

# 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 2 ISSUE 1

SPECIAL REUNION ISSUE

JANUARY

## #1's Corner



I just want to share a few words about the coming together with the men that I served with in the 11th Air Assault which became the 1st Cavalry Division.

It has been a joy to be part of every Division,

Regimental and Delta Company event, for we share a common bond forged by the crucible of training for and eventually going into combat.

We may have differences, but the relationship we have is greater than any difference. To share a memory, meet the families, pray together and for each other, toast each other, joke together and remember fallen comrades in arms has a great significance. Shakespeare wrote eloquently about this in his St. Crispin's Day Speech from Henry V.

*He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,  
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,  
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.*

*He that shall live this day, and see old age,  
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,  
And say "To-morrow is Saint Crispian."  
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,  
And say "These wounds I had on Crispin's day."  
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,*

*But he'll remember, with advantages,  
What feats he did that day. Then shall our names,  
Familiar in his mouth as household words—  
Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter,  
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester—  
Be in their flowing cups freshly rememb'ed.  
This story shall the good man teach his son;  
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered—  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;"*

You can insert the names of those with whom each of you served and make this speech your own. I will always remember and honor the brothers whom I served with and will come together with them as long as I can. I expect the joy of the company each of you in Tucson.

*"Boot to Boot"*

Dwight D Edwards  
President, AKA #1

## Contents

#1's Corner.....	1
Delta Reunion.....	2, 5, 6, 7
John Gergulis - Fading Away.....	3
New On Delta's Web Site.....	4
Other 2017 Reunions.....	4
Contact Information.....	8

## The 2017 Delta Company Reunion in Tucson

This Special Issue of Delta's Newsletter includes the information you need to reserve your place at Delta's Reunion. On the front page, President Dwight Edwards explains the importance of bonds forged in combat a half century ago. On page 3, John Gergulis, Delta's first Vietnam commander, shares memories and reminds us we don't have the luxury of time to renew those bonds. Below and elsewhere we describe this special event. A Registration Form accompanies this newsletter. We hope to see you at the Desert Diamond Resort in Tucson, Arizona, October 3-6, 2017.

### Your Reunion Overview

You'll arrive in Tucson on Tuesday, October 3. If by air, call 520-342-3000/3100 for Desert Diamond's free Shuttle Service to the resort at 7350 S. Nogales Highway.

Check into the hotel, get your Reunion Information packet, then take time to freshen up before you board the shuttle at 6:00 PM for our Welcome Dinner at AmVets Post 770. Return to the resort hotel at 9:00 PM, some may turn in after a day of travel; others will visit with old and new friends in Delta's Hospitality Room, open until midnight or so.

On Wednesday morning, use a \$5 voucher (or two if double occupancy, each day) for breakfast (or any other meal) at any of Desert Diamond's restaurants.

Mid-morning, board a shuttle for a visit to the *Pima Air and Space Museum* ([www.pimaair.org](http://www.pimaair.org)). After arrival, we'll board a tram for a 1.5 mile guided tour of the more than 150 aircraft in outdoor areas. Then we're released to tour the five indoor hangers housing another 150 aircraft and other exhibits on the museum's 80 acres. Reunion committee members who visited in January were impressed by the huge and varied display of aircraft (and spacecraft), military and civil, from every era of flight. Lunch at your leisure in the Flight Grill or in the on grounds *390th Bomb Group Memorial Museum's* Pilot Grill.

We'll return to the Resort between 2 and 3 PM where our Hospitality Suite on the 4th floor of the North Wing will be open into the late evening.

Thursday is our "big day," starting with the Memorial Service for those we lost in battle.

We'll take a break to see off the Significant Others on their shopping/lunching trip to *The Village of Tubac* 40 miles south before Delta's business meeting.

The historic Arts & Crafts community at the base of the Santa Rita Mountains in Southern Arizona is home to more than 100 galleries and some of the world's finest artists. Have a Southwest lunch at Elvira's or Le Entrada de Tubac, International at Ragazzi, Shelby's Bistro, or The Italian Peasant. Be in style in jeans and cowboy hat on Tubac Jack's outdoor patio. Those are just few of many places to shmues & nosh in a break from the shopping.

After our meeting, we'll spend time relaxing in the Reunion Hospitality Room, then get ready for the banquet before the ladies return, so they'll have our rooms to themselves to get ready.

At 5 pm we have a cash bar in the Conference Center Foyer (the bar will remain open throughout the banquet and socializing until 10 pm). The banquet meal will be preceded by *Presentation of The Colors, The Missing Man Table, and our Traditional Military Toasts*. After, *Delta Company Medal of Honor recipient Allen Lynch will speak, plus more still being planned*.

We'll socialize in the banquet room until 10 PM when we can adjourn to our Hospitality Room for farewells, perhaps into the "wee hours."

Friday is our departure day, so be sure to confirm times for the resort's airport shuttle before you turn in. Have a safe trip. We hope to see you again soon.

## Fading Away to Fiddler's Green

Remarks of Delta's First Vietnam Commander to the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Branson 2016

Good Evening and Welcome. I'm John Gergulis. Permit me to take a few moments of our time together...to share with y'all a few very personal thoughts and deeply held feelings.

Y'all each know a bit about the Brothers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, but let me share a few first-hand memories of how we became the Airborne and Airmobile Cavalry of Vietnam fame.

As young Captain of Infantry, I left Korea in the summer of 1963 for Fort Benning, Georgia and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne) 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Rakkasans). Over the next two years we developed, trained and tested whether and how to fight from and with helicopters.

I had the command of Delta Company, very young draftees and volunteers of many backgrounds and races, from all over the country. Mostly angry at themselves, the army, the world, society in general, and without focus, purpose, or direction. They were 17, 18, 19 years of age, fresh out of airborne school. Few were graduates of high school or possessed a GED certificate. These kids were itching for a fight - any fight! We were fortunate enough to have a few - very few - slightly older qualified non-commissioned officers, some with combat experience in Korea, some WWII. They were the bedrock of Delta Company, the 12<sup>th</sup> Cav, and Our Army.

Not many of us are left, fading rapidly away to Fiddler's Green with each passing day. Several of the original brothers who served together at Fort Benning, Georgia during 1963 - 1965, are here with us today. CSM (then SSG) Luther Nixon, LTC (then private) Charles Rose, Reverend (private) Dwight Edwards, is now President of our Delta Company Association, Brothers Mike Van Kirk, John Spranza, and Colonel (then Captain) Billy Lord, Battalion Chaplain at Benning and in Vietnam.

Brother Dieter Arnold planned on joining us here, but was unexpectedly called home to Fiddler's Green earlier this year. The lesson is clear: You never know when your number will be called. Dieter had no warning. I for one do not want to miss the opportunity to share with my Brothers - ever! Don't wait until you get the call that one of your Brothers has been called home. And, in the name of our Heavenly Father, please, don't find yourself standing at a Brother's grave site at Arlington or elsewhere, as I have too many times, mourning their passing, regretting not having shared with them that you were blessed to have them in your life.

To all my 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brothers, most especially my cherished Delta Company Brothers, thank you for being in my life, for permitting me to stand with you, for accepting me as a member of your awesome team, for bringing so much hope, inspiration, and joy into my life since - and yes, even during - too many bleak and tragic moments we shared. I'm honored to have had the privilege to stand and to serve with you. No one is more proud of y'all, as individuals and together. You will be forever deeply respected, and loved. Your selfless accomplishments and many sacrifices for all of us are forever etched in history. You never flinched, you never asked 'what your country could do for you' and you never failed to accomplish the many missions thrown at you. It is my fondest wish and prayer that your Heavenly Father continue to heap upon you and yours the many joys and blessings of life on this awesome journey we share. Some gave some - some gave all. Let us never, ever forget.

(Fading Away - John Gergulis, Continued on Page 7)

## Delta Company Website Update

There is always lots of activity on the web site (<http://www.cattrack6india.com/>). Several new "Found" troopers have checked in and are now present and accounted for on the Roster (more details later). A number of Delta volunteers are phone calling across the country to find Delta members. We expect that the number of "Found" troopers will continue to increase.

### UPDATES OF INTEREST

We have received and posted on the web site new photos from Charles Williamson (67/68), Roger Hines (68/69), and Eldon Hankins (68/70). All submitted very interesting photos which broaden our knowledge of the exploits of Delta Company. To view these pages, go to [cattrack6india.com](http://www.cattrack6india.com) and page down the left side to their names. Our thanks to these men for sending the photos.

Faces are crying out for names. I encourage all of you, particularly those from the above periods, who may have known the troopers in the photos, to check them out. See if you can add any names to the faces you will recognize. Even nick names are welcome and will be added as they are received. If you have some particular knowledge about the events depicted in the photos. If so, send it to me.

Charles Williamson, who has been keeping track of many of his Delta buddies, also submitted a copy of CIB orders (as he promised he would). This further expanded the names on the Roster. About 50 new names were added. Thanks Charles.

Which reminds me....Some of you have CIB or Air Medal Orders tucked away in your post military foot locker equivalent. If not, you have them in your military records which can and should be requested. Everyone should have a full copy of all their military records. You might be surprised what you find. It's free. Just ask, and The National Personnel Records Center <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis> will mail them to you.

Fred Mac Lennan submitted more names he has found resulting from the General Orders search he accomplished at the National Archives. As a result, the late period Roster has grown to 310 names. The total Roster count for all periods is now 965.

Posted that LT Sabine passed away May 1, 2015. RIP Sir. (*Space limitations prohibit a "Fiddler's Green" in this issue; we'll catch up in a future issue. Ed.*)

*Bob March*

WHAT WE DO IN LIFE ECHOES IN ETERNITY

## Other Cavalry Reunions

The 12th Annual 12th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion, September 12-17, 2017 at the Welk Resort in Branson, Missouri. Details and Registration available early February at <http://www.12thcav.us/>

The 1st Cavalry Division Association's 70th Reunion, June 7-11, 2017 will be hosted by the active division at Ft. Hood, Texas, as is always the case in odd-numbered years. Details are in the November-December issue of the *Saber*, and online at <https://www.1cda.org/annual-reunion.html>

## Traveling to Tucson

Although some from nearby states will drive to Tucson, most will fly. Phoenix Sky Harbor (PHX) is an option, but requires a car rental and nearly two-hour drive, making Tucson International (TUC), with 6 airlines flying non-stop from 19 cities, more attractive. Desert Diamond Resort is just 15 minutes from the airport and runs a shuttle for guests arriving and departing on over 100 flights daily.

### MAJOR CARRIERS

*Alaska - American - Delta - Southwest - United - Aeromar (Mexico)*

### REPRESENTATIVE ORIGINS & ROUND TRIP FARES\*

*Portland, OR \$318 - Seattle \$293 - Chicago \$\$434 - Dallas \$368 - New York \$390 - Atlanta \$406 - Minneapolis \$404 - Denver \$350 - Houston \$350 - San Francisco \$386 - Los Angeles \$189*

\*As of 1/26 for 10/3 - 10/6 on Expedia for "reasonable" Departure/Arrival times.

## Desert Diamond Resort & Casino

Our hotel was selected after a Request For Proposal and site visits by Delta's Reunion Committee.

### ATTRIBUTES AND AMENITIES

- Near Tucson International Airport; free airport shuttle
- Casino in separate building from our sleeping and meeting areas
- Free Self-managed and Self-supplied Hospitality Suite
- Meeting rooms well sized and equipped for Memorial and Business Meetings
- Competitively priced Banquet Catering
- Best priced rooms, nicely decorated, sizeable and comfortable
- Rooms w/balconies accommodate smokers: Book room type "Superior"(limited number)
- Nearby Hotel for overflow with shuttle service to/from Desert Diamond
- Nearby RV Park (Mission View, less than 1 mile)
- Daily \$5 meal coupon (up to 2 for double occupancy)
- Competitively priced on-site Restaurants

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE INSTRUCTIONS:** Call 520-342-3000 and follow instructions to waiting area. If a shuttle is not available, you will be authorized a taxi, reimbursed (w/ receipt) by Resort.

**YOUR REUNION INFORMATION PACKET** will be available in the Hotel Lobby.

**OUR SPECIAL RATE** available ONLY through the link on the attached *Reservation Flyer.pdf*, on *Delta's Web Site*, (<http://www.cattrack6india.com/>) or by *calling 877-777-4212 / 520-342-3012* and mentioning Delta 1/12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.

## Desert Diamond Hotel Photographs



(Fading Away - John Gergulis, continued from page 3)

I could regale you with more stories of the Brothers who first put Airborne boots on the beaches of Qui Nhon in the Republic of Vietnam in 1965, and their - and your - gallant, magnificent exploits then and after. We'd need weeks for that, so better you are here to sit with each other and share those memories. Our boys were the first in, we stirred things up and irritated the hell out of the surviving enemy, leaving the heavy lifting to our distinguished Brothers who replaced us and followed on for too many years in the war that took more than 58,000 of our Brothers and Sisters.

Once again, as always, this has been an outstanding gathering of the Brothers. In closing, the lyrics of Johnny Cash's 1974 song *Ragged Old Flag* very well memorialize and honor the sacrifices of our Brothers. Here's a link to that great song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnivJb3Rv5A>



### In the Next Issue of *Boot-to-Boot*

Our Regular content including Fiddler's Green, Web Site Update, and more, introduced by President, Dwight Edwards in his #1's Corner. An update on Reunion Planning and a "Who's Who in Delta" of those planning to attend. Plus another story of Delta in Vietnam. Your submissions are very much wanted.

# *Boot to Boot*

Association of Delta Company  
1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry  
9817 W Mockingbird Dr  
Sun City, AZ 85373

Mailing Permit  
or  
Postage

## Delta Company Contacts and Addresses

### President

Dwight D. Edwards (717) 657-3269 dedwa28@verizon.net

### Vice President

Bob March (360) 779-3149 recondelta@embarqmail.com

### Secretary/Historian

Tom Kjos (480) 352-2583 tomwkjos03@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Tom Kjos (480) 352-2583 tomwkjos03@gmail.com

### Webmaster

Bob March (360) 779-3149 recondelta@embarqmail.com

### Historian Emeritus

Bob March (360) 779-3149 recondelta@embarqmail.com

### Directors

John Gergulis (803)-764-3335 gergulis@yahoo.com

Chuck Rose (210) 854-4131 chuckrose@gvtc.com

Mike Van Kirk (623) 937-0577 mijoy65@cox.net

### Mail for the Website

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

### Mail for the Association

(Including Newsletter)

Tom Kjos  
9817 W Mockingbird Dr  
Sun City, AZ 85373-2136