



A Soldier's Footsteps

Volume I

August 2011

Editors Notes: The editorial staff of this Newsletter are pleased to present to you our first attempt to bring us all closer. We strive to make this publication to you with the greatest amount of information possible. The info we present may not always meet with your approval but please keep in mind that everyone has a different knowledge base from which to work. As a starting point it is your publication. We are only the printers that put all of our collective thoughts in as succinct a fashion as we have the capacity. We encourage you to provide feedback to this effort. If there is something that you feel will benefit all of our readers, Please let one of us know. The email and snail mail addresses will appear further down this N/L. We intend to place this newsletter on the 2D Battalion WEBSITE. The way to access the WEBSITE is featured at the heading of this N/L. Please visit the site often for it is our intention to keep it going as long as it has utility. Chuck Holdaway has devoted a huge part of his time developing the site for our use. The site contains a great deal of information that many of you ask for all of the time. Let's keep Chuck busy with our suggestions and comments. The Chapter continues to receive much attention. We need all of us to become members of the Chapter devoted exclusively to our unit. We can accomplish much if we band together for a common cause.



Pictured above are the current co-editors of this Newsletter; Rich Heroux & Gary Carder. If you have anything relating to this N/L shoot them an email or write them at the following addresses; Email: rheroux1@nc.rr.com or gcarder@columbus.rr.com. Snail Mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300 or Gary Carder, 1725 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving.

Words of Reflection: "Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery"
Winston Churchill.

A Soldiers Footsteps: Why did we choose this theme as our motto for the Newsletter? We would like to answer this by including some thoughts from the originator of the theme. Gerry "Bo" Borysiak first wrote this for the editors to consider, but it was such an inspiring statement we thought it appropriate. Bo writes: "A Soldier's Footsteps" pretty much says it all.... especially when you think about the endless miles of ground we all covered over there? I know at least in the Second Battalion, First Infantry... Bravo was in the field way more in all of 1969, then any of the other 2/I Companies, including Recon.... It is said that the average ground pounder in WWII had a total of less than 50 days in Combat for each year there. And that in RVN that same average was closer to 250 days for each year there. I'd say Uncle Sam got his monies worth out of all of us???? Don't ya think...I can remember 3 times we had continuous time in the field, of just under or even over 60 days... and we got back to the rear during one time, for a quick overnight, fed, showered, change of clothes, resupply, and got to sleep as a group out in the open someplace behind the wire {No Guard duty}... and then left the next day. Higher up's F'd with us... and we ended up doing almost 3 continuous months (Except for that one night at a firebase).... I think it was LTC.Tackaberry who was the Battalion CO at that time... I may be off on the Battalion CO, But I am not wrong on the fact they pulled us in for that one night, and sent us out as Charlie-bait for 2 more months in a row!!!!

Ode to the Grunt

The ground pounding grunt,
The one that must bear the brunt,
Of combat on the ground,
Firing round after round,
Moving towards the sound of the gun,
Always moving on the run,
Duck and cover while on the move,
Covering your mates, in the groove,
Incoming always a scare,
Forward they move with care,
Point man out, flankers scout,
Moving forward without doubt,
Through the mud, blood and tears,
No matter the terrain,
They move forward through the pain,
Winning battles, taking losses,
Sacrificing for the bosses,
The ubiquitous Grunt, the Queen of Battle,
The taker of ground, the winner of wars!

A Vietnam Story: I'd like to add my most recent story. October 20, 2010 at the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA) reunion I had a chance to pay my respects to my brother "Raul (Heavy) Perez". It took a lot of years to get to Chicago. I talked a lot about it with Juju. Finally, I get there and 16 brothers from Bravo 2/1 are in attendance. What started out as a Juju and I trip, turned into my best Vietnam memory. Sixteen (16) brothers and the best example of American heroes this country should have seen. I can't express in words what it meant to me to be there. I couldn't even speak. I wanted to give my very own mark of respect. I felt so emotionally drained and sorry for have taken so long to make the visit possible. I know that I don't have to say **"Thank You"** But I will.

For those who didn't have personal contact with "Heavy", he was the sweetest person you could ever know. March 20, 1969 was a day that will never leave my memory.

That is my best story from Vietnam.

Respectfully Submitted:

John (Big John) Careccia



Pictured above is "Big John" planting a bracelet he had been wearing honoring "Heavy" since returning from RVN combat in 1969.

ADVA National Reunion September 8-11, 2011

Crown Plaza Hotel; Colorado Springs, CO

Mark your calendars now for the **2011 ADVA National Reunion** to be held September 8-11, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. The hotel is only minutes away from the Colorado Springs airport and free airport transportation is available.

The special ADVA group rate is only \$91 per night plus tax. The Crowne Plaza is located at 2886 S. Circle Dr. Highlights of the reunion are a tour of the Air Force Academy and other local attractions.

New Therapy Tested for Parkinson's: A new method of treating patients with Parkinson's disease shows that deep brain stimulation can improve motor function for up to two years. The two year test, conducted at seven VA and six university hospitals, studied 299 patients. The results were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed deep brain stimulation improved motor function, symptom control and increased quality of life. The new therapy is now the surgical "procedure of choice" for advanced Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease, which is a service-connected condition for vets exposed to Agent Orange, affects some 1.5 million Americans. VA treats some 40,000 veterans with the condition each year. Symptoms include shaking or rigidity in the limbs, slow movement and poor balance. It is caused by a loss of brain cells that produce dopamine, which helps control functions such as movement and emotion.

V VIETNAM WALL STATISTICS:

The youngest Vietnam KIA was Dan Bullock at 15 years old.
The oldest person on the Wall is Dwaine McGriff at 63 years old.
At least 5 men killed in Vietnam were 16 years old.
At least 12 men killed in Vietnam were 17 years old.
120 persons who listed foreign countries as their home of record.
At least 25,000 of those killed were 20 years old or younger.
More than 17,000 of those killed were married.
Veterans killed on their first day in Vietnam, 997
Veterans killed on their last day in Vietnam, 1,448
Number of Chaplains on the Wall -- 16 (2 Medal Of Honor)
Number of Women on the Wall -- 8 (7 Army, 1 USAF)
There are 226 Native Americans on the Memorial.
There are 22 countries represented on the Memorial.
Most common name on the Memorial "Smith" with 667 veterans.
The most casualties for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 casualties.
The most casualties for a single month was May 1968, 2,415 casualties were incurred.



To Kill an American: You probably missed this in the rush of news, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper, an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.

So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is. So they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!!!!)

'An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, Arab, Pakistani or Afghan.

An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans..

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan . The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion.. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world..

The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence , which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous.. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was over-run by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country!

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan .. The national symbol of America , The Statue of Liberty , welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America.

Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001, earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-tung, and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world.. But, in doing so, you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

Social Security Benefits: Some of you are probably aware of this, as I once was but I had forgotten about this. Others are maybe too young to be worried about this right now but doesn't hurt to be informed. As I am very near to applying in a few months, glad someone forwarded this to me. Please share this with anyone who's had active duty service prior to January 2002 and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You probably qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with in January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year (\$300 per quarter) of additional earnings credit will be credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office - and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Soc Sec website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

Testing Quicker Ways to access Medical Records:

The Department of Veterans Affairs is working to significantly reduce the average time needed to obtain health-care records from private contractors and the internet to speed claims decisions. This pilot project hopes to validate initial estimates that a specialized contact can yield records required to process Veterans' disability compensation claims in seven days instead of VA's average of 40 days. The test will involve about 60,000 records requests among regional benefit offices in Phoenix; New York City; Portland, Oregon; Chicago; Indianapolis, and Jackson, Mississippi. At the conclusion of the test, VA officials will decide whether to cancel, modify or expand any changes in procedures nationwide.

A tribute to all Vietnam Veterans: At the Beckley VAMC March 30, 2011, West Virginia Veterans of the war in Vietnam were memorialized with the unveiling of a monument dedicated to their service and sacrifices. The black granite memorial adorned with the likeness of three soldiers and inscribed simply with the words, "In tribute to all Vietnam Veterans." Veterans along with family members and medical center staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Sidney Cactus, a Veteran of both Vietnam and Iraq and an employee of the medical center, sang the National Anthem. The Director of the Veteran Administration Medical Center – Beckley paid homage to Veterans, thanking each of them for their sacrifices and their service. A unnamed Vietnam veteran said, "Now I will have a place to honor my friends lost in the war."

Taps: John Bays medic for 1st platoon B 2/I died 2009.

