

# The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

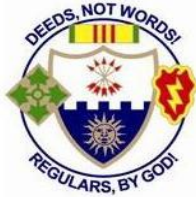
An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans

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

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



Vol. 29, No. 2

June 2023

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## OFFICERS AND POINTS OF CONTACT OF THE VN 2-22

**President**, Dick Nash, 309-537-3536, [dick.l.nash@gmail.com](mailto:dick.l.nash@gmail.com)  
**Vice President**, James Nelson, 785-428-3390, [jimandsharon222@yahoo.com](mailto:jimandsharon222@yahoo.com)  
**Treasurer**, Jim May, 207-634-3355, [jlmay@tds.net](mailto:jlmay@tds.net)  
**Secretary**, Dean Springer, 218-244-2326, [desprin@hotmail.com](mailto:desprin@hotmail.com)  
**Newsletter Editor**, David Allin, 505-410-9668, [dnjallin@comcast.net](mailto:dnjallin@comcast.net)  
**Web Master**, Steve Irvine, 916-749-0923, [svirvine@gmail.com](mailto:svirvine@gmail.com)  
**Group E-mail**, George Dahl, 651-261-5620, [gt Dahl@iphouse.com](mailto:gt Dahl@iphouse.com)  
**Cartographer**, Ben Anderson, 302-645-8556, [benandersona222@gmail.com](mailto:benandersona222@gmail.com)  
**Board Member**, Chuck Weidner, Cambodia, 1970, 510-537-2732, [0909cew@gmail.com](mailto:0909cew@gmail.com)  
**Chief Locator**, Open  
**HHQ POC** Open  
**Recon POC**  
 Erik Opsahl, 67-68, 608-838-4226, [Epopsahl@aol.com](mailto:Epopsahl@aol.com)  
**Alpha Co POC**, Ben Anderson, 68-69, Replacements, 302-645-8556, [benandersona222@gmail.com](mailto:benandersona222@gmail.com)  
 Butch Jones, 68-69, 714-293-7474, [crbutchj@aol.com](mailto:crbutchj@aol.com)  
 Larry Gallagher, 69-70, 330-936-0064, [lrg629ohio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrg629ohio@sbcglobal.net)  
 Chuck Weidner, Cambodia, 1970, 510-537-2732, [0909cew@gmail.com](mailto:0909cew@gmail.com)  
**Bravo Co POC**  
 Dean Springer, 67-68, 218-244-2326, [desprin@hotmail.com](mailto:desprin@hotmail.com)  
 Steve Irvine, 68-69, 916-749-0923, [svirvine@gmail.com](mailto:svirvine@gmail.com)  
**Charlie Co POC**  
 Jim Neeley, 65-67, Boat Originals, 360-591-1939, [hotrod1930@comcast.net](mailto:hotrod1930@comcast.net)  
 Jerry Rudisill, 67-68, Replacements, 360-993-4998, [rudisillj@yahoo.com](mailto:rudisillj@yahoo.com)  
 Harless Belcher, 68-69, 276-930-2321, [harlessbelcher@yahoo.com](mailto:harlessbelcher@yahoo.com)  
**Delta Co POC**  
 Dan Streit, 69, 785-738-8750, [D222@nckcn.com](mailto:D222@nckcn.com)

**Editor: David Allin, DMOR A&HHC 69-70**

[dnjallin@gmail.com](mailto:dnjallin@gmail.com)

505-410-9668

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

1101 East Main Street,  
Beloit, Kansas 67420

785-738-8750 [D222@nckcn.com](mailto:D222@nckcn.com)

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The Viet Nam Triple Deuce Website

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Steve Irvine B/68-69

Harold Metcalf

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well the Board of this outfit has kept me in the President position for the foreseeable future. I am honored to be there in spite of my continued absence from the reunions lately. I have had some serious heart trouble at the wrong times. But I am happy to report that since the VA shocked my ticker back into rhythm a month ago, I've been getting better every day. They know what they're doing at the Iowa City VA.

Anyway the reunion was well attended (can always do better) and the actions the Board will take in the future passed into policy due to the hard work of Jim May (of course) and the rest of the Board. Other articles in this newsletter will explain them to you who weren't there.

I just want to tell you that this outfit is "other family" to many of us, and as each of us approach the age of need and restrictions to our everyday actions that Vietnam Triple Deuce will continue to search out those who have not yet heard about us, and help to put on a reunion every 18 months until there are none of us left. The War On Terror vets have taken our place as leaders of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society, but that is exactly the same process that we went through when the WWII vets turned it over to us years ago. It is the natural order of things as I see it and a good thing. I'm betting that the perpetual motion machine known as Jim May will be the last of us some day in the far, far future. So start saving up for the next reunion in Nashville. That place is a hoot and your Brothers want to see you...

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

## **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

If you weren't able to attend the most recent reunion in Columbus, GA, you missed a rocking good time. For the first time even, we had as many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as Viet Nam veterans, and those younger men livened up the proceedings. Most of the activities took place on Ft. Moore, formerly known as Ft. Benning. The new name honors Hal Moore, the colonel vividly portrayed in the Vietnam War movie "We Were Soldiers."

You will read all about the reunion in this newsletter, and I hope we didn't miss anybody who contributed to the good times. The hotel, although still undergoing remodeling, was very accommodating, as was the National Infantry Museum. The next reunion, in Nashville, should be even better, with lots of things to do for both the men and the ladies. For those of us, like me, who spent time at Ft. Campbell, we might take the last train to Clarksville.

As mentioned elsewhere, I now not only edit the newsletter, I maintain the rosters and distribute the newsletter. At the reunion an executive decision was made regarding the newsletter and dues, so for some of you this will mark a change. Please read the first article and follow up if necessary.

Deeds not words.

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

# LISTEN UP!

Delivery of this newsletter is undergoing some changes. At the reunion it was decided that we would follow the lead of the 22<sup>nd</sup> IRS, at least to some extent, and emphasize email distribution over snail mail. From now on, if you accept email delivery, you will no longer be required to pay dues. If you choose paper newsletters, however, you must continue to pay those dues to Jim May, to cover the printing and mailing costs. This edition of the newsletter is being sent out both ways to everyone for whom we have a valid email and/or snail mail address, to make sure everyone gets the word. You must then make a choice:

1. If you received this newsletter by email, and you accept delivery only by email, you do not have to do anything. You will continue to receive email newsletters for life, and you can always print them out if that makes them easier to read.
2. If you prefer to receive a paper newsletter instead of by email, you must let me know. I will let Jim May know, and you will need to continue to pay dues of \$10 per year. Call, write, or email me at:

David Allin  
7316 NW 110<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162  
[dnjallin@gmail.com](mailto:dnjallin@gmail.com)  
(505) 410-9668

3. If you received this newsletter only on paper, but would like to receive it by email, it means we do not have a valid email address for you. Please send me an email at the above address so I can update

our files and send you the email versions.

After we update our mailing lists, those of you who chose to receive the email version will enjoy a full-color newsletter delivered to your email inbox free of charge. Those who prefer paper copies will continue to receive a black-and-white copy mailed to you, as long as your dues payments are current. The point of all this is to reduce the spiraling costs of mail distribution. Thank you for your understanding.

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

## REUNION ACTIVITY COLUMBUS, GA MAY 17-21, 2023

As many of you are aware, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society reunions open with the carving of the Hemingway Turkey. We were fortunate to have **Bob Babcock, Bravo Co., 1/22, 66-67** present to conduct the opening. I write "fortunate" because Bob had open heart surgery earlier this year and it was doubtful that he would be present at the reunion. Well, he made it, but only for a short while and only because his daughter, **Krissie Babcock**, a Registered Nurse, came along to keep Bob in line. Bob's stay was a short one, he had to return home on Friday morning. But, true to form, Bob was waiting outside the hotel on Friday morning greeting the attendees as they boarded the buses for the Ft Benning visit (name officially changed to Fort Moore in early

May 2023. but to most reading this, it will always be Ft Benning, so we will continue to call it Ft Benning). I'll pause here to thank Bob for making the effort. And offering my thanks to Krissie for making it possible for Bob to attend.

This reunion's Hemingway Turkey was unlike any other in the History of reunion openings. Bob's health concerns left us without a reunion sponsor until **Lon Oakley, Alpha Co., 2/22, 1969** stepped up and took on all the responsibilities involved with running a proper reunion. About a week before the reunion was to begin, Lon received a call from the hotel staff informing him that they had searched high and low and could not find a Hemingway Turkey. This is laughable now but caused some concern at the time. Lon explained that the Hemingway Turkey was not a brand or type of turkey but simply a smoked turkey. That appeared to clear-up the confusion until the smoked turkey was presented at the opening ceremony. While a definitive answer was not found, Bob found himself looking down at what appeared to be a rather average size chicken that had been dyed with food color to make it look like it had been smoked. Lon made the comment that he would never live this down and would forever be remembered as the man responsible for the Hemingway Hen. He was and remains correct.

Good News is that Bob was not deterred by the Hemingway Hen and went forward to explain the meaning of the Hemingway Turkey to all so that those who were attending their first reunion would understand what was happening. Bob also explained how the early days of the Society began and the changes and growth that have taken place over the years. This year, **Bill Allison, Charlie Co., 2/22 1967-1968**

was the oldest Member in attendance and **Tyler Hood, Cold Steel/Cobra Co., 1/22 2003-2004** was the youngest Member in attendance, so they joined in following tradition in the carving of what passed for the "Hemingway Turkey."

I'll back up here and mention that many of us who had arrived on Wednesday met up at a pub in Columbus where we were joined by **LTC Adam Armstrong, CO 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> MTN, 2021-2022** who was attending a Ranger event at Ft Benning. Some food and a lot of beer was consumed. You may remember that LTC Armstrong attended the Dallas reunion. He is in every way the Super Soldier that will help bring the Army out of the malaise it is presently in.

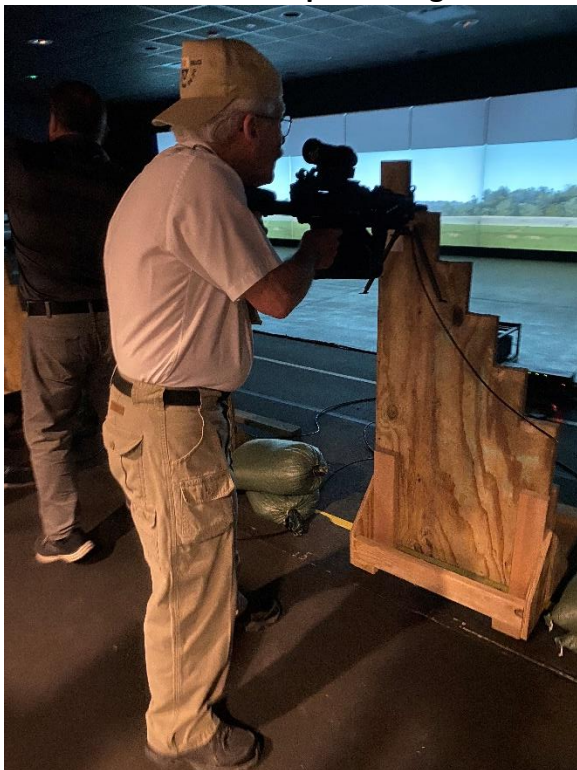
There are no events scheduled for Thursday evening after the reunion opening so, as usual, many attendees go out to local restaurants. Gail and I joined **Mark and Carrie Woempner, BN CO, 1/22, 2001-2003, John Poggi, Charlie Co., 2/22, 1969 and Joe Dichairo, BN CO, 2/22, 2002-2004** and went to EPIC Restaurant in Columbus. This was dining at its best. And the wine drinkers at the table assured me that EPIC's wine cellar provided the finest wines.

Friday morning, as mentioned, saw the attendees loading onto buses for a day long visit to Ft Benning. Our first stop was a visit with **2/47 Inf, 198<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade** where we were exposed to and participated in weapons training. Today's Soldiers train on and become proficient in Infantry weapons on computer driven ranges. No live ammo. Soldiers 'fire' weapons that recoil and show where their rounds hit targets. The system is so sophisticated that it provides info on what the Soldier is doing either correctly or incorrectly. We were all very impressed by what we were seeing and doing. We 'fired' the M-17 pistol, the M-4 Carbine and the

SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) machinegun.



**Mark Woempner firing**



**Jim May Firing**

I will make note here that Gail, yes, my wife, shot a 25 out of 25 on the SAW. She also did quite well with the M-4. I'll let her try my AR out on my home range and report on her scores.



**Gail May Firing**



**Serious Cindy Russell Firing**

Our next stop was a DFAC (Dining Facility), no more Mess Halls. Everyone eats together. No more DRO's serving Officers and NCO's. More important, there are choices of what one can order. Things have changed. There was an OCS Class at the DFAC and while they were well behaved, they were not eating "square meals" and there were no Senior Candidates or TAC

Officers harassing Candidates during their meals. The absence of Candidates doing push-ups alongside dining tables tells me that things have changed. We left the DFAC and went to the Armor Museum. Armor Branch is no longer centered at Ft Knox, it is now at Ft Benning (Ft Moore). There are a number of reasons for the change, the most important is the Combined Arms methods the Army trains for in these times. Now back to the Museum. We saw WW I Tanks, WW II Sherman Tanks, Russian T-34 Tanks, German Panzers and Tiger Tanks, and French Renault Tanks. I'm sure I'm not mentioning all that we saw. We were told that there were other tanks being restored. I asked how it was possible for Abrams Tanks to practice firing at Ft Benning (Ft Moore) and was told that the Army had recently purchased an additional 77,000 acres to accommodate the Armor School. When we finished our visit at the Armor Museum we boarded the buses and headed to the NIM Walk of Honor. Lon Oakley will pick up the story at this point.

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

## **History of the Hemingway Turkey at 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society Reunions**

**By Bob Babcock (as told to  
me by MG John Ruggles)**

Most of you probably know that the great American author, Ernest Hemingway, attached himself to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

and more specifically to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment in WWII.

At the Jackson, Mississippi 22<sup>nd</sup> reunion in November 1992, I first met Major General John Ruggles. He fought all through WWII with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, first as the Executive Officer and later as the Regimental Commander. He, along with Chaplain Bill Boice, are the two men who had the foresight to establish the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society – and why we are here today.

The first time I met with General Ruggles he told me about the many experiences he had with Ernest Hemingway from soon after D-Day until after the Hurtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Suffice it to say, Ernest Hemingway loved the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. He became lifelong friends with Colonel Buck Lanham, our Regimental Commander from July through January who led our Regiment through most of our major battles of WWII. Lanham is the colonel featured in Hemingway's book, *Across the River and into the Trees*.

When the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment had their first reunion after the end of WWII, in a hotel room in New York City, they invited Ernest Hemingway to join them. Only a few of the WWII officers of the Regiment were able to attend that reunion. For whatever reason, Hemingway couldn't make the reunion. But knowing the guys would be sitting in the room telling war stories and drinking during the time of the reunion, he sent them a large smoked turkey to nourish them. He knew they had no refrigeration available to them so the smoked turkey

could sit out for a couple of days and not spoil.

In future reunions through the 1950's and early 1960's, Hemingway was always invited. He never attended, but always sent a smoked turkey. His 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry friends from WWII never forgot that gesture.

After Hemingway's death, the smoked turkey tradition continued with the Regimental Society providing the turkey. Bob Babcock first experienced the turkey, not because of a ceremony but just sitting there for all to eat, during the first two reunions he attended – in Jackson, MS in 1992 and again in Nashville, TN in 1994. Bob asked General Ruggles at the Nashville reunion about the significance of the turkey, and he told Babcock the above story.

In August 1995, Bob received a phone call that went something like this... "Bob, this is John Ruggles and Bill Boice. We have a request of you. We have reached an age where we have to shut down the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society – World War II. Rather than do that, we would like to turn it over to you to open it to all veterans of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment from all wars. Will you do it?" Then silence on their end.

What does a lowly lieutenant say to a retired two-star general but, "Yes, Sir!" And thus began the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society as we know it today.

When Bob Babcock took over the leadership of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society in 1995, he decided to include the Hemingway Turkey as part of each reunion. Awb Norris bought the first one at our reunion in Kissimmee, Florida in 1996 and

the tradition has now continued for another 27 years. It is the ceremony to kick off the reunion on Thursday evening. We've added another Army tradition and always invite the oldest and youngest members in attendance to carve the turkey.

So – enjoy the Hemingway Turkey and the tradition that goes with it. Ernest Hemingway knew he had selected a very special Regiment to follow and report on in WWII – and it remains special to all of us today.

#### **ON A PERSONAL NOTE FROM BOB IF SOMEONE WILL READ IT FOR ME:**

This is the fourth or fifth 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society reunion I have missed since 1992. Brad Hull still holds the record of having never missed one since the Vietnam generation took control of the Society in 1995. (Is Brad here at this reunion?)

Some of my best friends are in the ranks of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society. It makes me sad to miss this reunion, but my recent open heart surgery has kicked me in the gut and slowed me down longer than I thought it would.

I will miss listening to the war stories told, the memories shared, the good-natured bantering, getting to know our current generation of veterans, and the time with two men who served with me in our platoon in Vietnam – Bill Bukovec and Mark Petrino.

Bill and Mark continue to have my back. Bill, who progressed from fire team leader to platoon sergeant in Vietnam and was a leader I could always count on, and Mark is

on alert, ready to react as required – as he always did as my favorite and most used point man in Vietnam. They are selling raffle tickets, so be sure to buy a lot to help keep our treasury strong.

And I want to publicly thank Lon Oakley for the great job he has done in bailing me out, once again. When my heart surgery came up in mid-January, I knew I was going to be out of commission so asked Lon to take over. He has done his normal great job – a real Deeds not Words leader.

And Mark Woempner and Joe DiChairo... we Vietnam vets continue standing by to help you as you and your fellow Iraq/Afghanistan vets continue to lead and grow our great organization, just as General John Ruggles helped me as we transitioned from WWII to Vietnam leadership. We expect great things from our growing generation of War on Terror 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment veterans. You are our present and our future.

**Another thing we all need to do – help Army recruiting. GEN Randy George is requesting our help.**

I will always be – Steadfast and Loyal.  
Regulars by God! Deeds not Words!

**Bob Babcock**

## **VIETNAM TRIPLE DEUCE REUNION REPORT, MAY 2023**

This edition of the VN 222 Newsletter carries an extensive report on the goings on at the Columbus, GA-Ft Benning Reunion. This report will provide information on the events that concern VN 222 Members.

VN 222 has been stricken with some illness and other family issues that I will first report on. Dick Nash had an “A-Fib” situation that prevented him from attending the reunion. Good News is that Dick has recovered to the point where’s he’s back doing all the charity work that he does close to his home. Dean Springer also had a health issue that kept him away. We are hopeful that Dean recovers and will be able to attend the Nashville Reunion in September 2024. Dan Streit also has a health issue that has forced him to relinquish his Newsletter Editor responsibilities. There were a number of Members who had conflicts with graduations.

A strong showing was made by “**Nash’s Nitwits.**” They were all **Alpha 1969 Types**, so I’ll not enter that after their names. I’ll start with **Lon Oakley** who stepped up to run the reunion after Bob Babcock had open heart surgery and was not able to run the reunion as had been planned. The full-time Volunteer Committee members must be acknowledged here. Lon and I would have been lost without their help. I’ll start with “**Detroit**” **Joe Goike and his wife Sally**, “**Spoon**” **David Allin, Larry**, “**I’ll Drive the Track**” **Gallagher and his wife Jane**. **Oscar “Rosey” Rosales and his wife Lupe** and “**Doc**” **Dan Michalec and his wife Madilyn**. I’ll add a Special Thanks to **Kenny “Lumpy” Schulte** for conducting the ORA Ceremony and for taking up any slack he could find and for filling in as the Secretary at the Business Meeting. Tango Yankee to all!!





### Nash's Nitwits

Now back to the goings on. With Dick Nash on "sick call," **VP Jim Nelson, Charlie Co., 1967-1968**, conducted the Business Meeting. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. We all know one another; making introductions unnecessary.

It was on to the election. Board Members elected were Dick Nash, Jim Nelson, David Allin, Chuck Weidner and me. Dan Streit was named Board Member Emeritus. Dan was also named a **Distinguished Member of the Vietnam Triple Deuce**. Jim Nelson presented Dan with the framed award when Jim returned to Kansas.

The Board has been discussing the future of VN 222. The discussions have been going on for more than a year. With most of the Members now about 75 years old, it was time to deal with the reality that, like the WW II Members who preceded us, our numbers will continue to dwindle. The Board made the recommendation to the Members that annual dues payments be suspended for all Members who receive the Newsletter electronically as long as their dues are paid thru 2023. For those Members who chose to receive a paper

Newsletter an annual payment of \$10.00 will be required. \$10.00 is the approximate cost of producing and mailing a paper Newsletter. Also recommended was making annual donations to the Awb Norris Scholarship Fund. The amount will be determined annually until such time as there are no funds in the VN 222 Treasury. VN 222 will continue to support the Active Duty Soldiers of 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> MTN DIV and VN 222 Members who need financial help in attending reunions. Financial help was provided this year so that a Member could attend the reunion. The Board realizes that exact amounts of donations are not specified because the Board cannot see what future needs might be. However, the plan is to exhaust all assets in ten years.

The Members at the meeting approved of the plan. There were no other matters that were brought up, so the meeting was adjourned.

There are some considerations that I need to mention here. If a Member has paid dues out for a number of years beyond 2023, those dues may be refunded, used for PX items or considered as a donation. If I do not hear from a Member regarding this matter, I will consider their future dues payments as donations.

For those wishing to receive a paper Newsletter I suggest that you consider having the Newsletter sent electronically to a computer that you have access to. It might be your computer or a relative's computer. Once the Newsletter reaches that computer you can print it off and read it at your leisure. I prefer a paper Newsletter, so I do as I have just suggested. There were other notable happenings that I'll mention here.

First, Marjorie Lechner, Bill Lechner's widow was in attendance. Marjorie was accompanied by Bill's daughter, Marie Jaeger. It is always good to see the family of Members attend reunions. They are part of the VN 222 family.

There was only one ORA awarded at the reunion. The Awardee was **Roger C. Schultz, Alpha Co. & Recon PLT 1969-1970**. Roger has provided comments on his reunion experience, those comments appear in this Newsletter.

Presently, the next reunion is planned for Nashville, TN in early September 2024. It is my hope to see every member of VN 222 in attendance. It has been suggested that there be no buffet on Friday evening so that Members can go to see the entertainment that Nashville offers. We are more than certain that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ladies will find good reason to come to Nashville.

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

## All Wars Memorial Ceremony



On Friday we gathered at the 22nd Infantry Regiment All Wars Memorial Monument on grounds of the National Infantry Museum's WALK OF HONOR. The event began with observance of an official Military Retreat Ceremony. The event was conducted with all bugle calls to include "To the Colors." After the official Retreat ceremony was concluded, next came the official program honoring the 22nd Infantry Regiment's 20th Anniversary of the deployment of the 1/22nd Infantry to Iraq and the 2/22nd Infantry to Afghanistan. Leadership from both battalions involved in the deployments provided brief comments. Those comments talked to the importance of the deployments and how those events shaped the lives of so many present at the ceremony and gave pause for those who did not return. Leadership speakers included Col(R) Joe Dichario, Col(R) Kevin Brown, LTC(R) Mark Woempner, LTC(R) Steve Russell and CSM(R) Pete Martinez.



**Iraq/Afghan Vets at 22<sup>nd</sup> IR Monument**



**Solemn tolls Bell Service**

Col(R) Joe Dichario then explained to the audience how we were observing the “Solemn Tolls Bell Service.” He noted this is a customary event at funerals and memorial services conducted for a veteran. The Bell Guard (Lon Oakley) assisted as the memorial bell was tolled seven times, with seven seconds between each toll. The seven tolls represent the many stages in a veteran’s life. Each toll carries a specific meaning:

Bell Toll One - The choice to serve. A willingness to sacrifice, if needed, their life in defense of the United States of America.

Bell Toll Two – Camaraderie: The friendships, family and unity that bond all service members together.

Bell Toll Three- Patriotism: Pride in their country and a duty to protect it and celebrating the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

Bell Toll Four- Respect: The respect given to a veteran by their community, earned by them and owed by us to their service.

Bell Toll Five – Dignity: The dignity with which a community treats their fallen heroes.

Bell Toll Six – Honor: The honor that is due to a veteran when they have died, given by their fellow service members and community.

Bell Toll Seven - The Value of Life: The ultimate sacrifice the veteran has made. Whether killed in action, or after long years of quiet service, the value of a veteran cannot be adequately described by words alone.

The Solemn Toll Bell portion of the Retreat ceremony was followed by the reading of the Regiment’s fallen from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Names were read by former battalion leadership just as they appear on the All Wars Memorial Monument. A fitting end to the memorial ceremony was the bugle playing of TAPS by Ken Schulte.

**Lon Oakley, DMOR  
A Co., 1969**

## **Order of the Red Ant Ceremony**

*At the reunion the Order of the Red Ant was presented to Roger Schulz. Below are his comments about the award:*



Here are a few impressions following my visit with 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Veterans in Columbus.

As a summary, the trip was eventful from beginning to end. We had fun, we relaxed and for me personally, I learned of other's experiences not heard earlier. While I have been a member for years now, I gained a completely different appreciation for the value of reassembling with other Veterans. Of course, we had plenty of stories to refresh one another on but the essence of the reunion experience took on a completely different meaning for me personally as I learned about other Triple Deuce stories. To say we had a great time is truly an understatement.

While the interactions with fellow Vietnam Veterans was a highlight to be sure, getting to know those from the rest of the Regiment, those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, was an even greater bonus. Getting to Columbus this year was personal.

I served under David Crocker, truly one of the best commanders I ever served with. I spent time with Captain Crocker early the day he was killed and to this day, I sense the loss of this great Soldier.

On our final day, we had one of the most moving memorials I have ever witnessed. This 2<sup>nd</sup> memorial event, for me personally, carried a meaning truly beyond words. Attending the memorial activities with other family members from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment made the experience even more meaningful.

Mark and his leadership team deserve the credit for introducing the reunion activities the way they did. It was, for me, a remarkable experience. There is no doubt, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment stands among a few indeed in our Army's history

**Roger Schulz**

## JUST AS RED

At the reunion Dave Allin streamed Dick Nash's song on his phone so everyone could hear it, while Dick listened in on Lon Oakley's phone. It was a moving experience. Here is Dick's introduction to the song:

Just Google "Creativets songs" and it will give you a prompt to "Just As Red". Put it on your phone and it plays just fine over whatever sound system you have. I will mail 50 copies of the lyrics to the reunion hotel to be passed out at the VN222 business meeting to help the guys understand and follow the lyrics. I wrote this song specifically for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

Nam vets and greatly appreciate you guys  
playing it for the guys at the meeting.  
"Deeds"...

Dick

*Editor's Note: If you have a smart TV, you  
can also listen to the song by going to  
YouTube and searching for Just As Red.*

Here are the lyrics:

Every 18 months or so  
It's like tonic for the soul  
To sit and have a beer somewhere  
With all the boys that were over there

Nobody's wearin' Army greens  
We're all 22nd infantry  
We're the names not etched up on the wall  
We all gave some but some gave all

We're still fightin' the battles  
Even though there ain't no rifles in our  
hands

Memories are bright as a candle  
Like the tracers in a place called  
Vietnam

Nobody cares about that war  
That's what I've got my brothers for  
To help me to remember and forget  
All the stories, all the scars  
And how we soldiered just as hard  
How the blood we shed was just as

red

Just as red

We feel guilty for the ones we've lost  
Comin' back alive has had it's cost  
Everybody's got their cross to bare  
Be it here or be it there  
It's still around us everywhere

CHORUS

As the fields we left  
And the thoughts we dread  
Running through our heads

CHORUS

Can't Forget  
Don't forget  
It was just as red

**Dick Nash, A Co. & HHC, 1969**

## **22<sup>nd</sup> REGIMENT SOCIETY BANQUET**

On Saturday evening, May 20, 2023, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society enjoyed the Reunion Banquet in Cavezza Hall at the National Infantry Museum (NIM). The evening was one of camaraderie to go along with a superb meal provided by NIM banquet servers in a setting befitting all combat warriors in attendance. As society members entered the main NIM hall, they were treated with honor by moving through the internationally acclaimed and museum signature exhibit "The Last Hundred Yards". The display calls attention to the bravery of Infantrymen from the Revolutionary War (Yorktown) up to and including the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Of particular interest is the last exhibit, the M-2 A2 Bravo 1-4 Bradley Fighting Vehicle which was in 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry 4th Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in 2003. Members of 1/22 fondly remembered Sgt James E. Powell's ultimate sacrifice one October morning in 2003. The vehicle was dedicated to NIM in June 2007.



**22<sup>nd</sup> IRS Executives**

After the colors were posted and toasts were raised (highlighted by Jim May's traditional "to the Lovely Ladies" delivery) by members of the Regiment, the evening settled into recognition of Honorary and Distinguished Members of the Regiment inducted in 2023. Those awardees included: HMOR LTG(R) William Garrett III; HMOR LTC(R) Frank Lacitignola; DMOR Col(R) Kevin Brown; DMOR John Poggi. Guest Speaker for the banquet was former Deputy Commander of United States European Command and Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Forces Command, LTG(R) William Garrett III. He was also a former commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Ft Drum, NY, where many former members of the Regiment served under his command. Other honored guests included Ft Benning/Moore Installation Commander Colonel Colin Mahle and his wife Charsley. COL Mahle was 2/22 Infantry Executive Officer under then LTC Rob Schexnayder at Ft Drum, NY. He hosted several of the OLD GOATS SQUAD at Ft Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center "TIGERLAND" during his tour as XO. Despite that black mark on his career resume he has still risen to rank of

Colonel and oversees Ft Benning/ Moore, GA.



**Ceremonial Table for the Fallen Soldier**



**Viet Nam vets at Banquet**

As dinner concluded the buses arrived and the attendees were off to return to the hotel hospitality room to partake in the very famous "Winner...Winner... Chicken Dinner" Regiment Society Raffle conducted by Mark as only he can. Of noteworthy mention coming out of the raffle was the superb job by Bill Bukovec, Mark Petrino and Gail May to raise just short of \$1000 for the Awb Norris Scholarship Fund. Hats off to the 50/50 Raffle winner active duty SFC Sergio Cardenas of Ft Moore (former tours with 1/22 and 2/22) who donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund. DEEDS NOT WORDS!

**Lon Oakley, DMOR  
A Co., 1969**

## MEMORIAL PRAYER

12/8/1944 Gen George S Patton asked for GOD's help to provide clear weather for the continued successful Allied assault against the Nazis during the Battle of the Bulge. My blessing tonight begins and ends with the words provided in a prayer by Patton's Chaplain James O'Neil.

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HUMBLY BESEECH THEE OF THY GREAT GOODNESS TO BLESS THIS BROTHERHOOD OF COMBAT WARRIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WE GATHER THIS EVENING. LORD, WE ASK THIS ENTIRE REUNION TO BE A SPECIAL TIME OF REMEMBRANCE, A TIME OF PEACE, AND A TIME OF HEALING. LORD, THIS EVENING WE CALL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US BUT WHO SERVED HONORABLY AND WITH GREAT COURAGE TO CARRY THE HEAVY LOAD OUT ON FREEDOM'S DOORSTEP. WE ASK YOUR DEVINE HAND ON THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS OF THIS GREAT NATION TO PROVIDE THE GUIDANCE TO OUR ARMED FORCES AS THEY BRAVELY CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR NATION, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. LORD, WE PRAY FOR THY JUSTICE AMONG MEN AND NATIONS. LORD, WE ASK YOUR BLESSING ON THIS FOOD AND THE NOURISHMENT OF BODIES. FATHER GOD, THESE THINGS WE PRAY IN YOUR SON'S NAME AMEN

## SUNDAY FAREWELL

The final day of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society was highlighted by the emotional message delivered by former 2/22 Battalion Commander Colonel (R) Bill Allison. He

shared his personal message from the first trying days as commander of a unit full of replacements and low morale. Those around him called attention to his leadership and faith, in those dark days, that turned this event into a triumph before the end of his tour of duty. As always, the memorial event concluded with the "by name" recognition of the 22nd Infantry Regiment since the Revolutionary War.

## Did You Know Ronnie Norman?



My name is Tony Norman. My father's name was Ronnie Norman. He was a part of CO A 2/22 Mech from Feb. '68 to Oct. '68. My father passed away when I was a kid, and I've recently begun trying to find out about his time in Vietnam. I found your website, and I sent emails to Ben Anderson and Butch Jones inquiring about my father. Ben remembered my dad. He spent about an hour on the phone with me this morning sharing about his time in

Vietnam. He knew my father, but he wasn't in his squad. Ben was in 2nd platoon, 1st squad, and he is unsure what squad my father was a part of.

I was wondering how I might find out if any of the men from the 2nd platoon who were in Vietnam in 1968 might be in the organization.



Thanks for any advice you can provide. I've attached a few photos from my father's time in Vietnam. The first one is him. The others contain some of the other men as well. Will try to get all his slides scanned in.

My cell is (504) 427-6771 if conversing the old-fashioned way is easier. Thanks! - Tony

## HELLOS & COMMENTS

### GUEST BOOK HITS

#### NEW FINDS

**Carl Vincent LaGrotteria Sr. Sgt. Ret.**

333 Mulberry place

Brick NJ 08723

908-208-6726

Served from 8/1/70-7/15/71

Triple Deuce was from 8/7/70-12/15/70

when the 25th went back to Hawaii. The

rest of my service was with the 196th,

Americal Div. I stepped on a landmine on

3/11/71 and was retired the following July.

**Richard Alcott**

1871 Lake Manor

Greenville, MS 38701

[Richardalcott.millsupply@gmail.com](mailto:Richardalcott.millsupply@gmail.com)

662-820-2809

A Co., January-February 1968 (WIA)

#### TAPS

**Stuart Eugene "Gene" Price** of Lothian,

Maryland on June 6, 2023. Gene was

77. He was one of the original boat people

to arrive in Vietnam. Gene served with B

Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 3rd

Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and carried

the M60 for our squad.