

# 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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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A few weeks ago I announced to The VN222 Inc Board my resignation as your President, and the withdrawal of my name from the Director ballot at the next vote at the Fort Drum reunion . I will not even try to tell you of the honor it has been for me to be a VN222 Inc officer for 12 years, and eight or so as President. It appears that I am forcing you Members, and our Directors, to bestow this honor on someone else.

My reasons are both family issues, and my health. As school grades go, I got a 'D' on my ultrasound. D's are self-correctable, if I change my ways. Stopping smoking is at the top of the list, followed by a heart healthy diet, meds, no over stressful situations, over exertion, excitement, etc. is what the Doc is ordering, else I face a horrible operation to repair the damage to the lower part of my aorta. Believe me, that news sure as hell got my attention. Those that know me well are not surprised by all this. It is the major factor in my not being able to gain weight. The VA Doctors are planning, and helping me with a get well plan that I am determined to follow. I am dealing with PTSD issues so I can deal with this as well. My wife is taking over the coaching job, so an eye will always be on Lynn to change his ways.

It is painful for me to say that I will not be attending the Fort Drum reunion after all. I hate flying, that's true, but I also do not want to be away from my 96 year old Mom. ...two things that I definitely should not do at this time. I am confident that I can make the next reunion. It is a goal of mine that can be used to remind me to change my ways by living healthy.

I take away some wonderful feelings for being your President. It means that no matter what, I was somebody, and will always be a somebody that is a past President of a non-profit corporation who's members are my heroes. Men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn (Mech) 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. In 2003, when I joined you, I never dreamed such an honor would come my way. Nobody can ever

take that away from me now, or ever.

Now, I am not running away. I plan on being an active member for the rest of my days. I hope to write more for our NL, and get back to painting—something I haven't done since joining the VN222 for some reason. My 2 cents are always available to the Board and you Members, and I sure hope to award many more ORA's to the many Brothers that we have not found yet. Our mission must continue and I feel that new blood is needed to move us forward in accomplishing that mission. New ideas and people to find those guys, and get them off the fence, as somebody did for us. Actually, it took about a dozen Brothers to get me off the fence, some of whom I had never met face to face. Their actions have given me memories such as reuniting with my squad, platoon, and Chargin Charlie Brothers that I went through it all with. From the gas chambers of Fort Lewis in '66 , to rusty can Tiger beers of '67. Whew! What a ride that was! Then there are the wonderful people I met that are family and friends of my Brothers. Including Colonels! Yep, I have CFF. Colonels For Friends. There is no cure.

I could fill many pages here with those wonderful memories of the reunions, and the magical happenings surrounding them. As always, I will encourage any lost Brothers that have not joined us to do so. It is a little scary at first—the first reunion. But in order to get the wonderful things that I elude to here, you must open up that door because on the other side of that door is guys just like you—that walked the same walk that you walked.

Finally, I will ask for Members to step forward and fill my slot on The Board of Directors. You can start now, by letting the Board know that you are willing for your name to be put on the ballot, and are willing to help the board find someone else if you yourself wish not to do so. The Board will elect the new President as well as all other officers. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us to guide our organization into the future.

Deeds, not Words, **Lynn Dalpez**, DMOR

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Summertime and the livin' is easy or so they say. Don't know about where you are but it is HOT in Kansas. We have had some good rains lately so I shouldn't complain but I probably will. We have been doing a bit of travelling and have had friends and family (mainly grandkids) stop in; picnics, fishing and boating, the county fair and on and on. It's vacation-time; that's what we do. One activity from which we can not and will not take a vacation is that of locating Brothers whether it is the un-located or the inactive. We all need to increase our efforts. Rumor has it the Vietnam veterans are aging rapidly. We do not have a lot of time left to find or reconnect with someone, welcome them home, and thank not only our Triple Deuce Brothers but all those who served during that era.

How you approach the task of finding Brothers can be as unique as each of you. I am sure there are some good accounts of these adventures (a not so subtle hint to submit it for the Newsletter). Some guys are very organized and do computer searches. Some have old records with contact information and make many phone calls. Some guys have good memories and call buddies' hometowns

My favorite approach is using the Triple Deuce logo. With my cap and truck tag I get into many conversations. Recently I was in a town a long ways from home; 15 hours to be exact. Actually I was in a fun little restaurant in Tunica, Mississippi (why I was there is a totally different story). We stopped in a local favorite for catfish and friend green tomatoes as any good tourist would do. Several guys at a table noted my hat and we ended up in a long conversation. These encounters don't always find Triple Deuce members but they are beneficial.

Another resource I have recently discovered is a group of Veterans (not just Vietnam) who get together to travel in recreational vehicles. The Mis-

sion of **Special Military Active Recreational Travelers (SMART)** is to bring military veterans (active, retired, & honorably discharged) together to share camaraderie, travel, RVing, and to support our veterans. They provide information for the military RV family, and support welfare programs while "Seeing the Country We Defend". It is always good to have people with common interests to visit with at campsites. If you are interested I can give you my contact person's information. Below is the organizations information.

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**Our address is**

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For now it is time for a shady seat and a cool beverage; anyway that is how it seems to this old soldier.

**Dan Streit '69**

## Editor's Note

To conserve both my effort and triple Deuce money, I would like to ask for additional Brothers willing to receive the newsletter electronically in PDF format to contact me directly by email at [D222@nckcn.com](mailto:D222@nckcn.com)

Next Best

Reunion Ever

Syracuse

September  
10-13, 2015



## GLORIOUS TIMES AFOOT

Glorious times are afoot within the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society.

As many of you have seen the photos or videos on our regiment website, and additionally on the regiment facebook, the dedication of the 22nd Infantry Memorial Monument was a huge success. Over 100 society members made the trip to witness this historical ceremony at Ft Benning, Georgia and 171 members and guests attended A luncheon in the Heritage Room at the National Infantry Museum.

The event took place on Tuesday June 23, 2015 in the National Infantry Museum's "Walk of Honor" at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Of noteworthy mention during the opening ceremony was **Skip Fahel's** 9 year old grandson Nathan Pearce delivering a moving rendition of our Pledge of Allegiance after the National Anthem. The color guard at the event was made up of former 22nd Infantry soldiers now assigned to Ft Benning. (NOTE: Special thanks to 2/22nd Infantry command group at Ft Drum, NY for getting the battalion colors to Ft Benning on a short 48 hours notice. A pat on the back to SSG Aaron Frederick HHC 2/22 who did the honors of escorting colors both ways. Outstanding effort by Triple Deuce!)

Our guest speaker was former TF 1/22 and 1/22 Battalion Commander (and now Congressman

from Oklahoma's 5th District ) LTC(R) Steven D. Russell. Steve developed the concept for the monument in 2007 and carried the vision to completion. Special guest to unveil the monument was Cody Hofer a 1/22 veteran of Iraq. Cody was on pages of Time Magazine in 2004 and served as the model for our soldier figure on the monument.

It was hot day (heat index over 100 degrees at noon) at the dedication ceremony but our brother **Ken Schulte** came to the rescue providing over 250 bottles of iced cold water to ceremony attendees. It was well received. **Jim May** made sure everyone had 22nd Infantry gear available and properly displayed. **Bruce Gass** oversaw the battalion campaign guidons (WWII thru Iraq/Afghanistan) placement in the ceremonies and procession up to the monument. **Pete Gawarecki** and Skip Fahel did a super job of collecting the history for us during the entire day. Hats off to **Michael Belis**, **Brad Hull** and Skip Fahel for their untiring efforts in providing 2,954 names of our fallen (by war) honored by the monument. Special thanks to Honorary Colonel of the Regiment Col(R) **Ed Schultz** and **Bob Babcock** (former 22nd Infantry Regiment Society President and now President of the National 4th Infantry Division Association) for their "eyes on" the entire monument project on the "Walk of Honor" from start to finish. Also many thanks to Kelly Amen for creating a superb "Deeds Not Words" bronze bench placed next to the monument. Col(R) **Bill Allison** provided a most stirring dedication prayer for the event. (Check it out on You Tube.)

I cannot express in words the praise the regiment society received from Ft Benning soldiers, veterans and media present at the event for the undertaking and completion of this awesome project. It is most impressive along side the other monuments present and at 22 foot...THE TALLEST. To all of you who gave of your time, talent and treasure to this project....STAND TALL AND PROUD ON A JOB WELL DONE.

NEXT UP IS OUR REUNION SLATED FOR 10-13 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE EAST SYRACUSE NY EMBASSY SUITES.

Sign up forms for that are found in this newsletter. Hospitality Suite open a lot! Our reunion will have the usual Hemingway Turkey dinner Thursday night, a Friday visit with the 2/22nd Infantry Battalion at Ft Drum (30 minutes away from hotel) and the 2015 DMOR/HMOR Installation at a dinner Friday night. Saturday will be the standard business meetings and a ladies brunch. Our reunion hosts Pete Gaworecki and Dawn Esposito will have alternate activities to offer during the reunion. Watch for more on that from Pete and Dawn regarding events and the raffle/auction as you check into the hotel. Note: with the large number expected for our Saturday night banquet we moved it across the street to Justin's Restaurant. Wear your decorations please! The reunion will conclude with our traditional Sunday morning memorial service. If you have not made reservations I encourage you to do it soon and looking forward to seeing you all in Syracuse.

REGULARS BY GOD...DEEDS NOT WORDS

**Lon D. Oakley Jr** DMOR  
President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

## **REUNION ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE**

Many of the activities listed can be visited during your free time They are a short way from the hotel. I will list several in no particular order.

In Cooperstown, NY you will find the Baseball Hall of Fame. If you're a baseball fan, this is your chance to see America's monument to baseball. It will take a whole day to see everything at the Baseball Hall of Fame. Cooperstown is also home to The Farmer's Museum, the Fenimore Art Museum, the Glimmerglass Opera and home to the New York State Historical Association. I advise taking the scenic route through the country rather than the interstate. It is only an addi-

tional 30 minutes but well worth the countryside rather than highway. It is about a 90 minute ride from Embassy Suites, the reunion headquarters.

The Thousand Islands Area is a great area to explore. Boat tours are available in Alexandria Bay to view the 1000 Islands and the castles and mansions built on them. Also in Alexandria Bay is a monument overlooking the St. Lawrence River in honor of PFC Jack T. Sweet, D/2/22, KIA 2/8/08 Iraq. Well worth the 2 hr. ride.

Nearby the 1000 Islands is Sacketts Harbor, a War of 1812 battleground and barracks. A little north is Clayton. There you can take a car ferry to Canada to a tourist area. Don't forget your passport or enhanced license! Less than 90 minute from the hotel.

The above is on Lake Ontario. For fishermen in the crowd, this is one of the best salmon, lake trout, brown trout fisheries in the world. Get a couple other guys and take a fishing charter out for a half or whole day of fishing you will never forget! For those that don't fish, a tour of the NYS Salmon Hatchery is fun and educational. Both about 30 minutes from the hotel.

New York State is the nation's second largest producer of wine. New York's Finger Lakes region boasts some of the finest vineyards and climate for growing and producing fine wines. New York is home to 962 vineyards. The Finger Lakes is a great scenic area to explore and visit the wineries and restaurants. Go to <http://newyorkwinerytours.com/> for more information. You can spend a few hours or a few days in the area. There is also a winery less than 5 minutes from the hotel!

A little farther west is Niagara Falls. Enough said. About 2 1/2 hours

A little closer is the Turning Stone Casino and Resort with 3 world class golf courses including a par 3 course which is beautiful. About a 30 minute ride.

A new casino has opened even closer in Chittenango, NY called The Yellow Brick Road. Chittenango is the birthplace of Frank L. Baum. The author of "The Wizard of Oz". Several local shops and restaurants have adopted an Oz theme, such as Auntie Em's Place, Over the Rainbow Crafts, Tin Man Construction Co., Emerald City Grill, and Emerald City Bowling. Some businesses use the term "Oz" as an oronym, such as in Oz Cream and in The Land of Oz and Ends. About a 20 minute ride from the hotel.

15 minutes from the hotel is Destiny USA. There is too much there to list here. 300 stores, shops outlets, restaurants from PFChangs and the Cheesecake Factory to TGIFridays. Realistic indoor golf and go cart racing for those with a good heart. <http://www.destinyusa.com/>

I have arranged for discount tickets to the Wake Forest vs Syracuse Football game. It is scheduled for 12:30 PM Saturday 9/12. Tickets and transportation is only \$30.00. For this event, please make your reunion reservations and complete forms by 7/10/15

And finally for those that never have been there ... The Big Apple ... New York City! It's about a 4 1/2 hr. drive.

All of the activities can be found on the internet.

If you are interested in any of these activities, you can contact me at  
REGULARS@OUTLOOK.COM or call 315-727-0861

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facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/22nd-Infantry-Regiment-Society>

## PRE REUNION PLANS

**Dominic Rondinelli**, Chaos Co., Commander, 2-22, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn, June 2013- Dec 2014, has reserved the Willow room at the Dinosaur BBQ in Syracuse for Wednesday evening, September 9. Anyone wishing to join the group on Wednesday evening need only make their intentions known by either notifying Dominic prior to or when they get to the hotel. Transportation will be available upon prior coordination. Come enjoy great BBQ, Live Music, and many cold spirits! POC is [dominicrondinelli@hotmail.com](mailto:dominicrondinelli@hotmail.com) or 757-814-3056.

**Jim May**, HMOR

## REUNION REMINDER

This is a reminder that there are two programs that the Board has developed to assist Members in their efforts to get to the Reunion. The first program is the Sponsored Attendees Program. A brief description of this program is that it provides funds for reunion attendance for a Member based upon the "sponsorship" of another Member. The "sponsoring" Member simply states that there's a Member who needs some financial help. VN 222 will pay for all registration, hotel and incidental expenses of the Sponsored Attendee. Transportation expenses are not covered.

The second program is the Reunion Loan Program. A brief description of this program is that a Member may borrow all funds necessary, with the exception of transportation expenses, to attend the reunion. There are no repayment schedules or interest charges for the funds. Repayment is made as the Member is able to do so.

There are NO reasons why a Member who wishes to attend the Syracuse Reunion should be kept from attending because of finances. VN 222 has the money that has been donated by Members to help other Members attend the reunion. For more details, contact any Board Member.

**Dan Streit**, D/69

## LOCATE OR RETRIEVE ?

I had been struggling with trying to write an article about locating for this newsletter when I happened to find myself talking to **Jimmy May** on the phone. Among many other things Mr. May can often create conversations that inspire new ideas or practices in this area because he cares about you and me and the future of Vietnam Triple Deuce. And he has done it again.

He and I talked for quite a long time about the fact that our future is becoming limited. We are approaching an average age in the late sixties and early seventies, and it may be time to change our approach to growing the active membership of this organization. We have not found all of our lost Brothers for sure, but the numbers of new finds is dropping drastically, because there aren't as many out there as there used to be. We must continue to aggressively welcome every new find that comes to us by whatever means, but there is another group that we have been missing the boat on helping grow VN222. It is the "Inactive membership" list of guys who were located at some time in the past, but who did not stay with the active organization for one reason or another. This is a potential group of Brothers that we have not spent nearly enough time exploring towards returning them to the fold. How many of these guys do you know?

What we are proposing is eliminating the "Chief Locator" position as such. Any new find should be and is usually contacted by the Board officers of VN222. A Membership Committee would take the place of company locators, and would consist of any number of those in the active organization that want to work with me or whoever wants to head up the effort to contact, survey, and hopefully convince the many dozens of inactives to return to active status with VN222. Of course any current locator is welcome to join this effort, but we won't any longer limit guys to just the company or platoon they were in. We want ideas and actions from everyone on this commit-

tee towards the group effort, not just one area or another. We have a large list (by company and time in country) of these former members, new finds who did not join, and others. It's going to take people who can work through the internet with others to create a plan, a survey, and put them into action via emails, phone calls, and any other media out there that will get us in contact again with those who have let their membership fall out. This matter will be a subject of the Syracuse business meeting, but any progress between now and then is more than welcome. If you have any ideas, suggestions or complaints please take a minute to contact me with that conversation at [nash222@frontiernet.net](mailto:nash222@frontiernet.net) or home at 309-537-3536 evenings. These next few years are going to be quite a challenge for this organization and it needs YOUR help to keep afloat.

**Dick Nash**

A/HHC 69

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## LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

I am trying to locate someone who might have known my cousin, **Tom Utter** or maybe someone who was with him when he died.

I am told he was in Charlie Company 2/22. He died March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1967. He was from the Chicago area and he was 23 yrs. old.

I have always wondered about his last days. He was like a brother to me. Any word would be greatly appreciated. Thanks so much and God Bless all of you Brave Soldiers.

Marilyn Biede

Patient Coordinator

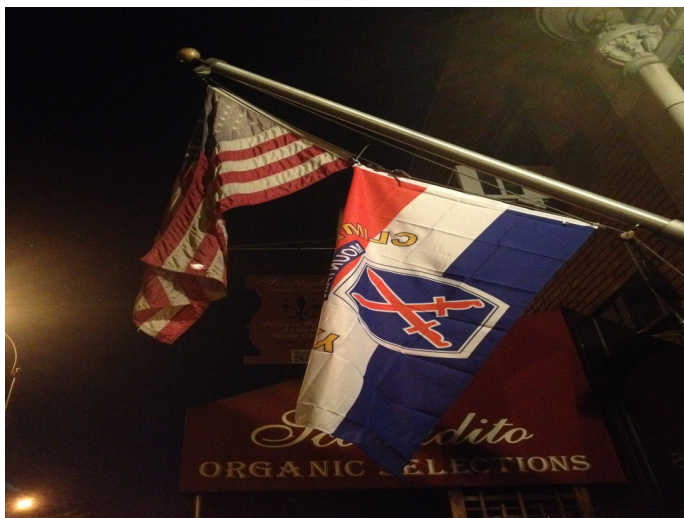
The Geldner Center

680 N. Lake Shore Dr.

Suite 1325

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312-981-4440



## FDNY, SQUAD 1 SENDS MESSAGE

In September some Soldiers from Triple Deuce came down for a 9/11 run and stayed with my buddies from FDNY. Enjoy.  
John Dobrie

PS. The Firemen send their regards to the Triple Deuce Soldiers and have been asking how they are doing.

Dawn Esposito

## WHERE YOU FROM, MAN?

Always...when we met new guys coming and going from place to place, we'd want to know where they were from. When I finally hit the 25th Replacement's little compound in Cu Chi, they told me to bunk here and someone would get back to me. While waiting, guys would periodically drive by and yell at the top of their lungs, "Short!" because they knew we were as new as you could get. After hearing this a few times, I would yell back, "Is that the length of a certain part of your body?" Providing they could hear me.

When they were just driving through the compound it wouldn't matter what I said because they couldn't hear me.

There was only one other guy in the bunk house when I arrived, which was able to sleep about a dozen guys, and as I walked in and before I could get my things off my shoulder this guy asks, "Where you from back in the world man?" Now this was the first time I had heard that expression and I burst out laughing. You mean I've gone and left the world? I'm not even in the world anymore? Funny.

When I reached FSB Wood in late September 68', one of my track-mates strolled up to me, held out his hand, and asked, "Where you from back in the world?" Everyone was looking for somebody who lived near them. If you lived in Tennessee and some guy came along that was from Kentucky, why, you were almost neighbors! Anyways, **Mike Carlucci** said he was from Texas and wanted to know where I was from. I told him New York and he winced and said, "Ahhh, there ain't shit in New York." And without missing a beat I said, "Yeah I know...it's all in Texas." He smiled and we became the best of friends until his tour ended in December.

Now I know you're not suppose to laugh at your own jokes but every time I think of that meeting...I laugh. Mostly because it's still funny. Couple more of those and I could have helped out Bob Hope during his USO shows. But with Ann Margaret around he really didn't need any help...

**Peter Rock**

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



## **BRAVERY AT FIRE SUPPORT BASE GOLD REMEMBERED**

On the morning of March 21, 1967, two U.S. infantry companies encircled a U.S. Artillery battalion at a map identified clearing called Suoi Tre, Viet Nam. These defenders stood against an attacking enemy force five times their strength, over 2,500 men of the 272nd Viet Cong Main Force Regiment (Reinforced). The 272nd VC was one of the best organized and equipped enemy units and willing to attack U.S. forces in the daylight. Their mission that day was the total destruction of the American units. For three hours, the Americans, forced back to secondary positions as portions of the perimeter were overrun and with cannon at direct fire and hand to hand combat, withstood the attack. Support from the Air Force, Army attack helicopters and other artillery units slowed the VC onslaught until the defenders, with sixteen cannon destroyed and literally a handful of small arms ammunition remaining, were relieved as infantry, mechanized and leg, and armor swept through the VC waves. Over 800 V.C. bodies were recovered and buried on the battlefield. The American units were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Forty-eight years later the veterans of the Battle of Suoi Tre (Fire Support Base Gold) gathered in Colorado Springs. The reunion, the first, was held from March 19th to March 25th, 2015, with veterans of almost every unit involved in the battle attending. The battle at Suoi Tre was the greatest single day victory for US forces in Viet Nam though barely recognized in literature about the war. It was remembered at the reunion that the fighting had begun on March 19th, 1967 when the air assault into Suoi Tre was met with command detonated mines and the loss of infantry men, helicopters and crew.

On the evening of the 20th of March, the gathering listened to speakers from units that were at Suoi Tre on March 21st either on the ground or

in the air. They spoke in order of the time they were involved in the Battle and in detail of their part of the Battle. In turn, General John (Jack) W. Vessey (retired), now 93 and then commander of the artillery battalion at Suoi Tre, spoke clearly and firmly about the battle. His men had fired over 2,050 Artillery rounds, including "Beehive Rounds" and ultimately hand to hand as infantry. This was the first use of the "Beehive Rounds" with metal flechettes in VN. Lieut. Colonel Jack Bender, commander of the 3rd/22nd Infantry at Suoi Tre was quoted right after the battle referring to the sighting of the armored personnel carriers of Recon and Charlie Company of 22nd Infantry entering the battlefield as saying, "It was just like 10 o'clock show on TV: the U.S. Cavalry came riding to the rescue."

The Reunion was attended by the men of the units that constituted the force at Fire Support Base Gold, 2nd Bn., 77th Artillery, A & B Companies of the 3rd Bn., 22nd Infantry, and 1st and 4th Squads, 4th Section, D Battery, 71st Artillery (quad. 50's). Veterans of the supporting air units including the 186th Attack Helicopter Company [???] attended with ground reinforcing units representing 2nd Bn. (M), 22nd Infantry, 2nd Bn., 12th Infantry and Alpha and Charlie Companies, 34th Armor. On March 21, 2015 at 09:30 am, the time that the battle ended, a Memorial Service. An honor guard and families from the active duty 2nd Bn., 77th Artillery and 2nd Bn., 12th Infantry, based at Ft. Carson, CO. listened to brief comments from the current battalion commanders and stood in silent honor as the names of the fifty-one service members who had died from March 19th through March 21st were read and a 21 Cannon salute reverberated on the grounds.

The men shared personal memories, feelings, photographs and momentos. General Vessey brought a camera he had purchased days before the battle that had a bullet round imbedded during the battle. New friendships were formed among veterans of the different units. General

Vessey, of course, went on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for President Ronald Reagan. He is the only person to hold every rank in the U S Army, from Private to Four Star General. His casual comments to the veterans were warm and showed a very active sense of humor. A wonderful time was had by all at Fort Carson, thanks to the Battalion Commanders of the active duty 2nd/77th Artillery and 2nd/12 infantry who treated all the aging veterans like "Royalty"!

To veterans: If you were a part of this Battle and were unable to attend, the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Tre will again be remembered March 19-25, 2017 in Colorado Springs/Ft. Carson, Co. Information will be posted about 6 months before the reunion, and also updates on Charlie Company/22nd Inf.'s website. [www.originalboatpeople.com](http://www.originalboatpeople.com) and [www.77fa.org](http://www.77fa.org).

Videos of the reunion and the Memorial Service posted on the originalboatpeople site around the 1st week of May. So put this in your plans and attend this great Event!

Everyone gave a big "Thank You" to Joe Engles from the 2/77 Artillery. It was his idea to bring the reunion together! And a big "Thank You" to his right hand man, Paige Lanier, also of the 2/77, who lives in Colorado Springs and did a lot of leg work to make this one of the "Best" reunions we have ever attended

!

Any questions or comments, email Jim at [hotrod1930@comcast.net](mailto:hotrod1930@comcast.net) or Roger Frydrychowski at [graypros@gmail.com](mailto:graypros@gmail.com)

Roger and Jim Neeley contributed jointly to this article. The Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3UYucwCxkl>

Comment

The video is \$25 if they want to purchase it. It will be on you tube, I believe till December. The mailing address is

Donna Vessey  
900 Saturn Drive #606  
Colorado Springs, Co 80905

**Mario Salazar.** Mario writes,

Jim,(Neeley)

Thank you for copying me on this.(The video) Very moving.

However, I didn't hear our unit mentioned. I am sure the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Inf. (Mz) was there. According to the narration, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> saved the day. I guess we just came to pick up the bodies?

Maybe we can have a 50 year reunion.

**Mario Salazar,** HHC 65/67

This comment is from **Jim Neeley.** Jim writes,

Just want to say that the 2/77 made it clear at the Reunion, "That we would not be here at this Reunion if it wasn't for the 22 Infantry, our names would be on the wall..." It was brought up time and time again at the Reunion. Those guys treated us like "Royalty"...15 to 20 hours of taping, down to a 1 hour video, something has to be cut I guess. Even Gen. Vessey thanked the 22nd for getting there on time.

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

## TAPS

**Arlo Bullerman**

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

Died at his home on January 23, 2015

By Doug Lyall

**Chris Facio**

C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Oct 67 to Oct 68

Chris was a member of "Tiger One" during the battle of Burt.

Passed away on 3-30-15 from respiratory problems

From Anna Facio, daughter

## **Nathan C. Vail**

HHC, BN Co. Oct -69 to March -70

1934 - 2015 | Obituary



Retired Brig. Gen. Nathan C. Vail, 80, died peacefully on Saturday, May 9, 2015. Born July 8, 1934, and growing up in a military family, Brig. Gen. Nathan C. Vail continued this tradition by enlisting as a private in the [Army](#) immediately upon graduation from Plant High School in Tampa, Fla. He moved up the enlisted and officer ranks attaining the rank of general officer with multiple combat tours in Vietnam. He commanded at all levels, including battalion command in Vietnam, brigade command at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, assistant division commander of 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., and Army Alaska Forces commander at Fort Richardson, Alaska. His leadership and courage on the battlefield is reflected by many awards and valorous decorations, including the [Bronze Star](#) with valorous device and Silver Star. With Mary by his side, they always "took care of the troops" while raising four successful children. After 31 years of service, Brig. Gen. Nate Vail retired from the U.S. Army and continued to work with the defense industry, finally settling down with Mary in Fort Worth where he remained active in the community and with many friends - playing golf and cards, participating in political groups as well as the local chapter of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW). Retired Brig. Gen. Nate Vail was an exceptionally proud American who loved his country very much. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Mary. He is survived by his brother, George (Marcia); sister, Jan; sons, Tom (Theresa) and Kent;

daughters, Nan (Keith Bottorff) and Susan (Jude Keenan); grandsons, Nick (Jamilee) and Ben; granddaughters, Kate and Taren; and a great-granddaughter, Savannah.

## **GUEST BOOK HITS**

**Name: Harless Belcher**

Email: [harlessbelcher@yahoo.com](mailto:harlessbelcher@yahoo.com)

Phone: (276) 930-2321

Today I got news that **Charley Vernon Stanley** who died stateside from malaria on 07-07-1968, his name is going to be added to The Wall. We don't have a photo at this time. We need a pic! Please help! Rest in Peace Charley....oh by the way, he served with Charlie Co.

Posted Apr 16, 2015

**Name: Jackie Lewis**

Location: Blytheville, Arkansas

Email: [jackiedee1948@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiedee1948@yahoo.com)

Phone: 870-281-6256

Anyone remember anyone on the cherry boy track. When I left country went to Fort Hood and I believe someone off the track went there too. May have been the driver. not sure.

Posted o Apr 22, 2015

**Name: Mike Walters**

Location: Indiana

Email: [tripleduece25@msn.com](mailto:tripleduece25@msn.com)

Looking to get in contact with anyone from Co B Triple Duece. Jan 1969 to Jan 1970. I was in 1st Platoon 4th Squad 1-4 Weapons squad.

Posted May 7, 2015

**Name: Jim Devlin**

Location: Phila. PA.

Email: [jamesdevlin4431@comcast.net](mailto:jamesdevlin4431@comcast.net)

Phone: 215-437-9064

Came over from 28<sup>th</sup> INF. 1<sup>st</sup> INF Division as a E-5 with C co . ¾ track from Feb 70 to April 70 would be great to talk to someone from that time.

Posted May 10, 2015

## James Card

Today my family and I were cleaning veteran markers at a local cemetery. I was surprised to find SPC **Arthur C. Sisco**, A Co. 2-22 Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 1967. To my fellow T Triple Deuce brothers who were friends with him, I made sure he was taken care of this weekend. "DNW"

May 24

Name: **JIMMIE ROBINSON**

Location: BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA

Email: [robinsonjimmie@bellsouth.net](mailto:robinsonjimmie@bellsouth.net)

Phone: (205)527-3631

COMPANY B 2/22 INF 25INF.DIV.1968TO1969

Known as the Fragman

Posted on: Sunday - May 24, 2015

Name: **Roger Brickey**

Location: Troutville, Virginia

Email: [hlb021572@gmail.com](mailto:hlb021572@gmail.com)

I first want to thank you all! I am the daughter of **Roger Brickey**. Dad served with 2/22 in 66-67 I believe. Dad doesn't remember his company, but lately he talks about Vietnam. I hope to find some of his brothers in arms.

Posted on : Sunday- Jun 7, 2015

## Note from **Betty Brenneman**

Dwight just came across a note from **Keith Forrest Layman**, A Company, 66-67, in the VFW. He is looking for someone who served with him to verify an Agent Orange medical claim. Perhaps you can put this in the newsletter, and someone can also contact him perhaps to become a member of the 22nd Inf. Regiment Society??? He came to a "mini-reunion" years ago in Traverse City, MI (he is from MI) but didn't stay. Don't know if he's been contacted by the 22nd?

I've emailed Gary Hartt and Terry Humpert (who he came to see at the mini)...

His information in the magazine is:

Keith Forrest Layman, (269)429-9795.

## HELLOES & COMMENTS

### John J. Coffey

937-689-1538

[jcoffey14@ctcn.net](mailto:jcoffey14@ctcn.net)

A Co. 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 12-65 to 9-67

### James J. Papczynski

219-879-3512

[pappy.jj@comcast.net](mailto:pappy.jj@comcast.net)

B Co. & HHC, 4<sup>th</sup> & 25ID, Dec 65 to Dec 67

"You folks have done a wonderful job on the Newsletter. I have no words for the pictures added to our KIA list, most touching."

### Ed Reeve

972-888-9340

[Ed.Reeve@Tdindustries.com](mailto:Ed.Reeve@Tdindustries.com)

D Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, March 68 to May 69

### Robert L. Noon, Sr.

772-465-3655

[vikingnoon@aol.com](mailto:vikingnoon@aol.com)

A Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Jan 66 to April 67

### James R. Neeley

[hotrod1930@comcast.net](mailto:hotrod1930@comcast.net)

C Co. 4<sup>th</sup> ID, Dec 65 to Sept 67

### Michael A. Walters

812-246-5646

[tripledeuce25@msn.com](mailto:tripledeuce25@msn.com)

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

Michael would like to locate **Phil Partenheimer** and **Lt. Wall**

## NEW FINDS

### **Robert Brune, Jr.**

780 Tamiami Trail, So. #515

Venice, FL 34285

941-485-1589

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

HQ Co., 25th ID, Aug 70 to Nov 70.

### **Michael A. Walters**

901 Weaver Road

Memphis, IN 47143

502-494-0222

[tripledeuce25@msn.com](mailto:tripledeuce25@msn.com)

Bravo Co., 25th ID, Jan 69 to Jan 70

Michael would like to contact **Lt. Wall** or Waugh (not sure of correct spelling). He was with Bravo Co, 1st Platoon early in 1969 then he moved to Recon. Michael would also like to hear from anyone who was in Bravo Co., 1st Platoon in 1969.

### **Patrick J. McGing**

12661 SW Kingsway Circle

Lake Suzy, FL 34269

863-722-0117

[pjjmcp@comcast.net](mailto:pjjmcp@comcast.net)

B Co. 25th ID, Jan 69 to Aug 69.

### **Jack Benolken**

316 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Nashwauk, MN 55769

218-885-1250

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

C Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Mar 67 to Nov 67 Mortar Platoon

## **Purple Heart Medal Awarded After 15 Year Battle with Army**

Shortly after I joined VN 222 I received a phone call from Doug Lyall, Bravo, 68-69, regarding his desire to have his records corrected. Doug told

me about being blown off a track in early October 1968 and subsequently being med-evaced to the 12<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital where he spent the better part of October recovering from the wounds he received. At the time I knew nothing of how the Army went about correcting records so I had little advice to offer Doug, but asked him to keep me informed on his progress.

Doug began the process by filling in forms and sending those forms to addresses provided by the Army. After a long wait, more than a year, Doug was told by the Army Board for Corrections that more information was needed. (Those of you who have been through the process will know where this is going, but I will provide a few more details for those who haven't experienced the well developed pattern of mis-treatment that the Army Board for Corrections freely doles out to Veterans.) Doug complied, as best as possible, by submitting witness statements, medical records and details as best as he could remember them. Doug was denied the Purple Heart Medal but was told he could appeal the decision. Doug appealed, was denied again and again. All of the appeals were not responded to for many months; usually a year or more would pass before Doug would receive another denial. To put it bluntly, Doug became obsessed with his cause to a point where his wife asked him to give up the cause because it was adversely affecting his life. Doug persisted.

In mid 2014 Doug called to tell me that he had hired a lawyer to represent him in his fight with the Army Board for Corrections. The lawyer is a retired Air Force JAG Officer. This lawyer told Doug that he was certain that he could get Doug's records corrected to show that Doug had been wounded in Vietnam and a Purple Heart Medal awarded to him. I was a bit leery about Doug spending money but knew that he was determined to follow any and all paths to having the Army acknowledge that he was wounded in Vietnam and deserved the Purple Heart Medal.

Doug called last week and began to read a finding from the Army acknowledging that he had

been wounded on October 4, 1968 and that his records had been corrected. He also received a DD-215 with the Purple Heart Medal added to his records and the physical Purple Heart Medal. Doug explained how the U.S. Army & Joint Services Records Research Center was responsible for doing a records search that validated his claim. He also went on to say that he believes that without the lawyer's involvement, he would still be without his Purple Heart.

Doug has asked that I provide the following information for those who are interested in having their records corrected:

Contact the U.S. Army & Joint Research Center, 703-428-6801, and speak with them about what it is you are trying to prove. They will advise you on what they need from you in order for them to provide you with what it is you need. Doug advises that you should begin by filing in a DD 149. Provide your name, rank, serial number, unit, place and date of incident.

Prepare and have a notarized statement as to what happened to you. This statement should include as much detail as possible, including the names of those who were present when the incident occurred.

Have all of your witness statements well constructed. The statement must include the witnesses' present address. Include the rank and position of the person making the statement (i.e. Specialist 4, Squad Member or Staff Sergeant E-6, Platoon Sergeant.) and have all of the statements notarized.

Once you have all of the required information only then should you contact the lawyer that Doug used and highly recommends. Doug reported that had he gathered up all the information and statements prior to getting the lawyer involved he would have saved legal fees.

The lawyer's contact information is :

Larry D. Younger, J.D., LL.M.,  
M.S.

Tully Rinckey, PLLC  
815 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite  
720  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-375-2266

Doug has offered to answer any questions that anyone has regarding how to get their records corrected. Doug's phone is 304-258-8189.

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













