

# Bravo Regulars



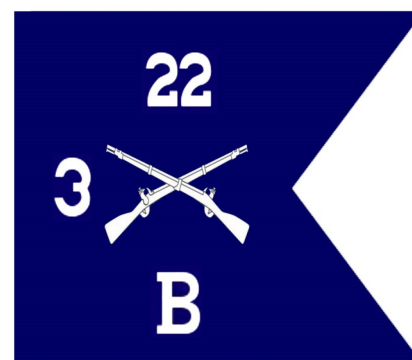
**B Company 3/22**



**Vietnam Service**

[www.bravoregulars.com](http://www.bravoregulars.com)

**September, 2019**



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## President's Message

Art Gormley  
President  
(718) 317-9881  
ag31782@aol.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

It has been one long, hot summer here in the Northeast. Plenty of beach days but we have also had our share of rain. I hope the weather where you are has been kind to you. Here in late August the pre-fall cool down has hopefully begun. At least for now, we can welcome waking up to temps in the mid-60s. Only the electric company welcomes high temps and humidity.

Our Bravo Regulars' finances seem to be holding up well under the watchful eye of Treasurer John Otte. Those of you who have signed up for email delivery of the quarterly newsletter have helped out in that regard. As a result, the Board has voted to continue the dues holiday. Reunions, of course, put an added strain on Bravo's finances, so we will keep an eye on things as we head toward June 2020.

We are now only months away from our 2020 Reunion in Goldsboro, NC. Our reunion host, Bob Best, has provided an update about what he has planned for us. You can expect the December newsletter to contain the Reunion Registration form. Once you have it, I urge you to fill it out promptly and send it in, along with the requested payment. Having a firm fix on the number of participants will help our host to plan accordingly.

Personally, I look forward to seeing all of my Bravo Brothers in Goldsboro. But it would sure be great to persuade some first-time attendees to come in 2020. I have a short list of people I have not seen in 50 years, and I plan to call them. I'm not necessarily expecting a warm reception. Reunions and recollections about time spent in RVN is not for everyone. But I feel I owe them a call. Give some thought to one or two brothers you might reach out to.

In May we honored the lives and sacrifices of all our fallen and departed brothers. On November 11th, we will honor all those who have served their country in wartime or peacetime. The Bravo Regulars can take great pride in having answered the call.

Here's hoping all of you and your families have a happy and healthy fall and a memorable Thanksgiving celebration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Art Gormley', written in a cursive style.



## Association Business

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

<b>Financial Report Income and Expense</b>		
<b>May 30, 2019 Balance</b>		<b>\$14,856.72</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,856.72</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>\$441.09</b>	
<b>Bank Service Charge</b>	<b>15.00</b>	
<b>Underreported Bank Service Charge Last Quarter</b>	<b>10.00</b>	
<b>Web Site Hosting</b>	<b>59.85</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$525.94</b>	
<b>August 31, 2019 Balance</b>		<b>\$14,330.78</b>

*John*



## Reunion Update

Robert Best  
Reunion Host  
(919) 631-0179  
solveaprob@aol.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

In less than 12 months, Bravo Regulars will be venturing to Goldsboro, North Carolina. There are probably several of you that have not been to my part of the United States. To them, welcome!

There are lots of things to do in this part of the south and I have been working with the hotel, Air Force base and restaurants to make your visit pleasant.

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Goldsboro. They would appreciate that room reservations be complete **by April 1, 2020**, but if the need should arise, please contact me and I will assure that you have a place to stay with us. The hotel phone number is 919-778-0007 to make reservations. When making your reservation, be sure to use the code **"BRC"** to receive the Bravo Company group rate.

I really enjoyed the idea of the baskets from each state that we had for the raffle in Branson, and in talking with others, we would like to do this again. So, for those that are coming, if you would be so kind as to bring a basket of items from your state, we will sell raffle tickets to help pay for the reunion. We will also have a quilt to be raffled off this reunion and, of course, cannot have a reunion without the 50/50 raffle. There will also be our Hospitality Room for us to sit and visit with our Bravo Brothers.

One of the things that I am working on is to have a discussion group for each battle where participants discuss the battle and have it recorded for history. Lots of us remember certain things from those battles and others remember other things. To have this information recorded would perhaps help those coming up in the next generation. I am in hopes that this will not cause discomfort for those attending, but I feel that this is an important part of our nation's history. We will have scheduled times for each Battle throughout the weekend.

Please also keep in mind we will have shirts and hats to purchase that will be available on the Registration Form. The registration fee will be \$100 per person.

I am looking forward to everyone making their way to Goldsboro, NC, June 4-6, 2020. See you then.

*Bob*





## Editor's Notes

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

Welcome back Bravo Brothers!

I hope this finds all of you well. While on the topic, be advised that Treasurer John Otte has suffered a small stroke since our last letter. He is doing well and is home recuperating. Please join me in wishing him a full recovery.

I purchased a new Chevy Blazer recently. During the process, I shopped both Jeep and GM, and for the first time ever I inquired about a military discount. Jeep's rules were you needed a full service or 100% disability pension to qualify. GM approved me for a \$2,000 discount based on a minor disability pension. Apparently, anyone receiving a military pension qualifies. Unfortunately, the dealer then stole it from me with a \$2,000 add-on for an auxiliary taillight and a wax job!

We received 'in country' photos from Cliff Weese (3rd Platoon—3-67/68) and Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68) that have been added to the photo page of our website. Thank you both for sharing. We also updated the page since our webmaster was already going to be there.

We currently have 97 members receiving the newsletter by email. That's up from 61 at the time of our Branson reunion, an increase of 36. This issue, we are sending an email copy in addition to the snail mail copy to everyone with an email address and snail mail listing, so you can see both delivery options. If we can add you to the email list, let us know. We will, of course, always have a snail mail option available. The 97 that receive by email saves us about \$970 annually.

Don Signs (4th Platoon—1970) submitted a photo of four Bravo Brothers getting together for a mini reunion. After some prodding, he added a story to go with it. Thank you, Don, for sharing. It's on our Bulletin Board.

In the last issue I mentioned that a PBS special had been made about the Battle of Suoi Tre, but the date for broadcast had passed. We received an update from George Dahl (C 2/22 Mech 65-67) on the current status, which can be found on our Bulletin Board. It turns out it hasn't aired yet. Thank you, George.

We received an inquiry from a non-member about obtaining an image of our Guidon. President Art Gormley helped with our response. The email exchange is on our Bulletin Board. As long as we were working with the image, we included it on our cover.

Blair Moran (Co RTO—69/70) continues to remain active in veterans affairs in the Missouri area. He has provided us with background information on The National Stars and Stripes Museum and Library scheduled for a fundraiser in November. He also received the Spirit of America award from the Southeast Missourian newspaper in Cape Girardeau, MO. The details on the award can be found on [www.semissourian.com/story/2619357.html](http://www.semissourian.com/story/2619357.html). He also serves as President of the Assistant League—a not for profit that raises money for the state vet cemetery. Further information is on our Bulletin Board.

**EDITOR'S NOTES continued**

With sadness I must inform you of the passing of two of our Bravo Brothers, Bruce Brinkman and Thomas Schenk. Details are on the Bulletin Board.

We have moved four members to our Inactive list due to outdated information. They are: Scott Alverson (1969), Dunstan Reid (2nd Platoon—7-69/70), Oliver Stone (2nd Platoon—9-67/68), and Lawrence Winslow (Platoon Ldr.—8-69/70).

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

*Dave out*

**BULLETIN BOARD****Submitted by Don Signs (4th Platoon—1970)**

On August 10, 2019, the four of us who were in the 4th Platoon (mortars) of B 3/22 from Jan. 1970 to Feb. 1971 got together for a mini-reunion. In country, Capt. Toyer was our C.O. We started out at Tay Ninh, worked Fire Base Washington, then went into Cambodia from May 1970 to July 31, 1970. When we returned to Vietnam, we went to Dau Tieng on the other side of the Black Virgin Mountain (Nui Ba Den; we then worked out of Fire Base Kien, just across the river from the Iron Triangle (Bo Loi, Hobo and Straight Edge Woods). Then to Xuan Loc.



L to R: Don Signs, Paul Jeffers, John Scalzo, Tom Mendenhall

We have stayed in touch through the years. But on August 10, 2019, we all got together at Versailles, Ohio, just north of Dayton, with Tom Mendenhall and his wonderful wife, Janet, at their home. They put up with us for two days and provided a wonderful breakfast and lunch. Tom Mendenhall's nickname was Wishbone. Paul Jeffers' nickname was Hillbilly because he's from Onieda, Tenn. John Scalzo was called Giuseppi because he's originally from Sicily. I was Platoon Sgt., and because of my name (Signs), they referred to me as Neon. We traded stories and showed pictures that brought back a lot of memories. It was a great time. We hope to get together again soon.

Dana Samuelson, who was in 2nd Platoon and from California, ran into John Otte at a flea market, looking at old military equipment. They got to talking and found out they both served in B 3/22 and Dana referred John Otte to me. Paul Jeffers's at 100% disability. John Scalzo is at 90%, working on 100%. Tom Mendenhall is at 20 to 30% and I am at 100%. My own personal thanks for getting the 100% is taking any vet from any branch of service, no matter what the job they did in service, to Cleveland, Ohio, 70 miles to the east of me, to show them what doors to open to try to help them get compensation. I do not take any money at all. I buy them lunch just to help them out. We all served our country and some just need some guidance to get some help. Not looking for any handouts. I feel if you served your country in any capacity, you earned it. Many Korean War and Vietnam vets are not aware of the benefits due them, or are told they were not entitled to any benefits. Anyone can contact me at 419-499-8825 or kountrykat674@yahoo.com.

**BULLETIN BOARD****Submitted by George Dahl (C 2/22 Mech 65-67)**

Submitted by the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society in their newsletter May 20, 2019—  
The Minnesota Connection to the Battle of Suoi Tre on PBS.

In 1966, a significant number of Minnesota men entered the army together, trained together, deployed to Vietnam together, were assigned together in units of the 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions, and found themselves fighting together in the bloody Battle of Suoi Tre on March 21, 1967. The Fire Support Base at Suoi Tre was commanded by then Lt. Colonel Jack Vessey, a Minnesotan, who received the nation's second highest award for valor at Suoi Tre and went on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest ranking military officer during the Reagan Administration. Major General Rick Nash, the recently retired Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, will give a brief overview of his extensive knowledge of General Vessey's leadership skills. Retired Army Chaplain Colonel John Morris will give an overview of the battle based on his research for the book he is writing on General Vessey, and numerous veterans of Suoi Tre will discuss their varied participation in the battle.

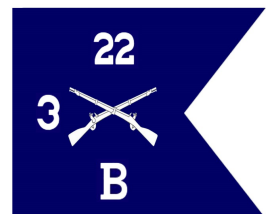
This presentation has not been aired yet anywhere. I was present with seven others all from Minnesota. TPT/PBS filmed it and needs to decide when and if they will make it available. I am sure they may edit parts of it as some of it is about Concordia College, a professor's book, and other things not "Suoi Tre".

**Submitted by Editor**

An email was received from Vivian Darcq as follows: Hello Sir, I'm a fan of the US Army, and I have been unable to find on the net the guidon of Bravo company 3rd of the 22nd. Could you please send me a picture of it, whether it is a real one or a drawing. I thank you for having spent some of your precious time with me.

Email from me to our officers: Gentlemen, would any of you like to handle this? I recall John received a guidon from Paul Zumfelde in 1997. Waiting to hear from you.

Email from President Art Gormley (3rd Plt. Ldr.—C.O. 67/68):  
Dave, I put this together with the help of a site called "All Things Embroidered" that includes a tool called US Army Guidon Builder—[allthingsemb.com/product\\_info.php/products\\_id/1045](http://allthingsemb.com/product_info.php/products_id/1045). The woman who contacted you might also reference Army Regulation 840-10 which deals with Flags, Guidons, etc. Hope this helps.



Email from me to Vivian Darcq: As you requested, attached are PDF forms which should give you the information you need. If you have a further interest in our unit, you may check out our website "[bravoregulars.com](http://bravoregulars.com)". If I can be of any further help, please feel free to contact me or our President, Art Gormley.

Email from Vivian to me: Hello Sir, I don't know how to thank you, you are so nice. Thank you very much and spend a nice day.

**BULLETIN BOARD****Submitted by Blair Moran (Co RTO—69/70) - Re: Stars and Stripes**

About 20 miles west of Sikeston is the small town of Bloomfield, MO. This was where the first Stars and Stripes was published by Union soldiers during the Civil War and 20+ years ago they created a museum and I am on the Board. We are planning a big fundraiser for November in Cape Girardeau. I received an email from Sue Mayo with a test of the Spirit of Democracy letters. Her email reads: I'd like to send our Spirit of Democracy introductory letters and flyers to our southeast Missouri city, county, and state officials. I am sending out a test to you. Please let me know what you think. Will it be read or is it too long? Do you have any suggestions?

Text of letter to Mayor Fox

On Saturday, November 16, The National Stars and Stripes Museum & Library is celebrating the inaugural Spirit of Democracy Banquet and Auction at the A C Brase Building in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The mission of this event is to celebrate, encourage and promote commitment and service to our country while honoring our veterans. This year the keynote speakers are Missouri Governor Mike Parson and *Stars and Stripes* newspaper publisher, Max Lederer. Anticipated special guests include Jon Rust from Rust Communications, Congressman Jason Smith, Representative Kathryn Swan, Senator Wallingford, and Senator Libla. Faune Riffin will be the celebrity host and auctioneer, and the Jerry Ford Orchestra will be playing patriotic music. Tickets are \$100/plate or come in at the Patriot Level and sponsor a table of 8 for \$1,000. Tickets are available online at <https://donorbox.org/spirit-of-democracy>.

The National Stars and Stripes Museum & Library preserves the history of the *Stars and Stripes*, our nation's military newspaper, and honors and celebrates the men and women who worked for the paper. The *Stars and Stripes* has followed U.S. troops through the conflicts of the 19th century, 20th century and now into the 21st century. Few readers of this iconic, military newspaper know that it was first published in Bloomfield, Missouri by a small group of Union troops during the civil war. Those humble beginnings resulted in the formation of a newspaper that has been the primary news source for American troops while away from home and country. It is important for the Museum/Library to preserve the legacy, mission and nationally significant activities of the *Stars and Stripes* as it tells the story of American service men and women throughout our history. I've attached an event flyer to this email. Thanks for your support.

**Submitted by Editor—Obituaries**

With sadness I must inform you of the passing of two of our Brothers. Bruce Brinkman (2nd Platoon—3-67/68) passed away on March 28, 2017. Thomas Joseph Schenk (1st Platoon—9-66/67 Original) passed away on June 27, 2018. I served with Bruce and was instrumental in rescuing Tom when he was badly wounded at Suoi Tre. No additional information was available.