

# **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**



**Editor: Dan & Vera Streit D 69 DMOR - HMOR**

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**website [www.vietnamtripledeuce.org](http://www.vietnamtripledeuce.org) for current contact information.**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 22<sup>nd</sup> IRS Branson Reunion is upon us. Let's see. ...got my plane tickets, hotel reservation, 22IRS registration, new NV222 jacket **by Scappoose Outfitters**, and my old buddy (We met in line at the Army Induction Center in '65), **Steve Cowlthorp**, a Chargin Charlie Original, to be my point man. Those of you that know me, know that I need....ah....restraint sometimes when traveling. Steve has the experience to keep the straps snug on The Kool-Aid Kid's jacket. I can hardly wait to see all of you Members, Associate Members, and your families again. I look forward to meeting our new members, and those of you that have not attended a 22<sup>nd</sup> IRS reunion before. What a thrilling time you will have, but you don't have to take my word for that—ask around. If we are lucky, we'll get to meet some active duty Triple Deucers to give 'em some pointers. You know. Like which side faces the enemy when using claymores--and I'm talk'n ham and claymores, not those silly things that just blowup. I hope you all can make it, and help spread the word. "Were gett'n the unit back together!" ...well, sort of.

Charlie Company is going to have our annual reunion in Portland OR. August 15, 16, 2014 with the 14<sup>th</sup> open for early arrivers to register, party in the hospitality suite, and get an area recon done before the main event gets hopp'n.

We would like to invite any and all Double and Triple Deucers to attend. The greater Portland area is known for its close proximity to many wonderful places such as the scenic Columbia River Gorge with many parks that have many easy hiking trails that visit a variety of waterfalls including the 620' Multnomah Falls—just a half hour away from the Portland Airport Shilo Inn. Another half hour car trip will get you to our Washington Park area with its great zoo (You got to see the baby elephant.), Forestry Center, Rose Garden, and what has been described by many as the best state Vietnam Memorial Park

in the USA, and can stand tall with any memorial anywhere. Downtown Portland is just down the hills from Washington Park and offers a lot of views of our history and beauty as one walks around. ...or stumbles around after visiting one of our world-class microbreweries. Mt. St. Helens is another short trip away by car. We will be close to our famous MAX rail line that makes going downtown a snap.

### CHARGIN CHARLIE 2/22 REUNION

**DATE:** Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Room rates reserved Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>)

**PLACE:** SHILO INN PORTLAND AIRPORT  
11707 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR. 97220

**PHONE RESERVATIONS:** 800-222-2244  
Hotel: 503-252-5800 web: shiloinns.com

**RATES:** \$95.00 per night under the name: **Charlie Company, 222**. All rooms are suites, so double up and save. No charge for the hospitality suite, but we would like as many as can to make your reservations soon. This will keep the hotel happy, who will keep us happy. Our hotel contact is **Amber Jerome, Director of Catering**.

**BANQUET:** Details forthcoming, but plan on around a \$20 per head charge.

There are many good restaurants, grocery stores, and shopping areas very close by to keep our Hospitality Suite well stocked with goodies.

**YOUR HOSTS:** The guys from Portland. (Names withheld to protect the guilty.) We will update our website as we get closer to kickoff at: [www.originalboatpeople.com](http://www.originalboatpeople.com)

That's it for now. See you at the Branson Reunion, and maybe Chargin Charlie's too! Deeds, not words.

**Lynn W. Dalpez, C 65-67**  
DMOR; President

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The Reunion. . . ah the reunion. So many thoughts. So much anticipation. Try to follow me as I tell you what is important to this old soldier

Since becoming associated with the Triple Deuce and the 22<sup>nd</sup> IRS I have attended reunions in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Atlanta, Georgia; Seattle, Washington; Washington D.C.; Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Kansas; San Antonio, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; and Cleveland, Ohio. The wife and I like to get out and explore new areas so I anticipate that with each reunion. There is a good agenda and list of planned activities (see page...).

Branson is relatively close to my home town so I have a few favorites I might suggest. If this is your first time in Branson you should see the movie The Baldknobbers at the I-MAX Theater. It is a great short history of the area. Downtown Branson is a must. Walk through it. . shop and chill on the bench outside of Dicks after seeing the one of everything this variety store has for sale. Silver Dollar City is great fun; I plan to do their "bounce back". We will go out Sunday afternoon after the reunion and then on Monday return on the same admission ticket. The entertainment is rich. My personal favorite (for those of you who watch RFD TV) is Larry's Country Diner. Last time we attended this at the Starlight Theater we were seated on stage. There is a small privately owned military museum that has an outstanding collection and is well displayed. Check it out at [www.veteransmemorialbranson.com](http://www.veteransmemorialbranson.com)

The area is rich with history, culture and geographic beauty. From over the shoulder I hear a voice saying don't forget the many flea markets and the wonderful quilt shop! There is a new Riverwalk area with trendy stores and restaurants.

Certain things about the reunion are always consistent. The carving of The Hemingway Turkey and the connection it establishes to our prede-

cessors is significant. The planned activities and meals offer abundant time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We all share a common bond so the friendship is a given. The banquet is filled with opportunities to appreciate the accomplishments and honors of many within our ranks. The business meeting. . . I will not say I enjoy the business meeting. . . but it is good to accomplish the tasks needed to keep the organization running smoothly.

The one thing I anticipate most about each and every reunion is meeting with my Brothers. The reconnecting with other Triple Deucers, sharing of experiences, (reminiscing, reliving, rehashing) is so therapeutic. Learning from both the older soldiers (although we are rapidly becoming the old guard) and connecting with the younger ones is phenomenal. It is a non threatening healing environment. However the Hospitality Room is configured at whatever site, it is the heart of the reunion. It is where the minds are free to wander, the hearts are eager to connect, the stories are unending.

With hopes of seeing you there but promises to include as many details in the next Newsletter as possible for those unable to attend, There are many still working on the event to make it the best reunion ever. Anyway, that is how it seems to this old soldier.

Dan Streit D/69

## DUES NOT WORDS

Check the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is 2013 or earlier, your dues are due. You may submit them by mail or pay them at the reunion. If they remain unpaid, you will not receive the next newsletter.

## WORDS ARE NEEDED

Once again I am asking you to take the time to write "your story" Put the words down (we will be glad to help you polish your article if you want) Your sharing is what makes this newsletter meaningful.

## LATEST NEWS ON BRANSON REUNION

This will be kinda long but I wanted to respond to the many questions I have been asked on reunion plans, etc. Here goes.

As of mid January 2014 we are about 80% complete on planning and execution of the 22nd Infantry Society Reunion slated for 30 April-4 May 2014 at the Westgate Branson Woods Hotel in scenic Branson, Missouri. Our theme for the reunion is "Stand Down in Branson." Betty Brenneman and **Ken "Lumpy" Schulte** have spent a great deal of time getting ready to host and we thank them for their outstanding efforts to date to make this a special time for us all. Reminder the cut off date to get our special group rate is 10 March 2014. The hotel will honor rates three days either side of our reunion.

Our reunion agenda (found on line at [Gatheringsplus.com](http://Gatheringsplus.com) under 22nd Infantry and on our Society website) is about 90% finished and I invite you to examine it for our planned activities at this point. A letter from me and hotel room information is also at that site.

We have extended an invitation for active duty member(s) of both 1/22nd and 2/22nd Infantry to join us at the reunion. Even with cost constraints on military travel funds we hope we can work some magic to have them present. Special time for us all when we have members of our active elements meet with us.

Of noteworthy mention at this reunion is our Thursday evening Hemingway Turkey Ceremony. Past President **Bob Babcock** will be in the lead to "tell the story" once again at the gathering. A reminder there will be a buffet after the ceremony for those wanting to eat in lieu of going out. Cost details are on sign-up sheet in this newsletter. I invite you to check the registration form in this newsletter for all other projected reunion costs.

There are many optional shows and other family oriented activities to do in Branson. I feel confident you will find what interests you and those attending with you. We have left Friday open for you to do what you would like, either individually or as mini-groups. We suggested some shows but you are on your own to explore things. Also there will a tweak here or there on the reunion agenda but this is a pretty good planning document to use at this point.

Also at this reunion we will have some special "Branson Style" entertainment at our Saturday night banquet instead of a guest speaker. That entertainment will follow after some recognition and installations by our HCOR Colonel **Ed Schultz** after dinner. Bruce Gass has also worked with Bruce Greeno from Chapter 913 Vietnam Veterans of America in Branson for a local honor guard to be with us Saturday night. Finally we will be honored to have Past President **Skip Fahel** present our Sunday morning Memorial Service to conclude the reunion. (Still looking for a chaplain to assist)

A special thanks to Mark Woempner for putting together the golf outing and to Betty Brenneman and Ruth Crocker for planning something special Saturday morning for our ladies this year. Details on that event are scheduled to be in a message from Betty in this newsletter. We also look forward to honoring the regiment at "Hits of the 60s Show" Saturday afternoon. It goes without saying our heartfelt thanks once again to Martin Oelklaus for coordinating registration efforts. Things turn to gold when Martin touches them!

**Jim May** will open the merchandise store for both 22IRS and Vietnam Triple Deuce items which are available for a suggested donation price. Jim will introduce our new 22IRS Challenge Coin. It looks great and will make for a great keepsake item along with the Vietnam Triple Deuce coin.

Breakfast is gonna be part of your hotel package along with free wi-fi.

Breakfast won't be cooked to order like some other places we have stayed but I have had the breakfast and it will fill you up for the day.

Some of you have voiced your disappointment at air travel into Branson. I fully agree but we were not expecting a carrier to reduce flights into Branson. Our apologies and hats off to those of you who have gotten creative in your travel arrangements for the reunion. I invite you to share travel tips on the website.

Finally, this is last note from me before the reunion however, if I can answer any additional questions please send me a note to email [lon@22ndinfantry.org](mailto:lon@22ndinfantry.org)

Looking forward to seeing you all in Branson for an awesome gathering.

DEEDS NOT WORDS

Lon Oakley Jr A/69  
President 22IRS

## REUNION FUN FOR THE LADIES!

(In Case you missed it in the last Newsletter)!

On Saturday morning, 9:00a.m., while the men have their business meetings, the Ladies are invited to the Grand Pavillion for a get-together, including a fashion show, speaker, plus a light lunch afterwards...(graciously provided by the men of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society)!

Linda, owner of "Grand Glitz", an exciting apparel shop in Branson, will be dressing some of OUR LADIES up in style! Going with the "theme of the day", it will be fun listening to the 60's music relating to clothes...but, the styles will be new and exciting!

Linda's shop offers beautiful clothing, accent accessories, jewelry, shoes, etc. and you can get a preview by going to her website at [<grandglitz.com>](http://grandglitz.com). I have been in her shop...wow! Since the fashion show is on Saturday, and we have a full day of activities, she is offering a 10% discount if you'd like to shop there during the week. A "Coupon" will be available on check-in.

After the show, **Ruth Crocker** will present a short workshop that will help us recall, explore and celebrate some of our life stories. "Walk a Mile in My Shoes"...Stories from the heart about the clothes we wore...

"Sometimes our most cherished memories are connected to clothing that we wore at significant times in our lives. Remembering a particular outfit from childhood, or a prom gown(or wedding dress!) can be a trigger that rekindles important memories that are part of a larger story".

Ruth is the widow of **Capt. David R. Crocker, Jr.**, Alpha Co. 2/22. She enjoys writing personal essays and her memoir and has published articles in magazines, journals and elsewhere. Her memoir, **Those Who Remain: Remembrance and Reunion After War** will be published this Spring.

Finishing up around noon, a light lunch will be served...and then on to more Memories at the **HITS OF THE SIXTIES!**

**Ladies!!! Try and wear or bring something that will start the conversation of a memory! It could be a scarf, jewelry, something old, something new...**

Looking forward to see everyone in Branson!

**Betty Brenneman, HMOR**

## RAFFLE CHANGES FORMAT

This reunion will, as always, feature a raffle...but, this year, time constraints make it a little different than past reunions. We will be doing the drawings before the dinner as we have entertainment after, along with awards, so:.....GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS EARLY...and we will have all items set up for "what you would like to win"...kind of a different approach, but better for everyone that has to think about traveling!

Depending on the donations for the raffle, we will also have a "Silent Auction"...where bidding will start from day one and end, again, before the banquet. If you are planning to donate, we do so appreciate it...please try and email or phone me with the donations, so I can write up a note about them, and also a thank you!...We have several now and many to come, I know of...and will keep track!

These raffles are fun, most everyone loves them and they bring funds into the Society! Let's keep them going! Thank you to everyone who has donated previously and are willing to do so this next reunion!

**Betty Brenneman, HMOR**

## BUSINESS MEETING ITINERARY VIETNAM TRIPLE DEUCE INC.

This is a tentative itinerary of our business meeting that will follow the 22<sup>nd</sup> IRS business meeting at the reunion. The time will be announced at the reunion. We are probably looking at a ½ hour time or less to complete the necessary issues. Extended time will be up the Members for bringing forth new issues, ideas, etc.

This itinerary is tentative because of time changes for other events, any last minute issues we need to attend to, talks from special guests, or other things like that.

- President calls the meeting to order.
- Introduction of new members, who will give their name, company, year served, and where they are from.
- Secretary reads the minutes of the last meeting.
- Treasurer gives finance report.
- Chief Locator gives report and introduces our Locators.
- NL Editor gives report.
- Webmaster gives report.
- Voting for Directors.
- Floor is open to members for new business, or closing the meeting.

As a reminder, we are a legal corporation that must show adherence to our corporate bylaws concerning the issues outlined above. Members can help the Directors and Officers attain this adherence by simply attending the meeting, voting, and putting your two cents worth in the pot. This is your organization, please participate.

Deeds, not Words,

**Lynn W. Dalpez, C 65/67**  
DMOR President

## REUNION SCHEDULE

### Wednesday April 30

9 a. m. 6 p.m. Registration  
6. p.m.- 10 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open

### Thursday May 1

6:30 a.m.- 9 a. m. Breakfast  
8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Golf Outing  
9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Registration  
5:30 p.m. Carving/Hemingway Turkey Mixer  
7.p.m.-12 midnight Hospitality Suite Open

### Friday May 2

6:30 a.m.- 9 a. m. Breakfast  
1 p.m.- 4 p.m. Registration  
10 a.m.- 10 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open

### **Saturday May 3**

6:30 a.m.- 9 a.m. Breakfast  
8 a.m.- 9 a.m Final Late Registration  
9 a.m.- 10:30 IRS Business Meeting  
10:30-12 noon Triple Deuce Business Meeting  
9 a.m.- 12 noon Ladies Activities  
2 p.m. Hits of the 60s  
6 p.m. Group Photo  
7 p.m.—10 p.m. Banquet  
Hospitality Suite Open following banquet

### **Sunday May 4**

6:30 a.m.- 9 a.m. Breakfast  
9 a.m.-9:30 Memorial Service  
10 a.m. Reunion Ends

schedule subject to change  
numerous optional activities previously listed/available at registration

## **BOOK TO HELP FUND AWB NORRIS SCHOLARSHIP**

I am happy to report that former Vietnam Triple Deuce Association President **Dick Nash**, along with Ms. Ruth Crocker, author of the book “Those Who Remain: Remembrance and Reunion After War” (and spouse of former A Company Commander 2/22nd Infantry KIA May 1969) will team up with me to enter into a project to publish a new book entitled “WE WENT” Proposed publication date is Summer 2015.

The book will focus on personal stories of those who served with the 22nd Infantry in Vietnam and the family members of our fallen brothers from that era. Our intent is to offer the book for sale to help raise funds for the Awb Norris Scholarship Fund.

“WE WENT” will feature stories previously submitted to our 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Newsletter and letters published in the Vietnam Triple Deuce Newsletter. In addition we will be actively seeking additional short stories from our members who served during the Vietnam War. There will also be a special section in the book

dedicated to stories from family members of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Watch for the additional details to be provided at the Branson Reunion 2014.

**Lon Oakley Jr A/69**

President

22nd Infantry Regiment Society

## **FORT DRUM VISIT 21-23 JANUARY 2014**

**Pete Gaworecki** (C, 1-22, 1967-1968) and I made a visit to Ft Drum to attend the Change of Command for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team. Colonel **Dennis S. Sullivan**, (BN CO 2-22, Sep 2006 – Feb 2009) was relinquishing command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team to Colonel **David S. Doyle**.

The daytime temperatures at Ft Drum at this time of year are normally in the single digits to low teens, so wiser heads prevailed and ordered that the Change of Command take place at the Magrath Sports Complex. It the decision proved to be a correct one because the “normal” temperatures were not to be found. The high temperature during our visit reached 10 below zero with the low at 34 below zero. Needless to say, Pete and I, both familiar with below zero temperatures, didn’t spend much time walking the grounds.

Once inside the building, we were greeted by Soldiers who knew who we were as soon as they saw the VN 222 Guidon. One of the Soldiers said, “They are the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Guests.” At that point one Soldier went to find a stand for the Guidon while another escorted us to our seats, which were in the second row. We were seated behind the Sullivan Family and next to the Division One Stars, proof that the Old Goats Squad is held in high esteem at Ft Drum. Further proof was seen when MG Townsend, the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn Div CG walked up to Pete and me and said, “Why are you here?” Before we could an-



swer he answered his own question with one word, "Dennis!" "Yes," I said, "Dennis is one of ours." To which Pete added, "We wouldn't miss this." General Townsend was as impressed with the support that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment's Vets show for our Active Duty Soldiers as all of the past 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn CG's that we have come in contact with have shown.

The entire 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT's compliment will not fit into the building, so each of the Battalions was represented by one Company. This did not detract from the ceremony, which went along without a hitch.



After the ceremony was completed Pete and I visited with Dennis, Brenda, the girls and Dennis' parents. They are, to a person, the friendliest of people one would ever hope to encounter. Old friend, SFC, now SMG Kowalski, joined in the visit. SMG Kowalski was with Triple Deuce when **Joe Dichairo** was BN CO. We learned that Dennis and family will be in Rhode Island while Dennis attends the War College at the Newport Naval Base. The Sullivan's have been stationed at Ft Drum for 12 years; any change will be a big change for them. I am, as many of you know, originally from Rhode Island and have close ties there. I hope to be able to get Dennis out for some off-shore fishing this summer with my friends. If it comes together I'll submit a story to the NLS.

After the event, Pete asked that we stop at the Triple Deuce Monument site; he wanted to check on the condition of the work that he had done earlier in the year. (The marble pedestal had been severely stained because the wrong bolts were used in the construction of the center piece. Pete did much work to replace the incorrect bolts and more work, with the help of the Ft Drum Boy Scouts, to clean the stain away.) When I pulled my vehicle up along-side the road that leads past the monument Pete saw that he would have to walk through 200 yards of snow that was at least three feet deep in order to get to the monument and decided that a proper inspection wouldn't be possible until the snow was gone. I agreed with Pete's assessment and we went to find something to eat.

Wednesday morning found Pete and me out in the 34 below zero temperatures; we had an appointment at Triple Deuce with LTC Schexnayder. The meeting went well. We were told by the S-3, MAJ Gentile, that they had been contacted by 1-22. (If you aren't aware, 1-22 has been caught up in the Army's downsizing and will lower its colors in March.) The reason for the contact was to ask that 2-22 receive and care for all of the Regiment's Historical items that 1-22 had on display in their History Room. There should be no surprise here; 2-22 has agreed to take possession of these most important items.

We also learned that 2-22 will be moving, AGAIN! The move will be back to the type of buildings they moved from when they made the move to their present location. More on that as we learn more.

When we asked LTC Schexnayder if it would be possible to send two Soldiers to the Branson Reunion, he quickly answered yes and MAJ Gentile said, "Can do, I'll get right on it." So, those of you who will be in Branson for the reunion can expect to visit with our some of our Active Duty Soldiers. There won't be as many as there were when we visited 1-22 at Ft Carson, but Active Duty Soldiers will be present.



MAJ Gentile had to leave just about the time the XO, MAJ Siegfried came in. That's when Pete told them that the 2015 reunion would be held in Syracuse and that it was hoped that the Battalion would be able to participate. I wish all of you could have seen the enthusiastic response to Pete's remark. Both the CO and the XO began to make plans for the visit. One of the events mentioned was a "live fire" display! At this point, I'm sure that various ways to entertain the reunion attendees is being discussed, and since September 2015 is a long way off, I believe that we will be treated to something special. (At present, plans are to hold the reunion early in September 2015. The normal mid-October reunion dates might see us "entertained" by cold and snow.) LTC Schexnayder told us that there were plans for two formal events, a Dining Out to be held in June and a Dining In to be held in September. Plans have been changed and the Dining In will be held in June. At present there are five members of the Old Goats Squad planning on attending the June Dining In and my hope is that there will be more who are able to attend.

There was much conversation about many other subjects. We talked about everything from unit mission to the specifics of individual Soldier's attitude. During the visit Dennis Sullivan contacted Pete and me and invited us to lunch. I had to decline because I had a nine hour drive ahead of me but Pete was able to join the Sullivan's for lunch.

In all, it was a fine visit and I am happy to report that Triple Deuce remains in the hands of the Army's finest Officers and NCO's.

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

**Editor's Note** While in Branson you are missing the boat if you don't take time to visit the Veteran's Museum referenced in my comments. It is awesome. Jim Nelson has paintings on display.

## **SOME SPECIAL VIETNAM ANIMALS**

Vietnam had its fair share of tropical insects and night critters. We all remember the scorpions, leeches, mosquitoes and of course those humongous red jungle ants. When we arrived in Vietnam, we first were stationed at Camp Martin Cox at Bear Cat (SE of Saigon). This was just for a short time from Oct 12, 1966 to Nov 11, 1966. After a week of climate acclimation, we spent 2 weeks on Operation Fairfax in the Rung Zat Special Zone. This was a VC infested area in the Saigon River Delta southeast of the city of Saigon. I remember being on a night listening post and after dark it got kind of quiet except for a couple of critters. One was a bird that I also remember hearing only in this location and in the Iron Triangle in January 1967. Or maybe I got used to the sound and it became routine later in the tour. There also was a lizard that made a special sound and it was found in almost all areas of Vietnam. But the Iron Triangle and the Rung Zat special Zone are the only places where both the bird and lizard coexisted to my knowledge.

After the initial apprehension of a new grunt on the nighttime LP, the 2 or 3 other guys and myself were being real quiet and picking turns for the watch, when the bird made a sound like "RE-UP" and then the lizard seem to answer "F--K YOU". After the first couple of times we started laughing or giggling quietly. Of course you all remember that term "RE-UP" was the short slang for re-enlistment which to draftees like us, was like your mother, when you were a kid, forcing you to eat LIMA BEANS. The FU Lizard's response was like sweet music to our ears. All the draftee guys in Alpha Co. heard the animal sounds in the next several nights and cracked up as we all shared the sentiment. I also read a story on the internet about a newly arrived replacement officer who was assigned as night officer in charge of the guard inspecting the bunkers on the perimeter of a base camp and ac-

cused the grunts of cursing him when he turned his back to leave. He threatened them with Article 15s until he realized about 2 hours later that it was the FU lizard and not the soldiers. {Note: For a look at the FU lizard, see the picture of Ron Picardi on the 22IRS website he has attached a string to the lizard (like a dog leash) and it is on top of a C-ration carton}

Another animal story is about tigers. Now I never saw any tigers in Vietnam, but heard that some did exist in the remote hilly areas of the central highland and western I corp. I believe there were articles in the Stars & Stripes newspapers about run ins with tigers but not sure. Anyway, I have a friend and neighbor whose son and my son grew up together and were good friends in grade and high school. Fred Watson is also a Viet vet who spent a year as a replacement with the 1 st Brigade of the 4 th ID, his unit during his tour of 11/4/67 to 11/2/68 was with Bravo co. of the 3 rd Battalion, 8 th Regiment. {NOTE: The 1 st Brigade was on the same training cycle at Ft Lewis as our 3 rd Brigade and left for Vietnam on Sept 15, 1966, a week before the 3 rd Brigade departed.} About 18 months ago, he casually mentioned that his unit had one unique distinction from other infantry units in Vietnam. He proceeded to tell me that 3 of the deaths of soldiers in Vietnam were from tiger attacks and 2 of the 3 were guys in his Alpha and Bravo Company. Now Fred Watson is not the type of guy to tell tall tales, so even though I was a cynical ex-New Yorker, I believed him. Shortly after, I passed this information on to Brad Hull (our resident KIA expert). **Brad Hull** doubted the story and felt it was probably an urban legend. So the subject was dropped until recently. Another good friend of mine loaned me a book by a Vietnam marine vet who did 18 months in Vietnam. The book "BURY ME WITH SOLDIERS" by Wayne Standich (sp) is an easy read and tells about some of his tour. At first he was a grunt in a forward firebase (which got mortared almost every day), but then volunteered for marine recon, which is like the army's LRRPS. Yeah I know sounds too gung ho for this draftee, but the guy did not get wounded, but had many close calls.

But one story he told, really perked my interests. He was there in 1967 to 1969 and mentioned about one LRRP patrol where one fellow marine got attacked by a tiger. The tiger's mouth had the marine by the throat. The other LRRP marines shot and killed the tiger and they had to dust off the seriously wounded marine and the rest of the LRRP patrol as the gunfire had compromised their position in NVA territory they were doing their Recon. He later mentioned that several days later a different marine recon patrol had one of its members killed by a tiger. Now reading this, at first I was as skeptical as Brad Hull, thinking this guy was a phony wannabe, until I saw the picture at the back of the book of a dead tiger strung up like a deer or elk kill in their base camp. Now I am no tiger expert but it looked like a big tiger to me and had stripes like a Bengal tiger. Now I passed this update information to Brad Hull but he was still doubting its authenticity.

Now this is not a knock on Brad Hull because if he believed all the stories told to him about KIA'S, his KIA list would be highly inaccurate, whereas at present it is probably 99% factual and complete, which is amazing considering blurred memories and poor army record keeping and limited availability of the records that exist. After writing the above tiger story, recently I received confirmation from the 3 rd Battalion of the 8 Inf Rgmt, that they did in fact have 2 Kias with death caused by tigers in the same month in 1969 and possible the same tiger killed both guys in separate encounters.

Now even Brad Hull believes the story.

Now I never knew of tigers in our area of operations as I always thought the sightings were up North in the Central Highlands area along the Cambodian and Laotian border areas. However **Rich Miller** of C/2/22 told me the following story. In Northern Tay Ninh province was free fire zone War Zone C. the terrain for the most part was flat triple canopied jungle. During late 1966 or early 1967, he remembers about a night ambush patrol headed by a draftee sergeant named Sgt.

Little. (not his right name but had something to do with his stature.) Well they got into position and set up their ambush and after about 4 or 5 hours, Sgt. Little hears some brush rustling and feels something breathing on his neck. It is too close to shoot with his M-16 rifle, but he has a personal 38 revolver and turns and empties the gun into whatever is behind him. He hears the brush rustling and is afraid to move and then it quiets down again and no further action develops. At daybreak, the ambush patrol starts to leave the ambush site but first investigates the blood trail and about 100 yards away, they find a dead 450 pound BENGAL TIGER.

Well as you can tell this story is starting to go to the dogs, so I might as well tell a dog story. Have you noticed the dumbing down of local and national news in the last 10-15 years?? Every news program has to have at least one or 2 animal stories to keep the warped animal lovers happy and entertained. (Sorry guys, but it is out of my character to write an article without getting under someone's skin but I must be getting brave to attack animal lovers.)

#### DOGS OF WAR

The Army during the Vietnam war had special units for patrol dogs and their dog handlers. I believe the specific unit assigned to the 3 rd BDE of the 4th div was the 44 th IPSD. Now what those initials stood for, I do not recall unless I go on the internet, but the "I" stood for infantry, the "P" platoon and the other 2 scout dog or some such nonsense. Now these units have special websites and are all about love for their dogs and each dog's history. In fact during a KIA search, I came to the conclusion, that these guys were more concerned about the demise of the dogs, than the human dog handlers. If you read the stories on their doggie websites, these dogs were always brave and saved thousand upon thousands of lives. Well maybe they did but not in my unit during my tour. The only thing I remember positive about these dogs, was that on S&D missions, if it got too hot for the dogs, we got additional rest breaks when they were with us. The Army took better care of these dogs than us grunts. As far as the official army scout dogs,

I remember 3 distinct incidents with them. One happened on Operation Gadsden, when the 3 rd platoon ran into some VC company heavily fortified in spider holes and trenches. The dog, a German Sheppard, did not warn the 3 rd platoon of the VC presence and in fact during the subsequent firefight was biting poor **Mike Zacharella's** leg because the dog got scared when Mike Z was returning fire with his M-16. Mike had some serious leg wounds from that dumb ass dog. Another time in my tour I was FO for the 3 rd platoon and we snuck up on a couple of VC digging a foxhole. The dog and dog handler once again provided no warning. But this dumb dog handler tied his collie to a tree and he raced over to the freshly shot VC to get his rifle as a war souvenir. I and 2 other guys almost shot him as the other VC was running away. The only other time I remember an army dog was when one got burned to death in an APC on Sept 2, 1967. I also remember them sometimes attacking or biting us in the night lager area. As far as most of the guys in Alpha Co. during 1966 and 1967, the army dogs were worthless.

Now there were other dogs around. We had at least 2 as pets. One dog rode with the mortar tracks. During Operation Cedar Falls in January 1967, some soldier in the company threw a grenade down a tunnel and after it blew, out comes a yelping puppy. Naturally we named him "Charlie VC dog" or Chieu hoi dog. The name Charlie stuck for this medium sized tan colored mutt and he became our pet. He hated the Vietnamese and seemed to be able to smell them a long way off.

No I do not know where the 2 nd dog came from but she was a median sized mutt with white coat with black spots. It was obvious she had a lot of the Dalmatian breed in her and was called DAISY. Now unlike Charlie VC dog who mostly stayed with the mortar platoon, DAISY was a real trooper and would go on the daily search and destroy with the line platoons. On June 5, 1967 Daisy was with the 2 nd platoon on an S & D. The platoon came up almost to a trail, 4 VC were riding bicycles on it 100 meters from where

the 2 nd platoon would cross the trail. Daisy sniffed the VC and warned the 2 nd platoon by barking and attacking the VC. The 2 nd platoon opened up as did the VC, Daisy got caught in the crossfire and got one of the tendons in her hind legs shot off. WE dusted off Daisy in a supply chopper and the CO **Capt Kuchevskey** (sp) was adamant that the army not destroy her as all the grunts felt the same way about Daisy and had one of the guys( **Joe Fraser** I think) accompany the dog to the Cu Chi veterinary hospital. The result of the brief firefight was no US injuries and 4 captured bicycles and 1 VC POW. The other 3 or 4 got away without their bikes. Several days later Daisy returns with a cast on her hind leg and returns to the unit. Now I am not sure, but somewhere in the vast archives of army records are a recommendation for a purple heart medal and a bronze star medal for a soldier named D. Daisy with a phony serial number. Had enough animal stories?

Well I've got one more which unfortunately is forever etched in my memory and gave me plenty of nightmares over the years. Yeah it was one of the ten times I cheated death and I think almost the worst.

#### SNAKE MEETINGS

After Operation Cedar Falls in Jan. 1967, one of the FO's was wia or injured and they needed a replacement.

Now most people thought what I did was foolish, but I really had no choice. I volunteered to be the FO because I rode in the same APC as the platoon leader and he was a self-centered egotistical prick. I, like the rest of the draftee's hated him and I was afraid that with my big mouth, if I stayed in the same APC, I would get a 2 nd court martial. So I volunteered to be an FO for the 2 nd platoon. I had an agreement with the platoon SGT., I would do it for 3 months and someone else would take my place. Well I wound up doing for about 5 months. (Feb-June 67). I do not remember the date but everything else is as clear as it happened yesterday. As the line platoons, had only one RTO, I alternated with him on am-

bush patrols. So about every 3 rd night I had an ambush patrol after beating the jungle for 10-12 hours on an S&D mission in 100 degree heat. On those ambush patrols I got 2 hours sleep maximum. The bright side was I never was on an ambush patrol with enemy contact that I can recall. But my worst ambush patrol experience was one night on the Cambodian border around the deserted town of LO GO. We were within 100 meters of the border in an area we had recent contact. As we set up the ambush site, the ground was real wet, so I laid my poncho on the ground, so as to not get my fatigues soaking wet as it was getting cold. I later realized that where I was laying, was over a snake hole and as the night time progressed, the snake wanted out of the hole to forage for food or whatever snakes do. I had to assume that the snake was poisonous as most snakes in Vietnam were. As I shifted positions slightly during the night, the snake kept trying to get further out of the hole, but I would not let him. I could not sleep as I was afraid the snake would get out of the hole and bite me and medical aid would never reach me in time if I was bitten. So that it the way it went the whole night. I had my right arm on the snake hole and would make hourly "sit reps" with my left arm. As time past, I got real stiff and if I shifted my position ever so slightly, that dam snake kept trying to get out of the hole but I would not let him. Somewhere around midnight it rained hard and all the mosquito repellent washed off and after the rain stopped, out came the giant VC mosquitoes biting the crap out of me. But I would not let that snake out of his hole any further. He was partially out and I could feel his cold body under the poncho which was of course now wet with captured rainwater.

By 3AM, I was near exhaustion and everyone else on the ambush patrol was deep in sleep because of the tough daytime S & D mission. (This was a time in the tour when despair had set in with most of the line platoon draftees and many had nearly given up making it home.) Finally around 5 or 6 AM it started to get a little light and the ambush patrol members woke up... I got up and pulled the corner of my poncho furthest from

the snake hole and quickly moved away. I was not the least bit curious to see what kind of snake it was. Every exposed part of my skin was nothing but bumps from the mosquito bites.

**Gary Waddington** reminded me of another snake story. But first I will tell his. When this happened, I do not know but it was before June 1967. It was a typical daytime S & D mission and we stopped and set up a temporary defense perimeter while the C & C chopper landed so Garth the Brigade CO could have a pow wow with Capt Both (our CO). Poor **Tyrus O Rourke** set up a position between 2 APCs and sat down on what he thought was a log. All of a sudden he jumped up and emptied his M-16 magazine into the log. Gary Waddington then proceeded to fire several bursts from his M-60 machine gun into the log. The 1st platoon radio starting blaring. It was Capt Both who wanted to know what all the firing was about. Tyrus's log was a 16 foot python. Even after 18 rounds of his M-16, the snake was still moving so Gary W. finished it off with the M-60 bursts. Now I do not know if this was the same python, or another one but I seem to remember the 2nd platoon earlier in the tour, killing a python and loading it on the top of the APC, sort of as a trophy. Well that lasted about 4 hours as it started to decay and smell from the 100 degree heat, it was unceremoniously dumped off the APC. I wonder if the local VC who shadowed our every move, had it for dinner that night.

**Gary Hartt** A 65-67  
(4th & 25th Infantry Div)

## GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: **Phil Guiffre**

Location: Org boater recon 3/22-a 2/22 65-67

Email: [falcon1of5@aol.com](mailto:falcon1of5@aol.com)

Phone: 347-432-0485 Merry Christmas/happy new year to all "past" and present. Think of the guys that didn't make it to enjoy all these years, everyday. Many more holidays, Guff.

Posted on: Wednesday - Dec 25, 2013

Name: **Joseph Wilkins**

Location: Delaware

Email: [juma45@aol.com](mailto:juma45@aol.com) I serviced with 222 m only for about 3 months 1970 from Feb to April I was with the 9th inf for my first 9 months and then transferred to 25th division 222 m. So really I don't remember much about my time there so it would be nice to meet someone I was there with  
Posted on: Wednesday - Jan 8, 2014

Name: **Ben Barrett**

Location: Hamilton, NY

Email: [ssradli@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ssradli@twcny.rr.com)

Phone: 315-824-3074

I was a Shake-n-Bake transfer to 2-22 from the 1st Div. I was B Co acting platoon leader, 2nd platoon, from Feb to Aug '70. Have only made contact with 2 guys over the years. Would LOVE to hear from the others I served with. BTW Check out "Outside The Wire" by Jim Ross, A co, 2-22, '69-'70

Posted on: Thursday - Jan 9, 2014

Name: **Tom Kearney**

Location: Ambler, PA 19002

Email: [turkeytk@aol.com](mailto:turkeytk@aol.com)

Phone: 215 646 6247

Rest In Peace **Lt John Michael O'Farrell**, KIA  
14Jan1969 Tay Ninh Province Vietnam

Posted on: Tuesday - Jan 14, 2014

Name: **Jim Papczynski**

Location: LaPorte, In

Email: [pappy.jj@comcast.net](mailto:pappy.jj@comcast.net) This is our day to remember our brothers

Posted on: Saturday - Feb 22, 2014

Name: **George Dahl**

Location: Minnesota

Email: [gtdahl@iphouse.com](mailto:gtdahl@iphouse.com) Met **Joe Spado** at the VA in Mpls last year. Really nice guy. Did not previously know him. He saw the 2-22 crest on my hat so we talked for an hour. He was going back to River Falls.

Posted on: Tuesday - Feb 25, 2014

Name: **Timothy Albright**  
Location: Lawrenceburg, Indiana  
Email: [twalbrig@hotmail.com](mailto:twalbrig@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 15139238031

**Richard Keith**, KIA, May 21 1970 and **Charles Armentrout**, KIA May 22, 1970 were in HHQ in the Recon platoon. I was on the same track with Keith when he was killed. They are listed in the wrong companies.

Posted on: Thursday - Mar 6, 2014

Name: **Greg Mackinnon**  
Location: Bosto, NY (Buffalo area)  
Email: [gmack624@gmail.com](mailto:gmack624@gmail.com)  
Phone: 716- 913- 6305

March 09 1968 to March 1969 2/22nd B Company 2nd platoon 2nd squad looking for **Roger Marshall**, Bement, IL. **Felix Reyes**, Denver, Co. **Don Harter**, North Dakota saw the name **Francis Kearny** in earlier post sounds familiar **Paul Wagner** APC driver, Playboy Bunnies on shield  
Posted on: Tuesday - Mar 18, 2014

Name: **Jim Papczynski**  
Email: [pappy.jj@comcast.net](mailto:pappy.jj@comcast.net)  
47 years ago today  
Posted on: Friday - Mar 21, 2014

## NEW FINDS

**Leland H. Wildes**  
6328 Cherry Rd.  
Tomah, WI 54660  
608-343-4394  
D Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Apr 70 to Jan 71

**Joe E. Stephens**  
2710 Salt Grass Circle  
Deer Park, TX 77536-4675  
281-479-0001  
[joestephens46@yahoo.com](mailto:joestephens46@yahoo.com)  
HHQ, 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Oct 66 to Oct 67

**Jerry R. Buckner**  
100 Copper Court  
Danville, VA 24540  
[jerrybuckner@outlook.com](mailto:jerrybuckner@outlook.com)  
C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Dec 68 to Dec 69

**Joseph S. Gurkey**  
8263 Hemingway Lane  
Concord Twp. OH 44060  
440-392-0172  
[jsgurkey@yahoo.com](mailto:jsgurkey@yahoo.com)  
A Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Aug 69 to Aug 70

**Sale Collison**  
7060 Charles St.  
Pigeon, WN 48755  
989-453-2386  
[dalecollison@yahoo.com](mailto:dalecollison@yahoo.com)  
HHC & B Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID,

**Howard R. Paul**  
24120 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue W.  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043  
425-778-5797  
[Howardp2of10@msn.com](mailto:Howardp2of10@msn.com)  
B Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Sep 68 to Nov 69

**Benson P. Barrett**  
37 Payne St.  
Hamilton, NY 13346  
315-824-3074  
[sstradli@twenry.rr.com](mailto:sstradli@twenry.rr.com)  
B Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Mar 70 to Aug 70  
"Thank you for the info on the reunion. Not sure at this time if I will be able to attend. (Health issues make travel a bit dicey.) I would like to hear from just about anyone. BTW, I am Commander ,of the American Legion Post here in Hamilton. We 'sponsored' a 2-22nd Platoon in Afghanistan last year. 18 guys from Delta Co. They were the CIED (Counter Improved Explosive Device) platoon.. Happy to say they all came back. I'm sure you are aware that 2-22nd is part of the 10th Mountain Division. That's about 2 hours from me. I've visited the BN Headquarters and at the time I visited the BN Orderly Room was all decked out with photos of the many places they have been deployed, including a good number of photos of time in Nam."



## HELLOES & COMMENTS

**Paul H. Williams**

[fishfinder47@hotmail.com](mailto:fishfinder47@hotmail.com)

A Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Aug 67 to April 68

**Harold R. Baltzley Jr.**

717-352-4519

B Co. 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> ID, April 67 to April 68

**Larry J. Gunnels**

253-566-8845

[l.gunnels@comcast.net](mailto:l.gunnels@comcast.net)

C Co. 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Nov 66 to Nov 67

**Kirk B. Olsen**

507-319-2762

[kirk\\_olsen65@yahoo.com](mailto:kirk_olsen65@yahoo.com)

HHC 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Sept 67 to Sept 68

would like to locate **Bill Williams** from Alpha Co. and **Alan Francis** from HHC, S-4. Kirk writes, "Was hoping to make the reunion in Branson but do to health issues in the family will not be able to attend."

**Warren L. Crabtree**

618-456-3162

[wlc\\_taz3@yahoo.com](mailto:wlc_taz3@yahoo.com)

C Co, 25th ID, Jun 70 to Nov. 70

**William E. Noyes**

408-374-1541

[Billn61@yahoo.com](mailto:Billn61@yahoo.com)

B Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Sept. 68 to Sept. 69

would like to contact "... a lot of good guys: Harp, Crum, Kempt & Larry." He also writes, "Hi All, enjoying some rain, finally, here in California."

## TAPS

**John I. Fassett**

C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Nov 66 to Nov 67

John Irving Fassett, 67, of Sandy Point, passed away April 24, 2013 in Indio, California, a place he loved. He and his wife Linda spent the past 18 winters there as snowbirds. John was born in Bellingham to Irving and Agnes Fassett on September 17, 1945 and grew up in Ferndale. After graduating from Ferndale High in 1963, John went to work with his father at Fassett and Barr Motors. He later joined the [Army](#) and served a tour in Vietnam. In 1969, he married Linda Calvery of Ferndale and they welcomed daughter Lindi in 1978. John worked at the ARCO Cherry Point Refinery for 25 years. After retiring from ARCO, he was hired by Snelson Companies, Inc., where he traveled across the US as a consultant and safety trainer on various pipeline projects.

No matter what kind of job he did, John was always known and respected for his knowledge and work ethic. If you knew John, you knew he had a heart of gold. John would always be there for a person in need and no request was too large or too small. He was always ready to lend a hand or make an anonymous donation and he wasn't the sort of person who expected anything in return. John loved serving his community. He had volunteered as a [firefighter](#) for the City of Ferndale and had been a member of the local Lions Club. He also served as Worshipful Master of Ferndale Masonic Lodge #264 and volunteered with the Old Settler's Association and the Ferndale Heritage Society. He built many sets for school plays at Central Elementary School. For many Christmases, John played Santa at local nursing and retirement homes and took the residents to see the Christmas lights around the area. John was active in the Bellingham American Legion Post #7. He enjoyed riding motorcycles his whole life and attended Trinity Biker Church in Ferndale. He especially loved his Harley, which he and Linda often rode together.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Irving and Agnes; sister Joan; and daughter Lana. He is survived by his wife Linda of Ferndale; daughter Lindi of Bellingham; sister Jeanne Epp of Federal Way, WA; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Janel and Jerry Ernster of Birch Bay; cousin Warner Fosberg of Blaine; and several nieces and nephews. The family would like to welcome friends to celebrate John's life Saturday May 18, 1:00 pm at the American Legion Post #7, 1688 W. Bakerview Road, Bellingham. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Legion Riders, Att: Erika, John Fassett Fund, 1688 W. Bakerview Road, Bellingham WA 98226.

**Jim Neeley**, C Co. 65-67

**Ernest L. Pratt**

C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 68 to 69

Died April 1972

**Bill Schwindt** was helping **Donald Carpenter** locate some buddies and discovered that Ernest L Pratt had died in April 1972. Don and Ernie had served together in C 2-22 Inf 1968-69.

His identity was verified by the Soc Sec No from promotion Orders to PFC dated in 1968 and provided to me a long time ago by Charles Lynch (A 2-22 1968-69). No obit or other details were found. Ernie Pratt was only 23. If anyone knows more please contact me. (Brad)

Everyone's Orders contain vital details about other men from our units that can be invaluable to Locators and other researchers.

**Brad Hull**

22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society Registrar

BradHull@Juno.com (440) 871-8975

<http://www.22ndinfantry.org>

398 Douglas Dr., Bay Village, Ohio 44140-2302

Vietnam Jul 69-July 70 Alpha Co 2nd Bn (Mech)

22nd Inf Reg't 25th Inf Div

**Mike Parks**

A Co. 3rd Platoon Sept 66 to Feb. 67

It is my sad duty to report the sudden passing from a heart attack of Mike Parks. He was one of the ABO's that trained at Ft Lewis and had a sea voyage to Vietnam.

Mike was an FO for the 3rd platoon of A/2/22 from Sept 66 to around late Feb. 1967. He was sent home because a brother Joseph volunteered (over Mike's objection) to come to Vietnam. After Mike left Vietnam for Korea, we learned his brother Joseph was KIA with B/2/502Inf of the 101ABN ON 6/11/67. He also had another brother Thomas who lost his legs in Vietnam.

(per his daughter Melissa Keena ,616-855-4504) Mike Parks has a son named Joseph after his brother. Mike was the last of the 3 brothers who gave more than a family's fair share in the Vietnam War.

The family is still in a state of shock. Mike had diabetes, so he is another Agent Orange related death. He leaves behind a wife of 46 years, 3 sons and 1 daughter, 7 grand children and a large multitude of other family and hundreds of friends .

He is buried in the GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY in Holly,MI In closing, I would just like to add that Mike made our reunion in Traverse City, Michigan and told his daughter he had a great time seeing his old combat buddies. Mike was a very positive, funny guy who will be missed by his Alpha buddies.

Condolences may be sent to the PARKS FAMILY c/o Mrs. Melissa Keena, 1697 41st Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49519-3711

**Gary Hartt A/67-60**







