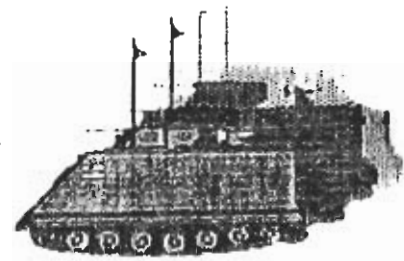


1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY

" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "



VOLUME NUMBER 2 -- DATED 15 JUNE 1998 -- ISSUE NUMBER 03

FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK...



SITREP ...

Ten thousand nine hundred and fifty nine sun rises and sun sets have come and gone since my DEROS. The new moon has risen 391 times, and the tide has ebbed and flowed 21,918 times. And, I am but one of how many thousands who were there, and remember those long gone days of thirty years ago, as we left Vietnam and headed back to "The World."

But how can they be long gone days, if we still remember them as yesterday? At least, I don't have those night time fears and terrible flashbacks, that some of my brothers and sisters do. I believe Charles Dickens wrote once, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times ...". Can any of us say it was the best of times? Nay, I think not. But, if it was not the best of times, why do so many of us think of it as the highlight of our lives? Are our lives that humdrum? Are they so humdrum without the heat, and without the sweat, without the constant rot and itch, without the terror, without the blood and guts?

I would like to dedicate this issue to my comrades in arms from the uniform services, to my sisters in arms who came along with us, to the civilians who shared with us, to the families who stayed home and wondered, and worried, and cried during the night; and especially to the memories of all those who live on in granite at the "Wall."

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Each newsletter will feature a brief history of several members from the battalion. This month's issue will be void of those while I compile all the bio's from everyone and put them into an alphabetical order. Starting with the next issue, all members found, whether members of the association or not, will be profiled within these pages. Several of you I did not receive a profile. If you did not send me any bio on yourself, and wish to see it here, please forward to the address below within the next few days and I will see it is added accordingly. If I receive no profile for a member, I will list all known information on those that are in my possession at the time of release. Late arrivals and new members will be published after I run through the list.

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1. Who was "Win Phat Tan?"



 EDITOR'S PAGE



HISTORY OF THE POW/MIA FLAG

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, Mrs Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China, as a part of their policy to provide flags to all United Nations members states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue and he, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flag was manufactured for distribution.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation which had passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony.

The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the Rotunda where it will fly as a powerful symbol of national commitment to America's POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved for U.S. personnel still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "as the symbol of our nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still held prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for the families and the Nation."

The importance of the League's POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIAs. Other than "Old Glory", the POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, having been displayed in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day ever since 1982. With passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act during the first term of the 105th Congress, the League's POW/MIA flag will fly each year on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day on the grounds or in the public lobbies of all major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense, all Federal national cemeteries, the National Korean War Veterans Memorial, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the White House, the United States Postal Service post offices, and at the official offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veteran's Affairs, and the Director of the Selective Service System.

Footnote: The Acting VA Secretary (now Secretary of the Army) Togo West, just decided to fly the POW/MIA flag daily, rather than the directed six days per year, effective 12 February 1998. Also, on February 17, 1998, US/SRV teams began a month long field investigation and recovery operation in 31 provinces of Vietnam.

2. What made the opening of LZ Uplift's movie theater so special?



Where Friends Meet

LETTERS AND NEWS FROM THE GUYS

Heard from Bob Gold a few weeks ago. He plans on being at the mini-reunion held in Cincinnati in June. By the way Bob, thanks for the lists of guys you sent me.

Ken Bradley of Georgia, who was with Charlie Company in 1968-69, heard about the association through a veteran friend of his and has since joined our group. Welcome Home Ken!

Recently spoke with Tom Bergin ... and he is doing well. He is looking for anyone who knew a fellow in HQ or Delta Co who went by the nickname "Froggy." If any of you out there knew this guy, let me know right away and I will pass it on to Tom. Thanks much fellows!

Also spoke through e-mail with Tom Sarsfield. He would like to hear from anyone that knew John D'Augustino before he died. Please contact me if you knew John, ok? Thanks!

Dick Guthrie of Bravo Company says he finally got his pilot's license. Soon we may see the Guthrie Airlines advertisements, huh Dick? He just left for Peru for seven weeks. Happy travels! By the way, he is looking for input for a paper he is doing about our troops. Anything that contributes to keeping the memory alive of our guys, Dick would like to have. SO Fellows! Send it to me and I will see he receives it.

A soldier was standing at attention during the parade drill when he waved to one of the spectators. The DI went over to the young man and growled, "Soldier, don't you ever do that again."

As the company marched past the reviewing stand, the young man waved a second time. When the troops got back to the barracks, the drill instructor barreled in and barked at the soldier, "Didn't I tell you not to do that again, Soldier? What the hell is the matter with you? Aren't you afraid of what I am going to do to you?"

"Yes Sir, I am!" said the private, "But you don't know my mother!"

FOR ANYONE THAT IS "ON-LINE", WE NOW HAVE A "HOME PAGE."

Please take the time to check it out every so often. The address for this service to the Ichaban troopers is:

<http://web2.airmail.net/npage/1st50th>

Please check out the Home Page each chance you get. If you see an error notify me as soon as possible. If you wish to add to the Home Page let me know and I will do my best to see it incorporated in the Home Page.

I would like to inform you of a site I found actually by error. It is called, "PTSD 101 Forum." It is very extensive and can be found at: <http://espsun.space.swri.edu/patience/index.htm>

Steve Ellsworth has put some effort into this forum and if you have the time to spend at the page, it has some very interesting articles there.

3. What was the flick playing when the screen was shot?



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 MEMORIAL DAY
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It's a sacred day to all veterans. Not one veteran needs to be reminded of the reason why Memorial Day must be commemorated. But what about the general public, and more importantly, future generations? Do most non-veterans recognize the importance of May 30?

Changing the date to create a three day weekend has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day. Judging from what Memorial Day has become ... simply another day off from work ... the answer is a resounding yes! Perhaps a reminder is due then. And it is the duty of each and every veteran to relay that message.

Sacrifice is meaningless without any remembrance. America's consciousness demands that all citizens recall and be aware of the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime. Far too often, the nation as a whole takes for granted the freedom all Americans enjoy. That freedom was paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew. That is why they are all collectively remembered on one special day. This should be regarded as a civic obligation. For this is a national debt that can only be truly repaid by individual Americans. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory and thus their service and sacrifice in the memories of future generations.

They came from all walks of life and regions of the country. But they had one thing in common --- love of and loyalty to country. This bond cemented ties between them in times of trials, allowing a diverse lot of Americans to achieve monumental ends. We remember the loss of loved ones, a sense of loss that takes group form. In essence, America is commemorating those who made the greatest sacrifice possible ... giving one's own life. Attending commemorative ceremonies is the most visible way of demonstrating remembrance: placing flags at gravesites, marching in parades, sponsoring patriotic programs, and dedicating memorials and wearing buddy poppies are other examples. Whether done collectively or individually, it is the thought that counts.

As America's 12 million war veterans fast disappear from society's landscape, there are fewer and fewer bearers left to carry the torch of remembrance. Such traditions will live on only if there is a movement to which that torch can be passed.

A short note or two about the upcoming reunion in Kansas City, MO in 1999. I received back many responses to the question about which date you would be interested in holding the next reunion. I was a bit disappointed with the response on it. Many of you did not respond at all. However, those that did picked either August or September. The majority did go with the September dates. This is good in that next August 1999, the National VFW Headquarters is holding their 100th Anniversary and convention in Kansas City during the same week in August. A letter I received from National Headquarters stated that while they would help us in every way possible, all the rooms in the hotel will be booked that week and we may have to stay outside of Kansas City since they were expecting more than 20,000 VFW members to attend the function. So gentlemen, the week of September 17th, 18th and 19th 1999 looks like the best for our Second Official Reunion. Please make note of these dates and plan accordingly. More later.

4. What was the name of the refugee camp just south of LZ Uplift?

MISCELLANEOUS
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THE MECHANIZED INFANTRY

Up the ramp and close the door,
Hurry up, we are fighting a war.
Motors roaring, everything is ready,
Down the road they roll true and steady.
Mechanized infantry, a changing knight,
Ready to fight for what is right.
Enemy contact, loud is the yell,
Men and tracks trained to give them hell.
The battle is over, and Charlie is lame,
Once again, we taught him to remember our name.
Some of us may go, and some of us may stay,
We will always be proud in every way.
The men in tracks will go rolling on,
To fight for freedom in South Vietnam.



(This was written by Sgt. Victor J Caruso of Bravo Company, 1/50th)
(It appeared in a copy of the Stars and Stripes a long time ago.)

I find it hard to believe that this is the tenth newsletter to be produced in this short time. The time is flying by in the association and our lives, unfortunately. Nearest to my heart right now is the retention of membership in the association. Retaining 90% of membership in any organization is a hallmark tradition. Currently, we are riding at 80% retention. If you are one of those 20% who have not renewed, consider what you may be giving up by not keeping your membership. We provide at least 6 newsletters per year, plus several times a year, we will send a flyer telling you of some special event in the life of the Association. It may be notice of the next reunion, or the publication of a new directory. We had planned on being non-profit status soon, so there will be items pertaining to that. Or, it could be just a card to say Hi.

On the address labels affixed to the envelope this newsletter came in is a date. This date is the year your membership is paid for. If it says 1998 or later, well and good and thank you very much for your support of the Association. If the date is 1997 or no date, that means you are now receiving the newsletters free and your dues are overdue. Several of you have a "Life" or "Comp" written on the label. This means that you have donated services or additional money sufficient to allow us to provide you with the newsletters until ...

We hope in the near future to be able to provide some financial relief in the form of a scholarship award or savings bonds to a child of a veteran in the battalion to use toward college or whatever. This is being worked on right now. I would also like to see a flower fund established for those out there in the battalion who are seriously ill or suffer the loss of a loved one. We can only provide these benefits if everyone renews their dues. Please consider doing so now, if you have not. Thanks for your support.

5. The valley where Alpha Company ran into an ambush was called what?

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a recurring computer matching program matching the Department of Justice, Bureau of Prison inmate records with VA pension, compensation, and dependency and indemnity compensation records. The goal of the match is to identify incarcerated veteran and beneficiaries who are receiving VA benefits, and to reduce or terminate benefits, if appropriate. The match will include records of current beneficiaries.

DATES: The match is estimated to start 1 April, 1998, but will start no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal register, or 40 days after copies of this notice and the agreement of the parties is submitted to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, whichever is later, and end not more than 18 months after the agreement is properly implemented by the parties. The involved agencies' Data Integrity Boards (DIB) may extend this match for 12 months provided the agencies certify to their DIBs, within three months of the ending date of the original match, that the matching program will be conducted without change and that the matching program has been conducted in compliance with the original matching program.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, or objections regarding the proposal to conduct the matching program to the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 1154, Washington DC 20420. All written comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management Room 1158, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20420, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, (202) 273-7218

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: VA will use this information to verify incarceration and adjust VA benefit payments as prescribed by law. The proposed matching program will enable VA to accurately identify beneficiaries who are incarcerated for a felony or a misdemeanor in a Federal penal facility.

The legal authority to conduct this match is 38 U.S.C. 1505, 5106, and 5313. Section 5106 requires any Federal department or agency to provide VA such information as VA requests for the purposes of determining eligibility for, or the amount of VA benefits, or verifying other information with respect thereto. Section 1505 provides that no VA pension benefits shall be paid to or for any person eligible for such benefits, during the period of that person's incarceration as the result of conviction for a felony or misdemeanor. Section 5313 provides that VA compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation above a specified amount shall not be paid to any person eligible for such benefits, during the period of that person's incarceration.

In accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. subsection 552a (o) (2) and (r), copies of the agreement are being sent to both House of Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget. This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by Public Law 100-503.

Approved: February 9, 1998
Togo D. West, Jr.,
Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.



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THE MEETING
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This story comes from Toby Milroy, a "Play the Game" trooper. It was written to his sister, June, about a guy who was a KIA from our unit.

"His name was Samuel Bullock. He was a fellow grunt who had the chance to run to Canada years ago, but his patriotism for America was important to him. So he joined the Army. As a fellow grunt, he became a friend of mine the same as a bunch of other guys from Nam."

"We suffered a lot of casualties in 1967-1968 and it's sad about the KIAs that the unit suffered and we don't forget the guys even after they are gone. I am in touch with a lot of the guys now because the 1/50th started an association: we are getting the guys together again."

"With my work, I was sent up to Georgia to make calls at the Harvey Supermarket Chain. Well, I remembered that Bullock was from Georgia so when I found out that he was from a town called Ochlocknee, I looked it up on the map. I knew I would be working not far from there. So, I thought I would try to make contact with his next of kin. I finished up in Americus and headed south on Highway 19 toward Florida then would stop in Ochlocknee. I drove about 70 miles south wondering if I would find any family or if they would even talk to me. I did not know how their feelings might be after all these years, but I had to inquire for my own reasoning."

"I got to Ochlocknee about mid afternoon and found the Post Office in this small town. I met the Postmaster, but she didn't know a Sam Bullock who was killed in Nam. She said there was a Bullock on her mail route and they might know. The mailman looked up the phone number and dialed it for me. By this time, my adrenaline was racing through my mind. After all these years, was I intruding in their lives?"

"Mrs. Bullock answered the phone and I asked her if she lost a son in Vietnam? She said yes she had, but that was 30 years ago!. I said, 'Yes Mam, it was December 10, 1967.' There was a pause, then she said that was correct, and who is this? I told her my name and said I was a friend of Sam's and was with him when he died. I had a lump in my throat from talking with her. She said she wanted to talk to me."

"I got directions to her house and headed out. It was in the country and I had to drive a dirt road (named Bullock Road). When I pulled into their driveway, Mr. Bullock was waiting for me. I was very nervous."

"As we started talking, Mrs. Bullock told me that two men from the military came to the house in December of 1967, told her she had lost a son in Vietnam. Two weeks later they received his body and they buried him on Christmas Day 1967 in his Army uniform. She said the military never sent his personal effects home nor did they tell her what really happened to him. Needless to say, Christmas has never been joyful for them since then."

"I explained what happened to their son and the rest of us that fateful day. When I told them a chaplain had arrived by helicopter that morning and we had service and communion before the ambush, I saw that helped his mother, in someway knowing that religion was with us."

"Bullock's sister drove 30 miles that evening to meet me and ask questions. I spent about five hours that day on my visit and I feel all of us found some form of closure that day. I wished I had done this 30 years before, as I drove from their driveway, heading home."

"Some day" is not a day of the week.



|||||
THINK POSITIVE
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Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and had something positive to say about everything. When asked how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him from restaurant to restaurant. He was a natural motivator and was always telling the employees how to look on the positive side of any situation.

Seeing this style had made me curious, so one day I went to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, 'Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood.' Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone complains, I can choose to accept their complaint or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Life is all about choices," Jerry continued, "When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to those situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose what mood you will be in. The bottom line is, it's your choice how you live life."

I reacted on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice. Several years later, I heard Jerry did something you never do in the restaurant business. He left the back door open and was held up at gunpoint. While opening the safe, his hand slipped off the combination and one of the robbers shot him.

Jerry was rushed to a local trauma center and after hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry a few months after the incident and asked him how he was. He replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins."

I asked him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the door," Jerry said. "Then as I lay on the floor, I remembered I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"The paramedics were great," Jerry continued. "They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the Doctor's and Nurse's faces, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I need to take action."

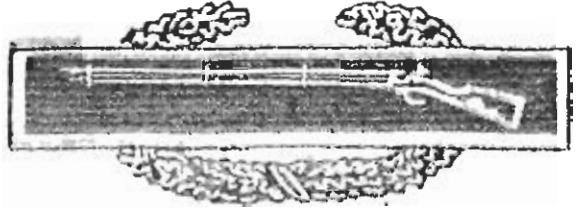
"What did you do," I asked.

"Well, there was a nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. They all stopped, waiting to hear my answer. I took a deep breath and said, 'Bullets' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Jerry lived thanks to the skills of the doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

(This article was sent to me by Fred Maida, from Florida. Thanks Fred)

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DEAR AMERICA
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This was recently published in one of the news magazines and was forwarded to me by Col. M M Oliver.

Dear America:

I am writing this letter to extend thanks to all the American people who still, despite the recent headlines undermining ethics and morality of the military, understand that our jobs and way of life are necessary to preserve the "American way of life." I once thought that America viewed us as most media portrays us; immoral, unethical and uncivilized. My recent travels led me to conclude that the opposite is true. You, the American people, that honor and respect what we do, deserve a public "Thank You."

Just a few weeks ago, a tragedy embedded itself in the forests at the Training Center in Fort Polk, LA. As a tank slowly moved through the trees after sunset on 14 January, 1998, the tank commander fell victim to the danger of the military. SGT Donald Wayne Slover passed away that night as he was guiding his tank through trees, fog, and rain. The tank's edge clipped and uprooted a tree, which sent it crashing to the ground. The medics, arriving on site only minutes later, felt Sgt Slover's last pulse.

As one of two military escorts, I was required to accompany the remains from the training area to the burial site, ensuring the proper and unimpaired delivery to the next of kin. That obligation required a two day journey from Fort Hood TX, to Williamsburg, KY, via Fort Polk. Loading, unloading, and transportation of the remains required our physical presence.

Upon boarding our initial flight out of Houston TX, we informed the flight attendant of our duties. After explaining that it was necessary to depart the plane upon landing (so as not to delay the cargo personnel unloading the casket) two gentlemen offered their seats in the first row of the plane for our last row seats. This gesture left me speechless. I'm not so sure they even knew our purpose for having to be first off the plane, but with no questions asked, they immediately sacrificed their front row seats.

After arriving in Atlanta, we were escorted by aircraft personnel off the plane and down to the tarmac. Standing in our dress green uniforms, we watched the airline employees carefully unload the casket onto the cargo truck. The truck drove to the departing gate. We met the cargo truck there and again supervised the loading for our final flight. As we made the walk back to the gate, I noticed we were being watched by the crowd awaiting the flight. Not thinking much about that, I hurried back and awaited the boarding call.

We boarded the plane and again informed the flight attendant of our duties and requirements. The flight was booked, every seat filled and she told us that she would make an announcement upon landing that we were to exit the plane first. Having been on numerous flights before, I just assumed this message would be ignored as everyone rushed to be the first one off the plane.

As the plane touched down in Knoxville, the flight attendant gave the standard "Keep your seat belts fastened until the captain turns off the seat belt sign" announcement. She then led into the fact that two military escorts were on-board and that everyone must remain seated until we departed the plane.

The plane parked and to my astonishment, not a soul moved. I'd never witnessed such absolute silence in my life. Many passengers turned their heads to the rear of the plane, but not a sound was made as myself and the other escort donned our jackets, grabbed our bags, and headed down the aisle. I realized then that all eyes were on us. As we neared the exit, an older gentleman leaned toward us and broke the silence with something I will never forget.

"God bless you both," he said.

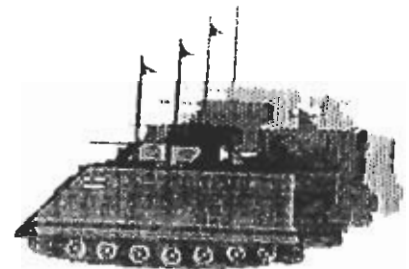
"I am sir, most truly blessed, I said to him. I have been afforded the opportunity to work alongside some of the great sons and daughters of our nation. We know and understand that each day presents the possibility of injury or death and we take all precautions to prevent them. But, we sacrifice that possibility because you depend on us. We train through the roughest of conditions, with minimum sleep and very limited resources, anywhere at anytime, to ensure we are always ready. We sir, are most honored that you entrust us to defend your country."

So, I am writing this letter to say thanks. Thank you Delta Airlines, thank you gentlemen for your seats, thank you sir for your blessings, and thank you America, for your support. You see ... we as soldiers don't expect you to understand the ways in which we live, train, and fight; we just ask for a thank you from time to time. A little appreciation from the people we are defending weighs more than a chestful of awards and medals.

Sgt. Donald Wayne Slover gave his life training to defend the code of morality and ethics he exemplified and believed in. Sgt. Slover believed in the Army and his country. I worked alongside Slover for over a year. He was good at his job and he loved it. Slover never complained and always did what was asked of him. Slover maintained the courage of his convictions. I hope he lied to rest knowing he was appreciated. If not, we failed as a nation and we owe it to him. Sgt. Slover ... Thank you! You will be missed!

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ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUESTIONS
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1. Ho Chi Min's real name.
2. "Charlie" put a rifle shot through the screen.
3. "To Sir With Love"
4. Phu My
5. Crescent Valley



Whatever you want to do, do it now. There are only so many tomorrows.

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THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
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A Note from the Chaplain:

I've got something that falls into place with one of the concerns of many of us. As you know, there are people who think it is all right to burn Old Glory to protest anything. The following is something I'd like to share with each of you. Hope you enjoy it and may God bless all of you,

Toby Jordon, Chaplain

THE FLAG: The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right, and only is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country honorably in uniform.

In the evening, the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat after taps has sounded, the flag is lowered and folded in a triangle fold, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning, it is brought out at the ceremony of reveille, and run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

THE FIRST FOLD of our flag is a symbol of life.

THE SECOND FOLD is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

THE THIRD FOLD is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks, who gave a portion of his life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world, not to have been in vain and shall never be forgotten.

THE FOURTH FOLD represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, for it is to him we turn to in times of peace as well as in times of war for his divine guidance.

THE FIFTH FOLD is a tribute to our country, for the words of the immortal Stephen Decatur, "Our country in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

THE SIXTH FOLD, for this is where our hearts lie ... and it is with our hearts that, "We pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

THE SEVENTH FOLD is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through these same armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

THE EIGHT FOLD is a tribute to the One who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of the day, and this fold is made to honor Mother, for whom it flies on mother's Day.

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THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (Continued)
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THE NINTH FOLD is a tribute to our womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion, that the characters of men who have made this country great, have been molded.

THE TENTH FOLD is a tribute to Father, for he has too given of his sons for the defense of our country, since she was born.

We fold from the stripes toward the stars, whereas the stripes represent the thirteen colonies that founded our republic, and they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states, so that the stars cover the stripes.

THE ELEVENTH FOLD, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, this represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes, God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Christ.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are upper most, which reminds us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, and they, followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United states, have preserved for us the rights and privileges and freedom which we are enjoying today.

Author Unknown

Thank you Toby, for that bit of information. Hopefully, the next newsletter sent will also have articles on the History of the First Battalion Fiftieth Infantry. I hope to work with our Historian, Mike Deal, and provide an interesting, yet factual, history of our battalion from its inception until today.

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LET'S NOT FORGET WHAT THE 4TH OF JULY IS ALL ABOUT
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Celebrating the Fourth of July ...Independence Day ... at least in the last three decades, has become largely a ritual of fun and games devoid of its original purpose. That Americans see this day mostly as an opportunity to take advantage of sales at stores, have picnics and watch fireworks, is by now taken for granted. It is one thing to be apathetic about the true meaning of a patriotic holiday, but quite another to actually demean the entire concept by one's actions and words.

All Americans are certainly entitled to define patriotism in their own ways. Active citizenship is what we veterans should be all about. Individual participation in our form of government is what makes us the beacon of the world. The responsibilities of citizenship goes beyond mere voting. They include instilling the idea of civic obligation in the young. No matter what path you choose, let the world know this Independence Day that we veterans proudly proclaim their belief in the value of patriotism.

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ADDITIONAL REUNION NOTES
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This reunion, there will be a \$20.00 non-refundable registration fee charged again. This fee is to help with paying for all the items necessary to put on a good reunion; such as bus transportation, the hospitality room, hotel charges for microphones and such. The fee will be for the guys only. Wives, Children, and other guests will always be free.

I am currently working with the Ladies Auxiliary of the National VFW to see if they will provide escort service for any women wishing to come to the reunion and go to shows, shopping, or whatever. We want your women involved with our reunions, but we don't want them to have to listen to all the "War Stories" they have heard so often before. So, we plan on having something to entertain the ladies while we set around and "bull-shit."

I understand from the National Headquarters that they are working with the County Council to see if a color guard can be provided for our stay. I think that is a great gesture on their part and hope it comes off.

As soon as I hear from the Kansas City Convention Bureau on what room availability and pricing is, I will send that along in an updated announcement. Two travel agencies have already inquired with me on the reunion and want to do the package deals for those of you who will be flying there, such as myself. I will have more information on what they are offering later and will send that out to you when it is finalized.

Gentlemen, it is less than two years away and it would please me to no end to see all your smiling faces there. Please make an attempt to be at OUR reunion. After all, it may be your only chance to meet that long lost buddy of yours and spend some time with the entire group. You will enjoy it, I assure you.

I will have a rough draft of an agenda set up once I hear from National VFW Headquarters just what they are providing for us. Once this information is in my hands, I will include this agenda with the next newsletter available. Hopefully, I can hear from some of you guys who live in the general vicinity of Kansas City as to what is available in the area for a sight seeing tour.

Let's all pull our resources and do our best to attend the next reunion. At the general meeting we will then establish where the next one will be. My best guess is that we should hold one somewhere on the West Coast or possibly in Las Vegas, to provide a financial break for those living on the west coast who were at the first reunion held in Alexandria and for those also who plan on attending this one in Kansas City. We are open to any and all ideas, fellows!

UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS

As soon as I have made all corrections to the e-mail list, I will be sending that out under separate cover. Next month, I hope to have enough information collected to also include a flyer concerning the upcoming reunion in 1999. Watch for the details.

If you really want to do something, you will find a way; if you don't, you'll find an excuse.

R E U N I O N C O M M I T T E E S

1. HOSPITALITY ROOM: KENNETH G RILEY, CHAIRMAN
 (Need at least two people Friday and Saturday to help)

2. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION: KANSAS CITY CONVENTION BUREAU
 (Need two people to help coordinate hotel registration)

3. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENT: KTC TRAVEL, INC AND ADVANTAGE TRAVEL
 (Need two people to assist with arrangements)

4. RESTAURANT SET-UP:
 (Need committee chairman and two people to help
 make arrangements for meals)

5. ENTERTAINMENT: National VFW Headquarters
 (Need two people to assist with arrangements)

6. TOURS: Ladies Auxiliary of the National VFW
 (Need two people to assist with arrangements)

7. DOOR PRIZES: KENNETH G RILEY, CHAIRMAN
 (need two people to assist with prizes)
 (need donations for door prizes)
 These can be sent ahead of time to (Need someone close who
 can accept and bring door prizes to hotel Friday)

8. PICTURES:
 (need two people with video cameras to record events)

9. NAME TAGS: KENNETH G RILEY. CHAIRMAN
 (need two people to assist at table Friday night)

10. CLEAN-UP:
 (Need three people to assist with hospitality room cleanup)

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THE JOKESTER
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As the sun rose over boot camp, the Drill Instructor realized that one of his recruits was missing. A search party finally found him several hours later hiding in some bushes at the far end of the base.

"Soldier," the MP asked the recruit, "Why did you go AWOL?"

The young recruit replied, "Well Sir! the first day you handed me a comb, then proceeded to cut all my hair off. The second day, you gave me a toothbrush, then sent me to the dentist where he drilled and pulled out half my teeth."

"So!...", said the MP!

"Well," said the recruit, the third day, you gave me a jock strap, and I was not going to stick around to see what happened then."

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An Army man and Marine were driving down the road late at night. They hit head on and finally came to a stop. The Army guy gets out, shakes his head, and says, "WOW! I am lucky to be alive!"

The marine climbs out of his mangled car and says, "Man! I can't believe I survived that!"

Both get together and are talking. The Army guy says, "You know Marine, we survived one hell of a crash. Most people would have died in that. Maybe someone is looking over us and that is a sign to put aside our differences and get along."

To which, the Marine agrees. The Army guy opens what is left of his trunk and finds a bottle of Jack Daniels that survived the crash. Pulling the top on the bottle he says to the Marine, "You know, this didn't survive without a purpose. Why don't we have a drink to show our feeling about putting aside our differences?" And he offers the bottle to the Marine.

The Marine takes the bottle and says, "I think that is a great idea." Whereby he chugs down half of the whiskey and hands it to the Army guy saying, "Here you go buddy, it's your turn."

The Army guy says, "No thank you Marine, I think I will just wait until the Police arrive on the scene."

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Gentlemen: I have listed on the next page a list of all the committees we will need to establish for the reunion. Please send me a note or call me immediately if you can volunteer to help with the reunion. Do not be bashful! If we can get enough people involved, no one person will have to do that much to help make this a great time for everyone. I have already assigned my name to the various committees where I feel I will be able to provide the support and help needed. Please consider one of the committees and let me know real soon, ok? Even if you are not sure you can attend the reunion, your support and help is needed and is greatly appreciated.

Please sign up for one or more committees and help us have a great reunion. THANK YOU!

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NON-PROFIT STATUS
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This is to bring you news concerning non-profit status. I just got off the phone with a contact in the State of Pennsylvania, a lawyer who does a lot of work for the state government. His words were as follows:

"As a legal advisor, I urge you to file for non-profit status. As an impartial friend, I say, why bother? You only have a small group of people, you only collect a thousand or two in money each year. For you to file for non profit status with the state and federal government, you are talking probably \$300 to \$400 in lawyer's fees and possibly as much as \$1200 to advertise and make it legal. Do you want to spend that much money for something that is not much more than a hobby?"

"If you have the money in a non-interest bearing account (which I answered yes to) and if you do not pay anyone or keep any money for yourself (which I answered no to), I see no reason to spend all the Association's money to file for non-profit status. But that has to be your decision."

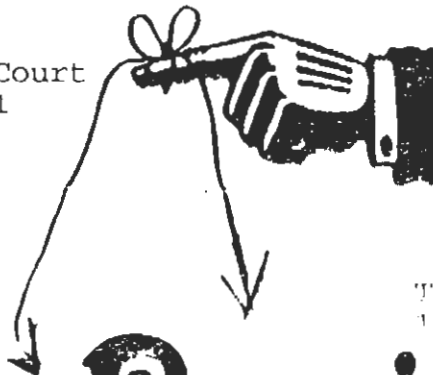
At this moment, we have 134 members in the Association. What I need is input from you. You are all members of the Association and I WILL NOT make the decision on this item. I do not want to put any ideas into your minds to sway you either way. Each of you has a right to vote on decisions made for the good of the entire group. What I DO NEED right now is a vote from all of you if you want me to continue to pursue the issue of non-profit status or not to pursue the issue.

Please send me a note, call or e-mail me your decision as to yes, I should file for non-profit; or no, I should not bother with it. If the majority of the 134 members on record today vote yes, then I will continue the effort and pay whatever the costs are from the general funds of the association. If the majority of the 134 members on record today vote no, then the extra money that would have gone for the costs will be held in the general fund and will be used toward the KC reunion coming up in September of 1999. Based on those (109 so far out of the 134 members) who have paid dues for the year, this gives over \$800.00 to defray costs for the reunion, such as advertisements, hospitality room, name tags, guest book, bus transportation between events, etc.

Gentlemen! This is your association as well as mine. I want to see it continue until the last one of us has "saddled up" for the last time. It has been almost 30 years, (less for some) since we last met and I do not plan on letting any of you disappear again if possible. So, please, exercise your right to vote as a member and let me know your decision one way or the other. Call me at 717-632-7604 or let a message there if I am not home as to a simple YES or NO. Or you may drop me a post card or letter with the same response, to:

Kenneth G Riley
200 Georgetown Court
Hanover PA 17331

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:
KRiley2574@aol.com
Tchaban@aol.com



The reunion is set for September 17th, 19th and 20th of 1999

Reminder