

## 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY

" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

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 VOLUME NUMBER 3 -- DATED 30 OCTOBER 1999 -- ISSUE NUMBER 07  
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Our mission is to publish a newsletter and to maintain an Internet Homepage. The Association will use these publications to inform its general membership about events within the Association and about current or proposed legislation that might affect veterans of all wars.

FROM THE  
 EDITOR'S DESK...

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

Our Kansas City Reunion is past history now, and it was a great one! Maybe it just seems to have gone by so fast because we are getting older, and have become more sentimental.

A hearty thanks goes out to the great soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry and their guests who showed up for it. I was really happy that Don Ballard made it. All of us were impressed with Dick Guthrie's presentation and more on that later.

On behalf of the 1/50th Infantry Association, I want to take this time to thank all the volunteers who helped to make this a most enjoyable time. Their participation played a key role in the successful conclusion to our reunion. The ladies done a great job and I appreciate that more than words can say. Thanks to all for your assistance.

A Directory of Members was passed around and before the end of the year, I will have an updated Directory of Members, with latest e-mail addresses to send to everyone.

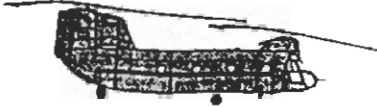
Those of you who were not able to attend the reunion, I have included a copy of a brochure which the KC Convention Center made up for this event. Sorry you did not make it to this one, but in two years, you have that chance to attend the next one. Don't miss out on a great time! We look forward to seeing you in Vegas in 2001!

Those not present missed a great speech by Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Don "Doc" Ballard. Saturday morning saw Richard Guthrie, Brian Thomas and Toby Milroy discuss their trip back to Vietnam in August of 1998. Gentlemen, you missed one hell of a presentation and by the end of the presentation, there was not a dry eye to be found, as Dick presented a list of rubbings from the wall of those who did not come back, while Taps played in the background. A very moving experience, to say the least. Thanks so much to Dick's nephew, Dave Baker for such a great job at putting that together.

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Our New Home Page is up and running. Go to:  
[www.ichiban1.org](http://www.ichiban1.org)

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EDITOR'S PAGE  
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THE SECOND REUNION  
THE 1/50TH INFANTRY (MECHANIZED)

Later on in this newsletter, I have listed the names and guests of those in attendance. I do not want to forget all the lovely ladies attending the reunion with their husbands or boyfriends, but several of you did not sign the Guest Book, so I am not sure of your names. Please forward that information to me so I can add it to the roster.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity with the ticket sales and the "donations" I received from many of you. I will include a financial report at year end to update everyone on the costs of the Reunion and how the Association General Fund stands.

I want to especially thank those who donated gifts for door prizes and to raffle. For those who did not get a chance to sign the picture, "Reflections," that John Topper brought, we will have it at the Las Vegas Reunion again so you can sign it then. Thanks John for bringing it, it was a great idea!

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COW PIE RAFFLE RESULTS  
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FIRST PLACE WINNER: # 1998; \$2,000.00 TO: LORINDA WEBB, PERKINS OK  
SOLD BY: HERMAN ALLMENDINGER, RECEIVED \$ 150.00

THE FOUR BLOCKS CIRCLING THE WINNING NUMBER WERE:

BLOCK ONE: # 1997; \$ 150.00 TO: KEN SPANGLER, HANOVER PA  
SOLD BY: KENNETH RILEY

BLOCK TWO: # 1999; \$ 150.00 TO: SHARON WARD, VA  
SOLD BY: GLADYS GRUBB

BLOCK THREE: # 1158; \$ 150.00 TO: JON THELEN  
SOLD BY: JOHN THELEN

BLOCK FOUR: # 1443; \$ 150.00 TO: LESTER RAILING, HANOVER PA  
SOLD BY: KENNETH RILEY

SELLER OF THE MOST TICKETS:	695, KENNETH RILEY	\$ 150.00
SECOND PLACE MOST TICKETS:	320, HERMAN ALLMENDINGER	2 FREE MEALS
THIRD PLACE MOST TICKETS:	261, LOUIS FRISBEE	1 FREE MEAL
MONEY COLLECTED DURING RAFFLE:		\$ 5,154.00
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SELLING OF TICKETS:		\$ 171.52
PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT:		\$ 2,900.00
TOTAL PROFIT FROM SALE OF TICKETS:		\$ 2,082.48

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The BIO Pages will continue in the next issue of the newsletter.

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 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS  
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1999 (Abbreviated Form)

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

The Chaplain gave an invocation.

Color Guard from Jackson County VFW Council presented the colors.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given, the history of the POW/MIA Table was explained.

Dinner was then served.

After the dinner, Ken Riley explained the next days events and times. The Cow Pie Raffle Contest was explained by Mr. Pike and Mr. Sourwine, after which the winners were announced to the membership. Winner will be called from hospitality room.

John Vawter, of Jackson County Council of the VFW spoke to the crowd on a Bikes for Babies ride that would take place on Saturday morning. He also introduced our Guest speaker, Don "Doc" Ballard, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient.

Don Ballard welcomed everyone home. He also spoke on Americanism and Patriotism. Don mentioned how he received his award but made it clear there were so many more who deserved it. Don explained how he got into the Marines medical Corps. He thanked the medics present for a job well done. Don explained some of the reasons Vietnam Veterans differ from other veterans.

Secretary then went over upcoming events.

Treasurer's report was given, as of 10 September 1999.

Harry Wilson gave a report on our Tax Exempt Status.

Under New Business, a motion was made to hold the next reunion in the year 2001, in Las Vegas NV, times and dates to be announced later. Officers were elected to represent the Association. Details later. Chaplain Jordan gave the benediction.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:03 pm

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1999 (Abbreviated Form)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm

Invocation was presented by the Chaplain.

Post Color Guard presented the colors and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

POW/MIA Table was explained.

Post Senior Vice Commander welcomed everyone to his post.

Dinner was served.

After Dinner, Robert Melendez gave information on a possible trip back to Vietnam, dates to be announced.

Approval of By-Laws was addressed and a motion made and seconded to adopt as revised. Authority for board to approve and sign for Tax Exempt Status was given.

John Topper, Past Company Commander of Alpha Company, Guest Speaker presented a talk on the condition of the present day military.

John Vawter, from Jackson County Council gave a speech on the merits of belonging to a service organization, such as the VFW.

Carey Milroy, son of Toby Milroy gave an emotional speech on his dad and what his thoughts were.

The newly elected president, Dick Guthrie, thanked everyone and promised his support to the Association.

The benediction was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

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EVENTS FROM THE REUNION  
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by Ken Riley:

My wife, Lawanda, and I arrived at the hotel Monday afternoon, 13 September. We were kept busy during the first few days, verifying reservations, dinners, bus service, and many of the little details, such as the color of napkins for the dinners and the POW/MIA Table set-up. In between the meetings we scheduled, we managed to slip off to see some of the sights of the town. Kansas City is a beautiful town with many things to see and do. Naturally, one of MY favorite spots was the Stations casino, located along the Mighty Missouri River. Thank you so much Stations, for the free vacation!

On Wednesday, as we finished breakfast and got ready to depart the hotel, lo and behold, in walks Billy Hayes. Billy just arrived at the hotel and could not check in until later that day, so we dragged (yeah right!) him along with us to check out the casinos and the VFW post we were going to be at Saturday. By the time we arrived back at the Embassy Suites Hotel, several other couples had arrived.

By sunset Thursday, we had all arrangements made, everything had been checked and re-checked and we settled down for a relaxing time at the lounge. That night, at least a dozen more guests arrived and we gathered in our room for a bit of "Barley Pop" and socializing.

Friday morning found us running around, trying to locate the Red Rose and ribbon for the POW table, and doing last minute sight-seeing things you do in a strange town. By three that afternoon, we had the reception area set up (twice) and were ready for business.

I do want to apologize to several of you though. I did not get the chance to introduce myself to several of you on Friday, because of all the things going on. I was not intentionally ignoring any of you. I will set aside time at the next reunion, strictly for that purpose. I know there were at least three fellows who I did not even get a chance to say Hi to and for that I am sorry.

I also want to let Debi Barrios know how sorry I am for the tragic loss in her life recently of Hubby Ray. I wished I would have said more to you on Friday but I am not one for words on that type of situation. I just want you to know, you have all our love. And Ray is missed by all those who knew him. Hope to see you at the reunion in Las Vegas. I will see you are properly greeted this time. Thanks for being there.

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A motion was made that the Association start a Life Membership Program. A second was given and the members present voted unanimously to approve providing a Life membership to those who wish for a donation of \$150.00 or more. I will have a form to send out in the next newsletter, for those who wish to become life members in the association. What this means is, for a single donation of \$150.00 or more, you will not have to worry about paying dues for the rest of your life. All newsletters and other benefits of belonging to this Association will be sent to you right away. Anyone who wishes to pay their Life Membership dues now may do so and a record will be kept on file until the correct form is created. This form will be sent to those who apply for Life membership as soon as it is ready. See how easy that is, ... no reminders anyone, no worries of forgetting to pay your dues, and no notes in the newsletters about past due amounts to worry about!

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MISC NOTES AND DISCUSSIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

At the Friday Evening meeting, the condition of current President, Norman "Sandy" Pottinger was announced and all expressed their concern for him and wished him the speediest of recoveries.

Saturday night, a general meeting of the new Officers was held with the following items discussed:

We would like to see a Five (5%) Per Cent increase in membership each year. This can only come about with the support from all of you out there. If you have contact with anyone who may have been in the Battalion, please forward that name and information to the Secretary.

All officers agreed that we will be having a separate meeting from the social dinner from this point at all reunions. All members are encouraged to attend that meeting.

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A gentle reminder: the year 2000 Dues are now due. The policy of the Association is to accept donations for the coming year as soon as the reunion has ended. Please check the envelope to see the date after your name. If it does not say 2000, or later, or Life: your dues are not paid. Please take care of that small item while it is fresh in your mind. We only ask for a \$10.00 donation each year. Also, keep in mind we have initiated a Life Membership Program into the Association. Please see the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

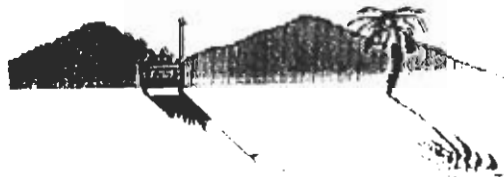
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LAS VEGAS REUNION  
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Ok! As voted on Friday, 17 September, 1999: our next Reunion will be held in Las Vegas (Lost Wages for some of you). It was suggested this reunion be held sometime during the Valentine's Day to Easter time period. Dates will be announced in the Spring of next year, but everyone can start to save their pennies for what is going to be our best effort yet at a reunion. For those who missed the Reunions in Alexandria VA and Kansas City MO, start planning for our biggest ever Reunion.

I will be in Las Vegas this coming April, and at that time, I will make all arrangements for room accommodations and meals. Now, if there is anyone out there who would like to get involved with the planning, please let me know before April 1, 2000; and I will contact you to discuss in what capacity you wish to get involved.

Since we had about 60 rooms booked at Kansas City, I will make arrangements for somewhere in the neighborhood of 80-100 rooms. I will also plan on 150 meals to be served on Friday and Saturday Evenings. If you have any idea at all you would wish to attend this, drop me a note and let me know so I can confirm a more accurate number.

Additional information will be forthcoming as it develops.



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IN ATTENDANCE  
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The following persons signed the Guest Book for the Reunion.

Any missing names of persons attending should contact the Editor as soon as possible, so I may add them to the list and the Guest Book.

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Kenneth and Lawanda Riley    | 37. Darrel Sourwine, and guest,<br>Suzanne Cleary       |
| 2. Charles and Pamela Tilton    | 38. Gary and Susie Parks                                |
| 3. Billy Hayes                  | 39. Jim and Judy Daniels                                |
| 4. Toby and Brenda Jordan       | 40. Russ Roth   |
| 5. Larry and Carol Sams         | 41. Robert Melendez                                     |
| 6. Gary and Nancy Epperson      | 42. Jim Sheppard  |
| 7. Tom Knepp                    | 43. Thurman Olan Pike Jr                                |
| 8. Kevin and Antoinette Begley  | 44. Parker B Pierce Jr                                  |
| 9. Herman and Inge Allmendinger | 45. Howard and Barbara Flippin                          |
| 10. Richard and Mareyce Kerr    | 46. Robert and Fran Schaller                            |
| 11. Toby Milroy                 | 47. Don Rainwater, and his son,<br>David                |
| 12. Gary and Kay Quint          | 48. Louis and Carolyn Frisbie                           |
| 13. James Croker                | 49. Harry and Ann Wilson                                |
| 14. Neil and Carolyn Miller     | 50. Bill and Kathy Kamphouse                            |
| 15. Joe and Brenda Ewing        | 51. Cal Avery   |
| 16. Nate and Nancy Nordin       | 52. Donald Lovell                                       |
| 17. Norman Poage                | 53. Joseph and Connie Gelarden                          |
| 18. Matt and Anne Morrison      | 54. Tom and Rosalie Zamzow                              |
| 19. Steve Escott                | 55. Frank and Lucy Romano                               |
| 20. Walter and Connie Billups   | 56. Debi Barrios<br>(Appeared for Ray Barrios)          |
| 21. James Wonsick               | 57. Dave and Judy Barrios<br>(Appeared for Ray Barrios) |
| 22. Richard and Cynthia Guthrie | 58. Leon Gallant  |
| 23. Jon Thelen                  | 59. William Grant                                       |
| 24. Fred Lohman                 | 60. John Golz   |
| 25. John Topper                 | 61. Art Arzate  |
| 26. Miles Hatch                 | 62. Tim Hurley<br>(guest from 101st)                    |
| 27. James and Loretta Segars    | 63. Matt Chapman and wife                               |
| 28. Toby and Sallie Hamon       | 64. David and Patricia Garland                          |
| 29. Lloyd and Felicia Walker    | 65. Brian Thomas  |
| 30. John and Jeri Carlson       | 66. Carey Milroy, Toby's son                            |
| 31. David R Smith               | 67. Henry Rosner  |

Also attending, but not on the list above was Dick Guthrie's nephew, Dave Baker, who did such an outstanding job with the presentation on Saturday, I would like to invite him to all our reunions.

We had a total of 105 men, women and guests sign the book. It was impressive to see so many attend this second attempt at a reunion we have had and although most of us were tickled with the turnout, we feel so sad that so many others could not make it. Maybe in Las Vegas, we can top one hundred men. That would be nice!

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ELECTION RESULTS  
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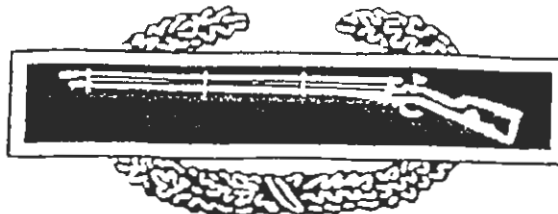
Elections were held during the Friday Night Dinner, General Meeting, on 17 September, 1999. The following officers were nominated and elected to the following positions for a Two (2) year term, starting immediately:

For the year, 1999 TO 2001:

President:	Richard Guthrie 1059 Wrangler's Trail Pebble Beach, CA 93953 (831) 646-8217
Vice President:	Norman Poage 835 Springfield Cedar Hill TX 75104 (214) 291-6365
Chaplain:	Toby Jordan P O Box 105 Gideon MO 63848-0105 (573) 448-3707
Historian:	James Sheppard 228 East Arbutus Avenue Absecon NJ 08201 (609) 652-6736
Secretary/Treasurer	Kenneth G Riley 200 Georgetown Court Hanover PA 17331 (717) 632-7604

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FLOWER AND CARD FUND  
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It was voted on and approved to establish a Flower and Card Fund for all members of the Association. What this involves is that a Flower arrangement will be sent by the Association to all members of the Association who pass away. A card will be sent to any sick or injured member, that we are aware of. Now gentlemen: the only way this will work is you must pass this information on to me as soon as you know of, or hear of, any sick or deceased member. Please, lets make this work by dropping me a note, or calling, as soon as you know of any occurrence. Hopefully, we will not have to send out flowers, but please, let your family members know of this service. Please!



FROM THE PRESIDENTS CORNER:

Dear Fellow members of the Association:

It came as a surprise to be elected without running for office, but please know that I consider this assignment an honor, and a great responsibility as well - one I'll take seriously. Thanks to those who voted for me. I'll try hard to live up to your expectations.

I am a firm believer in the adage that says, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it.", and the last thing anyone would say is that something is broke in this Ichiban Association. No doubt about it, Ken has built an outfit that gets stronger and better able to meet the members needs with every passing day. Our organization has enabled contacts between fellows who were lost to each other more than half a lifetime ago. The contacts between those who are able to find each other because of the growing membership roster are an important element in the healing process of each. Being together in that wonderful group in Kansas City was powerful medicine that most of us could not otherwise have found.

That said, there may be some areas that we might want to choose to focus on with the idea of making our great organization better. For starters, I propose the following:

**MEMBERSHIP:** Matthew Chapman, formerly of B Company, has volunteered to head up a committee to look at ways to be sure we open our arms to everyone who might want what we offer former and current members of the battalion. As a matter of priority, his committee will explore ways to achieve the racial balance our unit had thirty years ago. We were all camouflage green back then. The committee will look for ways to expand membership, and consider going after members of the battalion who are still on active duty. Matt will need help, so if you are inclined, or have ideas, please contact him at fmonky@yahoo.com, or at the Newport News address shown in the latest roster.

**MEMORIAL BOOKS:** If we can identify children of fallen comrades, we can put together notebooks for them filled with our recollections of the young father the children never knew. We can pass the books around at the next reunion for entries, then mail them off to the kids. It can mean a great deal to those young adults to learn from old buddies about their dads. I asked our Chaplain, Toby Jordan (ljordan@sheltonbbs.com), to look into this and suggest the best route.

**HISTORICAL ARCHIVES:** I am involved in a personal effort, and plan to continue writing memoirs, mainly about Company B. We can encourage and help others to capture their stories in their own way, and maybe there is a role in our organization to help gather and combine it all. Jim Sheppard (kiss-ac@juno.com), our historian, has ideas on this one, and has agreed to take lead.

**RETURN TO BINH DINH:** I have been asked by many to help put together a return trip to our old Area of Operations. I'll be happy to do that, on a volunteer basis. I have contact with five different Travel Agencies that specialize in group or individual travel to Vietnam and will be glad to help facilitate the trip if there is interest. We should be able to mount a 12-14 day trip from Los Angeles for around \$2,500.00 per person, and when I go to bids, we will have firm quotes. I suggest we choose a time frame about 12-18 months out and get our thoughts together. If interested, contact me (RPGUT3@aol.com) indicating who would be traveling and a two month window that best suits you.

Again, thanks for the honor. We have a dynamite board in place, and I pledge to you that we will give it our best shot. In the words of the Johnny Cash song, "Drive On."

Thanks,

Dick Guthrie



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 NOW A WORD FROM THE OTHER HALF  
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This was sent to me via e-mail from a great lady, Roger Burch's wife. Lorene helped out at the reunion along with so many others, and I thank them a lot. I am reprinting her letter in its entirety.

"A big thanks to Ken and Lawanda for putting together the Kansas City Reunion. I must admit I went with the idea that while Roger swapped war stories with his buddies, I would be able to have some quiet time. Why else would I be there other than for some support? What I received was so much more. I found out that there was a real need for this group of men to get together."

"I can't put it into words, but all a person has to do is sit and watch and listen to pick up on a very special bond these men have. The wives are incredible. We were there to offer support to our men and came away with some new friendships of our own. We had a common bond of being married to a Vietnam Vet, which helped bring us together. Oh, and maybe the most important reason, Cheesecake."

"Sitting around the hospitality room in the evening, I had a chance to hear some truly incredible stories about what this group of men went through. I slowly began to understand what the driving force was, these men had literally been to hell and back and had to rely on one another to survive. No, I can't relate to what they went through, I can only scratch the surface."

"Dick, Brian and Toby gave an outstanding presentation on Vietnam. It made me realize that I needed to be more active in my support to Roger's desire to seek more of these very special men out and to those present at this reunion."

"I have never seen such love among a group of men. Thanks for allowing me to be a very small part of this reunion. Roger and I plan to attend the reunion in Las Vegas and hope more wives will join us as we celebrate the continued growth of the First Battalion, Fiftieth Infantry Association. May God bless them all."

Lorene Burch

(Thank you Lorene for your letter)

