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# The Banshee Gazette

The Official Publication Of B Troop 2<sup>nd</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association

Volume Issue

Airborne ~ Airmobile ~ Air Assault

February, 2005

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Former and Present Members of B Troop,

Previously we tried to send issues of the Gazette to all the former and present troopers that served with Troop B 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Rgt. (Abn Recon) and Troop B 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Rgt. Unfortunately it became too expensive mailing out over 800 Gazettes several times a year without being sure they were all being delivered to the proper people. We resorted to publishing copies of the Gazette on the Banshee website, e-mailing copies to those of you we had current email addresses for, and finally only mailing copies to active members of the Association that didn't have email addresses. We are sending this issue out to everyone we had listed on our previous mailing list in hopes of reaching many of you we lost contact with, hoping to spark your interest in our organization. If you received this issue in error please contact me at [jhmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:jhmatthews1@verizon.net) or 412-466-3557.

### MEMBERSHIP

If you served with B Troop you are not automatically a member of the Association. To be an active member in our Association, you have to complete an application and pay the yearly dues of \$25.00. Membership runs from January to December of each year and you must pay your dues to keep your membership up to date. Your membership includes a membership card, a copy of the Association's By-Laws, two bumper stickers and voting privileges at our dinner/meetings. Due to several problems I haven't been able to send out membership packets, but will try to catch up with the 2005 memberships.

In the event your membership is expired, you can make it current by paying the 2005 dues. We are not interested in making you pay for dues for the years you missed. If you are unsure whether your membership is current or not, please contact Randy Kunkleman at [kunkleman@hotmail.com](mailto:kunkleman@hotmail.com) or phone: 419-339-3984.

Page 2 of this issue is a membership application. If you would like to join our Association, renew your expired membership, or just pay your 2005 membership which is due now, please fill out the application so we can update our records. If you cannot afford the dues you can apply for a hardship membership.

To be perfectly honest with you, our organization cannot exist without your financial support. For us to continue as an Association we need your support and interest.



“Out Front”

Jim Matthews

**B Troop 2<sup>nd</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association**

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

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 - HARDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_  
( All persons who served with B Troop in any capacity, or surviving spouse, parents, or children of deceased veterans. Hardship membership is approved by the Association's officers )

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 AND DUES TO:  
B Troop 2nd 17th Cavalry Association  
c/o Randy Kunkleman  
2395 N. Conant Road  
Elida, OH 45807

Make checks payable to: B 2/17 Cav. Association

## 2005 REUNION INFORMATION

We had all intentions of having this year's reunion at Ft. Campbell, but due to the uncertainty that the present B Troop will be deployed again this year made our plans to meet the present Banshees questionable.

### **THEREFORE**

**THE 2005 REUNION WILL BE IN LAS VEGAS, NV.**

### **WHERE :**

**THE PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO IN DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS**

### **WHEN:**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2005**

### **ROOM RATES:**

**SUNDAY – THURSDAY \$45.00 + TAX PER NIGHT**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY \$62.00 + TAX PER NIGHT**

**The Plaza Hotel & Casino is located at 1 Main Street Las Vegas, NV. It is downtown Las Vegas at the opposite end of Fremont Street from Fitzgerald's. Their website is: [www.plazahotelcasino.com](http://www.plazahotelcasino.com)**

### **RESERVATIONS:**

**The Plaza has a toll free reservations number 1-800-634-6575. When prompted, press number 1 and ask for B/2/17 Association group booking. The cut off date for reservations is August 23, 2005.**

### **EXTRAS:**

**In addition to all of the extra services expected from a hotel/casino the Plaza also has a fitness room, track, tennis court and swimming pool. They also have "Dick Clark's Rock, Roll & Remember Show scheduled to open in April 3005.**

**Reunion Registration form is on page 4 of this issue.**



**HOPE TO  
SEE YOU IN LAS VEGAS**



**B TROOP 2/17<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY ASSOCIATION REUNION 2005  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
SEPTEMBER 23 -24, 2005**

**THIS YEAR'S REGISTRATION FEE IS \$100.00. THAT  
INCLUDES YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM SNACKS &  
BEVERAGES, SATURDAY'S DINNER AND YOUR GIFT.  
THIS FEE MUST BE RETURNED WITH THIS  
REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

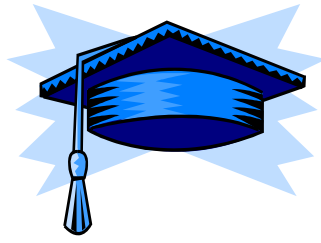
**TOTAL NO. OF GUESTS COMING (NOT COUNTING YOU) \_\_\_\_\_  
THEIR NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_**

**WE ARE CHARGING A \$75.00 FEE FOR EACH ADULT GUEST,  
WHICH WILL INCLUDE FRIDAY'S SNACKS AND BEVERAGES &  
SATURDAY'S DINNER. IF YOUR GUEST WOULD ALSO LIKE A  
REUNIUNON GIFT THEIR FEE IS \$100.00, THE SAME AS YOURS.  
THIS IS PAYABLE LATER, BUT MUST BE PAID BEFORE  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2005.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS WE DID NOT ANSWER PLEASE  
CONTACT JIM MATTHEWS AT:  
412-466-3557 OR [jhmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:jhmatthews1@verizon.net)**

**PLEASE SEND THIS FORM AND THE REGISTRATION FEE TO:  
RANDY KUNKLEMAN  
2395 N. CONANT ROAD  
ELIDA, OHIO 45807**

**Make checks payable to "B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cav. Association"**



## THE JOSEPH GUY LA POINTE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

During our regular business meeting in Washington D.C. the Association Membership voted to fund an endowment fund at Texas Tech University, in the name of Joseph Guy “Doc” LaPointe. For those of you who are not familiar with the LaPointe name, “Doc” was the medic assigned to B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Vietnam.

On June 2, 1969 “Doc” LaPointe was killed in action, while attempting to provide medical assistance to two seriously wounded members of the B Troop’s “Blues” platoon. For his unselfish act of courage “Doc” was awarded the **Congressional Medal of Honor**.

Our Association committed itself to raise \$10,000 over a three year period to establish his endowment fund. The last endowment fund report dated August 31, 2004 shows a total of \$3,064.25. This does not include a pledge that is spread out over 4 years. As of this date, February 1, 2005, with all of the personal contributions and private pledges we are falling short of our goal. If you are able to help, please send what ever you can to this important project. Your donation is tax deductible and can be sent to Randy Kunkleman. Please be sure you indicate that the money is designated for the LaPointe Endowment Fund.

Dave Martin,  
Endowment Fund Committee

On page 6 of this gazette issue you will find an order form for personalized 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry watches. We have a special agreement with the owner of this company to keep the costs at a minimum so all profits from the watch sales will go to the LaPointe Endowment Fund. This is a great way to show your pride for your unit or former unit and support the endowment fund at the same time.

### **WHERE TO SEND THINGS**

#### ***Dues, Donations, Reunion Money***

Randy Kunkleman  
2395 N. Conant Road  
Elida, OH 45807  
419-339-3984  
[kunkleman@hotmail.com](mailto:kunkleman@hotmail.com)

#### ***Change of Address, Watch Orders***

James Matthews  
6743 Madison Ave.  
West Mifflin, PA 15122  
412-466-3557  
[jhmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:jhmatthews1@verizon.net)



## **PERSONALIZED 2/17<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY WATCHES**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BAND: LEATHER /METAL LINKS    STYLE: MENS / WOMANS**

**INSCRIPTION AT 2:00 o'clock** \_\_\_\_\_

**REMEMBER SPACE IS LIMITED**

(ex. "Banshee 14", "Blues", "Scouts", "B 2/17" "HHT 2/17" "Saber 6" "E 2/17" "A/C #", Track # etc.)

**INSCRIPTION AT 8:00 o'clock** \_\_\_\_\_

**REMEMBER SPACE IS LIMITED**

(ex. "FC-1956", "RVN-69/70", "DS/DS 1991", "Iraq 2003" or any similar combinations)

**PRICE: \$30.00 ea. INC. S&H    MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO B 2/17 CAV ASSN.**

**SEND TO:            JAMES MATTHEWS  
6743 MADISON AVE  
WEST MIFFLIN, PA 15122**

**OTHER TIME PIECES ARE AVAILABLE**

QUESTIONS?    **CALL 412-466-3557    OR EMAIL: *[jhmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:jhmatthews1@verizon.net)***