



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,
Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)
WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com



Volume 2

"A Soldier's Footsteps"

August 2012

Commander's Corner: : Hopefully, you are all aware the annual Americal Division Veterans Association reunion is coming up next month (September) in Atlanta and will be able to attend. I know there is a conflict with the Kokomo, Indiana Veteran's Reunion this year and, regretfully, some of our comrades-in-arms, will miss Atlanta due to a long standing attendance at Kokomo, which is one of the largest, if not the largest, veterans gatherings in the country. There has always been a large contingent of Americal guys at Kokomo and, I suspect, that will continue this year. This will be one of the only times I have missed this occasion in over 20 years and I'll be thinking about my buddies who will miss Atlanta because of it. Some of them have been very active in pulling together our chapter and newsletter and I hope we will still receive any input they may have for our annual chapter meeting to be held at the Atlanta reunion. I have added 2 new links to "Page 2" of the "Related Links" section of the web site: "Lost Battles of the Vietnam War" and "The words to Taps". I hope you will find them interesting. I want to welcome the newest member of the chapter as of this writing; He is Pete Cullen (E) our 80th chapter member.

Thanks Y'all (just practicing my southern drawl for Atlanta),

Chuck

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!

Help for a Comrade Warrior in Distress: One of our members and combat veteran, *Gary Carder* has been in recovery for the past two years following a "Bone Marrow" transplant to cure a severe case of Leukemia cancer. He has been encouraged by our many thoughts and mostly by our prayers. His recovery process, to our surprise, has given him hope of attending the ADVA reunion September 2012 in Atlanta. However, he has been recently hospitalized because of a number of symptoms that caused him to lose his memory and feel uncommonly unsecure in his actions. His family reported the conditions to the doctors caring for him. The doctors removed an abscess from his brain which mostly looked like infection, but won't be 100% sure until the cultures come back. The diagnostics continue as this Newsletter is being composed. Please email him with your thoughts for his recovery; his email and snail mail address is located in the Editor column. He needs our support and prayers. He told his wife and me that he is still anxious to be with us in Atlanta. I am confident that he can make the trip if we can get behind his effort to attend by propping up his confidence and with prayers. Let's give him a boost to help him along.

Comrades: It has been my pleasure to be your Sec/Tres since January 2012. I now think I have worked out the bugs so I can take care of the bills and dues you guys send in. Thank you for your patience with me as I struggle with a lot of things happening with me and our country. **Don Hicks**

Stolen Valor Act Revised—With Teeth: The Supreme Court ruling that the Stolen Valor Act violated a person's freedom of speech has prompted two lawmakers to renew a push for a version of the law that might pass judicial scrutiny. Sen. Scott P. Brown, R-Mass., and Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., are asking their colleagues to pass a law that makes it illegal to benefit or profit from lying about an individual's military service. The Supreme Court ruled June 28 on a version of the law that simply made it illegal to tell the lie. "It is wrong and cowardly for people to make fraudulent statements in order to receive distinctions that they have not earned," Brown said at a recent press conference. "We need to ensure that no one can benefit from making false claims and steal the true valor of the courageous servicemen and women who selflessly defended our freedom." He and Heck are seeking support for the Stolen Valor Act of 2011, which they both introduced last year in anticipation of the Supreme Court's ruling

Pentagon Plans Database to Track Awards and Medals: The Pentagon plans to establish a searchable database of military valor awards and medals, hoping for a technological fix to the problem of people getting away with lying about earning military honors. Pentagon press secretary George Little said details have yet to be worked out, but the intention is to have a digital repository of records on a range of valor awards and medals going back as far in history as possible. The move is in response to a June 28 Supreme Court ruling that invalidated a law making it a crime to lie about receiving the Medal of Honor and other military decorations. An authoritative database would make it easier to check on award claims, and perhaps would deter some who would make false public claims. The high court ruled that the 2006 Stolen Valor Act infringes upon speech protected by the First Amendment. Veterans organizations and some in Congress have long argued that the Pentagon needs such a database. As recently as 2009 the Pentagon argued that it would be too costly and could pose Privacy Act problems. It also argued that any government database would be incomplete because a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis destroyed millions of personnel records, including those citing medals and awards, and that even a complete database would do little to reduce the number of false award claims.

Medal of Honor: Here is some information about the Medal of Honor:
3,459 Recipients of the Medal of Honor since 1863.
81 Living recipients of the Medal of Honor – 53 Army, 5 Air Force, 10 Marines and 7 Navy.
248 Recipients of the Medal of Honor who performed actions in the Vietnam War, 54 of whom are living.

A day spent teaching another to Fish, is a day spent learning to befriend another.

Gen. McChrystal's Remarks on Reinstating the Draft:

[Gen.] Stanley McChrystal, (Ret.) has urged that the draft be reinstated to spread the burden of fighting and to instill a sense of shared civic duty among young Americans....Apart from the strain on troops and their families after repeated deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, only a small fraction of the population was affected by the conflicts, the general said.

"I'm becoming a little bit more extreme on this each year. I think we need national service and I think you need it either at the conclusion of high school or university. I don't think young people would really fight it if it was fair, if everybody did it. I'm not talking about military, I'm talking about all kinds of things...It's not whether they go build roads and parks or that sort of thing. It's what you put inside them, because once you have contributed to something, you have a slightly different view of it." Agree or disagree with his stance on ending a professional, all-volunteer military, it's quite enlightening to read the comments after the article. There are some sadly uninformed people in the world, many of whom are utterly clueless about the wars their country has been engaged in for the last decade.

1st Cav Welcomes First Female Deputy CG: A

rich history is one of many things that make the 1st Cavalry Division what it is today. Their flare of traditional ceremonies when honoring the Cav's Soldiers is another. America's First Team farewelled Command Sgt. Maj. Isaia Vimoto, former division command sergeant major, Brig. Gen. James Richardson, former deputy commanding general of support, 1st Cav. Div., and hailed Brig. Gen. Laura Richardson, deputy commanding general of support for the division, during a Patch Ceremony, July 5, on Cooper Field. Vimoto was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal for his accomplishments during his time with the Cav. "To our First Team Troopers and leaders; I had a blast serving you," Vimoto said. "It has been a blessing serving as your division command sergeant major and I can honestly tell you that I had learned so much by watching you in action both in combat and here at home station." Also during the ceremony Brig. Gen. James Richardson stepped down as the division's deputy commanding general of support and handed the reins over to his wife Brig. Gen. Laura Richardson. Brig. Gen. Laura Richardson is also making history for America's First Team and the United States Army. She is the first female deputy commanding general of a maneuver division.

WWII MIA Returns Home: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Navy Radioman 1st Class Harry C. Scribner, 20, of Seattle. On Aug. 2, 1943, Scribner and two other men were aboard a TBF-1 Avenger aircraft that crashed on the island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides—now known as Vanuatu—while on a routine calibration flight. Sixteen days after the crash, one crewman was rescued from the jungle but was unable to assist recovery teams with locating the crash site.

You live in an Upside-down country when you can get arrested for expired tags on your car but not for being in the country illegally.

Two Rangers Awarded Silver Stars at Benning:

Staff Sgt. James L. Wilbur, a soldier who halted an ambush of his squad in Afghanistan, said he was just in the right place at the right time to make a difference for members of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Regiment, based at Fort Benning. "When things like this happens, it's more so just being in the right place at the right time," Wilbur said after a 10 a.m. ceremony Thursday in Marshall Auditorium at McGinnis-Wickam Hall. "It's absolutely what happened that day." Wilbur and Staff Sgt. Scott M. Anderson were recipients of the Silver Star, the nation's third highest medal for valor. Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Flora received the Joint Service Commendation Medal and Cpl. Ian T. Seymour was the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal. The awards recognized actions by the Rangers who returned in March from deployment. Wilbur, 25, said the award represents the entire unit, not just one individual. "I think when guys receive the award for valor, it lets the guys in the Army and the rest of the community know where we stand in the fight," Wilbur said. "There are guys out there making sacrifices." Anderson, 27, said the award represents what the Rangers have accomplished over the last 16 deployments. "Rangers are unique and have a lot of capabilities," he said. "I think, generally speaking, we play a large role in what's going on in Afghanistan and around the world." Wilbur was part of an assault force in northern Afghanistan on April 27, 2011, when he recognized a spotter planning an ambush as the squad moved along a road clearing. After jumping over a wall, Wilbur was the target of gunfire from a machine gun and AK-47 in a compound. Wilbur fired off 10 rounds from his rifle when one of the machine gunners pointed the weapon at him from a prone position. Enemy fire was still intense from the north and west as other soldiers cleared the room in the compound, killing three enemy fighters. "Staff Sgt. Wilbur's actions of valor and leadership were decisive in the battle, and prevented the enemy from gaining a tactical advantage, setting up an ambush north along a main avenue or approach the assault force was traveling along," according to a statement on his actions. Anderson was leading a squad when he learned that 10 heavily armed Taliban fighters were inside two separate compounds in northern Afghanistan on March 8, 2011. He came under machine gun and small-arms fire from five enemy fighters but returned fire with fragmentation grenades next to a doorway. After 90 minutes of intense fighting, five enemy fighters, including two senior level Taliban commanders, were dead and one Ranger was wounded. A second Ranger was wounded by automatic weapons fire. Anderson provided gunfire cover at the enemy until the wounded Ranger was evacuated.

Editors Notes: Newsletters are uploaded to the 2nd Battalion Chapter ADVA Website. If you missed an issue or would like to look at one from the past look on the Website. The Web address is identified in the heading of the N/L. If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them to the following addresses; Email: rheroux1@nc.rr.com or gcarder@columbus.rr.com. Snail mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300 or Gary Carder, 1725 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.

Abraham Lincoln

Army Marksmen Share Spot on Olympic Squad:

The shattered remains of neon orange targets and oversized red shell casings are sprinkled across the International Shooting Park, the leftovers of a sporting battlefield, a place where soldiers and civilians alike come to play. Among the competitors were two shooters who will depart for London later this month as members of the U.S. Olympic shotgun double trap team. Glenn Eller and Joshua Richmond, who serve on the U.S. Army's Marksmanship Unit based in Fort Benning, Ga., walk the tight line between close friends and constant competitors. "I'm hoping the best for him, I'm hoping he takes a silver," Eller, a sergeant, said with a wry chuckle. Eller, 30, is the more veteran of the two and will be competing in his fourth Olympic Games, while his Army counterpart is awaiting his inaugural trip to the world's biggest international sporting stage. And though Eller -- who took gold in the double trap in Beijing and finished fourth Monday by smashing 140 of 150 targets -- has the more impressive resume, Richmond has moved out of the rearview mirror and turned into one of his friend's greatest threats since 2008. Richmond tied for first with Billy Crawford and Jeff Holguin by striking 145 targets at Fort Carson. He also grabbed gold at the 2010 national championship, positioning him as Team USA's amiable rising star.

U.S. Army Leadership: General George S. Patton:

George Smith Patton, Jr. (November 11, 1885 – December 21, 1945) was an officer in the United States Army best known for his leadership as a general during World War II. He also developed a reputation for eccentricity and for sometimes-controversial gruff outspokenness. He was on the U.S. 1912 Olympic pentathlon team and also designed the U.S. Cavalry's last combat saber: the "Patton Saber" (the M-1913). In 1916 he led the first-ever vehicle attack can Border Cam-War I, he was the signed to the new Tank Corps and France. In World commanded corps and Africa, Sicily, and Theater of Opera-Patton assumed U.S. Third Army, leadership ad-captured more and liberated more territory in less time than any other army in history.



U.S. motorized-during the Mexi-paign. In World first officer as-United States saw action in War II, he com-arms in North the European tions. In 1944, command of the which under his vanced farther, enemy prisoners,

TRICARE Enrollment Fee Increases for FY2013:

The fiscal year 2013 TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for uniformed service retirees and their families go into effect Oct. 1, 2012. The Prime enrollment fees for 2013 are \$269.28 for retirees, and \$538.56 for retirees and their family members. Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors and uniformed services medically retired service members and their dependents are exempt from annual fee increases. Their enrollment fee is frozen at the rate in effect when they were classified and enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Their fee remains frozen as long as there is no break in their TRICARE Prime enrollment. As always, active duty service members and their families have access to TRICARE Prime with no enrollment fee.

Ten MIAs Return Home: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to 10 servicemen missing from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Returned home are:

Marine Corps Tech. Sgt. James A. Sisney, 19, of Redwood City, Calif. On April 22, 1944, Sisney was aboard a PBJ-1 aircraft that failed to return from a night training mission over the island of Espiritu Santo, in what is known today as Vanuatu. None of the seven Marines on the aircraft were recovered at that time.

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Warren G. Moxley, 23, of Charleston, Mo. On March 15, 1945, Moxley was flying an F-6C aircraft when he crashed near Asbach, Germany. Another American pilot flying in the same mission witnessed the crash but did not see a parachute deploy.

Army Cpl. Pryor Gobble, 18, of Jonesville, Va. In late November 1950, units of the 31st Infantry Regiment were advancing along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when enemy forces overran their position. After the battle, Gobble was reported missing in action on approximately Dec. 6, 1950.

Air Force Col. Joseph Christiano, 43, of Rochester, N.Y.; Col. Derrell B. Jeffords, 40, of Florence, S.C.; Lt. Col. Dennis L. Eilers, 27, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Chief Master Sgt. William K. Colwell, 44, Glen Cove, N.Y.; Chief Master Sgt. Arden K. Hassenberger, 32, of Lebanon, Ore.; and Chief Master Sgt. Larry C. Thornton, 33, Idaho Falls, Idaho. On Dec. 24, 1965, the crew was aboard an AC-47D aircraft nicknamed "Spooky" that failed to return from a combat strike mission in southern Laos. A "mayday" signal was sent, but all contact was lost with the crew, and the ensuing search was unsuccessful.

Air Force 1st Lt. Robert E. Bennett III, 25, of Springfield, N.J.. On Dec. 13, 1967, Bennett and another officer were flying an F-4C Phantom II aircraft that crashed during a close-air support mission in Tra Vinh Binh Province, South Vietnam. Both men ejected and were seen landing in the Co Chien River. The other officer was rescued immediately by a nearby U.S. Navy patrol boat, but Bennett sank and presumably drowned.

Recovery Activities in India: The Department of Defense announces that the United States and India have agreed to resume remains recovery activities in parts of North-eastern India. The Department assesses that there are approximately 400 unaccounted-for service members from some 90 aircraft crashes in India during World War II. During his June 2012 visit to India, Secretary Panetta said, "This is a critical step toward bringing home our service members lost during World War II. The United States and India, working together, can help provide comfort to the families of Americans who were lost during the war." The Department deeply appreciates the close cooperation of the Government of India in helping our teams resume their critical work. Returning our fallen heroes is a top priority of the Department of Defense. **Background:**

The U.S. and India began joint operations to recover the remains of servicemen in late 2008. In 2009, operations were suspended. The Government of India determined it needed to establish internal procedures to aid in the success of future recovery efforts, before resuming further operations. There are about 400 unaccounted-for servicemen in India as a result of approximately 90 aircraft crashes. Virtually all of those sites are located in North-east India. The United States possesses information on eighteen known crash sites and continues to develop information on others.

Lawmaker Berates Double Amputee: A non-partisan U.S. veterans group stepped up calls for a Republican congressman to resign after he openly berated his double-amputee political rival for talking up her Iraq War injuries. Representative Joe Walsh of Illinois enraged veterans with comments about Tammy Duckworth, a decorated U.S. Army pilot who in 2004 lost both her legs and nearly died when the Blackhawk helicopter she was co-piloting was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by Iraqi insurgents. Walsh told a town hall meeting that he was "running against a woman who -- I mean, my God, that's all she talks about," he said, claiming his Democratic opponent played on her injuries to score political points in public. "Our true heroes, the men and women who served us, that's the last thing in the world they talk about," he added. Walsh, who reportedly has not served in the military, repeated his criticism on the following day. "She is a hero, and that demands our respect, but it doesn't demand our vote," he told CNN. "All she does, guys, is talk about her service." The series of comments led VoteVets.org, a political action committee which supports veterans issues, to demand Walsh step down. "He needs to just resign and stop embarrassing his constituents," VoteVets chairman Jon Soltz, himself an Iraq War veteran, said on a television program. "The guy has no idea what it means to be in the military, what it means to serve," he said, adding that Duckworth continues to serve as a lieutenant colonel in the Illinois National Guard and does seek to gain from her injuries. "The fact is she has no legs, and it's obviously very noticeable, and that's a huge part of who she is," Soltz said. Duckworth has served as assistant secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs under President Barack Obama. The Iraq veteran's congressional campaign said Walsh's comments "insult those who sacrificed to make this country free." Duckworth said this week that her wounds "do inform my discussions with the constituents when I talk about health care," particularly in the debate over Obama's landmark health care reforms that are opposed by most Republicans.

World War II Veterans Honored for Their Part in Operation Dragoon- A group of World War II veterans was recognized in a recent ceremony held for their gallantry during a 1944 combat operation in southern France. Operation Dragoon lasted from Aug. 15 until Sept. 14, 1944. It was the second largest amphibious invasion of World War II, with over 1,000 ships delivering three divisions of troops to the beaches of France. Additionally, an airborne division parachuted into the country to help secure beach heads along with Greek, Polish and Dutch forces, according to retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Timothy Stoy, historian for the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division. The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division hosted the ceremony honoring veterans who fought during the operation. French Army Col. Brice Houdet, military attaché from the French Embassy, presented the French Legion of Honor during the ceremony to retired U.S. soldiers John Singlaub, Paul Donlon, Darryl Egner, Elias Hernandez, Michael Halik and the son of Stanley Siemruch. Before presenting the French awards, Houdet thanked the group of veterans on behalf of the people of France. "I would like to salute all of the American allied veterans who took part in that momentous operation 68 years ago," he said. "We are deeply honored to have some of you with us today." The six award recipients were all accompanied by members of the Military District of Washington's Sgt. Audie L. Murphy Club, representing the connection to Murphy and the 3rd Infantry Division in which he served.

SBA launches Operation Boots to Business: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has joined with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to launch a training program for transitioning servicemembers and veterans to help them become entrepreneurs and create jobs. Operation Boots to Business: From Service to Startup is a national initiative that will be piloted with the U.S. Marine Corps. The announcement was made by U.S. Small Business Administrator Karen Mills and U.S. Marine Corps representatives at Quantico, Va. Operation Boots to Business: From Service to Startup will help support veterans as they grow businesses and create jobs by building on SBA's role as a leader in entrepreneurship training. SBA will help connect veterans with its resource partner network - Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), Women's Business Centers (WBCs), SCORE, and Veterans Business Opportunity Centers (VBOCs) - for support throughout the life-cycle of their new businesses. Through its ongoing collaboration with Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families, SBA also will provide comprehensive training materials specifically geared toward transitioning service members. SBA partners will coordinate training and services at military bases around the country, delivering a face-to-face introductory entrepreneurship course. In addition, an intensive eight-week online business planning training will be provided by Syracuse University and its affiliated university partners for those service members who choose to continue to pursue entrepreneurship after the face-to-face introductory course. The program will pilot in four locations: Quantico, Va.; Cherry Point, N.C.; Camp Pendleton, Calif.; and Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif. It will be expanded across the nation during fiscal 2013 with the goal of providing entrepreneurial training and awareness to transitioning servicemembers from all branches of the military.

The Supreme Court and You: The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of the health reform law has generated lots of questions about what that means for the military and veterans community. The short answer is: "not much, at least for the shorter term, except to preserve TRICARE coverage for adult children up to age 26." At the urging of MOAA and others, Congress passed separate legislation specifically exempting TRICARE and VA beneficiaries from any potential for being taxed for not having coverage or being required to participate in pooled coverage. For the longer term, the main potential issues are:

Whether the expanded pool of the healthcare-eligible population will at some point create access problems due to more beneficiaries needing to see the same number of doctors.

The uncertainty over what impact potential future Medicare cost-saving initiatives may have on all Medicare-eligibles

But those issues haven't changed from what they were before the Supreme Court ruling. And the potential for Medicare cut-backs was going to continue whether the health reform act was upheld or not, since rising Medicare costs pose a huge budget challenge in any scenario.

Politicians think that stripping away the amendments to the constitution is really protecting the rights of the people.

Atlanta



2012

Time to Make Arrangements for the 2012 ADVA

Reunion: Times *awaistin* for making plans for the 2012 ADVA reunion in Atlanta, GA. This note is intended to alert you to join us for a most anticipated "Hot" time in "*HotAtlanta*". The ADVA staff is working to make this year's event one that everyone will long remember. We are scheduled to participate in the dedication of the Americal Division monument in the "Walk of Honor" near the newly opened National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning. As part of this memorable event the attendees are invited to eat lunch at the 2/46th Infantry Regiment Mess Hall. What a treat this will be for the ladies who have seldom had the opportunity to dine in this fashion. The lunch may even be an experience for all of us "Grunts". An application is part of your latest Americal Journal. You can also find an application via our Chapter and ADVA WEBSITES. Make your reservations early. Let's make this another banner reunion. Our annual membership meeting will also be conducted at this time. We're adding a "Hospitality Room" for Chapter's use during the reunion. Look at our Chapter website for additional information or go directly to the Americal Division Veterans Association website <http://www.americal.org/programs/reunion.html>. I have recently returned from a site-seeing visit to Fort Benning, GA., my home for almost 5 years. I was personally amazed by the changes that have occurred over the years. My last recollection of Ft. Benning was in 1978. Fort Benning is now called "The Maneuver Center of Excellence" now that the Armor school and tactics have been incorporated in with the Infantry. I also visited the Infantry Museum located just inside the Main Gate off Victory Drive. I am so proud of the work performed by the National Infantry Foundation in bringing about this magnificent structure and exhibits within. The ADVA Monument has been erected and ready for our dedication. I am confident you will be as proud as I was to see the Monument be a part of its creation and presents on the grounds of the "Walk of Honor" just to the rear of the Infantry Museum.

Korean War Vet's Memories Vivid of Time Spent as POW: When infantryman David Mills joined the Army on his 17th birthday and was sent to fight in the Korean War, his mission was to hold Outpost Harry "at all costs." Those orders came from 8th Army to stave off enemy Chinese troops from the strategically placed outpost in the Iron Triangle, about 50 miles from Seoul at the 38th parallel, which divided North and South Korea. The Chinese had "an affinity" for Outpost Harry, said Mills, a member of Company F, 15th Infantry Regiment of the

3rd Infantry Division. It was unlikely the United States would have accepted a cease fire with the capital of South Korea under Chinese control at that time, he added, so it was important for American troops to hold the outpost's position. But on April 24, Chinese troops nearly took Outpost Harry. "We had 88 men holding the outpost," he said. "The attack was ferocious. We were overrun. Hand-to-hand fighting occurred in all of the trenches, and very heavy losses were suffered on both sides." The 39th Field Artillery was called to stop the attack, which was successful, he said. But things didn't turn out as well that day for Mills, who received nine wounds -- two in the head, six in the leg and one in the left arm. During what Mills described as very close fighting with hand grenades and bayonets, his weapon overheated and became inoperable. While searching for another, he crawled on his stomach to the entrance of a bunker about 30 yards away. "I reached in to grab a rifle, and I felt something poke me in my back. I backed out very slowly and turned over, and was looking at the muzzle of a Russian-made submachine gun." Three Chinese soldiers stood over him, Mills said. One held the gun, and the other two carried six grenades each, three on each side of their chests, he said. "I thought I was going to die," Mills recalled reciting a short prayer as he looked up at the barrel of the weapon. As the captors walked him to a Chinese camp, Mills saw the dead everywhere. "There were many Americans, but many more Chinese," he said. The next morning, the Chinese soldiers

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Mills said.

During his four-month captivity "the 15th Infantry Regiment with its company-sized outpost decimated the entire 74th Chinese Infantry Division, killing more than 5,000 of them," Mills said. Four months to the day after he was taken prisoner, the Chinese repatriated Mills and the other POWs. His family didn't know he was alive, Mills said, and initially was told he was killed in action. Mills said he has copies of his two published obituaries. For being wounded during combat Mills received the Purple Heart, but it took 57 years, because of omissions in his paperwork, he said. Mills said his initial discharge papers indicated he'd served overseas, but they didn't say where, and didn't note that he'd been wounded, had served in combat, or been taken as a POW. Knowing he was eligible for the Purple Heart, Mills' daughter set out to find and correct her father's records. After hearing his records likely had burned in a fire in a St. Louis military repository, Mills' papers were found archived in Philadelphia. The paperwork was corrected, and the award was approved in nine short days, Mills said. Then-Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli presented Mills with his Purple Heart in 2010.

My Temporary Duty in Saigon, South Vietnam

One of my most memorable times during my tour in Vietnam was a 3 day TDY assignment to Saigon. One evening out in the bush, as we were setting up our night laager, Captain Dwight Sypolt called me up to the CP and asked me what sort of pull I had in Washington, D.C. I told him I had no idea what he was talking about and he proceeded to ask me if I had any relatives in Vietnam. I told him I had a cousin who lived in Saigon with her husband who flew for Air America. He then asked me if I had been writing home and keeping in contact with my family, which I thought was an odd question because, what else was there to do in your idle time except write home. I assured him I had been corresponding regularly with my parents, brother, sisters and various female friends and why was he asking me. He informed me that he had received a “Presidential” request on how I was doing and that I had relatives in Saigon and to get my ass on the next re-supply chopper, go to the rear, get cleaned up and head to Saigon on a 3 day TDY leave to visit my cousin. Needless to say, I was on the chopper in a heart beat and headed to Saigon the next morning.

Arriving at Tan Son Nhut air base in Saigon I was immediately relieved of my M-16 and felt very apprehensive and totally naked facing the streets of Saigon. I hailed a pedicab and gave the guy the address of my cousin’s villa and headed out with my head on a swivel looking for bad guys. Being unarmed in Saigon was not the way I anticipated this trip starting out. All of a sudden after winding through the city, the pedicab stopped and the driver pointed to a villa across the street; looked like a fortress to me. High walls surrounded the place with a big gate and broken glass and wire and spikes on top of the wall. As I approached the gate, two big-ass dogs came charging to the gate. Undaunted, with a big gate between us, I rang the bell and a little Vietnamese lady came to the gate, put the dogs up and asked me what I wanted. I told her who I was and within a couple of minutes, my cousin, Verda “Mac” Gustavson, appeared and welcomed me with a big hug and said “We’ll have plenty of time to talk in a few minutes but, first, let me show you the house. I thought it strange but, soon found out the importance of it.

As we entered the living room, she informed me there was an M-60 behind the couch, hand grenades and a .45 behind a chair and various and sundry other weapons in the room. We proceeded to tour the house as she pointed out where all the weapons were in each room and suddenly, my apprehension was eased (except for the thought that she thought she needed all these weapons in the house). Ma informed me her husband, Warren “Gus” Gustavson, was on a mission that evening and would probably be back before I left. We then went to the recreation room where the bar was located and had a few beers while catching up on family news. We had an enjoyable dinner that evening and it was almost like being back in the “world” again. Pretty much slept with one eye open that evening—which I was used to doing anyway.

The next day, Mac took me to the villa next door to meet some of her friends; three former Marines who had returned to Vietnam after their tours and opened a security alarm business with their father. To my delight, they had a secretary who was a beautiful blonde girl from California, and we all hit it off very well. Naturally, my attention was mainly focused on Sue from California and we ended making a date for that evening to attend a dinner my cousin had set up with some other friends at an awesome place named the Cercle Hippique, a former French riding club frequented by oriental millionaires.

I can’t remember our hosts name but, he was French-Asian and was the president of the Perlon Neige toothpaste company in France. We were joined by his wife and a Vietnamese doctor and his wife for a great evening.

Seated on the outdoor veranda, we dined on lobster, filet mignon, and a wee bit of scotch; as the children of the elite members, put their horses through their paces over the jumps for all of us to appreciate and applaud. As I sat there, in a suit I borrowed from one of the marine guys, with a beautiful blonde round-eyed girl, eating something besides c-rats, and imbibing on scotch, I couldn’t help but wonder how the “guys” were doing in the bush and, how envious they would be when I got back and told them about my adventure. The day I left we had a run in with some NVA and I knew there would probably be more contact with them before I got back. That worried thought eventually drifted out of my mind for a while when the waiter brought more scotch.

I’ll continue this saga in the next issue, so I won’t use up valuable space in this newsletter with my rambling recollection.

Chuck Holdaway, B 2/1, 196th LIB

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

By: [American History and Documents](#)

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.