

In Memory Of

This section is for the members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one of their fallen comrades. In some cases the name of the sponsor will precede the name of the person who was KIA, or has passed on since Vietnam.

Jack Benedick 4th/47th 66-68 C Co., 3rd/60th 69
Jack Benedick for Cpt. John Hopkins C Co.,
4th/47th KIA 5-6-68
Henry Argon B Co., 2nd/47th Inf. KIA 1967
Jerry Capol for all A Co., 3rd/39th Inf
Andy O'Mara for Monte DeVere 9th MP KIA 1-
10-70 & Jonathan Lamm KIA 2-11-70
Robert Stumpf for Joseph Reese E Co., 3rd/
60th Inf. KIA 4-7-68
Larry Alushin USS White River LSMR 536
Jim Toney for Harold H. Hunter E Co., 3rd/60th
Inf. KIA 1-27-69 & John T. Lynn E Co.,
3rd/60th Inf. KIA 7-21-68
James J. Byrnes for members of the *Junk
Force*, Dung Island
David Lynn for Harold F. Burns / Robert L.
Bouchet, Herman A. Miller KIA 8-11-68
IUWG-1-3 Qui-Nhon

James Roselli for Mark Schoenberger B Co.,
3rd/39th Inf.
Capt. Peveril Blundell, USN Ret. For Paul
Wolfgang, RivAstSqd-13
Harley G. Timmerman, For Jerry Sessions
RivRon-13 T-132-10
MS. Neal A. Now For Captain John G. Now
USN Ret. ComRivFlot-One
Paul De Nicola B Co., 3rd/60th for Alex Radisa
PCFs 55-19
Charles Kaiser for Father CWO Charles M/
Kaiser 9th Inf. Div WW-11
Lt/JG Robert B. Conaty XO RivDiv-131 69-69
For Paul Wolfgang RivAstSqd-13,
Sara & Al Moore For John Isaac Associate
Member
Roy Moseman For Oscar Santiago
C Co., 4th/47th

TAPS... Those Gone But Not Forgotten

William Blouse passed away on March 20 of this year from kidney cancer. William served in TF-117 in 1966. You may contact the family c/o Glenda Blouse, 2264 Locust Ln., York, PA 17404.

Monte "Rip" Swenson 1st Plt., B Co., 2nd/47th (Mech) 68-69 passed away on June 22, 2001 after suffering a heart attack. Monte was buried with full military honors at the VA Cemetery in Bismark, ND. You

may contact the family c/o 10351 S. Hwy. 1804, Bismark, ND 96819.

Capt. Charles Edward Miller, B Co., 2nd/47th (Mech) 69-70, passed away on June 28, 2001 after suffering a heart attack. Capt. Miller was buried with full military honors in the VA cemetery in Johnson City, TN. You may contact the family c/o 500 East Hobson Ave., Johnson City, TN 37601-4000.

Hollis C. Smith "Smitty", MR2 passed away on 7-27-94 in Beaumont, TX. Smitty served on the USS Krishna, ARL-38, 1970-71.

Operation Coronado IX

From the Old Reliable, Vol. 1, No. 50, Dec. 20, 1967...

The 5TH Vietnamese Marine Battalion and two battalions of the 2ND Brigade's Mobile Riverine Force destroyed the Viet Cong 502ND Local Force Battalion killing 250 with a well executed riverine strike during Operation Coronado IX on the Rach Ruong Canal in eastern Kien Puong Province on December 4.

The engagement began about 8 am when the Marine Battalion was fired on from the bank of the canal while moving north on Armored Troop Carriers of Task Force 117.

Reacting immediately, the Marines stormed ashore directly on the enemy canal bank positions. The rest of the battalion then landed north of the main enemy force. With the Marines committed, the 2ND Brigade's 3RD Battalion, 47TH Infantry debarked from ATCs south of the battle.

While Navy monitors screened on the canal, the 4TH Battalion 47TH Infantry was air mobilized to the west flank of the VC force, completing the encirclement. The fighting ranged from heavy to light contact throughout the day. At one point in mid-afternoon the Marines assaulted and overran an enemy strongpoint killing 100 of the desperate defenders.

Enemy resistance was crushed by the end of the first day with the Marines counting 158 enemy bodies. Helicopter gunships, which raked the VC fortifications with rockets and mini-gun fire, were credited with 48. The two infantry battalions, Naval ships and the 3RD Battalion 34TH Arty scored an additional body count.

The Air Force supported the operation with 20 strikes during the engagement and seven the following day. Preliminary bomb damage reports listed 33 bunkers and 25 structures destroyed. The 2ND Brigade lost 9 infantrymen KIA and 63 wounded, while Navy losses were two killed and 32 wounded. The Vietnamese had moderate casualties.

MRFA Get Well Wishes to:

Gerry Meehan, wife of member 'Big' Jim Meehan has been under the weather and in the hospital. Cards and/or email may be sent to: Jim & Gerry Meehan, 3080 S.W. Shadow Lane, Palm City, FL 34990; phone 561-287-4361, or email: jemtug@earthlink.net.

Jenn George, wife of member Jim George has been under the weather and is in the hospital. You may contact them at 1106 Grove Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48067, or phone 248-545-8624.

The Association sends it's thoughts and prayers to both Jenn and Gerry.

Rach Kien 3/39TH

Verified reports from a VC suspect detained by 9th Division soldiers here upped the enemy death toll from 10 to 44 for a May 31 battle.

The casualty figure was revealed by an elderly man detained by the 3rd Battalion 39th Infantry. The suspect admitted that the Viet Cong dug 11 graves in a concealed area one mile west of Rach Kien and placed four VC bodies into each grave.

Company A, who was dispatched to check out the man's story, verified the report. "The battalion had a fierce battle in the area," said Captain Ronald E. Morrison of Fort Atkinson, WI Battalion Intelligence officer. "We also had a report (at the time) from a prisoner of war that 40 to 50 enemy were killed in that action."

But the report went unconfirmed until this week. The 44 VC KIA were credited to the combined efforts of the 3rd Battalion, 39th Inf. Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery; Air Force jet Strikes and Army helicopter gunships.

American casualties in the battle were seven wounded. *This information was furnished by Dennis Valy.*

2002 Reunion June 27-30 at the Hanalei Hotel in San Diego, California

The Association will be holding it's 2002 Reunion at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel in Mission Valley. Room rates are \$99.00 per night. These rates are good three days prior to the reunion, and three days following the reunion. Start making your reservation and plans ASAP by calling 1-800-882-0858. Be sure to mention you're making your reservations under the MRFA, our group booking number is 2755. There will be more information in the upcoming issues of *River Currents*. There will be a dedication ceremony for CCB-18 on Saturday June 29, at 1300 hrs. at the Naval Base at Coronado, with guest speakers from the MRF TF-117 and the 9th Infantry Division. Since Coronado is a closed base we'll have to use a shuttle service to get on and off base. For the ceremony, the cost will be \$10 per person. There will also be a reunion registration fee of \$25 per member. This fee covers the member and his guest.

Those of you who do not want to take part in the ceremony do not have to do so. The reunion is open to all members of the MRFA and the 9th Infantry Division, no matter what unit you served with.

For more information on the reunion you may contact one of the following:

- **Roy Moseman**, 180 Riverview Rd., Athens, GA 30606; phone 706-549-0749, or email rmoseman@aol.com.
- **Bob VanDruff**, 2906 Starlite Dr., Topeka, KS. 66605; tel. 785-267-1526, email bvdmrfa@networksplus.net.
- **Albert Moore**, 106 Belleview Dr., Conover, NC 28613; 828-464-7228, or email mrfa@charter.net.
- **Jim Toney**, Box 94, Bromide, OK 74530; phone 580-638-2353, or email jimtoney@tds.net.
- **Bob Pries**, 9702 Friartuck Dr., West Chester, OH; phone 513-755-1223, or email bpries@cinci.rr.com.
- **Jim Meehan**, 3080 SW Shadow Ln., Palm City, FL 34990; phone 560-287-4361; email jemtug@earthlink.net.
- If you need more info on the hotel contact Sales Manager **Marla St. Clair** at 1-800-700-3328.

This is a full reunion not a mini reunion. You can check out the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel online too; their address is www.hanaleihotel.com. For those of you interested in an individual unit hospitality room, please contact Marla St. Clair at the above phone number. The Hotel is located conveniently in Mission Valley (hotel circle) with easy access to the airport, Old Town, Sea World, Qualcomm Stadium, Balboa Park, beaches and other San Diego attractions. Within walking distance to fashion Valley Mall featuring over 140 specialty shops and restaurants; and the Old Town Trolley boards in front of hotel. The Hotel features: complimentary shuttle to and from Fashion Valley Shopping Center, Old Town and San Diego Metropolitan Trolley Depot; a large heated outdoor pool & spa, coin operated laundry facilities; they also have a gift shop, fitness center, room service and valet service. The have two restaurants: the Peacock Café serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and Islands Restaurant & Lounge, serving American and Pacific Rim Cuisine. They have a convenient business center. Rooms feature coffee makers, hair dryers, data ports, iron & ironing boards.

Pet Policy Red Lion Hanalei: \$50.00 cash deposit or a \$50.00 hold on a major credit card; the fee will be refunded if the carpets and room are in order.

Weather: the weather is ideal year around with average temperatures between 70 and 75 Fahrenheit.

For more information on the area please contact the San Diego Convention Bureau at 1-800-221-2818.