

# Boot to Boot

COMPANY D  
1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
12<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY  
VIETNAM, 1965-1972



FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME SHALL BE MY BROTHER FROM THIS DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

JULY 2022

## DELTA'S UNIQUE MEDAL OF HONOR HISTORY

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that may be awarded by the United States. It is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress, and is conferred only upon members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.

Forty-three troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division have been awarded the Medal of Honor, twenty-nine posthumously. Eight are still living. In the Division's history, only D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, has three Medal of Honor recipients, all three for actions during the Vietnam War. Here are their stories: their youth, their valor, and for two, their lives after. For one, personal tragedy sent him back to Vietnam, and there was no life after.

### ALLEN LYNCH 1967

Allen Lynch was born on October 28, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in the Lake Eliza area of Porter County, Indiana. "I got bad grades. Bullies picked on me. But I straightened up in the military." He enlisted in the Army the November after graduating from high school. He attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, but dropped out and was assigned to a unit in Germany. A year later, he volunteered for Vietnam; by December 1967, Allen Lynch was a 22 year-old RTO in Delta's 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon in Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam.



On the morning of the 15th, Delta became heavily engaged with the 22<sup>nd</sup> NVA Regiment near the village of My An (2). Seeing 3 wounded comrades exposed to enemy fire, Specialist Lynch ran 50 meters toward enemy fire to administer aid. Looking for somewhere to shelter himself and his wounded brothers, he assaulted a nearby trench, securing it while killing 2 enemy soldiers. He then returned through the fire-swept area 3 times to carry the wounded men to safety. When his company was forced to withdraw by the superior firepower of the enemy's two dug-in battalions, Specialist Lynch remained to aid his comrades at the risk of his life. Alone, he defended his isolated position for 2 hours against multiple enemy assaults. Using only his rifle and a grenade, he stopped them just short, killing 5.

(Continued on Page 4)

### Contents

Delta's MOH History.....	1
2022 Reunion Information.....	2
Bob Hope at Delta 2022.....	3
First Commander's Corner.....	3
Secretary's Report.....	5
Web Site Update.....	6
Fiddler's Green.....	7
Other 1st Cavalry Reunions.....	7
Book Review.....	7
Contact Information.....	8



***South Point Casino Hotel & Spa Room Block Discount expires September 9!***

This 2,100 room resort south of the Strip is a complete Las Vegas destination, with a Spa & Salon, Pool, Multiplex Cinema, Bowling Center, 11 Restaurants, 5 Bars, and Showroom entertainment.

Each non-smoking room includes Complimentary High Speed WiFi, 24 Hour Room Service, Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer.

The price of the reunion and a 3-night hotel stay is up 15% from last year. Including resort fee and tax, our hotel has increased \$12 per night, from \$83 to \$95. Reunion registration is up \$20, from \$128 to \$148 (\$128 for guests). Like similar organizations, we're switching from "a la carte" to an all-inclusive registration, which is much easier for us to manage.



Airport Shuttle and Free Parking are included in our room-block rate of \$70, \$14 Resort Fee, and 13% room tax, a total

of \$95 per night Sunday-Thursday, October 2-6. Book direct at 702-797-8901 or on-line at

<https://tinyurl.com/Delta-Room-Reservations> Group Code: **D00923** (DELTA REUNION)

**REUNION SCHEDULE**

**Monday 3 October**

- Hotel Check-in begins at 3:00 pm
- Delta Registration Table 3-7 pm outside South Point's Brunswick Room
- Welcome Reception 4-7 pm Brunswick Room *(All Delta events are in the Brunswick Room)*

**Tuesday 4 October**

- Hospitality Suite opens at 1:00 pm and remains open as long as veterans want to congregate. Suite number provided at the Registration table. Open daily. Closed during other events.
- Enjoy Las Vegas - see a Show, Shop, Golf

**Wednesday 5 October**

- Memorial Service - 9 am Remembering the 84 Brothers who did not return.
- General Membership Meeting – 10 am
- Reception – 5 pm
- Banquet – 6 pm *Due to this year's special entertainment, we've added a "Banquet-Only" option for friends and families. Cost and a registration form are on Delta's website.*

**Thursday 6 October**

- Hotel Check-out (or stay another night, same rate)

## Special Show Planned for Delta's 2022 Las Vegas Reunion



BILL JOHNSON AS BOB HOPE

Las Vegas entertainer William Patrick Johnson brings Bob Hope's Vietnam USO Shows to life for Delta at its Reunion Banquet. Bill has performed as Bob Hope across the US and the South Pacific to rave reviews, including at The National Infantry Museum, Fort Hood, the WWII Museum and scores of USO Shows of his own.

Appearing as Ann-Margret is Amber Averill, from Phoenix, Arizona. Raised in a musical family, with four sisters and two brothers, Amber has been singing all her life. She's recently settled in to sacred music as a Praise and Worship leader. Happily married to a veteran, she is honored and excited to be portraying Ann Margret in this recreation of Bob Hope's Vietnam Shows.

Joining the stars via video will be a surprise "Old Soldier" who will be our guide through our Vietnam years. Thanks for the Memories.



AMBER AVERILL AS ANN-MARGRET



### First Commander's Corner

Blessings, cheers, to all. Sadly, I begin by noting that Brother Virgil Dye, Delta 69-70, passed on to Fiddler' Green on March 10, 2022.

It's the final count-down! Just seventy days 'til the first week in October when we meet again at our Las Vegas reunion! If you have not registered, please do so immediately! Our reunion planners need your reunion registration to finalize plans. Reunion details in this newsletter and also on your Delta Web-site. With the scorching days of summer wreaking havoc on parts of Our great Country, many of us have been grounded by medical challenges, giving us time to reflect on our Delta Company History.

Sixty years ago next year D Company 1/187th Airborne was activated in Harmony Church, Fort

Benning, as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault (test), beginning "our story." That "Delta" became D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in 1965 and deployed to Vietnam. It would be nice if those of us that were there 1963-1965 were able to get together next year at Fort Benning to celebrate our sixty years of brotherhood. Write me if interested...let's make it happen!

Future reunions:

2023 – Louisville, Kentucky, 13-17 June. Delta with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association

2024 – Washington D.C. Dates TBA. Delta

2025 – Delta with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association, dates and location TBD

Stay healthy, safe, hang-tough and Drive On! God Bless our Delta 1/12 Vietnam War Brothers and their Families.

**"ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER"**

*Blessings & "But to But"*

*Johnny Sergulis*

(Continued from Page 1) Finally, with three companies closely engaged with the enemy regiment, the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry pounded the foe with artillery and air strikes. When those fires lifted over an hour later, Lynch again disregarded his safety while he crossed 70 meters of exposed terrain 5 times to carry his wounded comrades to a more secure area. Specialist Lynch then located Delta and helped to bring in the 3 casualties.

Allen returned to the United States in June 1968 and was discharged in April 1969 at Fort Hood, Texas. A year later, the day before he and Susan—his wife of 52 years—married, he was followed home by a policeman who handed him a phone number. When he called, the White House told him he'd receive the Medal of Honor. President Richard Nixon presented the medal on May 14, 1970.

Allen Lynch graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in health care administration. After working for the Veterans Administration, he served as chief of the Illinois Attorney General's Veterans Rights Bureau. He founded the Allen J. Lynch Medal of Honor Veterans Foundation, giving temporary aid to thousands of veterans.

### **RODNEY EVANS 1969 (POSTHUMOUS)**

Rodney Evans and his twin brother, Wyman, were born July 17, 1948, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, to John and Ruth Shelton. After the death of their mother in 1954 at age 30, 5 year-old twins Rodney and Wyman were adopted by John and Annie Evans of Florala, Alabama. The boys enlisted in the US Army in 1966 after graduating from high school. Rodney and 16 year-old high school sweetheart Barbara Geohagan were married before he left for Vietnam in 1967, where he served with the 101st Airborne Division. Returning to the United States a year later, he was stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama, just an hour's drive from Florala.



On September 5, 1968, Barbara Evans was killed in a car accident. Mourning Barbara's loss, Rodney re-enlisted and volunteered for another tour in Vietnam. However, in the interval between Barbara's death and February 1969, when he joined the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam, Rodney had come to grips with her loss. A friend, 20 year-old Doris Alford, had encouraged him to talk about Barbara and cherish her memory. By his return to Vietnam, he and Doris had developed feelings for each other..

It now meant a lot to him to return from that second tour in Vietnam, and his friends—Doris and the Dunn family, with whom he had lived after Barbara's death—petitioned legislators and the Army to cut short that second tour of duty. That request had been approved, and orders were pending, when word came that Rodney Evans had been killed in action.

On 18 July 1969, Sergeant Evans was a squad leader in Delta's third platoon on a reconnaissance sweep in the vicinity the previous day's sharp combat with an NVA company. Moving through thick bamboo, they encountered a trail; the platoon's scout warned that it was booby-trapped, so Evans, walking just behind pointman Mitchell Hamabata because, as he said, "he was the platoon's most experienced," led his squad on a route parallel to—not on—the trail. (Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4) As they began to move ahead, the squad on their right was hit by the blast of a concealed mine. Looking in the direction of the blast, Sergeant Evans saw another command detonated device, shouted a warning, dove to the ground and crawled toward the mine. Just as he reached it the device detonated. Rodney absorbed the full impact with his body, saving his comrades from certain death and injury. Sergeant Evans' gallantry cost him his life.

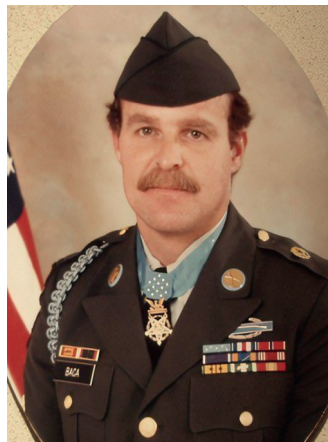
Rodney Evans died one day after his twenty-first birthday. He is buried in Liberty Hill Cemetery, in Florida. His name is on Panel 20W, Row 014 of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

## **JOHN BACA 1970**

John Baca was born on January 10, 1949, in Providence, Rhode Island, and raised in San Diego, California. An indifferent student and self-described “surf bum,” he was drafted into the United States Army on June 10, 1968.

On February 10, 1970, Specialist Four Baca was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in Phuoc Long Province, Vietnam. The company's third platoon was in a night ambush position. Shortly before sunset, an automatic ambush set by the platoon was triggered. A squad sent to investigate quickly came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire, and took casualties.

SP4 Baca and his recoilless rifle team went forward through intense fire to assist the squad in contact. As they reached the squad, a fragmentation grenade was tossed into their midst. The 21-year-old soldier watched the grenade land. “What do I do? Do I pick it up? Do I throw it? Where did it come from? It's not supposed to be here, and do I run from it? Somebody is going to get wounded. All these thoughts went through my mind,” Baca remembers.” What he did, though, was cover the grenade with his helmet and lay his body over the helmet, smothering the blast and saving eight fellow soldiers from severe injury or death. As he lay bleeding on that battlefield he felt that an angelic presence was holding him. Baca survived his wounds, and was out of the Army and starting college when he was informed that he would receive the Medal of Honor. President Richard Nixon presented it to him on June 15, 1971.



(Continued on Page 5)

## **Secretary's Report**

Well Boys I hope you and your families are well and taking advantage of the summer weather.

Our Las Vegas reunion is less than 3 months away, please consider attending. There is something very satisfying about seeing old friends with whom you experienced the emotions of war. Lets face it at times it was funny, chaotic, horrifying, and sad, but never boring.

It will help those of us planning the reunion a great deal if you can get your registration in as soon as possible.

For those of you who will attend I look forward to laughs, hugs and the pleasure of your company.

**GOOD HEALTH**

*Fred MacLennan*

(Continued from Page 5) As easily as the events of his Medal of Honor, John recalls Christmas Day, 1969. He was walking point and surprised a young NVA soldier sitting alone on a bunker. The soldier could not reach his rifle and, not wanting to shoot him, John yelled “Chiêu H ỉ” (surrender). He did. In 1990, returning to Vietnam with the Veterans Vietnam Restoration Project, John spent eight weeks working alongside former North Vietnamese Army soldiers building a health clinic. That young soldier, twenty years later, was among those with whom Baca worked. John has spent the years since Vietnam giving back, including help for Gold Star Families, Vietnam veterans and the homeless.

### **DELTA’S FIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS RECIPIENTS**

In addition to these three Medal of Honor recipients, five soldiers serving with Delta were recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, our nation’s second highest decoration for valor in combat, and one of just three (with the Silver Star) that can only be awarded for heroism. Delta’s eight awards of these highest two medals given for valor only are the most in any company that served in Vietnam.

A future edition of *Boot-to-Boot* will tell the stories of these Distinguished Service Cross recipients.

### **Website Update**

Hello Brother Troopers.

A set of photos from Brett Rogers, the son of Roy Rogers, who was in Delta Company from July 1968 through June of 1969 has been added. A collection of Bronze Star, Purple Heart, CIB and Air Medal orders are also posted. Cliff Sorrels, Delta 1971, submitted photos that cover most of Delta’s locations in ‘71. Former Delta (67) Lieutenant Pat Rodgers, recently discovered D Company through the website. He has sent in several interesting photos which will be posted soon. He plans to attend our reunion.

Delta Videos are still being viewed on YouTube, recently at a rate of about 1500 per day. Total views are now 1,570,000.

There have been more stories sent in by our former NVA enemies, now friends. I have posted some on the NVA page of the website. There is still activity at LZ Bird, looking for the remainder of the mass grave(s) there. Several veterans from C Company who were there during the battle will be arriving in Vietnam at the end of July to assist with the search. All of this was started from the Delta Company website, in particular the videos.

Now the US Institute of Peace is supporting this effort along with the Vietnam Television Network (both government agencies). There are other on-going efforts looking for mass graves in Vietnam. The NVA and VC have over 200,000 soldiers unaccounted; the US has about 1500. More and more US veterans are stepping up and giving information about potential burial sites in Vietnam. (If you know of any, like LZ Grant or Quan Loi, please let me know.)

Please send in any Delta Company photos, orders, etc. to be posted on our website. Hope to see you at the reunion.

**TAKE CARE, DON’T WALK ON TRAILS, AND BRING PLENTY OF AMMO.**

**CATTRACK6INDIA...OUT**

*Bob March* (360) 627-0918

## FIDDLER'S GREEN

Since our last issue of *Bnt to Bnt* we learned our Brother is deceased.

VIRGIL DYE

For errors or additions, please contact Delta's webmaster at [delta@cattrack6india.com](mailto:delta@cattrack6india.com)

*The 12th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion*, 7-11 Sep 2022; Reunion Information Tom Paoli, 630-802-1950 or <https://www.12thcav.us/>; Hillside Hotel, Branson, 800-808-9355

### BOOK REVIEW (REPRISE)

## ZERO TO HERO

From Bullied Kid to Warrior

Allen J. Lynch with Richard Ernsberger, Jr.

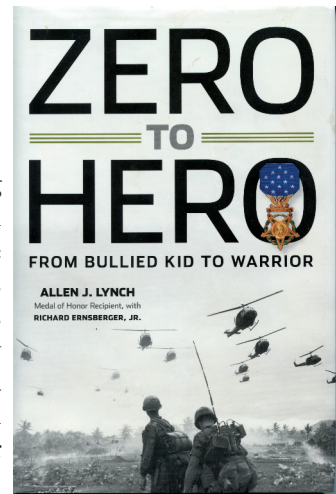
Medal of Honor recipient Allen Lynch has written an engrossing memoir, not just of Vietnam, but of growing up in the Fifties and Sixties in America's industrial Midwest. Though the subtitle emphasizes the bullying Allen experienced in his school years, his descriptions of family life and family characters are compelling—as vivid and real as any I have read. He writes “My dad was a factory man...” LeRoy Lynch, we learn, was a laborer, a welder, later a machinist, and a union man, “one of the many men who helped build America's formidable industrial sector during and after World War II.” Growing up in the Lynch family will be familiar to all of us. LeRoy was a WWII veteran and a child of the Depression, “he woke me up by whistling Reveille...he lectured me on morals, individual responsibility, women, work and study habits, education...Dad had traditional ideas about marriage and the roles of men and women...” But, “Mom, when she was determined, could get her way...” It's a delightful first third of the book.

Allen tells a story of growing up, of the Army and Vietnam, of “coming home,” and the years after.

Those who served with Allen will want to get to that middle third. To be sure, it's not military history, because it's first person, but Allen has added research to recollection, so an accurate narrative accompanies his memories and views of places, comrades, and events. If you were in foxholes anytime, anywhere, you'll recognize the reflections and feelings shared by infantrymen in combat.

After that searing experience, there's the coming home, welcomed by a few, ignored or disdained by many. Lynch doesn't end there, as many do, and we're grateful for it, because Allen's “life after” is one of responsibility, education, and service.

Whether one served with Allen, served at all, or never served, **ZERO TO HERO** is a satisfying read that deepens the understanding not just of war, but of American life in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



Veterans of Delta Company  
1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry (Vietnam)  
9817 W Mockingbird Drive  
Sun City, AZ 85373-2136

Delta Company Contacts and Addresses

President		
John Gergulis	(803) 764-3335	whip6k1vn2@yahoo.com
Vice President		
Walter Wilczak	(201) 317-0547	wwilczak@msn.com
Treasurer/ Newsletter Editor		
Tom Kjos	(480) 352-2583	tomwkjos03@gmail.com
Secretary/Outreach		
Fred Mac Lennan	(347) 853-1281	fredmac166@outlook.com
Webmaster/Historian		
Bob March	(360) 627-0918	delta@cattrack6india.com
65-66 Era Representative		
Jerry Fell	(512) 923-4232	hometoo@sbcglobal.net
Kirk Knight	(813) 777-8222	kirkknight@earthlink.net
67-68 Era Representative		
Doug Christ	(714) 865-3467	dfchrist3@gmail.com
Ron Redalen	(651) 274-9052	rrredalen@hotmail.com
69-72 Era Representative		
Paul Marling	(518) 789-4648	paulmarling@aol.com

Mail for the Website

Bob March  
1509 Sawdust Hill Road NE  
Poulsbo, WA 98370-9127

Mail for Veterans of Delta

(Including Newsletter)  
Tom Kjos  
9817 W Mockingbird Drive  
Sun City, AZ 85373-2136

Website Address

<http://www.cattrack6india.com/>