

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association



Number 27

July 2006

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: From a Veterans Administration poster, Veterans' Day, November 11, 1999 depicting the modern military from World War II to the conflict in Iraq. Some of our former units are participating in the current conflict and our thoughts and prayers go with them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wa-hoo! What a terrific time in Texas. A great celebration of the contributions and sacrifices our Combat Medics made to the soldiers of the Brigade. A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Brigade and a celebration the 20th anniversary of the formation of the 196th LIB Association.

San Antonio registration hit 413 Chargers. It was the largest gathering of Chargers in one place since 1972! D 4/31 had the most troops in attendance, followed closely by the Charlie Tigers of C 3/21 and F Troop, 17th Cav.

I must take a minute to thank all of our members who volunteered their time and talent to make this reunion a success, especially Rich Mosher and Bob Kelly for putting together the pre-reunion AMEDD school tour, the Saturday morning Memorial at the Combat Medic statue on Ft Sam Houston and arranging for our Guest Speaker, Dr. Angel Jimenez. I also want to thank Rich for filling in for me at the Memorial after I became ill during the business meeting. I could never have made the banquet without your help. I also want to thank Ed Dappen for volunteering to man the registration booth with me for the better part of Thursday and Friday.

What a great turnout from our active duty brothers in the 196th Infantry Brigade from Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Rim! We had 13 current Chargers with us at the banquet! Col Jarkowsky and CSM Uncango, Thank You and your soldiers for your support. Hoo-ah!

In other active duty news, 3/21 Inf is now back at Ft Lewis, WA and has been replaced in Mosul, Iraq by 2/1 Inf which is homebased at Ft Wainwright, AK. 4/31 Inf returned to Ft Drum, NY in June after a year in Iraq. 1/46 Inf is a training battalion at Ft. Knox, KY. 3/82nd Arty returned from it's deployment to Iraq last year and is part of the 1st Cav Div at Ft Hood, TX. I have also been notified that the 3rd Sqdrn 4th Cav is going to be reflagged as 6th Sqdrn, 17th Cav and will use F Troop, 17th Cav as it's lineage. 6/17 Cav will be relocating from Hawaii to Alaska in the near future. The legacy continues!

I am currently in touch with most of the commanders and/or CSM's of all these units and with the help of our members, Bob Decker, F Trp, 17th Cav, 66-67, Allen "Doc" Hoe, Recon 2/1, 67-68, Ron Mitchell, A&B 3/21, 68-69, will pass along any SITREP that they provide us.

I also want to let all of our members know that your efforts to include all Chargers, regardless of unit, year or MOS, were successful. The camaraderie displayed this year was the best I've seen so far. This is the first year that I did not receive one comment, letter, email or phone call from one of our brothers who said he felt left out, alienated or disenfranchised at the reunion. We needed each other then and we still need each other now! Thank you all!

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the long time officers of the Association for re-upping one more time. The members and I appreciate your support and dedication to the 196th. Without you, we would not have come so far in terms of membership growth and helping folks reconnect.

(Cont. pg.2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

With that said, I want to alert the membership that some of these positions may need to be filled at the next reunion in July 2007. Over the next few months I'll be putting together job descriptions for the volunteer and elected positions and will publish them in the next newsletter. I want to get a slate together of folks that will represent a good cross section in terms of units and years, with emphasis on the later years (69-72), to inject some fresh, younger blood into the association to take it forward.

A lot of guys are always thanking me for the great job I do as President of this Association and I am humbled by it. It's not a job, it's a privilege and an honor to serve the greatest bunch of guys I have or ever will know.

Warren

Tribute to the Medics

I wanted to read this at the reunion in tribute to the medics and didn't get the chance.

I didn't know what it was about medics. I used to think they joined the Medical Corps because they had a double load of courage, but maybe it was just the title itself that transformed them into the most valiant band of men I ever knew. Medics didn't wait for a miracle to pull the wounded to a safe shelter – they were the miracle that pulled, slid, dragged, and packed shattered bodies out of danger.

And they performed miracles: stopping bleeding, stopping shock, relieving pain with morphine, and getting IV's going to pump life into broken fighters. Many packed M-16's along with their forty-pound medical kits, but their job was to save lives, not take them, and they risked their own, again and again, answering calls that took them right into the line of fire – machine gun, mortar, sniper, mines – without hesitation.

Their most powerful medicine was their encouragement (“You got it made...just a scratch...you'll see that girl again”), a never-ending patter to keep minds occupied while deft hands administered aid or tried to sort out a stomach or chest ripped open by shot.

Grievously wounded soldiers were further assisted by the brave pilots, who performed medevac missions, but it was the medics who made the difference on the ground, until the choppers could get in.

Selfless and serving beyond good sense, countless medics died in the line of duty to save not just their buddies but the life of every man who fell on the battlefield. From two wars, it is these men, the medics – the “docs” – who hold the most special place of respect and trust in *my* infantryman's heart, and I'm sure there are a couple of million other men in the United States alone who feel the exact same way.

Excerpt from **ABOUT FACE** by COL David Hackworth, pg 544.

VETERANS' DATA STOLEN

Every veteran should be aware by now that in May 2006, the personal information on 26.5 million veterans and some spouses, was stolen from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employee. The employee had taken the data home and it was stolen along with his computer during a burglary.

As a result of this incident, identifying information including names, social security numbers and dates of birth, as well as some disability ratings was compromised and potentially made available to crooks and scam artists.

Although the VA and the FBI have launched investigations, they are not aware of any misuse of this information yet.

A letter was sent to all veterans informing them of the problem and giving some advice on how to protect yourself from possible identity theft. That advice was essentially to be "extra vigilant", monitor bank statements, credit card statements, and any other financial statements relating to recent transactions. Although they give the impression that recent activity in the May 2006 time frame is most important, it is possible that someone could sit on this data for months, or years, and then use it.

For additional information the VA has teamed with the FTC to set up a website (www.firstgov.gov) with information on this matter, or you may call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636). The call center will operate from 8am to 9 pm (EDT), Monday - Saturday, as long as it is needed.

VERY IMPORTANT-PLEASE READ

Beware of any phone calls, e-mails, and other communications from individuals claiming to be from VA or other official sources, asking for your personal information or verification of it. Do not give credit card numbers, bank account information, or other personal information to anyone unless you called them and know who they are. If you do receive any such calls or e-mails they should be reported to the VA at 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636)

FOLLOW THE FOUR STEPS ON THE WEBSITE TO REPORT PROBLEMS

1. Contact the fraud department of one of the three major credit bureaus.
Equifax 800-525-6285, Experian 888-397-3742, TransUnion 800-680-7289
2. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
3. File a local police report.
4. File a complaint with the FTC identity theft Hotline: 877-438-4338

CHARLIE COMPANY 4/31 REUNION

From: Greg O'Neil, goneil90804@yahoo.com

The reunion for 4/31, Charlie Co, is going to be held in Gettysburg, Sept 22nd - 24th, 2006. The hotel they are staying at is the Holiday Inn Gettysburg (Battlefield), 516 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Phone 717-334-6211. If you call tell them you are making reservations for, "Charlie Company Reunion." The rate is \$105 plus tax per night. They have a hospitality room for Friday and Saturday night. The airports you would be coming into is either: Harrisburg International Airport, Customer Info Desk 717-948-5900 (7am to midnight, 7 days a week) <http://www.flyhia.com> or, BWI Airport (Baltimore/Washington) 410-859-7111, <http://www.bwiairport.com>

TAPS

We often are not notified of a members 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.

Menzie, Harold Dean (Skeeter), 22 Feb 2005, Co C - 4/31 1967-68. Sandy Menzie says "His illness was a consequence of that war. "She would like to hear from anyone in Skeeter's platoon. E-mail: scalabrese7975@sbcglobal.net

Brigham, MAJ (Ret) Link, 21 Aug 2005, It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my father and former Charger, MAJ (Ret) Linc Brigham, Provost Marshal, 196th LIB, 1965-1967, on 21 August 2005 of complications from Alzheimers. He always spoke often of the "wonderful" MPs, the aviation section and other soldiers he came in contact within the brigade. He also spoke of the many frustrations during his service in Vietnam, especially the mission switch of the brigade from the Dominican Republic to Vietnam. However he was always honored at being a part of the 196th LIB and proud to the point of tears of his MPs. MAJ Brigham served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam before retiring to Hollis, NH in 1967. He moved to San Diego in 1978 and retired as a school bus driver for handicapped children. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren. MAJ Brigham was laid to rest in the Tahoma National Cemetery with full military honors.

"Ahead of the Rest" SFC(Ret) *Clinton N. Brigham*

Lovato, Lt. Colonel Lawrence , USA (Ret'd.) died Saturday, November 12th, 2005 in England, following a stroke earlier this year. A native of Sabinoso, N.M. he joined the army as an underage enlistee and was discharged and returned home after this was discovered. Gaining his father's permission to re-join at age 17, he rose through the ranks quickly becoming one of the U.S. Army's youngest First Sergeants. Commissioned via OCS he was cited for gallantry in combat as a company grade officer with the Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG), Vietnam! and again later as a field grade officer in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. He retired to his home in England where he was active as a red cross volunteer. A natural linguist and avid reader of history, Colonel Lovato loved the army and served his country faithfully for over thirty years. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Patricia Lovato (nee Benson-King) and four children. A brief private funeral service attended by family and friends was held near Cambridge, U.K. where he lived quietly for nearly thirty years.

Sincerely, *Dave Lovato* JOCM(SW), USN Ret'd.

Rosson, General William Bradford, 12 Dec 2004. In 1967, General Rosson moved from a position as General Westmoreland's Chief of Staff to take command of Task Force Oregon, which included the 196th LIB. Task Force Oregon was a provisional division for operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone, which later became the Americal Division. He went on to serve as Commanding General, I Field Force, Deputy Commander for General Creighton Abrams, Deputy Commander US MACV, Commanding General US Army Pacific, and retired July 1975 as Commander in Chief US Southern Command Panama.

TAPS (cont.)

For those of you who attended the Mike and Shari Radford show at our reunion in Branson, Mike introduced “our adopted Brother Timmy” in the wheelchair (Navy). He passed away on May 17, 2004. Bob Janicek of the 196th keeps in touch with the Radfords, and says Tim’s death “devastated all of us! There were over 2000 people at his funeral, He was so loved and is truly missed. Mike and Shari’s e-mail is: shari@mikeradford.com.

Coldwell, Joseph, 27 Dec 2005. He was an original member of the 196th. Joe was a medic with Charlie Co 2/1. He attended many of our reunions and he will be greatly missed by all.

Linxwiler, Russ, Jan 2006. Russ was killed in an accident. He worked for Vectren Power and was replacing a transformer after a thunderstorm when the machine slipped sideways and he was pinned under the boom.

Bessonette, Earnest (Leroy), 27 Feb 2006. Co B - 2/1 1965-67. Leroy was a “Devens 196er” and went with the advanced party to Tay Ninh. He was born in Brookhaven, Miss on May 13, 1945 and lived in Granby, MA at the time of his passing. He was predeceased by his wife Janet and leaves two daughters, Lisa A. Vachon and Ginger A. Davis, and a cherished granddaughter, Alysha S. Davis.

Pearce, MAJ (Ret) Franklin S., 17 Jan 2006. Frank was formerly Company Commander of C Company 4/31, from its inception at Fort Devens in 1965. He was wounded severely soon after arriving in Vietnam, but finished his career in the Army. His wife Gwen writes, “Frank died of renal cell carcinoma. I am so glad he was able to attend the reunion in San Antonio before he was hospitalized. He was ill then, but did not know it. After 120 days in the hospital and a valiant fight, he went home to be with the Lord.” Those of us who served under him will always be glad that we were reunited with Frank through the 196th reunions.



Nigro, Tony, 2006, Served in Co B-3/2, no additional information.

Breeding, Lawrence (Larry) 2 Nov 2004, SGT(T) Military Police 1966-69. Larry’s widow writes, “Larry was brutally murdered on his 60th birthday. After his discharge from the Army, Larry had been a police officer in Arlington, TX, as well as a



196th WEB SITE

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

www.196th.org

LOOKING FOR

AUBREY S. BROWN

KIA 3/3/67

I'm trying to get information on a friend that was in the 196th (D 2/1). Shawn was a good friend. I'm trying to get in touch with anyone that was in Vietnam with him.

Thanks,
Sam Horn
4715 Lenden Hall Court
Gastonia, NC 28056
shorn@carolina.rr.com

April 1967, Chu Lai Mortar Attack

I would like to contact the medic I assisted during, or after, a mortar attack on the Chu Lai Airbase, April 12, 1967.

After helping the Doc with a Spanish kid, nicknamed "Chico" I can't recall what I did with the Doc. I'm sure he remembers my last name, and I'd like to contact him to straighten out my memories of the incident.

Your comrade & friend,
Harold Staffu
PO Box 387
Mohigan Lake, NY 10547

LOST JACKET-FOUND

This letter is from Brett, who operates a website called [www. VietnamGear.com](http://www.VietnamGear.com).

In my collection I have an Army jungle jacket with a 196th pocket patch and an Americal shoulder patch. The name on the jacket is Phillips, he was a Lt. with the artillery. Could you please tell me if he is a member of your Association and if so if you have a contact for him? I have several jackets and wondered what has happened to the original owners.

E-mail: bemblin@atochatrading.com
(Editor's note; Al Phillips from Fairborn, OH, 3/82 was on our mailing list until 2003)

John Anderson

Can you help me find Johnny R. Anderson. We were both wounded on Jan 4, 1968 in Heip Duc Valley, Quang Tin Province, D 4/31 196th LIB. I've exhausted every means I can think of. He's either from Arkansas or Tennessee.

Thanks,
Ron Morenz
E-mail: Southsidemo@cs.com

RECORDS OR DOCUMENTATION NEEDED

I am looking for information from anyone that was with me in Vietnam during Sept 11, 1971 and Aug 13, 1972.

I served with the 196th HHC. I was stationed in Chu Lai till the 196th moved to Danang. I was involved in rocket attacks, sapper attacks in the perimeters and I went through Typhoon Hester.

I was assigned to Task Force Gimlet by the end of my tour.

Any information is greatly needed as I am trying to get my comp for PTSD. All my records cannot be found anywhere.

Thanks,
Louis Tenorio
E-mail: tenoriolouis@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR

ROBERT WHITE, 38 GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR YOU

Out of sheer desperation, I'm writing you to solicit any help you might be able to give us in our search for a Nam vet that we believe was transferred to the 196th in the Spring of '67 from our unit in the 4th Inf Div based at Dau Tieng.

Our information indicates he may have been assigned to your 4/9th or 3/21 Bn., maybe a 4 duce or 81 mm platoon, as that was his MOS. Bob shipped over to Nam with our whole platoon on the USNS Walker in September '66 and was transferred along with 3, maybe 4 others from our outfit, and we've run into a complete dead-end as to where to look for him. He is one of only two guys out of our original 40 man platoon that we haven't located.

Thanks much and Welcome Home Brothers,
WK "Bill" Irish
541-926-2070 E-mail: agpro@usa.net

SCHOOL FRIEND

The purpose of this email is to inquire about the circumstances surrounding a friend of mine (we went through a lot of years of school together) who was KIA 10 January 1968.

His name is/was Ed Brown. He was a Sgt and I believe at one time he may have been a radio operator. He was part of Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Inf.

After 38+ years, I am still haunted by the conversation we had before I left Beloit (hometown) to return to duty, and my admonition to take care of his bride of only a few months and not get caught up with the prospect of being drafted, as school mates of his and mine were regularly receiving notices. His young widow visited my then wife and I not too long after his death. The conversation haunted me then, and it does to this day. I had a chance to spend a few minutes to talk to her a number of years ago when I was back in WI, although I didn't get a chance to talk to their daughter.

Sometimes when my fiancé and I (she also went to school with Ed) talk about people from HS and the wretched hometown, it burns a little stronger.

We all have our haunts, but most are military in nature and can be beaten back. I take this one personally as it won't go away for very long at all.

If anyone who served in Delta Co with Ed can provide info I'd appreciate it. Maybe then I can get some of this to go away. I'd appreciate it a great deal for any information.

Dennis Johnson, Charter member - Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club
PO Box 495, Carson City, NV 89702

Nate Steinfeld

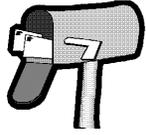
I served with the 196th, Oct 65, to Apr 67. Left behind many friends and memories. I was in 3/82 Arty Headquarters Battery medical unit. Looking for old buddies/pals.

Nate Steinfeld
E-mail: natesteinfeld@yahoo.com

LOST FRIEND

I am looking for a friend, his name is Dave Engel (I'm pretty sure of the spelling, but it might be Engle) Co E 2/1, Jan 1969 - Jan 1970. He was there when I left 11/69.

Thanks, *Rob Hamilton*
E-mail: rob@1543ad.com



MAIL CALL

A-3/21 MEMORIES

I came over to the 196th from the 4th division sometime in July 1967. I sometimes get the two units mixed up when I try to put my thoughts together.

I do know I drank a lot and got into a lot of trouble in Saigon on R&R, which now I'm not very proud of.

I was put into A 3/21, I believe 1st sq.

I remember my first day there, someone was showing a claymore mine to some buddies and it went off killing a few guys. I didn't come back to the States with my friends of A 3/21. They were still debating what to do with me when everybody left the great land of Vietnam.

Can you put this in the newsletter to see if anyone remembers me and gives me a response?

I would really like to clear up some memories, good or bad.

Brothers always,

John Giovo

783 W End Ave.

Carthage, NY 13619-1042

3/21 MEDAL ELIGIBILITY

Some information for you. I may have been the only one that did not know this but just in case.

Some months back I requested the Army to correct my records due to some awards I had received that did not show on my DD214 and etc. Even though it took them a long time they did a great job of correcting them and sent me the medals. The interesting thing is that the letter I received include the following.

"A further examination of your records indicates that, in accordance with the Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3, Unit Citation and Campaign Credit Register, your unit in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry was awarded the "Navy Unit Commendation" for service from 1 May through 16 May 1968."

The Army cannot issue the medal, however I am requesting it from the Navy.

Thought this was great. Take care of yourselves.

Roger W. Starr.

Treasurer's Report as of January 13, 2006. Respectfully submitted by *Ken Wright*

Life Membership Fund

Balance 01/01/06 63,798.78

Edward Jones Investment

Value 01/01/06 20,945.95

General Fund

Balance 01/01/06 26,528.25

Balance Total 111,272.98

MAIL CALL

OHIO CHAPTER

The Ohio Chapter of the 196th Association will hold a reunion on August 4-5, 2006 at the Best Western Columbus North.

For information contact Tom Ellis at 888-663-5547

196th VANITY PLATES

Let's see your license plates!! I'd like to run a page of photos of your 196th or

Vietnam related license plates. Send the photos or .JPG files to the Editor.



NJ VIETNAM MEMORIAL COLLECTING HISTORIES

As part of its biography project, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation asks family members, or anyone with biographical information on a New Jersey KIA, to call (800) 648-8387.

The goal is to collect information on each of the 1,556 KIAs listed on the memorial.

DAVE ENGEL

I'm looking for a friend - Dave Engel, E 2/1 Mortar Platoon, approximately Jan 69-Jan 70. He may have been from San Jose, CA.

Rob Hamilton
7903 Wyoming Ct
Bloomington, MN 55438
RWH-Hammy@RWHEquipment.com

ACTIVE 196th ATTENDS REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO



Officers and NCOs from the active duty 196th brought the Brigade's Colors from Hawaii.

196th Merchandise

We have some items left from the last couple of reunions
 Prices shown include postage & handling.

Description	Price	Quantity	Amt Due
All weather 196 th Flag Durable/Double-sided	\$65.00	_____ x	\$65.00 = _____
“The Second Year” Yearbook (8/66-7/67)	\$25.00	_____ x	\$25.00 = _____
3 Flag Desk Set (US, 196 th , POW/MIA)	\$15.00	_____ x	\$15.00 = _____
196 th LIB Challenge Coin	\$6.00	_____ x	\$6.00 = _____
196 th patches Full Color	\$3.00	_____ x	\$3.00 = _____
196 th Brigade Crests “Ahead of the Rest”	\$3.00	_____ x	\$3.00 = _____
196 th LIB Outside Window/Bumper Sticker	\$2.00	_____ x	\$2.00 = _____
Lapel Pins	\$3.50	_____ x	\$3.50 = _____
196 th LIB T-shirts	\$12.00		
3XL _____, 2XL _____, XL _____, L _____, M _____,x			\$12.00 = _____

Order Total = _____

Make check payable to : **196th LIB Assn**
 Mail to:

**196th LIB Assn,
 Ken Wright, Treasurer,
 8280 Hwy 66E,
 Rome, IN 47574**

(Suggestion: Make a copy of this page)

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association Meeting Minutes Saturday, July 30, 2005

The 2005 meeting of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association was called to order by President Warren Neill at 9:07 A.M. on Saturday, July 30, 2005. The meeting was held in a conference room of the Airport Hilton, San Antonio, TX.

Douglas Moses sang a Scottish Ballad, *The Fields of Glory*, in memory of K.I.A. in Vietnam

The treasury report was read by Treasurer Ken Wright and approved.

Ken asked that the 6% Indiana sales tax be added to the subtotal when ordering rings. Doc Mosher motioned that the sales tax be included in the cost of the ring and listed that way. Motion carried.

Ken also requested that members be diligent about sending in address changes to keep the database up-to-date. Right now, many newsletters are returned due to incorrect mailing addresses, which increases costs to the Association.

Roy Dolgos made a motion to retain all current officers for the next two years. Motion carried. Current officers consented to remain in office.

Operation Smile is a nonprofit program providing surgical repair of cleft palates for children in the Republic of Vietnam. Doug Moses made a motion that a donation of \$196.00 be sent to help support this project both in 2005 and in 2006. Motion was approved. Warren Neill will co-ordinate this gift and send it out each year. If anyone wishes to make personal donations, please send their donations to Warren and he will send it out with the checks from the 196th.

A gift of \$196.00 was sent to purchase a 196th Memorial Brick, placed in Lake Park Memorial Pavilion, DesPlaines, IL (a suburb of Chicago.) Local sponsor: John E. Maloney, D2/1, 65-67.

A gift of \$196.00 was sent to the Gimlets Association (21st Infantry) to help get it started

President Neill announced the 2007 Reunion will be held July 26-29 in the Greater Cincinnati, OH area at the Drawbridge Inn, Mitchell, KY

A \$200 donation was given by Ron and Al Piantkowski of Chicago, in memory of Edward J. Piantkowski, C4/31, KIA 11/13/66, to go towards refreshments in the Hospitality Room.

President Neill announced the following information about our 2005 Reunion:

Total number of 196er's attending: **426**, including 13 Active Duty Chargers – **A new record**

Total in attendance this year, including guests: **720, a new record**

Total attending the banquet: **700, a new record**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00A.M.

Respectfully Submitted, *Ed Zahn*, Secretary, 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association



**2007 REUNION
196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE ASSOCIATION**

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association 2007 reunion will be held at the Drawbridge Inn in Ft Mitchell, KY. The reunion will be held Thursday, 26 July thru Sunday, 29 July.

Ft Mitchell is located about halfway between the Greater Cincinnati/Northern KY International Airport (which is in KY) and Cincinnati. Airport shuttle service is available.

The Drawbridge has enough rooms for everyone and enough meeting space to have our banquet on site. There is an indoor and an outdoor pool. Sand volleyball courts. 3 restaurants (open 24 hours). A cocktail lounge, with dance floor, a weight room, a sauna, and plenty of parking.

A reunion flyer with more detailed information and registration forms & instructions will be mailed to arrive in our member's hands by Veteran's Day. The hotel will not accept reservations until then.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

The following remarks were delivered by Allen K. Hoe, Esq. 196th Light Infantry Brigade-Vietnam, on Memorial Day 2005 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in honor of his son who was killed in action on January 22, 2005 in Mosul, Iraq.

Aloha:

Mr. Secretary, Mr. Scruggs, fellow veterans; my ancestors are honored by my invitation to be here today.

Jan, thank you again for your timely visit to Hawaii in 1991. Your presence made a difference in establishing Hawaii's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, now a prominent part of our State Capitol.

A quote from it reads:

Aia ho'i lakou mau

Inoa I mahalo 'ia

ko Hawai'i Mohai aloha

Pau ole

"America's greatest sacrifice is before us in their names."

On a day much like today 15 years ago, a 12 yr. old boy stood on these hallowed grounds. He touched the names of 1Lt. Fred Ransbottom, William "Skip" Skivington, and a dozen others, on Panels 47, 55, 58, & 59. They were the men from Long Range Recon Platoon, 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. He knew the story of how they came to be on this sacred wall.

Mother's Day, 1968 at a remote Special Forces Camp called Kham Duc.

They were the men of Recon team "Snoopy" and this was our battle flag.

Something stirred in his soul that day connecting him to this legacy; at that moment he knew what he would do with his life.

He dedicated himself to being the very best; he earned top honors in high school JROTC at Kamehameha. A Business Degree with honors at the University of Hawaii.

The path to his commission began from the enlisted ranks. Basic training at Ft. Jackson; as the soldier of the cycle. Ft. Gordon for AIT; as the Class honor graduate. Then service with the United States Forces Korea. Selected as its Soldier of the Year and the 9th RSC Soldier of the Year, the United States Army Pacific Reserve Soldier of the Year, and the runner-up for the United States Army Reserve Soldier of the Year for 2001.

"Dad, you're enlisted." "I need to succeed as an enlisted soldier before I can lead as an Officer." With a pure heart like that, the stars would surely guide him in his future army endeavors.

He returned to the University of Hawaii for an MBA degree on an academic scholarship. He was a platoon leader with the 100th Battalion

MEMORIAL DAY (cont.)

442nd Inf., of "Go For Broke" fame, now serving in Iraq, and he led University of Hawaii's Army ROTC Cadet Corps as its Command Sergeant Major, Battalion S3 and Battalion Commander.

He earned a SCUBA badge from the U.S. Navy Dive School at Pearl Harbor and he was the 4th ranking ROTC graduate in the nation, when he received his Gold Bars on May 17, 2003;

Then IOBC at Ft. Benning with Jump School and Ranger School in a whirlwind of time and place.

He knew he was to be a soldier, his ancestors had been warriors for 200 years; they came to his beloved Hawaii from the four corners of the globe, Massachusetts, Scotland, England, Germany, China, Japan and the Azores. His U.S. Army heritage descends from his great grandfathers, a grandfather and his father's service with Team Snoopy of Recon 2/1.

It was cool, that grandma in 1942 at age 17 served with the Army Signal Corps in the Women's Air Raid Defense command and grandpa's sister earned her "gold bars" as a member of the first group of women officers in the WACs.

Hawaii women serving their country is a proud family legacy continuing with cousin Army Captain Courtney Blake Sugai, who served with the 101st ABN Division in Afghanistan and Iraq; Courtney and husband, Army Captain Iven Sugai, join us today, thank you for your service Courtney and Iven;

Count me among the thousands of veterans who are proud of our service in Vietnam. However a greater pride is our children's gift to the world. They are brave these young men and women who sacrifice daily for the cause of freedom.

America's daughters set new benchmarks daily with their service. Heroes like Army Blackhawk pilot, Major Tammy Duckworth, a University of Hawaii graduate, shows us what personal courage is really all about. They, like the legions of women we honor have not only worn the uniform, they have also birthed a generation of our finest soldiers and have also borne the heavy price of freedom whose roots run deep upon these hallowed grounds.

13 months ago, Nainoa called, "Dad, I got a platoon in Charlie Tigers of the Gimlets." He knew their history; the 3rd Bn. 21st Inf., 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Vietnam. To be part of dad's legacy, to serve with a unit which served with Recon 2/1 in Vietnam, was all he hoped for.

How do these things happen, is it karma, luck, good fortune, or simply fate.

Here, we remember the 339 "Gimlets" who gave their last full measure on the battlefields of Vietnam. I am comforted in the belief that they have welcomed my son to their heavenly ranks. Nainoa joins with

MEMORIAL DAY (cont.)

them as our guardian angels, vigilant always in the cause of freedom and liberty.

When Nainoa and I stood here, how could we ever imagine that he also would be bound to this place?

Panel 54 honors American Hero, 1Lt. Edward F. Guthrie, of Idabel, Oklahoma, who died on May 2, 1968 while leading the 2nd Platoon, C Co. 3/21 Inf., "Charlie Tigers" in the Battle for "Nhi Ha Village near the DMZ." His CO, "Tiger 6", Denny Leach, ret'd. Brigadier General, recalls, "Ed never asked his troops to suffer any hardship that he himself would not endure. He was always up front and had his face in the mud just like his shooters. He led by example and was incredibly brave. He never beat his chest and there was no bravado on his part. He was a proud warrior, but was very humble and always gave his troops the honors for the platoon's heroics. I could not have asked for a better platoon leader."

1Lt. Guthrie was the only officer killed from "Charlie Tigers" while the Battalion served with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam between 1966 and 1972.

On January 22, 2005, a single American Hero died in the war on terrorism. It was my precious son, 1Lt. Nainoa Keali'i hokuhelelani Hoe. Like 1Lt. Guthrie, he too was killed while leading the warriors, of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Tigers, on a patrol in northern Iraq in the battle for the city of Mosul.

Is it fate after 37 years that the Platoon Leaders of 2nd Platoon Charlie Tigers, are now linked together because of their commitment to duty honor country and the desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

The current "Tiger 6", CPT Robert Born, shared the following. "2nd Platoon Charley Tigers were the most cohesive infantry platoon that I had seen in 8 years. Often referred to as 2nd Ranger Platoon for the amount of platoon leadership who served with 2nd Ranger Battalion and the number of Ranger SOPs and TTPs. The Charley Tigers "Out-laws" were strongly led and even stronger willed." "Nainoa took charge and never looked back. He was the perfect man for the job and he was a natural fit. He earned their respect and the trust of his men, his peers, and superiors. Everyone saw the same man. If you asked a private to describe Nainoa you would get the same description as the Battalion Commander."

The other Platoon leaders of Charlie Tigers reflected upon him as "fiercely competitive, but he never micromanaged his soldiers, he trusted and empowered his NCO's and allowed his men to succeed and fail on their own merits. He never accepted credit for his men's accomplishments, and never deflected the blame for any deficiencies his platoon encountered. His men were the most important thing to him. This was true in both training and combat. Nainoa led from the front in

MEMORIAL DAY (cont.)

Mosul, no matter the mission, he would be in the first vehicle leading his men or right up front with the lead element in a dismounted patrol. He never asked his men to do anything he would never do first himself. He was not out seeking glory or spotlighting he was just doing what he knew was right, leading from the front."

Is it also fate that 37 years ago in the sky above Kham Duc, a young air force pilot with the call sign Helix, would be on station directing covering air strikes while the men of Recon Team Snoopy tried desperately to escape the NVA which had over run their positions.

Is it fate that the Helix pilot, James Gibler's son LTC Mike Gibler would become Gimlet 6, Nainoa's Battalion Commander.

Is it fate that this sacred battle flag which protected me through the grim days of 1967 & 1968 in Vietnam, would be carried by my son and his platoon the day he was killed in Iraq. "Dad I want to carry your Recon flag to honor the men who served with you in Vietnam."

Is it fate?, whatever it is, the bonds that bind the brotherhood of the American soldier like a father and son, is a special one.

To Steve Fainaru, Washington Post writer, mahalo for your incredible tribute to my son. "On Campaign Trail ~ A Single Shot."

To the Outlaws of 2nd Platoon Charlie Tigers, you are my heroes, SFC. Corey Meyers, SSG. Victor Birdseye, SSG. Steve Siglock, SSG. Evans, SSG. Hank Moreno, Doc Mauney, Phil Fassieux and Darren Glenn; to Pfc. Jerome Roettgers, Pfc. Robert Layton and Pfc. Darrin Gooding your heroic efforts in holding your ground against the fusillade of bullets to save Nainoa, was above and beyond, my family will hold each of you in our hearts forever.

A very special tribute to Blackhawk pilot, 1Lt Jeremy Wolf, a fellow ROTC cadet who preceded Nainoa as the Battalion Commander for the University of Hawaii. Is it also fate that Jeremy also preceded Nainoa in death when he was killed in Iraq in November, 2003.

I now have a better appreciation of Churchill's quote, "never was so much owed by so many to so few". A grateful nation thanks each of you, Gimlets, 3/21 Infantry and all of the brave men and women in uniform who risk it all to share our country's legacy of freedom and liberty each day.

*"Grieve not for lost youth,
Carved in memory and stone
We dwell in your dreams."*

SSG Thomas Kaulukukui

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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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 anyone, 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 4,000 names on our mailing list so maybe we can help you find that long lost buddy.

You can also leave a message on the 196th Website Guestbook at: **www.196th.org** to search for friends or information. Make sure you leave contact information such as an e-mail address, home address, or phone number. When leaving an e-mail address, use "at" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address. Spam is becoming more and more of a problem and will continue to grow until it is outlawed. Write your Congressional representative to outlaw SPAM.

31st Infantry Regiment 90th Reunion

The 31st Infantry Regiment will hold its 90th Anniversary Reunion on 3-5 August 2006 at the Genessee Grande Hotel in Saracuse, NY. The reunion will be close to Fort Drum, so it can share the celebration with today's Polar Bears.

Make reservations by calling the hotel (1-800-365-4663) Reservation code:0608PV31ST.

There are lots of activities planned, but you will have to go to their website to get more information. **Www.31stinfantry.org**

Or call: Jackie 845-858-2124

E-mail: jjmhayes@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

You may be wondering why the newsletter has not been put out for quite some time. The last newsletter was just prior to the San Antonio reunion. About a month after the reunion I lost my brother, and my wife and I have had to help my sister-in-law out of some difficult times for all of us. Although I have retired, I also have a year long commitment with GM at their new plant in Lansing, MI that requires me to travel there two weeks a month. So.. That's why I've been unable to get this newsletter out sooner. No excuses... like they say, you should never volunteer for anything. I hope I can continue to publish the newsletter on time in the future.

Ken McKenzie, Editor

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 good will. 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.

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Fill out and return form with your remittance to:

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Ken Wright, Treasurer
8280 Hwy 66 E
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**196th ASSOCIATION
TAX EXEMPT STATUS**

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

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 contributions are now tax deductible on your income tax.

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



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