



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"

As this installment of OUR 7th Cavalry News begins to take shape, I hearken back almost 50 years to the last days in August of 1965. The 1st Cav has finally arrived in Vietnam to the beginning of a long eight years of close quarters infantry and helicopter combat. The GarryOwen Sky Trooper fought hard in the Central Highlands and then 3 years later moved south to III Corps exposing and interdicting the infiltration routes leading toward Saigon. Quon Loi, Phuoc Vinh, Tay Ninh, LZ Buttons, LZ Wescott, An Loc, LZ Phyllis, LZ Vivian, the Song Be River, Bu Dop and QL-13 are familiar names where soldiers fought and bested both the NVA and VC in the red dirt and humid jungle of that Corps.

As you start to read this column the Cav will be gathering in Washington for our traditional Veterans Day observances with a wreath laying, memorial dinner and general camaraderie that only soldiers have. A Band of Brothers steeled forever in the crucible of fire and washed in the blood of our fallen. We will also never forget the sacrifice of those who fought in the Pacific during World War II, in the bitter cold of the Korean War, the aforementioned Vietnam and Cambodia, the Persian Gulf War and the ongoing War on Terror! GarryOwen!

In these days of high technological warfare it's good to look back and pay tribute to those that went before us - the GarryOwen Horse Cavalryman. Because of this column I've had the distinct honor to rub shoulders with some of the finest cavalrymen you will ever meet: Guys like Bob Andersen and the late Norm Osterby from Minnesota. Norm wrote our column for years. Ralph Braunstein and President Emeritus William A. Richardson. Having to take care of their mounts: brushing; checking hooves; cooling them down; watering and feeding. All these things had to be done prior to tending to their own needs. Bill, Ralph, Norm and Bob helped to set the stage for what was to become the 1st Cavalry Division Association. This wonderful Association has provided thousands of Troopers the joys of reconnecting over these past 70 years simply because of the foresight of these four and hundreds more who served in World War II. The Plank holders of the great 1st Cavalry Division Association - First Team! These guys were the forerunners of what our Association has evolved into. I humbly ask today that if you are so inclined to send up a prayer for Bill Richardson who is facing a daunting fight with cancer. Bill and his wife Eva have given more that can ever be repaid to both Associations. Thank

you Bill and Eva with love. The Korean War brought a new set of challenges to the 7th Cavalry. Gone were the Horse Soldiers but their spirit lived on in the bitter cold and high humid heat on the Korean Peninsula. Warriors like the late Bob Spiroff and Ray 'Old Soldier' Moran. My good friends Sherman Van Dyke and Gordon Severson. Gordon presided over the last and welcoming of the Stewart family from Port Allen, Louisiana. SGT Charles E. "Charlie" Stewart passed away this August 1. Charlie was a mortarman in Vietnam and quite the charming and larger than life character, both then and now, and he will be sorely missed. We all caravanned back to the lake resort to begin day two of the reunion. We were again serenaded by Baleigh, this time she got the audience on their feet with a beautifully done flute rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner". The body meeting of the Korean War 7th Cavalry Chapter this past September. I was honored to receive a copy of Bob's book - Korea - A Frozen Hell on Earth in 1997.

The Vietnam War brought the latest technology in the form of the UH-1 Huey Helicopter into the forefront. "...freed forever from the tyranny of Terrain" was borrowed from our 'yearbook.' Hal Moore; Joe Marm; the late Basil Plumley; late Jim Brigham; Bud Alley; Larry Guinn; Dennis Deal; Shortround Migut; Bob Arbasetti; Dale Harbitz; Enrique Gonzalez; Jim Hackbarth; Doug 'Sergeant Rock' Halls; Patrick J. Keane; the late Peter K. Boyev; late George B. Lovelace III; Phil Zook; Karl Haartz; David Smith; John J. Tinti; the late Emory L. Smith; John Talbott; Carl Montean; the late George 'Bull' Durham and the late William Furr. And the ultimate combat correspondent over the past 50+ years - Joe Galloway, who is still serving our soldiers! This is a smattering of honorable men that I served with and honorable warriors that I met through this column. I could go on but space has its limits. Suffice it to say that without memberships in these organizations I would have been a much poorer individual.

From our President John Guillory comes the following reunion report: Troopers of C Company (Pony Teams), 2-7 held their 6th biannual reunion, on August 20-22. The festive gathering took place at Lake De Gray Resort, in friendly Arkadelphia, Arkansas. MSG (Ret) Jimmie Brown, his lovely wife Doris and the Brown families were our gracious hosts. My unofficial count says there were a total of 72 attendees, including troopers, wives, significant others, children, grandchildren and three cute little dogs. The three dogs weren't a part of my count. Three of "Pony Teams" former company commanders were in attendance: Lyman Duryea, Walt Brinker and Bob Jackson. Also in attendance were four families of the fallen: the Dickman's, Hitro's, Fontaine's and Kemp's. At this reunion, the service years in Vietnam of our attendees spanned 1965-1970. Day one of the reunion began with a flute solo, a rousing rendition of Garryowen, by lovely Baleigh Smith (Jimmie's granddaughter). Next, Bert Guarneri led the group in a moment of silence to recognize and honor all our fallen brothers. A special tribute was paid to those of C 2-7 who made the ultimate sacrifice on November 17, 1965, at LZ Albany. Also recognized were Joe Granger and Charles Stewart, who recently left us for Fiddler's Green. Next, all the first time attendees were asked to stand to be introduced and then were welcomed. Then it was on to catching up with each other on life events of the previous two years. Picture taking was the next order of business and then on to viewing various troopers' in-country photo albums. Later in the day there were tranquil pontoon boat rides along the lake's shoreline. Crowds gathered for a joke telling session, while others gathered to hear the telling of tall tales and of course there was the cigar smoking ritual. The first day came to a close in the afternoon with the saying of my Catholic version of grace and some delicious southern cooking, Arkadelphia Style Pizza and all the trimmings. Day two of the reunion began with the arrival and welcoming of the Stewart family from Port Allen, Louisiana. SGT Charles E. "Charlie" Stewart passed away this August 1. Charlie was a mortarman in Vietnam and quite the charming and larger than life character, both then and now, and he will be sorely missed. We all caravanned back to the lake resort to begin day two of the reunion. We were again serenaded by Baleigh, this time she got the audience on their feet with a beautifully done flute rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner".

The body of attendees then fragmented into groups to chat, share and take more photos. The afternoon meal truly was southern style: hush puppies, fried catfish, fried chicken and a countless number of beautiful and tasty side dishes and desserts - did I mention sweet tea. In the afternoon, Kelly Prejean Kemp, daughter of SP4 Kenneth Prejean (KIA 5/1/69) read a poem she wrote about her father, the father she never got to know. This was the second time in six years that Kelly recited the poem, and there was not a dry eye in the house either time. SGT Tom Schultz dedicated a heartfelt eulogy to the Stewart family, for his close friend Charlie Stewart. Again, not a dry eye in the house. The mood lightened as Emil "Lefty" Ercolano (Mr. Nice Guy) began to distribute a treasure trove of military memorabilia gifts to the group. Then, to close the day and the reunion, there was a laugh, squeal and screech filled raffle of a variety of prizes and curios. Bright and early Sunday morning, Jimmie and Doris Brown arrived at our hotel lobby to bid everyone a fond farewell and wish us all safe travels. No goodbyes, just a sweet see you next time. As Jim Brigham used to say and rightly so, "everyone should attend a reunion." In this old LT's opinion, they certainly help to lift and heal the spirit, guaranteed! Thanks Harpo for this great report and heart breaking tribute to our fallen! GarryOwen!

Karl Haartz reports that the 5th Squadron held a change of command ceremony on 6 August at Fort Stewart, Georgia. LTC Charles Jack has assumed command from LTC Christopher Mahaffey. During Veterans Day in Washington, the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Association Dinner on will be held on Tuesday evening, November 10, at the reunion hotel. The cost per head is \$50 including tax (Dinner is \$46 and the additional \$4 is to cover the cost of snacks and beverages in the hospitality room.) Please bring cash as they don't take credit cards.

Chuck Holtz reported that the annual gathering of Alpha 1-7 warriors began on 8 August. The bugle sounded at 0630 for the 3rd Platoon barracks but most slept in. All told, (9) A1-7 Troopers have assembled for this year's gathering. After chow we assembled in formation for the daily orientation and training schedule. Topics included citations for those who split, loaded hauled and stacked 2 cords of fire wood and chain saw operation with the bell repair citation going individually to Gary Garrett. Other citations were issued for those who got Fred's Ford dump truck running and troubleshooting the brake hydraulic system, which was diagnosed as needing a new master cylinder. After the men were dismissed they reported to Cav-Alley for primitive weapons efficiency training where they excelled in hatchet and knife throwing. Rifle range prowess however has yet to be proven. Another great time at the Welcharosa in Pine City, MN. Thanks Chuck.

Marc Levy, a decorated Medic with the 1-7 in Vietnam is seeking input for his website Medic in the Green Time, and a possible book, He is asking veterans to respond to the phrase "Thank you for your service.

Our Website Manager Jim Savage continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes. His current project involves Tee Shirts, Caps and Polo Shirts. There are a few details that he is still working out but you can go to the listed web site to view a sample of the upcoming offerings. Please view the site and send Jim (or me) any recommendations, additions or changes: . Your Association is not involved with the buying or selling of these items. The company is located in West Palm Beach, and Jim personally knows the owner.

This brings to a close the 94th installment of your 7th Cavalry News from this reporter. As a reminder, my last column will be in the November 2016 Saber.