



COMPANY D 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
 12<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT  
 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
 VIETNAM, 1965-1972



## Back Among Warriors - Delta Reunion 2021



### BANQUET KEYNOTER DERIGNE CAPTURES THE SOUL OF OUR BROTHERHOOD

*I was honored once to live among warriors, young men who woke up every morning not knowing whether they would survive the day, but facing it with courage anyway. Saddling up, moving out, to find, engage, and destroy an enemy of the United States of America. Now I live among people who have no concept of that, who worry about trivial things.*

*I long to be back among warriors. Men who are worthy of being called men. I feel that I am approaching the end of this lifetime. I want to be back among spirits who understand me, and the sacrifices I have made, that they have made, for the "idea of America." An America now corrupted by those who only care about "me." I want to be back among people who would sacrifice their lives for the concept of "we." That is all. Out*—GARY DERIGNE, D COMPANY, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY (VIETNAM)

### EVENT OVERVIEW

**Monday 27 September** Hotel Check-in, Delta Registration Table. Welcome Reception

**Tuesday 28 September** Hospitality Suite, Enjoy Las Vegas

**Wednesday 29 September** Business Meeting, Memorial Service, Banquet

**Thursday 30 September** Hotel Check-out (or stay another night, same rate)

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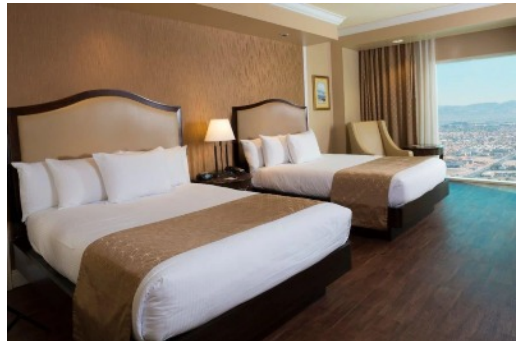
## ***HOTEL INFORMATION South Point Casino Hotel & Spa***



South Point is a 2,100 room Mega Resort on Las Vegas Boulevard south of the Strip. Built in 2005 and renovated in 2018, South Point is one of the most complete Las Vegas destinations, featuring the full-service Costa Del Sur Spa & Salon, large beautiful Pool, 16 screen Multiplex Cinema, 64 lane Bowling Center, 11 Restaurants, 5 Bars, and entertainment in the Grandview Lounge, and South Point Showroom. Got a horse? The South Point Equestrian Center reputed to be the finest indoor horse facility in the country.

Enjoy views of the glittering Las Vegas Strip or the serenity of the mountains from your guest room. Each 500 sq.ft. non-smoking room includes a 50-inch 4K Television, Complimentary High Speed WiFi, 24 Hour Room Service, Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Iron/Ironing Board, In-room Safe, Blackout Drapes, Designer Toiletries, and Premium Bedding.

Airport Shuttle† and Free Parking are included in our room-block rate of \$60, (+\$14 Resort Fee and 13% room tax), a total of \$83 per night (Sunday-Thursday, our reunion days).\* Our room-block weekend rate is \$115 (Friday-Saturday) (plus tax and resort fee).



Hotel plus Reunion Registration for one will be \$377. Not including optional off-site events, our cost was \$472 at Columbus, \$466 at San Antonio, and \$376 at Tucson. We do not get free breakfast, but receive discount coupons for the hotel's restaurants and amenities at check-in.

Book at: **702-797-8901**, or on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/Delta-Rooms>

Group Code: **DCO0924 (DELTA REUNION)**

†Shuttle reservation required, and must be reserved 24 hours in advance of arrival by calling 866-791-7626

\*First night deposit with booking, refundable, free cancellation up to 72 hours before scheduled arrival.

For those desiring to travel and stay in their motorhome, ***Oasis RV Resort***, with full Hook-ups, Pool & Spa, WiFi, On-site Security, Cafe, and Fitness Center, is just minutes away. Information: <https://www.oasislasvegassrvresort.com/>

## DETAILED EVENT SCHEDULE

### Monday 27 September

**Hotel Check-in** begins at 3 PM

**Delta Registration Table** 3-6 PM *BRUNSWICK ROOM* alcove (Late Arrivals instructions TBA)

**Welcome Reception** 4-7 PM hors d'oeuvres and cash bar in the South Point *BRUNSWICK ROOM*

### Tuesday 28 September



**Hospitality Suite** will open at 1:00 pm and remain open as long as veterans want to congregate. For adequate capacity, we have two side-by-side rooms, to be marked by Delta's guidon. Room numbers will be available at the Delta Registration table. At left, Jon Dodson and Fred Lange find a battle on a Vietnam topographical map in the Hospitality Suite at Tucson in 2017. Delta's hospitality suite will be open Tuesday and Wednesday, except during scheduled events.

### Wednesday 29 September

**Memorial Service** 9-9:45 AM- We remember the 84 Brothers who did not return from Vietnam by reading the D Company Roll of Honor.

**Business Meeting** 10-11 AM - Financial report, consideration and approval of future reunions, elect Officers and Era Representatives.

**Reception** 5-6 PM Pre-banquet cash bar in the *BRUNSWICK ROOM*



**Banquet** 6-9 PM - Delta's signature event in the *BRUNSWICK ROOM* opens with our own Jonathan Wild's *Keep Old Glory Flying*. We pipe in the Colors to *Garry Owen*, the 1st Cavalry's adopted anthem

Gary DeRigne, a combat-wounded Delta Company Vietnam Veteran, is an Award-Winning Author and a Speaker on War and Veterans' Issues. His highly-acclaimed novels

are based on experiences of combat and the physical and emotional after-effects of war. Retired from a successful business career, he was an Adjunct Professor at Rockhurst University, and for his work with several charities he was named a "philanthropic Leader of Kansas City."

### Thursday 30 September

**Hotel Check-out** Or stay another night to see a Las Vegas show, same rate. We don't know what those may be in September 2021, but this site should be updated as informaton becomes available: <https://www.vegas.com/shows/>



Piping in the Colors  
2019 Reunion Banquet



2019 Reunion - D Company Veterans visit the N

***Delta Company Hospitality Suite***

We have two 1,000 sq. ft. Suites, places to gather Tuesday and Wednesday. These suites will be next to each other, marked by Delta's Guidon.



Location in your registration packet.

The Hospitality Suite is where you



join men who experienced what you did, with whom you shared a foxhole, carried a radio, walked point, laid in an ambush, or on a night LP, shared a Huey skid on final approach to an LZ, your gut wrenching, wondering, will it be "hot"?



1970 1st Platoon, 2019 Reunion



National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia

### *VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS & REUNIONS - WHY SOLDIERS GATHER*

Soldiers see things that can never be forgotten. Catastrophic events—battles like Tam Quan, or Tet 1968—unarguably are traumatic to those who experience them. Lesser known is the cumulative effect of “smaller” events—being shelled at Khe Sanh, a friend injured or killed by a booby trap. Over time, the effect of these events piles up.

Some believe that trauma and tragedy “hasn't affected me.” It's possible, I guess—certainly its impact is an individual thing. Worse, though, is avoidance—suppressing the memories. This “self-treatment,” is a symptom (social withdrawal) itself. Borne of an old school “tough guy” mentality this self-imposed isolation too often leads to depression, alcohol and drug abuse and even suicide.

In his book, *Tribe*, Sebastian Junger draws on his experience with a US Army platoon in Afghanistan, recounted in his earlier book, *War*, to explain how groups offer strength and support. This is particularly true of military combat units, Junger found. They laugh together, cry together and experience the same horrific events together. When a soldier leaves (via DEROS, rotation, discharge, or wound) the unit—his tribe—his support structure is lost. That's when symptoms manifest, seemingly out of nowhere. Finding a tribe is essential to dealing with the demons that haunt us. Humans are innately tribal and find solace in groups of their peers. That's why group therapy is a widely accepted treatment for PTSD.

The images of combat will never go away. “I wish my head could forget what my eyes have seen,” expresses it well. But it's not hopeless. There are treatments, but you also need to find your tribes, those people you love to be around. Family is one, and another is made up of the brothers with whom you shared those long-ago traumas. Those who have attended Delta's reunions know what value that can be.

One of Delta's veterans wrote, “I attended the first [D Company] reunion I knew about, in 2017, and my first comment to my wife after seeing just a few of the guys was, ‘...this is very therapeutic for me.’”

You took an oath to your country, and carry not only the pride, but the burden of your service. No one said you had to do it alone. We hope to see you in Las Vegas. You'll never regret it. -TWK-



2019 Banquet - Regiment Room at Fort Benning Georgia

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



John Baca,  
Medal of Honor  
2017 Reunion



1965-66 Recon Platoon, 2017 Reunion



Allen Lynch,  
Medal of Honor  
2017 Reunion



1968 Company CP, 2018 Reunion



## A Message from the First Commander

Fifty-six years ago, at Fort Benning, I assumed command of Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. I quickly came to love “my boys.” We trained together, shipped out together, fought together. But we

returned home from Vietnam alone, each of us. We didn’t have a “generation gap,” the soldiers of World War II were our role models. We honored them by doing as they did—by serving our country.

Through the years, the myths about us, the soldiers of the Vietnam War, have persisted, that we were an “underclass,” that went to war because we had no other options, weren’t as smart as those who contrived to stay safely at home, to the more pernicious myth that we were the tools of widespread sanctioned atrocities, a narrative largely born of the bogus “Winter Soldier Investigation,” and given public voice and credibility by John Kerry’s Senate testimony.

More recently, Tom Brokaw’s widely embraced “Greatest Generation” narrative singles out the soldiers of World War II. Are we who served in Vietnam not their equal? Of course we are. We were better educated. Far more than they, we were volunteers. Only 25% of those who served in Vietnam were drafted; 66% of the WWII armed forces were. In Vietnam, atrocities were rare, even military targets weren’t attacked if in or close to Hanoi-Haiphong. Every fair review of the record concludes that My Lai was an aberration, not representative conduct. In that “good war,” German cities with no military target were bombed as policy; seventy were destroyed, one in five civilian dwellings. Nearly 11,000 general courts-martial were convened for crimes in Europe by US

soldiers. It’s absurd to lionize one generation of soldiers while vilifying another. It was the “Greatest Generation” that sent us to Vietnam in the first place, then made the rules that would make our war unwinnable.

When we returned, we were disdained or ignored. And what did we do? We succeeded. We built families, homes, and businesses. We became policemen, engineers, doctors, teachers, farmers, plumbers, and professors. Some stayed on as soldiers. There are many we love, and who love us. Now we are “welcomed home,” and “thanked for our service,” by those who do not comprehend what that service really was. But that doesn’t change that we had come home alone, had lost our



tribe. Gary DeRigne writes that he longs “to be back among warriors.” Because as much as others may try, only we can really understand the experiences we shared a half-century ago. I found my tribe again, the Delta warriors who had my back, at Portland in 2012. I have had their company since, at each Delta reunion, and in between.

I loved “my boys” back in 1965 for who they were. If it’s possible, I love ya’ll even more now for who you have become. Sadly, many of our Brothers are gone, and of course now we lose each other far more frequently. We look forward to seeing those who remain with us, all of you, in 2021. We *need* to be back in the company of warriors.

***Blessings & “Bnt to Bnt”***

*Johnny Gergulis*

Veterans of Delta Company  
1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry (Vietnam)  
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Postage

## 2021 Reunion Information

THE 5<sup>TH</sup> REUNION OF D COMPANY  
1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT  
(VIETNAM)

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2021

 **Hotel Casino & Spa**  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

### QUESTIONS?

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