



1<sup>st</sup> Battalion-20<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
11<sup>th</sup> LIB ~ Americal Div.  
www.charlie1-20.org  
November 30, 2015  
Volume IX, Issue 1

## REUNION X ~ 2015

The **Tenth Annual Charlie Company Reunion** was held at the *Hilton Cincinnati Airport* in Florence, KY on June 5 & 6, 2015. We had 55 present and were happy to welcome Guy Thomas as a newcomer to the reunion. Friday's event was a **Coffee & Cookie Reception** and Saturday was the Charlie Company **golf** outing at *Boone Links GC* and the **ladies luncheon** at *Yesterday's Caf  & Tea Room*. Saturday night was our banquet, business meeting, Memorial Toast, awards and raffle winners. We did take a few pictures in case anyone was interested.



### FIRST PLATOON

**Standing:** Al Hammock.  
**Seated (L to R)** Mike Dove, Delton Watt, Richard Scott, Harry Benich, Richard Rey. John Loeb skipped out of the picture but was present.



### MORTARS

**L to R:** Eddie Daniels, Al Blosser, Royal Vannatta, David Craig



**SECOND PLATOON Standing:** (L to R) Guy Thomas, Dan Malin, Phil Sherwood, Mike Stinnett, Mike Yelenovic and Bryan Ciula. **Seated** (L to R) Dennis Roehrs, Nate Hutchinson, Mike Feltes, Mike Olshefski, Bud Vincent, Chuck Unterberger, Daniel Flores, and Andy Adam.



**THIRD PLATOON Standing:** (L to R) Chris Walker, Dwight Cole and Roland Watts. **Seated** (L to R) Chuck Welegala, Ronnie Ray, John Bottorff, Dave Wantland, and Tim McClaughry.

**Our Sympathy** to the families of:

**Daniel Malin, August 15, 2015**

**John Loeb, August 27, 2015**

**Christopher Walker, October 15, 2015**

**COMPANY FINANCES** - We began 2014-15 with a \$3292 balance and received dues of \$1000 and total donations of \$2570. Our expenses for the year were \$968 for the newsletters and \$1909 for reunion and other expenses. Our fiscal year ends with the reunion so in 2015-16 we

have already received \$20 dues from 37 veterans and donations of \$1753 (\$1235 was from the raffle alone). Our current balance is \$5935.46 but no expenses have been taken out yet.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** - Contact Mike Stinnett at (mike.stinnett@yahoo.com) 319 Antioch Road, Clarksville, TN 37040 (931) 647-8917 if you need information about our known contacts or have information about other vets not known to us, for comments about the newsletter, or suggestions for articles.

## REUNION I



**Prelude** ~ Bill Allen, Mike Feltes, Leonard Harootunian, Dan Malin and Keith Trace met at the Americal Reunion in Cleveland in 2001. The next year Bill, Dan and Trace met at a VN vets rally in Ohio and Duck and I also attended. It was four more years until we had our first official Charlie Company Reunion. During that time Dan and I were trying to find as many vets as possible. Dan had caught Bill Allen's vision of finding and meeting with our group again. Dan usually made the first call and some would be

upset they'd been found as it brought back so many memories. He would tell me about them and I would call a week or so later after a "cooling off" period when they didn't mind talking with us as much. However, some were like Joe Francomacaro... Jersey had been wondering if any of his friends were still alive and then was so thrilled he had heard from two of us within a week! Dan and I called it our "Mutt & Jeff" routine although we never established which of us was Mutt.

Ras and I were talking on the phone and Ras said we need to get together... I agreed. He then said you need to do it and "yeah, right" quickly came out. However, as time passed I started thinking "Why not? At least try." and later called Duck and asked if he could make it to Cincinnati mid June of 2006. When he said yes I emailed Dan telling him he was invited to the Duck/Teach reunion knowing full well at least he and Trace would show up!

**Event** ~ We met at Red Roof Inn June 16-18 with a total of 17 present. In the photo at Cracker Barrel you have all twelve vets present except for Keith Trace. We are sure he ate with us but weren't sure where he went afterward. Left to right is Dan Malin (Ohio), Wayne Rasmussen



(Ras), Ronnie Ray (Norton), Bryan Ciula (Rocky), David Watters (Duck), Chuck Unterberger (Underdog), Mike Stinnett (Teach) and Mike Yelenovic (Vic). Kneeling is Mike Feltes and Leonard Harootunian (Snake). Seated is Chuck Seketa, a captain from Delta but a great help in getting us together. He told us he'd be back..."I like you guys." That was certainly a compliment we appreciated.

Teresa Ray, Peggy Ciula, Ursula Yelenovic and Chuck's daughter were also present.

With our 10<sup>th</sup> reunion we have had 90 different veterans attend at least one time and this combo of vets has totaled 333 reunion visits. In addition 77 others have met with us... 61 ladies and various other friends and relatives. Many of the ladies have attended as often as their husbands and it has been good to see how the ladies have become friends and still look forward to seeing their Vietnam buddies each year!

The first reunion began as a way to see friends again. A lot of good things have come from these reunions and I've often said I wasn't smart enough to know that more was possible! It has been an enjoyable experience over these years seeing these friends and making new ones. I don't get to sit around the tables and reminisce as much as I'd have liked but I probably heard more of a different story as several came by and thanked us for having the reunions and what it meant to them. Wives too appreciated the chance to talk to other wives and compare "notes". They would also mention sometimes what the husbands wouldn't tell us... how they could see a change in them... for the better. You could watch and see the happiness as friends met again with someone they haven't seen in 40 years... listen to the laughter as they talked of times in VN... and watch the tears as we have our Memorial Toast to those KIAs who didn't finish their tours. Dan and I often watched as old friends were reunited and we would usually smile and say, "This is what it is all about!"

Hope to see you in 2016... same place, same time... first weekend in June (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)!