

# The Banshee Gazette

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AUGUST 2006

The Banshee Gazette is the OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of B Troop 2<sup>nd</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association

David Martin

Editor



AIRBORNE – AIRMOBILE – AIR ASSAULT

## President's Message



by Jim Matthews

It's almost *Reunion time* and *YES* there is still time to come. The *cutoff date for guaranteed rooms and rates is August 19<sup>th</sup>* but even after that date the Hotel might honor the rates if you decide to come at the last minute. We have the nicest jacket we've ever gotten as a Reunion gift and if you can't make it to the Reunion you can order one for \$70.00 to be sent to you. We would like to see you plus there's lots to do in Colorado Springs!

## Vice President's Message



by David Martin

We are starting a new format to get The Banshee Gazette to you more often. We will be e-mailing those who sign up on the Association Website. **This Issue we will send to anyone that we have an e-mail address on...if you choose not to receive it by e-mail please let me know at [Banshee694@yahoo.com](mailto:Banshee694@yahoo.com) and I will Take you off the list.** We will send The Banshee Gazette in PDF format so if you want to view or print it you will need Adobe software, which is *FREE* at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

We hope you enjoy the Gazette. Please feel free to send me comments and suggestions.

We will also still post it on our website at [www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/](http://www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/)

## REUNION NEWS



The 2006 Reunion will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

September 19 – 22, 2006 (Tuesday - Friday)

Dinner/Meeting Thursday Sept. 21

### [The Academy Hotel](#)

Reservations 1-800-766-8524 \$69.00 per night to guarantee rates and availability, all reservations must be made by cut off date August 19, 2006.

### [Joseph "Guy" LaPointe Endowment Auction](#)

We will be having an Auction for the Joseph "Guy" LaPointe Endowment at our Dinner/Meeting in Colorado Springs on September 21, 2006. If you want to Donate Items please let [Dave Martin](#) know or bring them to the Reunion. We also still need Monetary Donations (Tax Deductible).

## 2007 Mini Reunion Planned

On May 6, 2007 we are planning a Mini-Reunion on a 7-day Cruise from Galveston, Texas on Carnival Cruise Lines ship the Conquest. There will be No Official Association Meeting. We will have some get togethers while on-board and be able to visit each other for 7 days. Friends and Relative are welcome but if they do not have proof of Military service the price will be higher.

Jinger and I have been on this cruise twice and it's great! Wonderful food anytime of day or night, Free Room Service, Wonderful food anytime of day or night...Ports of Call are Montego Bay, Jamaica (Dunns River Falls), Grand Cayman Island (Great Snorkeling lots of Stingrays to play with), and Cozumel, Mexico (Great Starfish when snorkeling). This year's price is \$713.10 per person (as of July 26, 2006 including Port Charges & Taxes) for an Ocean view room for the 7 Days that's everything except for tips and shore excursions. (Based on Double Occupancy Normal price is \$885.60 per person)



If you go with an Interior Room the price will be less.

***WHAT-a-DEAL!***

Price is subject to change so the sooner you book the better...plus we will have a better chance of getting cabins close to each other. Jinger and I have the 18:15 Dinner Seating. Carnival provides ALL VETERANS with MILITARY RATES all you have to do is provide a copy of your DD-214 or a copy of your Military ID. A \$250.00 deposit per person is due at booking and the remainder is due on or before February 20, 2007. If you are interested in this trip please let me know A.S.A.P. or contact:

Aksoy Ahmet

1-800-819-3902 Ext. 85720 AAHMET2@CARNIVALPVP.COM

Just click Link to e-mail

[Carnival Cruise Line Website \(www.carnival.com/\)](http://www.carnival.com/)

Please let him know you are with B Troop 2nd 17th Cavalry Association!

If you plan on driving to Galveston let me know you can get Discount Parking by booking online. If you fly into Houston they have Buses available and can be booked on the Internet.

David C. Martin



We also are planning to go to Ft. Campbell next year and will attempt to do so when the unit is there...they are currently in Iraq.

Website [www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/](http://www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/)

## *Heard on the Internet*

### THE NEW BIRDS AND THE BEES

A little boy goes to his father and asks, "Daddy, how was I born?"

The father answers: "Well son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway!

Your Mom and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mom and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, where your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, nor since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said:



You got Male!

From Rod Forty

**A good friend here in The Meadows just called; she had just returned from attending the Sarasota Ballet at our Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall; we were all talking at a party last night about 'Hanoi Jane' Fonda's cancellation of her appearance at the Hall--which seats 1,800 people--for a program called "An Evening With Jane Fonda" set for tomorrow night.**

**The cancellation notice in our local left wing newspaper said it was for 'family reasons.' Our friend spoke to the hall's manager after the ballet and asked him why?**

**He replied with a twinkle in his eye; 'Because we only sold 40 tickets!!' That call made my day; hope it makes yours!"**

**Do pass this along... especially to the military friends on your list.**

From Bill Crawford

### Redneck Gingerbread House



From Bill Crawford

## *From IRAQ the Ban'shee Legacy continues*

Hi David, how are you?

Thanks for the email and the gesture is much appreciated, but we are returning stateside within the month and they have cut the flow of mail coming to the unit for now. But I will print off the email offer and hang it in the pilot's hooch and crew chiefs hooch, they will appreciate it, as do I! It has been an interesting yearlong deployment with Ban'shee's leading the way. All pilots and crew chiefs have been outstanding during the deployment, and Ban'shee troop is bringing everyone home safe. We have had aircraft shot up, with no injuries to the pilots and all aircraft returned to duty soon thereafter with a little TLC from the maintainers, which shows us pilots cannot do our job without the help of the crew chiefs as well. Again I will pass on the info and hope that everything is well with fellow Ban'shee troopers and their family back home.

Brian Murray

### *Veteran Benefits*

Texas Parklands Passport  
*The Bluebonnet Pass to Texas State Parks*  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifying benefit:  
 Veteran  
 Disability  
 Senior (full)  
 Senior (partial)

Verification:  
Valid Driver License \_\_\_\_\_ (state and number)  
Award Letter \_\_\_\_\_ (issuing entity and date)  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_



### **Texas Parklands Passport**

A Texas Parklands Passport may be issued to individuals who meet eligibility requirements as outlined in Title 31 Texas Administrative Code.

- Veterans of the US Armed Services holding a 60% or more service connected disability (as determined by the US Veterans Administration). US
- Veterans meeting these eligibility criteria will receive waived entry fees to state parks where entrance fees are collected.
- Individuals who have been medically determined to be permanently disabled as a result of a mental or physical impairment (including blindness) for purposes of receiving benefits under the Social Security Act and who are currently receiving those benefits. These individuals will be entitled to 50% reduced entry rounded to the next whole dollar.

**In order to receive a Texas Parklands Passport you must apply, with proof of eligibility, at any Texas State Park site.**

### **JAG Office**

If you are the holder of a Military ID you can get numerous services at your nearest JAG Office. They will do simple wills, living wills, etc. for you **FREE of Charge!**

## *Humor*

### **“WE WOULD RATHER DO BUSINESS WITH 1000 AL QAEDA TERRORISTS THAN WITH ONE SINGLE AMERICAN”**

This sign was prominently displayed in the window of a business in Philadelphia. You are probably outraged at the thought of such an inflammatory statement. One would think that anti-hate groups from all across the country would be marching on this business. . . and that the National Guard might have to be called to keep the angry crowds back. But, perhaps in these stressful times one might be tempted to let the proprietors simply make their statement.

We are a society, which holds Freedom of Speech as perhaps our greatest liberty. And after all, it is just a sign. You may ask what kind of business would dare post such a sign?

Answer: A Funeral Home (Who said morticians had no sense of humor?)

### **WORLD'S THINNEST BOOK AND SHORTEST MUSIC CD ACCORDING TO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS**

#### THINGS I LOVE ABOUT MY COUNTRY

**by Jane Fonda & Cindy Sheehan. Illustrated by Michael Moore**

**MUSICAL Version by The Dixie Chicks**

The other day I went into town and went into a shop. I was only in there for about 5 minutes. When I came out there was a cop writing out a parking ticket. I went up to him and said, "Come on man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?"

He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. I called him a Nazi. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tires. So I called him a shithead. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes.

The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote. Personally, I didn't care. I came into town by bus. I try to have a little fun each day now that I'm retired. It's important at my age.

*From Leon Chapman*

### *Joining the Association*

When you join the Association you are helping insure that our Association will continue to grow. We are in our ninth year and have come a long way. We started with a Gazette that was sent to about 20 people. We now have over 1000 addresses for people who served with B Troop some go back to the 1950's. We have funded a \$10,000.00 Graduate Endowment at **Texas Tech University** in the name of Joseph "Guy" LaPointe Jr. We have helped fund over 30 scholarships to the people of the Village of Tam Ky, Vietnam. Please consider joining the Association dues are only \$25.00 per year.

You will receive;

1 Membership Certificate

1 Membership ID card

1 Association bumper sticker

Thank you for your support

### *Where to Send Things*

**Please mail membership applications and order forms for the Supply Room or any questions on your membership to:**

**Jim Matthews - President**

2395 N. Conant Road  
West Mifflin, PA

**Related issues to The Banshee Gazette or comments on The Banshee Gazette and or the Reunion**

**David Martin – Vice President**

232 Rabbit Shadow Trail  
Whitney, Texas 76692

**Please mail membership dues, contributions, and anything else that has to do with money to:**

**Randy Kunkelman – Secretary / Treasurer**

2395 N. Conant Road  
Elida, Ohio 45807



**Membership Application**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DATES ASSIGNED TO B TROOP \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU WERE ATTACHED - WHAT WAS YOUR HOME UNIT ? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WERE YOUR DUTES WHILE ASSIGNED TO B TROOP ?

(ie; Infantry, Pilot, Crewchief) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP TYPES**

REGULAR - \_\_\_\_\_

( All persons who served with B Troop in any capacity, or surviving spouse, parents, or children of deceased veterans )

ASSOCIATE - \_\_\_\_\_

( All persons interested in belonging to the Association, so long as they abide by the By-Laws of the Association )

HONORARY - \_\_\_\_\_

( Please see the By-Laws of the Association )

Yearly dues for Regular and Associate Membership is \$25.00 per year.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION TO:

B Troop 2nd 17th Cavalry Association

c/o Randy Kunkleman 2395 N. Conant Road Elida, OH 45807