

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

December, 2023



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President's Message

Carl Lammers
President
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Greetings Bravo Brothers,

As I write this letter, Thanksgiving is a week away and I find myself thankful for many things, among them my family, friends and fellow brothers of Company B.

I am recovering from a broken leg and two bouts of Compartment Syndrome. I spent the month of October in the hospital recuperating from three surgeries and I have a way to go to be completely healed. I am thankful I did not lose my leg. Also, I had my first helicopter ride since being in Vietnam. I am also thankful I was able to attend my granddaughter, Nicole's wedding on November 11th, Veterans Day.

It will soon be time to do some serious thinking about attending our reunion in Kansas City. We will be giving details in our March newsletter.

The Christmas season is approaching quickly. I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Carl





Association Business

Ted Silbereis
 Treasurer
 (408) 674-2799
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Ted

Financial Report Income and Expenses		
September 1, 2023 Balance		\$ 9,793.65
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$00.00	
Donations	\$00.00	
Total Income		
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank Service Charge	\$ 15.00	
Newsletter	386.49	
Domain Quarterly Fee	66.63	
Website Update	50.00	
Total Expenses	\$518.12	
November 31, 2023 Balance		\$ 9,275.53

REUNION UPDATE FROM PAM ADAMS

Please mark your calendars for October 2-6, 2024, for the 2024 Bravo Reunion to be held in Independence, Missouri, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Our meals will be catered by the popular Hereford Steak House, which has been a Kansas City tradition since 1957.

Final details are not complete, but I wanted to let you know of the dates for your calendar.

Nearby is Independence Center, a large shopping center anchored by a Macy's and Dillard's and a short distance away is a Bass Pro Shop that spans 180,000 square feet. There are other shops close by and restaurants that are within walking distance. Downtown Kansas City is less than 10 minutes away.

On Friday afternoon we will visit the Harry S Truman Home and Museum. The Truman Presidential Library is also close.



Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell
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Editor and Publisher
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Welcome Back Bravo Brothers! I hope all of you are doing well or fixing what's not. I had cataract surgery on my right eye a week ago to fix a permanently foggy and blurred vision. It went well but full recovery takes about a month.

We received a request from Robert Yott for information about SP4 Donald Roemer, who was KIA during the battle of Ap Cho. He apparently wants to update a county memorial with any information about the battle as well as anyone who remembers having served with Donald. I have forwarded the After Action Report on the battle. Anyone who was at the battle or has recollections of Donald is asked to contact Robert with the information in his letter, which is on the Bulletin Board.

We received an update on future plans for the Soui Tre group. It is on the bulletin Board.

If you have a change of address, please call or email me with your new address. Your returned newsletter not only delays its arrival but costs extra postage. Thank you.

It is with great sadness that I must announce the passing of ten of our Brothers—Terry Marks, Paul Gleason, Donald Barfield, Fritz Humphries, John Shoemaker, Joseph Franz, William Turnpaugh, Francisco Vega, Andres Solis, and David Goetz. Available information is on the Bulletin Board. Paul Gleason and Donald Barfield have been included even though they were not members of Bravo Regulars.

At the end of our Bulletin Board, you'll find "A Poem Worth Reading" submitted by Cliff Weese (3rd Platoon—3-67/68). I recall having published this in the past. Considering our sad news lately, I thought it was a good time to publish it again.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Our next issue will be out in March and we will be accepting submissions through the end of February. Until then, may peace be with you.

Dave out



BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Robert Yott—robert@unionblueenterprises.com

Good Morning. I am doing an article on the 14 men from Wyoming County who never returned from Vietnam. I have included below what little information I could find on him. Unfortunately, even with modern technology, there is little out there about Don. I was hoping someone from B Company might remember him and could share just a little of what he was like. As these years have made Don but a faint glimpse. We were unable to locate any family members as well. If nothing else, would it be possible to share a bit more about the details of his death? I've been reading about the 25th Division and the Iron Triangle. I feel these details should be included for future generations to read. Thank you in advance. And, more importantly, thank you all for your service and welcome home!

Sp4 Donald Peter Roemer—B Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Inf. Regiment
Donald attended Attica Central School as early as 1958 as he graduated sixth grade that year. He received a JV certificate for wrestling in 1962 in Attica. In February of 1964, Don and Miss Thelma Jaros were crowned King and Queen of Attica Central School Senior Ball. The theme was Wonderland by Night. Any impression Don had made on classmates have faded over the years. He is remembered as an exceptional football player but not much more than that. He entered the service in April of 1967 from east Amherst. Trained as an infantryman, Don arrived at the Cu Chi base camp that September. Below the camp was the enemy's invaluable tunnel complex. His mother mentioned Don's last letter in which he wrote, "things are just fair. I hope we get out of this place and fast." He was referring to a small village where his outfit was pinned down by the Viet Cong. He also participated in search and destroy operations just after the TET Offensive. He was laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo.

Submitted by Paige Lanier—paigermm@msn.com

We are not getting younger. I recently spoke to several Veterans of the Battle of Suoi Tre. We thought it might be a good idea to try to do a Memorial Reunion around Marth 20, 2024. I have two close friends at the Radisson and they will give us a great rate. Plus we have a good friend at the Airplane Rest, Lisa. I will work with Bill and we will try to suit all who decide to attend. The 2-77th FA and 2-12th Infantry are in Korea at present but will be back to Ft. Carson in March 2024. I have had contact with CSM Reynolds, 2-77th FA and he will support us. I will pass this on to Bill King for his input.

Submitted by Bill King C/2/22 1967—billkingsouitre@aol.com

At this time, this is not a multi-day reunion we're planning but a 57th year ceremony with Ft. Carson honoring the fallen and survivors of the Battle of Suoi Tre. Anyone who wants to attend or might be in the area is welcome. If you plan to be in the area visiting, let us know. The response will tell us what plans and activities to make. We would love to bring us all together again.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Terry K. Marks Sr. (2nd Platoon—4-68/69) - Terry Marks Sr., 75, of Mechanicsburg, passed away December 23, 2018, at his home surrounded by his wife, daughter, and grandchildren. He was born Jan. 12, 1945, in Vallejo, CA, the son of Milton and Erma Jennings of Jacksonville, IL, who preceded him in death. Terry graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1963 and attended Western Illinois University. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from April 13, 1967 to April 7, 1969, and with Bravo Company 2nd Platoon in Vietnam from 4-68/69. Terry enjoyed fishing, hunting, and watching NASCAR, Arizona Cardinals football and St. Louis Cardinals baseball. He was a member of the Jacksonville Church of Christ. Following is a letter from Rebecca Marks (Terry's wife). I am writing to inform you that Terry Marks died on December 23, 2018. I am sorry it took me until now to advise you. He enjoyed receiving your updates, but you may now remove him from your mailing list. Terry died from prostate cancer caused by Agent Orange, due to his tour of duty in Vietnam. He entered home hospice care, and we were able to care for him so that he could die in the comfort of his home, with his children and grandchildren present. His youngest son arranged all funeral preparations, including a military ceremony and burial at Camp Butler National Cemetery. Bagpipers serenaded his journey home to God by playing his favorite song, "Amazing Grace." It was a privilege and honor to be married to an Army vet who gave his all for his country. He is dearly missed and often remembered. When his 8-year-old grandson sees a Cardinal, he says, "Look, Mommy. Papa is checking on us to make sure we're fine." Thank you for your service and for updating other veterans with your newsletter.



Paul Patrick Gleason (3rd Platoon Leader—11/70-4/71—Colonel (Ret) Paul Gleason, 76 of Smiths Station, AL, formerly of Dothan, AL, passed away June 14, 2022, at his home. Paul was born March 5, 1946, in Scranton, PA, son of late Paul R. Gleason and Mary McTiernan Basar. He served his country faithfully in the U.S. Army for 27 years to include two tours in Vietnam. An exemplary soldier earning multiple combat citations including bronze stars. After retirement, he enjoyed playing golf, woodworking, building and remodeling. He also had a true passion for technology and studied mathematics just for fun. His faith was very important and he was a member of St. Columba Catholic Church in Dothan, AL. A note from Dwayne Davis follows: Paul was mine and Randy Gibson's Platoon Leader Nov. 1970 to April 1971. We were all in 3rd Platoon. I lost track of him over the years and finally found his obituary. Tom Bierschmit was the CO during this time. Editor: Paul served in country with Bravo 3/22, 3rd Platoon, but was not a member of Bravo Regulars.



BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

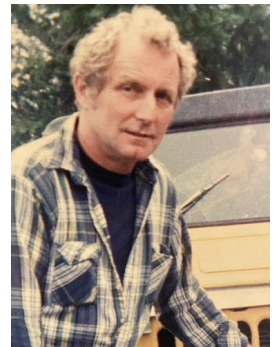
Donald Wayne Barfield (2nd Platoon—7-67/68) - Donald Wayne Barfield of Lolita, TX, went to be with the Lord on February 2, 2023, at the age of 76. He was born in Houston, TX on January 3, 1947, to the late Alton Lee Barfield and Laverne Meyer Barfield. George Trujillo informed us of his passing. Editor: Don served in country with Bravo 3/22, 2nd Platoon but was not a member of Bravo Regulars.



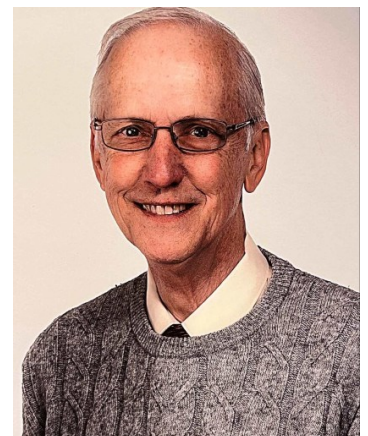
Fritz Elmer Humphries. Fritz Humphries, age 82, of Lebanon, TN, passed away July 21, 2023, after an extended illness. A native of Cincinnati, OH, he was born to the late Elmer Fritz and Pernie Mae Meadors Humphries. Fritz joined the Army on July 15, 1958, and spent his life doing what he loved to do. He enjoyed talking to everyone he met. He loved his family and the casino. Fritz loved restoring antiques of all types. His final wish was to pass at home, and his nieces Tammy, Karen and Sharon made that possible. He was on his way to the casino when he went to sleep. But he was happy. His niece, Karen, said that her uncle served two tours in Vietnam, one with Bravo Company.



John Shoemaker—2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Original. John “Shoey” Edward Shoemaker died peacefully on July 22, 2023 at the age of 79. He was born September 25, 1943 to Bert and Lena Shoemaker. Shoey played hard and worked hard. He was a member of the Edgewood Hillwillys for 53 years. He enjoyed working/fixing up cars in his garage and installed garage doors for 30 years.



Joseph “Joe” Arthur Franz—Platoon Leader 68/69. Joe Franz, age 79, went to be with the Lord at home in Arkadelphia, AR on Sept. 14, 2023. He was born October 21, 1943, in St. Louis, MO, to Oswald “Ozzie” A. Franz, Jr. and Elizabeth “Betty” Hamlin Franz. Joe was raised in Thayer, MO. Joe married his high school sweetheart, Bonnie, June 20, 1964 in Thayer. They spent most of their marriage in Arkadelphia, AR, where they raised their family. Joe played basketball throughout his high school and college years. He was a member of championship basketball teams while attending Ouachita Baptist University in 1961-65. Joe also loved playing tennis and, in his later years, was an avid croquet player. He was also a member of The Royal Knights of Croquet. Joe served in the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant in 1969, after serving in Vietnam. After returning from Vietnam, he worked at ASU Beebe as the Business Manager for two years. He then moved to Arkadelphia to work for Ouachita Baptist University, where he worked as the Business Manager and Vice President for Development for 37 years. Joe retired from OBJ in 2007.

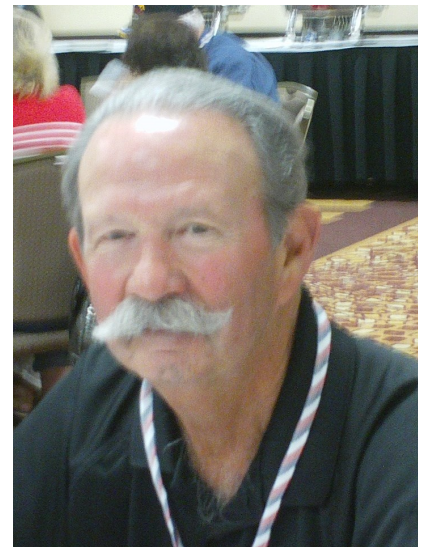


BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Continuation of Joe Franz Obituary—Joe was a member of First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia since 1971. He served as a Deacon, a member of the Finance Committee and Treasurer for over 40 years. Joe served on the Regional Board of the American Cancer Society and was the Chairman of the Clark County Cancer Society and organizer and treasurer of the Clark County Relay for Life for many years. He was also a member of the Arkadelphia Rotary Club. Joe was always willing to serve his church, community, family and friends. Joe was known to his wife as “God’s Quiet Man”. He was a man of deep faith and felt his life had been a blessing. He was a wonderfully devoted husband, father and grandfather. He loved his family and friends unconditionally. Randy Keck sent an email with the following: Joe Franz was my platoon leader from August to November of 1968 and was at FSB Buell. He was quiet and steady and a pleasure to be around. I don’t think he ever slept the whole time I knew him. He was always afraid he would miss something and he had to watch over his men. His voice was always soft and controlled and he always made you feel like you were a part of the team. May he rest in peach. Slow Salute. Roland White also left an email with the following: I think Joe became a company executive officer after his time as Platoon Leader. I remember him the same way as you do. May he rest in peace.

William Everett Turnpaugh (3rd Platoon—3-67/68). Bill Turnpaugh passed away on October 11, 2023. No additional information was listed on his obituary. In an email, Dennis Hawkins added some additional information as follows: I am sorry to report the passing of Bill Turnpaugh on October 11, 2023. Bill was in 3rd Platoon from March 1967 to March 1968. Bill had been dealing with Parkinson’s Disease the last few years. He was doing good until he got Prostate Cancer. The radiation treatment weakened his system and complications ensued. He put up a good fight but lost the battle. In an email to Cliff Weese, Dennis Hawkins added additional information. Bill has been going down hill for the last couple of months. He got an infection and was at the VA hospital after he had fallen and couldn’t get up. They cured the infection and sent him home. It was too soon — he was still unstable. When he got home, he fell and broke his arm. He was put in a nursing home where he got Covid and passed away. He will be missed.



BULLETIN BOARD

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Francisco E. Vega (1/68-12/68). Francisco E. Vega, 76, of Meriden, CT, loving husband of Ann R. (DiGiulio) Vega, passed away on October 29, 2023, at home surrounded by his family. He was born in Aguada, Puerto Rico on October 4, 1947. Before having the opportunity to graduate high school, Francisco was drafted into the U.S. Army, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, under the command of the 25th Infantry Division. He bravely and honorably served in Vietnam during the Tet offensive in 1967/68. After his honorable discharge, he went on to Brooklyn Technical School to learn his trade. Francisco was a proud member of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 1746. He was a Machinist at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in North Haven and East Hartford, CT for 32 years until his retirement in 2020. Francisco loved to tend to his chickens and feeding birds. In the spring, summer, and fall, he could always be found meticulously maintaining his gardens and yard.



Andres Solis (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Original). Andres Solis lost his battle with cancer on November 12, 2023, caused by Agent Orange exposure while serving our country. He was born on April 5, 1946 in Ame-ca, Jalisco, Mexico to the late Antonio Solis and Francisca Caro. On January 27, 1968, Andres married his high school sweetheart, Maria Rogelia Caldera. They have shared almost 56 years of marriage. Andres served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from Dec. 14, 1965 to March 14, 1968. (He served with Bravo Company in Vietnam as an “Original” from 9-66/67.) Andres earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, among other recognitions. He was retired at the young age of 22, as well as disabled. He worked as a machinist for many years and retired in 2011. Andres served as Jr. Vice Commander at VFW Post 9148 during 2006-2007 in La Mirada, CA. Andres was a hero in many ways. He was always there to lend a hand, be supportive and gave many reasons to smile. He was a selfless man who worked hard and helped many. He had an unforgettable and contagious smile. His love of music, and dancing, will be a tradition to his family. He taught the meaning of respect and responsibility, especially the meaning of being a strong family unit.



David Goetz (Squad Leader—4-68/69). David Goetz, 76, an Army Veteran and resident of Silver City, NM, went to be in the army of our Lord, on November 23, 2023, at his residence surrounded by his loved ones. On July 19, 1947, David Lee Greene was born in Cleveland, OH to Almeda Helderman and Russell McKinley Greene. In 1954, Almeda and Russell were divorced. David moved to El Segundo, CA with Almeda where, in 1964, he adopted the last name of his stepfather, George Goetz. David attended El Segundo High School where he lettered in varsity foot ball, baseball, and track and field. David set several school records including the relay, mile, and two mile. In 1968, David enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for four years. David served with Bravo Company from 4-68/69 as a Squad Leader. David obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was a decorated combat veteran receiving a Purple Heart, Silver Star, and two Bronze Stars. After his service, David attended El Camino College and obtained his Associates of Arts degree in 1971.



BULLETIN BOARD

**Submitted by Cliff Weese– 3rd Platoon
3-67/68**

A Poem Worth Reading

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His Tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.
While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?
Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."