



# Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

Summer 2015

## President's Corner

— Tom Fey

Wow, time has sure gone by fast and we're already late with your bulletin. I've been on the mountain cutting timber making a healthy forest for the grandkids and time slipped away.

Thankfully your treasurer, Tom Schluchter, is on the ball and reminded me "it's time for the BB", thanks Tom.

I believe you'll enjoy this next reunion so as soon as registration opens be sure to get your hotel reservations. I received this from Carol our Hotel contact: ***"Your guests may begin their reservation process at any time. They may do so by calling the hotel direct at 719-576-5900 and mentioning they are with the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry and/or referencing Reservation ID #1091199."*** You may also copy or click on the following link and be directed to the hotel reservation site.

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[http://www.reseze.net/cassets/mkt/mcmelegante/landing\\_pages/MCM\\_Colorado\\_2nd\\_Squadron\\_1st\\_Cavalry\\_Reunion.html](http://www.reseze.net/cassets/mkt/mcmelegante/landing_pages/MCM_Colorado_2nd_Squadron_1st_Cavalry_Reunion.html)

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Have you checked out the associations Facebook page? It's located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/753312394715562/>. If you haven't — sign up and put your pictures and comments on. This is a closed group and only those who have served with our unit can join the page.

Don't forget to send your membership dues to Tom Schluchter, they're only \$10 but you can actually send more if you're able as it costs the association to print and mail your *Blackhawk Bulletin*.

As another reminder, have you been thinking of who will be our next president? I will assist the new president as he moves into his leadership role.

Scouts Out



## Reunion 2016

Come to our reunion in Colorado Springs, home of Fort Carson and the current 2nd Squadron 1st Cavalry Regiment. The reunion will be August 25-28, 2016 at the Hotel Elegante.

Room rates will be \$109 plus tax and we have three days prior and after the reunion at the same room rate for those who want to come early or stay after to tour Colorado. Your reunion team is working with the hotel, convention bureau and the current squadron to enhance your experience.



# Troop Reports

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## A Troop

By Brian Kosteck

Nothing new to report just be safe out there.

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## B Troop

By Warren Roach

Well, Troopers we're quickly approaching the 4th of July it will not be too much longer and it will be time for Firebase Barker. I would like to say Farewell to my fellow Blackhawk Brother Rolf Vobelt who passed away with his wife Kaylene and 2-1 Cav brother Bill Loder and Ruth Ann by his side after a courageous three month battle with cancer. On May 22nd members of the 2-1 Cav attended a memorial service held at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Buchanan, MI which is Rolf final resting place in the Veteran's Wall at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Dennis (Scotty) Scott, 2/1 Chaplain presided over ceremony, Rolf best friend and brother Lieutenant Colonel US Army (retired), Bill Loder gave an outstanding tribute, others who gave tribute to the Command Sergeant Major were Tom Fey, President and Warren Roach B troop Representative. Rolf will be missed. Just a gentle reminder that it only takes a short note, postcard, e-mail or a phone call. *I need your feedback about what is going on in your world and with your fellow troopers. Please STAY IN TOUCH. Anyway hope to see you all Firebase Barker. Scouts Out.*

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## C Troop

By Wayne (Hooker) Hook

Nothing new to report that isn't covered under fiddlers green. Hope all is well with everyone and looking forward to Firebase Barkers. Let me know any news that comes up. Hooker

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## D Troop

By Raymond Marple

Hey Troops at ease and listen up,

Well it seems like another year has come and gone, it's as if the older we get the faster they seem to slip by. But that's not what I'm writing about. We all ought to be getting ready for the trek to Indy in

September for the Business meeting at Sgt. Barkers and the consequential convoy to the VVA rally in Kokomo. Peggie and I will be doing our pre flight and checking our guns soon. Bring some ideas with you about the design for hats or shirts to identify us as the aviation troop of the squadron.

As ever if you have any questions or suggestions give me a call, if I don't have an answer I know where to get it.

Ray Marple

D Troop Rep

rangerf425@sbcglobal.net

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## HHT Troop

By Oscar Olson

Not a lot of news from HHT. Efforts to contact some of the old troopers have been pretty much futile. but we continue on. Summer weather has finally come to Northern Minnesota and with it the fishing season. I spend a lot of time on the water and when the fish don't bite I have quite a bit of time to reflect on my life and especially my time in the 2/1. I (with the exception of basic training) spent my whole enlistment as a Cavalry Trooper. I consider the experience the most formative of my life. I have always been the inquisitive type and the Cav gave me many opportunities to indulge my curiosity. I was able to haunt the motor pool, meet some very interesting people, do a little traveling (on a ship). The people I met ranged from WWII and Korean veterans to Cooks and Mechanics. When in Vietnam I served with CPT Steven Overton (the S-1 at the time) as he performed his duties in "Area Pacification" which involved several meetings with Montgnard (sp) tribesman and providing them with medical treatment and construction supplies. On one occasion, a trip to a Leper Colony to deliver cement was arranged by local missionaries (I didn't get out of the truck). All in all it was, as Bilbo Baggins says in The Lord of the Rings, "A great adventure". It is sad to see the "Fiddlers Green" posts and it reminds us that our lives were in no small way formed by our service. I sincerely hope that all Cav troopers recall their service with pride. Till next time. Oscar

# Vice President's Report

— Lance Lake

Well summer has been hot here in Georgia. Really looking forward to seeing you all soon. Please make your plans now for the 2016 reunion that will be held in Colorado Springs, CO.

I have enjoyed serving as your Vice President, but want to take this opportunity to say I will not be seeking another term in any office. My time has come to step down and I look forward to seeing who will step forward to continue to lead this great association. We have come so far and I think back at all the memories I have from the many years I have attended and look forward to many more.

President Fey is asking about having a vice president that will serve two terms with the second term as president elect. So you all have a lot to think about before the next election. I would suggest also if you have any questions about the officers' positions coming open or would like to serve in any capacity please feel free to contact President Fey or myself and we would be glad to help you any way we can.

God Bless and keep you all.

## Will YOU Run?

— Dennis Scott, Chaplain

Fire Base Barker is almost upon us and, as this gathering will represent the Association's annual meeting for 2015, this is the time to give elections and appointments serious thought. What positions are of interest to you? And what skills or talents can you bring to an office, based upon the definitions as outlined in our By-Laws; as listed below?

These job descriptions will give you a guide as to what responsibilities you may consider as 'job-related'. And, should you read a description that brings another Black hawk face to mind, do us all a favor and nominate him for consideration. But only after you have contacted him and gotten his approval as a candidate.

Elected offices include those of President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Each officer shall serve a two-year term until his successor is elected and qualified. See Article VI, Sections 5, 6 and 7 for 'Duties' of these positions. This information is available via the Association's website at [www.2-1cavalry.com](http://www.2-1cavalry.com) or by contacting your Troop Representative as is included on the back page of the Blackhawk Bulletin under 'Officers Call'.

All remaining positions except those of Director shall be appointed by the President, including that of Recording Secretary and Chaplain. The President will also appoint Troop Representatives as recommended by the Troop following their 'election' of one voice to bring troop concerns and news to the annual meeting.

Armed with the above information the Board of Directors will expect that several new names and faces will be seeking election or appointment following Fire Base Barker. But don't wait until then to make yourself known as a member of the decision-making body of the 2/1 CAV. Get your name on President Fey's Nomination Committee today!

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## Firebase Barker

Annual Firebase Barker rendezvous is September 17-20, 2015, in Indy. Rest and relaxation is guaranteed for all, as we renew old friendships and swap tall tales about our time in the Nam. On Saturday we will motor north for the 33rd Annual Vietnam, All Veterans Reunion in Greentown at the old airstrip. Most of the old-timers already know the drill. Short-timers are invited to call for details. Trust me. You will be glad you did. It is the perfect warm-up for the squadron base camp in Colorado Springs, in 2016. Please contact Jerry and Elaine at (317) 607-8015. As our longstanding tradition dictates, we need a body count so that we will know how much Spam to "requisition." Preliminary intelligence reports suggest a heavy concentration of cavalry personnel this year. **START PLANING NOW!** Firebase Barker will be here faster than you can say "FTA!" Drive safely...It's a jungle out there!

***Editor's note: due to the size that the Firebase event has become and the number of people arriving early and leaving late, the Firebase is Friday and Saturday and out on Sunday, we need to do a better job of collecting money in the hat. The association has been assisting the Barkers in hosting this event even though it is theirs and not an association event. It's been determined that basically three individuals put in a third of the money collected in the hat – We must do better!! The association cannot continue to drain association funds for the few. Be prepared to donate \$50.00 to the hat if you attend.***

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## Chaplain's Comments

— Dennis Scott

It's been a tough fight, sad fight over the past several months; with a few blessing for a number of our Blackhawk families mixed in for good measure.

Our utmost sympathy goes out to Kayleen Vobelt, wife of Rolf Vobelt, on the passing of Rolf following his battles with cancers discovered after their trip to Milwaukee, WI. If you missed the detailed 'sit rep' provided by Kayleen in the last issue of the Bulletin, you may review her comments on line at the Squadron website, [www.2-1cavalry.com](http://www.2-1cavalry.com).

Two very well attended Memorial Services were held honoring Rolf's heroic stand against the diseases that finally liberated his soul; freeing it to join the other Blackhawks at Fiddler's Green. The first was held in Downsville, N.Y. on May 16, 2015; and was presided over by Bill and Ruthanne Loder. Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Rolf Vobelt described Loder, who he reunited with in B Troop, in Vietnam as Rolf's Platoon Leader; as his "very close friend" and "considered him as his brother". Lt. Col. (Ret.) Loder was able to bring several very personal perspectives to those attending this Memorial Service.

Six days later, on the 22nd of May, a Memorial and internment service was held in Buchanan, MI.; site of the Vobelt's hometown residency following his retirement from the U.S. Army. Full military honors were provided by many of Rolf and Kayleen's friends, to include the rifle salute, flag folding and presentation and the playing of Taps. Among those family members attending were Rolf's son, Ute, his cousin and a family friend; all of them having flown in from Germany for this honorarium. Of the 70-plus persons attending this service, 13 Blackhawks and 10 wives and special guests were present as well. This gathering was presided over by myself and Bill Loder.

On a happier note, however; a July 1st ,2015, date has been scheduled for the return to home of Robert Davis following back surgery in February that left him with a damaged spinal cord, Physical Therapy and the transportation of Bob from Iowa City VA hospital to the Minneapolis VA Hospital. This Wisconsin facility added a full wing on to the existing health care center and is now considered the 'spinal cord injury-specific' place to go by the VA.

Bob is working his way through the steps that may give him some degree of improvement to his legs; maybe even the eventual good riddance of his candy apple red wheelchair. Keep up the fight Bobby! Don't forget how many of us there are out here praying for you and Marie, and anticipating the Firebase Barker reunion we'll have with you. Keep the faith Bro! And remember what the Duke said in that movie.... "I'm gonna move that toe".

# Fiddler's Green

**ALFRED (SKIP) BUHL.** Skip Buhl of Cedar Hill Texas, passed away June 2012. His wife, Linda Sue (Buhl) McKinney contacted us in April to report his urn is at the Dallas National Cemetery, and his soul is, "she's sure, in heaven". He died of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. He respected and treasured his memories of service in the US Army. Skip served with B Troop, 1967. Linda ended her email with "thank you and bless you for your service."

**JEROME GEORGE ZULUS,** 66 years of age, of Blairstown, NJ, passed away unexpectedly February 15th. Born in Wilkes Barre, PA, he was a son of the late William and Irene Grodzinski Zulus. Mr Zulus was a graduate of North Plainfield High School and had lived in Blairstown since 1993. He retired from Roche Diagnostics in Branchburg in 2009 after 17 years of employment there and had previously worked for 27 years at M & T Chemicals in Rahway.

Jerome had served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War with HHT 1968-1969. He loved fishing and spending time outdoors. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, the former Linda Santonastaso, a brother, David Zulus, of Whitehouse, NJ, and a sister, Joan Callagher and her husband, Richard, of Toms River, NJ.

A Memorial prayer service, followed by interment of ashes, was held February 21st, in the Chapel at Somerset Hills Cemetery, Basking Ridge, NJ. Donations in Jerome's memory would be appreciated to Common Sense for Animals, PO Box 589, Broadway, NJ 08808.



**VICTOR JAMES WELSCHMEYER,** 67, of Wainwright, Mo., passed away March 21, 2014, at his home. He was born March 3, 1947, to James

and Lillian Lock Welschmeyer at their

home in Freeburg, Mo. He attended Fatima High School in Westphalia, M. Vic was united in marriage to Alberta Margaret Massman Welschmeyer on June 27, 1970, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Freeburg, Mo. His wife preceded him in death in 1995.

He served in the Army of the United States Military active duty from September 22, 1966 to September 15, 1967. He was with C Troop 1967-1968. On December 4, 1968, he became disabled in combat and was given an Honorable permanent disability discharge. Vic was an avid outdoorsman, hunting and fishing as much as time would allow. He was a very kind gentle man who loved to help others in any way he could. He spent a lot of his time with his three grandchildren, they brought him the greatest joy.

Victor is survived by his son, Timothy Lee Welschmeyer of Jefferson City and his daughter, Vicki Jeanna Welschmeyer of the home; his grandson, Evan Dale Welschmeyer, and granddaughters Madison and Kelsey Losi. He is also survived by six sisters; two brothers and numerous nieces, nephews and lots of other family members. He was preceded in death by his sister, Delores Welschmeyer Andert and both of his parents. The family held a private celebration of his life. Any monetary donations would be greatly appreciated to the American Cancer Society or the Wounded Warriors Project.



**ROGER W. SANDHORST,** 65, of Atlantic, passed away March 5, 2015, at his home. Roger was born June 9, 1949, to Ralph and Pauline

(Waldau) Sandhorst of Wiota. He was raised on the farm and attended school in Wiota. He also attended two years in Anita, which is where he met his wife Sharon. When his parents moved to Atlantic, he attended Atlantic High School and graduated in

1967. Following graduation Roger and Sharon moved to Omaha, Neb., where he was employed with Omaha Steel as a welder. On Aug. 11, 1968, Roger and Sharon were united in marriage at the First Lutheran Church in Wiota. Not fond of the big city life, they moved back to Atlantic where he was employed with Camblin Plumbing and Heating for 14 years.

Roger was drafted into the Army in 1969 and served a year in Vietnam. He served with A Troop 1969-1970. He was honorably discharged in 1971 and returned to work at Camblins.

In 1982, he began employment with Cass County Memorial Hospital as an engineer and later became the Director of Plant Operations. In 2013, he was recognized by the Iowa Hospital Association as a Hospital Hero. Roger, along with nine other hospital employees, was chosen from the hospital workers across the state of Iowa to receive this honor. The ceremony to receive this special award was held in Des Moines. Roger is only the second facilities manager to earn this distinction. He took a lot of pride in his work, enjoyed his job, and believed he had the best team of co-workers anyone could ask for. Roger was an avid hunter; he and his son, Matt looked forward every year to hunting. Roger could never sit still; he was always looking for something to repair or cleanup around the house, especially his lawn and vehicles. He enjoyed reading American history and watching the History channel. In 2008, he and Sharon, along with their kids and two grandsons, took a trip to Washington D.C. to view all the war memorials. For him to be able to see the Vietnam Memorial, while there, was truly a bittersweet moment.

Family meant a lot to Roger and he enjoyed attending the grandkid's events. He was a great, easy going guy who loved good conversation with friends and family and was always there to help any of them if they needed him.

Roger is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughter, Angela (John) Kay

of Atlantic, and their children Dylan, Daniel and Anna Kay; son, Matthew (Jayme Farver) Sandhorst of Wiota, and their children, Madisen Sandhorst and Austen and Nolan Farver; sisters, Donnis (Wayne) Kessler of Atlantic and Janet (Gene) Larsen of Walnut; brother, Eugene Sandhorst of Atlantic; brothers-in-law, Harold Wahlert of Atlantic, Jack (Donna) Shannon of Omaha, Neb., Lyle (Marcia) Shannon of Washington, NE, Clark "Butch" Shannon of Kansas City, Mo. and Rellen "Skip" (Phyllis) Shannon of Parkville, Mo.; sisters-in-law, Hannah Shannon, Maurine (Dwight) Gard and Ada (Robert) Scarff all of Omaha, NE. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Pauline Sandhorst; father and mother-in-law, Maurice and Mary Shannon; brother and sister-in-law, Harvey and Betty Sandhorst; brothers-in-law, Wayne Shannon and Gail Shannon; and sister-in-law, Mary Wahlert.

Celebration of Life services were March 11, 2015 at the Zion Lutheran Church.



**ROLF W. VOBELT**, age 76, of Downsville, NY, formerly of Berrien Springs, MI, died April 10th at Mercy Medical Center,

Springfield, MA. He was born August 20, 1938 in Harburg/Hamburg, Germany to the late Fritz and Lydia Vobelt. He lived along with his parents and two sisters in Marsdorf during WWII, then in Eisendorf. At the age of 15 he and his older sister, Ingrid left Hamburg on the M.S. Italia on 11/3/1953 to come to the United States. They arrived in New York on 11/15/1953. They settled on their uncle's family farm near Central Bridge and Cobleskill, NY.

After turning 18 he joined the U.S. Army out of Albany. He served in the U.S. Army for 30 years. Some of his duty stations were Fort Hood, TX, Erlangen, Germany, Fort Benning, GA,

Schwabach, Germany, Vietnam, Bad Hersfeld, Germany, Fort Carson, CO, Fort Polk, LA, Arng, VT, Schweinfurt and Germany. He retired out of Fort Riley, KS April 1986 as a Command Sergeant Major.

After coming to Michigan in 1986 he was employed at Ameritech/ AT&T warehouse in South Bend for seven years. Rolf belonged to the German-American Club of the Northern Catskills, the Delaware County Shields, both in New York, a member of the American Legion Post 51, Buchanan, MI, the 2/1 Cav Association and just recently became a life member of the VFW.

On July 3, 1986 he married Kaylene (Mickey) Slocum. He is survived by his wife along with three sons, Manfred (Marion), Rolf (Ute) and Robert all of Erlangen, Germany; two granddaughters, Bianca (Markus) Bayerschmidt and Jaqueline Vobelt also of Erlangen, Germany; two sisters, Ingrid (Ken) Hubbard of Brightwaters, NY and Martha Lang of Lindenhurst, NY; three nieces, Marie (Brendan) Smith of Manalapan, NJ, Lori (Bill) Kline of Smithtown, NY and Stephanie (Gilberto) Lorduy of Lindenhurst, NY; three nephews, Ken Hubbard, Jr. of Brightwaters, NY, Eric Lang (Noriko) of Brooklyn, NY, and Bernd (Dian) Lauterbach of Erlensee, Germany; and a very close friend that he served with in Vietnam and considered him as his brother, Bill Loder and his wife Ruthanne of Torrington, CT.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held May 16, 2015 at The Old School House & Inn in Downsville, NY. Another memorial service was held Friday, May 22nd at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Buchanan, MI with his final resting place in the Veteran's Wall. Donations in his memory may be made to the Fisher House, 113 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12208, Attn: Mike Fritgerald; or to the American Legion Post 51, 403 E. Front Street, Buchanan, MI 49107.



*Kaylene, from Germany son Rolf (Ute), nephew Dian Lauterbach and friend*



*Troopers attending the memorial service*



**MICHAEL "MIKE" B. CORN**, 67, retired Chief of Public Education for the City of Wichita Fire Department, volunteer at

Conway Springs Fire Department and Fire Science instructor at Hutchinson Community College passed away April 27, 2015.

Mike was preceded in death by his father Walter and brother, Ray F. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; daughter, Tiffany (Dan) Oltjenbruns; mother, Dorothy Fink all of Wichita; step sister, Rhonda (Steve) Hundley of Derby; granddaughter, Abby Oltjenbruns and nephew, Jon (Samantha) Hundley.

Mike served with C-Troop in 1967-1968. He went over to Vietnam on the USS Walker with his unit.

Funeral service was May 1 at West Side Christian Church, Wichita, KS. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Conway Springs Fire Department, PO Box 187, Kansas Firefighter's Museum, 1300 S. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67211 or the Mike Corn Fire Science Scholarship in care of HCC Endowment Assn., 1300 N. Plum, Hutchinson KS 67501.



# 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

## Financial Support

For those financially able, we suggest annual dues of \$10 to help operate the Association and to get the Blackhawk Bulletin printed, published, and mailed twice each year. 2015 dues and donations are accepted at any time during the calendar year.

Please know your contributions are very much appreciated and your check or money order must be made payable to: **2-1 CAV** and mailed to **2-1 CAV, PO Box 87, Bay City, MI 48707-0087**.



## Quarter Master's

— Jesse Paul and Diana Watson

Mirror Images (Jessee Paul and Diana Watson) would like to thank all for the inquiries and orders. If anyone has suggestions for us please get in touch with. You can e-mail us at [jpd\\_watson@hotmail.com](mailto:jpd_watson@hotmail.com) or call us at 660-537-5833 (Jessee Paul) or 537-289-8197 (Diana). Once again thanks. Hope to see some of you at Firebase Barker in September.

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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