

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association



**Bill & Dianne
THANKS!
FOR 18+ YEARS OF
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

BY-LAWS

Article I. Title

The Association shall be known as the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association.

Article II. Aims and Objectives

Section 1. To preserve and foster the spirit of fellowship among former and possible future members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army, and provide an organization through which they may unite in bonds of comradeship.

Section 2. To commemorate the memory of soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Section 3. To support a national military that will promote stability and peace throughout the world.

Section 4. To foster public understanding and support of the United States Army.

Section 5. To promote and perpetuate those Army and unit traditions that contribute to esprit de corps and superior performance of duty.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association shall be open to any soldier, active, retired or honorably discharged Veteran, who served or was attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade during its active service.

Section 2. Terms of Membership. Membership in the Association shall remain in force so long as the member maintains current status by payment of prescribed dues.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Enumeration. The Officers of the Association shall be a President who shall be the Chief Executive Officer, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Duties. The Officers of the Association shall administer the affairs of the Association in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 3. Terms and Election. The President and the Vice President shall be elected by the membership, as provided in these By-Laws. The terms of office of the President and Vice President shall be two (2) years, and they shall be eligible for reelection. The other officers shall be appointed by the President.

Section 4. Vacancies in Elective Offices. If the President vacates his office during his term, the Vice President shall succeed thereto.

Section 5. Honorary Presidents. The Honorary Presidency of the Association may be tendered after election by the membership.

ON THE COVER: Bill and Dianne Knight. Bill was one of the original founders of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association. Evolving from a backyard barbeque of a few friends, Bill served as President and led the Association to its current stature. After 18+ years of hard work by both he and Dianne, Bill decided to pass the torch, and declined re-nomination at the last reunion. Thanks Bill and Dianne, we know you will continue to be active in the Association you helped establish.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



From the President



First I wish to once again thank Bill Knight for his 18 years of leadership. Bill, ya done good! Thank You!

Talk about an emotional roller coaster! We go from the high of our reunion in Gettysburg to the lows we, as a nation, experienced after the tragedy on Sep 11th. In those 7 weeks I also lost my father, a 25th Infantry Division veteran of World War II. He was laid to rest in a veteran's cemetery in Cape May, NJ on Sep 10th. There was no honor guard, no taps. The flag was folded and presented by the funeral home personnel. The only military veteran to render a final salute to him was me. Very sad, all in all.

It appears that our government just doesn't have enough money or manpower assets to honor its veterans any more. So I guess it's up to us to take care of ourselves. We don't have the money or manpower assets either, but what we do have is an inseparable bond forged in combat. That bond is what draws us together at least every other year. It's what draws us together at parties, barbecues, weddings and ultimately at funerals. We stuck together in 'Nam and we need to stick together again, now more than ever.

The military has its hands full right now addressing the terrorist threat which is as it should be. What we need to do is call, write, email, and visit each other. We need to care about each other now, and support our brothers like never before. Don't put off contacting that old buddy. You don't know if you'll be here to get the chance to morrow. I like a quote I heard by Frank Sinatra, he said "Live every day like it's your last and one day you'll be right!" I don't want to be right without telling my brothers how much they meant to me in Vietnam and through out my life.

I accepted the challenge of leading this Association for just those reasons. I want to make sure we stay in touch and continue to care about one another as we once did in combat. You can count on me. I've got your back!

Warren

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association Business Meeting Minutes Saturday, July 28, 2001

The Annual Meeting of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association was called to order by President Bill Knight on Saturday, July 28, 2001 at 9:08 AM.
Pledge to the US Flag

Election of Officers:

After 19 years, Bill Knight declined to seek re-election to the office of President.

Nominations for President from the floor: Warren Neill

Warren Neill accepted the nomination for President.

In favor: All, Opposed: None

Warren Neill elected President

Nominations for Vice-President:

Dave Morris, Tom Ellis, and

Ken McKenzie (all declined)

Roy Dolgos, HHC 2/1, accepted the nomination for vice-president

In favor: All, Opposed: None

Roy Dolgos elected Vice-President

2003 Reunion Location:

Ten sites for the next reunion were suggested from the membership. A committee will be appointed by the President to explore possibilities. Oscar Harris volunteered to serve on this committee. The sites suggested were:

Milwaukee, WI - Chicago, IL -

Branson, MO - Atlanta, GA - West Coast location - El Paso, TX - Las Vegas, NV - Reno, NV - Omaha, NB - Cleveland, OH.

A suggestion was made to change the meeting dates if better accommodations and rates are available in the spring or fall of 2003.

Memorial Donations:

A donation in the amount of \$196.00 and a letter were received from Dave's

family, in honor of Leland D. Ritchey. The letter was read at the meeting.

"Dear Ken,

On October 21, 2000 Leland D. "Dave" Ritchey suffered a heart attack and passed away. In Dave's memory, we (his family) would like to make a donation to the 196th. Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of Leland D. Ritchey, 6391 Culbert Road Osseo, MI 49266.

Sincerely,

Dave's family: *Betty; Sue and Kaitlyn; Todd, Kelly & Tylor*"

Another donation was received for the hospitality room from Al Piantkowski in memory of his brother Ed, KIA, November 13, 1966. Ed's friends remembered and toasted him.

Newsletter:

Ken McKenzie will continue to edit and publish the 196th LIB Association Newsletter. The Newsletter will be sent to members twice each year. Please send articles/information about the Vietnam War and/or the 196th to Ken (see inside back cover for address)

Web Page:

The 196th LIB has a web page – visit us at:

www.196th.org

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Zahn, Secretary

196th REUNION - GETTYSBURG



Re union –

How do I be gin to de scribe Get tys burg 2001? What a great re union!!

The place, the fa cil ity, the staff, the vol un teers, the tours, the at ten dees, the fam i lies, the guests, the ban quet, the speak ers, the DJ, were all ex cep tional!

The vet eran’s con nec tion with Get tys burg was so strong that it was, at times, over-whelming. You could n’t help but get goose pimples listening to Wayne Motts bring history alive on the battlefield tours. And talk about living history, how about Jim Getty’s ter rific por trayal of Abra ham Lin coln or the reenactor honor guard, in full Civil War Un ion gear, that ac com pa nied him into the ban quet hall to the strains of “Hail to the Chief”.

The liv ing his tory of the con tin ued mis sion of the 196th so pro fes sion ally pre sented by Bri gade Com mander COL Kim Kadesch and CW3 Theresa Fer gu son from HQ, 196th in Ha waii.

The con tin uing legacy of COL Frank Conaty, who was honored by being named “Hon orary Col onel of the Bri gade”.

The mov ing grave side ser vice, Bronze Star and State Proc la ma tion pre sen ta tions for one of our own, Gary Runk, with over 250 in at tendance. The color guard and chaplain from Carlisle Bar racks.

The ex treme honor of the presence of the widows, children and grandchildren of 196th mem bers who have pre ceded us to their fi nal rest.

The pass ing of the torch from Bill Knight to Warren Neill as Pres ident of the Association. The elec tion of Roy Dolgos as Vice Pres i dent.

The con tin u ing ca ma ra de rie and es prit de corps of the mem bers of the 196th and the great time ev ery one had meet ing old friends again.

The large number of first time attendees. Wel come home, and we hope to see you next time!

The in trepid trio of John McGonigle, Bobbie Flater & Frank Murphy keep ing things stocked in the Hos pi tal ity Room.

The gen er os ity of the 75th Rangers for send ing us their left over hors d’oeuvres at just the right time on Fri day night.

The chiv alry dis played by all the male golf ers by al low ing a lady to win the golf tour-nament.

The ab so lutely fan tas tic mid night ser e nade at pool side by the mem bers of the 4th Bn 31st In fantry.

The su perb CD spin ning of our own DJ – Rich “Doc” Mosher.

MAKE SURE YOU’RE THERE IN 2003
WE’LL HAVE A GREAT TIME!

TAPS

We often are not notified of a member's passing until we get a notice from the Post Office. If you have any information on the death of a 196th Brother, please send it to the Editor.

Canales, Isaac, 4/18/28 - 01/01/99, Isaac served with Company "B", 3/21 from 1965 - 1967, and was from Willingboro, NJ.

Barbosa, Fred, 25 Jan 97, Fred's wife Mercy writes, "Fred had lung cancer. He had full military funeral honors. Most important he is in Heaven with Jesus who is his Lord and Savior." Fred lived in Waianae, HI.

Byous, Willie J., Willie served with "A" Company, 3/82 Artillery from 1965 - 1967. He had lived in Columbia, SC.

Sawyer, Terry, 02 Oct 1996, Terry served with Company "B", 3/21 from 1968-1969. He was from Anacortes, WA.

Sterrett, Elmer L., (Listed last news letter with no information.) SSG Sterrett was an original Charger. He came with the Brigade from Ft. Devens to Tay Ninh on the general. Alexander Patch, troop ship. He served with HHD & Band. He was a World War II and Korean War veteran. He was originally from Mississippi and lived in Sturgis, KY. I remember him well and lament his loss. Signed: *Rev. Kelly McDuffie (former Brigade Chem NCO)*

Sullivan, Spencer, Served in 1968-1969. Spencer lived in Topeka, KS.

Lopes, Ronald C., 30 Jan 2001, 60 years old, Served with 3/82 Arty, 1967. Ron served as a lieutenant in Germany and Vietnam. He received the Silver Star. He retired from the military as a captain in 1970. After living in New Jersey and Chicago he recently had returned to his family home in North Truro, RI. He was a member of VFW Post 3152. Ron is survived by his wife Deborah, mother Jeanette, a brother, three daughters, and nine grandchildren.

Ritchey, Leland D "Dave", 6/27/45-10/21/00. Dave served with Company "B", 3/21 from 1965-1967. Leland was a Life Member of the Association and had attended reunions back to 1983 when the Association was first forming. Dave lived in Osseo, MI. and is survived by his wife Betty, daughter Sue, son and daughter-in-law Todd and Kelly, granddaughter Kaithlyn and grand son Taylor. A son, James, preceded him in death in 1971. His family and his friends loved him and will profoundly miss him.

Clark, MAJ(Ret) John F., An Internet note from his son informs us that John was stationed at Ft. Devens when the 196th was called up to Vietnam. He was at Tay Ninh for the first six months during the initial move - 66-67. He was later transferred to Saigon with the 506th. I believe he was a supply officer. He has since passed on and is buried at the VA cemetery in Massachusetts.

Wachowiak, Terry, died 1997, Terry was a member of the 26th Engineers during 1970-71, and had lived in Milwaukee, WI. He is survived by his wife Beverly.

Lapinsky, William 5/27/45-11/28/00, Served in B, 3/21 from 1965 through 1967. Bill had resided in Bridgeport, MI

Fawcett, Ernest, No additional information.

Whittecar, John A., 2/7/38 - 9/6/97 John served with "D", 4/31 and was from Sallina, KS.

TAPS

Poole, John L., 06/25/35 - 07/26/00 John served with HQ 3/82 Arty. John joined the service in 1953 and re tired in 1979. He grew up in Sandy Creek, NY and was liv ing in Lawton, OK at the time of his death from an au to mobile ac ci dent. He is sur vived by his wife, three chil dren and five grand chil dren. John was a mem ber in good stand ing of the 196th As so ci a tion. He was bur ied with full mil i tary hon ors.

Wolz, Randy, died January 1997 from Leukemic cancer. Randy was from Weldon Springs, month

Carlson, Er nest B., His wife Fay writes, "He was proud to have served his coun try. God Bless all Veterans. *Hug somebody*" (Ernie's motto). Ernie was from Fredericksburg, TX

Bartash, Robert, 4/18/45 - 12/25/93, Rob ert served with "B", 3/21 during 1965-1966. His wife Carol wrote that he died of Lung Can cer.

Beranek, Bill, 2/12/46 - 1/13/00, Served with "D", 2/1 dur ing 1967 & 1968. His wife Car o lyn writes, "His time with the 196th is well re mem bered by his fam ily through his pic tures, slides, mov ies and sto ries. My hus band was very proud of be ing with the 196th and serv ing in Viet nam." Bill lived in La Grange, IL and had a mil i tary fu neral.

Dorovey, Robert, died 11/11/97. Rob ert served with 2/1 dur ing 1967 & 1968. He had lived in Linesville, PA and was a cur rent mem ber of the 196th As so ci a tion.

Lynch, Thomas J., died April 11, 1995. Served with "D", 4/31 dur ing 1969 & 1970. His wife Helen writes, "He was very proud of his mem ber ship in the 196th - In fact, I still have a sticker on my car." Thomas lived in Hingham, MA.

LOOKING FOR

Luna, Armando, My Un cle, Armando Luna, served with the 196th LIB in Viet nam from Mar 06, 1970 to May 04, 1970. I was only eight years old when he left. He was, and still is, my hero. My mother asked me to try and find any one who served with him dur ing his short time in the Army. She's hop ing some one may have pho to graphs of him that she can see. Tony May of Lo cate-A-Brother in formed me that my un cle was in Com pany "C", 2/1 In fan try. I would ap pre ci ate any help that you can pro vide.

Randall L. Gar cia, 34B Lin Dr., Elgin AFB, 32542, e-mail: RLUNAG@aol.com

Damitio, Martin L., My uncle, Martin L. Damitio was a 196th KIA near Tam Ky on May 13, 1969. Is there any one who might have served with him? Please con tact me at:

Mark W. Damitio, 3234 41st Way SE, Olym pia, WA 98501

e-mail: luckymd33@hotmail.com

Bolduc, Dan iel Alphonse, We are try ing to find in for ma tion on Danny, who was KIA on July 29, 1969 in Quang Nam. He was born on Feb 3, 1946 and was an E-4 with 4 years of service. My Dad will not talk about Dan iel and I can re mem ber him when I was 7 or 8 years old. I am now re tired USN. I hope we can gather in for ma tion that I may pres ent to our fa ther to make him un der stand that Dan iel made us proud.

Respect fully, *Da vid and Eric Bolduc* (Brother and Nephew)

1631 Montecito Ave., Deltona, FL 32738, (904) 789-1943

Sanders, Gordon, Trying to con tact Gorden, who served at the same time as I did, A-2/1 *Lou Rodriguez*, 14532 SW 122, Mi ami, FL 33186, (305) 255-1482

LOOKING FOR

Sellners, Bert, Anyone remembering Bert Sellners who was injured by a trip flare Jan/Feb 71, while assigned to D 3/21, and further injured his foot/ankle in a mishap Jun/Jul 71, while assigned to E 3/21, please contact Deb Hackman at the Winneshiek County Veterans Affairs Office in Decorah, Iowa. Phone (563)382-5786.

Shackett, SSG Donald S., I am the widow of then SSG Donald Shackett, B Co., 3/21. He trained the 196th at Devens, went to Nam, fought at Tay Ninh, stayed at Tay Ninh when the unit went North, and came home in August 1967. I'm trying to put together some memories for our children. He died recently, and the information would be helpful. He never really talked much about his combat. He did have occasional nightmares; however, he managed to live a very full, productive life after Nam. He stayed in to retire from the Army, and spent the rest of his life teaching JROTC. I too am a vet who was one of the first women who were not WAC. We were RA soldiers who were assigned to ASA at Devens in 1965-1966. *Phyllis Shackett*, e-mail: armymom@neocomm.net

CPT Maxsion, I am trying to locate an individual who was with 3/21 around 1970-1971. CPT Maxsion (spelling unsure) was the S-5 of 3/21. At the time, an ARVN by the name of Nguyen Van Tuy was attached to the S-5 as an interpreter. He would like to make contact with CPT Maxsion who was a guest at his wedding. Anyone with information on CPT Maxsion please contact Robert Marr (303) 465-6318, 11131 Harlan St., Westminster, CO 80020

Barrett, Donald, I am trying to find people that were in the war with my uncle. He was KIA on April 30, 1970 in Quang Tin, one month before I was born. Vicki Schroeder, 126 Atteiram Dr., Rome, GA 30161 (706) 290-0497

Zydzik, Jr., Frank, Looking for any one that knew my cousin Frank, from Phillips, WI. He was 2nd Platoon, Delta Co. 3/21. In country May 13, 1969; KIA January 7, 1970. Frank was KIA about 14 miles NW of Tam Ky (BT113324). His platoon was attached to F, 17th Cav that day. Also KIA were 2LT William Erkes, SSGT Gene Wells, Cpl Larry Bradley, and PFC John Retseck Jr. If you have information contact: Lee Smolen, 1904 Santa Barbara Dr., Waukesha, WI 53189 e-mail GetNBy79@aol.com

Sweet, Larry, If you served in F Troop, 17th Cav from April 1969 to October 1969, please contact me. My father was KIA. He was in the 1st Platoon, 3rd Track. His daughter, Candy Thomas, 1235 Grace Ann Ct., Memphis, TN 38018 (901) 753-5372

Rhinehart Sr., Paul, 3/21, Mar 1967-Mar-1968. If any one remembers me, please write or call me. I can't remember any one's name or half of the things that happened. I saw a duplicate of the Wall, but even reading those names, I still can't remember any one. Paul Rhinehart, 130 Simmons Rd., Union, SC 29379 (864) 429-0531

Crothers, Howard Robert, I am doing research on my cousin. He was Co. A, 4/31 and was KIA May 1, 1968 when I was just five years old. Contact: David Jeffers, 2816 Ridgeview Dr. Augusta, GA 30909

Looking for Charger LOH Pilots, I flew LOH's for HQ Co., 196th from 5/69 until 2/70. LZ Baldy, Hawk Hill. Would like to find other Charger pilots: Sells, McMahon, Burke, James, Merchant, or others with memories of our small aviation unit that flew OH-6A's (LOH's) Dick Elgin, 310 East 6th St., Rolla, MO 65401 (573) 364-6362

Wells, SSGT Gene, Does anyone remember my cousin. He was from Pulaski, KY and was KIA in Jan 1970. Contact: Curtis Gilliland Jr., 329 Garner School Rd., Somerset, KY 42503 e-mail: sai.gon@mciworld.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCATOR SERVICE

The 196th LIB Association will search its database, on request, to attempt to locate buddies you may want to find. Simply send a written or e-mail request to Ken McKenzie, Editor, stating the name if you know it. We can also do a search by unit and year. State the Company, Battalion, and year(s) to search. We will send you a print-out of up to ten names returned by the search. If the search returns more than ten names, we will just send you the names without addresses. Look over the list to see if you want to get in touch with any one, and we will send you those addresses.

The purpose of not sending long lists of names and addresses is to protect the mailing list from possible commercial exploitation. We have spent a lot of time and effort building our member database and do not want it used indiscriminately.

We currently have over 3,200 names on our mailing list so maybe we can help you find that long lost buddy.

NEW 196th WEB SITE

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association now has its own Internet domain. Please visit the new website at:

www.196th.org

175th ENGINEERS WEBSITE

I have a website about the 175th Combat Engineers, a support group for the 196th LIB. This website covers the history of the 196th from basic training 1965 at Ft. Devens, to our tour in Tay Ninh and Chu Lai, 1967. It shows how the engineers constructed the Tay Ninh base camp and other historical events.

Sam Lococo sjlapril@javanet.com

<http://www.homestead.com/175thengineers/homepage.html>

196th ASSOCIATION TAX EXEMPT STATUS

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has received tax exempt status. This means that all dues and contributions are tax deductible on your income tax.

We will also be able to reduce mailing costs as a tax exempt organization.

3/21 GIMLET WEBSITE

I served with both A and B Companies 3/21 from 1968 to 1969. I served 14 months with 3/21 until wounded and medevaced for the last time in June 1969. I am now retired from the Army, and I am proud of my service record with the 3/21, 196th LIB.

I am the website administrator for the 21st Infantry's website and the 3/21's website.

The address for the website is:

www.gimlet321.com

Respectfully,

Ronald Mitchell

(916) 361-8624

COMMENTARY

TIME TO HELP OTHER VIET NAM VETS

Now that we are 30 years & out of Nam, we are all at the age where we are well matured and should start using NAM POWER to get what we want. I myself, thank God, am doing fine, health and financially, but there are so many that never really got over it mentally.

We get together to have fun and reminisce, and then go back to our lives until the next bash. And as much as I truly know how wonderful the 196th Association has been, and I'm telling you I really mean that, I can't help but tell you of the great ignorance that is bestowed upon us who have survived. Just do this. Forget about the good old days in Nam and remember the wonderful faces of guys like Dando and Richie Boltz, who never wanted to go to that war, but did it because their Mom and Dad would be affected in the small town they lived in if their son had run off to Canada. Think of all those boys who died and think of us alive and well off, buying houses, stocks, and options, and don't be afraid to go to the Veteran's Hospital or the Psych Center and adopt a Vet. If you have to take him home or buy him a home then do it and don't be afraid what your wife, children, or neighbors will say, just do it because as God is my judge we are getting close to the end, and when you're gone there are no guarantees. This could be it, this could be as good as it gets, so take a leap, really help a Vietnam Vet all the way, just as you would for your child, and I promise you the feeling you get you will never get from anything else in your life. "Adopt a Vet" Now.

God Bless The 196th,
Mike Timmerman
E-mail: TJBEALE1@aol.com

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

September 11th will live in infamy for our generation, just as December 7th lived in our parent's.

For those of you who may have lost family or friends, my profound sympathy and condolences.

It is difficult to comprehend the enormity of what happened, but eventually it will affect us all in many ways. We will come out of it, but we must never forget.

My personal memory is traveling back East the week after Sept 11th for a wedding, and dropping my son off at his apartment on 85th Street in NYC. Across the street is a fire house. I walked across the street into a sea of flowers left by neighbors, to look at the photos of the nine hero firemen lost from that fire house. A small boy, with his mother, passed a crayon drawing to a kneeling fireman who took it tenderly. I cannot tell this story without tears welling up in my eyes.

No one knows the horror of war like the veteran. Yet here we are again at a turning point in history, where armed conflict is necessary to protect our freedom. This fight will likely be long and costly. My thoughts, as I'm sure yours are, are with the troops who will be put in harm's way. Thank you brothers, let's roll.

Ken McKenzie, Editor

PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY

635th MID

We received two e-mails informing us that the 635th Military Intelligence Detachment had been omitted from our website.

I note your list does not include the 635th MID - Team 2, which served with the 196th at LZ Baldy and later at Hill 35 (?) near Tam Key in 1969.

The 635th was headquartered in Chu Lai. It operated the POW cage and sent Special Agents off with infantry and tracks to determine where VC and NVA units were located and where they had cached food and weapons.

(Former) Special Agent *W. J. Pritchard*

The 635th MID came up to DaNang from Chu Lai right after Typhoon Hester in Oct 71. Our HQ was located by the TOC with the interrogators and CI located at Camp Perdue at the POW cage. We stood down in Mar 72.

John A. Ordway Jr.

ordwayj@huachuca-emh1.army.mil

SENATE OKs NORMALIZING TRADE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. - Vietnam relations moved to a new level with Senate approval of an agreement normalizing trade between the two former enemies.

The Senate vote was 88 - 12 on October 3rd, 2001. The House endorsed the measure last month, and President Bush said he will sign it.

Opposition to the deal came mainly from lawmakers who asserted that Vietnam has not fully cooperated in accounting for MIAs from the Vietnam War and should not be entitled to normal trade because of its poor human rights record.

Viet Cong Offensive Seen Foiled

Reuters

DAU TIENG, South Viet Nam--The commanding general of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division said Wednesday the six day "Battle of Tay Ninh" near here may have halted a planned Viet Cong "Winter" offensive.

Maj Gen William E. Depuy told newsmen at his base camp here that a captured document indicated a buildup of Viet Cong forces and supplies in Tay Ninh Province was part of an offensive planned for the "cool" season which normally starts here about mid-November.

So far, in six days of fighting, four major U.S. units involved have claimed a total of 843 Viet Cong killed and "huge quantities" of ammunition and equipment captured.

Depuy said he believed the Viet Cong planned to attack a village outpost about two miles northwest of here Nov. 4 or 5. Three guerrilla regiments were believed to be converging on the outpost from three sides, he said.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade, which sparked the series of bitter fighting, almost certainly ran into the flank of the Viet Cong movement while searching for rice caches in the area, the general said.

When American reinforcements were moved into the area, the Viet Cong were faced with only two alternatives, Depuy said--either leave the area and start their buildup again, or stay and fight for their base camps.

He said he believed the Viet Cong chose to fight to protect vast quantities of equipment concealed in the area.

Depuy said troops from the 101st North Vietnamese Regiment were identified in the fighting. He said a captured North Vietnamese officer told interrogators he had been sent to South Viet Nam a month ago.

The general said American forces captured 490 mines, nearly 20,000 grenades and more than 1000 pounds of explosives since the operation, officially codenamed "Attleboro," began.

Overall American casualties in the operation were described as light, although three others "moderate" casualties in bloody clashes Friday.

Nelson thrives on bunker mentality

By JOE GORDON

CONCORD — The most dangerous bunker Larry Nelson ever got stuck in wasn't in nearly so civilized a place as a golf course.

It was 1968 and a 22-year-old Nelson sat in a bunker on IHL 707 in Vietnam.

"There were 12 of us there," said Nelson, who toured Nantuxque Country Club yesterday as the defending champion of the Senior PGA Tour's Blue Boston Classic, which will be held June 18-24.

"We were talking one night and I asked the guy who was my best friend there (Ken Hummel) what he was going to do when he got home. He told me he had played golf at Miami Dade Junior College and he was going to go home and play golf."

Nelson just sat back and listened, but made certain his buddy had no inkling of what he was really thinking. Nelson, it turns out, had never played a round of golf in his life. He grew up in Kennesaw, Ga., which had just one golf course. Nelson played baseball, football and basketball.

"I thought guys who played golf had funny pants and wore sweaters," Nelson said. "Now (Hummel) hadn't shaved for two weeks and he hadn't bathed for two weeks and he was carrying a loaded M-16. I didn't think it was wise to tell him how I felt about golf at that particular time."

Ironically, Nelson had purchased a set of clubs when he graduated from high school, well before that lonely night in

Vietnam. He said a friend who were going to learn the game together never got to use them. Nelson was drafted in 1966, and with three months left in his stint he was sent to Vietnam with a new unit. He saw combat action south of Da Nang, virtually every day with the 196th Americal Division.

Nelson's wife, Gayle, bought him a set of Jack Nicklaus clubs from Rich's Department Store when he was discharged from the military in 1968. He didn't like the leather grips so he exchanged them for a set of Doug Sanders aluminum-shafted clubs with rubber grips. Less than 42 years later, Nelson was playing against Nicklaus and Sanders on the PGA Tour.

Nelson went on to win two PGA Championships (1981 and 1987), the 1983 U.S. Open and 13 events on the Senior Tour, including an astounding six last year and two so far this year.

"I'm just as eager and just as competitive now as when I was 25," said Nelson, who will take this week off from the Senior Tour as a concession to a herniated disc injury in his neck, which cost him seven weeks off the Senior Tour in 1998 and has bothered him again recently.

Otherwise, Nelson said, he's in better physical condition now at 54 than he was at 45 and hopes the same will be true when he's 60. He said he's sitting the ball 25 yards longer now than he was at 45.

"Twenty yards of last is equipment and five yards is meanness," Nelson said.



STAFF PHOTO BY GEORGE MATTELL
SHOW ME THE WAY: Larry Nelson, the defending champ at Nantuxque's Senior PGA event, reaches for a flag during media day yesterday.



Don Mason of Bolivar, Missouri served in Vietnam. As a 21 year-old gunner, Mason's unit came under attack on a hill near Chu Lai in December 1968. Though suffering a serious head wound, Mason continued to fire and move against the enemy in "complete disregard for personal safety."

Fellow veterans attending the Branson veterans' salute urged Mason to apply for the Bronze Star. Mason contacted Congressman Roy Blunt. "When I learned that Don was having trouble getting his Bronze Star, I wanted to do all I could." The Seventh District Congressman said, "A soldier shouldn't have to wait over 25 years to be honored for bravery. Don Mason is a true hero, and this recognition is long overdue. Blunt said constituent advocate Richard Eddings "made this a personal mission."

On October 29, 1998 Mason, (shown on the right) received the Bronze Star from Major General Robert Flowers, commander at Ft. Leonard Wood at ceremonies in Bolivar.

Don was a member of Co. B, 1/46th Inf.

196th REUNION MEMORIAL CEREMONY



Gary was KIA on 5 Jan 1968.

Gary's brother Larry is a member of the Gettysburg Police Department and accepted the honors for the family.

The family of Gary Runk, C Co, 2/1, gathered to accept a proclamation from the State of Pennsylvania and a Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony in the Gettysburg National Military Cemetery.

COL Kadesch, the current 196th Brigade Commander made the presentation.



PICKETT'S CHARGE - 2001 STYLE



Dave (Pickett) Morris-with flag-receives last minute directions before leading the charge, then off we go.



REUNION MEMORIES



Company C, 4/31



COL (Ret) Francis Conaty, BDE CDR COL Kim Kadesch, COL (Ret) Charles Murray, Jr.

MORE REUNION PHOTOS



D Company, 2/1 1965-67 Recon

I'm sending a group picture of eleven of the D, 2/1. In DC there were only two of us from D 2/1, and in St Louis there were four of us. Walt Chapple and myself are trying hard to get the men out to these reunions.

Pat Turner

2507 Tracy Trail

Austin, TX 78728



REUNION MEMORIES



Members of 3/21 trace the lineage of their unit to a spot in front of Little Round Top.

Lots of mini reunions took place over the course of several days.



Members of Company "A", 4/31 are reunited.

REUNION MEMORIES



Are we having fun yet?



Studying maps and plotting strategy in the hospitality room.



The hardest working guy at the reunion. Warren Neill and his wife Carol manned the registration booth and made sure everything went smoothly. Warren was rewarded by being elected President of the Association. Congratulations on a job well done.

REUNION MEMORIES



Wayne Motts, a licensed battle field guide and historian, gave a fascinating tour and was a wealth of information and help. Here, he is explaining the role of the fight for Little Round Top.



Back on the bus and off to the next stop on the tour. The guided tours were an excellent way to understand the magnitude of the three day battle.

You could spend weeks here and not see every thing.

THE MP



Supporting the Three

*I am the Infantry, follow me
Not a foot soldier, we're much more you see
We'll take the fight to the enemy
I am the Infantry, first of THE THREE*

*I am the Cavalry, follow me
A modern horse soldier in an APC
Charging straight forward to the enemy
I am the Cav, most daring of THE THREE*

*I am the Armor, follow me
The arm of decision I'll always be
When the going gets rough, call on me
I am the Armor, the best of THE THREE*

*Armor, Cav and Infantry
Rush head long into the mêlée
Breaking the lines like an angry sea
Deep into enemy territory*

*Approaching a crossroads, what do we see
The area secured by two lonely MPs
Directing us forward, how can this be
How long has he been here waiting for me*

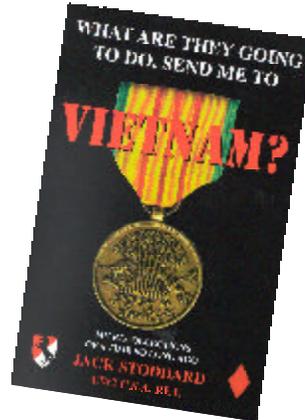
*What a crazy person an MP must be
He has no fire power or armor like me
And I thought every one followed THE THREE
Armor, Cav and Infantry*

*I am the MP, don't follow me
You don't want to be where I will be
Guarding a crossroad, waiting for THE THREE
Just my partner, a sixteen, a sixty and me*

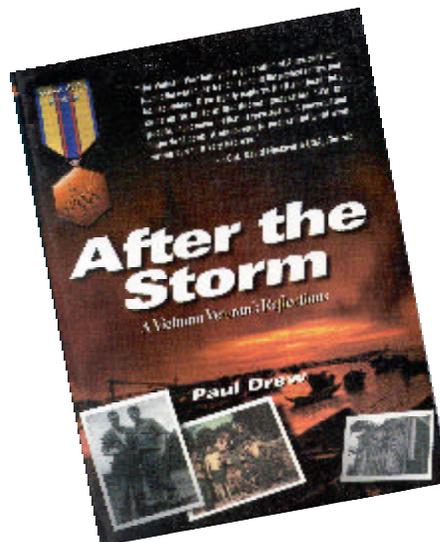
*With the objective taken, wait and see
No one will remember the lonely MP
Who held this ground so they could run free
But that's my job, supporting THE THREE*

By Sgt. Allan L. Perkins, USA MP

BOOK REVIEWS



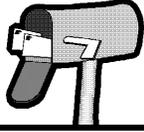
A book by Jack Stoddard gives a realistic account of his three tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cav and the 1/77th, 5th Armored Division. No Rambos, just true stories. "What are They Going to Do, Send Me to Vietnam?" is recommended for anyone who wants to try and understand the experience.



"After the Storm", by Paul Drew, is another down to earth account of personal experiences, historical parallels, and commentary by a former 1966er.

Paul's honest observations will strike a nerve with anyone who has been through combat, and you will recognize the bonds formed by the experience.

We can all identify with the questions raised in the book. Highly recommended.



MAIL CALL

WHERE WAS 2/1 FSB IN 1968?

I would like to know, if the information is available, at what FSB (LZ), A Co., 2/1 was located at in early 1968. I went out with that company on an operation, but can't, for the life of me, remember where their LZ was located. CPT White was the CO of Alpha Company at the time, I don't remember who the Bn Cdr was though. And, if I remember correctly it was a battalion-sized LZ, with most likely the entire 2/1 there. By the way, I was with the LRRPs (196 and E/51) in 1967-68.

If more information is available, such as grid coord, etc., I sure would appreciate it. Thanks much.

Bob Simpson, SGM (Ret)

MEDAL OF HONOR?

I was wondering if you had any info on a Capt. Kern Dunigan. I carried his radio in '67. I recently found out that a man of the same name won the Medal of Honor about a year after I left Nam. He was with another unit and also a rank higher... Just wondering.

Bob Gephart

Bocinge@erinct.com

STARS & STRIPES

I have become a bit of an amateur historian in recent years. One of the topics I have researched is the history of Pacific Stars & Stripes (PS&S).

I would like to hear from 196th brothers about their memories of PS&S. What do they remember? What did they think of the newspaper's coverage? Did anyone ever meet reporters from PS&S? Did anyone ever meet reporters from stateside newspapers or magazines. How about reporters from AP or UPI wire services?

Did anyone have a company newspaper? Did anyone ever see a newspaper called Overseas Weekly?

Are there any former Public Information officers out there?

I am also a member of the Stars and Stripes Association, and have attended some of their reunions. Eventually I may write something about S&S in the hope of getting it published.

If anyone has critical comments to make about journalists, I will, of course, respect confidentiality.

Thanks,

Mike Wittenwyler

2814 Coolidge St.

Madison, WI 53704

E-mail: mdwittenwyler@hotmail.com

16th ANNUAL WINTERFEST R&R JANUARY 17 - 20, 2002 - NEW GLARUS, WI

Always attracts a good number of Americal Troops to the first Veteran's reunion in the nation. For information contact: Bill Hustad (608) 527-2942

MAIL CALL

RE UNION LETTER BRINGS GOOSEBUMPS

Upon re viewing the Gettysburg materials, I had a second significant goosebump moment. The first was about 1980ish. I had joined the Marine Corps in 1979, after being out for several years. While visiting DC en route to a service school, a group of us stopped at Arlington National Cemetery to look around and see the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On the way, we stopped to look at the Kennedy site, with the eternal flame. As we walked off to go to the guard ceremony, I looked down at a small headstone. I don't remember the name, but the soldier was killed on 5 Jan 68, and belonged to C 2/1.

Now I receive the reunion notice and discover that a memorial ceremony will be performed for Sp4 Runk, also killed on 5 Jan 68, with C 2/1. The reason for my chicken skin is that the first occasion (a casual glance at a headstone) is 12 YEARS after the fact, and the 2d occasion (your notice) is 33 YEARS after the fact, and that out of every thing that goes on in this big old world, people, places, stuff, etc., this significant day (5 Jan 68) in the history of the world, is a day I share with these two individuals. If you break out your Illustrated History of Chargers, The Vietnam War, by F. Clifton Berry, Jr., turn to pages 89-92, you can read an account of the events beginning C 2/1 on 5 Jan 68. Page 91 mentions A, 4/31, the signals (whistle vs. Flash light) used to enter the C 2/1 perimeter, and the point man. The point man was me, then 2d Lt Watson, FNG (about 10 days with A 4/31). My platoon was point, we had some personnel/temper problems and I personally took the point so we could get where we needed to go, C 2/1. It took us about three hours. Later, after the linkup, I received minor wounds, grenade fragments, and was medevaced the next morning (which is also described in the book) on about the eighth chopper load of wounded.

After being medevac'd and convalescing, I was transferred and returned in early to mid-Feb to B, 4/31 where I remained until approx Sept 68. First CO was Capt Speer. After he was wounded Capt Wolfe took over. I may recall more B Co. names than A, 4/31 names

After I got the goose bumps, I told my wife and she encouraged me to contact you because of my association with the incident which claimed the life of your reunion honoree.

As a side note, I mentioned the Marine Corps above. I retired in 1996 as CWO3 with 16 years in counterintelligence. I went from Pvt. to Lt. (OCS) in the Army, and from Sgt to CWO3 in the Marine Corps. I enjoyed it so much, I had to Mustang twice. The 80s were pretty tame, but I got to Mt. Pinatubo while stationed in the Philippines with NCIS in 91 and Somalia in 93 during the hunt for Elvis.

Thanks,

Nick Watson e-mail: nswatson@bellatlantic.net

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL
AND SEND IN YOUR DUES**

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVE 196th

I was very honored to join you at the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association Reunion this past July in Gettysburg. What impressed me the most was the strong identification that every one has with the Charger Brigade. Current members of the active 196th Infantry Brigade are continuing that tradition by wearing the “double headed match” proudly. A new tradition is issuing each new member of the Brigade a unit coin. The coin (shown below) one side with significant dates in the history of the Brigade: 1921, the year the Brigade was first organized as an Army Reserve’s 98th Division; 1942, the year the Brigade was ordered to active duty II; 1965, the year the Brigade was reconstituted at Ft. Devens, MA and deployed to Vietnam; and 1998, the year the Brigade reactivated in Hawaii. The other side shows the unit insignia with locations the Brigade currently has soldiers stationed.



The Brigade continues to provide professional and responsive training support to Reserve Component units throughout the Pacific. This summer we conducted numerous annual training exercises and evaluations for reserve component units across the Pacific. Highlights included annual training support for the 100th Bn, 442nd Infantry and the 2nd Bn, 299th Infantry in Hawaii and 1st Bn, 184th Infantry in California. We also provided training support to the 1st Bn, 294th Infantry, Guam Army National Guard, as they deployed from Guam to Hawaii for their annual training. The Brigade assisted in the mobilization of A Company, 1-184 IN, which deployed for a mission to Southwest Asia in October 2001. Since September 11th the Brigade has assisted our supported reserve component units in preparing for possible mobilization and assisted National Guard units in Guam, Alaska, and Hawaii in training for their air port security mission as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

As you would expect, the 196th Infantry Brigade’s “on order” mission of coordinating and synchronizing the DoD effort for Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA) in the U.S. Army Pacific area of responsibility has received significantly increased importance since September 11th. In true Charger fashion, the 196th Infantry Brigade has taken a leading role within U.S. Army Pacific in shaping the planning and coordination of this important mission.

Our Lineage Display continues to grow. We thank all who have contributed memorabilia and artifacts for our display and welcome others to contribute additional items for display. Please contact CW3 Theresa Ferguson at (808) 438-1209, extension 274, for information on how to send us your items. If any one is going to be in Hawaii and would like to visit the Headquarters please feel free to contact the Brigade at (808) 438-1209, and ask for MAJ Odom, the Brigade S-1 at extension 271 or CSM Champaco at extension 224.

Ahead of the Rest!

Kim R. Kadesch, Colonel, Infantry, Brigade Commander

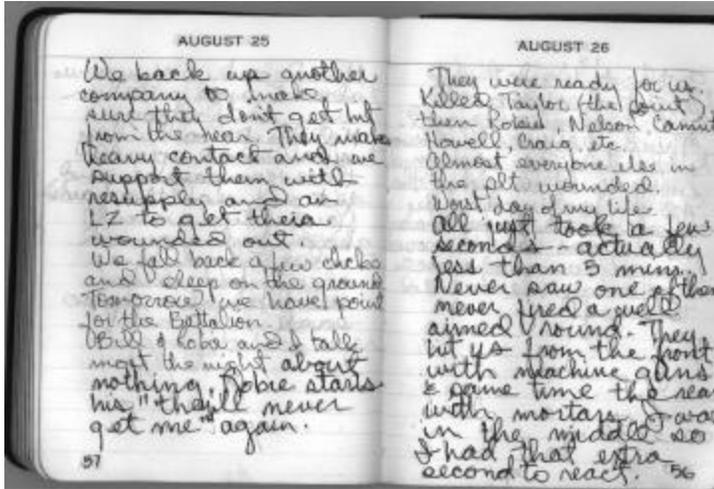
BOOK RESEARCH BRINGS RESPONSE

The following response was received in answer to a request for book research in our last newsletter. The request was from author Dan Mahon. It makes an interesting reading

Dear Dan,

I think I have some information that may be of help to you.

I served in the second platoon, C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade in the RVN from 19 OCT 68 to 19 OCT 69. Officially I was a E-5 squad leader but, on and



off because I was the senior field NCO, acted as the platoon sergeant or platoon leader, depending where the vacancies were.

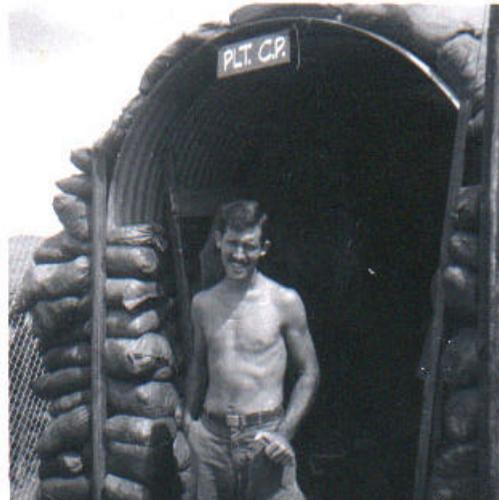
The individuals you are looking for were in my platoon. I've attached a few pages of my diary, and a picture of me in Aug 69.

I recognized 6 of the names on your list: Cannito, Craig, Howell,

Robertson (Robbie), and Taylor. Hetzel and Nelson were probably in our platoon as well. We had picked up some "new guys" on our "stand down" in Chu Lai 16 to 18 JUL 69. At that point I was getting "short (a double digit midget)" and I was no longer really interested in knowing new faces. Hetzel and Nelson (I seem to remember this name) were probably there because 8 of our platoon were killed that day.

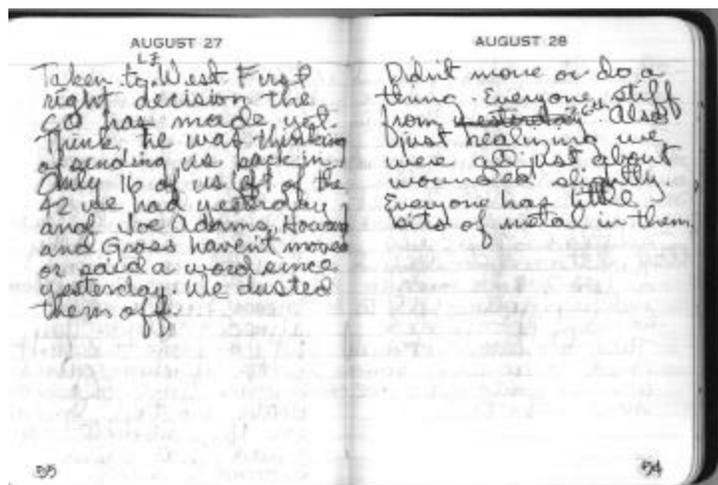
Included is an interesting photo taken after a firefight that lasted most of the day. The devastated forest is typical after receiving 105/155mm artillery support. You know a person is REALLY tired when they're too tired to remove their heavy pot (helmet). Also, no body is in the mood to talk. I know I have some pictures or slides of Robbie and Taylor. If I look closely, I probably have Cannito, Howell, and Craig in the background of some photos.

On 26 AUG 69 we had point for most of the Battalion (3 of the compa-



BOOK RESEARCH BRINGS RESPONSE (CONT.)

nies were in the field). We were expecting to make contact somewhere in the foot hills to the mountains ahead of us as we had the day before. Because BN HQ wanted us to make contact quickly, we took what we thought was a small risk by moving in the open rice paddies to get into the foothills. During the night the NVA had moved closer to us and set an ambush. When most of the platoon was in the open, they opened fire. Simultaneously



they opened with the machine gun at our point, a pre-arranged mortar fire mission that started at our rear and walked up the paddy to our point, and automatic weapon fire to our left. I was near the middle and had that extra second to react. Taylor was on point and never

had a chance. We fell to the right (lower) side of the dike away from the AK fire and the NVA started pounding it with RPG rounds. Most of the dike held and we were able to low crawl back to the main company with our wounded. It seemed like hours or days that we had been out there, but it all took place in a matter of minutes. I'm not sure what you need for your research. Another resource you may want to check is CBS/AP/UPI. In my diary I noted that AP/UPI photographers spent most of the day with us (on 21 AUG 69) and that CBS News (Tony Sargeant) had interviewed Robby with a TV camera. He gave a rather fiery review of the war from his perspective. Coming from a 14 year Army vet, we were all proud of him.

I hope this helps. Good Luck with your research.

Rich Trimble





MEMBERS RESPOND WITH SUGGESTIONS



There were many people who responded to the update letter, with suggestions to make your Association better. Here are a few:

Better notification of dues due. A reunion west of the Rockies. Offer 196th return address labels. *John Mauerman*

For each member, include rank and position(s) held. *Ollie Anderson (first Adjutant general of the 196th)*

List for members to see who lives in the same state, so we can see each other if we want. *John Maloney*

Return address labels in color with patch. *Dennis Passwater*

Can a photo album be put together by year, units, and locations? I have some photos others might like. *Norman Linto*

Would like to see another 196th / Americal reunion in a few years. *Ed Den Braven*

Keep sending the newsletter to every one. *Ken Widstrom (enclosed donation)*

Cut life time dues to two payments in one year. *Donald Barnett*

How about thinking about Hawaii in a couple of years. Old unit meets the new unit. Give folks a chance to save, get Brigade discounts on air, hotel, etc. We might get a very good turnout. *Louis Colasurdo*

Put out the newsletter a couple of more times a year. It keeps those of us who are handicapped in touch. *James Gales*

Maybe a reunion every 18 months. Our numbers will start thinning out soon, like the WW II Vets. Two years is too long. *Pat Turner*

New Jersey or New York reunion. *Joseph Perez*

Have links on the webpage to member's pages. *Robert Decker*

Join with other groups for political interaction for better VA services and retirement benefits. A 196th album with pictures and names, include pictures of Nam from individuals. Have 196th recruiting flyers in all VA hospitals. *Robert Curtis*

Use e-mail instead of regular mail. Auction off stuff. Have reunions every three years. *Dale Hoffmann*

How about a listing of members by Companies or by years in country. Put the database online. *Ronald Ward*

Reunion on the West Coast or in Nevada, one year. *Micheal Scott*

Develop a business card for Association veterans to distribute to former 196th LIB members. *Nat Nutonglo*

Would like to see the 196th reunion held in the Western country. *Danny Sainz*

THE 196th RING

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has worked with Jostens to create a Prestige Ring for Veterans of the 196th. This ring will only be available thru the 196th Association



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Jostens offers you 4 distinct metal alloy categories: 10K, 14K, or 18K Yellow or White Gold, Lustrum, and Questra.

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**196th
Light Infantry Brigade
Association
T-Shirt**



\$12.00 (includes shipping) All proceeds go to the Association

Fruit of the Loom, BEST, 50/50 all white T-Shirt

MEMBERSHIP

Every year, unfortunately, we lose some of the members on whose support we have counted. We have always been able to increase the membership slightly in spite of that through enrollment of new members. But, while getting new members is extremely important to us, it is far more important that we retain your interest and goodwill. So please take a minute now to check your mailing label. If your dues have expired or you have never paid dues, fill out the renewal slip and send it back to us with your check. We really need you! Your renewal means that the next *new* membership we get will be the extra resource we badly need, not just a replacement for someone irreplaceable — you.

You receive with your membership:

A membership card, one bumper sticker, and one window decal.

Fill out and return form with your remittance to:

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association
Ken Wright, Treasurer
8280 Hwy 66 E
Rome, IN 47574

Dues are \$20.00 for the year.

I would like (number):

_____ Additional Bumper Stickers @ \$2.00 ea.

_____ Additional Decals @ \$2.00 ea.

Not included with membership package:

_____ Lapel Pin @ \$3.50 ea. T-Shirt @ \$12 each, (number of each size ordered) _____XXL, _____XL, _____L, _____M

Life time Membership: \$196.00

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Dates served in the 196th: From: _____ To: _____

Unit: Bat/Reg _____ Company or Battery _____ Platoon _____

Service #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ E-mail: _____

I can not join at this time, but please add my name to the mailing list. Address Change

Membership Renewal New Member Life Member \$_____ Donation

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make sure you fill in the application completely. There are several similar names on our mailing list, so we need the old address as well as the new address if you move.

There is a spot on the application where you may designate an additional donation to the Association if you would like. Several of our members have asked to use this donation to pay someone's dues who may not be able to afford it. We have achieved tax-exempt status and all dues and contributions are now tax deductible on your income tax.

Our tax exempt status also allows us to take advantage of lower postal rates.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES
EXPIRATION DATE!**

JOIN NOW!!



**196th Light Infantry Brigade
Association**

Warren Neill, President
PO Box 434 Cicero, Indiana 46034

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