

AIRMOBILE



News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

http://www.cav57.org

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By John Long

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Welcome to winter, fellow troopers!
We are now in the midst of the annual doldrums when we cloak ourselves in warm clothing and hibernate unless you are in Florida or California.

Having just passed through Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving reminds me that most of us have so much to be thankful for. I for one am in good health, have a wonderful, loving wife of 35 years, have two great kids and comradeship of hundreds of fellow 5th Bn 7th Cav troopers. However, a visit to the Wall reminds us that not all have been so lucky. Our departed comrades left families and loved ones that will forever share our loss of friends and buddies.

We're also getting to that age when our bodies start to go haywire which only proves that we need the support of one another more and more as we grow older.

We had at least 17 Cav 5/7 troopers in DC for Veteran's Day . The ones I know that were there included: Will Mercer, Ted Swett, Wes Westmoreland, Patrick Dockery, Bernie Grady, Karl Haartz, Don Shipley, Moe, Allen Patrick, Lorenso Clark, Marc Folden, Frank Defino, Steve Shear, Joe Robinson, Don Fredenberg and Vince Laurick.

Suzy and I were fortunate to have a group of troopers join us for supper on Veteran's Day Eve for a great evening of "BS" and camaraderie. We hope more of you can join us next year.

Nothing stays the same so to bring you up to date, Allen Patrick, in addition to a fantastic newsletter, has somehow managed to develop our own Cav 5/7 web site at www.cav57.org. Check it out. It contains photos of our troopers at the recent Veterans Day ceremony in D.C.

Also, the 7th Cav Association requested that we provide them with a mailing list of all of our troopers. I have resisted this request primarily to reduce the opportunity for the list being used for non-Cav purposes. I would appreciate any feedback pro or con on this issue. We have

also decided to make a donation to National Park Service in the amount of \$300 in support of a 7th Cavalry monument to be erected at the site of the Battle of Little Big Horn.

Efforts are currently underway by the folks on the ground to evaluate potential reunion sites at Colorado Springs, Detroit and Atlanta. We hope to be looking at their recommendations by Feb.

If you haven't checked out the Veteran's Administration's official web site at www.va.gov, do so now. It is loaded with lots of good info that we all need to know including: medical benefits, concerns, etc.

Another must see web site that John Goodpaster sent me is http://members.aol.com/veterans which lists tons of info including: lists of people in the service, past and present; photos of soldiers; information on CIB, DD 214, obtaining copies of military records, Medal of Honor info and lots more.

We are slowly but surely acquiring quite a list of Email addresses. Karl Haartz is developing that list, as is Ed Perry. I urge you to get on the list. A lot of information is currently being passed through this means. Allen Patrick currently has each issue of the Airmobile posted to the Web site and I can foresee a time in the not too distant future when most of us will receive the Airmobile via Internet rather then the mail (saves lots of postage). So get on line and let us know your address.

Suzy and I wish you the happiest of times during the holidays and a bountiful year 2001.

The Many

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BATTALION DIRECTORY

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Name President Emeritus	Home Phone
Ted Swett	301-530-9039
President	ted6@aol.com 410-551-6167
Vice President	jonlong@earthlink.net 603-726-7080
14 111 4	krazykc@eagle1st.com
2nd Vice President / I	
Ed Perry cav57@aol.com	
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Video	210-914-2203
Phil Sierer	oldrebel@texas.net

AIRMOBILE QUIZ

Send in the answers of the following ten questions and win a prize. The one with the most correct answers wins. In case of a tie a drawing will be held. There will only be only one winner. The decisions of the judges are final. Good Luck. Send your answers to:

Ed Perry 922 Cleta Dr. Ballwin, MO 63021

- 1. In Vietnam LBJ stood for what?
- A. Laos, Booby trapped, Jungle
- B. Lyndon B Johnson
- C. Long Binh Jail
- D. Let's be jolly
- 2. A Tango Charlie is?
- A. A dance with the Viet Cong.
- B. VC caught in the wire
- C. Time Check
- D. A Vietnamese Drink
- 3. How many names of soldiers are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC?
- A. 57,169
- B. 59,169
- C. 58,169
- D. 60,169
- 4. A Klick is?
- A. 1 mile
- B. 1500 meters
- C. 1000 meters
- D. A group of friends
- 5. Name the mountain outside of SongBe?
- A. Black Virgin Mountain
- B. Marble Mountain
- C. Nui Ba Ra
- D. Nui Ba Den
- 6. What year did the 5/7 Cav. arrive in Vietnam?
- A. 1964
- B. 1965
- C. 1966

- D. 1967
- 7. The name of Bernard E. Grady's book about the 5/7 Cav is?
- A. One More River to Cross
- B. An Act of War Paying the Cost
- C. On the Tiger's Back
- D. Ain't No Use in Going Back
- 8. Where on the web can you read the Airmobile newsletters?
- A. http://www.vietvet.org/thewall/ thewallm.html
- B. http://grunt.space.swri.edu/lostfnd. htm
- C. http://www.cav57.org
- D. http://members.aol.com/veterans/ warlib61.htm
- 9. The 7th Cavalry had three Battalions in Vietnam. Name them?
- A. 1^{st} , 3^{rd} , 5^{th}
- B. 1^{st} , 4^{th} , 5^{th}
- C. 1^{st} , 2^{nd} , 5^{th}
- D. 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} , 5^{th}
- 10. The best way to locate Cav 5/7 troopers?
- A. Call people on the phone with the same name as the person you are looking for and ask them if they served with the 5/7 Cav.
- B. Write to your local newspapers about up coming reunions
- C. Check the profile of people online
- D. All of the above

Garry Owen, Ed *Tevry*



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Vice President's Report

By "Krazy" Karl Haartz

Garry Owen and Happy Holidays to all,

My wife Carol and I have just returned home from the Veteran's Day Ceremony and 5/7 wreath laying at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D C. It was a solemn, yet gratifying experience for all that are there.

My own personal experience is that I always feel better about Vietnam after being at **The Wall** or one of our Reunions.

After the wreath laying ceremony, we attached the 1st Cavalry Division Flag to our Cav 5/7 wreath. This was the same flag that had been signed by all the troops who attended the July 2000 reunion in Nashville, TN.

Hopefully, this flag will go on display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History with "The Wall" archives someday.

Have you been able to visit our new web site yet? Our Como officer, was successful in getting our own domain name on the WEB. Our web address is http://www.Cav57.org. Check it out. All of this year's newsletters can be found there and we also have pictures of the November 11 Veterans day celebration.

For those of you that are on line we would like your most recent e-mail address. I replied to a new contact from the Naples 7th Cavalry Web site, only to find out he was already in the association but he had recently changed his e-mail address and not told anyone.

Ed Perry is the caretaker of the 5/7 master database. You can use several routes to get your updated address info (e-mail and mailing addresses) to us. The most direct is to send it directly to Ed via e-mail at CAV57@aol.com. You can also send updates to the e-mail address on the web site: editor@cav57.org or to me, krazykc@eagle1st.com.

We need to locate the remainder of the 5/7 troopers. It is not easy, with a lot of dead ends to check. When you finally find someone it is really gratifying, makes you feel real good. Take an hour a week; talk to your buddies and somewhere in the memory bank something is going to slip out. If a couple of guys work together it becomes easier. To all Trustees get together with some (all) of the troopers from your Company and go for it.

This is a little human-interest story that was told to Carol and I as we rode on the Metro on Sunday. We met this couple that had been to the Ia Drang Banquet at the Sheraton on Saturday evening. During the Banquet everyone gets up individually and introduces himself. One Trooper who was making his first contact with the group got up and started to tell his story. During the Battle of the Ia Drang he was away from his squad with a medical reason of some sort. Upon returning he found that there were no survivors in his squad he was the only one. As he finished his story there was a standing applause and he fainted and collapsed on the floor. We figure it was in relief of being finally able to tell the story to someone who knew and understood what he was actually telling about.

We all have a story to be told of our Vietnam experiences. This is the reason we have to find the rest of our troops so they can tell their story to someone who will understand.

Carol & I want to wish everyone *Happy Holidays* and a *Great 2001 New Year*!

SARRY OWEN Kent

"GO FIND A CAV 5/7 TROOPER TODAY"

THE ORIGIN OF TAPS

We have all heard the haunting bugle song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay gravely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier he had brought back, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as "Taps" played at military funerals and at evening's end was born.

Day is done -- Gone the sun -- From the lakes --From the hills -- From the sky -- All is well --Safely rest -- God is nigh.

Fading light -- Dims the sight -- And a star --Gems the sky -- Gleaming bright -- From afar --Drawing nigh

Falls the night -- Thanks and praise -- For our days -- Neath the sun -- Neath the stars -- Neath the sky -- As we go -- This we know -- God is nigh.

Contributed by Bernie Grady

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THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Reverend Eddie Rape

First of all please forgive me for not being more regular in my contribution to this publication. I shall not fail you in the future.

I pray that by the time you read this you will be well into preparation for spending the holidays with those whom you love and wish to be with.

This past year has brought many changes to Nancy and me. A year ago this past October we moved from West Virginia to North Carolina and began a new pastoral ministry. Our last child left the nest and is now married and we are expecting our third grandchild in February.

I pray that by now our presidential election has been settled. As I write this I have no idea as to the outcome. I am reminded of the story of a young boy who visited the White House during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln; the guest were lined up to walk past the president, but because of the war, no one was allowed close enough to shake his

hand. Disappointed at the security, one guest stopped and shouted, "Mr. President, I'm from up in New York State where we believe that God almighty and Abraham Lincoln are going to save this country!" The president waived back and replied jovially, "My friend you are half right."

God or government? The question is which half? Does the fate of the world rest on the politicians at the throttles of power or on Almighty God, whom we worship as Creator and Lord? I submit to you that our hope is not in Washington but in a far more powerful being, Almighty God.

May God's richest blessings be yours is my prayer.

Garry Owen,



Eddie Rape

VETERAN'S ADVISOR

By Papa Doc Maxwell

Season Greetings from Your Veterans Advisor,

Through the years I've become very anti-commercial during the Christmas season. I have tried to look for a special spirit for the real meaning of the Holidays, trying not to be a self-centered Christian. I realize, as I grow older that my Jewish, Muslim and Occidental friends were not always a part of the festivities except for their own togetherness. As a scripture reader at my Catholic Church, I go over the scripture, seek the meaning and try to convey what is said. As I do this time and time again, a message reaches out: "Give of oneself so others may share and share abundantly". I failed to realize, that through the years, as I helped others through their hard times, I was

really helping myself, being there for someone as others have been there for me. The special spirit is **our togetherness** on a daily level. Colonel Swett has expressed it many times, in many ways: "comradeship of our unit has no boundaries". So my friends, Kathy and I want to wish all a *Happy, Bountiful, and Joyous Holiday Season*. May your God be with you.

Garry Owen, Papa Doc



REMEMBERING

Route 17, north along the Carolina coastal plain, showing signs of the season-brown soy beans dusty with the harvest, cotton white as angels raiment awaiting the picker-a time for remembrance and respect.

Washington, North Carolina, the first town in the nation named after our first President. Little Washington, where proud residents point to a cannon ball still lodged in the façade of a home, fired from a British ship as a small band of colonial heroes thwarted the Redcoats' attempt to subdue them. How, I wondered, did those men dare challenge the finest standing army of its time? How, with such scant provisions of experience, out gunned, and little military training did they dare?

Washington, the District of Columbia, Veterans Day, the Vietnam Memorial, and a duty to undertake. Amid the splash of the Colors, the skirl of bagpipes, and mournful Taps, graying descendants of Custer's E Troop rendezvous again, the 5th Battalion 7th United States Cavalry, in diminished numbers, around a wreath, with humble respect, painful memories, and grateful thanks.

Paradidomi, a Greek word meaning to entrust, or to hand over something precious. As did earlier heroes, those named on the black granite monument-briefly trained, with no experience, and slight knowledge of what was to face them-gave over their lives, while protestors questioned "Why do you dare venture so much on so little?"

America The Beautiful, "...who more than self their country loved". Love, courage, patriotism. We love most when we are at our most daring. Not just romantic love, but love of family, friends, comradesin-arms, and nation.

Route 17, returning south, "Day is done, gone the sun". The radio tells of an election too close to call, "From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky". Oft-vacuous talking heads clamor of turmoil, debacle, and crisis. But Little Washington and the nation's capitol are Sunday quiet, free of national crisis, no troops in the streets, "All is well". A peaceful transition of power, our democracy at work, "Safely rest". And I remember those friends on the Wall, understanding afresh why they dared everything, "God is nigh".

By Bernie Grady

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THOUGHTS ON VETERANS DAY 2000

By Ted Swett

It is always a special occasion for me when I find myself at The Wall with my 5th Bn 7th Cavalry troopers.

Our collective thoughts always embrace all of you, and this year was no different, except that I decided to do a rubbing of the name of a trooper none of us knew, Tim Robinson, a machine gunner in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, who was KIA in April, 1968.

Those of you who attended Reunion V will remember that Tim's sisters, Ruth and Peg, were with us in Nashville.

Ruth had met some of our troopers at V e t e r a n s D a y l a s t year, and was much impressed with the 5/7 Cav spirit.

We invited the Robinson ladies to join us in Nashville, and they were subsequently named Honorary Members of the 5th Bn, 7th Cav Association is a tion.

In response to having received a photo taken during the rubbing, Ruth e-mailed me her feelings about The Wall. I'd like to share them with you, because I believe that her words say it all. "....It shows us the cost of war. It shows us that the numbers had names. It brings together many who are able to not only share their sadness but also the joy in knowing that someone you thought had been killed really did survive.

It teaches the young.

It brings silence and tears to many.

It is not a black gash in the ground, but rather two arms that hug us and protect us from the elements of the weather.

It gives us a quiet place to mourn and remember.

It gives us a place to hide if needed....
a n d i f y o u l o o k
at the name on the black granite long
enough, you will see that the name fades
and suddenly you see your own reflection,
and you see how sad you look and you remember how much you miss and love that
person whose name you are visiting.

Each year it reflects more and more of your wrinkles and you realize how many years it has been since you last saw that person.

And at the apex is where Heaven and Hell meet....Hell being the war and Heaven being where all the warriors went.

The Wall is probably the one place in all of the world that those affected by the Vietnam War are allowed to really be themselves and touch that sorrow we have buried so deep down inside for the lost loved ones ..."

Thanks, Ruth.

Ted Swett

Battalion Secretary

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. It seems like only a few weeks ago that we were together here in Nashville at Reunion V. I really had a great time and from what I have heard, so did everyone else.

Those of you that missed the reunion certainly missed a good one. It was truly a team effort with a lot of work and support from a lot of folks. That is what makes our reunions different from others. We are a team that works together.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year. If you are ever through Nashville, my door is always open.

Garry Owen,

Jerry Houston

CAV 5/7 WEB SITE

Editor's Note: The new Cav 5/7 web site is on line. You can find it at the following web address:

http://www.cav57.org

The next time you're online with your computer check it out.

The site was constructed to allow our association to have its own dedicated site. You can still access the 7th Cavalry site using the http://gator.naples.net/presents/7thcav address.

We're always open to your contributions for future news letters and postings on the web site. If you're mailing material send it to Airmobile Editor, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, 1149 Southwood Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. You can also email it to editor@cav57.org.

Garry Owen,

Allen Patrick



VETERANS DAY 2000 AT THE WALL

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5th Battalion 7th Cavalry PX

Description	Price \$
7 th Cav. Baseball Cap, Black with Gold Embroidery	10
Garry Owen Crest	5
Garry Owen Miniature Crest	3
1st Cav. Patch Crest	3
1 st Cav. Patch Air Mobile	4
1st Cav. Patch Air Cavalry	3
1 st Cav. Patch Miniature	3
CIB Miniature	4
Bong Song Raised Words	3
An Khe Raised Words	3
Garry Owen Cassette Song	5
CMB 1 st Award Pin	5
1 st Cav. Patch Shoulder	5
1 st Cav. Vietnam Sticker	2
Garry Owen Sticker	2
1 st Cav. Tie Bar	6
1 st . Cav. Division Pennant	5
1 st Cav. Division Coin	9
1 st Cav. Division Flag	18
Ist Cav. Division Mouse Pad	7
Glass Mug w/Crest & 5/7 Sabers	10
Polo Shirt with Silk Screened Garry Owen Crest and 5/7 Cavalry	
Small	18
Medium	18
Large	18
Ex. Large (Out of Stock)	21
Polo Shirt with Embroidered Garry Owen Crest and 5/7 Cavalry	
Small	21
Medium	21
Large	21
Extra Large (Out of Stock)	23
Extra X Large (Out of Stock)	23
Shipping and Handling per Order w/o Polo Shirt	\$3.20
Shipping and Handling per Order with Polo Shirt	\$0
Send PX orders to:	

Send PX orders to: PX Officer 303 Cora Dr., Carlisle, Ohio 45005

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jasper Catanzaro

I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It's another year gone by. Thirtyfive years ago most of us were celebrating our first Christmas in the Army. It is very hard to believe where the years have gone. However, back then we were just going through basic training. I can still remember those mornings at Fort Carson. There was so much coughing, it sounded like a TB ward when we fell out for roll call. Those were some dark cold days in Colorado. We couldn't wait until the sun rose. We would march out to the rifle range with the ground covered with new snow. It was so dry out there that dust was flying after the snow was kicked aside by those in the front. Those were some good memories.

In the last eight years we have had 5 great reunions. I hope everyone has

enjoyed them as much as me. Presently we are deciding on where and when to have the next reunion. That decision should be finalized by the next newsletter.

One final note, we would hope that everyone would try to keep their dues paid up. The newsletter does cost a lot of money to send out and we have tried to send everyone a copy even though they haven't kept up their dues. Please send in your dues if you can afford them. It's not hard to figure out that without the dues coming in, this newsletter would end.

Again, I wish you all a Happy Holiday!

Garry Owen,

Jasper



WES' HOLIDAY GREETING

Garryowen,

Gerry and I hope this is your best Holiday season to date. Since the reunion I have been very busy with the high point being my trip to Washington D.C. on Veterans Day and being with old combat buddies again and the editor of the Airmobile Allen Patrick stopping by to spend the afternoon with Gerry and me.

The Association is now doing the work on writing The History of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry. I am trying to put the history together for our association with pictures. Thanks to Allen Patrick and Philip Sierer, I now have over 600 pictures. I have filled two large photo albums to date. So, if you have any pictures of the last five reunions that you would like to include in the project please mail them to H.B.Westmoreland, 5749 Stoddard Hayes Rd, Farmdale, OH 44417. I will make them part of the history of the Best Battalion Association to come out of the Vietnam war and they will be a permanent part of the Memorabilia Room at future reunions.

Thanks again for your help. The best to you all for the holidays.

Later,

Wes



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WHAT VETERAN'S DAY MEANS TO ME

by

Kenda Cargile, 12th Grade Westwood High School (RRISD) November 1, 1988

There is absolutely nothing I do, whether it be attending school, reading a newspaper or book, attending Church or at movie, talking on the telephone, voting (soon), or even using the language I speak that has not been either determined by or heavily influenced by the service and sacri-

fices of my county's veterans. Veteran's Day should be observed every day! This day that we have set aside should therefore, make us focus our attention and appreciation on who veterans are, what veterans have done, and what they are still quietly doing everyday.

Who are our veterans? They are all around us; neighbors, families, and friends. They touch our lives everyday. Veterans have certainly touched my life. I am an "Army Brat" and proud of it! My dad is a Vietnam Veteran, my paternal grandfather is a veteran of World War 1, and my maternal grandfather is a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. My great uncle, Mike Callahan, of Madisonville, Tennessee, was killed by a German sniper in World War II and my mother's first husband, Burt McCord of Brady, Texas, gave his life in South Vietnam. I also know many soldiers, such as my father, who still carry scars and shrapnel in their bodies as reminders of their service. Veterans are in my neighborhood and teach in the schools. I deeply appreciate their sacrifices for my family and me.

What have our veterans done? First of all, they have served so that others can be free. In 1981, when I was only nine and living with my family which was stationed in Baumholder, Germany, I remember beginning to understand why my dad had to spend so much time

away from home. My mother, brother, three sisters and I went on a Special Services tour along the East German border near Fulda. As I looked through binoculars at the East German guards looking back at me, I saw the mines, barbed wire fences and plowed areas, on their side of the border. The fence pointed towards them to keep them from escaping. I was told -that I was

the youngest person to have ever been allowed on the observation deck at "O.P. Alpha". I remember smiling at the East German guard and waving just a little, even though we had been instructed not to. I think he smiled back at me but did not wave fearing his commander would see. We then

all is sell with y

went on to Fulda Gap and saw the "Half-Way House." The atmosphere seemed oppressive, austere and very tense. I was a little afraid, and my mother realizing this, kept a tight hold on me. My fears were relieved when we arrived back at the American post with the American soldiers.

The next year in Germany we rode by train to West Berlin for my brother and sisters' high school track meet. I can remember seeing the sad, stern faces of the East German and Soviet guards along the tracks. I again was thankful to be an American and be free. Still later, on a trip to the Middle East, I remember being relieved and grateful for my freedom and the absence of war

during my lifetime in the United States as my family traveled by bus amidst bunkers and guns, from the Jordanian checkpoint on the Jordan River, across the Allenby Bridge through the Israeli border check point and on to Jerusalem. No American alive today has experienced war in his or her Country due to our veterans and their sacrifices.

I have seen evidence of the ultimate sacrifice, grave markers of American soldiers in national cemeteries in Arlington, Virginia; Luxembourg City; and Normandy, France. What a sobering sight! I have seen citizens in Luxembourg and Normandy, France weep at ceremonies such as, "Patton Day," as they remember their 'liberations (as many as three times) because Americans and other free men and women served. This is another reason why I honor all our veterans on this day.

Veterans are still serving quietly today from O.P. Alpha in Germany, to the DMZ in Korea, to Fort Riley in Kansas. They serve instead of protesting. They have no union nor want one. They want the American people to represent them. I feel we need to recognize them also.

What does Veteran's Day mean to me? Freedom; peace; and strong friends (some who once were enemies); our flag; a "Big Mac"; to say whatever I want to

responsibly; and unlimited opportunities available to me and my family. If circumstances ever make it necessary for me to become a veteran, to insure "liberty and justice for all," I will gladly do so. May God continue to richly bless America, especially our veterans!

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5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Assoc. 1149 Southwood Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

FIRST CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID ANN ARBOR, MI PERMIT NO. 811

To All 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Troopers And Cav 5/7 Family Members





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