



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

2018 Issue 2

PRESIDENT  
*John Guillory*

VICE PRESIDENT  
*Phill Zook*

SCRIBE  
*Karl Swenson*

TREASURER  
*Robert J. Anderson*

*Greetings again, my friends!*

*Here we are, so much closer to the 2018 Annual Reunion for the 1st Cavalry Division Association, scheduled for June 20-24 in Charleston, West Virginia. I truly look forward to seeing you there. Make sure that you get your reservations in as soon as possible, go to for more information.*

*I found some interesting stories in my share with you. Once again, I urge you to submit your own stories for publication here. Just get in touch with me using the information above.*

*If you watched this year's Super Bowl, then you saw several Medal of Honor recipients honored during the coin toss at the beginning of the game. One of those was Joe Marm, who was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry on 14 November 1965. His local newspaper, the Wilson Times, had this to say about him, "It was very special with all the applause just to be in the company of the two football teams and the other Medal of Honor recipients, to be with them and be at the Super Bowl," said Marm. "I have never been to a Super Bowl before, so that was unique to be there for the first time and to be honored and to be out there on the field." Marm and the other recipients stood together at midfield at the beginning of the game as World War II Veteran Woody Williams, himself a Medal of Honor recipient, tossed the coin to determine which team would receive the kickoff.*

*"Woody is a legend. He was on Iwo Jima and they had a very high mortality rate, particularly his job of carrying a flamethrower," Marm said of Williams. "He was able to make it through and earned a Medal of Honor for his actions. He is one our four living recipients from World War II of the 71 that are still living total." But for the people in Fremont, it is Walter Joseph Marm Jr. who is the legend. Marm, a native of Washington, Pennsylvania, enlisted in the U.S. Army five days after graduation from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. In a 30-year career that spanned from 1964 to 1995, Marm completed two tours in Vietnam.*

*COL (Ret) Harm's Medal of Honor citation reads: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. As a platoon leader in the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 1LT Marm demonstrated indomitable courage during a combat operation. His company was moving through the valley to relieve a friendly unit surrounded by an enemy force of estimated regimental size. 1LT Marm led his platoon through withering fire until they were finally forced to take cover. Realizing that his platoon could not hold very long, and seeing four enemy soldiers moving into his position, he moved quickly under heavy fire and annihilated all 4. Then, seeing that his platoon was receiving intense fire from a concealed machine gun, he deliberately exposed himself to draw its fire. Thus, locating its position, he attempted to destroy it with an antitank weapon. Although he inflicted casualties, the weapon did not silence the enemy fire. Quickly, disregarding the intense fire directed on him and his platoon, he charged 30 meters across open ground, and hurled grenades into the enemy position, killing some of the 8 insurgents manning it. Although severely wounded, when his grenades were expended, armed with only a rifle, he continued the momentum of his assault on the position and killed the remainder of the enemy. 1LT Marm's selfless actions reduced the fire on his platoon, broke the enemy assault, and rallied his unit to continue toward the accomplishment of this mission. 1LT Marm's gallantry on the battlefield and his extraordinary intrepidity at the risk of his life are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.*

*This is from Edd (HeavyHeavy) Vanderpool, who served with the 3rd platoon of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry. On 1 March 1968, Bravo Company, 2/7 Cavalry, was on a company sweep northwest of Hue when we made contact with a well-entrenched NVA unit of unknown size. I carried the M60 machine gun and was called "HeavyHeavy" because the gun and my size. The 2nd Platoon almost immediately had a man wounded and the 3rd Platoon (light)*

*was sent out to secure an LZ for medivac. Some "higher being" decided that we should move all of our platoons on line, as had been done in previous wars. That's when all hell broke loose.*

*Larry Carpenter (Carp) was on the far end of the right flank, he was wounded in the opening salvo. I moved out to help Carp and I was shot just after I got to him. Soon afterwards, the medic John Vaz and Thomas Smith (Smitty) slid in to assist. They were both wounded immediately. Eugene Martin (we called him Calhoun) slid in next to see what was going on. He started laying down covering fire while I tried to figure out what to do next.*

*PFC Eugene Calhoun Martin A few minutes later SGT Roy Townsend and Ray Brown dropped into position behind a termite mound that we were using for cover and concealment. The medic that came down with them moved forward to render aid and was shot the minute he dropped down beside me. Calhoun was still laying down covering fire and we were starting to get air support from Gunships and fast movers. After a while, the medic asked Calhoun to patch me up, so Calhoun came over to see what he could do. Just as he reached out to put a patch on the hole in my back an NVA soldier fired a shot that hit Calhoun's glasses -blew them right off his face. He fell backwards and started crying out that he was blind. We tried to convince him that he wasn't. SGTs Townsend and Brown were behind us laying down covering fire and calling in the fire support. Finally, being convinced that he wasn't blind, he decided to make another attempt at patching up the hole in my back.*

*Just as he got in position to apply the patch the NVA really started laying the fire in our direction. Rounds were popping everywhere but Calhoun wouldn't roll away and instead laid over my head and shoulders and took the bullet that would have killed me. The bullet traveled through his shoulder and flak jacket and then hit me in the hip. Calhoun wanted to know if I was okay, not concerned about his own wound. He asked for another weapon and ammo and returned to putting down covering fire with his shoulder ripped apart and bleeding.*

*Calhoun passed away from cancer in 2004. Calhoun was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for his heroic actions that day, the same award I got for getting shot, his decoration should have been much higher, in my estimation he should have received the Silver Star for what he did and the lives he saved. Calhoun is a hero to my Family and me because he took the bullet that was meant to end my life. As a result, I was able to return to the World and enjoy the rest of my life. My whole Family knows of Calhoun's bravery and that we are all here because him. I have shared this story with everyone who would listen. I went to St. Louis this past summer and met his twin brother, who also served in Vietnam, and shared the story with him. I'm telling you this story because Calhoun was not properly acknowledged for his bravery. Please remember him when you remember others from our war.*

*The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Museum in Holmdel Township pays tribute to the 1,562 men and 1 woman from that state who were killed or are missing in action. The memorial was dedicated in 1995 and tours are conducted by volunteer New Jersey Veterans. One of those Veterans is one of our own. Bill 'Doc' McClung acts as both a tour guide and tour captain at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. He has volunteered at the Memorial since 2009. Bill was drafted into the US Army from his hometown of Kearny, NJ after graduating from college and teaching for a year in the NJ public school system. He entered the service in June 1968. He received his basic training at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina and advanced training at the Army's Medical Training Center, Fort Sam Houston, and San Antonio, Texas. He remained at Fort Sam for 6 months as an instructor at Medical Training Center. He was then sent to The Republic of South Vietnam and served as a combat medic for a reconnaissance platoon with the 1st Cavalry Division in III Corps for 7 months and then as a medic at a Battalion Aid Station for 5 months.*

*Today, Bill is retired after 27 years with Johnson & Johnson as Director of Management Education & Development. He lives in Little Silver, NJ with his wife Lorraine. They have two grown sons who still live in the Monmouth County area.*

*Bill is a member of the VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, the First Cavalry Division Assn, the 7th Cavalry Assn, the 5th Bn 7 Cav Assn and the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. He enjoys volunteering at the Memorial and Education Center to ensure that today's younger generation supplements their classroom*

*learning and hear from Veterans who experienced the Vietnam Era and War.*

*Thanks to you, Bill, for the work that you do at the Memorial, and for your service to our country. Welcome home, Doc!*

*A fellow member of Echo Company, 1st of the 7th, Tom Preece, recently had a book published. I have read it and recommend it to all who like mystery-thrillers with a connection to Vietnam. Tom's book takes place in the States years after the main character's return to the World. You can find the book on Amazon, it is: *The Last Lost Warrior* by Tom A. Preece, ISBN 978-1539728153.*

*I'm sure that you noticed our stories this issue was about Vietnam Veterans. It is not that I am favoring folks from that war, but instead they are the only stories I received. This column is for the stories of all 7th Cavalrymen. Please consider sending them to me. Don't worry about the layout of the story, I will be happy to help with the formatting. If you like, please call me and we can discuss how to best get your ideas into writing and then into the column. So, until we meet again, Garryowen!*

*Garryowen Karl Swenson*