

Charlie Company 2Bn (Mech) 22nd Inf

All 22nd Inf & Support Personnel Also Welcome As Associate Members

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Baton Rouge Reunion - A Success

Some of the bravest and most courageous Vietnam Veterans who ever served with the US Army's Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Companies of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, as well as men from Charlie Company 2nd Battalion (Mech) 22nd Infantry, Bravo Company 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry, the 187th Assault Helicopter Company and various other units and branches of the service

converged just outside Baton Rouge at the lovely, quaint and extremely hospitable St Francisville Hotel on the Lake, over the Veterans Day weekend, November 7-10, 1996, to talk a lot, eat a lot, laugh a lot, and cry a lot in honor and commemoration of the men from their respective units, who served their country and were killed in battle and also for those who carry those battles around with them to this day.

Boyle, First Sergeant Elisah Boyd Jr and Sergeant Major Charles R Duplechain and under the command leadership of Cadet/Major Vanessa Williams, Battalion Commander, performed so admirably, that they, as we would have said 28 years ago, "*superbly strutted their stuff.*"

And their stuff was something exciting to see! Closing one's eyes, listening to the battalion commander, company commanders and platoon leaders "barking" out orders, one could almost feel they were back at Benning, Polk, Bragg or any one of the other basic training facilities through out this country. For a fleeting moment in time..... I was 18 years old again.

Colonel Awb Norris (Ret), the former Battalion Commander of the 2Bn/22nd Infantry in Vietnam from September 1967 to early March 1968, reviewed the JROTC Battalion passing as Companies on Line, Platoons on Line, and *selected Delta Company as best Company*. This was the "Honors Review", typical of the traditional "Blue Day" review done at Fort Benning's Officers Candidate School.

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Close with and enjoy

This was the motto first uttered by Chuck Boyle and adopted by the group as the *theme* for the weekend. People came from the four corners of the United States. There were folks from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and, of course, Louisiana. These men and women had just one compelling reason to be in St Francisville, to share with, and show they care for, others who have been there.

Awb Norris reviews the troops

At 14 00 hours on Friday, November 8, 1996, under a beautiful blue fall sky in Clinton, Louisiana, approximately 225 Clinton High School JROTC Cadets staged, "**The Parade That Never Was**" for the Vietnam Veterans, their wives, friends and guests. Six extraordinary companies of Cadets, obviously due to the superb tutoring of Major Chuck

Earlier in the day

The Veterans and guests first gathered at 10:00 hours in the school auditorium for a display of patriotism, quite unlike what we have come to expect in schools in this day and age. We were welcomed by Major Williams and Major Boyle, then the invocation was held. The JROTC Color Guard posted the colors and we

were led in singing the National Anthem and America the Beautiful by the Cadet Choir

We were treated to a drill team exhibition, songs, poems, spirituals sung by a community choir, "who injected soul into those who knew not....what soul was" musical selections by the school band, brief speeches by Major Boyle and Colonel Norris and then a presentation of a flag that hung over the Nation's Capitol, by Colonel Norris to the JROTC after which were remarks by the Principal, we sang God Bless America and then, the *coup de' grace* the most delicious *Fried Catfish Luncheon ever* and fantastic enjoyable company in the school cafeteria

Our Appreciation

I must take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Clinton High School and the Principal, Mr John Harris, to Major Boyle, Sgt's. Boyd and Duplecham, all the JROTC cadets and their families, in addition to all of the teachers, faculty and students who obviously worked so hard, behind the scenes, and who welcomed us with open arms. Never in my 48 years, have I seen so many polite and well mannered high school young people, and all in one building. All of us who attended this tribute, over the weekend constantly

AWB NORRIS IS HOME

He came home from the hospital on Nov 20, 1996 after undergoing catheterization, angioplasty and then a triple by-pass. **Welcome home, Sir!**

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remarked, that seeing, and being in the company of, the young people at Clinton High School has left us with hope and promise for the future generations.

Bill Allison's fantastic slide presentation

Saturday, November 9, 1996 dawned with excitement and anticipation for this morning at 10 AM all who wished would be entertained with the most amazing and memorable visual and audio tribute to the fighting soldiers who served in Vietnam. I first was privileged to witness this presentation given by Bill Allison in Kissimmee, Florida in April 1996 in a small room with a handful of people, then again in Kissimmee with a roomful of people, then twice in St Francisville. I must say that each time Bill's illustration was presented differently, although each time he covered all of the same items and details. As Bill spoke, his emotions and memories took over and we were transported back in time into the bamboo jungle, *sweating, hot and tired, fearing again for our lives*. As we envisioned the area at Fire Support Base Burt (aka Suoi Cut) and reminisced about that night, all of the emotions that one could feel were instantaneously brought back. I observed that even folks who were not at Burt, were almost able to live the experience that those of us who were there, were doing, once again. Bill's ability to weave and inject men into the action, *presenting their first hand accounts* as to where they were and what they did, made the night itself seemed to be relived. We could almost *feel* the ground *vibrate* with the B-52 strikes, *smell* the trees and foliage *burning* with the Napalm and *feel* the *exhaustion* and *rage* the next morning.

Bill Allison is a masterful speaker because he speaks from his heart, with care and concern for his men, and from experience because he has, *as they say today..... "been there, done that."*

Leaders - Real Men

It is not hard to see why men like Awb Norris, Bill Allison, Gordon Kelley and Chuck Boyle and so many others are respected and loved by the men who served under, but with them. *They brought most of us back alive*. It would be unrealistic for anyone to think that a leader could bring everyone back home, but the true test and mark of a superior leader, is the decisions and sacrifices he knows *he must make* and *those he will not make*.

Those Attending the Festivities at Clinton High School and/or the Reunion Weekend

Robert (Bob) & Pat Alchin, William (Bill) & Martha John Allison, Bob Babcock, Bill & Carol Brabrow, Alfred Beebe, Elisah Boyd, Chuck Boyle, Richard Christie, Al Comeaux, Robert Dawson, Charles Duplechain, Bob & Gail Duplechin, John & Cindy Eberwine, James K. Edenfield, G. Ferguson, Shelly Smith Garrison, Richard Gautier, Bob (Frenchie) Gibeault, Mayor H. Toler Hatcher, Charles James, Ardis Jones, Patrick (Pat) & Pauline Merth, Charles & Ellen Milton, Jim & Sharon Nelson, Awbrey G. Norris, John Otte, John Parsons, Freddie & Mrs Peterson, Berchmans Ritter, Jerry & Renee Rudisill, Dr. Saber, Mr. Sands, William (Bill) Schwindt, Hosea & Mrs Sensley, Henry Taylor, Robert Taylor, Ron Taylor, Jim Tobin, Michael (MC) & Elaine Toyer, Elan Toyer, Jackson Chase Toyer, Stanley (Stan) & Georgia Winkler. If I missed anyone, I sincerely apologize

Those men attending who served with Charlie Company 2/22 were: Bill Allison, John Eberwine, Pat Merth, Jim Nelson, John Parsons, Jerry Rudisill and Stan Winkler.

The Dinner

Saturday night's dinner was made memorable not only by those who attended, but the substance of the events of the evening. First was the posting of the Colors, again by the Color Guard Unit from Clinton High's JROTC. We then sat *spellbound* listening to Chuck's *invigorating* warm up speech just prior to dinner. After dinner, Cindy Ebervine, my best friend and beautiful wife, sang "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" from the musical "LeMisi". Men from the various companies then participated in memorializing their KIA's by reading the names of their dead. Cindy then sang "Amazing Grace". I then had the privilege to introduce my friend and the unparalleled combat artist Jim Nelson who presented a surprise portrait that he had painted to Bill Allison. Cindy then closed this portion of the evening with a song that was reminiscent of the late 60's, "There Are Places I Remember....". The remainder of the night was spent reviewing old snapshots, reliving certain times and places and sharing our feelings with all of our new acquaintances and old friends. I would personally like to thank Cindy for all the hard work and practice time she spent getting ready for this occasion. To me, she was able to add a personal touch to the evening.

Jim Nelson, Artist

For the benefit of those who have not yet seen Jim's extraordinary portraits, battle scenes and Jim's perception of people, places and things, we have prevailed on him to bring his paintings next year to the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion in Gettysburg, Pa. Jim sells his paintings and also prints of his paintings and I would seriously suggest that a collection of Nelson artwork, for any Vietnam Vet, is worth it's weight in *Memories*.

Thanks to Valerie & Dave Barnes and The St Francisville Hotel

We would be extremely remiss if we failed to pay tribute to Valerie Barnes. Valerie was our point person at the St Francisville Hotel on the Lake. Suffice it to say, from the start, everything went well, nothing went wrong, and a super time was had by all who attended the reunion. The best form of praise we can pay Valerie is to say, "We would not only come back again, but we highly *recommend* the accommodations to anyone who wishes to be made comfortable and welcome when staying away from home."

Dave Barnes played "Taps" from beneath a grove of trees across the lake after our Sunday morning memorial service, and no sweeter sound has ever drifted across the water and *caressed* our ears. Dave played the bugle as though he personally knew each one of the 58, 169 who laid down their lives in Vietnam.

Our sincerest Thanks to both of these fine people and to the entire staff of the St Francisville Hotel on the Lake. Never have I been around more accommodating people.

Video Tape for Sale

The video's of the assembly program and the parade are now available. Chuck Boyle has personally edited them, and vouches for their professionalism and quality. He rates them "Highly Satisfactory". The vendor prefers that you order through Chuck so *send a check for \$27.00, payable to "Chuck Boyle" or the "Clinton JROTC"* to Chuck at PO Box 426, Clinton, Louisiana 70722-0426. This is a great testament to the youth of today as well as a fantastic memento, so don't delay, order now.

Gettysburg Reunion

Don't forget our next scheduled reunion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society (IRS) will be the weekend of October 16-19, 1997 at the Eisenhower Convention Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. You will hear more from Bob Babcock in the near future via his newsletter. **If you are not already a member of the 22nd IRS, please let me know and I'll forward an application to you.** You will not want to miss this reunion. More men from C 2/22 will be there as well as C 3/22 and additional men from 187th AHC and 188th AHC we hope.

Adopt a JROTC Program

Some of us who attended the Reunion in Saint Francisville, Louisiana were so impressed with the program being run by Chuck Boyle and Sergeants Boyd and Duplechain that we wanted to do something special for them. The program seems to make such a significant difference in the lives of so many young people.

Some of us have talked and we have come up with a way to have a living memorial to the men who fought and died in Vietnam by Adopting the JROTC Program at Clinton High School. Chuck told us that the shirts and pants and boots are funded by the government, but that the accouterments usually come from small donations or just out of Chuck's pocket.

These consist of the shoulder braid, insignia, ribbons, etc. You remember how important it was to you to wear rank, medals, ribbons, etc., well it means more to these kids for it's recognition for a "Job Well Done". It sometimes may be the only recognition they get from adults. Let's not let them down. We calculated \$5 per month or \$60 a year, per donation, would make such a difference in their lives, so what say y'all, shall we get behind this most fantastic and

worthwhile program run By Chuck Boyle and Elisah Boyd and Charles Duplechain and establish this living **MEMORIAL** to all the men and women who gave of their lives in Vietnam, but especially all of the **Charlie Company - Triple Deucers**.

Our (Cindy and mine) \$60 check is on it's way to Chuck with this newsletter. I sincerely hope that those who can will contribute.

For All Chargin' Charlie - Triple Deucer's Out There

Since April 1996, I have been compiling a database of men who served with C 2/22 anytime from 1966 when the men went over on the ship until 1971 when C 2/22 came home. I was fortunate to get help from various sources, namely Brad Hull, a tireless locator, who served with A 2/22 and who is responsible for "Finding Me", from Bill Allison, Company Commander from 9/67 off and on until 5/68, who supplied me with three (3) original rosters from Nam, from Awb Norris, former Battalion Commander of 2/22 from 9/67 to early 3/68, and secretary of the 22nd IRS, from Ben Meyers, an advisor who served 3-4 years in Nam, and who gave me over 1000 potential addresses to try to find people, from Dave Schill, a Navy Seabee, who has

been a "brother" to C 3/22 and C 2/22, and from men, just like yourselves, who have remembered someone's name or address and supplied it to me. There are over 275 names on my list, although I do not have addresses for all of these. The list is eleven pages long and if you wish a copy, to try to locate a friend or buddy, or to look and see who I don't have, just send me \$1.00 to cover cost of copying and postage and I'll be glad to send it. Also if you have any information about men's whereabouts or about KIA's, please get in touch with me. Additionally, if you'd like to write any stories, I'd be glad to publish them in future newsletters. Our aim is to locate as many C 2/22 men as possible and have one huge reunion as soon as possible.

C 2/22 - KIA's

Thomas Ralph Murphy	11/06/66
Johnny A Chambers	01/08/67
Douglas J Sullivan	01/08/67
Edward Ralph Glenn Jr	01/17/67
Gerry Wayne Lawson	02/08/67
Otis Lewis	02/10/67
Rex Wheller Hightfill	02/12/67
RC Perry Jr	02/13/67
Daniel Paul Donnellan	02/18/67
Thomas Duane Utter	03/23/67
Edward Roy Lukert	06/11/67
Jackie Edward Trosper	09/30/67
Dennis Rex Estes	11/25/67

C 2/22 - KIA's (cont)

John A Gibson	11/25/67
Robert Lucian Mlynarski	11/25/67
Robert Andrew Van Patten	11/25/67
William Carey Janes	12/20/67
Thomas G Bernardy (Doc)	01/02/68
Jack Wayne Miller	01/02/68
Willie Petty Jr	01/02/68
Lytell B Christian	03/13/68
David Kenneth Ditch	03/13/68
Todd Earl Swanson (Doc)	03/13/68
John Edward Nelson	04/13/68
Benjamin Allen Honeycutt	05/02/68
Ernest Lee Elliott	06/20/68
Larry Russell Kennann	06/20/68
David Lynn Stockman	06/20/68
August Ferrel Bolt	07/01/68
Robert Charles Dickinson	07/01/68
Fred V Jurado	07/01/68
William Scott Watts	11/21/68
John Earl Warren Jr	01/14/69

Passed Away at Home

Jim Wagner '66-67'	1996
Robert I. "Red" Dodd '67-68'	1996

Need Your Help

To be successful reaching out to find as many "brothers" as we can find, we all must do whatever part we can. Please try to find old orders with other men listed with social security number, they help. Thank you!