



196 Light Infantry Brigade Association



Colonel Francis S. Conaty Jr.
May 15, 1920 - September 23, 2013

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.

ON THE COVER: Colonel Francis S. Conaty Jr., May 15, 1920 - September 23, 2013. The Colonel commanded the Brigade when it formed in August 1965, and oversaw its' training and readiness for deployment to Vietnam. Colonel Conaty was the Honorary President of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association. (See the article on pages 16-17)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Chargers!

I would like to thank you for electing me as your President. It is an honor for me to serve. I hope to be worthy of the trust that you have placed in me. I have large shoes to fill following Warren, that's for sure. He has done a wonderful job and I want to thank him. He still certainly has his work cut out for him mentoring me.

My past positions include Commander of Eastern Region Chapter of Americal Division Veterans Association; multiple terms on the ADVA Executive Council; and Chairman of 2007 Americal Reunion. I am active in the local American Legion Honor guard and a life member of DAV, VFW, and the VVA. I also volunteer for the Washington County Veterans Office.

Our membership continues to grow, with more than 4,700 valid addresses currently on our mailing roster. In all we have 5830 addresses. My vision is for us to contact as many men and women, who proudly served but are not yet members, and encourage them to participate in our organization. Also, I feel a dialogue needs to be initiated as to the financial future of our present funds upon the arrival of the day when our association is no longer viable. Last, but not least, our successful reunions are a positive aspect of brotherhood, and my desire is that they will continue under my term as your President.

In closing, I am looking forward to this challenge, and will do my best to meet the expectations of my fellow Chargers. Thank you.

David Eichhorn -President

196th LIB Presidents attend 2nd Annual 196th Infantry Brigade Luau

COL Michael Forsyth, the commander of the active duty 196th Infantry Brigade invited Past President Warren Neill and his wife, Carol, to attend the Brigade's 2nd Annual Luau/Reunion. Warren was asked to be the Keynote Speaker for the evening. After successful negotiations with Carol, Warren asked our new President, David Eichhorn, to accompany him. David had never been to Hawaii before and this would be a perfect opportunity for a meet and greet with the active duty soldiers of the Charger Brigade.

Upon arrival Wednesday night they were met, with the appropriate Lei's and Alohas, by the Brigade XO, Brigade CSM, Brigade S-2 and Mr. Allen "Doc" Hoe, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Hawaii. "Doc" Hoe was a medic for 2/1, 67-68.

"Doc" was the tour guide for Thursday morning. First stop was a state of the art training facility which was named in honor of Mr. Hoe's son, 1LT Nainoa Hoe, who was killed by a sniper's bullet in Mosul, Iraq in 2005. Ironically, at the time of his death, 1LT Hoe was serving as a platoon leader with the Charlie Tigers of C 3/21, 25th Inf Div. David and Warren were both members of C 3/21 in Vietnam. David and Warren were invited to go hands on with some of the latest and greatest interactive electronic training equipment available. The equipment allows all the principle players of a unit to perform their tasks, as a unit, under simulated combat conditions in real time. It builds unit cohesion and effective tactical and communications skills in a safe environment which reinforces, through repetitive training, those skills which will ensure the lethality and survivability of the unit under actual combat conditions. Then it was on to the National Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the "Punchbowl". There lay the remains of almost 53,000 veterans (and eligible family members). The cemetery itself is in the crater of a long extinct volcano.

Thursday evening David and Warren joined the COL & his wife, Maryellen, the XO and the CSM for an informal dinner and discussion at the Aloha Tower in Honolulu.

Friday morning David and Warren went to Pearl Harbor and visited the USS Arizona Memorial. On Friday evening the Luau was held at Camp Smith, HI. Camp Smith is a US Marine Corps base and is the home for the US Pacific Command (USPACOM). There were approximately 50 Chargers and guests attending. After a fine meal, and some local Hawaiian entertainment, Warren presented his speech entitled "The Legacy of the 196th Infantry". Warren & David were presented with Brigade CO/CSM coins and the 196th LIB Association was presented with a short, engraved, wooden Hawaiian Spear complete with shark's teeth and feathers. The inscription, flanked by a Department of the Army Logo and 196th Patch reads –

196th Infantry Brigade Presented to 196th Infantry Brigade Association
For Outstanding Performance in Holding the Line & Keeping the Legacy
2nd Annual Brigade Luau 7 March 2014 – "CHARGERS – AHEAD OF THE REST"

Minutes of 2013 Business Meeting
196th Light Infantry Brigade Association
Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA
9 AM, Saturday, 27 July 2013

Meeting Called to Order by President Warren Neill

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Song by Stan Saas
- Invocation by Chaplain Ed Griffin
- Greeting and Welcome to First Timers
- Welcome Special Guests – LTG Wetzel, BG Abrams, COL Forsythe, CSM Corbett and other active duty 196th present.
- Introduction of Officers
- Reading of Minutes from 2009 Business Meeting held at Hilton Hotel, Bellevue (Seattle), WA

Motion to accept the Minutes as read/Seconded/Approved

- Reading of the Treasurer’s Report

Motion to Accept the Treasurer’s report as read /Seconded/Approved

Old Business

Do we continue partial support for Son’s Mother (Son passed away Jan 2013) and add Sgt Cau (Kit Carson Scout with A 3/21) who lost his legs for the balance of our annual contribution of \$196.

Motion to continue annual contribution of \$196 as long as these two individuals have a need for our help/Seconded/Approved

New Business

·Introduction of Guest Speaker Tim Tetz representing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) with a history of the VVMF and its fundraising campaign for Education Center at The Wall Project. He also asked for any photos of US KIA’s for display in the Education Center’s “A Face for Every Name” exhibit.



BG Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
The Army Historical Foundation

·Introduction of Guest Speaker BG Creighton W Abrams, Jr representing The Army Historical Foundation with a history of the AHF and its fundraising campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army

A motion was made to donate \$10,000 to both the VVMF and the AHS/Seconded/Approved

·2015 Reunion to be held 30 Sep – 5 Oct, 2015 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. Rooms are \$94 per night/ Free Parking. Valet parking will be available for those who wish to use it for \$8.50 per night.

·President Warren Neill acknowledges the contributions made by VP Dave Eichhorn for securing 2015 reunion site, Ken McKenzie for his continuing excellence with the newsletter and the website, Joe Mahoney for his help in setting up this year’s reunion events, Ron Dougard for the terrific job he did on the 2009 Post Reunion Alaska Cruise, DAV, VVMF and Army Historical Museum were acknowledged for their continuing efforts on behalf of 196th Soldiers, as well as all Veterans.



Tim Tetz
VVMF

·The fellow with the big camera following us around for the last few days is Tom Sullivan, a videographer, shooting footage for a documentary he is putting together on Vietnam Veterans and how important reunions are

Minutes of 2013 Business Meeting (continued)

to them. He has promised to give us a DVD for our archives. We hope to have it playing in the hospitality room in Daytona Beach.

·Update on Ed & MaryAnn Zahn. (Mary Ann later passed away at home during reunion)

·President Warren Neill announced there are approximately 500 members in attendance at this reunion with an expected 880 persons at tonight's banquet

Elections

·President Neill declined nomination to continue as President but assured the new President and the membership that he would mentor him as long as necessary.

Dave Eichhorn and Mike Timmerman were nominated and seconded from the floor.

·As we needed both a President and a VP the two candidates agreed to accept the outcome from the members that the one with the most votes would be President and the other VP

Secret written ballot was held.

Results - **Dave Eichhorn – President, Mike Timmerman – Vice President.**

President-elect David Eichhorn appointed Warren Neill as Secretary and re-appointed Ken Wright as Treasurer. Ken McKenzie has agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Open Discussion

·None

Announcements

·Shuttles will be leaving for the ceremony at The Wall precisely at 1145 and 1300.

·Song Jim McCloughan

·Benediction by Chaplain Ed Griffin

Motion to Close/Seconded

President Warren Neill adjourned the meeting at 1030

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren R Neill Jr
Interim Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of April 9, 2014, the 196th Association has the following funds:

Edward Jones Fund (investment)	\$57,237.58
Life Member Fund	\$64,734.19
Checking Account	<u>\$30,897.81</u>
Total Funds	\$152,869.58

Submitted, *Kenneth Wright*, Treasurer

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.

Turner, Patrick L., Feb, 2014, served with Recon Plt, D Company, 2/1, Patrick was an original at Fort Devens and Tay Ninh.

Grover, Larry, July 2013, served with B Company, 3/21, 1965-67.

Allen, (COL) Gary, Sept 15, 2013, Gary lost his battle with bone cancer on 15 Sept 2013. Gary was Platoon Leader in B-3/21, 1969. He was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association and a Charter Member of the Gimlet (21st Inf) Association. RIP Gary, you will be missed.

D'Aleo, (LT COL) Frank, Mar 4, 2009. Frank's son writes: "I am writing to inform you of the death of a Charger, my Dad. He was a Field Artillery officer with the 3/82nd FA when the Brigade was first sent to RVN in August of 1966, and was with them during the formation of the Brigade at Fort Devens. He did a 2nd tour in Vietnam with the Americal Division in 1969. My Dad died on his 73rd birthday after a long illness. (*Frank D'Aleo III*)

Nash, Jack, Sept 19, 1945-Sept 1, 2013, Jack served with 4th Plt, D-2/1 from 1965-1967. He was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association and attended many reunions. Jack was originally from Connecticut, and most recently lived in Stowe, VT.

Hagen, William Frank, Aug 23, 2013. Frank served with an 81mm Mortar Platoon as part of the Americal until they stood down and the 196th went on its' own. He served in Nam from August 1971 through June of 1972. He passed from Leukemia, another victim of Agent Orange.

Womack, Terry T., feb 7, 2013, Terry served with Delta, 4/31 from Oct 1968 to Oct 1969. Terry passed from severe cardiac arrest. He resided in Livingston, LA. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Debbie and their family.

Butler, Howard, May 7, 1946 - Dec 30, 2012. Howard served with Company A, 4/31 from Mar 1967 to Sept 1967. He was from Coram, NY.

Franz, Doug (Jiffy Pop), Sept 11, 1949 - Sept 30, 2012. Doug served as an NCO and Platoon Sargeant with B-2/1 in 1969-70. He passed from pancreatic cancer at age 63. He lived in Edmons, WA, and anyone with questions may contact Scott (Doc) Smith at 253-677-6790.



Eder, Stephen (Doc) Joseph, Dec 25, 1947 - Aug 14, 2012. Doc served in the Army from 1967 - 1973 and was a Medical Corpsman with 2nd Platoon, Delta Company, 4/31. He was survived by his wife Debra, who he married on Sept 15, 1975, children Crystal and Khristopher Sarah, Todd and Jennifer Edar and Traci and Jason Farr, and grandchildren. He had lived in Waxahchie, TX, and was a member of St. Joseph catholic Church where he taught Catechism. He was also a member of St. Vincent DePaul and Waxahachie Care. Interment with military honors was held at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Thomas, John, F., June 28, 1944 - Feb 20, 2012. John served with Company B, 2/1, during 1966 and 1967. John was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association, and was President of the Ohio Chapter of the 196th. He passed from a massive stroke and heart blockage. He was preparing for an Ohio reunion at the time, and his leadership will be missed by his friends and family, and those who regularly attend the Ohio gathering. John was from Conesville, OH.

Adams, Junior, May 19, 2013, served with A, 3/82 Arty, 1965-67.

Anton, Steven, Jan 18, 2013, served with 1st Platoon, F-Troop 17th Cav, 1969-70.

Seyler, Larry, Oct 23, 1947 - Nov 8, 2010, Larry served as A-3/82 Arty FO to D-3/21 in 1967-68. He was from Lyndhurst, NJ.

Hambelton, Michael, Unknown date, Served with 3rd Platoon, D-4/31 in 1969. He was from Parker, AZ.

Williams, Dennis W., Nov 23, 1945 - July 27, 2012, Dennis served with B-3/21 from 1965-1967. He was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association and was from Decatur, IN.

Fries III, Charles, Dec 27, 1946 - Mar 2, 2013, Served with 3rd Platoon, F-Troop 17th Cav. Charles was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association, and lived in Independence, MO. He is survived by his wife Nancy.

Tucker, John, April 13, 2008. Served with D-4/31 in 1969-70. He was from Lyles, TN.

TAPS

Angevine, LTC(RET) Robert C., Aug 25, 1925 - Feb 9, 2013. Robert was the 196th Brigade Signal Officer and served from 1965-1967. He resided in North, VA.

Ortega Sr., Eloy T., Dec 31, 1946 - Oct 1, 2012. Eloy served in 3rd Platoon, C-3/21 from 1966-67. He was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association and lived in San Antonio, TX.

Marijanich, Dennis, Aug 29, 1945 - Dec 28, 2012. dennis served with C-3/82 Arty from 1967-68. He resided in Lady Lake, FL with his wife Paula.

Conner, Terry R. (Tex), Unknown date, served with F-Troop, 17th Cav in 1969-70.

Pena, Herman, Unknown date, served in F-Troop, 17th Cav.

Fangrow, David J., Unknown date, served in F-Troop, 17th Cav.

Bush, David L., Nov 1, 1942 - April 6, 2012. David served with F-Troop, 17th Cav in 1965 - 1967. He received a battlefield commission to Second Lieutenant. David was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association, and lived in Watertown, NY.

Miller, Richard, May 14, 2012. He served with F-Troop, 17th Cav from 1965-67. He resided in East Lansing, MI.

Collins, Woodrow (Woody), Aug 4, 1947 - Feb 3, 2012. Woody served with B-2/1 from 1971-72. Woody was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association and resided in Roper, NC.

Proffitt, Crockett "Cap", June 21, 1948 - Mar 2014, Lt. "Cap" served as a platoon leader with C, 4/31 in 1968-89. He was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association, and resided in Ellingwood, KS.

Moyer, Donald Alan, July 10, 2005. Donald served with B, 3/21 from 1965-67. He had a Masters in Business Admin and was the Benefits Coordinator at Dunlop Corp. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sophie, and two children and three grandchildren. He loved camping and was returning home when he had a massive heart attack.

Boss, Edwin (Eddie), Mar 13, 1945 - April 2, 2014. Eddie served with 1st Platoon, A Company (Go-Go), 4/31 from 1965-66. Eddie was a Life Member of the 196th LIB Association and attended many, if not all, of the reunions along with his son John. He resided in Summitville, NY. He will be missed by all, especially his "A" Company buddies.

IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN ZAHN

For those of you who were privileged to know Mary Ann Zahn, wife of our long time Secretary, Ed Zahn of A, 3/21, 1965-67, she lost her battle with cancer on August 16, 2013. All who knew her will miss her greatly. The Association extends its sympathy to Ed and his family at their loss.

Before I left for the reunion, back in July, I got a call from Ed to tell me that they wouldn't be attending, so he could stay and be with Mary Ann. Carol and I will miss her greatly. She was a sweet person with an infectious smile.

She would sort out Ed's cryptic notes from the meetings and turn them into something useable as minutes. If truth be known, I think she was the real Secretary all those years.

You can offer your condolences to Ed at his e-mail: edzahn@norwaymi.com.

Warren Neill, Past-President

THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

The Education Center at The Wall will give context to the names on The Wall and enhance the Memorial experience for current and future generations by teaching about the Vietnam War, its national significance and the impact of The Wall on American culture.

The facility's exhibits will include a digital wall of photographs and the stories of those who gave their lives during the Vietnam War, a selection of the more than 400,000 items that have been left at The Wall, a timeline of the Vietnam Era and a history of The Wall itself.

The 196th Association, at its 2013 Reunion in Washington, DC, donated \$10,000 to this project.

The project has broken ground near The Wall, and is still in the midst of raising \$85 million to complete the Education Center.

Any contributions are tax deductible, and can be tied directly to a picture and name on The Wall.

The Center is still looking for photographs of each soldier who lost his life. For more information on donating:

www.BuildTheCenter.org



MAIL CALL

LRRP ATTACKED

By way of introduction I am Mike Twomey. I was Artillery Liaison Officer to the 4/31 Inf. on LZ West from Jan-Apr, 1970 and then commanded Charlie Battery, 3/82nd FA and with it FSB Siberia from May-Oct that year. Stayed in the Reserves after four years of active duty and retired as a LTC in the early 1990s. I'm now a mostly retired lawyer living in Tallahassee, where I have been since coming back from Vietnam.

I've been active in the Americal Association for a number of years, including a Facebook page they have now. Jay Flanagan, who runs the Facebook page has been posting KIAs in the division that occurred a given day and irrespective of the year. I try to read them on a daily basis and find out more about the individuals and actions involved when I have time.

Recently I observed six members of E Company, 51st Inf. were killed in a single day in 1968. I know they were the 196th's LRP unit and usually operated in teams of six, which would have meant the entire team was lost in one event. Done some Internet searches but have had no luck in finding out more about the specific action and wanted to ask if anyone knew.

The names of the six are below.

- ALLEN TERRY ERNEST SP4
- DAVIDSON JAMES RICHARD SGT
- HERNANDEZ RAMON SANCHEZ SP4
- JONSSON RONALD BRYNIEL SGT
- LENTZ EDWARD MARTIN SSG
- TORRES JOSE ENRIQUE SP4

04-Mar-68 LRP HELEN ATTACKED AT DAWN WHILE BLOCKING NVA TRAIL, 8 KM N-NE OF HIEP DUC VILLAGE 51ST Inf. E CO

Best regards,

Mike Twomey, miketwomey@talstar.com

196th WEB SITE

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

www.196th.org

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, or phone number. When leaving an e-mail address, use "at" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address.

NEED COPIES OF ORDERS

I am a veteran who served with 196th and Delta Co. 3/21 in Vietnam 1971-72 until August 11, 1972. I have questions concerning events during this era, such as A Co. being hit by "friendly" fire - I remember that very well, and other facts concerning things that happened. Also, we WERE still out in the bush/field during Spring Easter Offensive of 1972 and in bush up to shortly before D 3/21 left on August 11th (I think).

I would like to contact someone who still may have CIB and Air Medals paperwork during that time as mine got lost, but I still have the 'hard' metals - I would like to have those medals added to my DD214 since they ran us through Oakland like cattle and some of my medals, such as CIB (which I am most proud of) did not get on my DD214.

Please reply with any assistance that you can!

William J. Phillips (B.J.)

420 Davidson Ct., Lexington, KY, 40508

DOGTAG FOUND

A group that recovers dogtags from Vietnam and returns them to the soldier or the family has recovered a dogtag for John Aloysius Gillen. John was a medic, probably C 8th Support, assigned to HHC 2/1 or one of the 2/1 line companies, and his Home of Record was Chicago, IL. John was KIA on 24 May 1969 in Quang Tin Province.

If anyone knows of his family; please contact

LTC Gregory Davis

gregory.davis16.mil.mail.mil

or

www.topvietnamveterans.org/dog-tags.html

LOOKING FOR ORDERS

William Joseph Phillips, nickname "BJ" is looking for anyone that might have copies of orders for CIB or Air Medals that might contain his name.

William served with:

C, 3/21 (1/72-6/72)

D, 3/21 (6/72-8-72, Task Force Gimlet)

If you can help, please contact him at:

William Joseph Phillips

2873 Winter Garden Apt 1

Lexington, KY 40517-4179

(859) 533-6722

bj196321@gmail.com

MAIL CALL

LOOKING FOR TWO WOUNDED

My name is Bob Spangler. I was a Combat Correspondent with the 10th Public Information Detachment.

We were attached to the 196th LIB at Hawk Hill. I was there from May 1970 to April 1971.

My first assignment in the bush was with Charlie Company, 3rd/21st on a search and destroy mission in Happy Valley. The first day ended with 1st Platoon settling for the evening on the side of a triple canopy covered hill that had been terraced probably a hundred years earlier. I was assigned to the Command Post, but there wasn't enough room for everyone on the same terrace. I volunteered to move up to the next terrace. I bent over to place my camera under my steel pot for the night, when a new 1st Lieutenant (on his 1st mission in the bush as a platoon leader) set off a booby trap on the terrace below me. Five Americans and a Vietnamese Kit Carson Scout were wounded.

These five men were all around me and all were wounded while I escaped without a scratch. I'm sending a copy of my book, "In the Shadow of Danger: Photographs of the Vietnam War 1970-71" to each of the wounded veterans that I track down. This is my small way of saying "Thank You!!"

The date of the booby trap incident was August 31, 1970. Any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated. The book features photos of Charlie Company on the day of the booby trap incident and on the days following the incident.

The R.W. Norton Art Gallery in Shreveport, Louisiana produced an exhibit of 80 photographs from my collection of Vietnam war photos. The book is a catalog of the exhibit. It is my hope and prayer that these books can help bring closure and healing to these men just as the exhibit did in 2012 for many vets.

I've tracked down three of the wounded vets, but I'm still searching for 1st Lt. Michael E. Henderson (the new platoon leader) and SFC Edward L. Moon. If you could assist me in locating these two men, I would like to make contact by e-mail, telephone or snail mail.

Thanks in advance,

Bob Spangler (formerly Sp5 Robert A. Spangler)
2806 Tryon Road
Longview, Texas 75605
bob.a.spangler@gmail.com
903-553-1427

196TH PLAQUE

Warren:

It was indeed a great pleasure to be once again with our 196th. Brothers. I personally thank you for all the terrific work you put in for the last I believe 12 years. I know you will always be available for consulting in the future.

Attached are the pictures I took in the Museum at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

I, also would like to thank you for allowing me to address the Group at our Saturday Morning meeting, sharing my current Tour Guide Position at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, and inviting each and every member to visit this wonderful venue.



**196th Plaque at the Museum Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Arlington Cemetery**

Hope all is well for you and your family for the future.
Very Best Regards,

Jim McGinnis, Tour Guide
New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation
Recon Scout, Radio Call Sign: Romeo 1-1

CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHERS

Lyle Dewitt, A, 4/31,65-67 has leukemia and arthritis and would like to hear from some of his brothers.
4639 James Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546-2445
(510) 269-3844
e-mail: skodaman@juno.com

MAIL CALL

NEED HELP REMEMBERING

As we get older our memories fade. Does anyone remember us. I served with B, 3/21 from June 1967 to November 1967, and I'm trying to recall the name of the person on the left. His last name is Schmid.



? Schmid Peter Savoca (PJ) Philip(?) Schmitt

You can contact me at:

Peter Savoca

petsavo@comcast.net or (954) 475-9011

PHOTOS SAVED

I've been involved in photography since young adulthood and had a darkroom from the beginning. I used to moonlight at local rodeos and sold prints to the riders. While in Vietnam I had a good 35mm half-frame camera, but I lost the camera, film, my dog tags, and my weapon when I caught malaria. On R&R I bought another 35 mm camera.

Back in the 1970's I volunteered (hung out) at Pacific Radio KPFT and ingratiated myself by giving away my photos to the staff and DJs. I was invited into the on-air studio when they had musicians or an interview with a notable, and I got to tag along on off-site events.

Since they had a website, I volunteered to scan digitize the photos for them and got a good education to finally digitize my Vietnam photos.

Joseph Dan Hollis, E-2/1 Recon, 3rd Squad

Dan has allowed the 196th to use his photos provided they are attributed to him. We will run some in future issues as well. There is a large group, many around "Happy Valley" and OP Dragon during 1968. Here are a few:



Don Hollis



Phil Pilletier, Phil Mendosa, Michael Green, ?, Dan Hollis



OP Dragon

"Andy" Anderson, Roy Feinauer, Ed Locker, Michael Green



***2015 REUNION
196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
ASSOCIATION***

***DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA
30 SEPT - 4 OCT, 2015***

INFORMATION AND RESERVATION PACKAGES WILL BE MAILED AROUND JANUARY 2015



2013 REUNION



2013 REUNION



War and Fire in the Mountains

By: *John Shoemaker*



Lt. John Shoemaker, Platoon Leader, Third Platoon, Bravo Company, 2/1, in a characteristic pose.

It happens every year. Memorial Day yanks me back in time.

For a soldier, if you must die, let it not happen in a helicopter or plane.

“I can’t fight back if I’m stuck in a tin can. At least give me a fighting chance”, I remember wishing to myself.

Last summer, I heard the news again and it was like a bolt of lightning striking the top of my head and reaching down into my stomach leaving me feeling just sick. It was déjà vu.

On August 6, 2011, an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter carrying our finest war fighters in the mountains of Afghanistan was shot down and all 30 American lives were lost. SEAL Team 6 had 22 of its elite members on board that aircraft.

It was not the first time and it will not be the last.

This is a story with a twist.

We had stormed into the Kham Duc Valley with a vengeance. It is just east of one of the main infiltration routes, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, into South Vietnam from Laos. Helicopters filled the skies. More than a battalion of US Army and other units from the South Vietnamese Army combined to reestablish our presence in an area lost during the Tet Offensive. Over a thousand men came armed to the teeth and looking for some “payback”.

It was an area full of jungle, mountains, rivers and enemy soldiers.

Most important, we came to retrieve the remains of some Special Forces, “Green Berets”, lost during a bitter battle when 120 allied soldiers were reportedly surrounded by 5,000 of the enemy.

After a couple months, our mission was accomplished. We had retrieved the remains of our fallen Green Berets and conducted numerous patrols resulting in skirmishes with the NVA with lopsided results. Scores of the enemy were killed. One attack by sappers trying to hit Alpha Battery with their howitzers resulted in 16 enemy dead in just a few minutes.

The bucket of a front-end loader manned by the Seabees repairing the airstrip was filled with the enemy dead and buried them in one mass grave. Dozens more would follow the same fate.

Mission complete, it was time to leave.



Lt. Shoemaker and Third Platoon at Kham Duc

I was a platoon leader of one of the two platoons of the 196th Infantry that was guarding the old Green Beret airstrip as other units were loaded up and flown out by helicopter.

We were all moving to a new firebase called “LZ Judy”, 49 miles southwest of DaNang. It was a small mountain with most of the top cleared off and bunkers dug around the perimeter and the howitzers in the center. LZ Judy had a commanding position overlooking the valleys below.

Even as a paratrooper, I never liked getting on a helicopter of any kind, especially a Chinook. Having made

War and Fire in the Mountains (continued)

over 26 combat air assaults into enemy territory in my first five months, I just could not shake the helpless feeling getting into them. The worst is during take-off and landing, knowing it could be your metal coffin.

Finally, our turn came to leave. All we could do was scramble as fast as possible when the rear tailgate lowered, get on board, and pray it would take off IMMEDIATELY. No delay. Everyone yelled, "Go. Go. Go!"

I am sure we were all praying to ourselves to get "lift off" before the enemy gets a chance to shoot. Then you chant to yourself, "climb, baby, climb, fast, faster!"

Right behind my departure was the last platoon to leave Kham Duc. They were boarding their Chinook, along with a mortar squad, when it was frantically reported that some claymores and other explosives were left behind by mistake. Their Lieutenant took responsibility and went back for them.

Not to delay departure, he told the pilot to take off without him. Another small helicopter hovering above would surely come down to get him.

I heard the chatter on the radio. A courageous decision, I thought, as he was virtually the last American soldier on the ground with enemy all around.

We were second last to leave Kham Duc and second last to arrive at LZ Judy.

As the lumbering Chinook, heavily loaded with my Platoon and supplies, slowed for the landing on the top ridge line leading up to LZ Judy, it lurched with its backend dropping down and then slowly it levels off and lowers downward with the huge twin propellers noisily slicing the air.

When the rear door opened, we raced out as fast as possible even while loaded down with packs, weapons, ammo and other gear.

Whew! We made it. Relief sweeps over us. In the distance, we could hear the song by Bobby Sherman, "Julie, Julie, Do you love me?" blaring from a portable radio. We substituted the words with Judy, Judy...

We started moving up



Chinook coming in for a landing at LZ Judy

Judy slowly in the searing heat and humidity carrying our loads.

Right behind us was that last Chinook coming in to unload the platoon - without its Lieutenant.

I turned and waved vigorously at my guys to move up so we would not create a gaggle. I watched in awe as the huge inbound Chinook slowed, straining under its load, and trying to level off for the landing.

Then it happened.

The tell-tale "rat-tat-tat" of a lone enemy's AK-47 automatic weapon firing two dozen bullets directly into the belly of the Chinook made it stumble before dropping backwards and capsizing just a few hundred feet below us.

When it hit the tree tops it exploded in a massive fireball. The twin rotary blades broke off and hurled at us like boomerangs, killing and wound-



Smoke from the crashed Chinook

War and Fire in the Mountains (continued)

ing several trying to get up the slopes of LZ Judy.

One man – the door gunner – actually jumped out of the Chinook as it was falling from the sky. He fell over a hundred feet and crashed through the trees before hitting the ground.

In a little bubble-like helicopter we called a LOACH, trying to catch up and carrying the platoon's Lieutenant, he peered down to see that his entire platoon was gone. A huge plume of smoke rose high off the mountain. I could only imagine his thoughts.

31 died that day, August 26, 1970, on LZ Judy. Mortars on board kept exploding and the flames were so intense that we could not go near it for the rest of the day and through the night.

Immediately, all hell broke loose, with the Chinook explosions shaking the ground, Chinook pieces landing all around us, the Battalion's howitzers opened up with rapid fire to rake the mountain side hoping to get the suspected sniper.



Caring for the wounded on the ground who were hit by fragments from the Chinook

But it was over. Some of us were very lucky. The realization of what just happened hit me hard and lingers still.

The door gunner who jumped out was miraculously the only survivor.

It was a solemn night without sleep on the mountain as the crackling fire raged below us. Soon my platoon had to

go down to the crash site with the Graves Registration personnel; we loaded about 22 body bags with what was left.



After two days, inspecting the site for remains.

For sure, lucky survivors of war will always remember and give thanks. This time is no different. Those who did not come back are the true heroes, as has been said many times before.

And the song remains riveting..."Judy, Judy, Do you love me?"

For me, on this Memorial Day and every day, I hum the song and then whisper, "Oh, yes, we love you".



Recovery

OHIO CHAPTER REUNION 2012

This report was not received in time to include in the last newsletter. The 196th Association encourages smaller units or regional groups to hold reunions on the off-years when there is no national 196th reunion. The Ohio Chapter has been active and holding off-year reunions for many years.

OHIO REUNION REPORT

This past July 13-15, 2012, the Ohio Chapter of the 196th LIB had our Biennial Reunion in Coshocton, Ohio.

Several members came in on Friday night, July 13th for the meat-and-greet at the Coshocton Village Inn and Suites. Several brought their memorabilia to share and a lot of catching up was done over food and drinks. Even though it is the "Ohio" Chapter, members came from all over the Eastern and Midwestern U.S.A. We had guys from New Jersey, Georgia, Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, and West Virginia to name a few. Two veterans had not spoken to each other in 46 years.

Saturday was a day for sight-seeing and visiting, with our Chapter meeting held at the Rainbow Hills Vineyard at 6:00 PM. We enjoyed an outdoor grilled steak, and all the fixings.

We ate in an outdoor shelter, which we shared with a bridal shower group. The ladies were wound up by the time we got there (I think the wine helped)! A few of our members got involved and one even danced for them. I won't say who, but Tony Ghisalberty knows all about it. We had 36 members and several spouses enjoy the food and fellowship together.



It was, however, a bitter-sweet reunion as our President for 2010-2012, John Thomas, had just passed away leaving an empty spot at our table and in our hearts. John had started the ball rolling on the reunion, so Vice-President Ray Bechtol and I just picked it up and continued.

Warren Neill, our National President, spoke about the future of the 196th and his plans and dreams for the Association.

Chris Miller spoke on the issue of POW & MIA's. Her brother was a pilot and was listed as MIA in Vietnam in the mid-sixties. Her family has never been able to have closure as to what became of his remains or fate.

We voted in the following as the 2013-2014 officers:

John Lynch, President

Dale Flickinger, Vice-President

Robert Dalzell, Secretary/Treasurer

Our next reunion will be held in Michigan in 2014. For more information watch the 196th website, or contact me at:

Robert C. "Dizzy" Dalzell

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Colonel Francis S. Conaty, Jr.



Prepared



Francis And His Parents



The Citadel



World War II



Landing at Vung Tau



Heading for Tay Ninh



Tay Ninh Base Camp



Always in Love with Carol



Colonel Francis S. Conaty, Jr.



Col. Francis S. Conaty Jr.
May 15, 1920 - September 23, 2013

Col. Francis S. Conaty, Jr., USA, Ret., of Arlington, Va., age 93, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones, on September 23, 2013.

The only son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Francis S. Conaty, Francis Jr. was born in Rockville, IL on May 15, 1920. He was preceded in death by his cherished wife of 66 years, Carol Clayton Conaty.

He is survived by their six children, Mrs. Patricia McNamara, Mrs. Ceci Dittmar, Mr. Chip Conaty, Mr. Phil Conaty, Mr. Pete Conaty, and Mrs. Peggy Pisciotta and their respective spouses. Additionally he had 16 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and a large extended family, all of whom were treasured dearly.

He proudly served 30 years in the US Army, a veteran of WWII and the Vietnam War. A true patriot, he is a hero and inspiration to all who knew and loved him. He was buried with Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Personal tributes and photos may be posted at www.murphyfuneralhomes.com (search under his name).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Citadel Scholarship Fund or to a charity of your choice.

Col. Conaty was a member of the 1940 class at The Citadel and was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve one year after his graduation on June

1, 1940.

The son of a career soldier, Col. Conaty came on active duty in September 1941 and he commanded a mechanized cavalry unit of the Americal Division in the Asiatic Pacific Theater during World War II.

Col. Conaty served as an infantry advisor in Turkey during the Korean conflict, and from 1960 to 1964 he served on the Army Staff in Washington, D.C., in both the Office of the Chief, Research and Development; and the Office of the Army Chief of Staff.

His next assignment was as the senior advisor for the 9th Vietnamese Inf Division in 1964 and 1965.

Col. Conaty assumed command of the 2nd Brigade 5th Infantry Division (M) at Fort Devens, Massachusetts in August 1965. One month later he was named to command the newly-activated 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Col. Conaty oversaw readiness of the Brigade during their ten-plus months of training, and then led the Brigade to Vietnam.

When the troops of the 196th landed at Vung Tau, they were surprised that General Westmoreland, Commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, had ordered the replacement of their brigade Commander, Colonel Francis S. Conaty, with Brigadier General De Saussure. Colonel Conaty became the 196th's temporary Deputy Commander. Although a Colonel could command a Brigade attached to a Division, Gen. Westmoreland thought a Separate Brigade should be commanded by a General Officer.

Col. Conaty became the commander of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi, but was called back to temporarily take command of the 196th when Gen. De Saussure proved less than effective during Operation Attleboro.

Colonel Conaty's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" Device and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart and two Air Medals.

Colonel Conaty's devotion to the 196th led him to assist in establishing the 196th Association, and he was honored by the active duty 196th Infantry with the title of Honorary Colonel of the Brigade when the 196th was reactivated in Hawaii. The 196th Association named him Honorary President and Life Member.

The Colonel and his wife came to reunions as long as they were able. His last reunion was in Washington, DC in July 2013 where he met the 196th Brigade at The Wall for our memorial ceremony. In one of his final acts, he rose from his wheelchair, waving off assistance, to salute his troops. He died at 93 shortly thereafter. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Son's Story Update

By: Neil Hannan



In the last newsletter, we ran a story about how Neil Hannan found the young girl whose life he saved in 1968, and the efforts he has made to assist her.

1/8/2013

It is with a heavy heart that I report to you the sudden death of my “little girl”, Son, at 8:30 PM Sunday, Vietnam time. Her funeral service and burial was 9:00 AM Tuesday, Vietnam time.

Cau’s first food and medicine delivery was Tuesday Jan 1, at which time he learned that Son, though in bed most of the time, had been eating well and taking her medication on schedule. At my request, Cau asked Son’s mother if she would like to have ducks for the coop that we had built. Her response was positive. After learning that she was lying in bed so much, Cau and I went to work trying to find someone to help Son get up and around. Her mother is now just incapable of the task involved.

Cau was given the “go” to purchase the Thai Ducks. When he returned to Son’s house with the ducks on Friday, he found that Son had not eaten for three days and stopped taking her medication one day prior. After immediately being contacted with this troubling news, I asked Cau to see about getting Son to a medical facility ASAP. Something was terribly wrong and, without food or medication, the outcome was certain. Cau and I emailed back and forth non-stop, seeking the solution. A doctor visiting Son found low blood pressure and gave her an injection of some sort. But, I knew that the only logical alternative was to get her to a hospital. While we were frantically working on all of this, Son slipped away.

We just couldn’t seem to reverse the physical toll created by many years of medical neglect and malnutrition. I take consolation, though, knowing that your kindness and caring brought long-lost smiles back to Son’s face and sunshine into her previously dreary existence. For the last

two years of her life, she had food to eat, received medical attention, and felt special. You should have seen her face aglow when I presented the Versailles Policy and Copper River Record newspaper articles containing her photo and story. Folks, maybe we couldn’t achieve that for which we had strived, but we showed Son that we cared. And she died knowing such. We made a world of difference...

Son’s mother, a sweet, humble, and appreciative lady, is my only living connection to Son. I admit that there’s a soft spot in my heart for this dear person. My thought is to continue, with Cau as delivery person, supplying food for her. I haven’t calculated the monthly cost, but estimate it to run about \$25. To say that she has endured a tough life is an understatement. So, my thought is continue supplying food at a cost of approximately \$25/month...83 cents a day.

I wish to send a huge “thank you” to everyone who has contributed in my effort of make a better life for Son and her mother. We created smiles, brightness, and beauty in Son’s life.

2/11/13

Just a few days ago, Cau made a food delivery to The, read a note from me, and presented photos that I had mailed.



Cau writes:

“She is missing about her daughter very much. I showed her all your pictures and translated your letter into Vietnamese, she was very emotion to listen what I talk with her and her Son. She said your letter, pictures and my visiting every month will be a grain of comfort to her and her grandchildren. I burned some incense smoke on Son’s table to pray for the venerated soul of those departed. I will offer flowers to Son’s treasured memory after Tet holiday....”

Son's Story (continued)



As you can see in the photo, much work went into Son's resting place.

Cau will be going back to The's place to visit, place flowers on Son's grave, and present Tet Holiday "lucky money" (a Vietnamese tradition...maybe five cents per child). I have transferred adequate funds to cover the recent food delivery, Tet Holiday cakes and happy money for The's grandchildren, flowers for Son's grave, and reimbursement to Cau for the duck and sleeping mat purchase.... one month's food for The \$30, ducks \$25, sleeping mat \$5, Tet lucky money/cakes for The's grandchildren and flowers for Son's grave \$15...\$75 total.



4/12/13

First of all, Son's mother has been receiving a monthly supply of food and a small amount of money for the purpose of purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables. Although grieving the loss of her daughter, The seems to be hanging in there and will hopefully find peace and tranquility throughout the latter years of her life. She has endured a tough one. Through your donations, we were able to have flowers placed on Son's grave and gifts presented to The's grandchildren during the Tet Holiday. Cau, as usual, handled it all with effectiveness, class, and grace.

Remember Duong, the fellow who lives near Son's house and who lost both legs during the war? Although subsequent to my departure from the field, he served with my platoon, that being 2nd platoon, Company A, 3/21 Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Duong has been living in a rustic shack since his wounds forced the amputation of both legs. Crawling around his barren quarters, his existence has been one of misery and, I think, shame. Having served with American troops, he was cast aside by the victors, ignored, and basically forgotten. It is more than mildly disturbing that this brave soldier has been treated with such disdain. So, I've been working on your behalf to attempt to right, at least to a degree, this wrong. Through correspondence with Cau, it was learned that Duong, confined to his little hut, is very much in need of a fan to reduce the effect of the extreme heat. So, I approved the purchase of a very high-quality fan. Cau immediately set to work, effecting the purchase and delivery. It's hard to put a price on the smile on Duong's face in the attached photo. The fan was just \$16. Your donations are working wonders.

For the past couple months, I have been researching sources of hand-driven carts. My best choice was a high-quality unit from P.E.T., a non-profit U. S. organization that produces great carts with volunteer labor and provides them at no cost.

The cart has recently been picked up by "Tex", who guides groups on return trips to Vietnam, and stored in DaNang. Soon the cart will be taken to Cau's house. In a few days, Tex will be guiding a 196th Light Infantry Group on a return trip. Cau and these returning veterans will present the cart to Duong, who is completely unaware of what's coming.



Son's Story (continued)

Son's mother, The, will continue to receive monthly food. Son is gone, but her impact cannot be measured. Her plight has brought us all together and the resulting goodwill, caring, and happiness endures. Our efforts are changing lives, righting wrongs, and giving hope.

5/22/13

Duong now has personal transportation for the first time since being wounded over 40 years ago. When learning, however, that the trail from his house to the road was inadequate for use of the cart, I asked Cau to evaluate the situation. Duong now has not only a new cart but cement access to the main road. A fan, food, transportation, and a new concrete trail are now in place thanks to your generous donations.



2/23/14

Cau reports that The, 92 years of age, seems to be doing fairly well. However, she is complaining of "pain inside her left stomach". With a focus on Son, we have not tended to The's medical needs. It seems that we should make an effort to have her transported to a medical facility for a check-up. I've asked Cau to look into making such arrangements. At my request, he expressed to The my intent to visit her this fall.

It looks like Duong has a chance of getting a quality U.S.-made P.E.T hand-driven cart this year. Thanks to D.O.V.E Fund, a non-profit organization that does amazing work in Vietnam, we might be able to pull it off. I invite you to check out their website: www.dovefund.org

Just yesterday, I connected with Walter Hays, a volunteer coordinator with P. E. T. Project "The Gift of Mobility". They produce and distribute high-quality hand-driven carts....40,000 so far. The cart is being made available to me at no charge. But, we have to get it to Mr. Duong. The crated data: 136# 24" X 15" X 45". Walter says that most take it with them on the flight as "oversize luggage". One

producer is in Spokane, WA and they will allow free freight to Seattle. I have a vet friend in the Seattle area, David Raybell, with whom I can discuss coordinating things at the airport. The earliest that I could go to Vietnam is this fall, but that's not certain...depends on finances. So, if you know of anyone going sooner and will be near Son's village, maybe it can get there earlier. The cart is of highest quality and the crate includes a tool kit for assembly. Duong has been crawling around long enough. He served with 2nd Platoon, Company A, 3/21, 196th LIB and lost both legs to a mortar bobby trap. Let's make this happen.

2/27/14

Well, we've brought quite the smile to an appreciative Duong's face! Cau was "on assignment" checking out TV options for Duong when it was learned that our legless friend's eyesight isn't so good.

I asked Cau to investigate transportation options for getting Duong to the eye doctor in Tam Ky. After some



back and forth, it was decided that Cau would attempt the transport on his little motorbike.

I then transferred necessary funds to Cau. Not wasting any time, he pulled it all off yesterday. Now Duong is all smiles with a new TV and eyeglasses. When Cau is given



Son's Story (continued)

a mission, he's like a tiger.

I urged Cau to ask The's son to take her to the clinic to address the issue of her stomach pain. The physician indicated that she "needs vitamins". We'll see what can be arranged. The diagnosis seems a quite vague to me. Anyway, we have been supplying all of her nutritional requirements, so she's eating well.

After the success of the past few days, I'm eager to keep plugging. We can do much with minimal funds... making every cent count and creating smiles. Thanks for your support.

Neil Hannan

STAND-DOWN

By: *Daniel Phillips*

D, 3/21

When I came from Combat Center and was assigned to Delta Company (Black Death), there was a lot of forms that I had to fill out; one of the most important (according to the First Sgt) was a form authorizing Delta Company to take \$5.00 out of my paycheck each month to pay for Stand-Down.



Sgt. Daniel Phillips
D, 3/21

Stand-Down was a three day break in the rear at Chu Lai, right on the South China Sea. There were grilled steaks, hamburgers, cold beer, floor shows, and current movies. Everyone got a chance to go to the PX and buy film, and if you had any problems with Finance, Personnel, or Medical you could get it taken care of.

About every three months we would have choppers pick us up in the jungle and fly us to either Firebase Hawk Hill and then we would ride a truck convoy to Chu Lai, or

we would ride choppers all the way to Chu Lai.

First matter of business was to turn in all weapons, hand grenades, pistols, etc. After all were turned in it was hot showers for everyone, hot showers and clean clothes. From there it was to the grill for a steak or hamburger and a cold beer.



Every night there was a floorshow on the stage. Bands from Australia, Thailand, and Hong Kong were playing old favorites and trying some new tunes. The most popular songs I remember were, "I want to Go Home" by Bobby Bare, and "We Got To Get Out Of This Place" by the Animals. The bands were not that good until that second beer, and from then on they sounded great.

During the Stand-Down there were no jobs or details to go on, just rest and relaxation. Everyone would bring their poncho liner, some beer, a football and radio, and we would play and just take it easy.

After three days it was back to work; re-arm, climb aboard the choppers or trucks, and get back in the war. Everyone was rested and as ready as could be expected; just waiting for the next Stand-Down.

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM WARREN NEILL - PAST PRESIDENT



This is a message I long wanted to tell and dreaded all at the same time, but I think it's a story that needs telling. It's a personal journey that a lot of you may be able to relate to in a number of ways.

When my tour in Nam was over I still had 14 months to go until ETS. At Ft Hood, TX, my first stateside assignment after Nam, I was originally assigned to the 1/41st Infantry (Mech). During my in-processing with Personnel I was given the opportunity to change MOS and jumped on it! I transferred from Infantry to the Finance Corps and was assigned to 2nd Armored Division Finance as part of the 502nd Admin Co.

My first 4 months in Finance were pretty cushy and I figured this ain't a bad career choice so I took the big step and re-upped. It was then that my personal battle with what we now recognize as PTSD began. Garrison duty with REMF's was anything but exciting. I began to drink heavily. I managed to amass 13 Article 15's in 12 months all for speeding violations. No DWI's, though! Back then you would get a ticket from the civilians, that you had to pay to them, then the ticket was forwarded to your Company Commander who then issued you an Article 15. Of course you ended up paying again for the same ticket by fines, extra duty and restrictions to post as well as the threat and possibility of getting busted. I just continued with the same erratic off-duty behavior anyhow! I was, as my CO would say, incorrigible. On Article 15 number 13 I was finally issued a reduction in rank from E5 to E4 suspended for 90 days! That, finally, got my attention and I knew I had to get this under control or this was going to be a very long enlistment for the next 4 years, if the Army didn't kick me out first.

I then did what most of us did and turned inward. I got married and 3 years later had a beautiful little baby girl. I dealt with my "problem" as best I could. Still outwardly remained "Good Time Charlie". I was really very good at my job and my career took off but I still had my "problem" that I had to deal with. My way of dealing was to be the best at everything I did. Work, play, drinking, whatever. I totally threw myself into my work, sports, coaching my daughter's teams and being her Girl Scout leader. I was obsessed with winning. I could not allow myself to lose. I had pretty much convinced myself that I was OK. I was a winner! (The one exception is card games. I really suck at cards. Always have, probably always will. Don't ever ask me to be your partner at pinochle unless you're just into losing money!)

I had convinced myself that all the helpless, homeless, pathetic souls that were being treated for something called "PTSD" were a bunch of slackers and losers that wanted to blame the war for their inability to function. Fast forward to 1985. I was now at Ft Dix, NJ, having just returned from 7 ½ years in Germany. I finally had my first chance to visit The Wall. I wanted to touch the names of my fellow Charlie Tigers of C 3/21 that had fallen in combat and were memorialized on this wall. Well let me tell you that was a truly surprising and unsettling experience. I collapsed down on my knees and commenced to sobbing for a good half hour. Oh, my God, I thought! You've got it, too! Now after all those years of pushing it down and using drinking and other distractions to keep from having to deal with it, here it came. No one tried to stop me. Some guys walked past me and dropped business cards and said if I needed to talk to call the number on the card. Some other guys kind of walked closely by and told me "Hang in there, Brother". Brother! I hadn't heard anyone in my entire career refer to me as "Brother". What a wonderful word! Once I realized that I had to come to terms with my "problem". I also realized that my "Brothers" would be there for me if I needed help. I didn't do it right away.

My marriage fell apart but by then my relationship with my daughter was solid. I filed for divorce and got on with my life. Shortly thereafter I met a wonderful woman who listened and tried real hard to understand me and my "problem". You all know that woman as my wife, Carol. Truly the best thing to ever happened to me. She would let me vent and cry as much as I wanted as long as I didn't get violent. I finally was able give voice to those demons that had been suppressed so far down that it would take years to get 'em all kicked loose.

I began to feel better and better as time went on. Then one day she told me of a Welcome Home Parade on Veteran's Day in Philadelphia. I was still on active duty so I went over in uniform and found myself in the midst of thousands of my Brothers! I practically floated down Broad St when a VVA group invited me to march along with them. I found myself on the verge of tears all day. After 20 years I felt that I had finally come home and was surrounded by a true Band of Brothers. (Then I get back to my car and one of Philly's Phinest gave me a parking ticket. It's always something!)

The following summer we went to the NJ State Fair and I ran into a guy wearing a hat with the 196th LIB patch on it.

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM WARREN NEILL - PAST PRESIDENT (CONT.)

Even though I stayed in the Army this was only the 2nd or 3rd time I had seen that patch anywhere. You can imagine my surprise. I practically knocked folks over to get to that guy and when he shook my hand he said “Welcome Home, Brother!” What a great thing to say! So I returned the greeting and honestly felt a bit giddy about it. I looked back at Carol and saw a hint of a tear in her eye. She knew! She gets it! I felt like the world’s luckiest man. The cat in the hat then told me of the Association and that they would next be meeting in Cincinnati and he gave me membership application. I have long since forgotten his name but will never forget his greeting and how it made me feel.

Carol and I went to the reunion in Cincinnati and the feeling of belonging just increased by an infinite amount as I was once again surrounded by my Charger Brothers. Men who I trusted with my life that never let me down and were there again when I needed them again with a big bear hug and a heartfelt “Welcome Home, Brother”. I had an amazing weekend and met guys that I had shared fighting positions with. Guys with whom I had spent many a night in the bush and on ambush. The 20 years melted away and we were all 18-23 years old again, if only for the weekend. Telling those war stories that only those who had been there could fully understand. We spoke with reverence of those old memories of those we knew that did not come back. We spoke of all the other old memories of the crazy stuff we did and the good times we had. We spoke of the panic and terror that we experienced in the conduct of our missions in the field or diving into the ditches outside the hootches when we were unexpectedly attacked in the middle of the those long, dark, wet SE Asian nights. Or of hunkering down on the bunker line when someone or something set off a trip flare. Or of the creeping anxiety that crawls up your spine when there’s just two of you sitting in an OP/LP 50 to 100 meters in front of your lines to provide early warning of an enemy advance and not feeling real good about your chances of getting back into your unit perimeter in one piece.

We looked at each other’s pictures and recognized faces and places we never thought we’d see again and break out in roaring laughter about the time that ol’ SGT Snuffy woke up with a leech in a place that was never designed to have a critter attached to it. After it was over I had a real feeling of loss and immediately started to look forward to the next reunion.

Family responsibilities caused me to miss the ‘89 reunion in Boston and I swore not to miss another. I seriously missed my Brothers. I gradually became more and more involved with the Assn over the next few reunions as we traveled to Chicago, Denver and Nashville. At each reunion I met more Charger Brothers. In Nashville I was asked by the founding VP, Lowell Garland, if I would be interested in running for his position. I said yes and was drawn deeper into the Assn. I helped put together the ‘97 DC and ‘99 St Louis reunions and had great fun doing it. With the help of the membership, did most of the planning for Gettysburg in ‘01. I was elected President that year after being asked to run by the founding President Bill Knight.

With the help and guidance of VP’s Roy Dolgos, Bill Knight, Bob Kelly & Dave Eichhorn, the Assn moved on to Branson ‘03, San Antonio ‘05, Fort Mitchell, KY (Cincinnati) ‘07, Buffalo ‘09, Seattle ‘11 and DC again in ‘13. After a 2 year period of continued illnesses I decided to not accept another term as President. I would have to say that it was the



**Warren takes a salute from Col. Conaty
at the Vietnam Memorial**

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM WARREN NEILL - PAST PRESIDENT (CONT.)

hardest decision I have ever made. By all measures the membership believed that I did a good job and that the reunions were an opportunity to get together with their Brothers. Just like me they needed the Brothers they connected or reconnected with at the reunions to help them over the rough spots. Someone who spoke their language and understood we belonged to a fraternity, a band of brothers, that was forged under fire in a faraway place called Vietnam. It didn't matter what years we served from '66 to '72 we had been there, done that. Once a Charger, always a Charger. This Assn, and its membership, has kept me centered and on point for the last 26 years.

Yes, I still have my "problem", the nightmares, the night sweats, snapping awake and acting out. But with the help and support of my Brothers I have learned how to cope and my highest thought and mission was to ensure that my Brothers would continue to attend the reunions which are set up for that reconnection we all need to help us with our "problem".

Over the years with the able help of Ken McKenzie we have increased our membership roster by more than 1000 lines. At each reunion we have a large group of first-timers, that have been outside the wire for 40 years. They are now trying to make sense of this thing we shared. The reunions provide that safe place for them to explore and remember with those like themselves. I wish to thank the membership for their support and encouragement through the years. I wish to thank the membership for telling me what they wanted and what they needed from me and the Assn. I thank the membership ambassadors for all the hours dedicated to getting the word out about the Assn and the reunions. You are the guys popping smoke and guiding your Brothers back safely through the wire. It has been my extreme pleasure and privilege to lead this organization into the 21st century with honor and respect.



**Warren turns over the duties of
President to Dave Eichhorn (I)**

I wish to thank the appointed officers who remain on station and without whom the Assn doesn't run. Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Ken McKenzie, Treasurer Ken Wright. Past Secretary Ed Zahn (I am now filling in as Secretary until a volunteer steps up). A special shout out to Joe Mahoney for his work on the Honor Roll (with Ken McKenzie) and his continuing commitment to the Assn through countless hours as our ambassador in DC. To Jim McGinnis for his continuing commitment to getting the word out as our Northeast ambassador through his association with New Jersey Vietnam Memorial as a guide/interpreter and his participation in "Show the Colors" events. There are truly too many behind the scenes members, that put in untold hours working to round up their unit members, than I could list without forgetting someone. Suffice it to say that these folks are the ones who make the Assn go. You know who you are. I salute you.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as your President. It's going to be strange to be able to hang out and shmooze with the troops at the next reunion instead of running around making sure everything goes off as planned. Dave and Mike, I wish you all the best. You have just accepted the best job in the world. You work for the finest

group of soldiers and families there is. Just remember what I have always said, "We needed each other then, and we still need each other now!"

Now you know why that was my favorite saying over the years. Welcome Home My Brothers!!

Warren

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.



CHOICE OF QUALITY

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

18K Gold is the ultimate prestige metal, enjoy its brilliance for a lifetime.

14K Gold is rich and elegant with a durability you'll appreciate.

10K Gold - our most popular quality and an excellent choice to commemorate your special years.

Lustrium is an affordable alternative if you want the bright qualities of white gold.

Questra gives your ring a priceless golden look and a brilliant surface that is so durable it carries Jostens exclusive lifetime warranty.

Whichever alloy you choose, each has outstanding durability and wearability characteristics - backed by Jostens reputation for quality.

JOSTENS FULL WARRANTY

For The Lifetime Of The Ring

Every Jostens Military Ring is designed and crafted to exacting quality standards.

Jostens warrants the ring to be free from defects of material and workmanship for the life of the ring. Any ring not meeting these standards will be replaced if necessary, with an identical ring without charge.

In addition, Jostens Full Warranty provides these special benefits for the life of the ring without charge:

Resizing will be performed without charge.

Defective or broken simulated stones will be replaced without charge.

Refinishing will be performed without charge.

SEND ORDERS TO:

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association
c/o Ken Wright
8280 Hwy 66 E.
Rome, IN 47574

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Tel. Number _____

196th ORDER FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> White Lustrium.....\$160.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$560.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat White Gold.....\$560.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Questra.....\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$840.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat White Gold.....\$840.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$1217.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat White Gold.....\$1217.00	
Engraving (inside ring) <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Initials _____ (FREE) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Name (or other) _____ add \$15.00 21 LETTERS & SPACES			
Stones <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth <input type="checkbox"/> Facet <input type="checkbox"/> Garnet (Jan) <input type="checkbox"/> White Spinel (Apr) <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby (Jul) <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Zircon (Oct) <input type="checkbox"/> Black Onyx <input type="checkbox"/> Amethyst (Feb) <input type="checkbox"/> Shamrock (May) <input type="checkbox"/> Peridot (Aug) <input type="checkbox"/> Topaz (Nov) <input type="checkbox"/> Mother of Pearl <input type="checkbox"/> Aquamarine (Mar) <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandrite (Jun) <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Blue (Sept) <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Zircon (Dec)			
Encrusting on Stones (available on smooth stones only).....add \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Infantry <input type="checkbox"/> MP Crossed Pistols <input type="checkbox"/> Artillery <input type="checkbox"/> Crossed Bayonets			
Finger Size _____ Your correct ring size may be obtained at a jewelry store.		ALL BIRTHSTONES ARE SIMULATED Sales Tax Must Be Added Order Must Have Finger Size Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.	
		Sub Total	
		7% State Sales Tax	
		Shipping (per ring)	5.95
		Total	

196th Merchandise Order Form

Prices shown include postage & handling.

Description Price Quantity Amt Due

All weather 196th **Flag** (Durable/Double-sided) \$68.00 ____ x \$68.00 = _____

3 **Flag Desk Set** (US, 196th, POW/MIA) \$10.00 ____ x \$10.00 = _____

196th LIB Large **Tankard** \$20.00 ____ x \$20.00 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Coffee Mug** \$ 6.50 ____ x \$ 6.50 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Magnet** (4" x 6") \$ 6.50 ____ x \$ 6.50 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Wall Clock** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Engraved Tumbler** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

196th LIB **Challenge Coin** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

196th **Patches – Full Color** \$ 4.00 ____ x \$ 4.00 = _____

196th **Brigade Crests** “Ahead of the Rest” \$ 5.00 ____ x \$ 5.00 = _____

196th
CHALLENGE COIN



Newly Authorized Uniform Item

196th **CSIB Pin** (Combat Service ID Badge) \$15.00 ____ x \$15.00 = _____

196th LIB **Outside Window/Bumper Sticker** \$ 2.00 ____ x \$ 2.00 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Lapel Pin** \$ 3.00 ____ x \$ 3.00 = _____

196th LIB Canvas **Tote** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

Limited Edition (Black) 196th LIB T-Shirt (while they last)

3XL__2XL__XL__L__M__\$15.00____ x \$15.00= _____

Classic (White) 196th LIB T-shirt

5XL__4XL__3XL__2XL__XL__L__M__\$15.00____ x \$15.00 = _____

Order Total = _____

Make check payable to: 196th LIB Assn

Mail to: 196th LIB Assn, Ken Wright, Treasurer, 8280 Hwy 66E, Rome, IN 47574-9043

Follow-up or questions about merchandise:

Quartermaster - Rich "Doc" Mosher, rpm196@hotmail.com, 847-922-6011:

(Suggestion: Make a copy of this page)

From The Editor

Time passes and things change both for the better and for the worst. I've been turning out the Newsletter for 27 years now, sporadically at times, and certainly not the twice a year I had hoped for when I began.

The first 196th Association newsletter I got was put out by Bill Knight in January 1987, It was a two sheet mimeographed mailing on yellow paper. This was actually the third newsletter Bill had put out, the first two were sent to a small group that had gotten together prior to the first national reunion in Alexandria, Virginia in 1985. The newsletter had details about the second national reunion to be held in Cincinnati, OH in 1987. At the time of this newsletter, we had a membership of just over 200, and a treasury of \$3700.00. We now have over 5000 on our mailing list and our treasury is full.

With larger membership and older age, things get harder and harder to do. We are becoming the "old" veterans, but at least we can still pack a reunion banquet. I watch with sadness the slow withering of the World War II veterans' organizations, and the decisions to finally drink that bottle of liquor that has been waiting for the last member to pass. What will our legacy be, and how much of our history will be remembered?

Although we've made attempts to archive material, and made arrangements to store personal items in university archives, the effort has been sporadic (there's that word again). A university archivist spokesperson, who was scheduled to speak at a previous reunion, failed to even show up. Maybe it's time to make a concerted effort to establish a permanent collection somewhere that could be funded in part with some of the money in our treasury.

I propose that the Association create a position of historian, that would be a volunteer job, but containing some funding for travel, archivist materials, and a subsidy for permanent storage. The job would require knowledge of processes and procedures for collecting, cataloging, and preservation of material and documents. If we could identify someone who is interested, we could probably begin work soon, and then authorize larger efforts at the next reunion by vote of the membership. Anyone interested?

This has also been a significant year in terms of change for the 196th and its members. After about 30 years, we've had a change in leadership for only the third time. I never thought anyone could replace the leadership of Bill Knight, but Warren Neill stepped up and continued the growth and activities of the Association, so I am confident that Dave Eichhorn will carry on in that tradition. We also lost one of our finest members with the passing of Colonel Conaty. He had assisted in the formation of the Association and had attended most of our reunions. He was a fine soldier, and a true friend of every 196th member.

I don't mean to be too nostalgic; after all, we have an active duty 196th that is young and vibrant, and even within the ranks of 196th Vietnam veterans there is a wide gap in ages between the original members (1965) and those that closed out the war in 1972. So, let's look forward to another 30+ years of reunions and camaraderie.

Ken McKenzie - Editor

Dues Renewal Form

(other side)

Please include your old address also if you have moved.



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 Warren Neill, Secretary, 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 5,000 names on our mailing list so maybe we can help you find that long lost buddy.

Locating on the Web

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.

The Web Forum

If we do not have the person you are looking for in our database, the new website FORUM is another way to locate people. Put the name of the person you are looking for as the title of the new THREAD you create on the FORUM. Remember, you must sign up for the forum, by sending a User Name and Password to Ken McKenzie at Editor196@196th.org. He will create your account and send you confirmation. Once you log in, you can change your password.

Fill out and return form with your remittance to:

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

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!

You receive with your membership:
A membership card, one bumper sticker, and one window decal.

**CHECK YOUR
MAILING LABEL
FOR YOUR
DUES EXPIRATION DATE**

Dues are \$20.00 for the year.	Lifetime Membership: \$196.00
I would like (number):	
_____ Additional Bumper Stickers @ \$2.00 ea.	_____ Additional Decals @ \$2.00 ea.
Not included with membership package:	
_____ Lapel Pin @ \$3.00 ea. T-Shirt @ \$15 each, (number of each size ordered) _____XXL, _____XL, _____L, _____M	
Name: _____ Telephone: _____	
Street: _____	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
Dates served in the 196th: From: _____ To: _____	
Unit: Bat/Reg _____ Company or Battery _____ Platoon _____	
Service #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ E-mail: _____	
_____ I cannot join at this time, but please add my name to the mailing list. _____ Address Change	
_____ Membership Renewal _____ New Member _____ Life Member \$ _____ Donation	

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

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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.

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

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.



196th Light Infantry Brigade



196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

Warren Neill, Secretary
PO Box 434 Cicero, Indiana 46034

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