

NEWSLETTER #6 February 2011 "Cat" Jimerson, Editor

We are currently in touch with:
64 in the 67-68 timeframe.
19 in the 68 timeframe.
108 in the 68-69 timeframe.
18 from the 69 timeframe.
51 from the 69-70 timeframe.
26 from the 70 timeframe.
24 from the 70-71 timeframe.
2 from the 71 timeframe.
11 from the 71-72 timeframe.



CAN YOU HELP THE WEBMASTER?

I need the YEAR(S) served with the B-2/501st in RVN for the following:

Jimmy Bouffard
 Jeffrey M Burnett
 Cpriano Gyrcia
 Jerry W Head Jr
 Ralph Knerem
 Michael W Reeve
 Paul Rhodes
 Richard W Robinson
 Ron L Sellins
 Charles Thompson
 Jack Williams
 Roger Winters

Email Cat at cat@jimersons.us or call me at 716-720-0050 if you can help.

We USED to have an email address for the following. Contact Cat at cat@jimersons.us if you have a current addy for any of them:

Baker, Dan (69-70)
 Baldwin, Robert K (68-69)
 Betzen, Donald (69-70)
 Blachly, Lenard (69-70)
 Bradford, Robert (68)
 Breaux, Raymond (70)
 Bush, Anthony (70-71)
 Butts, Robert (68-69)
 Choate, Darrell (69-70)
 Clark, Robert (69-70)
 Copeland, Jerry D (69-70)
 Cousins, Gary (69-70)
 Cowley, Larry (68-69)
 Crouse, Carson R (68-69)
 Dehart, Norman (69-70)
 Fuit, John (70)
 Hanna, Roger G (68-69)
 Hannan, Mark (69-70)
 Heiter, Anthony (68)
 Hessling, Thomas (70-71)
 Holsten, Jack W (69)
 Hudson, Joseph (68-69)
 Johnson, A Rusty (67-68)
 Kaufmann, William (68-69)
 Linkous, Jeffrey H (70)
 Lockett, Howard L (67-68)
 Mahan Jr, George T (68-69)
 Malone, Mike C (69-70)
 Massey, Ronald L (67-68)
 Morris, Willie D (68-69)
 Pawlak, Paul (68-69)
 Pickford, Patrick S (67-68)
 Pratt, Donnie L (68-69)
 Shepherd, Richard (67-68)
 Sherwood, James L (68-69)
 Simmons, Stephen (69-70)
 Speck, James (68-69)
 Wakefield, Daniel (68-69)
 Wallace, Edgar (67-68)



NEWLY LOCATED:

Gerald Buchanan 70-71 FL
Darrell Choate 69-70 LA
Mark E Doyle 71-72 AZ
Thomas W Hutton 70 MO
Thomas O McCleary 67-68 TN
Jim Remster 70-71
Reginald Simmons 69-70 TX

We currently have EMAIL addresses for 151 of our members. If you haven't heard from us, then we probably don't have your email address! If you're online, why don't you drop us an email? There may be fellow troopers out there who are waiting to get in contact with you again! If you want to continue to receive our newsletters and email notifications, it's very important that you keep us updated on your current contact information.

"When I arrived at Btry B in summer 1969, our FDO had served as Family liaison officer. He knocked on doors to tell mothers and fathers their son had been killed, then to help with all the arrangements. After 6 mos. he couldn't stand it anymore and put in for 'Nam. Could you do that job?

I doubt I could look into the eyes of a mother or wife and tell her that her loved one had been killed, remains are unviewable, and after the funeral hand her a folded flag. I'm not a brave man, certainly not tough enough to do that. I would have put in for 'Nam too.

For a few months I was in the field with Co. B. We lost Alan Grotske at Hill 162. "We think of Alan every day", his sister said. They don't need Memorial Day in the Grotske family. At Arlington National Cemetery are 260,000 graves. But how can we count the number of the bereaved? So, we must remember the bereaved."

~By Lloyd Irland (B2501 '69)



Eagles who have soared

Jeffery Dennis, B-2/501st (67-68), died at age 61 on Sunday, 14 Feb 2010 of heart failure at Shasta Regional Medical Center in Redding, CA.



Bruce Laytham, B-2/501st (70-71) died at his home in Gastonia, North Carolina on 13 Oct 2010. At this time it's believed he died from complications due to his diabetes which he was service connected for (Agent Orange). He was a past President and a founding father of 101st ABN Div Vietnam Veterans and a member of the Fire Support Base Ripcord Association. Memorials may be made to Bessemer City Legion 243 Long Creek Church Rd, Bessemer City, NC 28016. Condolences made be made to the family at 1140 Bridgewood Ln, Gastonia, NC 28054-2608.

In memory of Judy Starks, wife of Luther Starks (68-69) who passed away on 7 Nov 2010



Memorials can be made in her name to American Cancer Research, 930-B Wellness Drive, Greenville, NC 27834 or to First Baptist Church, PO Drawer 402, Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0402

We honor the memory of our fallen B-2/501 heroes. We have a memorial page on our website with clickable links to each of those B-2/501 that were KIA and those who have died since Vietnam. We'd like to have a photo on each of those pages and memories that you have of them. Send submissions to the webmaster.

Ryan Niebuhr is currently serving in the Army with 2BCT, 101st and is doing a Silver Star Book of Valor for our Brigade on Awardees that received the Silver Star during Vietnam while with the 501st and 502nd and trying to get in contact with any member or family member by any means. If you want to assist him with this project please contact him at: ryan.niebuhr@us.army.mil

Poppy's Song (by Matthew Linkous)

He turned twenty one in Cameron Bay but he never much cared for L.A. cause that was where he stepped off of the plane and no one would look his way with a chest full of ribbons and jump boots on his feet he knew it was one more plane ride then a greyhounds lonely seat. So welcome home soldier why did you go and leave this world behind for people you don't know and will we ever realize all you have done and seen and the things that wake you up and the faces in your dreams. So welcome home soldier welcome home. As he made his way up the creek where he was born and raised he thought about those Graham boys and all the hell they raised and he couldn't wait to see his dad to show him the man he had become and scared to death his momma would take one look and know all he had done. So welcome soldier why did you go and leave this world behind for people you don't know and will we ever realize all you have done and seen the things that wake you up and the faces in your dreams. So welcome home soldier welcome home.....

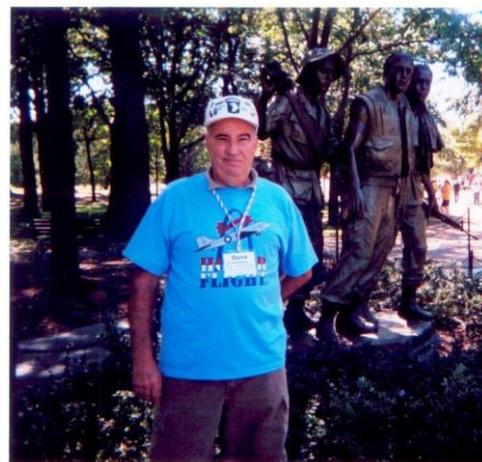
For the only hero I ever had beside my momma was my father, Jeffery H . Linkous Vietnam 70-71

It's been a while since our last newsletter but we finally have enough content to publish one. This is YOUR newsletter! WE WELCOME YOUR NEWS! We will continue to put out newsletters when we have enough content to justify them. Send news & photo submissions to the newsletter editor & webmaster, Cathy Jimerson. You can send submissions via email at cat@jimersons.us OR snail mail info to her at PO Box 152 Steamburg NY 14783-0152, but keep in mind that Cat and Brad are ON THE ROAD full time RV'ing & don't get their snail mail regularly. This newsletter is being mailed out to the 324 members that we currently have addresses for, spanning years served in RVN from 67-72 AND friends and family of our honored deceased brothers-in-arms. Brad and Cat Jimerson and Dave Reinheimer have been responsible for reuniting many of our brothers by a tireless search over the years and maintaining regular contact with all those they have found. This newsletter has been made possible by many donations from our B-2/501st members.



Did you know that the B2501st has a FACEBOOK group? We currently have 127 members. It is a closed group for B2501st members and their families only. It is a nice forum to share news with your B2501 friends.

Dave Reinheimer (68-69) at the WALL in Washington DC (in Sep 2010). Since retiring he has joined the Honor Flight Group in St Louis. Honor Flight is a program that provides aging military veterans the opportunity to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. In September, Reinheimer accompanied two 88-year-old veterans to Washington as guardian on an Honor Flight.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE – It currently has 641 pages of content! There is page after page of photos. Maybe YOU'RE in one of them! Take a LOOK!

Our official website:

www.b2501airborne.com

DRIVE ON!

“You Can’t Be Serious . . .”

By Bob Worrall 69-70

That phrase kind of sums up the first reaction that I usually receive when I ask a Viet Nam vet if he’s considered going back over to the country where he fought forty years ago. Either by spoken word or look in his eye, he’s asking me if I’m really serious. Quickly following “the look” is usually the question “Why would I ever want to go back there?” Why indeed?

Those of us who survived our service with Bravo Company back then returned home in different ways and as different people. Some of us came home on a “Freedom Bird” after serving a full, twelve-month tour. Others came home on a medical evacuation flight, suffering from physical injuries and wounds received during the conflict. Some of our wounds were crippling and debilitating; others were less serious and healed quickly. Some of us had no physical wounds at all, but soon found that the horror of what we had seen and done in battle had left us with some emotional issues—post traumatic stress disorder, or “PTSD”. Most of us with less serious emotional scars were able to get about the business of building new careers and starting families. But none of us came home quite the same—we all were changed in some way.

Fast forward to the year 2011. Most of us are now sixty-something. Our post-military careers are either over or fast winding down. We’ve got more time to spend with family and friends, and more time to do some traveling. In the last ten years or so, we’ve discovered the fabulous B-2/501 website that Cathy Jimerson developed and maintains for us, and we’ve linked up with one or more Bravo “buddies” that we once thought we’d never see again. Chances are we’ve even gone to a B-2/501 reunion like the one coming up this year in Branson MO, and spent priceless time with one another remembering moments, days, and experiences forty years ago. Great stuff!

John Marks, Bob Layton, Al Werth, Steve Forsstrom, and I certainly had done all of those things, and all of us were looking forward to the Branson reunion to continue the great times. Then along came a B-2/501 newsletter in September 2009 with a picture taken a few months earlier of B-2/501 alums Dan Albrecht and John Ward climbing Hamburger Hill in Viet Nam! “You can’t be serious! Viet Nam? Hamburger Hill?” And just that quickly, we started asking each other “Do you want to go back to Viet Nam?”, “How much will it cost?”, “Who can help us with visas and arrangements?”, “When can we go?”, “Where can we go?”, etc., etc.

Long story cut short, all of us except Al Werth (who had an unexpected business conflict) did go back to Viet Nam in April 2010 with Team XXV from “VVRP” (Veterans Viet Nam Restoration Project, <http://www.vvrp.org/>). This is the same organization with which Dan Albrecht and John Ward had gone back in 2009. Our stories are told on their website for Teams XXIV and XXV with lots of pictures.

But this story isn’t so much about the logistics of returning as it is about the reason for returning. The four of us who went back in 2010 had served together in 1969-70. John and I were in 1st Platoon “humping the boonies” together for four months, and Bob Layton followed me as 1st Plt Ldr shortly after Steve Forsstrom took over as 2nd Plt Ldr. Even in our small group of four, some of us came home forty years ago with PTSD issues of varying degrees and others of us came home thinking that we didn’t have much emotional baggage at all. The experience of going back to Viet Nam brought us together “24 by 7” in late March and most of April 2010. Even though Team XXV had eight other members besides the four of us, the “gang of four” was constantly together, and the conversations almost invariably returned to things that happened in 1969-1970: “Do you remember when . . . ?”, “Where were you when . . . ?”, “Did you see . . . ?”, “What happened on . . . ?”, “Who was it that . . . ?”, etc., etc.

As we talked and picked each other’s memories fogged by forty years of time, we realized that something good was happening. We could talk about things with each other that we couldn’t talk about with anyone else in this world. We could vent frustrations, and anger, and

sorrow with one another because we had lived those times together forty years ago. We could feel at peace not having to explain ourselves to one another, because we were talking with guys who had walked the same trails, and no explanation was necessary. Sometimes after long conversations, we could almost feel emotional “garbage” leaving our minds that we never even knew was there. Amazing!

So, back to the question “Why would I ever want to go back to Viet Nam?”--there are lots of reasons, and here are a few: If you return, you will see what most people agree is a beautiful country, but, this time, in a time of peace. You can witness the remarkable recovery from war made by some of the most incredibly energetic people you will ever witness. You can visit places where you served many years ago, and see how those places look today. You can visit famous battle sites and beautiful resorts. You can accomplish all of these things and more, with almost any Viet Nam travel package.

But, if you go back with a group like VVRP, you can do all of those things, and so much more. You can go back with a small group of vets and work for a couple of weeks on a humanitarian project (such as building a kindergarten), and feel like you’ve made a contribution to Viet Nam’s recovery. You can share wartime experiences with vets (ours *and* theirs) that you’ve never met before, and achieve a greater degree of closure. You can be welcomed back and thanked by officials of a government that you once considered your enemy. You can even put together your own “gang” of two or more B-2/501 buddies and enrich the experience beyond description.

But the most important reason for going back to Viet Nam is that when you come home this time, just like forty years ago, you won’t be quite the same. You’ll be changed again, but this time in a most positive way. Today, there are twelve spaces available on VVRP Team XXVII going to Viet Nam in April 2012. If you’re ready to dump some emotional baggage and gain a greater feeling of peace about your life forty years ago, give me a shout at (210) 854-7546 or drop me an email at rworrall@gvtc.com –I can help you go back.



Want your birthday listed on our Website's BIRTHDAY CALENDAR? Send it to the webmaster/newsletter editor and get some cards from your buddies on your next birthday!

21 Mar 1948 **Mel Waite** (68-69)

3 Apr 1949 **John Marks** (69-70)

23 Apr 1948 **Gene Fry** (67-68)

25 Apr 1947 **Willie Morris** (68-69)

2 May 1947 **Richard Reith** (68-69)

2 May 1948 **James Norwood** (67-68)

14 May 1950 **Terry Heig** (70-71)

17 May 1950 **Dan Hefel** (69)

20 May 1950 **Don Otto** (70-71)

26 May 1929 **Guillermo Lanzo** (67-68)

28 May 1949 **Jeff Bennett** (70-71)

30 May 1948 **Rick Browne** (68-69)

L-R: Worrall, Marks, Forsstrom, Layton



We have a page on our website for any B-2/501st member who has a family member currently deployed. If that applies to you, please send info to the webmaster.



**MARK YOUR CALENDERS
AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE**

BRAVO 2ND 501ST 101ST Airborne 2011 Reunion

See website for those planning to attend

Pending Itinerary:

Thursday, July 14th

Arrival, name tags and welcome bags

Hospitality Room and get reacquainted - located in Suite 251

(Raffle and 50/50 tickets available each evening in the Hospitality Room)

Explore Branson on your own - Have lots of fun

Friday, July 15th.

Golf outing - pending

Shopping trip to Branson Landing - sign up at Registration table

Other destinations and outings TBA

Hospitality room open until midnight each night

Business meeting 4:00 pm - location TBA

Dinner - on your own

Music Show - Moe Bandy at 8:00 pm in the Jim Stafford Theatre directly
across the street from Lodge of the Ozarks - gather in lobby
of Lodge at 7:15 pm

Saturday, July 16th

Suggested outings - Titanic Museum - Discount coupons will be available

Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum

Wax Museum - all 3 within walking distance of the Lodge

Veterans Museum - Group rates available

Group Photo at 5:15 pm in the lobby of the Lodge

Cash bar in Club Vegas Room will be set up at 5:30 pm

Color guard, Welcoming and Memorial Ceremony 6:00 pm in Club Vegas

Dinner approximately 6:30 pm

Final raffle sales and 50/50 drawings after dinner.

Club Vegas and Hospitality room available until midnight

Sunday, July 17th.

Farewells and departures

See you in 2013. Anyone interested in hosting the reunion in 2013, please provide
information at business meeting on Friday.

Bravo 2/501st 101st Airborne
2011 Reunion Registration
July 14th – 17th
Branson, MO

Name _____ Year(s) Served _____

Spouse/Guests _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Arrival Date _____ Flight Information _____

Registration Fee includes banquet, hospitality room, music show
and all related taxes and gratuities @ \$60.00 per person

Total number of people _____ X \$60.00 = _____

Please pre-register at least 30 days prior to the Reunion or call for exceptions.

Please make your check out to ***B-2/501 Reunion C/O Mike Edwards***
and send it along with this form to:

Mike Edwards
1063 Terry Ln
Harrison AR 72601

For more info: Home 870-741-1635
Cell 870-365-6739
Email mjedwards1@windstream.net

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Lodge of the Ozarks at 877-327-9894 and reference booking number **99533**. The room rate is \$100.00 which includes all taxes and a hot breakfast each morning. **Rate is valid for 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion.** There will be RV parking available if needed, pending availability.

Air Transportation available directly into Branson and can be accessed at www.flybranson.com

Other airports in the area are:
Springfield, MO which is about 45 minutes from Branson,
Tulsa, OK which is about 3 ½ hours from Branson, and
Highfill in Northwest Arkansas about 3 hours away.

Please advise if you need transportation from the Branson Airport

Yes _____ No _____

Enterprise Car Rental is available at the Branson Airport

CONTRIBUTIONS for OUR
B-2/501st (Geronimo)
101st Airborne Div GROUP
can be mailed to:
Dave Reinheimer
7324 Summer Manor
St Louis MO 63129

Please make check out to Dave Reinheimer

Dave Reinheimer - President
Walter Bouman - Vice President
Bob Worrall - Treasurer
Gene Fry - Secretary
Leo Flory - Sergeant At Arms