

# The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

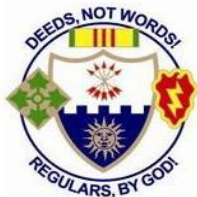
An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans

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

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



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March 2025

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 Harold Metcalf

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello from the mixed up weather of March in the Midwest. I swear Mother Nature said "Somebody hold my beer. I'm going to make all four seasons happen in the same day". And she did. 68 degrees the same day it snowed that night.

These president letters are sometimes hard to put together at this age because there isn't as much going on in our lives as before, but I'll give it a shot. Of course let's get the reminder about the Oklahoma City reunion scheduled for Spring 2026 out of the way. I'm really looking forward to seeing what Dave Allin puts together for us. You can bet it will be memorable. More details to come.

One of my great disappointments is not being able to find another vet who will adopt one of the other Veteran Nursing Homes in Illinois to make sure every vet in those places gets a birthday card every year. It's really a simple and inexpensive task, and does a mountain of good for these very deserving Americans. One of the ladies who work in the Activity Dept. in Quincy Illinois sends me a list of vets who will have a birthday the following month. For security sake this list is by first name and last initial only. I take out the box of bulk birthday cards from Amazon (blank on the inside) and write pretty much the same greeting, "Happy birthday (first name) from one old vet to another." and sign my name. For the lady vets I just say, "Happy birthday (first name) from an old veteran." Don't want to call them an old vet for obvious reasons. When the 20 to 30 vets named all have a card they get thrown into a USPS shipping box and for a whole \$10.30 get mailed to Quincy Veterans Home for distribution by the Activity staff. They had told me six years

ago that only about a third were getting a birthday card, but they all have for the last six years at THAT nursing home. We need a lot more vets doing this service to a lot more veterans nursing homes. Every state has at least one. Most have several.

I'll be darned it is easy to write this letter when it has something good to say. See you all in OK City next Spring, God willing...

**Dick Nash, DMOR**  
**A Co. & HHC, 69**

## **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

A hotel for the 2026 reunion has now been chosen, and Mark Woempner is negotiating with them to ensure we get the best service and prices. I can personally guarantee it will cost less than the last time. It is a very big, beautiful hotel right in the middle of downtown Oklahoma City, within walking distance of almost all the many sights and activities that make OKC so special. I'll highlight those places in future newsletters. Like in Illinois, as Dick mentioned, the weather here has been "interesting." Eighty-five degrees one day and freezing rain the next. We had 75mph winds the other day that nearly blew one of my trees over. Tornado season is just around the corner. But as REO Speedwagon put it, you have to roll with the changes.

Deeds, Not Words

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

## DUES DUE

If you are reading this on a newsletter that was mailed to you, please check your name on the address label. If there is a 2023 or 2024 after your name, you are not up to date with your dues, and you will no longer receive a paper newsletter. To continue receiving the paper newsletter, you must pay \$10 a year to Jim May, at the address below. If you are okay with receiving the newsletter only by email, you do not owe anything, but make sure I have your current email address.

Mail Dues to: Jim May  
P.O. Box 665  
Norridgewock, ME 04957

## TRIPLE DEUCE DEPLOYMENT

During the Old Goats Squad visit with Triple Deuce at Ft Drum on ORG DAY discussions regarding supporting the Soldiers during the upcoming deployment took place. During those discussions it was revealed that the efforts of individual VN 222 and 22 IRS Members to meet the needs of deployed Soldiers during past deployments didn't work as planned. While "Care Packages" were sent, what was in those Packages was what the senders wanted during their deployments. Times and conditions had changed and what was sent wasn't what was needed. A different approach was needed. That approach was for the Old Goats to establish a Point of Contact, PoC, with the Company they identified with and for that PoC to let the Old Goat know what was needed. Furthermore, in order to avoid confusion in sending what was needed it was decided that what was going to be sent would be sent to the PoC.

I identify with "G" Company, the Support Company. My PoC is 1SG Osias. It took a while for Triple Deuce to settle in, in fact, the result of the revolt in Syria has much of Triple Deuce staged as a reaction force in Kuwait. In my conversations with 1SG Osias I informed him of the plans on how both VN 222 and 22 IRS would support the Battalion and how all he had to do was let me know what his Soldiers' needs were. It was about three weeks later that I received an e message from 1SG Osias in which he wrote that the Soldiers needed 'personal items.' I had no idea what 'personal items' referred to, so I asked for some details. The answer left me a bit confused and then upset. Upset because the US Army is as incapable of thinking through an operation as it has ever been. These deployed Soldiers had ZERO access to soap, shampoo, shaving cream, shaving razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and personal items for the four female Soldiers. (Gail provided the guidance for their needs.)



It is more than apparent that the US Army doesn't understand that there are no PX facilities for deployed Soldiers to visit. QMC has been and remains as detached from Combat Elements as it has ever been. So, with my temper in check, I went to the Dollar store and bought enough of the above listed items so that every Soldiers in "G" Company, all 65 of them, would have the 'personal items' they needed. Gail and I packed everything into 13 boxes and brought the boxes to the Post Office for shipping. The shipment arrived, 1SG Osias had the items arranged so that the Soldiers could take their 'ration.' The items for the female Soldiers were shipped in a box that was plainly marked. All 1SG Osias had to do was to hand that box to LT Jordan, which he did.



So far, mission accomplished for "G" Company. Should they need more

'personal items' or anything else, they will receive what they need.

**Jim May, HMOR  
Prov, Co. 1968**

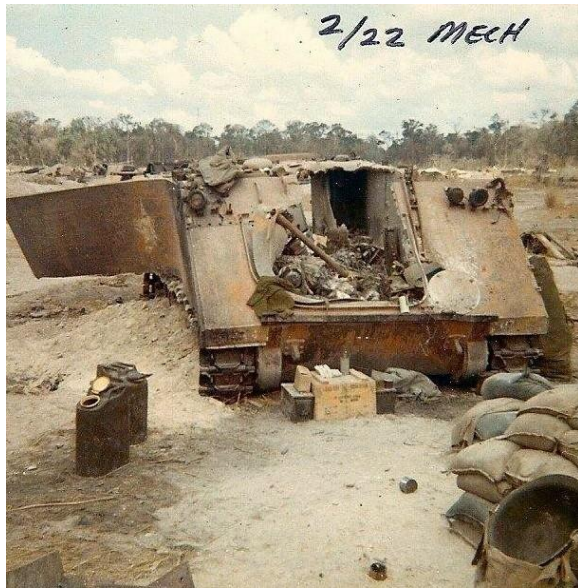
## FIRE SUPPORT BASE BURT



**Aerial View of Burt**

Very appropriately I'm currently reading a book about Fire Support Base Burt by David Allin . This human wave attack by the NVA took place on the night of Jan 1st into the morning of Jan 2nd 1968 . We were only about a mile south of the Cambodian border & set up in a clearing straddling a major infiltration trail . There was our full mechanized battalion ( 2nd battalion 22nd Infantry) & the full battalion of the 3rd battalion 22nd infantry, along with a few artillery batteries . This totaled about 1100 US soldiers. Approx 2000 NVA/Vietcong attacked us the night of the 1st in an all-night battle that finally ended at dawn on the 2nd . I was in the northwest corner of the field with Bravo Company, 2nd platoon, fighting our own little battle against an estimated NVA company. The south end of the perimeter took the brunt of the attack & the artillery saved the day by firing

beehive rounds directly into the oncoming hordes. This, along with all of our own firepower, artillery from other bases, close-in airstrikes & helicopter gunships turned the tide in our favor. It turned out to be one of the single largest one-night battles of the entire war. Approx 420 NVA/VC KIA's & 23 American KIA's & 150 +/- wounded, including myself (shrapnel wound to neck).



**The Day After**

I turned 21 on the 1<sup>st</sup>; hell of a way to spend a birthday, no one brought a cake.

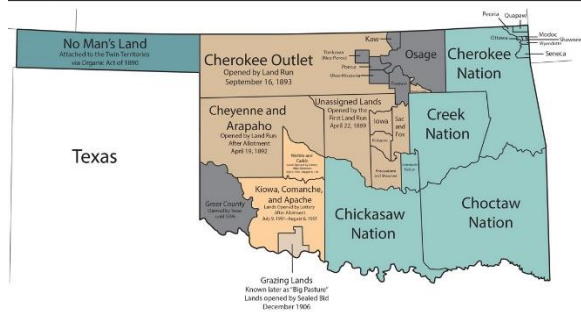
**Bob Price**  
**B Co. 1967-68**

## **AN IRREVERANT HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA**

Because our next reunion will be here in Oklahoma City, you might (or might not) be interested in Oklahoma's rather eccentric history. In the early 1800's, as America

expanded west from the East Coast, Indian tribes were forced to move west to what was called Indian Territory, the area now called Oklahoma. These tribes included what were called the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, and Chickasaw). During the Civil War, these tribes sided with the Confederacy, and after the war the federal government took back part of the territory from the Indians, including the center area which was named the "Unassigned Lands."

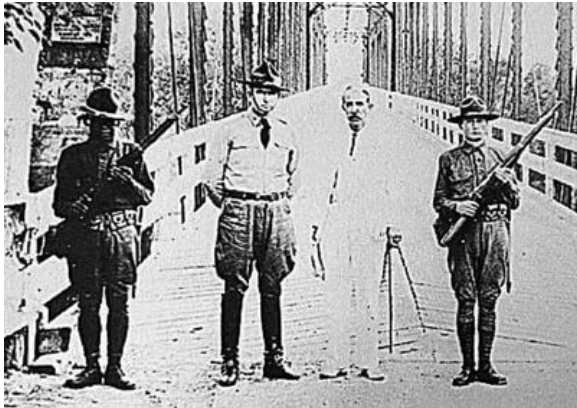
Indian Territory Boundaries, 1889  
 (Pre-Organic Act)



Only Indians and former slaves were allowed to own land in the territory, and the only law enforcement authority were the US Marshals, as depicted in the movies "True Grit" and "Hang 'Em High." In the 1870's land speculators, called "Boomers," began pressuring Congress to allow whites to settle in the Unassigned Lands, which eventually led to the Land Runs starting in 1889. In a land run, prospective homesteaders lined up along the Kansas border and at the shot of a gun from the US Cavalry they stormed down to stake out plots of land. Some people, known as "Sooners," snuck across the border early to stake out the best pieces of land. Thus, the Oklahoma University fight song, "Boomer Sooner," celebrates loudmouths and cheaters.

After the land runs in the western half of the area, there were two territories—Oklahoma and Indian. After a failed effort to have Indian Territory be the state of

Sequoyah, the two territories merged to form Oklahoma Territory so it could then become a state. The first state capitol was in Guthrie, but corrupt politicians moved it to Oklahoma City nine years later, establishing a tradition of corruption in state government that got two governors impeached in the 1920's. In the late twenties "Alfalfa" Bill Murray, a former Oklahoma Congressman who had tried and failed to create a colony in Bolivia, became governor, and among other things, launched the "Red River War." Texan entrepreneurs had started charging tolls to cross bridges across the Red River to Texas, so Murray sent tanks from the National Guard to secure bridgeheads and eliminate the tolls.



**Governor Murray guarding the bridge**

Poor land management and drought led to the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, when many Oklahomans traveled to California to get work, as portrayed in "The Grapes of Wrath." To this day I don't know any Oklahomans that don't have relatives in California. Will Rogers once said, "When the Okies left Oklahoma and moved to California, it raised the I.Q. of both states." In the 1950's Robert S. Kerr, founder of Kerr-McGee Petroleum, became a powerful senator who ensured a great deal of federal money was spent in Oklahoma building

highways and dams (for which his company was contracted). Oklahoma now has more freshwater acreage than any state in the union, so that it never has another Dust Bowl.

There are no "reservations" in Oklahoma, but the many tribes all have tribal lands, and tribal governments. Because of tribal sovereignty, Oklahoma has 134 Indian casinos. Native Americans are held in high esteem in Oklahoma. As a small boy, I felt left out because all my friends proudly proclaimed they were part Choctaw, Chickasaw, or Cherokee. I began telling people I was one-third Hacksaw. Oklahoma City has two major museums—the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, and the First Americans Museum, so you can get both sides of the story. When I was young, Oklahoma was a "dry" state, with no alcoholic beverages allowed. In the sixties, low-alcohol beer (3.2%) was allowed at restaurants, and other liquor could be purchased only in government-owned liquor stores. Liquor could not be served by the drink, unless you joined a "club" and brought your own bottle in a brown paper bag to give the bartender to mix for you (for a price). Most of the liquor laws have since been done away with, but some remain. Regardless of your obvious age, you will usually be carded, and there are still many restrictions on where alcohol can be served. The issue with alcohol goes back to the days of Indian Territory, when the federal government prohibited Indians from having booze. The US Marshals spent much of their time hunting down and arresting "whiskey runners" who brought in wagonloads of booze to sell to the Indians.

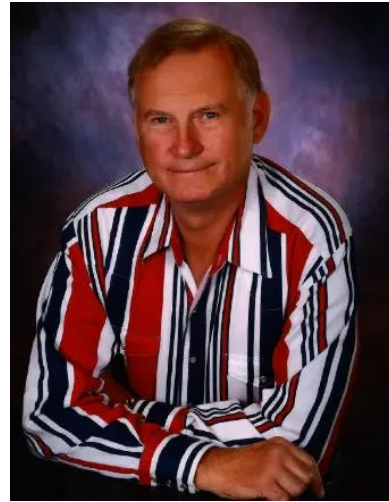


## NEW FIND

Jack Pryor [jpryor@westwayllc.com](mailto:jpryor@westwayllc.com)

## TAPS

### Ray Krnavek



Died December 22, 2024

Ray was one of the Boat People, in Bravo Company, and died in Mustang, OK.

### Charles Otey, Jr.

Columbus, Ohio

October 2, 1942 - March 13, 2025

Charles was in Charlie Company from January to October 1968. He was the driver for the one-one track. He was a past member of Triple Deuce Vietnam. His passing was relayed to us by Paul Birschbach, who served with him.

For decades Oklahoma's economy has been based on cattle and oil. Many people who have never been near a horse wear cowboy boots and hats. Most of them drive huge pickup trucks that they regularly use to haul groceries home. The signature dish at most restaurants is chicken-fried steak. We are proud to be called Okies, we all hate Texas, and we are suspicious of any politician who isn't crooked.

**David Allin DMOR**  
**A Co./HHC 1969-70**

## VETERAN DISCOUNTS

Dick Nash was recently contacted by a Linda Price, a volunteer with her local Girl Scout Troop. One of her Scouts, a girl named Chloe, is working on a merit badge so she can have an Honoring Our Veterans Patch. They have asked us to add a link on our webpage that takes you to a site that list companies that offer veteran discounts and coupons. The link is:

<https://couponfollow.com/research/use-coupons-to-support-military-families>

Check it out.

**David Allin, DMOR**  
**A Co./HHC 1969-70**

## MERCHANDISE



**Five panel hat**, \$20.00 Available in Khaki and black. One size fits all



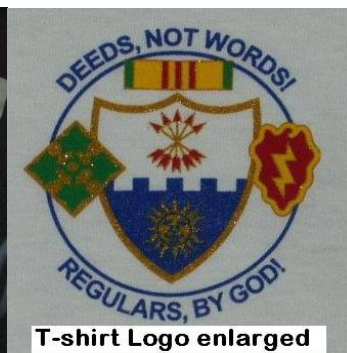
**Summer Hat** \$20.00. Available in white and black. One size fits all



**Six Panel Hat**, \$20.00 Available in khaki and black.



**6 Panel Hat, One Size Fits All.** \$22.00 ea.

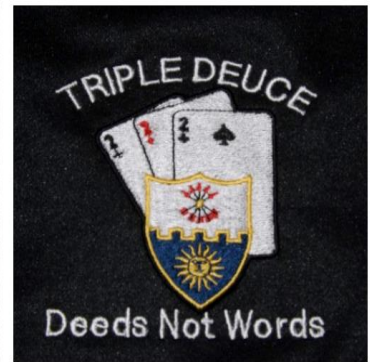


**T-Shirt** (Three views) \$18.00 sizes small, Medium and XL





**Denim long sleeve shirt with pocket.**  
\$43.00 sizes small to XL  
\$47.00 sizes 2XL and 3XL  
Special colors add \$5.00



**BLACK POLYESTER POLO SHIRT WITHOUT A POCKET.** Small thru XL \$33.00  
Sizes 2XL and 3XL \$37.00



**Ash or Blue polo shirt with pocket.**  
\$32.00 ea. sizes small to XL  
\$36.00 ea. sizes 2XL and 3XL  
Special colors add \$3.00



**Lightweight ORA**, 25% lighter than the traditional medal. \$3.00 + \$6.00 shipping  
Frame your Traditional Medal with your Certificate. You must have been awarded the ORA to be eligible to purchase this item.



**22nd Infantry Crest Pin.** \$7.00 + \$6.00 shipping



**Midi CIB.** \$7.00 + \$6.00 Shipping  
**Mini CIB.** \$5.00 + \$6.00 Shipping



**22nd CIB/DUI pin.** \$12.00 + \$6.00 shipping



**Small Division Pins.** \$7.00 each + \$6.00 shipping  
**Large 25th Infantry.** \$9.00 each + \$6.00 shipping



**Challenge Coins New 2" diameter**  
 1 Coin \$ 14 Ea. shipping included  
 5 Coins \$11 ea. + \$8.00 shipping  
 10 Coins \$10 ea. + \$16.00 shipping  
 15 Coins \$9.00 ea. + \$24.00 shipping  
 20 Coins \$8.00 ea. + \$32.00 shipping



**VN 2/22nd Patch** \$5.00 ea + \$3.00 shipping



**Triple Deuce Track Pin (small).** \$5.00 + \$6.00 shipping