



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
John Guillory	Phill Zook		Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

It's a very slow start to this brand new year and our first column but saddle up anyway. It was 50 years ago at Fort Benning and Troopers the 11th Air Assault were in their final stages of testing a brand new concept of warfare called Airmobility. Then in early summer of that year the Colors of the 11th Air Assault Test were cased. Colors of the 2nd Infantry Division were sent to Korea and the Colors of America's First Team were sent to Fort Benning. The 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was the first unit to prove that the concept of helicopter warfare could work and in early July, President Johnson ordered The Cav to Vietnam where she forged another standard on the fields of battle while fighting in all four Corps of the country during eight years of combat. So with this in mind I dedicate this column to those who forged the airmobile concept in training and battle GarryOwen!

North Cabarrus Park in Concord, North Carolina officially became Vietnam Veterans Park Saturday 15 November 2014 to the raucous cheers of more than 70 veterans who gathered for a special renaming ceremony. "It is with deepest gratitude that we are all gathered here today to recognize brave soldiers and to honor their sacrifices to our country and our community," said Cabarrus County Commission Chairwomen Liz Poole. The renaming will serve "as a reminder for all of us to honor, to respect, to remember, and to thank the soldiers of the Vietnam War." "We got something that belongs to us finally," said Joe Galloway, who served as a war correspondent during the Vietnam War and was the only civilian awarded a Bronze Star for heroism by the Army during the war. He was one of several decorated veterans who addressed a crowd of Vietnam veterans and their families on a chilly Saturday morning in the park. The 440th National Guard Band played as a veterans' procession marched to their seats at the beginning of the ceremony. The day was given a pomp that reflected the sacrifices made by the men, many of them Purple Heart recipients. "You fought a long, hard, dirty war and came back to no respect," Galloway said. "Welcome home at last." In July, supporters pushed county commissioners to rename the 90-acre park, located at 760 Orphanage Road, Concord. Commissioners voted unanimously for the change. Retired LTG Claude Kicklighter, inspector general of the Department of Defense, thanked the county and the City of Concord for being partners in the national Vietnam War Commemoration, a program focused on honoring veterans and their families, especially families of those killed in action. "What a great example you're setting here," Kicklighter

said. "What you're doing right here is what we want to happen across America in every hometown." The Vietnam War Commemoration gives certificates of honor, signed by the defense secretary and Joint Chiefs of Staff, to families of the fallen and to prisoners of war. In a surprise move, Kicklighter asked MAJ Jose Anzaldua Jr., a former POW, to come forward. He accepted his certificate of honor to a standing ovation with tears in his eyes. "I didn't expect it," he said after the service. "I go about my life, raise my family and here I am." Other veterans said they are happy to be honored by the park's renaming. The day also held a somber note for those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Marine Corps League member Bob Cole read the names of 28 Cabarrus County men who died there, while fellow League member Tommy Russell rang a ceremonial bell after each name. As the list dragged on, it seemed its weight brought Cole to tears. "We owe a great deal of gratitude to those who died," Galloway said. "They died so we might live. I think about them every day. We owe them a sacred obligation to work every day to the maximum, making this world a better place for our having lived and their having died. We have that debt; we'll pay it. We pay our debts."

Jim Savage reminds us that the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Deactivation Ceremony was held on Thursday, 15 January 2015 at Fort Stewart, Georgia. The 3-7 was the first unit to charge into Baghdad and fought as the 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry in the Korean War. From the Savage Christmas Card comes this tidbit: "We recently learned Jim's great grandfather was Arthur William Savage, who started Savage Arms, invented the Savage Model 99 rifle, an early torpedo, and radial tires. So the engineering mind runs in his family." The Association owes a huge debt of gratitude to Jim Savage, who singlehandedly started the Association Webpage and manages it still today. Thanks Jim for everything you do.

More than a year ago, Phil Zook of Bloomington, Indiana came in possession of an American Legion grave marker with an engraved name on the back of a World War I veteran. It was also obvious that it came from a specific grave. The name on the marker was Thomas Earl Goings and his date of death was July 20, 1920. Zook was able to do some research and tracked down a Thomas Earl Goings that had died on that day and was buried at Tipton's Fairview Cemetery. Zook contacted Ron Weeks, grounds keeper for the cemetery and at first Weeks was unable to find any record on a Thomas Earl Goings being buried at Tipton's Fairview Cemetery. Weeks however, continued to research the records and finally did find a record of Goings' burial. After this additional research with Weeks, Zook and his Vietnam buddy, Marion Siara, both having served in C 1-7 met with Weeks at Tipton's Fairview Cemetery and they located the grave. "I promised Ron I would have the marker repaired and returned to the grave site before Veterans Day," Phil said. He was able to get the marker repaired and made the trip to Tipton again to have the marker properly placed on the grave site where it belonged. "I do not want any credit for doing this," Zook said humbly. "I am a veteran and believe that it was the only thing to do." At the time of his death, the American Legion had only existed for 18 months. The National Headquarters of the American Legion could not provide any information about when he joined. "Thanks for helping me honor this long overlooked WWI veteran," said Zook.

Karl Haartz reports that he will be stepping down as the 1st VP of the 5-7 Association in November of 2015. "This should give the nominating committee sufficient time to find the next 1st VP. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your 1st VP for the past 14 years. It is just time go. I do not have any recommendations at this time. If anyone feels the desire to step up and run for office please notify the 5-7 Association. I want to thank you all for without the membership we would not have the best association from the Vietnam War. Hopefully you will carry it on to include all of the troopers from the 3rd ID." As a personal note after a rocky beginning, I have found Karl to be a man of great integrity and a wonderful veteran's advocate and a Champion of the 5th Battalion. GarryOwen!

Ron Migut sends us this information regarding the 50th anniversary of the Ia Drang. My name is Blair

Ferrier (USA, Ret) and I work for US Army Entertainment in San Antonio. We are working on a project and would like to know if there are association veterans living in central Texas who were at la Drang in 65. With the upcoming 50th anniversary, we are attempting to honor that moment in history. With Deepest Respect and Admiration, Blair Ferrier.

Garland Schnack sends us this potential for an increase in your Social Security. DD Form 214, is a potential extra social security benefit for those with active duty between January 1957 and December 31, 2001. Visit the Social Security web site and read the notes below to possibly increase your Social Security Benefit. Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 and December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You may qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). The Social Security website: www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm.

Ron Migut also sends us this very moving report. You will need to go to the memorial website to view this outstanding tribute to America's warriors! At precisely 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day, the sun's rays pass through the ellipses of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States. The Anthem Veterans Memorial, located in Anthem, Arizona, is a monument dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. The pillar provides a place of honor and reflection for veterans, their family and friends, and those who want to show their respects to those service men and women who have, and continue to, courageously serve the United States. I was wondering if anyone has had success in joining either the NCO Alumni or OCS Alumni Associations and finding classmates. Thanks. I just finished a book by George Veith titled Black April. With meticulous research into both the South Vietnamese Archives and the North Vietnamese Archives as well as interviews, Veith details the last 2 years of the Vietnam War March 1973 through April of 1975. Replete with Battle Maps and a detailed Order of Battle it is a serious work for anyone interested in those final 700 plus days. The South called the last month Black April hence the name. Of course it's a sad ending to what we fought for but it gives a great deal of depth to places that many of us served in. I give it two thumbs up!

And from the Army Times 29 December 2014 comes a report on the final installment of John Rambo! He's battling the drug cartels now. No word on who might play Colonel Troutman. This represents my 90th column as your Scribe and I'm closing in on 16 years of writing. I never dreamed that this leap of faith would last this long. I am planning to write 10 more columns which would give me an even 100. So if anyone might have an interest start thinking about it now as two years will fly by pretty quickly. So with that I close another installment to our 7th Cavalry Column. Please remember that I lost many e-mails in early November while converting to the newest edition of Microsoft Word and Excel. Please keep all orders flowing as I plan to get back to the cataloging project of names shortly.

Happy Valentine's Day and as always a hearty GarryOwen!