



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Bill Richardson

Phill Zook

Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

It's early November, actually the 8th as I sit before the keyboard pondering what letters to type that will hopefully make up the words to this installment of our 7th Cavalry news.

Lorinda has sent her periodic reminder and I am reminded of something that I once saw in a cartoon. It was a statue of a guy sitting with his chin on his fist and the caption read... "Sometimes I sits and thinks and sometimes I just sits." That's sort of the situation that I currently find myself in so I'm hoping that this jumble of letters turn into some meaningful words.

As I was sitting in the Battle Creek VA clinic waiting on a fellow C 1-7 trooper to complete his C&P exam, I began chatting with a fellow warrior from the 25th ID who was also there for his exam. reminded him to make sure that he received a slip from the scheduling secretary so that he could get reimbursed for travel pay. He didn't have any idea what I was talking about which gave me pause as well as an idea for this tome. Hundreds if not thousands of veterans are unaware that the Veteran's Administration will compensate you for your travel to a regularly scheduled VA appointment. They pay .415 cents per mile each way from your home to the facility where you are being treated. In the case of my comrade from C 1-7, the amount was almost \$68.00. They do have some goofy deduction system but if you tell then it's a hardship, they will waive that too. I have known about travel pay for years but made a big assumption that every veteran also knew or that the VA would tell them about it, but that "ain't necessarily so." With the escalating cost of regular gasoline, every little bit of money can help. So now you know and please pass on this tidbit.

I'm constantly searching for new members to our local Cav chapter as well as for the National Association and I've found that the VA clinic is a good place to "bump" into fellow troopers, be they 7th Cav or 1st Cav. You don't even have to be wearing your colors to make these connections either and the visits are almost always interesting. I also discovered by accident that The Home Depot offers a 10% discount to all veterans. This "discovery" came from a nice lady who was working there who commented on the Army sweatshirt that I was wearing. It also turned out that her husband is a Cav guy too. I believe Lowes also offers veteran discounts.

Peter Cole writes to inform us that eight D 2-7 Vietnam troopers had a great reunion at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, September 14-16th. This reunion was organized by Troy Kimbell (1968-69). Attendees were: Bob Douglas (1969-70) with wife, Dot, Henry Taylor with wife, Vivian, Jeff (Doc) Chambers with wife, Janet, John Sullivan (1969) with wife, Cheryl, John Warren (1969-70) with wife, Doreene, Peter Cole (1969-70) with wife, Ann and Tibby DeJulio (1968-69) and the aforementioned Troy Kimbell with wife, Francis. There were many shared stories about Vietnam and lives since - some sad - some strange - some funny. Several Stetson hats were worn as well as one helmet. We hope everyone will meet again next year at the 1st Cav reunion in Killeen. Thank you Peter for this report and I am curious how the wives faired? I bet their stories were interesting as well.

Debra and Raymond Ramos, daughter and son-in-law of PSG Leroy Williams, via Joe Persaud sent in this report on their son. We would like to take this time to share with the members of the 1-7th Air Cav that a grandson of PSG Leroy Williams (B Co., 3rd Plt, 1-7th Air Cav, 1965) was commissioned to 2LT on 4 November at Fort Benning, Georgia. 2LT Michael R. Ramos is the youngest of 5 grandsons and was born 2 « years after the death of his grandfather and is the only grandchild my father never met. He is also the only grandson to serve in the military. Michael has been shown pictures and told many stories and things about my father since his birth. He has known of the proud history of the men of the 1-7th Air Cav to include the unrelenting support personnel from other units, field artillery and air support during the epic battle of IaDrang. After his OCS graduation 2LT Ramos will report to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for branch training in Field Artillery. If you have a spare moment please send a prayer request up above asking that he be an effective, caring, knowledgeable and determined Army officer as you shared the battlefield with in Vietnam. He will be the first commissioned officer in our family's military history. As parents, we wish him success and pray he will have such men of your caliber by his side. Both Debra and Raymond retired from the Army as SFC's.

Jim Savage, our Website manager forwarded this news from BG Terry Ferrell. I'm honored to tell you I've been promoted to BG. I've been wearing the rank for about a year and just returned from a tour in Korea as the ADC-M for 2ID. I've been blessed and truly honored by the selection and know it would not have happened if not for the great troopers that I've had serve by my side throughout the years! I'm enroute to command the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. I'll take command the middle of December and will make sure you have all the details. This answers a question that Bob Arbasetti and I were talking about a few months ago. Many remember the stirring scene as the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry led by then LTC Ferrell roared into Baghdad in 2003. Congratulations General!

As I was procrastinating (on writing this article) in my local bookstore this afternoon, I came across the current Smithsonian magazine containing an article on "The Little Bighorn from the Native American Perspective." The article contains excerpts from the book The Killing Of Crazy Horse by Thomas Powers. Obviously there were no firsthand accounts from the men of the 7th Cavalry who were with the Custer but the Native Americans indicated that from start of Major Reno's advance and retreat across the

Little Bighorn River to the fall of the last soldier on Custer Hill was just over 2 hours. This appears to be a book that I'll need to add to my collection.

The August issue of Vietnam Magazine contained an excellent article on the Cambodian Incursion during May and June of 1970. For those of us that served in the Cav during that time, I can only say that the NVA were not happy with our destroying their caches and fought like demons. The 7th Cavalry maneuver battalions suffered the majority of the casualties during that 60 day time period. The October Issue of the same magazine contains an equally excellent article "Breaking the Siege at Khe Sanh, by Joseph E. Abodeely who was the Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon in D 2-7 at the time. Joe traces his cavalry lineage to his grandfather who as a sergeant chased Poncho Villa during 1917. For those of you who were there, I believe this article sheds some light on how the operation was conducted. My Jarhead friends still refuse to believe that the 7th CAV and the First Team helped them out of a bad situation.

The current edition of Vietnam magazine contains another well done article by our own Joe Galloway titled Ia Drang How The Stage Was Set For A Decade Of Debacle. Joe points out that in a 30 November, 1965 McNamara memo to LBJ that there seemed to be only 2 options for consideration: 1) to go for a compromise solution and to hold further deployments to a minimum or 2) .to provide what it take in men and material to approximately 400,000 by the end of 1966 as well as a possible further increase up to an additional 200,000 in 1967. The telling point to me (RJA) was "we should be aware that deployments of the kind I have recommended will not guarantee success." As always, Joe cuts right to the heart of the political problem and as he continues to do - tells it like it is (was). Thanks Joe for your continuing support of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and for your almost 50 years of reporting on their exploits.

The historic mid - term elections are finally behind us. Thank goodness as we were all fed up with the negative attack ads run by each party against their opponents. Dueling would almost seem a better solution. Now the GOP has a short 2 years to get things done or the round robin will continue again in 2012. My pessimistic persona says to throw all of them out and start anew. Perhaps this was a beginning. Some of my neighbors in my new house are curious about the Don't Tread On Me flag that I fly every 10 days or so. While Phil Zook was in Columbus last month (October), he had an opportunity to check in with CSM (Ret) Basil Plumley and reports that both the Sergeant Major and Mrs. Plumley are doing well.

A note from our 7th Cav Association President: I thank you for electing me to serve as president of our Association. I say thank you, but when I get to thinking about my age I realize that our association needs to reach out and elect someone much younger. I had occasion to visit in El Paso, Texas in June (and then again in July) and while I was there it occurred to me that I first came to El Paso seventy years ago to join the 7th Cavalry Regiment. On 7 July, 1940, I joined many others in cavalry recruit training -- riding horses bareback out on a hot dusty parade ground trying to please a sergeant that demanded nothing but perfect performance. Then I thought that in January I will be ninety years old and questioned whether "thanks" is really appropriate. We have a great Association and we have been lucky to have had good elected officers to guide us and keep us informed. We have been most fortunate in having Jim Savage to provide us with a web page and keep it current. He has done an outstanding job and deserves the thanks of all members. Jim Brigham served as our president many years (a number of terms) and always promoted growth and financial stability, we have recognized him as President Emeritus. Bob Anderson has also served a number of terms as our Secretary/Treasurer and is also a past president as well as our scribe for the Saber News. Both Jim and Bob have done an outstanding job, but both need someone else

to step up and serve. Bob volunteered to serve another year and I volunteered to serve as our president -- but was hoping that someone younger would volunteer. At our annual meeting, I found out that I was the only one running for the job. As you might expect we are approaching a time when we could be in some trouble -- especially so if we don't have younger members willing to step up and serve. am asking, please, will some of our younger members (maybe from the Gulf War or Iraq War eras) volunteer to serve as officers of our Association. I know that there are many that are qualified and would provide new and excellent guidance. Please make your qualifications known! You can phone me at (540) 347-2726 or e-mail me at <war7thcav@verizon.net>. Or write to me at 158 Piedmont St. Warrenton, VA. 20186. It is always a pleasure to join with old friends and others who have the common bond of having served with the 7th Cavalry. GarryOwen and best regards, Bill Richardson.

Bill has served as a past president of the 1st Cavalry Division Association and a prior stint as our 7th Cav President and we are blessed to have him as our leader for the next 3 years. My term as Secretary/Treasurer expires in June of 2011. If you are interested in running for this office, please advise either Bill or myself. Bob Andersen reports that a fellow warrior from B Troop in WWII has passed. Oliver E. Rolf, who attended the 7th Cav luncheon in Bloomington, Minnesota joined Fiddlers Green on 13 September. Oliver was accompanied by his son Kevin at the luncheon. Every day dozens of warriors from that War pass on. If you know someone that served in WWII try to get their stories before it is too late. Thank you Bob.

We received word from Joe Galloway that Arlene Crandall, wife of Bruce Crandall passed away on 2 November. There will be more info in Hank's Silver Wings column. COL Crandall, we extend our condolences to you and your family. I'm still hoping for reports from the 2-7 reunion in Tennessee as well as the B 1-7 reunion. One challenge is that we need to have some stories from OIF troopers, who are probably tired of hearing about that old war called Vietnam. I wasn't able to attend this years gathering for Veterans Day but hope to be back "on schedule" next year. So as I put the finishing touches on this last column of 2010, I hope that you had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bob Anderson
Boots & Saddles Staff Writer
The 7th United States Cavalry Association