

Bravo Regulars

B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

September, 2016



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President's Message

John Gority
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Richard Ward. Richard will be missed by many Bravo brothers as he was always dedicated to helping anyone in distress. He was in severe pain during the past year. Richard's most recent great joy was to host a Bravo reunion, which he did this past April in Naples, FL. Richard was 71, he passed away peacefully in his home on July 5. He was born in St. Paul, MN and was buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN with military honors on July 13.

I want to give a shout out to Ted and Judi Silberies—Ted had a freak accident on May 27—he broke his femur while putting on his sock! Judi said it snapped right above where he had knee replacement surgery in the past. After surgeries, rehab, much patience and prayers from many, Ted was finally released to Judi's care on August 15. We hope he continues to get back to his usual activities soon and avoids such dangers in the future!

Coming up on the third Friday of September, September 16 this year, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Our VA Medical Center and our state Veterans Home are co-sponsoring a ceremony that morning. Be sure to look for a ceremony near you. The National League of Families' flag honors the sacrifice of those who were prisoners of war or missing in action and their families. There are 1,741 American personnel listed by the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, as of April 2009. We, too, honor their service and sacrifice.

The summer has come and gone. Donna and I traveled cross country with her brother, Bob, and sister-in-law, Kathy, by train, automobile and plane. We enjoyed the wonders of traveling on the California Zephyr Amtrak train from Chicago to San Francisco especially over the Rocky Mountains out of Denver, CO and then the Sierra Nevada Mountains through the Donner Pass. We rented a van and drove up the California, Oregon and Washington coasts with side trips to Astoria and Portland, OR, the Columbia River, Crater Lake, Mount Saint Helens, Mount Rainier and Mount Olympus. In Seattle we did the Duck Tour, the Fish Market, the Space Needle and the Chihuly Garden of Glass Museum. On a side note, my brother-in-law surprised me with a round of golf at the American Lake Veterans Golf Course at Fort Lewis, WA. We are so privileged to live in such a beautiful country!

Yours in Bravo,
John



Vice President's Column

Charles Weems
Vice President
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Greetings Comrades!

Hope all of you and your family had a safe and wonderful summer. With so much going on in our country now with fires, floods, tornados, it's been a rough time for some I know. So sorry our dear brother, Richard Ward, has passed on! For those who didn't know him, Richard was point man for the 2nd Platoon. He was the best. He could cut his way through the jungle with a machete like a snow plow pushing snow. I miss him very much! We called each other a lot. It's important that we stay in touch with each other. We never know when a simple phone call, text, or letter can lift someone's spirit at a time when they're down. God bless you guys and your families and remember this; in the battles we fought, it didn't matter what color or creed the man next to you was. It was that we all were Americans.

Charlie



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
Editor
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Welcome back Bravo Brothers!

Hope this finds everyone well and safe from the floods in the Southeast and the fires caused by drought in the West. Too bad we can't distribute water evenly.

When the last Memorial Page was published, two names were misspelled during transcription. Both have been corrected. My apologies to the families if noticed.

Editor's Notes Continued

I received and honored two requests from non-members to receive our newsletter by email. They are George Dahl, C/2/22 Mechanized, 65-67, making him an 'original.' George was present with the relief column at the battle of Suoi Tre. The other was Joe LeCount who served with 3/22 Headquarters Company, dates unknown. Joe is interested in attending our next reunion. Welcome to both!

At Reunion 2016, the membership approved a proposal to create a Bravo Company specific sympathy card. After finding nothing suitable on the internet under "customizable" cards, I put together a bunch of images and met with Carla, Manager at Gaslight Print Shop, where our newsletters are printed. We talked it over, traded prototypes and the final result is on the Bulletin Board along with the inscription from the inside. The actual size is 5" X 7". The overall color is infantry blue. The card reads as a story. At the bottom are symbols for the unit we all served in, followed by a flag representing our shared patriotism. The dove represents the departing spirit of our Brother-In-Arms, now at peace, ascending the skies, going into the light and passing on to wherever combat veterans go to rest, each according to individual beliefs. I have been selected as the designated sender and will report each time I do so in my column.

Thanks to John Kapor for the submission of a poem about what it means to be a patriot. Thanks again for an article on how to get DD-214 information on-line. Both are on the Bulletin Board.

Sadly I must report the passing of Richard Ward (2nd Platoon Original), host of our 2016 Reunion in Naples, FL. Available information is on the Bulletin Board.

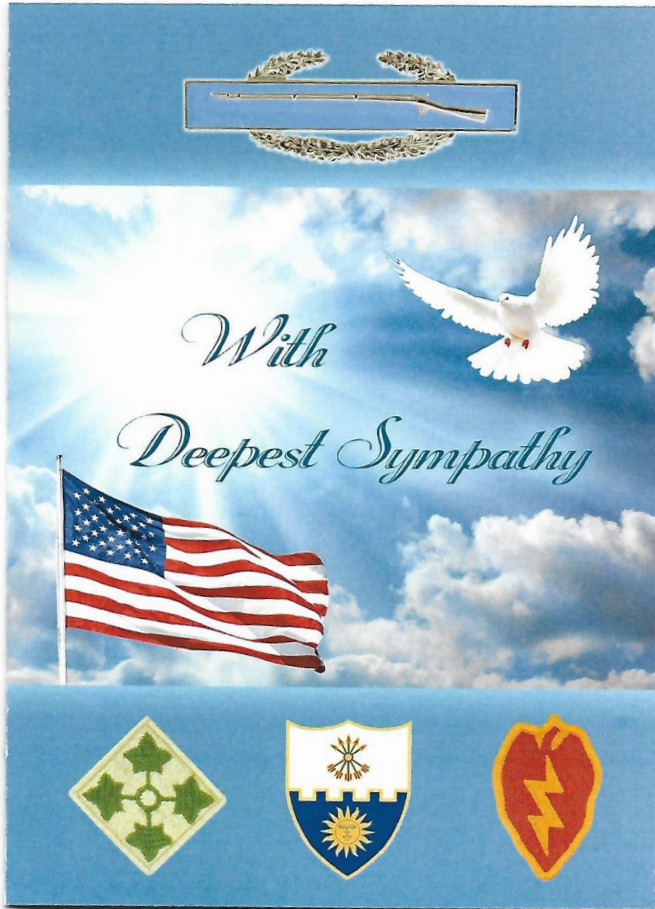
Also passing recently was Gen. John Vessey, Commander at Suoi Tre and guest speaker at our 2004 Reunion at Ft. Lee, Virginia. A reflection on his storied career is on our Bulletin Board.

It is time for our Dues request. Please remember that this money is needed to continue funding the newsletter, reunions, website and all of our other activities. Please support us if you are able to.

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

Dave out

Submissions may appear disjointed at times but are often edited for space, content and/or excerpted from larger personal communications between members. Submissions can be sent to either my email or home address (880 N. Solar Drive, Vail, AZ 85641) or to any Officer. Any photos submitted by mail will be scanned and returned.

BULLETIN BOARD

*Please accept our deepest
sympathies for your loss.*

*Today and always,
may loving memories bring you
peace, comfort, and strength.*

*Our hearts go out to you
In this time of great sorrow.*

*From
The Bravo Regulars*

Submitted by John Kapor (3rd Platoon—Basic Only)

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform;
So young, so tall, so proud.
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil;
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
NO, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
that Taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea.
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
NO FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by John Kapior—3rd. Platoon, Basic Only— Re: Military Records

It's Official: DD-214s are now online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Richard Ward, 71—2nd Platoon, Original

Richard Ward passed away peacefully in his home in Naples, FL on Tuesday, July 5, 2016. Born in St. Paul, MN in 1945 to the late Kennard E. Ward and Eva Claire Knudson, he resided in Naples, FL since 1999 with his beloved cats "Seven" and "Ate." Richard served his country proudly with Bravo Company during the Vietnam War; he and his Bravo Brothers lived by a belief in "Deeds Not Words" and many will miss him. Richard was a true war hero and the recipient of many medals and honors including Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Marksman (Rifle M-14), Sharpshooter (MG M-60), and Combat Infantryman Badge. Richard was buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN with military honors on July 13, 2016.

Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr.

Retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey, who rose through the ranks in a 46-year military career to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Ronald Reagan, has died. He was 94. Vessey—who enlisted as a private in the Minnesota National Guard in 1939, fought in World War II and Vietnam, and was the nation's top military officer when he retired to his home state of Minnesota in 1985—died Thursday evening (Aug. 18), his daughter, Sarah Vessey told The Associated Press. He was surrounded by family and died of natural causes, she said. After being named chairman of the joint chiefs in 1982, Vessey helped oversee the military buildup that Reagan championed when he took office just over a year earlier. "He was smart and combined good common sense with good military judgment, and he knew how to get things done," Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Washington think tank, said in a 2006 interview.

BULLETIN BOARD

Obituaries Continued

Korb worked with Vessey while serving as an assistant secretary of defense from 1981 to 1985. "He was a person of integrity," Even in retirement, Vessey heard from presidents and the Pentagon looking for help. Reagan sent Vessey back to Vietnam in 1987 to account for Americans missing in action and bring back any still alive. His other tasks included reuniting separated families and getting former South Vietnamese leaders out of prison camps, Amerasian children out of Vietnam and the Vietnamese out of Cambodia. In retirement, Vessey also chaired the advisory board of the Center for Preventive Action, an arm of the Council on Foreign Relations that seeks to prevent conflicts before they erupt; consulted for the Defense Science Board, Army Science Board and the Sandia National Laboratory; and led a campaign to build up the endowment funds of colleges affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. While Vessey generally wielded his influence in military and foreign policy circles away from the public spotlight after he retired, he made news in 2006 when he spoke out against a push to weaken protections under the Geneva Conventions against torture of prisoners, particularly as they applied to suspected terrorists. "He never strayed from his morals or values or faith and he was an extraordinary patriot," Sarah Vessey said of her father. Vessey was born in Minneapolis in 1922. He enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard at age 17, when the threat of Nazi Germany was looming over Europe. He was called to active duty and fought in Northern Africa and Italy, where he received a battlefield commission as a second Lieutenant at the battle of Anzio in 1944. He married his wife, Avis, right after he shipped home. He made the Army his career, serving mostly in field artillery units stateside and abroad. His postings included several in West Germany. During the Vietnam War, Vessey was a lieutenant colonel in the battle of Suoi Tre, where U.S. forces held off a fierce attack from a larger North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in 1967. Vessey was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest medal, and his unit received a Presidential Unit Citation. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1971. He earned his fourth star in 1976 and was put in charge of U.S. and U.N. forces in South Korea. Vessey showed his character after his opposition to President Jimmy Carter's proposal to withdraw from Korea cost him a promotion to Army chief of staff, Korb said. Instead, Vessey became vice chief of staff of the Army in 1979 under the younger Gen. Edward C. Meyer. Jack Vessey always remembered the soldiers in the ranks; he understood those soldiers are the background of any army," Reagan said at a ceremony when Vessey finally did retire in 1985. "He noticed them, spoke to them, looked out for them. Jack Vessey never forgot what it was like to be an enlisted man, to be just a GI. Vessey then settled on Little Whitefish Lake near Garrison, Minnesota, keeping a promise to his wife that they'd return before the snow fell. "He and my mom were so happy to be back," Sarah Vessey said Thursday. The couple had two other children: John III and David. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush awarded Vessey the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, paying tribute to his efforts to account for the missing in action. Bush called him, "the ultimate never-say-die soldier, the last four-star combat veteran of World War II to retire."



Association Business

John Otte
Treasurer/Locator
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Financial Report

Income and Expenses

June 1, 2016 Balance \$11,917.11

Income

Dues \$105.00
Donations

Total Income \$105.00

Expenses

Newsletter \$593.15
Bank Service Charge 15.00

Misc. Expense
Total Expenses \$608.15

August 31, 2016 Balance \$11,413.96

DUES—DUES—DUES

It's time again for us to send out our Dues Invoice. These dues are used to fund the activities of our association. Remember, dues are completely voluntary. A self-addressed envelope is provided for your convenience.



Bravo 3/22 Dues Invoice

Dues Period Sept. 2016 thru Aug. 2017
Annual Dues \$35.00



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PLATOON/ASSIGNMENT: _____ TOUR DATES: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Send dues to:

**Bravo 3/22
1037 Koleeta Dr.
Harbor City, CA 90710**