



The Official Newsletter of the  
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

2015 Issue 6

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

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

*It's zero dark thirty, 4 November as I sit before my Logitech Keyboard to begin another installment of your 7th Cavalry News. I would like to start this column with the recognition of 3 career soldiers who have served our First Team Association with compassion, foresight and a steady hand over these past 25+ years. The late COL (Ret) Bob Litle, Jr., BG (Ret) Art Junot and CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster. All three have served and are still serving as the driving force, behind the scenes as Executive Director. Bob Litle was a bomber pilot in World War II before switching over to the US Army. He served as the Battalion Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry in 1966 and in 1983 he was recognized for his aviation exploits with election into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. He was a mentor to many and especially to me as I took over the duties of your 7th Cav scribe. Art Junot took over the role of Executive Director from Bob Litle and like his DISCOM duties continued the forward looking leadership indicative of career soldiers. Like Bob, he too with a gentle hand guided me, primarily in the nuances of writing, with timely and well thought out editing and commentary. These are subtle things that go into the bag of exceptional leaders. It seems only fitting as I too am in my last year of my writings for SABER, that I pay my final respect to our current Executive Director, Dennis Webster who sometime in 2016 will also be hanging up his spurs. Just like Art and Bob, he has grown into the job and displayed outstanding leadership in the position. He too was a career soldier, rising from private to a Division and then Corps Command Sergeant Major. He's all about soldiers and gives tirelessly of his personal time as well, insuring that they continue to be recognized and taken care of. Whether going to early morning returning soldier arrivals, visiting our wounded, or making sure that the Honor Guard gets where they need to be and on time - he does it all with a smile. The Sergeants are the Army. I'm proud to call all three my friends.*

*Rolando Salazar sends us this report from the 50th anniversary reunion of the 2nd Battalion as posted on their Facebook page. Bud Alley, his wife, family and cronies did a great job organizing the 2/7 Cav Reunion in Chattanooga last week (early October). I estimated there were about 300 people attending. From Delta Company (1966-1968) I hung out with Lloyd Butler and his wife; Larry Holt and his wife; Bob LeGore and his wife and son; Phil Harker and his wife and sister; Jimmy McGaha and his wife; Dean Tucker and his son; Tibby DeJulio and friend; and David Hancock. Glenn Blackenship from the*

*14th Combat Engineers also joined us. There were others from Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta from all the years, particularly 1965 and many who were at LZ Albany, including Dick Ackerman and Jim Epperson (LTC McDade's RTO), who are on this Forum (FB). Joe Galloway and his wife Gracie and Jacques the Wonder Dawg were there too. LTC Andy Watson, the current 2nd Battalion commander attend with his Sergeant Major, the Company A Commanding Officer and his First Sergeant and other active duty personnel came from Fort Hood as guests. There were too many others to name them all here. We had a great barbeque lunch and a fantastic dinner cruise on the river with live music and dancing. I went on the tour to the Chickamauga Civil War battlefield and there were tours to Lookout Mountain and teas and activities for the ladies. A morning memorial to the fallen was held at the National Cemetery nearby on the last day. The reunion was held at the Marriott Downtown and there were hospitality rooms, an exhibit of memorabilia containing Vietnam uniforms and weapons by The History Company and a room with commemorative shirts, hats and other items that were for sale. There are a number of tourist attractions in Chattanooga, all close by and most of us discovered The City Cafe which served great food in huge portions, as well as other good restaurants in the area. Thanks Rolando for this report and to Bud Alley who organized the reunion.*

*Marion Siara sends us this report: The 6th annual reunion of the men of Charlie Company 1st Battalion (1970-1971 Vietnam/Cambodia) was held in Elgin, Texas on September 12, 2015 and was hosted by Danny Maass and family. The group stayed at the Holiday Inn Express and because we were not spread out, we were able to easily reconnect. Although the reunion was scheduled for Saturday, September 12th, members started to arrive on Thursday the 10th. Side trips were taken to Austin to visit the State Capital building and the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library, and to San Antonio to visit the Alamo and River Walk. First timers were Alvin and Mary Williams from Louisiana. Elgin, Texas is the epitome of "small town" America. The warmth and hospitality of the residents was incredible. We received more handshakes and "welcome homes" than you can imagine. A local business man, who insisted on remaining anonymous, paid the tab for a table of us at the Jalisco Mexican Restaurant on Thursday night. On Friday night, Patrick Maass, (son of Danny) and two of his friends paid for a bus and driver to Caldwell, Texas to attend an authentic, local, Texas rodeo. One of the owners of Diamond Cross Rodeo Company, asked us to attend the rodeo as his guests, free of charge, and honored us by featuring us in the opening ceremonies which just so happened to be on 9/11 and moved everyone to tears. The local Elgin VFW provided a very large room and kitchen facilities at no cost. An officer of the First State Bank of Elgin Texas paid for an open bar and happy hour, chips, dips, and other appetizers at the VFW Saturday night. Danny's brothers, Curtis, Stanley, Terry and Debbie Maass grilled the steaks and prepared the side dishes. Last but not least, Danny and Gloria Maass worked long and hard to put this all together. They did the organizing, decorating, and too many other things to mention. Significant milestones in our Charlie Company (70-71) family since the last reunion: Ricardo Ruiz, Whitsett, Texas passed away on May 22, 2015. His wife, Raquel attended the reunion and brought their sons and daughter with her because she "wanted them to know all the guys their daddy called "My Brothers". It was an honor to meet such a close family. Garryowen! (Editorial comment)...It should be pointed out that these reunions started with an idea of Marion's and have grown into something wonderful. Thanks again Marion for your leadership. As a side note Phil Zook wasn't able to make this gathering because of a prior commitment but he did manage to spend some time in Oklahoma with Bob Mobbs who also had a prior commitment.*

*Karl Haartz sends in a report on the 5th Battalion Association. Don Shipley - you know this guy as our VP of membership is resting at home and not to comfortably. Don was fixing his TV roof antenna when his safety harness broke sending him on a long voyage to the ground. Actually from the antenna to the roof to the ground and the only thing that was soft was Don. I think this happened on 4 October. He cracked 4 vertebrae in his back, broke 3 ribs and lacerated his spleen. He was airlifted from the corn*

*field next to his house and he had a 90 miles helicopter ride to Evansville, IN, which he doesn't remember. I talked with him last night but I don't think he will remember that either. Karen did tell me that they were still planning to be in Washington for Veterans Day. A GarryOwen Pennsylvania 5/7 Trooper - Andrew Lewis - is running for the State Senate. Andrew lives in New Bloomfield, Perry County, PA. New Bloomfield is also the home of our former Association President COL (Ret) John Long. Yup, it really is a small world. (Editorial comment)...The Veterans Day festivities in DC this year will mark the end of Krazy Karl's active participation in the 5th Battalion Association. I have found him to be a passionate and dedicated advocate for soldiers, especially those from the 5th Battalion. It was Karl who invited me to be a guest at their Veterans Day dinner several years ago. Thank you again Karl for your dedication to all GarryOwen Troopers!*

*In September I made my 2nd trip to the Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, IN. Hooked up with my compadre Phil Zook and another C Company Veteran John Sullivan. As always there are lots of things going on at this gathering including two Huey's offering rides. I decided that for my 70th Birthday in 2018 that I would take one final ride in an Actual Vietnam Service Huey. Nothing gets the blood pumping like the sound of those big rotors beating the air. Had the pleasure of staying with John and his lovely wife Margie at their home in Fairmount. Turns out that James Dean was from there and we took a ride out to view his grave - replete with the remnants of long ago lipstick marks. I must confess that was a bit creepy. Jim Davis the Garfield cartoonist is also from Fairmount. Great time with an honorable pair of warriors. John and I made plans to host a group of Charlie Company guys to help them through the maze of DVA Claims filing. We are planning to do this in early December.*

*Our President - John Guillory recently received a very nice letter from the current commander of the 2nd Battalion - LTC Andrew Watson. In part it reads - "The Ghost Battalion's past six months have been exceptional. The National Training Center Rotation 15-07 served as our 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2015 training focus. The Division selected our troopers to demonstrate the devastating force of US military combined arms and joint firepower for General Fan Changlong, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission. Between these events, we dedicated the Ghost Battalion Conference Room in honor of COL (Ret) Rick Rescorla's sacrifice and service, officially renaming it the 'Rescorla Room'. We now stand ready as the Immediate Reaction Force for the Global Response Force, a strategic level mission requiring the Battalion to be prepared for rapid deployment worldwide within 96 hours." As part of my Honor Guard duties, as you might imagine, we go to dozens of cemeteries in and around Kent County, MI. At yesterday's funeral for a 49 year old USAF Veteran prior to the service I was walking around the grounds by myself just taking in the scene of the myriad of headstones. Forest Grove Cemetery is located south of Hudsonville and contains the resting place of many early settlers of the community as well as veterans. In my walk, I spied a lone Department of Veteran Affairs Tombstone Standing Guard and was drawn ever closer. This white marble marked the grave of SFC Rick Herrema, who paid the ultimate price for freedom on 25 April 2006 in OIF. I remembered the notification in our local paper and was both honored and saddened to find his resting place. Sergeant Herrema is the first grave - outside of Arlington - that I have seen on the Global War on Terrorism. It serves as a continuing reminder that Freedom Is Never Free. Yesterday marked my 181st Honor Guard Funeral this calendar year. If you are looking for a way to keep serving and as a way to pay it forward - you might give thought to joining an Honor Guard Detail. The rewards are beyond description as you gaze into the eyes of the family members as we pay our last full measure of respect for their selfless and faithful service to our Glorious Nation!*

*I found another book on General Custer titled Custer S Trials by T.J. Stiles, a Pulitzer Prize winning author. Of course this tome goes onto the pile of books awaiting its time for perusal. "This book casts a surprising new light on a near mythic American figure, a man both widely known and little understood." Hampton Sides says " to understand Custer is to understand a significant sequence in the American*

*DNA." I received a great phone call from Ralph Braunstein and an e-mail from Bob Andersen thanking me for mentioning what it was like in the Real Cavalry! Imagine my surprise on 21 October when I received a call from Mike Sprayberry regarding a recent reprint of a Stars and Stripes article from April of 1967. Mike as we all know is the recipient of the Medal Of Honor for his heroism just one day after his 21st birthday while serving as the Executive Officer in Delta Company of the 5th Battalion. He is hoping to find a clear picture of the late CPT Walter Swain who was killed on 26 April 1966 while serving with Delta Company of the 1st Battalion and appears in this article. This photo will be sent to the Vietnam Veterans History Project for inclusion in the soon to be completed Education Center near The Wall. Chapter 14 in the book On the Tiger's Back by Bernie Grady is called "They finally got Walt Swain." If you served with CPT Swain or know someone who has a good photo of him please let me know so I can get it to Mike. This is just another example of the dedication and service that this outstanding combat leader continues to provide to our deceased comrades. Thank you Mike for your service to our Nation! Joe Galloway continues his fine work on the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Committee with frequent trips to Washington, D.C. as well as speaking engagements to keep the story of our 7th Cavalry legacy alive.*

*Just another reminder that Membership into the 7th Cavalry Association is still closed to new members. As I have the master roster I would appreciate you double checking your old Roster copies for your address. If it is incorrect please send me an updated address with phone and e-mail so that can be added to the master. You have until 31 December 16 to complete this task.*

*By the time you get this edition, the 2015 Veterans Day observances along with Continued on pg. 9 the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the Ia Drang Campaign will be history. I hope everyone who attended had a great time. This brings to a close my 95th installment of your 7th Cavalry News. As a reminder my last column as the scribe for the 7th CAV News will be in the November/December 2016 issue of SABER.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as well as a hearty GarryOwen from Michigan.*