



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



Vol. 18, No. 2

June. 2012

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The Vietnam Triple Deuce

Website

www.vietnamtripledeuce.org

Harold Metcalf

Steve Irvine B/68-69

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By golly it's finally Summer time. That's a big deal for those of us living in the Pacific NW. Now it will rain only half of the time. When the sun does pop out, we all go out to get some, as I hope all of our Members are healthy enough to do as well. I'll be hitting the golf links, and hiking with my wife along non-shopping-mall trails in our beautiful Oregon state.

A special Summer time greeting to our Associate Members, and our Veteran's families as well. Lately, I have been reminded of your sacrifice as well, by attending our local Portland Oregon, SW Washington Vietnam 25th Division Veteran's group participation at the Memorial Day Service held at the beautiful Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Portland, OR. Check it out on the web. It might very well be the best Vietnam era Memorial Park in the world. It's that impressive. All Oregonian KIAs and MIAs names are beautifully shown in carved granite set in alcoves divided up by the year they were taken from us. The entire acreage is navigated by a spiral walkway that overlooks the forested hills of Washington Park. Beautiful and peaceful are the two words that quickly come to mind.

Our own **Gary Hartt** and his better half, **Scarlett Hartt**, helped in reading 800 plus names carved on those monuments. The Triple Deuce was well represented, to be sure. It is always a very moving ceremony, but leaves one feeling good that these guys and ladies are not going to ever be forgotten.

I mentioned Associate Members, and feel that we need lots more of them to join our ranks, as well as family members of our fallen. I know I

am speaking for the entire membership when I say... "We want you." (Hmmm. Catchy saying. ...might use that again sometime.)

We are all family, so, why not have a giant family reunion at the upcoming 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion in Colorado Springs this September? It will be the greatest opportunity for new Members, new Associate Members, and family members of our membership to learn about the historic place their loved ones fill in the highly honored annals of the 22nd IR, and our beloved Triple Deuce.

Finally, I will ask our Members to try and get Brothers that have not attended a 22nd IRS Reunion to do so. This will be my 7th reunion, yet I still remember vividly my first reunion, and know the reservations that our Brother's face in deciding to attend or not. I also know how dead wrong I was to listen to those mental reservations. That's why it bugs me so much that we all have a heck of a time getting some of our Brothers to join us. However, I say that we keep on trying until we push up the daisies. I sure as heck am delighted that Triple Deucers did not give up on getting me to attend my first reunion—many of whom I never served with and didn't know from Adam. Now, I can't thank them enough. Like anything else, first timers need to be sold on the idea of attending. So, please hop to it. Here's hoping you get an easy sale.

Finally, I will be attending Charlie 222 Originals at our annual mini-reunion that is not so "mini" anymore. Thanks to **Jim Neely**, C/2/22, who has put together a great event that will be held in Aberdeen WA. Deep sea fishing is in the mix, and with Triple Deucers penchant for getting lost, it should be an interesting time. I have alerted the Coast Guard who informed me that the Pacific Ocean is very easy to find. So maybe we don't have to worry all that much about 70 or so "Chargin Charlies getting lost. ... on the other hand...

That's it for now. Hope to see you all in September!
Lynn W. Dalpez DMOR

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

My wife has a 1940's CHICKEN FEED ROOSTER BUBBLE BANK. It is a glass globe with a wood base and a money meter. When filled with assorted pocket change it holds over \$300. She recalls how her father kept it in a dresser drawer and when it was full an entire Sunday afternoon was devoted to sorting the coins. On E-Bay this bank sells for about \$150 but the fond memories of time with her dad make it priceless. She has carried on the traditions of filling the bank with spare change then depositing it in the grandson's savings account.

Are you wondering why I am telling you about this? Two reasons

First, like the bank, the memories you have of the Vietnam era are priceless. Please share them with your Brothers through an article in the newsletter. Several of you have told me that you are not "writers". Do not worry about style; it is the content that is important. If your wife, child, or grandchildren can word process your memories then send them to us for the news letter. The history of the Triple Deuce will be more accurate with your contributions. Even more memories await you at the reunion. Various articles throughout the newsletter will provide the details. Please make attendance a priority.

Secondly, when a newsletter is returned to my home mailbox, I rob my grandson's fund (my wife's bank) to pay the post man. If/when you change addresses, please let me know so I can update the roster/ mailing list.

Always maintain respect for the past and keep an eye on the future, while living in the present. . . anyway that's how it seems to this old soldier.

Dan Streit D 69

REUNION ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

The upcoming reunion means it's election time for Vietnam Triple Deuce Board Members. Nominations and seconds may be made on the VN 222 Group e-mail or by submitting the nominations and seconds directly to Dean Springer, secretary desprin@hotmail.com or 218-244-2326. Ballot preparation will be much easier if Dean has the names of all the nominees as soon as possible.

As a reminder, there are five Board positions. The elected Board Members are the only Officers who vote on VN 222 issues. Their first order of business is to elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The Board also appoints other officers, such as the Chief Locator, Web Master, Newsletter Editor and Quartermaster.

Election to the Board and acceptance of an appointment as an Officer require that the individual have the desire and the time that is necessary to devote to VN 222 activities. There is much to do and much that needs to be done.

SPONSORED ATTENDEES PROGRAM

The Board of Directors has adopted a plan that will provide funds to support some of our needy Members in their efforts to attend reunions. Consideration has been given to what we can afford to do, and to protecting the privacy of anyone who is ultimately selected by the Board to attend.

The program name is "Sponsored Attendees Program." The accompanying list will provide some of the highlights and conditions set forth by the Board.

The Sponsored Attendee, SA for the balance of this piece, must be an active member of the Vietnam Triple Deuce and be sponsored by an active Member of the Vietnam Triple

Deuce. The SA must be truly needy. Someone who just paid \$25,000 in college tuition or put an addition on their home may be temporarily broke, but that doesn't make them needy. Someone who has been struggling with PTSD and all the associated problems may be a better candidate. Someone who currently has an uncontrolled substance abuse problem to include drugs and/or alcohol would not be a good choice. The person sponsoring the SA will have to arrange for transportation to the reunion and be responsible for the incidental expenses incurred by the SA during the reunion. Incidental expenses would be such items as breakfast and lunch. Another might be transportation expenses on city busses. These incidental expenses will be reimbursed by the

Treasurer at the close of the reunion. The sponsor must provide the Treasurer with the receipts and a check will be issued. A sworn affidavit will be accepted whenever expenses are not readily documented with receipts. The Sponsor will be responsible for their own incidental expenses.

The Vietnam Triple Deuce will pay for all room and registration cost associated with the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society reunion. Rooms will be set up as double occupancy. We'll work out the Smoker, Non-Smoker issue as we go along. No charges for room services or movies or mini bar use or telephone calls will be paid for by the Vietnam Triple Deuce. Sponsors will have to make this understood by the SA's.

The Board will make every attempt to select SA's from as many of the Companies as possible.

The Board has decided that funds are available for 4 Sponsored Attendees at the 2009 Seattle Reunion.

This program will give us the opportunity to do for our Brothers what they would like to do for themselves, but are unable, because of circumstance, to do for themselves.

Those of you who have donated extra money

when you pay your dues or bought Triple Deuce Merchandise have provided the seed funds that were necessary to bring this effort to reality. You can thank yourselves for your unselfish actions. To perpetuate the funding for this program, members and corporate sponsors will be encouraged to make additional donations earmarked specifically for this program. Those of you that will sponsor a needy Member will be able to take great satisfaction in bringing another Vietnam Triple Deucer back to where they belong, with the men they lived and fought with. You will personify the motto, "*Deeds, Not Words*" and make all of us very proud of your unselfish efforts.

Jim May
Treasure
(207)634-3355
jmay@tds.net

TIME TO FIND A BROTHER

The time is now to get off our duffs and dive into that locating that we have all talked about doing "some" day. That someday is today, tonight, or definitely this week guys. The reunion is just around the corner. I know you want to find yourself sitting across a table, or on a bus seat or touring Ft. Carson with one or more of those guys you fought alongside in Asia over four decades ago, and haven't seen since. Yes, getting them to a reunion is by far the best way to show a new find all of the benefits offered by our group, but it is most important to locate these guys, establish communication with them, and expand your individual group of vets. If they can't get to a reunion or aren't ready to deal with one yet, so be it. Our Brother's communication with you, his exposure to The Triple Deuce newsletters, and emails from other guys he knew (and some from total strangers) is the best introduction to The Vietnam Triple Deuce. It's how it happened for most of us. This is more important than the reunion by itself. It is our duty to help our fellow vets deal with this whole happening, and we do it well most of the time. As Awb Norris

said, "If we all bring one, we're twice as big."

How to do it? No locating success comes to you. Without an effort on your part, nothing happens. But you do have a mountain of tools available to you through our web site's manual, "Welcome Home Brother", or by simply taking any information you may still have about someone to the internet. Sometimes it is as simple as looking up a name in the white pages of the town you remember a bud living in or mentioned by him back in the Sixties, again available on the world wide web. I have found guys by calling folks with the same last name in some of those towns who might be related to or at least know the guy I'm looking for. Almost never has a person been upset with my calling them when they find out why I'm calling. I open with my name and the fact that I'm looking for a man that I served in Vietnam with. That introduction usually brings out the urge to help in most folks I've talked to.

The following is a list of the individual Company Locators for Vietnam Triple Deuce. They all have lists of active members and inactive members of our organization. We are very careful about protecting the private information of our members, but these guys can and will help you with any problems you may run into. Call your company guy or me if you need any help getting started. But DO SOMETHING to find these long lost Brothers and we WILL be twice as big, but more importantly your personal group of Brothers will again be a big part of your life.

Chief Locator

Dick Nash

nash222@frontiernet.net

phone 309 537 3536

Alpha Company Locator

Gary Hartt

gchartt@bctonline.com

phone 530 632 6955

Bravo Company Locator-

Dean Springer
desprin@hotmail.com
phone 218 743 3199

Charlie Company Locator
Harless Belcher
harlessbelcher@yahoo.com
phone 276 930 2321

Delta Company Locators
Dan Striet
D222@nckcn.com
phone 785 738 2419 and
Alton Fennell
afennell@yahoo.com
phone 614 235 4481

Headquarters Company Locator
Burt Lockwood
aptfin@hotmail.com

MONUMENT UNDER ATTACK

Dawn Esposito sent a copy of the February 2012 Columbia magazine that contains an article about how a monument erected to honor the 10th Mountain Division World War II soldiers near Kalispell, Montana that was erected in 1954 after being granted a permit by the US Forest Service. The site was chosen because it is a frequently visited ski area and the statue was chosen because it was similar to the statues that were seen all across European ski areas.

Apparently, the permit must be renewed every ten years and the Wisconsin-based Freedom from Religion Foundation has challenged the issuance of the permit because part of the monument is a statue of Jesus. The argument for keeping the monument in place is that it is no different than the religious symbols that appear on Civil War memorial sites as well as those that appear in Veterans cemeteries all across the Nation. Additionally, people do not go there to pray, as they would in a church, but to ski. The argument for removal is that the statue forces a religion on the public. The sentiment in the area

is that there has never been a complaint about the memorial and that they would like it if people from away didn't come to the area to tell them how to live.

For more information you can contact the Whitefish, Montana VFW Post 276, Derek Milner, US Forest Service, Kalispell, Montana or go to the Facebook page, "Save Big Mountain Jesus."

Jim May, HMOR
Provisional Co. 1968



MG Mark A. & Mrs. Milley, Col Noel T. Nicolle

Dawn Esposito Receives 2012 Fort Drum Man/Woman of the Mountain Award

The accompanying nomination papers and photos describe why Dawn Esposito, Gold Star Mother, was selected for this honor. Dawn Esposito has been and continues to be a hands on supporter of the Active Duty Soldiers of 2-22, 10th Mtn. She is most deserving of the award.

WOMAN OF THE MOUNTAIN Nomination for Mrs. Dawn Esposito

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
2D BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LI)
FORT DRUM, NEW YORK 13602

AFDR-TBA
6 June 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, NY 13602

SUBJECT: Woman of the Mountain Nomination for Mrs. Dawn Esposito

1. I strongly recommend Mrs. Dawn Esposito to be the 2012 winner of the Man/Woman of the Mountain competition. I have known her since 2006 and know of no person who has given as much back selflessly to the Soldiers and Families of 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment, the 1st Brigade Combat Team and to a smaller extent the 10th Mountain Division community.

2. Mrs. Esposito's son Michael served in A Co, 2-22 IN and tragically lost his life on March 18, 2004 in Miam Do, Afghanistan. This tragic event was the beginning of Dawn's relationship with the 10th Mountain Division. After the death of her son, she kept in contact with Triple Deuce while still deployed in Afghanistan. As the unit redeployed a couple months later, she traveled to Fort Drum and welcomed home all the Soldiers of the Triple Deuce, especially those that knew her son. Her support has continued to grow stronger over the years, despite the changing of names and faces in the Division. A summary of her contributions follow:

May 2004 – As 1BCT returned from Afghanistan, Mrs. Esposito, helped prepare welcome home packets for all returning Soldiers in Triple Deuce.

Christmas 2005 – With Triple Deuce deployed, Mrs. Esposito took lead on setting up Christmas party for all Triple Deuce families at Fort Drum. Through her own connections she was able to provide a valuable Christmas present to every family member in attendance.

Summer 2006 – Mrs. Esposito purchased linen for every Single Soldier living in the Barracks. She delivered all the linen to Fort Drum and helped other

FRG volunteers set up each room in the barracks so returning Soldiers would feel welcomed as they returned from Iraq.

Christmas, 2007 – Mrs. Esposito again acquired valuable Christmas gifts from other donors and delivered them to Fort Drum for the Triple Deuce Family Christmas party while the Battalion was deployed to Iraq.

December, 2008 – Mrs. Esposito traveled to Fort Drum for the dedication of the Battalion's memorial to our fallen comrades. While traveling from Long Island, NY she was in a car accident, was hospitalized overnight, but still insisted on departing the hospital in New Jersey in the early morning hours to make the afternoon dedication. It took Mrs. Esposito over a year to recover from all her injuries, and to be able to work and drive again. Her stalwart will to be at the dedication ceremony, despite her fragile condition, was an inspiration to all Soldiers and Families.

Christmas, December 2009 – With the Battalion still at Fort Drum, but soon departing for Afghanistan, Mrs. Esposito planned an extravagant Christmas Party for Single Soldiers in Triple Deuce. She coordinated for a band, comedians and gifts for all Single Soldiers. She wanted to make sure each Soldier knew they were special and not forgotten. Additionally, she again supported the Triple Deuce Families thru the delivery of Christmas gifts that were distributed the children across the battalion.

Spring 2011 – When the 10th Mountain Division Staff lost LTCs Paul Bartz and Tom Belkofer in Afghanistan on a Leader's Recon, she had flowers delivered to the Division Headquarters on the day of the memorial ceremony and offered to help the families in any way.

Spring 2011 – Mrs. Esposito played a leading role in planning, and coordinating the 1BCT Gold Star Banquet honoring the families of their fallen comrades. She was asked to be a keynote speaker and in doing so, shared her perspective and heartfelt connection and concern to all of the Gold Star families present. Many of the Families engaged her as an inspirational resource. Her influence had grown well beyond Triple Deuce.

Summer 2011 - At the conclusion of the Annual Remembrance Ceremony, Mrs. Esposito met with BG Miller, and extended an invitation to assist the families of the 10th Mountain Division. Additionally, she presented a flag flown over the New York State Capital to BG Miller for all the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division.

Fall, 2011 – Mrs. Esposito again planned a first class Single Soldier Event for the Soldiers of Triple Deuce. She led a potent group of volunteers providing all food, gifts and entertainment for the Soldiers. Additionally, Mrs. Esposito coordinated a trip to Disney World for a small group of soldiers from the unit, at no cost to them. This is a small example of her incredible dedication and care to the soldiers' of this Division.

3. Mrs. Esposito has extended her good will to help the Soldiers and Families in 2BCT.

4. Mrs. Esposito travels to Fort Drum routinely for each year's Annual Remembrance Ceremony, for most Triple Deuce and 1BCT Changes of Command, welcome home and deployment ceremonies and Christmas Parties. She actively maintains contact with Soldiers and the chain of command across Triple Deuce.

5. Mrs. Esposito is an active member of the Gold Star Mother organization and informally reaches out to many 10th Mountain Division families and serves as a beacon for all our Division's

Gold Star families. She is also a tremendous ambassador of the Division and to the broader armed forces towards many southern New York organizations, businesses and political offices. She is a strong advocate of active duty service members, veterans and in particular, wounded warriors.

6. Dawn is not an affluent person, though she is rich in many other ways. She works as a nurse. I know of no one with a bigger, more compassionate heart than Dawn Esposito. She is an aggressive fund raiser. The vast amount of money she has provided in taking care of our Soldiers was largely through donations of other Patriots that she would network with for the betterment of our Soldiers and Families.

7. Point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned, plus LTC Mike Loos, Division G3, and LTC Brett Funck, 2-22 BN CDR.

DENNIS S. SULLIVAN
COL, IN
Commanding



LTC Mike Loos, COL Dennis Sullivan, LTC Brett Funck and Mr. Frank DeMarco

SINGLE SOLDIER FOLLOW-UP

The Winter editions of both the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's and the Vietnam Triple Deuce's Newsletters contained a story about the Single Soldier Event that took place in September, 2011 at Ft Drum. If you haven't read that story, please do, you will be impressed at how the Soldiers of 2-22, 10th Mtn are treated. This story will complete the Single Soldier Event by naming those who were awarded the Grand Prize of a trip to Disney World in Florida.

The Soldier who won the trip to Disney World is **SPC Timothy Garden**. Part of the prize was that the winner would be allowed to select two friends to join him. SPC Garden selected **SGT Corey Fahringer** and **SPC Aaron Hutchins**.

The trip began on March 18 with the first stop after leaving Ft Drum in Brentwood, NY where they were the guests of honor at a luncheon hosted by the Brentwood Fire Department. There were approximately 150 Fire Fighters from the Brentwood and Islip Fire Departments in attendance. The Soldiers were presented with T-shirts and other mementos of their visit. In addition to the 3 hour luncheon the guest of honor were treated to rides on emergency vehicles where they went to a fire without Dawn knowing about it.

After resting for a while the Soldiers were guests of honor again at a dinner held at the Bonwit Inn in Commack, NY. This dinner was hosted by the New Your State AMVETS. Again, they were presented with T-shirts and other gifts. This dinner was attended by James Zaun, Commander, New York State AMVETS, James Gaeta, Past Commander, New Your State AMVETS, Frank DeMarco, Past Commander, New Your State AMVETS, Frank Uebel, Vice Commander, New Your State AMVETS, Brent Morck, Commander AMVETS Post 18, Tom Ronanye, Director Veterans Affairs, Suffolk County, New York, Joe Sledge, Office of Public Information, Northport, New York Veterans Administration and John

Cochrane, Councilman for the area. After dinner the Soldiers had to get to bed because they had an early flight from New York to Orlando.

Upon arrival at Disney World they were greeted by a host named Greg. Greg welcomed the Soldiers to Disney and thanked them for their service. When the Soldiers go to their rooms they found gift boxes with more expressions of thanks and during their stay they were treated to seating in the VIP sections of the venues they attended. They told Dawn that the treatment she had arranged was "lavish" and thanked her for making the special effort. Dawn said that she had not made these arrangements and called Disney to thank them for the special treatment. It was during this call that Dawn was told that an employee at Disney is a Vietnam Vet and when he learned that the Soldiers were coming, he made all the special arrangement.

In conclusion, it appears that these Soldiers were treated, in all places and by all those they came in contact with, with the respect they have earned. I am certain they returned to Ft Drum and shared their experience with their fellow Soldiers

Jim May
Prov Co. "68

HELLOES & COMMENTS

James J. Papczynski

219-879-3512

pappy.jj@comcast.net

B Co. & HHC, 4th & 25th ID, Dec. 65 to Dec. 67

Comments: "The 'Vietnam Triple Deuce' is a great idea to keep our history alive and to find old friends."

Michael T. Poldino (Associate Member)

631-929-8705

chiefmike10@aol.com

Comments: "**Sgt Thomas Poldino**, Charlie Co was my brother. He was KIA March 11, 1969."

GUEST BOOK HITS

David A. Reese

dave.reese9@gmail.com

HHC, Recon PLT. 25th ID, Aug. 67 to Aug. 68

Terry A. Shepherd, Sr.

636-586-7103

lindashepherd55@gmail.com

B Co. 25th ID, Mar.68 to Mar.69

Comments: Terry would like to locate **Jerry Graham** and **Scotty Wadson**. Terry's wife Linda writes, "I am Terry's wife, Linda. Terry loves the Newsletter. Terry just got out of the hospital, he had a broken back."

Charles A. Weidner

510-537-2732

weidner@slac.stanford.edu

A Co. 25th ID, Jan. 70 to Oct. 70

Comments: Chuck would like to locate **Robert D. Rankin** of Ft Meyers Beach, FL."

Miranda B. Lawson

296-251-5098

flaminbelle@yahoo.com

Comments: Associate member Miranda writes, "My uncle, **Harless Belcher**, served with Charlie Co in 68-69. I enjoyed helping him develop his photos of 'Men of Charlie Company' into a DVD.

Steven Stanley

Salisbury,Vt

sstanley1sttrans@yahoo.com

Steven is trying to find the names of the men who **David Brileya**, Charlie Co., KIA 11 Jun 1967 served with. Steven Stanley is his nephew.



Name: **Jim Papczynski**

Location: LaPorte, In

Email: pappy.ji@comcast.com

Comments

Tomorrow....45 years ago...A moment of quiet

Name: **Lynn Dalpez, President**

Location: Beaverton, OR.

Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com

Phone: 503-840-4216

Comments Today is the 45th anniversary of the Battle of Soui Tre where the Triple Deuce, 3/22 I.R., 2/77 Arty, 2/34 Armor, and supporting units of the 3rd Brig., 4th I.D., attached to the 25th I.D., earned the Pres. Unit Citation. God bless all who were there. Thank you for doing your very tough job.

Name: **Lynn Dalpez, President**

Location: Beaverton, OR

Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com

Phone: 503-840-4226

Comments I am remiss in not mentioning the 2/12th I.R. as being a huge part of the Battle of Soui Tre as well. They legged it in to the battle about the same time as the 2/22 broke out of the jungle, into the fray.

Name: **Bill Rambow**

Location: Laurel, MD

Email: bill.rambow@verizon.net

Phone: 301 490-4771

Comments I'm an old Vietnam 2/47th Mechanized Infantry grunt who was frustrated I could never find any gear or memorabilia for the mounted combat veterans like us who rode the tracks into combat. So I designed my own line. I have a separate section for the Triple Deuces. Check it out at www.MechGrunt.com

Name: **Alex Ee Zarycki Sr.**

Email: gdfllws1@yahoo.com

Comments Triple Deuce Mech. 1969-70 Cambodia. Sierra 5 Intel.

Name: **Raymond Lee**

Location: NEWARK IL

Email: LEEJOYCE2@YAHOO.COM

Phone: 815-603-5492

Comments I met with **Skip Fahel** a couple weeks back. Also present were **Tom Talusek** and **Tom Isbicki**. Skip was our platoon leader n Nam. Was good to see him after all these years. We all saluted him but we couldn't salute him in the jungle.

Name: **John Spangler**

Email: a222div25@hotmail.com

Comments 42 years, ago, Triple Deuce was all together as a battalion, getting ready to cross the border into Cambodia. Scary times, but a successful mission.

Name: **Michael Bustard**

Location: Georgia

Email: Mbustard1@gmail.com

Phone: 732-406-4047

Comments My father, SP5 **Raymond Bustard**, served with HHC from November 1967 to November 1968. Sadly, he passed away in 2007. I'm looking for any former members that might have photos or stories of him. Also, I have about 25-30 pictures from his time I country that I would love to share with the group.



Name: **Joe Spado**

Location: River Falls, WI

Email: spadoman@me.com

Phone: 715 209-0241

Comments I just got an e-mail from **Tom Gamrat** of Company B, Triple Deuce. He informed me that **John Pagonis**, another Triple Deucer has passed away a day or two ago. John served with Company B most of 1969.

Name: Dan Trzaska

Location: Denver Pennsylvania

Email: dantraz@yahoo.com

Phone: (717)278-2417

Comments My father was **James Trzaska**, he served in 1967 co B 2nd 22nd. Thank you for posting my info in the news letter as well! Dad passed away July 30th 2003. He suffered from esophageal cancer in Philadelphia. I recently found a few of his medals and have been doing some research, If anyone served or knew him, I would be interested in finding out more.

Name: **Paul H. Williams, Alpha Co., 1967-1968**

Location: Kingsport, Tennessee

Email: fishfinder47@hotmail.com

Phone: 423-245-2148

Comments I'm looking for anyone that might have any information on my APC that hit a landmine. This took place in late March 1968. My after action report ends at the beginning of March. I was in the 3rd Plt, 4th Squad. I would like to hear from anyone else that was injured or has any information about this.

Name: **Steven Stanley**

Location: Salisbury, Vt

Email: sstanley1sttrans@yahoo.com

Comments Is there a **Larry Wynn** on the Charlie Company Roster 66/67? Please email me if he is. Thank you.

NEW FINDS

James L. McDonnell

411 N. 6th St. # 2539
Emery, SD 57332
970-250-6209
jmcdonnell7@gmail.com
A Co. 25ID, 11-69 to 10-70

Dennis D. Abrahm

2338 Bush Avenue E.
Maplewood, MN 55119
612-722-5705
stubness1@hotmail.com
HHC, 25th ID, Sep.60 to Dec. 70

CHARLIE CO. REUNION

Charlie Company, 2/22 4th & 25 Division, 1965'-1967' VN, is having a Reunion in Aberdeen, Wa, July 26-July 29. For details, contact Jim Neeley, 419 S. Clark, Aberdeen, Wa., 98520. Or call 360-533-0608. E-mail address is hotrod1930@comcast.net Also our website is www.originalboatpeople.com

There will be a ocean Salmon Fish trip at Westport, Bar-B-Que, Trip to the Olympics Mts., memorial Service for Johnny Chambers, Dinner on Sat. It will be great to get together again!

Jim Neeley
C Co.& 4th ID,
Dec. 65 to Sept. 67

NOTES FROM HARLESS

In a response to my post on the virtual board (2-2-12) regarding **Robert Glenn "Augie" Sekya**, I was contacted by a classmate of Augie's who appreciated knowing what had happened 42 years ago. Subsequently a permanent memorial has been established at the high school he attended in New Jersey.

On the tour of Ft. Benning associated with the Atlanta Reunion I saw a picture of **Lt. John Earl Warren Jr**, our platoon leader , on The Wall of Valor.. I would like to read an article about him (ed. note Harless IS encouraged to submit one)



Harless Belcher C 68/69

TAPS

My father, SP5 **Raymond Bustard**, served with HHC from November 1967 to November 1968. Sadly, he passed away in 2007.

Michael Bustard

James Trzaska, B Co. 2/22 1967 Dad passed away July 30th 2003. He suffered from esophageal cancer in Philadelphia.

By his son Dan Tazaska

BILL RABBIT DIES

Submitted by Jim Nelson

A celebrated artist based in Pryor has died. Bill Rabbit, 65, died Monday

Rabbit was one of the most successful Native American artists in the world. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his artwork, including the Oklahoma Heritage Award in 2001 and Master Artist at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in 1986. He received Artist of the Year at the 1989 Indian Arts and Crafts Association wholesale market, where his poster, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," was selected as the official poster for the IACA and is the only poster in the history of the IACA to sell out.

Among his many awards, Rabbit was chosen twice by the Oklahoma State Arts Council to create an artistic Easter egg to be displayed on the White House lawn. After the Easter celebration, these eggs were sent to the Smithsonian, where they were put on permanent display. Internationally, visitors to the Vatican can admire Rabbit's work displayed alongside artists such as Rembrandt and Picasso.

Rabbit was self-taught in acrylic painting and jewelry making. He sharpened his skills through experimentation and did little preliminary sketching. Rabbit was influenced by other artists and tried to capture something of their spirits, skies, colors and forms.

During the Vietnam War, Rabbit served 18 months in the 25th Infantry Division alongside acclaimed filmmaker, Oliver Stone. Stone would later win an Academy Award for "Platoon," a portrayal of his tour of duty that he shared with Rabbit. Rabbit's service years during this time in history taught him that life's moments are precious. Becoming an artist only justified his path in life, and he turned those precious moments into something he loved.

Obituary : William "Bill" Rabbit The Pryor Times Thu Apr 12, 2012,

William "Bill" Rabbit, 65, of Pryor, died April 9 in Tulsa. He was born in Casper, Wyo. to Swimmer Dave Rabbit and Doris M.E.H. (Dixon) Rabbit on Dec. 3, 1946.

He attended school in Casper, where he watched the color changing in the skies and the form of things in nature which influenced him. This was reflected by comments from his kindergarten teacher who recognized his talent and his unyielding spirit: "Bill draws and paints unusually well, and is original. He is helpful in the care of the room, however too often he is not cooperative in group activities and is quarrelsome with a few of the children."

Not only did his artistic potential begin to rise early on, but also his business savvy for Rabbit sold his first watercolor for \$4, in the fourth grade. Other than a class in

grade school that he had taken for two weeks, he had no formal training in art. Later Rabbit moved to Collinsville, where he stayed until he voluntarily enlisted in the Army, serving in Vietnam. He served for 18 months in the 25th Infantry Division alongside filmmaker Oliver Stone. He said that Vietnam taught him that life's moments are precious. During this time he met and married the love of his life, Karen Elaine Jones from Tahlequah, on March 25, 1969.. His self taught expertise and use of the paintbrush has allowed him to be the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. A few of them include the following: Cherokee National Treasure, Five Civilized Tribes Master Artist, I.A.C.A. Artist of the Year, "Night of the First Americans" John F. Kennedy Center Washington, D.C., Cherokee Honor Societies Medal of Honor Award, and Top 10 Artists in America along with his beloved daughter Traci, Trail of the Painted Ponies. He was most proud of the Cherokee National Treasure award, and carried it close to his heart.

Rabbit was always concerned with the salvation of anyone that he met, and was always willing to share his love of Christ and his own salvation. Questioning others to make sure that they knew the Great Creator and where they would spend eternity. There are not enough beautiful words to illuminate the life of Bill Rabbit...but still said it best..."Life has been kind to me. I am thankful I've had the opportunity to see the things I've seen and do the things I've done. But if I died tomorrow I would feel so blessed and I hope God puts me in charge of painting rainbows." His most precious legacy that will carry on his great life is his grandchildren.

Rabbit is survived by his wife Karen Rabbit of Pryor; daughter and son-in-law, Traci Rabbit and Dwight Stone of Locust Grove, daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Wade Enyart of Colcord; son, Stephen Wesley Proctor of Chouteau, son and daughter -in-law, Billy and Miranda Rabbit of Pryor; eight grandchildren; many other relatives and friends. He was preceded by his parents, Swimmer and Doris Rabbit; two brothers, James and John Lee Rabbit; one sister, Wineva Goins.

FRIENDS REMEMBER DECORATED VET

Submitted by Gary Hartt A/2/22

Scranton Times-Tribune
BY David Falchek and Rebekah Brown (Staff Writers)
Published: April 24, 2012

COVINGTON TWP.

A man who "was how you'd want people to be," died in an early morning fire Sunday in a remote area of so Lackawanna County.

Robert Hemphill, 69, of Covington Twp., a decorated retired Army infantry lieutenant colonel, community volun-

teer and author, was killed when his two-story home on Freytown Road burned to the ground.

He died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to smoke inhalation, according to Lackawanna County Coroner Tim Rowland.

Mr. Hemphill's wife Carol, was not home at the time of the blaze. She reportedly was on a humanitarian trip with the Rotary Club. Officials held off identifying Mr. Hemphill until his wife could be notified of his death.

Mr. Hemphill was deeply involved in the community through organizations from the Rotary and Masons to the VFW. He was slated to become Rotary District Governor in 2013 and was former commander of the John J. Michaels VFW Post 5207 in Daleville.

"He woke up every day with a sense of purpose," Kevin Duffy said. "He was a loyal friend and patriot - living the military code."

After meeting Mr. Hemphill through Rotary, Mr. Duffy, of Moscow, came to call him a friend. The two had dinner together at the Fox & Hound Inn on Saturday. "He was how you'd want people to be," Mr. Duffy said.

Retiring as a lieutenant colonel, Mr. Hemphill was awarded a Purple Heart from Vietnam combat wounds, a Silver Star for gallantry in action, and four Bronze Stars with Vs for valor in combat.

Donnie Hart, who is building a home next to the Hemphill home, considered his new neighbor, whom he had known for three years, a hero.

"He was a good man," Mr. Hart said. "I think he was a hero for what he gave to our country. He was a humble guy. He should be remembered and respected as a good American and a good community man."

Mr. Hemphill wrote "Platoon: Bravo Company," which portrayed his time as an Army captain in Vietnam. Film director Oliver Stone was under his command in Vietnam from Oct. 1, 1967, to Feb. 18, 1968. Mr. Stone later directed the movie "Platoon." Mr. Hemphill wrote "Platoon: Bravo" in reaction to Mr. Stone's film, taking exception to the film's portrayal of American troops. Mr. Hemphill said the troops in his platoons displayed bravery and heroism and were too busy being soldiers to get into the kind of trouble depicted in the film.

Friends and associates agree that for Mr. Hemphill, the sense of duty carried over to the community. When an older woman with no family was ill, Bob and Carol Hemphill made sure she was cared for in the hospital, took care

of her dog, and helped her get set up at home to convalesce, Mr. Duffy recalled.

"He recognized a duty to his country and duty to his fellow man," Mr. Duffy said. "He was larger than life, yet had no false bravado."

According to his author biography on Amazon.com, Mr. Hemphill grew up in Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1964 and a master's degree in international relations at Johns Hopkins University in 1973. A career military man, he served in the Army from 1964 to 1989, retiring as a infantry lieutenant colonel.

He would do anything, any time for a veteran, recalls Bill Lamond, John J. Michaels VFW 5207 Post Commander. Mr. Hemphill was always willing to help, to visit ailing vets, or to speak to school children or community groups about patriotism and the military.

"I looked up to him, we all looked up to him," Mr. Lamond said. "We are in shock."

The fire at the Hemphill home started in the dark of night in the isolated area, and may have burned for an hour or two before being reported by a PPL crew in the area, said Covington Fire Chief Brad Jones. By the time fire crews got there at about 6:30 a.m., the home was burned down into the basement foundation, Chief Jones said.

A business run by the Hemphills, The Woodlands Stable and Tack Inc., was a significant distance away from the blaze and neither animals nor property were harmed at the stable. but the Hemphills' dog, Harley, died in the blaze.

A Triple Deucer Reminisces

I first met Bob Hemphill and his wife Carol at a 3rd of the 22nd reunion in Washington D.C. He was once a Capt. of B. Company. He was sporting a First National Flag of the South (Civil War Era) I learned he was working on a book titled "Platoon Bravo Company" which was a first hand account of his tour of duty 1967-68. Included were his memoirs of the night of January 1, 1969 (FSB Burt). This historical book is unique because it is a tunnel vision account. I could understand the interpretation because we all had that experience, that is to say it is a first person dialog.

He told Sharon and me that Oliver Stone was in his company as a Sp. 4. He disagreed with Stone's interpretation of the soldiers that he served with in the movie "Platoon". The purpose of Bob Hemphill's book was to express the respect he had for those he served with and the false image that had been portrayed. Bob asked me to do the painting that would be used for the book cover. I told him I needed a snapshot of him at that time in Vietnam to use for reference. He was truly a patriot and we consider it an honor to know him. We extend our condolences to Carol

Jim and Sharon Nelson C/67-68

WHY ALL THE FUSS???

Does it seem to you that many of the newsletter articles and much of the discussion on the group e-mail are focused on the reunion? If we consider a reunion as a social gathering attended by members of a group of people who have not seen each other for some time or as the action of being brought together again as a unified whole (as the Oxford Dictionary suggests), the importance of our military reunions is obvious..

Our own Triple Deuce Web site summarizes the history of the organization and identifies the purpose quite well

The Triple Deuce (2/22 Mz) trained in Fort Lewis, Washington, as part of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division during 1966. It was mobilized to Vietnam in September 1966 and attached to the 25th Infantry Division. Other units in the 3rd Brigade were the 2nd Battalion 12th Infantry (2/12) and the 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry (3/22). Another unit in the 22nd Infantry Regiment that served in Nam, but not in the immediate area of the 3rd Brigade was the 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry (1/22). The first permanent base for the Third Brigade in Nam was in the village of Dau Tieng. The 22nd Infantry Regiment

Society, which included the first, second and third battalions and any veteran who ever served in one of them at any time, holds its reunions every 18 months .The Vietnam Triple Deuce holds theirs at the same time and place.

Many of us came back from Vietnam and for 40 years or more did not want to hear anything about it. Our nightmares were enough. We all know that Vietnam changed us forever, usually in the negative. But times helps cure all ills, and Nam vets started looking for each other, to share some of these most intense experiences. The Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. was created to fulfill this yearning.

The articles of incorporation for the Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. simply state under its purpose:

"To assist its members and their families in times of distress an to provide them mutual understanding and support; and to participate in and support veteran's functions and programs."

This is our only purpose. To help in providing a feeling of healing, closure and relief as you communicate again with your Brothers in Arms from so long ago and share common experiences.

Welcome home Brother and I hope to see you in Colorado Springs in September.

Dan Streit D 69

22nd Infantry Reunion:

When: 27 – 30 Sep 2012

**Where: Embassy Suites, 7290 Commerce Center Drive,
Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, 80919**

Schedule: **Mark your calendars**

26-28 Sep – Wed Registration
27 Sep – Thu 22nd Inf Golf Tournament
(tentative USAFA Blue or Silver course)
27 Sep – Thu Evening - Carving of the Hemingway Turkey (recognition of youngest and oldest Regular in attendance)
28 Sep – Fri Tour of Ft Carson (1st Battalion – 22nd Infantry)
28 Sep – Fri Buffet Dinner - - DMOR/HMOR Presentation – Punchbowl ceremony
29 Sep – Sat Business Meeting (Ladies Breakfast)
29 Sep – Sat Free time (coordinated events available for local sites and activities)
29 Sep – Sat Banquet (formal dinner) – Guest Speaker
30 Sep – Sun Memorial Service and Depart

Reunion committee is working on:

1. Negotiating cost of the rooms, ballroom, hospitality suite
2. Coordinating local tours and activities for Saturday
3. Coordinating with 1-22 for activities on Ft Carson
4. Coordinating for golf tournament

Current tour coordination efforts for free time on Sat:

Pikes Peak Railroad
Garden of the Gods
Air Force Academy
Turning of the Aspens
Golf at Bear Dance (region PGA HQ)
Gamble at Cripple Creek
Bridge at Royal Gorge

Friday Buffet

The Coloradan

Tossed Mixed Greens
Fresh Seasonal Fruit Salad
Mesquite Grilled Garlic Chicken
Pan Seared Trout with Lemon Butter

Served with Rosemary Roasted Red Potatoes, Cowboy Baked Beans, Warm Apple Pie and Whipped Cream for dessert.

Saturday Dinner Selections

Oven Roasted Pork Tenderloin

Oven Roasted Pork Tenderloin Topped with Plum Demi Glaze Sauce
Served with Roasted Red Potatoes and Fresh Steamed Vegetables.

Lemon Pepper Chicken

Charbroiled Chicken Breast Seasoned with Lemon Pepper and Topped with Sautéed Artichoke Hearts and Mushrooms
Served with Rice Pilaf and Fresh Steamed Garden Vegetables

All Entrees are served with Baby Field Greens with House Dressing or Traditional Caesar Salad. All entrees are individually plated meals and are accompanied with warm rolls with butter. Freshly Brewed Regular, Decaffeinated Coffee, Freshly Brewed Iced Tea and Ice Water Service are included.

