



Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

August 2009/Reunion Edition

Washington D.C. in 2010



After months of investigating and negotiations with several hotels, the site for the 2010 Reunion has finally been chosen. So grab your calendar and schedule your vacation for the District of Columbia from September 2nd through the 5th in 2010. As in past years you may want to extend your time as the hotel will give you the same discounted rate for the three days before and two days after our Reunion dates.

You might want to consider extending your stay past the four days first, because you cannot possibly see all the things you would like to visit in four days.

Second, it's a cheap date once you get past the room charges, meals and travel costs. That doesn't mean that this will be an inexpensive trip, but once you get there, pretty much everything is FREE admission. That's a deal you won't find in many other places.

Third, getting around the city is quite easy ... unless you read a map like

I do! Then you may want to consider taking the Metro Subway, one of the countless tours that are available or call for a cab. This last option can also be counted as the death-defying thrill ride that it is.

Both the *Website* and *After Action Surveys* indicate about 70% of those responding desire to go to our Nation's Capital. For many of us who have been to D.C. in the past, there will still be unvisited and new monuments, adventures and friends to share your experiences with. A number of the *After Action* reports we received also noted that we are not getting any younger. It's been ten years since our last visit and it's time for us to go back.

As I noted earlier, we have been immersed in this search for many moons. I must accept the responsibility of failing to get this *Bulletin* to you before this, but I could not bring myself to send you unconfirmed facts and data that might turn out to be completely false. For the lateness of this *Bulletin* I do extend my apologies. I firmly believe, though, that when you look back on this Reunion, it will be one of your most prized memories. So, work that calendar and save the dates.

Located elsewhere in this edition you will find hotel and airline information. For planning your free time, you can contact the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau at 703-838-4300, ext. 208. We are noting this organization because our headquarters hotel is on the Arlington side of the Potomac. These folks are very accommodating and will send you as much literature as you desire in your pre-planning decisions.

Firebase Barker

Most of us have found that we enjoy our get-togethers so much that we will find any excuse to rally the troops and find some more camaraderie. Such is the case with Jerry and Elaine Barker's annual get together! It coordinates with the **Indiana All Veterans Reunion** in Kokomo, Indiana, held annually on the third weekend of September. This year those dates will fall on September 18-20, 2009. After rendezvous at the Barkers' on Friday we will road march to Kokomo on Saturday in convoy mode. Billed as the oldest Vietnam Vets gathering in the U.S., this year will celebrate the 27th Annual assembly of warriors from across the nation. We will laager up with a few thousand of our brothers-in-arms until it is time to head for the special foods awaiting our arrival at Firebase Barker. According to Jerry, that stand down menu will include roasted pot-bellied pig with NUOC MAM sauce and Cavalry Communion.

With the next Squadron-sized reunion not scheduled until 2010, we are expecting to see a large turnout at this function so please submit your RSVP by email or land line ASAP! Hotel information is available by contacting Jerry or Elaine. Jerry's email address is JB8555@aol.com and his new phone number is 317-271-7844.

GET THAT CALL MADE.

C-Troop Grieves at Loss of Old Indian

It was with heavy hearts that four 'Hawks traveled to Indian Bayou, Louisiana on April 8th to attend the funeral of Sgt. Ronald Garrett; a friend, mentor, guardian and cherished member of C Troop's 2nd Platoon. Sgt. Garrett was possibly the most well known individual in the entire Troop, always trying to instruct his charges in ways they would remember. He was famous for his 'Old Indian' tricks, which frequently meant that someone was going to end up in varying degrees of pain. His knowledge of armored cavalry tactics made him an ideal instructor as the 2/1 Cavalry trained at Ft. Hood, Texas prior to their deployment in Vietnam.

Sgt. Garrett served two tours of duty during the Korean Conflict before going to Vietnam with the 2nd of the 1st. He was the holder of the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. He spent 20 years in the Army, retiring in 1970.

He leaves to mourn, his wife of 54 years, Edith (Margie), three sons, Marvin (Becky) Garrett, Ronnie (Kelly) Garrett and Danny (Dana) Garrett along with two daughters, Darlene (Robert) Powell and Margie (Mike) Gabrielle.

Representing C Troop of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry at his funeral were Merle (Buddy) Lindsey, Tom Schluchter, Jerry Barker and Dennis Scott.



Taps For Provine

It was with great sorrow that A Troopers' learned of Michael Provine's death due to cancer. Mike's fight with this disease was included in our last issue of the *Bulletin* and he fought the 'good fight' right up until the end on April 10, 2009. His service with the Cav began when he was infused from the Big Red One in May '68. Mike was a member of the American Legion Post 24 and a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 809. He had attended his first reunion at Fort Riley in 2008 and was planning to attend the Reunion in 2010 prior to his medical problems.

Harry Stull called to Fiddler's Green

Another C Trooper is lost to us all upon the recent passing of Major Harry E. Stull Jr. (Ret.) on June 14, 2009. Since his retirement from the Army and a Civil Service position that followed, the 71-year old cavalryman had resided in Vine Grove, Kentucky with his wife, Wilma. He continued to serve his community as a deacon at the Church of Christ in Elizabethtown.

His tour of duty in Vietnam with the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry resulted in the presentation of several decorations including the Vietnam Service Ribbon, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, two daughters, Sharon (Clarence) Williams, Linda (Chuck) Dyer and two sons, Jeff (Theresa) Stull and Joey (Stephanie) Stull; as well as his mother, Florence Stull, two sisters, LaDonna Epply and Kathy Mulenberger.

It's Time for a Change

This organization, the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association traces its roots back to 1985 when 20-plus troopers accepted an invitation from Deacon and Jody Indermuehle for a reunion in Emporia, Kansas. Our reasons for attending this function were as varied as the number of 'Hawks that showed up ... for what? None of us was sure.

But the uneasiness and doubt we felt was gone as soon as we saw those faces. The 17 years we had spent apart disappeared in the hugs and handshakes of friends we had never forgotten. And before that weekend was over we had already made plans for the next one. To make it a little more 'official' we even adopted the title of C-Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry and elected officers to assist in the pre-planning.

Over the following 13 years we found many more Blackhawks from various Troops and platoons. The membership numbers grew quickly, forcing us to look for more functional reunion sites.

The end result of that growth was determined in 1998 during which those members present voted to re-structure and formalize the group, creating the squadron-sized unit we now enjoy.

So where am I going with this, you ask? I have a simple answer for you, as well. But I wanted you to be aware of where we've come from and the dedication of the Officers and Directors who got us here. The Executive Committee consists of four Directors; the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The final five members of the nine-man Board are our Troop Reps.

I have been privileged to be your President for the past eleven years, working side-by-side with Vice-President Jerry Barker, Treasurer Tom Schluchter and Secretary Rick Gray. I have also enjoyed the support and assistance of some great Troop Representatives. But, for a variety of reasons, I find it necessary to vacate the office of President effective at the 2010 Reunion. As per our By-Laws, I am required to give notice by newsletter if possible. It's been quite a ride! Thank you and God Bless.

— Dennis Scott, President

Headquarters Hotel is a Real Holiday Deal

Location, Value And Courtesy

As stated on page one of this *Bulletin*, much time was spent investigating sites and negotiating with hotels for the 2010 Reunion. The final decision came down to two hotels with the same room rates, one that would also include a \$15 per day parking fee and one that decided they could offer us FREE parking. Guess which one was chosen?

The winner of the contest was the Holiday Inn National Airport located in Arlington, VA.

This is a 280-room facility that offers newly renovated guest rooms, complimentary Wired and Wireless High Speed Internet, a 32-inch high definition, LCD flat screen TV, in-room coffee makers, hairdryers, iron and board, plus refrigerators in many of their rooms.

We have reserved a 75-room block to get us started. Our discounted rate is \$89.00 per night plus taxes, which amount to 10.25% or you can just plan

on \$98.12 per night and free parking in the hotel's on-site lot. This rate is only about \$5 more per night than we paid at the 2000 Reunion in D.C. When you make your reservations, be sure that you identify yourself as part of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association group. Reservations into our room block will begin September 10, 2009. The cut-off date for our group is August 17, 2010.

Reservations may be called in directly to the hotel at 703-684-7200. When we did a site visit, we found the management and staff at this hotel to be very efficient and helpful.

There will be more information coming your way in the next newsletter regarding banquet costs, daily agendas, our Hospitality Room and other meeting places. But you can get a jump on your planning with just the phone numbers included within this edition.

Dues and Donations

If you have been associated with this Organization very long, you'll notice that your *Blackhawk Bulletin* continues to make it to your home regardless of whether you paid your dues or not. As you 'techies' have found, Fred Lohr has done a splendid job of building our new website and making it more functional for all our troopers to use. And Lloyd Wirkkala's success as our Registrar and HHT Troop Rep can be numbered in the thousands of 'Hawks he finds.

Add in the costs of printing and mailing the newsletters, keeping the roster current and the other items required to pay daily expenses and you will see why Tom stays concerned with our financial status. Can you do us all a favor? ***Please mail in your \$10.00 yearly dues NOW!***

Make your check payable to: 2/1 CAV and mail to: 2/1 CAV, PO Box 87, Bay City, MI 48708-0087



Getting Around Town

The Holiday Inn Airport offers a free airport shuttle and is located less than one mile from Reagan International Airport.

One of the easiest ways to get around D.C. is by the Metro subway system which is ADA approved. When we were in D.C. in 2000, we found this subway system to be fast, efficient, and easy to use. The Metro's telephone number is 202-637-7000 if you want more information. The Holiday Inn also offers a free shuttle to and from the nearest Metro station which is located about four blocks from the hotel. This shuttle runs every 30 minutes from 6am to midnight. You could also drive your own vehicle to the various sites or take one of the many available tours.

Election Procedures

According to the by-laws of our organization, all corporate power (with exception) is vested in the Board of Directors. This Board consists of the Executive Committee; President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The five Troop Reps add the balance of the nine members on the board.

One of the standing committees is the Nominations Committee and it is made up of the five Troop Reps; I would ask that you seriously consider if you could fill one of these positions. If you have the will and desire to become an Officer or Director, please contact your Troop Rep now with that information. The elections in 2010 depend on it.

2/1 CAV
PO Box 87
Bay City, MI 48708-0087

Address Service Requested



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Officers Call

Dennis Scott, President

911 N. Oakland St., St. Johns, MI 48879
989-224-2601 • denscott@gmail.com

Jerry Barker, Vice President

161 N. Raceway Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46234
317-271-7844 • JB8555@aol.com

Richard Gray, Secretary

P.O. Box 87, Montpelier, VT 05601
802-522-7100 • Topvet9@comcast.net

Tom Schluchter, Treasurer

5644 Cortland Circle, Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-4380 • tom_linda@charter.net

Troop Representatives

John Mavon, A Troop

20714 Seventh Place South, Des Moines, WA 98198
206-824-9157 • Seattlemavons@juno.com

Warren Roach, B Troop

260 Rolling View Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630
540-635-2314 • wroach@hughes.net

Wayne Hook, C Troop

1386 Storytown Road, Oregon, WI 53575-2547
608-835-5530 • Waynebkup22@yahoo.com

Raymond Marple, D Troop

18274 Norborne, Redford, MI 48240
313-541-8607 • rangerf425@sbcglobal.net

Lloyd Wirkkala, HHT Troop

P.O. Box 1157, Kalama, WA 98625
360-751-1843 • Lbwirk@comcast.net

Fred Lohr, WebMaster

admin@2-1cavalry.com • fred@fredlohr.com
509-924-2011 • www.2-1Cavalry.com