



# THE 12TH CAV Trooper



## Semper Paratus

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

Volume XXIII Issue 1

February 2026

### The 2025 Reunion is now a thing of the Past

Linda and I would like to thank all of those that attended last years reunion. I think that everyone had a great time. Some visited our downtown and did a segway tour, others went to the zoo and shopping and others visited Motts Military Museum. The free breakfasts and happy hour the hotel provided were big hits. We had a great Raffle and silent auction and the passing of the hat made a nice impression on our bank account. We will be able along with our donations to hopefully produce a good newsletter twice this year. I have placed the treasurers report in the newsletter for your information.

I would like to thank the staff at the Columbus Embassy Suites hotel for all the help they gave Linda and I in the prep for the reunion. Also I thank the Staff for the great breakfasts and the drinks at the Bar during happy hour. And for the set up of the ladies luncheon and the banquet. They were all great. Kudo's to all of you

### Motts Military Museum

During our reunion in 2025, a group of Troopers visited Motts Military Museum. Kent Drake, Gene Reiter Denny Patrick, Dennis Perrino and John White were given a private tour by Mr. Mott, which a part of the tour was a preview of a future 9-11 exhibit that will contain a crushed fire truck and police car and part of the twin towers. Along with the 9-11 exhibit the museum shows our military history from the French and Indian wars to Vietnam and the Gulf wars.



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## Registration A Troop 4/12 Cavalry Reunion 2026

Wednesday September 16th Thru Sunday September 20th  
Comfort Suites, 945 Baltimore Pike Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

Trooper Name \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others attending with Trooper \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is \$55.00 per Trooper \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Fee is \$60.00 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, OH. 43229

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Break out your Blue and Gray, we will be going to Gettysburg Pa. for this years reunion. The following is the reservation information. The reunion will be from Wednesday September 16th and checking out on Sunday the 20th We will be staying at the Comfort Suites, 945 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg Pa. 17325

Our group # is HW92J4. You can book on line or call the hotel at 717-334-6715

- You can reserve a King Suite with a King size bed or a Queen Suite with two Queen sized beds these are one room suites. Their cost including taxes is \$166.50 per night and includes breakfast. They also have 2 room suites in King or Queen for \$216.15. The cut off date for our room block and prices is Sunday August 16th so PLEASE book early as I only have 30 rooms blocked off but I can possibly get more if we fill up early.

The hotel has no Bar or restaurant, but we can bring in food and drinks. We will be only about a mile from downtown and there are many fine restaurants in the downtown area.

I will be catering the Ladies luncheon on Friday and the dinner on Saturday night. We will have the ball room for 4 days and will use it for the hospitality suite, the luncheon and the dinner.

Lets get the party started and book your room early. We are next to the visitors center where you can book tours ( either guided or self-led ) and also get info on what to see and do.

If you are flying in you can use either Baltimore BMI airport or Harrisburg airport. You will either need to rent a car or make other arrangements since there are no limos or other types of transportation.

Hope to see you all there and some new faces would be great. If you have any questions you can contact me on my cell at 585-314-8782

Peace Rag



Crew of A18 A Troop, 4012 Cav 1968  
L-R Don Tulki - Gunner, Warren Swinford - Driver  
Jim Mills - Loader, SSG Gaylor - TC



A18 : Don Tulki, Warren Swinford, Jim Mills and SSG Gaylor



Someone on environmental control. Could it be Jeff Bloomquist



Three Amigos or the Three Stooges listed on Photo



1st and 2nd Platoon chowing down at Quang Tri



Clockwise from lower left: Jeff Bloomquist, Ted Whipple, Ted Whipple, John White, Bob Schlitzberger, Ken Dye, Lois Dye Hidden, John Smith and Unknown

### 2025 Troop Finance Report

2025 Begining Balance	\$12115.95	
Deposit Embassy Suites reunion		\$ 500.00
Donations for year	\$3250.00	
Reunion Reg and Banq	\$5215.00	
Reunion Hat and Raffles	\$3472.00	
Store Sales	\$ 615.70	
Interest Income	\$ 143.30	
 Total new Balance	 \$24311.95	
 Store Hat Purchase	 \$ 345.29	
Newsletter Invoices (2)	\$2975.42	
Reunion Expenses: Banquet		
Luncheon, New Troopers Rooms		
Materials	\$5772.05	
Web Expenses	\$ 716.75	
 Total Expenses	 \$9809.76	
New Balance	\$14502.19	







Headquarters Platoon: Jeff Bloomquist, Nancy Curnell, Bob Curnell, Ruth Ann Cerny, Bob Richards, Ron Cerney, John Smith, Dennis Perrino, Keith Eaton, Linda Eaton, Janet Driscoll, Francis Ahlers



1st Platoon L to R : Dave Larson, Gene Reiter, Jim Rinaldi, Val Larson, Lois Dye, Ken Dye, Linda Rinaldi, Ted Whipple, Joe Shue, Lori Shue

**Chairmans Corner:** This years reunion will be the 25th. It all started with 17 guys meeting at the Stardust hotel in Las Vegas. Bob and Sheryl Taylor hosted at their suite. I remember my wife and I standing outside the door apprehensive about entering. All that faded away when the first person I saw was Merle Reed, Keith Eaton, Dennis Perrino, and others. John Tillman was there. I don't believe anyone was there from his era, but if you know JT, it didn't take but a moment to become a friend. Last reunion we picked up two new troopers and one engineer that supported us at Con Thien. They took a chance, overcame apprehension and became friends. If you haven't been to a reunion, You're not getting any younger, overcome your apprehension and become a friend.

John Sharpe



2nd Platoon L to R : John White, Roger Curry, Shirley Curry, Corliss Hunter, Dennis Perrino, Arnette Hunter, Diane Rebbec , Bob Rebbec



Old Red



3rd Platoon L to R : Kent Drake, Janine Drake, Nick Cazares, Joyce Patrick, Dennis Patrick, Peggy Thrappas, Don Cascini, Kathleen Cascini, Rich Stefani, Gail Stefani, Bob Schlitzberger, Diane Schlitzberger, John Holbert, Martha Holbert. In front kneeling Charlie Russell and Gary Thrappas



### Third platoon's quest for fresh meat

Keep in mind this little adventure started out in the early days of 1969. I was just beyond of my FNG stage at any rate.

The location was somewhere west of LZ Nancy or LZ Sharon or ????? in the hill country. As I recall we had been conducting some operation close to one of the small villages in that area. After getting our routine four hours of actual sleep, we arose in the morning to a clear and beautiful day. After consuming our first-class breakfast of ham and eggs chopped, combined with the spaghetti, spiced with copious quantities of Tabasco sauce. Then proceeding somewhere on the outskirts of the perimeter for daily constitutional, we received our marching instructions for the day. As with most days I had absolutely no clue where we were going or what we were going to do when we got there. At the time I believe the right gunner on Sgt. Sachs track 33," Stella," seems I stayed on that track for the duration. We started up all the ACAVs and Tanks, off we went roaming over hill and dale. The sky was clear, the sun was just gaining a bit of altitude to the east, and the temperature was pleasant, a beautiful day indeed. We had probably been on the march for somewhere around an hour, when somebody shouted, "hey look over on the next hill" I think it was Logsdon. There standing in the stateliest manner was a beautiful specimen of East Asian Samba Deer. (yes, I looked it up) the cry immediately went out "fresh meat" and the firing began. I don't know but it seems like Sgt. Sach may have been the first man to cut loose with his 50, then it really got going, 60's, M-16s however none of the tankers took a shot with a main gun, to this day I've never understood that. A canister round would've done the job perfectly. Instant hamburger we wouldn't have had to clean the animal. Of course, the deer took off lickety-split, maybe the fastest it had ever run. We made a valiant attempt to chase down the animal. Let your imagination run wild as to what an absolute cluster that must've been.

Well the result was one of the most amazing experiences in my life, someone please explain to me, how probably 1,000 projectiles can fly through the air a 1/4 mile away, at a target the size of a small horse, and not hit it!

I can't recall if it was only the third platoon or involved multiple platoons of A Troop, no matter, this was A Troops modus operandi in the early days. If it walks, talks, leaps, or creeps shoot it.

Remember, I'm almost 80, by the way my memory was not the first thing to go ????

Don Scott 3rd Herd



Charlie Russell and Gary Thrappas with and M551 at Motts Military Museum



Vietnam era Aircraft at Mott's Museum



### Reunion Notes

I enjoyed it very much. It was good seeing old friends. Had a great Time here it was set up with great care.

Francis Ahlers Maintenance Hq Platoon A Troop 1971

My name is John Holbert Vietnam veteran with A Troop 4/12 Cav. 2025 was my first reunion. This has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have had the best time of my life reuniting with the other veterans that I served with in Vietnam. These are the people that I consider saved my life many times. Please don't think I am complaining for serving my country, it was the best thing that I could have done.



Dennis Perrino, Richard Johnson 5th Mech Engineers, and Bob Richards at our banquet. Richard was in charge of the engineering platoon that did mine sweeps between C-2 and A-4



Troop Story teller and Jester Bobby Schlitzberger and Gail Stefani in the hospitality suite



Don Cascini giving a brief history of the pledge before leading the troop in pledging allegiance to the flag



**More Donations:** Lori and Joe Shue, Walt Ferguson, Ronnie Stennett, Anthony Shouse, George Paschalson Dave Larson, Dennis Perrino, John Holbert, Ted Whipple, Kent Drake, Shirley Curry 50/50 Raffle reunion, Dexter Lehtinen, Francis ( Jack ) Ahlers, Bob Schitzberger, Robert Long, Raymond Beatty, Albion Bergstrom



**A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry**  
**5548 Hazelwood Rd.**  
**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!

### **PATRIOT**

GARY THRAPPAS

TONI MIDDLETON

CONNIE STAMM SHAW

CHARLIE RUSSELL

DONALD C WRIGHT

RICHARD DOC PARKER

JIMMIE GEDDINGS

DEBORAH MALAN

JOE ADAMS

ALBION BERGSTROM

SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE

### **I Support *The 12th Cav TROOPER***

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_