



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

As you begin this 7th Cavalry Spur Ride, Labor Day is in the rear view mirror which marked the official end of summer. Worldwide events have marked another brutal chapter in the Global War on Terrorism. The United States Olympic Teams led the world in the number of medals won and it certainly would be nice if the community of countries would model themselves after that unique spirit of sportsmanship. This will be the last column prior to the November Presidential Election. The 7th Cavalry played an important part in securing your right as an individual voter. Please exercise that vote in November, no matter for whom you pull the lever. This column also represents the penultimate column as your reporter, so let's 'Saddle Up.'

The following was pulled from the Facebook page of General Moore on 1 August 2016. Our family extends its thanks to Mel Gibson, Vince Vaughn, and Rosalind Ross for taking several hours out of their busy schedule to travel to Auburn to visit Dad. The group was at Fort Benning in conjunction with the screening of the WWII movie, Hacksaw Ridge, scheduled for release this November. Mel and Dad developed a close friendship during the filming of We Were Soldiers. Our brother, Dave, hosted the group during their one hour visit at Dad's home and he reported Dad was delighted to see his old friend again. The movie details the life and conscientious objector status of PFC Desmond Doss who was awarded the Medal of Honor while serving as a medic on Okinawa with the 77th Infantry Division. Gibson is directing the estimated \$50 million budgeted film. On September 9th a gatherin

On September 9th a gathering of Phantom Raider's (A 1/7 from 1969-1970) will be held in Gettysburg, PA. This mini reunion is being organized by my good friend COL (Ret) Michael Brennan. Mike came to A 1/7 in January of 1970, fresh from a 6 month tour with Company H, 75th Infantry. Mike and another of his West Point (68) classmates will be leading the tour and taking us to places that most people overlook. A little known fact is that General Custer was instrumental in securing the Union victory when he and the Michigan Cavalry engaged General JEB Stuart's cavalry forces on the last day of the hostilities at what is now called East Cavalry Field. Gettysburg has been called the 'High Water Mark' for the Confederate Forces led by General Robert E. Lee. You might want to read the book The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara to give some more background.

The 5th Battalion recently concluded their 13th Reunion in Colorado Springs. Here is their report as submitted by Karl Haartz: A lot of people came early and stayed after as Colorado Springs is a beautiful area for sightseeing. Thursday was general meeting one in the morning with nomination of officers, sight suggestion for the 2018

reunion, etc. After the meeting, there was a Ladies Tea, hosted by Jane Edmonds, wife of MG (Ret) Maurice Edmonds and our new President Emeritus. There were 136 ladies in attendance. Friday was meeting number two, with new officers elected and the suggested 2018 sites were narrowed down to: Myrtle Beach, Pittsburgh, and San Antonio. Our new President is BG (Ret) Howard Prince, II. The Friday night banquet went off in grand style with 574 people in the chow line. Special service awards were presented and parting thank you gifts to Maury Edmonds and Royce Vick. Royce was our Association Treasurer for several years. The Memorial Service on Saturday was again a very somber occasion, with the reading of our 368 Vietnam KIAs, 15 Iraq and Afghanistan KIAs and all who have passed since the 2014 reunion. Karl gave a 15 minute stepping down from 1st VP talk. When he came into office there were about 300 members, now there are over 2000. He said he was stepping down but he wasn't going away. It is not going to be easy for the new VP when the board finds someone to step up. Total registration was 635 troopers and guests. There were 31 first time attendees and 10 new from the 5th Squadron.

Fred Roscoe, 3rd Platoon, A 1/7, in '69 and '70, reported that at the recent event (20 Aug), 'Thunder Over Michigan,' Huey and Cobra rides were being offered. The Huey was \$75 and the Gunship was \$375. This is an annual event at the old Willow Run Airport near Detroit. B-24 Heavy Bombers were built at Willow Run during World War II. Hopefully next year for me!

Mike Kinney, 1st platoon, A 1/7, in '69 and '70, reports that a tornado hit Howard County and Kokomo, Indiana pretty hard on 24 Aug. Here's hoping that the Fairgrounds were spared and that no one was injured. Our President John Guillory has jumped in with both feet as our Secretary and has already processed some 6 new members into our Association. GarryOwen John.

Vice-President Phil Zook during March of 1970 spent some harrowing time talking a wounded NVA lieutenant out of a bunker. On my recent trip to NARA, at Phil's request, I was able to locate the documents that cataloged the interrogation of this prisoner including his name, unit and much, much more. A friend of Phil's is returning to Vietnam and will be attempting to locate this former combatant. Hopefully that search is productive as it would be fascinating to hear about his life since that fateful day in the spring of 1970. Everyone close to Phil was imploring him just to frag the guy but he recognized the value, intelligence wise of a prisoner. That decision was borne out by the information retrieved

Kudos to Robin Woo for having the brilliant idea of starting a FaceBook page for Vietnam Veterans only. There are about 7,000 members currently from all branches of the military as well as warriors from Australia who fought there as well. The topics as you might imagine are as varied as our individual experiences were. There are a couple of members who are actually Veteran Service Officers who give freely of their expertise to direct and assist with claims information. Thanks Robin!

My 9th Infantry Division buddy (SGT Mike Hale) sent me these 3 sites that might be of interest to you: recordsofwar.com, vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/, and a site for books about Vietnam astore.amazon.com/recordsofwar-20.

One of our C 1/7 FB members posted an interesting question a few days ago regarding MEDEVAC's from Cambodia. I sent an e-mail to my contacts Marc Levy and Mike Bodnar (who writes the MEDEVAC column) specifically about 24 May '70 nighttime and 25 May '70 daytime. These were wounded (my friends) and killed from Charlie Company's horrific firefight late in the day on the 24th. Any way to track down the Bird and or the crew(s), I'm guessing they first went to Charlie Med at Quon Loi for Triage. Thoughts? Marc who was both a field Medic with the 2/7 and a MEDEVAC Medic responded: The best thing I think you can do is to call the National Archives and request the daily journals for the 15th Med Battalion, specifically for the Air Ambulance Platoon's logs for the dates which you are interested. Like the line units, MEDEVAC kept those daily journals. I have gotten them for my past requests. Word of mouth I don't think would produce anything. There were too many pickups for any crew member to remember. See what you can find then we can track it down. Actually with all of my trips over the years to NARA

I never thought about this before. I then e-mailed my colleague Rob Weeks from the 5th Battalion who spends hours of time at NARA every year doing research primarily for his Battalion. He agreed to look up some specific dates for me. Stay tuned. This is the beauty of networking with friends cultivated over the years. Questions that one person might not know the answer too can be found because a friend knows the answer or knows someone who does. Thanks to Marc, Mike, and Rob.

Along the same lines, I received an e-mail from a pilot asking about Call Signs. As way of introduction, I flew for the 229th AHB in the 1st Cav in 1968-1969. I see from the Saber that you are the guy that writes the 7th Cav column. By chance could you tell me the call signs of the 5/7th Cav in Vietnam? Especially around the 1968-1969 period. Some guys I flew with and I are curious, as we can't remember. My call sign was North Flag. Thanks. John Rob . Thanks for the question John and I'll also pass it to my 5/7 Contact. GarryOwen!

From Army Times (22 Aug 16): The Army is considering a proposal brought forward by an NCO to combine the Combat Infantry Badge and the Expert Infantry Badge into a Master Infantry Badge. If approved the Master Infantry Badge would look like the current CIB but with both the wreath and Flintlock shaded in gold. The subdued version would only have the Flintlock shaded in Gold. Personally as the holder of a CIB, I'm not exactly sure about this idea. Of course under this proposal an individual would have to earn both awards. Currently if a person qualifies to wear both, they can only wear one badge at a time. This of course would fix that problem.

The 1st Cavalry Division Association is working with Acclaim Press featuring the history of the First Team from 1921-2016. Part of this book will include our individual stories and personal biographies. I just received word of this when a packet of brochures was dropped into my mailbox. This unfortunately is time sensitive with a deadline of 31 October 16. This seems to me not realistic for us to get the word out, especially when the Saber won't be delivered until early October but all members should have received a form in the mail. If your story, limited to 1,000 words is accepted, it will be included in the book provided you pre order a copy. Individual biographies are limited to 200 words. Please pass the word as time is limited. But if you are interested contact the Acclaim Press at 877-427-2665 or order on line at .

As a reminder to those who may have Individual State Property Tax Relief because of being 100% permanently and totally disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Michigan, you must file an annual request for exemption. Your state may have different filing requirements. The DVA is supposed to send out annually a letter with your status but you can also get it online through the DVA, Veterans Benefits Website.

Joe Galloway continues his travels back and forth to Washington, DC as part of his commitment to the 50th Anniversary Commemoration program held monthly around the United States. If you haven't as yet attended one of these gatherings you can Google the name and find the closest venue. These types of events will continue for 8 more years. Here are some excerpts from an interview Joe did with Vietnam Magazine in 2011: Exceptional insight for one so young then. Joe arrived in Vietnam in early 1965.

So, your views of the war were getting shaped right away? Shortly after I got to Da Nang, an old UPI hand, Ray Herndon, took me to meet a Vietnamese Corps Commander. He was a very intense guy and we were sitting there, drinking tea, when he leaned forward in his chair and said: "Are you Americans serious about this? Are you here for the long run? Because we've been fighting this war for 20 years and if you come in and take it over, I want you to know if you cut and run, the helicopters taking you out will have people shooting at them, and it will be me and my troops." I sat there thinking, these are questions for Westmoreland, not me!

So, even before Ia Drang, you were having doubts? No, it didn't take Ia Drang to convince me that we didn't have enough force to counter a guerrilla force the size of the Viet Cong, never mind the NVA. If you read Clausewitz, you know you need 10 regulars for one guerrilla, and we sure didn't have that. Years later, you learned how your experience at Ia Drang was a model for the final thrust of the NVA? We were desking the fall of Cambodia out of Saigon. And I was sitting there working on that when the end started in the Central Highlands. It all seemed very

familiar. Later I talked to NVA General Man, and in 1975 he was senior general, but back in 1965 he was a Division Commander at LZ Xray. He was an old revolutionary and he had a twinkle in his eye as he told me: "You know, we tried to cut the country in half with that operation in 1965, we were going to besiege the Plei Me Special Forces Camp, draw a relief force out of Plekiu with the last of the troops there, draw them into regiment-size ambush, turn and take Plekiu and ride on down the highway to the coast. The only thing to stop that from happening was the intervention of the 1st Cavalry Division. You were able to bring artillery and hopscotch along with the relief column and really lay the air cover on, so our plan didn't work. But in 1975, all we had to do was pull that plan off the shelf, dust it off, make a few changes and this time it worked real well."

Beyond Washington, was our military leadership flawed? It didn't help that the commander in the crucial years was William Westmoreland, who was a fine fellow and certainly looked every inch a general. But even his own aide wrote a book later about the war and said that Westmoreland's idea was a "strategy of attrition," and a strategy of attrition is the proof that you have no strategy at all. And certainly, attrition was never going to work there. There was never one year in the Vietnam War when we killed a number of the enemy that equaled or exceeded the natural birth rate increase in North Vietnam alone. So every year looking out into the farthest future there would be a fresh crop of draftees up there. We certainly were not going to win with those tactics and I'm not sure what other tactic we could have used to win short of nuking North Vietnam and turning into a parking lot. And if we had, I guarantee our sons would be out there garrisoning that place now, and people would still be shooting at them.

Did we learn from Vietnam that we must never turn our backs on our war veterans again? We have to take care of them. I don't want to hear we don't have any money left because we pissed it all away on the wars that destroyed those people. Cough it up because you owe it, just like the Vietnam veterans and all the others. You've got to do what's right. I can't say it better than Hal Moore, who says, "Hate war, but love the warrior." We sent them there we owe them all of the support and everything that we promised them. You know, I look at these kids today, pulling five or six tours in Iraq and now Afghanistan, and I know what 12 months in Vietnam could do to a kid, and I know what five or six such tours would have done to them, and it's not pretty. We are going to be dealing with the consequences, and the cost, of taking care of many of those young men and woman for the rest of their lives. And every war we've ever had we say we will do the right thing, and then somehow the money doesn't get voted in by Congress. Read Kipling: For its Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' Chuck him out, the brute! But it's "Savior of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot....

Has time helped you all heal the pain? It doesn't stop. It doesn't go away; I think we all know that now. Hal Moore and I used to hope, "OK, we'll get the book done, that will close the loop." But, when all those men were dying around us, we were all young, we didn't know what life held, or even understand what those around us dying were giving up. You know the joy of a wife, having kids and seeing grandkids, and shit, even the bad stuff that happens in life. So your appreciation of their sacrifices only grows as you understand more of what there is good in life, that they gave up. So the passage of years doesn't make it easier, in fact it makes it harder. Great stuff Joe, now about YOUR memoir? For you FaceBook aficionados, The 1st Cavalry Division has a FB page. Lots of interesting posts that will keep you engaged. Get your reservations made for the annual Veterans Day First Team festivities in Washington, DC. GarryOwen from the great state of Michigan!