

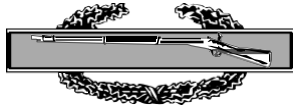
JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE

1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division

December 2018



8th Cavalry
Regiment



Volume 37

Issue Number 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's Hard to believe but it's true, my time as President of the Jumping Mustangs Chapter is over. It has been a wonderful experience and now I must let Rick Wagner take charge of the Chapter. Rick will do a great job, I know because I got to see him handle the roll of Vice President for the last 3 years. I was able to do my duties with no hesitation that Rick was doing his. It always helps to have a strong woman behind us and Beverly will assist Rick along the way, I am sure. Congratulations to this hard working couple.

I also want to congratulate our new Vice President, Wayne Volk who stepped forward in Colorado to take the reins for a 6 year commitment. If you haven't met Wayne yet, just look to the dance floor at the next reunion, he will be leading the way. He is one hell of a dancer. I don't think he learned that in Bravo Company while in Vietnam? Lol

As you all know, we are a last man standing organization. As we age it's important that we still look for and encourage new members, especially those that might be a few years younger than us. Those who served in Vietnam from 69 to 72, those soldiers were as good as us because they were "Jumping Mustangs". Please continue to find ways to find them and to invite them to join us.

I also want to say "Thank You" to your Executive Board. Jim Knafel for his hard work as treasurer, an all year long position. Mike Price for his dedication to continually finding new ways to supply us with the latest and best shirts etc. and now he is the

administrator of our facebook page. Maurice Waters as Past President was a confidant and Friend to me in so many ways. Mike Rice our Secretary who together with his wife Sue do so much for our organization all year long. Jerry Prater our new Editor of the bugle, who took it over without a glitch. Bill Hawkinberry who was the editor for so many years, Special Thanks Bill. Rodger Talmadge our Chaplain, who loves to tell "guys" they are "beautiful". Randy Howard our historian who always has a smile, joke or just a hug for everyone. Our newest Board member Faye Lynch has already offered up a number of points in her first Board meeting. I am Excited for her and our organization. Glenn Sheathelm who we missed seeing this year, takes all our pictures with real film, hope you're feeling better Glenn. Kevan Mynderup takes care of our roster, so make sure your info is correct and if not, call Kevan.

So you see, it takes a village of people to make this chapter work as well as it does. Please volunteer in any way you are comfortable.

Our reunion in Colorado Springs was a wonderful time with a great turnout. Alan and Sharon Jacobsen did a great job as hosts and the city has so much to see and do. The Air Force Academy campus was so beautiful and seeing those Cadets made me so proud of our young men and women. To think we all looked like that at some point. Lol

I love it when we are able to get active duty military to be our honor guard and this year we were able to have them for our flag raising ceremony and for our Memorial Service. Again, watching them march in

filled me with pride and hope for our Country's future.

I am confident I am leaving the position of President in good hands for the future years. I thank you for your support and confidence over the last 3 years. I pray that we have many more re-unions to tell you all how "beautiful" you are. (Including the men), lol

Have a great Christmas and a Healthy New Year

**Honor and Courage
Harvey J. Auger
President**

MARCH 2019 BUGLE

Did you have an incident happen to you in Vietnam that you would like to share with the other members of the Jumping Mustangs? Or, do you have some information that would be of benefit or interest to the membership? The Bugle is published each quarter to provide all members with articles and information, as well as activities. I strongly encourage each of you to send articles or information to me that can be published in the March 2019 editions of the newsletter.

Please submit your articles or information to be included in the March Bugle to me no later than February 18, 2019. Thank you for your involvement.

Any views expressed are those of the individual who wrote them, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Jumping Mustangs. Articles about memories of events and experiences are not checked for accuracy. The editor can make changes to articles so they are more readable, remove negative remarks about individuals, or to remove vulgar or offensive language.

Jerry Prater

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

William E. Payne HHQ 68-69
10035 Grove Rd. SE
Yelm WA 98597
360-458-4432
Wepayne111@yahoo.com

Robert H. Simm B Co 1967
5245 Orleans Ave.
El Paso TX 79924
915-401-4419

robertpaulsimm@gmail.com

WELCOME TO NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

James Fieldson
6805 Marigot Rd. NW
Albuquerque NM 87120
505-507-7574
jfieldson@hotmail.com

OLD MEMBER NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Rowland (Skip) Keaveney D Co 67-68
No Telephone number

TAPS

Paula Wilson, wife of Bill Wilson, A Co 65-66, passed away October 31, 2018

If you know of a member of the Jumping Mustangs that has passed away, please notify Jim Knafel at jknafel@gmail.com or Roger Talmadge at roberttalmadge@cox.net as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for the Jumping Mustangs are \$10.00 per year, payable at the date of the annual reunion. The dues paid at the 2018 reunion in Colorado Springs were for the year 2019. If you have not paid your 2019 dues, you can use the reunion pay sheet because the address to where the payment is to be mailed is printed on the pay sheet.

If you have not paid your dues each year, we ask that you pay the \$10.00 for each year in which you have not made payment. Membership dues are very reasonable, and they do help offset a lot of the expenses incurred as the result of the Jumping Mustangs activities.

Thank you for your membership, and thank you for keeping your dues current.

Jerry Prater

General Business Meeting Oct 6, 2018 Colorado Springs, Co

Call to order 9:05am Quorum was
established Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation by Bill Onstott

New Business

President, Harvey Auger praised and thanked the entire Board on all of the hard work that they do.

Mike and Ginger Price updated information on the 2019 reunion in Anaheim, Ca. It will be held at the Sheraton of Anaheim from 9-4 through 9-8, 2019. There are multiple airports to fly in to depending on one's needs. There is a \$12 fee for parking at the hotel.

Proposal for the 2020 Reunion was presented by Keith Heater for Gettysburg, Pa. Many points of interest including the Battlefield, Lancaster, Hershey Parks.

Airports for consideration would be Harrisburg, Washington DC, and Baltimore. The proposed dates are 9-23 through 9-27, 2020, subject to negotiation. This site was passed unanimously.

Presentation by Dana Kwist on the VVMF/Wall of Faces. He made a plea for anyone to assist in efforts to get photos of all of the names on the wall. There are many areas of the US left needing assistance.

Harvey Auger, introduced new board member Faye Lynch. Faye will lead the women in an informal meeting in the hospitality suite.

Financial report by Jim Knafel:

Starting Balance	13,754.56
Income	20,458.00
Expenses	14,359.48
New Balance	19,353.28

Financial Audit was completed by members, Bill McCarron, Wayne Skopek and Rick Wagner. A copy of the financial report is always available for everyone's viewing in the hospitality room.

Wayne Volk is nominated by the board to be the new Vice-President, and was elected unanimously by the members.

All board members were re-elected

President, Rick Wagner

Vice-President, Wayne Volk

Treasurer, Jim Knafel

Chaplain, Roger Talmadge

Quartermaster, Mike Price

Secretary, Mike Rice

Historian, Randy Howard

Bugle Editor, Jerry Prater

Open Discussion:

Randy Howard discussed Agent Orange and it is urgent that everyone needs to register before the deadline expires.

Mike Price talked about placing an article in the Bugle regarding the Jumping Mustang facebook page, to encourage people to use it as another resource of information and friendship.

There was discussion about contacting Kevan Mynderup in regards to offering assistance or taking over the Jumping Mustangs.com website.

Motion to close meeting at 10:30am by Randy Howard 2nd by Bob Lynch

Mike Rice

MISSING GRAVESITES

These are the known facts of our 4 soldiers with unfound graves. Perhaps a tip from a fellow soldier would help locate their grave, or give closure to their burial status. Many guys have been found to NOT have military markers, or for family reasons were not buried. However all but these 4 have been accounted.

Spc **John Victor Couture** died on Jan 3, 1969 while in a VA hospital in NYC, NY Medically retired on 10/15/1968. Injured in same incident as George Burr and Richard Ferralez, all serving in Delta Co. Father, Victor and Mother Shirley were notified, but no gravestone application is on file in the Coffelt Database. Have not been able to locate any burial sites of his family members. John's family lived in Hamptons Bay, Long Island.

PFC **Julio Ignacio Martir-Torres** died on Sep 28, 1966 serving with Bravo Co. from Isabella, Puerto Rico. Father Antonio Martir, and mother Maria Torres were notified of his death. No gravestone application is on file in the Coffelt database. No photo of Julio on file either.

PFC **Edmund Maceo Masterson** died on Dec 18, 1965. He was serving in Bravo Co. Fellow soldiers Jimmie Brooks, James Flagg and William McKillop also died in the incident. Plus 2 soldiers from Alpha Co Stuart Tweedy and Nels Swanson. His parents Phillip and Vivian Masterson were notified of his death in Detroit, Michigan. No gravestone application is on file in the Coffelt database.

PFC **Willis White Williams** died on Apr 11, 1967. Fellow soldiers Maurice Burnett, Bobby Coleman, Grant Gilbreath, Audeliz Hernandez and James Piper also died in the incident. He was serving in Alpha Co. His mother Patricia Ford was notified in Orange, New Jersey. A news article of her receiving Willis's Bronze Star was in the Newark Star Ledger on Sep 21, 1967. No gravestone application is on file at the Coffelt database. Willis was born in Savannah, Ga. area, but perhaps he lived with his mother prior to his service. No photo of Willis on file either.

If you served with any of these men or know anything about their families or where they could be buried please advise Mike or Sue Rice at 248-681-6184 or sr6453@att.net.

Sue Rice

SOME STATISTICS FROM THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

> The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us, by date, and within each date the names are alphabetical. The first known causality was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass., listed by the U. S, Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the wall with that of his son, Marine Corps LCpl Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

- > There are three sets of fathers and sons on the wall
- > 39,996 on the wall were just 22 or younger
- > 8,283 were just 19 years old
- > The largest age group, 33,103, were 18 years old
- > 12 Soldiers on the wall were 17 years old
- > 5 soldiers on the wall were 16 years old
- > One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock, was 15 years old
- > 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam
- > 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam
- > 31 sets of brothers are on the wall
- > 31 sets of parents lost two of their sons
- > 8 women are on the wall, nursing the wounded.
- > 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, 153 of them are on the wall.
- > The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968: 245 deaths; the most for a single month was May 1968: 2,415 casualties were incurred.

Most Americans who read this will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with those numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons, and daughters.

**THERE ARE NO NOBLE WARS,
JUST NOBLE WARRIORS.**

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I have done things
That haunt me at night
So you can sleep in peace

I have been away
From my family a long time
So that yours can be safe

I have sacrificed
A lot in my life
So that you may live free

I have done these things
Because I have sworn an oath
To my country

And I will live by this oath
Until the day I die
Because I am and always will be a
U. S. Veteran

A veteran is someone who,
At one point in his life, wrote a blank check
Made payable to his country
For an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

11th Air Assault

To all the Jumping Mustangs who attended the reunion in Colorado Springs this past October, I want to thank you for allowing me to attend and become a member of the jumping Mustangs organization. I feel honored to be a part of this group of veteran heroes of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this reunion was planned and organized and attended was the best I have ever attended. Bravo to the people who worked out the details. I especially thank members Earl Watters and Nathan Villagomez who gave me the information about the Jumping Mustang Organization.

I have a special reason for wanting to join the Jumping Mustangs, even though I was not a member of any unit attached to the 1st Cavalry Division. I was assigned to the 127th Airborne Combat Engineer Battalion, 11th Air

Assault Division (test) at Fort Benning, Georgia from 1963 to 1965. As many of you know, the 11th Air Assault was retired and all the troops that had at least a year or more to serve were sent to the 1st Cavalry and then, in July, were sent to Vietnam.

I was not assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division with the men in my battalion due to my expiration term of service date which occurred on April 20, 1965. So, I returned home to my old job without any ideal that the 11th Air Assault Division had been reflagged and sent to Vietnam. I began to wonder what happened to the men I had served with and tried to make contact with a few of my buddies but drew a blank. In 1992 I came across Lt. General Harold More's book "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young" and my hope to learn what actually happened to the troopers of the 11th Air Assault were rekindled anew.

My hope is that some of you who were in the 11th Air Assault when the change took place may be able to provide me with any information about yourself or someone else who was in the 11th Air Assault during the transition to the 1st Cavalry Division. The information will be used to complete a permanent, accurate record of what we were doing and why. Few people know that we were the ones who tested and tried out new concepts and equipment and strategies that, after 2 years, changed the way the troops would go into battle...via the "Air Mobility Concept" using newly designed equipment and weapons and aircraft and new tactical strategies that worked with the new equipment. To learn more about why your information is so important, please contact me at jfieldson@hotmail.com or call me at 505-507-7574. If there is no answer, please leave a voice message with your name and message, and I will return your call.

Thank each and every one of you for your service, and Welcome Home.

James (Jim) Fieldson

Chairman of the 11th Air Assault Division unit of the 11th Airborne Division Association

NEW YEAR'S EVE 1967

Company D 1/8 Cav was working out of LZ English on Christmas Eve 1967 and I had to go to a briefing before going to the shower point. By the time I took my shower, the only pair of replacement pants were only long enough to cover my legs from half way

between my knees and my boots. I went over to the 2/19 Artillery where Spec 5 Billy Stark had saved a pair of Tiger Stripe pants for me that I had worn several months before.

On the last day of December, the 2nd platoon of D Company 1/8 Cav was detached and dropped into the mountains southeast of Bong Son. Captain Conetto sent me along to call in artillery fire because we were supposed to sneak into an observation post and watch for enemy mortars firing on the bridges at Bong Son. The Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon was Lieutenant Nelson DeMille (who is currently a mystery book writer). We walked several kilometers over rough mountains covered with a lot of foliage. Some time later the point man stopped and, after pausing for several minutes, I walked forward. He pointed to a hill that was totally bare. I checked my map and confirmed that was the place where we were to set up. I called Lt DeMille and he came forward and realized there was no way we were going to be able to occupy the hill in daylight without being seen. He decided to wait until dark and told the platoon to take a break and eat a late lunch.

A short time later someone from battalion headquarters radioed Lt DeMille and asked if we had the hill secured. When he tried to explain our situation, Lt DeMille was told to get his platoon up there because we were going to be resupplied in less than half an hour. Lt DeMille threw up his hands in frustration. He said something like "How dumb do they think the VC is? Flying a helicopter up there is like posting a sign 'here we are'". A CH-47 Chinook, which had 2 Huey C model gunships as escorts, brought a sling load of barbed wire, engineer stakes, and 3 replacements.

The Chinook left in a cloud of dust and we were more than a bit bewildered about our mission. Lt. DeMille told us to slowly drive in the engineer stakes, but not to worry about installing the wire because we would just have to roll it back up in the morning anyway.

One of the guys on guard duty called for Sergeant Gary Wilson, and then called out for me. He informed us that a woman could be seen intermittently walking up the ridge towards our location. I looked through the binoculars and could tell she was carrying a wicker basket with straps on it like a back pack. We had a discussion on how to stop her, which included shooting her, firing warning shots, and scaring her off with artillery. None were acceptable choices, so we sent for Lt. DeMille. When he arrived, Lt DeMille told us that when she got inside of 100 yards from us, a

machine gun would provide cover as two infantrymen would walk down the hill to stop her and find out what she was doing.

After she was stopped, I could see through my binoculars that she was lifting a blanket or towel off the top of her basket. One of the infantrymen was standing in the way that prevented me from seeing the contents of the basket. One of the infantrymen then came back up the hill and said "she's got bottles of whisky". She not only knew that we were up there, but she also knew it was New Year's Eve. Lt. DeMille and the sergeants discussed the situation and agreed to let some of the soldiers go down the hill and purchase some liquid refreshments. The bottles came up and the woman went down the hill, leaving both sides very satisfied.

About midnight some of the soldiers noticed that I was occasionally laughing as I sat in an old artillery crater. I told them that the conversation coming over the artillery net was really funny. They asked me to put the speaker on my radio, which I did, and several of the soldiers came over and listened. There was an artillery recon Sergeant by the name of Anderson, who was in Company B 1/8 Cav, was doing an imitation of Johnny Carson on his radio. Even though we were quite a distance up the Bong Son Plain, we could hear him clearly because of our altitude.

The rest of the night passed peacefully and without any further incidences.

Glenn Sheathelm

My wife said I never listen to her, or something like that.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

The first five days after the weekend are the hardest.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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