



Walking Point

The newsletter for D Co. 2/8 Vietnam 1965—1972

Full Circle *by Robin Woo, (Skull, 71-72)*



It was late at night in 1988 when I received a phone call from Ed Regan. He asked if I served in D Company, 2/8th Cav, 1st Cavalry Division. I did. However, I buried my memories of Nam away a long time ago and wasn't sure if I wanted to resurrect it. Ed asked if I knew any of the others who served in Skull, 71-72 since there was a large empty spot in the roster. I told him Skull and CP were killed May 10, 1972 in a Chinook crash. In May, 1992 (on the 20th anniversary of the Chinook crash), Ed sent me a list of those on-board and a copy of an article from the New York Times mentioning the fatal crash. It took Ed Regan (Range, 68-69), Mike McGhie (Skull, 68-69) and Bill Laffriere (Cat, 67-68) over 10 years before they convinced me to attend my first reunion in 2000.

I met Jean "Dizzy" Blais, (Skull/Range, 70-71) at a reunion in D.C. in 2002. I informed him that we built a firebase named after MaKowski (Range, 71), who was killed in an ambush on October 21, 1971. Dizzy was happy to hear his close friend was not forgotten. In 2006, by corresponding with a number of guys who were RTO's during the ambush, we learned that it was Stone Mountain, in the huey, who pulled MaKowski' body bag out of the bush that evening. Dizzy was at the bottom handing MaKowski to Col. Blagg. The Medivac refused the call because it was dark and they presumed MaKowski was dead. The next day Blagg met with General Hamlett and had that Medivac pilot shipped out of Nam.

On May 10, 1972, while on their way to Vung Tao for some R&R, the Chinook with Skull platoon, including CP, crashed. Col. Blagg was in his own huey approximately 75 yards away and watched the fatal crash unfold. He was the first on the ground, finding an inferno of fire. Cat platoon was on the 2nd Chinook and Range platoon was on the 3rd. Both platoons heard of the crash while in mid-flight. Lt. McConnaughay (Skull 6, 71-72), XO at the time of the crash, and Range platoon were tasked with retrieving the bodies.

64-13157 was the tail number for the Chinook that crashed on May 10, 1972, when 34 soldiers died. 5 were crew members of the Chinook from the 362nd Aviation Company, 21 were members of Skull platoon, including 3 from CP. (Captain Rosenberg and his 2 RTO's). 7 soldiers from A Company, 1/12th Cav and 1 trooper from the 11th ARM Cav Regiment were on-board, as well. Their names sit at the Apex (left panel of center) of the Vietnam Memorial in D.C.

In many ways, we've come full circle. These reunions gives birth to many "full circles." Thomas Blagg (Stone Mountain, 71-72) is our speaker in D.C. this year. Let's gather for remembrance and honor all of the names that are carved into the granite wall at the Vietnam Memorial in D.C.

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Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Board of Governors

- President: Richard O'Brien (Cat, 67)
richardobrien@msn.com
- Vice President: Chuck Hustedt (Skull, 69)
chuckins@garlic.com
- Treasurer: Ed Regan (Range, 68-69)
smilez4747@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72)
rwoo@surewest.net

Colonel Thomas E. Blagg

Stone Mountain, 71-72

The Silver Star

Thomas E. Blagg was a star of the grid iron here at Arkansas State, prior to his selection as a Distinguished Military Graduate of ROTC. He was commissioned in 1956 and quickly qualified as a Paratrooper and a Green Beret. He served two combat tours in Vietnam, has planned and orchestrated a Presidential Inaugural Parade, and taught at West Point. His most auspicious honor was a Silver Star Citation for Gallantry in Battle:

On August 30, 1965 Captain Thomas E. Blagg, a Special Forces "A" Detachment Commander, was leading a 30-man combat patrol along the Song So Ha River which forms the border between Cambodia and South Vietnam. At a bend in the river, the patrol was ambushed by a battalion-size North Vietnamese Army (NVA) unit from dug-in positions on the Cambodian side. Most lead elements of the patrol were killed in initial contact. Captain Blagg's Vietnamese interpreter was badly wounded. Captain Blagg contacted his Special Forces camp by radio and directed that reinforcements from the camp deploy immediately to a linkup point near the ambush site. He then strapped his wounded interpreter to his back and began to disengage his patrol from the enemy force using fire and maneuver. As his patrol conducted a fighting withdrawal to the linkup point with reinforcements, the North Vietnamese force pursued across the river into South Vietnam. Soon, the fight became very close combat -- hand to hand in some cases. During the fight, Captain Blagg was wounded in the face and his right arm was shattered by an enemy's bullet. Captain Blagg, although seriously wounded, continued to fight his patrol back to linkup with reinforcements. Once linkup was achieved, Captain Blagg reversed the tide of battle by launching an attack into the enemy force, killing many of them, and driving the remainder back into Cambodia. Based on the number of enemy bodies, blood trails, and captured enemy weapons, Captain Blagg's force killed or wounded the enemy at a rate of six to one, despite being, initially, the ambushed force. Not until the battle had been fought and won was Captain Blagg evacuated for medical treatment of his almost

fatal wounds. Captain Blagg's heroic actions in battle were in keeping with the highest standards of the American soldier and reflect great credit upon him and the United States Army.

Source: <http://asurotc.astate.edu/Hall%20of%20Heroes/blagg.htm> Arkansas University Hall of Fame

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Official name of the Memorial is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is sometimes referred to as VVM or "the Wall." The figures are called "The Three Servicemen." This is not a war Memorial but a Memorial to those who served in the war, both living and dead.

On March 11, 1982, the design and plans received final Federal approval, and work at the site was begun on March 16, 1982. Groundbreaking took place on March 26, 1982. The Memorial (wall) was completed in late October and dedicated on November 13, 1982, climaxing a week-long salute to Vietnam veterans.

The memorial was paid for by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (VVMF) who raised nearly \$9,000,000 entirely through private contributions from corporations, foundations, unions, veterans and civic organizations and more than 275,000 individual Americans. No Federal funds were needed.

With the addition of four names added in 2006 the total number of names on the memorial is now 58,253. Approximately 1,200 of these are listed as missing (MIA's, POW's, and others). The Memorial is dedicated to the 2.7 million men and women in the U.S. military who served in the war zone.

The stone used is black granite from Bangalore, India, one of only three places in the world (the other countries are Sweden and South Africa) that you could get this amount of black granite in larges sizes.

Source: <http://www.thewall-usa.com/> The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: The Wall—USA

Made a Difference by Robert Terrell (Cat, 66-67)

Hi, there Rich,

It was a great reunion, and it was good for the mind as well. It was sure good that I got to meet you and talk to you about the two times you got wounded with me. The first time, March 20th, 67, I was the only one left, as every one else was badly injured, I had to get help from Company C, to carry you, Rich, and the other men, Humpfry and Sgt. Thorpe, and all our gear, up the hill to the temporary LZ so, we could put you guys and your gear, into the Medivac chopper and off you guys went. You came back after awhile, as you healed up a bit. The other time, June 13th, 67, with you on point and you stepped in the mine field, with bouncing betty's buried in the sand, there was an explosion and your right boot with your foot in it went flying bye us, We again put you into the Medivac chopper in the mine field, and off you went. This time you didn't come back.

The point I wanted to make, in Viet Nam is, that we often got into trouble, men get wounded, we treat the wounded the best way we know how to, while waiting of the Medivac, get the wounded and their gear to a temporary LZ, put them into the Medivac chopper and you never know??? What happened to them??? As in your mind, you always wonder what has happened to them??? Did they even ever make it back to the base camp??? It was nice to know that you survived and made a good life for your family and your self. You made a difference, and that's what counts. It is great that you play golf in the tournaments and that you worked your way up to being, the president of the Angry Skipper Association. It gives me some closure, and is a relief in my mind, after wondering for 39 years.

Thanks allot, and will talk to you again. Bob (6/29/06)

Hi I am Edmund Patee and was Co/Btn. RTO 67/68 As to something I noticed the call sign for D2/8 when I was in Nam was 'Brass Shell' and the Battalion call sign was 'Muzzle Loader'. Thought you might want to add that somewhere. Thanks Ed 'Paddy' Patee

Original D 2/8 Guidon

In June, 2006, Henry Cruz found Robert W. Batts (Skipper 6, 1966). Bob Batts was the 2nd Company Commander of D 2/8 in-country. He was deployed with the Battalion's advance party in 1965 as Bn communications officer and later as commander of D Company. He is in possession of the original Guidon for D 2/8 that went with the unit from Ft. Benning and was given to him when he left Nam. Bob will bring the Guidon to D.C. "God Willing and the Creek don't rise."



The New York Times, Friday March 31, 1972 by Fox Butterfield.

For Roy Bumgarner (left) and Ronald Armstrong (right), sergeants in a Ranger company attached to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Vietnam has been a chance to do the thing they like best—fight. They have been in combat as scouts—their job is to find the enemy—every since they arrived with the first American troops in the spring of 1965.

The only time Sergeant Bumgarner went home was when he was so badly wounded that he had to be evacuated by air. A wiry, grizzled man with steely eyes and a crew cut, he has been wounded six times in Vietnam.

"I've stayed because I like my work," said the sergeant a native of Hickory, North Carolina, who began his military career in China in World War II. "I've been a soldier to long to worry about the purpose of war. We do what the president orders us to do. I'd fight the Eskimos if he told us to."

Sergeant Bumgarner, whose left forearm is covered with a large tattoo of a naked woman, said that he had done everything he could think of to try to extend his stay in Vietnam but that there simply are no more jobs. "There ain't nothing you can do" he added in his soft drawl. "No sir, they're getting us out of Vietnam."

THE DROPSHOT DISPATCH CHRONICLE (letter to Col. Blagg re: his command of 2/8th Cav)

It was quite a day when you assumed command of the 2/8 Cavalry on 14 July 1971. No sooner had you accepted the battalion colors from General Burton, then you ran a CA and hovered over a ten hour fire fight. This hectic and serious introduction to the Eagle Cavalry did not dampen your enthusiasm, nor for change. FSB Fanning, because it was a cramped circle off QL-1, was moved to Jeffries and constructed along more modern geometric lines. While the form of the triangle was not immediately accepted as progressive, it was eventually adopted throughout the 3rd Brigade.

To have some fun during those hectic days a new game, the Lions and the Christians was played in the chuck-chuck. Even with an umpire on hand things rarely went well for the Redleg. Invariably the game would end with a resounding "Say Thomas, that's a pretty good call – right 200, fire for effect." On the ground, while the S-3 and the CSM were exhausting themselves getting a good firebase built, you were thoughtfully preparing for them that night's appreciation lesson of Shakespeare and Chaucer.

Territorial imperatives forced you to reconsider the 'open door policy' for visiting helicopters. With restrictions placed on the POL point that problem was neatly solved in very short order. It took some time though for higher to learn that infringement on Blagg's AO was sure to be followed by a roar. Especially appreciated were visiting Ranger teams, first for their manner of arrival, and secondly for their truly amazing map reading ability. After a while though an understanding was reached and the contract sealed with – "Nobody takes a Sierra in my AO without me knowing about it." The artillery however thought you still enjoyed surprises and the AO was consistently blessed with their precious rounds. Per chance one day you were in your royal chariot and spied their gifts coming into your land. In your most diplomatic irate manner you announced to the Redleg ambassador beside you – "I told you a thousand times nobody shoots a round of artillery in my AO without clearing it with me first. You get the son-of-a-bitch turned off, or I'll go back and personally wrap the tube around the man that cleared it." Yes, you were above all diplomatic.

For your subordinate commanders there were new lessons to be learned. First, not to call in a FAC while a CA was in progress. Recon ought to go out with more than just a cigarette lighter to mark their position at night for Max. Sometimes, while you were listening to an internal push you would mutter; "Would I think of something like that – no; would I say something like that – no; would I do something like that – no; but he is in charge down there!"

As an animal lover you had no peer. You demonstrated touching concern for Gopher, the mild manner S-4 dog, to whom you awarded a princely kingdom – an entire minibase. In the meantime poor Lifer, your favorite dog who like to bite visiting Generals, was being nursed by Doc back to health. Your love for dogs finally found its bounds and mass deportation orders were issued after several daily dogfights. The Eagle Cavalry though was not to be deprived of favorite mascots. JoJo and GiGi were the most endearing monkeys in the TOC area and the best attraction on the firebase – doughnut dollies notwithstanding.

With the firebase fairly secure Sir TB ventured forth from his castle to visit the knights in the field. It seemed hard though to realize that talking loud was a no-no and falling from the hammock in the middle of the night made the whole perimeter stir with apprehension. The cuisine was also found wanting in the field. When offered beefsteak-a-la-C-ration, you politely declined such fare and munched happily on a monstrous delectable hoogie sandwich which the CSM had thoughtfully packed. There were serious moments too when Charlie Co mounted the best available transportation, a water truck, and moved in the middle of the night to OP-4 to reinforce the hard-pressed Recon platoon. That same night you hovered 20 feet over the patrol trying to drop a strobe light on top of a flickering cigarette lighter. Later you listened with apprehension as Barney was pulled out by McGuire rig, holding on to the rope with one hand, the radio with the other – telling you all the time "The rope is slipping, I can't hold on."

The Dropshot Dispatch had finally published its third edition and the grass started growing through the sandbags. The decision was made to move to Makowski. This time though it was to be an unhurried, planned affair. "25 yards of rough gravel road," bad weather and soil conditions made shambles of that good sounding plan. This was to be a neat firebase and since on one took heed we had several mass shoulder to shoulder police calls. Yes neatness was the word. Haircuts too became the new vogue in the true VOLAR spirit, as exemplified in the highly enlightened and permissive statement: "Short hair why not? A solder asked me if I can fight just as well with long hair as I can with short hair. I said Roger that. Then he asked me "Why should I have short hair? – and I answered Roger that why not short hair?"

Everyone worked hard on Makowski. For two weeks there had been no entertainment until seven local lovelies decided to help the morale. You took a dim view however, branded them all infiltrators, symbolically chained them together with white engineer tape, and after a night in the conex container presented them to shocked Province officials. We all had then another chance to excel when a few days before Christmas you announced to the S-4: "Don't shake your head Sam, you love it and you know it." And so we moved to Melanie. Suffice it to say Melanie wasn't built in a day.

In our new home you displayed vast understanding and compassion. Compassion for the many artillery showers; compassion for JoJo and GiGi who were continuously supplied with a stock of eyeglasses for their 'failing' eyesight; understanding for the generator man Bad News, as he stood at the evening briefing for the fifth time and informed you that two 15kw and three 10kw were down, but that you would have lights in the TOC with a 1.5kw. Your lenient and progressive attitude towards friendly woodcutters was especially commendable for allotting them and their pet oxen vast picnic and recreation areas in the middle of the battalion's AO. At Melanie you also excelled in your daily VIP briefings – all standard 14 versions. While Shakespeare and Chaucer were not the current mode, lessons on OERs, Logistics, Asset Management, and being a good unit CO were in. There were many captains who received thoughtful points to ponder. You adjudicated problem areas, and if pressed too hard the conversation would end with a simple "Cut me some slack." Even Jethro had to marvel over your semantics when after the usual cup of coffee you demolished an ice-cream (continued on next page)

cup – all the while telling him “Gee Jethro I’m sure glad you didn’t give me any ice cream so that I can keep my weight down.” You also like to play cards. It seemed like sometime you, the CSM, and Redleg-and-Redleg sat down to a good pinoccle game it was rudely interpreted by movement at the bridge. One night an element from B Co needed reinforcement. You took personal charge. It was quite a procession – you and the patrol mounted on a D-7, the CSM pulling rear security, and Gopher out front pointing.

In retrospect, your presence in the Eagle Cavalry was strongly felt many times, particularly whenever the companies were in contact. Your arrival over the firefight area lent reassurance and confidence to a confused battle scene below. “No sweat babe, I’m here” were glad words to hear to the unsettled platoon leader or company commander in contact. Pink teams, Max, Medevac, Flare birds would magically appear and a steady hover over the contact area to drop smoke was never out of the question. The officers and men of the Eagle Cavalry are truly proud to have had you as their inspiring leader and commander.

The Editors:

Kenneth S. Rosenberg (deceased)

S. Stephen Vitucci

Wolf D. Kutter

14 May 1972

FSB Melanie

RVN

E-mail from LTC Carle E. Dunn, USA-Ret. To Robin Woo dated 9/21/2006.

362nd Aviation Company website: <http://www.362avnco.com/index.html>

Hi Robin,

Thanks for the info sent in the attachment (a preview of the Jan, 2007 Newsletter). I do sincerely appreciate your keeping me in mind.

The document brought to mind events of that sad day in May 1972. After much pleading, I had convinced General Hamlet that it was cost effective for the 362nd to have a UH-1 to augment our Hooks. From a cost and operational effectiveness view, it was something for which we had a dire need. I could use it as a C & C. It was completely configured with a communications console, and I could use it rather than expend valuable Hook time for Admin and Command functions. It kept me in contact with MG James “Holly” Hollingsworth throughout the An Loc battle. I have considerable radio conversation on tape of his actions during that battle.

The UH-1 stayed in a “Ready-To-Launch” status just outside my office door at Long Thanh North. It had a full standby crew with my seat ready to go with my gear already in it. Having flown 157 all morning and until just an hour before it went down, I was in my office when I received word that 157 went down just outside our perimeter. I was on the scene rather rapidly into a blaze that is burned indelibly into my brain.

While there, a colonel approached on foot. He had a hand-made, crooked walking staff with him. We surveyed the area together. Could this have been the colonel mentioned in the Newsletter? I do not recall seeing another during my stay. Time has forged matters and I do not recall his name. I do believe this must have been him because he was on the scene so fast. Yet, I did not see his aircraft as I was in some rather thick trees.

As a side note, the temporary Flight Engineer of 157 (Mike) worked on 157 most of the night before that flight. The regular crew came in from R & R a few hours before take-off. They ‘bumped’ Mike from the flight which made him rather irate because of his work during their absence. He pitched a fit with Operations when they took him off the flight.

Mike and I were reunited over 30 years after that crash. During this entire period, he carried the burden that he was responsible for that ship going down. He was absolutely convinced something he did or did not do was the cause. He never learned of the design flaw by Boeing until I told him 3 decades later during a visit to my home. Those 30 years were a living hell for him.

He spiraled into a pit of alcohol and drugs. The anxiety caused ulceration of his entire colon resulting in its removal. He wasted away to a lost soul wandering the streets; shrouded in complete grief and mental degradation.

When I explained that he was not responsible and why—can you imagine the impact upon him? We spent the next couple of days together with considerable tears and unbelievable relief for his conscience. Mike is now married to a Professor at Notre Dame and is head of their security division. He gained relief and found his way to a normal life. He was president of Chapter 1, Rolling Thunder.

We plan to meet again next month when he will come here to visit for a few days. We do this whenever possible. Our itinerary is simple—we usually go on the back porch and talk the time away. It is so good for each of us.

My thought was that you might find this “side-light” of interest to the repercussions of Chinook 157’s loss on 10 May. Its impact will affect so many of us for the remainder of our lives.

Thanks again for the update. Warmest regards

Your Brother-In-Arms,

Carle

PTSD & ME: Still Crazy After All These Years

By Chuck "Hey You" Hustedt

Angry Skipper Class of 1969

My 1st Reunion was in 1996 and that's where George Johnson (Range, 68-69) and a bunch of other brothers kept trying to explain Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to me. Their first major hurdle was getting me to get the damn letters in the right order; I'd say PSPD, PTSD, ABCD and hey---I can transpose a single digit number and have to sing the alphabet song to get that right---so this wasn't easy. But brothers persisted and I mostly started getting it down. Kind of like pin out *before* you throw a frag; check whose army it is *before* you shoot at 'em and that sort of thing.

Not long after I got home from this meeting I noticed that this new VA Center near my home was having an Open House with lots of free food. There wasn't a sign up sheet or name tags so I went on in. Amongst all the food they had brochures and pamphlets on all of the stuff you could get at this neighborhood VA. At one table a really cute nurse type was giving out these self test for PTSD quiz things. It was multiple choice and you didn't have to put your name on it so I took a whack at it. I kind of got 17 out of 20 wrong even though there weren't any 'wrong' answers on this thing. Cute Nurse got serious on me about getting treatment which wasn't exactly the kind of serious I had in mind. (Sometimes I'm like a dog chasin' a car; wouldn't know what to do if I caught one.)

I told my wife Jan about my VA visit (leaving out the cute nurse part) and she also got serious about my looking into treatment. And I'm like: I show up for work, I'm not stoned all the time, nobody's tossed me in the slammer so you all lighten up. After I calmed down, she brought up some small anger management issues I had---one of which involved breaking my big toe kicking a door. And my perception wasn't exactly right on: the way I saw things was not the way they really were. The toe hurt but the perception thing was embarrassing and that's really bad.

So after getting several chips firmly attached to my shoulder and my mind securely closed, I went back to VA to check this PTSD thing out. I figured that after a couple of visits they'd see I was ok and then I could can this thing and Jan and friends would have to turn down the noise. Problem was that these VA people were used to people like me. They left my chips alone and let me open my own mind in my own sweet time.

And here's the biggie: No mental illness. None. Nada. No pointed fingers. PTSD is a *normal* response to an abnormal situation/experience usually involving great stress. VA treated us as a separate group of people; we weren't even in the same area as persons afflicted with mental illness.

It wasn't a one size fits all drill either. They had all sorts of groups. Heck you didn't even have to join a group...you could go for individual counseling. After trying & quitting several groups & one counselor, I wound up with an excellent counselor and a combat vets only group. That counselor helped me keep my ass together (as did a lot of you) while my wife Jan was taking a run at dying from liver failure (she had a very successful liver transplant on 9/28/01). As for the group, I learned I wasn't alone with these issues that we all have and that none of them had a perfect war either.

Now about the psychiatrist, aka the doc with the drugs. My 1st one was really good. We went through at least 4 different meds designed to help even things out. I'll never forget the 1st one which relaxed the one thing no man wants relaxed. Gave him that one back in a hurry. A couple of the others made me jumpy and since I was already jumpy this was not good. One even made me angrier which we managed to stop this side of divorce. But we did find one that worked. Now none of us wants a personality that comes out of a bottle; we have a lot of flavors in our D2/8 group but vanilla isn't one of them. The key for me was to remain assertive when necessary but not to break any more toes on doors.

As we were leaving Orlando on our red eye Jet Blue flight home, the flight attendant came rushing up to me and tried to take my canes away even though they were properly stored (per FAA Regs) on the floor. Neither this jackass nor any of his crewmates were aware of this rule under which my canes & I have been flying for over 10 years. A lot of this had to do with a refusal to talk to me with respect or to listen when I spoke. It came down to giving jackass my canes to put in the overhead or leaving the plane. They brought that tunnel thing back up and we left the plane. I did not kick the door nor punch out jackass (they had him in the other end of the plane). When we got back to the Jet Blue desk I let them know how I felt no uncertain terms. Jet Blue offered to put us up and to fly us home the next night.

Since our luggage was on the flight we left and it was going to be a huge hassle otherwise, we agreed after making it clear that they were still not going to get my canes. The dude on this 2nd flight knew the cane rules and did not try to take them. I Fed Ex'd a letter about all this to Jet Blue's CEO which remains unacknowledged. Methinks Jet Blue'd prefer disabled people find another airline. I know people who think they fooled VA when they applied for compensation because of PTSD. And I also know people who get the meds and refuse to take them. This, to me, is kind of sad. I take my PTSD meds. I do not think they make me a wuss. But I do think that they help me be more of the man I was before I went to Viet Nam.

Back in '96 George Johnson kept saying that we *all* had PTSD; some just had it worse than others. And I'm like he's crazy what does he know. Well he wasn't crazy. He was right.

Message from Richard O'Brien, President, Angry Skipper Association, Inc.

We have been making progress in locating former members of Delta Company. Henry Cruz (Skull, 70-71) has done a wonderful job tracking down individuals who were in Delta Company. Please let us know when you move or change your address, telephone number or email address. There is a tremendous amount of time trying to re-establish contact with people who moved and did not tell us their new contact information.

The Kentucky Campout during October was terrific, again this year. It grows every year and I urge you to attend. It is really a good time "guys only," no politics or meetings, just have fun and enjoy each others company.

During November many of us were in Washington DC for Veterans Day. On November 10th about 20 guys of the 1st Cav association went to Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital to visit the wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. This was a moving experience and the wounded soldiers appreciated our visit with them.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Wall. We will be visiting the Wall during our May reunion and look forward to meeting many of you again.

I went to St. Louis for John "Lurch" Crocker wake and funeral just after Thanksgiving. The Association sent flowers and there were about 12 of us from all over the country who attended his services. He will be missed.

Please make your DC reunion reservations early, especially if you want a smoking room.

Stolen Valor Act

The House of Representatives passed a Senate-approved bill 6 DEC that would make it a felony to claim unearned military decorations. The bill would close a loophole in current law that allows phony recipients to escape prosecution as long as they do not physically wear the awards they claim. If signed into law by the president, the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 would impose up to six months imprisonment and a maximum \$5,000 fine for any false verbal, written or physical claim to an award or decoration authorized for military members. Penalties would be doubled for fraudulent claims to decorations specifically awarded for combat valor, such as the Navy Cross, Silver Star and Medal of Honor. During floor debate on the Senate bill, which was passed unanimously on 7 SEP, House Judiciary Committee chairman Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) referenced recent cases in Illinois and Missouri of men who have never served a day in uniform each claiming to be Marine officers and recipients of the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor.

Rep. John Salazar (D-CO) who introduced H.R. 3352, the House version of the legislation in the summer of 2005, said the bill re-introduces a precedent set by George Washington in 1782. When he established the Badge of Military Merit, the nation's only military award at the time, Washington wrote, (. should anyone who is not entitled to these honors have the insolence to assume the badges of them, they shall be severely punished". The House's approval of the Senate bill, introduced by Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) on 10 NOV 05, was the result of a last-minute bi-partisan effort to put the legislation to a vote before the end of the current session. Salazar agreed on 3 DEC to set aside his own bill, which has been hung up in the judiciary committee since he introduced it, in order to support Conrad's nearly identical legislation on the Senate side. Salazar spokesman Tate Rosenbusch said, "We don't care if our name is on it. We don't care if we are 30th on the list of co-sponsors. We just want something done". [Source: NavyTimes John Hoellwarth article 6 Dec 06

(article submitted by Rich O'Brien)

Portion of MG James Guest (retired) Banquet Speech, Orlando, FL.

" The families were very important. Wives are particularly important, because they all had to discover some very rough times . . . go through some hardships, some very hard, personal ones. Because D Company has a particular distinction. D Company was a combat infantry company. And, there are not many who could say that. When you go back to what a combat infantryman is, he is the leading edge of National Policy. He goes down in the bushes and he meets the other side, and he explains to them what the United States national policy is. And if they don't listen, he shoots them. Like I said, you belong to a very limited club. I'll tell you, you all belong to a very small, limited, unique club. Out of the 15,000 soldiers of the 1st Cav Division, 4,000 of them, and maybe just a small plus, were combat infantrymen, and that was consistent across the whole ranks. So, there's not that many of you. I think you can be very proud. Because down there, where the companies are, and the platoons and squads, is where it is decided whose going to be successful on the battlefield. It's not up to those higher echelon, they can make all the plans they want to make. They can capture any lines they want to capture, but the guys who make it happen are the combat infantryman, and they're there in companies, platoons and squads. They pay the price. It's a very hard challenge. I would like to say D Company, 2 of the 8th, Angry Skipper, the Skytroopers met that challenge from 1965 to 1972." By MG James Guest (retired) Skipper 6, 66-67 (3rd Skipper in-country for D Company, 2/8th Cav)

Ed Pattee wrote to the Board of Governors thanking the Association for posting his e-mail on the ASA website. After 25 years, his ex-wife found him and made contact. She has been looking for him, "dead or alive" for the past 6 years. Ed has 2 sons and the reunion of his family is a happy event. Realizing today, what PTSD had done to him in the past, Ed will hopefully enjoy a more fulfilling life with his family from this day forward. *(Henry Cruz located Ed on July 2, 2006)*

New Members since the June, 2006 Newsletter:

Gerald McKinley; Range, 70-71
William A. Mullarkey; 69-70
Hector J. Sanchez; Wild Cat, 69-70
Gordon L Pitts; Range, 70-71
Arden L. Newman, Skull, 69
Jon A. Stubbs, 66-67
Charles A Stern, 67-68
Larry A Danforth, 65-66
Dean G. Helgeson, 65-66
Charles F. Dupree, 65-66
Charles Walters, Range 6, 69-70
Richard C Rockman, 65-66
James E. Pound, Mortars, 66-67
Edward "Ed" Tucker, Cat, 67
Harold M. Weimer, Skull, 67
Stephen J. Couto, 65-66
John A. Brown, FO, 67-68
Sherman Harris, Range, 68-69

Richard L. Ferguson; Skull, 69-70
Ray B. Hersman: Range, 69
Moises Tolentino; Range, 69-70
Arthur F. Hosley, Skull, 69-70
Robert W. Batts, Skipper 6, 1966
Edmund Patee, 67-68
Clint R. Marshall, 65-66 E Recon
Sammy T. Dickerson, 65-66 E Recon
Kenneth M. Knapp, 65-66
Robert D. Killgo, 65-66
Joseph G. Brown, Recon/Weapons, 66
Ronald F Davis, 65-66
Allen P. Resch, 66
John E. Mason, 65-66
Grady W. Stilley, 65-66
Paul M. King, Recon, 66-67
Helen Hegelheinier, TWA Flight Attendant, 66-67



Membership count:
Active Members: 720
Members Online: 243

Deceased Member/s: (Date of Death)

John Thomas; (9June2004)
Larry Hackett, Range, 68-69 (6July2006)
Fred A. Smith, Recon, 65-66 (2005)
Philip Mata, Range, 71-72 (Aug, 2004)
Dave Stenmam, Recon, 65-66 (2Oct2006)
John "Lurch" Crocker, Cat, 68-69 (22Nov2006)

Director of Membership: Henry Cruz, (Skull, 70-71)

Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Treasurers Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.
Profit & Loss (unaudited)
January 1 through December 31, 2006

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.
Balance Sheet (unaudited)
December 31, 2006

Ordinary Income & Expense

Income

Banquet	\$ 5,355.00
Donations	15,027.75
Membership Dues	1,330.00
Registration Fees	845.00
Fund raising, Auctions, Tickets	750.00
Tours	4,364.50
Shirts, Hats, Patches	<u>3,915.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 31,587.25

Expenses

ASA Website	\$ 209.48
Bank Service Charges	162.00
Banquet—Fri Event	4,324.60
Banquet—Saturday Event	4,943.28
Funeral/Flowers	552.42
Tours	4,434.50
Corporate	150.00
Entertainment—Reunion	5,475.00
Hospitality Room	1,291.27
Insurance	343.00
License and Permits	25.00
Media Production/Copies	1,330.71
Member Assistance	2,247.87
Merchant Account	1,086.02
Postage & Delivery	886.35
Printing & Reproduction	2,498.73
Professional Services—Reunion	2,649.44
Refunds	210.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches	<u>2,855.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 35,675.17

Net Income (Loss) **(\$ 4,087.92)**

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Checking	\$ 345.56
Accounts Receivable	<u>115.80</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 461.36</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

Equity

Opening Bal Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	1,232.31
Net Income	(4,087.92)

Total Equity \$ 461.36

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$ 461.36**

Notes: Prior period adjusting journal entry was posted to reverse outstanding items against retained earnings. \$750 Anheiser Busch donation lost/missing and a \$500 donation that was NSF.

Board of Governors Election to be held in D.C.

The term of the current members of the Board of Governors will expire in 2007. At the regular business meeting, to be held in D.C., we will elect new officers of the association. If you want to nominate a member to office, please make sure you talk to them first. Make sure they are up to the task. Anyone interesting in serving on the Board of Governors may ask any of the existing officers questions, if any.

Elections for the Board of Governors occur every 2 years. You must be at the business meeting to vote. You must attend these reunions to hold office on the Board of Governors.

On July 3, 2006, Angry Skipper Association, Inc. has been granted tax-exempt status in the State of California.

The tax-exempt letter from the State of California is posted at the association website.

<http://www.angryskipperassociation.org>

Gene Willis will help any of our members with VA claims, SS claims and pension claims. Please call between 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Central Standard Time (580) 924-9101 **do not leave a message. Call back when you find out when he will be back.**



Angry Skipper Association, Inc.™



May, 17th thru 20th, 2007 Reunion Registration Form Washington, D.C.

Name: _____ (AKA) _____ Platoon: _____ Yr(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Ph: _____
 How many will be in your group? _____ E-mail: _____ In Case of Emergency contact: _____
 List First names of all in your group: _____

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Total</u>
May 18, 2007 - Friday				
10:30am-4:30pm	Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum	n/c	_____	n/c
6:00pm-9:00pm	Dinner/cocktail party w/ live entertainment		_____	
May 19, 2007 - Saturday				
8:30am- 1:00pm	Ceremony at Vietnam Memorial Wall—transportation	\$20.00	_____	_____
6:00pm-10:00pm	Reunion Banquet (check meal selection below)	\$32.00	_____	_____
	# of Chicken Marsala: _____ # of London Broil: _____ # of Vegetarian Pasta _____			
Shirts & Caps	Number of Reunion Shirts: (order by March 31st)	\$25.00	_____	_____
	Sizes: Small: _____ Medium: _____ Large: _____ XL: _____ XXL: _____			
	Number of ASA Caps	\$10.00	_____	_____
TOTAL EVENTS REGISTRATION				\$ _____

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION FEE:

Membership Fee: 2007 member @ \$15 ea	\$	_____	.00
Membership Fee Life member @ \$200 ea.			.00
Registration Fee:		10.00	
Total Registration & Membership Fee:	\$	_____	.00
Contribution/donation:			.00
Total Events Registration from above:		_____	.00
TOTAL PAYMENT:	\$	_____	.00

_____ Check here if you want the membership card and/or shirt & cap and will not be attending the reunion. We will have the items mailed to you.

Please register by April 15, 2007. Please complete form and mail with check (payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc.) or with credit card info to:

Orlando/Orange County
 Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
 Attn: Stacey Smith
 6700 Forum Drive, Suite 100
 Orlando, FL 32821-8017
 Ph: 407.363-5814
 Fax: 407.370-5034

PAYMENT METHOD: _____ Check Charge to (check one): _____ MasterCard _____ VISA
 Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____
 Month/Year

Signature: _____

Do not send this form if you registered online at : <http://www.angryskipperassociation.org>



Hotel Reservations, Phone 800.227-6963
Tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group.

You must arrange your own Hotel room. It is not included in this registration.
Your Welcome Package will be available in the Hotel Lobby. Please pick up your package when you arrive.

Washington, D.C. 2007 Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Reunion

Our reunion will be held at the **Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA 20170** (<http://cpdulles.com/>) from **May 17th thru May 20, 2007**. You must call the Hotel and make your own reservations. Their number is **800.227-6963**. The hotel will honor the discounted group rates for our group for 3 days prior to May 17th and 3 days after May 20th for those early arrivals and stay-overs. These **rates are good until May 3, 2007**, so please register before May 3rd. The hotel rates are as follows:

Deluxe Guest Room: \$ 84.00 (singles and doubles)

The hotel has 21 smoking rooms. After these have been reserved, additional smoking rooms will be provided and at a one time cleaning fee of \$50 per room. So, if you smoke, register early.

You must tell the Hotel you are with the Angry Skipper Association for these preferred rates. They will not change the rate if you forget to tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group.

The Crowne Plaza at Dulles consist of 326-rooms and is located just 2 miles from **Washington's Dulles International Airport** and 22 miles from the historic Washington DC attractions. This hotel is an AAA Three-Diamond Rated, full-service hotel and is ADA compliant. Complimentary van shuttle transportation to/from Dulles Airport every half-hour, 5:00am—11pm daily is available. The van shuttle picks up at the lower level of Dulles, areas 2A and 2H curbside.

Our hospitality suites will be located in the O'Hare/LaGuardia room. The hours for the Hospitality suite is from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. The Hospitality suite will open Wednesday, May 16th at 12:00 p.m. and close at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 20th. When you arrive, please pick up your welcome package in the Hotel lobby. The package will contain your meal tickets, membership card, name tags, agenda, roster, shirts & caps, etc. Staffing in the Hotel Lobby, for delivery of the packages, will be:

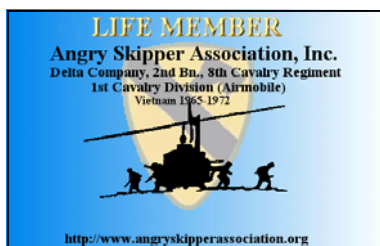
Wed, May 16th:	12:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Thur, May 17th:	10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Fri, May 18th:	12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Sat, May 19th:	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The registration process will be handled by the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. ("cvb") again, just like last year. VISA and MasterCard will be accepted, as well. The cvb has set-up a website for online registrations. Go to <http://www.angriskypperassociation.org> for a direct link, or you can mail the registration, with check or credit card information, to the address on the registration form. You may also fax the form with credit card info directly to the cvb. Or, register on-line, then send the check, payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc., to the Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Info for Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/museum/udvarhazy/>

Our banquet guest speaker will be Thomas Blagg, Stone Mountain, 71-72. Thomas Blagg was Battalion commander of the 2/8th Cav from July, 1971 to mid 1972.

In Case of Emergency (ICE): This year we ask that you give us a phone number and contact in case of emergency. You just never know! Per Nick Donvito: All medical and police are now trained to look in cell phones address books under ICE listings. Just list it as ICE and then the name so when the person looking it up sees the ICE, they know they have what they are looking for.



Life Membership Card: plastic .



2007 Membership: laminated paper.

We will mail your membership card, shirts and/or cap to you if you will not attend the reunion in D.C. Check the space under TOTAL PAYMENT (registration form) indicating you will not attend the reunion and would like the items sent to you. The Life Member card is like a plastic credit card and the 2007 Membership card is laminated paper, as in Orlando.

ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC.™
P.O. BOX 501
STOCKTON, NJ 08559

PRESORTED
1ST CLASS
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
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Permit #586

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*“Remember the bad times once,
Remember the good times forever”*

We're on the web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org

“Extraordinary Heroism Pay” by Daniel P. Cortez

source: Purple Heart Magazine, July/August 2006

Recently wounded and other decorated enlisted military members may be entitled to an additional 10 percent pay increase upon retirement thanks to a little known provision known as the Extraordinary Heroism Pay. Other veterans may have been eligible to receive the entitlement for years and may have not attempted to recoup the monetary benefit.

Title 10 of the U.S. Code section 6330 does provide for “enlisted” members who have been credited by their respective service secretary with the stipend and according to LtCol. Ellen Krenke of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs the program is still alive.

Krenke emphasizes the entitlement is not a medal but additional pay for enlisted of all services not just for heroism but extraordinary heroism. “By law, the Distinguished Service Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of the Medal of Honor. So clearly recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished Flying Cross would qualify,” she added.

Recent legislative changes with in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) protect those who are in receipt of concurrent receipt of military pay and disability compensation. DFAS officials also state extraordinary heroism pay is also protected.

Due to privacy reasons it remained difficult to ascertain from the respective services specifically who and how many veterans were in receipt of the benefits of extraordinary heroism. For purposes of clarity respective services should be contacted for further information or retirees may examine other compensation procedures at <http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/mppcrsc.html>.



Bronze Star
Medal

The Association will assist any member with transportation, lodging and meals who may have financial difficulty in attending an ASA National reunion. Please contact Ed Regan or Rich O’Brien, using the return address for this Newsletter, or by e-mail for consideration in receiving aid. Everything will be kept in strict confidence and handled discreetly. The association keeps cash reserves on-hand for this specific purpose. These are funds that donor’s have made specifically for the purpose of helping members attend the reunion/s.