



The Official Newsletter of the Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

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.

Greetings and salutations to all the brave Troopers of the 7th Cavalry wherever you may be! I hope that your summer is going well and that you have been able to weather the extraordinary heat and humidity. A hot summer indeed. I recently attended the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in Charleston, WV, along with about 750 other Association members. What a magnificent time we had! The comradery of the unit was so strong there! The 7th Cav was well represented, in fact we had the largest contingent there. And the 7th Cav had attendees from Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars, and Troopers currently serving on active duty. We even had future Troopers and family members. What a great time we had reminiscing and hearing each other's' stories. BG Hank Taylor, the Deputy Commanding General - Maneuver, 1st Cavalry Division, joined us, along with Joe Galloway, co-author of *We Were Soldiers Once and Young* and of *La Drang Valley* fame, for the annual Banquet. BG Taylor gave the keynote address and brought us all up to date on the state of the Division. We were also informed of the next reunion; it will be at Fort Hood 5-9 June 2019. Mark your calendars now!!

Do you shop on Amazon? If you do, you can support the 1st Cavalry Division Association's Scholarship Fund and it won't cost you a penny. Here's the scoop; next time you go to Amazon, instead of typing amazon.com into your browser search window, typesmile.amazon.com. The addition of the word "smile within that url address will open a new window. You will have the option of choosing a charity; type in Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Follow the simple prompts and you're done! Now, every time you shop at Amazon, 1/2 of 1 percent of your purchase price will be donated to the scholarship fund. Now, I shop at Amazon a lot, and my purchases over the last 18 months have added \$20.71 to the scholarship fund. That in itself is not earthshaking, it won't even pay for one-third of a text book. But, if 1000 Troopers do this, or 10,000 Troopers do this, what a huge boon to the fund! Try it! And for those of you who have visited the 7th Cavalry website us7thcavalry.com and for those of you who have not, now is the time! There is so much valuable information at this site it may take you days to get through it. You can find unit rosters, a history of the 7th Cavalry, a section called "Memoirs" (where you can publish your own story), and more.

And don't forget the Quartermaster - a place at which you can buy cool 7th Cavalry stuff, like this belt buckle. The Quartermaster page is actually tied to Amazon; most purchases provide monetary support for the funding of the 7th Cavalry website. Each time you buy something from the Quartermaster, a portion of that sale will be returned to our webmaster for improvements to the 7th Cavalry site. Enjoy your purchases and support the Regiment. As you take a "walk" through the Quartermaster site, pause in the library, where you will find volumes tracing the steps of the Cav from the days of the earliest horse Soldiers through the Gulf War. Here is an opportunity for you to buy some of the most wanted items. This is from William "Bill" Dooley, who served as a combat medic with 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. Bill was in Vietnam from late 1966 to early 1968 was attached to A and D Companies. Bill was wounded at Thon La Chu, outside of Hue. He says, "This past May, because it was the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Tet offensive, my wife and I drove from Wolf Creek, Montana to Washington D.C. We parked as close to the VN Veterans Memorial Wall as we could, sounded Taps at the correct panel that reflected most of my friends and acquaintances, then drove home. The trip was to honor the casualties of Tet specifically and the war in general. I have a question for the folks of our Association. Are there any other buglers out there? I work for the local Honor Guard and am wondering how many members are doing this also. Thanks, Bill Dooley, Wolf Creek, Montana."

A belated Happy 90th Birthday to COL Dave Hughes, who celebrated on May 18th. COL Hughes served with Company K, 7th Cavalry during the Korean War. According to his son, David Hughes III, the Colonel is still going strong because he is Infantry. Well, of course! If you would like to wish COL Hughes a belated happy birthday of your own. And he has a legacy website that may interest you, check it out at A sad note, SGT Ronald W. Nelson went on to Fiddler's Green on May 6th. Ron served with 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry in 1966-1967. His wife, Dottie, tells me that he saw heavycombat; he would rarely talk about those days for a good 40 years. Once he started...the dam broke loose and his PTSD intensified. Please keep Mrs. Dottie Nelson in your prayers. I asked her if I could put this announcement of Ron's passing in the Saber, she sent me this picture of her car

and she told me "Tell your boys the Nelson family has them forever in our thoughts and we send much love and gratitude!" Garryowen, Ron, we will see you at Fiddler's Green.

Here's a shout out to James Breen, who served as a machine gunner in Delta Company 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry in 1966-1967. Jim reaches out to me after each issue of the Saber is published; he tells me he reads about our regiment before reading about his own, that's great praise for the 7th Regiment! Jim and I have an ongoing conversation about many things, and I enjoy seeing an email from Jim in my inbox. Keep them coming, Jim! I appreciate it!! If any of the rest of you are interested in doing the same, please check out my email address at the top of this column. Luncheon Recap - The following is from our Association president, it is his annual "State of the Regiment" report.

John Guillory here, your 7th U.S. Cavalry Association President, with a recap of our Association luncheon, held during the 2018 71st Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in Charleston, West Virginia. All attendees were welcomed and participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those gone on to Fiddlers Green since the last reunion. Next, a brief overview was presented of the Mountaineer state, West Virginia, including the state bird, flower, etc. There was a humorous attempt on my part to sing a verse of "Country Roads", but my bout with laryngitis and my poor singing voice quickly brought the song to a close, with polite laughter and gratuitous applause from the audience.

All former Troopers' wives were sincerely thanked and applauded for who they are, and for all they have done to make their respective spouses the men they are today. My thank you to the ladies included a quote from comedic actor Jim Carey, "behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes." Next, Mr. Emil "Lefty" Ercolano stood to be recognized, honored, and applauded for recently receiving his two Purple Hearts after waiting nearly 50 years. Our "newish" 7th Cavalry Scribe, Karl Swenson, then stood to be recognized. Karl was thanked and applauded for his volunteerism and his outstanding contributions to the Saber's 7th Cavalry column.

Next on the agenda was the election of three Association officer positions: Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Phil Zook was reelected Vice President, Bob Anderson was reelected Treasurer, and yours truly, John Guillory, was reelected Secretary. The term for each of these three positions is two years. Our surprise guest of honor was Brigadier General, William D. "Hank" Taylor, 1st Cavalry Division Deputy Commander for Maneuver. General Taylor presented a thorough update and overview of the active duty squadrons of 7th Cavalry. The general was well received, and his attendance and participation were greatly appreciated by all.

A recruitment announcement was repeated regarding the need to fill the position of 7th Cavalry webmaster. For many years Jim Savage has done a fabulous job constructing, managing and updating the 7th Cavalry website. Jim is moving on, so if the website is to continue, someone needs to step up and take over the reins. If you are interested, or know of anyone who is interested, please contact Jim or myself through the website. Last, but certainly not least, were the traditional individual Veteran introductions, a thank you for attending, a wish for safe travels and a heartfelt Garryowen. Thus, the luncheon was concluded.

Please note: In closing this recap, I want to make you aware that all three of those elected to office have stated they will not hold association office again, after the conclusion of this two-year term. My term as President will conclude next year, and I too will not be back as Association President. So please be prepared to identify, nominate and elect your new association President in 2019, at the reunion in Fort Hood. Also, be prepared to elect your new Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary in 2020, at the reunion at Louisville, KY. I hope that you will agree, in order for the 7th Cavalry Association to continue to move forward, we need some "new blood" to take the reins. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all next year in Texas.

A Call for Articles and Stories. Once again, I have all but depleted my cache of information and ideas to be published in future columns. For those of you who have called me or sent me emails and letters, be assured that I will be sharing your input in the next Saber. But in order to keep the flow going, I need more! Please keep your "war stories" coming, especially those of you from Iraq and Afghanistan - I have not received a single lead from any of you - as well as those of you on active duty and currently serving with the 7th Cav. Now is the time to step up! I will do my best to guarantee you will see your story written. Help an old Soldier out here, make this column flow with your words, not mine! Until next time, stay safe, stay happy, and rest assured that we all serve in the greatest Regiment ever to see battle! Garryowen,