

SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION



Spring 2015 Newsletter

## WJ MULLEN III, BG USA, RETIRED

HONORARY COLONEL, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT

Friends and comrades,

THE RAMRODS ARE BACK! ..... Delta Company, 2-2 INF is executing an unusual and interesting mission with the US Navy and USNS Comfort, a hospital ship. The company is doing well. These Ramrod Soldiers will write an interesting chapter in the history of the Second Infantry Regiment.

More good things are happening as the Army and the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ramp up to activating the battalion headquarters and the rest of the battalion at Fort Polk in the Fall, as we understand the plan. Some key personnel and soldiers are already at Fort Polk. And to quote SGM Abbott, "... busloads of newly trained infantrymen from Fort Benning should start to arrive at Polk over the next few months."



I hope that many of us were or will be able to attend one or both of our regimental reunions this summer. The Ramrods Reunion at Pigeon Forge, TN, was 14 – 17 May. The next reunion will be conducted during the Society of the First Division Reunion at Lombard, IL, 17 – 21 June. These reunions provide precious opportunities to be with friends and talk, as well as, to meet and talk with other soldiers to share similar experiences. The reunions are fun and personally rewarding. ... If you haven't been to a Second Infantry reunion, try one. You'll be glad that you did.

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Another opportunity for some of us to be with other veterans has been the annual Officers' Dinner which is attended by veteran officers who have been in combat with the First Infantry Division. The first of these events was conducted just after the end of WW I. Last April's Officers Dinner was the 96<sup>th</sup>. My first was in the late 60's. It was held at the Waldorf in New York City. In addition to being with veterans of Viet Nam, I met men who had fought in WW I and others who had fought in WW II. Years ago, the site was moved to Washington, DC/Northern Virginia. Initially, after RVN which was the first time our regiment was in combat with the Big Red One, participation by Second Infantry veteran officers was good. Now, however, regimental attendance has fallen to a low level. Actually, there has been a drop off in overall attendance by all units. .... Compounding the situation for us is that Tom Rehm, who commanded the First Battalion in Viet Nam and who has been the force behind the Regiment's participation in the Dinner, has retired from the task of coordinating our participation. Hopefully, veteran officers living on the East Coast will attend future Dinners and, someone will be able to take the baton from Tom.

## BOB "FO" DOUGLASS

PRESIDENT, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

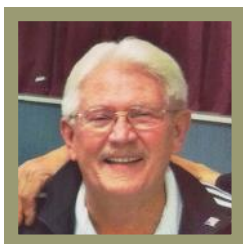
My Fellow Ramrods and Associate members,

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits. Presently I am in Pigeon Forge for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Reunion. I am looking forward to seeing some of ya'll that I have not seen for over a year.



This last year has taken a toll on some of our very active members. We lost Joe Foy, John Carlisle, Ray Leonard, Stanton Embree and Ausby "Shorty" Clements. "Shorty fought in the Battle of the Bulge and also liberated a concentration camp". He served in WWII with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. He will surely be missed.

As the years go by and we age more we have to keep a close monitor on our health. I am not sure how many of ya'll use the VA health system. If your not then I do suggest that you get at least registered there. There have been many sad stories that have come out about the VA. But I for one have always received top-notch care from them. I have never had any kind of a problem getting an appointment or being seen when needed. As a matter of fact I am on a regular six-month schedule for all of my Doctors visits.



Just two weeks ago I found out that one of our fellow Ramrods (Ron Jackson) was diagnosed with stage 4 Lung Cancer. Ron told me that he never really had any symptoms. He is being treated for it now at the VA. Lets all please keep Ron in our daily prayers.

From 1961 thru 1971 they sprayed Agent Orange through out Vietnam. And even to this day in most areas nothing has grown back. And they have also discovered the many diseases that are associated with Agent Orange.

Some of these are malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia. A disease by reduced supply of blood to the heart that leads to chest pain and many others. One of the most common is Prostrate Cancer and Diabetes. They are also adding more diseases every so often. What ya'll need to do is go to: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov> This a very good website for Agent Orange.

Also everybody needs to have your names added to the VA's Agent Orange registry. You can contact your local VA for the telephone number. Also I would suggest those of you who think that you are on the registry call just to double check. My name was on it and somehow by magic it fell off.

What all of us have to think about is what happens to our spouses if we go on to that Regiment in the sky. And if you die from one of these Agent Orange diseases that are recognized by the VA your spouse is eligible for DIC (Dependent Indemnity Compensation). But you have to have this on your record at the VA.

Now as General Mullen has told you in his article 2-2 is back and we once again will be supporting them in anyway that we can.

So in closing as CSM Dahle would say, "Give'r Hell", Gary Tucker would say "Move out and draw fire" and don't forget to KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND YOUR POWDER DRY.

*General Mattis wrote the following “Opinion Piece” for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. However, in addition to Ramrodders who fought in those places, his message is also relevant for us veterans of other wars: “You, my fine veterans are privileged that you will never face a judgment of having failed to live fully. ... For whatever trauma came with service in tough circumstances, we should take what we learned—take our post – traumatic growth—and, like past generations coming home, bring our sharpened strengths to bear, bring our attitude of gratitude to bear. ... help our society rediscover its courage and optimism.”*

### THE MEANING OF THEIR SERVICE

**A retired four-star Marine Corps general on the clarifying effect of combat experience, the poison of cynicism and how veterans can help revive American optimism** By James N. Mattis

**This article was adapted from remarks for the fourth annual salute to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans at the Marines’ Memorial Club in San Francisco on April 16. It is from the Wall Street Journal, 17 April 2015 reprinted with permission of the author.**

Our country gives hope to millions around the world, and you—who knew that at one time your job was to fight well—kept that hope alive. By your service you made clear your choice about what kind of world we want for our children: The world of violent jihadist terrorists, or one defined by Abraham Lincoln when he advised us to listen to our better angels?

I searched for words to pay my respects to all of you here tonight and had to turn to others more articulate than I to convey what our service meant. Someone once said that America is like a bank: If you want to take something out, then you must be willing to put something in.

For the veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars—poorly explained and inconclusive wars, the first major wars since our Revolution fought without a draft forcing some men into the ranks—the question of what our service meant may loom large in your minds. You without doubt have put something into the nation’s moral bank.

Rest assured that by your service, you sent a necessary message to the world and especially to those maniacs who thought by hurting us that they could scare us.

No granite monuments, regardless of how grandly built, can take the place of your raw example of courage, when in your youth you answered your country’s call. When you looked past the hot political rhetoric. When you voluntarily left behind life’s well-lit

avenues. When you signed that blank check to the American people payable with your lives. And, most important, when you made a full personal commitment even while, for over a dozen years, the country’s political leadership had difficulty defining our national level of commitment.

You built your own monument with a soldier’s faith, embracing an unlimited liability clause and showing America’s younger generation at its best when times were at their worst.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., arguably the most articulate justice in the Supreme Court’s history and himself a combat-experienced infantry officer in our awful Civil War, said: “As life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived.”

You, my fine veterans, are privileged that you will never face a judgment of having failed to live fully. For you young patriots were more concerned in living life fully than in your own longevity, freely facing daunting odds and the random nature of death and wounds on the battlefield.

So long as you maintain that same commitment to others and that same enthusiasm for life’s challenges that you felt in yourself, your shipmates, your comrades and buddies, you will never question at age 45 on a shrink’s couch whether you have lived.

Veterans know the difference between being in a dangerous combat zone and being in close

combat, seeking out and killing the enemy. Close combat is tough. Much of the rest of war is boring if hard work. Yet nothing is mentally crippling about hard work in dangerous circumstances, as shown by generations of American veterans who came thankfully home as better men and women.

Close combat, however, is an “incommunicable experience”—again quoting Holmes. Then there was Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, the Union general, who spoke of war’s effects, distinguishing the impact of close combat from military service in general. He said that such combat is “a test of character, it makes bad men worse and good men better.”

We are masters of our character, choosing what we will stand for in this life. Veterans today have had a unique privilege, that of having seen the tenacious spirit of our lads, like those young grunts preparing for a patrol by loosely wrapping tourniquets on their limbs so they could swiftly stop their own bleeding if their legs were blown off. Yet day after day they stoically patrolled. Adversity, we are told, reveals a man to himself, and young patriots coming home from such patrols are worth more than gold, for nothing they face can ever again be that tough.

Now, most of us lost friends, the best of friends, and we learned that war’s glory lay only in them—there is no other glory in warfare. They were friends who proved their manhood at age 18, before they could legally drink a beer. They were young men and

women taking responsibility for their own actions, never playing the victim card. Rather, they took responsibility for their own reaction to adversity.

This was something that we once took for granted in ourselves and in our buddies, units where teenagers naturally stood tall, and we counted on each other. Yet it is a characteristic that can seem oddly vacant in our post-military society, where victimhood often seems to be celebrated. We found in the ranks that we were all coequal, general or private, admiral or seaman. We were equally committed to the mission and to one another, a thought captured by Gen. Robert E. Lee, saying his spirit bled each time one of his men fell.

Looking back over my own service, I realize now how fortunate I was to experience all this and the many riotous excursions I had when I was privileged to march or fight beside you. And a question comes to mind: What can I do to repay our country for the privilege of learning things that only you in this room could have taught me? For today I feel sorry for those who were not there with us when trouble loomed. I sometimes wonder how to embrace those who were not with us, those who were not so fortunate to discover what we were privileged to learn when we were receiving our Masters and Ph.D.'s in how to live life, and gaining the understanding and appreciation of small things that we would otherwise have never known.

How do we embrace our fellow citizens who weren't there? America is too large at heart for divisions between us. If we became keenly aware of anything at war, it was what is printed on our coins: "E Pluribus Unum"—out of many, one.

We veterans did our patriotic duty, nothing more, certainly nothing less, and we need to "come home" like veterans of all America's wars. Come home stronger and more compassionate, not characterized as

damaged, or with disorders, or with syndromes or other disease labels. Not labeled dependent on the government even as we take the lead in care of our grievously wounded comrades and hold our Gold Star families close. We deserve nothing more than a level playing field in America, for we endured nothing more, and often less, than vets of past wars.

For whatever trauma came with service in tough circumstances, we should take what we learned—take our post-traumatic growth—and, like past generations coming home, bring our sharpened strengths to bear, bring our attitude of gratitude to bear. And, most important, we should deny cynicism a role in our view of the world.

We know that in tough times cynicism is just another way to give up, and in the military we consider cynicism or giving up simply as forms of cowardice. No matter how bad any situation, cynicism has no positive impact. Watching the news, you might notice that cynicism and victimhood often seem to go hand-in-hand, but not for veterans. People who have faced no harsh trials seem to fall into that mode, unaware of what it indicates when taking refuge from responsibility for their actions. This is an area where your example can help our society rediscover its courage and its optimism.

We also learned the pleasure of exceeding expectations. We saw the power we brought when working together as a team. We learned alongside one another, in teams where admired leadership built teamwork, where free men and women could change the world.

Now having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world and having worked with others of many cultures, having worked in one of the most diverse teams on earth—that of the U.S. military—and having faced down grim circumstances without losing our sense of humor or moral balance under conditions where war's realities scrape away

civilization's veneer, we have learned that nothing can stop our spirit unless we ignore Lincoln's call to our better angels.

American colleges and businesses know your pedigree for commitment, reliability and loyalty. This is why so many corporations and startups aggressively recruit veterans. As San Francisco-based Uber sums it up: Veterans deliver higher value. Bellwether companies like Microsoft, Uber, Starbucks and more act on that premise.

I will close with words again borrowed from others.

From Alexander Dumas: You should be satisfied with the way you have conducted yourselves, "with no remorse for the past, confident regarding the present and full of hope for the future." When you retire to bed you should sleep "the sleep of the brave."

If Jackie Robinson, a sparkling ballplayer and veteran of World War II, could write his own epitaph on leadership by saying "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives," then you who are fortunate to have learned so much living in the greatest country on earth while making an impact so young—you should recognize that our country needs your vigor and wisdom. It was gained at great cost to our comrades and to our Gold Star families, who need to see their sons' spirits live on in your enthusiasm for life.

I am reminded of Gen. William Sherman's words when bidding farewell to his army in 1865: "As in war you have been good soldiers, so in peace you will make good citizens."

*Mr. Mattis, a retired four-star U.S. Marine Corps general and former commander of U.S. Central Command, is a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution.*

## ERIC P. LOPEZ, LTC, IN

TRADOC COMMANDER'S PLANNING GROUP

The Ramrods have been called to action again. Delta Company 2/2 Infantry had barely stood up at Fort Polk, when they were called to action. I want to keep the details vague, but their mission is to provide security for a US Navy peacekeeping mission to South America. Delta Company is led by CPT John Andrews, and his is surrounded by some outstanding Ramrod NCOs.

These great Soldiers were conducting their train-up at Fort Eustis, and I had a chance to address them about "What it means to be a Ramrod." "BG (R) Bill Mullen and CSM John Morales (former Ramrod 7) dialed in by phone and gave some encouraging words to these young soldiers.

It was a great event, and they definitely left understanding the pride and heritage that exists in the 2nd Infantry Regiment.



## Jaime Sainz, 1SG

USARMY TRADOC (US) 2-2 RAMRODS

The Ramrods have concentrated all their efforts on receiving all equipment necessary to stand up all companies. So far we have secured Buildings for the incoming Soldiers, vehicles, weapons and a variety of specialties' equip. Additionally we are projected to receive 250 Soldiers during the month of JUL. We will receive the rest of the Soldiers between AUG and DEC, we are expected to have approximately 600 Soldiers by Jan 2016.

Currently our strength is 32 Soldiers including the new BN CSM (CSM Abbott). Our Soldiers are currently reconditioning our facilities and prepping the same for the arrivals of new Soldiers in the near future. We currently have a UIC but will not be activated until the new fiscal year, additionally we are still waiting on a date for the activation of the BN.

We will keep you posted of any events or changes to our activation. Thanks for all your support to the Ramrods.



**MR. AUSBY L. "SHORTY" CLEMENTS, AGE 95**

Mr. Ausby L. "Shorty" Clements, age 95, of Robinson, IL, died Saturday November 8, 2014 at 1:35 AM at Crawford Memorial Hospital, Robinson, IL, following a recent stroke.

Born August 27, 1919 in Porterville, IL, he was the son of Frank and Glenn (McCrary) Clements. On April 21, 1946 he married Bette (Reinoehl) Clements and she survives.

Ausby was retired from Marathon Oil Company, Texas City Refinery, Maintenance planning. He served in the U.S. Army, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment in WWII; was a past Commander and member of E.M. Coulter Post #69; member VFW #4549, Robinson, IL; B.P.O. Elks #1188, Robinson, IL; Loyal Order of the Moose #1369 and Eastern Illinois Sportsman Club.

Survivors include wife, Bette Clements, Robinson, IL; son, Jack Clements, Indianapolis, IN; daughter and son-in-law, Leslie and Mike Swaner, Robinson, IL; brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Geraldine McCrary, Robinson, IL; five grandchildren, Gwen and J.R. Goff, Robinson, IL; Stacie and Andy Fisher, Flat Rock, IL; Jon and Kim Swaner, Terre Haute, IN; Frank P. and Carey Clements, Robinson, IL; Matthew Swaner, Robinson, IL; nine great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

**2015 PIGEON FORGE 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT VETERANS REUNION**

BY CHUCK AND KAREN MUNDAHL, REUNION COORDINATORS

The reunion took place in Pigeon Forge, TN on May 14-17 2015. We really had a good turnout this year.

We had 109 people attend counting veterans and their guests. We had good weather, good conversation and good food.

This was our first year hosting the reunion and we think that everyone had a good time.

We had 2 WW2 veterans attend this year. They are Daniel Bartko and Harry Jack Paylor. They are so inspiring!

We also had 2 Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans attend. They are Brian Lake, and James Riggs. It was great to have them with us. We really need to get more of these younger veterans to participate.



Next year's Pigeon Forge 2nd Infantry Regiment Veterans Reunion will be May 12th-15th 2016. There will be a registration form on the 2nd Infantry Regiment's web site after January 2016.

<http://www.secinfreg.org/>

# 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT VETERANS REUNION 2015 PIGEON FORGE, TENN.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY RICH MALING, CHAPLAIN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.*



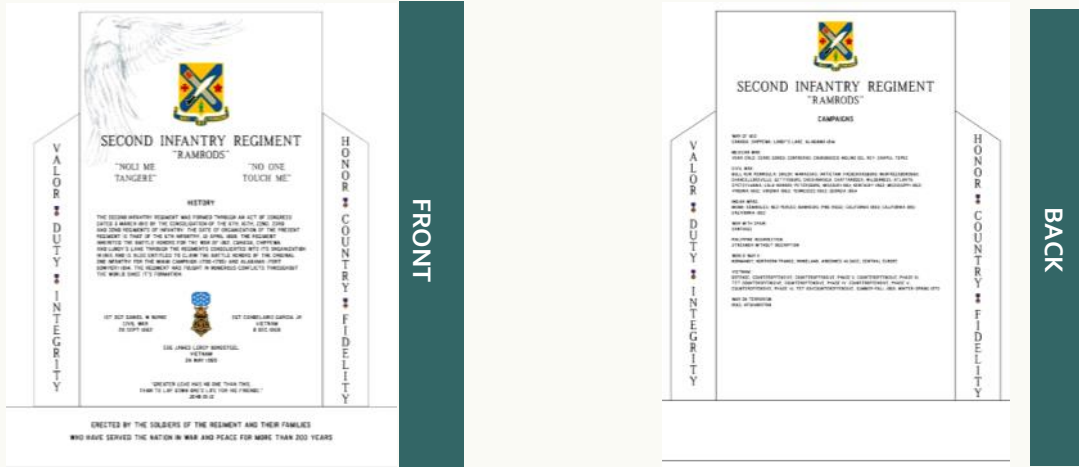
### OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

<b>James Andrews</b>	<b>C, 2/2</b>	<b>66-67</b>	<b>December 2014</b>
<b>John C. Carlisle</b>	<b>C, 1/2</b>	<b>66-67</b>	<b>September 2014</b>
<b>Ausby "Shorty" Clements</b>	<b>K, 3/2</b>	<b>41-45</b>	<b>November 2014</b>
<b>Joseph M. DeRosa</b>	<b>B, 1/2</b>	<b>43-45</b>	<b>January 2014</b>
<b>William Egri</b>	<b>A, 1/2</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>November 2014</b>
<b>Stanton D. Embree</b>	<b>C, 1/2</b>	<b>69-70</b>	<b>February 2015</b>
<b>Richard Eye</b>	<b>A, HHC 2/2</b>	<b>66-67</b>	<b>August 2014</b>
<b>Joseph Foy, Jr. SGM (ret)</b>	<b>C, 1/2</b>	<b>66-67</b>	<b>July 2014</b>
<b>Howard Hanning LTC (ret)</b>	<b>HHC 1/2</b>	<b>69-70</b>	<b>December 2014</b>
<b>Ronald J. Jebavy COL (ret)</b>	<b>HHC 1/2</b>	<b>69-70</b>	<b>October 2013</b>
<b>Raymond Leonard</b>	<b>B, 1/2</b>	<b>43-45</b>	<b>June 2013</b>
<b>Garnett Mardis</b>	<b>D, 1/2</b>	<b>67-68</b>	<b>December 2014</b>
<b>Ellis Sabey</b>	<b>C, 1/2</b>	<b>67-68</b>	<b>June 2011</b>



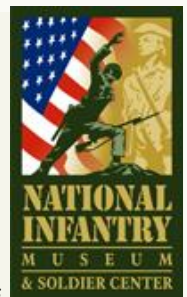
# SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT MONUMENT

BY RICH MALING, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



Under the direction of our President, Bob Douglass, a regimental committee was formed in the fall of 2014. The purpose of this committee is to construct a 2nd Infantry Regimental monument dedicated to all the soldiers and their families who served our nation for more than two centuries in war and peace.

The monument will be constructed at the "Walk of Honor", National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Center, Fort Benning, GA. <http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/>



To date, the Committee has purchased site C-12 at the Walk of Honor. This was accomplished on October 8, 2014 for \$3,000. Next the committee spent extensive time in the design of the monument. We wanted to capture the long and heralded lineage of one of the US Army's oldest Infantry Regiments. The committee then did a proposal search and selected Columbus Monument Company to accomplish the monument's construction. A fixed price contract was executed on 18 May, 2015 in the amount of \$35,975. Construction will start mid-August 2015, and will be completed by mid-November 2015.

Dedication of the monument will take place during the Big Red One's August 2016 annual reunion in Atlanta, Georgia. Our intent will be to conduct a day's bus tour from Atlanta to Ft. Benning for the dedication. This trip while probably be on a Thursday so the dedication can be done during an Infantry School parade graduation. Further, the group can tour the wonderful Infantry Museum. Please stay tuned for further details in the near future regarding the dedication service in 2015.

The Second Infantry Association has been able to proceed with monument construction, in large part, because of the most generous donation made by BG (Ret) Jack Gallagher upon his death. Jack Gallagher was a life-time member of the Association who served with great distinction in Vietnam as one of the company commanders in B2/2 IN (mech).

Depicted above are the rendered drawings (front/back) of the monument. The monument will be fabricated in black granite highlighting the unit's distinctive unit identification, history, CMH awardees, Purple Heart (s), campaigns, and John 15:13.

While Jack Gallagher's donation has enabled us to move out with construction, we will be starting a fund raising campaign to pay for the monument in total. In fact, several individuals have already made contributions to the monument funds.

**Mail to:** Douglas Tabb, Treasurer  
700 Hobbits Glen Drive  
Germantown, TN 38138

**Email:** [DTabb3926@gmail.com](mailto:DTabb3926@gmail.com)

Checks are to be made out to "SECOND INFANTRY ASSOCIATION, ATTN: MONUMENT FUND" We are working on possible secure site to make direct contributions. Please stay tuned and look for postings/updates on the Association's web site.

I close saying your committee has spent a lot of time and effort on this project: The monument will recognize the faithful service of every soldier who has (and will have) served in the Regiment. Given the long and valiant history of the 2nd Infantry, it is time to "place a stake in the ground" recognizing all who served in peace and war.

We only ask that you consider making a CONTRIBUTION to this effort and please stay in touch as we progress to dedication next year. Watch for specifics on campaign contributions from Bob Douglass, Jim Leslie and LTC Eric Lopez (active duty component).

# FINANCE REPORT

BY DOUG TABB, TREASURER, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Second Infantry Regiment Association has entered into a major fund raising activity to support the construction of the Second Infantry Regiment Monument as described in the article by Rich Maling. Your support of this activity for the next several months is greatly needed to make it a successful project

We look forward to any donations you can make to help make the monument a legacy to those who served with the Regiment.

The activities since our last report were as follows:

Balance		10/30/2014	\$ 54,387.12
Members Contributions	(Dues and Donations)	590.00	590.00
	Memorial Fund Contributions	2,450.00	2,450.00
Expenses for Period	Administration (Newsletter/Travel)	(238.02)	238.02
	Initial Payment for Memorial Fund	(12,000.00)	(12,000.00)
Bank Balance		5/30/2015	\$ 45,189.10
	General Gallagher Trust Fund		34,000.00
	Wounded Warrior Fund		2,696.00
	Second Infantry Fund		6,042.31
	Memorial Fund		2,450.00

### THE WALL

BY ROBERT C. FULPS, 1SGT (RET) C2/2 66-67

Standing at the wall  
 Seeing my reflection  
 As my tears begin to fall  
 Asking myself  
 While staring through my tears  
 Why is it that my name  
 Does not appear here?  
 Why did some survive  
 While others had to fall?  
 The reality is -  
 This could have been -  
 The fate of us all.

We went to serve our country  
 With a heart full of pride  
 Many came back in a body bag,  
 Some came not at all  
 Others came torn and twisted  
 From the pain locked up inside.  
 We came back home with honor  
 For we had served with pride and grace  
 You didn't even see us  
 You would not look us in the face

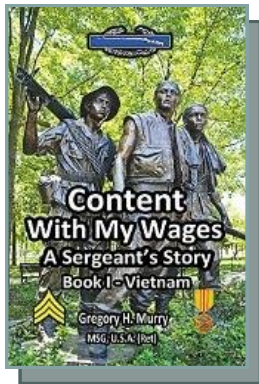
Is it because you were shameful  
 Of the things you didn't do  
 Like saying "Welcome Home  
 Brave American  
 Your country is proud of you."

To those who survived the conflict  
 Not much good was said  
 No one seemed to care  
 Not even to memorialize our dead  
 This wall was built by veterans  
 Their widows, families and friends  
 To honor those fallen warriors  
 All heroes brave and true  
 Who Died defending freedom  
 So much enjoyed by me and you.

So to all my fallen comrades  
 I know now why I came  
 I respectfully and lovingly  
 Salute each of you  
 My brothers and sisters  
 By name, by name, by name.

## WJ MULLEN III, BG USA, RETIRED

HONORARY COLONEL, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT



Greg Murry, a Combat Infantryman, has written his memoir "*Content With My Wages, A Sergeant's Story, Book I – Viet Nam.*" In it he describes his Viet Nam service and gives his opinions about the war and how it was fought. His experiences with the 1 – 16 INF, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division from September 1966 to September 1967 will appeal to BRO veterans of that period since it is about familiar experiences, places, and events.

I enjoyed much of the book; however, I disagree with some of his account and conclusions about 25 August, the 1966 fight known to the historians as Bong Trang. I am recording my views in the Second Infantry Association Newsletter because I want to keep the record straight for the Dracula soldiers who fought that day.

Summarizing, the fighting occurred during the monthly operation to clear and secure the road from Ben Cat to Phuoc Vinh so as to resupply the units based in Phuoc Vinh. 25 August began in the morning when a C/1-2 INF (Dracula Charlie) ambush patrol engaged elements of the VC Phu Loi Battalion in a fortified base camp. The rest of Dracula Charlie, mounted on the vehicles of a platoon of C/1-4 CAV, moving to link up with the patrol, became decisively engaged in a different part of the base camp. As the day wore on, three companies fought their ways into Dracula Charlie's piece of the base camp. The remainder of 1-2 INF and C/1-4 CAV, as well as, four other infantry battalions and another cavalry troop also became involved in the all-day battle. During the night, the ambush patrol's survivors reached safety.

Writing about 25 August, Greg states on page 51, "It's my belief that the battle was the result of a very clever counter-trap laid by the Phu Loi Battalion and General DePuy fell for it lock, stock, and barrel."

I disagree. The battle was brought on by Dracula Charlie's ambush patrol being in the Phu Loi Battalion's fortified base. By definition, a trap is a plan to trick somebody – to catch someone unaware and to put him at a disadvantage.

It's clear that the battle on 25 August was not the result of cunning by either side. It was brought about by accident just as described by our battalion commander shortly afterwards. As cited by Murry in his book, "...Colonel Prillaman characterized the fight as 'essentially a meeting engagement in which neither side was prepared for or really wanted heavy contact.' The isolation of Company C's patrol, he added, 'forced us to fight, and the invasion of their base camp forced the Viet Cong to hold their positions in the face of a strong US effort.'" ... Dracula 6's characterization fits what I remember about 25 August. ... And, it's the simplest explanation of how we came to be there.

The premise that Division leaders knew the location of the Phu Loi Battalion is a "red herring" and stems from inconclusive comments made in 2005 by the then Division G-2, almost 40 years after the event. Additionally, Murry draws incorrect inferences from what he has read about the patrol and its organization. The facts are that the patrol's mission and organization were based on indicators we had seen on the ground and my estimate of required combat power. I was not prompted, coached, or directed by any higher headquarters.

The VC had occupied a fortified position and were ready to defend themselves as any good unit would be. That they were at that place at that time does not mean that they hoped/expected to fight that day. And, although they were not waiting for US forces to walk into a kill zone, they reacted well.

The BRO certainly did not set a trap. Among other indicators, the Division's posture on 25 August was not consistent with being poised to spring a trap and

*(Continued from page 11)*

once sprung, to “pile on” in a pre-planned manner. All the units that got into the battle were pulled from other missions.

Writing about a now 50 year old battle is difficult. Even someone who was there probably didn't see all of it. I know that I didn't. It's even harder for a writer who has to rely on second or third hand accounts as sources. Specifically, eye-witnesses to the same act will differ about details; what's more, memories fade and, contemporary reports, even official histories, can be inaccurate. Greg Murry encountered all these impediments.

For example, it is not significant to this account that only one helicopter was shot down as opposed to the several reported by a soldier who was there.

Second, an inaccurate statement about the nature of C Company's ambush patrol in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade's after action report muddied the water for Murry. Of even more importance, the U.S. Army Center of Military History's error in implying that Charlie Company was outside the VC fortifications when we were in fact inside them seems to have affected Greg's analysis of the battle and his conclusions.

Greg Murry and I differ in our opinions about General DePuy's leadership of the Big Red One. I had great respect for “77” when he commanded the Division. ... Today, almost fifty years after 25 August, I still do.

Bill Mullen  
Dracula Charlie Six, 25 August 1966

## SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT TRIVIA

BY LARRY GRZYWINSKI, HISTORIAN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

### SAMUEL C. GREEN

#### The Man Who Broke The Baton (Ramrod)

Samuel C. Green(e) was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1795. He was a 22 years old farmer when he enlisted in Company D, 2nd Infantry Regiment on 21 January 1817 in New York. He moved up through the ranks as a private, corporal, sergeant and 1st sergeant with Company D, 2nd Infantry and was promoted to sergeant major (SGM) of the 2nd Infantry on 10 August 1840. He served with the 2nd Infantry in Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, and the War with Mexico, 1846-1847. It was during the Battle of Chapultapec on 13 September 1847 that SGM Green struck a Mexican soldier in the head breaking the Baton (Ramrod). The broken Baton was repaired with the flag staff captured at Chapultapec Castle. SGM Green was discharged from the Army on surgeon's certificate of ordinary disability in Mexico City on 27 October 1847, then returned to New York. His pension was recorded in July 1850 as \$8.00 per month.

When the Civil War began, Green became a member of the Clay Guards District of Columbia Volunteers in April 1861. (The Clay Guards were formed to protect the president and Washington DC until regular troops could arrive, they were not paid for their service.) He was appointed a 1st Lieutenant with the 15th US Infantry on 14 May 1861, in the Subsistence Department Washington DC to August 1865, Captain and Assistant Commissary of Subsistence of U. S. Volunteers August 1862, built government bakeries in Washington DC and Disbursing Officer of Subsistence and Member of Board for the Examination of Commissaries of US Volunteers. Brevet Major US Volunteers and Brevet Major US Army March 1865 for meritorious service in his departments during the war. Captain in the 15th U S Infantry 21 December 1864. He was honorably mustered out of volunteer service 25 Aug 1865. He was Chief Commissary of Musters, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General and Acting Assistant Inspector-General Departments of Alabama and of the South, also Aide-de-Camp and Acting Assistant Adjutant General to the Commanding General, District of Alabama. He was transferred to 24th U S Infantry through the reorganization of the Army and then transferred to 11th U S Infantry 25 April 1869. He was unassigned 10 December 1869, retired 15 December 1870 and died 28 Aug 1875 at 80 years of age.

## CLARK DEDICATES STREET TO FALLEN HERO, JAMES W. HARVEY II

By SUSAN ROSELLI BONNELL May 25, 2015

Submitted by John Kerins, Second Infantry Regiment Association Member

CLARK, NJ – The Township of Clark paid tribute to one of its fallen heroes in a street-naming ceremony held on Sunday afternoon. Harvey Court, located on Raritan Road near the corner of Lake Avenue, honors James W. Harvey, II, who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to his county. Harvey, a sergeant in the United States Army, was killed in action on June 20, 2011 while engaged with the enemy in Afghanistan.

Harvey Court is the 19th street in the township to be named after a Clark serviceman who died during wartime. The street sign was unveiled by Harvey's parents, Susan and James.

"Everybody has been so good to us," said Susan Harvey. "We are proud, we are very proud."

The ceremony included the singing of "The National Anthem" and "God Bless America" by Arthur L. Johnson High School student Marion Petite, bagpipers playing "The Caissons Go Rolling Along" and an invocation by American Legion Chaplain Steve Burczynski.

Veteran and former Clark resident William Duffy, organizer of the event, extended a special thank you to the Sangiuliano family, developers of the former Miele's Garden Center site, for naming the private street after Harvey. By ordinance, public streets in the township are to be named for a Clark fallen hero.

"It's just another way of this community never, ever forgetting those who served our county and our own here in Clark," Mayor Sal Bonaccorso said. "These names will be here forever. We'll all be long gone and other people will understand why these streets were named after our fallen heroes."



James W. Harvey, II, an ALJ graduate, was just 23 years old when his unit came under attack in Ghazni province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Knox, Kentucky.



# MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO DIED SERVING OUR COUNTRY

by Terry Garlock

Submitted by Wm. Anson, MG US Army (ret) and Jack Kelley

At the Peachtree City Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, Mike King did a nice job of focusing attention on a few of our own who died far too young serving the rest of us.

For families who have felt the personal pain of that loss, I want to tell you something. It won't bring back your son, husband or brother, but it might help just a little to know how those who were there with them in combat think of them, and remember them. Many of us think of them nearly every day, as if we're keeping an unspoken pledge to each other – I will remember you.

I never knew anyone who gave his life. I do know some who lost their life doing their duty, doing America's dirty work in unpleasant places. Not a single one of them died willingly. They just wanted to get their job done and go home to live out their lives like you and me.

I was one of the lucky ones. I had plenty of time in hospitals to contemplate my close call. When I was shot down in Vietnam and John Synowsky and Graham Stevens risked their necks to rescue me, my prospects were grim. When they visited me in the hospital and I thanked them, they brushed it off and said any of the other guys would have done the same thing. They were right because that's how we were, struggling mightily to keep one another alive.

But even then, I had no idea how combat changes everyone, and knew

nothing of the unexplainable things that would bubble inside me as the years passed. I used to think it was just me.

Between 2005 and 2010 while I was working on a book about Vietnam veterans I spoke to a great many of them, and to veterans of WWII, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan. Listening carefully helped me see more clearly how all of us were changed by war. It helped me understand myself a little more and clarify some things that are very hard to put into words.

Bear with me while I try.

How does the military prepare the raw material of 18 year olds for combat or a support role? Intense training and drilling helps a lot because every one of them is worried about measuring up, wondering if they are made of the right stuff, and knowing a routine helps.

When the time comes and the shooting starts, new guys are too busy doing their job to notice they are learning lessons that are not taught any other place. They thought they would be fighting for our flag, but it turned out they were fighting for each other. They thought courage was not being afraid, but they found out courage is doing your job while you are scared to death.

Combat is a cruel teacher, but like a hot forge blending men together instead of the ingredients of steel, somehow it turns a group of men into a sort of family where you may not like or

even know a guy but you'll take breathtaking risks to protect each other.

Amidst the chaos and urgency and danger of combat, beyond the mission there is powerful motivation that can be summed up in two words – honor and trust.

You might wonder what a 19 year old soldier in combat knows about honor? Quite a bit, I think. He may not ever put it into words but he knows honor is doing his job well and serving a purpose more important than himself, defending his brothers even at the risk of his life. He knows while looking in the mirror to shave in the morning whether he met the challenge. Passing that test becomes what he likes most about himself.

As he gets good at his job, at some point he suddenly realizes his brothers trust him to deliver, even under fire. He may never say it out loud, but he is enormously proud of earning that trust, and he would do anything not to lose it.

It's almost like we proudly wore an invisible jacket of honor and trust that we had to earn, a high achievement that our family at home would never know about or understand. The complete trust we had in each other made a closeness that only Shakespeare has successfully described as he wrote King Henry V's inspiring speech to his men before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The bonds formed in battle are not new.

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And so, even though everyone in combat fears dying, we feared even more that our courage might fail us, that we might screw up, fail to do our job, and we might lose our brothers trust or even lose their lives. We feared that more than anything.

If you asked us back then if we loved each other, we would have thought you were out of your mind. But when one of us was killed the cut ran very deep, and we crammed our anguish way down inside us into our own secret box and we closed the lid tight so we could carry on to do our job . . . and the ghosts of our dead brothers were never far away.

My roommate Pete was also a Cobra helicopter gunship pilot. In mid-Dec 1969 Pete was on top of the world when he received a telegram announcing the birth of his first child, a son; he wanted more than anything to be a Dad. Four days later he was on a mission helping the 3rd Mobile Strike Force, US Special Forces, stop an enemy force invading South Vietnam from the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia. Pete was in the front seat when his aircraft went into the high, thick jungle trees after tangling with an enemy anti-aircraft gun and he died as it stuck about 200 feet up and burned.

While protesters were hurling insults, as well as packets of urine and feces, at our troops coming home from that war every day at California airports, Pete's family got word of his death on Christmas Eve. Pete is just one of those buried in my own secret box deep in my gut, and the memories never fade.

No matter what war it was, the calendar days passed, some days boring, some days exciting and some dark with anguish, and we all fantasized about going home, getting away from the nastiness of war and back to those we loved.

We may have left home as boys but we would return home serious men who had learned to quickly separate the fluff from important things that might get our brothers killed or keep them alive.

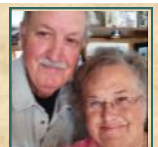
When we finally arrived home the reunion might not have been as smooth as we expected since we had changed more than we realized. We may have seemed remote to some people since our dead brothers, tucked away out of sight in our secret box, meant far more to us than the dumbasses we met who would never sacrifice a thing for their country and wouldn't know honor if it bit them on the backside.

It didn't seem right that life went on as if there was no war, as if Americans were not still fighting and dying, and we found ourselves missing our brothers, both dead and alive, the people we respected now, the people who understood us now, the people we trusted completely now to watch our back.

How crazy is it that many of us secretly wished to be back where all but the new guys understood our most prized possession was our invisible jacket of honor and trust? Maybe we hated the war but felt the urge to be there again with the ones we were part of now.

We were cautious about opening our secret box to tell others about our dead brothers because the memories are wrapped in the same feelings we had when they died, just as fresh as yesterday, and we didn't like losing our composure.

UNTITLED WRITING BY ROBERT C. FULPS, 1SGT (RET) C2/2 66-67  
 THANK YOU BOB AND LINDA FOR SHARING THESE BEAUTIFUL WORDS!



There is no glory in surviving For the guilt overshadows the shine The real heroes are the ones who died To pay for your freedom and mine	We've all had our heroic moments At times we've pounded our chests And told of significant accomplishments Our version always being the best	When we look at ourselves as survivors And realize we have a second chance in life We must dedicate ourselves to the honor and glory Of the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice	For they gave up all their tomorrows To pay for our freedoms today So honor them my friends Today, Tomorrow, and ALWAYS.
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<http://www.1stid.org/reunion.php>

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**Ramrods Reunion  
12—15 May 2016**

The reunion is open to all who are currently serving or had served in the Battalions of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, their families and guests.

Please check the website in the future for information and to download the registration forms:

<http://www.secinfreg.org/events/events.htm>

**Chuck Mundahl: [kmcm01@comcast.net](mailto:kmcm01@comcast.net)**

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Area (s) of operation i.e. State Side, Normandy, Rhineland, WWII, Vietnam, Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Battalion \_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ Other

Company \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ HHC

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Any information you feel appropriate, such as rank held, medals awarded, or duties performed during service:

\_\_\_\_\_

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