



# THE 12TH CAV Trooper



## Semper Paratus

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

Volume VI, Issue 1

February, 2010

### A Troop Invades Niagara Falls and Canada

The 2009 A Troop reunion was a rousing success, held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls, New York. This the Northern most reunion was hosted by Ken Dye and Jim Rinaldi of the 1st Platoon. They did a great job of pulling everything together and providing a pleasant time for all of the attendees. This year we had 97 Troopers, family and friends in attendance. We also had a special guest hosted by Nancy and Warren Swinford, Kayla Ryan the sister of Billy Ryan (KIA March 1st 1969). Warren has kept in touch with the Ryan family and when Kayla wanted to know more about her brother Warren decided to bring her along so she could talk to others who shared their memories with her during the reunion. New Troopers at the reunion were; Jeff Bloomquist, Jim Kershner, Edward Monreal and John Davis.

This year the Sisterhood of the Cav went away from having a luncheon and had a wine and cheese social. This allowed them more time for conversation. The Trooper has found out from some unnamed sources that the main topic of their discussion was about their husbands, but when we attempted to dig a little deeper our sources went mum and no further details were available.

The Troop Memorial project was updated at this years business meeting by John Sharpe. Bob Schlitzberger sent a draft of what the plaque would be like and once it is completed Bob will proceed with placing the memorial at the Armor Museum Park at the Patton Museum at Fort Knox Ky. If we can get the details regarding this installation we will have them posted on the web site prior to installation. The Troop also acknowledges Capt. John Smith for his Challenge and Donation to the Memorial Fund.

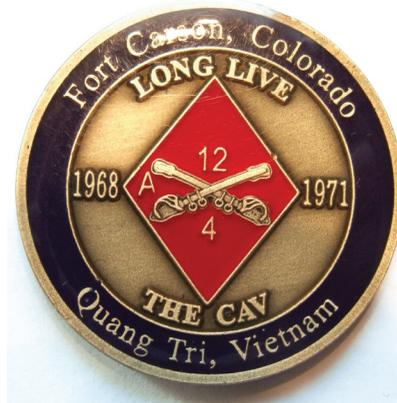
The biggest surprise of this years reunion was the presentation by Uncle Al Bergstrom (3rd 70-71), of a special challenge coin that he designed and had made especially for A Troop. Each trooper in attendance received one of these coins. These coins are now available from the troop quartermaster for \$12.00 this includes \$2.00 shipping and a \$10.00 donation to the Troop.

Another treat was presented by Jim Davis (1st 69-70), Jim created two CD's (Music from the Nam 68-71) each trooper received a copy. These items are not available from the quartermaster but if you talk nice Jim might send you a copy. They bring back a lot of memories, at least to this old man.

2010 is the year that Second Platoon is hosting the reunion. Currently plans are for it to be held Nov. 11, 12, and 13 at the GoldCoast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas Nevada, more details are inside the newsletter and will be posted on the web site as plans are firmed up.



The 2009 Challenge Coin  
Now available Via the Troop  
Web site.



## 2009 LTee Frank Canda Award

At the 2009 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 seven 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."*

Ken Dye (1st. 68-69) Presenter of the 2009 Canda Award

Troopers, Family and Guests, I have the privilege of presenting the 2009 LTee Frank Canda award. This award is presented to a Trooper who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, for the good of the A Troop organization.

This award is named for Lt. Frank Canda who was passionately involved in the organization and continuation of our Troop Brotherhood.

A couple of months before the last reunion, John Sharpe called me with a request. He had called Jim Rinaldi and ask if he would organize the 2009 reunion. Jim having been the organizer of the 2005 reunion politely declined. John's request to me was to see if I could talk Rinaldi into doing the reunion. I didn't want to be a party to that but instead volunteered to do it myself.

At the 2008 reunion business meeting I was announced as the chair of the 2009 reunion. Rinaldi said he would assist and would check out Niagara Falls as a possibility. He did just that and the whole thing got left in his capable hands, and here we are. I am honored to present the 2009 LTee Frank Canda award to Jim Rinaldi

Jim Rinaldi (1st. 68-69) Acceptance of the 2009 LT Canda Award

To be presented with the LTee Canda Award is so overwhelming it is hard to put into words my true feelings at this moment. This is the highest honor a fellow Cav Brother could ever bestow on another Cav Brother. To think that a group of men that I served with, respect, and admire and love think that much of me is truly an honor in itself. This is not an award that I take lightly. It is named after a man that meant a lot to me and to anyone that knew him. He was not big in stature but he was truly a giant among men. A good soldier, mentor, and friend that always cared for the men that served under him. To say that Frank was a leader would be a great understatement. I would have followed LTee to the gates of hell because I respected and trusted his judgement. Because this award carries Frank's name it makes it a very coveted award and it will be one of my most prized possessions. To be included in the same company of past Canda award winners is truly an honor. Every time I see this plaque or wear this Cav hat I will think of the man that this award is named after and thank him for helping to bring us all back together after all these years. I wish Frank were here with us today to see how the Brotherhood has grown.

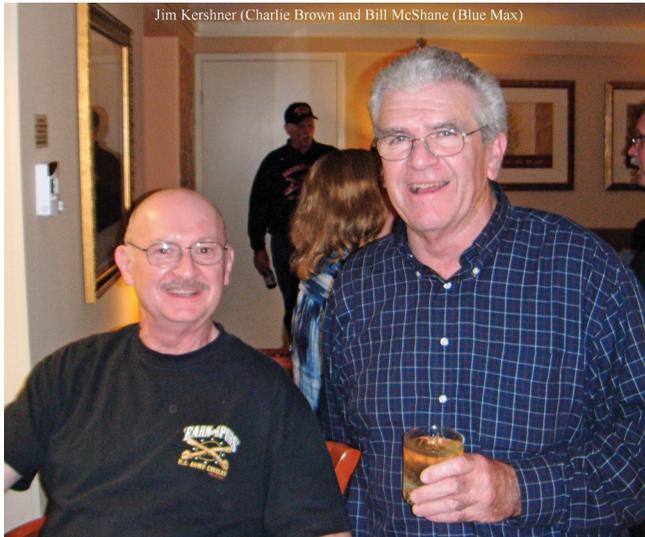
In closing I'd like to thank everyone for presenting me with such an honor. In the movie "Saving Private Ryan" just before he died Tom Hanks said to private Ryan, "Earn This". I feel that I haven't earned this honor but I promise you that I will be everything I can be to the Brotherhood in the future and will do everything I can to live up to the honor you have bestowed upon me tonight. God Bless you all and "Long Live the Cav".



LTee, Frank Canda 2002



Jim Rinaldi, Accepting the Canda Award



Charlie Brown and Blue Max Together again.  
Jim Kershner and Bill McShane



Nancy and Warren Swinford, Lori and Joe Shue  
Susan and Al Christine



Jim Littlepage, The Fire Poet recited one  
of his award winning poems at the banquet



Lt Zero "Dennis Perrino Holding Court  
L-R Dennis, Jeff Bloomquist, Kent Drake,  
John White and Bob Rebbec

## Reunion 2010 Las Vegas Nevada

Location Gold Coast Hotel and Casino

November 11th,12th,13, 2010

The Gold Coast has given us a group code of "OATRC11" and our group name is "A-Troop 412 Cavalry Reunion" The Gold Coast has been going thru renovation and they have two types of rooms. Their Standard rooms have not been remodeled and will run \$37.00 Wed.11/10, Thursday 11/11 and Sunday 11/14 \$37.00 single and double. On Friday and Saturday the rates are \$84.00 single and double. Their Premium rooms will be \$50.00 on Wed,Thru. and Sunday and \$109 Friday and Saturday. You can reserve your rooms now, don't delay, our pricing will not last forever. If you have any questions you can contact John Sharpe at ( John@Sharpestuff.com ) or by phone at 810-629-1764. More info will be placed on the web site as plans are completed



Linda Rinaldi, Diane Rebbec, Lori Shue, Nancy Swinford ,Kayla Ryan and Janelle Beining at the Sisterhood wine tasting social

### Headquarters Platoon



Row One: Dennis Perrino, Jeff Bloomquist, Jim Davis. Row Two: Bob Curnell, Greg Beining, Keith Eaton, John Oldham.

#### *The 12th Cav TROOPER*

Is the authorized publication of The A Troop, 4th-12th Cavalry Association, 5548 Hazelwood Rd. Columbus, OH 43229. It is published biannually in the Winter and Early Fall.

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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## The 90th Reunion Society of the 5Th Division

September 2nd thru September 5th, 2010  
Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, MO.

The 2010 reunion for the Society of the Fifth will be held Labor day weekend in Branson Mo. Currently they have a contract with the Lodge of the Ozarks for rooms at a rate of \$85.00 per night. There will be two banquets one on Saturday night and one on Sunday night. They are currently planning some trips in the area for shows and to see the sites. They will also have a large hospitality suite for those that just want to sit and talk with friends. You can either contact meat keaton47@ameritech.net for info or you can contact Jim Jackson this years National President at jackson@kingwoodcable.com

### First Platoon



Row 1: Walt Ferguson, Ian Losse, Jim Rinaldi, Joe Shue, Warren Swinford, Gene Reiter.

Row 2: Jim Davis, Jim Littlepage, Edward Monreal, Glenn Costanza, Ken Dye, Charles Cooper.

Row 3: Jerry Malan, Dave Larson, Jim Kershner, Warren Congleton, Al Christine.

### Second Platoon



Row 1: Dexter Lehtinen, Neal Smith, Dennis Perrino, George Gibbs

Row 2: John White, Mark Frutchey, John Sharpe, Bill Garrison, Bob Rebbec, Tom Oldham

### Third Platoon



Row 1: Don Scott, Henry Adams, John Davis, Charlie Russell, Denny Patrick.

Row 2: Bill McShane, Morris Smith, Gary Werner, Al Bergstrom, Jim Good, Greg Beining, Kent Drake.

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## Business Meeting Notes

Saturday October 3, 2009

3:00 P.M. Niagara Falls New York

Meeting called to order by John Sharpe (2nd 69-70)

### Unit Leaders Reports:

**Reunion Unit 2009:** James Rinaldi (1st 68-69) and Ken Dye(1st 68-69) reporting an expected number of almost 100 attendees this year (42 Troopers) Thanks to all of the individuals who donated items for the raffle this year.

**Historical Unit:** John Sharpe presented report, requesting Troopers to submit their memories/stories/information for posting on the Troop web site. Please if you get a chance look into the history section and see if you can fill in the gaps in our personnel Troop history. Out Troop web site is ([www.atroop412cav.com](http://www.atroop412cav.com))

**Commo Net:** Keith Eaton (HQ 69-70) requested that any trooper who wants to be on the Commo Net, or who is having trouble with the net, contact him. He emphasized the importance of being on the net because of the information available that can't be found elsewhere. Jim Good (3rd 69-70) will serve as back up for the Commo Net duties.

**Treasurer Unit:** John Sharpe presented an updated financial statement, Bob Taylor (2nd 69-70) was unable to attend this year's reunion. Floor was opened for discussion, no questions or discussion were required. Dennis Perrino (2nd & HQ 70-71) made motion to accept the Treasurers Reports as presented, Neal Smith (2nd 69-70) seconded the motion, and all present accepted the motion by voice vote.

**Newsletter Unit:** Keith Eaton reported on the status of the newsletter and plans for 2010. Keith Eaton, Charles Cooper and Diane Rebbec ( wife of Bob Rebbec 2nd 69-70) will assist with the newsletter. January/February 2010 is the target date for the next issue. Keith Eaton requested anyone interested in submitting articles and or helping with the newsletter to contact him. (Keith's contact information is posted in the Troop newsletter). A request was made for the Troopers or their family members to get more involved, in submitting information to the newsletter. This will allow us to keep the newsletter interesting and up to date. There was a general discussion with regards to the cost of publishing and mailing of the newsletter. End result, the Troop Newsletter is one of the main avenues of staying in touch with our fellow Troopers and we should continue to publish at least two newsletters a year and continue to maintain the high standards the newsletter has represented over the years.

**Troop Web site Unit:** Charles Cooper had no new information with regards to the web site, other than to repeat the message from the Historical and Newsletter Unit Leaders for Troopers to "Get Involved".

**Roster Unit:** Diane Rebbec, focus on maintaining contact with Troopers that we now have contact information on. Do not let someone move or change their mailing or e-mail address without updating the Troop contact list (Roster Unit Diane Rebbec, Newsletter Unit Keith Eaton, or Charles Cooper Troop e-mail listing). We are at the point of where we can no longer expect to locate large numbers of Troopers during any one year. The search for the remaining TNF will be a long, weary and deader than live search.

**Secretary:** Charles Cooper (1st 68-70) Encourage Troopers or other family members to become involved in a leadership role of the Troop. All Unit Leaders would appreciate help within units and would look forward to helping other individuals to fill a Unit Leader's Role. If anyone has an interest please contact John Sharpe or any Unit Leader.

**Chairman:** John Sharpe (2nd 69-70) Thanked James Rinaldi and Ken Dye for all of their hard work on this years reunion and all individuals who had helped with Troop activities during the past year, John ask all Troopers to join him in an effort to contact their "buddies" who were unable to attend this year's reunion and to encourage them to attend the 2010 Reunion.

Open Unit positions. John opened the floor for nominations for the position of Troop Secretary. No nominations were presented. Secretary position will continue to be filled by Charles Cooper.

**Troop Memorial Project:** John Sharpe presented information with regards to the status of the Troop Memorial Project. Bob Schlitzberger (3rd 68-69) sent a draft of the plaque (which was being finalized at the time of the meeting) Once the plaque is completed Bob will go ahead with placing the Monument in the Armor Memorial Park

**Business meeting Notes Continued**

located at Fort Knox. Information with regards to a time frame for placing the monument will be posted on the Commo Net and via e-mail (updates will be sent out as we receive them). To ensure that we have your correct e-mail address please send an e-mail to [coop444@earthlink.net](mailto:coop444@earthlink.net), so we can keep your information updated.

**Reunion Unit 2010:** John Sharpe (2nd 69-70) and the second platoon will head up the 2010 Reunion. At this point in time plans are to return to the GoldCoast Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas. Plans are also under way to see if the Troop can march in the Las Vegas Veterans Day parade. Further information will be posted in the Troop newsletter, Troop web site, Commo net, and via Troop e-mail as it becomes available. The floor was then made open for discussion with regards to the 2011 reunion; at this time it is 3rd Platoons turn to host the reunion. Please contact John Sharpe if you wish to take a Leadership role for the 2011 reunion.

**A Troop Budget 2010**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Newsletter #1 2010                       | \$1600.00 |
| Newsletter #2 2010                       | \$1000.00 |
| Reunion Flier 2010                       | \$ 250.00 |
| Website Hosting Fee<br>(12X21.95=263.40) | \$ 263.40 |
| Awards ( Pictures and Plaques            | \$ 300.00 |
| Seed Money for next reunion              | \$1500.00 |
| Totals                                   | \$4673.40 |



The Smith Family, Richard and Earnistine Sandidge, Helen and Morris Smith (3rd 69-70 )



Trooper doing what he does best foraging



Nancy and Warren Swinford with Special Guest Kayla Ryan Center Sister of Billy Ryan KIA 1968



Shannon, Val, and Dave (Lucky Lou) Larson (1st 68-69)

**A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry**  
**5548 Hazelwood Rd**  
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### **Disclaimer**

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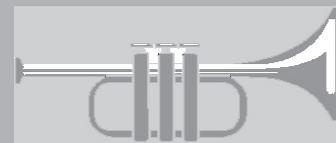
### **Change of Address**

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**

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*Al Bergstrom / Merle Reed*

*George Gersaba / Dan Fenton*

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*Thomas Lang*

*Bob Richards*

*Stephen Hercher*

*Philip Maniscalco 5th Division*

*Anonymous*

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