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News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

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President's Report

By John Long

Greetings Troopers! This is my first opportunity to write you as the Association's newly elected President.

What an honor and pleasure it is to serve in this position. I accept the responsibility knowing that I am serving the members of the best battalion that served in Vietnam and that I have a great team to help me. I am also able to sleep nights knowing that Ted Swett and Wes are there to advise me at anytime.

As you will note elsewhere in this issue, the Nashville Reunion 2000 was an outstanding success. About 400 troopers and families enjoyed the best hospitality, rooms, food and events that Nashville could offer putting this reunion at or near the top of past reunions.

Jerry Houston was the man on the ground who almost single-handedly organized and made this Reunion the standard for future reunions. Thanks to Jerry and a special thanks to his wife, Dixie, who sacrificed a lot during the past two years!

Ted and Wes stepped down from their tenure as President and 1st Vice after showing us all once again what made them such great leaders in Vietnam. They have pushed, pulled, prodded the Cav 5/7 Association over the past 8 years into the best battalion sized veterans' organization in the country, bar none. Their thoughts were then and continue to be to always take care of the men first.

Thank you gentlemen for past and continued service to the men and families of the battalion. We salute you.

The results of the elections are shown elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will take the opportunity to advise members of the board of any concerns or issues you may have.

Since the reunion, Wes has located more troopers and Ed Perry has identified more 5/7 KIA. The Executive Board has begun looking for the site of the next reunion (Detroit, Colorado Springs, Atlantic City and late adds-Atlanta and maybe Minneapolis). John Goodpaster has graciously volunteered to manage the PX (the Reunion Cups are an absolute must).

Veteran's Day is rapidly approaching and I hope to see some new faces joining us at the wall in addition to the regulars. It seems to be easier to visit the "Wall" with some close comrades rather then alone.

Suzy wants to let all of you know that she appreciated your comments on the KIA exhibit. It was truly a labor of love. Suzy and I also feel blessed to have been able to spend so much time with Vivian "McCrary" Day and her lovely daughter Allison.

We had the good fortune to be living in the same apartment building with our apartment located directly above the McCrarys while the battalion was being organized. We had some good times at Colorado Springs and we enjoyed watching the vibrant, red-haired Allison in her early years. Her father, Doug, truly loved his little girl.

Thank you for joining us, Vivian and Allison.

When you think about it, except for some officers and NCOs, there were probably not too many of the battalion's troopers that were married when they went to Nam. So for all of those wives and girl friends that were left behind and suffered through the daily news and TV reports like Suzy, dreading to see if we were dead or wounded, we salute you.

As we transition to our duties, bear with us. Your letters, calls and Email are important and we make every effort to respond to them all. Thanks to all of you that were at the reunion. It is truly the people that make the reunion special.

Garry Owen,

John

Table of Contents

Page 1	President's Report
Page 2	Battalion Directory
Page 2	How to Find Your Records
Page 3	Vice President's Report
Page 3	Treasurer's Report
Page 4	President Emeritus Report
Page 5	Veterans Advisor
Page 6	Battalion PX
Page 6	Financial Report
Page 8	Reunion V Events
Page 9	Message from Wes
Page 10	Reunion V Memories
Page 11	Old and New Guard

Battalion Phone List

Name	Home Phone
President Emeritus	
Ted Swett	301-530-9039
President	
John Long	410-551-6167
Vice President	
Karl Haartz	603-726-7080
2nd Vice President / Battalion Locator	
Ed Perry	636-227-9148
Communications Officer	
Allen Patrick	734-662-9612
Secretary	
Jerry Houston	615-790-6325
Treasurer	
Jasper Catanzaro	248-305-8405
Sergeant - At - Arms	
Will Mercer	303-980-0804
Battalion Chaplain	
Eddie Rape	304-453-4914
Legal Advisor	
Jim Harmon	516-747-3894
Veterans Affairs Advisor	
Doc Maxwell	816-364-5158
Dept. of Army Liaison	
Larry Budge	703-239-1761
COMPANY TRUSTEES	
A Company	
Bill Boyce	602-488-3727
B Company	
Don Diggs	706-685-0464
C Company	
Harold Dannewitz	618-863-2619
D Company	
Dennis Dickess	704-533-4605
E Company	
Bill Moore	
HHQ	
Doc Maxwell	806-364-5158
Battalion Historian	
Patrick Dockery	410-488-4930
Memorabilia	
Bill Brown	816-746-6384
Video	
Phil Sierer	210-914-2203

How to Obtain Your Army Records and Locate Our Fellow Troopers

Garry Owen All,

I received a package from the ***National Personnel Record Center*** today. They mailed it to me by mistake. (But that's another story.) Sometime ago James Mitchell asked me to look into getting his medals and some other information.

We got the other information right away, but eight months later I got his medals in the mail. It only took two days from the time it was mailed so it wasn't the Post Offices fault. I think the SF 180 form wasn't clear on where to mail the medals to because of other things we asked for.

I opened up the package because I wanted to see them. They sure look pretty. So new and clean a tear came to my eye when I saw them. It also brought back a few memories.

So if you want your medals all you have to do is write for them. It may take eight months but you will get them. They are free too. You already paid the price for them. So write for them!

To write for your medals write to:

National Personnel Record Center
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63132-5100

Or contact me and I will help. Remember in will take around eight months, so do it now. My address is **922 Cleta Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021**.

While you are writing for your medals ask for a copy of your orders while you were with the 5/7 Cav. We need the names to find our fellow troopers. We can't find the people if we don't know who they are.

If you need help finding someone, all you have to do is ask. I will help you find them, or point you in the right direction. I'll give you some names and phone numbers for you to call. All the person will say is "No, I am not the one you are looking for", or "God I'm so glad you called. How have you been?"

You will be surprised how many 5/7 Cav vets are eager to talk to someone who was in their unit.

Garry Owen,

Ed Perry

Vice President's Report

By "Krazy" Karl Haartz

Garry Owen from your newly elected 1st Vice President. I'm "Krazy" Karl Haartz from Thornton, NH where I live with my wife Carol. I served with the 4th Platoon of C Company in 1966-67 and I want to thank every soldier that came after me, so I could come back home.

My personal thanks and a debt of gratitude to Col. Ted Swett and Wes Westmoreland (the CSM, not the General) for all they have done over the past 8 years for the **5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association**.

Jerry Houston!! I don't know how you put this reunion together all by yourself. Congratulations for a job well done. This will be a high standard of quality to maintain in the up coming reunions.

For those of you that missed reunion V, you were sorely missed by us all. On 4th of July, I saw the best fireworks show I have ever seen in my life. We were lucky as we only left Don Shipley down town Nashville once. The City of Nashville gave him back.

Hats off to A Co for having the most troops in attendance. Having been part of the company competitions from basic training on, I lean a little towards C Co. Where were you guys????

To everyone that did attend Reunion V, we say thank you to each one as I don't think there was anyone there that didn't help in one way or another. This is why we are the best Battalion size association to come from the Vietnam War. It was just a wonderful week in Nashville.

The location of our fellow troopers has dropped off. We need to pick this up again as our goal is to locate everyone that served with the 5/7 between 1966-1971 or a survivor for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Trustees, communicate with the active troops in your respective companies and we can accomplish this goal. It is not going to easy. We are the tough of the Garry Owen 5/7 and we can do it.

Veteran's Day, November 11, 2000 in Washington DC is coming up soon. The 1st. Cav. Has arranged special rates at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va.— $89.00 per night Make reservations early at 1-800-468-9090. This is the same hotel we used for Reunion IV.

I can be reached at the following address:

Karl F Haartz
P O Box 1267
Mad River Road
Campton, NH 03223

Phone 1-603-726-7080
Fax 1-603-726-7501
E-Mail krazykc@eagle1st.com

At reunion VI you will get to know why I am known as "Krazy" Karl .

Garry Owen,

Karl

Treasurer's Report

By Jasper Catanzaro

First, I would like to thank all those who have worked to make this the fine organization that we have.

Second, I would like to thank Jerry Houston for the fine job he has done as our Treasurer.

As most of you know at our Nashville reunion, I was elected Treasurer and will be assuming those duties right after Jerry Houston finishes paying all the final bills from the reunion and does a final balancing of the books.

I have to say that our Association is in fine shape. Bill Purdy handled those duties for many years and turned it over to Jerry who continued to keep us in good financial shape.

It is important to have a strong financial base. With that strong base we are able to send out letters to our members, send flowers to our deceased (if notified), help those in need, and publish our great newsletter, which keeps everyone informed. These things can only be done with finances and we are in good financial shape thanks to Bill, Jerry and your dues and other contributions

As a reminder when sending in dues and other contributions or payments in the future send them to:

Financial Secretary
5th Battalion 7th Calvary Assoc.
151 West Jefferson Ave.
P.O. Box 33009
Detroit, MI 48232

Nashville 2000 - Reunion 5.

We had a great reunion in Nashville. This was our 5th Reunion and certainly one of the best thanks to the fine effort of Jerry Houston, who coordinated this reunion.

It was great getting together with old friends and sharing stories that only those who were there can really care about.

There were many things to do each day in Nashville, including relaxing by the pool. We had a great dinner, wonderful Bar-B-Q and gave away lots of prizes.

I hope that those who came really enjoyed themselves and those who missed this reunion come to the next one.

Garry Owen,

Jasper

President Emeritus' Report

By Ted Swett

Hello 5/7 Cav Troopers,

I think we can all agree this was the best-yet reunion we 5/7 Cav troopers have ever had.... and we've had great ones. Jerry's performance bordered upon the miraculous. I really don't see how he pulled it off, especially because he has a full-time, important job. The challenge now is to maintain Jerry's standard.

You probably noticed, though, that there were two guys who virtually lived behind that desk in the reunion office, working on the computer, registering folks, counting money, making signs, answering all types of questions and taking helpful actions without hesitation whenever the need arose. Those two constant workers, always there next to Jerry, were Allen Patrick and Bill Brown. Without them, without Sharon Reed and without his son and daughter-in-Law, even Jerry would have had a small problem.

Then there was Wes. He had his finger on the pulse of the entire operation and kept us all in line, with Willie Mercer's forceful help and touching straight-from-the-heart songs. What a team!

I am not sure, after thinking over all that I said in public all during the reunion, that I ever made crystal clear to you how grateful I am for the support of each of you during the eight years I was the 5/7 Cav Association's President. I have had no more fulfilling experience in my life than what you and I have shared together. It is always a "downer" after leaving you when the reunion is history. I miss being with you, and look forward to being with any of you who make it to The Wall between now and Reunion VI.

I hope that the outgoing Board and Executive Committee members know how deeply I appreciate their work and support during our time together. I wish I had emphasized that more than I did at the reunion.

Thanks, Troopers, for everything you have done for me, and for our Association. And thanks again, Wes, for the great watch!

If not before, I'll see you in 2002.

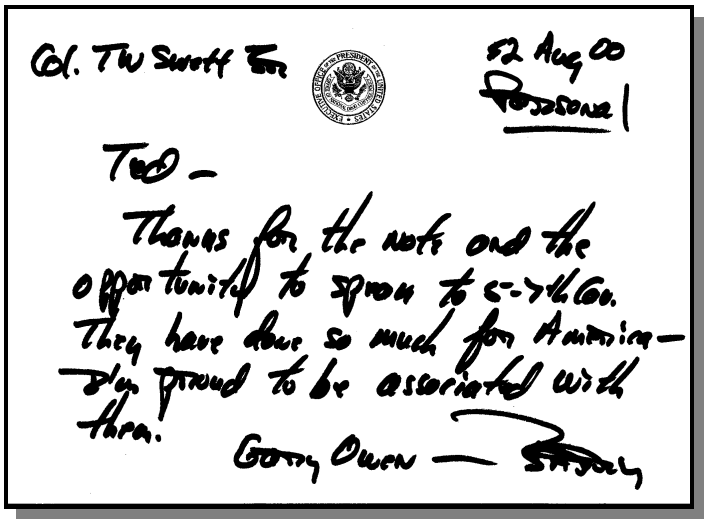
Garry Owen,

Ted

PS: I'm enclosing a copy of a note I received from General McCaffrey. He genuinely enjoyed his time with us in Nashville. And, as you can see from his note, he is proud of his relationship with the 5/7 Cav Association.

Garry Owen,

Ted



Col. TW Swett Ret

22 Aug 00

Personal

Ted –

Thanks for the note and the opportunity to speak to 5-7th Cav. They have done so much for America – I'm proud to be associated with them.

Garry Owen — Barry

Veterans Advisor

By Papa Doc Maxwell

Nashville! What can you say about it! You "Gotta" Love it.

For me the comradeship was a spiritual uplifting. For Kathy, it was like a child experiencing her first day at a circus, all the sights, sounds, and merriment.

I am again honored that you elected me as Veteran Advisor. For those who know me I do not take this task lightly. In years past others have helped me through the rough times, so how could I do less. It's a "Brother" thing.

In this article I will cover two (2) major agenda's and very important for all of us.

1. Veterans Vote!!

It is your way to make a powerful statement. True, we should not overlook the Presidential Campaign, yet our real power as people are the votes we cast for our senators and representatives. Too often they represent special interest groups who do little for the common good or they look the other way instead of heeding the real needs of the people. Look at the Flag Amendment. The House of Representatives voted for it twice, the Senators stopped it. Even Senators who own people at home demanded approval.

For this election carefully review the candidates. Check out their track records as to Veterans Benefits; how they voted on helping Homeless Veterans; and how they reacted to Social Security and Medicare. All one can ask is for you to vote your conscious and rid all of us of the "Good Ole Boys"!

2. Your Health!

When someone receives the sentence from the physician "You have cancer" the words are like a deathblow. No one can tell another the fears, anxiety, and hopelessness the individual feels.

Mine came in 1976, when I was still in the Army. I lost a kidney, urethra, and half a bladder. My career in the Army was finished. People labeled me or treated me like I was contagious and for ten years I was experimented with by the Army and later the VA.

Only after I was retired did they link my conditions to Agent Orange. Yes, I am on the registry and followed closely by the VA. I have not had prostrate cancer but I have been warned repeatedly that I have a strong chance of acquiring it.

A few years ago an unsung hero named Patrick Dockery requested information from all of us as to our medical ills since Vietnam. Sadly few really came forward and admitted they or their family had acquired problems. Maybe some felt it was an invasion of their privacy, or felt ashamed, or did not see the real sense of it.

In our Veterans Benefit meeting at Nashville one of my own medics announced he had been operated on for prostrate cancer and pleaded with others to get a check up and let the VA know about it. What a hero!! What guts that took!

None of us want to be a statistic. In a way it is degrading. Yet, we can help our future families, our Brothers, and ourselves.

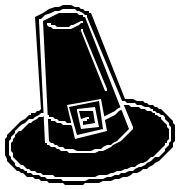
Any, and I mean any, information passed to me or to Pat Dockery is confidential. Please contact Pat or me if you need help. I've listed our addresses at the end of this article.

In future articles I will repeat the steps to achieve your VA Benefits and the appeals process and use of the Advocates Programs for legal representation.

Only by helping you all NOW, can I repay those in my past who gave me the greatest gift: The Spirit to Live.

Garry Owen,

Papa Doc



M. D. (Papa Doc) Maxwell
3404 Duncan St
St. Joseph, MO 64507-1927
e-mail: papadoc@ccp.com

Pat Dockery
4728 Parkside Drive
Baltimore, MD 21206-6841
e-mail: vvidoc@erols.com

5th Battalion 7th Cavalry PX

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

Old Financial Secretary's Report

By Jerry Houston

It has been a lot of fun being the Financial Secretary and I wish Jasper well. This was a hard report to get together because of the Reunion but I think I got everything. I will be making a more detailed report of the actual reunion cost for the after action report. As in the past, if you find something wrong please let Jasper or myself know and we will take the appropriate action to correct the error.

Also remember that the address for the Financial Secretary has changed to Detroit. If you do need to contact me or just want to drop a line my home address is:

304 Ann Crockett Court
Franklin, TN 37064

Garry Owen,

Jerry Houston

Balance as of 5/16/00		15,336.04
PX Refund (Tie)		-100.00
Association Awards		-110.15
US Postal		-99.00
Tennessee Registration		-130.00
Man of Year Awards		-165.95
Newsletter		-1,172.00
PX Items		-2,000.00
Memorial Day Flowers		-165.95
Total Disbursements		-3,943.05
Income		
Interest Income		245.13
Member Fees		
Charles Brueggemann	00-01	20.00
Lois M. Olson	00	10.00
Edwin B. Miller, Jr.	00-01	20.00
Pedro Acosta Jr.	99-03	50.00
Joh R. Gogets	99-00	20.00
John A. Kruetzkamp	99-00	20.00
Sam Sullivan	00-01	20.00
Craig S. Nedball	01-04	40.00
Richard A. Gonzales	98-00	40.00
Alfred M. Cardenas	00-01	20.00
Robert L. La Cosse	00-01	20.00
Jay Lawson	00-01	20.00
Lois M. Olson	00	40.00
Robert Y. Kihara	00	10.00
Timothy R. McCarthy	01-05	50.00
Harold Gottesman	00	10.00
Robert D Horan	99-01	30.00
Paul A. Dangelo	00-01	20.00
Charles D. Mullikin	01-02	20.00
William L. Vasil	00-02	30.00
Clifton E. Miller	00-01	30.00
Robert L. La Cosse	01	10.00
David A. Bland	00	10.00
Tommie Whittemore	00-01	20.00
Peter M. Howard	99-01	30.00
Pearl A Hare	00-01	20.00
Tony Gutierrez	99-03	50.00
Larry H. Woods	00-02	30.00
George M. Smiljanich	00-02	30.00
Robert S. Jones	00-04	50.00
Larry Budge	00-01	20.00
Bruce Roberson	00	10.00
James Hardenburgh	99-02	40.00
Don Maxwell	01-02	20.00
Will Mercer	00-01	20.00
Loyd Tyson Jr	00	10.00
Ryan D Sateren	00-02	30.00
Roger Meister	01-02	20.00
Pat Dockery	02-04	30.00
Harry Clark	00-01	20.00
Dennis Dickess	04-05	20.00
Patrick Fox	00-01	20.00
Donald Diggs	00-01	20.00
William Boyce	01-05	50.00
Rod Henning	01-03	30.00
Truman Hamrick	00-01	20.00
Frank DeFino	00-03	40.00
Rpger Olson	03-04	20.00
Roy Baxter	01-03	40.00
Richard Pasquale	99-01	30.00
Robert Farrington	00	10.00
Ed Salisbury	00-01	20.00
Mike Reagan	99-00	20.00
Rodney Salvi	01-05	50.00
Neil T. Meyer	01-02	20.00
Richard E. Rebholz	99-00	20.00
George Porod	01-04	40.00
Ed Perry	00-04	50.00
Harold Page	00-01	20.00
Joe V. Gonzales	94-01	80.00
Bob Lotto	00-01	20.00
Ralph Dagenhart	00-01	20.00
Bob Lotto	02-04	30.00
Gary Cramer	02-03	20.00
Lester Rogers	00-01	20.00

Financial Report (Cont'd)

Bob Hansen	01-02	20.00
Gene Cargile	01-02	20.00
Ed Canady	00-01	20.00
Earl R. Huber	00-01	20.00
Brain J. Ravese	99-00	20.00
Total Member Fees		1,840.00

Donations

James B. Vaught	200.00
Larry Budge	10.00
Robert S. Jones	30.00
Peter M. Howard	70.00
Total Donations	310.00

Other Income

PX Sales	
Cups	40.00
Hats	50.00
Flag	18.00
Pins	20.20
Audio Tape	15.00
Other PX	12.00
Shirts	216.60
Ties	195.00
Total Other Income	566.80

Total Income	2,961.93
Total In General Fund	14,354.92

REUNION V

Previous Balance	12,690.00

Disbursements

General Jackson Show-boat	-2,425.00
Name Tags	-182.1
Memorial Service Fees	-256
Hospitality Supplies	-2100
Coffee Mugs	-2775.53
Additional Coffee Mugs	-2346
Coffee Service	-62.4
Hotel Charges	-19898.42
Admin Supplies	-125
Total Disbursements	-30,170.45

Reunion V Registration

Vernon Garrett	120.00
Richard Pasquale	120.00
Eddie M. Rape	60.00
Len Frederick	60.00
Jasper J. Cantazaro	120.00
David Kozuh	60.00
Tommy Morgan	120.00
Lester Rogers	120.00
Mike Reagan	60.00
Gene Cargile	25.00
James Mitchell	15.00
Jasper J. Cantazaro	15.00
Robert Farrington	-60.00
Neil T. Meyer	-60.00
Jimmy Hirschuber	120.00
Elizabeth Price	120.00
Jim Brennan	25.00
Roy Baxter	60.00
George Shelton	-40.00
Frank A. Valadez	60.00
Ed Perry	60.00
Bob Fielman	-80.00
Bob Phillips	120.00
Tim McCarthy	90.00
Karl F. Haartz	60.00
Don Shipley	60.00
James Hardenburgh	120.00
Robert D. Wagner	180.00
George Hannaford	60.00
Walter W. Zimmerman	60.00
Roger Meister	240.00
Charles McHenry	180.00
Larry Hilton	60.00
George Klein	60.00
Jerry Martz	120.00
Mike Sprayberry	120.00
Edwin K. Coon	120.00
Edward F. Peltier	60.00
George Shelton	60.00
A.J. Wise	120.00
Truman Hamrick	120.00
Gregory R. Holloway	60.00
Billy Moore`	-30.00
Edwin F. Peltier	-25.00
Herman S. Daves	-30.00
Ryan D Sateren	-30.00
Bobby Tillman	-30.00
Joe M. Sanchez	-30.00
George Klein	-15.00
Loyd Tyson Jr	-10.00
Clifton E. Miller	-30.00
Robert S. Jones	120.00
Bruce Roberson	60.00
Harry Lanier	60.00
Buddy Eaton	120.00
Donald H Phares	60.00
William F. Prettyman	60.00
Richard A. Gonzales	60.00
Steve Sjear	60.00
Michael W. Lewis	120.00
Rich Reed	120.00
Alfred M. Cardenas	120.00
Steven D. McKibben	120.00
E. C. Horne Jr.	120.00
Gerhard Bronston	60.00
Lorinso Clark	120.00
Dave Crocker	60.00
Bill Riggins	120.00
John A. Kruetzkamp	60.00
Robert E. Farrington	120.00
John E. Weedman	120.00
Frank A. Valadez	240.00
Craig S. Nedball	60.00
Edwin B. Miller, Jr.	120.00
Joe V. Gonzales	120.00
Robert S. Frix	50.00
Edward R. Canady	120.00
Thomas H. White	120.00
Laddie Hunt	60.00
Joh R. Gogets	120.00
Patrick Fox	180.00
Claude Breeding	240.00
Jerry Knapp	120.00
Gary E. Cramer	120.00
George R. Koehler	60.00
Ralph Dagenhart	120.00
Charles Brueggemann	120.00
Ronnie Casteel	120.00
Charles Hubbert	120.00
William R. Brown	60.00
Rodney Salvi	120.00
Marc Folden	60.00
Jerry Houston	290.00
Tommie Whittemore	120.00
Roberto Matulac	180.00
Duke Frey	-120.00
Bob Frix	-50.00
John Plourde	-120.00
Cliffton Miller	-120.00
Total Registrations	7,430.00

Financial Report (Cont'd)

General Jackson	
Will Mercer	99.00
Roger G. Olson	99.00
Phillip Sierer	99.00
Rich Reed	100.00
Darrell D. Martin	99.00
Robert W. Fielman	99.00
James E. Mitchell	99.00
Harry W. Coit	99.00
Ben Weedman	148.50
Donald Diggs	99.00
Danny L. Smith	100.00
Karl F. Haartz	148.50
Dennis Dickess	99.00
Maurice Goulet	50.00
Harold E. Dannewitz	99.00
Ryan D Sateren	99.00
Roberto Matulac	148.50
Richard L. Reed	99.00
Allen Patrick	49.50
Pat Dockery	148.50
Haskel Westmoreland	99.00
Cash	99.00
Don Shipley	99.00
Jerry Houston	99.00
Total General Jackson	2,477.50
Reunion V Donations	
Harold Gottesman	15.00
Billy Moore`	30.00
Edwin F. Peltier	25.00
Herman S. Daves	30.00
Ryan D Sateren	30.00
Bobby Tillman	30.00
Soe M. Sanchez	30.00
George Klein	15.00
Cheryl Klein	10.00
Bob Fielman	20.00
	235.00
Other Income	
PX Sales	3,342.37
Raffle	1,725.00
Hospitality	3,249.54
Other Income	8,316.91
Income	18,459.41
Total Reunion V	978.96
Grand Total	**15,333.88**

Note The Grand Total includes $5,000 that is in the Detroit Bank Account with the New Financial Secretary

Recap of Reunion V Events

By Ted Swett

The reunion began on July 2 and ended on July 9. The first three days were devoted to tourist activities, with the formal portion commencing Wednesday evening with an icebreaker and free pizza.

We had business meetings on Thursday and Friday mornings, with nominations for the new slate of Board members, Company Trustees and Executive Committee officers on Thursday and the elections on Friday. On Thursday we also had presentations by representatives from the Dept of Veterans Affairs and the Disabled American Veterans, followed by Q's and A's. We arranged this in order to provide assistance with claims, and for PTSD cases in particular. Our high watermark in attendance was Friday, when we had 380 troopers and guests.

There were three highlights during the reunion. First, the only living one of our four Medal of Honor awardees, Mike Sprayberry, D5/7 (1968) joined us Thursday evening. This was his first of the five reunions we have now had, and his presence inspired us all. He is a modest, soft-spoken and affable guy who seemed almost embarrassed at our spontaneous demonstration of admiration and respect for him. What a trooper!

Another very special highlight was having General (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey, C2/7(1968) as our keynote speaker at the Friday business meeting. He had originally been scheduled to be our banquet speaker that evening, but a conflict with an official responsibility he had to meet forced him to change his travel schedule. He went out of his way to be with us, and gave an inspirational talk which got to us all. What a trooper!

(A bit of serendipity resulted when Barry, in chatting with some of our troopers, realized that a couple of them had been under his command in Germany, including our MH trooper, Mike Sprayberry.)

Our final highlight was our traditional Memorial Service. We held it on Saturday morning at the Nashville War Memorial. During the service the names of each of our 286 fallen comrades were read. A representative from each company read the name of each KIA from his company. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Eddie Rape, B5/7(1969) gave the opening and closing prayers.

During the reading of the names a gaggle of choppers just happened to fly over the War Memorial...and tears flowed.

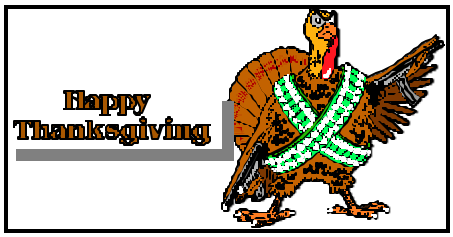
I passed the baton to the new 5/7 Cav Association officers: John Long, C 5/7(1966) President; Karl Haartz, C 5/7(1966) 1st Vice President; Ed Perry, E 5/7(1969) 2d Vice President; Allen Patrick, B 5/7(1966) Communications; Jerry Houston, Hq 5/7(1966) Battalion Secretary; Jasper Catanzaro, B 5/7(1966) Financial Secretary.

At each reunion we present Man-of-the-Year Awards for the two years since the previous reunion, and the President's Award to the trooper who has made the biggest difference for the Association since the preceding reunion. (Earlier winners are not eligible.) The winners were Ed Perry for 1999 and Allen Patrick for 2000. The President's Award went to Jerry Houston, who not only almost single-handedly staged the Nashville reunion - the best one yet - but who has kept our books flawlessly since taking over as Financial Secretary four years ago. He will continue to serve us as the new Battalion Secretary.

Having been the Association's President since its organization in 1992, I decided to step down and let the youngsters take over, and was honored to be elected President Emeritus. I was given an elegant First Team watch to mark the occasion. Wes Westmoreland, my close friend and 1st Vice President since 1992, also decided to "retire." Wes, C 5/7, who was the youngest First Sergeant in the Army when the battalion was organized in 1966, retired as a Division CSM. He was consistently the hardest working of all the 5/7 Cav troopers, and the growth of the Association is the result of his leadership. (We have over 3,000 good addresses of 5/7 Cav veterans, with more showing up each month.) He won the President's Award at our Washington D.C. Area reunion in 1998, and is now Vice President Emeritus. What a trooper!

Harry Owen,

Ted



Special Thanks from Wes Westmoreland

Garry Owen,

Well, we had a long but safe trip home. The temperature outside the car was over one hundred degree's as we approached Cincinnati. With the heat and over heated cars and all the construction it took over three hours to move fifty miles. Other than that and the fact I was leaving all my old combat buddies and friends behind, the trip home was not that bad. The trip also gave me a chance to remember all the good things about the reunion and to think about those I needed to thank for the memories.

First Colonel Houston for setting up the complete reunion as the ground team Commander and all alone. Although I feel sure he got some help from his beautiful wife Dixie. When I say beautiful that's just what I mean. In fact his whole family is beautiful.

Colonel Huston's arrangements included the high level fly over by the helicopters during the memorial service. And if you think this just happened you don't know that General Vaught missed the Battalion Business meeting to go to go talk to one of his friends who is now Commander of the 101st Air Borne Division at Fort Campbell Ky. It brought back a lot of memories. As we looked up our minds went way back about thirty or more years.

You know that after each reunion we leave saying this was the best and I think that's true but now that Colonel Houston has set the bar so high it will be damn hard to get any better. But knowing the new board they are going to try. Damn, they got their work cut out for them!

Now for the Vietnam wall display donated by a beautiful lady, Mrs. Long.

After Colonel Swett and I asked her if she would be so kind to take on this task for the Association, Colonel Long contacted me by e-mail for ideas. My comment to him was just tell Suzy the job that needed to be done and then back off and let the lady go to work. I wasn't worried because I had seen some of her work and knew she would turn out a masterpiece. And Suzy, you did just that.

The display was just perfect. Just like the Lady who put it all together. Thanks Mrs. Long, You are beautiful.

Another special thanks for the Medal of Honor display that was setup by Captain Brown's daughter. I know of no way this display could have been set up so it would have looked better. It was perfect.

I had been trying to get Captain Sprayberry to attend a reunion for the past eight years with no luck well about two months before the reunion I sent him a copy of an e-mail I had received from Capt. Brown saying how the display was going to be set up and that Captain Brown's daughter was doing this for the Association and would he please join us and you know the rest. Captain Sprayberry was there. So, to Captain Brown and his Daughter, thanks for getting him there.

Captain Brown, please bring your Daughter to the next reunion so we can all thank her in person. Plus if she looks anything like her mother she is a beautiful young lady. Thanks sir.

Now for the beautiful display donated to the association by the Robinson Sisters from Minnesota (now 5-7 Cav Little Sisters). This display brought beauty to the room with a strong message about the Vietnam War.

We also had a special treat in that both sisters Ruth and Peggy were able to join us for the reunion.

There presence helped me do something I have been trying to do for the past eight years and that is get more people to the wall in Washington on Veterans Day.

Now that our wives have seen these two beautiful women and realized that we had met them in D. C., I think its going to be hard for our wives not to be with us next Veterans Day. So Ruth and Peggy, thanks. We enjoyed having you with us in Nashville. And Ruth thanks for the prints they turned out just like you. Beautiful.

Thanks to all for attending the reunion if you did not attend then you missed our best reunion to date and we missed you.

Garry Owen,

Wes

Veterans Day

Washington D.C.
11 November 2000
9 a.m. Ceremony

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