

**Crossed Sabers**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association**  
**195 Buzz Street # 18**  
**Branson, MO 65616**

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**PRESIDENT JAMES R. STOKELY**

**B COMPANY 1st-12th 1969-1970**

**DEC 2020 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2021 ISSUE**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to ALL MY  
12th CAV BROTHERS and SISTERS...**

I hope the season finds you healthy and doing what you need to do to stay that way. To say the least, this past year has been trying. Hopefully, 2021 will be less stressful than 2020. Since the pandemic began earlier this year we have learned a lot about the virus. With development of vaccines and other drugs to treat those already infected maybe we can get back to a normal life. But...I am afraid it will be a new normal...life and living may never be quite the same. In the meantime follow doctor orders! Wear masks, socially distance, and wash your hands. We then can get back to the reunions and renew the fellowship we look forward to as in past years.

I joined the 1st Cav Association in 1969 on FSB Grant and 30 years later attended my first National Reunion. Like many of you, I was hesitant about bringing up Vietnam. I wish I had started long before then. I found there were others just like me with similar experiences who knew what I was talking about. I was hooked...The Fellowship is what it is ALL ABOUT! This is my second stint as 12th Cav President and also am past President of the 1st Cav Ass Cav Division Association, It's been a trip! There are some people I need to thank for their hard work and loyalty (Page 2)

“stepping up” to make this all work. Tom Crabtree for being our secretary, Saber and Crossed Saber Correspondent...talk about “stepping up”...thanks Tom! Gary Pezzuti for being our new Treasurer...it proved to be interesting to get it set up as a non-profit in a new state but mission accomplished! Also...Klaus Lachmann who Gary replaced...Klaus helped us in many ways over the years. In addition I need to thank Jocelyn and her Father Fred Wilson (D 2-12 1970-71) for taking over and redesigning the website which has been more or less inactive for a period of time. It’s a work in progress and when completed, will have the same website address...[12thcav.gov](http://12thcav.gov).

We are in a transition period like I went through in 1999 from WWII to VIETNAM. Now it is DESERT STORM, BOSNIA, PANAMA, IRAQ /AFGHANISTAN. We need Young Troopers to step up and get involved. We need a Vice President, if interested...let me know! Hopefully, we can have this resolved for the 100th Anniversary of the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood...22-25 September 2021. This will be a special reunion! In any case...stay well and healthy...ALL THE BEST!

JIM STOKELY

PRESIDENT

724-992-8358

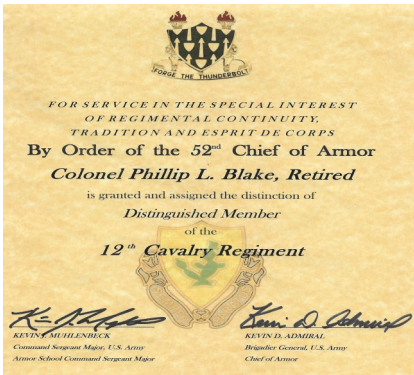
FIRST TEAM

EDITOR NOTE: In step with what JIM said...until we have younger Troopers as active members of our Association there is still work to be done. For those of us who feel that sense of purposelessness ‘stepping up’ can give us a mission to accomplish, eliminate those boring hours or days in the field almost drove us over the brink. When out and about in your communities...you see a younger veteran with a Cav hat...talk to them...find out if they served in a 12th Cav Unit...tell them about the Association. Give them Gary Pezzuti’s number 973-875-3300 or my number 432-853-4851 so we can get them to our gatherings. Submit your stories for the Newsletter and Saber Column. Be a force in the ‘esprit de corps’...make reunions when possible...keeps us in step even if two counts off cadence-’ALWAYS READY’...1st Team...1st Cav... 1st String...! ... .. (TLC)

five couples kicked off...COMBS...BARBERS...GREENLEAFS...TALLERDYS... CRABTREES. 2007 the HARRISONS from CA joined in...2008 WARDENS joined in the planning and preparations for the reunion. Through hard work and teamwork we’ve been blessed to have a good growth phase through 2016. One of the Troops went awry in 2008...two crossed to Fiddlers Green...DOUG WARDEN became VP/PRESIDENT...ELVIS POES, CARLISLE MAHTO, and “DOC” VOGT’S daughter STEPHANIE ASH was always on spot to help. Since 2016 we have had help from MATAS...PAOLIS...WILSONS...WIENS. Over the years average attendance is 162. MAGGIE and I have been at it since 2006 and we believe it is time to pass the Mantle...if someone thinks they might want to carry it on after this year...get with us and talk about the ins-outs, dos and don’ts. If You decide to try it...WE WILL BACK YOU UP! Final decision about reunion future will be drawn from group vote at men’s SATURDAY Morning Meeting 5 June 2021.

NEW DISTINGUISHED MEMBER

COL (R) PHILLIP L. BLAKE A/HHC 1ST-12TH 1966-67



TAPS-PRAYERS: CHARLES V. TRAVIS USA (RET) C 1-12 1972...20 NOV 2020...Muskegon, MI. THOMAS JENSEN MEDIC C 1-12 1967-1968 in Hospice Idaho Falls, ID...Prognosis not good.

Until next time: “May the Chief Chopper Pilot Hover over us...the Original Paratrooper eliminate our T10 Malfunctions...the Head Point man keep us in the assigned AO” (TLC)

CRABTREE OUT! SEMPER PARATUS...BOOT to BOOT...HAPPY NEW YEAR!

(Cont'd from Page 5)

**12TH CAVALRY REGIMENT REUNION: 85 Rooms Blocked Reservations 800-808-9355...REF GROUP # 633590...12TH CAVALRY...RATES...\$119.00 plus tax \$133.70**

**Summertime rates are higher and MO increased sales tax rates to make up for COVID losses...RATES are for two per room...additional guests per room add \$10.00...these costs include Breakfast each day during the stay.**

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Many looked forward to the 15TH YEAR REUNION, would have come except for the pandemic, now plan to be here for 15.5. 1ST CAV DIVISION REUNION set for 22-26 September to recognize 100 Years of FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION...D CO 1ST-12TH scheduled a reunion 27-30 September in Las Vegas... J.D. KIRBY A CO 1ST-12TH is working on a reunion 19-23 April in Asheville, NC...MIKE CODY D CO 2D-12TH has one on tap 11-16 May at Edgar Evans State Park, TN. A full load to makeup for Year 2020 'blank out'. We ALL would like to make every reunion but not possible for some of us ...some choices to consider.

BRANSON was scheduled to not stack up around the DIVISION Celebration. Past four years have seen a trend to smaller company group gatherings. This time we need to consider...feasibility of continuing BRANSON. We have had three successful milestones since 2006 first reunion...5th year 2010...10th year 2015...now 15/(15.5). No one expected it this long...due to current leanings and physical ageing factors we have to ask ourselves if we can do it annually...this could be our 'Swan Song' for BRANSON REUNION as we have known it these 15 years. Could be last chance for those who have not made BRANSON and those who have missed the past four years! It is a tough decision...we would like all Troopers who made BRANSON their prime destination for reunion...in on this decision process...your presence here every year is what made it "what it is"...hope to see a big turnout...if there has to be an ending to the story of 12TH CAVALRY REUNION in BRANSON...let's make the "Last Cowboy Song" a good one...leave them with "something to talk about"...last ROLL CALL MEMORIAM to our 847 BROTHERS on THE WALL...live ROLL CALL of TROOPERS who have made this Group Gathering one of the best ever REGIMENT EVENTS...might even try to produce a Video of our Years here...June 2006-June 2021. In 2006 (Page 7)



**COLONEL JIM DINGEMAN, USA (RET)**

**Honorary Colonel of the Regiment**

**Commander, 2D-12th Cavalry, Vietnam 1968-1969**

**GREETINGS TO THE 12TH CAVALRY FAMILY**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ... HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021**

Keep this in mind as we work through the COVID 19 Crises...our 12th Cav Association will be facing this challenge for some time thus, our officers and dedicated worker have lots of work cut out for them. I know they are up to the task! We will keep our paper active , our 1st Cav Saber column functioning, our new Web Site up and running and stay in contact with the active Troopers.

I encourage ALL to follow common sense in dealing with the COVID 19 problem. Wear your mask, keep your distance, avoid crowds and get your virus shot when you can. I am sure they will be safe...equal to the ones we received when in the Army! They kept us safe many years ago when we were overseas.

We ALL spent Thanksgiving under severe efforts to keep our distance. I expect Christmas to be observed in the same fashion. This is a small price to pay for hopefully many more Christmases to look forward to with our whole families gathered together again!

I close with my condolences to the widow of EDWARD C. "SHY" MEYER who passed on 8 Nov 2020. "SHY" was respected by ALL as one competent professional , a 'Soldier's Soldier. I had the privilege of knowing "SHY" as a fellow Infantryman and CAV TROOPER and as Honorary Colonel of the 12th Cavalry Regiment. He was easy to talk with and I am proud to call him a friend. He is and will be missed...'one great soldier and one of a kind'!

**GOD BLESS ALL**

**PROUD TO BE A 12TH CAVALRY TROOPER**

**James w. 'JIM' DINGEMAN**

**COL USA (R)**

## CANCELLED...CANCELLED...CANCELLED

2020...only way to describe it..."COVID 19 CANCELLATION FORUM" began with Washington D.C. cancelling that revered day (Memorial Day) honoring those who gave their lives since 1776 for the freedoms we cherish. Followed by postponement of the event WE CAVALRYMEN all look forward to, the Annual Division Reunion scheduled for June in Louisville, KY, expediently rescheduled to September. Rising numbers of COVID cases and turmoil in Louisville it was apparent the best course of action was to cancel and retrofit for 22-26 September 2021 to recognize 1st Cavalry Division's 100th Birthday. I was disappointed myself...Louisville is the one Division Reunion I have not made and was looking forward to it. Division Association Staff made a laudable and practical decision. I am looking forward to Ft Hood and this Highpoint in our History.

4th of July was quiet with few if any major gatherings which left us with the 12th Cavalry Reunion for 10-17 October, rescheduled to Veterans Week 9-14 November. A major portion of this was cancelled due to the Hotel rearranging our Hospitality Room options that would have left us in quarters too cramped for safety and within current guidelines. However, a mini reunion with 13 attendees 10-13 November did happen.

Five 12th Cavalry Troopers/guests showed up...2d-12th Troopers...KEN CHAPMAN, York, SC, and Grand-Daughters KATE CHAPMAN/McKENZIE GIBSON...FRED/KELLI WILSON, Athens, OH...RON ROWDEN/VONDA from Kimberling City, MO...all D CO. Troopers 1969-1971. Just recently connected with fellow Troopers, this was KEN's first reunion. Two 1st-12th Troopers...MARIO/DIANA MATA, Salinas, KS...THOMAS/MAGGIE CRABTREE, Branson, MO...both C CO. 1965-66/66-67. FRED and KELLI came down in their truck...we rigged it up with Flags, BOOT to BOOT Posters on the sides, tailgate and grill and entered the Veterans Day Parade WEDS 11th as 12th Cavalry Regiment. Ladies rode in the cab...FRED...KEN...MARIO...THOMAS in the truck bed. RON ROWDEN was on the float with his local VVA Group. A good turnout of Branson Community Residents was a boost to everybody's Spirit as we tossed out (Page 5)

travel hand wipe packets with the "BOOT to BOOT" 12th Cavalry logo on the outer wraps...we were the hit of the parade...'ALWAYS READY'...!

Tuesday evening after everybody had checked into their rooms we met at Charlie's Steak House for grub and hubbub. Wednesday morning breakfast at 'The Welk', after the Parade lunch at 'The Landshark', Branson Landing Lakeside patio, served by one of our favorite people TERESA FARMER from 'The Welk'. RON ROWDEN knew of a place called Stars, we went there in the evening for Ribs and such. Stars...new in the Branson Food Scene...near 'The Welk'...plans live entertainment and dancing in future venue. Might be a place we can check out during the next reunion 31 May-6 June 2021.

Thursday afternoon...of course...we made the 'Hits of the 60s Show (Christmas Show)'. FRED's Son STEVEN WILSON (USNR) and his Lady came in THU 12th from OKC. After the show went to Botanaz for Mexican Food...Matt and Amber joined us and a good time was had by all. Friday 13 November...'WELK' Banquet Supper...Thanksgiving fare. FRED did some video recordings and when finished editing it will be posted on 12th Cav Web Site his Daughter JOCELYN is developing. Saturday morning we gathered for Breakfast...parting conversation...shook hands, hugged and wished all safe travels. ALL made it home safe and look forward to reunion 15.5...31 May-6 June 2021.

A small gathering of 13...12th Cavalry camaraderie...'esprit de corps' held throughout the four days. Interesting element in play...Trooper Mix...2/1st-12th Troopers original time period 1965-1966...3/2d-12th Troopers last time periods 1969-1971...proved 'we are all Brothers'...our own Battles but same perspectives of the 'War' experience and we have same MISSION now..."help Brothers heal and continue the legacy"! NOTE: 1st-12th Troopers...there is a good mix of both groups at the reunion with more 1-12 Troops attending...for three years 2-12 Troops have said they will outnumber us at a reunion...this time they did...can't let this happen at 15.5 31 May-6 June 2021...COVID risks should be minimal this time around...there is much to catch up on...Make your room reservations now ...Information Group Reference # top of (Page 6)! End February will have registration forms and event schedules in SPRING 2021 Newsletter...one more full Roll Call Memoriam of our Brothers on 'The Wall'...let's "Saddle Up ...Charge On"!!!



PHOTO PAGE A

9-11 NOV 2020



PHOTO PAGE B

9-11 NOV 2020



Page 1-Top Row L-R-Tue Charlies-McKenzie riding Gaylord: 4 Marauders in parade Weds at Tailgate L-Fred Wilson R Ken Chapman Back at cab L-Mario Mata R-Thomas Crabtree: Row 2 Lunch Wed at Landshark-Kate and McKenzie- Mario Mata: Stars-Ken-Mario-Fred: Bottom Row at Botanas-Fred/Kelli/Diana/Steve/Christina: Page 2 Top: Botanas-Kate/McKenzie/Thomas/Maggie/Matt/Amber: 2d Row-Saturday Morning Goodbyes With Lawrence Welk-Kneeling L-Mario Mata R- Ken Chapman: Standing L-Fred Wilson R-Thomas Crabtree NOTE: We had Lawrence Protected w/Boot to Boot Mask.