## 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,



## Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)



WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com

Volume 3

"A Soldier's Footsteps"

July 2013

Commander's Corner: I hope all of you enjoyed the Independence Day festivities in your area. There are quite a few within Indianapolis and all of the surrounding cities and towns. Our forefathers fought for the freedom we have to enjoy the life we live and you should be elated you also have contributed to the continuance of these freedoms by the service you have given to our country. It seems like this year has just flown by so far; next thing we know it will be time to head to Nashville for the Americal Reunion and, just to remind everyone, our annual 2/1 Chapter meeting. We need to start getting in nominations for chapter officers as soon as possible. If you are interested or would like to submit someone for an office, please contact one of the current officers. We definitely need someone who would like to take over the office of Secretary/ Treasurer as Don Hicks will no longer be able to fill the post after this term due to his health. Along the lines of reunions; Terry "Foxhole" Loyd and his wife, Juliana, have set aside a weekend for us to drop by their house anytime from July 18-21. I know that's only a couple of weeks away but, they weren't sure they could have it because of Foxhole's health; which is now good. Arrival anytime during that 4 days is acceptable. Please let them know via email or phone asap with your plans, head count, if you would prefer non-smoking sleeping quarters or if you are bringing a camper, tent, etc. If you call, please call Juliana with your information at (812) 205-7618. They are located between Washington and Loogootee, Indiana, 3 miles directly south of the tiny community of Cannelburg, Indiana which is on Hwy. 50/150. Hwy. 50/150 connects to Hwy. 41 in Vincennes. Interstate Highway 69 is now open from I64 just north of Evansville, IN to Crane Navel Base and passes through Washington, IN just east of town at the Highway 50/150 bypass. If your GPS isn't up to date it will show you driving through fields if you use I69 from I64 or are brave enough to come through the boonies from Indy. The address is 9876 E 300 S Cannelburg, IN 47519. You may or may not be able to program that into your navigator. Head south on 900 E at the caution light at Cannelburg, go about 3 1/2 miles to E  $300\;S\,$  and turn left (east). They are the first address you come to on the left (north) side of the road. If you miss the driveway, go past the line of pine trees along the fence to the next drive, it's a U shaped drive with two exits to the road. They did this last year on the spur of the moment and everyone had a great time; the food, fishing and camaraderie was super. Also, anyone wanting to help with our website, please contact me. tuff. I have several things on the burner such as additional memorial pages and reunion pages but, haven't been too successful in getting them together this summer. Some of it is pretty basic and anyone with some 'html' and 'css' knowledge could put some of it together. It's pretty much a plug n play deal where the basic data is available and the template is already set up to put the information in. We would like to welcome our newest chapter member, John Henningson (HHC).

eep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!
Chuck

- Three MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Affairs Office announced the identification of remains belonging to a World War II airman and two Korean War soldiers. Returned home are
- \* Army Air Force Sgt. Charles R. Marshall, 19, of Martin, Ky. On July 21, 1944, a B-24H Liberator with nine crew aboard was shot down and crashed while on a bombing raid against enemy targets in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. Of the nine crew members, six parachuted to safety; a seventh crewmen's remains were recovered near Hadorf. Marshall and another crewman were not recovered, and attempts to recover their remains after the war were unsuccessful.
- \* Army 1st Lt. Douglas H. Haag, 26, of Louisville, Ky. In early July 1950, Haag, and elements of the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, were deployed along the Kum River in western South Korea when North Korean forces struck and overran the U.S. positions. Haag was reported missing, and later would be presumed dead and his remains non-recoverable.
- \* Army Master Sgt. Olen B. Williams, 37, of Verbena, Ala. In late 1950, Williams and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team were establishing a defensive line south of a bridge across the P'ungnyuri River, near a small village in Sinhung-ni, North Korea, when they were attacked by enemy forces. Williams was reported missing in action after the battle.

**Editors Notes:** *Newsletters* are uploaded to the 2nd Battalion Chapter ADVA Website. If you missed an issue or would like to look at one from the past look on the Website. The Web address is identified in the heading of the N/L. If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them to the following addresses; Email: rheroux1@nc.rr.com or Rich Heroux , 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300.

Your Chapter is actively soliciting for a replacement for our current Secy/Treas, Don Hicks. See the Commander's comments for details. Your entire staff will be up for reelection when we meet in Nashville in September 2013. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, reply directly to Chuck Holdaway or Rich Heroux.

Don't compare your life to others;

You have no idea what Their journey is all about.

When America had an urgent need, These brave ones raised a hand: No hesitation held them back: They were proud to take a stand. They left their friends and family: Bottom of Form

They gave up normal life:
To serve their country and their God,
They plowed into the strife.
They fought for freedom and for peace
On strange and foreign shores;
Some lost new friends; some lost their lives
In long and brutal wars.

Other veterans answered a call
To support the ones who fought;
Their country had requirements for
The essential skills they brought.
We salute every one of them,
The noble and the brave,
The ones still with us here today,
And those who rest in a grave.

So here's to our country's heroes; They're a cut above the rest; Let's give the honor that is due To our country's very best.

Joanna Fuchs



ajority of Military Suicides Never Saw **Combat:** Pentagon data shows that 52 percent of military suicides were committed by active-duty servicemembers who had never been in combat, officials said. The data was collected from 2008 through 2011. In 2012, there were more suicides among soldiers who had been deployed for combat than those who had not. About 20 percent of military suicide victims in 2011 had been diagnosed with a mood disorder such as depression, the Pentagon said, and about half had suffered a failed marriage, often within months of their deaths. Experts say the higher number of suicides among servicemembers who were never deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq may suggest that mental health issues and life circumstances may play a larger role in military suicide than the stresses of combat. "A lot of the risk for suicide in the military is the stuff they bring with them," said Dr. Murray Stein, a psychiatrist at UC San Diego who studies suicide in the Army. Craig Bryan, research director at the University of Utah's National Center for Veterans studies, said the military is more stressful and demanding now than it has been in the past, even for those not sent to war. "If these servicemembers are coming in with pre-existing vulnerabilities, it's more likely these vulnerabilities will be activated," Bryan said.



orean War 60th Anniversary: Plans are being set to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, July 27. Thousands of veterans from across the nation, as well as representatives from other UN nations, are expected to be present at the Korean War Memorial for the 9:30 a.m. ceremony. The event will be broadcast live, and VFW Posts are encouraged to share in the commemoration by hosting "Pancakes for Patriots"-type events to honor and help educate local communities about the service and sacrifices made by so many Veterans and their families. The current June/July issue of VFW Magazine is dedicated to Korean War veterans, and it highlights the \$600,000 donation towards building their national memorial—tops among all veterans' organizations.



0th Anniversary of Iraq, Afghanistan War Me**morial:** June 15 marks the 10th anniversary of the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial on the Illinois River in Marseilles. There was be a motorcycle ride from the Grundy County Fairgounds followed by a ceremony at the memorial. It's the war memorial that most people don't even know exists, even after ten years. It bears the names of more than 7,000 soldiers killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tom Yarber, with the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run Foundation, which built and maintains the memorial, says, "We're the first people in the history of the united states to ever put up a wall memorial like this where the names are added while the war is ongoing." They're bikers who want the families to know their loved ones will never be forgotten. Like a lot of bikers, Yarber has a nickname. "Most of the families know me as Big Daddy," he says. He spends a lot of time on the phone with family members and meets them in person when they come to see the wall memorial. For Yarber, this is personal. He lost his brother in Vietnam says, "It's bothered me every since I was 9 years old because he was my hero." He says for many, seeing loved ones names engraved in the 13 black granite panels helps them to heal.

BURMA SHAVE: SHE KISSED THE HAIRBRUSH BY MISTAKE; SHE THOUGHT IT WAS HER HUSBAND JAKE.

ilitary Plans Would Put Women in Most Combat Jobs: Military leaders are ready to begin tearing down the remaining walls that have prevented women from holding thousands of combat and special operations jobs near the front lines. Under details of the plans women could start training as Army Rangers by mid-2015 and as Navy SEALs a year later. The military services have mapped out a schedule that also will include reviewing and possibly changing the physical and mental standards that men and women will have to meet in order to quality for certain infantry, armor, commando and other front-line positions across the service components. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel reviewed the plans and has ordered the services to move ahead. The move follows revelations of a startling number of sexual assaults in the armed forces. Earlier this year, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey said the sexual assaults might be linked to the longstanding ban on women serving in combat because the disparity between the roles of men and women creates separate classes of personnel - male "warriors" versus the rest of the force. While the sexual assault problem is more complicated than that, he said, the disparity has created a psychology that lends itself to disrespect for women. Under the schedules military leaders delivered to Hagel, the Army will develop standards by July 2015 to allow women to train and potentially serve as Rangers, and qualified women could begin training as Navy SEALs by March 2016 if senior leaders agree. Military leaders have suggested bringing senior women from the officer and enlisted ranks into special forces units first to ensure that younger, lower-ranking women have a support system to help them get through the transition.



2013ADVA National Reunion Check-in on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, Thursday September 12 trip to Fort Campbell and 101st Airmobile Division, Friday September 13 trip to Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Memorial (one of the nicest in the country), then Country Music Hall of Fame, Dinner and then Grand Ole Opry; Saturday September 14 meetings as usual and Saturday night Banquet. Out on Sunday, September 15.The reunion will be housed at the Millennium-Maxwell House Hotel at 2025 Rosa Parks Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee 37228-1505. Friday will highlight the annual memorial service and culminate with dinner and a trip to the "Grand Ole Opry. Saturday we will hold our annual meeting and elect new officers. See the ADVA Journal or visit our 2/1 website for more details.

rmy Major Gets 10 Years in Classified Leak Case: A military jury convicted a Hawaii-based Army officer of unauthorized possession of classified documents and giving a document with classified assessments of Cambodia to a person not entitled to have it. A jury sentenced Maj. Seivirak Inson to 10 years confinement, along with dismissal from the Army and forfeiture of pay, the Army said. A panel of seven Army officers returned the verdict against Inson on Friday after a four-day court-martial at Wheeler Army Airfield. The jurors convicted Inson, who was born in Cambodia, of possessing a U.S. Pacific Command maritime strategy document and other military intelligence documents that he wasn't authorized to have. They found him guilty of failing to report to his chain of command contacts he had with Cambodian military and government officials.

Stafford Springs Man Charger with Defrauding U.S. Veterans: Deirdre M. Daly, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that JOHN J. SIMON, JR., also known as "Buzzy Simon," 66, of Stafford Springs, was arrested yesterday on a federal criminal complaint charging him with mail fraud. As alleged in the criminal complaint, beginning in approximately 2009, SIMON, a Vietnam War veteran, defrauded several U.S. military veterans of thousands of dollars by representing that he would assist his victims in obtaining or increasing their VA benefits. SIMON represented to certain victims that the money would be used to hire an attorney to do research and other work in furtherance of their claims. These and other representations were false. After his arrest, SIMON appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez in Hartford and was released on a \$50,000 bond. The charge of mail fraud carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years. Acting U.S. Attorney Daly stressed that a complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Charges are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. This matter is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Criminal Investigations Division and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

bama Vows to Close Guantanamo: The president vowed again recently to close the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and tasked the Defense Department to locate a site in the U.S. where military tribunals can be held. Veteran Organizations are firmly against both proposals by national resolutions approved by delegates attending our past three national conventions. Guantanamo serves a purpose: it keeps our most dangerous enemies off the battlefield, out of America, and provides an extremely secure and controlled environment for the military court system. by new claims filings in each of the three years, further compounding the backlog. "Whatever the reason", Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Bernie Sanders, said "we remain deeply committed to work with the Veterans Administration on cleaning up the claims backlog."

## I dialed a number and got the following recording:

"I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the Beep. If I do not return your call, You are one of the changes."

x-Cop Arrested for Lying about Purple Heart: He's accused of telling a little white lie about a big purple honor. Shane Steven Ladner, of Canton, says he is a Purple Heart recipient after being wounded in December 1989, when he was a 17-year-old soldier in the U.S. Army. But the Army, which does have a record of his service, has no record of Ladner's Purple Heart. Ladner, 40, a former Holly Springs police officer, is facing criminal charges that he lied about the medal following a six-week investigation into his military records. But Ladner's attorney, based in Texas, contends the veteran does have a Purple Heart. Questions were raised about the medal after Ladner and his wife were injured during a veterans parade accident in Texas. A float they were riding was struck by a train and his wife later lost her leg. "They did a lot of research and there was no evidence whatsoever to indicate he has ever been awarded a Purple Heart. Period," Lt. Jay Baker with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said. Ladner was arrested shortly after noon Wednesday and was charged with four counts of theft by deception, one count of false swearing and one count of false statement to a police officer, Ladner was released from jail after posting \$23,100 bond. "All along, our investigation has shown that, in fact, Shane did receive a Purple Heart for injuries received in service to his country," Ladner's attorney, John Cook, said in an emailed statement. "When all of the information finally comes to light, plenty of people will owe Shane an apology. Ladner allegedly claimed for several years that he was a Purple Heart recipient. He used the honor to obtain a free license plate for several years, The theft by deception charges stem from Ladner receiving free Purple Heart license plates in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, Baker said.

anel Rejects Request for Military Base Closings: Another round of military base closings has hit a dead end. The Senate Armed Services readiness subcommittee approved legislation rejecting the Defense Department's request to shutter installations and facilities in the United States that are no longer needed as the military branches cut the number of troops in uniform. The House Armed Services Committee last week also said "no" to more base closings. The refusals by the House and Senate effectively ensure that a final defense policy bill approved by Congress for the 2014 fiscal year won't give the department permission to close excess bases even as lawmakers clamor for ways to cut the federal deficit. Lawmakers also have rebuffed the Defense Department's attempts to rein in spending on the costly military health care program by increasing enrollment fees for military retirees and their dependents. Defense Department leaders have argued the troop drawdown will leave them with more installations than they need. The money saved by closing unused facilities can be spent on training and other essential operations. But military installations are often the economic lifeblood of the communities that surround them and any discussion about shutting bases is a political hot button. The Pentagon's budget for the 2014 fiscal year sought \$2.4 billion over five years to cover the initial expense of base closings.

Four boxes keep us free: The soap box, the ballot box, the jury box, and the cartridge box.



rmy Kills Competition to Replace M4: The Army announced today it is formally concluding its Individual Carbine competition without selecting a winner to replace the M4 Carbine. "None of the carbines evaluated during the testing phase of the competition met the minimum scoring requirement needed to continue to the next phase of the evaluation," The Army sent out letters to gun makers, such as Heckler & Koch, FNH-USA, Remington Defense, Adcor Defense Inc. and Colt Defense LLC, the original maker of the M4 carbine, informing them that no future contract awards will be made for the final soldier evaluation phase. Program Executive Office Soldier officials said that "no competitor demonstrated a significant improvement in weapon reliability" to justify buying a new carbine. "Based upon Army analysis, test results may have been affected by interaction between the ammunition, the magazine and the weapon," the release states. "The Army's existing carbine requirement assumed use of the M855 ammunition; the weapons tested in the IC competition all fired the next generation M855A1 Enhanced Performance Round (EPR) currently in fielding. The use of the M855A1 round likely resulted in lower than expected reliability performance. These effects are unique to testing conditions and are not known to affect the reliability of any weapon in the operational environment."

EALs in Bin Laden Raid Revealed: U.S. special Operations forces who participated in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden were in uniform and wearing nametags during a CIA award ceremony attended by the writer of the film "Zero Dark Thirty," a Pentagon inspector general's report said Friday. The report, however, omits a number of revelations disclosed in an early draft that was made public more than a week ago, including that then-CIA Director Leon Panetta revealed the name of the raid commander during his speech at the agency's June 2011 event. It also no longer includes revelations that the Pentagon's top intelligence official, Michael Vickers, divulged the name of an individual involved in the bin Laden raid to the filmmakers. The report was triggered by questions from a congressional lawmaker about whether U.S. officials leaked classified information to the filmmakers and whether they compromised military tactics and procedures. But, in contrast to the draft, the final report focuses exclusively on questions of Pentagon involvement in the matter, and refers other concerns to investigators at other federal agencies - likely a reference to the CIA - and additional reviews by the Pentagon inspector general. The IG report concludes that it did not identify any instances when sensitive special operations tactics or techniques were provided to filmmakers. But it also found that commandos involved in the raid were readily identifiable during the CIA ceremony.

A Grunt Remembers By Don Tyson

Lush green jungles Torrential rains Rice paddies Endless patrols on narrow trails Mosquitoes big enough to carry you off Sand bags and barbed wire Incoming! Distant gunfire and artillery twenty four-seven Boredom, mail call, news from home Perimeter guard Charlie's in the wire! Gut wrenching fear Kill or be killed God, Help Me! Freedom bird... The nightmares begin Approaching

rotection for the Nation's Symbol: For the ninth time Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, proposed a flag-protection amendment in the Senate. Hatch introduced Senate Joint Resolution 17, proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would give Congress the authority to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration. Veteran organizations have staunchly supported such an amendment since 1989, the year the U.S. Supreme Court decided in Texas v. Johnson that the state's flag-protection law violated the First Amendment; a year later, it declared the same was true for federal law. This amendment does not protect the U.S. flag. It merely returns to Congress the power to pass legislation that would protect the flag, a power that was taken away from them by the Supreme Court in 1989. In the event the amendment is ratified, it would not prohibit flag desecration. It would merely give Congress authority to do so. If passed by Congress, the amendment would have to be ratified by three-fourths of the country's state governments before it became the Constitution's 28th amendment. The House version of the flag-amendment proposal, H.J. Res. 47, was introduced May 22 by Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., and Rep. Daniel Lipinski, D-III. "On this Flag Day, tens of millions of Americans will be inspired by the sight and beauty of the U.S. flag," Bachus said. "It is an appropriate time for Congress to begin to take steps to honor and protect the most recognized symbol of freedom and democracy in the world." Lipinski said that while the protection of the U.S. flag is "a responsibility for all Americans," he cherished First Amendment rights but firmly believed that "purposeful flag desecration is an offensive act that cannot and should not be tolerated."





"For those of us who were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) earned it going into places most feared to go, always fighting for other countries that hated us. For those of you within our own government who wish to destroy the very fabric in which our country was founded on who think we won't stand up for our own country in her greatest time of need better remember why you awarded us this bagde, because we did what you were too afraid to do yourselves. If you think we're going to let you destroy our country then you would be wrong...dead wrong!!!"

~Michael Graham III

01st Seeking to Save 'Band of Brothers' Regiment: The 101st Airborne Division is trying to save its illustrious 506th Infantry Regiment, whose origins date to World War II's fabled "Band of Brothers," from deactivation under the Army's massive restructuring. The Army announced this week that at least 12 combat brigades nationwide are to be eliminated by 2017 under sweeping military reductions, among them the 4th Brigade Combat Team at Fort Campbell, Ky. The long-term reorganization seeks to reduce the Army's size from a high of about 570,000 members at the peak of the Iraq war to 490,000 to shrink spending and reflect the country's current military needs as wars in Iraq and Afghanistan end. The brigade traces its lineage to the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, created in 1942. The 506th was among several parachute regiments created to sneak behind enemy lines in the war. Nicknamed "Currahee," which is a Native American Cherokee term for "stands alone," the regiment parachuted into Normandy during the D-Day invasion in 1944. The regiment raced to liberate Europe amid bouts of fierce fighting in Bastogne, Belgium and then overran Hitler's famed "Eagle's Nest" in Germany. The "Band of Brothers" book by historian Stephen Ambrose and the subsequent HBO miniseries about the men of Easy Company won national acclaim, propelling the unit to wide fame among the public. The 2001 miniseries was produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks and followed the soldiers from paratrooper training through D-Day and the end of the war.

One night at Cheers, Cliff Clavin explained the "Buffalo Theory" to his buddy, Norm.

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this. A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine!

That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

## Semper Primus Newsletter August 1968:

Bravo Company Brings Great Credit to 2/1 Infantry; The following narrative of his company's participation in Operation Burlington Trail was written by Captain John Malpass (Larchmont, New York), Commanding Officer of Company B: "At 0230 hours on August 24, 1968, we got the word from Battalion to return to LZ Ross, and to be ready by 0500 hours for a move to Hawk Hill, home of 1/1 Cavalry. The first left departed at 0545 hours, and thus began an eventful four days for Bravo.

As soon as Bravo closed Hawk Hill, the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was sent to defend Hill 10, and the 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, and 2d platoon were lifted in to join A/1/1 Cavalry, about 6 miles west of Tam Ky. During the previous day, the 1/1 had been in contact with the 1<sup>st</sup> NVA Regiment in that area. At 0930 hours, Bravo moved out to the attack, mounted on tanks and APC's. The first attack ran into a fresh NVA force and received heavy recoilless and RPG fire. Airstrikes were called on the enemy position and, under cover of artillery fire, the attack renewed. The combined arms team made a short turning movement against the enemy left flank. Bravo's 2d platoon made the widest portion of the turn, covering the friendly right flank, and soon came under fire from a small hill to the right front. SSG Gibson rallied his men and led them in a rush across an open rice paddy under heavy automatic and recoilless rifle fire. When the NVA realized Bravo wasn't going to stop, the NVA broke from their positions. This gave the Bravo gunners the chance they were waiting for. A machine gun team of PFC Stanley Goff (San Francisco, California) and PFC Tommie Emery (Snider, Oklahoma) was directed on target by SGT Garland Needham (Blytheville, Arkansas). This team cut down over 40 NVA, an example of what "marksmanship and good guts" can do.

Further airstrikes, and combat patrolling by Bravo, resulted in the following catch for the day: 67 NVA KIA; 1 NVA POW; a 75 mm RR, 4 AK-47's; 2 AK-44's 2 RPG's and a large quantity of ammunition, misc equipment, and documents.

During the next 2 days Bravo made several contacts, resulting in an additional 12 NVA KIA, for a total of 79 credited to Bravo for the operation.

Although some good men were lost, Bravo casualties were extremely light, compared to those of the enemy".

The following letter was received from the commanding Officer, 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade: It is a pleasure to forward the attached message regarding the exemplary performance of Company B in the Burlington Trail area of operations on 24, 25, and 26 August 1968. When you pass on to your personnel the commendation of LTG Cushman and MG Gettys please also express my compliments and admiration. The fighting spirit of the professional competence of the 2d Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry. They have added another proud page in the history of the 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.

Signed, Fredrick j Kroesen, Colonel, Commanding.

This was sent in by James E. Pitra