

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION



April 2014

## From the TC Hatch

By: Jim Seagers

Hello, 1/50th Members,

I hope all of you are experiencing a good year thus far. I am happy to report to you that our visit to Ft. Belvoir to present Operation Bandanas to wounded warriors there and to Arlington National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America was a great success. The warriors appreciated the bandanas but most of all seemed to enjoy the fact that we cared enough to come spend time with them. At Arlington, an estimated 25,000 volunteers put wreaths on over 125,000 graves of hero's on December 14. We--the Curtises, the Maklarys, and my wife and I--were there mainly to make sure our five 1/50th KIA's had wreaths placed on their graves as a tribute from our battalion.

You always experience a sense of awe as you enter Arlington, with the immensity of the place and the silent reminders of the sacrifices of so many heroes. As we walked under a particular arch at the cemetery, we read the inscription above, "the Bivouac of the Dead." You definitely miss an experience of a lifetime if you don't go on this trip. For instance, on the day before the laying of the wreaths, we arrived at the cemetery to make sure we remembered the locations of the gravesites and to locate the fifth one, added this year through Jim Sheppard's research. Then we went to the Wall. While there we noticed someone being taped. After they finished, we naturally were curious. The lady taping was a Harvard professor. The gentleman being taped was Yusef Komunyakaa, the poet who wrote the most famous poem of the Vietnam War entitled "Facing It." As we talked to the professor, she asked about us and began taping our Vietnam War experiences. She is using her interviews to make a documentary on Vietnam to be taught at Harvard later this year.

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LORENE BURCH, EDITOR

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After they left, another gentleman walked up beside us. So we asked if he was locating a family member on the Wall. Then he said, "Do you want to hear a story?" We said, "Of course."



"You see this name above my head. I first learned of this bomber pilot when I was a Boy Scout in the early 1970's. I got a POW/MIA bracelet with his name on it. You remember in those days we wore these hoping for the safe return of the person whose name was on it. Well, I registered the bracelet at the time. This pilot went missing in action on December 13, 1971, when his plane went down and could not be found. A few days ago, I received a note from where I had registered the bracelet that the pilot's remains had been found in Cambodia. Along with his family, I was invited to come to his funeral which will be here tomorrow, 43 years to the day that he went missing."

(continued on page 3)

# Ladies Home Front

By: Loretta Segars

For information about our activities, see the "President's Corner." It's not too early to begin to plan to go to this year's event at Washington. We do not have reservations yet, but we will be staying again at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington. You won't be sorry if you make this trip.

Also, we are in need of funds to purchase more Operation Bandanas and to send care packages to deployed soldiers. It has been some time since we sent a package.

Send donations to; Loretta Segars  
2323 Half-Sectionline Road  
Albertville, Alabama  
35950

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Lorretta



## New members for 2013

Frank Arcardo	(Charlie Co.)	09/67-10/67	wia
Keith LaRue	LIFE (Alpha)	10/67-01/68	wia
Mike Pellett	(Alpha)	09/67-09/68	
Craig Reed	(HHC medic w/Charlie)	09/87-03/68	
Thomas Nelson	LIFE (BN CO)	05/01/13	
Curtis Woods	LIFE (BN CSM)	05/01/13	
Duane Yarbrough	LIFE	05/01/13	
William Stovall	LIFE (BN CO)	05/01/13	
Chuck Ogle	LIFE (Dustoff 61)	67-68	
Terry Gauthier	LIFE	05/01/13	
Jose Ledezma	Co. CO	05/01/13	
Jordan Roedl	Alpha DI	05/01/13	
Jason Jones	Alpha DI	05/01/13	
Michael Lankford	HHC/Delta (Maint)	06/69-06/70	
Steve Seid	Bravo 2nt Plt.	12/67-12/68	
Roger Agee			
Scott Marini	Alpha	09/67-06/68	

## Chaplains Corner

Given permission by: Toby Lawrence

Prayer is the War. God's Word is the Weapon:

### Psalm 91

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,



but it will not come near you.

8 You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—

10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

(con't from page 1)

The next day as we were walking around the vast cemetery, my wife noticed a new grave with flowers still intact. She said, "I wonder if this could be the grave of the pilot we learned about yesterday?" We looked closely at the name on the tombstone. At the top was his wife's name, and sure enough there was his with the newly posted temporary funeral marker by the flowers. The two were buried in the same plot. What were the chances of seeing that grave of all the thousands at Arlington? It made the story even more real.

This Friday, the Vietnam Wall that has just been erected at the National Infantry Museum will be dedicated. It is well-designed and a great tribute to all soldiers who fought in Vietnam. There are also separate panels with beautifully etched pictures and words that stand near the Wall. Spokesmen at the museum said that between 1200-1600 Freedom Riders escorted the Wall to where it is today. The roaring sound of the bikes was something they would always remember as the riders stretched for as far as the eye could see coming into the museum. We will be placing a wreath with the 1/50th's crest and flowers on behalf of our association at this Wall. Play the Game.

Sincerely,  
Jimmy



**A Soldiers Easter**  
May each of you be blessed.

**Texas River Walk**

The Texas River Walk reunion has been canceled. Sorry for not being able to give you more notice.

Please watch for future events in the next news letter as well as you may go to the [ichiban1.org](http://ichiban1.org) website.

Plans are being made for the 2015 reunion in Ft. Benning, GA. Not sure how they do it, but they seem to make each reunion a little better.

We look forward to seeing you all there.



**From the Editor: Lorene Burch**



As I sit here at my computer wondering what I might share with you all, it comes to mind that we need to remind our grandchildren and that generation of the men and women who have and continue to protect their rights as an American citizen to live in freedom.

It seems they do not know the edict for honoring the American flag. We have taught our children and grandchildren to stand when the flag passes in a parade, even though those around us remain seated. It does my heart good when I hear a child tell an adult, they need to stand in honor of the flag and those who have fought and died to keep our country free.

We are free to worship because of what you all have done. Thank you for your service.

Spring Formal Military Ball of the 1/50<sup>th</sup>  
Submitted by John Topper

Association members, Jim and Loretta Segars, Jay and Wilfreda Copley and John and Janet Topper attended the 1/50 Infantry Regiment Dining In on 7 March at the Chattahoochee River Club. It was a grand time for all and generated a great deal of enthusiasm amongst those in attendance. Jim and Jay were honored by the Regiment with induction into the Order of Saint Maurice, the Patron Saint of the Infantry. The Order of Saint Maurice is awarded by the National Infantry Association and the certificate is signed by the Chief of Infantry of the United States Army. It is named after Saint Maurice, the leader of the Roman Theban Legion in the 3rd century.

Not to be outdone by the men, Loretta, Wilfreda and Janet were all inducted into the Shield of Sparta, Heroine of Infantry Society. The Shield of Sparta is awarded to a spouse who has contributed significantly to the Infantry. The award is given in recognition of spouses of Infantrymen whose contributions deserve special recognition by the National Infantry Association and the Infantry community. The award is a token of appreciation for the sacrifice and commitment demanded of the wives of Infantrymen. It further symbolizes these women as true patriots with selfless ideals and the courage to send their Infantrymen into harm's way.



The photo was taken after dinner and includes, left to right: Tom and Michelle Nelson, Jim and Loretta Segars, Jay and Wilfreda Copley, Janet and John Topper and Curtis Woods. LTC Nelson and CSM Woods from the current command team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.



### Kansas Medical Foster Homes

Submitted by: Lorene Burch

In Kansas we are just learning about this program to help veterans who need 24 hour care, but don't want to go to a nursing home or who's families can't provide the care they need. Go to [va.gov/geriatrics](http://va.gov/geriatrics) for information in your area. (The following is from the web site.)

“Medical Foster Homes are private homes in which a trained caregiver provides services to a few individuals. Some, but not all, residents are Veterans. VA inspects and approves all Medical Foster Homes.

A Medical Foster Home can serve as an alternative to a nursing home. It may be appropriate for Veterans who require nursing home care but prefer a non-institutional setting with fewer residents.

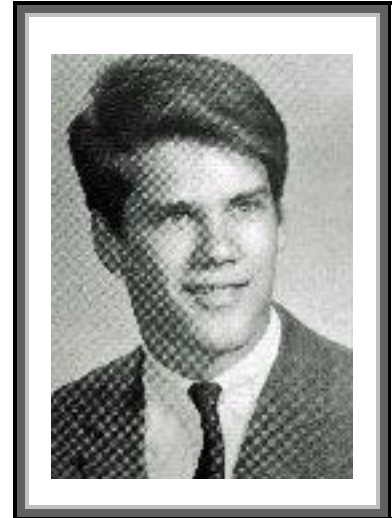
Medical Foster Homes have a trained caregiver on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This caregiver can help the Veteran carry out activities of daily living (e.g., bathing and getting dressed). VA ensures that the caregiver is well trained to provide VA planned care.

While living in a Medical Foster Home, Veterans receive Home Based Primary Care services. In Kansas it is required that you live within 50 miles of the Rober J. Dole Va Medical Center to become a caregiver. Contact information is 5500 E. Kellogg, Wichita, Ks 67401 316-685-2221 Ext. 57749

**HISTORIAN REPORT -  
SUBMITTED BY: DON KOCHI  
VERIFIED BY: JIM SHEPPARD**

The following was sent to me via e-mail by Don Kochi.

Timothy Wayne Beverford  
3rd Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry  
While OPCON to (Operating with) the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503th  
Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, RA573729319, MOS 11B20  
Born: Mare Island, Vallejo, CA, Home of Record: Los Angeles, CA  
Date of Birth: August 15, 1949, Age at time of loss: 19, Single  
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of  
Vietnam  
Start of Tour: February 20, 1969, Date of Casualty: July 28, 1969, Days  
in Country: 158  
Casualty Type A1, Hostile OED, Panel 20W - Row 063



Tim Beverford was killed when the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) he was riding hit a booby-trapped 155mm Artillery Round. Charlie Company was under the Operational Control of the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry. The APC was completely destroyed.

In spite of swift evacuation by the Battalion Command Helicopter, Beverford died as a result of the blast, never regaining consciousness.

Wounded with him that day were: Cecil Ratliff, John Cole, Albert Butler, Jack Hamby and Mike Reck.



Next issue comes out  
August 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles need  
to be submitted not later  
than July 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Attention

This is your news letter.  
Please feel free to send  
articles to:

Lorene Burch  
126 S. Ohio, Apt. i  
Salina, Kansas 67401  
Email: [thelmaburch@gmail.com](mailto:thelmaburch@gmail.com)  
Phone: 785-452-2978 (Please  
leave a message)

I would really like to hear from  
you.

Gary Quint  
438 Fairway Lane  
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

