

Boot to Boot

COMPANY D
1ST BATTALION
12TH CAVALRY

VIETNAM, 1965-1972



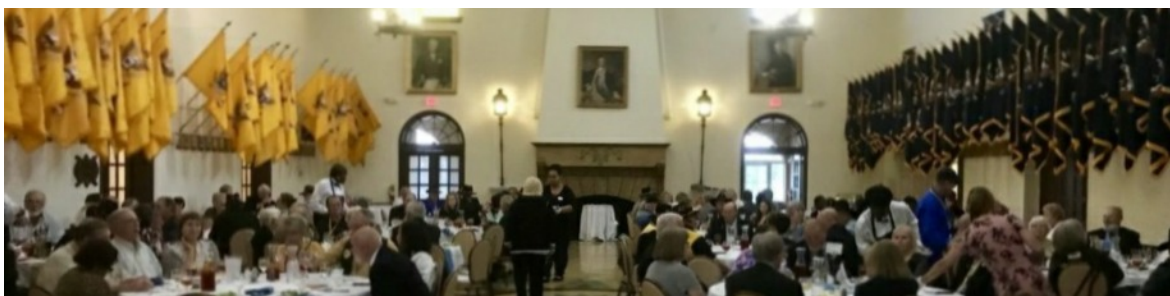
FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME SHALL BE MY BROTHER FROM THIS DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2019

1st Cavalry Vietnam Veterans Return to Benning

11th Air Assault (Test) Reflagged as 1st Cav before heading to Vietnam



Nearly eighty Vietnam veterans were joined by seventy guests to celebrate friendships forged in foxholes in the Regimental Room of the Benning Club on October 5, following two days of events at Delta Company's fourth reunion.

Banquet keynoter Col. Robert Poydashoff (Ret), former mayor of Columbus, reminded veterans

and guests alike of Delta's heroism on Vietnam's famous fields of battle, from Ia Drang and Bong Son to Khe Sanh and Cambodia. "You must not go away quietly," he said, "but rather share the experiences, friendships, and lessons of those fields with the next generation."

Veterans of Delta (Vietnam) President John Gergulis was the banquet host.

We arrived Thursday, attended a Welcome Reception, then opened Delta's hospitality room, where we would gather for the duration.

Friday's highlight was the spectacular National Infantry Museum, where our Vietnam service was honored by the

National Infantry Federation in association with the Vietnam War Commemoration.

Saturday's Memorial Service honored those who did not return, after which the business meeting reviewed progress finding Delta veterans, current finances, and reunion plans for 2020 and 2021.

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October 2019 1

June 10-14, 2020

1st Cavalry Division

73rd Reunion

Louisville, Kentucky

Find Your Friends at

*Delta Company's
Hospitality Suite!*



Crowne Plaza Airport Expo Center



Included Parking, Airport Shuttle, On-site and nearby Restaurants, 588 Rooms, near Churchill Downs. Room block rate \$124 + tax. Book: (502) 367-2251 or <https://book.passkey.com/e/49951844>

Delta Company Hospitality Suite

We have booked the 1165 sq. ft. *Crowne Plaza Presidential Suite* for Friday and Saturday so D Company veterans have a place to meet and share. (actual photo)



MAJOR EVENTS

Thursday, 11 June

Check into hotel and register. Welcome Reception at Churchill Downs with night racing .

Friday, 12 June

50th Anniversary Cambodian Incursion Luncheon. Ladies Tea on the riverboat *Belle of Louisville*.

Saturday, 13 June

Unit Luncheons, Reception, and Association Banquet.

Sunday, 14 June

Memorial Service. Check out and depart.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED



First Commander's Corner

Our “Coming Home” Reunion to Columbus-Fort Benning, Georgia—where it all began in the summer of 1963—was a huge success.

. Banquet Guest Speaker, Col. Bob Poydasheff (Ret), former Mayor of Columbus, said, “I’ve

attended Military Reunions over the course of many years; this Delta Reunion is the best one ever! Congratulations to all the Delta Brothers. Welcome Home, Brothers, Welcome Home!”

More than 150 Delta Brothers, their wives, and guests attended! Thanks to Tom Kjos for planning the reunion's events. Coverage of this and previous reunions are at Delta's web site. Send your photographs to delta@cattrack6india.com.

Delta will not have a separate reunion in 2020. Instead, we will piggy-back on the 73rd Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center, Thursday 11 June through Sunday 14 June.

A room block has been contracted by the Division Association, and it's not too early to reserve your room. We've learned that rooms are going fast. See page 2 of for booking and other information.

The VETERANS OF DELTA (VIETNAM) have reserved the *Presidential Suite at the Crowne Plaza* for our Hospitality Suite. An open bar and munchies will be available to Delta veterans and guests. A record large (for a Division Reunion) D Company attendance—perhaps 40 of our veterans—is expected! Don’t miss it!

The Staff at the National Infantry Association and Foundation was hugely supportive in making our Fort Benning reunion a success. Please consider becoming a member. Several veterans of Delta enjoy the many benefits, including the Association's quarterly magazine *The Bugle*, Chapter activities, and nominations for the Order of Saint Maurice and Shield of Sparta. For additional information, <https://infantryassn.com/> or call the Association at (706) 323-2560.

As we all age we are suffering more medical problems. We are being “called” to Fiddlers Green with increasing frequency. Please, inform us of any of our veterans in distress, and call, email, or write your friend from those decades ago. You will have brought a bit of sunshine to a Brother!

THE GREATEST CASUALTY IS BEING FORGOTTEN ©
Wounded Warrior Project

Blessings & Boot to Boot

Johnny Sergulis



Dick Kent planned to attend his third Delta Reunion until a week before he wrote, *“I have had a very rough time for the past week and there are no indications there will be improvement anytime soon. I must therefore regretfully withdraw from attending. Boot to Boot.”* Col. Richard Kent (Ret) 79, commanded Delta from December 1967 to August 1968; he died Friday morning, October 11, 2019.

A graduate of West Point, Dick was awarded a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts while serving three tours in Vietnam. He leaves his wife of 50 years, Barbara, children Kimberly and Greg, sister Marjorie, and five grandchildren.

The graveside service with full military honors was attended by five Delta veterans.



**Todd Ruedisili, Gary Downs, Wally Speed,
Johnny Gergulis (background)**



Dwight Edwards and David Corcoran



Arthur & Naomi Colbert



Walter Wilczak and Tom Kjos



**Piping in the Colors to "Garryowen" is
a tradition at Delta's Reunions**



**Luther Nixon
& Johnny Gergulis**



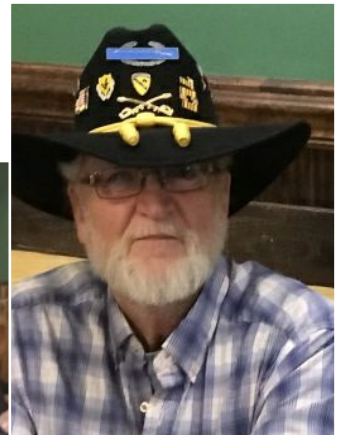
**Bob Poydasheff &
George Davey**



Fred Bell & Fred MacLennan



Carolyn Arnold



Basil Clark



**The Boys at the Bar – Walt Wilczak, Luther Nixon,
Dwight Edwards, Ed Waltz, Rob Ruiz**

**WELCOME
1ST BN, 12TH CALVARY**

Nice thought...but No



D Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division



Al Robb, John Spranza, Babes Gergulis, LeAnn Spranza



**Dave Tucker
& Inger Buchanan**



Johnny Gergulis



Mike Parkhill, John Gergulis, Gary Downs, Shereen & Mike Lancot



Vietnam Veterans at the National Infantry Museum

Sandra & James Neeley



Jerry (Doc) Hinz



Larry Cheney



Tom Kjos & Fred Mac Lennan

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Harlow Clark, Vietnam
Gary, Walter, Mathew & Janet Clark

Elisha "Eli" Parker, Iraq
Renny & Donna Parker



Ray Ferber, Ron Redalen, James Neeley



Pete & Brenda Watkins; Jamie Swidecki (background)



Shirley Trotter, Jan Preston, Lee Fell



CPT Kent's CP 1968—Ken (Doc) Goff, Ron Redalen, Doug Christ, Renny Parker, John Kirby (right)



Commanders—John Gergulis, Earl Flock, Wally Speed, Tim Reudisili, Ray Gaster (for Dick Kent)



**Left:
AJ & Lizzy
Rancatore**



**Right: Family
Portrait
Chris Dante,
Leanna &
John Kirby**



Carl Wolfe, Fred Bell, Lonnie (Doc) Alexander, Doug Kulman, Paul Perreira, Fred Lange, Arthur Colbert, Fred MacLennan, Dave Hendrickson

FIDDLER'S GREEN

Sadly, we report three more who have joined our brothers in
That shady meadow green, the eternal resting place known as Fiddler's Green.
DAVID CLAY RICHARD KENT GEORGE MAIOR

WEBSITE UPDATE

BOB MARCH

As always, around the time of a reunion there is a spike in the number of visits to the Delta Company Website (www.cattrack6india.com). There are new photos posted for the reunion at Ft. Benning. Pictures being worth a thousand words, these photos clearly demonstrate a good time was truly had. In addition to photos, videos that have been shown at the two most recent Delta Company reunions are now posted on the photo index page.

The website pages most frequently visited are the photos index page, the firefights/history page, the roster page, and the newsletter page. All these have been recently updated.

A close look at the [firefights page](#) shows there are still gaps that need to be filled. This is where you can be of help and I exhort you to do so. Take a look at the events listed and contact me if you have any stories which can be added to the narratives. Your stories are very important and mean a lot to everyone else. There are some important dates which have no inputs at all and others that have minimal information. We have a finite amount of time to get these stories recorded. Thank about that.

Also, be sure to take a look at the roster page that applies to your time in Vietnam and see if there are any individuals listed whose status you know needs to be updated; maybe even your own. Many of us have been changing our phone numbers as we transition from land lines to cell phones. Please let me know if you change your contact info, and check to make sure it is accurate. This is how your buddies get in touch with you.

New photos from Steve Jordan (sent in by Connie) are up on the web site. Steve served in Delta from Sept 69 to Sept 70. Along with time as a point man and on a machine gun, he was an RTO for LT Lawson (3rd platoon), and in the company CP for CPT Moran.

The website activity continues to be popular, roughly double the number of visits of two years ago. The vast majority of site visits are, as expected, from the USA but there are some from all over the world, including Sweden, the UK, Korea, and frequently from Russia (no collusion). With Veteran's Day just past, look at the pictures of your brothers in arms on the website and think about those with whom you served, then *"take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."* Maj. Michael Davis O'Donnell, 1970

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. BRING PLENTY OF AMMO. CATTRACK6INDIA...OUT

In The Next Issue of *Boot to Boot*

We plan to have a new *History* article and another installment of our recently-introduced *Book Section*, along with our regular features: *First Commander's Corner*, *Secretary's Report*, *Web Site Update*, *Fiddlers Green*, and special news features—like reunions, past and future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would like to thank everyone that attended the Delta Company Reunion at Fort Benning. It's hard to explain the comradery one experiences, far beyond that at reunions of larger organizations.

Since 2016, along with 7 other Delta brothers, I've have been searching for veterans of Delta. We have identified 1425 men who served with us in Vietnam, and we have accounted (alive or deceased) for 768 (53%). To find the remaining men an effort from those they served with will be needed.

I want each of you to go to the website, then to the roster, pick out the names of guys you served with and call them. Share with them the reason for the reunions—the laughs, tears and the feeling of cleansing brought about by speaking—for the first time in nearly 50 years or more—with veterans of your platoon or squad who experienced every day in Vietnam with you.

If you remember the platoon or nickname of someone on the roster, call me and let me know, as this information is very valuable when we are trying reach out.

We are not getting any younger. Delta Company never left a brother on a Vietnam battlefield. These guys are missing. LET'S BRING THEM HOME. I will assist anyone in finding guys, but once we find him it's best if you—someone he is likely to remember—make the call. My phone number is 347-853-1281, or email me at fredmac166@outlook.com. Good Health and Good Hunting.

Fred Mac Kennan

The *Raymond E. Redalen Foundation* has renewed its offer of one week's stay, free-of-charge, in a fully furnished gulfview condominium on **Sanibel Island**, among America's premier vacation destinations. Book a Saturday-to-Saturday stay July to December, subject to availability.

1. *YOU MUST NOT HAVE PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED THIS OFFER OF A SANIBEL STAY.*
2. *PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AND YOUR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD CHOICE WEEKS BEGINNING ON A SATURDAY AFTER JULY 1 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 31 TO delta112cavalry@gmail.com OR **9817 W Mockinbird Dr, Sun City, AZ 85373***
3. *WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHETHER WE CAN CONFIRM ONE OF YOUR WEEKS.*
4. *YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS ON SANIBEL WILL BE ENTIRELY WITHOUT COST TO YOU. THERE WILL NOT BE A SALES PITCH FOR A TIME-SHARE OR ANYTHING ELSE!*
5. *IT'S THAT SIMPLE! THEN, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET YOURSELF THERE, FEED YOURSELF, GO FISHING, SAILBOARD, SWIM OR JUST RELAX - ALL THAT, OF COURSE, IS AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE!*
6. *BE KIND! IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL, LET US KNOW! ANOTHER VETERAN MAY WANT THAT DATE.*

You'll stay just steps from the sandy beach. Enjoy swimming, tennis, shuffleboard, outdoor grills, a picnic area and clubhouse. Your condo has over 1,200 square feet with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Large open concept kitchen, neutral colors and plantation shutters.

Look for more information soon in your inbox—postal or email.

Boot to Boot

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Mailing Permit
or
Postage

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