

The B Troop Gazette

Official Publication of B Troop 2/17th Cavalry Association



AIRBORNE - AIRMOBILE - AIR ASSAULT



December 2015 Issue



Dear Former and Present Day B Troopers,

It has been awhile since our last Association Gazette was sent out, so I thought I would try to put one together before the end of the year.

As you can see our format and the name of the gazette has changed. I felt that it would be more representative of the diverse members of our Association since we span from 1957 to present day. Right now it is only a temporary change. If there is an overwhelming amount of positive feedback, we will vote at the next regular meeting to make the change permanent.

We recently wrapped up our 2015 reunion in the Philadelphia/Valley Forge area. There was a good turn out of about 65 members and guests and there has been nothing but positive feedback coming from those that attended.

The reunion location for 2016 has not been selected yet but we are targeting the Southeastern U.S. in late Sept. or early Oct. The reunion for 2017 is planned for Ft. Campbell, KY and 2018 is going to be in Branson, MO. As soon as we get the information on the 2016 location we will notify you.

Finally I would like to extend my best wishes for the fast approaching holidays. I hope your holiday season is happy and safe and please remember those that are still serving far away from home this holiday season.

“Out Front”

Jim Matthews

As most of you that attended the 2015 Reunion know our Vice President, Joe Taitano was in the U.S. ready to come to the reunion when he received a call requesting that he return to Guam. His brother was taken to the hospital and needed an emergency operation..

Joe reported that his brother made it trough the surgery and doing better, but the family are praying for a full recovery.

Joe believes that re-instituting the newsletter is a good idea because it is a great way of getting the word out about upcoming Association activities and will reduce complaints of not receiving information.

Joe also said that he has been up to his head in making home repairs. Guam was battered by several storms causing damages he needed to take care of.



THOMAS COOPER ROBERT DONNELLY
JOHN WILLIAMS CHARLES DETCHON
JOE B CONE



Leo Battle who is a practicing attorney in Calif. In Butte County he was instrumental in working with the Court, D.A., P.D, and V.A. to create a Veteran's Treatment Court where qualifying veterans receive probation instead of incarceration. The offenders receive strict probation rules conditions including participation in counseling/treatment programs funded by the V.A.

Eugene "Buck" Buxton who has been studying martial arts since 1980 and recently awarded a 6th degree (Rokudan) in Isshinryu Karate and 4th degree (Yondan) in Torite.

AND

Eugene (Gene) Marsh who has recently been appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court Regional Ethics Board.

Congratulations to all!

(If you know anyone that deserves special recognition in our newsletter please let us know)



If you didn't meet Amelia at the 2105 Reunion I would like to introduce her. She is Amelia LaPointe, the great granddaughter of Joe LaPointe, the B Troop medic that was KIA in 1969 and was awarded the CMOH. Amelia attended the reunion with her mom, grandfather and great grandmother.

She pulled the winning ticket for the 50/50 drawing and was so enthused she wanted to keep the winning ticket in her pocket. She did until mom washed it.

Just a reminder that our reunions are also family oriented and children and grandchildren are always welcome.

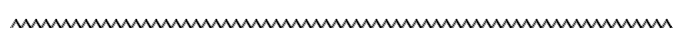


At the Philadelphia Historic Area bus depot a re-enactor asked Larry Allen about his hat pins. Larry identified his unit pins and the man asked if he knew a Col. Becton. He told Larry his uncle was Julius Becton the C.O. of the 2/17 Cav. Joe Becton said he still lives in his Uncle Julius' old house.



Later, the same re-enactor approached Sam Berndt and Mike Guerra and told them the same story. This re-enactor was actually Joe Becton, the nephew of Lt. Gen. Julius Becton (ret) who commanded the 2/17th Cav in 1968.

What a coincidence!



REMEMBER TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/>

Text or Photo contributions are welcome.

**A SPECIAL
PRESENTATION**



At our recent reunion/meeting Sam Berndt presented the Association with the original guidon that B Troop took to Vietnam from Ft. Campbell. The guidon was in possession of Tee Cook, who was the last C.O. of B Troop ground. Before the change of command between B Troop ground and B Troop air, Tee had a newer guidon made to use for the ceremony knowing the new troop would have their own guidon. The original guidon sat in storage at Tee's home until he decided to present it to the Association to add to our memorabilia collection.

Many thanks to Tee for his donation and to Sam Berndt who paid for the framing and shipping.

SICK CALL

- Dick Morse - cardiac problems
- Chuck McNeil - neurological stint problems
- Earl Olsen - cardiac problems
- Eugene Buxton - prostrate problems
- Rich Pechastko - rehab from fall injuries
(If you know anyone ailing let us know)

DETERMINATION

With all the adversities suffered from his tragic fall Rich (Peanut) Pechastko showed an example of the B Troop determination and attended the 2015 Reunion, thanks to the professional help he received and the dedication and love from his extra ordinary wife Beverly.



**JOE LAPOINTE
ENDOWMENT
FUND AT T.T.U.**



According to the official 2014 Endowment Fund Report, the fund had Market Value of \$21,196.69 on Aug. 31, 2014. I received a text from T.T.U. that due to a poor stock market performance the fund now has approximately \$20,116.00 and they have \$6,600.00 in the actual scholarship fund They feel they can start making awards and the fund will replenish itself.

+++++



To: **JR Beltazar Family** over the loss of their daughter Dani who passed away in 2015.

To: **Joe Cone Family** over the loss of Joe B. Cone who passed away in 2015.

~~~~~

**BRAVE EAGLE AWARD**



In 1969 Gen. Zias created the Brave Eagle Award to be issued to any Screaming Eagle that was also awarded any medal for valor. The practice was soon discontinued sometime after 1971. Some of you asked if the coins could still be obtained because you were issued Brave Eagle Citations, but no coin. Our Association was able to obtain a limited amount of replicas of this coin. It can be purchased from the Association for \$25.00 which includes the coin, a parchment certificate issued by the Association that can be framed and shipping costs. So the Association is not accused of promoting "Stolen Valor" you **MUST** furnish us proof that you did receive a medal for a valorous act when you were assigned to B Troop. **NO EXCEPTIONS.....** If you are interested in obtaining a Brave Eagle Coin contact Jim Matthews at [jhmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:jhmatthews1@verizon.net).

# A SAMPLING OF PHOTOS FROM THE 2015 REUNION

