

The Banshee Gazette

ISSUE 9 VOLUME 3

October 2006

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

David C Martin

Editor



AIRBORNE – AIRMOBILE – AIR ASSAULT

President's Message



by Jim Matthews

Fellow Banshees,

If you missed the reunion in Colorado Springs, you missed one heck of a reunion. Dave Martin outdid himself and put together one of the best reunions we have had so far and it will take some doing to put together a future reunion with such precision and organization. Dave definitely deserves two ATTA-BOYS for that event.

If you missed the reunion in Las Vegas last year and the reunion in Colorado Springs this year, you may not have heard the important news that was relayed to us by Randy O'Connell (Bushgangsters '68).

During the Vietnam War B Troop suffered quite a few losses due to combat action. Out of all the losses only two bodies were never recovered. The aircraft that WO Mark J. Robertson of Michigan and Sgt. Joseph Pietzrak of Ohio were flying in on 10 FEB 1971 exploded in flight as a result of hostile. They were automatically presumed dead because of the intensity of the explosion and due to the enormous amount of enemy activity, there was no attempt at making any recovery.

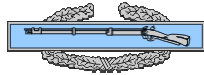
Randy McConnell, who is very active in the POW MIA issue, asked to speak at our dinner / meeting in Las Vegas last year. Randy informed us that the remains of both WO Robertson and Sgt. Pietzrak were recovered and repatriated to the United States. We hope that this news can bring some closure to the friends and family of both troopers.

Randy also wanted to relate to us that even with the increased amount of effort being exerted to resolve the POW MIA issue during the past few years, we should press our governmental leaders to apply even more pressure to resolve this issue as quickly and completely as possible.

Finally, I would like to say we are in the initial stages of planning our 2007 reunion, which will be held at Ft. Campbell, KY. Hopefully the Banshees will still be there when we have our gathering and will want to be a part of it. The actual date is not set yet so keep you eyes open for more Gazettes and check our website frequently for further information.

“Out Front”

Vice President's Message



by Bill Crawford

Welcome Home To All:

I want to thank all Banshees' that voted for me for your Vice President, I will try to do a great job for you. I have some big shoes to fill replacing DAVE MARTIN after nine years of doing a great job as the Association Vice President, but I will do my best!

This year's reunion was a great success. I think all had a great time. The dinner was very good. The auction was great, Thanks to Rob Switzer for his help as Auctioneer.

We had five new Banshee at this year reunion, if each one of us can get one new Banshee for next year just think what a reunion in Ft. Campbell would be like.

Also like to say thanks again to Dave again for getting the Ft. Carson Color Guard. Maybe next year we can have our own Color Guard. Robert Bohler is one who fit the job...he looked sharp and I know two others who could fit the bill like Rob Switzer and Larry Allen, just maybe we can talk them into being our Color Guard, just a though.

Thanks to god we all had a good trip home,
God bless all.

REUNION NEWS



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 Relatives 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 (Rafting on the Martha Brae), *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 ([we have 5 balcony rooms reserved as of now on Deck 6](#)). Jinger and I have the [18:15 Dinner Seating in the Renoir Dining area Askoy will get us all put together if you chose this 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:

[For reservations from Monday 9th October through November 6th.](#)

Please contact;

Andre Mwangi

1-800-819-3902 ext 82620

Aksoy Ahmet

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

Carnival Cruise Line Website (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.

We also are planning to go to Ft. Campbell next year in late June or early July (Not the weekend of the 4th) and will attempt to do so when the unit is there.

2006 Reunion Colorado Springs, Colorado



Rob Switzer & Bill Crawford



Ken Hitchings &
Randy Kunkleman



Cindy LaPointe



Robert Bohler & Larry Allen



Garden of the Gods



Seven Falls



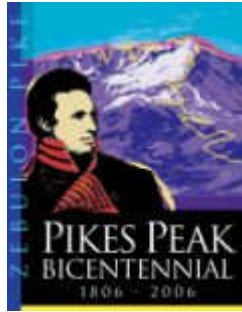
Dave Martin, Judson Smith,
Jim Matthews, Tom Hughes,
Rod Forty, Richard Pechatsko



Group Picture at The US Airforce Academy



Jim Signing Membership Certificates
Bohler bothering him



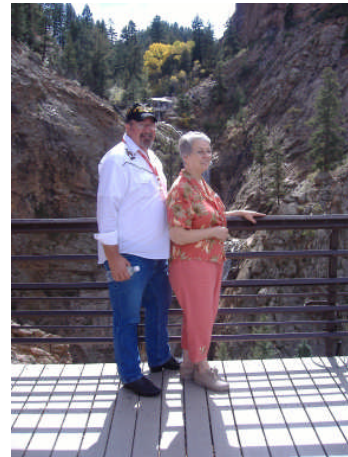
Steven Carper,
Miriam & Hopper Martinez



Janice & Russell Baldwin



Thomas Mitchell,
Tom Hughes, Russell Baldwin



Tom & Sandra Hughes



Heroes Plaza Pueblo, Colorado



Group Picture – Heroes Plaza



Solo's Resturant Colorado Springs, Colorado

More Pictures available online at www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/banshee/

Heard on the Internet

Jim & Dave,

IMHO the reunion in Colorado Springs was very well, if not outstandingly, planned and managed.

Well done and thank you!



Dave Livingston

Jim,

My wife and I just got back to Virginia after a wonderful four days in Colorado Springs. Thank you for organizing the reunion; it was truly a great experience for me. I know how difficult it can be to manage the logistics for one of these events and I do appreciate the work from you, Dave, Randy and everyone else with a hand in it.

Good job!

Terry Atkinson / Scouts, 1970

Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech University

We still need to add to our holdings at The Vietnam Archives. Pictures, orders, letters home, soveniers from Vietnam, Veteran Publications, and anything else to do with your experience in Vietnam. Contact Steven Maxner at steve.maxner@ttu.edu

Veteran Benefits

It is recommended that you request copies of your records from the Veterans Affairs Administration. Under the Freedom of Information Act you may receive copies of your records once at no charge to you.

The VA does loose records, so if you request records every 6 months you will have copies in case they do loose something in your file. This is very important for your VA Medical Records expecially if you have a claim pending or are prefairing to file a claim.

Write or visit Release Of Information Office at your Regional Office and/or Medical Center.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Cavalry Trooper stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, Trooper,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

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There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Trooper waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you Trooper,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

~Author Unknown~

Humor

from Julie Debrah (Jim's daughter)

You are driving in a car at a constant speed.

On your left side is a valley and on your right side is a fire engine traveling at the same speed as you.

In front of you is a galloping pig, which is the same size as your car, and you cannot overtake it.

Behind you is a helicopter flying at ground level.

Both the giant pig and the helicopter are also traveling at the same speed as you.

What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer:

Get off the children's "Merry-Go-Round", you're drunk

Joining the Association

When you join the Association you are helping insure that our Association will continue to grow. We are in our tenth 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. 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 order forms for the Supply Room and address changes to:

Jim Matthews - President

6743 Madison Avenue - West Mifflin, PA 15122-2737

Phone 412-466-3557

jhmatthews1@verizon.net

Related issues to Reunions, questions about the Association, or any questions to:

Bill Crawford – Vice President -

1281 Echo Trail - Watkinsville, Ga. 30677

Phone 706-769-6838

billc19472002@yahoo.com

Related issues to The Banshee Gazette or comments on The Banshee Gazette. Information on The Joseph “Guy” LaPointe Jr. Endowment Fund:

David Martin – Editor The Banshee Gazette / Chairman The Joseph “Guy” LaPointe Jr. Endowment Fund

232 Rabbit Shadow Trail - Whitney, Texas 76692

Phone 254-694-5529

bansheegazette@yahoo.com

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

Phone 419-339-3984

kunkleman@hotmail.com



Look for your December Banshee Gazette in your mailbox on December 1, 2006

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