



THE 12TH CAV Trooper



Semper Paratus

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

Volume VII, Issue 1

February, 2009

The 2008 is now History

The 2008 Reunion was a little smaller than reunions in the past whether it was the economy or some other reason, those that missed the reunion, missed a great time of fellowship and memories. J.T Tillman created a 4 hour slide show that he ran in the hospitality suite. And Jim Good and Charlie Russell provided a pictorial tour of their Return to Vietnam last year.

A pre reunion event that may become an annual event was Dennis Perrino's Italian night out, 20 plus troopers and their significant others joined Dennis and Uncle Frank at Bucca de Beppo. The only problem that came about was that everyone ate too much, and would you believe it some even drank too much. The attendees also brought enough food to feed an army back to the hospitality suite.

Friday at noon the second annual Sisterhood of the Cav Ladies luncheon was held and we had 23 ladies in attendance.

The Cav Store was also open this reunion with the hottest item being the new Sisterhood of the Cav Shirts. They now come in Black or White with their own special logo.

On Saturday morning a business meeting was held, you can read the minutes of the meeting on our web site. (www.atroop412cav.com)

Saturday afternoon Terri and Tom McPhee organized an impromptu bowling tournament at the Gold Coast lanes. A lot of fun was had by those attending the event, won by Jim Davis with a sterling score of 155.

The reunion closed down Saturday night with our annual banquet. The Frankie was awarded (see page two), and we raised a large sum of money for the general fund by conducting two raffles, a 50/50 and one with numerous prizes. We were also entertained by a slideshow and movie created by George Gersaba. As it is every year the reunion came to a close with promises to see everyone again next year.



A Troop 4/12 Cav Reunion October 2008. Front Row : (L-R) Ray Gavi, Charles Cooper, Ken Dye, Bob Schlitzberger, John Reynolds, Merle Reed, Warren Swinford, Charles Russell, Wally Mendoza, Chris Ward, Jim Davis. Second Row: George Gersaba, Bill Garrison, Keith Eaton, James Rinaldi, Tom McPhee, John Richardson, Neal Smith, Ynasio Rendon, Dennis Perrino, Dave Boshell, Dennis Patrick, Don Scott, Walt Ferguson, Jim Clark Raymond Beatty. Third Row: Wolfgang Busch, Gene Clark, Bob Taylor, John Sharpe, Gregory Brown, Jim Good, John White, John Tillman, Glen Costanza, Kent Drake, Al Christine, Bob Rebbec, Bob Curnell, Joe Shue. Not Pictured: George Gibbs, Phil Burt

2008 LTee Frank Canda Award

At the 2008 Reunion, we honored a fellow Trooper, acknowledging the time, energy, and effort he has given over the past years, by presenting him with the **LTee FRANK CANDA AWARD** (formerly the KEEPING THE FLAME BURNING award.) This recognition is given to individuals who have made significant contributions above and beyond the call of duty with regard to the troop's website, committees, trooper locating, and other actions that have benefited A Troop.

The award is not presented every year; only six have been granted to date. At the 2006 Reunion, Jim Clark (HQ 69-70) said, "I think the best thing about this award is that it is not one you can set out to win, but a testament to the character shown when no one is watching."

This year, Bob Curnell presented the LTee Frank Canda Award.

The answer to three questions will determine your success or failure in life, Those three questions are: Can people trust me to do my best?, Am I committed to the task at hand?, and Do I care about other people and show it?. Our recipient of the "Frankie" Award can answer yes to each of these three questions both forty years ago and today.

What is class? Class is an intangible thing. Different people show it in different ways, but it does not take long to surface and is easily recognizable. Our recipient demonstrates class with his actions and interaction with others. His constant hard work and commitment to doing what has to be done, when it needs to be done; has enabled the Troop to stand out and reach out to all Troop Members.

Without his dedication and vision the Troop Newsletter would not be the quality document it is today. Our first Troop Newsletter was a single page black and white publication. LT Zero stepped up and took over the newsletter becoming the editorial staff, editor, publisher, mail clerk, and general all around go to guy. The 12th Cav Trooper newsletter has since become one of the main avenues of communication with our fellow Troopers, with that said we are proud to honor Dennis Perrino "LT Zero" with the LTEE Frank Canda Award tonight.

Dennis Perrino's Acceptance Speech:

Firstly, this is an honor I didn't expect and don't deserve, But I will wear it proudly.

I took over the newsletter because I had been writing one for another association. It's quite an honor to stand here before you as a brother. There are many people here that I can call my friends some people I never knew until I came to the first reunion. This association is quite a living thing, and the NCO's and enlisted personnel, that persevere to make this association what it is today. I really am honored and humbled, but you are all a part of me and I am proud to stand here with you not as an LT not as an officer but as a brother in arms with all of you. And thankful that we get together every year. I was one of the people who insisted on meeting every year when some said we should do it every two years or every eighteen months. Every year some new people show up it happens and we need to welcome these people home. This is a very healing organization for a lot of people and I am proud to be a part of it. And I will always be a part of it, and it will take a lot for me not to make it to every reunion.

Thank you very Much.



LTee, Frank Canda 2002



Dennis Perrino (Lt. Zero) 2008 Frankie Award Winner

Sisterhood of the Cav



1st Row L-R Wendy Ferguson, Jan Davis, Nancy Wade, Terri McPhee, Reda Reed, Lori Shue, Jeanie White. 2nd Row L-R Janine Drake, Minerva Richardson, Linda Eaton, Cheryl Sharpe, Linda Rinaldi, Sandy Dye, Nancy Curnell. 3rd Row L-R Barbara Cooper, Janet Garrison, Nancy Gavi, Sherri Taylor, Joyce Patrick, Nancy Swinford, Susan Christine

Reunion 2009 Niagara Falls N.Y.

Crown Plaza Hotel

300 Third Street, Niagara Falls, New York

September 30th thru October 3, 2009

You can now make reservations for the 2009 A Troop Reunion by calling 1-800-227-6963. The Group code to obtain the group rate is "ATO" which is for A Troop 412.

The room rate will be \$139.00 per night plus a 13% sales tax, this rate is good from September 28th thru October 3rd. Our Banquet Dinner will be on Saturday evening, October 3rd.

Please try and make your reservations as soon as possible, we currently have a block of 30 rooms, if we sell out those rooms we can go back to the hotel to gain more rooms at this discounted rate.

For those people flying in you will need to fly into the Buffalo Niagara International Airport, which is about 25 Miles from Niagara Falls. Jet Blue, Air-Tran, and Southwest Airlines are the low cost carriers to this airport.

You can find information regarding shuttle services on the A Troop Website (www.atroop412cav.com/reunions)

If you are planning to travel into Canada 2009 brings new restrictions on travel, You will be required to have a passport or passport card. for info regarding these items you can visit the following web site: (http://travel.state.gov/passport_card/ppt_3926.html)

For additional information Contact Ken Dye at 253-992-7276 Home, 253-229-5796 Cell 253-435-1616 work.

You can also get a hold of Ken via e-mail at: (kendye7@msn.com)

Jim Rinaldi is also available for information at 585-392-6288 evenings or by e-mail at (jazrinaldi@netzero.net)



HQ Platoon Row 1 : Ray Gavi, Dennis Perrino, Bob Curnell, Wally Mendoza. Row 2: Keith Eaton, Gregory Brown , Jim Clark, Raymond Beatty, Jim Davis .



First Platoon Row 1 : Ken Dye, Jim Rinaldi, Wally Mendoza, Warren Swinford. Row 2 : Charles Cooper, Glenn Costanza, George Gersaba, Ray Gavi, Walt Ferguson, Jim Davis. Row 3 : Gene Clark, J.T. Tillman, Al Christine, Tom McPhee, Joe Shue, Wolfgang Busch.



Second Platoon Row 1: Neal Smith, Ynasio Rendon, Dennis Perrino, Merle Reed, George Gibbs, John Richardson. Row 2: Bill Garrison, Phil Burt, Bob Taylor, John Sharpe, David Boshell, Bob Rebbec, John White.



Third Platoon Row 1 : Bob Schlitzberger, Charles Russell, Chris Ward, Row 2 : Jim Good, Dennis Patrick, John Reynolds, Kent Drake, Don Scott.

Special Thanks to Double Eagle Studios and David Proctor for providing digital photos for the Trooper.

The 12th Cav TROOPER
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 The cost of this publication is paid by the donations of the members of the Cav Brotherhood.

Mission Statement
 The driving force of the Association is to continue promoting camaraderie of A Troop 4/12 Cavalry (Vietnam Era) through reunions, memorial services, and communications.

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Tour to our old A.O. In Vietnam ?

By Jim Good

Last October, Tom Miller, a former commander of 1/77 Armor organized a trip to Vietnam thru Military Historical Tours of Alexandria Va.. Five former members of A Troop went along and we all had a wonderful time. It is really interesting to see what has changed, and what is timeless and untouched. In addition to being fun, and giving us a chance to reminisce and see the locations where we had been almost 40 years earlier, it was also a great way to put memories into perspective, and to increase our understanding of where things are located in that area.

Several of us have talked about going back again. Military Historical Tours can put together a package to go wherever we want, and they have contacts with the Vietnamese who can provide guides and interpreters. Hotels are clean and efficient, and the food ranges from very good to at least ok. No C rations or sleeping in a foxhole! Cost for airfare from Los Angeles to Vietnam and back, in-country transportation, hotels, and most meals would be right around \$3,500. Slightly more if you don't share a room, or if you want to do a side trip to China or some other location in the region after the tour. A Land Rover tour of the Bai Long Valley might cost an extra \$100.

It would really be great to have a tour group to Vietnam composed almost entirely of guys from the Troop. If any of you are interested in going back to Vietnam, possibly around March of 2010, please get in touch with Jim Good as soon as possible. We need to begin planning, and the more guys who are interested in going, the better. Four wives went with us last year, so you may want to include your better half or children to show them where you were way back then.

If you think that you would like to go back to Vietnam, contact Jim Good, by phone at 407-854-0730 or e-mail (jimgood1949@earthlink.net).

2009 A Troop Budget Approved at 2008 Reunion

By Charles Cooper

Newsletter February 2009 (475)	\$1500.00
Newsletter September 2009 (475)	\$ 950.00
Single Page Reunion Mailing (475)	\$ 325.00
Web Site Hosting Fee	\$ 360.00
Awards(Pictures-Plaques Etc)	\$ 200.00
Seed Money for 2009 Reunion	\$1500.00
 Total	 \$4,835.00

Memorial Fund Off and Running

In the last Trooper we had an article on the Memorial and the Challenge given to the Troop by John L.B. Smith the A Troop Commander in Mid 1970. John challenged the Troop to raise \$2000 in donations before the end of 2008 and if they were able to accomplish that mission he would donate \$.50 for every dollar raised up to \$2000.

The Troop accepted the challenge and raised \$3012.00 that with John's contribution allows the Troop to enter 2009 with over \$4000. in the Memorial Fund.

As you know we as the Brotherhood of A Troop 4/12 Cav. Depend on the generosity of each one of our members to continue our mission of friendship, fellowship and remembrance of our Brothers that have passed on to Fiddlers Green. For that reason each issue of the Trooper contains the Names of those Troopers that have so unselfishly donated to our continued existence.



David Busch, Wolfgang Busch, Ken Dye and Sandy Dye



Enjoying the banquet, L-R Reda and Merle Reed, Neal Smith, Bob and Sherri Taylor.

Veterans Benefits and Services

Too many veterans are unaware of the benefits and services that are available to them. Many of those veterans have health issues and need medical care. Others may be eligible for benefits, but they don't know how to go about getting them. The sad fact is, there are millions of veterans who have little or no, medical insurance and are paying for care that our Department of Veterans Affairs should be offering them for little or no cost. There are veterans in America today that are suffering from illnesses directly related to their service who are not aware there is help out there. Needless to say, this is a national disgrace. **The VA has established a listing of “presumptive illnesses or disabilities” that provide a direct link to where and when a veteran served.** The problem is getting that word out. For example, the majority of “in-country” Vietnam veterans who have survived prostate cancer, or have died, had no clue that it was related to their service. The reasons that information like this doesn't get to veterans are as varied as the cancers and other ailments that are now recognized by the VA. The bottom line is, the VA is doing a crappy job of informing veterans of their rights, even though they are required to do so by law!

Veterans dating back to World War II have been identified as being higher risk groups for all forms of leukemia (with the exception of chronic lymphocytic leukemia). Cancers of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, brain, bone, lung, colon and ovaries are recognized as service-connected.

Bronchiolo-alveola carcinoma, multiple myelomas, lymphomas, and primary liver cancer (with the exception of cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated) are also on the list. Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations during the Gulf War have been showing signs of medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms that have existed for six months or more. The signs are chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, and any undiagnosed illness that the secretary of Veterans Affairs determines warrants a presumptive of service connection. All of the mentioned have at least a 10% rating. How many veterans are aware that within one year of their release from active duty, those chronic diseases (such as arthritis, diabetes, or hypertension) can be linked to their time in the military? How many veterans know that if they spent 90 days or more active duty, and were diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS — Lou Gehrig's disease), they may have it because of time they spent in the military?

When I hear the old refrain from the VA that they do not have the resources to inform our veterans of these options for treatment and help, my blood boils. There is absolutely no reason that the VA can't work more closely with the traditional media such as television, radio, and newspapers to get this important information out to the vast veteran population in our country. In this new age, all avenues should be explored to get the word out. The VA should work the Web to provide easy-access blogs that give medical updates and a more friendly service approach than the traditional VA Web site which is like navigating through a maze. I support the good things the VA does, such as the recently implemented Veterans Suicide Hotline. For the record, that hotline was in response to the orders of the federal court to inform veterans of their options and to help them regardless of where they were in the country. **Without information, veterans have no hope when they become ill and wonder where to turn. Getting information to them is a matter of life and death. Especially, if a veteran dies and his/her family are left paying crushing private medical bills that should have been handled by the VA.**

Despite talk of caring for veterans, the VA is not walking the walk when it comes to informing them of their rights and medical benefits. VA clinics nationally need to step up and have handouts available (where they can be easily seen) for veterans whose lives may depend upon the knowledge in them. By not making more of an effort than it is to get this valuable information out to all veterans, the VA is failing in its mission to us. Men and women who have served their country honorably are now being dishonored by this lack of attention to something so vital. The theme of the 75th anniversary of the VA was to outreach to every living veteran to inform them of what services were available to them. Veterans are still waiting for that grand claim to come true. Let's not make them wait another 75 years before action is actually taken. **For further information**, contact the Humboldt County Veterans Service office at 445-7341, **the VA at 1-800-827-1000 or the VA's Web page, www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets**

[Source: The Times Standard Carl Young “My Word” 4 Dec 08 ++]

The above article was supplied to A Troop 4/12 Cav by Ken Howser, Jr. secretary of the 12th Cavalry Regiment Association.

Non Trooper Honorable Mention Awards

Dave Blancett: In the true Cav spirit, took time and effort to not only take photos of the 2006 Las Vegas Veteran’s Day Parade, but provided a copy of these memories to everyone in attendance.

Barbara Cooper: For Meritorious Service in providing “Mug Shots” of all the Troopers and their guests, from the 2002 Reunion to the 2008 Reunion. This has been proven to be a key element in connecting the correct name to the correct face in all troop group photos.

Lyle Johnson: In the true Cav spirit, took the time and effort to craftsme outstanding works of art for the 2008 Reunion Raffle.



Christopher, David, and Adam Boshell, make the 2008 reunion a family affair.



Original Troopers from Ft Carson 1968: 1st Row L-R Warren Swinford, Ken Dye, John Richardson, Charles Cooper. 2nd Row L-R Bill Garrison, Wolfgang Busch, Al Christine, and Bob Schlitzberger



John Cooper and Chris Ward

2009 Unit Leaders for A Troop 4/12 Cav

Chairman:

John Sharpe

Secretary:

Charles Cooper

Reunion Unit:

Ken Dye Unit Leader:

James Rinaldi and Dave Larson Team members

Roster Unit:

Diane Rebbec Unit Leader:

Seeking individuals to follow up on leads with regards to locating New Troopers and maintaining contact information for our current Troopers.

Historical Unit:

Georger Gersaba Unit Leader:

Seeking other members to assistin adding additions to the History and Brotherhood Remembered Sections.

Commo Net Unit:

Keith Eaton Unit Leader: Jim Good Backup

Troop Website Unit:

Charles Cooper Unit Leader: George Gersaba Web Hamster

Treasurer Unit:

Bob Taylor Unit Leader:

Charles Cooper as signer on bank account

Newsletter Unit:

Keith Eaton Unit Leader:

Editorial Staff: Diane Rebbec, Dennis Perrino, and Charles Cooper
The Newsletter Unit welcomes and seeks articles to publish in the newsletter. Don’t worry about spelling or grammar, your thoughts are what counts.

**A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry
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Change of Address

Provide all changes of address to *The Trooper*, 1612 Culberson Mesquite, TX. 75150
c/o Charles Cooper



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 Bob Taylor, P.O. Box 2152, Globe, AZ 85502. We will list all who donate in the next issue.



Thanks for your Support

PATRIOT

Miguel Flores

Mark Frutchey / Ray Farve

Charles Russell / Doug Wick

*Jim Good / Walt Ferguson**

*Andrew Scheffler / Don Scott**

Richard Smith / Harold Haglund

*Paul Shannon / Al Christine**

*John Truber / Bob Curnell **

David Boshell/ John White**

*Ray Gavi**

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*Neal Smith**

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