



Seventh United States Cavalry Association

2013 Issue 4

PRESIDENT

Bill Richardson

VICE-PRESIDENT

Phill Zook

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

As I sit down at my trusty keyboard to be-gin this installment of your 7th Cavalry news, I'm reflecting back 137 years to this date in 1876 when LTC (brevet brigadier general) George Armstrong Custer was killed along with 250 plus Troopers at the Little Bighorn in Montana. This battle was just a short ten years after the Regiment was formed in 1866. There have been hundreds of Commanding Officers in the Regiment since Colonel Custer led his horse soldiers into that valley on that hot day so long ago, and most likely the terminology "Live the Legend" was born of those exploits. Currently our beloved Division is being led by a former commander of the 1-7 Cavalry – MG Anthony Ierardi and we thank him for his leadership then and today.



I am dedicating this column to our most recent Past President and his lovely wife Eva. William A. Richardson started his military career as a Horse Soldier, following in the footsteps of those troopers who made the 7th Cavalry a household name. Bill fought in the Pacific during WWII and retired with the rank of MAJ. He then went on to a second career in government service. While Bill (or William as Eva likes to say) was away from home, his lovely and delightful Eva was taking care of their daughters and keeping the home fires ready for his return. They are both fixtures at Division reunions as well as 7th Cavalry luncheons and have been for over 60 years. In fact Bill was one of the troopers who helped develop the concept of a Division Association so long ago. Both of them have given so much to both Associations, and it would be impossible to list every thing that they have done, but let me try to highlight just a few:

President of the Division Association, three terms (that I'm aware of) as President of the 7th Cavalry Association, and multiple terms on the Division Association Board of Governors. Eva has presented the Invocations and Benediction at most of our 7th Cavalry luncheons, in addition to keeping me straight on the proper rules of order. At the recent reunion she took a tumble and broke her wrist and spent a couple of hours getting fixed up in the hospital. MG Ierardi heard of this mishap and took it upon himself to insure that they both would be able to attend festivities at Cooper Field.

With this background, I am pleased to announce that William A. Richardson is our latest President Emeritus of the 7th Cavalry Association. Well done William and Eva, and a resounding GarryOwen with heartfelt thanks to you both.

That's the good and well deserved news. The troubling news is that no one raised their hand to take the reins from Bill at the luncheon, which means that your Association is again down to just two men in leadership positions – Phil Zook and me. I had the honor and privilege to be elected as your President in 1998 and as your Secretary/Treasurer in 2000. Phil has been Vice-President for two terms and was Secretary/Treasurer for a number of years as well. At the Chicago reunion in 2014, I will be stepping down as Secretary/Treasurer after 14 years. There is a natural progression to Association activity which began shortly after World War II, and then the Korean War veterans began working on behalf of the Association, and then those of us from Vietnam took the reins. Perhaps part of the issue is because in today's Army, with multiple deployments often with different Divisions, loyalty to only one unit is difficult at best. It makes sense, but doesn't negate the fact that within our Association there seems to be a shortage of folks willing to step forward. Perhaps that is the one thing we learned during our time in the Army – "don't volunteer for anything." The duties are varied, but consist primarily of: preparing financial reports for the Association; filing the appropriate forms with the IRS and State of Georgia; handling the financial affairs of the Association with our bank; updating the Association Roster (now every two years); preparing and mailing new member packets including certificate, welcome letter, roster update, membership card, and the latest printed roster; providing new member information to Jim Savage, our Website Manager; and giving info to our scribe (me). If you have an interest, and are a lifetime member of the 7th Cavalry Association, please let me know. You also need Internet access, a reli-able computer, printer, and at least two programs (Microsoft Word and Excel). There is no remuneration for this position, but expenses relating to printing and mailing are reimbursed. I'm looking forward to someone stepping up.

According to reports from Bob Arbasetti, Phil Zook, William A. Richardson and Ron 'Shortround' Migut the various luncheons were well attended and well received. This continues to be attributed to the organizational skill and leadership of CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster, our Division Association Executive Director. At the Vietnam luncheon, Bob gave a short talk about the medic (Doc Nagle) who saved his life after being wounded in May of 1968. Doc made sure that the Medevac medic knew that he needed to keep Bob's artery pinched tight until he got to Charlie Med, thus insuring his survival. Bob and Doc finally were reunited last year and it was an emotional reunion. Sadly, Doc Nagle passed away in December 2012. At the 7th Cavalry lunch, Phil recognized Shortround for his many years of service to Vietnam Veterans, primarily those of Charlie Company. At that time (and catching him completely off guard while sitting with his former '66 CO, Fred Faery and his wife Linda) CPT Saffold shook his hand and pressed the 2-7 Commander's coin into his palm. MG Ierardi was also in attendance and a short audio conference was held with the 2-7 Cavalry's Commanding Officer from Afghanistan. Because of all of this a formal meeting could not be held, but your Association finances continue to be in excellent shape.

I received an interesting phone call from a trooper a few days before the reunion questioning why I never report on anything from the Vietnam War. He then went on to tell me about a mini-reunion that he had recently attended in Branson where a lively discussion about reunion attendees from the 2nd Battalion and that another Company always seemed to have more in attendance than his Bravo Company. He wanted to send me a copy of a photo from another reunion showing a large contingent of B 2-7 veterans that I had already once shared and was very unhappy that I wouldn't reprint that old news. I found it "humorous" that he didn't bother to tell me about his latest reunion. I can only report on what folks send me.

Top Sherm Flanders reports that the proposed cruise for a mini reunion of Alpha Company 2-7 in October 2013 has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Top suggests that you troopers meet in DC during the Veterans Day festivities at the Division's hotel. Danny James, who served in Delta Company 1-7 in '66 and '67, (979) 320-7499 or , is trying to locate Groh H. or anyone from that time period. Jim Hackbarth is hosting the 2nd Annual "Gathering" at his home on Lake Mildred in Rhinelander, Wisconsin in late July. Marion Siara and a contingent of warriors from C 1-7 '70 through '71, will be getting together in North Carolina in early September.

The following is a foreword excerpt from a book of stories about Infantry Combat compiled by SGT Jerry Wood of A 1-7 in '70 and '71. I was privileged to write this foreword to that book, and I believe it helps to set the stage of our love and respect for our medics. "The grunt has the dirtiest and most thankless job in the Army. We close with and engage the enemy, sometimes at distances less than 30 feet. We didn't fight an antiseptic war from 35,000 feet and then return to a base camp with a warm shower, flush toilet, hot meal, clean sheets and air conditioning. Oftentimes we went 30+ days without a shower, and a hot meal in the field was a luxury sometimes marred by rancid food, resulting in night Medevacs in an uncertain environment. Our war was up close, and when our friends got wounded or killed, it became and continues to be very personal. When the day's battle was over, and we were lucky enough to have survived (at least physically), we opened up a can of C-rations, drank tepid water - often tasting like iodine, curled up in a dirty poncho liner, and if we were really fortunate, fell fitfully asleep on a full air mattress. We burned leeches off of our bodies with cigarettes, sprayed them with bug juice, cut them off with knives or poured salt packets on them. We cleaned our sores with dirty towels, because water was too precious a commodity to waste on simple "jungle rot." We suffered from ringworm and heat rash, while others came down with malaria. We got little sleep and the next day got up and did it all over again. The Combat Medic was the true hero in our company, going to war with nothing more than an aid bag. The cry of "Doc" sent a chill down our spines because it meant that one or more of our brothers had been hit by enemy fire. Doc went to the point of heaviest contact to tend to the wounded, often shielding those who were hurt with his own body. In many cases Doc was the only difference between a man living or dying. Men whose stories you will read in these pages owe their lives to our medics."

whose stories you will read in these pages owe their lives to our medics." Bill Wissman sends us the following: "First, thanks for writing the news about the 7th Cav. I was the LT leading 2nd Platoon. Company C, 1-7 on 28 January '72. We were moving through grid squares northwest of Ben Hoa, looking for the NVA and destroying bunker complexes. There were three platoons in C Company (2nd, 3rd, and 4th) and we were operating approximately 500 meters apart when the 3rd platoon made contact. My platoon was ordered to move toward them in support. We dropped our rucks and I left the 3rd squad to guard them. We got pretty close when we were taken under fire. As my point squad was moving up on line, my platoon sergeant radioed that we had a line two but that it wasn't urgent. I relayed this to the CO and requested a Medevac. We were still engaged when I was informed that my line two was having trouble breathing, so I changed the Medevac request to urgent. Soon the Medevac was over head and they dropped a JP and we were able to get Doc on it. On the way up it got tangled in a tree, and squad leader Jim Wiggins climbed the tree and got the JP untangled, and off the bird went. Jim got a Bronze Star with V for that act of bravery. I heard later that Doc was hit with two AK rounds, and one went into a lung, and the last I heard he was thought to survive. Two months later I was back in the World early and out of the Army. The Army was getting rid of LT's by the thousands. Garry Owen and thanks again!" Bill Wissman. Thanks Bill for this report of infantry combat and the bravery of troopers and medics. The Directory of names does not show SP-4 Robert Lloyd as a casualty, so he did in fact survive those wounds. If Doc Lloyd is out there reading, or if anyone knows of his whereabouts, please contact me. As you can imagine, there are a host of books about the 7th Cavalry and the men who served. Jim Savage, our Website Manager, sends us this link to books that

are featured on the Website. Please take a look .

Harold O. Lynch writes us for help in hopefully locating a friend from H Troop, 7th Cavalry during WWII. At the time I was discharged we went through California on our way to Connecticut where I originally enlisted. One of my buddies was a guy by the name of Madonnah who had been drafted right out of an orphanage in San Francisco. I would like to know what ever happened to him. Any help from you WWII guys would be greatly appreciated.

As many know – Joe Galloway has been very ill for about two months now. His first “stay” in the hospital was for what turned out to be an extremely nasty lung infection, which was finally resolved, thereby allowing him to go home. After being home for about a week their (Grace & Joe) dog – Jacques woke Grace up as Joe’s blood sugar bottomed out. Had it not been for Jacques, Joe might very well have passed. Please keep this extraordinary combat correspondent in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his recovery.

If you are a Veteran or family member of a veteran, the Combat Call Center is ready, willing, and able to help and direct you to those VA benefits which you earned. The Combat Call Center staff understands and fully appreciates the war experience of veterans and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You owe it to yourself and your family to check this service out (877) 927-8387. Vietnam map sheets can be requested for a nominal fee from the US Geological Survey, Information Service at PO Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225-9923. Googling their Website first would be a good idea or you can look up the specific map in Micheal Kelly’s book Where We Were In Vietnam.

Shortround Migut sends the following: On June 3, President Obama signed into law, The American Legion-backed, Stolen Valor Act of 2013, which now makes it a “federal crime for an individual to fraudulently hold oneself out to be a recipient of any of several specified military decorations or medals with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit.” Violators could face up to a year in prison. The U.S. Supreme Court had overturned the original Stolen Valor Act of 2005, deeming it unconstitutional because it was, in the justices’ opinion, too broad in scope and violated the right of free speech. A summary and the text of the Act are available at . Hopefully this will pass the scrutiny of the Supreme Court if again challenged, and hopefully it will be enough to keep some from wearing things they shouldn’t. Maybe, just maybe, it will scare some off. Karl Haartz, VP of the great 5-7 Association sends a warning for all of us. It seems as though a person from the 5-7 took e-mail addresses from their last newsletter and solicited money from their members. The 5-7 Association does not give out info of this kind or endorse these actions. This warning gives me the opportunity to also state that your 7th Cavalry Association also does not sell addresses or any e-mail information to anyone! Outdated Rosters are taken to a secure professional shredding service and I personally watch them go up the conveyor and into the shredder. There are so many scams out there so be careful. If I had responded to every offer to share in untold millions of dollars I would either be a gazillionaire by now or broke. Remember there is no free lunch! Karl also writes that the Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony honoring their three recently killed 5-7 Cav troopers was held on May 16 at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

It’s time to wrap this article. July 4th is tomorrow and I “eagerly” await the sounds of heavy artillery. If you are attending a reunion, please send me some copy so I can share it with the readers. Maybe that info will prompt a long lost warrior to come forward and I’ll see you at the reunion in Chicago.

*Garryowen from Michigan.
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