

Bravo Regulars

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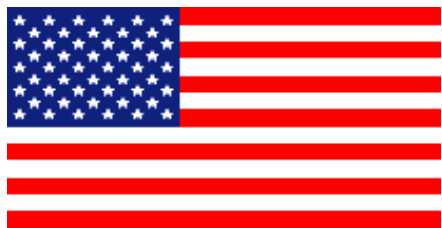
Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

September 2018



Branson Reunion Attendees



| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Page 2 | President's Message |
| Page 3 | Association Business Reunion Recap |
| Page 4 | Editor's Notes |
| Page 5 | Bulletin Board |
| Page 6 | Bulletin Board |
| Page 7 | Reunion Photos |
| Page 8 | Reunion Photos |
| Page 9 | Reunion Photos |
| Page 10 | Association Officers |





President's Message

Art Gormley
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

What a terrific reunion we had in Branson, Missouri. It was a great choice. Branson is a warm and friendly community that treats America's military veterans with enormous gratitude and respect. Our sincere thanks to reunion hosts Jim and Pam Adams for all their hard work in putting it together. Pam's amazing organizing skills and all those who helped out kept everything running like clockwork.

Having everything under one roof at the Radisson Hotel in Branson gave us more time together, and the entertainment to be had in Branson is truly first class. We enjoyed hit music from the '50s and '60s at the Clay Cooper Theater and a wonderful dinner cruise and musical review aboard the Showboat Branson Belle on Table Rock Lake. I'm sure all of us were touched by the tragic sinking of a tourist-filled duck boat on that same lake just a few weeks later. Many attending the reunion took that same boat tour.

The reunion concluded with a solemn memorial service dedicated to our fallen Bravo brothers who died in RVN. We also took time to honor the memory and lives of those who have passed since our last reunion in 2016.

Our best goes out to Bravo Brother and former Vice President, Charlie Weems, who felt ill health made him unable to succeed John Gority as President of the Bravo Regulars. As a result, the Board has asked me to serve as President in Charlie's place. I am honored to accept and pleased to serve as your President alongside Carl Lammers, our new Vice President, and fellow Board members John Otte as Treasurer/Locator and Dave Lowell as Secretary/Newsletter Editor and Publisher. My wife, Denise, and I also want to thank John and Donna Gority for their advice and support in helping us take on this responsibility.

Thanks to John Otte's watchful eye, our organization's finances are in such fine shape that the Board has voted to declare a first-ever Dues Holiday. We will not ask members to send in Bravo's annual dues this coming year. Dues have always been voluntary, but the Bravo treasury has more than ample resources to cover what we expect to be the next year's expenditures, primarily for quarterly newsletter production and, in particular, mailing costs.

There is a way we can all pitch in to keep the good financial times rolling along. Our biggest recurring expense each year is for mailing actual copies of the newsletter to members. If you have email access, just send your email address to Editor Dave Lowell (davidwlowell@aol.com) and request your next edition of the Bravo Regulars newsletter be sent electronically. We want all of our members to continue to receive the Bravo newsletter, so if you do not have email access or do not elect to receive copies by email, we will continue to send actual copies via good ole USPS snail mail.

We had a wonderful reunion this year in Branson. The turnout was strong, but could always be stronger. The Board is still considering proposals for our next reunion in 2020. Proposals will be presented in our December 2018 edition of the Bravo Regulars newsletter. Members will select the location by vote and the results will be announced in March. Thanks to all for your confidence and support.

Art



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

John

Association Business

Financial Report Income and Expense

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| June 1, 2018 Balance | | \$13,888.87 |
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| DVC Donation | \$3,500.00 | |
| Total Income | \$3,500.00 | |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| Newsletter | \$ 577.88 | |
| Bank Service Charge | 25.00 | |
| Web Site Hosting | 39.90 | |
| Web Site Update | 260.00 | |
| Total Expenses | \$ 902.78 | |
| Aug. 31, 2018 Balance | | \$16,486.09 |



Reunion Recap By Jim and Pam Adams

Well we made it to Branson and we made it home. With the help of heat and a little rain, our 2018 Bravo Reunion came and went, and all were able to experience Missouri BBQ and Guitar music. Pam and I would like to send a special thanks to all that took time from their busy schedule to come to the Missouri Ozarks. The state baskets, quilts donated as well as wind chimes and wall hangings, made for the raffle's huge success. The quilt provided by Lisa Young was stunning and awesome as usual. We would like to thank Mark Twillman, Pam's brother, for his help and we cannot leave out Ms. Whitney with her photographic abilities. We hope that visits with those Bravo Brothers attending were meaningful and you were able to see the attractions wanted. The next time any of you are in Branson, please make sure to visit the Radisson Hotel to see your photo on the Wall of Honor down on the Lower Level. Since the reunion I have gone on the Honor Flight which was very meaningful, and I feel blessed. Thanks, each one of you for allowing Pam and I to host the 2018 Bravo Reunion, and God Bless. One more note, we had some requests for hats after returning home and ordered another dozen. We have six of those left should anyone need a hat from the reunion.

Editor's Notes



David W. Lowell

Editor

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davidwlowell@aol.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

The Branson reunion was a wonderful experience and as our first hotel based reunion, it was a great success. Thanks to Jim and Pam Adams and family for making it so. During the reunion, I received many thanks for my work on behalf of Bravo Regulars and on the newsletter. I deeply appreciated each and every one of them. It's the only pay I get! A brief itinerary of the reunion with highlights is on the Bulletin Board. For full details, call a brother who attended and visit for a while.

We received three verbal volunteers to host our next reunion in 2020. The Board has asked them to put their proposals in writing and submit them to us for publication in the newsletter in December. They may be submitted to me by email or snail mail. Members will then vote on their preference and the location receiving the most votes will be announced in the March issue. Other interested parties may also submit proposals. I have posted some helpful words of guidance on hosting on our Bulletin Board. Personally, I would like to see the location of the meeting venue, assurance of suitable lodging and special event plans if known. Also, information on area attractions that would be of interest to attendees would be welcome. Wonderful to have multiple volunteers to choose from.

Former Vice President Charlie Weems sent new President Art Gormley a welcoming email, which he is sharing with us on our Bulletin Board.

During the reunion, Dee approached attendees who have email addresses on file with us to explain the many benefits of email delivery of the newsletter. Nineteen agreed to switch. Let us know if we can switch you to the list. Also, be sure to let us know if your contact information changes.

The reunion for the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society is still on for October 4-7, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia. Anyone wanting information should contact them directly. Also, their Registrar and Publisher, Brad Hull, has announced that he will be retiring from his duties. He has helped me on many occasions, which has been appreciated. Thank you, Brad.

Honorary member Shirley Shugart has advised us that the internment date for Walt at Arlington Cemetery will be October 16 at 1:00 pm. Her email is on our Bulletin Board.

Donald Chadwick (4th Platoon—9-67/68) has been moved from our active to inactive list due to his address being no longer current. Mike Restelle (1969) has been moved from inactive to active. He attended the Branson reunion and is considering hosting the 2020 Reunion.

Sadly I must report we have learned that three of our brothers have passed. They are 1SG (Ret) Johnny Larry, Jr. (4-70/71), Holger "Jack" Graser (3rd. Platoon Leader—Original), and Sgt. David Van Johnson (7-69/70). Available information is on the Bulletin Board.

On our Bulletin Board we have published photos taken at the Branson reunion by Whitney Adams and my wife, Dee. Thank you to both for your help! If anyone would like a copy of any photo(s), feel free to ask. They can be sent by email as .jpeg attachment or by snail mail. You also may print individual pages of our newsletter off of our web site.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Reunion Itinerary

Tuesday—Travel and arrival in afternoon. Evening reception by Jim Adams was our first time together as a group and was most welcome.

Wednesday—Visiting and a ride on Duck Boats through the area. This is the same business that made the news in July with an accident. Thirty-nine Bravo Regulars and family had the duck boat all to ourselves and, fortunately, all went well. Thanks to Ted and Judi Silbereis for handling the arrangements. A local veterans museum was also visited by many.

Thursday—More visiting and a showboat dinner cruise on Table Rock Lake aboard the Branson Belle. The variety show was very entertaining and the food was excellent I'm told. I couldn't eat it due to dietary restrictions. Bummer! Bravo Regulars and family made up about one-fourth of the audience.

Friday—Board Meeting: New officers Art Gormley as President and Carl Lammers as Vice President approved. Discussion of bank balance led to suspending the dues request for this cycle. Thank you all for giving so generously. Officers asked to promote email delivery. Adjourned to General Meeting. The afternoon consisted of the Memorial Service, photo opportunities, raffle and a beautiful banquet dinner.

Submitted by Editor—Hosting Guidelines

Rules for hosting a reunion from the By-Laws:

- A. Select a committee to assist in scheduling and arranging the reunion and regular membership meetings in accordance with the vote and desires of the membership as expressed at the previous regular meeting.
- B. Schedule and arrange for the meeting place accommodations to include business meetings, meeting and hospitality rooms, and public address systems. Arrange for social activities to include membership dinner, family recreational activities, and any other activities that might promote the success of the reunion.

While the organization is working on a written guide for reunion hosts and those considering being one, it is still in progress and not available. The basis of the guide will be an outline of all the elements that were present in our most successful reunions in the past, which are as follows:

1. Secure a venue providing shelter, kitchen and restrooms with handicap access.
2. Contract with a caterer to provide meals.
3. Contract with local talent for evening entertainment.
4. Negotiate discounted lodging with local hotels, motels and campgrounds.
5. Arrange special event(s).
6. Provide time and facilities for business meeting and Memorial Service.
7. Procure donated items for the raffle.
8. Conclude reunion with raffle and final evening of entertainment.

The outline was put together when we were meeting at rental halls. With the option of hotel based reunions, it would have to be adapted. The intention of the outline is to show how simple hosting can be when broken down into parts, rather than a strict blueprint.

BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Art Gormley (3rd Platoon Leader—C.O.—67/68)**

Hello Art,

Congratulations to you and Carl on becoming our President and Vice President! I know you both will do a fantastic job. I really missed not being at the reunion, but my thoughts and prayers were with you guys. That week of the reunion I had to have dental surgery so if we had come to Branson, we would have had to come right back home. That tells me God knows what He's doing. Glad to hear everyone who attended made it there safe and enjoyed themselves. Branson is a wonderful town that I've read a lot about. They give great respect for military veterans. Congratulations to Jim and Pam for hosting a wonderful reunion, and may God bless them. Their labors shall not be in vain! I'm praying that we will be at the next reunion. God bless you and your family.

Charlie Weems

Submitted by Honorary Member Shirley Shugart

David, would you please put in the newsletter the date for Walt's interment at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony will be on October 16 at one o'clock. It will be a year's wait. This has been stressful for our family. Just happy we have a date. Will miss seeing everyone at the reunion.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

1SG Johnny Larry, Jr. (67) - 4-70/71—1SG (Ret) Johnny Larry, Jr. of Bascom, Florida passed away September 20, 2016 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. On April 23, 1968 he was drafted at the age of 18 years old to the United States Army, where he served for 23½ years and retired, as 1SG.

David Van Johnson (71) - 1st Platoon 7-69/70—David Van Johnson of Baytown, Texas was born June 23, 1946 in Los Angeles, CA and departed this earth on January 21, 2018. His most notable accomplishments besides that of his family, were his service to his country during the Vietnam War, 1969-1971, rank SFC E7, then 28 years in the US Army Reserve before retiring. While serving in the reserve and other entrepreneurial activities, he was employed by Southern/Union Pacific Railroad from 1974-2010 and worked his way up to conductor.

Holger "Jack" Graser (75) - 3rd Platoon Leader, Original—Holger "Jack" Graser passed away in May of 2018. No further information is available.



REUNION ATTENDEES



Dennis Amily



Dee Anderson



Paul Angers



Bob Best



Roland Broussard



Paul Dell



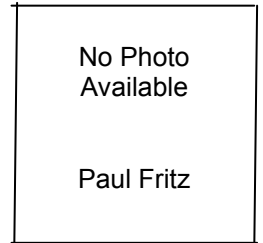
Mike Detmer



John Dingle



Matt Flikenma



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Paul Fritz



Bob Garland



John Gority



Pam & Jim Adams
Reunion Hosts



Art Gormley



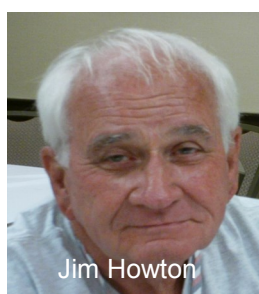
Shorty Gutierrez



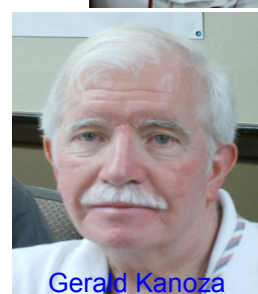
Dennis Hawkins



Paul Heimann



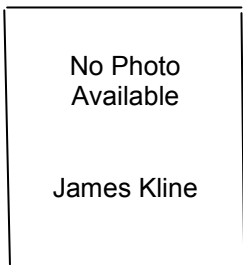
Jim Howton



Gerald Kanoza



Ron King



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James Kline



Carl Lammers



Dave Lowell



Curtis McFarland



Jerry Mondt



Nuane Neely



Ken Neveaux



John Otte



Glenn Perkins



Sonny Rasmussen

REUNION ATTENDEES—CONT'D



Mike Restelle



Jim Richter



Larry Robinson



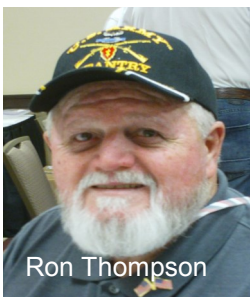
Don Schulte



Ted Silbereis



Joe Stein



Ron Thompson



Max Torres



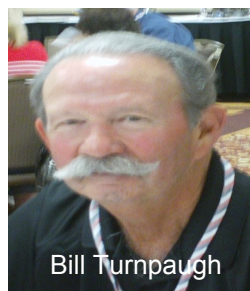
Patrick Toyama

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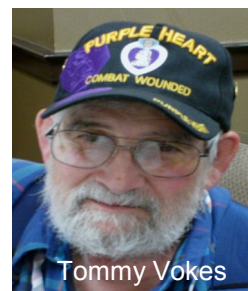
M. C. Toyer



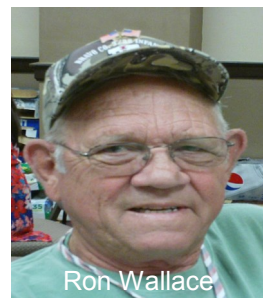
Slim Trame



Bill Turnpaugh



Tommy Vokes



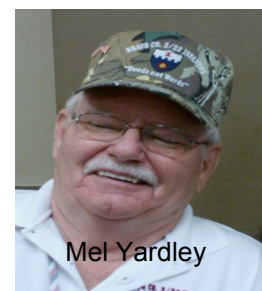
Ron Wallace



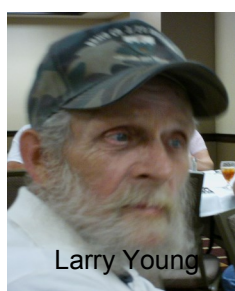
Cliff Weese



Tom Welton



Mel Yardley



Larry Young



Signs
encountered on
Ride the Ducks
outing



GROUP PHOTOS



1st Platoon



2nd Platoon



3rd Platoon



4th Platoon



Buell



Burt



Crook



Good Friday



Headquarters



LZ Gold



Officers



RTO



Suoi Tre



Tet



Wives

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REUNION HOST

TO BE DETERMINED