

The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans



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

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



Editor: Dan & Vera Streit D 69 DMOR - HMOR

Copyright 1996-2025

by The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

website www.vietnamtripledeuce.org for current contact information.

Vol. 24, No. 1 February 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello from the chilly Midwest, although looking at the news, just about everywhere seems to have caught a blast or two of this winter's chill. I hope you folks who don't usually see this kind of ice and snow are coping OK.

I have included a picture and small article in this newsletter about a project our local Lions club did this last Christmas season that I hope some of you will look into doing in your neck of the woods this coming year. Our club president found out through some phone calls that most of the veterans in the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy Illinois do not get Christmas cards. Long story short, we fixed that. The membership of the small club bought 360 Christmas cards (at a Dollar store) and wrote a generic but sincere "Merry Christmas and thanks for your service to America" on every one of those cards, and signed them. I had the honor of escorting the cards and one of our Korean War vets down state to Quincy to the good folks who run the place. They made sure that every vet received a personalized greeting from a thankful citizen of this fine country. Lots and lots of feel good from a fairly simple task.

As I said, I hope you will look into the status of the Veterans Home in your state, and make sure that these very deserving souls are being taken care of when the holiday season comes around. They will be us some day perhaps.

The next greatest reunion ever is coming at us full boar, and it has been changed to Atlanta. While a bit more expensive than some, it is one of the easiest to fly into and

will be a great chance for us to return to Fort Benning, the home of the Infantry and see our 22nd Infantry monument as well as the Infantry museum. While the big city expenses are a drag to many, they are worth it every time to those who suck it up to go sit across a table from the guy or guys you walked the walk with 5 decades ago. THAT is what we must remember as we fill out the reservation forms and mail them to Martin. You cannot put a dollar sign on this experience. It is beyond that...Deeds, Not Words.

Dick Nash, A Co. & HHC, 69



The Eliza Lions club discovered recently that many of the 360 veterans who reside at the Quincy, IL Veterans Home do not receive Christmas cards, and did something good about it. Pictured are Dick Nash and Lew Fowler of the Mercer County club presenting 400 personalized Christmas cards and 400 candy canes to Sara Colgrove, Director of Activities and Volunteer Services at that facility. Each veteran was wished a Merry Christmas and thanks for their

service to America by an Eliza Lion club member. The only Lions club in the county meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Eliza Community Center at 6PM. Area residents are welcome to attend the potluck dinner and meeting to see what Lions are all about

Dick Nash A/HHC 69

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

A **brother** doesn't have to be a blood-related sibling. Coming from a guys perspective in the Midwest, it is not often when a friend, relative or acquaintance calls me "brother". Coming from a military perspective, however, we are all Brothers bonded not by blood but by shared experiences. When two Brothers meet introductions are not necessary, Words are not needed. The spirits communicate.

Veterans' Week in Branson, Missouri, was everything I had anticipated and more. The region is glorious. The entertainment is varied and great. The food is too much. But the hospitality—the sincere appreciation of the American veteran—is over the top. I can not begin to describe it in word or picture; it is something that just must be experienced. One encounter I would like to share exemplifies the vastness of our Brotherhood and reaffirms the need to find all Triple Deuce Brothers before it is too late. In a crowded venue a guy saw my hat and thus began the conversation "That's my group" A new find. It is not hard if we all work at it.

Allow me to share another anecdote not totally related. While at our son's home in a nearby college town, one of his co-workers stopped by to help with a project. We had heard about each other through our mutual acquaintance but had never met. Needles-to say- we did more talking than work. This young fellow is now a paramedic but he was a medic in 1-22/HHC under Col. Steve Russell and Mark Woepner.

Brothers, we must find them all. None should be left behind or at this point uncontacted. Do your

part. We will all be better off because of the efforts. Anyway that's how it seems to this old soldier.

Dan Streit D 69

EAGLE FLIGHT INFORMATION NEEDED

Jim Robinson and **Steve Irvine** remember B company being sent on choppers one day somewhere near Nui Ba Den. It was early 1969, still in the rainy season. No contact was made, but just like in the movies we landed with machine guns clearing the way. We seem to remember the Track drivers meeting us later at a pick up point at the end of the sweep.

I believe it was only B company, but all of the rest of the facts elude us.

So if you remember anything about this action, anything at all, please send a note to the webmaster (svirvine@gmail.com). We would like to document the event better. Also, if anyone has any daily journals or notes on the event, let us know.

Steve Irvine B/68-69

SEEKING INFORMATION

1. We are looking for more maps and detailed maps of the area of operations for Triple Deuce in Vietnam. **Skip Fahel** has given us several which are posted on the website. If you have additional maps, or if you have maps with notes about a particular action, a Company AO etc, please send them electronically and the webmaster will post them.

2. Do you have an after action report from a battle or firefight we don't have on the web? send it now to the webmaster Svirvine@gmail.com. We want to make sure we track our entire history, and those battles are an important part of it. Maybe you don't have the after action report, but you have a good recollection of a firefight we were involved in? Send your recollections now! We have them for Suoi Tre, Battle of the Crescent, Firebase Burt and Battle of Dau Tieng.

There are dozens if not hundreds more actions small and large that we have no documentation for. If you don't feel you can write one up, but you were involved, send a note to the webmaster and I'll figure out a way to contact you, take notes over the phone and write something for your final approval.....lets do it while we still remember!!

3. Finally, if you know how to obtain the daily logs/journals and/or notes kept by the companies, send a note to the webmaster, we would like to obtain them and put them on the website.

Steve Irvine B/68-69

2-22, 10th MTN NEEDS HELP

Skip Fahel has been asked by 2LT Donin, Charlie Co., 2-22, 10th Mtn, to help find information about **LT John E. Warren**, MOH, Charlie Co., Vietnam. 2LT Donin has the MOH Citation but that isn't enough. He would like to know as much as possible about LT Warren, including any information on where he was from, his education, interests as well as any information on family members. 2-22, 10th Mtn is preparing to honor LT Warren and would like to be able to tell a more complete story about who he was.

Skip asked that any information that one might have be sent to him at his e address, eqf15@aol.com. For those without e-mail please send your info to: Skip Fahel, 18102 Green Cabin Court, Humble, TX 77346.

THE NEXT BEST REUNION EVER ATLANTA, GEORGIA

It's time to make your reservations and coordinate your participation with Martin Oelklaus for our next gathering of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society and The Vietnam Triple Deuce. The event will occur on October 2-7, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia. We have chosen a centrally located hotel near the Atlanta Airport. Our "Five Star Base and Headquarters" will be at the Embassy

Suites located at 4700 Southport Road. We have a block of rooms assigned to us.

The room rates for the reunion are \$125 for a king suite and \$135 for a suite with 2 queen beds. (with taxes and fees it will be \$149.00/king and 161.26/queen per night. This price includes free made to order breakfast daily, happy hour (5-7 pm) daily, shuttle to and from the airport, and Wi-Fi. Overnight self parking is \$6 per night.

Reservations need to be made prior to September 1, 2018. On line booking is encouraged. To receive the special group members rate use the hotels website <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/A/ATLSPES-ISR-20181001/index.jhtml>

The Hotel's Room Reservations Department may be called directly at 404-767-1988 M-F 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m or S-S 8:00 a.m-11 p.m. Use the assigned ID: ISR or identify yourself as a member of the 22nd IRS

SCHEDULED REUNION ACTIVITIES

10/4/18

✦ 8 A.M. Golf Tournament
6 P.M. Hemingway Turkey

10/5/18

✦ 8 A.M. Tour of Ft. Benning and the National Infantry Museum
7 P.M. Dinner ORA/DMOR/HMOR Presentations
10/6/18

✦ 9 A.M. 22nd IRS Business Meeting. 2/22 Business Meeting to follow

✦ 9 A.M. Ladies Brunch
7 P.M. Dinner, announcements, speaker
10/7/18

9 A.M. Memorial Service

The Hospitality Room will be open from noon to midnight daily.

DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

- Golf
- Underground Atlanta
- World of Coca-Cola

- Georgia Aquarium
 - Stone Mountain
 - College Football Hall of Fame
 - Atlanta Zoo
 - Georgia State Capital
 - Six Flags over Georgia
 - Atlanta Cyclorama and Civil War Museum
 - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
- A multitude of other activities

NIGHT TIME ACTIVITIES

- Underground Atlanta
- The Masquerade
- Tabernacle
- Opera Nightclub

Etc.

CONNECTION & FOLLOW UP

Note: A letter sent to Lon Oakley and Dick Nash

Hi Lon, and the rest of you, too.

It's great to reconnect with everyone. I talked to Dick Nash for about an hour last night and swapped lies. Lon, my favorite memory of you is when you asked the Coke kids to get you some Dr. Pepper. Back then, it was still a very regional drink, never seen in Viet Nam, and you had to write it down on a piece of paper for them. Sure enough, a couple days later they showed up with a few cans, which most of the guys had never seen. I'm an Okie, well acquainted with DP, so I bought one, too. Growing up, we used to joke that a Texas Lunch was a bottle of Dr. Pepper with a bag of peanuts poured into it.

Lon, in your album on the website, the first two pictures on the sixth row may be mislabeled. In the first one, I'm pretty sure the guy reading a book is me, and behind me is Kenneth "Pine" Heath, not Larry. In the picture with Lumpy and Monk, I'm sure that's Pine, not Larry. I've attached a few pictures I took in April, '69. That's goofy me in the first one. Most of my Viet Nam photos got lost in one of my many moves, but I still have this one set. I'll set up an album on the website when I figure out how. I've got some newspaper clippings that include photos taken

on May 14 by those AP guys that were with us. I've scanned them in to my computer and will upload those to the album as well. One of them is a close-up of Doc and another medic (2nd Plt?) treating Tex.

As for me, after Nam I got out, got married, had a kid, moved to Denver and ran 7-Eleven stores for three years. I rejoined the Army in '73 and went into Intelligence, getting training as a Russian linguist. Three tours in Germany, a tour at NSA, and a stint as an arms control inspector looking at Soviet ICBM sites in Russia, before retiring as a First Sergeant in 1991. I worked in the health care industry for a while, in Oklahoma and San Diego, then moved here to Albuquerque in 2010 to retire completely. Now I go hiking in the mountains, work on a hot-air balloon crew, and write Viet Nam war novels (available on Amazon). It is a very good life, and I am so glad I'm alive to enjoy it.

I'd like to hear from any and all of you guys. My time on A34 really changed my life, and I have to admit, it changed it for the better.

Dave Allin

505-312-7228 (home)

505-410-9668 (cell)

A Co. 25th ID, Apr 69 to Mar 70

BAD DAY IN VIETNAM 12 / 19 / 67

Hard to believe it's been almost 50 years since my Platoon **Sgt. Dave Edward Ashford** died in my arms. Bravo and Charlie Company of the Triple Deuce (not sure if Alpha Co was there) were set up in a tight clearing, I believe, within a rubber plantation. No moon out, could barely see your hand in front of your face.

Steve Linna, my machine gunner and good friend (later KIA on 2/4/68) and I were asleep near each other with our squad leader nearby when some outgoing fire started on Charlie Company's side of the perimeter. We all were

jolted awake and heard someone running toward us. In the panic of the moment our squad leader who had been in country about 11 months fired toward the oncoming sound rushing at us. With the pitch blackness of the night there was no way to instantly orient your self to know which way was toward the outside of our perimeter.

Horribly the rounds caught Sgt Anderson right in the chest as he was rushing toward us. He collapsed on Steve and me with a sucking chest wound. We held onto him and started screaming for our medic, who came quickly, but it was too late. Sgt. Anderson died in our arms.

It turns out that he was going around to each foxhole to warn everyone that Charlie Co had movement on the other side of the perimeter and was going to open fire. Unfortunately he didn't reach our foxhole before the firing started; needless to say we didn't sleep the rest of the night. In the morning Steve and I were called over to Cpt Mitchell's track and interviewed by him and Lt Donald, our Platoon Leader. We verified to them that it was just a horrible accident. Sgt Anderson was an experienced Platoon Sgt who had been in the army about 11 years when he was tragically killed.

A number of the guys in our Platoon shunned our Squad leader blaming him for Sgt Anderson's death. Imagine going home from that hell-hole having to live with this incident for the rest of your life. Just another way to die in Vietnam. The next day we just got up and headed out looking for our enemies just like every other day, no time to mourn

Bob Price B/67-68

THE BATTLE OF DAU TIENG 2/21/1969

Yes, I remember it like it was yesterday. I had guard that night with **Walter Sturgeon**, but Brown asked to switch with me, so he could be with Sturgeon.

The VC broke in between the 65th engineers and our bunker. They killed the 4 guys from the 65th engineers and Walter. They started shelling us about midnight, then the attack started. God was with me that night. The enemy got behind our bunker, and fired an RPG in the doorway, and Walter caught shrapnel and bled to death. We could not get to them because of so much firefighting going on, til the next day, at 2:00 p.m..

We stood down in the yard, waiting for the orders, to go to the air strip. We received a call stating a track would go instead of us.

I know in my heart I would have died that night. I was told that all the weapons, eventually jammed. They all went in the bunker and fought, with hand grenades. We were attacked five straight days. I had guard every night, but I was prepared, fixed the jammed guns, the .50 caliber, which was in the bunker, and the M-60 machine gun, which was on top of the bunker. I set up grenades, ammo, grenade launcher, rocket launcher, and my rifle. It was something, and I was glad they didn't shoot very well, I exposed myself, like a dummy. The sniper got behind us, and started shooting. How would I explain, getting shot in the "buttocks" . I volunteered to go find him in the wooded area and took a grenade launcher, instead of my rifle. They found the sniper, and shot him. He had tied himself high in a tree. Mentally, I was worn out, but not physically. The stench, of the dead bodies on both sides made me sick to my stomach. I was one of the 15 awarded the bronze star. All I wanted to trade it for trip back to the states.

I remember the guy, whose life was saved, by the Brother who fought hand to hand. He may have killed two or three before they killed him with a bayonet.

I remember one night, I fired a case of rocket launchers. I shot into a two story house from two hundred yards, and I hit it. We would all cheer like we were at a football game. This happened at midnight, and they had to keep they sky bright, with flares. I thought I was John Wayne

The event I remember most is when an F-105 Thunder jet, flew right over head about two hundred feet above me and released a napalm bomb. I saw it tumble end over end and hit two hundred yards away. I watched it as if it was in slow motion. I could actually see the pilot. They had flares, that lit up the night. He looked down as if he could see us on the ground. When I saw Platoon, and the jet dropped a bomb over them, I cried like a baby. Hope I gave you a little insight, on what happen.

Never was the same guy from Gueydan, La., after that night

Love y'all Frenchie

Gerard Marceaux Jr. D/68-69

SWIMMING POOL DEDICATED

DAU TIENG - The 3rd Bde, 25th Div. swimming pool was officially named the **1LT Joel T. Willis** Memorial Pool in a ceremony sometime in 1966 or 67.

"Lieutenant Willis will be remembered by all those who knew him," commented **COL Kenneth E. Buell**, 3rd Bde commander. "His perseverance and bravery were an example for all of us to follow."

When Willis of Stockton, Calif., first saw the swimming pool built by the French at the Michelin Rubber Plantation base camp, he recognized that it could be one of the biggest morale builders the unit could ever have. At this time, the huge 13-foot deep pool had decayed from many years of disuse. The bottom was coated with several feet of muck and trash, the shower room below was strewn with waste and the paint had cracked off the walls. Willis, then the Special Services officer, organized workers to clean up the pool. He worked quickly and within a month, the water surged into the freshly painted walls of the main tank.

From that day on, the "swimming hole" at Dau Tieng has been a welcome site for the men coming back from Operations Junction City, Manhat-

tan, Cedar Falls and many more. Two or three days of the "good life" around the pool revitalized the combat weary soldier and gave him something more than a tent to return to.

For "Joe" Willis, the men using the brigade pool meant something special and he volunteered to serve with them in the field.

One month after Willis left for duty as a platoon leader with the 2nd Bn (Mech), 22nd Inf, an enemy claymore mine ended his life.¹ Lt Willis was platoon leader of the 3rd platoon Charlie Company, 2/22. With Lt Willis the claymore also killed was **David Alan Brileya**, **Edward Jerome Colston**, and **Edward Roy Lukert**.

I was standing two feet from Lt Willis when he was hit. 6/11/67

George Dahl C/2/22

GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: Chuck Weidner

Location: Castro Valley Ca.

Email: 0909cew@gmail.com

Phone: 510-537-2732

Thanks for posting pieces of your tour Skip. Smiley

Name: Kirk Olsen

Location: Austin, MN

Email: trout65@yahoo.com

Phone: 507-319-2762

Happy Thanksgiving to all Triple Deuce Brothers and Sisters be safe and I hope you are all doing well.

A CO. & HHC S-4 67-68.

Posted on: Wednesday - Nov 22, 2017

Name: Lynn Dalpez

Location: Beaverton, OR.

Email: dalpez222@gmail.com

Phone: 503-840-4216

Merry Christmas Triple Deucers. I hope you are healthy and happy. Thanks to the Portland OR VA Hospital, I AM! Posted on: Thursday - Dec 21, 2017

Name: Brett Jones

Location: McMinnville, OR.

Email: samsonj248@gmail.com

Phone: 503-434-6555 Wishing all Triple Deucers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Remember Jesus is the reason for the season!

Posted on: Thursday - Dec 21, 2017

Name: Dwight Ricketts

Location: Germantown, MD

Email: JRDR7@VERIZON.NET

Phone: 301 540-0234 Merry Christmas everybody. Anyone remember the 1968 Christmas dinner we had in the boi loi woods. Outstanding!

Posted on: Friday - Dec 22, 2017

Name: Dick Nash

Location: Midwest

Email: dick.l.nash@gmail.com

Phone: 309 537 3536 Wishing all veterans a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you at the Atlanta reunion in 2018...

Posted on: Sunday - Dec 24, 2017

TAPS

Charles E. Haney

Fairmont, WV

A Co. 4th & 25th Nov. 66 to Nov 67

Died Oct. 13, 2017 By Wife Doris

Jim Mancini (James A.)

HHC, Oct 67 to Oct 68

Died on March 11, 2016.

This came from Jam May who spoke to his wife Sherri Mancini

HELLOS & COMMENTS

Terry M. Hackman

HHC, 25th ID Oct 67 to Oct 68

thackman@neo.rr.com

Christopher A. Lefteroff

cleft47@wowway.com

C Co. 25th Mar 68 to Mar 69

"I was one of the cooks for A,B,C & HQ tracks in the field for 8 months. I would like to hear from anyone who remembers me."

Charles E. Weidner

0909cew@gmail.com

A Co 25th ID, Jan 70 to Oct 70

Oscar G. Rosales

ogrosalez48@yahoo.com

A Co. 25th ID, Sep 68 to Feb 69

Charles V. Paree

cparee@verizon.net

C Co. 25th ID. Jun 68 to Aug