Greetings to you all --- I trust that the summer has been good to you and your families; and, that your life is enriched with good health and the love of those dear to you. The fellowship, friendship, and love which surrounded us at our reunion in July reinforced for me, and I’m sure for you, the very real value of keeping close ties to those who have meant so much to us over the years. Those with whom we served in the tough times of combat and with whom we share the bonds of friendship, loyalty and trust forged in battle remain special to us. Those bonds are unbreakable but do need to be nurtured. We can do that by staying in touch and by being there when our help is needed. We are brothers. We are family. We stand together.

We look forward to having another big crowd in Washington for Veterans Day activities. I hope to see many of you at Guapo’s Mexican restaurant on November 10th. Be sure to let Karl Haartz know if you’re coming so he can give a good number to the restaurant. Details of the dinner are elsewhere in the newsletter.

On Veterans Day, (Tuesday November 11 this year) we usually gather around 11 AM in the vicinity of the park service gazebo between the wall and the Lincoln memorial. That gives us time to visit before the wreath laying procession that begins around 12:30 pm.

Substantial progress has been made on narrowing the options for our next reunion in 2010. Allen Patrick will update us at Guapo’s on November 10th.

Lastly a reminder, that we still need contributions to restore the health of our association treasury. We would appreciate any help you can give.

I pray God’s blessings on you and yours. Please stay safe and keep our troops and their families in your prayers.

Garry Owen!

2010 Reunion Site Search

The search for our reunion site for 2010 is well under way.

During the battalion meetings in Jacksonville members voted on preferred site locations. Nashville came in as first choice. Washington DC was second; Indianapolis was third and St. Louis was fourth.

Hotels in each of the above cities have been contacted and we are now in the process of narrowing down the alternatives.

Three hotels were contacted in the Washington DC area including the Hilton Crystal City where the 1st Cav sets up shop during Veterans Day. None of them were willing to work with us on our Hospitality Room requirements: self-supplied and served bar, continental breakfast and deli lunch. Each of the DC hotels cited rules and regs about guests not being allowed to bring their own alcoholic beverages into hotel meeting spaces. And they also don’t like the idea of guests supplying and serving food in the hotel.

Indianapolis and St. Louis were much more cooperative. We have a solid candidate hotel in each of these cities: Indianapolis Marriott North and Crown Plaza St. Louis. And both are willing to work with us on our own self-managed hospitality room.

Nashville has three hotel possibilities: Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville Sheraton Music City and Franklin Cool Springs Marriott. Each has been contacted by phone and e-mail. Jerry Houston has also made an initial visit to each to outline our site criteria.

Jerry and I will make a follow-up site visit to each of the three hotels in Nashville during the week of October 20. We will check out the physical layout and discuss with the hotels’ management teams the specifics of our hospitality room and meeting room requirements.

After visiting the hotels I will put together a report that will be reviewed in our business meeting at Guapo’s restaurant in Bethesda as we gather for Veterans Day celebrations in DC.

I will also post the results of the site visit on our web site after our Veterans Day gathering.

We have learned from our experience in Jacksonville that our reunion budget cannot support the cost of the hotel providing our continental breakfast and deli lunch. We were spoiled by the great cooperation we received in Colorado Springs.

We have many willing volunteers in our association that attend the reunions and we will definitely be calling on all of you for your help in 2010.

Garry Owen,
Allen
Vice President’s Report

by Karl Haartz

Another newsletter and another season changes here in New England. Autumn is by far the prettiest season as the leaves change from green to brilliant reds, yellows and oranges. After three weeks of color they change to the earth tones of rust & browns. Thus the warning to the ensuing winter season, snow & cold, YUK! Now back to the association doings.

Veterans Day in Washington, DC --- again this year we will be having a great get-together and dinner at Guapo’s Restaurant at 8130 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD on the evening of Monday November 10, the evening before the gathering at the Wall.

Guapos will be ready for us at 6 PM and the buffet dinner with delicious Mexican dishes will start at 7 PM just after our short business meeting.

The cost of the dinner (including soft drinks) will be $28.50 per person which we’ll collect when you arrive. There will be a cash bar available as well.

We have reserved a block of rooms reserved under 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association’s name at the Double Tree Hotel, 8120 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda. The hotel is located next door to Guapos. Ask for the 5/7 Cav rate, which is $119 per night. There is a $10 parking charge if you park in the hotel facilities. The block of rooms is only for the nights of November 9 & 10. Those planning to attend please RSVP to me at my e-mail or call and leave a message: 603-726-7080.

To all that have made generous donations to our treasury a great big THANK YOU. We are making a remarkable recovery though your donations and we’re continuing to build our treasury back to its former levels with your generous support. You’re donations are greatly appreciated --- thanks again!

Getting to know a Veteran, 8th Grade, Creston Middle School --- Last May after completing the “Run-For-The Wall” I was waiting for a Park Ranger at the Wall as I needed a ladder to get some pictures for Larry Allen’s DVD of our KIAs. While waiting I was asked to speak with a few middle school kids from Creston, Ohio.

We talked about 20 minutes on different aspects of being a veteran which was their project of being at the wall. At the end of our discussion one of the girls handed me a t-shirt. I looked to her Mother for a little guidance as to what to do. Her Mother told me the girls wanted to give the shirt to a “Special Veteran.” I could make this story a lot longer but here is the short version. I have taken the t-shirt with me in my travels and had pictures in the various places I have visited. I’ve then sent the pictures back to Creston Middle School to let them know that their project is on-going.

I’m looking forward to meeting a new group of kids from Creston Middle School that will be at the wall the Saturday prior to Memorial Day this year.

(Continued on page 3)
**Vice President’s Report (cont’d)**

(Continued from page 2)

**My computer efforts** --- for the last 2 weeks I have been upgrading my PC and laptop so I can continue keeping everyone in the loop. As you know my real profession is a truck driver, so if I can do this, everyone should be able to. With great pain I do admit that this damned computer is smarter than I. After 20 hours on the phone with my tutor we got everything to work. The unlimited long distance service from road runner took a big hit. It also took a few new pieces of hardware which my master card took care of. At one time I actually had 3 computers apart and lying on the floor.

With my new e-mail software I think some of you probably have blocks that won’t let me through. If you are not receiving your update from me you may want to check your e-mail software and add me to the safe senders list.

Now a question that Allen Patrick & I discussed a little. We would like to add your information and update requests to the website. Let me know what you think about this. My idea is to post info requests on the web site but for no more than 45 days. This way everyone could check once a month and stay current. We would still include your info requests in the newsletter as many of our members are not on line. Let us know what you think!

**Information Requests** – Jack Monahan would like info on 5/7 unit citations. Did we receive any while in Vietnam or Cambodia? You can contact me with the info.

Richard Yazzie, B 69, would like some info on a firefight that took place on 1/17/69. Richard needs any info you can provide on the firefight to add to information he is providing to the VA. Any help is appreciated. He would also like to know if he was put into receive a Silver Star for his actions that day. He thought he was but as we all know, records have been lost in the past. Richard’s contact info follows: Richard Yazzie, P.O. Box 1142, Crown Point, NM 87313.

**Taps**

Thomas J Sabo, Sr. HHC 1966-67. Died on July 21, 2008 from a cancer. Thomas was also in the Marines.

Frank A. DeFino, A Co. 1967. Frank had a massive heart attack 9/23/08. As most of you know Frank was very active with both the 5/7 and the VFW. Frank will be missed by all.

Garry Owen,
Krazy Karl

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**Note from Ed Garr Re: Tour of Vietnam**

Karl --- Thanks for mentioning us in the 5/7 newsletter. Please put me on your distribution list.

"The Black Stetsons Return" is a Vietnam tour that is open to all: Men women and children. In fact my 19 year old grandson will come because this tour will cover most all areas in Vietnam. We will go into Saigon briefly and then to all 1st Cav areas west and to the Cambodian border.

We go to Qui Nhon and up highway 19 to An Khe and to Pleiku. We travel north up the old Ho Chi Minh Trail Highway 14B thru the Tu Bon Basin to DaNang with overnights in Hoi An. A day visit to the Que Son can be done providing we have some interest. We venture north through the Hai Van Pass to Hue and the T-T Woods area. We venture further to the DMZ area with stops at Khe Sanh, Con Thien and Dong Ha. Side trips to the Ashau can be made.

We end up in Hanoi and hopeful get briefed by JPAC and the status of our MIAs.

This is an exceptional tour with shopping days built in at Hoi An (Asia's bargain capital), Hue and DaNang.

Tour Price $3,395.00 per person double occupancy. Single Supplement $675 Extra.

Tour Dates: Depart LA May 10 on Korean Air at 0030 return LA May 26 at 0845.

Side trips to Dien Bien Phu can be arranged at customers expense. Trips to Dalat, Gia Nghia and Ban Ma Thuot can also be arranged.

Ed Garr, 216 SE 44th Av, Ocala Fl 34471

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I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

*I will always place the mission first.*
*I will never accept defeat.*
*I will never quit.*
*I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself. I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

By: Anonymous
**LETTERS**

Hopefully thru efforts of 5/7th organization and our own network you all got the sad news of Frank DeFino’s (A Co ’67) passing. A massive heart attack at 61 in his workplace shop, three days before his scheduled retirement. His work friends told me he had a routine of taking a brief nap at his desk after lunch. On Tuesday a co-worker tried to wake him and he had died…quickly and quietly.

Viewings were scheduled in North Jersey for Thursday and a Funeral Mass on Friday at 10. We got the word Wednesday around 6pm. Hawk drove up from SC (11 hrs) on Thursday. He got to my place in PA about 7. Next morning in the rain we went up for the Friday mass. We got to the church about an hour beforehand. That was a blessing as we had the opportunity to meet several of his other buddies. Of course we all shared our stories and they told us they already knew about REDEYE and HAWK and the others, since Frank was always telling them about his CAV Guys. Amazing…not really amazing if we think about.

Apparently the VFW group and others had a memorial service during the prior evening viewing…lot of stories, testimony, etc. Many of Frank’s stories were repeated including about HIS GUYS, reunions and Vet Day every year in DC. From what Hawk and I heard during these few minutes of outside conversation Frank was the power, the driving force in the Post VA activity and Community outreach programs. Of course we shared how Frank always told us all about “His POST”. And it was obvious he had taken ownership. Also learned he was the first VN Vet to be Post Commander. They intend to make him the namesake of the 2009 Memorial Day Parade. Might be a road trip in the future…we’ll see.

Donna and Giena arrived about then and Giena ran quickly to Hawk. Things got emotional with hugs all around; meeting the family; being introduced as Frank’s VN buds, etc.

The VFW group had been asked to be the pallbearers. All planned and practiced. And in what I think was a tremendously selfless outreach the leader asked Hawk and I to join them in the ceremony and procession. (Hawk was wearing his CAV Jacket already. We retrieved our CAV hats from the car.) Obviously we were thrilled, for all of us, to honor Frank and represent the past, the missing, and the 5/7 Cav. We wanted to participate but would have never asked. And in a time of their own grief and focus, they thought of us…Frank’s buddies. An emotional moment.

After Mass we processed out and saluted as the LDR and Past Post CO presented Flags to Donna and Giena, then again as Frank’s co-worker played TAPS. There was no cemetery as remains were to be cremated.

Next was a gathering at the VFW post with food and refreshments. We met more folks and Giena’s boy-friend. More stories were shared by many. I loved telling any who would listen “about my first day with a skinny kid from NY. Oh no, I got to live with this guy 24 hrs a day…a RTO who was loud and never shut up; who ran A Company 1st Plt. All you had to do is ask him (or not) and he would tell you. And he overcame all that and ME to become a great guy, parent and person”.

Giena told Hawk she will be in DC this year with us for time on Vets Weekend. Her email is defingo@gmail.com. She is a Senior at James Madison Univ.

Hawk and I took off and got home at 3:45 and he left for home soon after. We both agreed it was a sad, emotional visit yet still a great day. GARRYOWEN, Vince Laurich

Note: Frank’s 5/7th gideon is framed and has a permanent spot of the wall of the post. Members took it down and actually had it displayed during the viewing and Mass Services. Our man had also made sure they had quite a bit of 1st Cav and 5/7 Cav memorabilia displayed at the POST.

Good Morning “Skytroopers”!

My wife, Jean Rossi, and I certainly enjoyed the reunion in Jacksonville! We combined our trip with a few days on the beach as well. It was great to see everyone, and I thought it was the best I have attended so far. My first reunion was in 1998 in Arlington/Washington, DC. We enjoyed the Colorado Springs reunion in 2006 as well, but we thought the accommodations in Jacksonville were superior!

I split my tour in Vietnam as did many. I spent May, June, and July 1967 with B Co. 5/7. I got slightly wounded May 18, and injured my back in early July. In early August I was transferred to HHC 3rd Brigade, and remained with HHC until I left Vietnam on April 3, 1968. Charlie Baker was my CO for the first several months with HHC. Initially I was in the security platoon, but in October, 1967, I became the HHC mail clerk. I remember flying to places like Camp Evans to get the mail to the forward personal. I spent March, 1968, at Camp Evans. I can understand the financial challenge the association is currently experiencing, but I am confident that the troops will right the situation as best they can. We are a thousand in the hole right now as well since we generally have to fly to get to reunions. River Falls, WI, is about 40 east/southeast of Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. We feel it is well worth the temporary debt to try attending reunions whenever possible.

Karl, I would like you to add my email address to your news and update list. Thanks.

Royce Vick
3724 Shelby Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX  76109-2733

**Check Your Mail Label**

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. Dues payments should be mailed to our treasurer at the following address:

Royce Vick
3724 Shelby Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX  76109-2733

**PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.**

**PLEASE INCLUDE $3.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & $2.00 ON SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND $5.00 ON ALL SHIRT ORDERS.**

**SEND ORDER TO:**
**JOHN (GOODY) GOODPASTER**
303 CORA DRIVE
CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268
PHONE # 937-514-8247
EMAIL: jgoodpaster001@cinci.rr.com

CALL OR E-MAIL GOODY FOR INFO ON OTHER HATPINS AVAILABLE
**LETTERS (cont’d)**

Karl’s Note to Bob Anderson, Secretary of the 7th Cav Association

Garry Owen Bob,

I just got my Saber and as always turned to the 7th Cav news. On behalf of the whole 5/7 Cav Association I want to say thank you. I think you realize the dedication that it takes to continue to be as active an association as we are. It is through communication that we do. It has taken us 17 years to be at the point we are now and we want to thank you for your efforts to see that we are mentioned in the Sabers.

Thanks again from all at the 5/7.

"Krazy" Karl

To all of my brothers and comrades-in-arms,

Once again, one of our reunions is history, and we have gone home to rest and recuperate. As someone, who was part of the Florida Ground Team, it is my sincere hope; all of you went home with a good feeling of Florida hospitality. I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all of you, who took time to volunteer your help in assisting in the Hospitality Room. Red, the Company volunteer groups, the F-Troop ladies, who helped in so many ways, Mike Sprayberry, who was one heck of a trainee, and completed all phases of bartender training with flying colors, former unit commanders, Colonels Peterey, Wheeler and Dorr, there is not much ya'll can't do, the current 5/7 CAV company commanders, who stayed until closing to sing and help clean-up. Gentlemen, to see you sing and laugh meant so much more than you can imagine. All of you, helped to continue the idea, the 5/7 CAV is a band of brothers, no matter when you may have served with the unit!!!!!! Leanne, thank you for the pictures, and lastly Mr. Mercer, I have a new product for you to try.

William M. "Bill" Litvjak
C 5/7 CAV ’69-’70

As an FNG, I have never seen such a well planned and enjoyable weekend. Thanks to all of you who did so much! This was my first but won’t be my last. You all make me still proud to be 5/7...

G a r r y O w e n . - -
Brad Rolfs

Reunion IX was great and Jane and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. I’m glad to be home. Thanks a million to all who labored so hard to put on a great reunion. We are looking forward to the next one.

Wayne King

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES**

Military Record Requests (SF-180)


Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA

http://www.purpleheart.org/Membership/default.aspx

Disabled American Veterans

http://www.dav.org/

Vietnam Veterans of America

http://www.vva.org/

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

http://www.vfw.org/

**OTHER CAV ASSOCIATIONS**

1st Cavalry Division Association

"Alumni of the First Team"

302 North Main Street

Copperas Cove, Texas 76522-1703

E-mail: firstcav@1cda.org

Phone: (254) 547-6537

Seventh United States Cavalry Association

Robert J. Anderson, Secretary

2243 Ancient Drive, Wyoming, MI 49509

**5/7 CAV FAMILY READINESS GROUP**

Active Duty 5/7 Family Readiness Group at Ft. Stewart

The Family Readiness Group for the 5/7 at Ft. Stewart is a little low on support. If any of you can help out checks go to, “5-7 Cav Family Readiness Group” and mail it to HHT, 5th Squadron 7th Cav; ATTN: Family Readiness Group; 1218 Wm Wilson Dr; Bldg 639; Ft Stewart, GA 31314.

**2008 REUNION PICTURES**
Maybe the federal government should allow the members of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Association to manage our national debt. When we left Jacksonville, Florida we were in debt to the hotel and several association members.

We did our own "bail out" thanks to the generosity of many of you. See the attached donation information.

I just returned from vacation and have some additional $1,200 to deposit in October. We still need to repay our loans of $621 and we have not received a bill for the August AIRMOBILE but we have sufficient funds to cover these expenses.

It would be nice to again have funds available to purchase certificate of deposits and maintain a savings account balance. Right now all funds are in a checking account but we pay no service charge.

Don't forget that your donations to the Association are tax deductible. I will send a letter on the 5/7 Cav Association letterhead confirming your contributions.

Now’s the time to start saving for our next reunion in 2010. We will do our best to keep the fees reasonable but the economic pressures we're all under will most likely mean the fees will have to increase so start putting those pennies away now.

Enjoy this fall weather. It’s actually getting cooler down here in Texas.

Garry Owen,
Royce
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5/7 Cavalry Association
Nov 10 Pre-Veterans Day Gathering
6:00 PM
Guapos Restaurant
Bethesda, MD
8130 Wisconsin Ave.
(301) 656-0888