



THE 12TH CAV Trooper



Semper Paratus

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

Volume XIX, Issue 1

February, 2022

A Troop Reunion 2021

Reunion 2021 is in the books; in fact, 2021 itself is in the books. Here are some of the highlights of the reunion in Albuquerque.

It was a real treat to meet and get to know first time attendee, Millard "Crockett" Dumas. He and his partner Terri Bannister are both interesting folks who along with Brody their dog were a welcome addition to the gathering.

Twenty-six Troopers attended, along with 27 family members and friends. Highlights included an excursion on the Sandia Peak Aerial Tram up to near the top of that mountain overlooking Albuquerque, the Ladies Luncheon, and the Banquet. Aside from the buffet dinner during the banquet, key aspects of that were a "Welcome Home" flag-line by the Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Moms and a presentation about the history of the US Cavalry in New Mexico and recent activities of the New Mexico National Guard, by the Assistant Adjutant General, BG Jamison Herrera.

Notable activities undertaken by individual Troopers and families included hot-air balloon rides, shopping for Southwest clothing and jewelry, museum visits, and savoring New Mexican cuisine.

Now, it is on to Las Vegas for Reunion 2022! Forward, HO!

Bob Richards Hq. 1970

Chairman's Corner

We have important news concerning our website. Our website is awesome and it all started with the work of Cheryal Taylor, and has been maintained by George Gersaba, and paid for by Charles Cooper. Of course, many others have contributed, by adding uploading pictures and comments. Unfortunately, the internet has changed and the coding became obsolete and unworkable. Also we needed to take over the financial responsibility of maintaining its existence.

We are now (<https://atroop412cav.net>). The old address can still be brought up, but the new address will be easier to update and will have fewer problems.

In the early days of reuniting, Frank Canda set up the "Commo Net" through "topica.com". Topica has long since folded. The excitement of hearing from long lost friends and sharing stories of time in Vietnam was exhilarating. After a few years the stories dwindled. Cheryal Taylor has taken the stories and categorized them by date, platoon, events, etc. These stories are a must read for any trooper, or any American who wants to know what the daily life of a field soldier in Vietnam was like. It includes living conditions, practical jokes, fire fights, personal feelings, etc. All written in short statements that were harvested off the commo net. You can download it print it. (I think it's over two hundred pages). Once you start reading it you will not want to put it down.

If you are having difficulties with the web site, would like to add, or find things missing, let us know and we'll do our best to improve the site.

John Sharpe Chairman



Reunion Registration Form

Trooper Name	_____	Registration Fee	\$50.00	_____
Platoon /Year	_____	No Registration fee for Guests		
Guests Names	_____	Banquet @ \$50.00 per person		_____

	_____	Total Cost		_____

	_____	Ladies Luncheon	(No Cost)	
	_____	Number of attendees		_____

Please make your checks out to : **A Troop**

Mail Checks to :

Keith Eaton
5548 Hazelwood Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Reunion 2022 Las Vegas, Nevada

We will be returning to Las Vegas for our 21st reunion. The reunion will be hosted by the 1st Platoon's Jim Rinaldi and Ken Dye. At the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, From Wednesday October 5th thru Sunday October 9th. Our room rate this year will be available two days prior to the reunion and two days after our event. We will have a hospitality suite from Wednesday 10/5 thru Saturday 10/8. The banquet will be Saturday night 10/8.

Room Rates: The hotel has added a new tourist rate on to the cost of the room. Our room rates with all fees and taxes will be \$74.81 weekdays and \$147.38 for Friday and Saturday

To make reservations either go on-line to (www.GoldCoast.com/Groups) or you can call 888-402-6278. You must use our ID# AT4J22C to get our Troop room rate. The Cut off date for registrations is September 3, 2022. Hope to see you all there. Rag

If you have any Questions contact Jim Rinaldi at 585-314-8782 or my home phone 585-392-6288



Women enjoying a new diversion thanks to Shirley Curry

2022 Cav Store Order Form

Hats:

Black	Cav Crest	_____	Crossed Sabers	_____
White	Cav Crest	_____	Crossed Sabers	_____
Red			Crossed Sabers	_____

Golf Shirts :

Black	Cav Crest	_____	Crossed Sabers	_____
White	Cav Crest	_____	Crossed Sabers	_____
Red			Crossed Sabers	_____
S-XL		2X and Up		

Sweat Shirts :

Black	Cav Crest	_____	Crossed Sabers	_____
White	Cav Crest	_____	Crossed Sabers	_____
Pink	Sisterhood	_____		
White	Sisterhood	_____		
S-XL		2X and Up		

Jackets :

Black Windbreakers	Crossed Sabers
S-XL	2X and Up

As you can see there are no prices listed at this time for clothing in the Cav Store. This is due to a change in suppliers. Due to the death of our long time supplier. There will be price changes I'm sure so when an order is received please include a phone number so I can contact you with the current prices. As I did at last years reunion I will be bringing a reduced amount of clothing with me. Due to the amount of materials I need to carry in the car. August 1 will be the latest date I can order materials to be mailed to you. Orders from that date till September 1 I will attempt to get and deliver at the reunion. My new supplier is in Kansas so shipping times are now needed to be considered in time to the customer shipping.

Mail your orders to: K. Eaton 5548 Hazelwood Rd. Columbus Ohio 43229 or e-mail to keaton47@ameritech.net

Bob Richards and I would like to thank the staff at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, for their assistance in getting the reunion going and ensuring that everything ran smoothly. Kudos to Catherine and Sara for their expertise and for the Friendly front desk folks. They all were ready to jump at a moments notice to correct any perceived emergency. Thanks Again Keith

Charles Wayne Cooper

There's no one more responsible, perhaps, for the troop's reorganization nearly 20 years ago than Charles Wayne Cooper.

Affectionately known as "Coop" or "Cooper", there also was no one better suited to be its first chairman. Coop had done TWO tours with A Troop as a sergeant in Vietnam, and brought an eagerness and vision to seeing the troop reorganize.

Other troopers had begun to connect with each other around 2000. Indeed, there was even a first reunion held in 2001 with 17 troopers attending. But, nothing formal was planned or begun as far as reorganizing.

When Coop got on board by 2002 things started to come together. He brought enthusiasm, and provided leadership and inspiration. The troop's website was his idea, and along with the help of others, was constructed. And Coop paid for the website for nearly 20 years!

Coop began the troop newsletter, filling it with useful, interesting information. Dennis Perrino later took over the helm as editor, and now Keith Eaton publishes it. It has never looked better, with pictures and informative articles of interest to all.

Cooper was also extremely instrumental in planning the first formal reunion in Las Vegas and it was a huge success, with 65 troopers present. He initiated the annual awards that were given to those who contributed their time and energy to the troop. The Keeper of the Flame Award, and the Frank Canda Award, among others. A few of the Black Stetsons that you see at the reunions were given to winners of the Canda Award.



Coop with guideon leading the Troop in Las Vegas

Coop achieved much during his tenure as Chairman. By the time he turned over the leadership to our current chairman, John Sharpe, everything about the troop was running smoothly.

We owe Charles Cooper a huge thank you for all he has done for the troop over the years. We should create a new award, called the Charles Cooper Award. And Coop should be its first recipient.

Anonymous



The letter above was sent into the Trooper Anonymously, The editor believes that this is something that is of interest for all of our people



Robyn Richards, Andrea Richards, Matthew Fisher, Casey Hoyt, Shirley Curry and Roger Currey

VA News and Info

The Million Veteran Program: are you signed up yet? If you are, good for you, you are part of a ten year old program that is contributing to better health for Veterans as well as the general public. If not I urge you to “Get with the Program”. The MVP is a multi-faceted research program that uses health and genetic data from hundreds of thousands of veterans to find commonalities that can lead to treatments, cures, and diagnostic indicators for a wide variety of ailments. Health issues as diverse as PTSD, diabetes, Covid, tinnitus, peripheral artery disease, and schizophrenia have been researched, along with many others. “When Veterans become MVP partners, they are joining an effort to advance scientific understanding of the genetic roots of many conditions and diseases,” says Jennifer Huffman, senior research scientist at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

One of the best aspects is that you can contribute to this research with very little effort. To join the program, you simply have to answer a questionnaire about your health and military history, provide a blood sample, and provide consent for your information to be included in research. Easy-peasy. One reassuring aspect to the program is that your identity is entirely protected. While the health information and DNA data that you provide are connected, they are not connected to your identity. After this initial effort, you might not have any further involvement, knowing that your information is adding to the program’s efforts. Or, you might be contacted to participate in some particular research activity, by providing more health information or additional lab test data. If so, you are free to accept or decline that request.

Considering the improvements to healthcare for veterans that research based on a huge database of nearly a million Veterans promises (and in a large number of cases, has already achieved), participation in MVP is a no brainer for me. To enroll in the program go to mvp.va.gov.

Thanks! Bob Richards HQ. ‘70

VA operated National Cemetery and other burial benefits

This is not the sort of thing that we want to think about, but it is far better to make arrangements before the time of need to reduce the stress for our families, or friends, and to ensure that our final wishes are carried out.

Most of us who served in the Cav, along with our spouse are probably eligible for free burial in a National Cemetery. The National Cemeteries are operated by the VA, and the grave sites, internment and grave marker are free, as are small optional internment services and a flag. The veteran or his family will usually be responsible for funeral home expenses and transportation to the National Cemetery, but a cemetery expenses are paid for by the government. If you would prefer to be buried in your hometown cemetery, or some other location, the VA also provides a Veterans burial allowance to help with funeral expenses.

General information is available on line, at (<https://www.cem.va.gov/>)

A local funeral home, or VA office may also be able to provide information and assistance.

The VA has an online booklet which you can refer to, or print from your own computer. The booklet is available at (https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/Planning_Legacy_Booklet.pdf)

As with any VA benefit or service, you will need to provide proof of eligibility, normally a DD-214, or an Honorable Discharge certificate. If you have lost your DD-214, it is a good idea to request a replacement copy now, rather than waiting, because there may be a delay in obtaining the document. The VA can assist with eligibility verification, but having documentation on hand speeds the process.

There are currently 155 National Cemeteries located in 42 states. To find a cemetery near you or in a location where you may wish to be buried, Check (<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp>)

Note that this information is for VA operated National Cemeteries. Arlington National Cemetery is operated by the Department of the Army, not the VA, and it has different requirements which are more restrictive.

Jim Good 3rd Plt 69-70

Balloons Away for some of the Cav. Family



Gene Reiter, Levi, Shannon, McKinley, Ken Dye, Anne Fuller Dye Getting ready for the clear blue skies of Albuquerque



Lucky Lou Larson Waving Goodbye to Family and Friends



Balloon Over Albuquerque



Cable Car heading up to Sandia Crest



Joe and Lori Shue on Sandia Crest



View from Sandia Crest





Bob and Nancy Curnell



Linda and Bob Kerin



Newbie Crockett Dumas with Terry Banister and Brody



Glenn Costanza and Jeff Bloomquist



Gene Reiter and Ray Gavi

The 12th Cav TROOPER

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

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

Mission Statement

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

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George Gresaba, aka Pineapple,
Email: gslime54@hotmail.com





1st Platoon :

Row 1. L to R :

Jim Rinaldi, Joe Shue,
Ken Dye Brooks Styles,
Gene Reiter

Row 2. L to R :

Glenn Costanza, Bob
Kerin, Dave Larson, Ted
Whipple

1st Platoon Wives

Row 1 L to R :

Mary Oscendowski,
Linda Rinaldi,
Anne Fuller (Dye), Val
Larson

Row 2 L to R

Lori Shue, Linda Kerin



The editor would like to thank Gene Reiter, Lori Shue and Cheryl Sharpe for all of the photos they provided for this newsletter, This newsletter is a combined effort of many and I would like to thank everyone that has taken time to help document our Troop and our Sisterhood of the Cav

2nd Platoon :

Row 1 L to R:
Michael Gillespie.

Roger Curry,
Dennis Perrino

Row 2 L to R:

John Sharpe,
Bob Rebbec,
John White



2nd Platoon Wives

Row 1 L to R :

Jeannie White, Cheryl Sharpe, Rita Maher

Row 2 L to R :

Shirley Curry, Diane Rebbec, Margaret
Gillespie



Donations Continued

Don Huey
Jesse Zamora
Bob Rebbec

Robert Long
Bobby Schlitzberger
Anonymous



Third Platoon:

Front Row L to R :

Don Scott Jim Good,
Don Casini

Back Row: Don Scott's
Son Michael Scott



HeadQuarters Platoon :

Front Row L to R :

Carl Bloomquist, Ray Gavi,
Dennis Perrino, Bob Curnell,

Back Row L to R :

Alan Anderson, Bob Richards
Crockett Dumas, Keith Eaton



HQ Platoon Wives and Friends

L to R:

Andrea Richards,
Nancy Curnell,
Linda Eaton,
Terry Banister
and Brody
Nancy Anderson



Flag line from Blue Star Mothers
Leading us to the Banquet



Bob and Diane Rebbec



Jim Rinaldi and Dave Larson Families L to R
Shannon, Levi, Rag, Lucky Lou, Val Larson,
Linda Rinaldi, and Mckinley



John Sharpe as MC



Our Speaker BG Jamison Herrera
New Mexico National Guard



Ken Dye with his new
wife Anne Fuller Dye

A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry
5548 Hazelwood Rd
Columbus, OH 43229



Disclaimer

The 12th Cav *TROOPER* is an authorized publication of A Troop 4th Squadron 12th Cavalry. Articles or opinions expressed in this publication, however, reflect the views of the authors and do not imply endorsement by the Association.

Change of Address

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



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

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



Thanks for your Support

PATRIOT

Daniel Klotz

Dave Larson

Ronald Brundage

Earl Schorpp

Billy Joe Sams

John Tillman

Albion Bergstrom

Jim Good

Jim Clark

Joan Rodell in Memory of James

Donald Cascini

Morris Smith

M.A. Crockett Dumas

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I Support *The 12th Cav TROOPER*

Patriot \$25 Trooper \$15 Scout \$10

Name _____