

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

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April 2022
and all the Association

From the TC Hatch

The President's Corner
By Jim Segars



Hello, everyone,

It's spring, and with spring comes a brightening of our feelings and newness of life all around us. Lorretta says our daffodils are a little stunted this year, but they made it anyway through the harsh winter and record rainfall. With covid and its variations, other sickness, and loss of loved ones this past year and into the beginning of this year, it might have stunted us somewhat; but the Good Lord brought us through this harshness of life as He has promised with renewed strength. So Lorretta and I wish for you much happiness and good health for the remainder of this year and beyond.

We all miss Mike McCardell since he has retired, but he still plans to attend our association reunions. Mike was so instrumental in making all of our reunions at Ft. Benning very successful. As always the Lt. Col. and all the cadre at the 1/50th make our association feel so welcome.

As former Lt. Col., Frank Baltazar, retired on March 2, we all wish him and his wife Audry and family congratulations and best wishes for their new phase in life. They will be living in Kansas and also plan to attend our association reunions.

To Lt. Col. Daubert we send *THANKS* for all that went into the last reunion. Perhaps you may get to stay at Ft. Benning when your two-year command of the 1/50th is up. We pray for all these leaders and the soldiers they equip for military life. We ask God to protect all of these leaders and their men.

We would also like to recognize Michelle Spivey for providing good hotel accommodations for each reunion, and John Topper for all the planning he does for our association.

We ask that all of you continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and their leaders. Pray for our leaders, too, for wisdom.

Well, until the next newsletter, take care and take time to enjoy your families. They grow up so fast.

Sincerely

Jimmy Segars, President

Play the Game

P.S. Lorretta is doing quite well. We thank you for your kindness and prayers for us.

Editor: Lorene Burch

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Chaplain's Corner



Hello to everyone:

Hope this finds you well. At the time of this writing Brenda and I are still wintering in Gulfport Ms. Almost time to head home, hopefully the weather will cooperate and be in a warming trend soon.

The war in Ukraine is in full swing, my prayers are that this will be settled as soon as possibly the poor people are being killed defending their homes, I think our nation needs to turn back to GOD and ask for Devine intervention. I think that's the only way this madness will end.

Pray for peace always and may God watch over us and our country!

Your brother in Christ,
Good bye for now,
Toby.

Please send any requests or concerns to me via the following:

Email: lawrencejordan30@yahoo.com

Phone: 573-379-0875

Editor's note:

Lorene Burch



The longer I do this the more I learn from you all. I have learned that if I am going to receive responses I am responsible for making sure I am able to reprint them. I learned at the reunion that anything put on the website, I can print, so have decided to post different stories. This is exciting as I have received more responses than ever before: as you will see by some of the articles.

I love hearing from you all and as I have said before this newsletters is yours, I am only to pass on the information.

Thank you for all the positive feedback I am proud to serve you all.

Sincerely,

Lorene Burch

thelmaburch@gmail.com

785-452-2978

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A FAREWELL LETTER

Association members,

I would truly like to thank everyone for letting me be a part of the association. Over all these years it has been my privilege to help in the planning and resourcing for our reunions. I hope that somehow I made a difference. I always knew that when you arrived on Fort Benning, it was going to be great time spending with friends and families.

From shooting M4's at the range, visiting training, Ranger graduations, eating MRE's, eating with soldiers in the Dining Facility, Hunter's pub for dinner, the CP, the wreaths that would be shipped from Maine that I place by the memorial for Christmas, the building dedications from our fallen heroes, the engagement skills trainer, and still more to come.

The BBQ was my favorite part of the reunion. I can especially remember one special time when COL Nelson was the battalion commander. We set up a clap X. When all of you came off the buses and came through the front door of the Activity Center, you walked down the center of the facility; and everyone in the battalion (because everyone in the battalion was there) all started to clap. The tears from all of our veterans melt my heart. I hope, truly my hope, was for all of them to forget how they were treated when they came back from Vietnam, to know that we cared, and to realize that we will always care.

I'm not saying farewell. God willing I will meet everyone at the CP to kick off the reunions in the coming years.

Bayonet 3Mike, OUT

Search for David L. Reed

Sent in by Thomas Dubiel

** Searching for David L.Reed E-4 Radioman whom I served with
In Vietnam, 1967. Co. C. 1st. 50th Mechanized Infantry Div.
1st. Cavalry Division. He was Wounded December 14, 1967.

Thanking you in advance for any information that you may possibly find out for me.

Contact information: Sgt.Thomas Dubiel, 33372 Linsdale Court, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310
Email: TJDubiel@aol.com
Phone 1 (586) 268-6744



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

1/50th Battalion Vietnam Veteran and Association member,

Frankie Accardo and his family thank all members for your cards, texts, and Facebook messages for his 80th Birthday. His milestone birthday was made special by all your cards and personal messages. On his birthday, his family arranged for Frankie to have a drive by birthday salute by the Patriot Guard Riders! About 11 Riders participated in the salute, then parked and greeted him one by one to wish him a Happy Birthday and "Welcome Home". It is a service the Mississippi Patriot Guard Riders call Heros on the Homefront Mission. All the Riders enjoyed participating in this uplifting mission. Frankie was very grateful and amazed by the Rider's show of support and patriotism to him. Photos provided show.

Frankie with all the mission attendees, and a picture of Frankie with his daughters, Ashley and Crystal (left and right).



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Tom to 'Nam

by Ron Fisher

Sent in by: **Schlecht and Keelin**

I would have loved to publish this story. I have the information to find it below. The one thing about publishing something is that I have the author's permission to print it unless it is found on the Associations Web site. So if you would like to see your story printed, make sure it is something you have written or I have permission from the author to release it. This is really an interesting story and shows how important it is to attend the reunions.



For the full story, Visit:

https://www.dailyindependent.com/keelin/image_847c3bd6-4271-11ec-8271-ef2417e810e1.html

Or do an internet search for: "Tom Keelin, Daily Independent"

Thank you Tom for bringing this to my attention... a really nice story.

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To the 1-50IN Association
From LTC Daubert

The active duty arm of the 1-50IN is doing well. CSM Bell and I are proud every day when watching your Drill Sergeants and Cadre transform civilians into Infantry Soldiers. It is an understatement to say that they are truly awesome trainers.

A central theme for the last several months is summarized in one word...TRANSITION. Based on the constant arrival and departure of personnel, the Battalion is in a constant state of leader transition and change. Since the last newsletter we have new leaders serving in the critical positions of Company Commander and First Sergeant for many of the companies.

When operating in the constant state of transition and change, success is enabled by established systems and processes. The Battalion Executive Officer (MAJ Wampler) is working hard to make a Battalion level SOP (standard operating procedure) a reality. This seminal living document allows for critical documents to be accessible by all cadre. The result is that this buys down the time it takes one of our instructors to become an expert at what they teach once they join the team.

We currently have three companies in training. Delta Company's execution of their pickup, now call the 1st 100 Yards, was filmed by Business Insider. This was made into an 11:18 video that is on YouTube and at the link below.

[What New Army Soldiers Go Through On Day One Of Boot Camp | Boot Camp - YouTube](#)

This video shows the culture change that has occurred within the Battalion and all of OSUT (One Station Unit Training) at Fort Benning. It is an event now based on inclusion, winning, and teamwork from day one. Don't be mistaken, it is as difficult and challenging as ever. The Brigade Commander and Command Sergeant Major recognized the Battalion's execution of this event as the standard for which all others will be measured. This is a testament to the professionalism and pride of all YOUR cadre.

A third area of focus is the upcoming execution of a Battalion level Mungadi leader event. This will be a 36+ hour event that all Lieutenants and Captains will be stressed through constant physical and mental events. At the end of this event, each will earn their 50th Infantry Regiment crossed rifles.

A final note is that we are well on our way to planning the Battalion Change of Command on the 18th of May 2022; which will occur on the parade field at the National Infantry Museum. This will be a great day for the unit, albeit a melancholy one for me personally. Invitations will be going out in the near future and we hope you all are able to attend the transition of leadership within YOUR battalion.

CSM Bell and I wish everyone well and please don't hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

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War Story or Urban Legend, It's a Good Read!

Author unknown (but she's married to a VietVet named Richard). Submitted by **Dick Guthrie**.

Webmaster's Note: The Urban Legends website claims that this is a true story.

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Viet Nam other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8x10 black & white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margaret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to sign the treasured photo so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing. When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot, and disappeared behind a parking garage.

Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted. Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home.

Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in line, it was soon Richard's turn. He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it".

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for "my gentlemen". With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he was the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big strong husband broke down in tears. "That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army", he said.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send in your articles to: Lorene Burch, 821 Meadowbrook Rd., Salina Kansas 67401. Or my email address thelmaburch@gmail.com. Feel free to visit the association web site at: <https://www.ichiban1.org/> to find more stories and information as to what it going on within the unit.

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Gary Quint
438 Fairway Lane
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122