



THE BUGLE



5/7 Cavalry Association News

<http://www.cav57.org>

May 2025; Vol 34.1

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

President's Report

Greetings Garry Owen Troopers and families,

With Memorial Day right around the corner, I hope you will remind your friends and neighbors that this is the one day we pay honor to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. I grimace when someone comes up to me and says "Happy Memorial Day," even though they mean well. But beyond the barbeques, the ball games, etc. there is a deeper meaning to this day that you know all too well. I will make my rounds at the Wall, and visit our brothers in Arlington. If you plan to be in town please let me know. I would like to have some company.

Veterans Day: Our gathering for 2025 will be held during Veterans Day in Washington, DC. I am in contact with the Holiday Inn in Crystal City to draft a contract for November 9 through 12 and will have details soon. If some of you plan a longer stay, please contact me so I can discuss that with the hotel staff. And in 2026, it's reunion time again! I will let Allen tell you where we are with that plan. I hope to see many of you back here in DC this November.

5th Squadron: The Squadron is in the midst of a deployment to Europe, part of the NATO deterrence force that has been rotating through Europe since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Their newsletter is included a little further on. Unfortunately, they suffered a tragic accident when three members of a tank wrecker crew drove into a swamp while training in Lithuania and the three crewmembers died. SSG Edwin Franco, SSG Jose Duenes Jr., and PFC Dante Taitano join the rolls of our brothers who have passed on from us. Please keep their families and our 5-7 Cavalry Troopers in your prayers.

Garry Owen!
Cliff Wheeler
President, 5/7 Cavalry Association

Acting Vice President's Report by Jake Dalton

Hey Troopers! Focusing this on the Iraq/Afghanistan vets, but really, it applies to everyone.

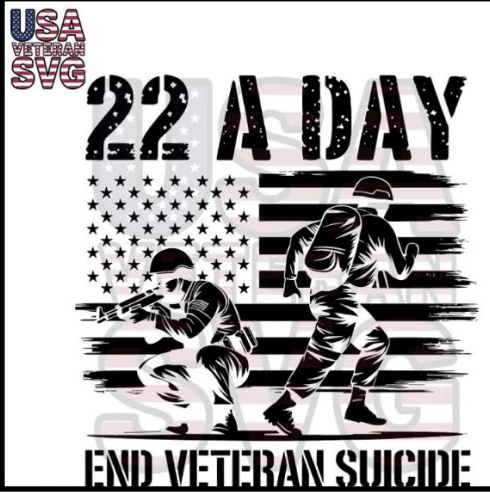
I still remember going to my first reunion in 2008, in Jacksonville, FL. I wasn't sure what to expect, and honestly, was still wound pretty tight after returning from our 15 month "Surge" deployment. I imagined many of my contemporaries still thought of me as, best put by one of my favorite lines from the movie Aliens, "boy's definitely got a corn cob up his ass." Add to that the Vietnam vets who'd so graciously taken us under their wings, but my feelings of, 'do I really belong with these guys,' and I was feeling more than a little hesitant about how it would go. I took a stab at it, though, unsure of what it would be like for those couple of days. To be honest, I'm getting choked up even as I write this, recalling how wonderful and terrific these reunions are.

As I look at attending what I believe will be my 9th reunion with the 5-7 CAV, I'm still awed and overwhelmed, and enormously grateful to have these opportunities to break bread and build fellowship with so many incredible people. There's really no precise words to describe the camaraderie and kinship you feel being around so many people with so many shared experiences. Whether from Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, or currently serving there's just something so cathartic to be with people who genuinely understand you and sincerely appreciate what you've done and where you've been.

For my brothers and sisters in arms who served with the Ft. Stewart 5-7 CAV I cannot recommend enough the fun, joy, and healing of attending a reunion. It becomes a family affair, and you make friends and build relationships that make you eagerly await the next reunion. With the hope of seeing as many of you as we can in Jacksonville, Garryowen! 7th First!

Jake Dalton (Bandit 6, Warpaint 3A, 05-08)

Message from Vince Laurich



Today a frequent topic online, in military magazines and Veterans organizations, etc. 600 plus a month gets ink, lots of attention. Yet not enough action!

How can we help? We may not travel as much, but we remember, we care. We can still Check In with our Buds. Reach out and touch. It will help each and all. Call, Text, FaceTime.... say hey, look and listen and share your smile. Catch up. (Don't whine about getting old. Pity and Sympathy is not 5/7th way) A few mins, once a month, whenever. Yep, you can make a difference. Why not now? Today?

Garry Owen, Redeye



Let's talk about Veteran suicide prevention

Shed a light on how to prevent Veteran suicide

May 2, 2025

Matthew Miller, Ph.D., MPH

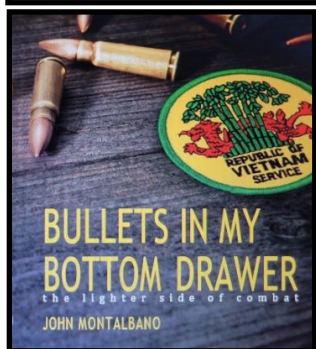
Executive Director, VA Suicide Prevention, Office of Suicide Prevention

When you're overwhelmed or struggling, it may seem like you're stuck in the dark. Reaching out for support can make a big difference. It's like flipping on a light switch. It may not solve everything right away, but it can help you see a path forward. So how do you ask for help when you need it? And if you're worried about a Veteran in your life, how can you shine some light for them?

The first thing I suggest for Veterans, whether you're currently facing a crisis or not, is saving the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) number—Dial 988 then Press 1—in your phone. That way you have it when you need it. The Veterans Crisis Line is the quickest way to reach people who understand what you're going through. Responders are ready to listen day or night, no matter what, and they can help you access the resources and services you need.

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7, confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, [Dial 988 then Press 1](#), chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#), or text [838255](#).

Bullets in My Bottom Drawer” by John Montalbano



I was contacted by VFW Post 670 in Fayetteville, NC to be the guest speaker at their 3-day event March 27-29 commemorating 50th Anniversary of last troops leaving Vietnam. Daily activities included a free lunch for Vietnam Veterans Thursday, lunch and dinner on Friday, and a catered dinner for over 160 veterans and their families Saturday evening honoring Gold Star and MIA families in attendance. The Post did a fantastic job with military precision and presented me with a custom-made wooden pen case. Sales of my book, **Bullets in My Bottom Drawer** were excellent as were the reviews from those who had already purchased one.

Garry Owen,
John Montalbano

Membership VP's Report by Jack Thomas

Allow me to open this Quarterly message by saying how deeply sorry I was to hear of the loss of four outstanding Troopers in a training exercise while deployed in Lithuania. All were from the 3rd Infantry Division, but there were our own 5/7 Troopers. I think I can speak for the entire association in mourning their loss and expressing thoughts and prayers to their families at this tragic time. May they rest in peace.

There has been very little new activity on the membership front. If your dues are paid through 2025, now is the time to think about sending in a check to renew them for a few more years.

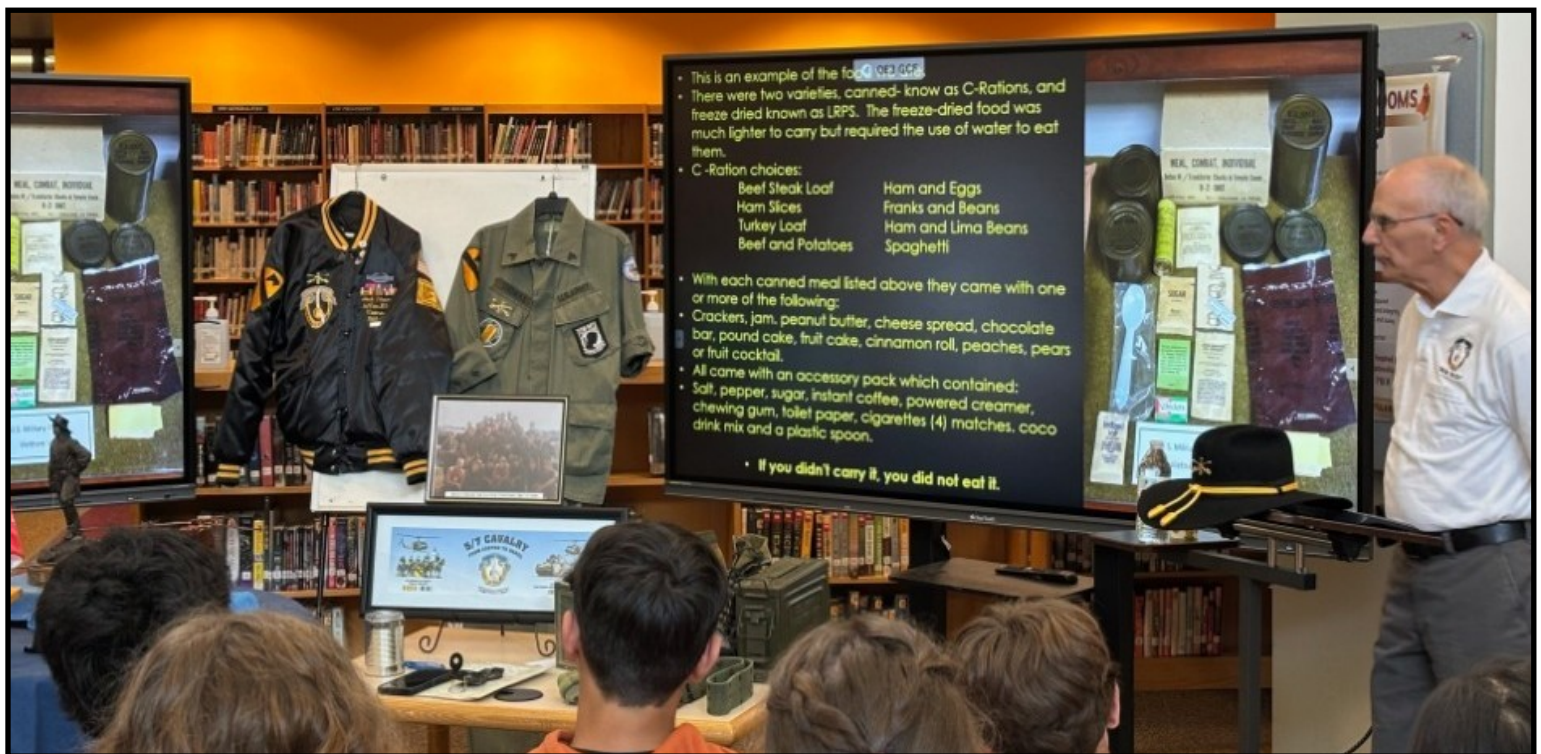
I was unaware of the impending deployment when I wrote the challenge to the active-duty troopers to get involved with the Association in the last newsletter. With the next reunion scheduled for Jacksonville in 2026, it is my hope that many of them will find the time to attend our banquet and learn firsthand what this Association is all about. Until then, Safe Training, Safe Travels and hope to see you all soon.

Changing course, a little, for some time now I have been working with my local school district in teaching the Vietnam war. For me it is sort of a show and tell for middle and high school students. Experiences, photos, and any memorabilia you might have will allow you to give insight to children who were not even a gleam in their grandparents' eye when you served, and it is much maligned by many teachers who were taught the war by those who avoided it back in the day. I might do 5 classes a day, a couple times a year. I find it personally very rewarding. It fills some idle time and lets me give back to the community. The Vietnam era veteran is slowly disappearing, and we all have stories to tell. Afghanistan and Iraq started many years ago as well, and some of you may have the time to dedicate to a project of this type, even going to your own kid's school.

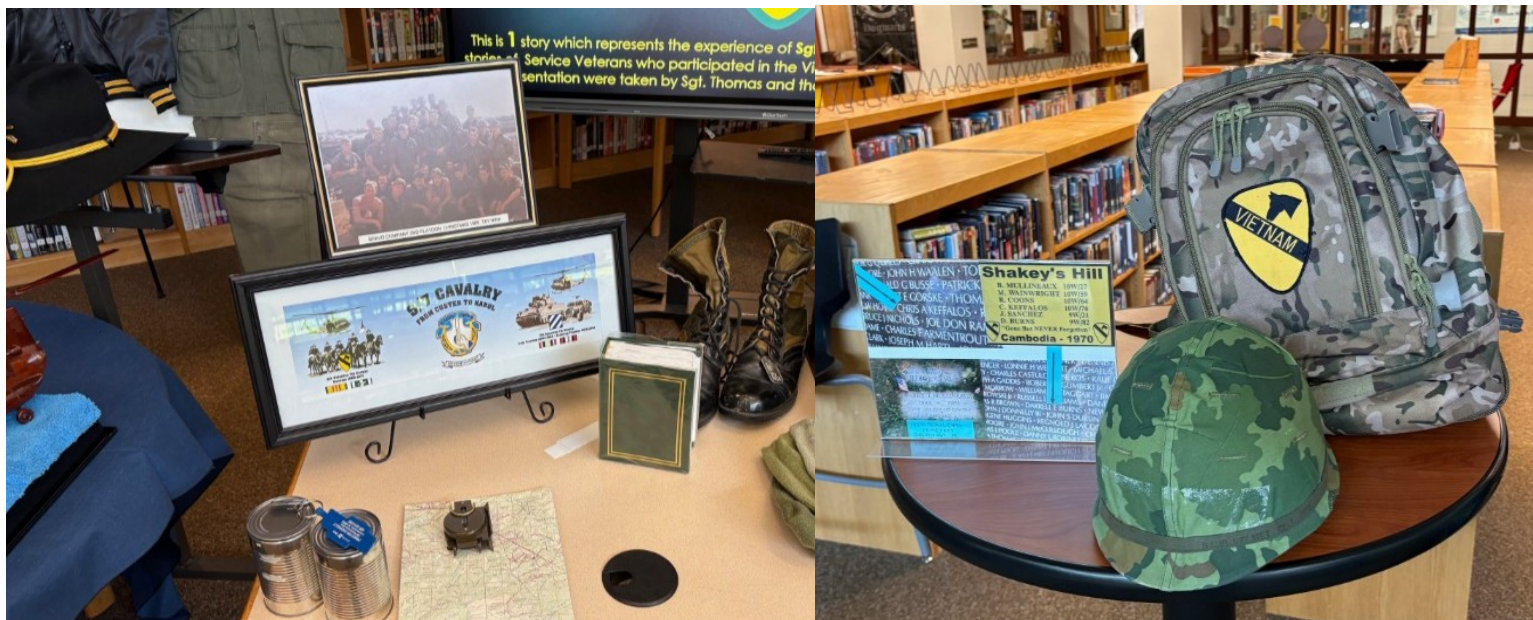
My personal involvement was inspired when I read an entry into a journal my grandfather kept. He was born in 1906. In it he related that as a young boy a Civil War Veteran came to his class at a one room schoolhouse to speak about his experiences of that war. Can you imagine? I find myself being that guy in the present day. You could be too. I have been very well received by the students and the faculty. You do not have to be a professional speaker to do it. Check with your local school district. You may be able to offer them a service they did not even know was available to them. Typically, these classes are taught around Veteran's Day or in a normal course of study in History usually toward the end of the school year. While this is not Membership it is something a member can do. If you have any questions, drop me an E mail and I may be able to guide you. If you are already in the schools, let me know as well as what you do may enhance what I do.

Enjoy your summer, hope to see some of you in D.C. for Veterans Day.

Until the next issue, Garry Owen,
Jack Thomas
V.P. Membership



Jack Thomas' Classroom Photos



Chaplain's Message

Ever notice the opening lyrics to the 1984, song "Forever Young"?

I feel like my affiliation with the CAV Association keeps me Forever Young! I remember my first glimpse at 5/7 CAV was October 2004. I was verbally informed I would be replacing a Chaplain that injured himself on a Retreat and was unable to deploy. I was an OD Green LT and one of only a handful of Soldiers at that rank with a Combat Patch. Having formerly deployed to Desert Storm as a really young PFC and returning as a senior SPC. I took advantage of the gap between wars and worked on family and education because I knew I wanted to return to Active Duty as a Chaplain.

When I finally reported to the CAV unit in November of 2004, I met with members from the Association. They all reminded me of my three uncles when they were young soldiers. All three of my uncles are Vietnam Vets and my youngest uncle was also in Desert Storm with me and one of my brothers.

Life as a Cavalry Chaplain began and in the best ways possible! Little did we know of the accomplishments and tragedies that would come our way. A few months later we lost our first Troopers in the 2005 Canal Incident. As the hours of the rescue and recovery went by, I couldn't help but think how those that died that day were forever preserved as Young Troopers in everyone's memory.

Three more deployments later, retirement, and then my first Reunion in traditional San Antonio brought back floods of memories. The kicker this year was hearing the news of our young Troopers who died in Lithuania, and they are the inspiration for today's reflection.

They are Forever Young! Nothing wrong with growing older as a CAV Trooper but the honor of being a Young CAV Trooper cannot be over looked and even more so for those that paid for the memory with their lives serving our great country and fellow Troopers.

In our minds we are all Forever Young and there is everything to be gained by sustaining those memories and encouraging the newest CAV Troopers and CAV leaders.

Remember your service and support those coming up, then we can all be proud to Live Forever Young!

Warpaint Shepherd Ancient
Mijikai "Mij" Mason, 2004-2008
Garryowen, Rock of the Marne and Top of the Rock!

5th Squadron's Tragic Loss in Lithuania

Four 3rd Infantry Division soldiers stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia, lost their lives in Lithuania after their armored recovery vehicle sank in a peat bog during a training exercise. The accident occurred on March 25, 2025, while they were on a mission to repair and tow an immobilized vehicle. The bodies of three of the soldiers were initially recovered on Monday, April 1, and the fourth soldier's body was found on Tuesday, April 2.

The four soldiers were identified as:

- **Sgt. Jose Duenez Jr.**, 25, of Joliet, Illinois.
- **Sgt. Edvin F. Franco**, 25, of Glendale, California.
- **Pfc. Dante D. Taitano**, 21, of Dededo, Guam.

Pfc. Troy S. Knutson-Collins, 28, of Battle Creek, Michigan.

[U.S. Army Europe and Africa \(.mil\)](#) reported that the soldiers were assigned to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The M88A2 Hercules armored recovery vehicle was found submerged in water and encased in mud. A massive recovery effort involving hundreds of personnel, heavy machinery, and advanced drone technology was launched to locate the soldiers.

The 3rd Infantry Division released statements expressing condolences to the families and loved ones of the soldiers. The soldiers were posthumously promoted. The incident highlights the dangers faced by soldiers during training exercises and the importance of safety procedures.



Sgt. Jose Duenez Jr.,



Sgt. Edvin F. Franco



Pfc. Dante D. Taitano

To The Raider Family

Given the recent loss of four of our teammates, CSM and I realize how inconsequential anything we can say must be. But we feel it important to express our shared grief, our appreciation for this Raider Family, and – most importantly – our hope for the future. We mourn the loss of these great Soldiers. They were four of our very best. The Raider Team, the 3rd Infantry Division, the US Army, and our Allies mourn with us. Please know that no resource was spared to search and recover our Soldiers.

We are grateful for our Raider Family who responded, searched, and prayed. We are grateful for our team forward in Europe and for those caring for our Families during this trying time. We are grateful for our Raider Family who stand ready to lift each other up.

Now we must heal together. Grief is an important part of healing, but we must not forget the importance of our purpose in helping us restore our team stronger than we were – different, but stronger. Our mission to build lethal and trained forces continues and, while the mission is necessary, it is also the most important way to honor our teammates.

CSM and I join you in your grief, we are here healing with you, and we will be alongside you to honor the memory of our fallen through a daily commitment to the mission and this team.

COL. Jim Armstrong, R6

CSM. Ryan Roush, R7

BATTALION DIRECTORY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
President Cliff Wheeler	703-586-2369 umrebel88@yahoo.com
President Emeritus Maury Edmonds	904-249-1175 edmondsmo@gmail.com
1st Vice President TBD	xxx-xxx-xxxx
1VP Emeritus "krazy" Karl	603-530-2399 cav571vpkk@gmail.com
VP Emeritus Don Shipley	618-863-2635 57don@24kttravel.com
VP Membership Jack Thomas	215-489-8811 firstcav70@aol.com
VP Operations Allen Patrick	910-508-0812 allenp@me.com
Secretary Jerry Houston	615-473-4128 jerrybhouston@gmail.com
Treasurer Dick Baker	603-455-1047 treasurer57cav@gmail.com
Sergeant At Arms TBD	xxx-xxx-xxxx xxxx@yyy.com
Battalion Chaplain Mijikai Mason	808-650-1850 mitchmason43@gmail.com
Legal Advisor Jim Harmon	516-747-3894 harfirm@aol.com
Veterans Affairs Committee Advisors Reinaldo Espada Gregory Holloway	espadar@hawaii.rr.com gregholloway@gmail.com
Public Relations TBA	xxx-xxx-xxxx xxxx@yyy.com
<u>Company Trustees</u>	
A Company Joe Williams	513-662-8948 ljwa57@gmail.com
B Company Ian McCalister	805-889-5857 papaian@juno.com
C Company TBD	xx-xxx-xxxx xxx@xx.com
D Company TBD	xx-xxx-xxxx xxx@xx.com
E Company Bill Moore	386-216-7062 ginmoore114@gmail.com
HHC Duke Frey	760-702-7328 jduke06@dc.rr.com

OTHER KEY MEMBERS

Video Phil Sierer	830-914-2203 oldrebel@satx.rr.com
PX Joseph Miechle	630-297-2704 joseph.miechle@yahoo.com

5/7 CAV REUNION 17, May 24 thru May 30, 2026



The 2026 Reunion contract has been signed with the Marriott Jacksonville Downtown. The hotel is accepting reservations now. Click on the following web link to open the hotel booking site

[Hotel Registration Link](#)

The room rate is \$150 per night and includes a full, complimentary breakfast each day of the reunion. The rate is applicable three days before and three days after the reunion week.

Parking is discounted at \$26 overnight valet parking, with unlimited in/out privileges. The hotel agreed to our hospitality room for the full week without restrictions on ice supply and our ability to serve beverages to our members.

The registration form for the reunion is under development and will be published next month.

Visit Jacksonville, FL the Official Visitor Website

visitjacksonville.com



Financial Report by Dick Baker

Our cash balance is \$81,274 compared to \$82,075 at the beginning of the year and \$81,848 at the previous Bugle.

Through the USPS advanced mail notification, I saw a few members' mailing sent to New Hampshire that never arrived in Arizona.

If you see that a check is outstanding on your bank statement, you will need to re-send a check for your dues to be updated. Being a snowbird in Arizona, we returned to New Hampshire April 22nd. My address is shown below and on the last page.

Our initial deposit for the May 2026 reunion in Jacksonville has been made. Later this year the normal registration form will be sent out. Please consider registering early, it helps greatly with planning. You can always cancel if required.

Garry Owen, Dick Baker, Treasurer

Dues Paid Since Last Newsletter

George	Banks	\$50	2028
Charles	Bernier	\$20	2025
Ronnie	Brooks	\$30	2026
Larry	Collins	\$50	2028
John	Conway	\$50	2029
Stephen	Denny	\$25	2025
John	Duttera	\$50	2029
John	Fitch	\$50	2028
Kenneth	Frolek	\$20	2026
Harold	Gottesman	\$50	2028
Jack	Gray	\$20	2025
Tony	Gutierrez	\$100	2033
Gary	Hogan	\$30	2026
Zbigniew	Hrabik	\$50	2032
George	Ingram	\$30	2027
John	Kruetzkamp	\$20	2026
Levi	Lenon	\$10	2025
Paul	McCarthy	\$40	2026
Michael	Mitchell	\$50	2030
Roger	Olson	\$20	2026
Tim	Pasquarelli	\$50	2029
James	Patrick	\$20	2026
Thomas	Rebich	\$50	2029
Charles	Reese	\$30	2026
Michael	Reuter	\$50	2026
Clifford	Romer	\$30	2027
Bruce	Russell	\$50	2029
Martin	Scull	\$50	2029
Dennis	Sherry	\$20	2025
Harold	Wagner	\$40	2027
Wayne	Walenticonis	\$30	2026
Stephen	White	\$50	2028

Dues are \$10 per year.

Please email dues to Richard Baker, Treasurer
5/7 Cav Association
P.O. Box 291
Bristol, NH 03222

Checks should be made out to 5/7 Cavalry Association

Financial Summary

Cash Balance	YTD
November 2024 Balance	\$81,848
Income:	
Reunion Registrations	
Dues Received	\$1,235
Donations	\$120
PX Sales	
Interest Earned	\$510
	\$1,865
Expenses	
Reunion Expenses	\$1,000
Bugle	\$1,034
PX Purchases	\$0
Funerals	\$250
Memorabilia Trailer	\$0
Mail Chimp	\$155
	\$2,439
2025 YTD Balance	\$81,274

Donations

John	Duttra	\$50
Gary	Hogan	\$20
John	Gray	In memory of Thomas Gray, B Co 66-67 \$50

IN MEMORIAM—MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

2016	Pat Malinka A 69
Danny Grinder E 68-69	George Bazal D 70
Van C Mandakunis E 69	John Cecere H 66
Andrew Hulse D 68	Rnady Boyd C 66
William N Dane D 69	2021
Arlyn E Wood H 69	Howard Prince B 68
Danny W Noth B 68	Edward Salisbury D 70
Richard Hawksby A 68	Caesar Perez C 66
Randy R Simpson C 70	Gene Gargile D 68
Claude B Jarrett B 67	Bill Hussong A 67
Johnnie L Smith B 67	Steve "Mutt" Shear A 68
Willie G Middleton B 68	Edd Lewis A Co 70
Harold Kline B 68	Royce Vick H 66
Robert J Rivers B 70	Henry McDonald C 66
Willie Wilson H 70	Thurman Woods D 68
2017	Jerry Dover E 68
Charles Bunton C 66-67	Andy Westin C 67
Lawrence T Sarginson B 68	2022
Gary J Creek C 66	Daniel Dilloway C 68
Lotis J Horton, Jr C 69	Rod Henning D 67
Peter G Olsen H 70	Albert Tapia C 67
Dale J Rhodes H 70	Bob Greenwood C 67
James L Ledbetter B 69	William Lerch D 04
Cecil S Kiser B 69	Larry Nunez C Co 66
Stephen R Allen B 67	Hank Thomas D Co 67
David W Greathouse B 69	Rudy Kozuh A 70
George Myrick B 69	Nicholas Filipak A 66
William D Chapman C 69	Ric Wetherbee D 67
William Mintz A 68	Thurman Woods D 68
Leroy Cauty A 70	Burley D Middleton D 69
Wallace Duggins H 70	Charlie Talbot A 68
Larry Reel A 66	2023
2018	Larry Allen C 68
James S Goemmer B 68	Bill Litvjak C 69
Jerry Adkins A 69	Truman Hamrick B 66
Terry D Dillon C 68	Patrick Dockery C 70
Raymond A Judy B 66	Mike Walker A 66
Charles K Reber B 66	Harold Dannewitz C 66
Hugo Lopez H 66	Joe Levatino D 66
Billy E Fisher D 68	Danny White B 69-70
David W Condron A 70	Darrel Lockhart A 69-70
Charles L McQuerry H 67	Tim Armstrong B 68
Ron Logterman C 66	Charlie Talbot A 68
Alvin Zuber B 66	Cornelius Floyd D 67
Dennis Baker H 70	Myron "Mick" Davis D 68
2019	Robert Meadowcroft C 66
Larry D Fennern B 69	2024
David Baker C 66	Joe McVeigh C 69
Marvin R Deckard C 69	Rick Howard D 66
William L Parsons D 70	Gen John Wickham H 68
Peter Ballo C 67	George Brown A 70
Carol D McIntosh C 67	Sam Cathcart A 66
David Crowe C 66	William Hynes C 66
Richard Gonzales C 66	2025
James D Harmon C 66	Gary Hogan B 70
Thomas D Lent C 67	Rich Bigelli C 66
Vincent B Mesa C 66	
George R Clifford D 66	
Robert C Henzy D 69	
John Zepeda B 66	
Larry Vanderveen D 68	
2020	
Melvin M Augustyniak A 69	
John M Lary B 67	
Everett E Easterday C 68	
Michael "Hippie" Shurley D 67	
Maurice "Moe" Goulet C 66	
Raymond Barraza C 66	
Benjamin B Weedman C70	
Edward R Canady A 66	
Thomas Blue A 69	
Harold Baker B 68	
Walter "Frenchy" Bossuot B 67	
Kenneth Kuykendall A 68	
Vardell Nesmith C 67	
Harold Powell B 68	



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5th Battalion
7th Cavalry

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May 26, 2025 MEMORIAL DAY