



THE BUGLE



5 /7 Cavalry Association News

<http://www.cav57.org>

December 2017; Vol 26.3

Vietnam 1966 -1971, Iraqi Freedom 2005-2010 & OEF Afghanistan 2012-2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had another great turnout last month for our annual Veterans Day reunion in DC. More than 120 members of our Association and guests gathered to join in our annual observance. Someone has to do a lot of work on the ground to plan the dinner and make the program go smoothly. Cliff Wheeler was the man again this year. He made the dinner on November 10 such a success with his superb planning, organizational and negotiating skills. He also made a wonderful master of ceremonies. Cliff also read the names of the fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan and led us in a solemn ceremony in observance of the Missing Soldier tradition. Finally he read an update from the current Squadron commander which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter.

Now a VP Emeritus, Karl Haartz continued to share his rich background knowledge when we needed his help with the planning and execution during the evening. As in so many years past, Joe and Mary McVeigh lovingly made, transported and donated a beautiful and dignified wreath that decorated our banquet hall and was placed at the Memorial Wall the next day by this year's wreath presenters. Don Brennan (Delta Co. 1966) and Andy Westin (Charlie Co. 1967-68) had the honor of performing that special duty in memory of all those who fell while serving under the colors of the 5/7 Cavalry in Vietnam.



Neil Meyer gave a vigorous and respectful introduction of our speaker for the evening, our very own understated MOH recipient, Colonel Mike Sprayberry. Mike gave us a message of humility, dignity, courage and hope delivered with a good dose of Mike's wry "down home, just a country boy" humor. He also reminded us of his continuing efforts along with his wife, Julie Kink, to go yet again to Vietnam and push ahead with the mission of recovering those we were forced to leave behind in the A Shau Valley in 1968.

Only a few recent veterans were able to be present with us. We encourage all who have served in the Squadron since 2001 to join us any time you can to celebrate and remember with the Vietnam-era veterans.

Saturday morning was sunny, clear and COLD. But a large crowd was on hand anyway for the 35th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The keynote speaker was Senator Chuck Hagel, also a former Secretary of Defense. Having earned the rank of sergeant during his year in Vietnam, he was introduced as the only former enlisted soldier to have served as the Secretary of Defense.

The designer of the Memorial Wall, Ms. Maya Lin, also spoke and recalled the controversy over her design more than 35 years ago. Today the Memorial Wall is one of the most visited sites in America and stands in quiet dignity in memory of all those who died in service to their country during our war. The gleaming black marble slabs containing all those names preserve forever their identity and evoke our own memories of the ones we knew. As we stand in front of the names of our buddies it is natural to ask ourselves why the names of our buddies have been etched in granite and not ours. That is an imponderable question. The best we can do is to live well the lives we were given and accept as our duty for our lifetime to remember their brave and honorable service, what they stood for, and who they were when we were all young soldiers.

Planning for Reunion 2018 is well under way. The Board of Officers will visit our hotel in Pittsburgh in January to make final arrangements for what promises to be a memorable experience next summer. Please plan to attend if you are still able to travel. Make your hotel reservations and other plans soon. See you there.

Garryowen!

Howard Prince (htprince@earthlink.net)

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"Krazy" Karl's Report

"Hope Everyone Had A Happy Thanksgiving"

Who ever said that these are the golden years was completely mistaken. The golden years were way back when I was living under my father's roof, eating his food and going to high school. Nothing was PC and we could say: "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," without offending someone. So I say screw it! Hope y'all have a,

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Now back to reality, we have Reunion 14 coming up in 6 short months. Allen Patrick our VP of Operations is going to need a lot of volunteers. He will need people in all venues, registration, PX, hospitality room, etc. We need some new spark plugs in the association. I don't expect the younger 5/7 Squadron guys to really step up for another 10 years or so. That being the case we need you guys from 1968 to 1971 to take the reins. We 1966 guys have done it long enough.

Our Veterans Day Association dinner again was a great success. Our thanks and appreciation go to Col Cliff Wheeler for an outstanding job of coordinating everything. On a personal note I don't think we should buy any hard liquor next year. The beer, soda, & water seem to work just fine. Maybe a little wine.

During the weekend I was asked by one of the officers if I had found a VP yet. I didn't know that it was my job to find one. BUT as I left the hotel on Sunday morning I found a note on my windshield saying that the possibility of a VP being found was about to happen. After a few e-mails I guess some one was messing with me.

Next is the PX. In past years we have pretty much sold out of the shirts by Wednesday. If you are arriving after Wednesday and want to order a shirt now, please do so and it will be set aside for you. If you don't pick it up you will be charged anyway. We are not ordering any 3X, but can do so if you order early. It has been suggested that this also may be the last year of the PX.

There will be another newsletter ASAP after the pre-con meeting in Pittsburgh on Jan 15, 2018. Read the registration form carefully as there will be a couple of overlapping functions. Refunds are called DONATIONS - all are cordially accepted.

We want you at the reunion. Sign up as soon as you get the registration form. **WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS IT!!**

Garry Owen,
"KRAZY" Karl

"Sharing": A Redeye Reflection

Recently at my local VA clinic reception area I was reading an article (Living History) in the March issue of the VFW magazine. Specifically, the piece was about various efforts and methods of collecting veterans stories. The whats, whys, and how. The value and timeliness of the effort. WW2 guys are almost gone, Korean war vets are passing, VN vets are 60 plus etc. And it prompted me to think about all the stories I've heard from my vet friends, most never shared w family or friends, and the reality most will be lost in the future. Shame. And also reminded me of the efforts of Bookard Dooley to collect 5/7 stories of the fallen.

So with this mind set I boldly asked a very senior man wearing a Navy hat setting next to me "Did you ever share your WW2 experience with your family or grandkids." And pointed out the article to justify my question. He paused for a moment and said I've shared only the timeline not details. And only with my wife. And he turned to his friend, no doubt his wingman and driver and asked my question. Essentially the same answer. And within minutes we had six guys sitting nearby interacting on the subject. Discussing Whys and Why nots. Maybe You can guess the results. Only two had shared their history. A few were mum, others agreed it was time to share, good to share. One guy shared that he began to tell all when his grandchild asked him a few questions for a school project and he was thrilled somebody was interested. Admitted maybe it was an age thing but has since shared much more detail and finally put a few hours of conversation on tape. Me who admittedly writes like I talk (a lot) has hundred pages of military stories from Draft Day to retirement. I started my effort in 2005 when I filed my claim with the VA. Motivated by this unexpected yet timely Living History conversation, I recently shared some of the military stuff with my first grandson on his 13th birthday. He told me he would be honored and volunteered as the keeper of my history. I admit I cried.

The how and what, mechanics of gathering and sharing are not important. Just start doing it. Write, tape, video or simply sit and talk. Whatever works for you and yours. Tools and how tos are available on line, book store, library, ask your friend. I simply wrote some headings: the Draft, Basic, AIT, 1st day, etc and filled in the rest.

The lack of sharing is common for all veterans, hold it close, forget, low key, be quiet is almost an acquired skill with reference to war. I don't know why WW2 guys didn't share. The VN guys figured it out quickly. Few non-participants cared or understood. Some that asked wanted an argument. Easier to just move on and forget. For now, we'll let the shrinks and professionals define, explain it. At our 5/7 reunions and gatherings sons, grandkids, families are attending, hearing the stories. Sharing going on obviously. I know my Dad, a South Pacific sailor shared no war stories until weeks before passing, my uncle would tell me chapter and verse about his peers, NCOs, officers but never a word about the fighting. He was with Patton in Europe. And never shared anything with his kids. I could fill a page or two but we all know most veterans don't share. We don't need examples. Ok, we all know the guys at every Legion bar who will never shut up after a few pops. Some even ramble without the pops.

SO WHY NOT. Your family, kids, grands and down the road great grandchildren all would like to know and understand your life experiences. Think about it. It's probably much more important to them than you think. Try looking at it from their point of view, their perspective. It's time to share. We're getting older; yes we are every day. Your stories and insight are gifts you can still share. Why NOT NOW?

Somewhere I read and saved this thought. Everyone who has served in VN and those who served elsewhere has a story. A story that sometimes takes years to be told. A story told, a friend remembered, a memory shared is a treasure.

More later, keep the peace!

GARRYOWEN, Vince L (aka Redeye)

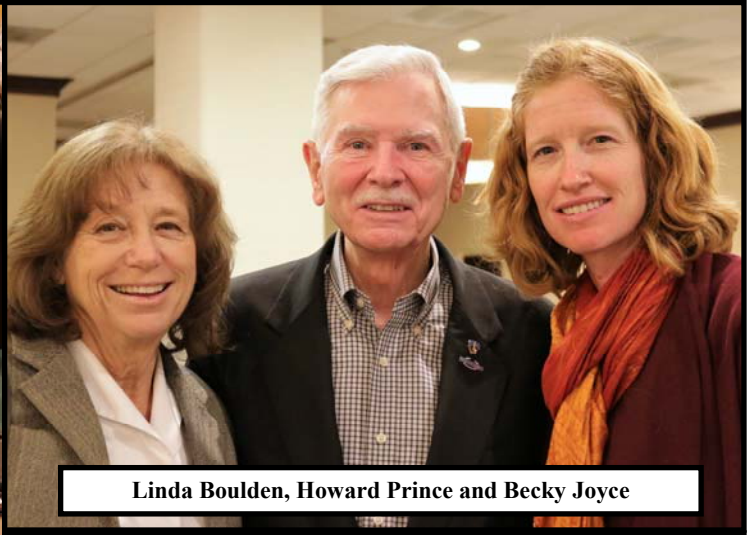
2017 Veterans Day Gathering in DC



5/7 Veterans at the Mall for Annual Veterans Day Photo Op



Cliff Wheeler, Chief Organizer of Veterans Day 2017



Linda Boulden, Howard Prince and Becky Joyce



Joe Skrilm, Vince Laurich and Jake Skrilm, "The Niagra Boys"



2017 Veterans Day Gathering in DC



Frank (Bump) Elliott, Crazy Karl and Pam Elliott



Larry Nunez and Willie Mercer



Hospitality Room of the Holiday Inn National Airport



Maury Edmonds and Juan Gonzales



2018 Reunion XIV: SHERATON PITTSBURGH HOTEL at STATION SQUARE

The Reunion Planning Team is returning to the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square on January 15 to conduct our pre-reunion final review before the big event in July/August. We will go over all the details on the meeting rooms to make sure everything is agreed with the hotel. We will cover each day's agenda so the hotel knows what is required and is prepared to support us each day.

Walt and Dolores Zimmerman along with Jim Miller and his friend Ann have been doing some great ground team work in anticipation of the January 15 Planning Meeting. They have come up with some outstanding event proposals which we will discuss in detail during the meeting. Our plan is to agree on specific events and then announce them in the next newsletter which will follow the Planning Meeting. That letter will also contain the Reunion Registration form which you can fill out and send in ASAP to lock in the events you want to attend.

This photo gives you an idea of this outstanding property and its surrounding location. This photo is taken from the top of Mt. Washington which is just behind the hotel. Access to the top of the mountain is via two inclines and by car if you choose that method. The inclines are near the hotel and within easy walking distance. In addition to the restaurants in the hotel there are more than a dozen within walking distance of the hotel and even more on Mt. Washington.

Check out the hotel's web site: (<http://www.sheratonpittsburghstationssquare.com>) and get even more information on the hotel amenities and the surrounding area of shops and dining facilities.

The reunion week runs from Saturday, July 28 through Saturday, August 4, 2018. The 5/7 Cav room rate is \$105.00 per night. The room rate is good three days before the reunion week and three days after.

The hotel has established a web link that will allow you to book directly online. The web link follows:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1702069037&kev=69B8A3A>

Reservations can also be made by calling 800-325-3535.

Make sure you identify yourself as a member of the 5/7 Cavalry Association.

The Pittsburgh Visitors Guide and Free Trip Planning Guide is available at the following web site:

<https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/plan-your-trip/visitors-guide/>

Check out the *Things To Do Section* on the Visitors web site. You'll be amazed at all the attractions, shopping and things to see and do in Pittsburgh.

One of the special places that the Planning Team checked out during our last visit was the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum that is on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. The museum commemorates the men and women from Allegheny County who have served in every U.S. war since the Civil War. Styled after the ancient mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Soldiers & Sailors is the largest memorial in the United States dedicated to America's military personnel. We have reserved a special room in the Memorial for our Saturday Memorial Service. We believe all our members, family and guests will be pleased with this special setting.

Book your room early so we can lock up all the rooms in our block and have the whole hotel to ourselves.



LETTERS

You missed a grand gathering this weekend. And those that attended had a good time. And we did talk about you. But we are getting old; walking had been replaced with very short cab rides to restaurants; folks ate in or had take out lunches delivered in lieu of a walk to McDonald's. The hospitality room was empty a bit after midnight. Norman L you were missed. We need you, PAL. But we are still loud, verbal, excitable and social gentleman.

We had plenty of new stories and many first timers. Marty Tuttle (D co 67/68 and his cuz Dennis Gallagher (25th in Hawaii) Grays Ferry, Philly boys now from NJ came looking for folks and clarity. Bob Burrows (A co 68 Hue) and wife came from Napa, CA with CB's book, looking for names for faces and answers.

Mike Simonies (Sp) a young blood, former FO, arty type w 5/7 Iraq tours living in Bethesda, shared, was a welcome addition. There were others. I did my thing to keep these guys company, connected and even fortified. But I must be truthful, I did my best but they all wanted to see Charlie Baker. OK I know CB is world class. I told them to get in line and promised that CB always responds to emails and phone calls.

I did manage to accomplish a 5/7 mission. About 8pm Sat night I was sharing drinks and conversation with Bill Litvjak, Andy Westin, a few ladies, and other friends. Andy was sharing details of his HUE '68 experience, including injury, medevac, multi aid stations and finally ends up in a bed next to his CO, our 5/7 Assoc Pres Howard Prince. I'll skip some detail, but Andy penned some letters for the injured CAPT and became known as HP's right hand man. What? A RIGHT HAND MAN ?? Andy, Do you know HP needs his right hand man now? He needs a VP and what better guy than you who goes way back. A few mins later ANDY WESTIN agreed to take the open VP job. Yes he did. ASK HIM. Of course my offer was **unauthorized**, let's call it preliminary. And surely a positive. WE do have rules to formally follow. Andy knows that. But I was asked to recruit, identify exceptional talent. Andy is great fit. We sealed the deal: every man at the table shook his hand, Ladies even blew him kisses.

I'm sure some of the others will mention Cliff's coordination of DC dinner program. Continues to do a great job. With some attention we can each make that job easier. And Mike Sprayberry, our featured speaker went the distance sharing his wit and wisdom. The value of brotherhood, the veterans community, and the impact of a smile and kind words. And later shared more that he had forgot. One near and dear to me is the importance of sharing our stories w family and friends. (There might be a piece on that elsewhere in the newsletter) See ya in Pittsburg. Garryowen, Vince L

Kristie Zimmerman and her company recently made a very unexpected gift to our Association in the amount of \$2,000. We thank Kristie so much for her generosity. Kristie's parents are Walt and Dolores Zimmerman who live near Pittsburgh and who have been working hard to help plan the reunion program and find great activities for us all to enjoy at our next reunion. So the Zimmerman family has contributed greatly to our Association this year. We appreciate them, one and all.

Input from a noted expert on spirits: Tullamore Dew is the official drink of the 5/7th CAV; Jameson Irish is the choice of Catholics; Bushmills Irish is choice of Protestants and the DEW is the choice of the Special People.

5/7Cav PX

Item Description	Quantity On Hand	\$ Price
Twill Shirt Khaki Long Sleeve - 2XL	1	25
Twill Shirt Forest Grn Long Sleeve - 2XL	6	25
Men's Forest Green Polo - Small	1	25
Men's Forest Green Polo - Medium	1	25
Men's Royal Blue Polo - Small	2	25
Men's White Polo - Small	2	25
Men's White Polo - Medium	2	25
Ladies' White Polo - Small	1	25
Ladies' White Polo - Medium	8	25
Ladies' White Polo - Large	3	25
Ladies' Cornflower Blue Polo - Small	1	25
Ladies' Cornflower Blue Polo - Medium	5	25
Ladies' Cornflower Blue Polo - XL	9	25
Ladies' Pink Polo - Medium	4	25
Ladies' Heather Gray Polo - Small	1	25
Ladies' Heather Gray Polo - Medium	9	25
Ladies' Heather Gray Polo - Large	1	25
Ladies' Heather Gray Polo - XL	3	25
Ladies' Cardinal Red Polo - Medium	2	25
Note: Other shirts will only be available at reunions		
Otto Ball Caps Black	20	15
Otto Ball Caps White		15
Challenge Coins	27	12
Hat Pins \$2 shipping covers up to 5 pins		
An Khe pins 1/1/4 "	12	3
A Shau Valley	12	3
Cambodia	12	3
Hue City	12	3
1st Cav Vietnam/Airmobile 1 1/4" pins	12	4
Miniature Garry Owen	12	3
Regulation Garry Owen	12	4
5/7 Crossed Saber Pins	24	4
Mini CIB	12	3
Regulation CIB	12	4
Combat Cavalry	12	3
1st Cavalry 3" Fridge magnets (new item)	12	3
Flags		
1st Cavalry 3'X5' Flag	6	15
POW/MIA 3'X5' Flag	6	15

PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.
PLEASE INCLUDE \$3.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & ON SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND
\$5.00 ON ALL SHIRT ORDERS.

Attention: Please contact John Goodpaster for, pins and flags. For shirts, hats and challenge coins contact Bob Child. Check out available inventory on this page.

ORDERS PINS AND FLAGS GO TO:
JOHN (GOODY) GOODPASTER
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PHONE # 937-514-8247
jgoodpaster001@cinci.rr.com

Orders for shirts, hats and coins go to:
Bob Child
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5th Squadron Report

As of the week of November 3, the Squadron was in the final days of a rotation to the NTC. They arrived at Ft Irwin, CA in mid-October and returned to Fort Stewart in mid-November. In their Brigade Live Fire, they were using the entire NTC training area as one large live fire training event for the entire Brigade simultaneously in a true tactical scenario.

The Squadron is deploying to Korea mid-February with the 1st Brigade. They spent the entire summer with maintenance and gunnery to get ready for NTC. Upon completion of the NTC rotation, the Squadron will turn in our Tanks and Bradleys for a recapitalization while we are in Korea. We'll draw a prepositioned fleet that is currently being used by 2d Brigade, 1st CAV DIV.

The Squadron's MTOE (task organization) changed. We now have 3 x Cav Troops of 13 Bradleys and 1 x Tank Troop of 14 Abrams, a HQ Troop, and an attached Support Troop.

All of the Soldiers should make it home from NTC in time for Thanksgiving. There will be another gunnery exercise and then after the Holidays, it's off to Korea.

Once we arrive in Korea, we'll be living on Camp Casey while the rest of the Brigade lives down south of Seoul on the new Camp Humphries the Army just built. We'll spend nine months there working and training with the ROK Army to deter any potential North Korean aggression, and if necessary fight to enforce our national strategic policies.

The Troopers of the Warpaint Squadron are doing a fine job and I'm sure many of the Association members would see themselves in these young Soldiers: Patriotic citizens everyone who volunteered to serve their country at a time when their country has been at war almost their entire lives. The legacy that you all built over the years lives on in these young Americans.

All the best to the Members of the Association.

God Bless our Nation, our Army, and the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment!

LTC John Horning
Squadron Commander

Membership VP's Report

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

DC was great as always and a good crowd turned out for the dinner and the visit to the Wall. We sure missed those that were not able to join us for health related or other reasons. Our photo shoot in front of the Lincoln Memorial on Veterans Day was a little chilly but the sun was out nice and bright, and we had a great turnout. Check out the group photo on page 3.

Next Year is the 50-year anniversary for those 5/7 guys who arrived in country in 1968 as replacements. Cycling new guys in as replacements didn't always work out so well due to the lack of training but most caught on very fast and bonded with the veteran troopers. We all remember this very well and it is one of the things that makes this group so tight. The 5/7 Cavalry served 4 years and 7 months in country. Our unit was the last of the 7th Cav unit in and the first out in 1971.

Pittsburgh is coming along very nicely and should be bigger than the Colorado Springs Reunion. The number of room nights reserved at the hotel is growing and better than the same period leading up to the Colorado Springs Reunion.

Pittsburgh has gone through a major transformation over the last twenty-five years from a highly polluted, smoky steel town to a new bright and shiny center of technology and commerce. If you haven't been there for some time you probably won't recognize it. It was a major surprise to me.

The reunion planning team is organizing many events that are going to fill up your reunion week so come prepared to be busy with visiting old friends and seeing new attractions. We will have the full agenda of events published right after our January 15 planning meeting.

The Sheraton hotel is an excellent property and you're going to love the river front location. Parking on site can be a little expensive but we have located a parking lot down the street for only \$7.00 a day. The \$105.00 room rate is 1/3 the normal rate for this hotel and includes a free continental breakfast in the hospitality room; it's a real bargain.

For those on the east coast complaining it was to far to go to past reunions this one is less than 500 miles from 80% of the population of the United States. This is going to be a super reunion!

For those still fighting for VA Benefits stay at it. More and more are finally getting what they deserved for years. If denied, re-file and go after them again. If you need advice or help, look to your brothers from combat; we stand together.

I have been busy with the fall harvest and have not spent as much time searching for new people as I need to, but as winter comes on I hope to be back in the swing of things.

Keep in mind there will be an election of association personnel at the reunion and we will be asking for more new blood to help the association to continue to run smoothly in the future.

Have a great holiday: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Garry Owen,
Don Shipley, VP Membership

Check Your Mail Label

Co B 69, Dues Paid Thru: 2009
Tom T. Trooper
Street Address
City, State Zip

The sample mail label on the left represents the label that appears on the front of your newsletter. It indicates the company/troop and year you initially served in the 5/7 Cav. The label also gives you the status of your dues. If "3000" appears in your status it indicates we have your status as "Active Duty". Dues payments should be mailed to our treasurer at the following address:
Dick Baker
PO Box 291
Bristol, NH 03222-0291



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5th Battalion
7th Cavalry

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July 28 through Saturday, August 4, 2018
Book Now: See Page 5 for more Info**