

THE 12TH CAV Trooper

Semper Paratus

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

Volume XXI Issue 1

February 2024

Chairmans Corner

Another reunion has come and gone. The bathtubs full of beer have been reduced to decaffeinated coffee and soda. Age is catching up with us. However, we had 25 happy campers and along with friends and family we had about 65 for dinner. Those who thought Detroit was too far to drive might take a lesson from Roger and Shirley Curry who drove to Detroit from Alaska. Everyone attended the River Cruise on Friday night, and many attendees enjoyed the Ford factory tour, the Ford Museum and Eastern Market.

The main attraction was the fellow troopers. There exists a camaraderie at these reunions that can't really be explained. Perhaps it is because fifty years ago we shared a unique experience few will ever know and made the best of it. When I attend the reunions, I am always impressed by the success of the troopers. If you measure success by money, probably not. But rather a life well lived. We all have a story and we each have that one chapter that is the same.

Next year's reunion will be hosted by the third herd.

John Sharpe



Sisterhood of the Cav

Cheryl Sharpe, Robin Rogers, Jeanine Drake, Linda Rinaldi, Val Larson, Toni Dye, Jeannie White, Ruth Ann Cerny, Rita Maher, Nancy Anderson, Shirley Curry, Linda Eaton, Lori Shue, Diane Schlitzburger, Linda Kerin, Sue Gray

Troopers

Jeff Bloomquist, George Gibbs, David Gray, Bob Richards, Alan Anderson, Ron Cerny, Merle Reed, Al Christine, John Reynolds, Ken Dye, Ray Gavi, Nick Cazares, Bob Kerin, Gene Reiter, John White, Joe Shue, Ted Whipple, Bobby Schlitzburger, Jim Rinaldi, Don Cascini, Dennis Perrino, Kent Drake, Roger Curry, Brooks Styles, hidden, John Sharpe, Keith Eaton, Dave Larson





Linda Eaton, Jeanine Drake and Lori Shue



Diane Schlitzburger, Robin Rogers, and Toni Dye



Jeannie White, Rita Maher, Shirley Curry, Ruthann Cerny, Cheryl Sharpe



Nancy Anderson and Linda Kerin

Ladies Luncheon 2023 Reunion

The Ladies Luncheon was a great success sponsored by the Second Platoon and chaired by Cheryl Sharpe with the assistance of Jeanie White, Shirley Curry, Linda Rinaldi and Ruth Ann Cerney. These ladies provided door prizes, centerpieces and table favors. The food provided was enough to serve all the women in attendance plus all the men next door in the hospitality suite. We thank these Ladies for all their hard work.



Gift baskets given out to the lucky winners



Door Prizes from Ladies Luncheon



Merle Reed with Keith and Linda Eaton



Bob Richards with Nancy and Allen Anderson



Gene Reiter and Joe Shue



Nick Cazares with Shirley and Roger Curry



Lori Shue and Al Christine



Dennis Perrino and Rita Maher , Jeannie and John White

Upon the advice of some of the staff at the hotel A Troop found out about the Ham Shop, a little breakfast place about two and a half blocks from the hotel. Boy was that advice good. The food was served quickly and it was hot and tasty. and the price was right. You know when you go into a restaurant you always expect the bill to be bigger than you thought but at the Ham Shop prices were very reasonable in fact quite cheap. A Troop invaded the Ham Shop daily usually in shifts.

Registration A Troop 4/12 Cavalry Reunion 2024

Wednesday September 18th thru Sunday the 22nd

Double Tree by Hilton Biltmore
Ashville North Carolina

Trooper Name

Names of others attendingwith Trooper

Registration Fee is \$50.00 per Trooper

Banquet Fee is \$50.00 per person

Total Cost

Ladies Luncheon no cost please show
number of attendees

Make Checks Payable to : A Troop

Mail To: Keith Eaton

5548 Hazelwood Rd.

Columbus,Ohio 43229

Dates for the Reunion September 18th thru the Sunday the 22nd.

Room Rate : 149 Not including taxes, the rate is good for 2 days prior to the reunion and 2 days after

Reservation Desk 800-222-8733 refer to our group code 4/12 CAV Reunion

Cancellation 48 hours before day of arrival, General Front Desk 828-274-1800

Cut off date for reservations at this rate is September 1st 2024

If you have to leave early, you must inform the hotel when you arrive to avoid any charges.

Ashville Regional Airport: Is served by: American Airlines, Allegiant, Delta, JetBlue, Sun Country and United

Rental Cars: Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National Car Rental, Alamo, Dollar and Thrifty

Ground Transport Available: Cabs, Uber, Lift, Limo

Various Scenes from Detroit

There were many things to do during the reunion. This page shows people enjoying BBQ, playing dominos and touring the Ford Plant. Some other photos have people getting ready to take the river cruise, segwaying thru the streets of Detroit, or just enjoying the Cav family. Hopefully you will be able to make this year's reunion in Asheville NC.



Allan and Nancy Anderson, with Shirley and Roger Curry



Don Cascini and Ray Gavi



From Left to right around the table Robin Rogers, Linda Eaton, Kent Drake, Joe Shue, Al Christine, Brooks Styles, Jeanine Drake



Around the Dominos table at the Hospitality Suite L to R Shirley Curry, Nancy Anderson, Lori Shue, Linda Eaton, Jeannie White and Sue Gray



Jeff Bloomquist, Merle Reed, John White, Ron and Ruth Ann Cerny, Alan and Nancy Anderson, Shirley and Roger Curry Kent Drake

The Double Tree Biltmore is within minutes from the shops and restaurants of Biltmore Village and the historic Biltmore Estate, with easy access to the Blue Ridge Parkway. It also offers a daily scheduled trolley to downtown Asheville, and our hotel serves as a pickup spot for Asheville Rooftop Bar Tours. The hotel has an indoor heated pool and whirlpool with a retractable skylight roof. The hotel is a stop on the Asheville Trolley. Tickets are available for purchase at the hotel desk.

Asheville is a tourist mecca, here are a few fun things to do in Asheville:

Biltmore Estate is a palatial mansion built by George Washington Vanderbilt II in the late 1800s—it boasts 250 rooms and is set on four acres of beautiful grounds. Every room in the French renaissance-style building is visually stunning and in the basement there is, a pool, a bowling alley and a huge kitchen. But the house isn't the only thing worth seeing on this massive estate. There is biking, hiking, seven restaurants, fly-fishing, a winery and even guided raft trips.

* Please note that tickets for the Biltmore Estates tour will need to be purchased way ahead of time as the spaces fill up very quickly. The phone number is: 1-800-411-3812.

The North Carolina Arboretum-A beautifully decorated 434-acre public garden located about 15 minutes drive south of Asheville proper, the Arboretum houses a wide variety of plant species from around the world. Acting as a natural oasis ideal for any break from the big city, the site features miles worth of hiking trails, multiple gardens ranging in theme and color, as well as art exhibits including also the crowd-favorite massive Bonsai tree collection. My wife has been there and she says it is a must see, a very beautiful arboretum.

Asheville Pinball Museum-Sitting across the street from the Grove Arcade. Asheville is home to one of the largest pinball collections across the eastern states! Over 75 classic machines — You can pay \$15 dollars and play as long as you want. There are also video machines ready to play. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to Donkey Kong and Roller Coaster Tycoon — are ready and waiting for visitors at this unique museum, some of which date back to the late 1930s. Best time to go is Thursday or Friday as it gets very busy on the weekends.

Lexington Glassworks- Located in downtown Asheville, is the area's Premier Glassblowing Studio and Gallery. Lexington Glassworks is 5,000 sq. ft. working studio that features high quality custom lighting and handmade glass. Woolworth Walk- is a uniquely Asheville experience; a privately and locally owned gallery in the heart of downtown, located in a historic building and representing local artists exclusively, it is without a doubt "Worth the Walk".

Asheville River Arts District is a destination that grew out of necessity. Artists needed cheap rent and large spaces. An industrial zone east of the railroad tracks had a glut of aging and empty warehouses. The area was ripe for change, and over two decades blossomed into a convergence of art, creativity, commerce and entertainment fueled by the dynamism of its inhabitants — those same artists and visionaries.

Antique Tobacco Barn-Asheville is an antique-lover's dream. Shops are plentiful and the space for large warehouses near the center of town means that they are accessible—and big. Whether you are junking, antiques or collecting, you will be in knick-knack heaven at the Antique Tobacco Barn—conveniently located near other great shops on the Swannanoa River Rd. There is 77,000 square feet of antiques, unique finds and home furnishings with 75 dealers.

Hot air Balloon Tour-A spectacular way to take in the Asheville area, hot air balloon rides are available throughout Western North Carolina, typically departing in the wee hours of the morning — the glorious sunrise is worth the early wake-up. The views of mountain ranges and valleys from up above are truly something special, making this one tour that shouldn't be missed.

The Blue Ridge Parkway. The best and easiest way to explore the Blue Ridge Parkway is to go for a drive! Drive for 10 miles or 150—it's all up to you! The Blue Ridge Parkway is part of the National Park Service and is known as America's Favorite Scenic Drive. The 469-mile ribbon of road weaves around the peaks of the stunning Blue Ridge Mountains connecting Shenandoah National Park (Virginia) and Great Smoky Mountains National Park (North Carolina). The Parkway offers breathtaking views of some of the highest peaks east of the Mississippi River and access to the area's best hiking trails. The Parkway is easy to explore with no admission fee and frequent, paved overlooks experience that fits with your itinerary.

Harrah's Cherokee Casino- It is about one hour away from the hotel. It has 150,000 square feet of space, 160 tables, games like blackjack, roulette, poker and craps. Over 3,000 slots and 90 sports book screens.

We will have gift bags for everyone at the hospitality suite on Wednesday September the 18th. Please note some of the above places will need to have tickets purchased ahead of time. The Third Platoon is looking forward to see everyone. Should you have questions, please feel free to call me, Don Cascini, at 813-361-4858 or email me at doncascini@gmail.com.

5th Mech. Reunion San Antonio, Texas Sept. 2023

We arrived at the Holiday Inn River Walk late afternoon on the 6th. The check in process was very quick and painless. The only problem was NO AIR CONDITIONING WORKING. The issue was resolved by 7pm. The Staff were very helpful and courteous. The reunion did not start until the 8th so we chilled at the hotel. The temperature outside was 104 F. The checkin was very well organized and fast. The check in started at 2 pm. Everyone had a welcome packet containing a pen, welcome letter, agenda schedule of events and tickets for the events.

The Trips were well organized. A guide was provided on each bus. The only issue was the heat. The hottest was 105 and the coolest was 103. The hotel was right on the river walk with good access. Due to the heat, we did not go.

I talked to several board members and they all were positive about us joining their reunion. At the general meeting I brought the idea of us joining with the 5th and everyone voted for us to join them with no dissenting votes. IO think it was implied that we would have to join the group. Annual dues \$15; Life dues are 61-69 \$75 and over 70 dues are \$50.

The members all greeted us with open arms. I would recommend us joining with the 5th for our reunion.

Article By Bob Curnell HQ 71

Burial in a National Cemetery

No one wants to think about it, but have you made your “final plans” and put them in writing for those you leave behind, so they will know your wishes? There are things like a will, a medical power -of-attorney, etc., but for us there might also be the desire to be buried in a national cemetery. For that there are a number of steps to be taken.

First determine whether you are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. (Note that the process for burial in Arlington National Cemetery is similar, it is not the same; more on that later.) Although we all are eligible, you can go to (va.gov/burials-memorials) and click on “Eligibility” toward the middle of the page to confirm that. Just below the Eligibility link is a link for “ Pre-need burial eligibility determination “, which guides you through applying for such a determination. You will need your DD-214 and possibly some other documents that are specified on the web site. If you need help filling out the paperwork, call 800-535-1117. Then be sure your loved ones know you have taken the pre-approval steps and where the documents will be kept.

Where as the VA manages all of the national cemeteries except Arlington, The Army Manages Arlington. There process is similar, but you have to go use a different website. Go to

www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/funerals/scheduling-a-funeral/establishing-eligibility.

they will assign a case number and case officer. Then your DD-214 and death certificate will need to be provided. Please note that the current wait for burial is 12 to 18 months

(Note: A large part of this article was written by Freddy Groves for the “Vets Post” in the New Mexico Marketplace magazine for June, 2023. The Arlington information is from Audrey Meredith, who recently went through the process for her father’s burial.

Article provided by Bob Richards HQ 1970



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Columbus, Oh 43229



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Change of Address

Provide all changes of address to *The Trooper*, 5548 Hazelwood Rd. Columbus, Oh. 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 Keith Eaton 5548 Hazelwood Rd. Columbus, Oh. 43229. We will list all who donate in the next issue.



Thanks for your Support!

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