



22nd Infantry Regiment Society

Deeds Not Words



Regulars by God



3-2023

July 2023



**President's
Corner
July 2023
Mark S.
Woempner**



"Deeds Not
Words"
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Team,
I am so pumped with the turnout during our Reunion in May. We had nearly 50 Iraq/Afghan members attend.

We had as many Vietnam team members also, and most importantly nearly 30 spouses! **Lon Oakley, Skip Fahel, Martin Oelklaus, and Bob Babcock** really treated us to a singularly outstanding 22nd Infantry Regiment Reunion. They "ham and egged" it for all the coordination, preparation, and most importantly execution. I want to publicly thank Lon for stepping in to assist Bob in the final coordination details and leading to a successful event, You Rock!! Martin is the foundation of every Reunion with controlling the money, registering the people, name tags and kept Lon (Execution) from bouncing off the ceiling! As always, we have leaned on Skip for our hotel coordination and contracts. Joe, thank you for coordinating for **LTG(R) Garrett** as our guest speaker, he was

amazing! It takes so many contributors to make a reunion happen: Fund raisers (ticket sales), Prize creators and contributors for our blind raffle (this year was the year of the cutting board!). So many prizes, I lost my voice "again"...

Lon organized an amazing taps ceremony at our monument. I was personally - deeply moved. Find the MP4 videos at our 22nd Infantry websites – they are posted. We broke them down into 4 pieces - so view them in order. We had new winners at the golf tournament, **Jim Lally** (sorry Chuck – your dominance may be at an end!). We reeled in one of our Iron Majors from Iraq and he brought a gift for all attendees with the book he and his father wrote (Solid steps through shifting sand), a story of the great post WWII American immigration. The hardship and personal tragedy suffered by so many is expressed so eloquently in this book (a great read!). Thank you, **Mike Rauhut!** The formal dinner inside the National Infantry Museum directly under the last 100 yards display was spectacular! The food was good too...

I hope everyone enjoyed visiting the post. I really enjoyed firing weapons in the training simulator building, although I think in almost every case the spouses out shot their husbands! Driving by the Airborne school 34- and 250-foot towers brought back memories of my youth, as I

attended airborne school as an 18-year-old in the summer of 1979. As did our drive by the Ranger school at Darby. We ate at the OCS dining facility; I do not remember food being so good when I was stationed at Fort Benning (soldiers these days don't know how damn lucky they are...). We did suffer through a bus breakdown at NIM at the end of the tour, but the group handled the inconvenience with alacrity. I am so proud to be part of this organization. Every reunion I attend, it renews my faith in life and the pursuit of happiness. The experiences of camaraderie, lively conversation, and Love leaves me refreshed and ready to live another eighteen months until our next meeting. Lon, thank you so much for your leadership, energy, and execution skills of herding 140 "kitties"!

We have a new Registrar – **Bruce Kosmicki!** I can tell already he will be an excellent replacement for **Brad Hull** as we transition leadership roles to the next generation. We presented



Brad and Martin with service awards at our buffet dinner on Friday. I think we have also found Martin's replacement in **Justen Burns** for treasurer.

These are



big shoes to fill, so we may keep tabs on Martin until the transition is complete and possibly to help us organize for the Nashville reunion in the Fall of 2024. Speaking of the 2024 reunion, Joe Dichario (his wife) has already begun coordination for the Nashville reunion! I know Carrie is excited to make the trip to Nashville fall 2024.

You will also see we've made a few adjustments to the Leadership team; we're welcoming **CSM(R) Mike Evans** as our VP of WWII and Cold War (as he had a chance to deploy into Panama in the 90s). We already tasked him to insert an interesting day in the life of Iraq in this newsletter. We're including the Organization's Director and Officer update as an attachment to keep everyone up to speed on who to contact in the organization. For those folks that didn't attend the reunion to view the treasurers, scholarship, and registrars report we have included them in this newsletter keeping you up to speed. We sent out life membership cards to all our members (wow, that was a lot more work than I thought it would be); I am working to purchase a credit card printer to continue providing membership cards to new members and make corrections to those already created (incorrectly).

Triple Deuce (our active Battalion) has a couple of upcoming activities, the Courage Ball is scheduled for 21 July and the 2/22 Organization Day is on the calendar for 31 August. Both are located in the vicinity of Ft Drum, NY, If you are interested in attending either of these events as an "Old Goat" please contact either **Dave Thomas** or **Jim May** (see their contact information on the Directors and Officer listing attached)

I think that gets everyone up to date from April. I am so thankful to be surrounded by American Patriots and freedom fighters! Freedom is not Free, is paid for with the blood of the current generation holding the baton to keep this country free. As always, I want to thank my heroes, the Vietnam warriors that made it so that when I returned from war the folks in the airport thanked me for my service – without you, my life experience

would be much different. "Deeds Not Words"!!

A 22nd Infantry Soldier awarded the Silver Star in Vietnam

James Allen Cran was born in Dodge County, Minnesota on January 7, 1941. He first enlisted in the Army in 1961 and his last date of re-enlistment was January 28, 1965. He was single and his home of residence was listed as Hayfield, Dodge County, Minnesota. His religion was indicated as Catholic. He deployed to Vietnam on February 16, 1967 and was assigned to Company A 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry 4th Infantry Division.

He was killed in action on March 14, 1967, in a battle between Company A 1/22 Infantry and North Vietnamese Army forces, during Operation Sam Houston, at grid reference YA600587, approximately 26 kilometers west of Plei Djereng airfield in Kontum Province. During that fight Company A lost 17 soldiers killed in action and 27 soldiers wounded in action.

Cran was awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day. His citation read:
"HEADQUARTERS 4TH INFANTRY
DIVISION APO San Francisco 96262 General
Orders No. 1846 (July 9, 1967)

TC 320: The following AWARD is announced posthumously:

CRAN, JAMES A.
RA19***** PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS E-3
United States Army Co
A, 1st Bn, 22d Inf, 4th
Inf Div, APO 96262
Awarded: Silver Star
Date action: 14 March
1967



Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 14 March 1967, while serving as a Rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry.
On this date, Company A was conducting a search and destroy operation west of Pleiku,

Republic of Vietnam, when the lead element of the company came under intense enemy fire. Failing to penetrate the lead element, the enemy shifted their attack to the rear in an attempt to envelop the company. Private First Class Cran's fire team, being the rear element, fought valiantly to prevent the enemy from breaking through.

As the hostile force began massive human wave attacks upon the company, Private First Class Cran picked up a radio from a fallen comrade and called for assistance. When the enemy heard his voice, they concentrated their attacks on his position. Five enemy soldiers rushed the fire team but were eliminated when Private First Class Cran countered with a heavy volume of fire. Unable to get help, he took up a position from behind a log, only to be attacked by another enemy soldier. Private First Class Cran again defended himself successfully and continued to carry on the fight with unparalleled determination and bravery. When morning came, his comrades found him lying mortally wounded, along with four of the enemy he had eliminated.

His supreme sacrifice, a consequence of his matchless gallantry and unyielding dedication to duty, is in keeping with the loftiest traditions of the American Soldier and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

James A. Cran is buried in Plot J Grave 1675, Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. His name is engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. on Panel 16E Line 76.

Michael Belis DMOR

Private First Class Nicholas Cournoyer Highway

On May 3, 2023, Governor Sununu signed HB 189 into legislation and it took effect upon its passage.

An Act renaming a portion of Route 140 in Gilmanton in honor of **Private First Class Nicholas Cournoyer**.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three AN ACT renaming a portion of Route 140 in Gilmanton in honor of **Private First Class Nicholas Cournoyer**.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened: Town of Gilmanton; **Private First Class Nicholas Cournoyer Highway**. Pursuant to RSA 4:43, the portion of Route 140 in Gilmanton from the Belmont town line to the intersection with Route 107 shall be named the Private First Class Nicholas Cournoyer Highway. **Senator James Gray** released the following statement:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to honor and commemorate the service of Private First Class Nicholas Cournoyer, who lost his life while protecting our freedoms," stated Senator Gray.

"Private Cournoyer was tragically killed in action when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated during combat while service with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 10th Mountain Division. He is a decorated soldier having received a Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. HB 189 memorializes the bravery of his service and ultimate sacrifice through the renaming of a portion of Route 140 in Gilmanton, New Hampshire."

2024 Scholarships

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 Scholarship. Requirements for scholarship:

- A. Served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment.
- B. Be a direct relation (son, daughter, or

grandchild of person that served with 22nd Infantry Regiment. (To include legally adoptive child)

C. Be an active member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, with five (5) years of current active membership. Deceased must have had five (5) of active membership.

Applications should be received by **July 31, 2024**

Skip Fahel, DMOR

Operation: "You've got to be kidding me"

The events to unfold were to the best of my memory, albeit I'm sure I will get several folks who were with me to disagree on a few items, but here we go.

June 24, 20003 was the date most in the Birthday Palace will recall from Charlie Co 1-22 IN stationed in Tikrit, Iraq as a "You've got to be kidding me" moment.

As I recall, it was just before lunch. It was a hot typical day in Iraq, nearing 105 at best if not already hotter. Somewhat of a rather slow day for the team. The unit was doing maintenance on our vehicles and weapons after being out most of the night conducting raids on key targets and canvassing the city seeking out those who want to do harm.

Out of the blue, we heard sporadic fire to the east of our compound. Believe they were hoping to coax us out into the open. It was from an AK-47 being fired from the rear of the Birthday Place where C Co 1-22 IN and A Co FSC were located. There was a brick building, possibly a former home or business that was just a mere shell of cinder block frame, with a concrete roof behind the birthday palace some 250 meters away. The field was open and poised no real threat to us from our building. We had initially cleared it upon our arrival and continued to do so from time to time. Even going as far as having a fire team rotate during the evening in overwatch from inside it, hoping to catch a cruel minded insurgent wanting to meet his

maker. All in all, it posed no threat to us. Today was different though, and it would be the last of said building.

Today, there were nearly 8-10 insurgents milling around inside and out. Let me set the conditions for the not so smart insurgents.....we had an M113 APC facing out at the rear of the building with a M2-50 caliber machine gun mounted on top. Immediately to the left was the commanders M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle. To the right some 20 meters away from the M113 was a tri-pod mounted MK-19 40mm grenade launcher. Not to mention inside our compound were nearly 100+ Infantryman waiting to unload a can of whoop ass on anyone daring enough to challenge them, as well as security on top of the building in overwatch. Additionally, A FSC was to the building to our left with over another 100+ Soldiers. One lone gunman decided it would be a great idea to fire his AK-47 towards the rear of our building. Here's where the fun starts.

In seconds, there were nearly 25-30 members of C Co out back determining where the fire was coming from and had already simultaneously begun to return fire with various weapons systems, to include small arms, 203s, and the Mk-19. More were flowing out in record time to take up positions to engage. A typical battle drill was in full effect. A Co FSC had even joined in on the fun by assembling some 10-15 Soldiers to our left with their M16s/M4s on the far-left berm behind the compound.



I recall our fearless commander, **CPT Brad Boyd**, thought it would be a great idea to stand on his BFV, fully exposed, and observe the situation with a pair of binoculars, while wearing no body armor or helmet, attempting to gain a better situational awareness to then direct forces. It was a sight to see! **SSG Patrick McDermott**, the company Master Gunner had already begun to send a burst of 25mm rounds from the BFV into the building where the assailants were located.

Our M2 50cal on the M113 was immediately out of the fight due to excessive dust/dirt. (It happens.) I occupied the Mk-19 position along with; I believe, **PFC Sergio Cardenas** who served as my driver and began to direct his fire toward the building. After yelling at Brad to get the hell down and regaining my composure from laughing hysterically by seeing him up there in such grand fashion, we began to immediately maneuver forces from inside the compound with **SSG James Parker** leading with two BFVs from his platoon as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) element with an Infantrymen squad. I yelled for **PFC Rodrigo Vargas** and **PFC Bryon Foster** over with their M240B machine gun and had them begin to engage the target area as well. **PFC Samuel Siqueido** grabbed another M240 MG and dropped to one knee, firing the beast at the building as well as from his shoulder.

Simultaneously, **SPC Omar Vargas** was already on the radio providing updates to the BN TOC who, as I recall, refused to believe we were being engaged until the sounds of the 25mm began to erupt from across the city!

I recall hearing that a young female soldier from the FSC came over asking for their Commander/1SG if we were just doing target practice or not. "No," she was told, "this was the real deal and to get down." Hilarious!

At the back of the compound, SSG Parkers BFVs had already made their way outside of the compound and had rounded the back corner, crossing into the open field on the

southeast corner engaging with direct fire from their 25mm main guns in amazing fashion. As they did, they immediately began to receive fire from the house. I recall they were previously loaded with DU rounds for some of the Armor threats we were expected to engage on the drive up from Baghdad. To be clear, that's Depleted Uranium ammunition designed for armor piercing. Let's just say it went through concrete like a knife slicing butter. It was quit the magical sight, I must say, to observe.

As Parker's Infantry began to maneuver to assault the house, a lone gunman attempted to make his way to the white Nissan pickup truck. CPT Boyd ordered his gunner, SSG McDermott to engage and destroy the pickup truck. It immediately burst into flames. The lone insurgent then changed his direction just in time and was shot in the chest by one of Parker's Infantryman. CPT Boyd and I then made our way to link in with Parker's element. As we approached, another insurgent came out with his hands raised and immediately dropped to his knees to surrender. He was flex cuffed, along with several others, but the fighting continued.



Several had made their way out of the building through the dust and avenues that prevented us from seeing them and were covered by their own supporting fires. Rounds were now hitting the concrete building as well as towards our compound, followed by several RPG rockets. Luckily, they were not a good shot. Parker's team continued to engage until Brad called out a "Cease Fire," not wanting to add to the collateral damage to the homes in the area. We surely would have leveled it all, had he not.

Additional forces from the Birthday Palace had already made their way to the open field to add additional forces to support Brad and Parker's elements. 2nd Platoon's Platoon

Sergeant, **SFC Stephen Yslas**, had two more BFVs to reinforce. With covering fire positioned, Brad moved with Parker's element to HWY 1 in hopes of maintaining contact with the insurgents. Unfortunately, several of the insurgents had fled unharmed.

In the end, the firing was over. The results were one enemy dead, two more wounded, and the remaining surrendered. Oh, and a Nissan Truck left smoldering and out of use. The company performed it's 'react to contact' battle drill flawlessly and in perfect form. No C Co Soldiers were injured and all eagerly awaited the next fight.

Pictures to help explain:

CSM[R] Mike Evans
Then 1SG C Co 1-22

2023 Reunion, Columbus GA.

As many of you are aware, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society reunions open with the carving of the Hemingway Turkey. We were fortunate to have **Bob Babcock, Bravo Co., 1/22, 66-67** present to conduct the opening. I write "fortunate" because Bob had open heart surgery earlier this year and it was doubtful that he would be present at the reunion. Well, he made it, but only for a short while and only because his daughter, **Krissie Babcock**, a Registered Nurse, came along to keep Bob in line. Bob's stay was a short one, he had to return home on Friday morning. But, true to form, Bob was waiting outside the hotel on Friday morning greeting the attendees as they boarded the buses for the Ft Benning visit (name officially changed to Fort Moore in early May 2023. but to most reading this, it will always be Ft Benning, so we will continue to call it Ft Benning). I'll pause here to thank Bob for making the effort. And offering my thanks to Krissie for making it possible for Bob to attend.

This reunion's Hemingway Turkey was unlike any other in the History of reunion openings. Bob's health concerns left us without a reunion sponsor until **Lon Oakley**,

Alpha Co., 2/22, 1969 stepped up and took on all the responsibilities involved with running a proper reunion. About a week before the reunion was to begin, Lon received a call from the hotel staff informing him that they had searched high and low and could not find a Hemingway Turkey. This is laughable now but caused some concern at the time. Lon explained that the Hemingway Turkey was not a brand or type of turkey but simply a smoked turkey. That appeared to clear-up the confusion until the smoked turkey was presented at the opening ceremony. While a



Just like that, the turkey turned in a chicken!

definitive answer was not found, Bob found

himself looking down at what appeared to be a rather average size chicken that had been dyed with food color to make it look like it had been smoked. Lon made the comment that he would never live this down and would forever be remembered as the man responsible for the Hemingway Hen. He was and remains correct.

Good News is that Bob was not deterred by the Hemingway Hen and went forward to explain the meaning of the Hemingway Turkey to all so that those who were attending their first reunion would understand what was happening. Bob also explained how the early days of the Society began and the changes and growth that have taken place over the years. This year, **Bill Allison, Charlie Co., 2/22 1967-1968** was the oldest Member in attendance and **Tyler Hood, Cold Steel/Cobra Co., 1/22 2003-2004** was the youngest Member in attendance, so they joined in following tradition in the carving of what passed for the "Hemingway Turkey."

I'll back up here and mention that many of us who had arrived on Wednesday met up at a pub in Columbus where we were joined by

LTC Adam Armstrong, CO 2/22, 10th MTN, 2021-2022 who was attending a Ranger event at Ft Benning. Some food and a lot of beer was consumed. You may remember that LTC Armstrong attended the Dallas reunion. He is in every way the Super Soldier that will help bring the Army out of the malaise it is presently in.

There are no events scheduled for Thursday evening after the reunion opening so, as usual, many attendees go out to local restaurants. Gail and I joined **Mark and Carrie Woempner, BN CO, 1/22, 2001-2003, John Poggi, Charlie Co., 2/22, 1969 and Joe Dichairo, BN CO, 2/22, 2002-2004** and went to EPIC Restaurant in Columbus. This was dining at its best. And the wine drinkers at the table assured me that EPIC's wine cellar provided the finest wines.

Friday morning, as mentioned, saw the attendees loading onto buses for a day long visit to Ft Benning. Our first stop was a visit with **2/47 Inf, 198th Infantry Brigade** where we were exposed to and participated in weapons training. Today's Soldiers train on



and become proficient in Infantry weapons on computer driven ranges. No live ammo. Soldiers 'fire' weapons that recoil and show where their rounds hit targets. The system is so sophisticated that it



provides info on what the Soldier is doing either correctly or incorrectly. We were all very impressed by what we were seeing and doing. We 'fired' the M-17 pistol, the M-4 Carbine and the SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) machinegun. I

will make note here that Gail, yes my wife, shot a 25 out of 25 on the SAW. She also did quite well with the M-4. I'll let her try my AR out on my home range and report on her scores.

Our next stop was a DFAC (Dining Facility), no more Mess Halls. Everyone eats together. No more DRO's serving Officers and NCO's. More important, there are choices of what one can order. Things have changed. There was an OCS Class at the DFAC and while they were well behaved, they were not eating "square meals" and there were no Senior Candidates or TAC Officers harassing Candidates during their meals. The absence of Candidates doing push-ups alongside dining tables tells me that things have changed.

We left the DFAC and went to the Armor Museum. Armor Branch is no longer centered at Ft Knox, it is now at Ft Benning (Ft Moore). There are a number of reasons for the change, the most important is the Combined Arms methods the Army trains for in these times. Now back to the Museum. We saw WW I Tanks, WW II Sherman Tanks, Russian T-34 Tanks, German Panzers and Tiger Tanks, and French Renault Tanks. I'm sure I'm not mentioning all that we saw. We were told that there were other tanks being restored. I asked how it was possible for Abrams Tanks to practice firing at Ft Benning (Ft Moore) and was told that the Army had recently purchased an additional 77,000 acres to accommodate the Armor School.

When we finished our visit at the Armor Museum we boarded the buses and headed to the NIM Walk of Honor. Lon Oakley will pick up the story at this point.

Jim May, HOMR
Prov. Co. 1968

All Wars Monument Ceremony

On Friday the we gathered at the 22nd Infantry Regiment All Wars Monument on grounds of the National Infantry Museum's WALK OF HONOR. The event began with

observance of Military Retreat Ceremony to include "To The Colors" bugle calls.

After Retreat ceremony was completed next was the official program honoring the 22nd Infantry Regiment's 20th Anniversary of the deployment of the 1/22nd INF to Iraq and the 2/22nd INF to Afghanistan. Leadership from both deployments provided brief comments on the importance of those deployments and how it shaped the lives of so many present at the ceremony. Speakers included **Col(R) Joe Dichario, Col(R) Kevin Brown, LTC(R) Mark Woempner, LTC(R) Steve Russell and CSM(R) Pete Martinez.**

Col(R) Joe Dichario then explained to the audience how we were observing the "Solemn Tolls" Bell service. He noted this is a customary event at funerals and memorial services conducted for a veteran. The Bell Guard (**Lon Oakley**) assisted as the bell was tolled seven times, with seven seconds between each toll. The seven tolls represent the many stages in a veterans life. Each toll has a specific meaning.



*Bell Toll One- **The choice to serve.*** A willingness to sacrifice, if needed, their life in defense of country.

*Bell Toll Two- **Camaraderie*** The friendships, family and unity that bond all service members together.

*Bell Toll Three- **Patriotism*** Pride in their country and a duty to protect it and celebrating the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

*Bell Toll Four- **Respect*** The respect given to a veteran by their community, earned by them and owed by us to their service.

*Bell Toll Five- **Dignity*** The dignity with which a community treats their fallen heroes.

*Bell Toll Six- **Honor*** The honor that is due to a veteran when they have died, given by their fellow service members and community.

*Bell Toll Seven- **The Value of Life*** The ultimate sacrifice the veteran has made. Whether killed in action, or after long years of quiet service, the value of a veteran cannot be adequately described by words alone.

The Solemn Toll portion of the Retreat ceremony was followed by the reading of the Regiment's fallen from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Names were read by former Battalion leadership just as they appear on the All Wars Monument.

A fitting end to the memorial ceremony was the bugle playing of taps by **Ken Schulte**.

Lon Oakley, DMOR

Regiment Society Banquet National Infantry Museum

Saturday evening May 20, 2023 the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society enjoyed the Reunion Banquet in Cavezza Hall at the National Infantry Museum (NIM).

The evening was one of camaraderie to go along with a superb meal provided by NIM banquet servers in a setting befitting all combat warriors in attendance.

As society members entered the main NIM hall they were treated with moving through the internationally acclaimed and museum signature exhibit "The Last Hundred Yards". The display calls attention to the bravery of Infantrymen from the Revolutionary War (Yorktown) up to and including the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Of particular interest is the last exhibit, the M-2 A2 Bravo 1-4 Bradley Fighting Vehicle which was in 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry 4th Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in 2003. Members of 1/22 fondly remembered **Sgt James E. Powell's** ultimate sacrifice one October morning in 2003. The vehicle was dedicated to NIM in June 2007.

After the colors were posted and toasts were raised (highlighted by **Jim May's** traditional "to the Lovely Ladies" delivery) by members of the Regiment, the evening settled into recognition of Honorary and Distinguished Members of the Regiment inducted in 2023. Those awardees included:

HMOR **LTG (R) William Garrett III**

HMOR **LTC (R) Frank Lacitignola**

DMOR **Col (R) Kevin Brown**

DMOR **John Poggi**



Guest Speaker for the banquet was former Deputy Commander of United States European Command and Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Forces Command, **LTG (R) William Garrett III**. He was also former 1st

Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Ft Drum NY where many former members of the Regiment served under his command.

Other honored guests included Ft Benning/Moore Installation Commander **Colonel Colin Mahle** and his wife **Charsley**. **Mahle** was 2/22 Infantry Executive Officer under then **LTC Rob Schexnayder** at Ft Drum, NY He hosted several of the OLD GOATS SQUAD at Ft Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center "TIGERLAND" during his tour as XO. Despite that black mark on his career resume he has still risen to rank of Colonel and oversees Ft Benning/Moore, GA.

As dinner concluded the buses arrived and the attendees were off to return to the hotel hospitality room to partake in the every famous "Winner...Winner...Chicken Dinner Regiment Society Raffle conducted by Mark as only he can. Of noteworthy mention coming out of the raffle was the superb job by **Bill Bukovec, Mark Petrino** and **Gail May** to raise just short of \$1000 for the Awb Norris Scholarship Fund. Hats off to the 50/50 Raffle winner active duty **SFC Sergio Cardenas** of Ft Moore (former tours with 1/22 and 2/22) who donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund.

DEEDS NOT WORDS!!

Lon Oakley, DMOR

Memorial Service

The final day of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society was highlighted by the emotional message delivered by former 2/22 Battalion, C Company Commander, **Col (R) Bill Allison**. He shared his personal message from the first trying days as commander of a unit full of replacements and low morale. Those around him called attention to his leadership and faith, in those dark days, that turned this event into a triumph before the end of his tour of duty. As always the memorial event concluded with the "by name"

recognition of the 22nd Infantry Regiment since the WWII.

Deeds Not Words

Jim Nelson Painting "Iron Triangle, Trapezoid"

Jim donated the painting to the National Infantry Museum. It was on display during the reunion. Bill Allison describes the action depicted in Jim's painting of action on November 25, 1967. The painting show Lt Skip Fahel [B2-22] and his RTO, Allen Zweig moving to aid C-2/22



Reunion Impression

Here are a few impressions following my visit with 22nd Infantry Regiment Veterans in Columbus.

As a summary, the trip was eventful from beginning to end. We had fun, we relaxed and for me personally, I learned of other's experiences not heard earlier. While I have been a member for years now, I gained a completely different appreciation for the value of reassembling with other Veterans. Of course, we had plenty of stories to refresh one another on but the essence of the reunion experience took on a completely different meaning for me personally as I learned about other Triple Deuce stories. To say we had a great time is truly an understatement.

While the interactions with fellow Vietnam Veterans was a highlight to be sure, getting to know those from the rest of the Regiment who served in Afghanistan and Iraq was an

even greater bonus. Getting to Columbus this year was personal. I served under **David Crocker**, truly one of the best commanders I ever served with. I spent time with Captain Crocker early the day he was killed and to this day, I sense the loss of this great Soldier.

On our final day, we had one of the most moving memorials I have ever witnessed. This 2nd memorial event, for me personally, carried a meaning truly beyond words. Attending the memorial activities with other family members from the 22nd Regiment made the experience even more meaningful.

Mark and his leadership team deserve the credit for introducing the reunion activities the way they did. It was, for me, a remarkable experience. There is no doubt, the 22nd Infantry Regiment stands among a few indeed in our Army's history

Roger C. Schultz.
A/HHC, 2/22 Inf, 1969

Tough Ruck 2023

Another Tough Ruck in the books. Awesome humbling event as always. A great day to remember our fallen and catch up with the warfighters. Thanks to everyone that supported



Supporting NATO

Soldiers assigned to Chaos Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment deployed to Finland in support of exercise Northern Forest 23. Exercise Northern Forest increases the US Army's readiness through individual and collective training in an alpine



environment by leveraging the expertise from our NATO partners and allies and allies.



SSG Michael H. Ollis 5K

This weekend, our Regulars were invited to Staten Island, NY to take part in the Ollis 5k Memorial Run on June 11, 2023. A huge thank you to the Staten Island FDNY for taking great care of them, and also to the Ollis family for hosting them at their home. **SSG Michael H. Ollis** of Bushmaster Company gave his life when he stepped into the path of an insurgent detonating a suicide vest, shielding Polish **LT Cierpica** from the blast, during an attack on FOB Ghazni on August 28th, 2013. Deeds!



Reunion 2023 Pictures





Lon Oakley, COL Colin Mahle, Jim May



Vietnam



Iraq / Afgan

Taps

SSG Coltin Bentley, from San Antonio, TX, passed away on May 11, 2023. SSG Bentley served with 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 10th Mountain Division for the last seven years.

Garry Larsen of Bowling Green, KY, passed away on May 16, 2023. Garry served with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division during the Cold War, 1990.

Charles J. [Chuck] Boyle, of Cottondale, AL, passed away on May 27, 2023. Chuck served with A & C Companies, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, 1967-68.

Stuart Eugene "Gene" Price, of Lothian, Maryland on June 6, 2023. Gene served with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, 1967-68.

Lest You Forget—What the 22nd Infantry Regiment Did for You:

1. Gave you the opportunity to serve your country in a proud and prestigious national unit.
2. Gave you buddies who stuck by you and helped you endure fear, horror, and hardship.
3. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.
4. Gave you treasured lifetime friends markedly improving the quality of your life.

MG (Ret) John F. Ruggles
Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

PX Items: Please go to the 22nd Infantry Regiment web site.

22nd Infantry Regiment Society
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