

Excerpts From Our March 2001 Newsletter

WE LOST A SOLDIER TODAY

We lost a soldier today.

COL (Ret) Robert S. McGowan. Former Squadron Commander, November 1968 – August 1969. Even though some of you did not serve with COL "Mac" when he commanded the 3/4 CAV, he felt a bond with all former troopers, no matter when they served.

COL "Mac" was loyal to the 3/4 CAV Chapter too. Always attending our reunions. He and his wife Deirdre hosted our reunion in Vicksburg, MS in 1996. At times he was our speaker. He spoke at our first informal gathering at Fort Knox, KY in 1970 when many of us were stationed there and others made the trip just to see him again. He spoke at our last reunion in June 2000 in Lexington, KY. He was always teaching us. Giving us messages that would help us or help us to help others.

COL "Mac" graduated from West Point. The motto for West Point is DUTY, HONOR, and COUNTRY. For him, these were not simply words but a way of life. He tried, everyday, in some way, to live by these words.

General Robert E. Lee said, "Duty is the sublimest word in our language. Nothing is higher. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less." COL "Mac" did his duty, as he saw it. Even after retiring from the Army with more than 31 years of service, he continued to do his duty. Sometimes, the causes he fought for were not the most popular.

An editorial in the Courier-Journal of Jackson, MS read that "COL McGowan's military career is legendary But his most courageous battle may have been here in Jackson as the first director, fundraiser and only full-time employee of Grace House, a home for HIV-positive people.

Defining his ministry, his most daunting task was to communicate that AIDS does not discriminate. So, why should people discriminate against people with AIDS?"

COL "Mac" had a profound impact on my life. He exemplified all the traits that I expected of an officer. He was the benchmark that I measured all others. For those who served with him, his courage was unquestionable. Few only knew of his compassion.

We lost a great soldier today. We last a great man. We lost a great friend.

WWII-KOREAN WAR MEMORIES PROJECT

I know that most of you are not WWII or Korean War veterans. However, I know that some of you are, e.g., Bob Maxey was in WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

The George C. Marshall Foundation, located on the post of Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, maintains a museum and research center. This center is used by scholars and historians throughout the world for studies on past wars that the United States has been involved.

The Marshall Foundation has embarked on a WWII-Korean War Memories Project to collect, preserve, and make available those personal stories for future generations. You are encouraged to share your personal perspectives of one of the most momentous periods in American history through letters, diaries, photos, memoirs, histories, or other recollections, that may be preserved and cherished as reminders of all that we owe them and can learn from them.

You may send your "memories" to George C. Marshall Foundation, P.O. Drawer 1600, Lexington, VA 24450-1600. They will be indexed and kept in the Marshall Research Library, Museums and Archives, and may be featured on-line for the benefit of

visitors, scholars, and researchers.

For you Vietnam veterans this is something you should think about now and start preparing your own "memories" for future generations. Now is the time to begin, while you can still think clearly. I'm starting to get a little fuzzy myself!

SCHOLARSHIP

Remember that the 25th Division Association awards scholarships to all sons/step-sons, daughters/step-daughters, and grandchildren of ELIGIBLE 25th veterans. To be Eligible you MUST BELONG to the Association. If you haven't joined yet you need to do so. See DUES for information.

The 3/4 CAV Chapter annually donates \$1,000. This is awarded to an ELIGIBLE child of a 3/4 Cavalry veteran. You can continue to make Tax deductible donations. Send your donation to our treasurer, John Hollern.

VIETNAM VETERANS URGED TO BE TESTED FOR DIABETES

In response to a recent report that found "a possibility of an increased risk" of Type 2 diabetes in Vietnam veterans, leaders of the House VA Committee issued a call for veterans to seek a routine health care examination for the disease. Type 2 diabetes, often referred to as "the hidden killer", affects 16 million Americans. "Veterans who served in Vietnam can apply for VA health care at any of almost 600 locations throughout the United States. If diabetes is diagnosed and treated, serious health complications can be avoided," said VA committee chairman Bob Stump.

If you've never been checked for diabetes you need to do so.

VETERANS IN CONGRESS

The number of House members with military experience in the newly elected 107th Congress drops to 134. This represents a decline from 137 in the 106th Congress and 140 in the 105th Congress. Of the ten newly elected Senators, three have military experience.

This continued decline should be incentive enough for you to let your representatives know of your concerns over veteran and military issues.

THANKS FROM THE "QUARTERHORSE"

The following letter was received via email from a former member of the 1/4 Cavalry.

Dear Sir, I would like to personally thank the 3/4 CAV for their tremendous courage and bravery on January 31, 1968 and the

next several days, February 1-4, 1968. I was the 2d Platoon Medic, A Troop, ¼ CAV, 1st Infantry Division, during those dangerous times. We were sent to Ton Son Nhut AFB from our night defensive position (NDP) south of Tan Uyen. We left about 4:00 a.m. and traveled south as the rest of the troop joined us, platoon by platoon.

I read the book, The battle of Saigon, mostly about the security police's dire predicament, but what impressed me, and I didn't know, was that a troop of the ¼ CAV cut in two the enemies attack on the west gate the night of Tet. Those burning ACAVs we saw on February 1 in the late afternoon were yours. I, nor any of us, knew they were yours. We thought they were from our C troop. Anyway, the next day, February 2, while on a RIF out of the north gate, we were ambushed near Xom Moi. We lost several tracks and tanks. We could not medevac any wounded because of the intense fighting. Then we looked behind us and saw the ¼ CAV coming up to fight. We all, especially me, cheered. I was so glad to see more armor coming to help. We were attached under operational control of the ¼ CAV while we were in Saigon and later at the water plant.

Thank You all, everyone! It has taken me 30 years to find your web page and say thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve "Doc" Determann

P.S. Other medics that would like to thank you: George Heim, Theopolis Mims, HH, 1st Plt.; Russell, 3d plt; George Bibby, HHT

NEW MEMBERS FOUND

Rick Avant, A Troop, 8/67-8/68, San Antonio, TX

Ralph Ball, C Troop, 67-68, Jacksboro, TN

Juan Bustamante, A Troop, 75-77, Miami, FL

John Carson, HHT, 66-67, Gary, IN

Carlos Chavarria, HHT, 75-76, El Cajon, CA

Walter Cooke, D Troop (Air), 67-68, Wilmington, CA

Jack Cosby, D Troop (Air), 5/70-12/70, Mulberry, FL

Eddie Evans, C Troop, 9/66-9/67, Augusta, KS

Ken Goodhue, 25th recon, 46-47, Oroville, CA

Howard Green, B Troop, 64-66, Chatsworth, GA

Vernon Hallenbeck, A Troop, 68-69, Lincoln City, OR

Nick Larich, D Troop (Air), 12/67-12/68, Russell, OH

Chester Lewis, C Troop, 66-67, Flatwoods, KY

Larry Lindsay, HHT, 74-77, Lee's Summit, MO

James Nail, C Troop, 66-67, Tillatoba, MS

Daniel Nate, Sr., LRRP, 10/68-10/69, Woodbury Heights, NJ

Donald Page, C Troop, 9/67-6/68, Manassas, VA

Ken Ripley, A Troop, 2/69-2/70, Deposit, NY

Sergio Sanchez, B Troop, 68-69, San Diego, CA

Raymond Shaffer, HHT, 12/67-9/68, W. Elsberry, MO

Virgil Smith, C Troop, 66, McGee, MO

Harry Sweebe, C Troop, 66-67, Midland, MI

Jan C. White, D Troop (Air), 6/70-6/71, Slidell, LA

Eric Wirthman, HHT, 5/77-12/79, Amarillo, TX

Current number of former 3/4 Cavalry troopers found – 1,016. NOTE: 949 are on the mailing list.

Nick LaRich was number 1,000 for 2000. Keep searching for guys you remember . Our web page has been a big help in finding former troopers but YOU are the best way.

MEMBERS LOST

The following members have been lost since the last newsletter. Please help in returning them to the roster. If you live in their state, see if you can find them.

James Baldie, Westbury, NY

Brandon Johnson, Ft. Knox, KY

CHARLIE TROOPERS WANTED

John White C Troop, 67-68, has built a web page for Charlie Troop and is looking for former members. The C Troop web is linked to the 3/4 Cavalry web.

You can contact John at 539 Morningside Terrace, Palmdale, CA 93551-4410; email saberc31@earthlink.net, or from his web <http://ctrp-3d-4thcav.com/>.

IN SEARCH OF...

Freddie Munoz is searching for information on his brother-in-law, PFC Raul John Vargas. Raul was killed on 10 November 1969. His death was listed as non-hostile ground casualty (Ed note: there were two other troopers also listed as KNHA on the same date). He served in B Troop.

Freddie is planning on a trip back to Nam but before he goes he is hoping for some closure on his this. You can contact Freddie at 12135 Del Verde Dr., , Yuma, AZ 85367 or email freddie12135@aol.com. Phone 520-305-0470.

(SGT) Mike Penrod, HHT, 1970, is hoping that someone has photos of the "Zippo" tracks that were in HHT. Yep, we had "zippos". They were on the MTO&E but we didn't have them earlier.

Mike was a Flame Track Commander. He lost all of his photos in a fire (prophetic?) and would like some photos. Contact him at rockinpr@prodigy.net or 13938 Rd. 36, Madera, CA 93638.

TAPS

Denver Moore, B Troop, 67-68

COL Robert McGowan, Cdr., 11/68-8/69

Michael McHale, B Troop, 68-69

To the family and friends of the departed, our deepest sympathy. We share your loss and grief.

OBITUARY OF COL ROBERT S. MCGOWAN

COL Robert S. McGowan, 71, Director of Grace House, died Sunday, February 4, in Jackson, MS. Visitation is 5-8 PM Thursday at Mark Seepe Funeral Home and 12-2 Friday at St. Andrews Cathedral, with services and a reception following at 2 PM. Burial will follow at Arlington National cemetery, Arlington, VA, on February 27 at 11:00 AM.

COL McGowan was the first Director of Grace House, a home for living for people who live with the HIV disease. As the only full-time employee of this ministry, he was responsible for the safety and well being of the residents, fundraising, fiscal accountability, and maintenance of the house and grounds. He was a spokesman for Grace House and provided the community with general awareness of the HIV disease, serving on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

During his military career, COL McGowan served his country in the Army as an enlisted man, a Cadet at West Point, and an officer for more than 31 years. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, he earned his Master's Degree from Columbia University in New York City and was an Assistant Professor on the faculty of his alma mater for four years. His military service included combat duty in Korea, service on the White House Staff, and three volunteer tours of duty in Vietnam spanning ten years from 1963 through 1972, where he was wounded in action three times. He commanded the 3rd squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry of the 25th Infantry Division during some of the heaviest fighting of the war. After other commands and retiring from active service, COL McGowan served on the International Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels,

Belgium.

He was a graduate of the National War College, the U.S. Army War College, the State department Senior seminar in Foreign Policy, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards included the Army Distinguished Service Cross, four Silver Stars, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Purple Hearts, eight Bronze Star Medals (five for valor), 36 Air Medals, three Legions of Merit, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Presidential Service Badge, and other decorations.

He is survived by his wife, Deirdre S. McGowan of Jackson, children Scott McGowan of Simi Valle, CA, Bonny McGowan of Carmel, CA, Robert McGowan and Todd McGowan of Tallahassee, FL, John Sabine DeGroot of Great Falls, VA, Jessica Quinn of Jackson, Jerusha DeGroot of Austin, TX, four grandchildren, brother John J. McGowan of Red bank, NJ and sister Margaret Shirley of Portsmouth, NH.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Grace House, P.O. Box 68924, Jackson, MS 39286-8924, would be appreciated.

25th ASSOCIATION REUNION HAWAII 2001

Eight! That's the number of Chapter members that are currently planning on being in Hawaii for the 25th Association Reunion October 3-7, 2001! The reunion will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Division and veterans of the Korean War. Hopefully, more of you will be able to attend.

I will be speaking with the Squadron Commander to see if they can get a bus just for the 3/4 CAV guys like they did in 1996. After the Division parade they took us to the Squadron Headquarters where they had an equipment display for us!

Details are in FLASHES, the association newsletter. Extensive, exciting tours have been arranged and the hotel selected, Pacific Beach, is just across the street from beautiful Waikiki Beach.

The 25th Division (Light) always puts on a terrific show for us. We spend a day at Schofield Barracks, eat in a unit mess, take part in the Division review and get to meet today's great soldiers.

Let's try to have a big turnout of former troopers and pass in review with our colors once again! Let me know if you plan on attending. If you qualify to stay at the Hale Koa Military Hotel you need to be making your reservations NOW! Also, those attending, make sure you have a CAV cap and a new polo shirt to wear in the review!

CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO IN 2002

Details for our next reunion will be published in future newsletters, but reminders will be shown here until then so you won't forget to schedule your vacation to attend! We'll be staying at the historic Holiday Inn, Choo-Choo.

What you need to do NOW is to mark your calendar for 5-7 September 2002. The room rate is \$79.00 and there will be some limited rooms available at this rate two days prior and two days following our reunion. More on this later.

DUES

3/4 CAV Dues

Please send your dues (\$5 Annual/\$75 Life) payable to 3/4 CAV Chapter to Box 1165, New Garden Station, Ft. Knox, KY 40121. Your dues pay for the publication and mailing of your *MacKENZIE'S RAIDERS* newsletter.

25th Infantry Division Dues

Send your 25th Infantry Division Association dues (\$15 Annual/ \$150 Life) to P.O. Box 7, Flour Town, PA 19031-0007.

" Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in."

Mark Twain

QUARTERMASTER STORE

3/4 CAV CHALLENGE COIN. Cost \$7.00. Send your order to the Squadron Adjutant, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Wheeler Army Airfield, HI 96854.

T-SHIRTS. LAST CALL! Cost \$20.00. This includes postage and handling. The front has the 4th Cavalry crest and the 25th Division patch. On the back are crossed 3/4 sabers. NOTE: When these shirts are sold out they will be discontinued and we will be going to a polo style shirt! Sizes remaining 9 Large, 7 XL, and 1 XXX. Send your check or money order, payable to 3/4 Cav Chapter to JERRY HEADLEY, 1234 POWELL TAYLOR RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342

SWEATSHIRTS. NEW ITEM! Navy Blue with embroidered 4th Cavalry Crest, crossed sabers and Mackenzie's Raiders on left front. Cost \$30 includes postage and handling. Make checks payable to the 3/4 Cavalry Chapter and mail to Jerry Headley.

PINS, BUMPER STICKERS & "HENRY V" Poster. We have a few cap pins, and bumper stickers left from the reunion. Pins are \$3 and stickers are \$2. Poster \$! Get them while they last. Contact Bob Bingham, 4505 Arvice Ct., Lexington, KY 40515.

CAPS. Cost \$10.00. CAV yellow with embroidered regimental crest and motto. At this price you better order two! Send check

or money order payable to 3/4 CAV Chapter to John Hollern, Box 1165, New Garden Station, Ft. Knox, KY 40121.

CAV LICENSE PLATES. John Hollern has just acquired some Cavalry license plates. Cost is \$10.00. First come first served. Order now!

PATCHES. John Hollern has three different types that are like our crest. One is ornate and for wear on a blazer or sports jacket. Cost \$20. Another is a sew on like you had in Nam. Cost \$3. Last is a decal that you can put on your vehicle or wherever. Cost \$1.

MINATURE CREST. Cost \$5.00. Order from John Hollern.

BELT BUCKLE. Cost \$15.00. Only 16 left. Once these are sold there will be no more made. Gets your order in now!. The buckle is pewter in color, has crossed sabers and has 25th Infantry Division, Vietnam and our motto inscribed. Send your order to Bobby Hollis, 4702 Calvert Road, Huntsville, AL 35816.

POEM. Cost \$10.00. Jim Locklear wrote the poem "Vietnam Vet" and his new one "Welcome Home". Jim will donate all money made from the sale of these poems to the scholarship fund. Send your order to Jim Locklear. P.O. Box 824, Pembroke, NC 28372.

We need your help in saving the Chapter money.

We get far too many notifications on change of addresses - after the fact. This costs us/you money in paying to remail your newsletter as well as the charge for the returned mail.

Please send us a \$.20 post card w/your new address. This saves us \$1.22 for an eight or more page newsletter, or a minimum of \$.64 for a short newsletter. This amounts to significant costs when we average 20 or more changes each mailing.

Send your change of address to 3/4 CAV, Box 1165, New Garden Station, Ft. Knox, KY 40121.