



# THE 12TH CAV Trooper



## Semper Paratus

Serving Those A/4-12 Cav Troopers who Served In The Republic of Vietnam 1968 - 1971

Volume IX, Issue 2

September 2011

## The 2011 A Troop Reunion Is Just Around The Corner

November 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2011

It's almost November again and the reunion is just around the corner. It's time for our extended family to get together again for fellowship and the anticipation of new faces joining those that have attended in the last 10 years. Third Platoon lead by Charles Russell have been working for the past year to make the reunion another great event. We will again be marching in the Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade, one of the largest parades honoring Veterans in the entire country. For those of you who think they can't make the walk Charles is trying to get some transportation support from the Nevada National Guard. So let Charles know if you need that type of assistance. He is also attempting to get some Veteran Service Officers (VSO) to assist anyone in filing a claim or to request an increase of a current disability. If you have that need bring your DD214( Record of Discharge) or your most current decision letter from the VA.

I know that everyone keeps harping that you need to attend a reunion. It's true every year we seem to get a few new Troopers to come to the reunions. I know in my case any fear I had at showing up disappeared as soon as I saw a familiar face or heard a voice I remembered from 40+ years ago. Last year on the way to Las Vegas we stopped in Albuquerque, New Mexico and I called Bob Richards to see if we could get together unfortunately we were unable to meet that night but Bob said he would make it to the reunion. The main reason I wanted to see Bob in Albuquerque was I forgot what he looked like and wanted to see him again since we spoke in Vietnam about our hometowns Bob was from Worthington, Ohio a small suburb of Columbus and he had attended Ohio State before joining the Army.

Fast forward to the reunion and I am sitting at the sign in desk, all of a sudden someone comes into the room and for some reason or another I recognize Bob after 40 years. Strange things happen at our reunions, memories of the past become clear and fears and trepidation disappear. It's like walking in to the club at either Nancy or Quang Tri and starting up a conversation like it had never ended. We don't always talk of Vietnam but when we do you know it's from the experiences we faced and everything we endured after returning home those many years ago.



## Reunion Room Reservations

The reunion this year, will be held at the:

Gold Coast Hotel and Casino  
4000 West Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-4088

You can either make your reservations on line or by phone.

Online reservations at:  
<http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups>  
Telephone reservations:  
1 (800) 331-5334,sales ext.400

When making your reservations please use the following  
Group Code. 4-12 CAV  
Group name”A Troop 412 Cavalry Reunion”

Also a quick note if you get your reservations on line  
their web site requires you to enter a date using”/” as a  
separator. e.g.,11/09/2010

## Chairmans Corner

Lately, I have been working on a DVD project that will be sent to all members of the Cav. It is basically a compilation of past videos put together by George Gersaba,J.T. Tillman,Myself and pictures submitted to the internet from our guys. In reviewing some of these videos it appears that through the ten years we have been having reunions, we have had about one hundred and fifty troopers attend at least once. Not bad considering,we have located about seven hundred troopers. Now the bad part, of the one hundred and fifty I recognized from past reunion photos about 15 ( ten percent ) have passed to Fiddlers Green.

This year promises to be a terrific reunion. It is our eleventh reunion, the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year 2011. For those of you into numerology, thats pretty cool! For the rest of us it is just a really good time spent with some very special friends.

If you haven’t been to a reunion, you are not getting any younger. I remember our first reunion. It was quickly put together, because we were only about twenty five guys on the internet. Seventeen guys made it to the “Stardust” in Las Vegas. Bob and Sherri Taylor had a suite that they graciously made into a hospitality room. My wife Cheryl and I walked up to the room and I hesitated a bit before I knocked on the door. My mind was full of emotions. “Would anyone remember me?” “ Would anyone care?” “What kind of memories would this evoke?” Finally I knocked. The door opened and there was Merle Reed, Bob Taylor and Dennis Perrino all from the 2nd platoon. Keith Eaton and Jim Clark from the commo shack. Others from other years and platoons. There was no rank and Dennis didn’t even make me burn Shit.

The Cav, You can’t go wrong. You are already a member. There are no dues, you paid yours in Vietnam. They were the best of times, they were the worst of times, they were the times that shaped our lives. Join us Veterans Day, Las Vegas, you won’t regret it.

John Sharpe  
2nd Platoon 69-70

### Hotel Room Rates For the Reunion

Type of Room	Single/Double	Triple	Quad
<b>Standard</b>			
Sun-Thur	\$28	\$43	\$58
Fri-Sat	\$52	\$67	\$82
<b>Premium</b>			
Sun-Thur	\$36	\$51	\$66
Fri-Sat	\$63	\$83	\$98
<b>King Exec. Suite</b>			
Sun-Thur	\$180		
Fri-Sat	\$250		

If you are RVing while coming to the Reunion this year Neal Smith Has provided a web site for reservations at an area RV Resort. It is one of the top 10 RV Resorts in the USA. <http://www.oasislasvegasrvresort.com>

The Editor would like to make a correction to last issues Fiddlers Green. When Copy reading the listing of KIA’s The Name of PFC Melvin E. Tucker was partially omitted. We would also sadly need to add the following Troopers that have passed since the last issue went to press. Trooper Jerry Malan ,Trooper Gary Axelson,Trooper George Robert Conover,Trooper Woodrow W Waldrop Jr. , Trooper James Lester Locke, Trooper William Jerry Holmes, Trooper Wayne B. Smith, Trooper John E. Johnson. Trooper Dan Sjolund Trooper Thomas W. MacConchie, Trooper Edwin C. Kittelson.

# Registration A Troop 4/12 Cavalry Reunion 2011

November 9th through the 12th

Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas Nevada

Trooper Name, Platoon and Year

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Names of others attending with Trooper

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Registration Fee is \$50.00 per Trooper

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Banquet Fee is \$50.00 per person

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Total

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Make Checks Payable to: A Troop

Mail to:

Ken Dye  
10908 66th Avenue East  
Puyallup, Washington 98373

Questions?  
E-Mail, Charles Russell at CERUSS@EXCITE.COM at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino on (888) 402-6278 and use the group code 0ATRC11. You can also contact them on their web site: goldcoastcasino.com

If you have any items you would like to donate to the Troop Raffle Please Let Charlie Russell know of your gift to the Troop. This Raffle helps support the Troop Web and Newsletter Expenses.

A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry  
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Columbus, Ohio 43229

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### Change of Address

Provide all changes of address to *The Trooper*  
5548 Hazelwood Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
c/o Keith Eaton



## *The 12th Cav* TROOPER Needs Your Support

We hope you enjoy receiving *The 12th Cav TROOPER*. As you can see, the format and contents are new and will continue to improve. The production of such a quality newsletter, however, is not inexpensive. The newsletter constitutes one of the highest expenses of the Association budget. Many thanks to those who have contributed. Many more contributions are needed. Please send your check (Payable to A Troop, 12th Cavalry) along with the form below to Neal Smith, 3002 Arapaho Dr. Fitchburg, Wis. 53719 We will list all who donate in the next issue.



## Thanks for your Support

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