

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article I. Title**

The Association shall be known as the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association.

### **Article II. Aims and Objectives**

*Section 1.* To preserve and foster the spirit of fellowship among former and possible future members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army, and provide an organization through which they may unite in bonds of comradeship.

*Section 2.* To commemorate the memory of soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

*Section 3.* To support a national military that will promote stability and peace throughout the world.

*Section 4.* To foster public understanding and support of the United States Army.

*Section 5.* To promote and perpetuate those Army and unit traditions that contribute to esprit de corps and superior performance of duty.

### **Article III. Membership**

*Section 1.* Membership in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association shall be open to any soldier, active, retired or honorably discharged Veteran, who served or was attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade during its active service.

*Section 2.* Terms of Membership. Membership in the Association shall remain in force so long as the member maintains current status by payment of prescribed dues.

### **Article IV. Officers**

*Section 1.* Enumeration. The Officers of the Association shall be a President who shall be the Chief Executive Officer, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

*Section 2.* Duties. The Officers of the Association shall administer the affairs of the Association in accordance with the By-Laws.

*Section 3.* Terms and Election. The President and the Vice President shall be elected by the membership, as provided in these By-Laws. The terms of office of the President and Vice President shall be two (2) years, and they shall be eligible for reelection. The other officers shall be appointed by the President.

*Section 4.* Vacancies in Elective Offices. If the President vacates his office during his term, the Vice President shall succeed thereto.

*Section 5.* Honorary Presidents. The Honorary Presidency of the Association may be tendered after election by the membership.

ON THE COVER: The historic Alamo. San Antonio has been selected for the site of the next 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association reunion. See the information contained in this newsletter. Make your reservations early!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Howdy!

Less than 9 months until we meet in San Antonio! I'm hoping for a huge turnout as San Antonio was the place picked as #1 by the respondents to our survey in Branson. San Antonio will be my 9<sup>th</sup> reunion. I attended my first in Cincinnati in 1987, while I was still on active duty, and have only missed one since, Boston - 1989, because of a family emergency. I guarantee it will be a life or death situation to ever get me to miss another.

San Antonio is the home of the Army Medical Service at Fort Sam Houston. We are planning a special tribute to our Charger medical personnel. We will salute the surgeons, the aid stations and the medics in the field, our "Docs", that put their lives on the line every day in an effort to make sure the rest of us got home. We will also be celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of our Brigade and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding

of our Association.

Please be sure to read all of the materials and ***make your hotel reservations*** before filling out and sending in the registration form with your check. I look forward to seeing you there!

I promised in my last message to address some of the other comments I received after the Branson reunion but I found after the newsletter came out that I had really touched an exposed nerve.

I got a flood of email, snail mail and phone calls mostly from folks telling me I hit the nail right on the head. They had similar experiences through the years just like the one I spoke of in my message. Some felt so alienated that they had vowed never to come to another reunion because of it, but as a result of my message, some have agreed to give it another try. They truly miss the camaraderie of being with a group of guys who shared their experiences and who speak their language. This goes not only for the combat arms types but especially for the rear echelon support types without whom we folks at the tip of the spear could not function. The ratio of support to grunt was 7:1. That's a lot of support & service personnel that kept us provided with all the stuff we needed to do our jobs. These folks are as justifiably proud of their service and of being Chargers as any of us.

From 1966 to 1972, whether you were an original or a replacement, direct combat or combat support, the thing that made all of us "exclusive" is the fact that we were all Chargers. Let's open our arms and welcome ALL of our brother Chargers back into the family where they belong.

We needed each then and we still need each other now.....

***Warren Neill***

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Treasurer's Report as of August, 2003  
Respectfully submitted by *Ken Wright*

Life Membership Fund

Balance August 2003 47,939.92

Edward Jones Investment

Value August 2003 19,630.84 (Value one year ago \$18,506.44)

General Fund

Balance brought forward 24,451.46

Deposits 12,603.47

Expenses 12,242.01

Balance August 2003 24,812.92

Balance Total 92,383.68

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 196<sup>th</sup> Association Polo Shirt



Chargers!!

Many of you that attended the reunion in Branson saw others wearing a White Polo Shirt with an embroidered 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Patch and Association Logo neatly placed on the left side.

You can now order these shirts and have them to wear for the next reunion or to show “your colors” around town. Please see the order form on page # 9.

Half of the profits will again be donated to the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association, as they were after the last reunion.

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### 196<sup>th</sup> FLAGS NOW AVAILABLE

We have located a reliable flag maker to supply 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade flags. These flags are all-weather, double-sided, flags made from high quality materials. They come complete with heavy duty outdoor hem and brass grommets.

This flag has been personally tested by the association president and has been flown 24/7 at his residence in Indiana for the last 9 months with no problems and minimal fading.

The flag is available thru the association for \$65.00 which includes shipping and handling. Make checks payable to – 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Assn.

Orders should be sent to:

196<sup>th</sup> LIB Assn  
Ken Wright, Treasurer  
8280 Hwy 66E  
Rome, IN 47574.

### PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

Thanks to the Veterans History Project there is a nationwide effort underway to record and preserve the stories of America's wartime veterans. Our nation loses some 1,500 veterans every day, and with them the stories of their service and sacrifice in defense of our cherished way of life.

Once these individual interviews and histories are collected, they will be forever preserved in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and will be available online for review by veterans and their families, historians, researchers, and future generations of Americans.

The Veterans History Project was created by Congress in 2000 to collect and preserve audio and video-taped oral histories, along with documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America's war veterans and those who served in support of them.

The project's goal is to interview veterans in every state who want to share their stories. Because time is of the essence, the first priority is to interview World War II veterans. However, the project also includes veterans of Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf wars, and all other conflicts.

You can volunteer to interview your fellow veterans or allow someone to interview you as part of America's living history.

A comprehensive project kit, with complete guidelines for collecting and preserving personal histories, all the necessary forms, and other useful information for veterans and volunteer interviewers is available from:

The Veterans History Project  
American Folklife Center  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4615

Or it can be downloaded from the Veterans History Project website:

[www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets)



## TAPS

*We often are not notified of a member's passing until we get a notice from the Post Office. If you have any information on the death of a 196th Brother, please send it to the Editor.*

**Kushner, Gerald D.** (no date) HHB, 3/82Arty, 1965 - July 1967. Reported by Richard Noonan who said that Gerald served honorably in the Fire Direction Center.

**Lafferty, Robert**, 21 June 2004, A, 3/82, 1965-1967.

**Burton, Alfred**, 11 Sept 2004, D, 2/1, 1968-1969. Reported by Ken Lewis, who served with Alfred. Rest in peace friend.

**Detwiler, Dorothy**, Gold Star Mother of Larry Detwiler, KIA 8/22/69, C. 2/1. Dorothy had attended many of our reunions. Sue Godek, who befriended Dorothy, through shared pain, writes of her; She was an angel of a woman and was strong and brave. Our trip to the Wall was truly magical. Dorothy met me on the train and shared her room with me though we were virtually strangers. She hugged and comforted and "welcomed home" many of the vets. She was a sweet dear person who mourned her son Larry terribly. I understood how she felt - how other family members would not allow her to express her grief after so many years.

Our survivors of sorrow must choke back our feelings as we listen to people say, "It's all in the past... It's water over the dam... Get a life... You lost your war... Why does it matter after all this time..." but it does, for some terrible reason.

When I traveled to the Wall in DC with my Gold Star Mother friend, I saw that some vets can't even go up to the Wall. I address this to them - *Sue Godek*

### *From a Sister in Sorrow*

*Brothers have courage*

*Like me -*

*Be brave like you used to be -*

*If I could stand at*

*the grave and weep*

*as the sound of Taps wailed*

*all around me*

*And I watched in envy (I confess)*

*as his mother received the folded*

*flag and red rose -*

*And I was forgotten -*

*Except by him -*

*And he was surrounded by mourners preparing to enter him  
into the earth -*

*...And I was so young/so young to be*

*so sorrowful/so bereft -*

*And no one could explain it*

*or help me live without him -*

*I lived in Arlington, VA when he*

*wrote me back then -*

*So years later I took the train and stayed*

*at a hotel and looked down upon*

*a bridge where traffic roared -*

*(Back then I walked home from*

*Georgetown on that bridge - it*

*was quiet and still - I looked up*

*to the moon and down to the river*

*walking home bare foot to Arlington in '69)*

*So I gathered up courage and strength*

*from God knows where and went to the*

*Wall next day - swallowed all my fears*

*and left a remembrance there -*

*The little wooden dog I meant to send*

*him in Vietnam - (a boy needs a dog)*

*but he died before the dog could be*

*sent - so it's found him at last.*

*29W-Row 78, Johnnie Hanson, KIA - 3/19/69*

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## REMEMBRANCE OF CHAPLAIN FEASTER

I read the narrative of the unselfish death of Chaplain Feaster. I feel compelled to note his brilliance, compassion, fearlessness, courage and patriotism. He was dauntless and uncompromising in his belief in God and love of country. With him I shared the adventure of leaving Port Boston and landing in Vung Tau in 1966 - I was his roommate for the entire voyage. Chaplain Feaster was a different soldier, always concerned with the welfare of his fellow Chargers.

I had knowledge of his early combat death. It shook me then as it does four decades later. God bless him and the members of our 196th Brigade.

Rest in Peace, 1/LT *Jerry Roberto*, F-Troop, 17th Cav, Tay Ninh - 1966-1967

## **REUNION 2005**

The 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association's 2005 reunion will be at the San Antonio Airport Hilton Hotel in San Antonio TX, Thur, 28 Jul – Sun, 31, Jul 2005. The Airport Hilton is located at 611 NW Loop 410 at the San Pedro Ave exit. The hotel sits on the frontage road on the north side of Loop 410 between San Pedro Ave and Blanco Rd. The direct reservation number is 1-888-728-3031. Tell them you are with the 196<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Group Code – LIB.

You will find the Registration Form, in formation and tentative schedule in this newsletter.

**Please take time to read all the information before you fill out the form.**

### **\*\*\* Make Hotel Reservations First, then send in Registration\*\*\***

The hotel is big enough to handle our room requirement at an affordable rate but doesn't have a banquet facility big enough to hold us, so we will be having an off-site banquet again this year.

We will be having a Texas style banquet at a real Texas cow boy dance hall. So dust off those boots & hats and brush up on your line dancin' for a Texas size party complete with a live band!

Our cocktailhour/banquet & party will be held at Cow boys Dance Hall.

We will have at least 3 buses shuttling back and forth from the Hilton between 1700 & 1800. At approximately 2100 a bus will depart for the Hilton about every 30 minutes until 2400.

It is not mandatory to take the bus. The buses are being provided for those who either do not wish to drive or for those who may want to enjoy the party without the worry of driving after a few drinks.

It is a short, 4 mile drive to the Dance Hall from the Hilton. There is more than ample parking available for those who wish to drive themselves or have designated drivers. Goof-proof (easy to follow) maps will be provided.

There will be two tours offered this year. Please see the Reunion Info Sheet for the description of the tours that we have negotiated for substantially reduced rates for our members. These tours will be conducted on Friday, 29 July beginning at 0830. They will depart from and return to the hotel.

To take advantage of the reduced rates you must purchase the tour tickets in advance on the Registration Form.

Our memorial this year will be held at 1300 on Saturday on Ft Sam Houston, the home of the Army Medical Corps where our "Docs" learned their skills.

We suggest and request that you schedule your personal, self-directed sight seeing and attraction choices during the day and plan to spend most of the evenings meeting and socializing with your fellow Chargers in our huge hospitality room.

Guess that about covers it. We are really looking forward to having a great time of fellowship and camaraderie in San Antonio. We hope our reunions continue to grow and we hope to see you all there.

*Warren Neill, President*  
*Bill Knight, Vice President*

## REUNION INFO SHEET

San Antonio is the home of the Army Medical Service at Fort Sam Houston. We are planning a special tribute to our Charger medical personnel. We will salute the surgeons, the aid stations and the medics in the field, our "Docs", that put their lives on the line every day in an effort to make sure the rest of us got home. We will also be celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of our Brigade and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Association.

Following is a list of details of events planned for the San Antonio Reunion –

Wednesday- ***This activity will be for any one who plans to arrive early, and is not part of the official reunion.***

A tour of the Army Medical training facilities at Ft Sam is currently being planned by two of our "Docs", Bob Kelly and Rich Mosher, for Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. At press time this was still not confirmed. When firm details are available we will post it on the web site or you can call Bob Kelly at 610-779-6399.

Thursday –

1200-1900 RegistrationOpen

1200-2400 HospitalityRoom

Friday –

0830 – 1600 VIVA! San Antonio All Day Tour - will include – Mission San Jose, 1 hour Boat Ride on the world famous Riverwalk, with free time for lunch (Rivercenter Mall), Alamo, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and El Mercado (Mexican Market), Return to Hotel. Includes all fees and admissions.

0830-1400 Half Day City Tour – will include – Short driving tour of downtown San Antonio, Alamo, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, San Fernando Cathedral, El Mercado (Mexican Market), Free Time for Lunch (on your own), Return to Hotel. Includes all fees and admissions.

1200-1900 RegistrationOpen

1200-2400 HospitalityRoom

Saturday -

0900-1000 MembershipMeeting

1200-1700 HospitalityRoom

1300-1400 Memorial Service with guest speaker. To be held at the Combat Medic Statue on Ft. Sam Houston. You must arrange to get there on your own. Goof-proof maps will be provided. Car pooling is encouraged and can be arranged after the membership meeting if not sooner. If you haven't already been out there to see it, go over early and check out the museum.

1700-2400 Banquet with Guest Speaker, Guest DJ, and Live Band. **Dress is Cowboy Casual.**

Shuttle buses will be given at 1700. Goof-proof maps will be available for those who wish to drive.

Sunday –

0900 – 1000 ChaplainService

Prior to Noon Check Out

## **For Our Members Who Choose To Drive Their RV Or Camper**

**Following is a list of RV Parks and Campgrounds within 25 miles of the San Antonio Airport Hilton Reunion Site at 611 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX.**

**The list is provided for your convenience.**  
**We have no agreements with these facilities.**  
**You must make your own plans and reservations.**

Oak Hills RV Park  
9601 Fredericksburg Rd  
San Antonio, TX  
219-699-6159  
4 miles

Texas 281 RV Park  
33300 US Hwy 281 N  
Bulverde, TX  
830-980-2282  
19 miles

Lackland Village RV Park  
7568 Hwy 90 W  
San Antonio, TX  
210-674-1021  
11 miles

Wagon Wheel RV Park  
4880 US Hwy 281 N  
Spring Branch, TX  
830-438-2933  
20 miles

Admiralty RV Resort  
1485 N Ellison Dr  
San Antonio, TX  
210-647-7878  
12 miles

Cactus Country RV Park  
15431 S US Hwy 181  
San Antonio, TX  
210-635-9337  
20 miles

Blazing Star Luxury RV Resort  
1120 W Loop 1604 N  
San Antonio, TX  
210-680-7827  
13 miles

Fort Tire RV Park  
19575 Benton City Rd  
Somerset, TX  
210-624-2665  
22 miles

Tejas Valley RV Park & Camp ground  
13080 Potranco Rd  
San Antonio, TX  
210-679-7715  
16 miles

Hill Country RV Resort  
131 S Ruekle Rd  
New Braunfels, TX  
830-626-8908  
23 miles

I-37 RV Park  
13550 Donop Rd  
Elmendorf, TX  
210-633-3170  
17 miles

Creek Hollow RV Park  
40970 FM 3159  
Canyon Lake, TX  
830-899-7121  
25 miles

Alamo Fiesta RV Resort  
33000 I-10 W  
Boerne, TX  
830-249-4700  
18 miles

Landa RV Park & Camp ground  
565 N Market St  
New Braunfels, TX  
830-625-1211  
25 miles

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association Reunion  
July 28 - 31, 2005 - San Antonio, TX

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Make Hotel Reservations First:** Call the San Antonio Airport Hilton direct at 1-888-728-3031. Tell them you are with the 196<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Group Code – LIB, to receive the special reunion rate of \$77 per night plus tax. If you plan to arrive early or stay over, the special rate will apply for 5 days prior and 5 days after the reunion. A free airport shuttle is available.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Service \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

(Member & Primary Guest/Spouse Only)      Number of People : \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(Registration fee helps defray costs of programs, speakers, gifts, name badges & welcome packets)

Memory Book – 2005 San Antonio Reunion Memories      \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(Professional photos will be taken during the entire event to include individual and group shots)

Tours - Specially Negotiated Reduced Reunion Prices

Full Day San Antonio Tour      Friday, 29 Jul, 9am – 4pm      \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes Riverwalk Boat Ride)

Half Day San Antonio Tour      Friday, 29 Jul, 9am – 2pm      \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(No Boat Ride)

**SATURDAY BANQUET:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm      Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Texas Style Banquet at Cowboys Dance Hall with Special Guest Speaker  
Dress is Cowboy Casual. Cocktails: 5:30pm - 6:00pm  
Music & Dancing with DJ: 8:00pm – 9:30pm / Live Band: 9:30pm-Midnight.

Membership current? No? Do it now! Annual - \$20.00 / Life - \$196.00      Dues enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

196<sup>th</sup> T-Shirts. Indicate quantity: \_\_\_2XL \_\_\_XL \_\_\_L \_\_\_M \_\_\_\_\_      Shirts x \$12 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Association**      **TOTAL:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Registration Form with check to: Warren Neill, PO Box 434, Cicero, IN 46034**

**Registration Deadline – Friday, 17 June 2005**

**Any Questions Contact:** Warren Neill – 317-984-3853/email – grunt196@insightbb.com  
Bill Knight – 812-789-2714/email – billkianne@aol.com



# 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

## GOLF SHIRT ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE:(     ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Charger Golf Shirt:** White, 100% cotton short sleeve knit polo with flat collar and ribbed cuffs, with the distinctive 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade insignia embroidered on the left breast pocket area. (There is no pocket) The insignia is surrounded by the words: **196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association** on the top, and **“Chargers!!”** on the bottom.

<p>Note: A “member” is someone who is current in their 196th LIB Association dues.  Dues status will be checked prior to filling order.</p>				
SIZES	QUANTITY ORDERED	PRICE EACH (Non-Members)	PRICE EACH (Members)	TOTAL COST
SMALL		\$35.00	\$28.00	\$
MEDIUM		\$35.00	\$28.00	\$
LARGE		\$35.00	\$28.00	\$
X-LARGE		\$35.00	\$28.00	\$
XX-LARGE		\$35.00	\$28.00	\$
XXX-LARGE		\$35.00	\$28.00	\$
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$
<b>SHIPPING (1<sup>st</sup> Shirt)</b>				<b>\$ 4.00</b>
Add \$1.00 shipping per additional shirt				\$
Donation to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association				\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>				<b>\$</b>

Make your check or money order (no credit cards) payable to: Ronnie B. Rondem

Mail this Golf Shirt Order Form and your payment to:

**Ronnie B. Rondem**  
**13390 Providence Lake Drive**  
**Alpharetta, GA 30004**

For additional info call: **770-663-0119**

Or E-mail: [rrondem@comcast.net](mailto:rrondem@comcast.net)

**One half of all profits will be donated to the 196th LIB Association.**

**Please allow four weeks for delivery. All orders shipped by UPS Ground.**

## TASK FORCE RED DRAGON IN BAGHDAD

The 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II in Baghdad, Iraq from 13 January 2004 through 12 January 2005. The Red Legs of Task Force 3-82 were responsible for the security and reconstruction of the Al-Monsour, Qadisayah, Yarmouk, Mutanabbi, and Hateen neighborhoods in central Baghdad, as well as maintaining their primary role of fire support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT).



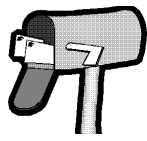
Task Force 3-82 conducted transfer of authority with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division on 12 February 2004. The Red Dragons immediately assumed responsibility for a strategically vital portion of Baghdad, including the residences of the Interim Iraqi Government ministers and officials, the Al Ma'Moun telecommunications tower, and the largest concentration of embassies in Baghdad. In addition to patrols, cordons, searches, Traffic Control Points (TCP), and raids, TF 3-82 conducted counter-fire missions and delivered fires in support of units in contact from the Blackjack Brigade.

From 03 February 2004 until 15 November 2004, TF 3-82 conducted countless raids, cordons and searches, TCP's, and over 4,500 patrols. The continuous and visible presence of the Red Dragons within the AO helped deter Anti-Iraqi activity and maintained security and stability for civilians. Additionally, Task Force 3-82 conducted joint operations with the FBI, members of Operational Detachment Alpha, Special Forces from other coalition countries, and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

TF 3-82 completed over 200 civic action projects worth over \$6.9 million and developed many future projects worth an estimated \$13.4 million, thereby improving the quality of life for the residents of the neighborhoods within AO Red Dragon. TF 3-82 aided in the development of the Iraqi Security Forces within AO Red Dragon by recruiting and training over 240 Iraqi National Guard members, 600 Iraqi Police and 300 Facilities Protective Servicemen. This critical mission ensured members of the ISF were properly trained to provide security for their own country and was a significant success.

Outside of our Area of Operations, Red Dragons deployed to Najaf and Falluja to ensure mission success. In July, HSB and Fox Batteries sent soldiers to support these decisive operations. TF Red Dragon soldiers were responsible for destroying enemy elements with direct and indirect fires. A/3-82 FA deployed to Falluja on 3 November 2004 in support of Operation Phantom Fury. Gators delivered timely and accurate fires in support of 2BCT and 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division firing over 1,300 rounds and were credited with 15 enemy kills. Additionally, Gators fired three copper head rounds and destroyed an enemy command post, saving the lives of a platoon of marines. C/3-82 deployed to the international zone to provide security for a UN Mission. The remainder of the battalion continues the OPRES mission while preparing to redeploy.

*Jeffrey Collins*  
MAJ, FA  
XO



# MAIL CALL

## HIEP DUC VALLEY

In 1969 I was a photographer with Stars & Stripes in Vietnam. That August I photographed B Co., 4/31 in the Hiep Duc Valley. A story I wrote for Stripes created a small furor at the time (you can read the story at [www.hodierne.com/sandsplash.htm](http://www.hodierne.com/sandsplash.htm)).

I have recently posted a bunch of photos from that battle at a new Web site of mine. I am unable to identify many of the soldiers in those photos and I'd like to enlist your help with that. The photos are at:

[www.vietnamphotography.com/](http://www.vietnamphotography.com/)

When you get to that site if you search by keyword for Hiep Duc or Americal you'll be shown about 75 photos from the battle. Any help you or the other guys from the unit can give me would be greatly appreciated. Best of all, of course, I'd like to contact those men.

Keep the faith,

*Robert Hodierne*

Robert@Hodierne.com

## LOOKING FOR PICTURES

I was in A Company, 3/21, 196th from Dec 69 to Nov 70. Stationed mostly on LZ Center. All of my film and photos were ruined by the mildew in the rear area. I am interested in photos of LZ Center, area of operation and if anyone has pictures from my unit I would appreciate getting copies and getting in contact. I carried a radio the last six months I was there.

*Michael Peterson*

1176 B Mt George Ave.

Napa CA 94559

E-mail: [mky50@aol.com](mailto:mky50@aol.com)

## HE FOUND ME

Miguel Sanchez found me. He knew my dad. After 35 years he found who he was looking for, the family of SFC Domingo Flores Morado. It was all due to your newsletter. Maybe there can be some kind of closure. We finally met on July 3, 2004. He is only three and a half hours away too.

He and his wife are wonderful people. We vowed to go to the reunion in 2005. It will be my first 196th reunion. I am a member of *Sons and Daughters In Touch*. I am senior vice of our VFW 8134 La Coste, Texas.

Thank you,

*Katherine*

## AL FRED K. FITTING "SARGE"

After all these years, I found your website. Today is the second anniversary of my husband's death, and I was remembering our days that he spent in Viet Nam as a sergeant.

He was in Fort Devens and was in the original 196th group, spent 3 tours of duty in Nam, and received a Purple Heart in '66.

My son was sent to Viet Nam in '68 and was stationed in the same camp that my husband helped build in Tay Ninh.

That was a tough period, but we all muddled through and had many happy years. I think that finding your web was very touching to day, and through a few tears of remembrance, I want to thank you for the thoughts your web has brought me.

*B Fitting*

[bettybb123@aol.com](mailto:bettybb123@aol.com)

My dad passed away a year ago, and I just found your web-site. He went to Nam with the group that was originally supposed to go to the Dominican Republic in '66, but went to Nam in stead. He retired in July 1967.

I would be interested to hear from any who knew him.

Thanks,

*Phil, Philip L. Fitting*

Brookside International Incorporated

80 Field Point Road

Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

(203) 618 - 0202 Telephone

[pfitting@brooksideintl.com](mailto:pfitting@brooksideintl.com)

## CONNECTING TO DAD

Thanks to the locator on the website, today I received an email from Stan Cantrelle c/4/31 1968-1969 who served along side my father, SFC Marshall Robertson, who was KIA August 26, 1969.

It has been 34 years - a long life without a Dad and now to my own kids without a grandfather. Connecting with Men who knew him last and can share with me who he was as a man and a soldier is priceless.

Words cannot describe what this means to me. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Wilson, Daughter, SFC Marshall Robertson*

E-mail: [pwilson@wilsonmedia.us](mailto:pwilson@wilsonmedia.us)

C/4/31 - KIA 8/26/69

## MAIL CALL

### TRYING TO MAKE DE LIVERY AFTER 35 YEARS

I served in the Viet Nam war from Dec 1966 to June 1968 and was assigned to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, attached to the aviation section. My original MOS was Air Traffic Controller but when the 196th moved from Tay Ninh to Chuli, the Marines controlled all air traffic. I was then assigned the duties of the NCOIC of our aviation unit and part time door gunner. The aviation unit's primary mission was to fly command and control for the brigade commander and/or field commanders and other duties as assigned. Around May or June of 1968, we were returning the brigade commander back to headquarters after overseeing the efforts of an ongoing operation when our aircraft flew over a hornet's nest of VC. The aircraft sustained several hits which any one of them should have disabled the aircraft but luck and God was with us that day. However, the pilot did suffer minor injuries. After arriving at headquarters, the commanding officer immediately presented the pilot with a Purple Heart.

Now to the reason as to why I am writing this letter. I took several pictures of our pilot receiving the Purple Heart and of the bullet holes in the aircraft where the pilot sits. I told the pilot that I would print extra copies once I got the film developed. As luck would have it, I was sent back to the states before I could get the copies made. I viewed my photos only a few times after my discharge and thought that I would try and get those photos but I had lost contact of most of my friends back then.

While surfing the web I came across the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's web sight, which I didn't know that the unit still existed. I heard that it was disbanded after the Viet Nam war. I know it's a lot to ask of the 196th after thirty-six years but I wonder if you can help me deliver these pictures to the pilot in question? Even though he may not be alive, maybe his immediate family would treasure the moment. I am sorry that I can't give you any more information than this. The pilot was a warrant officer by the name of Mr. Preston. Our aviation unit consisted of about or four aircraft so we only had about a dozen of so pilots at one time. I am only hopeful that with the Army's computer banks maybe able to find Mr. Preston's civilian address to forward his pictures.

Thank you for assisting me in this long overdue favor, if possible.

*Lloyd Crowl*

kmkmwmsc@netzero.net

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## CLOSURE

I was a warrant officer. I was flying Dustoff in Hiep Duc in May/June 1970 timeframe. During one of the many missions that I flew during that time, I had a hoist mission. It was called in as a secure mission, one "uniform sierra", urgent. They had a hover hole. It was a hoist mission and we had about fifteen or so feet of cable out.

I was holding my position by focusing on this huge tree that poked it self out of the canopy. Suddenly the top of that tree was gone. I jerked the guts out of the aircraft. The guys on the ground asked what was up. I told them that something blew the hell out of the tree in front of me. The RTO said something to the effect, "Oh yeah, there's a recoilless rifle out there and we've been trying to locate it." I told them the damn thing was on the other side of the tree that use to be in front of me. They asked if I was coming back. I told them that I'd rather not mark their position with flaming aircraft wreckage.

I told them that I had a clearing less than 200 yards from their position. If they could cut their way to the clearing, I'd picked up the wounded there. Told them that they could contact me on the Arty freq. I'd wait at LZ Center til I got word they were ready.

Time past, the man died enroute, and I've never been able to get him outta my mind. Could you help me find out who this fella was so that I might contact his family? I'd really owe ya.

Thanks for your time,

*Jim Falling Eagle Gregory*

Dustoff 615

Danang Dustoff

E-mail: DUSTOFF615@aol.com

August 2004

**27th CHEMICAL DETACHMENT**

I was with the 27th Chemical Detachment of the 196th during the TET offensive of '68. There were five men in our unit. The CO was Capt. Gary Campbell, E-7 Jenkins was our Sarge, and myself along with Miller (Charles I think) and SP4 Miles made up our unit.

I have been battling with PTSD and have been denied any service connection because the VA can not find any one to verify my stories as they relate to flying recon missions and that LZ Baldy was mortared and shelled during February '68 to June '68.

I need some help from anyone. I can't seem to locate any info on my unit. I left there by medivac so I have no records and there is nothing written in my personnel file other than I was there.

God Bless you,

*Ricardo Rodrigues*

E-mail: lupe56@msn.com

**SGT. ERNEST HUGHES - E, 3/21**

My Dad was SGT. Ernest Joseph Hughes of E, 3/21. He was KIA on 12 May 1969. He was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously.

I was four when this happened and I only remember him from one time. Mt Mom never talked about it. I know nothing of his family or his service other than that on the Wall. I am trying to find my grandparents that I have never met.

I found this information on your website under "Honor Roll". I will be making a trip to DC to look up his name.

If anyone knew my Dad and can tell me about him or provide any information on what happened, please contact me. (Cell # 512-787-2920)

Thank you, *Joe Palmberg*

Solectron

123 W. Lake Shore Dr.

Sunrise Beach, TX 78643

E-mail: joepalmberg@tx.slr.com

**COUSIN**

My cousin, Specialist E-4 Aaron Lowe, B, 3/21 was killed in action in Quang Nam Province on 12 May 1969. He is listed on your website Honor Roll. I would appreciate your suggestions on how I might learn more details of his death. Thank you very much for your time.

*SSG Lonnie D. Beeson*

1107th AVCRAD, Missouri Army National Guard

E-mail: birdwatcher@mo-net.com

Hello Charlie Tigers,

I received the following message from the new commander of the 3/21 and now pass it along to all former Gimlets:

*"I am writing to establish contact and to identify points of contact for the 21st Infantry Regiment and the 3-21 In associations. I just recently assumed command of 3-21 IN and as you may know, we have received deployment orders for Operation Iraqi Freedom and will depart within the next 45 days or so. As with any military unit, I believe it is important to maintain the ties between past and present members of the regiment and battalion, especially as the units prepares to deploy."*

*Respectfully,*

*Michael L. Gibler, LTC, IN*

3-21IN, Commander

R. Lewis, WA

I will attempt to keep all former Gimlets that are interested informed about the battalion during its deployment to Iraq, and pass along the new overseas address to all that would care for it. Personally, I would like to see all former Gimlets send messages of encouragement to these young Gimlets now going into harm's way, and especially during the upcoming Christmas holiday.

We have all experienced the loneliness of deployment and war; therefore, I am sure these new Gimlets would enjoy hearing from former Gimlets during their time of deployment in Iraq. So, let me know if you are interested in maintaining contact with the battalion while it is deployed. Although, under the new reorganization, there are only four companies (A,B,C, HHC) I am sure those of you that served in D and E companies could gladly adopt and support another company in the battalion.

Again, drop me a reply and let me know your feelings, and if you are interested I will put you on a special e-mail list to receive further information about the battalion during its deployment to Iraq. Also, as I do not have good e-mail addresses for all former Gimlets I would appreciate you passing this along to former Gimlets that you have contact with today.

Bore Brother Bore,

Ronald Mitchell

Gimlet Website Administrator

E-mail: Gimletmail321@aol.com

# THE 196th RING

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has worked with Jostens to create a Prestige Ring for Veterans of the 196th. This ring will only be available thru the 196th Association

## CHOICE OF QUALITY

Jostens offers you 4 distinct metal alloy categories: 10K, 14K, or 18K Yellow or White Gold, Lustrum, and Questra.

18K Gold is the ultimate prestige metal, enjoys its brilliance for a life time.

14K Gold is rich and elegant with a durability you'll appreciate.

10K Gold - our most popular quality and an excellent choice to commemorate your special years.

Lustrum is an affordable alternative if you want the bright qualities of white gold.

Questra gives your ring a price less golden look and a brilliant surface that is so durable it carries Jostens exclusive lifetime warranty.

Whichever alloy you choose, each has outstanding durability and wearability characteristics - backed by Jostens reputation for quality.

## JOSTENS FULL WAR RANTY

For The Lifetime Of The Ring

Every Jostens Military Ring is designed and crafted to exacting quality standards.

Jostens warrants the ring to be free from defects of material and workmanship for the life of the ring. Any ring not meeting these standards will be replaced if necessary, with an identical ring without charge.

In addition, Jostens Full Warranty provides these special benefits for the life of the ring without charge:

Resizing will be performed without charge.

Defective or broken simulated stones will be replaced without charge.

Refinishing will be performed without charge.



Send Orders To:

**196th Light Infantry Brigade Association**  
**c/o Ken Wright**  
**8280 Hwy 66 E.**  
**Rome, IN 47574**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel. Number \_\_\_\_\_

## 196th ORDER FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> White Lustrum.....\$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$320.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat White Gold.....\$330.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Questra.....\$209.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$405.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat White Gold.....\$415.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$510.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat White Gold.....\$520.00	
Engraving (inside ring)			
<input type="checkbox"/> (3) Initials _____(FREE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Name (or other) _____add \$14.00			
21 LETTERS & SPACES			
Stones <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth <input type="checkbox"/> Facet			
<input type="checkbox"/> Garnet (Jan)	<input type="checkbox"/> White Spinel (Apr)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby (Jul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rose Zircon (Oct)
<input type="checkbox"/> Amethyst (Feb)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shamrock (May)	<input type="checkbox"/> Peridot (Aug)	<input type="checkbox"/> Topaz (Nov)
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquamarine (Mar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandrite (Jun)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Blue (Sept)	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Zircon (Dec)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Onyx	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother of Pearl		
Encrusting on Stones (available on smooth stones only).....add \$14.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> Infantry	<input type="checkbox"/> MP Crossed Pistols	<input type="checkbox"/> Artillery	<input type="checkbox"/> Crossed Bayonets
Finger Size _____ Your correct ring size may be obtained at a jewelry store.		ALL BIRTHSTONES ARE SIMULATED Sales Tax Must Be Added Order Must Have Finger Size Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.	
		Sub Total	
		6% State Tax	
		Shipping	4.50
		Total	

## 196th Light Infantry Brigade Yearbook "The Second Year"

If interested, please complete and mail to:

196<sup>th</sup> Year book Project, PO Box 434, Cicero, IN 46034

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in ordering \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "The Second Year", 196<sup>th</sup> Year book Re print, at a price not to exceed \$30 per copy, to include shipping and handling.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Yearbook "The Second Year"

This year book was initially produced by the 196<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Office in Vietnam in 1967 and was printed by a private printer in Japan. Most of them were mailed directly to the home address that the soldier provided when ordering the year book. The year book essentially covers the events that occurred and personnel assigned to the brigade during the period of time from summer, 1966 thru summer, 1967.

Even if you were not a member of the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade during this time, it is a terrific history resource that traces the beginnings of the Brigade and records its baptism in combat.

We have received numerous requests over the years to reprint this year book but due to other priorities were unable to make it happen.

We have now found a private printing company that has agreed to reproduce the year book.

The finished size will be 8 ½ x 11 printed in landscape. The book will contain 112 pages of text and photos printed in B&W. The cover would be printed in color on both sides and laminated for additional protection. The absolute minimum number required to do the reprint is 50 copies.

The books will range in price from \$20 to \$30 depending on quantity. The price will include shipping & handling. Once we determine the demand we will set the price and send out an order form to all who expressed an interest.

**To determine how much demand there is for this year book we request that you please fill out and return the interest form above by March 15, 2005.**

Thanks for patience and cooperation,

*Warren*

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### 196th WEB SITE

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has its own Internet domain. Please visit the website at:  
**[www.196th.org](http://www.196th.org)**

## LOCATOR SERVICE

The 196th LIB Association will search its database, on request, to attempt to locate buddies you may want to find. Simply send a written or e-mail request to Warren Neill, President, stating the name if you know it. We can also do a search by unit and year. State the Company, Battalion, and year(s) to search. We will send you a print-out of up to ten names returned by the search. If the search returns more than ten names, we will just send you the names without addresses. Look over the list to see if you want to get in touch with any one, and we will send you those addresses.

The purpose of not sending long lists of names and addresses is to protect the mailing list from possible commercial exploitation. We have spent a lot of time and effort building our member database and do not want it used indiscriminately.

We currently have over 4,000 names on our mailing list so maybe we can help you find that long lost buddy.

You can also leave a message on the 196th Website Guestbook at: [www.196th.org](http://www.196th.org) to search for friends or information. Make sure you leave contact information such as an e-mail address, home address, or phone number. When leaving an e-mail address, use "at" in stead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address. Spam is becoming more and more of a problem and will continue to grow until it is outlawed. Write your Congressional representative to outlaw SPAM.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It hasn't been easy getting material to fill a newsletter. Hopefully we can get another out before the Reunion. So... If anyone has a good story they would like to get published, please send it in.

With the holidays coming up, don't forget our brother's-in-arms that are fighting and dying around the world. Many of our old battalions are engaged, and they and their families need our support.

Happy Holidays!

Ken McKenzie, Editor

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## Fill out and return form with your remittance to:

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association  
Ken Wright, Treasurer  
8280 Hwy 66 E  
Rome, IN 47574

## MEMBERSHIP

Every year, unfortunately, we lose some of the members on whose support we have counted. We have always been able to increase the membership slightly in spite of that through enrollment of new members. But, while getting new members is extremely important to us, it is far more important that we retain your interest and goodwill. So please take a minute now to check your mailing label. If your dues have expired or you have never paid dues, fill out the renewal slip and send it back to us with your check. We really need you!

**You receive with your membership:**  
A membership card, one bumper sticker, and one window decal.

**CHECK YOUR  
MAILING LABEL  
FOR YOUR  
DUES EXPIRATION DATE**

<b>Dues are \$20.00 for the year.</b>		<b>Life time Membership: \$196.00</b>	
I would like (number):			
_____ Ad ditional Bumper Stickers @ \$2.00 ea.	_____ Ad ditional De cals @ \$2.00 ea.		
<b>Not included with membership package:</b>			
_____ La pel Pin @ \$3.50 ea.	T-Shirt @ \$12 each, (number of each size or dered) _____XXL, _____XL, _____L, _____M		
Name: _____		Telephone: _____	
Street: _____			
City: _____		State: _____ Zip: _____	
Dates served in the 196th: From: _____ To: _____			
Unit: Bat/Reg _____ Company or Bat tery _____ Pla toon _____			
Ser vice #: _____		Date of Birth: _____ E-mail: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can not join at this time, but please add my name to the mail ing list.		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ad dress Change



196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

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NEWS LETTER

Editor: Ken McKenzie  
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(603) 447-8902  
E-mail address: Editor@196th.org

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**196th ASSOCIATION  
TAX EXEMPT STATUS**

**The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has received tax exempt status. This means that contributions are tax deductible on your income tax.**

**We will also be able to reduce mailing costs as a tax exempt organization.**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please make sure you fill in the application completely. There are several similar names on our mailing list, so we need the old address as well as the new address if you move.

There is a spot on the application where you may designate an additional donation to the Association if you would like. Several of our members have asked to use this donation to pay someone's dues who may not be able to afford it. We have achieved tax-exempt status and contributions are now tax deductible on your income tax.

Our tax-exempt status also allows us to take advantage of lower postal rates.