely proportioned to his position in the hierarchy (as is his deviousness and mischievousness).
103. There is always a way, and it usually doesn't work.
104. Success occurs when no one is looking, failure occurs when the General is watching.
105. The enemy never monitors your radio frequency until you broadcast on an unsecured channel.
106. Whenever you drop your equipment in a fire-fight, your ammo and grenades always fall the farthest away, and your canteen always lands at your feet.
107. As soon as you are served hot chow in the field, it rains.
108. Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.
109. The seriousness of a wound (in a fire-fight) is inversely proportional to the distance to any form of cover.
110. Walking point = sniper bait.
111. Your bivouac for the night is the spot where you got tired of marching that day.
112. If only one solution can be found for a field problem, then it is usually a stupid solution.
113. All or any of the above combined.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Lloyd Douglas Albers (7/68-9/69) - age 77

Lloyd Douglas Albers died peacefully at the VA Hospice Cottage surrounded by family. He left his broken-down body behind on December 2, 2025 after a long fight with dementia and cancer at the age of 77. Interment with Military Honors will be at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Lloyd will be remembered for his love of family, friends and his perseverance. Born in February 1948, Lloyd grew up in the Sioux Falls area experiencing a hard childhood with the loss of his mother and a devastating fire when he was just a boy. He endured the trials spending time roller skating and riding horses. He graduated from Harrisburg High School in 1966 and just over a year later, he was bravely serving his country with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He served multiple tours earning various medals for gallantry, valor, and bravery during combat including a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. In 1977, Lloyd began a 48-year marriage to Debra Sue (VanderMaten). They spent their lives in Sioux Falls, where they raised three sons. Lloyd loved cars. He worked as a trusted auto mechanic and he spent many nights after work in the garage fixing cars for family, friends and his church family. With retirement came the opportunity to attend car shows and display the 1931 Plymouth hot rod he built from the ground up in his garage. Lloyd was not known for being a man of many words, but was known for love for his friends and family. Lloyd's medical difficulties began with a heart attack in his 40s and ended with dementia and terminal cancer at age 77. A sympathy card was sent. A letter was not sent since I talked directly to his wife.



Raymond F. Sprague (3rd Platoon—1970) - age 74

Raymond F. Sprague passed away peacefully on December 6, 2025 at the age of 74. A proud U.S. Army veteran, he served honorably during the Vietnam War. He was a father and grandfather who deeply loved his children and grandchildren. He leaves behind cherished memories and a lasting legacy of service and family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. A sympathy card and condolence letter was sent.

Submitted by Dwayne Davis on behalf of Raymond Sprague

It is my sad duty to let everyone know that Raymond Sprague (April 15, 1951—December 6, 2025) has passed away. He had a brief obituary only saying he lived in Debarry, Florida at the time of his death. Ray had been in poor health for the last few years due to emphysema. Ray and I stayed in touch over the last 50 years. I along with many other Bravo brothers will truly miss "Weasel Sprague".

