



1st Battalion-20th Infantry
11th LIB ~ Americal Div.
www.charlie1-20.org
November 11, 2024

REUNION XVIII ~ 2024

The **Eighteenth Charlie Company Reunion** was held at the *Hilton Cincinnati Airport* in Florence, KY on June 7 & 8. Fifty people attended this year. Vets attending (with the number of reunions attended) were: John Bottorff 17, Bryan Ciula 15, Dwight Cole 7, Eddie Daniels 10, Charles Doan 9, Mike Dove 14, Mike Feltes 17, Milt Houghton 13, James Matson 3, Tim McLaughry 13, Wayne Rasmussen 13, Ronnie Ray 18, Phil Sherwood 12, Mike Stinnett 18, James Taylor 8, Chuck Unterberger 14, Dave Wantland 13, Chuck Welegala 15, and Mike Yelenovic 15. There were no new vets attending this year so the count remains at 98 vets who have attended at least one reunion.

CHARLIE COMPANY ~ 2024



Front L-R: Chuck Unterberger, Mike Dove, John Bottorff, Dwight Cole, Jim Matson, and Chuck Welegala. *Eddie Daniels and James Taylor are not in the picture.*

Back L-R: Mike Stinnett, Dave Wantland, Milt Houghton, Tim McLaughry, Mike Yelenovic, Mike Feltes, Wayne Rasmussen, Bryan Ciula, Charlie Doan, Ronnie Ray, and Phil Sherwood.

CHARLIE'S ANGELS



Standing L-R: Kathy Matson, Lynn Bottorff, Patty Stinnett, Peggy Rasmussen, Peggy Ciula, Beverley Houghton, Susan Garrison, Carol McClaughry, Cindy Welegala, and Chris Dove.

Seated L-R: Sara Unterberger, Maggie Daniels, Ursula Yelenovic, Barb Feltes and Teresa Ray

We met several family members this year. Jim & Kathy's daughter, Jamie and grandsons Cooper & Lucas, returned. Liz sent daughter Sara in her place to accompany Chuck while driving from Minnesota and did a good job until meeting a deer in Illinois. Hunter Mike Feltes wanted to know if it was a buck or a doe. Dave came with his grandson Jack and missed all the wildlife as far as we know. Vic & Ursula's son Glen made it Saturday and Mike Dove was surprised to find Room Service had employed daughters Erin & Emily and grandchildren, Caleb, Emma Grace, Nathan, and Benjamin. Obviously we also welcomed Charmaine and family... husband Steve, Chris & daughter Sarah & granddaughter Josie. Chris & Steve barbequed the pork but didn't let us pay for it.

Some went on another BB Riverboats cruise Friday night and the ladies returned to the Tousey House for a luncheon Saturday while a group went to the Eden Park Vietnam Memorial in Cincinnati. The Board again approved the use of company funds to pay for Saturday's Banquet meal of barbeque pork and fried chicken with all the trimmings. The Hilton donated cheesecakes along with one free room night as a raffle item.

A preliminary financial report was given and approved at the Business Meeting. Future reunions and responsibilities were discussed and Dave Wantland stated he was editing Chuck Seketa's

Daily Reports to include just Charlie Company actions for the time he was in country and offered to share if anyone is interested.

FINANCIAL REPORT ~ 2023-2024

We began 2023 with Cash on Hand of \$800.67 and added Dues \$380 and Donations \$1690 for a Total Income of \$2870.67. Expenses for Newsletters \$371.19, Reunion \$1152.02 (mainly meal, \$700 and hospitality room for 3 nights, \$186.57), and Other Expenses \$489.06 (GoDaddy for our web site) gave us Total Expenses of \$2012.27 leaving us a balance for the fiscal year 2023-2024 of \$858.40. So far this year, 2024-2025, we have received \$380 in Dues in addition to Donations totaling \$1690 (\$1011 was from Raffle Tickets, \$250 from NKYCVB for holding our reunion in Northern Kentucky, and \$615 from individuals). Our current bank balance is \$3074.40.

CONTACT INFORMATION - Mike Stinnett at 319 Antioch Road, Clarksville, TN 37040 ~ (931) 647-8917 ~ (mike.stinnett@yahoo.com) for updates and questions.

REUNION XIX

2025's reunion will return to the *Hilton Cincinnati Airport* in Florence, KY on **June 6 and 7**. The discounted rate is \$129 and is good three days before and three days after the reunion. The cutoff date to make reservations in the block at the discounted rate is **Thursday, May 8th, 2025**. Any requests after this date are based upon availability and not guaranteed the group's discounted rate. The Reservation link and phone numbers are posted online.

Charmaine and Sarah have already been thinking of the menu for our banquet meal for next year. We will use two conference rooms for hospitality again unless we see a need to rent a larger hospitality room for Saturday night's activities. **SAVE THE DATES** and make your reservations. <charlie1-20.org/reunions>

PAST & FUTURE REUNIONS

Sometimes you step out and do something you've never done before as we did in 2006 and arranged our first reunion. We expected to be glad to see old friends from '67-'71 and that certainly happened so, no surprise there.

We have now completed 18 reunions with 98 vets attending at least one reunion and have paid for newsletters, a web site, and several gifts thanks to the generosity of many. These are all surprises; especially to those in that group of 12 vets who felt \$75 for a meeting room may not be necessary because of the low response to that first reunion.

Before our first time attending most of us also expected to experience feelings or emotions related to our time in Vietnam. Some may have expected it to be negative but to most of the attendees it became a place of learning and even a healing experience. It has been good to hear someone say they sleep better reunion weekends than any other time of the year.

Many have talked and heard things they may have forgotten or never knew, sometimes concerning what may have happened on one of the worst days of their lives. We have made new friends, as it is easy to do someone has walked and experienced what you have. Even

vets not attending the reunion have connected with friends because we have found names and addresses. We have been able to let some “see” themselves years ago because they never taken pictures or theirs were lost. We have several who have never attended a single reunion yet support the Association with donations and are proud of being a part of us.

Fortunately, when asked in '06 if wives could come, we were smart enough to include everyone. *Charlie's Angels* was just a TV show to us at that time but our *Charlie's Angels* became more than that. Bud's toast always included the ladies who were left at home while we were away and those who stuck with us after our return from Vietnam. We hope they see they are loved and appreciated and it often feels it is as much their reunion as it is ours.

We have found others have been interested in our group to the extent they will stop in and look at pictures and talk. A few Korean veterans and Vietnam veterans from other units and even current members of the military have stopped in and said, “Welcome Home”. Our favorite vet, of course, was Ms. Grace, a WWII Marine, who joined us for several reunions.

Meeting again doesn't mean everything is wonderful especially since 29 of the 98 attending a reunion have passed away. We are getting to an age where that is understandable but no less painful. However, being together again and realizing your impressions from a long time ago that these were good men, has been worth the effort.

We are thankful for all of those who have helped make our Association what it is and believe there are enough vets wanting to continue to meet to keep the reunions an ongoing event. This may be the last printed newsletter mailed because of cost and we send some by email and they are posted on our website. Please make sure we have a current email address. We are committed to maintaining our website. The Board will continue to try to keep us connected and we hope you will continue to join us however you can.