



Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

February 2011

D.C. Reunion Largest Ever

By Dennis Scott



“It’s hard to argue with success,” says the old adage! And, in most instances, that’s probably a worthy argument to hang your hat on. Taken in that strictly worded sentence, it most certainly pertained to the Blackhawk Reunion held last September in Washington, D.C. When the troopers, family and friends finally finished getting registered with Jessee Paul, Diana Watson and their daughter, Nancy; our check-in team was thoroughly exhausted and ready for some R&R.

And who could blame them? Even with the assistance of several other volunteers ... and I think a couple of draftees, making sure that everyone received the correct number of shirts and hats, rosters, tourist information, daily agendas and banquet tickets; the registration area was a beehive of activity. As was noted on one of our After Action Reports, “Those handling the sign-in (and) reunion

packages are always superb at what they do.” Another ‘Hawk voiced the opinions of many troopers when he stated that “everybody involved does a spectacular job”.

Total attendance of troopers and guests exceeded 300 persons.

Trooper registrations accounting for 152 of that figure by Troop Designation:

HHT Troop	21
A Troop	30
B Troop	33
C Troop.....	52
D Troop	16

As your “retiring” President and reunion coordinator, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge all of those who attended our gathering who noted that “we could have used a lot more room.” This lack of space did not escape the attention of your reunion coordinators, but this shortcoming was not the result of poor planning by your committee or the selection of a hotel that was too small for a group of our size. In fact, we were guessing at how many people would return to D.C. a second time, given the poor economic outlook. It turns out that our estimate was off by quite a bit, as this was our largest gathering ever with 152 Troopers in attendance. In spite of our, at times, limited hospitality room space, everyone made the best of it and enjoyed our time together.

That’s why your cooperation is so important! You hold one of the keys

to the successful planning for Firebase 2012. Please use it when your officers and reunion committee are asking you whether you are going to attend the next gathering. Even if you’re uncertain of the answer yourself ... give yourself the benefit of the doubt.

I’m sure that our new President, Tom Fey, and the Association’s line officers will gratefully use the input you provide to organize our 2012 Firebase.

In the concluding questions of the After Action Reports, this critique of 2010’s program enjoys a strong finish. It’s “hard to improve on excellence” and “If it isn’t broke, don’t fix it” were the comments we enjoyed reading the most. “I wouldn’t change a thing” is how one Blackhawk finished up his After-Action Report.

On behalf of the line officers, troop reps and the volunteers whose “shoulder to the wheel” dedication allowed us to pull off Firebase D.C., we appreciate greatly your recognition of those efforts. “It was a wonderful time/my family enjoyed it also,” wrote one of our first timers. “Thank you for ALL that you do to make this happen,” commented an A Trooper. “Please pass along to the officers who have served the Association so long, my gratitude and thanks,” noted another. But it was just four words by one Blackhawk that may have said it all ... for all of us.

“Thanks for the memories!”

To Fiddler's Green

From William (Bill) Kitrell

Last September we learned of the passing of LTC. (Ret.) **Michael L. Stock**, 66, of Shawnee, OK. Those of us who were lucky enough to be part of C Troop's Second Platoon got to know him very well and considered (then LT.) Stock one of the finest leaders in our squadron. He took command of C Troop at the beginning of our Advanced Unit Training and turned us into a well-disciplined, effective and deadly fast response unit. Our confidence in him repeated itself

in each of us, and, upon arriving in Vietnam we were ready to carry out any mission placed before us. Lt. Stock was a very able tactician and instructor, and he possessed a sense of humor that greatly aided our unit's morale and "esprit de corps". For example, many of us will remember the "monkey incident". While setting up for road and convoy security one afternoon, Lt. Stock was disturbed by the arrival of a three-wheeled Lambreta filled with saleable items and a trained monkey. Convinced that this

distraction limited our unit security significantly, he appeared out the back hatch of his APC dressed in his OD underwear, flak jacket and helmet. Dropping a CS (tear gas) grenade into the Lambreta and firing his .45 pistol into the air, Lt. Stock convinced this traveling salesman to get out of the area FAST ... and the monkey was already ¼ mile ahead of the vehicle and pulling away.

Following his retirement from the Army, LTC. (Ret.) Michael Stock spent the last several years as Pastor of Oakland Chapel Baptist Church. He leaves behind his wife, Sally, and three children; Susan (Cliff) McMullen of Shawnee, Sheryl (Daniel) Amegin of S. Carolina, and Michael (Holli) Stock Jr. of Binger, OK.

His brothers-in-arms will always carry a small piece of him in their hearts and continue to pray for his family through this grieving period. Scouts Out, Sir!!!

Thomas A. Troxell, 62, passed away Friday, January 14, 2011. Tom served in B Troop, July 1968 to July 1969 and received two bronze stars. His wife, Karen, said he received a full military funeral, for which their son was proud. Tom had been ill for quite some time, but he never complained. Due to the affects of Agent Orange, he had lost use of his kidneys and was on dialysis since 2007. In 1998 he survived a heart attack, and was living with diabetes. Those wishing to send condolences to the family may mail them to Karen at 15591 Mead Road, Montgomery, MI 49255.

Judy Hunt, Delmar's wife passed away on Monday, September 6, 2010 in Porum, OK. Delmar Hunt was a SSG in C Troop, 1967-68.

Claude Phillips, of Tucson Arizona, died January 11, 2011. Claude served with D Troop, 68-69.

Willie McCord, died March 1983, He was with C Troop Supply in 1968-69.

2012 Firebase Still Unknown

They say that "location, location, location" is the secret to creating a winning combination; whether it's a fast-food joint or a professional football team's choice of a supportive city. Likewise, I don't think you will find too many troopers that would say our return trip to Washington, D.C. in 2010 was a mistake. Of the 35 reports I was privileged to read, the vast majority of troopers described their reunion as "Excellent" or "Very Good," with one of our first-timers rating it as "Great!"

I'm just as sure that your Reunion Committee will want to provide you with the same level of satisfaction when the decision is finally made on the location of Firebase 2012. To help them sort through all of the possibilities, however, we asked for your input on places you would like to have included on the list of possibilities. Your responses to the After-Action Report and the survey that Fred Lohr has created on our website narrowed their search to 32 sites all across the country. But only 14 of your suggestions received more than one vote, allowing them to start developing a "short list".

Comparing the total number of times that any area was mentioned from either source, they were then able to rank the leaders of the list. Gettysburg was tagged a total of 13 times, carrying over 40% of the 32 sites. Ft. Hood and Branson each captured 25% of the votes, with eight mentions. In fourth position, San Antonio received six votes, representing 19% of the total 32 spots.

From this point forward, however, the reunion planners are charged with the responsibility of getting us more "bang for the buck". So please don't think that just because your favorite isn't among the four leaders that the decision has already been made. You can still help them with this most important selection. Vote "online" at the Blackhawk website. Give your Troop Rep or one of the line officers a call. Your support of a specific location may change all of the numbers we just went through. Please remember that this is a difficult task, the finding of a location — not just the city, but a place that suits all our needs. This is your association, and from past experience I can tell you that they want to hear from you. So help them out, will you?

Where Has All The Time Gone?

By Dennis Scott

“My history as a member of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment (of Dragoons) began in December of 1966 when the bus that we’d been riding in completed its route from Ft. Polk, Louisiana to Ft. Hood, Texas. It was a memorable moment for me in many ways and one of those “lifetime” experiences that you never forget. It was dark, really, really dark. And, dressed in our lightweight khakis, we stood in formation for what seemed to be hours in the freezing cold of winter in Texas. All I could think of was how warm it had been at Ft. Knox where I had taken my Basic Training and at Ft. Polk (Tiger Land) where I had taken my Advanced Individual Training. Eventually, we were ushered into a large open room and informed that we were now members of the Cavalry.

We trained as Armored Cavalry for seven months, packed up our equipment and took a slow boat to Vietnam. I spent the next 11 months doing what we were trained to do. Leaving Vietnam on July 2nd, I was out of the Army on the 3rd and the next day was marching next to my father in the 4th of July parade in my hometown.

Then life happened. I went back to school, got a job, got married, had kids and became active in service to my community, St. Johns. My contact with members of our unit was very limited for 17 years.

Then, in 1985, I received a telephone call from Jody Indermuehle, the wife of Robert (Deacon) Indermuehle, a Vietnam vet and close friend during our time together “in country”. Jody went on to explain that Deacon had expressed a desire to see some of his fellow Vietnam buddies. After talking with Jody, I discovered that I

felt the same way. Wow, it was time for a reunion. Over the next few months, Jody and several others were able to find 20-plus troopers and convince them to meet in Kansas in 1985. Finally, we had someone to talk with again, to laugh with, cry with, drink with, stand with; recognizing that there were healing qualities in this assembly.

It was time to share these benefits with other troopers by actively searching for them in a variety of ways. We also put together a very loose chain of command by electing Deacon as President, Jerry Barker as Vice-President, Tom Schluchter as Treasurer and myself as Secretary. The first order of business was to schedule the next reunion for 1987 so we could share the secret we had discovered two years earlier. And the Indermuehles made it happen five more times during the following 11 years, each time drawing a bigger crowd that required more planning and coordination. By 1996, we had also adopted many members from different troops of the squadron and the attendance numbers were “through the roof”.

So began the planning for the 1998 Firebase in Frankfort, Kentucky with the goal of spending a full day at Ft. Knox and dedicating a memorial in the granite garden adjacent to the Patton Museum. What a memory we all brought back home with us. And the planning and detail considerations were multiplied again and again...as were the number of volunteers on the committee. Perhaps the most profound action taken at this reunion was the conversion of the existing Troop-level command structure to that of a Regimental chain of command. When the votes were all counted I had been elected

as President of the newly formed 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association. Jerry Barker and Tom Schluchter were confirmed as Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively, while Rick Gray filled the Secretary’s position.

Finally, with 14 years as Chairman of the Reunion Committee and a dozen as President of our organization, Janet and I determined that it was time for me to resign. That election was held during our Business Meeting in D.C. this past September. Tom Fey will preside over this organization with Lance Lake to fill the V.P.’s position and Gary Rosenblum as Secretary. Tom Schluchter continues as Treasurer. I have great confidence in this new slate of officers and am convinced they will add even more prestige to the Association. They will need your support and encouragement at all times, in the same way you supported me for those many years as your President. We couldn’t have done it without you.

I am honored beyond words for the opportunity you have repeatedly given me and the trust you have placed in me these last 25 years. And I must confess that your friendship has blessed me as nothing else has. I thank you for it most humbly. I plan on seeing you at many more reunions and Firebase Barker.

So stay safe and be healthy. God Bless.



New President's Corner

It's a time of change, not that we like it, but our long-time officer team has deemed that they needed a break, except, thank God, for Tom Schluchter who will keep us on the straight and narrow. As you are well aware, Dennis Scott has been our president forever. His shoes are too big to fill, but I will do the best I can. I'm sure this officer team will do things differently and make mistakes. My hope is that you troopers will assist us in giving your opinion and suggestions. One of the major things on our current plate is where to host our 2012 Reunion. From the small scatterings of After-Action Reports, the Gettysburg area is the place that got the most votes. In the West, San Antonio and Branson were next. Also mentioned were Indianapolis and Sackett's Harbor, NY where 2/1 CAV began in 1833. As our great leader, Dennis, always said, "It REALLY helps to have boots on the ground when selecting the reunion sight." So anyone willing to assist in getting a site?

We need your input on where, so send me an email at tomefey@gmail.com. Or, better yet log onto the website to let the team know.

For those of you who were not at the reunion and don't know me, I'm Tom Fey. I was with 1st Platoon from the outset in 1966, Ft. Hood to RVN, and driver on the 10 track. Born and raised in Kansas and drafted, got the letter the night of our rehearsal dinner. What a wedding present! I'm sure the draft board got a kick out of that. I live in the mountains north of Black Hawk, Colorado at the far north end of Gilpin County. GayAnne and I have two grown children, Jennifer and Peter. Both are married. Jen lives in Colorado, and Peter is a career Naval Aviator currently stationed at the Navy Strike Air Warfare Center in Fallon, NV as the strike instructor. Jennifer and Bryon have a daughter, and Peter and Bren have a son and daughter.

Scouts Out,
Tom

Vice President – Lance Lake

B Troop, Served 68-69

I'm married to my wonderful wife, Jo, and live in Newnan, GA. I work for FedEx as a Senior Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor at Hartsfield Airport in Atlanta.

I am very proud to be your new Vice President of the Blackhawk's. I just pray I can fill the shoes of my predecessor Jerry Barker. I promise to do the best I can to support your President and all the other officers along with each and every trooper.

We ask that you continue to help find any other lost troopers out there. Encourage everyone to get connected and to attend our next reunion. Reunions are a time of reflection and healing and more fun than I can even begin to describe.

Thank you all again for electing me to this position and please contact me anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

Secretary – Gary Rosenblum

I proudly served in Vietnam between 1970 and 1971 as a member of D Troop 2/1 CAV and HHT 7th/17 Air Cavalry. While I was there, I developed an interest in the martial arts after practicing Tae Kwon Do under a Korean captain for a few days until I was assigned to my unit. Now I am a certified teacher of Guang Ping Yang Tai Chi Chuan and currently conduct classes at various locations in Bergen County, New Jersey. My wife Susan and I have been married for 23 years. We live in northern New Jersey with our two dogs, Hogan, a border collie, and Bonnie, a collie-retriever mix.

It was a great experience attending my first Blackhawk's reunion in Washington, D.C. I met a lot of great people there and I'm looking forward to the next one. I will try to do my best as your new secretary.

Order Your Challenge Coin

The front is red and white with our crest

The back is green with a gold tank and sabers



Yes, I want _____ Coin(s) at a cost of \$12 each, (shipping and handling included).
Enclosed is my check made payable to: 2-1 CAV in the amount of \$_____
Mail my order to:

Troop Representatives

HHT Troop

By Lloyd Wirkkala

We had 21 HHT troopers at the reunion at Washington, D.C. It was great to see old friends again. Lots of good food, and lots to see. I hope more HHT Troopers will think seriously about attending the next reunion.

A Troop

By John Mavon

Hard to believe it has been five months since the D.C. Reunion. What a great time in a great city. I must say I was impressed by the number of “first time attendees”. There is nothing more moving than watching guys hook up after nearly 40 years. Jerry Bottelson, Ken Comings, Bill File, Ron Freidurger, Jerry Hogan, Stan McMann, James Myers and John Scaffiddi are some of the ones I show on my list. If I missed anyone, I’m sorry.

Not much new news to report except Randy Teal is now in Vietnam until March. This is his second trip in two years.

Please keep Terry Franklin in your thoughts and prayers, as he is dealing with some health issues that have kept him in the hospital over the holidays.

B Troop

By Warren Roach

The reunion in D.C. was absolutely the best yet. I saw quite a few troopers that I had served with and not seen in 40 years or more. It was really great to see them all along with all the other troops’ members. All the feedback I’ve been getting has been positive. My good friend Dr. Mary Beth Williams was so

impressed with the camaraderie and loyalty that we have for each other after all these years. She treats trauma survivors (PTSD) in Warrenton, Virginia. Dr. Williams has published extensively in the trauma field and is the author, editor, and co-editor of many journal articles, as well as 10 books, including *The PTSD Workbook*. If any of you need help, or need assistance with your claim, she has offered her services. She has adopted us. Call me or e-mail me and I will hook you up with her. I would like to thank all the past officers for their hard work over the years, and wish good luck to the new ones.

C Troop

By Wayne Hook

I want to thank everyone for making both the auction and raffle a big success. I also hope that everyone had a good time. I want to recognize the Donors of items for the auction and raffle:

Silent auction: Dennis and Janet Scott – Book, *Letters on the Wall*, Replica of G. Washington’s Presentation Smooth-bore Pistol; Rick Gray – 12”x 12” Deco marble engraved Crest; Tom Schluchter – Two framed prints; Jesse and Diana Watson – Two pillowcases; Jerry and Elaine Barker – 2/1 CAV Guideon Flag; Lance Lake – CAV Stetson hat; John and Karoline McLaughlin – Big Crest, Coat of Arms, Shadow box, Black Hawk with Crest; A Troop 2nd Platoon/Wm File – 1776-1976 Silver half-dollar; Warren Roach – Saber; Dan Kavanaugh – Saigon hat, bracelets and earrings.

Raffle: Dennis and Janet Scott – Two Vietnam Graffiti books; Jesse and Diana Watson – Pillowcase, fleece sweatshirts, Boonie hat, Camo

picture frame; Wayne and Jeanne Hook – Sweatshirts and T-shirts; John and Karoline McLaughlin – Reunion plaque sign, two CAV plates; Lance and Jo Lake – Two Cavalry green hats; Charlie and Mary Smith – Five green eagle hats.

I (we) want to thank Jerry and Elaine Barker for another GREAT Firebase Barker. If you weren’t there, you missed a really good time!

I hope you had a good holiday season.

We welcome newly found: Stephen D Neilson, 1111 Birch Dr, Hudson, WI 54016, C Troop, 1969-70, 11D20, Phone: 715-386-2722

D Troop

By Ray Marple

Hello Fellow D Troopers:

Remember when we used to fly? Well the only thing that seems to fly now is the time. I can’t believe it’s been almost a half a year since the reunion in D.C. We had a good turnout from D Troop; our numbers are getting larger every year. There were also a few of us at “Firebase Barker” for the big Vietnam Vets convention near Kokomo. There is something to really see, SGT Barker and his wife, CSM Elaine, are very gracious hosts.

If any of you flyboys know of someone from the Troop that isn’t connected with us yet, I would appreciate it if you could e-mail or call me and let me know of them, so I can personally contact them. Don’t forget that there are still some of the Association coins left. Get one before they are gone. Here’s looking forward to the Reunion in 2012. If anyone can help with it, I’m sure the new regime of officers would greatly appreciate it. As ever, Ray Marple

Webmaster

By Fred Lohr

The 2-1 Cavalry Association has several tech tools available for troopers to stay in touch and share interests. The first of these is the 2-1 Cavalry webpage. This webpage, located at <http://www.2-1cavalry.com>, provides some Association information such as Officer and Troop Representative Contact information, Squadron history, past and present reunion information, individual pictures sent in by fellow troopers, and links to other interest sites. It also has a guestbook containing input from former troopers and various guests.

Linked to the website is the "2-1 Cav Forum." This forum is like most you might see online. It is viewable by anyone on the Internet. However, to post your information, you need to register. When you register, try to pick an easy-to-remember password and use your real name and troop as a displayed name. That way, when you are online, your fellow troopers will know who you are and see what you had to say. Names like "snooky46" tell nothing about you, but **Jim Smith (C Troop)** will let friends and acquaintances know who made the comments. Also, when you use a recognizable name, your fellow troopers can send you a message through the forum.

Last in our arsenal of tools is the CavTrooper list server. A list server is a program used by groups of people to share ideas, opinions or other information that they have in common via email. When you send an email to the CavTrooper list server, the server sends that email out to all the troopers on the list. This is not to be used to forward jokes, etcetera, but for issues germane to our shared interests and experience. Not everyone on the list may be deeply interested in latrine duty in C Troop, so use the delete key liberally, as some list servers with hundreds or thousands of subscribers can generate a lot of email. Ours currently does not generate excessive email.

For any questions about these modern communication tools, email me at admin@2-1cavalry.com or fred@fredlohr.com.

Armor and Cavalry Foundation Donations



At our 2010 reunion banquet George H Harmeyer MG (ret) made a presentation on the National Armor and Cavalry Heritage Foundation and museum requesting support from the 2/1 CAV Association. While the motion to donate was postponed until reunion 2012, if you would like to contribute you can send it to: 2/1 CAV, PO Box 87, Bay City, MI 48707-0087. Our treasurer will deposit the funds into the museum account to be disbursed upon approval of the association members.

"The Foundation is established, and incorporated in Georgia as a 501 C 3 not-for-profit organization," said Harmeyer. "So donations are tax exempt. We acknowledge all donations with the appropriate letter. Donations can be made via our website, or by check to the Foundation office," he noted. General Harmeyer indicated that "Several unit associations have given us some nice donations. **ALL** will be recognized as donations are received, and on appropriate plaques when the Museum is built."

So let's get it done, Troopers! Send what you can to 2/1 Cav PO Box or directly to the Foundation office located at 944 2nd Avenue, Columbus, GA, 31901. Let's make sure that our Association is located in a prominent position.

Financial Support

For those who are financially able, we suggest annual dues of \$10 to help operate the Association.

Your 2011 dues and donations are accepted anytime. Just make your check payable to **2/1 CAV** and mail it to:

2/1 CAV
PO Box 87
Bay City, MI 48707-0087

Thank you!





2nd Squadron 1st Cavalry Association

Regiment of Dragoons

Trooper Registration/Change of Address

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

Spouse Name: (optional) _____

Service Dates (from/to) with 2/1 Cav: _____

Theater/Area of Operation (s): _____

Troop/Platoon: _____

Mail to:

2/1 CAV • PO Box 87 • Bay City, MI 48707-0087

AUSA Update

By John McLaughlin

To all Cav Members and Veterans, THANK-YOU for your service. Below is the latest from the AUSA. Check it out. Please feel free to pass this information on to other Vets in your address book. Thanks, John

DoD Announces Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program

The Department of Defense (DoD) has developed a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. DoD representatives will coordinate with other federal agencies, veteran groups, state, local government and non-government organizations for their input in Vietnam War commemoration activities. To obtain more information call 877-387-9951 or visit the official website at:

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

Virtual Wall

Go to <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names.

Family Seeks Information On Their Brother Who Was KIA

Mike Flores, 2nd Platoon, C Troop 1970, recently made contact with the sister of his former platoon SSGT, Mickey Raulston. Mike admired Mickey for his leadership and caring for his troops. After writing to the family, he requested a Challenge Coin be mailed to Mickey's baby sister, Charlene. By Mike reaching out, both of Mickey's siblings, Charlene Case and Steve Raulston, would like to hear from anyone else that served with and knew Mickey. SSGT Mickey Raulston was killed in the Province of Binh Thuan on March 21, 1970. His brother, Steve, also served in Vietnam in 1968. Their prayer is for God to reveal any and all information, any tapes, music, pics and other people who can shed some light on their brother as he was, as a soldier. You should contact them by writing to: Charlene Case, 120 County Line Road, Seymour, TN 37865 or calling 865-223-7605 or by emailing charlenefcase@charter.net.

2/1 CAV
PO Box 87
Bay City, MI 48707-0087

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

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Email from my son, CMDR Peter Fey, to all of you.

(I thought you'd like to read this)

It looks like we did some good after all! On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say. Quote:

35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese-American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet Offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6 year old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky

100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That was my experience.

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.



You see, America is not a place on the map, it isn't a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must buy into this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here.

Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I knew this 46 page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all.

*Quang Nguyen
Creative Director/Founder
Caddis Advertising, LLC*

I emailed Quang Nguyen and here is his response:

Dear Mr. Fey,

Chuc Mung Nam Moit. I want to thank you sir for your time in my old country. You have given much and most were not treated well upon your return. I don't know you sir, but this immigrant will never forget.

Yes sir, please print away and let your fellow VN veterans know that I thank them as well.

God Bless you and your family, Mr. Fey.

Quang

PS. Please let Commander Peter Fey know that the Nguyen's thank him for his service.

Quang Nguyen
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You can watch a video of Quang's speech on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7idswNHEY9g>

Firestore Barker - Forward March

By Jerry Barker, retired VP

A hearty Cavalry congratulations to the newly elected 2/1 Cavalry Association officers! Thank you for stepping forward to serve. It is comforting to know that our wonderful and heartfelt traditions will be preserved and built upon in the future! As for the outgoing cadre, we stand ready to assist in any capacity. We appreciate the many opportunities we had for all those special years.

"Sit- Rep, Negative Change."
FIREBASE BARKER/
KOKOMO, Indiana 2010 was well attended, coming only twelve days after our Washington D.C. extravaganza. Sixty-three vets, family and support personnel made the road march to Indy. It was a wonderful mini-reunion.

President Tom Fey has pledged to continue the tradition of holding the 2/1 Cavalry Association Board and business meeting while at Firestore Barker. Elaine and I are honored to host this event every year and we are grateful for the love and support. We LOVE our extended family!!

Plan now for spending your TDY at Firestore Barker, 2011! The annual mini-reunion will be held the third weekend in September. It's been a long, bleak winter. But Remember - it's a Jungle out there!

- Jerry