

The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

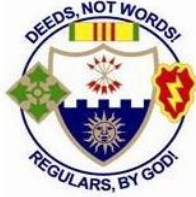
An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans

Together Then.....Together Again!.....

Thanks for Being There...&...Welcome Home



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The Viet Nam Triple Deuce Website

www.vietnamtripledeuce.org

Steve Irvine B/68-69

Harold Metcalf

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and good, but if I'd admit it, I know better. It seems like most of us are putting some doctor's kids through college these days with all our trips to their offices and hospitals. We have entered the fourth quarter of this game of life, and I thank the good Lord that this many of us have reached this far into it. There is no doubt that our reunions have helped most of us get this far. Seeing and visiting with those we walked the walk with in Asia a half century ago is a tonic for all of us who have experienced the reunions held. And that time every 18 months is always a perk me up to us all.

I have heard a lot of comments about this reunion costing more than most past, but two points:

1. What the hey isn't more expensive these days? This reunion is being held in one of the busiest, craziest places in this country, but a bunch of its pleasures are within walking distance. You will enjoy it if you come.
2. As mentioned, we are not getting old guys, we have done did it. The numbers of us gone ahead to the afterlife are growing every year. We have become the WWII vets who welcomed us in 98 to so many great things. And it is our responsibility to give those who came after us the same wonderful

exchanges the "greatest generation" gave us. There are only so many reunions left for us.

So get off that couch, recliner or lawn chair and get yourself to Nashville in August. We ALL want to see you again, Brother...

Dick Nash, A Co. & HHC, 69

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As Dick said, the Reunion is coming up soon. There is a deadline for making reservations, so do it now. I've made mine (only to have Southwest change my flight times, but oh, well.) We'll be right in the middle of Music City, USA, so come and enjoy the festivities.

At our Nashville business meeting, we'll be discussing the next reunion, in Spring of 2026. If you are unable to attend this year's reunion but have suggestions about the next one, drop me an email and I'll bring it up at the meeting.

Meanwhile, keep sending me stories and articles for the newsletter, anything that might be of interest to us veterans. If you are interested, or have something to contribute, I'm writing my next book about the battle of FSB Burt, which I hope to have published by this fall.

Deeds, Not Words

**David Allin, DMOR
A Co. & HHC, 69-70**

REUNION AUGUST 21-25, 2024

You still have time to register, but not much. The registration form is attached to this newsletter. The reunion will be at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Nashville Downtown, 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219-1693. To make reservations, call 1-800-222-8733. Our Group Name is *22nd Infantry Regiment Society 2024 Reunion*, and our Group code is **92R**. Be sure to give them the code when you make the reservation, to ensure you get the group rate. The room rate for our group, with tax and fees, is \$246.63. Hotel reservations at our group rate must be made prior to July 23, 2024. The registration form has the information and prices for the dinners and other events.



ORIGINAL BOAT PEOPLE WEBSITE

Recently George Dahl asked Steve Irvine if he could save the Original Boat People web site as it was falling apart with the passing of Jim Neeley. It just wasn't being kept up. Many communications between Steve and George led to Steve updating it and doing a super job. That website is now incorporated into the Vietnam Triple Deuce website, under "Links."

They also discussed how the web site came to be, and Jim Neeley's wife, Del, forwarded the following story from Nathan Henwood.

I was asked to share my story, and the idea was that I could talk about Jim Neeley, and how we started the website for the "original boat people". I started working at Weyerhaeuser in 1975. My job was cleaning up piles of sawdust and bark. My first night at work I had to go upstairs to clean the debarker. The guy running that machine was Jim Neeley. That was the start of a lifelong friendship. Jim was a nice guy, and he was willing to teach me how to run the machine he ran. Jim not only worked at Weyerhaeuser, he was also the owner of Studio One, a photography studio, in Hoquiam Washington. I remember going to many photo shoots with him.

Jim became our union president, and I was shop steward at about the same time. We had many long conversations about Vietnam, and what he did in the different battles he and his brothers were in. Jim had a passion to create a website for all his fellow army buddies. He didn't feel he could

do enough to honor them. I wanted to do my part to help members by starting a website to save their memories. So that's when it started. Jim wasn't up on the tech stuff, and I was. I helped him start the website and listed him as the webmaster in 1998. Jim went to the capital in Olympia, Washington, trying to get medals earned by guys in Charlie Company, Second of the Twenty-Second Infantry. He was very successful at this.

I became webmaster with Jim shortly after. I wanted to do this for the group to honor them for the service they did. I wanted to do it for Charlie Company, 2nd of the 22nd. In 2003 I was diagnosed with PD-- Parkinson's disease. I had to go through DBS, "deep brain stimulator". In 2006 wires were implanted on one side of my brain. In 2008 I had to have the other side done. Batteries are changed every four years.

Jim retired from Weyerhaeuser in 2008 after 35 years of service, and we spent as much time as we could talking about changes and photos he wanted to add to the site. In 2009 I retired from Weyerhaeuser with 34 years of service. In 2011 I had a chance to go to Africa on an expedition to Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. I did six months of training, hiking the Olympic mountains: Mount Rose, Mount Eleanor, and Mount Rainier. I went with 30 other people from all over the United States. Some had PD, some had MS. We had two doctors who I knew and a photographer. It was a 53-mile hike, five days up and two days down. It was winter when we were there. Jim got me the regimental flag and the other was the Charlie Company flag. I would pack them to the top of the world with me in Africa. The white snow with touches of dark blue glistened on the old ice. Then there was the sign: Mount

Kilimanjaro, elevation 19341 feet. We posed for photos and then I opened my pack and took out the two flags that Jim got for me. I attached the two flags to my walking poles. This is something I wanted to do to honor the memories and service for our country. So I waved the regimental flag and the Charlie Company flag. Only 25 people made it to the top, out of the 30 who started. Most of us wrote a chapter for a book. If interested, the title of the book is "More than a Mountain" on Amazon. After I came back, Jim and I got together and Jim became more involved with the web site, adding photos of new reunions and photos gathered from a few more vets. Jim would come to my house in Lake Cushman, Washington, near Mount Eleanor, for the next few years, bringing more photos. I would post letters for the commander's page until Jim passed on, Thursday 10/22 of 2020. REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND

Website Finances

In related news, Steve Irvine, the webmaster for the Vietnam Triple Deuce website, recently suggested we prepay for necessary expenses in order to get a better rate. The prepay amount is \$1714.30 for five years, saving us \$120. We have used GoDaddy for our website for years, and the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society has opted to use Go Daddy as well. There have been no hacking incidents or interruptions, and GoDaddy has been very reliable. The board of directors voted to implement Steve's suggestion and the bill has been paid. If you haven't visited our website, you should. It is chock full of photos and information about our time in Nam and since. [Vietnam Triple Deuce](http://vietnamtripledeuce.org) (vietnamtripledeuce.org)



Orange Heart Medal Foundation

Doug Lyall notified us of this organization, and we believe it is worth mentioning. The Orange Heart Medal Project was founded in January 2018 as a 501c3 organization whose mission and purpose is to bring recognition for veterans who served in the Vietnam war and who were affected by exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide and defoliant chemical. The purpose of the Orange Heart Medal Project is to bring recognition to veterans who were exposed and subsequently were affected by Agent Orange during their

military service in the United States Armed Services. The Orange Heart Medal Project was born in the heart of Ken Gamble, U.S. Navy Veteran, Vietnam as he laid receiving radiation and chemotherapy at the Veterans Administration Hospital for his own prostate cancer. After suffering in silence for many years with his own Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is also common in many war veterans, Ken was now suffering the effects of his own Agent Orange herbicidal exposure. Ken took on the responsibility of being a voice for all of the soldiers who were and are still suffering the effects of Agent Orange exposure. Ken started the Orange Heart Medal Project in January 2018 using his own funds to design, patent, and create the Orange Heart Medal.

The Orange Heart Medal Project's current focus is working to establish a permanent monument to memorialize the veterans that served in Vietnam. The memorial will include the names of Veterans who returned from Vietnam, many who have died or are continuing their battles to join their fallen comrades due to the effects of Agent Orange.

For more information, you can go to the orangeheartmedal.org website, where you can also apply to receive an orange heart medal.

VN War Video

Steve Irvine found this video on YouTube and felt it might help all of us understand what we were fighting for. I watched it, and it is very revealing, for it strips away the hype and spin and tells the true story of why the U.S. got involved in the Viet Nam war and why it never succeeded. We, the soldiers, did our part, but the people higher

up who made all the major decisions failed to provide us the opportunities we needed to win. The video is emotionally moving, but if you feel strong enough, you should watch the video.

On YouTube:

"Truth and Myths about the Vietnam War"
(AVVBA Channel)

(My) Summer of '69

(With apologies to Bryan Adams)

I got my own M-16
The armorer said, "Here, boy, sign."
Cleaned it till my fingers bled,
It was the summer of '69.

Me and the guys in the squad,
We rode our track and we fought real hard
In the rubber, and back in the woods,
I should've known we'd never get far

But when I look back now,
The summer seemed to last forever
And though I had no choice
I knew that I just had to be there
Those were the best days of my life

Ain't no use in complainin'
Hey, we had a job to do
Laager nights, and outpostin' daytime,
We had a leader who would get us through

Riffing through the Boi Loi Woods
I felt that I would live forever
Oh, and when he shook my hand
I knew that it was now or never
Those were the best days of my life.
Oh, yeah
Back in the summer of '69.

Man, it was a killin' time
We were young and restless
We needed to unwind
I guess nothing can last forever, forever, no

And now the times are changin'
Look at everything that's come and gone
Sometimes I go down to the Wall, yeah,
I think about him and what went wrong

Recovering inside Dau Tieng
Joe and I heard the worst news ever
A booby trap between the trees
And he and Phil were gone forever
Those were the worst days of my life
Oh, yeah
Back in the summer of '69, uh-huh
It was the summer of '69, oh, yeah,
Me and my buddies, '69.

Dave Allin, DMOR
A Co./HHC, 1969-70

SHOUT OUT

Nick Dragon, of C Company, 3rd of the 22nd Infantry, wants to thank Norm Nishikubo for helping him locate the sister of his medic in Viet Nam, Glenn Nishizawa. The sister's name is Lynn Hensley, and she is now going to attend the annual reunions held by Charlie, 3/22, including this year's at Des Moines, IA. He recommended that anyone interested should also check out their website: www.c322association.org. I went there and it is full of good information and photos of our sister battalion in Viet Nam. In the "Hot Poop" section there is a great photo of a guy holding a centipede that is two feet long.