

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

June, 2023



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In Memory

Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry



COMBAT CASUALTIES

12/18/66	William J. Madsen Scott S. Webber	03/21/67	Charles R. Greer Virgil M. Ledford Edward J. Muller Larry L. Warnock	02/19/68	Donald P. Roemer Billy J. Brown Bobbie E. Sikes John E. Milanowski	01/16/69	Randall J. Wicklace Scott M. Sibson
12/21/66	Edward L. Brock Marvin T. Hughes William D. Mullins Norman Toennies Vincente Zuniga	04/01/67	Allen S. Mican	02/23/68	Louis A. Martinez	02/23/69	Franklin M. Lanier
01/21/67	Louis J. Wandler	04/08/67	Jimmy C. Harper	04/12/68	Edward C. Beckwith Alan P. Butkus	04/13/69	Louis Castro Roger W. Hood Michael D. Howard
03/19/67	Marlin C. Eversgerd Jack M. Gosnell Robert L. Linn, Jr. Paul J. McGowan Louis Sas Donald L. Schroeder Donald W. Walters Rodney R. Weed Thomas J. Dando Fred H. Patterson	04/10/67	Salvadore M. Nava			05/11/69	David A. Trinkala
03/21/67	Herman E. Anders, Jr. Matthew D. Atkins III Kenneth G. Blanton James R. Hintz Brian F. Gibbons Charles R. Goodwin	06/02/67	Albert Graham, Jr.			06/06/69	William M. Crusie, Jr.
		07/06/67	Jerry R. Beebe			08/08/69	Bruce A. Eamick Walter J. Hogans Elvis E. Mullen
		08/19/67	Baxter H. Ellis			10/05/69	James E. Duckworth
		09/26/67	James R. Watanabe			10/25/69	Elvis E. Mullen
		10/22/67	Larry R. McDuffie			01/30/70	Florencio Q. Marquez Luis A. Lebron
		11/01/67	Louis E. Armstead Bertmann E. Miller			02/16/70	George O. Boatwright
		11/28/67	Darrell H. Morey			03/28/70	Bobby G. Swanson, Jr.
		12/02/67	George L. Duplessis			08/31/70	Gary R. Metz
		01/02/68	Odell Stokes, Jr.	05/14/68	Richard J. Beck, Jr. Edward D. Crow George L. Mundy, Jr.	10/02/70	William I. Allsbrook, Jr. Bruce J. Stickle David F. Tinsey
		01/15/68	Kenneth R. Howell Ernest T. Martin Thomas R. Watts	09/11/68	Eldon D. Coldren, Jr. Lonnie E. Lundy		Jimmy W. Westbrook Kit Carson Scout Bui V.T.
		01/31/68	Luey V. Holland	09/20/68	Daniel B. Persons	11/02/70	Stephen J. Kaster
		02/10/68	Robert R. Gray	01/16/69	Roger A. Dixon Giuseppe Magri	11/13/70	Robert H. Gumm, Jr.

POST-COMBAT PASSINGS

1970—2003

Joe Rennison
Charles W. Long
David Reyes
David R. Stalker
Tex Richards
Roscoe Greene Jr.
James Clark
Tom Vargo
William Mosley
Gary Patton
Anthony Giavonni
Hector Rosado
John Ellison
Lawrence Baughman
Charles Sheldon
Robert S. Schlegel
Larry Augsburger
David Blanton
Wade McGowan
Mark Rowan
Douglas Wartella
Dwight Jessup
Herbert Pruitt
Joe Lappie
Jim Bakke
Charles Burns
Tommy Harris
Peter McKenney
John Glass
Larry Jenkins
Leroy Gregerson
Ernest Mencchaca
James R. Rhone
Charles Dearden
Franklin Benhart

1970—2003

John Medicinetop
Roy Davidson
Robert Gregory
Nolan Adams
James Genoff
Cornell Brown
John J. Roche
Gerald Lyda
Warner Surphin
Larry Eason
Allen Lavigan
Frank Roberts
James L. Roedel
Michael Nordstrom
John A. Bender
Edward Nidy
Frank Blue
William Madsen

2004

James Jones
Louis Phillips
Randy Schick

2005

Gary Reynolds
John Howe
William Samson

2006

Jack Gainey
Gary P. Brown
Michael Nordstrom

2007

Alfred Warmasley
George Hicks
Roger Beegle
Ted Davis

2008

Charles Rock

2009

Larry Thomas
Gary Tetting
Robert Duncan
Louis Biengiel

2010

Steve Marcy
Charles Putman
Richard Wood
Ernie Rice

2012

Allen Bateman
Alvin Bess
Marion Hiers
Tommy McKamey
John Brockman
Richard Prairie
Robert Hemphill

2013

Terry Shipley
Jose Cosme-Rivera
Robert Ryan
Darryle Funk

2013

Curtis Daniels, Jr.
Albert Comeaux
Joseph Mafort
Nolan Price

2014

Allen Peteet
Peter Trappino
Norm Bergsma
Peter Heald
Roger Clements
Tom Ragazzino

2015

Traczyk Williams
Frederick Barlow
Frederick Gray
Ernest Williams
Charles Ellis
Gerald DePhilip
Donny Tew
Richard Wiltshire
Kurley Dorthard

2016

Allen Haskin
Lester Lemon
Richard Geib
Richard Ward
Perry Sheridan
Patrick Hoffman
Dennis Earwood
Johnny Larry

2017

Mark DeLong
Benito Luna
Lane Sterling
Bruce Brinkman
Mario Reyes
Walt Shugart
James Murphy

2018

David Van Johnson
Holger Graser
John Kapior
John Kapior
Bill Meachum
Thomas Schenk
Don Roberts

2019

Richard Blanchard

2019

Larry Young
Doyle Poe
James Thyne, Jr.
Jack Wood
Joel Shepitka
Fred Michael, Jr.
Ronny Dyer
Steve Wilder

2020

John R. Bode
Jack Zuverink
Joe Stein
Steve Orders
Anthony Ardese
Gordon 'Chet' Johnson
Jerry Hadley

2021

Charles Archer
John GORITY
Harold Muladore
Richard Linnemann
Daniel Webster
Paul Dell, Jr.
Douglas Schellinkhout

2022

Kenneth Kent
Daniel Cordova
James Costello
John Otte
Michael Restelle
Ellison Lawson, Jr.
Jim Grace

2023

Dennis Rolfingsmeier
Robert Closter



President's Column

Carl Lammers
President
(618) 741-1002
fuel5903@yahoo.com

Greetings Bravo Brothers,

The good old summertime has arrived and we are all ready to celebrate holidays, baseball and family gatherings to name a few fun things. We have been talking to Pam Adams and she is working on our 2024 reunion. The Kansas City area has lots of things for us to do while visiting.

Kansas City likes to brag about its BBQ and claims to be the "Barbecue Capital of the World". We hope to have a sampling of the award winning barbecue at one of our dinners. If you arrive early and have a chance, stop in at a few of their many restaurants including the famous Gates Bar-B-Q or Smokebox BBQ.

Kansas City is also nicknamed "The City of Fountains". There are more fountains here than almost anywhere, only Rome is said to have more. The fountains in the early years were used as water troughs for horses. Take time to see the J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain, an 80 foot round fountain featuring four ten foot high rearing horses, dolphins and cherubs.

Kansas City is also home to the Henry S. Truman Library and Museum and Harry S. Truman Historic Site that has a 2.7 mile walking trail with plaques featuring facts about Harry.

A favorite place for us to visit is the Arabia Steamboat Museum, an ongoing renovation of a paddlewheel boat that sank on the Missouri River in 1856 with a 200 ton cargo. It was headed to the frontier with a huge collection of supplies and personal belongings of clothing, shoes, medicine, tools, jewelry, etc. The cargo is being cleaned, preserved and put on display along with a six foot stern and paddlewheel. There is also a full-size reproduction of the main deck.

These are just a few of the fun and interesting things we could be seeing in Kansas City. We are thinking about the Independence, Missouri area on the eastern edge of Kansas City the first week of October, 2024. As always, your input is welcome. Let us know what you are thinking. Our email is fuel5903@yahoo.com.

Carl



Association Business

Ted Silbereis
 Treasurer
 (408) 674-2799
 juditrain@gmail.com

Financial Report Income and Expenses		
March 1, 2023 Balance		
		\$10,889.90
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 0.00	
Adjustment	105.00	
Total Income		\$105.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank Service Charge	\$ 15.00	
New Checks	21.99	
Newsletter	359.22	
Sympathy Cards	96.74	
Domain Monthly Fee		
Dec., Jan., Feb.	66.63	
Website Update	40.00	
Domain Yearly Registration	12.76	
Total Expenses		\$612.34
May 31, 2023 Balance		
		\$10,382.56

Editor's Note: During the period when the checking account was being transferred from John Otte to Ted Silbereis, the balance of the account became different from the banking statement. After hours of work, the Board's decision was to make a one-time adjustment of \$105.00 in income, which balances our checkbook. Thanks to Dee, Ted, Judi and Helen for all their work!



Editor's Notes

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 and Publisher
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Welcome Back Bravo Brothers!

I hope this finds all of you well. Since my last letter, I had serious heart problems and have had four stents placed around my heart to restore blood flow. I am recovering and doing well. I've recently communicated with Ron Wamsley (4th Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) and Dennis Amily (1st Platoon—9-66/67 Orig.) who informed me they also had serious problems, but all of us are recovering. I noticed that I had an incorrect phone number for Dennis in the roster. His correct number is (330) 763-4958.

Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68) has provided an internet search for a recording made during the battle for Fire Support Base Crook, as well as a narrative of the battle. It is at the top of our Bulletin Board.

Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68) has informed us that he is working with an author who is writing a book about Vietnam. He also talked about his service and included many photos. We will publish the remaining photos as space allows in the future. His story is on the Bulletin Board.

Blair Moran (Co. RTO—69/70) has submitted an internet search where two former POWs talk of their time as prisoners in the Hanoi Hilton. It can be accessed at <https://krdo.com/top-stories/2023/03/08/operation-homecoming-50-years-later-2-colorado-pows-speak-on-survival-triumph-within-the-walls-of-hanoi-hilton/>.

Larry Reams (8/67-2/68) who submitted a story for the last issue, has notified us a mistake of service dates was made. His correct service information is on the Bulletin Board.

Ron Meyer (2nd Platoon Co. Clerk—3-67/68) commented on Larry's article and his own service with us. It is also on the Bulletin Board. He mentioned that John Schrage had passed away when he returned to the states. Does anyone have any information on him? He was never located and likely passed before we started looking.

With sadness I must report the passing of two members. They are Dennis Rolfingsmeier (Basic Only) and Robbie Closter (3rd/4th Platoon—8-68/69). Available information is on the Bulletin Board.

Michael Hutchison (8-69/70) has been moved from Active to Inactive due to loss of valid contact information.

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

Dave out

BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68)**

Hello Bravo Brothers and Friends. Click on the red link below for a recording, made by some sergeant, of the attack on Fire Support Base Crook. I think I obtained the original CD soundtrack from Dennis Amily at one of our reunions. Bravo Company, with artillery backup, killed about 400 VC that night. Must have been lots of shooting going on. Call me if you get a chance at 614-783-7386. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NepNONJbuDtIN31eRjiFvhSquY9a3Fup/view?usp=share_link.

By Lieutenant General John H. Hay, Jr., Dept. of the Army. Positioned inside the base was a small force of the 25th Infantry Division, consisting of Company B, 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry; Battery A, 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery, with six 105-mm howitzers: and elements of the mortar, communications, and medical platoons of the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry. U.S. planners hoped that the enemy would see Fire Support Base Crook as an attractive prospect for one of their carefully planned night attacks. Though physically isolated, the base was far from alone. Supporting fire from artillery at other locations as well as gunships and tactical air elements was arranged around the fire support base perimeter. Early warning was provided for by all available means, including the latest equipment such as sensors, radars, starlight scopes, and patrolling helicopters mounting xenon searchlights. The situation at Fire Support Base Crook remained relatively quiet until the evening of June 5, when the seismic sensors picked up heavy enemy activity less than one kilometer to the northwest. In addition radar detected small groups moving in the wood lines around the base. Artillery was fired at these areas and, as apprehension of an impending attack grew, the officer in command, Major Joseph E. Hacia, executive officer of the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry, ordered interdicting fire from supporting artillery on trails, road junctions, and likely assembly areas. Despite the artillery fire, enemy activity continued, and by mid evening, Major Hacia had ordered a 100 percent alert. At 0255 hours, a barrage by 107-mm and 122-mm rockets, 75-mm recoilless rifles, rocket propelled grenades, and 60-mm and 82-mm mortar fire was directed at the base. Fortunately, most of the rocket fire went over the base, but mortar rounds hit in and around the perimeter, killing one U.S. soldier. Otherwise, damage was slight. Coordinated with the attack by fire, the enemy launched a battalion-size ground attack from the south and west, which was met by a heavy volume of grazing fire from the defenders. The artillery battery within the base went into action with a close fire support technique referred to as "killer junior". This technique provided light artillery fire to a depth of 150 to 200 meters around the base, while medium and heavy support artillery hit suspected enemy positions throughout the area. On the perimeter, a sixteen-man enemy force did succeed in breaking through the wire with Bangalore torpedoes, but they were stopped by riflemen in the bunkers. By 0400 hours, the full gamut of air support, including tactical air fighters and gunships of all kinds, went into action over the battle area, hitting suspected enemy, rocket and mortar positions and covering all the open areas around the base with fire. Some 15 enemy .51-caliber anti-aircraft machine guns were reported in action, but they were suppressed by the gunships. Wilting under the heavy supporting fire, the enemy withdrew into the jungle, and by 0530 hours, the base was receiving only light, sporadic fire. Tactical air and artillery fire continued to pound away at the withdrawing enemy in an effort to restrict his movement and inflict additional casualties. At first light, B Company moved out of the base on a sweep which uncovered 76 enemy bodies and 15 small arms, plus a variety of ammunition, documents, and extraneous gear.

BULLETIN BOARD**(Continuation of Larry Robinson story)**

The next evening enemy activity resumed in almost the same pattern. First, the seismic sensor equipment and radars picked up heavy movement, this time to the northwest and east of the base; then radars began detecting three- to five-man groups moving in the wood lines. All return fire was made with artillery and mortars, including the base's artillery battery, which engaged in direct fire. Although all detectable movement had ceased by 0100 hours, the artillery continued firing "killer junior". At 0200 hours, a Nighthawk helicopter with a xenon searchlight spotted large groups of enemy troops moving toward the base along the road from the east. Shortly after the artillery shifted and began pounding these new targets, the base was hit with intense enemy preparatory fire followed by simultaneous ground attacks by battalion size forces from the northeast and northwest. Again the base suffered minimal damage, and only three men were wounded. Army and Air Force gunships, including the Nighthawk helicopter and AC-119 and AC-47 fixed-wing aircraft, engaged the attacking enemy forces under illumination to the northeast and northwest. Additional helicopter gunships suppressed the enemy's .51-caliber anti-aircraft guns firing from the west. Available artillery and mortar fire engaged the enemy's supporting positions to the east and south. All this firing, along with intense small arms, automatic weapons, and direct artillery fire from the base itself, wrecked havoc with the attacking enemy battalions. Despite the volume of defensive fire, the northwestern attacking battalion succeeded in breaching the outer wire before it was stopped. However, the northeastern assault was stopped short of the wire. Most of the attacking force was trapped and cut down in the open as they attempted to withdraw, and by 0530 hours, enemy troops that were able to do so had retreated into the jungle. A sweep of the area on the morning of the third day, 7 June, yielded 323 enemy bodies, 10 prisoners, and over 40 weapons, including two machine guns and two mortars, plus a large quantity of documents, ammunition, and equipment. The following evening the base received light small arms and mortar fire, which caused no casualties. There was no ground attack. In general, this last attack seemed little more than a parting gesture from the badly beaten 272d Viet Cong Regiment. A total disaster for the enemy, Fire Support Base Crook was another example of the ability to defeat the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong during one of their classic offensive operations. The battle demonstrated the rapid building of a fire base, the use of modern detection equipment, and the integration of the full spectrum of modern fire support techniques to achieve a decisive victory.

Submitted by Larry Robinson (1st Platoon—10-67/68)

Mark Hively, my friend, is writing a book about a fictitious character who spent part of his life in the Army just like I did. Mark is grilling me about my life in the Army, including basic training, advanced infantry training, and Vietnam. He is using my experiences to help him more accurately define what his character might have gone through. The photos I compiled from my collection help to illustrate some of the things I have verbalized to Mark about the Army. One thing that the photos show is the dichotomy between the basecamp and the field, the boonies, Charlie's (the gook's) country. It was scary as hell out in the boonies, and relatively safe in basecamp. The photos show the difference; the boonies were blood and guts and the basecamp was cake. I know because I served almost half of my one year tour in the field and the rest in basecamp. The basecamp shows a photo of the go-go girls dancing for us; the Olympic sized swimming pool, and the nightly steak cookouts. In Cam Rahn Bay, they even had skeet courses and golf courses. I was blessed by God to have been offered the job of Battalion Draftsman. I found myself doing many of the duties that I did in architecture school at OSU before the army. It was a miracle. I loved basecamp. As the troops pulled out of our basecamp at Dau Tieng and moved up to Tay Ninh, the cookouts and go-go girls stopped. We were lucky if we could man every bunker each night. But it was still safer than the field. I am eternally grateful to God that the gooks did not send in a human wave attack in August of 1968 when our Dau Tieng basecamp forces were so depleted. Finally in September we, the remaining basecamp warriors, moved up to Tay Ninh to Fire Support Base Buell with the rest of the battalion. I found myself back in the field again, but only had a short time left before I was sent home on the "Freedom Bird"; back to "The World".

ROBINSON PHOTOS



1ST PLATOON SWEEP ON AN S&D MISSION



BATTALION CREST I PAINTED FOR OFFICER'S CLUB



THE REAL GUYS OF "PLATOON"



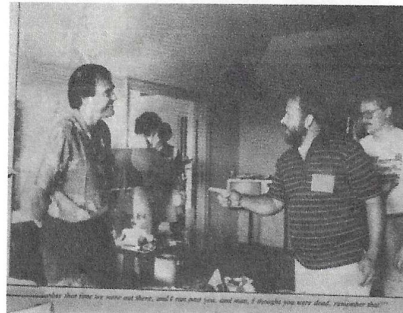
2 DEAD GOOKS WITH STANDARD RPG AT 4TH OF JULY BATTLE AT DAU TIENG



MACHINE GUN SQUAD WITH L TO R FRONT LARRY ROBINSON, AND ROBERT ORTIZ; BACK ROW TEX PETEET, KENNY BOOKER, AND DAVID ASH



VIETNAM KIDS ALONG THE ROAD 1968

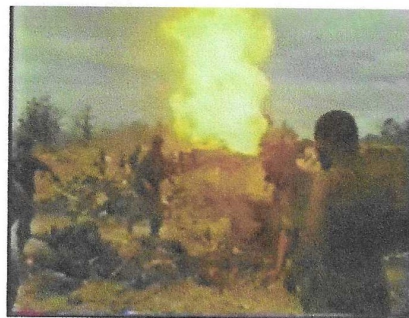


OLIVER STONE GREETING THE REAL "PLATOON" AT REUNION

5 Feb 68. C/3/22 under fire, preparing to attack Ap Cho



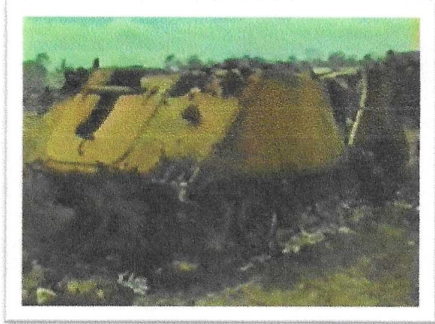
CHARLEY CO. WAS TO OUR EAST AT THE VILLAGE OF AP CHO. IT WAS A BATTALION BATTLE THAT LASTED FOR 9 DAYS AP CHO MEANT "VILLAGE OF TEARS" AND IT WAS ALL THAT.



FSB BURT, THE DAY AFTER THE HUMAN WAVE ATTACK JAN 2, 1968

Bravo Regulars

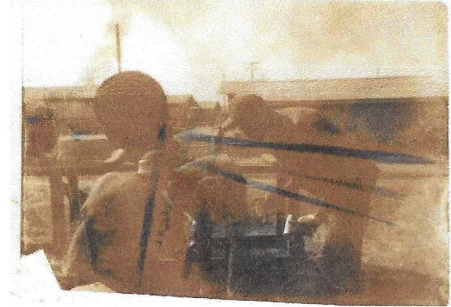
ROBINSON PHOTOS



BATTLE OF FSB BURT THE DAY AFTER. THE GOOKS' RPGS CHEWED UP SEVERAL APC'S



LARRY AND GARRY ROBINSON AT GRADUATION DAY FROM BASIC TRAINING FOR LARRY



BURNING SHIT BACK IN BASECAMP AT DAU TIENG



TYPICAL BUNKER BACK IN BASECAMP AT DAU TIENG



CHUM CHUM, ONE OF THE KP GIRLS BACK IN BASECAMP AT DAU TIENG



COLONEL FLINT ATTACHING MEDAL TO JOHN OTTE IN DAU TIENG BASECAMP. JOHN WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL SOLDIER.



1ST PLATOON BRAVO CO. RETURNING AFTER NIGHT AMBUSH TO BASECAMP



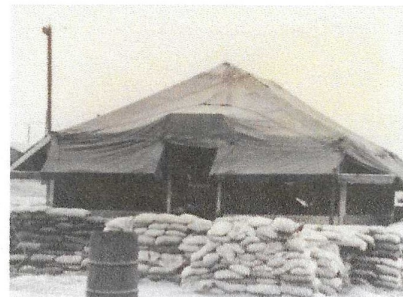
OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL IN BASECAMP AT DAU TIENG. ONE THA THE GRUNT RARELY GOT TO USE.



BRAVO 1ST PLATOON HEADING G OUT OF DAU TIENG ON S&D MISSION



DEAD GOOKS AFTER BATTLE AT BURT JAN 2, 1968



OUR HOME WHEN WE GOT A BREAK.

BULLETIN BOARD**Submitted by Larry Reams (8/67-2/68)**

I need to make a small correction to my data. You show me as B Company CO from 8/67 to 2/68. That's not correct. I was in 3/22 for those months but I was only CO of B Company from late August '67 to 9/30/67; a bit over a month. I was wounded on 9/30, lost command, and became CO of HHC until Feb. 8, 1968, a week after TET hit when I was reassigned to Phu Bai, up near Hue. Bob Hemphill replaced me as B Company CO in early October.

Submitted by Ron Meyer (2nd Platoon Co. Clerk—3-67/68)

That article starting on Page 5 was excellent and portrays most of us, as opposed to the other stories out there that like to portray us all as drunks, thugs and the dregs of society. I have long been very proud of my Vietnam service. I have never been to a reunion, because all the rest of you spent a lot more mental and physical energy in the boonies than I did. I came to the country in March of 1967 as an 11B10. I was in the jungle off and on for about 45 days. I had a lot of problems with the extreme heat and humidity. I never even fired my M16, except for target practice when back in the basecamp. One time when I got dusted off, yet again, I met John Schrage. John was the company clerk when the unit was formed in Fort Lewis, Washington. I got to talking to John and noticed he had a chip on his shoulder. I said "John, you have a dick job and no reason to be angry". He said the reason he was angry was because he was getting "short" and the good old US Army had not sent his replacement. Turns out I had all the necessary skills and he talked the CO into recommending me for his job. John probably saved my life and made my wife back in Minnesota a very happy new mother. You guys were the risk takers, not me. I got a Dick Job as John's replacement. I think I did a good job for all you guys in the boonies after John left. BTW, John was really troubled by all he had seen and dealt with while in RVN. He was drunk a lot in those last 30 days. I understand that John died when he got back to the states. He was a really kind-hearted person. BYW, this is a phrase I like to hear when wearing my US Army hat. People say it a lot sorta casually, but I sincerely mean it for you: THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE and all the other risk takers, while I was in the basecamp, pulling guard and como duty and had a nice cot to sleep on....doing typing during the day. My hat is off to you.

Submitted by Editor—Obituaries

Dennis R. Rolfingsmeier (Basic Only) - Dennis, age 76, of Breese, IL passed away April 7, 2023. He was born July 28, 1946 in Breese, son of the late Raymond and Margaret, Rolfingsmeier. Dennis was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He worked for the railroad for 25 years as a carman inspector and later retired from the City of Breese Street Department. He was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church and Holy Name Society in Breese, Breese American Legion Post 252, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 269, and Breese Knights of Columbus Council 2869. Dennis was an avid hunter and enjoyed hunting squirrel, deer, turkey, pheasant, and rabbit. He also enjoyed fishing, gardening, watching western tv shows, and watching YouTube hunting videos. Dennis was known to be a handyman and great cook; he could often be found working the fryers at the KC Hall and loved to host his own fish fries. Above all, Dennis was a family man and cherished time with his family.

Robert Closter (3rd/4th Platoon—8-68/69) - Matt Flikkema notified us of the passing of Robbie Closter from a massive stroke to his brain stem on May 13. Matt and Robbie were often together during their time with Bravo Company, in fact, they were in the same bunker Nov. of '68 on top of Nui Ba Den. Robbie and Pat visited with us here during the Lewis and Clark bi-centennial in 2002 and we visited with them in San Antonio a number of years ago. I will miss his good humor and friendship.