

William H. Vermillion / 3d Platoon

1. We are quote “retired” but working with a non-denominational mission, One Mission Society (OMS), in theological education. We live in a senior living place just south of Portland, Oregon in a small town in the Willamette Valley. The place is called Hope Village and we live in a small but very adequate garden home. This means we are free to travel, especially now that our folks are in heaven. However, my wife Diana of 49 years has lupus and several other bone issues, so while she travels internationally with me, she stays home usually when I am stateside. As travel has become more challenging for her, we are thinking of dialing back a bit after upcoming 2017 commitments. At least that is the goal for now.

2. After traveling and camping in the Southeast for ten days, I reported to Ft. Polk, Louisiana as a training officer. I then got orders for advisor training at Ft. Bragg with an onward assignment to Vietnamese language school at Ft. Bliss. In June, 1970 I found myself in Vietnam where I served with MACV, Advisory Team 98, Cong Thang District as an assistant Senior District Advisor until May 1971. After returning stateside, I continued in the Army Reserves while attending grad school.

3. I went back to the University of Washington and finished my MA and PhD and then felt called/led to seminary and did a Master of Divinity in pastoral counseling. I taught in a seminary and a university, pastored and served in denominational leadership until 2009. My assignments included a three-year stint in Russia serving as a rector at the One Mission Society (OMS) seminary there (2000-2003). Then in 2009 we came back with OMS to lead a team in theological education with 36 schools scattered around the world. The goal is for all schools to be indigenously owned, operated and staffed; 33 of the 36 are there and we’re working with the other three to help make that happen. In June 2015, I moved out of a leadership role in that effort. We now focus now on 4-5 schools: Indonesia, Philippines, Brazil and South Korea, and a recent effort in Nigeria and are also involved in stateside denominational schools, including a Korean school in Los Angeles.

4. OCS Memories? Washing the rocks, doing PT in combat boots (unlike today’s Army), keeping static displays in the foot locker, using Glo-Coat on the toes of the boots, having “wet bulb pauses” (when a dangerously high heat index stopped PT until the temperature went down to a “safe” level), and the honey buns, but the best of all was graduating!

William E. (Bill) Walles / 3d Platoon

1. My wife, Abby, and I just celebrated our fiftieth anniversary. I am pastor of New Wine Christian Church in Baytown, Texas, and Abby recently retired after teaching in public education for thirty-three years. We were blessed with two sons and two grandsons.

2. After OCS, I was assigned to Ft. Polk, Louisiana as a training officer. In 1970, I received orders for Vietnam where I was assigned to Delta Company 5/7, First Cavalry Division.

3. At the end of my tour, I returned to Houston and sold rubber and packing products to the oilfield industry. At age thirty-five, I surrendered to the ministry. We have served in Bridgeport, Texas for seven years and Baytown, Texas for the past twenty-eight years.

4. My favorite memories of OCS are turning blue and graduating. Even though it was a very difficult time, the leadership skills that I learned in OCS have been invaluable to me throughout my life.

Brian R. Walrath / 2d Platoon

1. I got married just a few days after graduating from OCS. My wife Dace and I are now retired and really enjoying it. We spend most of our time in the summer working in the yard; we've done a lot of landscaping over the years, but today it's mostly just keeping it up. I also volunteer once a week at a USO center where we assemble "care packages" for troops in the Middle East. We've done some travelling, mostly in the Western US and to visit several Civil War battlefields. Our biggest adventure was a trip to the Galapagos Islands a few years ago.

2. My first assignment was to Fort Carson, Colorado where I was stationed from August 1969 to June 1970. I was assigned to one of the few "straight leg" battalions in the 5th Mechanized Division, first as a platoon leader, then as battalion Property Book Officer (a bewildering job for a newly minted 2nd LT). In June, 1970 I went to Jungle School in Panama. (Everyone I've ever met who went there says the same thing: "If they had been shooting at me it would have been worse than Viet Nam.") [*Editor's Note: For Brian's story about Jungle School, see Part Three, Section Three.*] Then I was with MACV in Quang Tin Province, Vietnam from July 1970 to May 1971. The first half of my tour I was assigned to a Mobile Advisory Team working with the Regional and Popular Forces. For the last several months I was Assistant Operations Advisor. I got an early out in May 1971.

3. Since the Army I've lived in Northeastern Ohio and worked in various positions in the business world for companies both large and very small, including one start-up. Most of what I did was in Human Resources, primarily in areas related to employment. I spent the last twenty years in the outplacement and career coaching field. I also spent some time along the way working in the Placement Center at Kent State University (where I had received my undergraduate degree and, later, my MBA.)

4. It may seem corny after all these years, but for me the high point was when we “turned blue” and received a special ribbon (I can’t recall specifically what it was called, but it was for outstanding performance by the whole company) to put on our guidon staff. It made me feel that all our hard work had paid off. There are many other memories, mostly funny (at least now), and all stuff that nobody can understand unless they were there. Two shock reveilles (CPT Smith didn’t think one was enough for 50th Company), one of which I spent crawling up and down the hall inside my sleeping bag cover shouting “I am a worm.” Being poked by the man sitting beside me in class and then poking the guy on the other side so we all would stay awake (assuming the guy at the end of the row who was supposed to start the “ripple” hadn’t nodded off.) Getting two haircuts in one day because some joker said that we could let it grow a little longer. When we were allowed, buying Honey Buns during class breaks and ice cream on the firing ranges – even though we were freezing our rear ends off. At our variety show, a parody of LT Travaline – a helmet liner perched on top of a pair of spit shined boots. Of course, all these memories are subject to the ravages of 46 years. As Mark Twain said:

“When I was young, I could remember everything, whether it had happened or not. Now I am old, and I remember only the latter.”

Leonard (Len) B. Waring / 5th Platoon

1. My wife of 53 years, Suzanne, and I have two sons who are engineers and each have families. One lives in Anchorage, Alaska, and the other lives in Bozeman, Montana. Our main recreation has been traveling in our truck and camper to visit family. I hope life has been good to all of you as it has been for me. I won't be attending the reunion in the fall but am interested in reading about the group and hope everyone has a good time. If you are ever in Great Falls, give me a shout.

2. Nearing graduation, I applied for a branch transfer to the Signal Corps. Fellow 50th Company member, Jeff MacLeod and I went to Fort Gordon, Ga. and then on to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to learn about becoming Signal Corps officers. After that training I was sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas and then on to Nam. Upon arriving in Viet Nam and while waiting for transportation to a unit up north, Jeff MacLeod showed up and told me he had gotten my orders changed. I was to join him at 160th Signal Group HQ at Long Binh. He might have saved my life by doing so as it didn't sound good where I was originally supposed to go. I had a maintenance crew including five Vietnamese carpenters. We built and fixed infrastructure projects.

3. Upon returning to the U.S. I went back to teaching in Great Falls. I taught mainly machine shop and welding classes at one of the high schools here until 1993 at which time I went full time with my metalwork shop which I had been with part-time. I have done and continue to do many different types of metalwork jobs. Probably the

greatest percentage have been custom railings, gates, fences, etc. I also did inspection work for a local engineering firm and have taught welding classes for the local college and several businesses in town.

4. My friends from basic training and AIT, John Fekety, Gary Knight, and Bob Smith joined me on an airplane ride from Fort Ord, California to Fort Benning where we became members of 5th Platoon, 50th Co. OCS. It has been interesting to read the articles that have appeared on our computer from my fellow grads. I remember reading articles and seeing pictures of the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC and not being impressed. However about 20 years ago my wife attended a conference in Washington DC and I tagged along. We visited the Vietnam memorial and it was so powerful that it about made me cry. If you haven't been there, you should go.

Donald (Don) J. Warkentin / 6th Platoon - Deceased

Former President Don Warkentin of West Hills College (Lemoore, California) died Monday (Feb. 1, 2016), just one month after retiring from the college that he helped build from a collection of trailers to a full-blown campus. He was 69.

Mr. Warkentin is only the second president of West Hills College, a job he took in 2004. His death was unexpected and took friends and former colleagues by surprise. Mr. Warkentin, who grew up in Reedley and graduated from Reedley High, went to college at Reedley College and California State University, Chico. He served in Vietnam as an Army LT in the 25th Infantry Division and was awarded two Purple Hearts.

Mr. Warkentin's 42-year career in education began in 1973 when he was a biology teacher for Lemoore High School; he also served as a football coach, baseball coach, athletic director and principal of the continuation school. In 1986, he joined West Hills College as an associate dean at the Lemoore Center, which was then a satellite of the college in Coalinga. The college has grown from 700 students to over 4,500 today. "That college is part of him," said West Hills College Community District trustee Jeff Levinson. "He put those students first." He was active in Lemoore civic life, was named Citizen of the Year in 2014 by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Kiwanis Club.

Kenneth R. Warner / 4th Platoon - Deceased

Kenneth R. Warner, 68, passed away peacefully in Drums, Pennsylvania on May 10, 2011, surrounded by his loving wife, children and grandchildren. He was a 1960 graduate of Freeland High School and attended Penn State University in 1963. After his military service, he was employed for many years by the National Security Agency in Ft. Meade, MD. Following retirement in 2008, Ken and his wife returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania and built their new home in Drums.

He was active in Freemasonry and was also a member of Montgomery Forest, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and played the bugle and trumpet in the Drum and Bugle Corps. Kenneth was an active member of Emmanuel Methodist Church in Beltsville, MD and later a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Drums. He was also active in the community of Beltsville, MD, in many capacities.

Kenneth had a spousal kidney transplant in 1989 and became an advocate for transplantation and organ donation. Surviving are his wife of 44 years, the former Roseanne Timony "Timmie" Warner and three children.

Edward J. Wehner / 6th Platoon

Cosmos A. Westrich / 5th Platoon

James D. Wight / 5th Platoon

Jim Wight possibly lives in Sacramento, California.

Robert (Bob) P. Winship / 6th Platoon

1. I am now retired and live in Etna, Ohio with my wife Lori. I now spend most of my free time playing golf or working at Winding Hollow Golf Course in New Albany, Ohio. I have won a couple of senior club championships and last year won the Tournament of Champions, an invitational consisting of all the private club senior champions in central Ohio. I have three sons, Joel, Matt and Aaron (Lori's son, whom I adopted), and six grandchildren. Joel is a Regional Sales Manager for Orkin and lives in Louisville, KY; Matt is a Sergeant in the Covington, KY Police Department; Aaron is a Staff Sergeant in the Army on his third deployment to Afghanistan. My wife Lori is a real estate agent with Keller Williams.

2. After OCS I spent four years in the Army, mostly in Germany with the Third Armored Division, attaining the rank of Captain, Infantry. I married Therese Lussier and my first son Joel was born. [*Editor's Note: See Bob's account of his Germany tour in Part Two, Section Six.*] We returned to the States in 1973 and I was discharged.

3. After seven months of job-seeking, I was hired by the Internal Revenue Service and moved to Cleveland, Ohio where I started my career as a Revenue Officer in Collections. A couple of years later, we moved to Cincinnati for a promotion. On nights and weekends, I attended Xavier University and earned an MBA in Finance. We had another son, Matthew, but unfortunately the marriage failed. I then moved to Columbus, Ohio, where I met and married Lori. My IRS career continued. At the latter stages of my career I was assigned as one of three National Lead Instructors tasked with organizing and training a mass-hiring of collection personnel across the country. After retirement in 2002, I continued to instruct newly hired collection personnel for seven years.

4. When we first arrived at OCS, signed in and were assigned platoons, a few of us in the 6th Platoon went up to our platoon area and gathered in one room. Unfortunately we closed the door and were sitting around when all of a sudden the door crashed open and 2LT Hook, our TAC, walked in and commenced to chewing us up one side and down the other. How were we to know that all doors remain open all the time, that we were lower than whale-s**t at the bottom of the ocean, etc.? Welcome to OCS. When he left we all looked at each other and wondered what the hell we had gotten ourselves into.

Dennis J. Wolfard / 5th Platoon

1. Marti and I have done our best to keep traveling. Our favorite means of transportation is sailing. We chartered a forty-eight foot catamaran in Raiatea for a week in 2014 with two other couples and just finished another week sailing with friends in St. John in November 2016. We have played bridge with five other couples for the last 30 years and that has morphed into more travel with them. We are headed to Maui with the whole family in March 2017 and off to Myrtle Beach and Columbus GA in October. For those of you with grandchildren you know that we always plan to be in town for the important family events. I wouldn't miss the chance to be with my OCS family in October. See you then!

2. After graduation, Sandy Carter and I drove our cars out to Colorado Springs. We were devastated to learn we had to live off base in an apartment complex full of beautiful women (I married one of them). Sandy learned a lot as Battalion S-2 and I did the same in the Brigade S-1, but not as much as during off-duty hours. Snow skiing and hiking in the mountains were our third and fourth favorite things to do. Sandy was always up for the next big excursion. In his words, "Can't dance." I established a file management system and follow-up system for our office and our message center and I handled all the congressional inquiries. I received an ARCOM for my work at brigade. I got my orders to leave for Vietnam on August 2, 1970. I got married on August 1, 1970. Upon arrival "in country" I learned some Vietnamese phrases and some cultural "no-nos." After that, I was assigned a MACV team in Lac Thien in Dar Lac province with Montagnard tribesmen. In the Central Highlands they had not only bad guys but tigers and elephants. They made our ambush and patrols a lot more interesting. After six months, I was assigned as Deputy Camp Commander at Camp Coryell in Ban Me Thout. I only had four months there before being offered an early out in May 1971. I was awarded a Bronze Star for my service there. I packed so fast I forgot to gather up any memorabilia or pictures. Actually, I don't remember a lot about the trip home. Who knew they would have beer in vending machines at the bases stateside?

3. After I DEROSSED, my wife Marti and I spent a year in Indiana when she asked "When does the sun come out?" When she found out all it did was just get light during the day, we came back to Denver, Colorado. I passed the CPA exam in '78 and the Colorado Bar exam in '83. I worked as Controller for the Judicial Branch of the

Colorado State government for eight years, Chief Administrative Officer of the Colorado Department of Agriculture for three years, and in the State Controller's Office for eighteen years, retiring as the Deputy State Controller in 2001. I have now worked fifteen years at Denver Public Schools in Teacher Compensation. I retired in June 2016. I have two girls and a boy and two beautiful granddaughters. Marti and I follow them around to their Irish step dancing competitions. In our free time we travel, but never back to Vietnam. I don't think that would bring back any pleasant memories.

4. At OCS I remember building a bar in the day room and decorating it in a nautical theme with burlap and sailor knots. We also made plaques with a Tartan plaid for each room in the 5th platoon with the names of the Scottish clans they represented. We called our platoon the "Claymore" for the huge sword that always led the Scots into battle. I remember the Firepower Demonstration because I liked the idea of having backup when you need it. I remember graduation and the disappointment of not getting orders for Ft.

Riley or Ft. Bliss where many of my friends were being assigned. I had never heard of Ft. Carson. I do know that I would never have made it to graduation without my roommate John Fekety. "Finniky" Fekety made sure I finished all my homework when I could hardly think, rolled me out for the morning run when I could hardly stand, and reshined my Cochrans before every inspection because I could never get the hang of a spit shine. Thanks John. I'm sure your attention to detail served you well in your CPA practice.

Howard R. Wright, JR / 2d Platoon

Burl D. Wyatt / 3d Platoon

1. I am retired and living in Flemington, New Jersey
2. After a year at Ft. Hood in the Second Armor Division I was sent to Korea and served in support areas behind the DMZ. I was Redeye Platoon Leader and got to liaison with the ROK Army Generals, who we were supposed to support with SAMs in case the North Koreans came over the hill.
3. I came back home, married, had two kids, taught music, and was an administrator in public education for 30 years.
4. OCS memories? At night before lights went out, I played song requests on my recorder.

William (Bill) A. Yacola / 2d Platoon

1. My wife Jennifer and I live in Alpharetta, Georgia, a suburb 35 miles north of Atlanta. We were married in August 1972 and have one daughter, Catherine. In 1972 I was hired by Dentsply, the world's largest supplier of dental products and technologies, in sales as a Territory Manger. Since then I have held various management positions, most recently as the Division Sales Training Manager. Along the way we lived in several locations in Maryland, did a stint in Pennsylvania, and moved to Georgia in 1994. I retired on December 31, 2014 and am enjoying life after work. Alpharetta is now home for us.
2. After OCS I was stationed at Ft. Carson, CO along with a number of our classmates. I was in the only Infantry Battalion. I served as a platoon leader, recon platoon leader, and did time as S-3. Then I was off to Vietnam from May, 1970 to May, 1971 with MACV. I served in the field with a team of ten.
3. Once home from Vietnam I was immediately discharged from the Army. After being unemployed for about six months, I was hired by Dentsply and am still with them today.
4. My first airplane ride ever was from Fort Dix, New Jersey, where we had just completed Basic and AIT, to Columbus, Georgia for OCS. If I asked you to remember where you were when JFK was assassinated or where you were on September 11, 2001, I am willing to bet you know exactly! As I recall, on our 12th week we received our first weekend pass. Since Columbus was "dry" and still is (I think), we all knew that Phoenix, Alabama across the "Hooch" was a different story. Some of us stayed in the Ramada Inn that weekend, and that was the weekend the USA landed the first Man on the Moon. I remember watching the blurry black & white image. "One small step..." Then there was the walking off of demerits. Try as I might, like many of us, I wound up "doing time" on the basketball court. Those were the loooooongest hours of my life! And there was learning to make square corners on my bed so a quarter would bounce up and just maybe pass inspection for that day!?

Clark S. Yokley / 6th Platoon

1. My wife Karen and I live in Ball Ground, GA about 50 miles north of Atlanta. We have three children and five grandkids. I retired five years ago and stay very busy taking care of my families and attending lots of grandkid sports. The families love my work, I'm pretty cheap, do a fairly good job, and love to help them out.
2. I, along with Bob Winship and Ron Stryker, volunteered for Germany, thinking we may avoid Vietnam, at least for a while. Ron and I were assigned to the same Infantry Battalion with Bob several hours away at another unit and base. After about 6 months in Germany, I was moved to B Company and reporting to Company Commander Ron Stryker. Ron was a pretty darn good commander. Later I was

moved to C Company, then S-3 assistant, and eventually became the S-4. [*Editor's Note: See Clark's account of his service in Germany in Part Three, Section Six, "The Other Front Lines."*] Right before I made Captain, I did receive orders for Vietnam, with a reporting date of 12/10/71. A few weeks before my departure date, my orders were cancelled. (Talk about a happy guy!) However, for whatever reason, old Uncle Sam would not cut me loose until September of '72. I respect all of you guys who did go to Vietnam and thank you and all the brave men and women who served our country during that time.

3. My career started with Armstrong World Industries (floors and ceilings) in 1973. After training, my first assignment was in Cincinnati, OH, then Washington DC, San Francisco, back to Cincinnati, Chicago, and finally on to Atlanta in 1989. Armstrong eventually sold its carpet operations to Shaw Industrial and I spent nine years with them before going with a large flooring distributor covering the Southeast. I retired in 2011 and have never missed my work career for one minute.

4. As for OCS, one evening after our dinner meal, we found ourselves down on that activity field, as usual, getting our second round of PT training. The field had a lot of low areas and when it rained, there were little ponds all around. On this particular day, we had endured the rain and LT Hook was marching us, probably running us, back to the barracks dodging the ponds. Some crazy, but brave cadet in the 6th platoon decided it would be a good idea to dump the "Hooker" in one of those ponds. All of a sudden, we were all on top of the "Hooker." He was soaked and not amused. As a result, the "Hooker" had us in a low crawl position for our trip back to the barracks. I don't remember how far it was but I do remember low crawling across a road and past Infantry Hall. Was it worth it? I'd say "Yes," without a doubt because it showed the 6th Platoon was together, one for all and all for one. We knew we were a Platoon at that time. But I'd still like to know who that crazy, brave OCS candidate was who came up with the idea!! If you know, let me know, I've wondered for 47 years.

David C. Young / 3d Platoon

1. Life is good. I worked until August, 2017, since Susie, my wonderful wife of 43 years, enjoys new sparkling things, and we both like to travel. We play golf and enjoy reading. Our daughter and son-in-law live in Plano, Texas and we live in Granbury, Texas, so it is just far enough apart. Our health is still pretty good, so we are truly blessed.

2. After OCS, several classmates (Porter, Myers, Pearson, Smith, and Ferguson) and I were assigned to 1/41, 2nd Armored Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. I served as a platoon leader, and later company XO. After nine months, I got orders for Vietnam, via Jungle School in Panama, arriving in country on July 4, 1970. I was assigned to a MAT team in

Binh Dinh Province in II Corps. We operated out of LZ Orange, near Bong Son. I was very fortunate to have two super senior NCO's on the Team. Our medic was this crazy guy from Texas who carried an AK in the field. Good dude. Our other officer, a captain, appointed himself as the Assistant District Advisor, so we didn't see him too much.

LZ Orange had a battery of ARVN 105's, so sleep was problematic as they always seemed to have a lot of fire missions. We did a lot of operations with the local RF/PF's, and some joint ops with elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. I went on one op to locate "Salt and Pepper," reported to be in one of the nearby hamlets, but did not find them. [They were the alleged American defectors travelling with the VC in I Corps.] It seems like LZ Orange always had "incoming," mostly mortars and rockets. Our kitchen and refrigerator took a direct hit from a 140mm rocket one night, so we ate a lot of C-rations after that. I got the "early out" and came back with a lot of classmates in May, 1971. I was a civilian two days later.

3. After the army, I finished law school and started working in the title insurance business in Texas. After several years, I started my own agency, grew it, and sold my interest years later. I then went to work for Stewart Title Company as the Underwriting Counsel in the Dallas office, and served for 24 years. I was honored to be elected as President of the Texas Land Title Association in 1988 and have made some good friends all over the State. I enjoyed a couple of visits with Stu Ferguson, who was in Albuquerque, and was saddened to hear of his passing in 2014. Since my wife and I enjoy travelling, we made a trip to Vietnam in 2015. Our daughter wanted to come with us, to see what I had seen. I had always thought the coast near Qui Nhon would be good for beach resorts and now it is a reality! We flew into Danang, and stayed at the Nam Hai Resort, which is fantastic. We had a car and driver take us down Highway 1 past Bong Son, to the old LZ Orange location. It, along with all the other US installations from that era, have been bulldozed. LZ Orange is now the location of one of the many Vietnamese National Cemeteries. Amazing! The roads are now paved, electric lines everywhere, plumbing, and signs in every village for "copying services"! I know my wife and daughter grew tired of hearing me say "Wow, that has changed!" at every corner. The people were friendly, and the resort was amazing. There are even a couple of new golf courses nearby! We flew from Danang to Saigon, had drinks on the roof at the old Rex Hotel, and stared at all the high-rise buildings now in Saigon. An incredible trip, and no regrets about going back.

4. OCS memories are dimmed somewhat over the years, but I remember "Cooperate and graduate," which worked well for all of us. I still fold my underwear and arrange everything in its proper place. Tried to keep a low profile during OCS. I was proud to have been with all these classmates. I do remember Mike Gilpin making it across the stage with his leg in a cast as a result of Ranger Week. After our bars were pinned on, I had a smile on my face when I introduced Lt. Cross, my TAC officer, as "Bobby". He loved it

James (Jim) G. Zack, JR / 2d Platoon

1. I am an expert in the resolution of defense construction litigation claims and live in Johnstown, Colorado with Yvonne, my wife of almost 47 years. I am still employed as the Executive Director of the Navigant Construction Forum™, a construction industry think tank specializing in dispute avoidance and dispute resolution on construction contracts globally.
2. After graduation from OCS I was assigned to a mechanized infantry battalion in the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, TX. I attended the Jungle Warfare School in the Panama Canal Zone and was sent to Vietnam in late December 1969. I was assigned as a Platoon Leader in H Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. I stayed in this assignment for six months and then transferred to 5/46 Infantry as Platoon Leader and later Company Commander. I DEROSSED in January 1971 and was sent to Fort Jackson, SC as Company Commander of a Basic Training company, B-1-1, where I served until January 1972 when I left the Army during one of the first RIFs.
3. My first civilian job after the Army was with the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority which was later merged into the new South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in Columbia, SC. I also attended night school at the University of South Carolina and received a Master of Public Administration. In 1978 I signed on with an engineering and construction management firm, CH2M HILL and was transferred to Milwaukee, WI where I worked until 1986, when I was transferred to Santa Ana, CA. I worked on numerous projects dealing with disputed issues such as changes, delays, and differing site conditions. In 1995 I left CH2M to help found a claims consulting firm, PinnacleOne, where I stayed as a partner until the end of 2000. In early 2001 I joined Fluor Corporation, a global engineering and construction firm, as the Executive Director of the Corporate Claims Management Group. In my entire career of working on claims and construction disputes I have worked in 27 countries outside the US and nearly half of the States inside. I retired in mid-2010 but after four or so months got tired of retirement so I joined Navigant Consulting as the Executive Director of the Navigant Construction Forum.™
4. My best memory of OCS was graduation day when my widowed mother pinned my father's 2nd Lieutenant Bars on me – bars he had earned in a field promotion while serving in the USAAF in the South Pacific during World War II.
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William P. Zelenka

Lin A. Zimmerman / 5th Platoon

1. My wife Patricia and I are healthy and happy and retired, but are in transition from Wilsonville, Oregon to Fort Myers, Florida. After thirty seven years of marriage, my first wife Kathy passed away from the effects of ovarian cancer. I remarried to Patricia, who I have known since the fifth grade. We enjoy traveling, playing golf, and spending time at our second home on the Washougal River in the Columbia River Gorge in Washington State. I enjoy building projects, having remodeled a beach house and our second home. We will spend our winters in Florida and our summers at our second home in Washington.

2. After OCS, I along with several others went to Ft. Carson and served with the 5th Infantry Division, Mechanized. I worked initially as platoon leader, then as motor officer, mess officer, and held various other jobs. I arrived on a Friday at my company along with Steve Layton. The COL, Robert Vaughn had arrived on the preceding Monday and XO Dennis Weaver had arrived on Wednesday. They told us we were doing a recon Saturday and would leave on Monday for a two-week FTX. And to top it off, my platoon sergeant was on leave. A great start! Later, I was assigned to a 60day temporary duty as a lay trial counsel. I represented defendants in special courts martial. After OJT of about five weeks, I was assigned as a prosecutor. Returning to my battalion, I was assigned the extra duty of battalion legal officer, prosecuting various offenses. I spent the last ten months on active duty as a special prosecutor for a special processing detachment. I should mention that I had absolutely no legal training before these assignments. I left active duty in June 1971.

3. I returned to Oregon, enrolled in summer school, and found out I had been accepted to law school the same day classes started. Apparently, my early out made it hard for the law school to track me down. While enrolling I found out classes started that evening. There were reading assignments I had not done. The Dean taught my first class. Another great start. After working as a driver for UPS and doing security work, I worked as a court bailiff, escorting defendants from jail to the courtroom and back.

Eventually a judge asked me to be his law clerk. I worked during the day and attended law school at night. It took four years to earn a law degree. I met my first wife Kathy, a probation officer. We were married in 1972. She was the first female probation officer hired at the Federal level in the District of Oregon. She retired as the Deputy Chief. We raised two sons. My oldest lives in Ft. Myers, FL and teaches high school English. My youngest spent five years with the 3rd ID, including two deployments to Iraq, and was seriously injured working as a contractor in the Middle East. He is now recovering. I entered law practice in 1975, doing general litigation for a small partnership. One of the partners was a retired COL who told me to get into the Reserves since it paid better than the partnership. I joined a civil affairs group, eventually joining a civil affairs brigade, and then switched to psychological operations, serving as the FA (research and analysis)

Team leader and then company commander. I had the opportunity to go overseas many times in support of active duty units. I went on to teach command and general staff and then held various staff positions before retiring in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel. As a lawyer, I spent most of my career defending employers and insurance companies in contested worker compensation cases.

4. One very vivid OCS memory was having to explain to CPT Smith and 2LT Hook why

Hook had been dunked by his platoon. It was a very enjoyable experience with CPT Smith asking the questions and 2LT Hook yelling in my ear at the same time. I often wonder if my hearing loss has anything to do with this incident.

Gary A. Zittlow / 1st Platoon

1. I work for NY Life in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

2. Some of you might remember that that two weeks prior to graduation 50th Company got a levy for two branch transfers from our class, one for Armor and one for Adjutant General (AG). Captain Smith announced that if anyone felt they deserved a branch transfer to either one of these branches they should submit an "essay" as to why (Fancy that?). I submitted one to get a transfer to Armor and I got it. So from Benning I went to Ft. Knox for Armor Officer Basic. When the class started it was made up of the '69 West Point grads who got Armor Branch, so my classmates were kind of impressed that I went to OCS. We had a great group of guys and got treated pretty well (maybe because of the West Point connection.) My first posting after AOB was as XO of Headquarters Co., Garrison Command Group at Ft Campbell, KY. Then I went to Korea (I think Armor kept me out of Vietnam), where I was assigned as XO of Headquarters Troop of the 2/10th Cav ("The Buffalo Soldiers"), 7th Division at Camp Keiser. I played football for the 7th Division Football team while in Korea and it was an eye-opener to high level athletics in the Army. I didn't wear my uniform for six weeks and when the other guys found out I was an officer (I was one of 7 officers on the team), boy did I get "s--t"! There were some enlisted men on the team who would re-up just to get Korea and play football. The caliber of football was so good that, that team could have beaten my college team. When the Squadron was deactivated I went to the 2nd Division and got my dream job, Tank Platoon Leader in the 2d of the 72d Armor. [*Editor's Note: See his 'Winter Fun' story in Part Three, Section Six.*] We rotated up to the DMZ every 2 weeks, so it was nice getting combat pay and not getting shot at. I have often wondered how my career would have evolved if I had stayed in the Army because of my association at AOB with the West Pointers. I understood that as officers you move through your career with your officer basic class. I really considered going Volunteer Indefinite, but frankly I didn't want to push my luck and go to Vietnam.

3. I became a stockbroker in 1972, co-founded a stockbrokerage firm in 1983, and then left the brokerage business in '89 because I got tired of it. I did some management consulting, taught a course in small business management at St. Cloud State University. Then one of my consulting clients, Franchise Business Systems, hired me as the 5th person there. We took the company public under the name Grow Biz Inc.; it was the parent company of Play-it-again Sports, Computer Renaissance, and Once Upon-AChild etc. After 6 years I left to manage a company in Memphis, TN when my old stock brokerage partner asked me to rejoin him in St. Cloud. My clients were mostly business owners or professionals and had issues way beyond just accumulating wealth in the market, so in late '99 I could tell the stock market was going to fall apart and decided to change my focus. I did a lot of research to find the company that had the best resources for my clients in business succession, business continuation, and wealth and estate management. I found New York Life and have been there ever since.

4. I found that by playing on the softball team I could get out of going through all the low-crawling CPT Smith would put the rest of the company through. After all, CPT Smith really wanted to WIN. Here is a little trivia for you. A lot of us went through basic at Ft. Dix and there were six basic training companies that graduated from our Battalion around the same time. The "Outstanding Trainee of the Cycle" from three out of the six were in our OCS Company: one of the Tackaberrys, Harley Finley, and myself.

I guess there was a little method to the Army's madness.