

D Company, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Reunion Portsmouth, Ohio; June 9, 2011

Reunions are fairly commonplace as we celebrate important milestones in our lives. But this past week a very unique and special reunion took place in Portsmouth, Ohio hosted by Jack and Sheri Spencer, and attended by nine men accompanied by their wives.

The attendees arrived from Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Most had not been together for over 43 years when they were in their 20's then. Today they are men in their 60's, already retired. What has bound them together all these elapsed years was the memories and remembrances of their shared experiences.

Back in 1967 – 68 these men were members of Delta Company, 5th Battalion / 7th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) serving in the Republic of Vietnam. They served as Combat Infantrymen participating in search and destroy missions as part of Operation Pershing. Through their efforts and devotion to duty they not only performed their mission and met their objectives, but in the process amassed for themselves significant awards to include Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, Army Commendation Medals, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and medals for Vietnamese Service and Campaigns. The unit as a whole was also awarded the Valorous Unit Citation. Missing from this reunion because of previous commitments was one of the Platoon Leaders, Captain Mike Sprayberry, whose individual heroic actions earned him the very special distinction of being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his personal bravery.

Over several days the participants shared memories of events from so long ago, exchanged photographs, viewed films, attended group activities along the waterfront hosted by Shawnee Boat Club & James Saddler, and were guests of honor at the invitation of local fraternal organizations. A flagpole was erected on the lawn in front of the Spencer home to commemorate this event. While the former soldiers interacted on their own level, their wives enjoyed getting to know each other, and formed their own bonds of friendship.

The consensus is not only that this reunion was long overdue (43 years!), but that this should be a start for continuing to stay in touch and meet more often. Everyone was also reminded that the Battalion Reunion of the 5/7 Cavalry is scheduled for late July, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas and were encouraged to participate.

On a side note, the Portsmouth community was very welcoming and the Spencer's would like to personally thank the following: Howard & Katherine Sanford, Franz Sign Co., Fork & Finger, Golden Corral, James Saddler, Shawnee Boat Club, Tom & Lisa Lindsey, Jeff Albrecht and Holiday Inn and the Welcome Center for all they did to help make this a pleasant experience for all our guest.



Back Row L-R: Bruce "Frenchy" Bossuot, VA; Jack Stephens, MO; Hank Thomas, WI; Angus Mullins, WV
Front Row L-R: Curtis Adams, MI; Bohdan Pasichny, NJ; Jack Spencer, OH; James Mitchell, TN (not pictured Elverson "Jimmy" Horne, NC)



L-R: Hank Thomas, Bruce Bossuot, James Mitchell, Jimmy Horne, Angus Mullins, Jack Spencer, Bo Pasichny, Jack Stephens and Curt Adams.