



# 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)



WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)

Volume 3

"A Soldier's Footsteps"

October 2013

**Commanders Corner:** This may be a little long winded this month as there was a lot going on in September. The ADVA reunion in Nashville was excellent as was the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Kokomo Veterans Reunion. The Nashville reunion was very well run and Ron Green and his associates kept everything going smoothly. Thanks to them for a good time. I think we were the best dressed chapter there thanks to Vice-commander, Rich Heroux (Bravo) and Jesse Mendoza (Bravo), who provided shirts for the attending members. Jesse also provided some really nice caps with the chapter logo on them. It's unselfishness like this that makes our chapter special. Rich and I attended the Americal Executive Council Meeting and I was very impressed by the knowledge, professionalism and dedication shown by the council and our officers. The General Membership Meeting consisted of reports by the various ADVA officers, new and unfinished business, and reports by the chapter commanders. Following the General meeting, we held our annual chapter meeting. Since we had no nominations/volunteers to run for our chapter officer positions; some crazy person brought up the motion to retain the current officers and, some other crazy person seconded the motion. A favorable show of hands means you're stuck with us for another couple of years. It was discussed to secure a 501 c-19 or c-3 non-profit exemption for the chapter to protect against and liabilities in the future. The officers will be working with Spencer Baba and the ADVA to get this accomplished. The topics of membership and dues were discussed and it was reported that quite a few of our members are delinquent. It was pointed out that many of our members are not also members of the ADVA, which we strongly suggest. Our Vice-commander, Rich Heroux, who is also the Assistant Adjutant for the ADVA, will be checking our roster against the ADVA membership and sending reminders out. Regarding our dues delinquent members, it was decided to contact them and set a deadline to contact Don Hicks, our Secy/Treas. After the notification period, anyone delinquent for 2 years will be dropped from the active roster. These persons will no longer receive the newsletter and, I will probably change the password to get into the company rosters. The new password will only be sent to members in good standing. If you have any doubt, please contact Don. Don provided our annual financial report and we're still in the black after our annual expenses; the largest of which is the cost of providing a chapter hospitality room at the annual meeting. By the way, a special thanks is due to Don for the great job he did again this year providing all the hospitality goodies and for pulling sentry duty at the expense of his own time. We had 20+ members and several wives and friends join.



Last month, we took in 5 new members: Robert Smith, Charles Johnson, Thomas Hayes (Alpha), Bobby Locke-Bey (Delta) and associate member, Paul Gaylord (USAF). Welcome guys, glad to have you. Kokomo, as usual was a great time and, if any of you get the chance, you ought to check it out next year. Especially great about going to Kokomo, we were able to get together with Paul Terry "Foxhole" Loyd (B 2/1). Sadly, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, Foxhole passed away. Several of us from Bravo Company were able to attend the services and be with our comrade. He will be greatly missed.

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

## Chuck

**WWII, Korea and Vietnam Servicemen Identified:** The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to:

- Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Valorie L. Pollard, 25, of Monterey, Calif., and Sgt. Dominick J. Licari, 31, of Frankfort, N.Y. On March 13, 1944, Pollard and Licari were crewmembers aboard an A-20G Havoc bomber that failed to return to base after attacking enemy targets on what is now Papua New Guinea.
- Army Sgt. Charles L. Scott, 20, of Lynchburg, Va. In late November 1950, Scott and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team were deployed along the east side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when they were under attack and forced into a fighting withdrawal. Scott was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950.
- Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Vernal J. Bird, 26, of Lindon, Utah. On March 12, 1944, Bird, a member of the 13th Bombardment Squadron, 3rd Bombardment Group, was piloting an A-20G Havoc aircraft on an attack mission over the island of New Guinea. Bird's aircraft did not return to base.
- Army Cpl. Armando Alvarez, 20, of El Paso, Texas. In late 1950, Alvarez and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team, also known as Task Force Faith, were forced into a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position south of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Alvarez was reported missing on Dec. 2, 1950.
- Air Force Maj. James E. Sizemore of Lawrenceville, Ill., and Howard V. Andre Jr., of Memphis, Tenn. On July 8, 1969, Sizemore and Andre were on a night armed reconnaissance mission when their A-26A Invader aircraft crashed in Xiangkhoang Province, Laos.

**Accounting for American missing-in-action:** Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Office stated on the country's progress in searching, recovering and identifying 83,000 missing servicemen from past wars. A little recorded fact is that the Defense POW/MIA accounting Office has recovered 64 Americans over the past year. 40 from the Korean War, 17 from Vietnam and seven from WW II.

**New Army Rules for Tattoos, Grooming On the Way:** In the works for more than a year, strict new rules governing things like tattoos and grooming for soldiers have been approved by the Secretary of the Army and are only awaiting a final signature, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler.

Speaking to troops at bases in eastern Afghanistan, Chandler said Secretary John McHugh has approved but not yet officially put his name to the changes to Army Regulation 670-1. The regulations cover things such as tattoos, grooming, and uniforms and apply only to soldiers. Other branches of the military have their own grooming and appearance rules. Chandler said he expects the changes to become policy in 30 to 60 days. Under the new policy, new recruits will not be allowed to have tattoos that show below the elbows and knees or above the neckline, Chandler told troops. Current soldiers may be grandfathered in, but all soldiers will still be barred from having any tattoos that are racist, sexist or extremist. Once the rules are implemented, soldiers will sit down with their unit leaders and "self identify" each tattoo. Soldiers will be required to pay for the removal of any tattoo that violates the policy. SGM of the Army Chandler said the Army wants soldiers to stand out, but because of their achievements, not because of the way they look.

On a separate note, Chandler told troops that the new Army combat uniforms will likely be phased in starting eight to nine months from now. The uniform will feature different colors for different environments, but the pattern will be very similar to the mottled "multicam" currently used in Afghanistan under the designation "Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern."

**Richard Petty Gives House to Marine's Family:** Richard Petty normally hands over the keys to a race car to driver Aric Almirola. Last week, he handed over the keys to a mortgage free home to an unsuspecting military family. The NASCAR Hall of Famer partnered with Eckrich to give United States Marine Corps veteran James Wallace and his family the keys to a house located in Bolingbrook. "I think they were really surprised to see all of us in front of this house," said Petty. "But that was nothing compared to their shock when we handed over the keys and told them that this was their new home. I've been a part of giving away a lot of things in my lifetime, but I don't remember giving away a house. That's a pretty big deal for anyone. "It just makes it more special because it's a military family who are really worthy of this gift. They are a family who has sacrificed while their loved one served our country. Eckrich and Operation Homefront have been really great in honoring our military families like this all year and it's a really cool deal that they topped it off by giving away a house." Wallace, a corporal in the Marine Corps, served twice in Afghanistan and was stunned by his new home. "It hasn't sunk in yet. I keep thinking this isn't real," he said. "Being in the military, you move around, you rent houses, you get deployed. To now have a home of our own, a place where we can settle into and call our own, this means so much to me and my family. We are going to be able to make many, many memories here." Eckrich, part of the John Morrell Food Group, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods, has been working with Operation Homefront to support and thank military men and women and their families all year. It's all been a part of their Operation Inspiration campaign to honor the heroes behind our heroes and has included several events with Richard Petty Motorsports, a \$250,000 donation to Operation Homefront and even a TV special hosted by Al Roker.

[A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.](#)

**VA's Embattled Healthcare Chief to Retire:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has begun looking for a successor to Dr. Robert Petzel, chief of the frequently criticized Veterans Health Administration, who is slated to retire in 2014. Petzel, appointed by President Obama as Undersecretary for Health at the VA in 2010, has come under fire on Capitol Hill over management problems at VA hospitals in Georgia and Pittsburgh, where a number of patients died. He has also been criticized over the longstanding backlog of disability claims and for failing to provide lawmakers with requested information in a timely manner.

The VA said in a statement Friday that Petzel would be retiring "as planned, following a four-year tenure," but will remain in the job until the Senate confirms a successor. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki expressed his gratitude to Petzel in the statement for serving veterans' healthcare needs for four decades and "for his leadership in transforming VHA's health care delivery system to better care for veterans." Earlier this month, the House Veterans Affairs Committee relocated to Pittsburgh for a hearing on the deaths of patients at VA hospitals, including at least five who died from Legionnaires' disease at the Pittsburgh hospital.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., who chairs the committee, referenced a number of problems at VA hospitals during the hearing and noted that Petzel "downplayed the problems by referring to them as 'kerfuffles.'"

**VA Releases Caregiver Expansion Report:** VA released a congressionally mandated report on expanding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to caregivers of veterans of all eras. The *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010* created a wide range of benefits for caregivers of severely disabled post-9/11 veterans, including a monthly stipend, training, mental health counseling and respite care. Although VA stated that they have the capability to provide these benefits, they could not recommend that Congress do so without first increasing funding for the program. VA estimates that fully expanding the program would cost between \$1.8 and \$3.8 billion. VA stated that if they had to find the funding within its current budget, it would diminish their ability to provide direct-to-veteran healthcare services. The VFW supported the original *Caregiver Act*, but has consistently called for a full expansion, which would properly recognize the sacrifices of all severely disabled veterans and their families. Currently, the Senate VA committee has cleared legislation (S. 851), which would provide these services to veterans of all eras. The VFW testified in support of the bill and will continue to work with Congress to ensure it is funded and implemented. [Learn more](#) about current caregiver program benefits.

**VA Releases 2013 Federal Benefits Handbook:** The VA recently released its 2013 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependent and Survivors handbook. The handbook provides a comprehensive guide of all programs administered by VA to include health care, bereavement counseling, education, the caregiver program and pension and disability claims benefits for eligible veterans and their families. To download the pdf or to view the handbook online, click here: [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

I was always taught to respect my elders, But it keeps getting harder to find one.

## Veterans Eligible for Retroactive Benefits:

Provisions of a federal law that went into effect Aug. 6 now entitles eligible veterans who submit fully developed claims (FDCs) for the first time to retroactive, service-connected disability benefits for up to one year. These provisions remain in effect until Aug. 5, 2015.

The retroactive benefits, to be awarded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, are a result of a comprehensive legislative package (Public Law 112-154) enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Obama on Aug. 6, 2012.

"Veterans have an even better reason to submit fully developed claims for their disabilities," said James E. Koutz, national commander of The American Legion. "Not only do these FDCs move through VA's adjudication system much faster, but veterans who submit them may qualify for retroactive benefits. This should make the FDC option even more attractive to our veterans, and help VA reduce its claims backlog at the same time."

Koutz said The 2,700-plus accredited veteran representatives nationwide are available to help any veteran from any war era with his or her disability claim. "Largely due to the training provided by our Department Service Officers School last February, the number of FDCs the Legion is submitting to VA has been going up substantially," Koutz said.

Last December, Veteran Organizations were invited by the White House to work with VA in generating more FDCs. Since then, teams of experts have worked with several VA regional offices (VAROs), identifying best practices for creating and processing FDCs, and providing more training to its service officers.

FDCs require no further documentation from veterans submitting the claims. As a result, decisions are made on them much faster than for traditional claims that need more development. While the current average processing time for traditional claims to be decided is about 260 days (which contributes to the backlog), the average for FDCs is about 114 days (keeping them below the 125-day threshold that puts a claim into backlog status).

The percentage of FDCs being submitted by Veteran service officers has increased at all eight VAROs the teams visited: Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Nashville, Indianapolis, Denver, Oakland, Calif.; Reno, Nev.; and Togus, Maine. Several increases show substantial improvement from fiscal 2013's first quarter to the end of its third quarter in June. VA's under secretary for benefits, Allison Hickey, said the department "strongly encourages veterans to work with veterans service organizations to file fully developed claims and participate in this initiative, since it means more money in eligible veterans' pockets simply by providing VA the information it needs up front. At the same time, it helps reduce the inventory of pending claims by speeding the process."

FDCs can be filed digitally through the joint VA-Department of Defense online portal, [eBenefits](#). VA encourages veterans who cannot file online to work with an accredited veterans service organization that can file claims digitally on behalf of veterans. While submitting an FDC provides a faster decision for any compensation or pension claim, only veterans who are submitting their very first compensation claim as an FDC are potentially eligible for up to one year of retroactive disability benefits under the newly implemented law.

## A good one for all my fellow veteran and others who might understand it.

Dwayne asked Lonnie. "Do you remember that stuff they used to put in our coffee during the war, to make us forget about women?" Lonnie replied "I think you mean salt peter."

Dwayne. "Yep, that's the stuff. I think it's beginning to work!"

## HUD & VA Announce More Vouchers to Help Homeless Vets Get into Permanent Homes:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the second round of HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) funding to local public housing agencies across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The \$7.8 million will provide housing and clinical services for 1,120 currently homeless veterans. In May, the two agencies announced \$60 million in HUD-VASH vouchers. The supportive housing assistance announced today is provided through the [HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\) Program](#) which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. Since 2008, a total of 58,140 vouchers have been awarded and 43,371 formerly homeless veterans are currently in homes of their own because of HUD-VASH. "Our nation's veterans have sacrificed and given up so much for our freedom," said HUD Secretary Donovan. "These vouchers are helping America end veterans' homelessness one veteran at a time until we see not one veteran living on the street. I look forward to continue working with Secretary Shinseki and the Department of Veterans Affairs to target assistance to our homeless veterans." "These HUD-VASH vouchers are a vital tool in our effort to provide these brave men and women with the earned care and benefits that help them live productive, meaningful lives," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "So long as a single Veteran lives on our streets, we have work to do. But with the continued support of President Obama, Congress and our community partners, we will end homelessness among Veterans." HUD-VASH is a critical part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end Veteran and long-term chronic homelessness by 2015. [Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local communities to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women. HUD's annual "point in time" estimate of the number of homeless persons and families for 2012 found that veteran homelessness fell by 7.2 percent (or 4,876 people) since January 2011 and by 17.2 percent since January 2009. On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless. The grants announced today are part of \$75 million appropriated this year to support the housing needs of homeless veterans. Local public housing authorities provide rental assistance to homeless veterans while nearby VA Medical Centers (VAMC) offer supportive services and case management. This is the second round of the 2013 HUD-VASH funding. HUD expects to announce more HUD-VASH funding this year. VAMCs work closely with homeless veterans then refer them to public housing agencies for these vouchers, based upon a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of the homelessness and the need for longer term more intensive support to obtain and maintain permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff provides. Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam and Puerto Rico.

**The last marine killed in WW2 was killed by a can of spam. He was on the ground as a POW. A case came apart in the air during a supply air drop and a stray can of spam hit him and killed him.**

**How Affordable Care Act Impacts Veterans:**

President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law on March 23, 2010. The intent of its passage is to expand access to health-care coverage, control health-care costs, and improve America's health-care delivery system. Under provisions of the ACA's "individual mandate," all Americans are required to purchase medical insurance by Jan. 1.

**How does the ACA impact veterans?** If people do not have the minimum coverage, they will have to make a payment when filing taxes for each month they lack coverage. This payment will either be a flat fee or a percentage of taxable household income. For example, you would pay \$95 or 1 percent of your taxable income for 2014, \$325 or 2 percent in 2015, \$695 or 2.5 percent in 2016, etc. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care meets the law's standard for coverage. Therefore, veterans already enrolled in VA health care would not be eligible for assistance in lowering the cost of their health insurance premiums, if they were to purchase additional health-care coverage outside of VA. Veterans may still purchase private health insurance, on or off the marketplace, to complement their VA coverage. If veterans are enrolled in VA, they do not need to take additional steps to meet the health-care coverage standards of the ACA.

**What if a veteran is not currently enrolled in the VA?** VA wants all veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being. Veterans and other beneficiaries wishing to enroll in VA health care can [apply here](#) for enrollment at any time.

**Where can veterans learn more on how the ACA will affect them?** Last week, VA began sending letters to enrolled veterans to highlight its [web page](#) on the ACA, and to answer any questions about the requirements of the law. The bottom line: the ACA does not change VA health benefits or veterans' out-of-pocket costs. And if you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your veterans health-care benefits and the Affordable Care Act,

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[A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.](#)

**THIS IS BIG NEWS! SHARE AT POST AND DISTRICT MEETING, PLEASE!**

EVERY Vietnam Veteran needs to be enrolled in V.A. Health Care. Affordable Health Care Act kicks in 1-1-2014 and V.A. Health Care is acceptable as current insurance for the Affordable Care Act.

ALL Vietnam Veterans with Vietnam Service Metal (VSM) or/and Vietnam Campaign Ribbon/Metal (VCM) on their DD-214 will NOW qualify for Health Care as Cat. 6 with or without Means Testing (report of income and/or net worth) AND REGARDLESS OF DISABILITY RATING!

Enroll at any V.A. facility or Attached is form 1010-EZ to complete and take to your nearest V.A Clinic or Hospital to get your V.A. Health Card and be assigned a primary Health Care Doctor.

\*\*Will need original or Cert. Copy of your DD-214 with you and I.D.\*\*

**This information is NOT found on any Web-Site.**

**Even if you have Health Insurance, you need V.A. Health insurance.**

**You Will Probably Never See This Again:** It's one you want your Children and Grandchildren to read. They won't believe this happened, but it DID. Harry Truman was a different kind of President. He probably made as many, or more important decisions regarding our nation's history as any of the other 32 Presidents preceding him. However, a measure of his greatness may rest on what he did after he left the White House. The only asset he had when he died was the house he lived in, which was in Independence Missouri. His wife had inherited the house from her mother and father and other than their years in the White House, they lived their entire lives there. When he retired from office in 1952 his income was a U.S. Army pension reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and, later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year. After President Eisenhower was inaugurated, Harry and Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves. There was no Secret Service following them. When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, "You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me.. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale." Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, "I don't consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise." As president he paid for all of his own travel expenses and food. Modern politicians have found a new level of success in cashing in on the Presidency, resulting in untold wealth. Today, too many in Congress also have found a way to become quite wealthy while enjoying the fruits of their offices. Political offices are now for sale (ie. Illinois ). Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, "My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference!

We should have cloned him!

**CAR IN DITCH; DRIVER IN TREE  
THE MOON WAS FULL AND SO WAS HE.**

**Burma Shave**



## Paul 'Terry' (Foxhole) Loyd

Paul 'Terry' Loyd, age 64, of Channel burg, IN passed away on Friday September 25, 2013 at 9:01 AM at Daviess Community Hospital. He was born on December 21, 1948 in Washington, IN. He graduated in 1968 from Washington High School, and was US Army Vietnam Veteran. While in the Army he received a Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, and a Combat Infantry Badge. He was a life member of, Disabled American Veterans, Washington American Legion and VFW. He is survived by his wife, Juliana (Abney) Loyd whom he married on August 8, 2008; one daughter, Terri Lynn Bair of Bedford; one son, James R. Loyd of Washington; one step daughter, Adriana Murphy of Evansville,; one step son, Sergeant Jaymes Murphy of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; one brother, Michael Loyd of Indianapolis. Funeral services were held Monday Sept. 29. Burial will be at a later date.

The following letter was sent to Foxhole by his Vietnam Platoon Leader Lt Jerry Hughes. It is reproduced here with his permission.

1LT JERRY HUGHES  
6531 MALONEY AVE # 13  
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040  
15 MAR 2013

To: SGT Paul Terry "Foxhole" Loyd  
Hello Foxhole...

I trust you are doing better post your arm developments, and am hopeful full use will soon return. I am glad to hear you are out of the hospital, and for sure Juliana is both taking well care of you and also knows what's best. So listen up troop! J

I have been meaning to write this letter for many years now, but life always seems to get in the way. ...and it has been many years since we last saw each other, so the opportunity has escaped me on saying it in person.

Many years ago in a hotel room in St. Louis, Missouri I personally recognized and thanked you for coming with SGT Paul Thomas and my RTO Whittier to look for the Vietcong sniper who had killed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon's Point Man and had the entire platoon pinned down. I had put the three of you in for an Army ARCOM with VALOR, but it appears Uncle Sam never came through on the paperwork. My 18 year late hotel room presentation hopefully was some

when I think of how brave you  
But what I really want to say in this  
what a great job you did as one of  
expressed that openly, and I suspect  
the past 43 years was our way of  
God you were an ornery cuss! But  
fault. And yes – I suspect I  
had a job to do and I dare



Paul Terry (Foxhole) Loyd & John Careccia Kokomo 2012

solace and recognition. I still choke up were!

letter is how proud I am of you, and my Squad Leaders. I know I have never our mutual ball busting of each other showing mutual respect and yes – love. tough as nails, brave beyond a doubt or

cut you no slack, but we all  
say – we all performed well!

People forget how young we all were. Don't know your exact age at the time, but I suspect 20, 21 ish. I was 22 when I arrived in the Platoon. It was seasoned NCO's like you that showed me the way, which only helped to get us all home safely and in one piece.

Now that we are both older and wiser, we can look back and feel confident we did the best job we were capable of at the time. ...and there were some horrible missions I called on you. Like the time we went to the lake

with the captured Vietcong. I make no excuses, as I put the safety of the entire platoon before the one enemy soldier. I truly believe if a chopper came into the area to remove the detainee, every Vietcong and NVA would know where we were, and who knows where that intell would have led us the next 24 hours. But the day still wears heavily on many of us. Nevertheless – thank you for coming.



You were a good Squad Leader Foxhole, and I know the men assigned to you are thankful for that too! I know I was always comfortable and confident when I went on patrol with you as point squad.

...and yes, I know you love this Lieutenant and here's a reason you probably don't even remember.

At the 196<sup>th</sup> Reunion in St Louis we were all in a hotel hospitality suite when a SGT Baker from another Bravo Company Platoon started picking on me, showing disrespect. You overheard, came over and would have started a fistcuffs on my behalf, right there, a full 18 years after the war. It was okay for 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon members to pick on their Lieutenant, but not for anyone else. Much appreciated good buddy! I will always remember how gracious you were to my son Jerry Younger and I when visiting your southern Indiana farm, and those are special days in both Jerry Jr and my memories and hearts! He stills talks about those days...

Look, I know how much you have personally struggled since the war...and I believe you have well fought the good fight. You have maintained your personal strength and integrity as an individual, and I am sure Juliana can well attest to that. But just know that you have never been alone. Not only me, but the entire Platoon have always been in the background, interested in your progress and silently cheering you on. Sucks to hear that, eh?

What else can I say...you are one of my life's heroes.

So today, may I also officially waive the "*Foxhole – You owe my one gook*" request.

I think we got our share and then some...

The guy is probably in a Vietnamese bar today telling about how close he came to seeing his last sunset from a passing tired combat weary gang of U.S. Army grunts. He deserves that drink!

So thank you good buddy for making me who I am today...and getting my young ass home in one piece.

Continue to fight the good fight! I'm root'in for ya!

LT Jerry

1<sup>st</sup> PLT, B Co, 2/1, 196LIB, Americal Division

Sept '69 – Sep '70