



Commander's and Leaders Page

May 27, 2024

Memorial Day Message From Roger

Poem by Walt Whitman

“How solemn, as one by one.”

“ O the bullet could never kill what you really are, dear friend,
Nor the bayonet stab what you really are;
The soul! yourself I see, great as any, good as the best,
Waiting secure and content, which the bullet could never kill,
Nor the bayonet stab O friend.”

And our souls hold their memory, their souls, never to be ignored or forgotten.
Be well. Be safe. Be strong.
Roger ol' Lt.

November 11, 2023

Thanks Steve,

Just briefly as to one of your very valid concerns. I would hope that we might identify from among daughters, sons, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces or other family members a cadre of younger persons who might out of love and respect step forward to carry our memories, our pride, our pains, our anxieties, our successes and our shared blooded love for each other

on through years past our lives. And to carry that burden with a commitment to the value and validity of our own expressions free of editorializing, changing cultures and changing politics.

Please post this for me also on Originals site and as may see fit.

Celebrate this Veterans Day. You deserve it.

Please stay safe,
Roger

November 10, 2023

To Steve, George

Thank you for all you have done to keep the site open and viable. I would like to draw George Dahl into a three way discussion. I will try to do my best including funds to keep this as a vital “heritage” site for veterans as well as present and future generations of the CharlieBoatOriginals.

Briefly, I arrived at Ft. Lewis in late 1965 serving first as Charlie Company XO, then Battalion (2/22) Asst S-3 for training as men underwent Basic and advanced Infantry training, going to Nam as assistant S-3. After a short period as Senior Aide de Camp to CG 4th ID in Pleiku I returned to 2(m)/22 to command Recon platoon and for about last 6 months in country as CO of Charlie Company. At that point the surviving members of the Originals returned to US.

I may be the last surviving of former Nam Charlie Company CO's. George may know. If others survive I will gladly reach out to attempt to reactivate their involvement.

I am 81 year old computer incompetent, grateful to Nathan and yourself, for keeping this site alive. Future generations will find libraries filled with memoirs of generals and politicians, academic studies and fiction about our war. Each of these two sites here noted will be the only first hand truth, and as such, must survive for our families and all interested others.

If the vietnamtripledeuce site can promise the integrity and preservation of the Charlie originals content as a distinct reachable unit within, I urge the integration as you propose.

To you, George, Charlie Originals, “Vietnam Triple Deuce” veterans and all US veterans, on this Veterans Day 2023, I thank you for serving and stand to salute you.

Please feel free to republish this email on this issue as you may see fit. Actually I hope that you can add my response to the “Commander's” page on Original's site. I look forward to further communication on this issue.

Respectfully and with sincere appreciation,

Roger W. Frydrychowski

November 9, 2023
Charlie Company,

I need to write.

Mbr> I won't say welcome home, and also not "thank you for your service". All of us are beyond that. When people say thank you for your service, I don't know if I have just been in church, or done some work on their car. I am thankful for all of you. We are the reason that we are here today. We covered each other's asses. We had good leadership. I do remember those who are not here and always will. Those are the ones of us that I cannot forget.

Like MASH, we had humor as only 19–20-year-olds can have. And even some from the 24 plus year olds from West Point and the Citadel. You know who, George and Roger. That sick humor unknown to me then, was a way to cope and deal with each day, and night. Those Red Ants. The VC were the Red Ants.

We are all older, hopefully smarter, definitely slower, and here for another Veterans Day. So many places to hopefully sit quietly and eat free breakfast, lunch, or have a free coffee.

Peace to all of you.

George Dahl C-34

Would you please pass this message in its entirety on the Commander's Page and a note that I forwarded it adding:

"Any general questions can be sent to me (Roger at graypros@aol.com or 804 677 4464) or directly to Bill King or Paige Lanier as addressed below for specific information. Wishing you, my brothers and your loved ones

good health, safe future and opportunities
for abundant love and joy.

A LOVING THANKSGIVING and A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Lt. Fry"

5/25/2020

Memorial Day 2020

To my men of 2nd Bn (M)/ 22nd Infantry with whom I served: Age and a virus have put us all now back in peril. As we look to the welfare of ourselves and our families and respect the concerns of others, our thoughts on this Memorial Day must again be open to some very tough memories of our days in combat with our brothers. We must return to what we hold always in our hearts: our brothers-in-arms who were not to share with us in the challenges and the joys and the love in these past fifty-five years. These brothers stand proud in our memories as we honor their sacrifice along with that of the legions of women and men who have also given their lives in service to our country in our wars. Stay safe. Stay well. Hold firmly to love and happiness.

(Lt. Fry) Roger

November 11, 2019

Greetings to each of my brother veterans. Today, November 11, 2019, belongs to us. While non-veterans will merely enjoy a holiday, we combat veterans will continue to carry those memories of near death experiences, those memories of comrades lost to us then and since and those memories of rejection when we returned. But, we also should carry the pride of having served our country with honor and bravery when other young "men" ran and hid. We should carry the recognition of accomplishment in saving the lives of our comrades whether at the Battle of FSB Gold, the several night movements to reinforce another company of the Triple Deuce under attack or, the hundreds of your individual, unrecognized acts under fire that saved the lives of one or more of our own. Stand tall today with righteous pride as a UNITED STATES ARMY VETERAN, and as a CHARLIE COMPANY/RECON PLT, TRIPLE DEUCE COMBAT VETERAN.

"You earned it" (Lt.) Fry

March 5, 2019

As the 52nd anniversary of the Battle Of FSB Gold/Soui Tre approaches this year our memories may again take us back to that day in 1967. I have copied below a portion of an email message that I received yesterday from Richard Magner concerning Vietnamese recovery in 1984 of their dead from the battlefield. Seventeen years after the battle recovery of distinct individuals from the mass graves must have been extremely difficult if at all successful.

Richard Magner had contacted me and others over the past year attempting to identify the precise location and other details of Soui Tre with the admirable intention of returning to Nam to contact Vietnamese officials and aid in the recovery of their dead.

At the first reunion of FSB survivors a few years back, General John W. Vessey, Jr (LTC Vessey commanding the 2nd Bn. 77th Artillery at Soui Tre on 3/21/67) related the story of a meeting he had in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. General Vessey had retired as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and began to work on recovery of our own MIA's in Nam. While attending a dinner he met a Vietnamese general officer. The Vietnamese general told Vessey that they had previously met though Vessey did not recall such a meeting. The general explained that he had been in command of the force that had attacked at Soui Tre. He went on to say that his mission that day had been to wipe out the FSB defenders. He added that he had almost succeeded. ENTER THE TRIPLE DUECE !!!

Be well my brothers and my friends,

Roger

EMAIL EXTRACT FOLLOWS.

“In December after over a year of research I discovered the graves at Suoi Tre were, excavated in May 1984 with 421 remains. The grave site was very near where we had predicted it to be as was the Suoi Cut grave where they also uncovered two graves, 120 & 58 each. I could not decipher via google translate from the Vietnamese reports whether the LZ Burt site excavation was also in 1984.

The coordinates were provided by the U.S. through diplomatic channels. In 2016, a U.S. delegation visited the two sites with the Tay Ninh Foreign Affairs Department and verified the excavation of Soui Tre & Suoi Cut grave locations. It is aggravating to find after all this effort the U.S. government knew all along, yet comforting to know the Suoi Tre remains have been appropriately interred at Duong Minh Chau Martyrs Cemetery [11.392082,106.240812]. The remains from the LZ Burt-Suoi Cut battle were moved to Tan Bien Martyrs Cemetery [11.514896,106.016030] where I paid respects two years ago. The incentive to pursue such efforts is diminished with the likelihood or suspicion that battle graves have already been exhumed. In the future, we hope to establish a U.S. Government contact for us in this regard to preclude time wasted researching graves that have already been excavated.

I greatly appreciate all your contributions to my research! All the best, Richard W Magner Tiger 38, D/229th (Smiling Tigers), 1st Cav 68/6” EXTRACT END.

Other battle information.

“On the map, FSB Gold looked like a marshland about a thousand meters long and five hundred wide just west of a village, Ap Soui Tre”. “Memories Book – Walt Shugart [B Co 3/22 Commanding]

My note: Maps prepared subsequently seem to confirm the dimensions noting the firebase long axis NW to SE almost 1000 mtrs with width approx. under 500 mtrs. Sixteen 105's would have needed

space. The main attack came generally from the wood line east of the FSB and the greater number of enemy KIA's were recovered on that ground and buried in mass graves near where they had fallen east of the US FSB perimeter (I saw that a great many had fallen in what appeared well disciplined ranks facing the FSB). Those who had fallen elsewhere around the FSB were placed on APC's and carried to the burial site east of the FSB. There were no other mass burial graves after the battle.

"one of the enemy's most aggressive formations, the 9th VC Division was composed of three regiments: the 271st, 272nd and 273rd. On occasion, the 101st NVA Regiment operated with the 9th Division [understood to have been part of the full 9th Division committed at Soui Tre]" Unattributed insert to article by LtCol Hemphil [not at Soui Tre] "Vietnam Mag. 12/98"

"I met the Vietnamese commander at Soui Tre. When I met him he was serving as Deputy Minister of National Defense. I believe it was during a 1992 meeting that we first met. His first remarks about the battle were, 'You killed a lot of my soldiers that day' ... We agreed that someday we would go back and walk over that battlefield again." Copy handwritten letter from General Vessey to Master Sergeant R.T Freeman, dated March 2, 1996 Largest, of which I am aware, collection drawn/annotated maps relating to FSB Gold Battle: "Alpha's Pride A/2/12, 1966-67" October 1, 2007, Volume 8, Issue 2.

PERSONAL NOTES. The dried ground presented no obstacle, creek, river or otherwise limiting our advance. Heavy casualties sustained on 18/19 March in my platoon prevented my further recon of the route but I reported to Bn CO that there was no water obstacle between our night location on 20 March and FSB Gold. Also there never was any order from Col. Garth, 3rd Bgd CO to "sink a track" to get across the "water". After the battle Col. Garth told the NY Times reporter that his planned "bait" to draw out the VC had been successful. NO ONE at GOLD knew they had been bait AND Garth came within minutes of two US battalions being overrun and decimated.

Details set out in the many unit and personal accounts of course reflect the perspective, focus and personal situation of the individual reporting and such accounts as they may conflict are not necessarily invalid if another participant saw the exact same event differently. That having been said, some unit and personal accounts have the embellishments included in all memoirs.

Anything more that I might help with please let me know. I'd gladly make the journey to help memorialize the VC/NVA soldiers lost at Soui Tre.

Be well and the best of luck,

Roger
Roger W. Frydrychowski, Esq.
8937 Brucewood Drive, North Chesterfield, Virginia
(804) 677 4464

Memorial Day 5-28-2018

There were the men and women who fought and died for our independence.
There were the men whose duty it was to protect the settlements

expanding to the West who died in the valiant performance of this duty though under orders of leaders ignorant or disdainful of the genocide and destruction of native societies perpetrated. Then dozens of actions against pirates and privateers, War of 1812 and the Barbary wars to defend, protect and expand US interests. After each, the bravery and deaths of American Army and Marines and those who manned the ships of the Navy and Revenue Cutters (from which the Coast Guard traces its lineage) were memorialized with disparate masonry and memory.

Then our Civil War brought total military deaths to an estimated 750,000 of which 430,000 were killed while in the armed forces of the United States. The creation of national military cemeteries coincided with burial and commemoration that took on a new cultural relevance. Following a Confederate annual observance, a Union veterans organization initiated "Decoration Day" to inspire the decoration with flowers of the graves of Union dead from the Civil War. Decoration Day became Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.

I sit now on an island in the Mediterranean Sea. To my North, South and East, in Europe and Africa are the graves of tens of thousands of those who died serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in World War I and World War II; some of the total of over 500,000 who died serving. My father, my uncles, my childhood neighbors served and returned some wounded all scarred. To all in their generation Memorial Day was a solemn day of remembrance. Since those times thousands more have died in Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq and Afghanistan were more continue to make the ultimate sacrifice, a sacrifice for each of us.

Our World War generations now gone, the meaning and national worth of Memorial Day is diluted by commercialism, pageantry and frivolous diversions. Speeches most often more serve the speaker than the honored dead. It was written, Pericles said at the annual Athenian funeral to honor all who had died in war that "when men's deeds have been brave, they should be honored in deed only." Make a pilgrimage to remember, honor and maybe decorate a grave.

It appears to me that those now serving and veterans along with their families will continue to solemnly hold the meaning and worth of a day of remembrance, love and appreciation for all those whose futures tragically stopped while serving.

As a combat veteran and one who knew the men who died while under my command, I shall never forget and always will honor their memory. I shall never let our nation forget. Neither should you.

"[F]rom these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here

highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Lt. Roger Frydrychowski
Commander, Charlie Company 2/22

Fifty Years 1967-2017

(see thoughts and pictures from The Daily Word, following these words)

2017 will for most of us mark the year we ended our tour, left Nam and returned to our homes. Memorial Day is a calendar date the country sets aside for the nation to remember all who died fighting in service to our country.

We, you and I, have a special obligation to our fallen comrades who did not come back home alive from Nam. Each of those men never had the chance to build their own family who might now cherish memories of a life continued. Each died much too young. You and I knew them, some for years, others for months or days. You and I have memories of them that we must cherish and honor. For a few, we may be the only living who have a memory, however unsettling or brief, of their lives and sacrifice. We shall never forget. And also let us take this day to remember all of our fallen comrades by speaking of them to our family and friends. By passing the memory on to others we honor that soldier's ultimate sacrifice.

A few from our ranks who did return with us have since passed in a death begun in breadths taken during their combat in Nam. Agent Orange has continued to add to the combat deaths of our friends and comrades. We shall never forget.

Respectfully,

Roger
(Lt.)

From: The Daily World

When she closes her eyes, she can still see herself with him, dancing. Through the haze of 45 years, in the shelter of her mind, Juanita Chambers is young again and together with her husband. Their arms are wrapped around each other as they twirl and glide across the dance floor, smiling.

“He was a wonderful dancer,” Chambers said. “He led and you followed. And I always had the first dance, I always had the last dance and some in between.”

But that was a long time ago – before the war, before the draft and before an Army chaplain came to Chambers' house on a cold January afternoon in 1967 to tell her that her husband, Johnny, had been killed in Vietnam.

"I just looked at him and said, 'I'm too young to be a widow,' " Chambers remembered.

On Friday, a group of Chambers' brothers in arms, family members, other veterans and a group of friends from Montesano High School gathered at Wynoochee Cemetery in Montesano to remember the life and memorialize the loss of Army Pfc. Johnny A. Chambers, the first Grays Harbor resident to die in combat in the Vietnam War. Local residents remembered Chambers as an energetic, fun-loving person known for his good looks, lust for life and dancing skill. Those who served with Chambers remembered him not only for his light hearted nature, but also for the way he helped his fellow soldiers.

Chambers was one in a group of 10 men from Grays Harbor drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam. Of the ten men, two were killed in Vietnam and one died many years after the war of a heart attack. The other combat casualty, Cpl. Dennis M. Thompson of Aberdeen, went missing in action Feb. 21, 1967, and was later declared dead. One man from the group, Jim Neeley, formerly of Montesano who now lives in Aberdeen, said Chambers was his best friend growing up, and was "everybody's best friend" in their unit in the war. Members of Chambers' unit held a reunion after the service.

During the war, Chambers was assigned to 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, a mechanized infantry unit. Chambers was the driver of a M-113 armored personnel carrier, a "tracked" vehicle. On the afternoon of Jan. 8, 1967, Chambers was driving his track in a column with other tracks of his unit through a rubber plantation.

In their area of the "Iron Triangle" things were relatively peaceful, "When all hell broke lose," remembered Richard "War Hoop" Miller, who was in the M-113 in front of Chambers when he was hit.

According the Miller, a North Vietnamese Army soldier threw a grenade at Chambers' vehicle, which snagged onto part of the driver's hatch, level with Chambers' head. When the grenade went off, Chambers was blown back into his seat, and suffered serious head injuries, rendering him unconscious instantly. The men in the column returned fire, killing the soldier, and, along with Miller, ran to the track, pulled Chambers out of the driver's seat and arranged for a medical evacuation. Chambers was taken to an Army field hospital, but his injuries were too severe.

He died four hours after being hit. He was 25 years old.

"John was just one of the best guys I ever met," Miller said. "He was just a fun guy. He loved his wife very much. We always had fun times together, but when the stuff hit the fan we were always right there with each other, covering each others back."

With the exception of the soldier who accompanied Chambers' body, none of the soldiers who served with him were able to attend his memorial service. They were still scattered across Vietnam fighting. At the memorial service, Miller saw Chambers' grave site for the first time. He said it was difficult.

"I did my tearing this morning at breakfast because I told my wife I didn't know how I was going to handle it and I wanted Larry and Jim to be with me in case I did break down," Miller said. "I considered John a good friend."

Seeing Chambers' wife for the first time made him stop for a moment.

"It makes you think, 'How come he went and I didn't?' " Miller said. "It's survivor's guilt."

At the service, Chambers said the service meant a lot to her and to the people in Grays Harbor that knew her husband. Forty-five years later, he is still fresh in her mind.

"I think about him a lot all the time," Chambers said. "I've got a very poor memory now, but I can still see him."

Hi Jim,

If you would, I wonder if you could forward this to all of my guys at Charlie Co 222.

So many thoughts of you have come to me today...

And my gratitude to you all fills my heart.

Thank you, each of you, for being the men you are.

Thank you, each of you, for the huge contribution you have made to our country.

Thank you, each of you, for the price you have paid for making that contribution.

Thank you, each of you, for having served with my husband who loved you.

Know that many of us hold you with honor, love and respect in our hearts.

Hold your wives and children close...

Hold each other in your thoughts as I know you do.

Live well, knowing that you have done the very best you could in a time when no one understood the sacrifice you made.

Men of Charlie CO 222, I have been so honored to have known you.

Love,

Pattie White
