



The Official Newsletter of the
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John Guillory	Phill Zook		Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

It's a bitterly cold start to this New Year and I can't help but think about the terrible conditions that our warriors had to endure in the hills of the Korean Peninsula during the Korean War. Today the dawn greeted me with minus 12 on the thermometer and I remember conversations with some of my infantry and tanker friends about those difficult weather conditions as they fought and died to protect and insure the freedom of the Korean people. Sleeping with their M-1 Garand's tucked inside their sleeping bags and standing behind their M-48 tanks to stay warm while in lager positions. Give me the warmth and high humidity of Vietnam any day. At least we wouldn't freeze to death. So I dedicate this column to those brave GarryOwen Troopers who fought in the Korean War with the First Team!

Just a reminder that applications to the 7th Cavalry Association are currently closed. We had to take this sad path at the last reunion because the Association currently has a vacancy in the Secretary position. As you may remember, for decades the position of Secretary was combined with that of the Treasurer but in Chicago we separated the duties in the hope that we would garner another trooper into the elected positions. Unfortunately no one wanted the duty – which probably had to do with not volunteering – something we all LEARNED in the Army. I am maintaining a list of interested troopers and will contact them as soon as the position is filled. Currently there are about 15 names on that list which quite frankly is more interest than we have had in the past several years. I will keep you apprised of the status.

For those interested in history I have a couple of books that are worth reading. The first is titled Black April by George Veith – the fall of South Vietnam 1973 – 1975. It contains interviews with South Vietnamese military, PAVN, NVA and Viet Cong leaders. Several photos as well as maps and an excellent list of source documents. The South called that last month Black April – hence the name. As the 7th Cav fought in 3 of the 4 Corps of RVN, there will be some references that will register with most of us. The second book is called Fire Base Illingworth by Philip Keith and covers the attempt by the NVA to overrun a Cav outpost placed squarely in the way of their infiltration route into Vietnam from Cambodia and manned by troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. These are excellent books. Our own Bud Alley is in the final phase of his book due out in late spring and will be titled Ghosts of the

Green Grass. Bud served in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry as an Infantry Officer and like many of our readers went to Vietnam on a troopship in the summer of 1965. He was also a roommate of our late President Emeritus Jim Brigham. I for one am eagerly awaiting Bud's reflections on the earliest days in the war especially his thoughts on LZ Albany from November of 1965. I have a couple more books to give a small preview of both referred by Joe Galloway. The first is titled: In Honor and Memory by retired Master Sergeant Ray Bows. It is some 800 pages hardbound and lists Installations and Facilities named for fallen warriors. I have not as yet purchased this book but I'm sure it will be a wonderful companion to Mike Kelly's acclaimed Where We Were in Vietnam. The second book contains a Foreword written by Joe and is titled: Abandoned In Hell written by William Albracht. By the next column I will be able to give a better description of these books.

I received a bit of disturbing news several weeks ago about a poser from Canada who copied almost word for word the book by Robert Mason – Chickenhawk. As many of you know, Bob Mason flew slicks in the 229th during Vietnam and like Bud went over by ship. I learned of this crime from Patience Mason, Bob's wife who is a Facebook friend of mine and she agreed that I could put this into our column. In an interview with a reporter from the Nanton News the "author" claims to be many things including a doctor. There were enough red flags of his claims in my opinion that the piece should never have been written but I guess Canada was looking for a hero as well. I have e-mailed both the reporter and the curator of the Bomber Command Museum of Canada with my observations and disgust. I have since learned that the reporter is no longer associated with the paper and in fact is working with Bob and Patience to help them in their claim for theft of intellectual property. If you are unhappy with this I urge you to e-mail the curator of the Museum. Some of you from 1965 might actually owe your life to Bob Mason who carried many wounded out of battle. Stolen Valor knows no boundaries.

As previously mentioned, the final chapter of another Garryowen unit has been written as reported by our website manager Jim Savage. The 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, was deactivated and the "Regimental Standard" was cased at Fort Stewart, GA on 17Jan15. The Squadron has had a long and honorable record in battle as well as peace. Most recently, the 3rd Squadron was the spearhead and the screening force for the main elements of the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division during the Iraq War. They served as the "Eyes and Ears" for the U.S. XVIII Airborne Corps. They engaged with the enemy earlier and more often in that war than any other unit. Combat operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom began on 20 March 2003 when the squadron crossed into Iraq as the lead element of the 3rd Infantry Division attacking towards Baghdad fighting both the Republican Guard and the Sadam Fedayeen. With the capture of Baghdad, the division and the squadron transitioned to stabilization operations. By the time the Squadron had redeployed back to Fort Stewart, it had killed 2,200 Iraqi personnel, 64 tanks, 41 armored vehicles, numerous active air defense systems, as well as trucks and civilian vehicles used by suicide bombers. It is a sad ending to an outstanding unit that has served our country in war and peace. For a bit of other history the 3rd fought as a battalion of the First Team in the Korean War and we have many members who fought in Korea as well as Iraq in that unit. With this deactivation there are now only 3 squadrons and 1 battalion of 7th Cavalry still manning a post. Thanks Jim for this report even though it is indeed sad news.

By now I suspect many of you have received your new and updated VA card. The card that you are asked to produce every time you visit a VA clinic or hospital. As I have yet to receive this newer card, I began inquiring last October as to why. To spare you the sordid details of VA incompetence, yesterday I found out that they said I did not have a picture in their computer system. Seemed odd because I have had a card for several years replacing the original after I became service connected. So if you haven't as yet received your new VA health card contact your local VA clinic as your picture too may have been "lost."

I hope you are making plans to attend the upcoming reunion in Killeen, TX in June. At that reunion the membership will be voting on where to hold the 2018 reunion. As of this writing I haven't heard who will be presenting. The 2016 reunion will be in Las Vegas which should generate a lot of excitement. Las Vegas – the city that never sleeps will be waiting to collect your extra cash.

I have been giving some thought to joining the OCS Alumni Association and was wondering if anyone has joined that or the NCO Alumni Association and if so have you found any former buddies that way? Thanks. When will they ever learn?: Brian Williams claiming to have been shot down in Iraq and now serving a 6 month suspension with his credibility damaged forever; Bill O'Reilly claiming something he was not and now the current Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald claiming to have been in Special Forces. I for one am dumbfounded by these musings. Actually I could care less about Brian Williams or Bill O'Reilly BUT for the Secretary to embellish his service makes me wonder if he is related to Ronald McDonald – the hamburger guy! Secretary Shinseki IS a warrior and never embellished anything about his service. It's no wonder thousands of veterans have a mistrust of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sad – really sad!

Paul Decker, B 1/7 writes: Just wanted to say thanks for your 7th Cav column in the Saber. A good read and it keeps one up to date with the goings on of the 7th. This month I especially liked your urging of members to get regular colonoscopies. They can be a live saver. They were for me as I am now an 8 year colon cancer survivor. Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday and Bright New Year! Thanks Paul.

Ron Migut sends in this link to the new guidelines for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as recently updated in the new DSM-V. We've been coping with PTSD for so long it might be beneficial to review how we might recognize it in other family members. And, if you actually believe you DO NOT have the symptoms of PTSD, then ask a loved one to view it to "complement" your misconception. This also serves as an excellent road map if you are considering filing a claim with the Veteran's Administration for PTSD. http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/PTSD-overview/dsm5_criteria_ptsd.asp. Thanks Ron for this timely reminder.

Russell Carbone sends us this VERY IMPORTANT tip regarding storing of new and discarded 9 volt batteries. Please watch this you tube link to view the potential danger. Scary stuff. Thanks Russell. Copy this link into your search engine. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnVDayI-gwI>

My 9th Infantry Division pal sent me these links to items of interest. I pass them along for your viewing pleasure as well: <http://www.recordsofwar.com/vietnam/>; <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/> and a site for books about Vietnam: <http://astore.amazon.com/recordsofwar-20>.

Jim Savage sends another tidbit to hopefully make our lives more stress free. While federal regulations and the Do Not Call list have significantly cut down on some auto-dialed, prerecorded messages, the problem of illegal robocalls still persists, mostly because scammers don't care if they break the law. There are various technologies that phone companies could use to preempt even more of these calls but most consumers don't have access to them. That's why the folks at Consumers Union have recently launched a new online campaign at endrobocalls.org, where people can sign a petition demanding that telephone companies provide consumers with access to free tools to keep robocalls at bay. Go to this website to see if your carriers supports this initiative. I just signed up and it took less than 2 minutes.

Remember: Friendly Fire isn't; If the enemy is in range – so are you; Most plans turn to sh-t after the first bullet is fired. That's when your training kicks in! Remember the Ides of March. Dates from history: March 29, 1969: Bob Anderson commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry; 1973, the last Combat troops are withdrawn from South Vietnam. April 29, 1975: Saigon falls to the North Vietnamese Army

ending the war. May 21, 1927: Charles Lindbergh lands his plane – the Spirit of St. Louis in Paris after 33 ½ hours of flying across the Atlantic. In May of 1942 the Navajo Code talkers were established in the USMC. November of 1965 – the Plekiu Campaign begins in South Vietnam's Central Highlands.

This brings to a close my 91st column, consisting of 224,000 words as your scribe. Please keep the spirit of the 7th Cavalry alive by sending in your stories. GarryOwen from the frozen tundra or as I call it – Michigan.