



Seventh United States Cavalry Association

2013 Issue 1

PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	SECRETARY/TREASURER
Bill Richardson	Phill Zook	Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

It's the start of a New Year with thoughts and prayers being sent to our warriors scattered in places that many of us have never heard of, far from home and hoping that this year will see peace and goodwill in the world. It is the soldier perhaps more than any other person who thinks these thoughts because we are the ones, who shoulder arms, stand a post and gaze into the distance ever vigilant.



Jim Brigham with Iraq WIA veterans during Veterans Day festivities in Washington 2004.

The 7th Cavalry lost another leader this past November when President Emeritus Jim Spooner Brigham, Jr. made his final air assault into Fiddlers Green. In his memory, I dedicate this column and for many this will be your first notice of his passing and it is with a heavy heart that I post this tribute. Jim burst onto the Association scene in 2000 when he was elected Vice-President of our Association at the Fort Bragg reunion. As I was between jobs at the time, it was a few years before I actually met Jim. He was elected President in 2002 and served in that capacity for 8 years, finally stepping down in 2010. During his tenure, the financial health of our Association grew to record highs, primarily as a result of projects that he instituted.

Some of these projects were: An expansion of 7th Cavalry Belt Buckles to include the 1-7; 2-7 and 3-7 which were and continue to serve in OIF and OEF; the Tartan Tie project and along with Jim Savage (our Web Manager) the Stetson Project.

He also worked hard and achieved Tax Exempt status for the Association.

He also worked hard and achieved Tax Exempt status for the Association. Jim served as the Support Platoon Leader for the 2-7 during the first year of Vietnam service and later as told to me by his good friend Bud Alley was also the HHC Company Commander and Battalion S-4. Jim's stories were wonderful to listen to and told with that down home Oklahoma twang. He was also a great advocate for

veterans and their benefits although I never could get him to file his application. "It's right here on my desk, Bob" he would always tell me, "I'll get to it one of these days." Jim lost his beloved Judy in May of 2012 and I suspect that the fight left him then, although he was always upbeat when we chatted.

He told me once that he was in on the first shots being fired at LZ Albany when the Chinook he was on was hovering close by when that terrible day and night started. And the time about finding a piano, when COL Bob Litle wanted one for the Battalion Officers Club and I thought where in the world could you find a piano – he just laughed. The story about their cook, who he and Bud were trying to get promoted so the guy would receive some sort of pension after 20+ years in the army were unbelievable to hear but all true. In the last years Jim had been experiencing knee troubles, which I attribute to a story he told me about a parachute malfunction that he had one time, finally getting his reserve opened with literally feet to spare. Jim retired from the Reserves after attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He joins Miss Judy, Miss Deurice and Sergeant Major Plumley in Fiddlers Green. Garryowen old friend and I look forward to hearing some more of your stories one day. If you would like to sign Jim's guest book you can go to and search for: J.S. "Jim" Brigham, Jr.

Bud Alley reports from 1965: Forty seven years ago this Christmas Eve I was recuperating in a hospital in Okinawa far from the sounds of guns and further away from home. My head still pounded from the fevers and every bone ached and the nightmares that came like waves every time I closed my eyes. I was lonesome, still scared and overwhelmed by what happened to me and the men of the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Cavalry. I was in a ward with five other men but only one was like me, unable to sleep. I watched his cigarettes glow as the minutes turned into the endless hours of darkness, he glanced over toward me and noticed my glowing cigarette. "Can't sleep?" he finally asked. "No I can't." Every time I close my eyes I feel the fever and chills of that night of 17 November. I hear the screams of the dying. I see their eyes. He said he understood. He had been part of the 25th Infantry Division Wolfhounds in Korea that had gotten overrun. When do the nightmares stop I asked. They don't he replied. We didn't even know each other's name, but after a long silence, he said, "Merry Christmas." Two days later he was moved and I never saw him again. I still see the ghosts of the green grass every night though but through the love of the caring brotherhood of those I served with, we manage to get to sunlight still. Kind of puts the words Merry Christmas in a new light. Best Wishes to all this Christmas. Thank you Bud for this heartfelt post. My Christmas of 1969, just 4 years removed from the battles at X-Ray and Albany was so very different in that I was selected to attend the Bob Hope Show in Bien Hoa. This was a great experience for those of us in attendance to see Connie Stevens and the Gold Diggers and to get away even for just a day or two was rejuvenating.

I received from R. J. Roberts a YouTube video from October 1967 taken at An Khe and many of you will recognize the scenery www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeFq4ju31wI&feature=watch_response

Russell Carbone sends us this very chilling report from 48 years ago April 3, 1965. This turns out to be an amazing prediction by the famous ABC radio commentator Paul Harvey. Millions of Americans listened to his programs which were broadcast over 1,200 radio stations nationwide. It's short less, than three minutes – "Good Day."

This coming June we will have an election for President during our reunion luncheon as Bill Richardson, our current President will be stepping down. Bill has served as Association President on at least three different occasions and also served a stint as President of the Division Association as well as being a member of the Board of Governors for multiple terms. If you have an interest in running for President of the 7th Cavalry Association and are a Life Member, please let me know as soon as possible.

It has been some time since I made reference to maps that we used in Vietnam. Most of us Infantry and Artillery types were using the 1:50,000 L 7014 series maps with each grid square covering 1,000 meters on a side. About eight years ago I ordered a number of maps to complement my collection from the US Geological

Survey and they cost me \$7 per map plus a small charge (\$5) for shipping and handling. I originally got the index from Michael P. Kelly's excellent reference book – Where We Were In Vietnam Map 13 but you can also go to the following . These maps along with Kelley's book and S2/3 reports will serve you well as an historian or in filing or helping others with a claim.

I would like to report on trips that any of you have taken back to battlefields from the past like: The Pacific during World War II; Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia. This is part of our lineage and would be of interest and serve as an inducement for others to share. My sister and I have been doing additional research into Civil War ancestors and we had a Great-Great Grandfather killed during the Siege of Vicksburg on 11 June of 1863. He was a private with Company K of the 43rd Mississippi Infantry. I had another Great-Great Grandfather who served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Mississippi Cavalry who survived. To me these bits of history are fascinating and I'm sure there are many more such stories out there that would be of interest.

From Bill Franklin via Shortround Migut: Chaplain Nevin Snyder, my old friend and 1-7th Chaplain during the First Shift in Vietnam has a new home in heaven. I have continued to stay in touch with his sister over the past two years since he left the Melbourne, Florida area for his home in Pennsylvania. He was a gentle and kind man of God. He'll be missed. Chaplain Snyder passed away on 2 January.

From a Marine friend of mine comes this: Stolen Valor Law 2.0 Passes in Senate December 4, 2012 as reported from Military.com by Bryant Jordan. A law designed to punish those who boast battlefield medals for heroics they never performed passed the Senate on Monday, marking the second bid by Congress to outlaw lying about war records. The first so-called Stolen Valor Law was declared unconstitutional in June by the U. S. Supreme Court, which ruled that lying about military service was protected speech. This time around lawmakers have anchored the law on lying about awards and decorations for "tangible benefit or personal gain," not strictly lying for the sake of lying. The bill was filed by Senator James Webb, D-VA., a Vietnam combat veteran, shortly after the high court knocked down the original 2006 law. "For someone who has not served to come in and get material benefit from something they did not do is just not right," Webb said in an interview with Norfolk TV station WTKR in July, when he filed the legislation that is now set to become part of WTKR in July, when he filed the legislation that is now set to become part of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. The House of Representatives already passed its own version of the law, so final language has to be worked out before it can be signed. Under the Senate version anyone found guilty of violating the Stolen Valor law would be fined and possibly jailed for not more than 6 months or both. The House version would put violators in jail for up to a year. The new law states that benefits include any provided by the local, state or federal government for military service, earn a job, run for elective office or attain an appointment to a board or position on a non-profit. Webb's bill was cosponsored by Senator's Scott Brown, R-MA, and Joe Lieberman, I-CT. The 2006 version of the Stolen Valor Act made it a crime to make any false statements claiming military awards and decorations. A California man, Xavier Alvarez, was convicted of violating the law for claiming to have earned the Medal of Honor. He was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine but appealed the case up to the Supreme Court, which struck it down. Webb and others argued the law is necessary to protect the integrity of military decorations, since those who earn them are held in high regard by the public. False claims of receiving such medals or serving in the military, the bill language states, "are especially likely to be harmful and material to employers, voters in deciding to whom paid elective positions should be

entrusted and in the award of contracts.” “Military service and military awards are held in such great respect that public and private decisions are correctly influenced by claims of heroism,” the bill states, arguing that making false claims about military service and heroism are “an especially noxious means of obtaining something of value.” James Webb a former Secretary of the Navy and an accomplished author was awarded the Navy Cross for exceptional valor in Vietnam.

Shortround Migut sends in this medical alert: Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals is the only US manufacturer for the generic form of Lipitor “Atorvastatin”. They are recalling certain batches due to fragments of glass. This is the statement from their USA website and the link to their listing of the lots affected. If you or a friend or family member is taking a generic Lipitor and the bottle is other than the manufacturers – contact your pharmacy and ask if that prescription is affected by this recall.

The 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Association is planning Reunion XII – Springfield, Missouri – July 13-20, 2014 – University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center as reported by Karl Haartz. After many years of voting to go to Branson, Missouri, we finally found a way to do it. Branson still doesn’t have a venue big enough to hold us but Springfield is only 35 miles from Branson and all the shows, shopping and whatever. This hotel is giving us the biggest Hospitality Room we have ever had even bigger than St. Louis. Here’s the good part: it’s only \$92.00 per night, including a (almost full) buffet breakfast, internet and parking. The hotel is setting up a reservation web site and will be ready after January 1, 2013. For you 5th Battalion guys, they do a great job with organization and helping with claims (ed) as well.

I received a call a few days ago from a credit card company asking some questions about an application that I had “filed.” I was curious at first and then finally hung up because I thought the call was a phishing scam. I then went to the website and double checked the number to find out that it was legit but I then called the fraud line. After chatting for a few minutes they passed me back to another person and in a few short minutes it was determined that someone had applied for a card in my name. When the company checked through the Credit Bureau much of the info didn’t match up so they called me. The long story is that you might want to double check your credit history to determine if there is something funny going on. Be ever vigilant is the phrase to go by. If you want to be kept up to date on military happenings, consider “joining” military.com. Sign up is free and you get up to the minute e-mails of interesting tidbits regarding military topics. Our first column of the New Year is now closed and with the marvel of the internet will be in Copperas Cove within a short few seconds.

*Garryowen from Michigan.
Bob Anderson
Boots & Saddles Staff Writer
The 7th United States Cavalry Association*