

# 196 Light Infantry Brigade Association





Back to Vietnam - 2010

2011 Reunion Update Seattle, Washington July 28 - 31, 2011

Number 30 Dec 2 010

#### **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 com rade ship.

- 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. Du ties. The Of f cersof the As so ci a tionhall ad min is tethe af fairsof the As so ci a tion ac cor dance 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.

ON THE COVER: The Tay Ninh bridge, with Nui Ba Den in the background. This photo was taken in April 2010, during a trip back to Vietnam by four buddies from Charlie Company, 4/31. The photographer's location is just about where the old market used to stick out over the river. It has been removed to a new location and the area is now a park.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Charger Family,

I really don't know how to describe the turnout at Buffalo for our last reunion other than to say, "Wow"!! Our tour operator put together terrific tours of both the American and Canadian sides of the Falls. Only one bus had a problem and that was a completely innocent mistake on the part of one of our members. He recently had a medical procedure that l eft some re sidual radiation in his body that the scanners picked up through the bus walls. It was a small diversion that truly proved the quality and value of the scanners used to keep our borders safe.

We had our larg est turnout to date and as far as I can tell a good time was had by all. I'm glad I could sur prise the membership with the appearance of Terence Knox of "Tour of Duty". Terry came a day early so he could hang out with the real soldiers of the 196 th LIB. I'm not sure who was more impressed, Terry or the members. He gave a heartfelt, emotional speech that showed that he was truly humbled to be in the presence of "the real deal", as he put it. I had previously told him that he would have that kind of reaction when he met our mem bership. I thought he was go ing to ask us for our a utographs. I told him I am awed every time we get to gether at the bravery, camaraderie and humility of our band of brothers. He has promised to return for the Seattle reunion and bring another cast member, Tony Becker, with him.

I have to apologize for the lack of information coming out of the Association. Ken and I have both been tied up with our lives and finding time to get it all done has proven problematical. We will try to do better in the future.

The planning for the upcoming Seattle reunion was turned over to an outside reunion planning service. Due to unforeseen circumstances we canceled that contract and have taken it back in-house. Su bsequently we have been behind in getting the info to you. We are getting up to speed again. The re union info and Reg istration Form are located elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### Warren

One day when I re turned home from work was I ever sur prised by this huge wooden crate sitting in my driveway, blocking my garage. I struggled to get it into the garage and then s pent the better part of an hour re moving the screws that held the crate together. Thank God for power screwdrivers! Inside I found this amazing piece of art.

The central figure is an M-14 rifle and bay onet stuck muzzle down. A full sized helmet with 196<sup>th</sup> patch hand paint ed on the front and a pair of dog tags hang down from the stock in the salute to a deceased war rior mode. The base is a hand painted map of SE Asia with an other, smaller, 196<sup>th</sup> patch hand painted inside the map of South Vietnam.

The sculp ture was made for Nolin Perrin, C 4/31, 69-70 by hi s great friend John Ott from Penn sylvania. Nolin de scribes him as a, "ne'er do well" except of late when he started working for the military and went to Iraq, and all over, repairing equipment."

Nolin believed it would be of m ore use in a pub lic way than for him to keep it and he has donated it to the Association for us to find a fitting home for it. I am hum bled and proud to ha ve custody of this amaz ing piece of art. It is a wonderful tribute and honor to our legacy.

I am planning to ship it to Seattle for the reunion and will gladly accept realistic ideas on where this sculpture's permanent home should be.



We often are not notified of a members 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.

Weaver, Dennis, 4 Sept 2010, s erved wit A, 4/31, 1968-69. D ennis was a Life Member of the Association. His wife Cindy writes, "I know that he has many friends throughout the Association and that he will be greatly missed. He really loved y'all and was really excited about the upcoming Seattle trip next year. He will be with you in spirit."

<u>Llorca, Art</u>, 15 Apr 2010, Commander of D & B, 2/1 during the period 1965-67. Art lost his battle with cancer, and is survived by his wife Ann.

O'Dwyer, John A. (Jake), 22 Aug 2010, served with C, 2/1. Jake was an original member from Fort Devens.

<u>Carmona, Crispin</u>, served with C, 3/21, 1966-68, Warren Neill writes, "I fondly re member my days with Cr is. He will be missed. Rest in peace, my brother."

<u>Heisler, Tom (Pigeyes)</u>, Aug 2006, s erved wit HHC 196th r adio crew from Oct 1967 to July 1968. Hi s wife stated that Tom had passed away due to complications from Agent Orange caused cancer.

<u>Stew art, Joe</u>, 6 July 2010, served with Alpha Btry, 3/82, 1965-67. He will be missed my his Alpha Btry and Charger broth es.

<u>Cham bes</u>, <u>Rich ard</u> 21 Jan 2010, served with B, 2/1 during basic at Fort Devens and moved to 8th S upport in Tay Ninh. Dick died of a heart attack shortly after attending the Buffalo reunion. He is survived by his wife Doris and three chil den.

Genna, Angelo J., 21 April 2010, served with 2nd Pla toon, C, 4/31, 1965-67. Ang l ived in Harper Woods, M I. He was a Life Member of the Association, and attended many reunions.

**Karczewski, Ron**, 20 May 2010. A B try 3/82 Arty, 1965-67. H e was one of the A Btry cooks and pas sed away in Florida of lung cancer.

Mar tin, Wil liam S., 19 De c 2009, s erved with R ifle Platoon, HHC from 1966-67. "God speed!" - D enny and Tom Tom

<u>Johnson, David</u>, 14 Jan 2010, served in A, 3/21, 1969-70. The demons of war and stress took it's toll, and David took his life.

Gerringer, Carl, 14 Nov 2009, served with B, 3/21, 1965-67. Carl was from Hennrietta, NY.

**Bryant, Thomas,** 22 Oct 2009. Tom was the platoon Sgt of Recon E, 3/21, 1968-69. Warren Neill writes, "Tom loved his family, his men, the 196th, and coming to the reunions. We were very lucky to have had Tom with us in Buffalo. I will personally miss his phone calls when he thought I needed guidance in running the Assn. Rest in Peace brother."

Van Doran, Terry, 15 Aug 2009, served with A, 2/1 and was an original from Fort Devens.

<u>Poe, Mason</u>, April 2009, served with F-Troop, 1967-68. his son, Mason Poe Jr., writes, "I'm looking for anyone who served with my father. I'm his eldest son, and am also in the service. I'm going to write a few stories about his life for the family. That time was really big in his life as well as ours."e-mail: mpoejr1@aol.com

<u>Devereaux</u>, <u>Earl (Rock y)</u>, Oct 2010, se rved with the Gun Squad, A 3/21 in 1970. Steve Hemmert writes, "Rocky passed away in Syracuse, NY. The last time we talked he told me he had prostate cancer. Please remember him in your prayers.

<u>Kachelmyer, William</u>, 5 Jul 2009, served with F-Troop, 17th Cav. Bill was an original and a Life Member of the Association, and had been planning to attend the Buffalo reunion.

Gul let, Brian, Jun 2009, served with 2nd platoon, D, 2/1, from 1965-1967.

<u>Senske, Richard</u>, 14 Jun 2009, s erved with B, 3/21, 1969-70. R ich was from Alloway, NJ and suffered a massive heart attack while sitting at his kitchen table.

**Ly ons, Gene**, 12 Jun 2009. Gene was BN S-3 NCO working in the TOC on Center in 1968, before assuming duties as B 3/21 First SGT in mid 1969. Gene was from Hardin County, KY.

Malanga, Phil, 5 Jun 2009, served with C 2/1, 1965-67.

**Dixon, Ron**, 17 May 2009, served with F-Troop, 17th Cav, 1965-67. Ron was from Davisville, WV and had been battling lung cancer.

Vanduine, Doug, 10 May 2009, se rved with C 3/21, 1968-69. Passed away as a re sult of conditions associated with

his service in Vietnam. Chuck Horner writes, "Doug was a brave and fearless warrior. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him."

**Bailey, COL Robert N.**, 13 April 2007, se rved with A 4/31 in 1967. His wife, Nancy Bailey writes, "My hus band passed after a long battle with bladder cancer. His friends in the 196th were of great support and comfort during his illness. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on June 18th of 2007."

Sauto, Richard (Dick), 7 May 1948 - 19 Mar 2009, served with B, 1/46, 1969-70. Dick was a retired Cleveland Police Of fi cer.

**Hoover, George F.**, 21 Aug 2008, served with 1st platoon, A 3/21, 1965-67.

<u>Wil liams, Saylor</u>, 24 Jan 2009, served with B 4/31, 1968-69. He was medivaced out of country after being wounded Sept 11, 1969 on LZ Si beria. His friends write, "He was a fine soldier, grenadier, friend and leaves behind his wife Loraine, a daughter and three grandchildren."

<u>Houp, Ronald E.</u>, 2008, served with HHC on LZ B aldy, 1968-69. R on was living in Chi ang Mai Thailand, and his passing was relayed to us by the new resident in his house upon receipt of the last newsletter.

**Schafer, Bruce E.**, 11 Dec 2008, served with 2nd platoon, B 4/31, 1965-67. Bruce was a retired Police Officer from Tully, NY.

**Rob in son,Wil liam A.**, Nov 2007, s erved with B, 4/31, 1969-70. Bill lived in Saugerties, NY and passed away from Agent Orange related causes.

<u>Plyler, James R.</u>, 1 Mar 2009. His grandson, Jason Cochran writes, "James was born in North Carolina in 1931 and died at his Florida home. He didn't speak much about Vietnam, quite understandably. I would like to know more about his service there, it would mean a lot to my family. If you knew him, please e-mail me at: <u>jason.cochran@gmail.com</u>

**Burkhardt, Donald (Skinny) Ellwood**, 12 Dec 1949 - 30 Oct 1996, served with A, 2/1, 1970. Don was an M-60 machine gunner on Hawk Hill and other locations. Don died in a car wreck in Newton, Iowa and left behind a wife and two children.

Mizelle, Leon F., 19 Jun 2007, served with C, 3/82 Arty. Leon was from Hampton, VA.

**Fitz gibbon, Jim**, Sept 2008, served with C, 4/31, 1967-68. Jim was from Camp Hill, PA.

**Decker, Derry**, date unknown, served with 2nd platoon, D, 3/21, 1967-68. Derry was from Pueblo, CO.

**Purser, Benjamin (Chief)**, 28 Mar 2004, served with 3/21, 1968-71. His wife writes, "He served two tours earning 2 Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts. He never forgot the people he served with or his time in Vietnam."

O'Dwyer, John A., 22 Aug 2010, served with 2/1. John was from New Jersey, and was a guard for the Essex County Jail for 20 years before retiring.

Coley, COL (Ret) James, 28 Nov 2010. Col Coley had been the Commander of 4/31, 66-67.



**Trepoy, James C. (CSM USA RET)**, 7 Oct 2010, served as CSM 3/21, 1968-69. J im, 89 years old, was from Salina, Kansas and was an original member of the Gimlet Regimental Association. He had served as 1SG B 1/21 INF (MECH), 25th ID in 1961-64.



Some daySoon

Someday soon I'll be free again, To live a life without sorrow or pain. To hold my hand with pride and grace,
And be a part of the human race.
Someday I'll be called a man,
Following my own stars and well
thought plans,
Giving love and earthly pleasures,

To a deserving female treasure.

Someday soon I'll wish no more,
For things I never had before.
Each man to me will be a kin,
Regardless of race, color, or skin.

Written 11-12-69 in Vietnam, by: Richard (Dick) Timothy Sauto May 7, 1948 - March 19, 2009

# Keith William Nolan

Nolan, Keith William, Vietnam War Author, age 44 of St. Charles, MO, passed away February 19, 2009. Loving father of Britt Nolan; loving son of William F. and Ulla A. Nolan; loving brother of Erik A. Nolan; dear friend of Kristin Halbert and Jordan Massey; loving brother-in-law to Be cky and Ed Mil linger; dear uncle of Ra chel Millinger; dear friend of Kelly L. Nolan; loving nephew, cousin and friend.

Memorials may be given to the Anna Britt Nolan Trust in care of First Bank 6211 Mid Rivers Mall Dr., St. Charles, MO 63304 or <u>American Cancer Society</u> in care of Alternative Funeral & Cremation Services, 2115 Parkway Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376.

Keith was an extraordinary writer on Vietnam. He worked with many members of the 196th to research his books. We cannot thank him enough for his capture of our history.

Books by Keith Nolan:

House to House: Playing the Enemy's Game in Saigon, Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970,

Battle for Saigon: Tet 1968,

Sappers In The Wire (Texas A&M University Military History Series),

A Hundred Miles of Bad Road (Dwight Birdwell, coauthor),

The Magnificent Bastards: The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968,

Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight for the DMZ,

Into Cambodia, 1970: Spring Campaign, Summer Offensive,

Into Laos: The Story of Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719, Vietnam 1971,

Death Valley: The Summer Offensive, I Corps, August 1969,

Battle for Hue: Tet 1968.

Search And Destroy: The Story Of An Armored Cavalry Squadron In Vietnam: 1-1 Cav, 1967-1968

Keith's last book was recently published after his death.

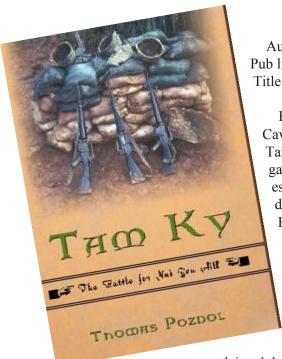
#### BOOK BY 196th MEMBER

Author: Pozdol, Thomas Pub lisher: iUniverse.com

Title: Tam Ky: The Battle for Nui Yon Hill

From 5 May through 19 Ma y, 1969, units of t he 1st Squad ron, 1st Cavalry were ordered to clear elements of the VC (Viet C ong) from the Tam Ky area in the w ake of the Post-Tet Offensive of 1969. The y began an assault on a hilltop, Nui Y on Hill, which was a South Vietnamese Army outpost that had been overrun by VC and NVA troops a few days be fore. After the ini tial as sault to re take the hill failed, the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment was air assaulted in to reinforce the 1st Cavalry. A, B, C, and D Companies of the 3/21 were committed to this operation. On 13 M ay, 1969, the m en of C Company were combat assaulted into a hot landing zone near the South Vietnamese village of Tam Ky. Their ob jective was to take Nui Y on Hill. As the Hueys carrying C Company began to descend, they were hit by heavy en emy fire. O nce the U.S. sol diers had the ir boots on the ground, the y be came em broiled in a fi erce tw o-day bat tle t hat

claimed the lives of twelve Char lie Tigers. This is the com pelling story of that battle told by the men who were there.



# CA NA DIAWIET NAMVET ERAN

My name is Hal Laffin from Blyth Ontario Canada. I am writ ing in regard to a Canadian, I van C. Broeffle, who die d May 9, 1968, while serving with B Co. 2/1st Inf. 196th LIB.

(www.canadianvietnamveterans.ca/IvanBroeffle.html)



Ivan was born in Emo Ontario Canada, and his home of record is Downers Grove, IL. I am forwarding this information to the Association so you wil I know what is happening for Ivan.

For wha tever rea son, Iva n's res ting place in Emo, Ontario Canada, has not had a marker . My wife and I help ed Ivan's sister to send to the US for a mil-

itary marker in Oc tober of '08. The marker arrived last month (June 2009) and will be placed in the ground once things dry up some. Ivan's sister lives in the area.

The Man itoba Ca na tan Viet nam Vet er ansAs so ci-a tion (www.cv va.ca/) will p erform a ser vice at t he Emo cemetery on July 25, 2009.

Warren Neill informed me that the 25th of July is the date of your re union in Buf falo. however, there may be members of the 196th or fel lows who se rved with Ivan that might want to at tend the service in Emo. Emo is located along the banks of Rainy River, directly north of the state of Minnesota. The closest bridge connecting Canada and the U.S. is at Fort Frances, which is about 30 minutes from Emo

With Respect, Hal Laffin laffin@scsinternet.com

# Subject: Ssgt Alan Hosnedle, D Co, 3/21, 196th KIA 3/12/69

My name is Lisa Lark and I am a teacher at Ed sel Ford high sc hool in De arborn, MI. I am also a his torian and writer. This Memorial Day, I was very moved by a service that our school holds to remember the young men that we lost in Vietnam.

This service has m oved me to be gin work on a book about the men that the c ity of Dea rborn, Michigan lost during this horrific war. Our city lost nearly 70 young men in this war at a rate of twice the national average.

In my  $\,$  re search, I have d is covered that SSg t Alan R . Hosnedle s erved in D Co w  $\,$  ith the 3/21 in Vi etnam and died on 3/12/69  $\,$  in Quang Tin.

I am try ing to lo cate men who m ay have s erved with him or known him. I'd like t o find out m ore about him. I



was hoping you might have a way to contact members of D Co to tr y and lo cate any one who knew him.

I have attached a phot o of Ssgt Hosnedle in c ase any one wishes to put a face w ith the name.

Thank you very m uch for your time. Please feel free to

contact me if you have any questions, and to pass a long my email as needed.

Sin cerely, Lisa Lark

e-mail: lisalark@googlemail.com

# FOL IOW-UP

(The following was received as a result of a request by Jerry Fulbright for information on his friend John Wetzel., KIA 28 Feb 1967)

Let me update you on the re sults of my request. A friend of John's by the name of Ed Tarala from upstate New York sent me a photo of he and John in Vietnam. Ed was not with John when he was shot, but went to the site of the firefight and saw John's body. Then, much to my amazement, I got a call from Jim Williams, from Oregon, who was John's Platoon Leader and was within 10 feet of John when he was shot along with Mike Myers. Mike Ruane had be en trying to help me locate Jim but had be en unsuccessful, and I was able to get Mike and Jim (both career officers and old friends) reunited. The only other information that I'm really hoping to get from them is an accurate location of the firefight, and then I'm hoping to go back to Vietnam and place a wreath in honor of John and the other soldiers who were killed or injured in that engagement.

I owe the 196th A ssociation a lot for sticking with me and helping me find the people I really wanted to he ar from. Imagine, some 42 years later, I have been a ble to have first hand discussions about John with his two immediate commanding officers, and friends who served with him.

Thanks again, Jerry Fulbright jerryfulbright@yahoo.com

# RESPONSE TO WARREN FAULK'S STORY

In the D ecember 2008 is sue, you printed a story by Warren Faulk (196 Cedar Falls... Really) which may very well be an incident I was a part of. I was with D-4/31 from June 1968 to July 1969. The incident was fairly early in my tour, because I was still at the squad level. I became RTO and even tually ended up as senior RTO for CPT Whittecar.

We were on a pla toon sweep when w e made con tact with the enemy. (Alas, I can't remember who fired first)

As was stan dard procedure, we were trying to call in fire support, and as I understood it at the time, there was a lot of confusion at the fire support base because the other platoon (who we thought were 'Charlie') was also calling for fire support. The two "e nemy locations were sus piciously close. For a while we thought both platoons were shooting at the same enemy position. Both platoons reported receiving heavy enemy fire.

I seem to re call that it was a h elicopter (conveniently nearby) that was finally able to get a visual and determine that the "en emy" were r eally friendlies. Boy did we feel stupid, and lucky!

When we heard the "Cease Fire" or der, we rose from our prone positions and noticed that the trees were chewed up by rifle fire from about 18 inches above ground on up, yet no one from either platoon had been hit.

From that t ime on, pla toon leaders were required to show each other on a map just exactly where they would be going on their platoon sweeps.

Mi chael Day Con cord, CA

e-mail: todaybyday@mac.com

# FLAG POLE DED I CA TIO



I had a flag pole de dication at my home with some Vietnam Vets from my Erie, PA VA talk group, on Fri day Oc tober 17, 2008.

I erected the flagpole, which I restored from an old 30-f oot light pole sal vaged f rom the General Electric Company when I retired. It took a bout eight years to complete the project, which was longer than I an tici pate, but Rome was n't built in a day.

We raised the flags in honor of all Vets, past and present, and the current men and women nows erving in all branches of our military. The USA flag, of course, was the first to be raised. The next flag was from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, to which I have a lasting history.

I wanted to de dicate these flags to our brave men and women who served, to those who gave all, and to the ones who carry on the fight for freedom every day to make this country the greatest one of all.

To my surprise, Eddie Zahn, our Secretary of the Association, showed up in Erie, PA, from his home in Norway,

MI, about a 750-m ile trip, one way. He had a plaque made up for me to mount on the base of the fl agpole, a nd pre sented it to me from the of ficers and members of the 196th LIB Asso ci a tion.

Sin cerely, *Paul Jensen* Erie, PA



# NEED HELP GETTING VA BENEFITS

I am writing this for my husband, Alvin Jerry Copeland. He was in the Army in 1968-1969. He is trying to get his VA benefits and needs to find someone that remembers him being in the infantry in this era.

He was trained as a speed radio operator, and when he went to Vietnam he was only there for three days when he got word his father had died. He went home, and when he got back in country his MOS was filled. He was in-transit for about five months. He saw action in Duc Pho with the 11th LIB. from there he went to LZ Baldy with the 196th LIB. Then he got his MOS and went back to the 23rd MED for about three months. Due to a foul-up, he went to Tam Ky for two weeks and then back to 23rd MED where he drove a truck for the rest of his tour.

None of this is in his records as to where and what he did. His DAV Rep advised him to try and se e if anyone could help, or tell him how to get the help he needs.

Thank you, Alvin Jerry Copeland, PO Box 1584, Big Spring, TX 79720

432-213-2773 / 432-213-3558

# LAST TO LEAVE THE 1/46TH COMPOUND

The inquiry by Winston Wood in the Dec 2008 newsletter concerning the last man out of Vietnam from the 196th triggered a memory.

I was assigned to C Co, 1/46 in Sep 71 after going thru the combat center at Chu Lai. I was the 3rd platoon leader. We operated out of FB Linda.

Mid tour I took over a s company XO. Sub sequently, as a result of my previous experience as an S-1 in G ermany, I was reassigned as the Asst S-1 the last couple of months of my tour. As a result, I was selected to close out the battalion morning reports as we stood down. Additionally, I and three of our young E-5's were selected to accompany the unit colors to Erlangen, Germany where the 2/46 was stationed. The 2/46th was to be re-designated and re-flagged the 1st/46th.

We departed DaN ang on 20 Jun 72 f or Sai gon, and later that a fternoon departed Sai gon on an Air France 747 f or Bangkok. We were in Bangkok for three days waiting on the Air Force Embassy flight to Frankfurt, Germany, with stops in New Delhi, India; Saudi Arabia; and Spain.

Therefore, I can say my team and I were the last to leave the 1/46th compound prior to it being turned over to the Vietnam ese.

Jim

James G. Cole, Sr. LTC USA Ret.

P.S. I'm proud to say my son, Cpt James G. Cole, Jr. carries on the tradition, currently serving with the 10th Mountain Div in Iraq and previously in Afghanistan.

#### LAST MAN?

Before the busses pulled out, about 30 vol unteers, including me, a greed to stay behind for several more days; maybe a week. We provided security for the rest of the unit to safely depart, secured the compound, and transitioned everything over to the ARVNs.

We rode to the airport in 2 ½ ton trucks which were already re leased to the A RVNs, sur rendered our we apons and ran to the first C-130 while the airfield was under attack. The plane was hit by an RPG right in front of us. We scrambled to a second plane, which hit a pot hole created by the RPG a ttack before it could get airborne. The third plane barely made it out as it swerved down the runway to avoid the newly-formed potholes.

To the be st of m y knowl edge, we di d not lea ve any grunts behind, nor did I encounter any U.S. service members who st ayed behind to sup port our transport. Nothing but ARVNs.

As for who the last man was, technically, that would be the flight crew member who was walking behind me at the end of the line.

When we arrived in Sai gon, the s taff were a bit surprised to see us, as they had pre sumed that all the grunt s had departed. We were delayed in getting out of S aigon, since they were filled beyond capacity, and we even tually flew to Oakland AFB.

Summarily put, if a soldier left on a bus, my guess is that they were not the last to leave.

Pete

palexion@alaska.net

### LAST MAN OUT

Regarding Wins ton Wood's question about the last 196er out of Vietnam, because of the way the remaining Brigade units were disbursed, I don't think we will ever know who that man actually was.

I commanded D, 3/21, the last US infantry company to conduct combat operations in the V ietnam War. We were extracted from our fi nal field location by he licopter and were flow n back to DaN ang to s tand down Task Force Gimlet, commanded by then LTC Rocco Negris.

Most of the 196th soldiers were flown home, but a few, particularly if they were rel atively early in their tours, were reassigned to other units in Vietnam.

So, there were a mix of guys fly ing back to the S tates, and others staying behind. While one of those who stayed behind would ultimately be the last 196er out of V ietnam, he would no longer be wearing the 196th patch, and would not likely have known he was the last former Brigade soldier re main ing.

Incidently, on that f inal 196th c ombat m ission, there were about six of us on the last Huey to lift off from that PZ.

Chuck Viale crviale@gmail.com

(The 196th Association ran a story and a number of photos of that last field pickup in a previous newsletter several years ago.)

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF CRUISE

After reading the letter from one of the members wondering about the last ones to leave Nam, the clo sest I can come to that is that I was one of the last to leave Chu Lai. We didn't fly out either, we left by ship; LST to be exact.

My name is Bruce Butler (a.k.a. Butt's). I was an E-5 with Div Arty as an FO at tached to E, 1/6th. When the stand down started we were out on a small FB called Hill 270. We were told that we would stay there until the Division left.

On or about the 20th of November 1971, we got a call saying that our "Ba ll Game" would be on Tha nksgiving Day. On that day at 0800, the Box Cars came in with some Cobra gun s hips to pi ck us up. When we arrived at Chu Lai we found the base virtually empty. That was a very strange feeling.

Once we arrived, the company and my FO squad were assigned bunkers out on the perimeter. We were told to occupy them until it was our turn to leave.

Three days lat er we got c alled and told to pack our stuff, you're be ing picked up ASAP. Along c ame some deuce-and-a-halfts and we loaded into them. We thought we were going back to the airfield. "Wrong!" They took us to the docks where there were three LSTs waiting for us. First off... boats and infantry do not go to gether. After we loaded and set out for D aNang it was rather nice for a while, but once out in the South China Sea some people started to turn "Green".

We spent the night on the LST and docked in DaNang in the morning. There were a lot of happy G.I.'s that morning.

That w as how the last of us left the Chu Lai Base Camp.

Thank you, *Bruce Butler* 



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PRIN CESSCRUISES

(In response to cruise planner Ron Dougard's request to fly the 196th colors during the Alaskan Cruise, Alan, a Vietnam veteran, wrote the following)

Dear Mr. Dougard:

I received your letter and looked you up in our reservations system; I hope you don't m ind me emailing you as I thought it would be quicker. I want to be gin by thank ing you for your comments on my blog—they were much appreciated. I enjoyed your briefs tory about your service in Vietnam—thanks for your service and we loome home! I believe your brigade (196th) joined the Americal division while in Vietnam. My older brother served in the Americal division in 1967-68 with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade.

In regard to your re quest, Princess would be proud to fly the colors of the 196th during your Alaska cruise next summer. Back in 2004, Fox Force had a reunion aboard the Sapphire Princess on the very same itinerary — it was a fantastic event for all of us and I am sure your cruise will be a great one as well. I can assure you I will be thinking about you and your com rades from the 196th, as the Fox Force an nual reunion is the first weekend in A ugust; so while you are enjoying the Sapphire Princess all of us Fox Force guys will be in Al buquerque, New Mexico which was the site of our first reunion in 2000. I will be very fortunate as my brother will be joining me for the reunion. I will definitely have a to ast or two for you and all the valiant men of the 196th.

I wish you and your broth ers-in-arms all the be st. Let me know if you have a ny needs. Your travel agent is one of, if not the very best agents in the US and is an expert on Alaska — I know Jeff and his wife will take excellent care of you and your group.

All my best,

Alan B. Buckelew Pres i dnt & CEO Prin cessCruises

Read Alan's blog about his return to Vietnam, at: http://50essentialexperiences.com/2010/10/18/a-soldier-re tuns-%E2%80%A6-as-a-tour is/

#### 196th WEB SITE

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has its own Internet domain. Please visit the website at:

# www.196th.org

You can also leave a message on the 196th W ebsite Guestbook at: **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" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address.

# 196th FORUM

We have recently added a new feature to the 196th website. A FORUM has been added to make discussion and communication easier. While the G uestbook served us well for many years, it cannot categorize discussion into separate groups, and it is not easy to search through.

The FORUM is still in the process of being set up, and we are looking for suggestions on how the different categories

should be organized.

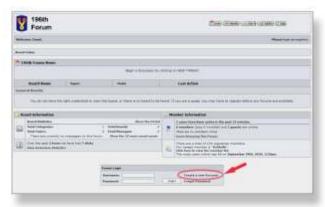


Access the FORUM by clicking on the forum button from any 196th website page.



Once signed in, You can click on a category heading to read the postings, and reply or join in the topic.

We will add additional topic headings as we receive suggestions. We will probably have headings for each of the Battalions and possibly for smaller units or years.



When first accessing the FORUM, you must create a NEW ACCOUNT, and will be asked to choose a USERNAME and PASSWORD.

Once you are using the Forum, it is suggested that you change your SCREEN NAME to your real name so people can find you more easily.



Discussions will look something like this, with a THREAD started by someone and then replied to by others.

#### LOOKING FOR

#### GEORGE HULSE

I am the brother of G eorge Hulse, who was KIA on 8 Mar 1967. I am not look ing for in formation on his death, as I have lived with this for 43 years. I know how he died and it was by one of his comrades in arms.

I am only ask ing if a nyone knew him as a frie nd, maybe they would have some memories of him that they could share with me; maybe a picture of him in Nam; things I could share with my sons and grandsons. They ask about my brother and all I can say is, "He died in Nam."

I have his medals on my wall next to mine, but no photos. I even contacted the military personnel and got his records. It's har d to face his dying just seven days after saving the lives of two fellow soldiers, and the fact it was called an accident, but this is the past. I just want to find someone who knew him and joked around with him.

Re spect f**ll**y, Robert A. Hulse

e-mail: hulse5046@yahoo.com

# **CHAP LAINME MORIAL**

To whom it may concern,

My name is 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieu tenant J eremy An derson. I a m working on a m emorial project to be e rected at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School in Fort Jackson, South Carolina starting February 2011. My reason for contacting you today is that I am cur rently compiling a list of Army chaplains and chaplain assistants who were KIA. Concerning your bri gade can you please provide for me a list of Army chap lains and chaplain a ssistants who were KIA (non-ill nessre lated)? A name, unit, date of death, and perhaps de nomi natin would be extremely helpful. However, any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

I understand that you might not be the person who can pro videthis in for mation. However, I am kindly asking you to for ward this e mail over to som eone who you be lieve might be able to help us further in this matter.

Our goal for this project is to not for get any of our Soldiers who we rekilled in combat. There fore, we are counting on our Divisions to help us not un intentionally over lookany one.

Thanks in advance for your time and support.

2LT Jeremy Anderson

e-mail: chaplainmemorial@yahoo.com

#### JACKIE RONDELL COOPER

My father served in Vietnam in the 196th. He was in E Company, 3/2, and I 'm having trouble finding any in formation about Echo Company.

He died in 2005 and he didn't talk much about his war experience and I'd like to find out where he was and what he was doing during his tour. I would also like to find people who may have known him and ask some questions.

He served in Vietnam from July 1967, to July 1968. He received the Bronze Star sometime during his tour also.

His name was Jackie Rondel l Cooper. If any one has any information or can point me to some place where I can find information, that would be great.

Thank you, *Pat Cooper* 

e-mail: pcoop73@live.com

# VA CLAIM ASSISTANCE

Steve Emrich, C 3/82, 1967-1968 is trying to find Tom Gilson or Elli ott Samuels, or any one who s erved with or remembers him, in or der to he lp in fil ing a V A claim. Steve can be reached at:

8415 S 100 W Wabash, IN 46992 260-571-2062

# VA CLAIM DENIED BECAUSE OF MOS

War renwrites:

Juan G erraro w as a com mo spe cialist (M OS 31 K) in HHC 2/1, then further assigned to B 2/1 a s an R TO. Juan says he spent his share of time in the bush and experienced all of the s tressors that the gr unts endured, but the V A is giving him a har d time because of his MOS and the fact that he has no CIB.

He wants to try and ga ther some info or statements to support his claim.

If you can offer any help, please contact:

Juan Gerraro

1785 Merchant St.

Sparks, NV 89431

775-842-3578

e-mail: juan gerraro@yahoo.com

(This is a typical problem we face, as many soldiers were assigned to infantry roles due to manpower or other reasons, but never qualified for the CIB because of their MOS)



# COLONEL JACK K. PRITCHARD

COL P ritchard is c urrently the Com manding Of ficer of the 196t h In fantry Bri gade headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Prior to his current position, he was Commanding Of ficer of the Joint Im pro vise Ex plo sie De vice De Eat Or gani zation's Iraq Field Team headquartered Camp Victory in Bagh dad, Iraq. He also served as the Director of the US Forces- Iraq Counter – IED Op era tionhIn te gr tionCen er (COIC).

COL Pritchard en listed in the Penn sylvania Army National Guard in 1982 and w as commissioned thorough the University of Scranton Reserve Officer Training Corps as a Field Artillery officer in 1984. He graduated from Wilkes University in 1986 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Career Courses, the Combined Arms Service and Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the US Army War College.

From 1992 to 1995 COL Prit chard commanded two Batteries in 2nd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, at Fort Drum, New York. Following this assignment, he served as an Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana. He commanded the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii from 2005 to 2008. He deployed the battalion to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006 to 2007.

COL Pritchard has also served in a variety of staff positions at Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Arlington, Virginia; Fort Stewart, Georgia; and Landsburg, Germany and has participated in operational deployments to Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

COL Pritchard's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He has earned the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Parachutist Badge. He holds a masters degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College.

COL Pritchard has been married to the former Michele Modeski of West Pittston, Pennsylvania for 24 years. They are the proud parents of son, David (16), a junior at Leilehua High School, and son, John (21), a Soldier in the US Army.

# TREA SURER'SRE PORT

The Association is currently in good shape financially. Pres entfunds:

Regular checking - \$30,696.52 Money Market - \$23,391.35 Life Membership Fund - \$113,353.52 Total - \$167,441.39

An tici pate up coming expenditures will in clude the pub li cation of this news leter, and ad di tinal re union planning costs.

Mailings go out to over 4000 a ddresses and the cost is close to \$14,000.

We currently have over 500 Life Members, and the remaining ad dresses are split about e venly be tween thos e who have paid dues and those who haven't. We do not take anyone off t he mailing list, and e neourage e veryone to contribute by sending in their dues.

An updated Treasurer's report will be made at the 2011 re union.

Ken Wright, Trea surer

# **ED I TORS RE PORT**

It pains me to say this, but I'm not making any excuses for the lateness of the newsletter. My available time seems to be getting smaller, and the workload of the newsletter keeps getting greater. I think a lot has to do with age.

I have asked for som eone else to take over the editorship of the news letter for the p ast several years, and although I've had s ome very well meaning of fers of help, they fall short of ei ther the total commitment, or the skills necessary to put out a twice yearly newsletter.

I'll ask again if there is someone with the computer and publishing skills who is willing to take over the editor duties. It re quires the col lection of sto ries, as sembling them in a readable form (often requiring rewriting and retyping), getting the news letter pr inted, and hav ing it m ailed to about 4000 members.

It is a vol unteer job, w ith no com pensation, s o you must enjoy it. While I still en joy it, I'm getting burned out after 23 years.

Ken McKenzie, Ed i tor

# Home Town View of Vietnam



Li. Bendling hought a cheap guitar to nounce his men. To his surprise [12], degrees and a slight abortage the result was "an Anglo-Oriental version of the Eculies"—the guitary as the harmonica and two steel helmets for drims. The five-man dev had neither seen not heard combo draws crowds of more than 100.

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

# Cheltenham Officer Says Viet Nam Gives Lessons Not Found in Books

By LT. WILLIAM B. BEADLING, III

The biggest lesson a soldier has moving, bard-hitting, pir-mobile,

The 196th U.S. Light Infantry Brigade was formed at Fort Devens. Mass. in August, 1966, comprised of the injective battalions, one ar-tillery buttalion, one support bat-talion and an engineer company, We are nearly 4,000 strong.

The term "light infantry" means that this brigade is not encumber-

A young Cheltenham lieuten-ant sends BREFZE readers an eye-witness account of the an eye-winest account of the tragic, faulastic and areasons-ally comical life of the Amer-ican soldier in Vict Nam. He is 2nd Lt. William H. Beadling, III, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Beadling, H. 107 Branches above for

II. 107 Ryers ave., whose fa-ther, a former Chief Petty Of-

ficer, is employed at the Chef-terham Post Office, "Berry" attended Fox Chase School and Cheltenham High and worked for Boll Tele-alione before entering the Army three years ago.

ment. We were designed as a fast- pours, heat that sometimes reached

OCS Fort Beaning in 1963. Upon air, graduation be attended Airborne and Ranger school and was assign-ed to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, jour After five months in Ben Hoe S. Viet Nan, he transferred to Ft. De-vens, Mass, and took command of Go-Go Co.

The Brigade arrived on Aug. 15 at its base comp at Tov Ninh, 30 miles from Saigan on the Cambodian border. We burged our company area. The heat seemed unbearable but the mon worked hard and degredly all day.

By nightfull we were guilled her bows were men who restized by no means organized. The Artificety pounded out H & I fires that the war was now past of their was irod interdictingt all ment and we had trouble adjusting to it. They

we had trouble adjusting to it. They are fired without schedule to try to keep the V.C. (beme-forth refer-red to as "Charlie,") from infiltrating and ponetrating your perimet-

Shattering Complacency

ed with heavy items of equipment such as his trucks, heavy morture, labored to establish camp. They are a large logistical support ele-

At 7 that evening Gost 5; the men were beginning to wear a look of complacency and their backs were turning branze from the tra-pical sain. The compan, had set-ited down and most of the men were scratching out letters or charwere accurating out tell-resp coa-ting about what they had done dur-ing the day. I was sitting in a tent with the other platon, leaders and the Artillery Forward Observer dis-cussing the problems of the day.

to learn is that the war is part of satti-guerrila force. Suddenly we heard loud thumps his life. Our men learned it on the Buildin Heads Unit that sounded like moutar fire untiet tropical evening of Aug. 20.

Capt James Bouldin has been Then a thunderous clar resounded the company commander since the across the field I turned town. company was formed. He is one of the explosion in time to see the the most condities men I have met second round land on top of an in his position. An enlisted man uncovered burker, and send a for eight years, he was accepted to young soldier hurtling through the

The rounds pounded in at about four-second intervals. The men in our company scrambled for the defensive trench with weapons and chal belows.

In five minutes it was all over

# RETURN TO VIETNAM AFTER 43 YEARS

(by: *Ken McKenzie*)



Nui Ba Den (the Black Virgin Mountain). In 1966 we walked across these rice paddies. We once again crossed the paddies to pay tribute to our three friends lost in an ambush here. We placed a 196th coin at the spot.

was able to make all the ar range ments.

At the 2009, 196th Reunion in Buffalo, several of us discussed going back to Vietnam. By late 2009, we had decided to go, and began planning. Four of us from Company C, 4/31 would make the trip. Greg Kitchen, Ken McKenzie, George (Oz) Ratto, and Lee Perez.

We were all originals from Fort Devens, and had been split up after six months in-country, with Lee going home with an injury, Ken to the 25th Div, Oz to the 4th Div, and Greg staying with the 196th and going up to Chu Lai.

We didn't want to take a packaged tour, so we made all our own plans and itinerary.

The planning was important to me, so I took on the task of arranging our itinerary and planning for vehicles, hotels, and interpreters. I contacted B ob Del zell, a former 196er who was living in Vietnam at the time as a teacher. He connected me with Steve, I friend who operated a tour a gency in Saigon. Working with Steve, I



For merPres i den tialPal acein Sai gon



Lee, Ken, George (Oz), Greg

Using After-Action reports, top o graphical maps, and Google Earth, we were able to pinpoint locations of interest and load them into a handheld GPS unit.

We spent the first day in Sai gon, and then traveled to Cu Chi and the surrounding are a. We then c hecked into a ho tel in Tay Ninh and spent three days around Nui Ba Den, Dau Tieng, and the areas north and west up to the Cambodian border.

We traveled about 100 miles a day, visiting the areas of Operations; Attleboro, Cedar Falls, and Junction City.

We were tem porarily detained by the mil itary for being close to the border, but papers were examined, money changed hands, and we were freed to continue.

After touring Tay Ninh, we flew up to Da Nang and stayed on China Beach while touring around the Chu Lai base, Tam Ky, and other areas where Greg had been stationed.

We flew back to Saigon for one last night and then headed back to the world.

It was a great trip, and interesting to see the country again after 43 years. The cost for ten days, including airfare, all hotels, van and driver, interpreter, in-country flights, etc. was about \$2000 e ach. The people were friendly and, knowing



Ken stands on the Tay Ninh bridge.



The en trance to the 196th Basecamp in Tay Ninh. This is as close as we could get, because the base is used by the military and not even photos were allowed.



The Tay Nin h traf fic cir cle, now larger a nd with out tanks

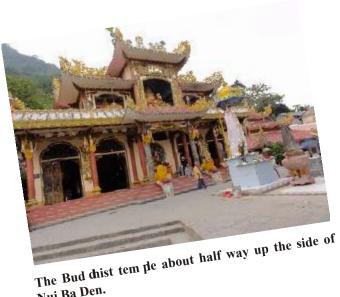
we were veterans, would say hello or talk to us about their involvement with Americans during the war. There is no doubt it is a Communist country, but the S outherners tolerate the North's rule and they are generally left alone to bring in the needed dollars.

We agreed that there was no closure over the events of the war, and the friends we had lost there, but perhaps we can now remember the country in a slightly different light.



A gondola cable car now goes up Nui Ba Den as far as the Buddhist tem ple.





Nui Ba Den.



The road from Soui Da to the rear of the mountain.



The Cao Di Temple in Tay Ninh.



Cao Di service.



Tay Ninh main street, head ing from the bridge to the 196th Base.



Not the same Shell station in Tay Ninh as 1966, but brought back memories.



Rubber plan tation south east of Tay Ninh. The 4/31 pulled road security here and the area was known as AO Blue.



The Miche lin Pl antation just out side Dau Tie ng. Just down this path, 3rd Pla toon set up an am bush position in 1966.



Dau Tieng Reservoir from the dam. The Saigon River has been dammed just north of Dau Tieng, flooding much of the Operation Attleboro area. Nui Ba Den is just visible at the far left, and the hills north of Dau Tieng are to the right.



Ken stands on the site where his APC hit a mine in Feb 1967, after he was transferred to the 5th Mech, 25th Div. We were able to find the site u sing GPS co ordinates from the A fter-Action Report. There are the remains of an old ro ad still visible. We were then detained here for three hours by the mi litary, who could n't understand what we were doing taking photos so close to the Cambodian border.



American deuce- and-a-half at a mil itary camp in the Ho Bo Woods.



Cu Chi tunnels tourist guide. These tunnels are at the site of those discovered by the 196th during Op Cedar Falls.





There are memorials to the Viet Cong in every village and town. This particular one is in the Ho Bo Woods. They leave offerings, just like we do at the Wall. The South Vietnamese resent that there are no memorials allowed for the South's soldiers.



Beautiful resort on China Beach in Hoi A n. We were the only ones there until a busload of Northerners came in for the celebrations of the 35th anniversary of the fall of the South. Some of the work ers here refereed to them as "the bosses from the North."



Old Hoi An.

Now a tourist attraction. Mostly European tourists.



The old fighter revetments on the Chu Lai base. These, and some old tarmac and concrete were the only recognizable features left of the base.

# 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association









All photos copyrighted by: Tim Thompson

# REGISTRATION FORM

Make Ho telRes er va tionFirst: Call Hilton Reservations Toll Free at 1-800-445-8667. Tell them you are with the 196<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Group Code – LIBA - to receive the <u>special reunion rate of \$109 per night plus tax</u>. If you plan to ar rive early or stay over, the special rate will apply for 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion. No airport shuttle.

Last Name:	First N	ame:		_
Spouse or Guest Name:				
Ad dress:	City:	State:	Zip:	_
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	E-Mail		_
Unit:	Dates of	Service		
(Registration fee helps deack ets)	e fray costs of pro grams, sp ory Book Photographer thi	eakers, gifts, ship pin	g, name b adges &	w elco
TOURS: 9am – 3pm Totally Seat		Adults# n 13 & Under#	Seats x \$51.00 Seats x \$45.00	
You must be 44 inches to ched flyer.	ight/Boeing Factory Tour* Childre all to take the Boeing Facto motorized wheelchair or sc	ry Tour. Other restric	tions can be found i	in the
	pm – 9:00pm. Please indica atta,Grilled Salmon			
	est Speaker. Dress is Busin J "Doc" Mosher: 9:00pm -		Hour: 6:00pm – 7:0	)0pm
Membership current? No?	Do it now! Annual - \$20.00	/ Life - \$196.00	Dues enclosed =	
Make check payable to:	196 <sup>th</sup> LIB As so ci a tion	TOT	AL: \$	
Send Registration Form	with check to: Warren Ne	ill, PO Box 434, Cicer	o, IN 46034	
	Registration Deadline -	- Friday, 17 June 201	1	
Any Questions Contact: V	Varren Neill – 317-984-3853	or email – neill196@con	acast net	

Bob Kelly – 610-207-0170 or email – <u>libbob196@aol.com</u>

# 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association 2011 Reunion Schedule

The 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association's 2011 reunion will be at the Bellevue Hilton Hotel in Bellevue, WA, Thur, 28 Jul – Sun, 31, Jul 2011. The di rect reservation number is 1-800-445-8667. Tell the m you are with the 196<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Group Code – LIBA - to re ceive the <u>special reunion rate of \$105 per ni ght plus tax</u>. If you plan to ar rive early or stay ove r, the special rate will apply for 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion. Sorry, no airport shuttle.

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

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

# \*\*\* Make Hotel Reservations First. Place Confirmation Number on the Registration Form, then fill it out and send in with your check.\*\*\*\*

We have booked almost the whole hotel and have reserved another 50 rooms in a back-up hotel which shares the same parking lot. The Hilton is big enough to handle our room requirement at a very favorable rate and has adequate hospitality, meeting and banquet space, so everything will be on one site. There will be two tours offered this year.

"Totally Seattle Tour". This is a 6 hour tour on which you will experience the sights of the Seattle area with a professional guide who is pas sionate about the Se attle area and loves shar ing it! See the en closed flyer for more details.

"Future of Flight/ Boeing Factory Tour". This is a 7 hour tour on which have will travel the 30 miles to Mukilteo, home of the "Future of Flight Aviation Center" and one of Boeing's major assembly plants. You will join a 1½ hour "Boe ing Factory Tour" where you will see the a ssembly lines for 747, 767, 777 and the new 787- Dreamliner. A nearby hangar is the home of the "Flying Heritage Collection" which features US, British, German, Russian and Japanese aircraft from WWII. An experienced tour guide will be on board for the round trip to further enrich the experience. Please see enclosed tour description for special rules concerning the Boeing Factory Tour.

Both tours will depart from the Bellevue Hilton, Friday, 29 July at 0900 Sharp!

Please see en closed "Seattle Area Attractions" or visit <u>www.visitseattle.com</u> for de scriptions of other per-sonal sight see ingop por tuni ties the Se at tlearea.

Our memorial this year will be held, on site, immediately following the business meeting.

We suggest and request that you schedule your personal, self-directed sightseeing during the day and plan to spend the evenings meeting and socializing with your fellow Chargers in the hospitality room..

# There will be no Memory Book Photographer this year. Please bring your camera!

Guess that about covers it. We are re ally looking forward to having a great time of fellowship and camaraderie in Seattle. We hope to see you there!

Warren Neill, President / Bob Kelly, Vice President

# 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association 2011 Reunion Schedule

# This year we will be celebrating the 46th anniversary of the formation of our Brigade. Let us raise a glass to all Chargers, Past & Present.

# There will be no Memory Book Photographer this year. Please bring your camera

Following is a list of events planned for the Seattle reunion –

Thursday -28 July

1200-1900 Reg is tra tio Open

All Day Self Guided Attractions - See www.visitseattle.com or the concierge for suggestions

1200-2400 Hos pi tal itRoom

Friday - 29 July

0900-1500 To tally Se at le Tour

0900-1600 Future of Flight/Boeing Factory Tour

All Day Self Guided Attractions - See www.visitseattle.com or the concierge for suggestions

1200-1900 Reg is tra tio@pen

1200-2400 Hos pi tal itRoom

Saturday - 30 July

0900-1030 Mem ber shipMeet ing

1030-1100 Me mo riaSer vce

1200-1700 Hos pi tal itRoom

1730-1830 Cock tail Hour (Cash Bar)

1830-2100 Ban quet - with Special Guest Speaker. Dress is Business Casual.

2100-2400 Music & Dancing - DJ- Rich "Doc" Mosher.

Sunday - 31 July

0900-1000 Chap hin Ser vice

Prior to Noon Check Out

# Seattle Area Attractions

- -Take a cab ride or bus the nine miles to Seattle where you can see and do some of the area's must-do activities
  - -Visit the Space Needle and ride 520 feet up to see the awesome view of the city
- -Experience <u>Pike Place Market</u>. Born in 1907, Seattle's Pike Place Market is the granddaddy of farmers' markets. Today, it's a major tourist attraction with 200 businesses operating year-round, 190 craftspeople and 120 farmer booths plus street performers and musicians. Flowers by the bucketful, flying fish, fresh pastries and fruit, handmade cheeses, local honey, wine, an assortment of restaurants, and lots of surprises are around every corner.
  - -En joythe Olympic Sculpture Park on the shores of Puget Sound
  - -Stroll around the Seattle Art Museum
  - -Take a quick cab to Pioneer Square to learn about Seattle's history through <u>Bill Speidel's Underground Tour</u>
    -Watch animals frolic at the Woodland Park Zoo
- -Stroll along Seattle's Waterfront, see some unusual sights at Ye Old Curiosity Shoppe and have a delicious seafood lunch at one of the many restaurants
- -Catch a <u>Washington State Ferry</u> for a round trip ride to Bainbridge Island or Bremerton. Enjoy spectacular views of the Olympic Mountains and the Seattle skyline. Take a 35 minute ferry ride to Bainbridge Island. Stroll along the shops and dine in one of the many eateries. Plan your return to Seattle at sunset to see a breathtaking view of the city skyline from the ferry.
- -Ride the Argosy boat from the Seattle Waterfront to Blake Island to visit <u>Tillicum Village</u>. The Tillicum Village tour includes a boat cruise, salmon buffet dinner, and a Northwest Coast Native American dance performance.
- -Hit the slopes and spend a day skiing at some of the nearby mountains. The Cascade Mountain ski slopes, including <u>Crystal Mountain</u>, <u>Stevens Pass</u> and <u>Snoqualmie Pass</u> offer day and night skiing November through mid-April. Snoqualmie Pass is just a 60 minutes drive from Bellevue.
- -Create your own adventure in one of Washington's national parks. Seattle lies within a couple of hours of three spectacular national parks. Mt. Rainier is just a two hour drive south of Seattle and features the highest peak in the Northwest at an elevation of 14,411 feet. Gray Line Sightseeing offers a guided day tour to the visitor center located at Paradise. Olympic National Park, on the Olympic Peninsula west of Seattle, features the only temperate rain forests in the lower 48 states; the park also features 8,000foot mountains and wild ocean beaches. North Cascades National Park, north of Seattle, boasts a necklace of turquoise glacier-fed lakes with a backdrop of jagged mountains and a scenic highway (Cascade Loop) which runs from beach to mountains to eastern Washington's semi-arid plateaus.
- -Take a scenic trip to Mt. St. Helens. May 18th marks the anniversary of this volcano's fiery eruption in 1980. Today visitor and interpretive centers explain dramatic geologic and human stories and their legacies. Flightseeing tours are also available.

# 2011 196<sup>th</sup> LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE REUNION CRUISE





escope completely



# 7-NIGHT ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE: ROUND TRIP SEATTLE ON THE SAPPHIRE PRINCESS JULY 31 TO AUGUST 7, 2011

( Detailed Itinerary on reverse side )

Category	Prices
Interior Stateroom	\$959 pp.
Interior Stateroom (Deluxe)	\$1099 pp.
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Suites	Call

Price includes port charges and government fees.

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Deposit: 20% at time of booking: Final Payments due May 1, 2011

# Early booking incentive: If cabin is booked prior to June 30, 2010 the deposit will be reduced to \$100 pp and two on board savings booklets worth up to \$300 each will be included.

Deposits are fully refundable up to 90 days prior to departure date.

Prices are based on availability and are not guaranteed until deposit is made.

For more information and to make your reservation call: BEST CRUISES & reference "196th Reunion Cruise

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# 2011 196<sup>th</sup> LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE REUNION CRUISE

7-NIGHT ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE ROUND TRIP SEATTLE ON THE SAPPHIRE PRINCESS JULY 31 TO AUGUST 7, 2011



JULY 31	SEATTLE	<b>EMBARK</b>	AFTERNOON
AUG 1	CRUISING	THE INSIDE PA	ASSAGE
AUG 2	KETCHIKAN		FULL DAY
AUG 3	CRUISING TR.	ACY ARM FJOR	D HALF DAY
	JUNEAU		EVENING
AUG 4	SKAGWAY		FULL DAY
AUG 5	CRUISING	THE INSIDE PA	ASSAGE
AUG 6	VICTORIA BC		EVENING
AUG 7	SEATTLE	DISEMBARK	MORNING

Early booking incentive: if cabin is booked prior to June 30, 2010 the deposit will be reduced to \$100 pp and two on board savings booklets worth up to \$300 each will be included.

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Prices are based on availability and are not guaranteed until deposit is made.

Princess reserves the right to impose a fuel surcharge.



Prices are per person based on double occupancy. This offer is capacity controlled and may be discontinued at any time without notice

# Now she knows how GI died. Son wasn't just killed in action in Vietnam; he was a hero.

By MANNY GAMALLO World Staff Writer

Published: 4/6/2010 2:20 AM Last Modified: 4/6/2010 4:20 AM



COWETA — It has only been in the last two years that Evelyn Slo at learned how her s on died 40 years ago in Vietnam.

When the Army informed her of the Jan. 17, 1970, de ath of her son, Donald Paul Sloat, all she was told was that he had been killed in action. A y ear later, Sloat ex changed letters with a sol dier who was present when her son died, and she was

told that he had stepped on a land mine.

So for ne arly four de cades, she lived w ith that simple bit of information about her son's death, never questioning it. All that change d two year sago, how ever, when a nephew in Ca lifornia read an on line account of how Don Sloat died. Just three weeks shy of his 21st birthday, Sloat didn't step on a land mine. His death came about as a result of bravery that might have saved others' lives.

Ac cording to re cently re leased mil i taryre cords, Don Sloat was on patrol when he to ried to toss a live, booby-trapped enemy grenade away from his platoon. The grenade blew up, killing him instantly. Three nearby soldiers were wounded by shrap nel, but the carnage could have been far worse if not for Sloat's heroic action.

Sloat — attached to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Brigade of the A merical Division — had been in Vietnam for a few months, but in that short time he had received two Bronze Stars for valor. But he was never decorated for the act of courage that claimed his life

Evelyn Sloat wants to c hange that. She's on a m ission to see that her son is properly recognized, possibly with a Medal of Honor.

Sloat said she has learned that her son's platoon leader was going to recommend him for the Medal of Honor. She believes that through the chaos of Vietnam, her son's bravery was simply overlooked. She's not bitter — just fiercely determined to see her son recognized.

Sloat also has received the forms to apply for a Me dal of Honor, but she is facing an uphill struggle. The hitch is that she needs to find an officer in command at the time of her son's death who will verify that he died heroically. So far, her efforts are leading to dead ends.

She has tried reaching out to V ietnam vet erans who knew her son and how he died, but some she can't find, and others have died.

In May, Sloat received an "out of the blue" telephone call from Michael Mulheim of Kansas, who knew her son in Vietnam and how he died. Mul heim followed up the call with a letter to her, in which he said Don Sloat was a "young, brave soldier who gave his life for our country." He also confirmed that Sloat saved lives with his action.

On the night be fore he died, SI oat was sitting in his bunk with O scar Truitt, who was en joying a cigar that Sloat's family had sent. Truitt, who now lives in Hyde Park, Mass., said he wasn't present when his buddy died but learned the next day of Sloat's heroism. He expressed dismay that SI oat was never recognized for his actions. "He should have been," Truit tsaid. "Don was a really good guy who was well-liked."

Truitt was un certain of the of ficer who was present when Sloat was killed, but he thought it might have been a Lt. Woodman. "We used to call him Lt. Woody," he said.

Truitt re membered that a M arshall S ackman was there."He told us w hat had happened," he sa id. "He was real shaken up by it." Sa ckman could not be found. His last known address was in Jackson, Mich.

As difficult as the task ahead of her m ight be, Evelyn Sloat said she is "bound and de termined to get that medal for Don. He was never recognized for what he did." "All I want to do is correct a mistake," she said. "It's not going to help Don, but he does need to be decorated."

Read more fro m this Tul sa Worl d ar ticle at http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/ar ti-cle.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100406\_12\_A9\_Evely n463339

If you can help with this, please contact:

Jim Hemphill

918-636-6876

jwhemhill@cbtulsa.com

(Thanks to Tuls a World Executive Editor Joe Worley for permission to reprint this article)

# LOOKING BACK ON THE 2009 REUNION

The 196th Business meeting was well at tended. The cur rent of ficers were voted in unan i mously..

The hospitality room was full most of the time.





Active duty 196th members were in at tendance and had a good time.



Terence Knox, the st ar of "Tour of Duty" as Sergeant Zeke An derson, was our g uest speaker. His words were from the heart and well appreciated.





Dancing the night away!

# BACK HOME FOR A FEW HOURS

By: Jim Gales (galesgemoll@aol.com)

I just finished reading the 196th magazine and thought I would drop you a few lines about something that flashed back to me.

I was an 81 mm mortar gunner with B. Co. 2/1, 196th back in 71-72. I was mostly out on remote fire bases and had been on one for more than a month. Every once in a while our platoon was allowed to send someone to the rear to pick up supplies and make a PX run. The last stop was to get the platoon mail and be on the last chopper out to the fire base.

It was about March 5-7th when I got a turn to go to the rear. After living in mud, dust, and dirt for so long my fatigues could stand up in a corner all by themselves.

I went to the rear, grabbed a shower, made a trip to the PX, and as I was walking back to my company area, I cut between two buildings for a short cut. While passing by a window, I heard a basketball game coming from a radio inside. I stopped, and to my surprise, it was the Boston Celtics against my hometown Milwaukee Bucks.

I put down a couple of cases of Coke that I was carrying and took a seat. It was already the second half and the game was close. I c losed my eyes and pic tured myself back home and l istened to the r est of the game. The Bucks won and Kareem had a field day with over 40 points. For the hour or two that the game was on, I mentally escaped the war and recharged my internal batteries. A guy heard me outside and offered me a seat inside, but I was just as happy to sit under the window and listen to the world back home. Thanks to that nice guy for leaving the game on for me.

After I picked up the mail and made the last chopper out to the fire base, I was greeted by my squad to help carry all the supplies. I gu ess I must have been smil ing from ear to ear, as my squad mates asked me if I was at the steam and cream (that's a whole separate story). I simply said I was back home for a couple of hours, and for the next few days I was one happy camper. They still thought the smile was from the steam and cream.

Isn't it amazing how that short cut between two buildings lifted my spirits. Also thanks to Armed Forces radio, whom I think carried the game.

I called my local paper, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, this morning to see if they could help me with the time frame for the game. When the PR guy from the Bucks heard my story, he said he'd look it up and call me back. Ten minutes later he called and had the date, and reminded me that the Bucks won the title that season.

# HONOR ROLL

We are working to cor rect the 196t h Honor Rol l and need some additinal in for mation be forepost ing the corrections to the website.

We've found a ll the un known ex cept Mi chael Woodard, a PFC from Nashville, TN, who was in the 3/21. Mike was KIA on 3/20/71. If a nyone remembers him, we would like to know his Com pany and if hi s bat talion is cor rect

We will remove names that were not in the 196th, and correct or add any new names we can come up with. If you know of a nyone we have missed on the web H onor Roll, please let us know.

We may add a thread to the web FORUM for people to enter corrections to the Honor Roll.

Remember, the corrections have not yet been posted to the website, and probably won't be until after the New Year.

Ar ti clefrom the "Charger" 14 Jan 1972 DaNang Vietnam

Handshake tour 'speed' experts talk to troops DA NANG - GIs from the 196th Infantry Brigade got to talk about "speed' experts Dec. 17. with the "Speed" to this group meant getting a vehicle to 195 miles per hour or faster, if possible. Rap sessions were conducted by Don Garlits, National Hot Rod Association champion; Pollard, second in the California "500"; Richard Petty, 1971 NASCAR champion; Walley Dallenback, and Art Leonard, who were all touring Vietnam on a USO Handshake Tour. The group visited the 196th Med. Co. (Prov.), the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. area, LZ Maude, the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. area and 196th where they headquarters. showed racing movies and discussed cars and driving with their audiences.

# 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, Lustrium, and Questra.

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# 196th Merchandise

Prices shown include postage & handling.

De scription	Price Quar	ntity Amt Due
All weather 196 <sup>th</sup> Flag Du ra <b>k</b> e/Dou ble-sided	\$68.00	x \$68.00 =
"The Second Year" Yearbook (8/66-7/67)	\$25.00	x \$25.00 =
3 Flag Desk Set (US, 196 <sup>th</sup> , POW/MIA)	\$14.00	x \$14.00 =
196 <sup>th</sup> LIB Challenge Coin	\$7.50	x \$7.50 =
196 <sup>th</sup> patches Full Color	\$4.00	x \$4.00 =
196 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Crests "Ahead of the Rest"	\$5.00	_ x \$5.00 =
196 <sup>th</sup> LIB Outside Win dow/BumperSticker	\$2.00	x \$2.00 =
Lapel Pins	\$3.00	x \$3.00 =
Limited Edition T-Shirt (see a (While supplies last - we will upd		
2XL, XL, L		x \$15.00 =
196 <sup>th</sup> LIB T-shirts	\$15.00	
3XL, 2XL, XL	_, L, M	,x \$15.00 =
	Order	Total =
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Make check payable to: 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Assn Mail to:

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

(Suggestion: Make a copy of this page)

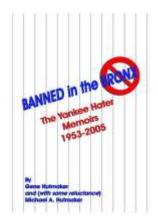


Mark Rob inson of D elta "Black Death" 3/21 has do nated some unique T-Shirts that were made for him by his daughter. In Mark's words, "My daughter's name is Nancy Gibson. She graduated f rom Mich igan Sta te with a Bachelor of Arts de gree. She is em ployed as a fire fighter at the air port in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She is also a volunteer firef ighter f or the C Hastings, Michigan where she is a res ident. She was a lways in terested in art and my Vietnam experience. After a few years of her per sistence I told her m y story. I as ked her if she would do her Dad a fa vor and pro duce a unique T-Shirt with the 196th Emblem. She did many variations until she decided on this one at which time I bought her a 6 color screen press. She used it to pro duce the shirts that we are donating to the Associa tion."

There is a limited supply so it will be first come first served until they run out. I'm sure if there is e nough demand we might get Nancy to fire up that press and produce a few more that we will pay her for next time.

The shirts are \$15 apiece and can be ordered on the sup ply sheet i ncluded in this new sletter. The re is a lim it of o ne per order.

# Banned in the Bronx: The Yankee Hater Memoirs 1953-2005 Au thor:Gene Hutmaker



Baseball fans will relive the past 50 years of America's greatest pastime through the eyes of the Yankee Hater. This book chronicles the year-by-year account of each baseball season with little or no mention of the success of the New York Yankees, but rather a highlight of their failures. This is the Yankee Hater's nar ration of 5 0+ years of b aseball, life and everything in between

AUTHOR BIO: For over fifty years Gene Hutmaker has observed baseball from every possible vantage point - a player, coach, umpire, and most importantly, a lifelong fan. His ability to recall obscure facts and stats has earned him the moniker 'The Baseball Rainman'. He recently retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 40 years and is a 196th Viet Nam Army Veteran. He is married to Josephine (37 years and counting) and has two sons (both Yankee fans), co-author Michael, a University Dean, and Christopher, a former All-State baseball player and Wall Street Ex ecu tive

# **Dues Renewal Form**

(other side)

Please include your old address also if you have moved.

#### LO CA TORSER VICE

The 196th L IB Association will search its da tabase, on request, to at tempt to lo cate buddies you may want to find. Simply send a written or e-mail request to War ren 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 anyone, 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.

# Locating on the Web

You can also leave a message on the 196th W ebsite Guestbook at: **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" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address.

# The Web Forum

If we do not have the person you are looking for in our database, the new website FORUM is another way to locate people. Put the name of the person you are looking for as the title of the new THREAD you create on the FORUM. Remember, you must sign up for the forum, but it is easy and the information will not be used in any other way.

# Fill out and return form with your remittance to:

196th Light In fannty Bri gade As so ci ation Ken Wright, Treasurer 8280 Hwy 66 E Rome, IN 47574

I Dues are \$20.00 for the year.	Li€time Membership: \$196.00
· '	@ \$2.00 ea Additional Decals @ \$2.00 ea.
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Dates served in the 196th: From: _	To:
Unit: Bat/Reg	Company or Battery Platoon
  Service #:	Date of Birth: E-mail:
II cannot join at this time, bu	t please add my name to the mailing listAddress Change
Membership Renewal	New Member

#### MEM BER SHP

Ev ery year, un for tu ntely, we lose some of the members on whose support we have a counted. We have all ways been able to increase the membership slightly in spite of that through en rollment of new members. But, while getting new members is extremely important to us, it is far more important that we retain your interest and good will. So please take a minute now to check your mailing label. If your due shave 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

# 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

#### **OFFICERS**

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CHAPLAIN NEWS LETTER

Rev. Ed Griffin

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E-mail address: Editor196@196th.org

# 196th AS SO CA TION 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.

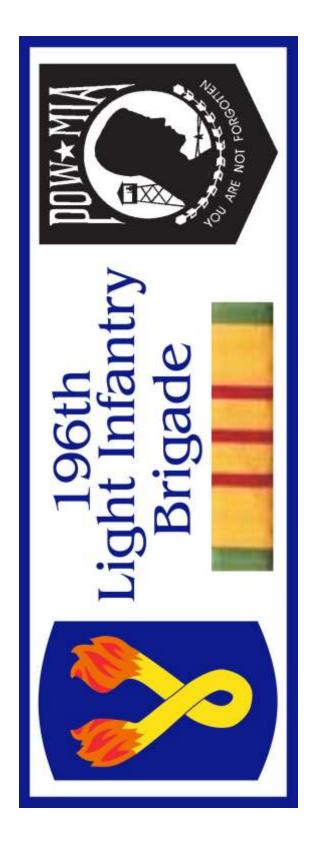
We are also able to reduce mailing costs as a tax exempt organization.

# MEM BER SHP AP PLI CA TIO

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 <u>con tribu tions new tax de ductible</u>on your income tax.

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



# 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

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