



# Pro Patria Press

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*Newsletter of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association*  
*Karl Lowe, Editor*

## Reunion 2009

A Note from the Commander, Ron Corson (CPT, A/6th Bn 1969-70)

Reunion 2009 at Fort Drum and Watertown was a great success. Every member with whom I spoke was impressed with the Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, happy to be able to share time with old comrades in arms, and really enjoyed the banquet at the Commons. I want to thank all those who helped make it such a success and a wonderful time. In my almost two years as the Association Commander, we completed the mission of finalizing the design and contracting for the construction of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial. When it is completed and installed on the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, it will be a lasting testimonial to all Soldiers, past and present, who have fought and served as Polar Bears. While the command will be in the able hands of our newly elected commander, Charlie Tapp, starting in January 2010, I have taken on the task with Louis Dominguez of conducting a one year fund raising campaign to ensure the funding of the memorial and provide for its maintenance over time. The years ahead look bright for the Association as the memorial is completed and readied for its dedication at Reunion 2011 at Columbus, GA, and as we anticipate the grand time to come at Reunion 2010 in Reno, NV. In the mean time, I ask that each of us keep the Soldiers of the 4th Battalion in our heart and in our prayers as they continue the proud heritage of the Polar Bears on their coming deployment to Iraq.



Special thanks to LTC Rich Greene, CSM Ben Jones, and the men of the 4th Battalion for providing our honor guard and guards for the Shanghai Bowl at the Reunion banquet, supporting our activities, hosting us at the battalion headquarters—a living museum—and putting on an air assault and live fire demonstration for us. The battalion recently learned that it would again deploy to Iraq in October and had just been given block leave, meaning any support for our reunion would have to be done by volunteers willing to give up some of their leave time. There were more volunteers than were needed. The 31st Infantry is indeed a special brotherhood across all ages.

### A Special Thing Happened at Watertown

Ron Corson (CPT, A/6th Bn, 1969-70), Commander

A day after I arrived at Watertown, I was approached by JoAnn Argyris of Boulder City, Nevada, the sister-in-law of Chuck Barr (D/6th Bn, Vietnam 1968-69) and asked if I would accept as a raffle item at the Reunion, a knitted American Flag afghan, approximately 7.5 feet by 5 feet, that she had made by hand. JoAnn, attending the Reunion as a guest of Chuck and June Barr, wanted to give the afghan to the Association as token of appreciation from her family. Given the “Oh wow” reaction of others standing nearby, it was quickly assessed to be the raffle’s top prize.

The raffle was held at the beginning of the banquet. After all other prizes, including a three-day paid hotel stay, were awarded, the grand prize was unfurled. The winning ticket holder was Richard Custer (B/6th Bn, Vietnam 1968-69), a first time attendee at our reunion. Rich and his wife, Patricia, were thrilled... not only their first reunion, but they were the top prize winners. In discussions at their banquet table, Rich and his former company commander discussed how the Custers’ could share their experience and whether it was appropriate to present the afghan to the 4th Battalion to show the Association’s support for our active duty Soldiers. A side bar was held with the battalion commander and command sergeant major. Both agreed that the battalion would be honored and that they in turn would honor the flag replica by taking it with the unit when they deploy to Iraq in October. They would display it in their battalion headquarters while deployed and would frame and display it in their headquarters museum when they return. And so the afghan was presented to LTC Richard Greene and CSM Ben Jones as a reminder of the Association’s love and support of our active duty troops, especially our own 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 10th Mountain Division.

So this special thing happened at our 2009 Reunion at Fort Drum. I believe we have added another chapter to the grand history of The Polar Bears and once again demonstrated the strong bond of Brothers in Arms.

### Commander's Corner

Charlie Tapp (SSG, D/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)

I just returned from the Ft. Drum reunion and am both impressed and in shock. We often don't realize how much work it takes to host and plan one of these events. I also realize that just a few years ago there were only a few Vietnam veterans involved and now our WW II and Korean War veterans are passing all too fast. Through them, I learned the importance of caring for a great organization that dates back over ninety years.

I can't say enough how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your new Commander, beginning in January and thanks to all who worked long and tirelessly to make this association great. We are not just individuals, but a united group of veterans and families from different backgrounds, battles, conflicts and eras. We are all one in loving America and will do anything to protect our freedom. I ask that we all continue to work together, promote what we do, and contact any veteran who is not yet involved. I can never thank Harvey Mize enough for calling me a few years ago to tell me about our association and want to thank all those who worked so hard to track down others who served with the 31<sup>st</sup>. Let's all commit to get others signed up, particularly as life members since this is by far the most cost effective. If you are not a life member you can become one for the cost of just three years of annual membership.

Thanks for your confidence in me. This is the first time in awhile that a former NCO became the commander. I walk humbly in the footsteps of Ed Bettis (CPL, G Co, Korea 1950-51) and look forward to working with everyone. I have the personal commitments of Ron Corson and Karl Lowe to guide me with the experience they have in leading this group. Start planning and lets have a the biggest turnout ever in Reno. I challenge our folks from Delta Company to take back the trophy for high attendance from Charlie Company. Since Tim Miller and I are both Delta Company soldiers I am confident we will take back the trophy. I am also counting on Jerry to get his contacts cranked up and get our folks to Reno. One last reminder, the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion will deploy in October and for many this will be their fourth or fifth deployment. Please get involved with a civic group and plan on sending care packages to let them know we appreciate their service. Mary will keep us posted on their contact information. Please feel free to contact me anytime by phone or email. Thanks again. Charlie Tapp

### Future Reunions

At our 2009 membership meeting at Watertown, the Association reaffirmed an earlier vote to hold **Reunion 2010 at Reno, Nevada** and **Reunion 2011 at Columbus, Georgia**. Reno is in keeping with a long-standing policy to move the reunion site each year, making it accessible to members in different parts of the country. Reunion 2011 at Columbus will allow us to dedicate our memorial at the new National Infantry Museum. We'll hold **Reunion 2012 at Washington, DC** and consideration is being given to holding **Reunion 2013 at Dayton, Ohio**.



Tim Miller (SSG, D/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1968-69) is our organizer for Reunion 2010, **19-22 August 2010** at the Atlantis Casino Resort, 3800 S. Virginia St, **Reno, NV 89502**, phone (800) 723-6500 for reservations and tell them you're with the 31st Infantry Regiment Association. Transportation to and from Reno Tahoe International airport is free, courtesy of the hotel. On the evening of 19 August, there will be a 4-hour dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe. More details will follow in subsequent editions.

### A Note About our Regimental History

As many of you know, I have been writing our newsletter and the regimental history since 1995. In writing the history, I learn what I can from the National Archives, from battle rosters and casualty lists, and from the previous work of authors who published books about the regiment's experience in Siberia, Bataan, Korea, or Vietnam. Those provide context for the regiment's experience but much of the detail reflecting the regiment's human face comes from the personal stories of those who served. In the pages that follow, you'll note two corrections regarding previous chapters of the history in our newsletter. I am grateful to the members who sent those corrections because the regiment's history should be conveyed as it actually was, the good and the bad alike—the experience we lived. Please continue to send me your accounts of what happened during your time in the 31st and I will endeavor to get it all into print for you on our web site, in the newsletter

and hopefully a book in the Association's name. I need all the detail you can provide since this is your story. I particularly need more detail on events between 1951 and 1953 in Korea and the 4th Battalion's experience in Vietnam through 1971. Karl Lowe (CPT, D/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)



### Combat in Korea

*This is the 23rd in our series on combat in Korea. In our previous edition, the regiment was fighting to hold "Hell Hill" in Central Korea. The saga continues...*

With the Chinese appearing in staggering numbers, it became apparent to Lieutenant Blair Willard that his company might soon be cut off and destroyed if it continued to cling to "Hell Hill's" summit. He called in mortar and artillery fire and as soon as it became effective, he gave the order to pull back, adding, "I don't want anybody turning and running." Some did turn and run, but most dutifully backed down the hill, firing up at the Chinese as they poured over I Company's former positions. Incoming artillery kept the Chinese down long enough for the company to escape and dig in on a nearby ridgeline as evening fell.

I Company attacked to retake "Hell Hill" on June 6, 1951. Just one day after the exploit that earned him the Medal of Honor, First Sergeant Ben Wilson killed 33 more Chinese soldiers with his rifle, bayonet, and hand grenades in another one-man assault. In the process, he reopened the wounds he suffered the day before and was finally evacuated to a hospital. He was again recommended for the Medal of Honor, but Army policy prohibited any man from being awarded more than one. Wilson received the Distinguished Service Cross instead and was commissioned when he returned to the States. He retired from the Army as a major in 1960 and died in Hawaii in 1988.



Two days after Ben Wilson's second one-man war, PFC Jack G. Hanson of F Company earned the Medal of Honor at nearby Pachi-dong. Jack was born on 18 September 1930 at Escatawpa, Mississippi and entered the Army at Galveston, Texas in the fall of 1950 as the Korean War was in its opening months. He was assigned to F Company, 2nd Battalion 31st Infantry, 7th Infantry Division on his arrival in Korea in the spring of 1951. His Medal of Honor citation reads: PFC Hanson, a machine gunner with the 1st Platoon, Company F, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. F Company, in defensive positions on two strategic hills separated by a wide saddle, was relentlessly attacked at approximately 0300 hours, the brunt of the attack striking the divide within range of PFC Hanson's machinegun. In

the initial phase of the action, 4 riflemen were wounded and evacuated and the numerically superior enemy, advancing under cover of darkness, infiltrated and posed an imminent threat to the company command post and 1st platoon. When his platoon received orders to move to a more secure position, PFC Hanson voluntarily remained behind to provide protective



fire for the withdrawal. During the withdrawal, PFC Hanson's assistant gunner and 3 riflemen were wounded and crawled to safety, leaving Hanson manning a lone-man defense. After the 1st Platoon reorganized, it counterattacked and restored control of its original positions at 0530 hours. PFC Hanson's body was found lying in front of his emplacement, his machinegun ammunition expended, his pistol lying empty in his right hand, a machete with blood on the blade in his left hand, and 22 enemy dead around his position. PFC Hanson's consummate valor, inspirational conduct, and willing self-sacrifice enable his company to contain the enemy and regain the commanding ground, reflecting lasting glory on himself and the

noble traditions of the military service. Many members of F Company owe Jack Hanson their lives – although dead for 48 years, he lives on in their memory and in the memory of his grateful and proud regiment.

American artillery's preponderance and determined infantry attacks convinced the badly depleted Chinese that they could no longer hold the Hwachon corridor. As a chilly summer rain reduced visibility and turned the heights overlooking the

reservoir into a muddy, blood-soaked version of hell, the Chinese fought a weak rear guard action and quietly slipped away during the morning of June 10. In six days of intense close quarters fighting, 47 Polar Bear soldiers paid for that desolate string of hills with their lives. As he dug in on “Hell Hill”, Sergeant Charles Bielecki suddenly realized that of the 12 men who had been in his squad in North Korea, he was the only one left. In fact, he was one of fewer than 20 men left in the whole company who had fought there.

Unlike the bitter defeat at the Chosin Reservoir seven months earlier, the fighting around the Hwachon Reservoir was an undeniable American victory. American and allied units that had once seemed on the ropes had instead driven the Chinese out of South Korea and posed a renewed threat to North Korea. No unit could have been prouder of its role in the reversal of that tide than the men of the Polar Bear Regiment.

### The 4th Battalion 1965-1971



*This is the fourth in a series on the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, addressing its role in Operation Attleboro in Vietnam. It is a series in the newsletter like those that covered combat in Siberia, Bataan, and Korea in earlier editions.*

**CORRECTION:** In our last edition, I reported that Captain John M. Harrington, the 4th Battalion’s S-4, and his radio operator, SP4 Manzie Glover, Jr., were killed and 16 others were wounded by a VC mortar attack. Several who read that account informed me the incident was friendly fire—American artillery mistakenly brought in on our own troops.

#### *Operation Attleboro*

Brigadier General DeSaussure’s plan of attack for Operation Attleboro was confusing and its ad hoc execution made matters worse. Advancing north from Dau Tieng on foot, the 196<sup>th</sup>’s attack axis paralleled the Saigon River. Because 3-21<sup>st</sup> Infantry was tied down with static security missions, 1-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry, a part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, was attached in its place but it was not initially employed as a battalion. Its B Company advanced along the river on the brigade’s right flank, while its C Company air assaulted into an isolated landing zone (LZ) on the brigade’s extreme left. Between those two companies were the 2-1<sup>st</sup> and 4-31<sup>st</sup> Infantry, each with two companies abreast advancing on parallel axes. The companies could not see or support each other in the dense jungle, dooming their advance to a blind foray into dangerous territory. As C/1-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry landed, it was immediately engaged, suffering six wounded and six killed on the landing zone. Included was its commander, who soon died of his wounds. “Dustoff” helicopters were driven off repeatedly by heavy fire.<sup>1</sup>

To salvage the situation, the 1-27<sup>th</sup>’s Commander, Major Guy S. “Sandy” Meloy, landed nearby and called for his A Company, then in reserve at Dau Tieng. Meloy and every member of his command group were wounded soon after landing but most stayed in the fight. The 196<sup>th</sup>’s Commander also reacted, but failed to tell Major Meloy what he was doing. To Meloy’s surprise, C/3-21<sup>st</sup> Infantry was lifted in from Tay Ninh to join him. He did not know they were coming until the helicopters landed and the company commander reported in on Meloy’s command net. B and C Companies 2-1<sup>st</sup> Infantry were lifted in the next morning to reinforce Meloy’s growing command but he was again surprised when they showed up because no one told him they were coming. Later that afternoon, C/2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry, from Meloy’s sister battalion, and that battalion’s command group reported they were inbound from Dau Tieng. Misunderstanding where they were to land, they landed two kilometers northwest of Meloy’s perimeter and immediately came under fire. The company commander and battalion commander were both killed in the ensuing fight, leaving a lieutenant to hold the isolated company together.

A/2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry was next to arrive. It was sent through what appeared to be a gap in the enemy’s line to reinforce C/2-27<sup>th</sup> and assist its move back to Meloy’s expanding perimeter. Two members of A/2-27<sup>th</sup>, Captain Robert F. Foley and PFC John F. Baker, Jr. earned the Medal of Honor during their company’s failed attempt to break through to C/2-27<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of November 5, B/1-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry linked up with A/2-1<sup>st</sup> and A/4-31<sup>st</sup> Infantry, formed an ad hoc battalion task force, and circled north of the enemy base area to fight their way through to C/2-27<sup>th</sup>. When they reached Meloy’s perimeter late that afternoon, ten rifle companies from five battalions were under his command. They included A, B and C Companies 2-1<sup>st</sup> Infantry; C Company 3-21<sup>st</sup> Infantry; A, B, and C Companies 1-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry; A and C Companies 2-27<sup>th</sup> Infantry; and A Company 4-31<sup>st</sup> Infantry.

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<sup>1</sup> Major General (Ret.) Guy S. Meloy, *Operation Attleboro, The Wolfhounds’ Brave Stand*, Vietnam Magazine, October 1997, p.38.

Meanwhile, BG DeSaussure ordered Lieutenant Colonel Lynch to attack with his remaining companies against an enemy force entrenched in concrete emplacements along a road defining the VC base area's southern edge. Because the Polar Bears would have to cross an open field swept by at least a dozen machineguns, Lynch declined the order and was promptly relieved of command. DeSaussure did not press the order and the battalion stayed put, no matter who was in charge. Lieutenant Colonel James P. Coley took command of the battalion in the field near Soui Da. General Westmoreland flew in to talk with the battalion on November 9 and shortly after he departed, the VC mortared the site, wounding six men. On November 13, C Company's 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was ambushed, losing two killed and three wounded. Intense enemy fire initially prevented the platoon from recovering the bodies of the two dead men but they struggled to regain the ground on which their comrades lay and ultimately succeeded. The wounded were evacuated by helicopter under fire but the company had to carry the bodies of PFCs Michael J. Macarell (Hasbrouck Heights, NJ) and Edward J Piantkowski (Chicago, IL) out under fire. Air strikes were called in to help extricate the company. Before the fighting ended, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade, and a regiment of the 5<sup>th</sup> ARVN Division had all joined the action, relieving Major Meloy's ad hoc command and attempting to block enemy escape corridors. Over 1100 members of the VC 9<sup>th</sup> Division were killed.

The battle had not gone well for the "Chargers". The fight had cost the lives of 60 Americans and another 159 were wounded. Despite confusing directions from brigade headquarters, the rifle companies had performed well. Their steadfastness prevented what could easily have become a disaster. Because Brigadier General DeSaussure's poor planning and lack of coordination created a confusing and dangerous tangle, he was relieved of command and replaced by Brigadier General Richard T. Knowles. Major Meloy, who salvaged the action, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

### The 6th Battalion 1967-1970



*This is the fourth in a series on the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, addressing its early combat actions in Vietnam. Like the articles on Korea and the 4th Battalion, this will be a continuing series in the newsletter.*

**CORRECTION:** In a previous edition, I erroneously reported that CSM Bill Russell was the 6th Battalion's Command Sergeant Major in 1968. It was instead CSM Dewey Creasey, who deployed with the battalion's advance party from Fort Lewis and was the Battalion Sergeant major during the unit's first year in Vietnam.

#### *The Gathering Storm—April 27-May 6 1968*



On April 27, the Bearcats were assigned to the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade "The Go Devils" and moved to a muddy base camp named Smoke, about 5 kilometers southwest of Saigon.<sup>2</sup> The base was surrounded by rice paddies, scattered clusters of thatched or cinderblock houses, and distant tree lines. Like forts through the ages, Smoke was surrounded by a protective earthen berm with bunkers spaced at intervals atop the berm. Beyond the berm were layers of triple concertina barbed wire and Claymore mines angled to shoot intersecting blasts of steel pellets at intruders. Two 203mm self-propelled

howitzers at the base fired harassing and interdiction fires at random times throughout the night, angering the troops and nearby civilians alike. Bill McMullen remembers: "Smoke was a hell-hole. It was always wet, muddy, and noisy. Those howitzers made it really hard to get any sleep and Charlie was always lobbing in a few mortar rounds. Nha Be was wet and muddy too, but we could fix it up. Smoke was unfixable." Few members of the line companies spent much time there anyway since their daily routine was to patrol, patrol, and patrol in search of an elusive enemy.

Over the next few days, A Company found a 2-ton cache of rice concealed in a hole while B Company ran into some booby traps and found all the parts of a mortar except the tube. On May 2, Captain Robert F. Stephens, Jr., D Company's commander, was wounded by a booby trap. He was replaced by Captain Grady A. Smith. The next day, D Company found

<sup>2</sup> Photo of Fire Base Smoke courtesy of Del Bumann (D Company).

a cache of hand grenades, small arms ammunition, and mortar rounds west of Smoke. Three days later, nine mortar rounds hit the base during the evening meal but no one was injured. Later that evening, another eight rounds struck with greater effect. Specialist Arnold L. Stewart of D Company was killed and nine men from B and C Companies were wounded. A Vietnamese barber had been detained earlier because he was seen pacing distances between landmarks around the base. A patrol later found the imprint of a mortar base plate less than 200 meters from Smoke's perimeter.

Between the rain, rivers, and flooded paddies, troops were always wet and muddy. Fevers of unknown origin were common. Leeches, flies, wasps, and swarms of mosquitoes, nicknamed the "Viet Cong Air Force", infested the wetlands and paddies. Officers and NCOs had to make sure troops took their boots and socks off whenever possible and took their anti-malaria tablets. Patrolling the rivers and streams south of Saigon was hazardous for more reasons than the ever-present leeches and Viet Cong. On May 4, C Company's 3d Platoon was crossing a steep-banked stream in upper Long An Province when PFC Richard Campbell slipped unseen beneath the water. Distressed at the mysterious loss of a comrade, Campbell's platoon searched for him for two hours without success. When ordered by Captain Bill Owen to move his platoon to a pickup zone to be lifted out by helicopter, Lieutenant Charles Gale argued that he would not leave until Campbell was found. Although Owen was as troubled by Campbell's loss as Gale, he knew the platoon was becoming more vulnerable by the hour lingering at the site. He got stern with Gale, ordering him to abandon the search. The next day, scout dog teams were sent to resume the search, but to no avail. The current had taken Campbell's body several miles downstream where it was found three days later by another unit.<sup>3</sup>

### Officers of the Association

Elections for new officers and board members was held at the reunion's general membership meeting. Special thanks to **Ron Corson** (CPT, A/6th Bn, VN 1969-70) for his service as our Commander for the past two years. Ron led with dedication and creativity, giving the association his time and energy to handle the hundreds of details, large and small that make our organization work smoothly. We will finally have a memorial dedicated to the regiment at Fort Benning thanks to his persistence. Thanks also to outgoing officers, **Vin Zike** (Vice Commander), **John Cornelson** (Treasurer) and out-going Board members **Dan Kelly** (Great Lakes), **Jerry Carlson** (Midwest), and **Houston Turner** (West). The newly elected officers and Board members are:

Commander: **Charlie Tapp** (SSG, D/6th Bn, VN, 1970)  
[charlietapp@windstream.net](mailto:charlietapp@windstream.net) 215 Waterford Dr, Inman, SC 29349 864-473-1999

Vice Commander: **Chuck McCammon** (SP4, A/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70)  
[mccammon@cox.net](mailto:mccammon@cox.net) 307 S 90<sup>th</sup> St, Mesa, AZ 85208 480-545-4383

Treasurer: **Joe De Angelis** (SGT, C/6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-69)  
[Jangels10@aol.com](mailto:Jangels10@aol.com) 3035 El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID 83642 208-362-9468

Membership Chairman: **Jack Considine** (CPL, B Co, Korea, 1951-52)  
[the31stira@yahoo.com](mailto:the31stira@yahoo.com) 144 S River Rd, Tolland, CT 06084 860-875-9032

Quartermaster: **Vin Zike** (SGT, D/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69)  
[vzike@challengecoin.com](mailto:vzike@challengecoin.com) 21 Caskey Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737 845-858-2030

### Board of Directors:

Senior Director/Historian: **Karl Lowe** (CPT, D/6th Bn, VN, 1970)  
[klowe@ida.org](mailto:klowe@ida.org) 5101 Portsmouth Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032 703-845-2412

Northeast (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY) **Ed Bettis** (CPL, G Co, Korea, 1951-52)  
[edbettis@netzero.net](mailto:edbettis@netzero.net) 3728 Highland Ave, Skaneateles, NY 13152 315-685-3944

Mid-Atlantic (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV) **Bill Owen** (CPT, B/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69)  
[bjowen@hughes.net](mailto:bjowen@hughes.net) 360 Glendobbin Rd, Winchester VA 22603

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<sup>3</sup> Richard's older brother, Carroll Campbell, who later became a two-term Governor of South Carolina, named a Veteran's Nursing Home in Anderson, SC after him.

Southeast (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, AR, LA, PR, VI) **Noah Halfacre** (LT, E/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70)  
[echo66@comcast.net](mailto:echo66@comcast.net) 2740 Oxford Hall Ave, Murfreesboro TN 37128 931-728-3898

Great Lakes (KY, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI) **John “Pops” McNichol** (SGT, D/6th Bn, VN, 1970)  
[usmcbmc@ameritech.net](mailto:usmcbmc@ameritech.net) 900 Fisk Ave, Joliet, IL 60436 815-741-1788

Midwest (MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, CO) **Dean Hess** (SSG, A/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1969-70)  
[hdean2@email.msn.com](mailto:hdean2@email.msn.com) 1307 102nd Ave, Greeley CO 80634 303-693-1154

West (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT, WY) **Dave Wilson** (LT, B/6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1968-69)  
[mrdpwilson@comcast.net](mailto:mrdpwilson@comcast.net) 18005 87th Ave E, Payallup WA 98357  
253-875-1901

### New Members

We're pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Jack D Bussell** Sparta TN, (SP4, C/4th Bn, Vietnam, 1966-67)  
**Richard A Carruthers** San Jose CA (C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**Michael J Connell** West Carthage NY (SSG, HHC/4th Bn, Djibouti and Iraq 2002-08)  
**John D Inderrieden** Broken Arrow, OK (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**Benjamin Jones** Ft Drum NY (Bn CSM, HHC 4th Bn, 2009-present)  
**Thomas B Jones** Dalton GA (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1969-70)  
**Daniel J Kadlec** Baxter MN (SP4, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**Larry J Kalinowski** Jefferson OH (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**John F Kane** Nutley NJ (SP4, A/2nd Bn, Korea, 1968-69)  
**Edgar T McCullough** Shepherdsville KY (PFC, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**John H Morgan** York PA (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1968-69)  
**Benjamin E Perry Jr** Worcester MA (SGT, A/4th Bn, Vietnam, 1970-71)  
**Ronnie D Ponder** Penrose NC (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**Daryl Prather** Grand Rapids MI (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1969-70)  
**Charles L Rhea** Andersonville TN (SP4, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**Larry P Rich** Asheboro NC (SGT, C/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1970)  
**Robert Vance** Huntington Station NY (CPL, A/1st Bn, Korea, 1953-54)  
**William Overby** Andreas CA (Son of William Overby, 1<sup>st</sup> SGT E/6th Bn 1969-70)

### Taps

**John Raffo** Hicksville, NY 11801 (SP4, B/6<sup>th</sup> Bn, Vietnam, 1968-69)

### Websites

Please check out our website and sign our guest book at [www.31stinfantry.org](http://www.31stinfantry.org) See related sites:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Bn 31<sup>st</sup> Inf: <http://www.drum.army.mil/sites/tenants/division/2BCT/4-31INF/>
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bn 31<sup>st</sup> Inf: [www.6thofthe31st.com](http://www.6thofthe31st.com) and [www.vietnam6bn31inf.com](http://www.vietnam6bn31inf.com)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division: [www.7th-inf-div-assn.com](http://www.7th-inf-div-assn.com).
- 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division: [www.9thinfdivsociety.org](http://www.9thinfdivsociety.org).
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division: [www.americal.org](http://www.americal.org) and 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade: [www.196th.org](http://www.196th.org).
- Karen Smith's tribute to the 31<sup>st</sup> Inf: <http://31rct.tripod.com/>
- Debbie McCabe's veteran's search site [www.how-to-find-your-military-buddy.com](http://www.how-to-find-your-military-buddy.com)

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Two quick notes in closing.

The response about sending the newsletter by email was “*underwhelming*”. We will keep sending a hardcopy via mail, using our discounted “non-profit” permit. Of course, any updates about addresses will be greatly appreciated.

Due to the extra content in this newsletter, the Quartermaster order form will not be included in this newsletter. We will make sure it is in the next one.

**Membership Application - 31st Infantry Regiment Association**

<b>first name</b>	<b>nickname</b>	<b>middle initial</b>	<b>last name</b>
<b>street address</b>	<b>city</b>	<b>state</b>	<b>zip code</b>
<b>31st Inf unit (Plt, Co, Bn)</b>			<b>rank &amp; duty position</b>
<b>rank when retired</b>		<b>Highest award earned</b>	
<b>Where did you serve with the 31st?</b>		<b>When?</b>	
Philippines	_____	_____	
Korea	_____	_____	
Japan	_____	_____	
Vietnam	_____	_____	
USA	_____	_____	
<b>Membership desired:</b>			
life member -	age 49 & under	_____	\$60
	age 50-59	_____	\$45
	age 60 & over	_____	\$35
annual member		_____	\$10
associate life member (family)		_____	\$25
associate annual member (family)		_____	\$5
active duty member		_____	\$5



Make check to **31st Inf Regt Assn** & mail to: **Jack Considine, 144 S River Rd, Tolland, CT 06084**

**31 Infantry Regiment Association**  
**Vincent Zike, COL (Ret)**  
**21 Caskey Road**  
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