

THE

RED 5 DIAMOND



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2017 – 2018 SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION OFFICERS ROSTER

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

A. To perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the Fifth Division; to electrify and unify that invisible current of fellowship, friendship and comradeship molded in the throes of war and the exigencies of a peacetime service, and promote the interests and welfare of its members.

B. To publish and preserve the history of the accomplishments of the Fifth Division and the Society, in war and peace, and set forth the gallant and heroic deeds of its members.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

- *Maj. Gen. Hanson E. Ely (1919-22,24-25)
- *Col. Philip J. McCook(1922-23)
- *Dr. E. C. Morton (1925-28)
- *Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone (1929-30)
- *Capt. Peter Murphy (1930)
- *Maj. Walter E. Aebischer (1930-32)
- *Capt. Peter P. Zion (1932-34)
- *W. Walter Healy (1934-35)
- *Lloyd A. Reeder (1935-37)
- *Col. Henry Clay Bate (1937-38)
- *William Barton Bruce, Sr. (1938-39)
- *Emil Everts (1939-41)
- *A. Lincoln Bradbury (1941-45)
- *William Gibbs (1945-46)
- *John W. Fonner (1946-48)
- *William L. McGrory (1948-49)
- *Kenyon Stevenson (1949-50)
- *Charles A. O'Connell, Jr. (1950-51)
- *John H. Pflaum (1951-53)
- *Frederick F. Specht (1953-54)
- *John H. Baskin (1954-55)
- *Walter R. Stout (1955-57)
- *Frank H. Deane (1957-58)
- *Edward Pivovar (1958-59)
- *T. Earl McNaney (1956-60)
- *Russell S. Fisher (1960-62)
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- *Charles P. DeRose (1966-67)
- *Victor Dunneback (1967-68)
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- *Herbert Ginsburgh (1970-71)
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- *Virgil Scheibel (1973-74)
- *Frank Kolimaga (1974-75)
- *Kenneth Anderson (1975-76)
- *Howard Singer (1976-77)
- *Robert Young (1977-78)
- *Stanley Piotrowski (1978-79)
- *George Bachman (1979-80)
- *Harry Arquette (1980-81)
- *William Stanfield (1981-82)
- *Guido Bemasoni (1982-83)
- *Msgr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)
- *Chester Ball (1984-85)
- *William Colon (1985-86)
- *Robert Graves (1986-87)
- *Herman Schell (1987-88)
- *William Stanfield (1988-89)
- *John Goodman (1989-90)
- *William Upham (1990-91)
- *Bradley Brewer (1991-92)
- *Harry Arquette (1992-93)
- *Robert Rochon (1993-94)
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- *Phil Maniscalco (2005-07)
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- *Bernie "Buck" Kean (2010-12)
- *Steve Wheat (2012-13)
- *Bobby Moody (2013-2014)
- *Wayne Cumer (2014-2015)
- *Robb Robetson (2015-2016)
- *Bob Dudley (2016-2017)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Greetings from Georgia.

I am honored and humbled to serve you as President of the Society for the next year. A past President of our Society sent me an email stating that he doubted that during NCO school at Fort Benning, Georgia or Cu Chi in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division or in Quang Tri with the 5th Infantry Division I ever thought I would be asked to serve as President of the Society of the Fifth Division. No Robb Robertson, just as you didn't. You see, Robb and I followed the same path. We were in the same NCO school class in 69-70. While we were both assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, we were not in the same Battalion. But we did catch up again when the 25th was sent to Hawaii during the reduction of troops in 1970. We were both then assigned to Alpha Company, 1/61 of the Fifth Infantry Division although to different platoons.

By now you should have received and responded to an invitation to participate in the 5th Infantry Division Legacy Book. I hope you filled out the request form and mailed it back in along with your request to purchase a 5th Infantry Division Legacy Book. Although the deadline of November 15, 2017 has already passed, it may not be too late to submit your personal information.



The 98th reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division will be held in Norfolk, Virginia. Judy (my wife) and I decided the members of our society probably didn't want to come back to Georgia having been to Fort Benning in Columbus and Marietta within the last eight years. Ted Dey, with Armed Forces Reunion, asked us to visit Norfolk. We made two trips to Norfolk and decided that although it is considered a Navy town it would be a great town to host our 2018 reunion. Mark your calendars with the following information:

Start date: Thursday, September 27, 2018

End Date: Monday, October 1, 2018

The reunion will be held at the following location:

Norfolk Sheraton Waterside Hotel

777 Waterside Drive

Norfolk, VA. 23510

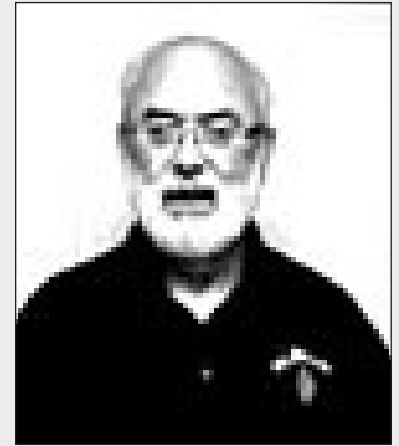
We will have more information about the reunion and the town of Norfolk in future issues of the Red Diamond. Judy and I look forward to seeing you in Norfolk.

Dennis Thompson

National President

Society of the Fifth Division

Hello to all of my friends in the Society. For the past few years I have had some health difficulties. As anyone who has had a medical procedure knows, it takes a while to fully regain the vitality that you had prior to that time. During the past two years I have undergone surgery for removal of my right side kidney (cancer), have



been in the hospital twice for abdominal surgery; and am now in rehabilitation to regain my health from my most recent surgery one week ago. I have yet to recover to a level that would permit me to fulfill the obligations that being Vice President entails, as such I must tender my resignation as First President.

The support that the entire Executive Board to continue has affirmed that this Society is comprised of true men who more than use the phrase "Brothers Forever" in conversation, they embody the meaning in their actions. By discussing various possibilities that would allow me to continue in this role it became readily apparent the sincere true friends I have in them and the Society. They let me know that they really "Have my back" but at this time I need to focus my effort on my health and family.

In all, I am grateful for my friends, the Society of the Fifth Division Board and Members who 'live' the words of "Brothers Forever". I have truly benefited from your moral support...

Alex Candelaria, First Vice President, Society of the Fifth Division

P.S. The Executive board has named Past President Steve Wheat to serve as Vice President and President on behalf of Alex. The reunion in San Diego that Alex organized and planned will continue as was earlier decided upon. The hotel contract is signed and we will be there. Steve Wheat has indicated that he will work with Alex to carry out the objectives and goals Alex aimed for with steady direction and advice from Alex and a committee comprised of Hal Roller, Bill Baugh, Phil Maniscalco and Mike Sperling.

Some Thoughts from the Second Vice President



For one thing, we share a service to our country, the United States of America. The service was rendered during a time when some of our fellow citizens felt the war was unjust, our president and his administration were dishonest liars, and our senior military leaders were training soldiers to conduct acts of terrorism on the war-torn civilian population. As young American soldiers, we did not see it that way. We knew communism posed a survival threat to freedom. If the communist North won, a reign of terror would ensue in Vietnam- and it did. We love our country and we are proud to have served it.

Secondly, we share a dedication to duty, a faithfulness to provide more than just lip-service to our great nation. The Civil War General Stonewall Jackson said, "The duty is ours; the results are God's." Some of the duties you performed were: patrolling in temperatures over 100 degrees with 99 percent humidity; pulling watch 0200 to 0300 on a night ambush while the mosquitoes dined on your blood; no sleep as fire-mission after fire-mission was called-in; and changing a roadwheel in the mud as the monsoon rain blurred your vision and soaked your jungle fatigues. Then, there were those sporadic times of overwhelming fear when green tracers came right at you. Yet you did your duty, stood your ground, and returned fire. The outcome was not what we fought for; nonetheless, we did our duty.

Lastly, we care for one another. During any SFD Reunion it is common to hear one of us calling the other brother. That is the way we feel about each other. Conversations inquire about a member's health or family with genuine concern. It was true in Vietnam as well. I remember my return to Alpha Company (which was in a defensive position south of Khe San) after being wounded. Seemed like everyone in the Company came individually to me to see how I was doing. Our memorial ceremony at each Reunion is a way of expressing our care for those of us who have passed.

Yes, the Reunion in Kansas City was wonderful. But the best part was just being around you great Americans. It is not about living in the past; it is about recognizing values that were present then and are present now.

Hal Roller



INFORMATION SERIES FOR ADULTS

3 Important Reasons For Adults to Get Vaccinated

You may not realize that you need vaccines throughout your adult life. Vaccines are still important to your health and here are just three reasons why.

1. You may be at risk for serious diseases that are still common in the U.S.

Each year thousands of adults in the United States get sick from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines — some people are hospitalized, and some even die.

Even if you got all your vaccines as a child, the protection from some vaccines can wear off over time. You may also be at risk for other diseases due to your age, job, lifestyle, travel, or health conditions.

2. You can't afford to risk getting sick.

Even healthy people can get sick enough to miss work or school. If you're sick, you may not be able to take care of your family or other responsibilities.

3. You can protect your health and the health of those around you by getting the recommended vaccines.

Vaccines lower your chance of getting sick.

Vaccines work with your body's natural defense to lower the chances of getting certain diseases as well as suffering complications from these diseases.

Vaccines lower your chance of spreading certain diseases.

There are many things you want to pass on to your loved ones; a vaccine preventable disease is not one of them. Infants, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems (like those undergoing cancer treatment) are especially vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases.

Vaccines are one of the safest ways to protect your health.

Vaccine side effects are usually mild and go away on their own. Severe side effects are very rare.

Getting Vaccinated

Adults can get vaccines at doctors' offices, pharmacies, workplaces, community health clinics, health departments, and other locations. To find a vaccine provider near you, go to vaccine.healthmap.org.

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance provider for details and for a list of vaccine providers. If you do not have health insurance, visit www.healthcare.gov to learn more about health coverage options.



What vaccines do you need?

All adults should get:

- Flu vaccine every year to protect against seasonal flu
- Td/Tdap to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough)

Based on your age, health conditions, vaccines you received as a child, and other factors, you may need additional vaccines such as:

- Chickenpox
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- MMR
- Meningococcal
- Pneumococcal
- Shingles

Traveling overseas? There may be additional vaccines you need. Find out at: www.cdc.gov/travel

DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE!



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

August 2015

INFORMATION SERIES FOR ADULTS

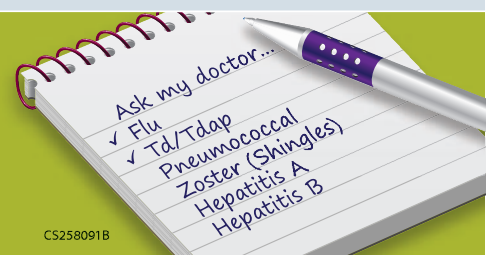
Diseases and the vaccines that help prevent them	How the disease can affect you
Influenza “Flu” Seasonal flu vaccine	Fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, headache, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, muscle or body aches, and fatigue (very tired), and some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. Disease Complications: Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), worsening of chronic health conditions, hospitalization, possibly resulting in disability, or even death
Hepatitis A Hep A vaccine	Fever, tiredness, stomach pain, loss of appetite, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), and dark urine; however, there may be no symptoms. Disease Complications: Liver failure; arthralgia (joint pain); and kidney, pancreatic, and blood disorders
Hepatitis B Hep B vaccine	Flu-like illness with loss of appetite, fever, tiredness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, jaundice, and joint pain; however, there may be no symptoms. Disease Complications: Chronic liver infection, liver failure, and liver cancer
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) HPV vaccine	Frequently, there are no symptoms for years until cancer appears. Disease Complications: Cervical cancer in women, anal cancer, and genital warts in both women and men
Measles MMR	Fever, runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body. Disease Complications: Ear infection, pneumonia, swelling in the brain due to infection, or even death
Meningococcal Disease Meningococcal vaccine	Nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, fever, headache, increased sensitivity to light, confusion, tiredness, and rash. Disease Complications: Brain damage, loss of arms or legs, loss of hearing, seizures, strokes, or even death
Pneumococcal Disease Pneumococcal vaccine	Fever, chills, difficulty breathing, chest pain, stiff neck, earache, increased sensitivity to light, and cough. Disease Complications: Infections of the lung, middle ear, or sinuses, heart problems, brain damage, loss of hearing, loss of arms or legs, or even death
Shingles Zoster vaccine	Painful rash on one side of the face or body, which blisters and then typically scabs, headache, fever, chills, and upset stomach. Disease Complications: Severe pain that can last for months or years after the rash goes away, pneumonia, loss of eyesight and hearing, or even death
Tetanus Td/Tdap vaccine	Serious, painful spasms and stiffness of all muscles, lockjaw (difficulty opening mouth), difficulty swallowing or breathing, muscle spasms, and fever. Disease Complications: Broken bones, breathing difficulty, or even death
Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Tdap vaccine	Prolonged cold symptoms (cough and runny nose) leading to violent coughing or choking making it hard to breathe, drink, or eat. Disease Complications: Rib fractures, pneumonia, or even death

For a full list of all diseases that can be prevented by vaccines, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac

DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE!

Talk with your healthcare professional to make sure you are up-to-date with the vaccines recommended for you.

For more information on vaccines or to take an adult vaccine quiz to find out which vaccines you might need, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults.





First Lieutenant Joe V. Abernathy

First Lieutenant Joe V. Abernathy served in Company B, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized). He was issued the Distinguished Service Cross on June 9, 1969:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Joe V. Abernathy (ASN: 0-5351930), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with B Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized). First Lieutenant Abernathy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 25 October 1968 while serving as a platoon leader on a battalion search and clear mission in enemy held territory of northern I Corps. One of the companies encountered a formidable maze of enemy fortifications scattered among hedgerows and bamboo thickets. The enemy initiated a massive attack which pinned down the unit. In an effort to relieve the imperiled and hard-pressed company, Lieutenant Abernathy led his platoon in a charge up a steep hill, overrunning three mortar installations. During his assault, he personally shot and killed three North Vietnamese at point-blank range. Reconsolidating his platoon, he pressed on, covering two hundred meters before severe strafing fire deterred his advance. A quick evaluation revealed a single well-camouflaged battlement from which the automatic weapon salvos erupted. He immediately directed the firing of a light antitank weapon on the position. Then, braving hazardous barrages and sniper fire, he and two other men assaulted and overpowered the bunker. First Lieutenant Abernathy's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



2017 MAN OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

Every year members who have distinguished themselves by their long term commitment and dedicated efforts to keeping the Society of The Fifth Division a great example of what a successful veterans group is are recognized by the leaders and membership for their work keeping it so. They are presented with the Man of the year medallion (shown above) and a plaque with the proclamation engraved on it. This year Wayne Cumer and Vern Sondgeroth received the award.

Wayne Cumer (pictured on left) who is a lifetime member served in many roles in the Society and is most noted for his term as National President a few years back at the Pittsburgh Pa. Convention. Wayne helps wherever help is needed.

Vern Sondgeroth (right side) is a lifetime member and has served in many roles at each reunion. Always a smile on his face, you may know him for organizing the 50/50 raffle and at dinners being everywhere at the same time selling raffle tickets.

They each deserve our pride and a salute for their service to the Society.

THE EDITORS TWO CENTS

Hello Society of the Fifth Division Members. Quite a bit has transpired since the Five Star 2017 Reunion in Kansas City. I wish we had them more often but the fun I have would probably be injurious to my health.

I mentioned at the past general meeting that the reason that Red Diamond contains such interesting articles and Society news is only because of the articles sent in by our members. Believe me, if I were the sole author of the RD contents it would bear no similarity to your fine publication that has been in print for 97 years.

You... yes you will soon get your chance to add your two cents in an upcoming issue. Last summer one of the more enlightened elders of our society and I were talking about the souvenirs/treasures that we brought home from Viet Nam. We came to the conclusion that those things that we keep in an old cardboard box amid other lost and forgotten items in the basement are worthy of dedicating an RD issue to display pictures of that wide variety of mementos that almost all of us returned home with. Now that would interesting to see.

If you agree and would like to have a few words and pictures of your cherished keepsakes in the RD it is easy to do. Just take a photo and write a brief blurb describing what it is, where you got it, etc. and send it to me the editor of the RD no later than 04 April 2018. Digital pics or regular photos are okay. The May edition of the RD will be the edition it will be in. As an example, I have some wrist bands, a short timer stick, a lighter, a case of C4 (JUST JOKING) and a few other priceless treasures I will showcase. I already have a photo of the "drinking mug" that is hugely important to a few of the 1/11 soldiers and you will see it and read the story in the May 2018 RD. It would be a very lean issue if I only have my items in that issue, so I request your input. Now is not too soon to send in your submissions. Who knows? We could have the beginnings of a photo museum of items we thought were worth dragging around all of those years. I will begin collecting your pictures by the time you read this.

A common topic discussed lately is that newspapers are soon to vanish in the form of a "paper" bundle delivered to your door (which in my house with three dogs has many unintended uses). Electronic newspapers are a growing trend that I have found to have some advantages. Thanks to the voluntary effort by Joe Bowman our new Webpage Manager, the Red Diamond can now be viewed in both electronic and hardcopy media form.

By using your internet browse go to the newly designed Society of the Fifth Division web page. <http://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com/> Once there you

will see many new things aswell as a button with past and current (after published) RD issues. If delivery of the RD is delayed you can check online to view the same RD that you will soon get in the post.

Ever your humble servant, I await you articles,

Steve Wheat, Editor, Red Diamond

Hit in Chest Ammo Belt Saves Life

During the previous reunion in Kansas City I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Mr. James Balderson who approached me after the General Membership Meeting where I announced that the Red Diamond is made up largely by articles that are contributed by the members and that any article recent or old is welcome. He then told me that he had a copy of the "Diamond Dust" newsletter and offered to send me a copy for publication. Next, in his humble yet proud manner he said "one of the articles is about me". He then proceeded to explain why the newsletter editor found his story interesting. I have re-typed the article because I wanted to make sure that what was written way back then would be clear for our older eyes to read. His story is remarkable, incredible and points to one of the unexplainable occurrences' in combat.

Sgt. James Balderson, of Richmond, Ind. was wearing a belt of M-60 machine gun ammunition diagonally across his chest, Pancho Villa style, when his squad was ambushed recently by NVA in concealed bunker positions.

He felt two-rounds strike his chest on the initial burst of enemy fire. After hitting the dirt, scrambling for cover putting out a volume of fire himself, Balderson discovered he was not wounded, but that his "busted" belt of ammo had saved his life by deflecting the rounds that otherwise would have torn into his chest near the heart. "I was sure lucky" Balderson reflected as he relaxed in base camp following the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry search and clear mission in the mountains southwest of Quang Tri.

Pictured is a clip of ammo. carried by a British WWII soldier that was found in his bandolier.

Another example of random possibility?

I stumbled onto this image while searching for photos to use on this issues cover, It seems that long ago there was at least one more

"Lucky soldier"



Copyright by Uncommon & Unusual.
Clip of British cartridges translated by a German bullet while in a soldier's bandolier.



IN MEMORARIAM



James R. "Jim" Battefeld



SUSAN, SANDY, KIMBERLY

James R. "Jim" Battefeld, 67, of Meredosia, died Friday, Sept. 22, 2017.

He was born Jan. 5, 1950, in Jacksonville, IL. Mr. Battefeld was a 1969 graduate of Meredosia-Chambersburg High School. After graduation he was drafted into the U.S. Army, served in the Vietnam War, where he earned a Bronze Star and received a Purple Heart. He retired from the Army due to the wounds he suffered at C-2. Jim was a member of the Society of the 5th Division. He was a lifelong Cardinals fan, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren.

From The Chaplain

The Ten Commandments - (Christian)

**O how I love Thy Law; it is my meditation,
all the day. Psalm 119:97**

The foundational Moral Laws of Christianity; are The Ten Commandments. This Law dominate the Old and the New Testaments. This Core document contains the Summary of God's requirements; for living a moral life. They are the Moral Compass, which God gave to guide all mankind within their consciences. They cover every word, thought and deed, in commission or in omission, that flows from everyone, from their conception to their death. Everything we do is recorded in Heaven; and we must give an account one day for even every sinful thought, which we think. We can not escape God's All-seeing Eye; which roves over the whole earth. Omniscience; is Wisdom Personified. From Him; all wisdom flows. (I know your thoughts, and the devices which you wrongfully imagine against ME. Job 21:27

The Ten Commandments are not just literal commands of do this; or don't do that. But rather for the Christian, they carry far-reaching internal implications, which extend to every aspect of human life. They are a spiritual "world-view", for Christian living. The Ten Commandments are not intended to only be negative prohibitions, which so many despise, as "inhibiting" their enjoyment of life. God gave them to the world, as a standard of life; which pleases Him. Rather they are primarily intended as positive virtues, which are supposed to enable us to transcend the sin, of this failing earth. God give them as a "world-view or standard", of Love, which is the summary of the law.

Have you tried to live strictly according to the Ten Commandments? Have you striven mightily, but sadly found, that you have utterly failed? That is not surprising; for without the Regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, no person can obey them. The Ten Commandments can be pictured as a ten-tiered bridge...spanned between Heaven and earth. If even one of those tiers are ruined; the bridge will never be able to lead anyone safely across. Since The Deep Fall of Adam, no person

on earth has been able to fully obey the Ten Commandments. God looked down from Heaven, and saw that no person obeyed...absolutely none! Eternal Hell awaits every person, with even only one unforgiven sin; what must a lifetime of disobedience earn them. Obviously, that does not mean we must throw our hands up into the air; and give up trying in despair. Rather we must constantly seek for a Way; to use that Bridge again.

Only one man, who lived upon earth ever perfectly obeyed the 10 Commandments. But because He did, The Jesus Christ is the Grand Fulfillment of The Ten Commandments. He said, "I did not come to abolish the Law(Ten Commandments), but to fulfill them. For 33 years He Perfectly obeyed the Law, in His Passive and **Active Obedience.**

The Good News/The Gospel; is that Jesus, Himself, in His human nature, in His Passive and Active Obedience upon the Cross, DID Obey The Ten Commandments Perfectly. Because He did, they who find room within His Wounds can safely hide there spiritually. For when God sees Jesus' Blood, He sees nothing but His Son...not sinful you! Hiding in Him, under the covering vail of that Blood, the worst of sinners can find refuge and safety for body and soul. Though any person be covered with sin, through-in and through-out, and knows he has sinned against every one of the Ten Commandments daily, he is now safe. This is only because God does not then see the person's disobedience against the Law; but sees only His Son's obedience to the Ten Commandments. That is not only enough for God; but there is enough power in that Blood, to save a trillion worlds of sinners...if there were such a thing. What Indescribable Power! What Matchless Might! What "Obedience" to The Ten Commandments!

Jesus actually adds a new Commandment; which summarizes the Ten Commandments. That Commandment boils down to; Love God above all, and your neighbor as yourself. Reduced even further, He reduces the Ten Commandments to one Word...LOVE !

How Incredible is this Plan, which God has Formulated in His Son; The "Grand, (and Only), Obeyer" of The Ten Commandments. Sinners, liv-

Chaplain

FROM PAGE 12

ing in, and out of Him; now have the same Holiness, as He has. Not only this, but because they are viewed as the same, they will inherit God's Kingdom.

The Ten Commandments - (Jewish)

I AM The Lord. If you walk in MY Statues, and keep MY Commandments. (Lev. 26:2-3)

The Ten Commandments were initially given to Adam and Eve, when God Created them in the Garden of Eden. At that time, He did not Write them on Tables of Stone. Rather, He Wrote them upon the "fleshly tables of their hearts", (in their consciences). Even when Adam and Eve sinned, and were cast out of the Garden, the demands of the Ten Commandments did not change. God still required perfect obedience; to them.

Further, when God destroyed the first earth, The Ten Commandments crossed over and continued to be "in effect", in the second earth. Through the time of the Patriarchs, and the Egyptian captivity: The Moral Law did not change. Not one jot or tittle can be altered from it. God has just freed these two million people from Egypt, by the use of 10 devastating Plagues. He used Moses to confront Pharaoh, until he finally relented, and allowed the Children of Israel to leave Egypt.

Now, three months have passed, and they are encamped at the foot of Mt. Sinai. The Egyptian army, and Pharaoh have been destroyed in the Red Sea, and God is preparing them to be a nation. He is also preparing them for the journey to the Promised Land. God came down on this mountain to Personally teach them. We can read in Gen. 19:18; of His Awesome Power on display before the people. "And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because The Lord descended up it in Fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And the voice of the Trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake and God answered him in a Voice."

God called Moses to the top of Mount Sinai for 40 days; and gave him two stones, upon which He had Written the Ten Commandments, with His

Finger. These two tablets were placed in the Ark of the Covenant; as the "Constitution" of Israel.

Ten Commandments - (Secular)

The obvious question arises for the non-believer; how do the Ten Commandments affect me? The answer is very much; for it is almost impossible for anyone to escape them, or there effects and ramifications upon your life. All of the 193 countries of the world, have an established list of moral, civil and ceremonial laws. These laws are generally derived or based upon the Laws of Scripture, the Ten Commandments, and other legal sources developed throughout history.

For example, high upon the ceiling border of the United States Supreme Court, in Washington, D.C., any visitor can see the stone etching of Moses, presenting the Ten Commandments. Any legal history course reveals how much American law; is based on Biblical law.

Other than the obvious legal ramifications in the structure of government, this Law extends into many social aspects of human life, in the nation, state, city, and family. Visit a large law firm and see the 1000s of books lined upon the walls. These many books only touch the surface of the Law. They also are not static; but are constantly being adjusted, as more and different circumstances present themselves, in the unfolding of human life. Living life; is often messy, and fails to follow established patterns. While much of the law is codified, and fall into long established categories, the courts are nearly overwhelmed with daily cases, which test the parameters of laws. To handle this constant change, The Constitution of America has equipped our country with many different courts, at many different levels. Each level is designed to provide legal "over-view", that its rulings fit within the Constitution.

Obviously the Law, affects each of us in fundamental ways. A learned atheist lawyer once analyzed the Ten Commandments; from a societal standpoint. His conclusion was that in these simple Ten Commandments, are all the fundamentals necessary for a country. Imagine, that all the thousands of law book ever written; are only an expansion of 10 simple laws!



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY
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August 7, 2017


Robert M. Dudley, COL (USA Retired)
President of the Society of the Fifth
Division 16385 148th Street Bonner
Springs, Kansas 66012-9373

Dear Robert M. Dudley, COL (USA Retired),

Thank you for your July 7, 2017 letter to the Acting Secretary of the Army. The 5th Infantry Division certainly has a highly distinguished heritage, and its veterans deserve to be proud of its many accomplishments and contributions to American military history.

Although the division's headquarters is not currently active, it is well remembered and several units that served under the 5th Infantry Division are still serving elsewhere. The Army's future structure and the units represented are based on a number of considerations which may or may not allow for the division's reactivation. On behalf of the Secretary of the Army, however, please rest assured that the division will be considered for possible reactivation as force structure requirements permit.

Sincerely,



CRAIG M. MIX
COL/AV
U.S. ARMY

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By doing this, you are also helping to advance the 5th Division's Legacy. The 5th is nearly 100 years old; and is one of the oldest units in the U.S. Army. (1/3 of all American soldiers serving in WWI, under General Pershing, were the 5th Division -Red Diamond). We, in the 5th Division, have a lot of heroes, a lot of heritage; and many incredible stories of heroism, in 4 wars. However, the 5th Division is a unit that has not "promoted ourselves enough. Other units such as the 101st, and 1st Cavalry have become better known, only because they have very visibly promoted their units, in the public's eye. Help promote the 5th Division,

Ron Van Beek, Chaplain, Society of the Fifth Div.

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General Pershing at a review of the 5th Infantry Division in Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, November 1918.

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Attn: All Members of the Society of the Fifth Infantry Division, Veterans, and family members—

In commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the 5th Infantry Division, our Society is sponsoring a new book, *The Legacy of the 5th Infantry Division* which will provide a detailed history of the “Red Diamond Division” and feature biographical narratives of the men and women who have served our country since 1919.

Acclaim Press, one of our nation’s leading publishers of commemorative history books, has been commissioned to oversee this landmark project, and the book is being written by a team of our Society’s most prominent members.

In addition to the Divisions’ colorful history, this exciting book will feature a special section showcasing biographies of 5TH INF DIV veterans, with “then and now” photographs, and **YOU** are invited to be included (see sample biography in side). **There will be no cost to have your biography included!**

Our book will feature veterans from all eras, from WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and Panama, until its deactivation in 1992. *Note: all 5th Infantry Division veterans are encouraged to participate, even those who were active in peacetime — all served with honor and distinction.*

The book will also include special after action reports, stories and photographs from the membership.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Submit your personal biography. Biographies are brief vignettes (up to 150 words) detailing the person’s military career and life after the military (see example inside), and also may include up to two (2) photographs of each individual, one from the service and a current picture. You are also encouraged to provide memorable stories from your time of service.

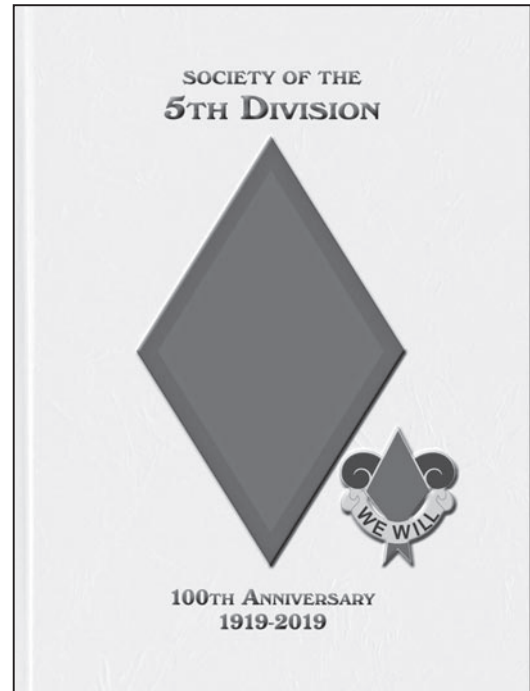
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to encourage future generations in addition, historic and general interest photographs are encouraged. When sending photos, please include your name, address and a caption on the back and you will be credited. This unique book will give us the opportunity to record our Division’s rich heritage, inspiring and educating future generations. Please send us your information so this book may be as complete as possible.

IT IS FREE TO BE INCLUDED!

Widows, friends and family members are also encouraged to send in biographical portraits and materials for their loved ones now passed on—a perfect tribute to your veteran’s service to our nation. Members and friends of the Society of the Fifth Infantry Division may order their personal copy of this keepsake for only \$59.95 (see details inside). This will be a limited edition printing and only those who order now, before it goes to press, will be assured of receiving a copy. Therefore, you are encouraged to order by the 15 November 2017 deadline. Please take advantage of this special opportunity and help us document the rich legacy of the 5th Infantry Div.

Sincerely yours, Leigh Blood, National Historian Society of the Fifth Infantry Division



Pictured above is a rendering of the book cover. This will be a 9x12-inch “coffee-table” volume including hundreds of pages with historic photos!

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PERSONAL DATA (private information such as your email and address will not be included in the book)

LEIGH BLOOD was born 8 August 1947 in Atlanta, GA, and graduated from Paris American HS in 1965. He earned a BA in History from North Georgia College in 1969, a Masters in Education from Georgia State University in 1975, and a Masters in Transportation Management from Florida State University in 1976.

Blood entered the service on 1 June 1969 and received basic training at Ft. Benning, later attending Recondo School, Ranger School, Transportation Corps Officer Basic, Transportation Corps Officer Advanced, and Command and General Staff College.

He was stationed at Ft. Carson, CO; Quang Tri, RVN; Ft. Benning, GA; Ft. Bragg, NC; Heidelberg, Germany; Schwetzingen, Germany; Frankfurt, Germany; and Atlanta, GA.

Blood received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation w/Palm; Combat Infantryman Badge; Ranger Tab; and Distinguished Member of the Regiment (Transportation Corps).



His most memorable experience was the night of 21 May 1971 at Firebase Charlie 2. After a bunker received a direct hit from an NVA 122mm rocket, killing the company commander and killing and wounding 60 other 5th Div. soldiers, he became the senior LT in charge. During the chaos that followed, he was handed a TA-312 telephone on a direct line to the Pentagon Casualty Office, and was asked to read dog tag information for those soldiers confirmed dead. That memory remains fresh today.

He was discharged on 1 June 1989 at Ft. McPherson, Atlanta, GA, with the rank of Major (04). Following the service, he worked for Microbilt Corp., First Financial Management Corp., Bellsouth Corp., and AT&T Corp., where he retired in August 2012.

He is married to Jeanne. They have two children, Alice Leigh Myers and Carroll Virginia Harris, and four grandchildren.

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Association Chapter: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Name of high school & year graduated _____

Name of College(s), Degree(s) & Years Earned _____

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Bases/Locations/Stations: _____

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Memorable Experiences During Military service: _____

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A member of the 1st Brigade, 5th ID (Mechanized) takes down barbed tape surrounding the command post of Operation Utah Mesa in the A Shau Valley, Vietnam, July 1969.



M3 Bradley used by the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Division, 5th Infantry Division, ca. 1990.

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My Brothers Have My Back

By Louis Pepi

continued

This installment will be my last in the Red Diamond—at least as far as the book goes. Following is chapter 8 which is a brief overview of the November Battle. Chapter 9 thru 12 which include the 150 pages devoted to the battle will not be included. Also not included are the 250 pages of documents and award citations. You can read these when the book is available. Shortly I hope. I have skipped to my final 40 days in Vietnam. WARNING—some of it is tough reading. I have also included 2 chapters that are in the appendix—the June 18-20, 1969 battle involving Bravo/ 1-61 near Khe Sanh and the heroics of my good friend Chris Martin of the Americal Division who passed away several years ago due to Agent Orange infirmities. Thanks for listening to my story. It has helped deeply helped me to tell it. Lou Pepi

Chapter 8—Overview of the November Battle

On November 10th of 1969, more than 48 years ago, three days of firefights involving Task Force 1-61 in an operation known as “Fulton Square”—and taking place in the Northern I Corps, Republic of Vietnam, erupted 2 miles south of the DMZ in “AO Orange”—a.k.a. Leatherneck Square. The following account is accurate to the best recollections of nearly 100 of the participants that have contributed to this chronicle.

One thing that is for sure is that this narrative is not only a description of a battle fought by Americans against a determined adversary; it is also more importantly a story of brotherhood, teamwork and supreme sacrifice. Task Force 1-61 was matched up on the ground with three reinforced battalions of the 27th NVA Regiment in the vicinity of Hill 162—outnumbering friendly forces most of the time by more than five to one—and particularly on November 13th by as many as 15-1. TF 1-61’s great advantage was that they had superior fire power, unparalleled air and artillery support, precise intelligence, and a seasoned core of officers, NCOs and enlisted personnel to help lead the many recent green replacements. On the other hand, the indoctrinated PAVN forces were dogged and determined and their leaders were amorally willing to sacrifice them to the last man to achieve victory by callous and cold-hearted attrition.

The names of the combatants and their recollections cited here provide a broad-based summary of this combat action. What is true here, as is always true in war and battle, is that the memories of one hundred men out of the nearly eight hundred combat infantry and support personnel that participated, is only part of the story. Every man has his own story of what he experienced in his small corner of the field of battle. The fifteen brave men that were killed have taken theirs with them to the grave. Remembrance and honor to them is the main driving force that has moved these many men to churn up and offer painful memories that have remained unspoken for decades.

Also involved were multiple rotary wing flight crews with unit call-signs like LANCER, BATMAN, DUSTOFF, and GHOST RIDER. The GHOST RIDERS also had personnel call-signs like Spiderman, and Chuckles. There were artillery batteries like the 5th/4th Arty from A4 and the 4th/8th Arty from Camp JJ Carroll that offered support. Above the battlefield was the constant and uninterrupted support of the 220th Reconnaissance Airplane Company (CATKILLER) in their O-1 Cessna L-19s and the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron (BARKY & BASKETBALL) in their OV-10 Broncos. On the ground with us were the 7th Engineers, 43rd Scout Dog Platoon, communication units and various other support groups that took part in the action. For this action, United States Army issued to combat infantrymen in the field, approximately 180 citations for valor and heroism over those three days, but



hundreds of other acts of bravery occurred that were regarded as just the normal actions of well-trained combat infantry force simply doing its job.

Lt Col. John Swaren—Bn CO: I changed my mind now but back in those days my theory was that with the infantry guys, it was their job to fight and to kill. So if you did that, you were just doing your job. What the hell? You’re going to get a medal for doing your job? And some people did more than their job.

..Starr, Blunt. I believe they ought to get some kind of award but Joe the Rag Picker over there who shot sixteen magazines out of his foxhole because he was being attacked, that’s what he’s paid to do. Jesus, don’t tell me he needs an award for doing that.

Carl “Stretch” Cragholm was from California and was a short-timer as well. The three of them had been in two Khe Sanh engagements—one on April 28th and the other on June 18th. Coolbreeze was a big farm boy from Georgia and one of the strongest guys I ever met.

At least 58 casualties rose to the level of being serious enough to warrant medivac, but nearly every man on the ground shed some amount of blood. Several hundred Purple Hearts were awarded. Again, fifteen men made the ultimate sacrifice, while the rest of us have asked for 45 years: “Why them and not us?” This question has no answer, but we will continue to ask it, and this is why we will never forget THEM nor will we let others forget.

Although all the units of the 5th Division had been in and out of that area, before Nov 1st, the 5th Infantry Division had officially taken over operational control of the Northern I Corps from the 3rd Marine Division that had moved south to Thua Thien and Danang. Quang Tri Province was divided into Areas of Operation named after colors of the spectrum. There was AO Blue, Red, Gold, White and more, but AO Orange would prove to be the hot spot and being in the foothills west of Con Thien and Charlie 2, it came to be known as the “Wild Wild West”. The Brigade plan was to rotate line companies of four battalions—two mechanized, one armor and one straight-leg light infantry. They were: 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment; 4th Battalion, 12th Armored Cavalry; 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Tank Corp, and 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry. The 11th Infantry has a long and noble history dating back to the American Civil War, and it was this unit that first adopted the motto—Semper Fidelis—usually attributed to the US Marines who have a right through payment in blood to also take it as their own.

These four battalions were all part of the 5th Infantry Division (Mech) that also has an illustrious history dating back to World War I under General Pershing, World War II under General George S Patton, and in Panama in the 1980’s.

The brigade strategy again was to rotate companies from these units in an out of AO Orange for 20-day stints. It seemed clear though to the observer that once one unit learned the lay of the land fairly well, another unit rotated in and the learning curve process, flat-lined with the same mistakes that were repeated over and again. That was how General Zais from XXIV Corps and Burke from I Corps wanted to do business—albeit from the comfort and luxury of Camp Red Devil or Danang. On November 6th when the 5th Division took over from the 3rd Marines, the battalion “six” was summoned to brigade for a high brass powwow:

Lt Col. Jack Swaren: We got a new Brigade Commander—he was a one star General, named Burke. An armor guy but underneath all this armor shit he wasn’t too bad. In fact, he was very good. I got in a corner with him and told him. That this is ridiculous, “You’ve got people rotating in and out just when they start to get the hang of it and people were getting killed unnecessarily because they would lose their touch. He said, “That’s true, ————— SEE BROTHERS, PAGE 22

Brothers — FROM PAGE 21

and you're going to stay up there forever now, so have a nice day". And I smiled because it never hurt my feelings a bit, because when you are down there in Quang Tri & Sharon you've got race problems, you've got drug problems, and you've got serious problems. But up there in the AO those things are really reduced. You still have them but not nearly so bad. And I can't put a date on it, but we're doing our thing and we skipped-e-do'ed around. And we'd make a few contacts and we shoot up some long range and we popped an ambush or two. And one day in November, there was the big fight.

As preparation for this takeover, the 1st Battalion of the 61st Infantry Regiment, based out of LZ Sharon, rotated their three rifle companies in an out of AOs in and around LZs Sharon, Angel and Pedro, practicing the cloverleaf Search and Clears that they would essentially use up in AO Orange—while Captain Blunt and D/1-11—and the rest of the 11th Infantry “bush-wacked” enemy forces in and around the DMZ whenever the opportunity arose. The journals show that August through late October, were very quiet months although there was constant evidence of an enemy presence. Realizing through their intelligence that the Fifth I. D. would be taking over completely, the NVA occupied themselves with—observation only of the Regiment's mechanized tactics during the 60 days preceding the takeover and refrained, for the most part, from major offensive contacts. They then used this intelligence to stymie unit patrols on the 11th & 12th, at least for a time, before TF 1-61 could regroup and eventually crush the North Vietnamese force on the 13th.

During the last week of October and early November all of Vietnam was under a countrywide cease fire as the Paris Peace Talks resumed. At one point during this period, Captain Starr and Charlie Company on patrol northeast of Con Thien sighted large columns of NVA marching south and waving at the hamstrung Commanding Officer who was under orders not to fire unless fired upon. In Starr's own words:

Capt. William Starr: One night [I think in late October] we NDP'ed inside the DMZ on a bald hilltop.....next day we observed MANY NVA walking past at the bottom of the hill [west side] smiling and waving at us.....request to fire were denied due to Paris Cease Fire. Approx. two weeks later they broke cease fire and pinned down 1C/1/61. The rest is history.

The ramp-up of physical signs of enemy presence grew exponential during the first 10 days of November, but contact was limited to anti-tank mine incidents, harassment and incoming. All mechanized units had events but Alpha had the largest occurrence on November 6 when an M 113s hit a mine moving northeast, away from Con Thien, and a second and third hit after the column reversed direction. There were 14 medivacs and several other dinged up troopers. It could have been much worse. Several days earlier, an exposed 40-pound tank mine was spotted after a torrential rain. Luckily it was a dud, because it was run over by literally every APC in the company. It was blown in place.

According to a Time Magazine article, the capture of some NVA documents showed that the NVA believed a surprise attack on the 5th Mech. would bring a timely victory and provide the bargaining chip they would bring to the table in Paris, that they could use to sway US public opinion and bring the Nixon administration to their will—an administration which was already looking for a honorable way out. North Vietnam hoped these victories would coincide with the nationwide peace marches in the United States, organized by the anti-war establishment, which were planned for the weekend of November 14th -16th.

Time Magazine, Nov. 21, 1969, P. 42:: On the military front, Saigon faced a more immediate challenge. The recent battle-field lull was shattered by Communist attacks all over the coun-

try. The renewed fighting apparently marked the start of the Communists' so called “winter-spring campaign.” They intended to stage sporadic coordinated attacks throughout the country till American public opinion forced a U. S. withdrawal. Though the campaign's start was scheduled long before last week's anti-war Moratorium demonstrations in the U. S., there was nevertheless an effort to get the fighting in step with the peace marchers. An enemy document captured southeast of Saigon recently urged intense action before November 14th and 15th “in support of the upcoming struggle of the American people for peace.” The most vicious fighting of the week—and perhaps of the year—occurred just south of the Demilitarized Zone around Con Thien where troopers of the 5th Mechanized Infantry held off a North Vietnamese Regiment in three days of firefights. Although American forces were outnumbered... superior firepower forced the enemy to retreat...

So Hanoi broke the cease fire on the 10th and the following chain of events ensued on Hill 162 that would culminate on Hill 100—a.k.a. Gallagher Ridge. They did manage to surprise the Red Devils at first, but underestimating them, they proved inferior as the mechanized troopers who were mostly on foot, ramped up to speed and spoiled Hanoi's Plans. The three days of engagements would prove to be the fiercest fighting of the year in Vietnam in the opinion of that same Time article.

Chapter 13—Un-Friendly Fire or Survivor's Guilt—observations of SP4 Louis Pepi

November 30, 1969 was the Sunday after Thanksgiving and we were on stand down at Con Thien. Three days earlier, the Army made us a Thanksgiving Dinner that served only to make us more homesick. We had spent Friday and Saturday pulling maintenance on our PCs—as well as restocking supplies and ordinance for the squad. The 50 Cal and M60 were fieldstripped, oiled and reassembled, as were our personal weapons. The squad was completely squared away and the day appeared to be ours to waste. TF/1-61 had been through a savage month and Alpha Company in particular had lost 7 men killed including the Company Commander—and suffered 48 wounded. Out of that 48, about 30 were litter cases that did not return. There was new meat in every squad. Morale was very low and our identity was in doubt. We needed time to unwind and chill. Even the hell hole that was our rat-infested bunker looked good on this day as we primed to lounge the day away.

Our platoon leader, Lt. Miller had other ideas though. He had been ordered to practice adjusting mortar-fires with another officer. With the platoon RTO Douglas Free, Miller's driver Frank Williams, and the other officer, in tow—he pushed through the bunker entryway. He announced that he needed three of our squad to saddle up the 31 PC and come along too—just in case. Of the 8 of us packed into our hovel, 4 were NFGs. This left Dave Nicholson, Gary Kent (Cool-Breeze), Skip Hager and me to “volunteer” for this mission. Hager was sound asleep so he got a pass. SGT Bobby Vandergriff—the squad leader of the 32 track, announced that he wanted to come along too—mainly because Cool-Breeze had just opened a piece of mail with a Playboy Magazine in it. With a fair amount of griping, we grabbed our weapons and hopped on the 31. Since Don Saarsfield was on R&R, I was the only experienced driver present so I got that job.

The two PCs exited Con Thien at the south sally-port, proceeding down the service road a ways to clear the mine field, and turned due east. We set up on an elevated berm 3 clicks east of Con Thien just west of an old destroyed NVA bunker system. This small bench, consisting of short grass and dusty-dry red dirt and was poised about ten feet above a large expanse of tall elephant grass extending in all directions to the tree lines five or six hundred meters distant. As the RTO and the two officers were talking to the FDC guys, our group huddled around Cool-Breeze and the magazine. The centerfold was Joey Heatherton.

The first round was called to ———— SEE BROTHERS, PAGE 23

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the location of those enemy bunker ruins situated further east of our position and we heard it chunk out of the tube through the radio squawk. A few seconds later it swished by overhead and hit 700 meters out. The next round was called to a correction of “drop 200 meters”, but impacted in the same vicinity as the first. About that time, my bowels started rumbling and I went to the back of the track for toilet paper. The third round was called to a correction of “drop 200 meters and left 100 meters” as I found the TP. This round also hit in the same vicinity as the first two. There was definitely a problem but too far away to concern us—we thought. As I watched the black smoke from the blast drift in the wind and the disturbed soil freefall back to earth, I was moved by the long grass undulating near and far in the gentle wind. I marveled at the movement of the grass that seemed to be giving me the feeling of a sea of arms beckoning to me. Sometimes Vietnam was so beautiful. This thought I remember distinctly.

For the 4th round, the platoon leader gave the correction: “left 200, drop 400”. This round never reached our position and, instead, hit 50 meters short of our position and the platoon leader immediately called check fire. Hind sight is always 20/20 they say, but if you total all the adjustments, the last round hit right where it was supposed to. But none of us thought that—instead I thought, “Good time to jump off the edge and relieve myself”, and I turned away from my squad group. As I walked to the edge of the berm, I heard some squawk on the radio but I didn’t hear the mortar platoon’s request to try again on an “azimuth of 2200 mils” from our position. As I jumped the small berm, the round hit the spot I was standing on a single moment before. In a flash of fiery red, everything went numb and then turned pure white. I was driven face first into the loose dirt below. At some point, maybe 3 seconds later, I came to and my senses started to return. I scrambled up the hill—still deaf from the blast and concussion. I was clawing wildly and spitting out dirt. I thought we were under attack and I was trying to get under the track—where I assumed the other guys were already huddled. As I scurried up the berm, my hand grabbed a familiar object—it was a boot with a sock hanging out of it—which turned out to belong to Dave Nicholson. The dust was drifting off and I saw Nicholson’s bare foot. When I got to him he was vibrating and I saw his wound—a golf ball sized hole through his left eye socket. I hugged him in some futile attempt to revive him but he was nearly gone. Then I saw Bobby Vandergriff—thrown against the bogie wheels of our track. He was grasping at a gaping hole in his throat and some of his vocal chords were fluttering out of the wound like white elastic bands. He was making a low raspy guttural sound. I pulled his dirty hands away from the wound and shrieked more from wishful thinking that he was going to be ok. As I held his two wrists down, a few more seconds elapsed and his body relaxed somewhat. I hugged him more out of futility and shook him to try to revive him. It was fruitless and I believed he was dead but I found out later he actually expired on the medevac. Then I heard Cool-Breeze screaming, “Where am I hit? His fatigue pants were blown completely off and what was left was on the ground, smoldering at the tattered edges with a red glow. So intense was the explosion, that only his belt and belt loops were completely intact on his waist. He was reaching for his crotch as he asked me again where he was hit. As I looked at his half missing penis and the gash on his leg, the Lt—who was bleeding also from the shoulder—had reached him and was pushing him back down saying: “Don’t worry. You are going to be fine”, and then looking at me said, “He’ll be OK”. I was in near shock. As I watched the white exposed tissue of his wounds just beginning to saturate in red, I frowned at the LT’s optimism. I was told later that he did make it—the poor soul but I knew that he wasn’t going to be all right. Meanwhile, the driver and the RTO (Williams and Free) had shrapnel wounds and they were to be medivaced with Coolbreeze, Vandergriff and Nicholson.

I felt some wetness on my neck because I had blood coming out of my left ear. Joey Heatherton and the Playboy Magazine must have vaporized because we never found it. Finally the dust-off arrived and took Coolbreeze and the others. I drove the 3-1 track back to Con Thien but I don’t remember who drove the 3-6 track.

Back at Con Thien that night, I was devastated and finally was at—what I thought—was my wits end. Being in a confused and concussed daze, I went to the aid station and complained of dizziness and headaches. The medics gave me 22 downers—Davrons I believe—and in a morbid knee-jerk reflex, I swallowed 22 of them and lay on my rack waiting to die. At some point I must have drifted from consciousness because I awoke at length covered in vomit. In a panicky rush, I struggled to my feet and staggered in the darkness back to the medic’s hooch—wishing now to live again. I crashed heavily through the door and disclosed to the Doc that I had taken all 22 Davrons. His retort was an instant burst of laughter and then he inauspiciously added: “You’re not going to die. You’ll throw up first and it looks like you already have”. This was followed by a resumption of his snide laughter. And he was right. After heaving my guts I crawled back to my rack exhausted and drifted in and out of restless sleep. Today I consider November 30, 1969 as the worst day of my life.

The sterile comment in the Daily Journal reads like this: *While A/1-61 was practicing 81mm, the 3/6 element adjusted fire and there was an accident when the round landed on top of the element resulting in 2 KIA and 5 WIA.*

But I believe there is more to the story than this antiseptic explanation. Racked once with survivor’s guilt, try as I may, I could not forget this incident while I have long forgotten many others. That inability to forget drove me to find family and friends of the fallen to explain what happened. I found a girlfriend, a brother and two good friends. I think I helped them get closure from the death of these two men. I certainly have helped myself with closure. I still feel sadness when I think about Dave and Bobby, but the guilt has abated to a manageable level. I have no doubt that some higher force loomed over us that day. Let’s face it—I did a stupid thing by jumping outside the perimeter during a fire mission—and it turned out that my stupidity saved my life. I would like to think that there was a purpose to what happened and that those of us that survived have lived lives that will validate that purpose.

This is the first piece about Vietnam that I put to pen and paper in the mid 1980’s, and that has turned into this book. I wrote down all of my stories and they are dotted throughout this book. Then I started getting in contact with some of the other men in the 5th Infantry Division that took part in Operation Fulton Square. Each story was different but they also were the same. I hope I have done justice to their stories. Many others would not talk and would just like to forget Vietnam. We can’t let others forget though, partly because there should be a record for the future and simply because we ourselves will never forget.

Don Saarsfield remembers: I was on R&R. I was coming back and I ran into four guys that I knew that were leaving too and they talked me into staying an extra day with them. I came back to the unit and I was pretty toasted. Of course, I was happy to have been on R&R but when I got back all they guys were super down and that’s when I found out the guys got hit with that 81 mortar.

Chapter 14—Leaving 1970 & Aftermath 1998 Preparation for my exit and my return to the World

Starting on or about August 1, 1969, I began writing a series of letters that I mailed to Ted Kennedy, one of my home state’s U. S. Senators. I was applying for a 90-day educational drop. I began mailing these requests once a week for the next three months with no response from the Massachusetts Senator. In like fashion, my father, who was a big fan of the Kennedy’s, began sending similar requests on my behalf to the senator’s Washington office with the same lack of response. Of course I didn’t realize it at the ———— SEE BROTHERS, PAGE 26





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time but that was just a few weeks after the senator's involvement in the Chappaquiddick incident with the accidental death of Mary Joe Kopechne. Then in early November, I sent one similar request to Senator Edward Brook, Massachusetts' other U. S. Senator. About three weeks later and a day or two after the friendly fire incident, we were on stand-down at Firebase C2. I was called to the company clerk's office and informed that I had received a Senatorial Deferment to return to my college studies at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. Having come through the worst month of my 21-year-old life, I was ecstatic. Evidently the Kennedy's had come through for me. I stated that emphatically to the clerk who looked at me strangely as he shook his head in the negative. The deferment had come from someone in the office of a Senator Brook. Kennedy had evidently ignored the nearly two dozen letters his office had received and Brook had responded immediately to the first. The man was evidently occupied with avoiding a negligent homicide indictment.

Although the clerk could not give me an exact date, it seemed probable that I would be leaving Vietnam just after the first of the year instead of my actual DEROS date of March 28th. Life was looking up. I was due for a three day R&R to China Beach in a few days on December 3rd and a full seven day R&R on December 13th—to return on December 23rd—counting travel and stayover in Danang. It seemed that it was a synch that I would not be going back to the field and that I might actually survive Vietnam. I was partially correct. Since I was going home, my three-day in-country R&R was cancelled and I would instead return to the field for about ten days. This was following the November 30th mortar incident, when had been given bedrest for three days before being sent back to the field.

I would have to endure those ten days—one second at a time—which passed by like an eternity. On the brighter side I was spared the one-day-at-a-time countdown for what I had thought was 115 days. Instantly, over 100 days were erased from the countdown. Now I needed an exact date which probably would be sometime between Christmas and New Years. Back with my platoon, my news was bittersweet as I observed the envy in everyone's eyes. The ten days passed slowly. I still was involved in the platoon mix—patrols, guard duty and ambushes. Luckily, it was quiet and peaceful the whole time.

On December 12th I returned to the rear and pulled my A-bag from storage to get a couple sets of Khakis starched and to pack for Bangkok. Not much to pack—money and my camera. On the flight to Danang, I met someone from another company in the battalion and we partnered up for our seven days in Thailand. I don't remember his name but I do recall that he was from Montana and was formerly a smoke jumper. His description of his Big Sky Country home enthralled me and I would visit Montana many times and trek and ride through the wilderness on fishing and hunting trips in my later years. We even bought acreage in the North Fork area—Flathead River—which bordered on Glacier National Park in an area that teemed with elk, grizzly and wolves. We got a letter at one time from the Department of the Interior stating that there was a den of wolf pups on our property and Would we please avoid that corner of our property till the fall?

The R&R was “just what the doctor ordered” and we would spend the next seven days “stoned drunk and naked” in the company of a series of beautiful Thai ladies. On our return, I bode my new friend farewell and have never heard from or spoken to him since. I wish I could remember his name. On my return to Danang, I ran into John Crutchfield, an old friend from the 52nd Ordinance Company. He was now a sergeant in Bravo Company and was heading to Australia on R&R. He spent the night of November 12-13th in an NDP on Hill 162 with Captain Spencer, Mike Cowart, Jon DeBoer and company. We talked briefly about that major engagement we were just in from our different per-

spectives, but our emotions and the traumatic shock from those several days mostly muted the conversation. I told him that I was returning to the states in about a week. His DEROS date was still in mid-July. It was a sad departure as we shook hands and departed each other's company. I never have reconnected with John.

I returned to C2 on December 23rd and was put on company area work detail. I remember nothing about the Holidays. About a day or two after Christmas, I had the bright idea that I would ride the meal chopper out to the company—which was set up with base security just outside of Qua Viet Naval Base on the DMZ. It would be a short easy hop. After talking with the pilot, I told him I would jump off the chopper, say my goodbyes and return in less than a minute as the bird's air commander emphatically emphasized.

The chopper landed on the smoke and I jumped out as two men ducked in to pull off the hot chow containers. Then I saw that the chopper was lifting off again and my heart sunk. Evidently Captain Neely had ordered the pilot to take off immediately. Here I was back in the field with just my M-16, Kabar and one clip of ammunition. What was worse, my squad had drawn an ambush that evening and since they were shorthanded, I was a welcomed addition. There would be one more night of putting my frayed nerves through the ringer. I was given a bandolier of 5.56 ammo, several grenades, a poncho liner and a canteen. I had no choice. I had to borrow a mess kit so that I could partake in the hot chow and I readied myself mentally for one more night of horror. There would be several hours for this contemplation since the sun was still fairly high in the sky.

Somehow the squad learned that I had a pocket full of money and Don Saarsfield produced a deck of cards and suggested one last farewell poker game. I remember that there were more than seven players because we couldn't play our favorite game of seven card stud and had to settle for five card stud and acey-deucey. The game lasted a little over an hour and I remember winning the first eight or ten hands. When the game ended with loud grumbling, I had almost \$3000 in my wallet—enough to buy a new car when I got home.

At dusk, I fell in into the spaced march to our ambush point. It was a quiet night and the weather actually cooperated, giving us a mild and dry conditions. On the way back to the perimeter, a smile developed as I reached back to pat my full wallet. My smile was abruptly replaced by a frown as I fumbled my hand into an empty pocket. The wallet was gone and so was the \$3000. When we returned to the perimeter, my pleadings were unconditionally refused by Lieutenant Miller. No—we could not go back! I was broke but I was going home.

I do not remember New Year's Eve, except that I heard that the third platoon withstood a vicious assault while on a defensive perimeter outside Qua Viet Naval Base that night. I heard this from the supply sergeant while I was processing out at Camp Red Devil. Lieutenant Miller, Sergeant Chuck Krabel, Sergeant Todd Orman, Sergeant Archie Donley and Sp4 Steve Smith received Bronze Stars for Valor with most of the group wounded. It was Lt Miller's third Purple Heart. He also said my captured SKS had disappeared and he knew nothing about it. I called him a fucking lying REMF.

On January 2nd I processed out of the Fifth Mech through the 75th Replacement Company. The flight down to Danang and then to Ben Hua was quite different than that of my arrival six months earlier and so was my flight across the pacific on the Freedom Bird on January 3rd. After two days of medical and psychological exams I was a free man. I boarded an airliner at SEATAC Airport and flew through Chicago to Logan Airport in Boston where my parents and siblings were waiting for me. My mother cried and hugged me while my father shook my hand and my one brother and three sisters fidgeted and looked on. My brother John—13—and my sisters Linda, Lisa and Nancy—18, 12 and 9—had no idea what I had been through and I just hugged Linda and mussed the hair of the other three. My sister Nancy later told me, “Back then you seemed like a rock star

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to us kids". I certainly didn't feel like one. My father, an Army Air Corps Veteran of thirty eight B-29 missions over Tokyo, Truk and Iwo Jima as a door gunner—and winner of two Distinguished Flying Crosses and an Air Medal with five stars—did not ever ask me about or did he want to know about any of the actions I was in. I was paralyzed emotionally back then but have now come to realize the post-traumatic stress that he endured when I became aware of my PTSD issues. I wish I could have solved that issue with him as I suppose that he never did. My assimilation back into civilian life was a very rocky one. For six years I drown myself in a world of drugs and alcohol—resorting to beer, liquor, uppers, downers and LSD. LSD was my favorite because I could hide my neurosis in the middle of psychedelic madness. It was perfect camouflage to what was going on inside of me. In 1975, I married Patricia Strong, and with her love and stability, I escaped from the clutches of drugs and alcohol. It would be many more years though till I came to terms with my PTSD, with her help, the help of my veteran brothers, and finally from the Veteran's Administration and the Vet Centers of America Program. That work continues till today.

After a short week at home reacquainting with family and friends, I hitchhiked to Amherst to the University of Massachusetts. I was placed in a dorm room with another Vietnam returnee but I saw this as a big mistake—first of all, because he was a REMF and secondly because I didn't need any reminders. On that first day, I met everyone on my floor in a bull session in one of the common rooms. It was a co-ed dorm and the boy girl ratio was about 2 to 1 in favor of the females. The boys—and I say boys because they were all eighteen or so and naive—just listened to my conversation in awe and the girls all looked on with an apparent desire to mother me. I smiled inside at the female prospects in front of me. At about 0500—or rather 5 o'clock now—we all got up to go to the cafeteria for dinner which was across a large asphalt courtyard surrounded by perfectly trimmed hedges. As we started across, someone threw a cherry bomb out one of the dormitory windows. While everyone else flinched slightly and then laughed vigorously at the prank, I dove to the ground and low crawled about fifty meters—excuse me yards—across the courtyard and dove into the hedges. While I lay flat out wondering where the fuck my M-16 was, the others stopped and gawked at my intense behavior. My shirt and jeans were tattered and I was bleeding both from my knees and my elbows. We ate dinner at a large table in relative silence while it appeared to me that the girls' desire to mother me had increased exponentially. My veteran roommate was even quiet—although he kind-of knew.

My first class the next day—which was also the last class that I would ever attend there, was Psychology 101 and the professor was a hippy-type with waist-long hair who was also the militant leader of the anti-war movement on campus. It was a lecture in a large auditorium of maybe three hundred students. For the first fifteen minutes, he read off the attendance list from the podium never once looking up. When he finally called my name alphabetically, he looked up and turned toward the sound of my voice and paused till I raised my hand. After spotting me, he turned back to the list as I stood up and walked back out of the auditorium never to return. Forty years later, I would send for my Umass college transcripts. The Psych 101 professor had given me a C+ for the fifteen minutes that I had spent in his class.

For the next two weeks, I accommodated the co-eds—while they mothered me in single file. After that I moved to the opposite side of the campus to Orchard Hill where all the "heads" were housed and I stayed stoned for another month. I left the day after a Steve Miller concert, waiting mainly because I wanted to hear him sing I'll Never Kill Another Man. He did not and I left for Boston to live with some more hippies that I knew.

My freefall into a drug induced state lasted till I met Pat in 1973 and we were married on September 13, 1975. Soon after, I adopted

Gretchen—Pat's daughter from a previous marriage—and my son Michael was born in 1978. My journey through the throws of PTSD and the horrors of Vietnam continued with the formation of a family around me and progresses still today. My family saved my life.

The Air Show

I remember going to an air show at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire sometime in the 1990s with my wife and 2 kids, and watching the Blue Angels put on a show. It was the first time I had been in a military installation since being discharged on January 6, 1970. For some reason, I was shaking like a leaf and my wife and kids couldn't understand what was wrong with me. Hell, I didn't either. Then several fast movers took off. There was an F-4 and I think, an F-15. They flew off and disappeared past the horizon. My wife asked me if I wanted to leave and I shook my head—no. Several minutes later, they came back—first appearing as 2 dots on the horizon and in a moment, they were bearing down on the on-looking crowd. At that moment, the audience seemed collectively to feel the same fear that was coursing through me the moment before. Conversely at that moment, the distress drained out of me in a flood, as I remembered the Gunfighters on November 13th. It was the same warm sensation that I felt back then—signaling that help was on the way. With a calm smile on my face, it was a purging thrill watching them coming in on a shallow dive then pulling back in a steep accelerating nearly vertical climb—spewing first dark brown smoke—then ascending with condensation streams coming off the wing tips. It was a realistic reenactment of the real thing in every way—except for the fact that there were no "High-Drag Delta-Oness" falling off the wings. Thankfully! You never forget being saved by the cavalry.

I have tried to put on paper what happened to Alpha Company in mid-November of 1969, and I think I have failed miserably. You just can't explain in words the feeling of the extreme chaos and the horrendous cacophony of battle. Bullets are crackling. Friendly and enemy mortars are exploding. Grenades, RPGs, and satchel charges are detonating. High performance jet engines at treetop level are careening just above you and dropping napalm and 250-pound bombs in your wire. The concussion is so great that it feels like your eyeballs are about to pop out of your head and you feel the heat. The Spookys sound like giant high-speed drills whirring. Your own weapons are being fired at their maximum rate. The air is full of steel. And then there is the random shouting and constant screaming of the wounded. And through that entire din, you can hear the unnerving sound of the NVA coming—commanders blowing whistles to initiate sapper attacks and enemy forward observers shouting coordinates in high pitched sing-song voices. I guess the closest thing to the ghastly din of battle is probably silence in a vacuum—they are so far from each other on opposite sides of the sound spectrum, that they actually meet on the other side. If you understand all that then you understand battle and I have succeeded, but I can't help but think that my words have fallen short.

Some of the events in your life that you witness or take part in, are so crushing to the soul that you will never be able to shake them from your consciousness. They will stay with you forever. You are haunted by them. But somehow, you deal with them. You can never forget the men that sacrificed and died so that others could live. That is the only time in my life that I witnessed true and undying love. Some died and most lived like I did; and I will always love them all.

Utah Mesa & Bravo Company—18Jun69

In June of 1969, 1st-61st was based at LZ Sharron. They had been operating out towards the Khe Sanh Plateau several times with little or no action since the April 28th battle—a significant battle that Alpha Company fought in. This time it would be Bravo Company that would be involved in significant action.

This is how Sgt David Gattis, SGT Bill Hambleton, SGT Dan Tyrrel and Sgt William Howard remembered it. There had been some sniper fire and the odd rocket but it was

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quiet out there—unlike the misery that the 1st Battalion of the 9th Marine Regiment had suffered during the siege of Khe Sanh Airfield. Known as the Walking Dead, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Infantry Regiment had gotten the unlucky draw time and again from Leatherneck Square in 1967 in and around Con Thien and then to Khe Sanh during Tet Offensive of 1968. And so they would be involved in a desperate fight again.

Dave Gattis, Sgt Tyrrel and Bill Hambleton were part of the original troopers of the 5th Infantry Division's move in-mass from Fort Carson Colorado and would be under the operational control of the Marines. The 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to eventually replace the entire 3rd Marine division. The change of command would not be completed till November 6, 1969—nearly 16 months after the Fifth arrived. The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry, armored cavalry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971. Combat units included 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry (Mechanized); 1st Battalion, 77th Armor; A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry; 7th Engineer Battalion, the 75th Replacement Battalion and 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery. Although the 5th had their own squadron of rotary wing aircraft—BATMAN—they were also supported by the 158th Aviation Battalion (part of the 101st Air Wing), including, LANCERS, GHOST RIDERS, and DUSTOFFS. Fixed wing support was from the 220th Reconnaissance Aircraft Company (CATKILLER) AND 20TH Tactical Air Support Squadron (BARKY & BASKETBALL). Two Spooky gunships (Puff the Magic Dragon) were on station as well as TAC Air (Air Force F-4 Phantoms & Marine A-4 Skyhawks).

Like the Marine 1/9; Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment got the unlucky draw this time. Sgt Gattis, Hambleton and Tyrrel were nearing the end of their tours. Gattis was on medical profile with a punctured eardrum. A few weeks earlier he was out in the field—and manning an M-60 Machinegun in an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier when it was hit by two successive Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG). The RPG was effective for penetrating armored steel because it was armed with a shape charge, enabling it to explode forward and burn through the armor plate. The second RPG burst a hole in one of Gattis' eardrums and he was on light duty in the rear. Also wounded was in the incident was trooper and squad member Mike "Sandyman" Saunders. He sustained a severe laceration of his trigger finger from shrapnel and would keep him out of the field on June 18th.

Nevertheless, Lt Gallagher, Gattis' platoon leader, informed him that he would be needed on this upcoming mission, because they were sure to get into some heavy contact and also because of the recent influx FNGs, he would need all the battle tested veterans he could muster as a stabilizing force for the new men. Because they needed bodies in the field, he told him he would not be driving for his old squad, but he would be with the motor-pool track instead. This time he would not be with third Platoon SGT Harry Diehl, Sp4 James Hennessy, Sp4 Charles Emmert, an African American he remembers only as "Foots" and Sp4 Charles Emmertt—his replacement driver.

From LZ Sharron, it took the better part of two days to get to an area south of Highway 9 in the vicinity of FB Vandergrift and a lone shear rock escarpment situated on the flat surrounding plain 12 miles to the northeast called The Rockpile. When they arrived at the elongated ridgeline that they would set up their Night Defensive Perimeter on, two things would be out of the norm. This was the first time they had ever used concertina wire to circle the perimeter and it was also the first time that they were instructed to dig such elaborate foxholes, furnished with grenade sumps. Appearing as an afterthought by the company commander, multiple rolls of wire were chopped out to the night defensive perimeter. The coordinates of the NDP was XD883383.

Being about midday, the squad tracks split into platoon mounted

patrols and ran clover-leaf search and clears in several directions and received minor contact in the way of minor small arms fire. Meanwhile the command track, mortar track and motor pool track personnel, under the direction of Captain Perica stretched out the concertina in a large circle and dug deep foxholes. Gattis worked at this too with his new-found comrades from the motor pool, but the concertina wire—although it theoretically ringed the perimeter—the ends of the wire where it started and finished were concentrically off by almost forty meters. Unable to restring the wire to align it, because it was now dark, Captain Perica chose to fill that gap with the M48 tank belonging to Delta Company 1-77 Armor that was along with them. This would prove to be a fatal mistake that night. The motor pool track was placed directly behind the tank and Gattis' deep foxhole was located in front of the motor pool track.

Bill Hambleton was Captain Perica's RTO and was set up in a fox-hole near Perica in the center of the perimeter. Hambleton, from Pennsylvania, had heard the orders come over on the battalion net that a large enemy unit of unknown size—but probably battalion magnitude was out near the old Khe Sanh Marine base. Three companies of 1-61 were being sent to the area—two of the as blocking forces—but Bravo would end up in the engagement.

At dusk the squads returned and preparations were made for the night. Listening Posts were not put out, so the perimeter was on 100% alert. According to Keith Short's History of the 5th Infantry Division, at about 0335 the NVA hit and they hit hard. The mortars fired HE (High Explosive) and WP (White Phosphorus illumination), but the sapper assault was not unnerved. As it turned out, the tank was not enough to plug the gap in the wire and NVA poured into the perimeter as the tank was hit by two RPGs. Killed instantly by AK-47 fire, were Delta/ 1/77 tank commander Staff Sergeant Michael Hodge from Flint Michigan and Company Medic Sargent James Dolvin from St Albans, New York.

Meanwhile Gattis' field of fire was compromised and he could not return fire on the assaulting NVA. He spotted a silhouette close to the ground crawling toward him and thinking it was a tanker escaping the hit vehicle, he held fire till the approaching man was very close. Seeing now that he was in fact an NVA Sapper, he opened fire at point blank range killing the enemy soldier. At the same time, the tank driver seeing that he was now alone and vulnerable, backed the tank out of the gap in the wire, finally giving Gattis and his M60 machine gun a clear field of fire. The machinegun did what the tank could not do—namely to spray the entire 40 yard gap with concise grazing fire—thus stopping the assault through that breach. But the damage had been done and there were Sappers in the wire. At some point Spooky arrived on the scene and provided circular fire around the perimeter. Bill Hambleton remembers the firefight:

RTO Bill Hambleton: I was Perica's RTO. It had come in from battalion that they were expecting a big element of NVA to be in that area. So we had orders to move on this fairly large element—a battalion I guess. I think three Companies went out. I was with B Company. The first day out or so there was one of our patrols that made contact but never determined the size of the element and moved back to set up a perimeter. It was getting dark when all the platoons got back. This was the first time we used concertina wire that they flew out to us—although we might have had some wire but not on every track. The concertina wire was set up but it didn't line up. There was a gap. They were out of wire so they plugged it with a tank. The gooks must have been watching and saw that and when they hit us, that's where they came through. It was about 3:00 or 3:30 in the morning when we first got hit and it lasted till almost daylight. Some of them were inside the wire. There were two dead Gooks about ten meters from where I was. I was with the command post in the center of the perimeter. They did capture one Gook that was still alive in the morning. ————— SEE BROTHERS, PAGE 29

Brothers

FROM PAGE 28

[Also in the morning], a platoon of Marines was inserted into our company perimeter. I left the field on the 20th of June a few days later and left Vietnam when my tour was up in July. They sent me back a little bit early. I was part of the initial group sent from Fort Carson. The Puffs were there for us that night and also two nights later.

Meanwhile on the opposite side of the perimeter, Sgt William Howard and Spec-4 Roy Curry of the Weapons Platoon, shared a deep foxhole. This is how Bill put it:

We knew that they were going to hit us because we could smell 'em. That is why we ground-mounted the 50 and went deep into the ground. The first thing we heard was the tank blow and then the yelling that they were inside the wire. That is when the trips went off in front of us and all hell broke loose. I will never forget that night--remember it like it was last night—and Roy? Absolutely—I remember him well. We were in the fox-hole together when the shit started. He wouldn't run the 50; he said it jammed every time he touched it. We were penetrated on the opposite side of the perimeter from us when our Lt. called for me to come and help him. Roy said he would go—I was to stay and run the 50. I gave him my steel pot and flak jacket (drivers always lost their stuff) and out of the hole he went. We heard incoming and he dove for a hole. The mortar or rocket landed there with him. That is how Roy Curry was killed. I cried like hell that next morning when I was told. We were really close.

As stated the damage had been done. Sergeant Gattis' 2nd Platoon, third squad was nearly wiped out. Gone were Staff Sergeant Harold Diehl, Sergeant Robert Graham, Specialist 4th Class James Hennessy, Specialist 4th Class Charles Hunter, Specialist 4th Class Marc Aurele, Sergeant Paul Nervaaz, and the track driver Specialist Charles Emmert—the man that took Gattis' place. The lone survivor was "Foots". In the middle of the carnage, Foots—himself wounded—had no other option but to play dead and pull the body of one of his departed comrades over him. It saved his life but he felt abysmal about what he had to do in order to live another day. We combat veterans know the feeling well. It is called: survivor's guilt. Two motor Pool mechanics—Specialist 5th Class Melvin Mize and Specialist 5th Class Joseph Smith—were also killed.

The final toll of battle was 12 US troops killed and 18 seriously wounded and many ambulatory wounded. Enemy casualties were 38 NVA KIA and 1 POW. As Danny Mathers—a rifleman from Bravo—was searching some thickets inside the perimeter, an NVA sapper squirted out but he had nowhere to run. He was subdued with a small burst of gunfire but was only wounded. Captured were 9 AK-47s, 50 Chicom Grenades, and 100 pounds of satchel charges. The After Action Report—known at times for inaccuracies—recorded US WIA medivacs at 16. Normally, discrepancies in casualty numbers in official reports differ from remembrances of the combatants, as sometimes memories of individuals are clouded by time and the heat of battle. When the author asked Dave Gattis if he remembered roughly how many were medevaced, he responded, "Well yeah. I've got a list of 'em right here. Ok, here's what I've got" as he read off a string of names. "Howell, Stingle, Lambert, Gignac, Osborne, Connelly, Messer, McCarty, Moran, McLaughlin, Washington, Goods, Milton, Green, Grennus, and Givens." Then he explained, "When we got back in the rear—it wasn't but a few days later, we were all settin' around drinkin'—I had an old set of orders in my pocket and I made a list. I continue to carry a copy of that list today. There were so many dead and wounded and we'd never be able to remember them. So I set down and wrote all the names on those orders and put it in my billfold which I still carry a copy

today." Dave keeps the original in his scrap book protected behind cellophane. In addition to this list, counting the two tankers that were also medevaced the actual number was eighteen.

At 0530 the NVA element withdrew except for light sniper fire. The 18 wounded were medivaced first and 1Lt Gallagher ordered Gattis back out of the field since he was still on medical profile. He flew back to LZ Sharron with the dead. At 0700 an insertion of marines from A & D/1-9 was dropped in the area. They immediately moved out on recon patrols. One group was ambushed by small arms fire and grenades. One Marine was killed and 6 were wounded. Enemy casualties were 6 NVA KIA and one wounded. Two AK-47s and some enemy documents were captured. A second recon element of C/1-9 was ambushed by 51 caliber fire. Three Marines were killed but the machinegun was captured. As the Marines moved in to extract their dead, they were ambushed from three sides. Air strikes and artillery were called in and the outcome was 35 NVA killed, 4 AK-47s and 16 Chicom grenades captured. 1-9 suffered 9 KIA and 14 wounded. At the end of the day D/1-9 was airlifted to reinforce Bravo Company on their night perimeter. That ended that days fighting.

Sgt Russ Widener was with the mortar platoon with their three eighty-one millimeter gun emplacements. His point of view from the his position was slightly different. Here is how Widener remembers what he calls the Khe Sanh fight:

Sergeant Russ Widener: I had only been there [Vietnam] three or four weeks and our mortar crews were just on the other side of the hill from where the main battle was taking place. I was the only one running ammunition back and forth from the track to one particular gun. Track to the gun—track to the gun—back and forth. It was a little bit of a transfer and was a little exposed but I never thought that I was getting any fire at all. It was all happening on the other side of that little hill in the middle of the perimeter. The three guns were set up back there. I remember the next day when we were getting ready to move, I went out to pull out the aiming stakes and there were two bullet holes through one of the aiming stakes approximately about a foot or foot and a half above the ground. From the angle of the entrance and exit holes, I could see that they were shooting at me and I didn't even know it at the time. I can still remember pulling the aiming stakes and sitting down because my knees were too weak to support me at the time.

Citation:

The President of the United States takes pride, in presenting the Silver, Star Medal, (Posthumously) to Walter J. L. Griffin, (2450222) Private, First Class, U.S., Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, in action, while serving, as a Machine Gunner, with Company C, First, Battalion, Ninth, Marines, THIRD, Marine Division, in connection with combat operations, against the enemy, in the Republic, of Vietnam. On 18, June 1969, Private, First Class, Griffin's, platoon, was conducting, a patrol in the Khe Sanh, Valley, Quang Tri, Province, when the Marines, came under a heavy volume, of automatic weapons and rocket-propelled, grenade fire, from an estimated company-sized, North, Vietnamese, Army force, occupying, well-concealed emplacements. Although seriously wounded, during the initial moments, of the fire fight, Private, First Class, Griffin, commenced delivering, devastatingly, accurate fire, against, the enemy unit. Resolutely maintaining, his exposed position, he enabled his platoon, to reorganize and evacuate, the injured to a position, of relative safety. Steadfastly, refusing medical attention, Private, First Class, Griffin, completely disregarded, his own painful wounds and continued, to fire at the enemy, until he was mortally wounded, by a hostile, hand grenade, which impacted near him. His bold, initiative and timely actions, inspired all, who observed him and contributed significantly, to the defeat, of the North, Vietnamese, Army force. By his courage, aggressive, fighting spirit and

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Brothers

FROM PAGE 29

selfless devotion, to duty, in the face, of extreme personal danger, Private, First Class, Griffin, upheld, the highest traditions, of the Marine Corps and of the United States, Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life, for his country. Home Town: Hawkins, Texas

On the 19th of June, the Marines of C/1-9 found a large bunker complex 2 clicks west of the previous day's fighting. Airstrikes and artillery resulted in 7 more NVA KIA. Meanwhile, Bravo Company and D/1-9, encountered an enemy force. Spooky was again called in and enemy casualty results were unknown. There was one Marine killed. Bravo Company had a relatively quiet night on the 19th but fired M-79 all night as recon by fire. This was a strong indication that the men on the perimeter could hear the NVA probing for weak spots. Hambleton again remembers:

RTO Bill Hambleton: On the 19th we didn't get hit but the whole night long we were shooting M-79 rounds—H&Is all night long. That may have deterred the NVA that night.

On June 20th, Bravo Company and D/1-9 Marines at XD827385, were attacked at 0530. Bravo suffered two killed. They were the XO, 1LT William Long from El Paso, Texas and Staff Sergeant James Parker from Blauvelt, New York. Enemy casualties were 26 NVA KIA and 1 POW. Captured was 18 AK-47s and 4 machineguns. On the same day, in a rocket attack at FSB Vandergrift, Lt Brian Heath, Sp4 Theodore Baltezare and Sgt Richard Joy—Captain John Langston's track driver—were killed, having been sent to the rear by the CO to be in a place of supposed safety. The above information of the previous four paragraphs was taken from the Joint Task Group Guadalcanal After Action Report-Operation UTAH MESA, 12 June 1969 - 9 July 1969. Hambleton again gives his memories on the 2th:

RTO Bill Hambleton: Then on the 20th we got hit again. They came in on the third platoon side of the perimeter with small arms fire and RPGs. Lieutenant Long—who was the XO and a platoon sergeant—Staff Sergeant Parker— got killed that night. Lieutenant Heath and Richard Joy were in the rear at a base camp and there was a mortar attack and they were in a jeep. Joy was an RTO. Gattis Terrell and myself were the last to leave the company of the originals that came from Fort Carson.

In three days of fighting total friendly casualties of the combined Army/Marine force were 27 killed and some 51 Stretcher wounded and as many walking casualties. Enemy casualties were 132 NVA KIA and 2 POWS with another 200 probable KIAs.

In an unrelated incident at 1600 hours, an M-48 Tank from D/1-77 and attached to Team Bravo, ran over a mine wounding 6 tankers.

ARMY SOLDIERS KILLED

Sp4 Roy Curry	age 21	Gresham, OR
PSgt Harry Diehl	age 28	Oceanside CA
Sp4 Charles W Emmert	age 23	Navarre, OH
Sgt Robert L Graham	age 22	Eota, MI
Sp4 James D. Hennessy	age 22	Mount Clemens, MI
Sp4 Charles L Hunter	age 23	Starkville, MS
Sp4 Marc Aurele	age 20	Voluntown, CT
Sp5 Melvin L Mize	age 22	Lake City, FL
Sgt Paul R Navaez	age 21	San Antonio, TX
Sp5 Joseph F Smith	age 21	Jacksonville, FL
SSG Michael Hodge	age 22	Flint, MI
Sgt James Dolvin	age 21	St Albans, NY
Sgt James Parker	age 29	Blauvelt, NY
Lt William Long	age 24	El Paso, TX
Lt Brian Heath	age 20	Tampa, FL
Sgt Richard Joy	age 25	Binghamton, NY
Sp4 Theodore Baltezare	age 21	Gettysburg, SD
Francis G Ruppert	age 21	Cumberland, MD

MARINES KILLED

Pfc Michael D Boyer	age 21	Portland, OR
Pfc Robert G Carr	age 21	S Holland, IL
Lcpl Edward W. Charles	age 21	Gillet, AR
Lcpl Frank Cruz	age 21	Yakima, WA
Pfc Walter J Griffin	age 21	Hawkins, TX
2Lt Garry W. Letson	age 21	San Francisco, CA
Cpl Enrique Miramontez	age 21	Anthony, TX

NAVAL CORPSMEN KILLED

Hn Thomas D Naughton	age 21	Dearborn, MI
Hm3 Paul A Rezendes	age 21	Plymouth, MA

Chris Martin and the Americal Division

Chris Martin, my good friend and companion for a year at the 52nd Ordinance Company at Clarksville Naval Base was sent to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 196rd Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. He arrived in mid-July like the rest of the 52nd Ordinance levy.

Chris distinguished himself there with a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and Army Commendation Medal for Valor and three Purple Hearts. He distinguished himself on many occasions but particularly on September 22, 1969. While a sister company had been ambushed and pinned down by an aggressive force of NVA of unknown size, Martin and his squad volunteered to be choppered in hot to see if they could spring their Americal brothers loose. Nine were already dead and more than a dozen wounded. Coming in under heavy fire, his squad scattered and everyone but he and one other were instantly pinned down in some sparse cover on an open and exposed hillside. He rallied his men and organized an assault, placing his men in strategic positions. Continuing up the hill now with good cover fire from his men, he took out a machinegun bunker singlehandedly and redirected the fire of his men on to the remaining NVA bunkers and spider holes. At some point Corporal Martin and James O'Shields were wounded. Corporal Martin—bleeding heavily—zigzagged his way up to O'Shields, first pulling him to cover and then treating his wounds to stop the bleeding and prevent shock till a medic could make his way up the hill through the machinegun fire. Then he devoted his attention to the remaining positions and returned to the point of contact. He and his men then routed the rest of the enemy force. Nine men from Martin's sister company—Bravo—including a helicopter pilot were killed and eighteen were wounded. Martin had five other of his men wounded. Martin was instrumental in getting all twenty-three loaded on medivacs before he was extracted from Nui Lam Mountain.

Martin recovered from his wound and was promoted to Sergeant. He was also called into the Battalion HQ and was told by a colonel that he would be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and nominated for the Medal of Honor. There was one catch—he had to extend his tour six months. Without hesitating to think it over, Martin replied in the negative and the DSC offer was withdrawn. The meeting with the battalion commander ended there. Many years later, while Chris was battling cancer, an attempt was made to re-nominate him for the Medal of Honor by the US Congressmen in his district, but due to his failing health, he died before he could receive this honor and the family let the process die with him.

When Chris died a few years ago and I met his brother, son and ex-wife. His citations are below with the witness statements written on his behalf.

Letter from Robert Amey

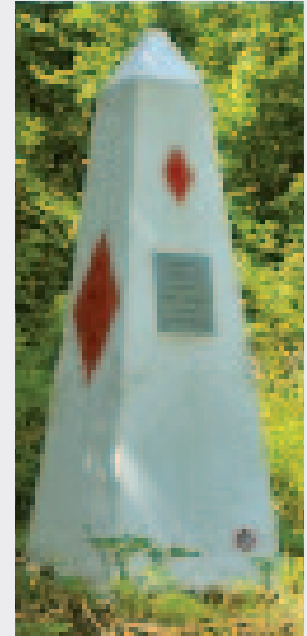
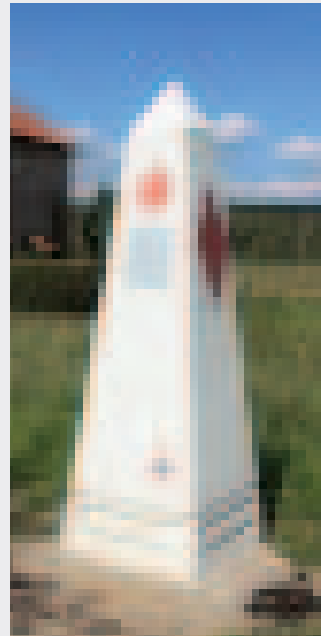
I am writing in regards to Christopher Martin whom I served with in Vietnam. We were in company D, 3rd Battalion, 196th light infantry Brigade. I witnessed a man, who I considered a real American Hero. Chris put his life on the line more than once, with no regard for his own safety to save his fellow Soldier. A soldier, James O'Shields, was wounded seriously in the open on the side of a hill.

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RESTORATION OF WW1 MONUMENTS IN FRANCE

Activated on 11 Dec 1917, the Fifth Division arrived in France on 1 May 1918 and spent 104 days in the front line, suffering 2,120 killed and 6,996 wounded as they fought across St Mihiel, Frapelle, and the Meuse Argonne.

Immediately after the WWI armistice, soldiers of the Fifth Division in France erected a series of 28 small concrete obelisks on all of the battlefields where the division had been fighting. They all include the distinctive red diamond insignia of the division, as well as a metal plaque giving details of the fighting in the area. Almost a century later, the years have not been kind to these field memorials, as pictured found on the Route de Loupy by Juvigny.



Camp Jackson October 4, 1921

This Week in History

On Oct. 4, 1921, the 5th Infantry Division was deactivated at Camp Jackson. With the deactivation of the 5th ID, all training activities of the Army ceased at Camp Jackson. Wrecking companies were hired to tear down nearly 2,000 buildings and tear up almost 126,000 feet of sewer lines. The land that Camp Jackson had occupied reverted to the original land owners and the City of Columbia. The 5th Infantry Division, also known as the Red Diamonds, trained at Camp Jackson from the summer of 1919 until October 1921. During World War I, the German troops nicknamed the 5th Infantry Division "Die roten Teufel", or the Red Devils, because of their ferocity during the Saint-Mihiel campaign. During that battle, the 5th ID captured more than 1,200 German Soldiers, and 21 Soldiers were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



Article courtesy--Pedro Marzan

Brothers FROM PAGE 30

Chris crawled down the hill to him while under intense enemy fire, completely in the open, and placed his own body over the soldier. He covered him until the dustoff arrived, picked Jimmy O'Shields up and carried him down the hill to the chopper. Again still under fire, and almost by himself, Chris loaded the wounded on the helicopter. After the chopper left, Chris maneuvered up the hill while the remaining few of us shot cover for him. He made it to the enemy fortification, fought with two enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand combat using a bayonet that he took from one of them, and he killed both enemy soldiers. The personal bravery and numerous risks to his own safety, for that matter his own life—to me—were unbelievable. I have seen many heroes during my time in Vietnam, but I never witnessed someone who so distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty. When you see someone put his own life on the line repeatedly in battle situations, it is beyond belief. We were under intense circumstances where we lost many of those with us, and several others wounded. I would strongly recommend and urge that this man—Chris Martin—is deserved of any medal... of the highest order—The Metal of Honor be awarded in this case. I can think of no one who would deserve it more. I am proud to have served with such a unique individual, a true hero and never will I forget what he did for all of us that served with him

Robert Amey

Letter from James O'Shields

I, James E O'Shields, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, was with Corporal Christopher Martin on September 22nd 1969. Our platoon was dropped off on a hill to reinforce other friendly elements near Vinh Deng, Vietnam.

It was late afternoon. Corporal Martin and I were working our way up the hill. As we approached the top of the hill, I was shot by a sniper. I called for Corporal Martin to help me. We were under enemy fire and Corporal Martin worked his way over to where I was. Corporal Martin called for medical help and stayed with me. I was seriously wounded and Corporal Martin covered me from enemy fire and kept me from going into shock until medical help arrived.

Corporal Martin arranged to have me moved back down the hill and out of hostile fire. I did not know it at the time but seven people were killed and 18 were wounded. Myself and six others were airlifted to the rear area. I was in the hospital for over 10 months due to my injury.

I feel that Corporal Martin's personal bravery and the risk of his own life under fire to come to my aid, distinguishes himself above and beyond the call of duty. I know without Corporal Martin's help, I would not be alive today...

James O'Shields

Cpl Chis Martin Silver Star

For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Corporal Martin distinguished himself by intrepid actions on 22 September 1969 while serving as a squad leader with company D, 3rd Battalion 21st infantry. On that date the company was combat assaulted into an area near Vinh Dong to reinforce other friendly elements that were engaged in heavy fighting with a large enemy Force. Immediately upon touch-down, Corporal Martin organized his men and led a fierce assault against the enemy fortifications. After successfully deploying his comrades, Corporal Martin quickly succeeded in overrunning a key hostile bunker and then directed effective

suppressive fire on the remaining enemy positions. Although seriously wounded during the ensuing battle he continued to move about the area to distribute ammunition until he spotted a wounded fellow soldier fall in an exposed area. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Corporal Martin maneuvered through the hostile fusillade to the side of the casualty and carried him from the battlefield. After skillfully administering first-aid he returned to the point of contact, rallied his squad members and again began advancing against strategic enemy emplacements. Closing with the determined insurgents, Corporal Martin successfully routed them from the area, enabling subsequent airlifts to be completed with minimal delay. His courageous and timely actions were instrumental in saving the life of a fellow soldier, and in defeating the large enemy force, and in the overall success of the mission. Corporal Martin's personal heroism, professional confidence and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division and the United States Army.

Bronze Star with V

Sergeant Christopher Martin of the United States Army who distinguished himself by outstandingly meritorious service in the connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam During the period July 1969 to March 1970. He consistently manifested exemplary professionalism and initiative in obtaining outstanding results. His rapid assessment and solution of the numerous problems inherent in a combat environment greatly enhance the allied effectiveness against a determined and aggressive enemy. Despite many adversities, he invariably performed his duties in a resolute and efficient manner. Energetically applying his sound judgment and extensive knowledge, he has contributed materially to the successful accomplishment of the United States' mission in the Republic of Vietnam. His loyalty, diligence and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself in the United States Army.

Army Commendation Medal with V

For heroism in connection with a military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Corporal Martin distinguished himself by valorous actions on November 10th 1969 while serving with Company D 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry. On that date the company was establishing its night defensive position near Quan Tam Ky when it came under intense hostile grenade fire from a well-concealed enemy force. In the ensuing battle, two friendly soldiers were critically wounded and a medevac aircraft were dispatched to the site. When the helicopter arrived, Corporal Martin gallantly left his relatively secure position and exposed himself to the hostile fusillade to guide the helicopter to the designated landing zone. He then assisted in evacuating his wounded comrades, remaining in an open area until the casualties had been removed from the battle zone. His courageous and timely actions were highly instrumental in the swift extraction of the wounded personnel and served as an inspiration to the remainder of the unit. Corporal Martin's heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

The names of those killed on the Mountain are as follows: Barry Alexander (Helicopter pilot), Danny, Dupres, Larry Ellis, Fred Gold, James Hall, Clinton Miller, Mark Surber, Johnnie Williams, and Lowry Cuthbert. The last eight are from the sister company—Bravo.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY

— 18 September 2016 —

—◆— **ARTICLE 1** —◆—
"NAME"

The name of this Society shall be, "The Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army."

—◆— **ARTICLE II** —◆—
"OBJECTS"

The Objects of this Society shall be:

A. To perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the Fifth Division; to electrify and unify that invisible current of fellowship, friendship and comradeship moulded in the throes of war and the exigencies of a peacetime service, and promote the interests and welfare of its members.

B. To publish and preserve the history of the accomplishments of the Fifth Division and the Society, in war and peace, and set forth the gallant and heroic deeds of its members.

—◆— **ARTICLE III** —◆—
"MEMBERSHIP"

Membership in this Society shall be of four kinds: Annual, Associate, Honorary, and Life members. Membership will be comprised of: (1) members of Local Camps, and (2) members at large who do not belong to any Local Camp.

A. ELIGIBILITY: Those who served honorably as officers and enlisted men in the Fifth Infantry Division during its periods of activation are eligible to become members of this Society.

B. ANNUAL: An Annual member is one whose dues are fully paid yearly. Delinquent members will be dropped from the Society rolls three months after the date of expiration of dues.

C. ASSOCIATE: Associate membership in this Society may be conferred upon any member of a family of a Fifth Division veteran, or any person who did not serve in the Fifth Division, but who is inter-

ested in the activities of the Society upon payment of annual dues as required in Section A. of ARTICLE VI hereof. Associate Members shall not have the right to vote under Section E. of ARTICLE V hereof. They are extended the choice of becoming an Annual or Life member.

D. HONORARY: Honorary membership in this Society may be conferred upon any individual to whom the membership may wish to give special recognition or reward, through election by majority vote of those in attendance at an Annual Meeting. Honorary members are required to pay dues and are not entitled to vote: They may also become Annual or Life members.

E. LIFE: Any member wishing to become a LIFE member may do so by paying the following one-time dues: age less than 61, \$150.00; age 61-69, \$75.00; age over 70, \$50.00. All LIFE members are subject to any special assessments declared by the Executive Board or adopted at any meeting.

—◆— **ARTICLE IV** —◆—
"LOCAL CAMPS"

Inasmuch as members of the Society are widely scattered throughout the United States, authority is vested in the Executive Board to organize branches of the Society to be known as Camps. Because of the greater benefits to be enjoyed through Camp membership, every Society member shall be urged by the National President to affiliate with the Local Camp of his choice.

—◆— **ARTICLE V** —◆—
"ORGANIZATION"

A. OFFICERS: The following National Officers shall be elected annually for one-year terms:

- National President
- National 1st Vice President
- National 2nd Vice President
- National Secretary
- National Treasurer
- National Historian
- National Chaplain
- National Judge Advocate
- National Editor

And such Honorary Officers as the Society may authorize.

Constitution

FROM PAGE 33

Duties of National Officers:

1. **NATIONAL PRESIDENT:** The National President (or, in his absence, the National 1st Vice President, or National 2nd Vice President) shall preside at the meetings of the Society. The National President shall be responsible for the administration of the Society in all functions and undertakings, in accordance with the policies established by the Executive Board or the membership in meeting assembled. The National President shall be the Chairman of the Executive Board.

2. **NATIONAL 1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** The National First Vice President shall perform the duties of the National President in the absence of that official, and shall serve in any administrative capacity designated by the National President. In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity in other matters of the National President, the National 1st Vice President shall succeed to the office of National President and continue in the office until the next election.

3. **NATIONAL 2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** The National Second Vice President shall serve in any administrative capacity designated by the National President. In the event of the National First Vice President's succession to the National Presidency, the National Second Vice President shall be termed simply "The National Vice President."

4. **NATIONAL SECRETARY:** The National Secretary shall be the Statistical Officer of the Society, being responsible for keeping complete and up-to-date files of the names, addresses, and former military organizations of members of the Society. The National Secretary shall be responsible for keeping a separate list showing the members by Camps and the geographical localities in which they live. The National Secretary shall keep a list of names and addresses of all parties with whom the Society deals. The National Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the Society, shall keep a file of all correspondences of the Society, and shall be responsible that all members of the Society are properly notified of all meetings of the Society in time for them to act on the notification. The National Secretary shall remit to the National Treasurer all monies received for the Society on the 1st and 15th of each month. Upon termination of National

Secretary's term of office, the National Secretary shall turn over all the Society's files, software and equipments to the successor.

5. **NATIONAL TREASURER:** The National Treasurer shall be responsible for the reception, disbursement, and safekeeping of all funds pertaining to the Society and shall render an annual accounting for the same which shall be audited and distributed to all members of the Society. All checks issued by the National Treasurer against Society funds must be approved by the National President or supported by appropriate statements or invoices. The National Treasurer shall arrange for a suitable bond for all the elected officers of the Society, and shall furnish a copy to the National President and the National Secretary. Upon termination of his term of office, the National Treasurer shall turn over to his successor all Society funds, records and files.

6. **NATIONAL HISTORIAN:** The National Historian shall be responsible for preparing, publishing, and preserving historical data pertaining to the Fifth Division, the Society and its Annual Reunions, and the deeds of the officers and men thereof. The National Historian shall be the custodian of the History of the Fifth Division, and shall render an annual accounting and report to the Society.

7. **NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:** The National Chaplain shall conduct the devotional and memorial services at the meetings of the society, and perform the usual duties of chaplain of a veteran's organization.

8. **NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE:** The National Judge Advocate's duty shall be to advise the National President and the Executive Board on the legality and constitutionality of all questions and matters submitted to the National President.

9. **NATIONAL EDITOR:** The duties of the National Editor shall be to publish quarterly the Red Diamond magazine to the membership of the Society from a list provided by the National Secretary.

B. EXECUTIVE BOARD: Government of this Society shall be vested in an Executive Board composed of elected Active Members who have demonstrated an enthusiastic, constructive interest in the Society and who shall be selected annually as follows:

1. Two Past National Presidents.

—SEE CONSTITUTION, PAGE 35

Constitution

FROM PAGE 34

2. All elected officers shall be members of the Executive Board.

3. The National President shall be Chairman of the Executive Board.

4. The Executive Board is authorized and empowered to direct and conduct the business of the Society and to order the National Officers to make such disbursements as it deems necessary to conduct the Society's business. Issues considered by the Executive Board shall be determined by a majority vote of those members of the Board present at a meeting of the Board. When the Board votes by mail, the issue shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast.

C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE: There shall be a president's advisory Committee, constituted as follows:

1. All National Officers.

2. All living Past Presidents who are Active Members.

3. One representative from each Active Camp, to be chosen by the Camp and so certified by the National President.

4. Eight members – at-large - to be chosen geographically as follows:

◆ Two from the Northeast (region east of the Mississippi River and North of the Ohio River extended).

◆ Two from the Southeast (region east of the Mississippi River and South of the Ohio River extended).

◆ Two from the West (region west of the Mississippi River).

◆ Two Vietnam veterans at large.

The functions of the Advisory Committee shall be to bring before the National President any and all questions and recommendations pertaining to the welfare of the Society which may arise in the Camps, and to advise and consult with the National President on any matters the National President cares to submit to them.

D. ELECTIONS: All National Officers and the Executive Board shall be elected for one-year terms at the Annual Business Meeting held at the Society's Annual Reunion, by a majority of the votes cast. In the event no Annual Reunion is held, the annual election shall be conducted by mail in a

manner to be determined by the Executive Board.

E. VOTING: Voting for National Officers, Members of the Executive Board, and on all other matters coming before the Annual or Special Meeting shall be as follows:

Each active member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Voting of the Active Membership of Local Camps shall be delegates selected not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting, one delegate and one alternate for each ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing. The delegate or delegates of each Local Camp present at the Annual Meeting shall be entitled, as determined by the Credentials Committee. Such Credential Committee shall be appointed by the National President at each meeting. Active members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting, who are not members of a Local Camp shall cast their individual votes. At Special Meetings of the Society, the votes of Active Members in good standing shall be cast in the same manner, except the requirement for election delegates by Local Camps thirty (30) days prior shall not apply. Local Camps shall submit to the National Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting a list of the duly elected delegates and alternates as herein before provided. In case camps are formed after the thirty (30) day period provided for above before the Annual Meeting they shall be allowed to elect their delegates.

The term "Active Member in good standing" shall be taken to mean Active Members with National dues paid up to thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

F. FISCAL PERIOD: For the purpose of accounting for receipts and expenditures of the Society, the fiscal year shall end on December 31st of each year.

G. INABILITY OF ELECTED OFFICERS TO CARRY OUT DUTIES: In case of the inability of any elected officer to carry out the duties of his office, the National President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may appoint a member of the Society to fill the unexpired term of such elected Officer.

H. QUARTERMASTER AND WEB ADMINIS-

—SEE CONSTITUTION, PAGE 36

Constitution

FROM PAGE 35

TRATOR: The National President shall appoint a Quartermaster and Web Administrator with the approval of the Executive Board.

—◆— ARTICLE VI —◆— "DUES and ASSESSMENTS"

A. DUES: To be an Annual, Associate, or Honorary Member of this Society, any qualified person shall pay annual National Dues of \$15.00 per year, or other amount set by the Executive Board, plus whatever local dues are set by the Local Camp to which the member belongs. The annual period of membership shall run for Twelve (12) months from the date that the dues are received by the National Secretary of the Society.

B. INITIATION FEE: There shall be no National Initiation Fee.

C. ASSESSMENTS: Assessments may be levied upon Active Members of the Society by a two-thirds majority vote of the Active Members thereof present.

D. CONTRIBUTIONS: Any member of the Society may make contributions to the Society, and may indicate in connection therewith the exact purpose for which such contribution may be used, and if the purpose is so designated by the contributor, said contribution may not be used for any other purpose without the consent of the contributor. All contributions shall be separately accounted for, and recorded in the annual report of the Treasurer of the Society.

—◆— ARTICLE VII —◆— "EMBLEM and CREST"

The emblem and the crest of the Society shall be the same as those adopted as the Fifth Division emblem and the Fifth Division crest, with proper modification of inscription to conform to the requirements of the Society.

—◆— ARTICLE VIII —◆— "ANNUAL REUNIONS and MEETINGS"

— — — ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ◆ ଶାଖାରେ — — —

The date and place of the next Annual Reunion and Meeting shall be fixed by majority vote of those entitled to vote for National Officers at the Annual Business Meeting. In the event that a

meeting place and date cannot be fixed at the annual meeting, the decision shall be made by the Executive Board.

—◆— ARTICLE IX —◆— "Headquarters"

The Headquarters of the Society shall be deemed to be the city in which the National Secretary lives.

—◆— ARTICLE X —◆— "AMENDMENTS"

This constitution may be amended in either of two ways:

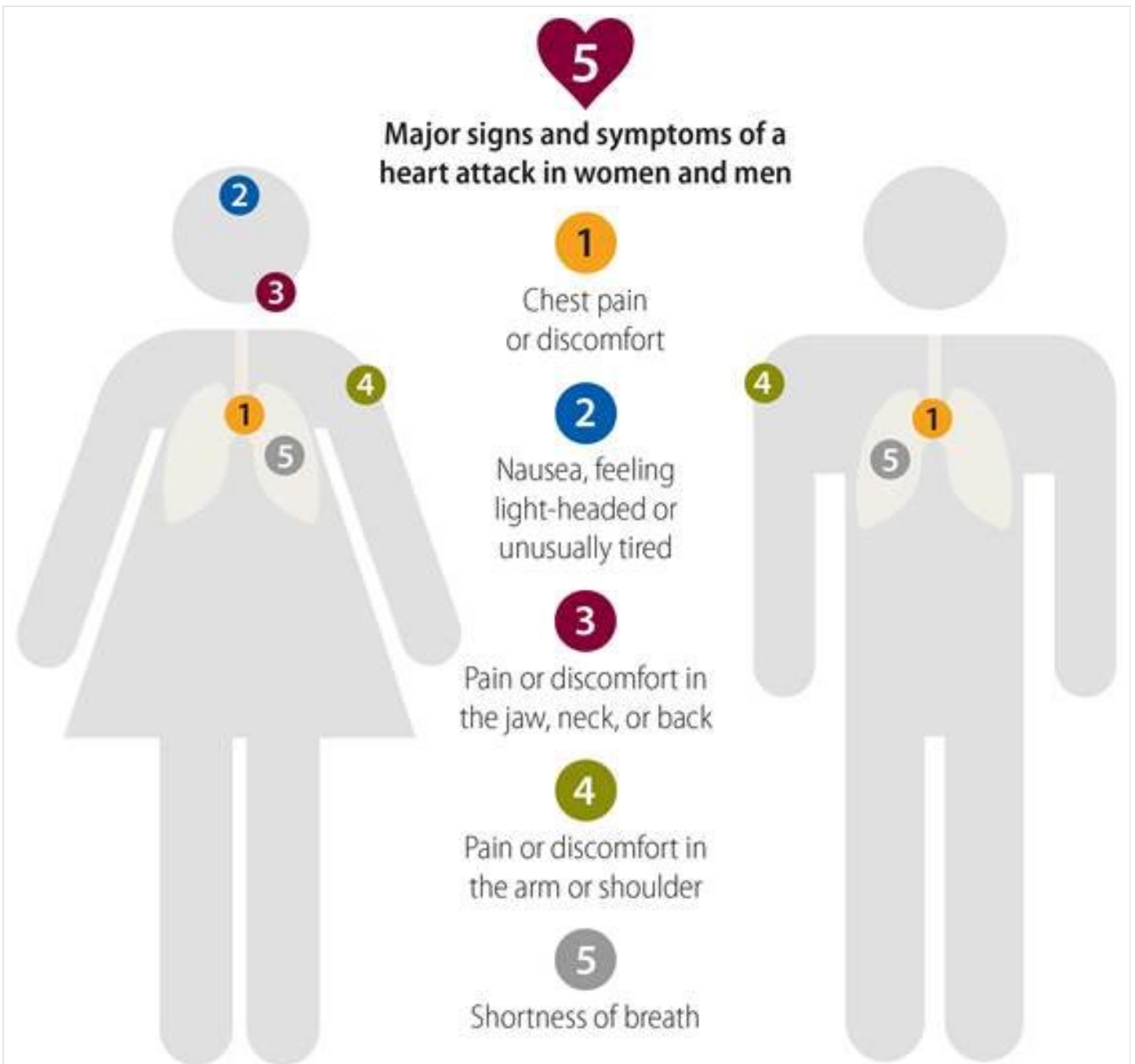
A. By a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at an Annual Meeting in conformity with the provisions of Section E, VOTING, of ARTICLE V, ORGANIZATION of this Constitution.

B. By a two-thirds majority of the votes cast when a proposed amendment is submitted to the Active Members for a mail vote. Amendments may be proposed by any member or Camp. Each amendment shall be presented to the membership for consideration, with the Board's favorable or unfavorable recommendation, at the Annual Meeting or to be voted upon by mail.

—◆— ARTICLE XI —◆— "DISSOLUTION"

Upon the dissolution, or cessation of existence, of the Society, all historical materials in the custody of the National Historian and other such records (e.g. files of the National Secretary) shall be turned over to any Museum of the Fifth Infantry Division which exists at that time. Should there be no such museum, the afore mentioned materials shall be deposited with the U.S. Army Military History Institute. After payment of all indebtedness, all other assets (e.g. monetary or other such assets) shall be distributed by the Executive Board, as constituted at the time of dissolution or cessation of existence, to the Patton museum at Fort Knox, Ky, and/or other entities, including but not limited to, the Battle of Normandy Foundation; the museums Clervaux and Diekirch, Luxembourg; and any VA medical center recreation fund deemed appropriate.

Heart Attack Signs and Symptoms



There are five major signs and symptoms of a heart attack in women and men. Click on the image to view a larger version.

The five major symptoms of a heart attack are

- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back.
- Feeling weak, light-headed, or faint.
- Chest pain or discomfort.
- Pain or discomfort in arms or shoulder.
- Shortness of breath.

Other symptoms of a heart attack could include unusual or unexplained tiredness and nausea or vomiting. Women are more likely to have these other symptoms. [Learn more about women and heart disease.](#)

Call 9-1-1

If you notice the symptoms of a heart attack in yourself or someone else, **call 9-1-1 immediately**. The sooner you get to an emergency room, the sooner you can receive treatment to prevent total blockage and heart muscle damage or reduce the amount of damage. At the hospital, health care professionals can run tests to determine whether a heart attack is occurring and decide the best treatment.

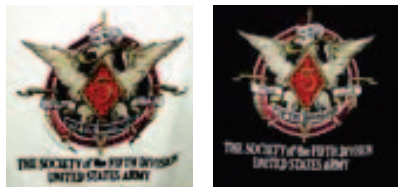
In some cases, a heart attack requires cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or electrical shock (defibrillation). Bystanders trained to use CPR or a defibrillator may be able to help until emergency medical personnel arrive.

Remember, the chances of surviving a heart attack are greater the sooner emergency treatment begins.

QUARTERMASTER REPORT

Following are pictures and descriptions of merchandise that is available for sale from the Quartermaster

Society of the 5th Division Polo Shirts



Black or White Polo Shirt w/embroidered logo design. Choice of short or long sleeve. Cotton/Polyester (50/50) Cotton/Polyester (50/50). Specify size: Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$40 Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$50 S & H: 1 shirt - \$5; 2 shirts - \$7.50 Larger orders: Contact the Quartermaster

Society of the 5th Division T-Shirts



Black or White T-Shirt w/embroidered logo design. Choice of Short or Long Sleeve. Cotton/Polyester (50/50). Specify size: Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$25 Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$30 S & H: 1 shirt - \$5; 2 shirts - \$7.50 Larger orders: Contact the Quartermaster



PIN (Hat/Lapel)
1 Inch Red Diamond,
Silver finish metal
Cloussonné, \$5.00 ea.

Shipping & Handling Add \$1.50 for order of 1 to 10 pin
Contact Quartermaster for larger orders

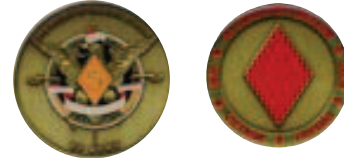
Pins Temporarily out of stock contact QM before ordering.

Fifth Division Hats

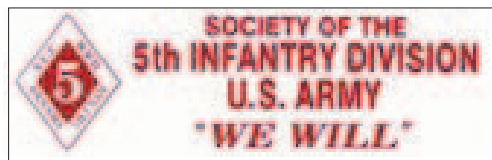
w/embroidered logo design, adjustable, \$15.00 ea. plus \$6.00 shipping costs. Contact Quartermaster for larger orders



Fifth Infantry Division Challenge Coin



Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin (front and back shown): \$10.00 ea. w/shipping and handling included. Antique gold (sandblasted texture) w/epoxy finish; 1 1/2" x 3/8". Detail is exquisite. This is the only authorized Challenge Coin issued by the Society of the Fifth Division.



Bumper Sticker: "WE WILL" BumperSticker; 1 1/2" x 3"; \$1.00 ea. Add \$1.15 forshipping and handling for each order.



Compilations of New York Times Articles: This is the book which was made available to those who attended the Reunion. It is available now at our cost of \$9 plus \$9 shipping/handling for a total cost of \$18. Contact Quartermaster for larger orders.

Dennis W. Coulter - Quartermaster
4118 E. Stanford St.,
Springfield, Mo 65809
email: dwcoulter1@aol.com



SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION
John Estrada - National Secretary
P.O. Box 5764
Oroville, CA 95966-8823

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“WE WILL”

**THE
SOCIETY
OF THE
FIFTH
DIVISION
UNITED
STATES
ARMY**

MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME
AND ADDRESS CLEARLY.

Having served honorably
with the Fifth Infantry
Division, I wish to:

- become a member in
- renew my membership in

... the Society of the
Fifth Division as:

- a full member
- an Associate Member

and herewith submit my
annual dues of \$15.00,
to include a year's
subscription to the *Red
Diamond Magazine*.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I served in _____

Co, Bty, Trp / Battalion / Regiment / Brigade

- WW-II
- Vietnam
- Panama

Other _____

\$ _____ Gift to the Society.

Make checks payable to: **Society of the Fifth Division**

**Send to: Secretary: John Estrada
Society of the Fifth Division
P.O. Box 5764
Oroville, CA 95966-8823**

The dues for membership in the Society are \$15.00 for annual membership. Any member wishing to become a LIFE member may do so by paying the following one-time dues: age less than 61, \$150.00; age 61-69, \$75.00; age over 70, \$50.00. All LIFE members are subject to any special assessments declared by the Executive Board or adopted at any meeting.