



The Official Newsletter of the  
**Seventh United States Cavalry Association**

2018 Issue 1

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"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

*Greetings and Salutations my friends and brothers! I hope that you are enjoying the New Year, and that Santa was very good to ou. Unfortunately, he did not bring the Indian Chief Motorcycle I asked him for Any reporter/author/scribe worth a bit of salt readily admits to mistakes made, unfortunately those admissions are usually in small print at the end of the article. Instead of that, I want to bring to your attention that in the November/December issue I got two names wrong. My apologies to Chan Duryea, who provided me with the information and to those that I misnamed. The first error was the name of Charles M. (Doc) Kinney whom I misnamed Doc McKinney. The second was an incorrect name and email address for Bob Orkand. Because of the disservice I created, I want to repeat the message in which these errors occurred.*

*A request for information has been received from Chan Duryea, 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry. If you can help him, please reach out. "I have agreed to co-author a book with another Cav Vet, Bob Orkand, on the malfunction issue (failure to extract) of the first issue of the M16 rifle to Vietnam bound Troops. My first KIA as company commander resulted from just such a malfunction when one of my guys got off just one round at a group of advancing NVA at night. He was killed by return fire. Before going to Vietnam in February of 1966, I had spent two years as a test officer on the Infantry Board at Fort Benning. I was acutely aware of the problems with the then XM16E1. Bob and I need first-hand accounts from men who had problems with the M16. This will be an essential part of the book. We would be greatly appreciative of any support and information we might receive from 7th Cavalry Vets." Contact information for Chan and Bob is: Chan Duryea, 701 Timberlake Ln, McDaniels, KY 40153, lymanduryea@yahoo.com (270) 316-6295. Bob Orkand, 27 Elkins Lake Huntsville, TX 77340, boborkand@yahoo.com.*

*A little bit more about your new scribe: I think it is important that you know who is reporting on the 7th Cavalry Regiment so that you may have faith in what I write and also be willing to offer up your stories for others to read. I enlisted in 1966 right after graduating from high school, went through basic training and AIT, and then volunteered for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned after completing OCS at Fort Benning. I mentioned in my initial article that I was a member of Echo Company 1/7; my second tour began just 11 months after returning from my first. During that second tour, I served as an advisor to a Vietnamese RF/PF Training Center outside the village of Long Hai on the coast of the South China Sea near Vung Tau. I served for 13 years as an Infantry officer before being trained as a Public Affairs Officer at the Defense Information School housed at Fort Benjamin Harrison. After a stint as the editor of the Army Administrator, a professional journal for the Adjutant General and Finance Corps, I left active duty but remained active in the Army Reserve until I was retired in 1986. That makes me an old man with some writing skills, a perfect fit for this job.*

*I'm not sure how many of you might also be members of the Combat Infantrymen's Association (CIA) but I want to relay some information about a recent change in the chain of command for that organization. You will be happy to know that the CIA is in the hands of 1st Cavalry Division leadership! Please read the following biographical statements for the new National Commander, Fred Taylor, and Deputy Commander Phil Zook. As some of you may know, Phil served with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry in Vietnam. National Commander Fred Taylor - email is cibassoc.nc@gmail.com. Fred Taylor has been active in Veterans' affairs since 1968. Among his achievements are being inducted into two Veterans' Halls of Fame [Florida and Indiana]; elected National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart [2000]; selected as the American Delegate to the World Veterans' Federation meeting in Paris, France [2000]; selected as one of 10 Americans to tour Israeli defense installations by AIPAC [2015]; selected by then IN Governor Mike Pence to receive the highest honor an Indiana Governor may bestow upon a person, the Sagamore of the Wabash [2016]; served in the First Cavalry Division [Airmobile] in 1968; recipient of 3 Purple Hearts and the CIB for Vietnam combat. Owner of F.A. Taylor & Associates, Inc. Married to wife, Patty Taylor. Deputy Commander Phil Zook, email is cibassoc.dc@gmail.com. From northern Indiana, now living in Bloomington, Indiana with wife Suzanne and in driving distance to 3 married daughters and their children. Commissioned an Infantry Officer from ROTC at Indiana University, January 1969. After duty assignments and school at Ft. Benning, Georgia, assigned to C Company 1/7thCav, 1st Air Cav as platoon leader III Corp. RVN. Wounded in RVN April 1970 and a second time in Cambodia May 1970. Returned to states through hospital system, released and returned to active duty September 1970. Assigned 7th Special Forces Group Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and served with Group until March 1973 when I resigned my commission. Graduate school and employment in Bloomington until retirement July 2003. Life member and supporter of American Legion, VFW, MOPH and DAV.*

*Congratulations to both of these warriors and may your tours of duty with the Combat Infantrymen's Association be successful! New Veteran ID Card Coming Soon! Currently, anyone who served in the armed forces and has an honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge may have "Veteran" added on their driver's license. What some people may not be aware of is that the Veterans Administration began accepting applications for Veteran Identification Cards Nov 1, 2017. These cards will serve as proof of service in the armed forces. Anyone wishing to obtain a VIC should apply at <vets.gov>. Those eligible should receive their no cost ID card in the mail within three weeks. This is the only way to apply for the VIC. Medical centers and regional offices cannot assist in obtaining a VIC. For more information, visit <vets.gov>. Help Desk 1-855- 574-7286, TTY: 1-800-877-8339, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET).*

*I received an update from Greg Schlieve, who served with Charlie Company, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry in 1969 and 1970. He has this to offer: "I served most of my tour in the Infantry, but the last three months I was the supply sergeant for the Battalion. This gave me the opportunity to really become aware of all the duties that everyone in the rear were doing to keep our grunts well supported while they trashed it out in the jungles. I have since viewed the Virtual Wall on the internet, and have noticed that about 85% of those who died in Vietnam served in the Infantry. The 1st Cavalry Division lost more men KIA than any other Army Division did in World War II, either in the Pacific or in Europe. Thus, it was a shame that we had to hear that we only fought in a peace-keeping mission and were not qualified to join such organizations as the VFW when we came home.*

*I am now 68 years old and am working to build a very large Veterans Memorial in my hometown, Sunnyside, Washington. I wanted to make you aware of this Veterans Memorial. The city has given our Post the median in a one-block long boulevard. The median is 400 feet long and 25 feet wide. You can go to our Facebook page: American Legion Post # 73 in Sunnyside, Washington to view our progress to date.*

*Our goal is to build a Veterans Memorial that will eventually have 42 large granite walls installed along the 400- foot long boulevard. Today, we have 12 large granite walls installed. The walls average 8 feet tall and either 4 or 4½ feet wide. Each wall weighs well over 3 tons. Just the massive amount of granite that will be installed will make this one of the largest Veterans Memorials in the Northwest, if not the entire United States."*

*It's me again. I think that it is important to note that Greg has not asked for donations in the completion of this project, however I am certain that the American Legion Post #73 in Sunnyside, Washington has. I did a search and found this address for the Post: P.O. Box 654, Sunnyside, WA, 98944. Greg's address is Greg Schlieve, P.O. Box 369, Grandview, WA, 98930. I'm sure the Post would appreciate any and all donations for this most worthy project. Don't forget to send me your stories, remembrances, requests for information, or whatever you would like to see published in this column. Until the Spring,*

*Until the next issue, Garryowen, my friends! Karl Swenson*