

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

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Publisher Dan & Vera Streit D 69 DMOR - HMOR

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Vol. 28, No. 1 March 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The following letter explains why this organization exists about as well as it can be done. This Lady wants to know her uncle, one of our Brothers tragically lost in January 69. If you knew him, please help her and yourself out by contacting her at the email address provided. In any case Judy and I want to wish each and every one of you a great and safe holiday season, and hope we can all see each other at the next reunion in 2022...

I recently was contacted by a niece of Jim Ascher, the guy we all knew so well in Vietnam. If you remember, I knew Jim in the states and was his replacement in third platoon Alpha company. She wants to communicate with anyone who knew him then as she was only three when he was killed in January 69. I don't know if she is putting a memorial together for him or what, but she seems like a very good person, now in her 50's who wants to know him through us. If you can help her, please contact her at her email address, jadrie_66@yahoo.com

Her name is Jill Mohr, and she will greatly appreciate it, and you will probably get to meet her at the next reunion if you go too. If you think about it she's part of the Triple Deuce family just as much as we are. Hope you are well and good in these crazy times, and if you want to talk about this or anything else I'm available any time day or night at 309 537 3536. Thanks Brother...

Dick Nash , A Co. & HHC, 69

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

A lot has been happening with the 22nd IRS and 2/22VN, so we have a lot of articles this quarter. You have probably been notified by 22IRS that they are discontinuing the paper version of their newsletter and will only send out electronic versions by email. Rest assured that Triple Deuce Vietnam will continue to send out paper copies of our newsletter as before. If you would like an electronic copy in full color emailed to you in addition to the paper copy, just email me at dnjallin@gmail.com and I will put you on the list.

This quarter we had the Reunion in Dallas, the Paver Dedication Ceremony, and the Old Goats visit to Ft. Drum, all of which are told about in this issue. In case you didn't see it in the 22IRS newsletter, the next Reunion will be at Ft. Benning, and the one after that will tentatively be in Nashville. I hope to see you all there at both.

If you didn't watch the live-stream of the Paver Dedication ceremony, you can still watch the video. See Lon's article for instructions.

I really appreciate all the articles and information you are sending me for the newsletter. Keep it up.

Eventually, I hope, the pandemic will go away and we can all resume a normal life. Please stay safe and take appropriate precautions. Some of us are starting to get old, and we need to care of ourselves.

DEEDS NOT WORDS

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

there, but especially to my friends in Triple Deuce: Captain David Crocker, SP4 Phil McLeod, and SP4 Kenneth "Pine" Heath.

DEEDS NOT WORDS

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

TRIPPLE DEUCE DAY 2-22-2022

After careful planning, members of the Old Goats Squad present--**Mark Woempner, HHC 1/22, 2001-2003, John Poggi, Charlie Co., 2/22, 1969, Dave Thomas, "C" Co. and the "AT" Platoon, 2000-2004** and me--descended on Ft Drum on 21 February 2022 in anticipation of spending time with the Triple Deuce Actives in celebration of Triple Deuce Day. The Old Goats present immediately went to Plan "B" due the confusion caused by two Candlewood Suites Hotels located within mortar range of one another. This resulted in one Old Goat staying at one hotel and two other Old Goats staying at the other. Dave Thomas lives nearby; this fact saved him from joining the confusion. The Old Goats present quickly accepted Plan "B" as a good plan because it avoided having all the Old Goats gathered in one place, thus leaving the Old Goats in a precarious situation and vulnerable to one well-placed artillery round taking all of us out. Well, that's how we made excuses for not all being in the same hotel. It wasn't the best start, but it was a start.

We did manage to get together and present ourselves at Triple Deuce HQ where we hoped to make our plans for the following day. What we didn't anticipate was that Today's Army doesn't go to work on

holidays. Other than Thanksgiving and Christmas, I do not recall staying away from work while I was stationed at Ft Benning. The good news was that the CQ had heard of the Old Goats Squad and made no attempt to stop us from entering the building. In fact, they aided us in setting up the meeting room where a most important presentation would take place the following morning.

LTC Armstrong, CO, 2/22, 10th MTN invited us to a gathering to be held at his home that evening. We arrived to find many members of the Battalion present. I am always pleased to see Senior NCO's in attendance at gatherings hosted by Officers. They are all professional soldiers and treat each other with the respect they have earned in their profession. **Kim Armstrong, CO at Ft Armstrong**, greeted us with her usual ear to ear smile.

Conversations about the recent visit to Ft Polk and JRTC were lively and interesting. As is the usual outcome of Triple Deuce visits to JRTC, the 'enemy' was put at a disadvantage, suffering many 'casualties' and setbacks. I was told that **SSG McNeeley, Scouts, HHC**, whom I had met earlier in the day, had gone forward and hidden himself in a position where he was able to provide information of 'enemy' movements that resulted in much damage and demoralization of 'Geronimo.' I am a big believe in the importance of intelligence on the battle field and believe that the entire Battalion learned a good lesson from SSG McNeeley's superior scouting mission. Ultimately, the 'enemy' wins the battle, that's a known going in. However, the Battalion came away knowing that they had done far more than other units had done, learned some lessons, and left Ft Polk knowing that the 'enemy' didn't want any part of them. Kim, recognizing that we

would tell non-stop war stories, made us put our glasses down long enough to eat all that she had prepared, which has more than we could manage. Mark, John, and I were the last to leave. We didn't have to get up at 0-dark-30, but others did. We went back to our respective hotels and turned in.

After a quick breakfast at the hotel John and I proceeded to the Battalion where I parked in the XO's space. I had misunderstood that he was out on Covid protocol. The XO, **MAJ John Harrell** is a kind and understanding man and showed no upset with my parking in his space. He parked in the space next to it because **CSM Mark Frantz** was out on Covid protocol, so his space was available. Dave Thomas joined Mark, John and me and we proceeded to the BN conference room where a most important Recognition Ceremony would be held.

Some background is necessary here. When the new Command Group took command of Triple Deuce, I was asked by CSM Mark Frantz if we, the Old Goats, could help in solving a mystery regarding a Vietnam KIA. CSM Frantz explained that a friend, CSM Ryan Macey, was the nephew of SP 4, Lee D. Thomas, KIA 7 March 1969. I was told that Thomas's family had never been able to firmly establish which unit Lee had served in. There were references to 2/77 ARTY and 2/22 INF. CSM Frantz wanted to know if we could help in unwinding the mystery of who Lee D. Thomas served with. My reply was, "Yes, we do this type of thing." Some, or maybe many, of the Triple Deucers reading this will understand what went on. We learned that then PFC Lee D. Thomas was a 13F, an FO, and had reported to 2/77 ARTY; he was then immediately put in a Jeep and sent to Triple Deuce. Thomas was sent to Bravo Co. in September 1968

and like many of the FO's in Triple Deuce that I've spoken with, didn't see 2/77 ARTY until it was time to DEROS.

There's more to this. Thomas was awarded a Silver Star as a PFC and two Bronze Stars as a SP4. all while serving with Bravo Co, 2/22. We were given the paperwork by the family. I asked **Steve Irvine, Bravo Co.**

1969, if he knew Thomas or anything about Thomas death. Steve did remember with great clarity. Steve told of an ambush that went bad on 6 March 1969 at CP 26, a small bridge about 4 clicks away from the Ben Cui Rubber towards Tay Ninh on the MSR.

Steve said that 6 Bravo Soldiers were KIA so we assumed that Thomas had been flown out but wasn't declared KIA until 7 March. We got that part figured out. But in 1969 it was difficult for the family to make sense of what went on. We've seen the telegrams, "Your LOVED ONE was killed as a result of enemy small arms fire on DATE in Binh Duong Province, RVN." This doesn't do much more than tell family members that their LOVED ONE isn't coming home, and Thomas had been writing home telling his family that he was with Bravo Co. Triple Deuce. Once we had this information I ask **Brad Hull, Alpha Co., 1969-1970** if he would be able to contact the **Coffelt Group**, with which Brad has a working relationship. This is the Group that manages the information regarding the Vietnam War Memorial, The Wall, in DC. Brad got right on it and reported that Lee Thomas's name would be listed as a Triple Deuce Soldier. While this was going on, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society DMOR/HMOR Committee discussed and approved a motion to submit SP4 Lee D. Thomas to be designated as an **Honorary Member of the Regiment, HMOR**. Thomas was assigned to 2/77 ARTY, so HMOR was the option available. Triple Deuce Day was approaching, fast. **Joe DiChairo, HCOR**,

HHQ, 2/22, 2002-2004, is the head of the Honors Committee and immediately went to work preparing the necessary paperwork for submitting Thomas' name to the Secretary of the Army for approval as HMOR. **CPT Logan Star, S-1, 2/22, 10th MTM**, received the paperwork from Joe, got LTC Armstrong to approve what Joe had sent, and quickly returned the paperwork to Joe who immediately sent the paperwork to Ft Benning, to **Mike Ramirez, Executive Officer, Chief of Infantry Branch**, who has a working relationship with Joe. Mike looked over the paperwork and told Joe that the request for HMOR for Thomas was being raised to **Distinguished Member of the Regiment, DMOR**. Fantastic! The Old Goats working on this had planned to unofficially declare that Thomas was a Triple Deucer, but now it would be OFFICIAL. I had the honor of speaking to the "B" Co. soldiers and others present at the Recognition Ceremony and told this gathering that Lee D. Thomas was a Triple Deucer in 1969, and now and forever more will be a Triple Deucer. I went on to say that we, the Old Goats, were not finished with recognizing Lee Thomas. I made those present aware that Thomas' name would be engraved along with the names of every 22nd Infantry Regiment KIA since the war of 1812 on the All Wars Monument at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning. Furthermore, both the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's and the Vietnam Triple Deuce's Newsletters would carry not only this story but a request for anyone who served with Lee Thomas to contact us so that we will be able to put them in touch with Thomas' family.



Mark Woempner presents SP4 Lee Thomas's DMOR certificate to CSM Bryan Morrow, standing in for the Thomas family.



John Poggi presents Lee Thomas's ORA medal to CSM Bryan Morrow

After the Recognition Ceremony, the other Triple Deuce Day events took place. The day was dreary, and light rain showers

came and went. In most other years it would have been snow showers, but the temperatures were unseasonably warm, mid 30's. The first event was the Ground Obstacle Course. Teams of four from each Company competed against the clock. The Old Goats didn't follow the course, it was simply too wet to tramp through the woods; however, we did stay at the finish line. The wet didn't stop the participants from putting great efforts into the event. The times for the six Company teams were very close with "A" Co. taking the honors. The Division CSM, **CSM Mario Terenas**, was visiting. We had a good conversation with CSM Terenas, during which we learned that CSM Terenas is the proud father of a daughter who is presently at West Point. He is making plans to be the first enlisted man that his daughter returns a salute to once she is commissioned. It was time for a lunch break. Mark is presently into seeking out diners as the best places to eat. Dave Thomas recommended Shorty's Place so that's where we went. The parking lot was full of pick-ups and cars, so we knew we were in the right place. The waitress was a fun person; that furthered our belief that we'd come to right place. Drinks were ordered, coffee, tea etc., except for John Poggi, who ordered a heavy-weight milk shake. The drinks arrived and we ordered our meals. John was not his usual talkative self and I soon figured out why. He was inhaling the milk shake, stopping only long enough between gulps to breath. I'll have to check with John's wife, Valerie, to see if milk shakes are on the unapproved list of what John's doctors say about his diet. After we finished eating, we went back to the Battalion area where the flag football competition between Companies was going on. The on and off showers continued, leaving all the participants and observers

very wet. The competition was an elimination event with "D" Co. taking the honors. We would have stayed longer and visited with the Actives, but no one was lingering around in the rain. We went back to our hotel where Mark, John and I did our best to consume a couple of six packs that Mark had brought along all while discussing the day's events and plans for the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's efforts to bring AFG-IRAQ and Actives into the Society. The morning found us heading our separate ways. I returned home knowing that we had accomplished our multiple missions. We had honored SP4 Lee D. Thomas, we had shown the Actives that they are part of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, and we had enjoyed ourselves in the company of the finest America has to offer.
Deeds, Not Words

Jim May, HMOR
Prov. Co. 1968

Footnote: If you served with Lee D. Thomas, I'd like to hear from you and so would Thomas' family. Please contact me at jlmay@tds.net or 207-634-3355.

GARY FASSETT

Gary Fassett was a soldier in Triple Deuce whose life was saved by LT. John Warren (Charlie Company, 2/22) on 1/14/69 in Vietnam. As you may know, Warren was awarded the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice. I was contacted today by Trevor Loew, who is trying to contact Gary to invite him and his family to the dedication of a street being renamed for LT Warren at an eastern Army base (I did not catch which one). I have checked active and inactive rosters of Vietnam Triple Deuce that I have

with no luck in finding Gary. Would you please check your records and memories for any help in sorting this Gary Fassett from the many out there, and send it to me at dick.l.nash@gmail.com ? Any help would be greatly appreciated as the dedication is on May 20, 2022...

Dick Nash

OPERATION COBRA

The article below was posted in a previous newsletter, I have been asked to re-post by our friends with the 22nd Infantry Regiment, France. They have not received any inquiries regarding their invitation and assume that those who are interested might have concerns regarding the Covid issues. With the most recent revelations regarding Covid, the concerns of many may have been eased. If you have ever considered visiting the battlefields of France where the 22nd Infantry regiment fought in WW II, I suggest you take advantage of the invitation extended by our friends in France. Please direct any questions or concerns that you have to Loic Parent. Loic's email address is posted in the article.

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

22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT, FRANCE INVITATION

The 22nd Infantry Regiment, France invites you to explore the combat sector of the 22nd Infantry Regiment during Operation Cobra. As our guests were able to explore the places and events that took place on

the 75th anniversary of D Day, those attending the reenactment of Operation Cobra in 2022 will discover where the Regiment fought and under what conditions.

Guests will visit many towns and villages and the countryside where many skirmishes and battles took place. We will recreate along this course an encampment where we will raise the Colors in the morning and lower the Colors in the evenings.

Guests will visit the Village of Moyon where the 22nd IR was caught in a tank battle between American and German forces.

Guest will also visit Lingard Castle where Colonel Lahnam established his command post. There will be an inauguration ceremony where a commemorative plaque will be placed.

We are committed to welcoming you in the best conditions. Regarding logistical costs, air travel, accommodations while in France and vehicle rental will be the responsibility of the participants. 22nd Infantry Regiment, France, will provide the commemorative plaque, and the daily meals.

The tentative date is for early August. The duration will be for four days. Exact dates will be provided as soon as they are made known.

I am prepared to help with arranging accommodations and also to answer any questions you have. I may be reached at Loic Parent loicparent62@hotmail.fr

**Loic Parent,
President,
22nd Infantry Regiment, France**

Note: If anyone is at all interested in visiting the WW II Battle Sites where the 22nd Infantry Regiment was in action, this is your chance. The Special Edition of the Newsletter regarding the Normandy Visit

made great mention as to how well those of us that made the trip were treated. And it also made great mention as to the respect for Americans that is shown by the people of the Calais-Normandy Regions of France. Also, you need not worry about a language barrier. There are members of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, France who are fluent in English. If you have questions regarding travel to and from France or anything else regarding the visit, please contact me.

Jim May, HMOR
jlmay@tds.net
207-634-3355

ANATOL “TONY” KONONENKO

Anatol Kononenko of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, passed away on January 18, 2022, at the age of 75.

He was born in 1946 in Hanau, Germany, to Iwan and Maria Kononenko, who left Ukraine with Anatol’s older brother Walter as refugees during the Second World War. In 1949, the family emigrated to the United States and eventually settled in Philadelphia.

Anatol attended Olney High School, where he was a championship fencer. He also played soccer and served as the art editor of the yearbook. After graduation, he began taking classes at the Tyler School of Art. As the Vietnam War progressed, Anatol was drafted. **From 1965 through 1967 he served in the U.S. Army where he was a forward observer in the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized) of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in Vietnam. His unit received a citation after the Battle of Suoi Tre.**

After Vietnam, Anatol worked as a draftsman for the HNTB architectural firm in Bryn Mawr for many years. Later, he managed a hobby store on Rising Sun Avenue in Philadelphia. During this time, he began to have difficulty walking because of exposure to defoliants (Agent Orange) during his time in Vietnam.

In 1987 he moved to Yonkers, New York, and in 1990 he received an Associate’s degree in Applied Science & Electrical Technology from Westchester Community College. In 1992 he returned to Philadelphia.

While his mobility continued to decrease, Anatol also dealt with war-time post-traumatic stress. This did not stop him, however, from being an active member of the veteran community where he found support and friendship from the following organizations: the Northeast Philadelphia Vet Center in Olney, the Disabled American Veterans (where he was a life member of the Naomi Chapter 15 of Philadelphia and 2004 Veteran of the Year award recipient), Vietnam Veterans of America (Veterans of Graterford Chapter 466) and Triple Deuce (consisting of veterans who served in his military unit).

Anatol was known as “Tony” by his many friends and neighbors. He will be remembered for his generosity, thoughtfulness and sense of humor. He loved photography, especially the workings of nature. He shared many adventures with Dorothea DiGiovanni, his longtime friend and companion. Despite his physical limitations, his mind remained sharp. Digital technology enabled him to indulge his never-ending curiosity and continue to explore the universe virtually.

Anatol is survived by his brother Walter (Mary), his niece Natalka (Jens) Koch and

their children Alexander, Nicholas and Anna, and his niece Christina Kononenko. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Anatol's name to:

Naomi Chapter 15, Disabled American Veterans
c/o Commander Leonard M. Johnson
1214 West Oxford Street
Philadelphia PA 19122

OCTOBER 2ND, 2021

A FATEFUL DAY

It was on this day that a Platoon of War-Hardened 22nd Infantry Regiment Veterans undertook a mission that would determine who, among them, was the best of the group. There was much banter and expectation as they gathered early in the morning in preparation for what they were about to attempt to accomplish. This wasn't going to be a simple and quickly accomplished mission; it would last until late in the afternoon.

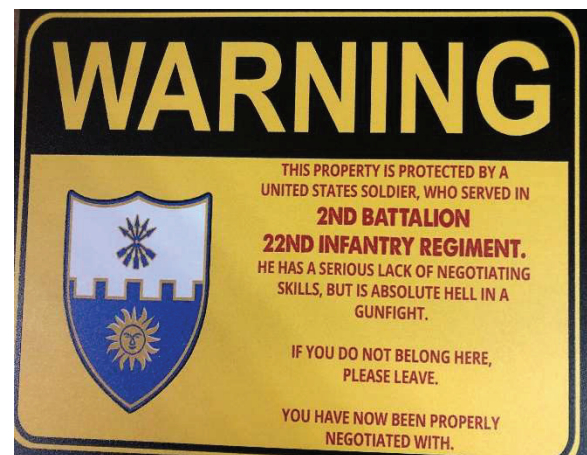
To prove that these brave men were more than brutes, but were in touch with present day attitudes, they invited a girl to join them. The consensus was that the girl would add a note of civility to the mission because her presence would cause the men to exercise more control over their actions. With all personnel and equipment accounted for, the mission was set in motion. Those of us left behind would, due to strict radio silence, not know of the progress, success or failure of the mission until the Platoon returned.

When the Platoon did return, no words were necessary. In spite of all the preparations, and the endless practice, it was clear that the mission had failed. Later,

when words were spoken, they were sad words, words of excuses and blame. However, those words were hollow. Fact was, our brave men were defeated by a girl. Yes, the girl they brought along to prove their chivalry, had destroyed these men and won the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Golf Tournament.

These men were so distraught, that they went back to the golf course on the following day in an attempt to amend for their previous day's failure, but it wasn't to be. The girl, Carrie Woempner, showed mercy on these man by not joining them. I guess that Carrie had her fill of watching these men moping around muttering to themselves and telling anyone who would listen about 'how it wasn't fair' or some similar lame excuse about how they'd been beaten by a girl.

Jim May, HMOR
Prov., Co. 1968
Pete Martinez, HSMOR
1-22-4th ID, 1996-2006



CHANGE OF COMMAND



Tuesday 3-22-22 was a date that means different things to today's soldiers versus the memory of those who served in Vietnam. That's a story for another time for you 3/22 Vietnam vets.

With that said, the Regiment Society President Mark Woempner, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment Joe Dichario, Pete Gaworecki, and Past President Lon Oakley of "The Old Goat Squad" attended the 2/22 Battalion Change of Command at Ft Drum, New York on Tuesday 3-22-22.

Colonel Brian M. Ducote, commander of 1st Brigade, officiated the event. Also an honored guest was 10th Mountain Commanding General Milford Beagle.



Triple Deuce CSM Mark Franz assisted Colonel Ducote in transferring the colors between LTC Adam Armstrong, who turned over the command, to LTC Matt B. VanPutte. (pronounced like putting on golf green: Putt-e) in McGrath Gym in front of assembled Triple Deuce companies, family, friends, veterans and other distinguished guests.

During Colonel Ducote's comments the Regiment Society and "The Old Goat Squad" were singled out for their continued dedication to today's 22d Infantry Regiment veterans and the active-duty soldiers of the Triple Deuce. He stated that the fact that they periodically travel from all across the United States to attend unit functions "on their own dime" was commendable. In his farewell talk LTC Armstrong also remembered his initial days in command when he received an envelope from Old Goat member Jim May with a set of 22d Infantry Cross Rifles and being charged to

“never be out of uniform.” Armstrong noted that at every major battalion event or gathering a group from “The Old Goat Squad” could always be counted upon to be there sharing their stories from Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. He concluded these encounters were some of the most rewarding experiences during his battalion command time.

VanPutte’s short remarks included how proud he was to be taking over Triple Deuce, having served the battalion as S3 and Executive Officer under previous commanders, LTC Finn and LTC Wence.



Joe and Mark presented a 22d Infantry Regiment recognition plaque to LTC Armstrong while Lon presented a gift bag to Mrs. Kim Armstrong on behalf of the Society. The bag contained Regiment “solid gold” coasters, a regiment ladies pin, a Regiment Society Challenge coin, and set of hand warmers to remind her of days at Ft. Drum. Kim was accompanied by their daughters Aida and Evelyn.



After the ceremony LTC VanPutte’s wife Angela and their children Haley, Shane and Abigail, hosted a reception in the battalion conference room with an awesome sheet cake and Triple Deuce Sugar Cookies. At the reception HCOR Joe Dichario “coined” new commander LTC VanPutte.

In addition, new company commanders for B Company (Bushmaster) CPT Quinn, Delta Company CPT Tabor and new promoted CPT Starr were “coined” by Mark.



That evening “The Old Goat Squad” hosted the Armstrongs, VanPuttes and many members of Triple Deuce at a “Hail and Farewell” event at the Garland City Beer Works in Watertown.



The night was topped off as Mark, Joe and Lon attempted to conduct a Chinese Fire Drill at the Ft Drum Main Gate while fellow Dave Thomas (Old Goat Squad member) was on Security Gate Duty there. They failed on getting the fire drill done but definitely made Ft Drum security aware that once again "The Old Goat Squad" was on post for one more night!

All in all a great visit to thank and say goodbye to LTC Armstrong and to welcome LTC VanPutte.

DEEDS NOT WORDS
Lon Oakley Jr

HELLOS & COMMENTS

My brother-in-law was **Gary R. Holland**, killed 4-12-68. He was there only a month, but I was wondering if anybody knew him. He was in Co. A, 2/22. His wife, my sister, is still alive. God bless you all.

Steve Money
Muskogee, OK
Steve@stevemoneylawpllc.com

GUEST BOOK HITS

NEW FINDS

TAPS

Anatol (Tony) Kononenko

Philadelphia, Pa

HHC? 25th ID 1965 to 1967

Died 1-18-2022

I am longtime friend and companion of Anatol (Tony) Kononenko, who passed away, Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

When Tony was still very mobile, he enjoyed at least two of your reunions outside of PA. Names that I remember him mention are Jim May, Mario Salazar, and Michael Ochoa. If you would let Mario and Michael know, I would appreciate it.

Attached is the obituary / tribute, and below is a link to the funeral home, where you can see some pictures of Tony, along with the obituary / tribute.

<https://www.fletcher-nasevich.com/obituary/Anatol-Kononenko>

Sincerely,
Dorothea DiGiovanni

Roger Brosseau
D Co.2-22,
Died 3-1-2020

Jackie Laws
B Co. 25th ID Sep.68 to Sept 69
Died Oct. 15 2021