



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

2015 Issue 4

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

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

It's the high heat and humidity of the summer of 1965 and the 1st Cavalry Division is embarking on the ships that will carry them off to war. Much like their fathers and uncles had to do 14 and 23 years earlier. I suspect that our journeys and experiences in war were the defining moment of our lives. Of course we moved on after these experiences: came home, went back to college; or picked up our old jobs, got married, bought homes, had children and 40 years later, retired. The friends we made in training, foxholes, and combat assaults however became closer sometimes than family. The Brotherhood that was shared in the combat experience lives on even 50, 60 and 70 plus years afterward. It can never be broken and will remain so until the last warrior passes into Fiddler's Green. So with that in mind I dedicate this installment of OUR 7th Cavalry News to those who lived the concept of the 11th Air Assault (Test), reflagged as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and took those ideas into battle in the Central Highlands in the Republic of South Vietnam! GarryOwen!

Bud Alley, a Warrior and now writer, reports on his experiences in Vietnam as a member of the 2nd Battalion in his recently released (1 July 2015) book – The Ghosts of the Green Grass. "What an awesome last two days in Columbus, Georgia at the National Infantry Museum. My daughter, Meg and grandson Bobby flew in from Philly, my son, Mike and grandson Fletcher, drove in from Chattanooga, my niece, Brandis and her two, the lovely Alley and handsome Max, my nephew Chris and his wonderful wife Ama all were there on Wednesday for the inaugural book signing, along with my sister Judy and her husband Charles. Chris and Chuck and Judy picked me up at Charleston Naval Base when I came home from Vietnam, so it was so special to have everyone all together for a few precious hours. The signing was accompanied by several warriors who served and fought with me, Jim Lawrence, Ron Benton, Henry Dunn, George Wasenko, Russell Wilson, Sam Fantino, and Bill McClure. Judy Benton, Shirley Wasenko, Kathy Lawrence, Lorrie Fantino, Snookie McClure, and my bride were also there. Special guests were artist extraordinaire, Michael Pearson, and her husband Bob along with Kenny and Iris Dellinger, super friends from North Carolina, as well as my Benning roommate John Mathis who took me under his wing as a young second lieutenant. Extra special guests were LTC Andrew Watson current Commanding Officer of the 2-7 Cavalry at Fort Hood and the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Commanding General Scott Miller and members of his staff. In

addition to the signing of books, LTC Watson gave an update of the history of the 2-7 since the la Drang and author Jim Lawrence gave a powerful reading from his book, Reflections on Albany. Jim's mother and sister were there for the occasion as well. It was a real honor to meet them. What a way to introduce my book and the stories of the men and women of the 2-7 of 1965. Things could not have been more perfect; the staffs, especially Jessie Doggett, and volunteers of the museum were just fantastic, as were the wonderful staff at the Hampton Inn. The press, TV, and print were great. A special honor on Thursday morning was meeting Dave Moore, youngest son of LTG Moore, who brought the bugle from LZ X-Ray captured by Rick Rescorla, and we had a photo section with them at Rick's statue. Sam Fantino is spearheading a drive along with the Moore family to restore the base of Rick's statue. A huge thank you to everyone who was there and who follow us on line."

Congratulations Bud on a story that was 50 plus years in the telling. Bud also reports that there will be a 2-7 reunion for all Battalion Warriors from 1965- 1971 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The location is the downtown Chattanooga Marriott from October 15-18 of this year. For more information contact Bud. The rates at the hotel are under Soldiers of Albany or Second of the Seventh Cavalry.

From our Website Manager Jim Savage comes this piece of news: On 11 June the 2-7 at Fort Hood dedicated a meeting room to Army COL (Ret) Rick Rescorla, a former 7th Cavalry Soldier and an American Vietnam hero whose life was taken on September 11, 2001 as he helped evacuate 2,700 co-workers from the World Trade Center in New York City.

It is with awe that we report the following upcoming award to another extraordinary warrior from the 2-7. With the congratulations of BG James Rainey, Commandant of the United States Army Infantry School, GEN (Ret) Barry McCaffrey is the recipient of the 2015 Doughboy Award which will be presented on 15 September at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia. Awarded annually, the Doughboy Award recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the United States Army Infantry. The award is presented on behalf of all Infantrymen past and present and is the highest honor the Chief of Infantry can bestow on any Infantryman.

From Rich Drago, who fought with me in Alpha 1-7 in 1969 and 1970, comes the following: On January 14th, 2015 Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney introduced the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act, H.R.358, which if passed will honor the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor as well as the extraordinary sacrifices of America's service members who were killed or wounded in combat. The legislation would authorize the U.S. Treasury to mint a series of coins at the West Point Mint with part of the proceeds going to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, located in New Windsor, New York. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is the first location dedicated to honoring the more than 1.7 million men and women of our armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal, one of the oldest and most recognized American military medals. The Hall of Honor's mission is to collect, preserve, and share the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across conflicts ranging from the American Revolutionary War to the current day War On Terror. It preserves these stories through the Roll of Honor, an electronic database where visitors can search for Purple Heart recipients, or view a changing selection of featured recipients with over 191,700 names currently enrolled. The Hall of Honor is located at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, the location of GEN George Washington's troop encampment. GEN George Washington created and awarded the Badge of Military Merit, forerunner of the Purple Heart, at his headquarters in nearby Newburgh, New York on August 7, 1782. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint \$5 gold coins, \$1 silver coins, and half-dollar clad coins at the United States Mint at West Point. They will be sold in 2017 in limited quantities. Please contact and urge your Congressperson to co-sponsor this bill.

From Gordon Severson, who served in L Company of the 3-7 in 1951-52 comes this piece of sad news. As you are probably aware, the 7th Cavalry Korean War Veterans Chapter will be holding its last reunion in St. Louis, Missouri September 14-17, 2015. While I am not sure it will specifically be on the agenda, or what others may have in mind, I'm just wondering if you might have any recommendations as to disbursing any remaining assets to the 7th U.S. Cavalry Association or the 1st Cavalry Division Association. My response to Gordon was: I'm saddened to hear of this news but I guess the aging population of the Korean War Veterans is the driving force.

The 7th Cavalry Association would welcome any monetary gift that the Korean War Veterans might choose to donate, but I'm thinking that perhaps a gift to the General Scholarship Fund of the 1st Cavalry Division Association might be more fitting. I might also offer that the membership of the 7th Cavalry Korean War Veterans be assimilated into the 7th Cavalry Association. I can do that pretty seamlessly (only needing an Excel Worksheet with the members) at no cost to those members. I do know that some are members of both organizations. Next year the 1st Cav reunion will be held in Las Vegas – hope that you can make it. Please give my regards to the Troopers who served in the 7th Cavalry during the Korean War!

This represents another example of what is happening with our aging veteran population. At the recently concluded 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion only President Emeritus Bill Richardson was there from World War II. Reach out to these warriors, for soon they will be just a memory. My good friend Jerry Wood, another warrior from A 1-7 in 1970 and 1971, told a group of us once that when the older generation passes, it's as if a library just burned down! A hearty GarryOwen to the members of the 7th Cavalry who fought in Korea.

Along those lines comes the following request through the website: I am looking for anyone that might have known my great grand uncle who was killed on 4 February 1951 on Hill 402 in South Korea. His name was William Juel LaFrance from North Dakota. I have been doing some research on him and have found out that he was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on that day. I have the 1st CAV DIV, GO No. 104 awarding the Silver Star, Command Reports, Operations Summary, S-3 Periodic Reports, and the S-2/S-3 Journals for the dates before and after his death that illustrate the action that was taking place.

There is a Military Historian writing a book about the Prairie Boys at War and I would like to find out if there is anyone that has firsthand knowledge of William. Thank you for your time!

Another piece from Jim Savage tells of our 4th Squadron warrior brothers in Korea: As the temperatures continued to rise and the yellow dust piled on the window sills of the Squadron Headquarters, the finality of transformation took hold. Artifacts were removed from the walls leaving shadowed outlines like the casualties of Pompeii. 7's were replaced with 9's and the Squadron's monikers were gradually painted over and replaced with new, unfamiliar phrases. Troopers moved from barracks to barracks like ghosts as the Squadron reconsolidated space to make room for the new Soldiers. Slowly at first, and then with a sudden tidal rush, the Troopers of the 4th Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry began to depart Korea and were replaced by new, eager faces. On the 2nd of July, 2015 the Squadron participated in an inactivation ceremony, casing it colors and standing relieved from our historic role in defending the frontier of freedom. Till we meet again, either on the field of battle or at Fiddler's Green! GarryOwen! Seventh First! Out Front! Since 1866!

More news: due to a very unfortunate (and incredibly aggravating) incident involving our official Squadron Colors, we regrettably have asked for the set that we sent to the museum to be returned. Over the weekend someone took a knife to our Colors and now we need a set to turn into the Center of

Military History. If we are able to get a replacement set in time we will be able to re-donate the Colors. Sorry for the inconvenience and please let me know if there is anything else we can do for the Association. The 4-7 and Jim Savage were instrumental in getting the 7th Cavalry Association a Regimental Standard. It seems the ranks grow ever thinner of those active duty Troopers who proudly wear the Black Stetson and the Crossed Sabers with an emblazoned 7!

From Karl Haartz, VP of the 5th Battalion Association comes this update: Congratulations to Norman Lloyd and his documentary The MIA's on Tiger Mountain, which received a 2nd place award at the GIFF in Washington, DC, and the 1st Place award from the American Heroes Channel (formally the Militar Channel).

Medal of Honor Stamps – Vietnam War. These stamps were released on Memorial Day in a special offering. To my surprise when I purchased the sheet of 24 stamps they are bordered by the pictures of 48 of our living MOH recipients from the Vietnam War. Yup, the 5-7's, James "Mike" Sprayberry is one who is honored in this border. Everyone with a 5-7 memoirs book should have a copy of these.

Veteran's Day – the 5-7 annual dinner will be held on 10 November 2015 at the Holiday Inn Reagan National Airport, 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. It is going to be here before you know it. From your Editor – I was invited to one of these 5-7 dinners one year and they do a marvelous job.

From former Association Vice-President and current President of the New York New Jersey Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Bob Arbasetti comes this report: The New York Historical Society, one of the country's leading historical museums, located in Manhattan is in the planning stages of a comprehensive exhibition about the Vietnam War. It is currently scheduled to open in October 2016 and run for seven months, accompanied by public programs and discussions, educational curriculum, workshops for K-12 students and teachers, and a multimedia resource website. During this time the exhibition is expected to serve over 450,000 individuals, and it may travel to other locations. The NYHS is determined to get it right when it comes to representing the experiences of American service personnel (of all branches) in the Vietnam Theater of operations. So, they have asked me to ask you: What 10 items of your personal kit would you say absolutely MUST be included in this exhibition? What are the physical things that best represent what it meant to be there for you? The list of potential items is endless, so send your replies to this special email address that I've set up to receive them . Thanks Bob and a hearty GarryOwen to him as well for filling in as the MC at the 7th Cavalry Luncheon at Fort Hood.

My 9th Infantry Signal Corps friend, SGT Mike Hale sends these links which may be of interest to Vietnam Veterans. Check out this great site which is an internet radio station, available for streaming on mobile devices like phones and tablets . They also have a FB page too: .

As an update there has been no significant change in either the financial status of OUR Association or Membership since the last published information in the 2014-2015 roster.

I was privileged to take a ride in a 1943 PT-17 Stearman in June of this year. The Stearman was the Primary Trainer for ALL aviators prior to and during World War II. This was the same type of aircraft that my father began his military career in, soloing on 22 July 1944 out of Lakeland, Florida. During his career he amassed over 10,000 flying hours including into and out of Vietnam dozens of times. It was a joy and a thrill of a lifetime. I took aloft his Cadet insignia, our Dog Tags, and my WWII MSMC Uncle's Belt Buckle. Book Reviews will be next month.

I leave you with my FB posting from this year's 4th of July fireworks: Heavy sounds of artillery are

echoing all around my perimeter. I believe FSB Ada and FSB Grand Rapids are under ground attack. Some NDP's are also being probed, judging by the amount of M-60, M-79, and M-16 fire that I hear. Might have to make a night Combat Assault to help some beleaguered friendlies! 100% alert in the Anderson NDP! GarryOwen!