

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

**Vol. 23, No. 1 January 2017**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This letter is one of the tough ones. I have to announce the passing of one of the pillars who helped start and long maintained this organization. 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Chaplin Jim Tobin has left this world and is being shown around the next life by Awb and several other old friends who he has not seen in a long time. His passing marks the end of a life of commitment, guidance, and assistance to hundreds of veterans of this organization.

Starting in Vietnam, and continuing well into this century Jim was there for anyone who needed a supporting word until his health held him back from reaching out to all members of this outfit and our Mother ship, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society. He has been missed for some time at reunions, and as he always did, he wants to continue looking out for those of us needing help.

He wants his memorial to add to the funds set aside by our two organizations that are available to help veterans of 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry who cannot get to reunions without financial aid. My check is in the mail as they say, and I challenge each of us to send one to Martin Oelklaus as soon as possible to help make this total fund a gesture to remember for the best Chaplin and friend anyone ever had.

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society**  
**Attn: Martin Oelklaus**  
**P.O. Box 3258**  
**Independence, MO 64055-8258**

**Dick Nash A /HHC/69**

**2017  
dues  
are  
due**

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I see you Brother  
standing in the crowd  
I feel you Brother  
standing there so proud

I hear you Brother  
as tears silently fall  
I understand you Brother  
we are Brothers one and all

I can relate to you Brother  
we have the same stories to tell  
I have regrets too, Brother  
remembering the day they fell

I sense your pain Brother  
many have felt it too  
I know you feel alone Brother  
but we are standing right by you

We are standing right by you.

This was penned by Rich Preston on 4-15-14. I have no idea who he is or what his struggles might have been, but he puts voice to my feelings. The Triple Deuce is a Band of Brothers. We know each other in a way unknown to me before I attended my first reunion. We give strength and support when needed. A Brother is only a phone call, an e mail or a short trip away. Do not miss this blessing any longer...come to Las Vegas and experience for your self



the Brotherhood of the Vietnam 2-22. Speaking of Brothers pictured above with the Streits is Dick Nash and his lovely bride Judy. We were in the neighborhood one day in July and stopped in for coffee and conversation. Quilt patterns may have been exchanged in the kitchen. It is good to have a Brother...anyway that is how it seems to this old soldier.

**Dan Streit D/69, DMOR**

## REUNION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM REVIEWED

The Board of Directors has created a Reunion Loan Program for the purpose of providing Financial Assistance to Members who wish to attend a reunion. Here's an outline of how the **Program** works:

Funds will be available for lodging, reunion registration, 22 IRS Reunion activities including tours and banquets. And incidental expenses. Incidentals include breakfast and lunch expenses.

No cash advances will be made. Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. will pay all approved items directly to the provider. This does not include incidental expenses. The Treasurer will be responsible for incidental cost.

No bar expenses or room service charges will be considered as **Program** expenses.

The Member taking the loan and the Treasurer will agree to loan repayment schedules. There are no timetables for repayment and there are no interest charges.

The Board will, 12 months before the next 22 IRS Reunion, determine the amount that is to be allocated for the **Program** and the number of Members allowed to participate.

Selection will be considered on a "first come, first served" basis.

The identity of the Member taking the loan will not be announced or in any way made public.

So, if you have been considering coming to a Reunion, but haven't because your budget won't allow for it, well here's your chance to come and visit with your Vietnam Triple Deuce Brothers. The funds we have in the Treasury are intended for this type of use and nothing would please your Combat Brothers more than to have you come to the Reunion. You earned the right to be at a reunion. Come and join us.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the **Reunion Loan Program** should contact me. Remember, this is a "first come, first served" arrangement.

## SPONSORED ATTENDEES PROGRAM

The Board of Directors has adopted a plan that will provide funds to support some of our needy Members in their efforts to attend reunions.

Consideration has been given to what we can afford to do, and to protecting the privacy of anyone who is ultimately selected by the Board to attend.

The program name is "Sponsored Attendees Program." The accompanying list will provide some of the highlights and conditions set forth by the Board.

The Sponsored Attendee, SA for the balance of this piece, must be an active Member of the Vietnam Triple Deuce and be sponsored by an active Member of the Vietnam Triple Deuce. The SA must be truly needy. Someone who just paid \$25,000 in college tuition or put an addition on their home may be temporarily broke, but that doesn't make them needy. Someone who has been struggling with PTSD and all the associated problems may be a better candidate. Someone who currently has an uncontrolled substance abuse problem to include drugs and/or alcohol would not be a good choice. The person sponsoring the SA will have to arrange for transportation to the reunion and be responsible for the incidental expenses incurred by the SA during the reunion. Incidental expenses would be such items as breakfast and lunch. Another might be transportation expenses on city busses. These incidental expenses will be reimbursed by the Treasurer at the close of the reunion. The sponsor must provide the Treasurer with the receipts and a check will be issued. The word of the Sponsor will be accepted whenever expenses are not readily documented with receipts. The Sponsor will be responsible for their own incidental expenses.

The Vietnam Triple Deuce will pay for all room and registration cost associated with the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society reunion. Rooms will be set up as double occupancy. We'll work out the Smoker, Non-Smoker issue as we go along. No charges for room services or movies or mini bar use or telephone calls will be paid for by the Vietnam Triple Deuce. Sponsors will have to make this understood by the SAs.

The Board will make every attempt to select SAs from as many of the Companies as possible.

This program will give us the opportunity to do for our Brothers what they would like to do for themselves, but are unable, because of circumstance, to do for themselves.

Those of you that have donated extra money when you pay your dues or bought Triple Deuce Merchandise have provided the seed funds that were necessary to bring this effort to reality. You can thank yourselves for your unselfish actions. To perpetuate the funding for this program, members and corporate sponsors will be encouraged to make additional donations earmarked specifically for this program. Those of you that will sponsor a needy Member will be able to take great satisfaction in bringing another Vietnam Triple Deucer back to where they belong, with the

men they lived and fought with. You will personify the motto, *"Deeds, Not Words"* and make all of us very proud of your unselfish efforts.

**Jim May**  
Treasurer  
(207) 634-3355  
jlmay@tds.net

## LON OAKLEY'S BIDS FAREWELL

2017 IS ALREADY MOVING FAST! I trust many of you are counting down the days until our 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion 4-7 May 2017 at the Las Vegas Orleans Casino and Convention Center. Time is now to get your reservations in. Please remember to use our reservation code "room block" ID:A72SC05 when calling them direct at 1-800-675-3267 or use their website [www.orchestrascasino.com/groups](http://www.orchestrascasino.com/groups). ID yourself as being with the Regiment Society. Local address is 4500 Tropicana Las Vegas NV 89103. Look for additional sign up information from our reunion host Society First VP and former 1/22 Bn Cdr LTC(R) **Mark Woempner**. His contact info is on registration form in back of this newsletter.

Our agenda will be a modified version from past reunions. The only official Society events will be Friday evening's "Night of Remembrance" where we will hold our Hemingway Turkey Celebration and Italian Buffet and close the evening with our Memorial Service honoring our fallen brothers from past. Saturday morning will see us conduct our normal Society business meetings while the Ladies Brunch is going on. Saturday evening will conclude with our "Night of Celebration" banquet as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment Col(R) **Ed Schultz** inducts our DMOR/HMOR Class of 2017, we conduct a "RED ANT" ceremony and finally honor our Past Society Presidents with "President Emeritus" status. Note: All society events Friday and Saturday will take place in the Orleans Hotel. It is our hope many of you will choose to come early or stay after the formal reunion dates to enjoy all the activities and entertainment in the Las Vegas area.

Sadly I announce this will be my final reunion as President of the Society. It has been my honor to have presided over the organization since the Colorado Springs reunion and witness the Regiment Memorial Monument at Ft Benning, the Regimental Coin, and the Awb Norris Scholarship Fund come into reality. I will long remember the visits with soldiers at the 1/22 in Colorado Springs, the 2/22 at Ft Drum, the Joint Readiness Training Center "TIGERLAND" imbed with Triple Deuce at Ft Polk, LA and of course all the support from you guys in the Society and the Vietnam Triple Deuce Association.

To close my thoughts as President can best be summed up in words I borrow from John Wayne in the closing scene from the movie Ft Apache.

***"THE FACES CHANGE...THE NAMES MAY CHANGE BUT THEY ARE STILL HERE, FOR THEY ARE THE REGIMENT... NOW AND 50 YEARS FROM NOW... WE ARE BETTER MEN THAN WE USED TO BE...THE REGIMENT DID THAT! NOW IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON."***

Deeds Not Words  
**Lon Oakley Jr A/69**  
LTC(S) US Army Retired

## JAMES TOBIN DIES

James Anthony Tobin was born in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 1928 and died on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, 2016 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

He had an adventurous childhood playing ball at the "island", crushing pennies on the railroad tracks and hopping on moving trains to the next town and hitchhiking back. He then fell in love with music and played 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet for eight years, lettering in both High School and College. He received additional accolades for cross-country track and basketball.

Before graduating the seminary at Niagara University in 1957, he attended and played baseball at Glassboro Teaching College (now Rowan University) and worked in a Gold Mine in Lead, SD. While serving the Camden Archdiocese, he decided to also serve his country and joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1963.

Following in his father, Ralph's footsteps (an original "Devil Dog" with USMC at Belleau Wood in WWI), Jim answered the call of duty and volunteered for active duty in 1966, attended artillery school, and deployed to Vietnam in 1967. He was based at HQ in Dau Tieng, near the Michelin rubber plant in South Vietnam with the both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions. While serving the men in the field, (see attached photo of Christmas Eve mass painting by Jim Nelson and "Foxhole service at Operation Diamondhead, <https://www.25thida.org/TLN/tln2-48.htm>) he managed to reach back to the States and raise money to build a school for the local children and pay for their tuition (<https://www.25thida.org/TLN/tln2-33.htm>). For his efforts, the Government of South Vietnam awarded him the Armed Forces Honor Medal. After being promoted to Major, he requested to go to 82<sup>nd</sup> "All American" Airborne school and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. He then used his G.I. Bill to obtain His private, instrument and commercial pilot's licenses.

After making the difficult decision to leave the priesthood, he met Monica, a young, gorgeous, single mother and Vietnam widow who was teaching at the kindergarten on post and made her his wife in April 1970, he adopted her seven year old daughter, Patsy and they had their own daughter, Sarah two years later.

They spent the first fifteen years of their marriage in the Washington, D.C. area where he rose quickly through the ranks of civil service to become the Deputy Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission in 1976 and in his free time, he built a pool, grew a garden, mucked out horse stalls with his daughter Patsy, groomed the largest front yard in the neighborhood with his daughter, Sarah, as co-pilot on the riding lawnmower, and volunteered with the Civil Air Patrol as a spotter/observer pilot.

Wanting a change from the daily grind inside the beltway, he took a pay cut and moved the family to Denver, Colorado in 1985. There he ran the Mobile Emergency Response System team under FEMA that was responsible for maintaining continuity of government during a national crisis like a post-nuclear strike. His team provided communications and generators for the 1988 Yellowstone Fire, Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki, The Great Flood of 1993, Pope John Paul II's visit to Colorado for World Youth Day, and the Northridge Earthquake.

After retiring in 1995, he couldn't sit still and he began umpiring for community baseball leagues of all ages, flew around the country in his Piper Comanche (see photo), and volunteered as a rifleman with the All Veterans Honor Guard and participated in over 1700 funerals at Fort Logan Cemetery. After his daughter Sarah was commissioned into the USAF, Jim became actively involved with the 25<sup>th</sup> ID Association and served as the Vietnam Triple Deuce organization's chaplain for many years (<http://www.vietnamtripledeuce.org/newsletters/june05.pdf>).

In Charles Boyle's book, Absolution (<https://www.amazon.com/Absolution-Charlie-Company-Battalion-Infantry/dp/0991601440>), Father Tobin is quoted as saying, "Perhaps when this war is ended, we, the living will all join at some holy sepulcher of peace and talk with Andy and Jackie and Wally again. It is only then, after the many long years have dimmed your rage and softened your hearts, that you will come to know the true glory of their lives and the meaning of the deaths. They will be there waiting for us, these three, and all the others." I pray these boys, along with his best friend, COL Awb Norris; his sister, Rita and his niece, Eileen, will be there to greet this amazing man, hand him a bourbon, and keep him laughing until the rest of his family can be reunited with him.

Jim Tobin lived a life of service to his faith, his country, his community, his family, and his brothers in arms. In honor of the Triple Deuce and the way in which he led his life,

"DEEDS NOT WORDS" will be inscribed on his head stone.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to:  
Treasurer Martin Oleklaus

C/O Jim Tobin Veteran's Assistance Fund  
P.O. Box 3258

Independence, MO 64055

(Check should be made out to the "22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society",

Write Jim Tobin in the check memo section and you will receive a receipt by mail)

## INFORMATION PROVIDED

You might be able to surprise the veteran in your family with his or her medals, even put them into a shadow box.

The Archives' site allows you to request a family member's service records. You can use its web form or download and print the necessary documents. These are usually used to request veterans' benefits but are a fantastic way to memorialize a veteran in your family too. For example, did you know that the government provides free headstones for fallen service members?

Medals are a symbol of pride and honor in our military. Sadly, these can be lost or begin to show their age over time. The National Archives will happily send new medals to commemorate your loved one's service upon request.

For veterans themselves and next-of-kin, medals are issued for free. Medals can be requested [online](#) by Army and Air Force veterans. Navy, Marine Corps. and Coast Guard veterans may request theirs by mail to the Archives.

Order service records online: [www.archives.gov/veterans/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/)

Replacement medals: [www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html)

Military Research: [www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online.html)

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



# ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF

## One Man's Experience in the VA Healthcare System

As I mentioned before I thought I'd give a report about the hospital food at the Iowa City VA, but while I really don't have any complaints about it, I do have a tale to tell that may someday be of some help to you guys and gals. Several years ago a Cat scan showed a cyst on one of my kidneys that warranted keeping an eye on. It stayed just a bit larger than normal for six years or so, but earlier this year decided to grow real fast to baseball size, and removal was decided on. The first plan was to take the kidney it was growing on, and I requested that I talk to the department head about not removing the kidney if it could be saved. After a couple of long conversations, I finally got my audience with the boss and explained that I turn 70 this coming year, and from here on out I want both kidneys working to keep me off dialysis if possible. He readily agreed that it would be attempted, and I'm happy to report that while the danged thing was malignant, they did save all of the kidney, and I did not have to do chemo or radiation because it being a cyst rather than a tumor, they got it all.

Bottom line is that all the arrows are pointing up at my house, and that is good. But the fact that after doing a bunch of reading about the options, and asking permission to talk to the boss about those options, I was listened to with a positive result. We've all heard about getting a "second opinion" when faced with a medical crisis, and I'm sure some of you have done just that.

But I hope this tale shows that the first plan is not always the final plan if you politely, but firmly state your case backed up by some deep reading about the problem. If all of the VA hospitals were as good as the Iowa City one there would be no negative headlines about VA care. I can't speak for their satellites, but the main shed is top drawer...

**Dick Nash A & HHC/69**

## THANKS OFFERED

Team, many thanks again to the collective group for making the 2016 Holiday Lunch and Gift Basket give away such an outstanding event for our organization!



In total we were able to feed (and subsequently re-feed) over 120 Soldiers that did not make it home for the Holidays. The Soldiers really enjoyed the stockings, candy canes, and glasses and appreciated the time and resources dedicated to making their day special.

In addition to the first rate meal provided to single Soldiers, we were able to put together 18 baskets for families that were staying local to ensure they had all they needed to create a special holiday meal at home. The gift baskets included a turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, a desert, and a gift card from the commissary to help personalize their meal.



Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.

V/RShane F. Finn LTC, IN Commander  
2nd Battalion, 22 Infantry Regiment  
O: 315-7742719  
BB: 315-586-2982  
Deeds Not Words

## MINI REUNION TO BE HELD AT THE VILLAGES

Maggie and Joe Fraser have had this gathering for a few years now and hope that all will come! This year it is scheduled for the 5th of March at their new home at the Villages, Florida.

If you are planning to be in Florida during that time, or would like to stay at this beautiful area, there are some great hotels nearby.

The Marriot offers some special rates (not sure if they still do the Military rate, but worth asking about)...but, if you wish to stay there the Fraser's have an ID number that gives 25 per cent off room rates. just email me and I will give you that number! It's March in Florida, don't wait too long to make reservations...it's the busiest season!

There are many things to do right in the Villages, great entertainment, nightly shows at the "square", shopping, etc....but close to other Florida attractions as well, so...think about that Florida vacation now!

Please send me an email, or give a call: (941)468-9918...and I can give you more information...Right now, Maggie and Joe are away for a couple weeks, enjoying their new motor home!

Best to all, hope all is well,

Betty Brenneman, HMOR

## SOUI TRE REUNION TO BE HELD

To all my Brave Brothers that had fought at Soui Tre and survived that March 21st day in 1967

We will be having a get together for the 50 Anniversary of the Battle of Soui Tre on March 19 th-24! All units involved are invited to attend. There will be plenty of activities including a banquet, a surprise TV Actor guest, a day at Fort Carson, with a Memorial Service at the Fort, complete with a 21 Cannon Salute on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March for our Brothers who were lost on that day and during the insertion into GOLD on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

A tentative guided tour of the Air Force Academy is in the planning stages. In addition, optional trips to Wildwood Casino are being planned. There will be plenty of things to do, a luncheon/ shopping for the wives, , and the best part is that you can be with all your Brothers, see old comrades and make new friends.

The registration for this event will be \$65 per person,

which includes the Banquette Dinner, the use of Hospital-ity Room, buses to events, etc.

This must be paid by 2-1-2017 so we have a final head count. This fee is to be mailed to **Bill King, PO Box414, Florissant, Co 80816**

Special Room Rate is \$91 + Tax for a Single/Double Standard Room. This rate includes a free hot Breakfast buffet.

The hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs will be our meeting site. Hotel reservations for rooms must be made by 2-27-2017 in order to get the special rate. The Hotel Elegante telephone number is 1-800-981-4012. When you register, tell them your here for the Soui Tre Reunion and Group # is 1612683.

As more info comes available, it will be posted on your units website. If we have you on our email list we will update you that way. If you want to be emailed updates and are not on list, be sure that we get it so we can keep you up to date. Email Bill or Jim

In addition, if you know of anyone who was at Soui Tre, please tell them about this event as this will be their final opportunity to commemorate the battle and meet with the participants. (This will be our last reunion.)

For Questions, Contact Jim Neeley at: [jimneeley1946@gmail.com](mailto:jimneeley1946@gmail.com) or Bill King at: [billking-souitre@aol.com](mailto:billking-souitre@aol.com)

Really looking forward to seeing all my Brother together one last time!!!!

Jim Neeley, C Co. 65-67

## ANNUAL FISHING INVOLVES BROTHERHOOD ACTIVITIES

Things were different this year. **David and Judy Milewski, C Co. 1967-1968 (David, NOT Judy!)** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in grand style. They made reservations for a week's long stay at a 16 room villa in Costa Rica, one with staff, three meals a day and an afternoon snack as well as a never closed bar. In attendance were **Uncle Kenny and Aunt Dianne Wilson, Uncle Dick and Aunt Karen Wilson**, daughter **Kim**, daughter **Deni**, her husband **Victor Meyerhoff** and their children **Alex and Zack**, Judy's sister **Carol Lee** and her son **Cassey Forster, Rick Milewski and Kris Baker**. Also in attendance were **Waine and Linda Richey**, David has known Waine since their days in the Cub Scouts. Waine is a **Marine Vietnam Vet** who served with the **9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Delta Company**. As you can see the

Marines, as with all things they do, identify the unit they served with in a backwards manner. This was certainly a family affair and Waine, Linda, Gail and I were more than pleased to be included in this event.

I'll get to the fishing in a minute. Besides sitting around the swimming pool, eating too much and drinking too much we went on a sight-seeing cruise where we observed two types of monkeys, a number of lizards and more crocodiles than one would imagine. During this trip we ate in a restaurant in a remote village where the food was of a local flavor and quite good. We encountered a troop of Howler monkeys on the ride away from the river so we stopped to have a better look. David's nephew, Casey, decided he needed to get closer to the troop of monkeys in order to get better photos. Casey's advance was misunderstood by the dominate male in the group. The boss monkey wasn't going to let Casey, a good looking young man, anywhere near his troop and let out a warning howl that could be heard a quarter mile away. This set Casey to flight that ended only when Casey was back in the tour bus. I believe that Casey bought some post cards of the Howler monkeys in lieu of attempting to take any photos. There was horseback riding and a low level zip line that traveled to a number of platforms where the flora and fauna could be observed and the high level zip line. This zip line is divided into four segments, the first is a short trip, designed to familiarize one with how things work. The next two segments are longer in length with views of the surrounding jungles and mountains. The last segment is known as The Superman, so named because one lies face down on a canvas matt as opposed to sitting up as is done on the three other segments. The Superman is 4 clicks in length. That's a bit longer than the length, North to South, of Dau Tieng. The rider is lashed to the canvas and hooked up to the cable on rollers fore and aft and sent off from a height of 4,200 feet. The view is spectacular! There is jungle below, many villas to the left on a down slope with the Pacific Ocean beyond that. There isn't enough time to take in details at 65 mph. Yes, I'd go again.

The highlight of the trip was the Exchange of Vows ceremony. We all put our swimming suits away for the evening, put on our finest tropical wear and listened as David and Judy promised to continue to love and respect one another for another 50 years. Costa Rica has some 'requirements' that both Bride and Groom must agree to as part of the 'marriage contract.' In fact, the Judge who officiated at the ceremony made it very plain to all present that any violations of the vows would result in prison sentences for the violator. We were all sworn to report to the Costa Rican authorities any transgressions made by either David or Judy of the Costa Rican marriage laws.

Now, on to the fishing. As you can imagine, the Team Milewski fishing, eating and drinking crew were not about to leave an ocean side resort without wetting lines. So, we arranged a day trip on the Dona Del Mar with Captain

Fausto and Mate Jose. On board were Kim, David, Waine, myself and Uncle Kenny. Uncle Kenny, who had just celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, was there as an advisor. He retired from fishing a few years ago but as wanted to be certain all of us remembered what he'd taught us about catching fish and drinking beer. We started off by catching a few Bonita, which Jose put aside to use as bait once we located the game fish. The first note worthy catch was a Rainbow Runner caught by Waine. This fish, that none of us were familiar with, is identical in shape to a Yellow Tail and is considered a fine eating fish. The next noteworthy fish, a Wahoo, was caught by David. Then the fishing got hectic! I caught an 80 lb. Amberjack, Kim caught a Dorado and between break-offs, many Bonita and farmed fish all four of us managed to catch Sailfish, all in the 125 lb. class. It was now mid afternoon, we'd consumed all the beer that the crew had brought on board for us. Apparently, they had not heard about our ability to catch fish and drink beer at the same time, but Kim had brought a canvas bag full of beer with her and when she announced, "This is the last beer," a vote was quickly taken and we headed for the bar at the villa. The vote was unanimous. We also agreed that we'd had the best single day of fishing we'd ever had. We gave most of the fish to the boat crew but did bring the Wahoo and Dorado back to the villa where it was consumed along with the other dishes that the staff had prepared. In the morning I learned that many had 'issues' during the night and assumed that the fish might have been spoiled. I had no such 'issue,' and later learned, from a retired Merchant Sailor, that the 'issue' was too much protein for the digestive system. Anyway, should anyone reading this encounter a similar 'issue' while on a fishing trip I can tell you the cure is beer. Just keep drinking beer until you feel better. I think that Team Milewski may visit Costa Rica again, assuming that David isn't wanted for violating any of the aforementioned 'marriage contract rules.'

In closing I want to thank David and Judy for the invitation and to also thank the entire family for treating Gail and I like family.

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

## **DINING OUT, AUGUST 2016 CELEBRATED**

Once again I found myself driving across the two lanes of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York to attend a 2-22, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn Dining Out event. I normally take this northern route in the warmer months because it is a picturesque ride as opposed to the boring drone of the Interstate. Well, the picturesque this year were road guards at construction sites, one lane bridges and a completely missing bridge that caused me to take a



30 minute detour. Things didn't start well. Good News is that the rest of the trip was enjoyable.

**Skip Fahel, Bravo Co., 2/22, 1967-1968**, had arrived at Ft Drum the day before my arrival and was waiting for me at Battalion HQ. We visited with the Actives while waiting for **Lon Oakley, Alpha Co., 2/22, 1969** and **Mark Woempner HHC, 1/22, 2001 – 2003**. **Pete Gaworecki, Charlie Co., 1/22, 1967-1968**, who normally doesn't miss any events with Triple Deuce, would not be joining us because he was involved with his 50<sup>th</sup> High Scholl Class reunion. Lon and Mark arrived and after introductions we headed to our quarters to prepare for the evening meal. We stayed on post in a one of the recently built cabins. These cabins sleep as many as six, but three of the beds are located in a loft with access by ladder. Lon and I, the most agile of the group, climbed the ladder. Speaking of the group, this was Mark's first adventure with the Old Goats Squad. As expected, he fit right in. Never once did he remind the rest of us how old we are. Well, he didn't remind us directly, but he did provide plenty of innuendo that was directed at our age difference. We responded by referring to Mark as The Kid.

It was time to head to ***Maggie's on the River***, the restaurant selected by our guests, to join **LTC Shane Finn, CO, MAJ Stu Chapman, XO** and **CSM Rob Fortenberry**. On the way to the restaurant Mark announced that he needed some WAM. Skip, Lon and I assumed he was using a military acronym we were not familiar with. Not so. WAM is an acronym for Walking Around Money. The Kid was bringing us up to speed on modern speech. We were all grateful. Mark got his WAM from an ATM; the rest of us knew what an ATM was. There was much discussion about what's going on with Triple Deuce and plans for their next deployment. Also discussed was a proposal made by Lon to award the Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year Lifetime Membership in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society. It was agreed by all that this recognition would help to introduce the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society to the Active Soldiers with the hope that it would bring them to better understand the Regiment's lineage, a lineage that they are now part of. It should be noted that Soldiers going before Promotion Boards are asked many questions about the Regiment's history. Lon has brought the question of Lifetime Membership before the Executive Committee.

The dinner wasn't all business, it seldom is. Somehow, protocol came up causing Mark to volunteer a story about how he had, on occasion, an issue with polite language. One such occasion resulted in Mark being called to a meeting with his Brigade CO where Mark was handed a "Red Rock" he had to carry with him as a reminder that he must always use polite language. The rest of the Old Goats Squad agreed that, "...back in our days..." there wasn't enough Red Paint on earth to paint the rocks that would have been needed as reminders to use polite lan-

guage.

Other issues and news were discussed, one of which was CSM Fortenberry's Graduation from Ranger School. We learned that CSM Fortenberry was the oldest person to ever make it through Ranger Training. We were also told that CSM Fortenberry would be leaving Triple Deuce to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn CSM. This is the Brigade that Dennis Sullivan Commanded. We also learned that a photo of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Monument at Ft. Benning would soon be posted next to the large scale plans that were signed by many at the Syracuse reunion and presented to MAJ Bilotta. Those plans have been framed and posted in the entry way at Battalion HQ. The photo being used was taken by Bob Babcock. It is the same photo that was used for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Monument t-shirt.

Mark picked up the check and would not let anyone share in the expense. Tango Yankee Mark. It was back to the cabin where Mark and Skip watched in amazement as Lon and I bolted up the ladder like 8 year olds.

Breakfast found us in Waterville sharing our table with **Rob and Kim Schexnayder**. Lon and Rob made plans for 60 copies of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society Newsletter to be delivered to the Battalion for distribution to the Companies. Also discussed was the upcoming Las Vegas reunion, State Fairs, who was a better driver, Kim or Rob and other similar topics of great importance. Lon announced that breakfast was on him and promptly handed me the check when he realized that he'd left his wallet at the cabin. Well, Lon, "Short Arms" Oakley not only left his money at the cabin, but his ID as well. This was going to be a problem at the gate. We envisioned leaving Lon at the gate while Skip drove to and from the cabin with Lon's ID. When we got to the gate Skip handed the MP, a cute young woman (That may not be PC, but she was cute.) who after a thorough examination of the IDs said, "I have three IDs but see four heads." She then ordered that the rear window be lowered so that she could see into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Staff Car. Lon, using his most polite Texas manner, informant the MP that he'd left his wallet at our quarters. The MP quickly deduced that Lon was no threat to Ft Drum and allowed us to pass. I must note that Lon did cover the cost of breakfast as soon as we returned to the cabin. Hence, his title of "Short Arms" was short lived.

We made our obligatory visit to the PX and realized that we already own more stuff than we need, so we headed for the Commons, where the Dining Out would be held. There we found **Gina Finn, Lorna Fortenberry** and **Nancy Martel** heading up a group of Triple Deuce Ladies who were busily decorating the room for the evening event. The Ladies didn't need any help or advice from the Old Goats so we wisely didn't offer any and returned to the cabin where, once again, Lon and I vaulted up to the loft while Skip and Mark looked on in amazement.

We dressed for the event and made our way to the Commons and visited with the Actives while waiting for the receiving line to form. As has become our custom, we sat with our respective companies, Mark with the Command Group, Lon with Alpha Co., Skip with Bravo Co., and I with Gulf Co. (The Army has changed the designation of the Infantry Battalion Support Companies from Echo to Gulf.) I was seated with **CPT Boyce Newton and his wife Rebecca, SSG Tracy Taves and her husband Ryan, SGT Angela Keller and SGT Mendoza and his wife Adrianna.** Gulf Company had been deployed as the Support Element for the 1<sup>st</sup> BDE Combat Team and received much praise for their efforts and results during the deployment. I am pleased to announce that Gulf Company also won the Marksmanship Award. I constantly stress, to the Support Soldiers, the importance of their being completely familiar and capable with their personal weapons. I have also stressed, to the Company Commanders and Transportation Elements, their need to be able to adjust indirect fire. CPT Boyce assured me that his Soldiers were capable of doing so. CPT Boyce and his Command Group can be proud of these accomplishments and, more importantly, can take comfort in knowing that Gulf Company Soldiers are prepared to 'go to the line' when needed.

After dinner we all visited with as many Actives as possible. Lon told me that it was time to gather up our Guidon and head back to the cabin. Both he and Mark had made travel plans that called for them to be back at the Syracuse airport at O Dark 30. The early risers had to get some sleep so there was little time for talk. Skip and I had made plans more suited to our leisurely life styles, so we slept in and went for breakfast before leaving.

I decided that I'd seen all the road construction I needed to see on the way to Ft Drum, so I traveled the boring Interstate for the ride home.

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

## FIRST DAY IN VIETNAM REVISITED

I might have mentioned that I arrived in country in the dead of night...no pun intended. After leaving the air-conditioned plane and hit with the hot and steamy night air of Vietnam, I turned around and re-took my seat. Just kidding...some Captain had already commandeered it!

My first day after formation I wasn't quick enough for a detail sergeant to snag me for whatever he wanted. Turned out to be sandbag duty. I didn't realize I took a photo of our first days work but here it is in all its glory! "Sandbags R Us"!!! I filled everyone of those sandbags...me and John

Wayne! We also turned in a body count of sixteen if I remember correctly! Wayne got all 16 and I was found hiding behind that same tree Bob Hope and I used on an earlier tour! They should have had a ribbon for sandbags! I would have had at least two oak leaf clusters on mine.

I'd like to tell you about my second day of doing details



but I had learned a quick lesson and there wasn't any! After formation I was like the cartoon character Road Runner...

**Peter Rock, B/ 68-69**

## GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: Jim Frost  
Location: Saginaw, mi  
Email: [jbfrost385@aol.com](mailto:jbfrost385@aol.com)

On this Thanksgiving today, my mind cannot forget the guys I served with on Thanksgiving 1967 Charlie Company 2nd 22nd 25th division. Take care and God Bless each of you.....

Posted on: Thursday - Nov 24, 2016

Name: Steven Scott  
Location: New Braunfels, TX  
Email: [stevenandellen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevenandellen@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: 5126506464

My Father Gary Landon Scott from Pocatello, ID passed away on 10/18/14 in Orange, TX. His DD214 says he served 1969 in Co C, 2nd Bn(M), 22dn Inf, 25th Inf Div. I inherited his Vietnam photos, and if anyone remembers him, please let me know and I'd be happy to scan the photos to you.

Posted on: Sunday - Dec 4, 2016

Name: Don Toohey  
Location: Massachusetts  
Email: dontooh@aol.com  
Phone: 978-660-6048

I was with Recon 2/12th Inf. We pulled a mission with Triple Deuce around March of 71 North West of Xuan Loc. I met a guy there from West Springfield Mass. and I'm back in the area and would like to get in touch with him. I think he got wounded in that operation.

Posted on: Monday - Dec 5, 2016

Name: Mary Harrington  
Location: Borger TX  
Email: [robmar11@att.net](mailto:robmar11@att.net)

My husband, **Robert "Robin" E Harrington** passed away on November 2016.

He fought a long hard battle with lung cancer.

Posted on: Monday - Dec 12, 2016

Name: Dick Nash  
Location: Illinois Iowa border  
Email: [nash222@frontiernet.net](mailto:nash222@frontiernet.net)  
Phone: 309 537 3536  
Merry Christmas to all Triple Deucers and their families...Posted on: Saturday - Dec 24, 2016  
Name: Edward Schultze  
Location: Shalimar, FL (Pahandle of Florida)  
Email: bullmoose.22inf@gmail.com  
Phone: 3524280648  
Happy New Year! Hope to see you in Vegas in May.

Posted on: Saturday - Dec 31, 2016

## TAPS

**Thomas D. Burts**  
Greenville, SC  
B/2/22/4-25, 3-66 to 9-67  
Died Sept 25, 2016

Submitted by **Brad Hull** A 69/70

**Morris " Moe" Johanson**  
Onalaska, WA  
C Co. 4<sup>th</sup> ID Dec.65 to Oct 67 Boat Original

Moe was killed in a car accident on 10-18-16 He is being laid to rest in the Pacific Northwest so that all of his friends, family, and Army brothers can attend. His burial service with full military honors will be held at 11:00am on March 31, 2017 at Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd, Portland, OR 97086. Lunch will be served following the graveside service so we may celebrate his life and service to our country.

If you have pictures or fond memories to share, please email them to me at [cheriej10@gmail.com](mailto:cheriej10@gmail.com) as I will be putting together a display along with his medals to share at the service.

Please feel free to forward this email notification to anyone you feel would like to attend.

Thank you,  
Cherie Johanson

**Robin Harrington**  
Borger, TX  
C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 9-67 to 11-67  
Died Nov 26, 2016

Aloha Brothers-

I learned yesterday that Sgt. Robin Harrington passed away from cancer. He was a fine man and survived Thanksgiving day 1967 when three others were killed and several wounded. He leaves a wife Mary and numerous children and grand-children .

**Larry Peckham**  
C Co. 4th & 25th Ids Apr.67 to Nov. 67

**Gary Landon Scott**  
C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 1969  
Died in 2014

My name is Steven Landon Scott, and I came across the Triple Deuce's website when researching my Father Gary Landon Scott's DD214 information. Gary passed away from natural causes in 2014, and I'm not sure if he ever reached out to your organization to register or reconnect. He was with Co C, 2nd Bn(M), 22nd Inf, 25th Inf Div in 1969, originally sent to Cu Chi. I have included some photos I inherited, and I'd be happy to scan more to you if you'd like them. I'm not sure who all the guys in the photos are, but my Father treasured them. Feel free to call me at 512.650.6464 if I can be of any service, thank you.

Steven Landon Scott  
[stevenandellen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevenandellen@sbcglobal.net)

**James Tobin**  
3rd Bde 4th/25th ID, Chaplain 4/67 to 4/68  
Died on 17 Dec, 2016

By his daughter Sarah

**Wayne "Butch" Steffey**  
C Co. 2/22, 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 67-68  
Reinholds, PA  
Died on 9-27-16

I received notification from his wife Bonnie, that **Wayne "Butch" Steffey** died 9-27-2016. He died from Pancreatic Cancer. He last attended the Gettysburg reunion. He was a C 2/22 weapons platoon member from 9/67 to 9/68.

He may have rotated home a few weeks early as I remember him breaking his arm when a bunker collapsed in on him while we were stationed just out of Ton Son Nhut air base.

**David Milewski** C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 67-68

## BROTHER'S FAMILY GRIEVING

**Rich Holte's** daughter (2/22nd, A Co.) Diane Holte died after a long fight with cancer. She fought hard, surgeries, chemo, etc., but felt that she could not endure more and tried more holistic ways, feeling that "now her life was in God's hands" and she accepted that.

Her sister, Brenda, asked that I let all her friends from the 22nd Infantry group to know that Diane was so happy to be a part of that group, from day one...it made her feel part of her father's life, after he passed away several years ago. Brenda also asked that I thank everyone for all they had done, the donations that helped her through her last year so very much, and the cards, calls and friendship were so much a part of her life. She treasured the newsletters and notes and saved them all. So, thank you all for helping making her life good during her hardest times. "Deeds Not Words"!

She was waiting to come to the next reunion, but it wasn't to be. I will miss her phone calls, as I still do her Dad's calls...but, anyone who knew her, loved her and she won't be forgotten...and she will be buried next to her father, Rich Holte, in Gringla, Minn....her wish.

Condolence cards may be sent to her sister:

Brenda Grandstand and Family  
4251 35th Avenue South  
Fargo, North Dakota 58104

**Betty Brenneman** HMOR

## NEW FINDS

**Nard Cossaboon**  
196 Mary Elmer Dr.  
Bridgton, NJ 08302  
856-451-4462  
[cowboynard@aol.com](mailto:cowboynard@aol.com)  
HHC & Recon, 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Nov 68 to Nov 69

## HELLOES & COMMENTS

**Benson P. Barrett**  
315-824-3074  
[ssradli@tweny.rr.com](mailto:ssradli@tweny.rr.com)  
B Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, 3-70 to 8-70

Comments: Ben would like to locate **Doc Byers** and any other member of Bravo Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon 1970.

**Robert L. Autherment**  
[bobandtiny@gmail.com](mailto:bobandtiny@gmail.com)  
B Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Mar 69 to Mar 70

**Charles E. Weidner**  
510-537-2932  
[0909crw@gmail.com](mailto:0909crw@gmail.com)  
A Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Jan 70 to Oct 70

Chuck would like to locate **Robbie Rankin**

**Oscar G. Rosales**  
210-601-0043  
[ogrosalez48@yahoo.com](mailto:ogrosalez48@yahoo.com)  
A Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Sep 68 to Feb 69

**The next best reunion ever**  
**Las Vegas May 4-7, 2017**

**Watch the 22nd IRS and**  
**Triple Deuce websites for**  
**schedule details.**