



AIRMOBILE



News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Long

Greetings, fellow troopers and families,

Since the last newsletter, the world has turned upside down once again. The tragedies of Sep 11th are still fresh in our minds.

Some of you may personally know someone who was injured or lost in the events of that day. Our military continues to respond to interests of this country and is currently engaged in what most of us would agree is a "payback" action. Again, you may know someone that is risking his or her life in support of our country's interests.

Our thoughts go out to these fine young men and women and we all hope for their speedy and safe return.

On Veteran's Day, we had possibly the largest group of 5/7 Cav veterans and their families join us at the wall that we have ever had.

It was a beautiful day with the usual excellent speakers. Lee Greenwood's singing of "God Bless the USA" highlighted this year's program. He was almost as good as Willie Mercer who by the way sang for a large group of us at my home via speaker-phone.

I was privileged to have Marc Folden, Lorenzo Clark (**and his two fine soldier sons**) from A Co and Don Shipley (C Co) join me in placing our wreath at the wall. Also on hand were Karl and Carol Haartz, Wes Westmoreland, Darrel, George Hannaford, Patrick Dockery and his wife, Don Shipley and Diane, Mo Goulet and friend Tim, Allen Patrick, Blaise DuBree and wife, Bret Coulson, Pete Ballo, Ted Swett, Pete Howard and wife. And from 1st Plat, Co A (68) were Frank Defino, Rich Hawksby, Steve Shear, Vince Laurich, Joe Robinson, Don Fredenburg, Rick Cable and Spin Hrabik.

We were also happy to meet Rebecca Grady, Bernie Grady's daughter, who stopped by to meet in person some of the characters in her father's book "On the Tiger's Back".

The key planners of the reunion in St Louis next July met at my home and I can tell you that plans are being final-

ized for an outstanding week of activities and camaraderie. The details are provided elsewhere in the newsletter but here are some highlights. First-come early in the week and you will be able to participate in the many 4th of July events in St Louis as well as tours and the usual sight-seeing.

Join your buddies and families on the top floor of the hotel in a spacious and comfortable hospitality room.

Our primary speaker on Friday night will be the **former Army Chief of Staff, General John A. Wickham Jr, our 4th battalion commander who was badly wounded in Oct 67 at LZ Colt.**

I urge all troopers to make a special effort to join us particularly those of you that were at the early reunions but who have not been able to join us since.

I would like to commend the men of 1st Plat, Co A (68) that showed up in force at the "Wall" and who plan to be at the reunion. You, too, can make that special effort to contact those buddies with whom you served. We have lots of expertise in the battalion to help you track them down.

If you're looking for the perfect Christmas gift, I recommend one of the blue denim shirts that we recently acquired and that are now part of the PX stock. Besides being comfortable and looking good, they serve to let others know that we are part of the best battalion that ever served in the Army.

As the holiday period approaches, please make the effort to spend some quality time with your loved ones and let them know you care for them. One of the many things Sep 11th taught us was that we need to take the time to appreciate each other while we can.

Take care of yourselves and get those reservations in early.



BATTALION DIRECTORY

AN HONORARY MEMBER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
President Emeritus Ted Swett	301-530-9039 ted6@aol.com
President John Long	410-551-6167 jonlong@erthlink.net
Vice President Karl Haartz	603-726-7080 krazykc@eagle1st.com
Commo Officer Allen Patrick	734-662-9612 editor@cav57.org
Secretary Jerry Houston	615-790-6325 jerryait@aol.com
Treasurer Jasper Catanzaro	248-305-8405 jcatanza@ford.com
Sergeant At Arms Will Mercer	303-980-0804 sargeandpeg@aol.com
Battalion Chaplin Eddie Rape	304-453-4914 erape12@aol.com
Legal Advisor Jim Harmon	516-747-3894 harfirm@aol.com
Vet Affairs Advisor Doc Maxwell	816-364-5158 papadoc@aol.com
DOA Liaison Larry Budge	703-239-1761 lbudge@ida.org
Company Trustees	
A Company Tom Spalding	520-647-7605
B Company Don Diggs	706-685-0464
C Company Harold Dannewitz	618-863-2619 hoss_dannewitz@yahoo.com
D Company Dennis Dickess	740-533-1605 kdickess@zoomnet.net
E Company Bill Moore	407-668-7881 moore367@aol.com
HHQ Doc Maxwell	816-364-5158 papadoc@aol.com
Battalion Historian Patrick Dockery	410-488-4930 vvidoc@erols.com
Memorabilia Bill Brown	816-746-6384 missouribill@juno.com
Video Phil Sierer	210-914-2203 oldrebel@texas.net



I'll always remember that Asian war, halfway round the world
I'll always be proud of the uniform I wore, when I saw that flag unfurl

I'll always remember the baking sun, thirteen thousand miles away
I'll always remember the battles won, and here's what I've got to say

That war was tough as all wars are, Sir Charles earned my respect
But what was rough, what left a scar, was a return I did not expect

The guys who took our jobs and girlfriends, were marching in the street
I heard lies, saw mobs, got boxed in dead ends, and took a lot of heat

All along, for years, I knew I had been right, but few would stop to hear
My own country moved to a different site, and turned a deafened ear

So like thousands of other Vietnam vets, I walk a different road,
Determined to struggle on and not forget, while carrying a heavy load

I'm trying to find the land I love, and tell the real story
Of some regular guys who rose above in courage, not for glory

Sometimes I've nearly quit, it seemed like no one ever cared
Sometimes I felt I'd never fit, sometimes I felt so weird

But God has smiled down on me, a couple of different ways
He gave me Susan who made me see, the good in my remaining days

And now he gave me a new friend, a man who can touch my heart
To remind me this land still has time to mend, if I just do my part

So, Al, this poem is for you, from Manigan and Moe
For all the goodness that you do, we'd both like you to know

You're just the kind of guy we loved and lost, in the tough days of '68
The kind that fights on whatever the cost, today to keep things straight

So, Al, even if you were not with the Cav, I want you to remember
I'm aware of the courage you have; I'm making you an honorary member

Tim Manigan 9/8/01

Seasons Greetings

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By "Krazy" Karl Haartz

Garry Owen All

As I sit here getting ready to partake of turkey and fixing the only thing that comes to mind is: **God Bless the USA.**

Veteran's Day at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D C was the most moving ceremony my wife and I have ever attended. The speakers were great, but to the point FREEDOM ISN'T FREE. The most patriotic scene I have ever witnessed was Lee Greenwood singing God Bless the USA. This was truly a tribute to real soldiers have real tears. As he was singing there were 10 to 12,000 people standing waving the stars and stripes, singing and tears running down everyone's cheeks. Another fact that was told is the last combat soldier to leave Vietnam was killed in the WTC on 9-11. Forgive me as I have forgotten his name.

There was a lot of hype at the 1st. Cav. Hospitality room due to the spring release of the movie "We Were Soldier's Once". This is based on the book by Col Hal Moore and Joe Galloway about the Ia Drang Valley Campaign in November of "65". Both Col Moore and Joe have been guest speakers at our past reunions.

Saturday November 10, a few of us went to the wall to pay tribute to troops who made the ultimate sacrifice many years ago in a far off land. While there, we were approached by several individuals that were making a first trip to the wall. Some were soldiers, some just real people. Upon leaving the wall they just wanted to talk and as a group of veterans we looked safe. They would talk for 5 or 10 minute about where they had been and where they were going and leave. I was really surprised by the number of people making their first trip to the wall. Who ever said that the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial is "The Wall That Heals" said a mouthful.

Back at the 1st Cav on Saturday afternoon 2 guys from the 1st Bn. 8th cav wanted to know how we of the 5/7 got so many guys together. They were the only ones from the 1/8 signed in at the 1st Cav. This is one more example that the *5/7 Assn. is the best unit from the Vietnam era.*

One of these guys lived only 35 miles from me in New Hampshire. Small world.

MEMBERSHIP

To everyone who has read this far, it is time to go find another 5/7 trooper. There are still 4000 names on the list of troops who served with the 5/7. It shouldn't be too hard for everyone to find at least one new trooper.

Information Inquiry

Mechele Dyess daughter of Jerry C Bass C Co68 is looking for anyone who knew her father. Mechele can be e-mailed at CHARLIE-CO1968@aol.com.

See you all in St. Louis.
Happy Holidays!!

GARRY OWEN
'Krazy' Karl

At Long Last, former GI can keep vow to Army Pal

by Phil Reisman

Usually, bartenders listen to other people tell the stories of their lives, but this time I let Pete Ballo do the talking.

Ballo tends bar at Dunne's Pub in White Plains, and one day recently he told me a story of a promise made between friends many, many years ago in the verdant jungles of Vietnam, where he served as a young second lieutenant.

He's 56 now. In 1965, he was hardly more than 20 and at loose ends living in the Parkchester section of the Bronx.

"I hadn't applied myself in high school, so I didn't go to college," he said. "I was working for a printing company down on the Lower East Side, and I lost out on an apprenticeship. I said, 'What am I doin' here?'"

"Nothing worthwhile" was the silent reply. So he joined the U.S. Army.

"I enlisted down on Fordham Road --- the guy's still there. Well, not the actual guy, but the recruiting station, I mean, is still there."

He went to officers' training school and soon after was shipped out to Vietnam as a forward observer, which meant that his job

was to radio for artillery strikes.

While stationed in the An Lao Valley of the Central Highlands, Ballo met a young Californian, a tall, lanky kid named Craig Pinchot. "He was just a very funny guy," said Ballo, who was attached to Pinchot's company. "And he was an excellent platoon leader. He took care of his men."

The two lieutenants became fast friends, sharing the boredom and workaday misery of Army life in the bush, as well as the intermittent terror and exhilaration of combat. Feeling indestructible, they "cowboyed" around.

"We did some absolutely ridiculous things that we shouldn't have done," Ballo recalled. "We went into caves after people."

Once Pinchot, armed only with an M-16 went into a cave and single-handedly killed three or four Viet Cong. He took as a souvenir an old bolt-action rifle. "I'm getting' this for my nephew," he told Ballo.

Whenever Ballo got a tin of cookies from his girlfriend back in the Bronx, he'd share them with Pinchot. Pinchot reciprocated whenever a care package arrived from California.

Ballo figured he'd move to the West Coast after the war " and they'd all be one big happy family. The young officers made a pact, just in case either one didn't make it.

"I'll go to your family, no problem" Ballo told Pinchot. "And if something happens to me, you go right to the Bronx."

As fate had it, the two men became separated and Ballo was five or six kilometers away, off in the mountains during the worst of the monsoon season, when he heard 1,500 North Vietnamese sappers had overrun a firebase where Pinchot was serving as a battalion liaison. Pinchot and several other officers were killed.

Ballo wrote to Pinchot's sister. Then he lost her address.

When he left the Army in 1968, he enrolled at Iona College in New Rochelle and tried to get on with his life, which was a struggle for him "as it was for many veterans returning to "the world."

Ballo never forgot the pledge he had made to find Pinchot's family.

He no had address to work with, except for the vast state of California. For years,

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LETTER FROM WES WESTMORELAND

Gerry and I hope your holidays are filled with happiness and we both send our best wishes to you and your family for the coming New Year. This past year has had its ups and downs for Gerry and me. Starting last February Gerry's mother fell in the parking lot as she was leaving church, breaking her hip also getting a bad cut on her forehead. Gerry's father seen all the blood on her face, he had a heart attack and was dead by the time he got to the hospital.

Last July I received the bad news that Sgt Birmingham C-Co '66 had passed away, an outstanding NCO and even better friend. Then in August we got the news that Capt. Grady had died. He was my Company Commander on Thanksgiving Day '66 when I was hit by enemy fire. He was an outstanding leader and man. I know at my age this type of news will be coming my way, but it still hurts.

On the up side Gerry turned - oops (smiles) - retired from her job in April. Then I turned 64 in July and retired from my steel mill job after 21 years. October we were married 43 years.

I went to DC for Veterans Day. While there I ran into troop Blaise J. DuBree and found out he was in C-Co in '66. I had not seen him since we put him on a helicopter with a broken leg same Thanksgiving Day '66. A day I will never forget. It was great to see him after all these years. I also met his wife. It was good to spend time with 20 or more of my combat buddies. The highlight of Saturday was our evening meal with Col and Suzy Long. It was the best food I have had this year.

At our last reunion I stepped down as the 1st vice president of our association. I had sat on the side lines and proudly watched the outstanding job the new board of officers are doing. Our association is second to none. In fact it's the best Battalion size association to come out of the Vietnam War. We now have over 1400 names and addresses of men who served with the 5-7 between July '66 and May '72. Thanks to all our association is financially sound. Remember cost of print-

ing and mailings continue to go up so we have to keep our dues up to date.

Look through this newsletter to find information on the hotel that is reserved for our reunion in St Louis, June 30 thru July 7, 2001 -- also a schedule of tentative plans to make this our best reunion yet. Look at what this hotel offers. Our cost per room is only \$69 plus tax per night. Close to mass transportation, so once there you won't need a car. Fast food facilities in walking distance. The setup is almost perfect. This should be our biggest reunion to date, but only the members can make that happen. We hope you and your family will join us. Call (888)340-2594 to make your hotel reservations. **Be sure you tell them you are with Cav 5/7 Association for the special rate.**

Mail in your deposit anytime now to cover the cost of the dinner, barbecue and the buses we travel in to the memorial services. Guest speaker for the dinner is General. John A. Wickham, Cav 5/7 Battalion Commander from June 67 to October 67. He was wounded at LZ Colt. He later went on to be the top General of the Army.

Please make your deposit check out to the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association for \$60 per adult and \$30 per each child age 6 to 18. Under age 6 is free. Mail your check to 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, P.O. Box 1013 Novi, MI. 48376.

You can help the staff by adding a note with your check telling them your guests' names and the company you want on your name tag. The high point for me next year will be the week at the reunion. Hope you and all of your family will join Gerry and me there. Last but not least to all a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wes



Veterans Advisor

by Papa Doc Maxwell

Fellow troopers,

It has been a long time since I sent in an article for our newsletter concerning veterans' benefits. Much has taken place and there have been some improvements in eligibility.

From my viewpoint, for the last few years, it was up to the vet to prove his case about his disability. For many it was frustrating, causing hardship, and often depression. Those who did put in a claim were often rejected, redirected etc. Many cases are stuck in boards of appeals. The new VA director has promised to correct this ASAP.

Earlier this year I felt I was not reaching the vets that needed advice. I spoke with John Long and requested I be removed from the Veterans advisor position. John did accept my proposal. His counsel was to get back to basics and continue to advise vets on what steps to take with the VA.

Willie Mercer, after seeing my e-mails with John reported " I finally got mine (100%)" and that lifted my spirits. Others have come forward and said the same! This is encouraging. My plan now is to continue to cover the steps vets need to take with the VA and hopefully guide those who need help through what can be a difficult process at times. I also plan to request input from those who did receive some or all disability so we can all learn from their experiences.

1. First step -- PATIENCE-- not only with the rusting system but also with yourself. For some, time is not always on your side, but it's all you got. If you become hostile with the VA personnel, you can expect little assistance. Backup and regroup.

2. INFORMATION-write down ALL that you feel is wrong with you. If you have registered with the VA that's good, if not, do so as soon as you can! It is up to the VA to prove it's not service connected. PTSD (depression) (flashbacks etc) is something that I am sure we all have it to varying degrees. Don't be ashamed to admit it to others and also to yourself. I did, and it was painful but I have since received treatment and feel I can be a part of humanity again! Again under information, obtain as much as you can of any medical treatment received while in the service by writing for your records at St. Louis. If you are receiving or have received treatment from civilian doctors ask for a written statement that indicates

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5th Battalion 7th Cavalry PX

7th Cav Baseball Hat	\$10
Full Size Garry Owen Crest	4
Min. Garry Owen Crest	3
1st Cav Div Patch Crest	3
1st Cav Patch Air Mobile	4
1st Cav Patch Air Cavalry	3
CIB Full Size and Miniature	4/3
Miniature Purple Heart	3
Bong Song Hat Pin	3
AnKhe Hat Pin	3
1st Cav Shoulder Patch	5
1st Cav Vietnam Sticker	2
Garry Owen Sticker	2
7th Cav Crossed Sabers Porcelain Pin or Tie tack	5
1st Cav Div Pennant	5
1st Cav Div Coin	10
1st Cav Div Flag	18
7th Cav Glass Mug	10
Polo Shirt w/Garry Owen Crest & Cav 5/7 (silk screened)	
Small, Med, & Large	18
XL & XXL	21
Polo Shirt w/Embroidered Garry Owen Crest & Cav 5/7	
Small, Med, & Large	21
X, XL, XXL & XXXL	23
Shipping: \$2 for small items; \$3 for shirts and mugs	
Nashville Reunion Videos	\$10 + shipping

**PX Orders should be sent to:
John Goodpaster
303 Cora Drive
Carlisle, Ohio 45005-3268**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

September 11 is now a day etched permanently in the minds of all Americans. We who are removed from the disaster geographically can never fully understand the impact of this act. We watched on a two-dimensional screen, but could not smell the smoke and taste the soot, nor hear the background cries of horror. Yet we will never be the same.

One of the things that come back with a rush, at times, from my Vietnam experience is remembering the sounds and the smell of war. It is something that unless you have experienced it you can never fully understand it.

I have been somewhat saddened by as I have heard some in my profession call these events the judgment of God. It is not my intention to call these tragic events a judgment from God. I do believe, however it is a wake up call and professing Christians need to wake up, straighten up, and pray up. We must as citizens support the efforts of our government to combat this threat against us. Those of us who share the Vietnam experience must do everything in our power to make certain that this generation of young military personnel who are in harms way receives 100% of this nations support.

**Gary Owen and God Bless,
Eddie**

HEALTH CARE RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

Check out the 5th battalion 7th Cavalry web site (<http://www.cav57.org>) to get up to date links to important health care web sites for veterans and their families.

PX HAS NEW SHIRTS WITH CREST



Here's John Long wearing one of the new oxford cloth cotton shirts

with the Garry Owen crest and 5th Bn 7th Cav inscription. The crest and letter-



ing are embroidered on the shirt and have a high quality look and feel. They are available for men or women and come in three colors; denim, khaki, and dark green. Price is \$25.00 ea. Men's sizes: M to XXXL and Women's sizes: S to L. Specify long or short sleeve. Send orders to John Goodpaster.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jasper Catanzaro

First, I hope you all take time to read my Financial Report. As you can see, we are in GREAT financial shape. Now, if you sent in any checks after Oct 29, 2001 they won't appear in this report. After hours of figuring, I finally balanced all the books, including the second hidden set in case the government ever calls me in. Just kidding!

Again, look over the report and let me know if there are any mistakes.

We will be sending this newsletter to everyone. We hope to see all of you at the reunion in St. Louis. Also, if you haven't joined the Association, please take the time to do so. This way we can send you the newsletter all the time.

Since the last newsletter a number of things have happened. First, Allen Patrick, Don Shipley and Diane, George Hannaford, Charles Bruggermann, and I met in St. Louis to put together the final touches on the next reunion. I can tell you first hand the hotel is looking good and they are more than happy we are coming.

Allen and I did some reconnoitering and there are some restaurants within walking distance of the hotel, if you don't want to eat at the hotel. However, we would recommend either a car, or the Metro rail link to explore even better restaurants further away.

We will have a great hospitality room again. If you don't remember it, the hotel makes available to us the entire 12th Floor of the hotel and it's got a great view of the airport and city. The hospitality room will house the bar and snacks and food will be available if you just want to stay around the hotel.

However, there are tons of things to do in St. Louis

We are planning a tour of the Anheuser Busch Brewery and a Murder Mystery night in a historic St. Louis mansion. Plus, there many other venues for you to explore like the Blues Bars downtown, river boat gambling and great shopping at the famous Union Station shopping center. Also the week we're in St. Louis is *Fair St. Louis Week* and there will be lots of attractions down by the Gateway Arch which is an easy ride on the Metro Link from the hotel.

There were lots of people who came to St. Louis in 1996 and wanted to go back. Well, here is your chance. You can now visit all the places you missed back then. Since this reunion takes place during 4th of July week, there will be some spectacular fireworks downtown on the Mississippi and also on the St. Charles. So, make your reservation early. We have blocked off a number of rooms and we can increase our block if you all make your reservations early.

A few months ago, I received an email stating that Bernie Grady had passed away. For those of you who don't know Bernie, he was with the 5th of the 7th from the beginning. Bernie held a number of positions in our outfit.

Bernie was XO for B Company when we went over and later became Commanding Officer of C Company. Much later, in 1991, both Bernie and I put articles in the Veteran (The Viet Nam Veterans of America) magazine, trying to find others in our outfit. George Porod saw both articles and made calls to Bernie and me.

That was all the inspiration I needed. I went to meet Bernie and his family in the Philly area that year. We agreed on a strategy that worked very well. Bernie would locate the officers and NCO's while I worked on the enlisted men. Without Bernie's and a few others (they know their names) tireless efforts we would never have had our 1st reunion. But I have to give credit to Bernie he was a good soldier and a good leader. We all are better for having known him and we will all miss him.

*Garry Owen,
Jasper*

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his search was frustrated by bad luck, missed chances and uncooperative contacts.

On a longshot, he even wrote Bronson Pinchot, the actor, hoping that he might be related to his friend. He received a polite letter back, telling him no and good luck.

Ballo never gave up. He visited "the wall" --- the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington --- where he prayed hard and tried to explain to Pinchot how sorry he was that he had been killed. He made a tracing of his name, which he keeps over a desk in the bedroom of his apartment.

Life hasn't been all that easy for Ballo, as I said. In 1991, he contracted encephalitis and was in a coma for 11 days. He almost died. A priest gave him last rites.

Still, he never forgot Lt. Craig Pinchot and his grieving family.

Another decade melted away. Then one day last May Ballo picked up a battalion newsletter and in it was a small advertisement placed by a man named Bret Coulson. He was looking for information about his uncle, who had been killed in action in Vietnam.

Ballo could hardly believe his eyes. Coulson was Pinchot's nephew --- the little boy who was supposed to get the bolt-action rifle taken as a souvenir in the cave incident 34 years earlier.

Ballo called Coulson. It turned out that the Pinchot family thought Ballo also had been killed in action. Care packages they had sent him overseas had, for some reason,

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Assets 6/26/01 **\$15,986.70**

INCOME

Donations

Kieffer, Michael	\$50.00
McQuerry, Charles	\$10.00
Total Donations	\$60.00

Dues and Fees

Dues and Fees	Years	Amount
Anstett, Raymond	01-02	\$20.00
Armstrong, Timothy	01-03	\$30.00
Brennan, James	01	\$10.00
Carfora, Stephen	01-02	\$20.00
Cole, Bobby	04-08	\$50.00
Cortner, Sanders	01-05	\$50.00
Daves, Herman	02-04	\$30.00
Davis, Peter	01-03	\$30.00
Duttera Jr., John F.	01-03	\$30.00
Eaton, Buddy	01-04	\$40.00
Fielman, Robert	01-10	\$100.00
Franks, Kenneth	01-04	\$40.00
Frolek, Kenneth	01-03	\$30.00
Hembree, Johnny	01-03	\$30.00
Hernandez, Andrew	01-02	\$20.00
Kieffer, Michael	00-04	\$50.00
Knapp, Jerome	99-02	\$40.00
Larson, David	01-02	\$20.00
Lotto, Robert	00-02	\$30.00
Maltbie, George	01-03	\$30.00
Martin, Thomas	01-02	\$20.00
Montalbano, John	01-02	\$20.00
Newcomb, John	99-01	\$30.00
Niemitalo, Richard	01-03	\$30.00
Phares, Donald	99-01	\$30.00
Rasmussen, Michael R.	00-04	\$50.00
Richmond, Ronald	99-02	\$40.00
Roberson, Bruce	01-02	\$20.00
Sanchez, Joe	00-01	\$20.00
Schneider, Fred	01-05	\$50.00
Shiple, Don	04-08	\$50.00
Shurley, Michael	01-02	\$20.00
Solenberger, Tom	01-05	\$50.00
Steuer, Judith	00-01	\$20.00
Szymanski, Michael	00-02	\$30.00
Tisdale, Mike	01-02	\$20.00
Vincent, Dale	00-01	\$20.00
Total		\$1,220.00

PX Sales

Antill, Darrell	\$30.00
Bowers, Terry	\$10.00
Davis, Peter	\$42.00
Fielman, Robert	\$52.00
Gibbs, Wayne	\$8.00
Gottesman, Harold	\$10.00
Hodges, Brent	\$24.00
Knight, Ronald	\$26.00
Lee Carlton	\$25.00
McClung, William	\$22.00
Mercer, Willoughby	\$49.50
Nelson, Bruce	\$24.00
Tisdale, Debbie	\$24.00
Total PX Sales	\$346.50

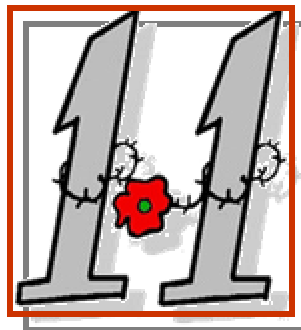
Savings Acct. Int. **\$33.93**

EXPENSES

Airmobile Printing	\$601.12
Airmobile Postage	\$164.90
PX Postage & Delivery	\$31.55
New Checks - Fee	\$18.75
Bank Service Charge	\$6.02
Flowers -	\$50.00
Shirt Template Costs	\$180.00
Total Expenses	\$1,052.34

Report as of Oct. 29, 2001

Savings Account	\$3,730.58
Checking Account	\$4,884.21
CD	\$8,000.00
Total Accounts	\$16,614.79



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your ailment was “**service connected**” or aggravated by the service e.g.: PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome), Agent Orange, cancer, etc. If you find it difficult to remember instances, write/call/e-mail those who served with you and ask them to make a certified statement on your behalf. Others may remember what you don't!

3. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**-I call it advocacy. These are trained paralegals within certain service associations, i.e. American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Vets, etc. Their service is free. They help you compile all the facts, information, requirements you'll need, and for the most part they'll attend the board hearing at the regional office on your behalf just like a lawyer. Most VA hospitals have these representatives at their location. Also contact your home town service group. They'll get you started in the right direction. If you can, talk to others like Willie Mercer and ask them to tell you how they went about it. **READ** all current information on VA benefits, such as magazines (i.e., VFW, DAV, and American Legion) retirement bulletins, AARP group letters.

This covers some of the first steps; I will comment on others in future issues of the Airmobile. Also I would like those who write letters to their senators and congressman to put your 2 cents in on how you feel about the flag amendment. Your thoughts do count! If any of you ever have the chance to vacation in Branson city Missouri contact Ron or Jan knight @ the OZARK VALLEY INN 1-800-947-4666 or e-mail rjknight@inter-link.net. They are wonderful people and have the cleanest motels I have ever been in. Ron was with B Co. 67. For those who have never been there every day in Branson is Veterans Day.

Kathy and I wish everyone a Peaceful and Happy Holiday.

God Bless America!

Papa Doc

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been returned as undeliverable.

At this point in the story, Ballo paused. I could see a tear form under his left eye. Next Sunday, which is Veterans Day, he will meet Coulson at the wall.

Pete Ballo's search is over. He kept his word.

“It's never too late,” he said. “It's all come together. We were kids. We were kids.”

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VETERANS DAY 2001

