



# 196 Light Infantry Brigade Association



## 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.

ON THE COVER: Colonel Charles P. Murray, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient and first Executive Officer of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 1965-1966. Col. Murray was involved with the founding of the 196th Association, and attended many reunions. He will be missed by his 196th brothers-in-arms.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Chargers,

First things first! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for placing your faith in me to continue as President of the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Assn. I want to thank you for your continuing support throughout the years. It has been tough working full-time and trying to do a good job running the association while trying to maintain a satisfying family life. I am now retired and plan to devote as much time as needed to the association. For those of you who attend the reunions regularly, you will recognize my wife, Carol, and our kids and grandkids pitching in and helping me and other association member volunteers to pull off all the behind the scenes things that make our reunions successful. We also use our reunions as a working family reunion. Please believe me they are the rocks that I depend on to bring you the best product we can. Thanks, family, I love you guys very much.

Many sincere thanks, also, to the member volunteers that help out in the hospitality suite and the registration area. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks to Bob Kelly for putting up with me for two years as Vice President. You were a big help and we know we can count on you in a pinch. A special thanks to our Secretary Emeritus, Ed Zahn and his lovely wife, MaryAnn, for over 25 years of service to the membership. I still haven't decided who can replace you as my favorite guy to pick on. I appreciate your sense of humor and your help and know that you will always be available to help any time you are needed. Thanks to Ken Wright and Ken McKenzie for re-upping again. Their experience and loyalty is greatly appreciated by me and the membership, as well. Congratulations to Dave Eichhorn for his election as Vice President. Dave has years of organizational experience with the Americal Division Veterans Association and is taking on the planning for the reunion in DC. I look forward to working with you. The association thanks you for accepting the mandate. Welcome aboard!

Sorry it's taken so long to get out a newsletter. Just as I was putting together my input to Ken McKenzie to prepare the newsletter my computer crashed. In the process of buying a new computer I had to purchase Microsoft Office 2010 and all of our Access (Database) files were in Office 97. I needed the very able assistance of Microsoft Customer Service. A young Indian fellow, Pinaki Choudhury, had to take the files, I had fortunately backed up, and load them to an archived version of Office 97 then transfer all the data generationally up to 2010. Then we had to test it all out. To make a long story short we are once again off and running with a verified database and are trying to make up for lost time. Thanks for your patience.

Already anticipating a terrific reunion in DC in 2013. The dates are Thursday, Jul 25th thru Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>. The host hotel is the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA. More info will be coming your way at the end of this year. Save those nickels & dimes and plan for a great reunion in our nation's capital.

Chargers All The Way!

*Warren*

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of April 1, 2012, the 196th Association has the following funds:

Edward Jones Fund: \$26,325.51

Life Member Fund: \$128,327.83

General Fund: \$21,253.41

We will have expected expenditures near \$15,000 for the printing and mailing of this newsletter, and additional costs for reunion preparation, website, and other administrative expenditures.

Submitted, *Kenneth Wright*, Treasurer

## 2011 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

**Open** (Warren Neil, President) With the Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer, followed by a welcome to first-time attendees

**Minutes of 2009 Reunion** (Ed Zahn, Secretary)

- Move to accept oral minutes / Approved

**Treasurer's Report** (Ken Wright, Treasurer)

- Mandatory 7% sales tax levied on all transactions (e.g., rings) originating in Indiana
- Move** to accept report / Approval of report (voice vote)

**Old Business**

- None

**New Business**

- 2013 reunion will be at: Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, Virginia, the last weekend in July.
- Neil Hannon (spelling?) returned to Vietnam to visit a girl he rescued during his service. She and her family are still in need of help.

**MOTION:** 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Association will sponsor the family with donation of \$196 per year as necessary. **MOTION PASSED**

- Thanks to Ken McKenzie for work on newsletter and web site.
- Thanks to Joe Mahoney and Ken McKenzie for work on Honor Roll database.
- Thanks to Ed Zahn for his work as Secretary. Ed would like to hand over duties. He has served as Secretary since the Association's beginning.

**Elections**

- Nominations (moved and seconded):
  - President: Warren Neil
  - Vice President: Dave Eichorn
- Both accepted and approved (unanimous voice vote)

**Appointment**

- Treasurer: Ken Wright

**Open Discussion**

- Suggestion: Find a permanent location for reunion. Response: When membership was polled on this issue, only 10% of responders wanted this.
- 300+ members registered for 2011 Reunion in Seattle; 500+ registered for dinner.
- Suggestion: Subsidize guys who can't afford trip to reunion site. Response: Not practical, particularly because some who would need help would not ask for it.
- Suggestion (Mike Ruane): Have a Service Officer present at reunions. Response: **Yes.**
- Support Our Veterans wrist bands available.
- Bob Kelly, Vice President: Two medical personnel from the 196<sup>th</sup> awarded the Medal of Honor. **MOTION** (Bob Kelly Vice (President): 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Association donate \$196 in memory of each (\$392) to the monument fund: MOH Memorial at Ft. Sam Houston **MOTION PASSED**
- Kham Duc Reunion to take place first weekend in October in St. Louis.

**Newsletter** (Ken McKenzie)

- Needs stories, articles, etc. Members should visit site regularly for new information and to change personal information such as change of address ([www.196th.org](http://www.196th.org))
- MOTION** (Ken McKenzie): Authorize travel expenses reimbursement related to reunion planning and conduct for President (Warren Neil). **MOTION PASSED** (floor vote)
- MOTION** (Doc Mosher): Make travel expenses reimbursement motion retroactive for this year's reunion. **MOTION PASSED**

**Memorial Service** ( Ed Griffin, Chaplain)

- Prayer and 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm
- Reading of names of comrades who have died since last reunion

**Adjourn** (10:04)

Submitted by: *Ed Zahn, Secretary*

## ***Medal of Honor Recipient Charles P. Murray, Jr. Passes Away at 89***

August 12, 2011 — *Earned Nation's Highest Award for Valor during World War II*

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society announces that Colonel Charles P. Murray, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient, passed away Friday, August 12, 2011 in Columbia, South Carolina at age 89. Charles received his Medal of Honor in Salzburg, Austria, presented by Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, Commanding Gen. U.S. II Corps. On July 5, 1945.

He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy by commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kaisersberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory, Murray fired from an exposed position, disorganizing the enemy ranks and forcing their withdrawal. He then moved with his patrol to secure possession of a bridge and construction of a roadblock, capturing enemy troops while sustaining injuries.

Charles Murray is survived by his wife Anne and many other family members. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, **Colonel Murray was the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Executive Officer in 1965 and 1966, and assisted in founding the 196th Association. He was an Honorary Life Member of the Association.**

He is a Graduate the University of North Carolina and George Washington University, where he was awarded M. A. Degree in International Affairs. The Colonel is also a graduate of the Army Infantry School, Fort Benning Ga., The Canadian Army Staff Collage and the National War Collage.

His significant peacetime assignments include Chief of the Planning Branch, Plans Division G-4, for the Eight Army in Korea; Executive Officer and Deputy Commander for the 1st. Battle Group, 3rd Infantry, at Fort Myer, Virginia and Personnel Staff Officer for both the Policy Branch and Procurement Division, Officer of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.

The Brigade's only Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel Murray received this country's highest decoration for outstanding heroism near Kaisersberg, France. During the eight-month period from October 1944 to May 1945, the then 1st Lieutenant Murray also received the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with first Oak Leaf Cluster and French Croix de Guerre with Silver Gilt Star for Valor.

### **First Lieutenant Murray's official Medal of Honor citation reads:**

For commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kaisersberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory. Descending into a valley beneath hilltop positions held by our troops, he observed a force of 200 Germans pouring deadly mortar, bazooka, machinegun, and small arms fire into an American battalion occupying the crest of the ridge. The enemy's position in a sunken road, though hidden from the ridge, was open to a flank attack by 1st Lt. Murray's patrol but he hesitated to commit so small a force to battle with the superior and strongly disposed enemy.

Crawling out ahead of his troops to a vantage point, he called by radio for artillery fire. His shells bracketed the German force, but when he was about to correct the range his radio went dead. He returned to his patrol, secured grenades and a rifle to launch them and went back to his self-appointed outpost. His first shots disclosed his position; the enemy directed heavy fire against him as he methodically fired his missiles into the narrow defile. Again he returned to his patrol. With an automatic rifle and ammunition, he once more moved to his exposed position. Burst after burst he fired into the enemy, killing 20, wounding many others, and completely disorganizing its ranks, which began to withdraw. He prevented the removal of 3 German mortars by knocking out a truck. By that time a mortar had been brought to his support. 1st Lt. Murray directed fire of this weapon, causing further casualties and confusion in the German ranks. Calling on his patrol to follow, he then moved out toward his original objective, possession of a bridge and construction of a roadblock. He captured 10 Germans in foxholes. An eleventh, while pretending to surrender, threw a grenade which knocked him to the ground, inflicting 8 wounds. Though suffering and bleeding profusely, he refused to return to the rear until he had chosen the spot for the block and had seen his men correctly deployed.

By his single-handed attack on an overwhelming force and by his intrepid and heroic fighting, 1st Lt. Murray stopped a counterattack, established an advance position against formidable odds, and provided an inspiring example for the men of his command.

## TAPS

*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.*



**Murray Jr., Charles MOH (COL-Ret)**, As one of the founders of the 196th Association, COL Murray was an Honorary Life Member of the Association. He served as the Brigade's Executive Officer when it was re-formed in 1965, and was a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor, three Silver Stars, two Bronze stars, Purple Heart, and the French Legion of Honor. Along with Audie Murphy, with whom he served in the 3rd Division, he was one of the most decorated soldiers in World War II. (see accompanying article).

**Rhodes, Thomas**, 14 Jan 2011, served with Charlie Tigers, 3/21, as an RTO during 1968-69. He was one of the RTO's at Tam Ky in May of 1969. Thomas passed due to complications from ALS.

**Roczniak, Dan**, 12 Jan 2012, served with C-2/1 during 1968 and participated in the rescue of Kahm Duc. Dan passed while awaiting a lung transplant.

**Smith, David**, 12 Dec 2011, David served with Delta, 4/31 in 1967 & 1968, 1st Platoon, and passed from cancer.

**Pratt, Tim**, 28 Feb 2011, served with A-2/1, 1965-67.

**Wright, Terry**, 30 July 2011, served with A-2/1, 1968-1969.

**Mancha, Jose (Joe)**, 3 Nov 2011, served with B-4/31, 1969-1970.

**DePriest, Freddie**, 27 Aug 2011, served with 3/21 in 1970-71 on LZ Center. Freddie passed from cancer and was from the Chesterton, IN area.

**Burnet, Henry**, Mar 2010, served with D-4/31. Henry was from Columbus, GA.

**Bagwell, Joe (SGM)**, 9 Nov 2009, served with D-4/31 in 1967-1968

**Carpenter, Leo**, Jun 2011, served with D-4/31. His widow Linda is struggling; Vance van Wieren has her contact information.

**Gaskins, Jr., Edward**, Feb 2011, served with D-4/31 in 1968-1969.

**Berry, Robert Irving (SSG)**, 80, 9 Jul 2011, served with 1st Platoon, C-3/21 in 1966- 1967. Don Coots writes; We have lost another brother. Robert passed away at his home in East Fort Myers, Florida. He served 22 years in the Marines and Army and received the Bronze Star in Vietnam. He had throat cancer from Agent Orange and other medical problems. I was his RTO during part of my tour in Vietnam. I went to visit Bob and his wife Elfriede in Jan of 2011 after 44 years. We had a good visit and I was glad that I went. He will be missed. RIP Sarg.

**Dionne, Raymond F. (SFC)**, Memorial Day 2011, His son writes; just thought I would let you guys know, since I found paperwork from the 196th in his room. I know he always wanted to go to a reunion and find some of his ole' buddies. What a fitting time to be called home by his Commander in Chief, on Memorial Day! Godspeed dad, We will miss you. He was my hero!

**Kralick, (Doc) Joe**, 9 May 2011, Doc served with HHC - 4/31 as a Senior Medic on LZ West in 1969 and 1970. He also served a tour with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division. He had battled heart and lung problems for several years. He is survived by his wife Millie.

**Pry, Jay**, 1 May 2011, Jay was the Company Commander of C & E Co, 3/21 during 1968 and 1969. Jay loved his brothers and was a regular attendee at our reunions. He will be missed, rest in peace.

**Griffith, Scott**, 11 Dec 2010, swerved with B-1/46.

**Carlton, James Wayne**, 5 Feb 2011, served with 2nd Platoon, D-2/1 in 1967 and 1968. Tim Martin writes; It is with a heavy heart that I must inform my brothers of the loss of James Wayne Carlton. I called him to chat, only to be informed by his wife that he had passed away. I trained 'Carl' when he first arrived in Nam, and we have been good friends ever since. I shall truly miss him. Please keep his family in your prayers.

**Thompson, Joseph J. (CSM-RET)**, Jul 2005, served with HQ-3/82 ARTY, 1968-69, His brother Ernie writes; I think he was an operations sergeant (either SFC or MSG) in one of the artillery units that was part of, or assigned to, the 196th during '68, 69 or 70. Joe was a good brother and served during Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm.

## TAPS

We are very proud of his service. Joe was from Alpharetta, GA and was a member in good standing of the Association when he passed.

**Meehan, Robert Francis**, 7 Nov 2010, served with Brovo 2/1 from 1965 through 1967. Robert passed fromn a heart attack. His friend writes; I hope he meets Art Llorca and Father G up there. He was an expert rifleman and a tunnel rat. Purple Heart, etc. It hurts to breathe sometimes without him, God bless.

**Knoerzer, John (SP5)**, 11 Nov 2009, served in A Co, 8th Support, from 1965 through 1967. He was from Monroe, NY. His wife Marylou writes; It is John's letters from Vietnam that have helped me to cope, so your brigade has been in my thoughts.

**Herron, John**, 8 Jan 2011, served in B-2/1, Bill Chojnowski writes; John was from Greenville, Ohio, and passed from a fast moving lung cancer. John was a Devens "Boat Member" and served with honor in B Co 2/1, First Platoon, from 1965. Since our return home, I had been to Ohio several times to visit John and his family. I will miss him and we had plans to get together in the Spring.

**Rother, Charles**, 11 Oct 2010, served with F-Troop 17th Cav, in 1966-67. Charles was from Yorktown, PA and was a Life Member of the Association.

**Colby, David H.**, 7 Jan 2011, served with A-3/21 in 1966-1967 (see letter elsewhere in the newsletter from David's wife.)

**Pappadopoulos, C.**, 28 Mar 2012, served with A, 3/82 Arty, 1965-1967. Ted Sparidae writes, "A dear friend of mine you may know as L.T. Pappadopoulos passed away. We were part of the Patch coming to Vietnam in 1966. We lived together for a few months in Tay Ninh and coordinated Arty fire with the Vietnamese. Seems like we are fading some-times. May he rest in heaven.

**Bouldin, Colonel ®) James Richard Matthew**, Montgomery, AL passed away January 8, 2012. His exemplary military career spanned thirty-five years. His first 8 yrs in reconnaissance and infantry units, where he served as a key NCO, marked him as an exceptional soldier. He completed OCS in 1963 at the top of his class. After graduating from the Airborne & Ranger Courses, he was assigned to the 173d Airborne Brigade and "**A (Go Go) Company, 4/31, 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Chargers)**", and distinguished himself in combat in the Republic of Vietnam with both units. As a proud member of the Army Rangers, Colonel Bouldin served as a Ranger Instructor at Fort Benning, and he taught Leadership, Land Navigation, and Patrolling to both Ranger candidates and students of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course.

He subsequently served as a senior infantry training advisor to the Republic of Vietnam Infantry School. Throughout Colonel Bouldin's career he served with distinction as: Inspector General, Headquarters 1st ROTC Region; battalion S-3, 2/504th, 82ND Airborne Division, Fort Bragg; G-3 AIR, Headquarters Command, 82ND Airborne Division; Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, Training School Brigade, Ft Benning; Staff Leader & Instructor at the Combined Arms Services Staff School, Fort Leavenworth; Post Inspector General, Ft Benning; base commander, Camp Page and Area II, 19th Support Command, Republic of Korea; and Senior advisor to the Alabama National Guard.

Colonel Bouldin retired from the Army in 1990. but never stopped serving. For twenty-one years he was a faithful volunteer, serving veterans at the VA Hospital in Montgomery Alabama. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Summerlee, West Virginia, and is survived by his two sons, James Michael and Richard Matthew Bouldin. He is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Colonel Bouldin was a Life Member of the Association and attended many reunions. He will be especially missed by his men from A Company, 4/31 who loved him.

**Thomas, John**, 25 Feb 2012, served with B-2/1 in 1966-67. John was from Conesville, OH and was the president of the Ohio 196th Chapter.

**Peek, Larry**, 17 April 2012, served with 3rd Platoon, C-4/31 from 1965-67. A good friend and will be missed.

**Johnson, Robert W.**, 14 Nov 1947-24 June 2011, served with C-4/31 during 1967-68, and lived in St. Petersburg, FL after moving from Columbus, OH in 1976.

**McVey, Charles**, May 2012, served with B 2/1 1965-66, then 4/9, 25th DIV. Charles was from Monticello, KY.

**Barrett, Richard**, served with A 3/82, 1965-67. Richard was from Brattleboro, VT.



# MAIL CALL

## THE LOVE OF MY LIFE

My name is Linda Colby. My husband, David H. Colby, served in Vietnam in 1966-67. He was with Co A, 3/21, 196th. David passed on January 7, 2011. His family was with him. He had esophageal cancer.

David was treated at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We were very fortunate to have this wonderful facility so close. The atmosphere at the hospital I can't put in words. No one was a stranger. Each person bonded with the other no matter what branch of service, or what war. Everyone was a friend. The staff, nurses, doctors, whoever, were helpful, respectful, and would thank the Vet for fighting for our freedom. Even from our first visit we were welcomed. People come from all over for medical help at the Ann Arbor V.A. The hospital has strong ties to the University of Michigan.

As hard as it was to say "good bye" to David, he is no longer suffering. He is with God in heaven and someday we will meet again. He was the love of my life.

He enjoyed the reunions and fought bravely to keep us free. To that I say thank you all for your service. We would live no other place.

Fondly,  
Linda Colby Dexter, MI

## Tragic News From Vietnam

We learned that Jim Craig, B-3/21 died on top of LZ Mary Ann on 24 April 2012. He was with a group that was making a return visit.

According to Spencer Baba, who was traveling with him, Jim disappeared while the group was scouting around the top of the mountain. He was missing for 27 hours when his body was found at the base of a cliff, apparently having fallen.

Seventy to 100 villagers had searched for almost two days before a one-legged Montagnard discovered him. Our thoughts are with Jim and his family.

## First Time Attendee at the Reunion

Thanks Warren, Ken, and the rest of the leadership for a great reunion in Seattle. I was a first time attendee and along with the rest of the guys enjoyed it a lot.

Last summer I began talking by phone with my CO from the 196th, Vic Ellstrom. He had a stroke close to 20 years ago and has never fully recovered.

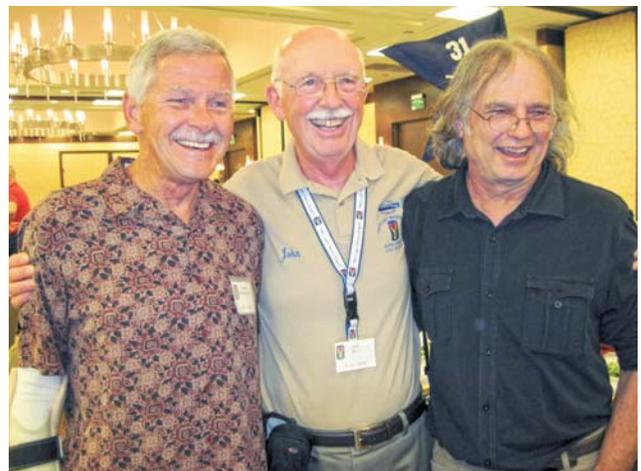
Could you send him the newsletter?  
Thanks,  
Bob Lee, PO Box 63, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

## 1st Platoon, A 2/1, Then and Now



March 22, 1969 (l to r)

Tom Dambrowski, Paul Barnes, John Isely, Unknown, Jack Chevalier is behind the camera taking the photo



July 30, 2011 (l to r)

Tom Dambrowski, John Isely, Jack Chevalier

## MAIL CALL

### SIMPLE INTRODUCTION

Greetings Fellow Chargers.

As some of you know, in 2004, I retired after 31 years in education, the last 20 as an elementary school administrator.

In July of that year, I applied, and was appointed to work as a faculty member in the School of Education, California State University Channel Islands, in Camarillo, CA. I have lectured in several education and communication classes for the past eight years.

As is common practice, for some professors, on the first day of classes, is to have students introduce themselves. I ask that the students meet with someone that s/he does not know. The students introduce themselves and interview each other. I usually use the following format/questions: Name, Major, High school attended/mascot, Year (Senior, Junior), Long/Short term goals, What are their expectations from our class, and, Tell us something that we would never guess about the individual.

After all students have been introduced, I share the same information about myself. I followed our list, and when I arrived at "never guess," I paused for a moment and explained that I was going to tell them something that I had never mentioned to any other students/class. Of course, as I looked about the class, I could see them sitting up, attempting to guess as to what I might tell them. I looked around again, took a very deep breath, and I told them that I was an infantryman, with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, in Vietnam.

The class was quiet for a moment. I took a step toward the computer, to prepare for my Power Point lecture. **Suddenly, the students erupted in applause! I could not, immediately, quite comprehend what I was hearing. I turned to face them. It took all of my emotional strength to maintain my composure! I thanked them...at that moment, that was all that I could do.**

A good day for me; and other Vietnam Veterans!

You all stay healthy. See you in Washington, DC, in 2013.

**Welcome Home.**

*Rafael Perez*

### What are the odds!!!!!!!!!!!!

Four of us (B co. 2/1, 70-71) were sitting at a table up on the 3rd floor of the hotel during the reunion going over pictures; when a 196th'er walked by going to his room and noticed our name tags and unit. He mentioned that he was over there around the same time we were, and that he had a neighbor who had been in 2/1.

Turned out that we knew him, had just been looking at pictures of him and wondering where he was at all these years. The fellow pulled out his cell phone, called him, and we all talked to him for about 20 minutes.

Definitely a great reunion.

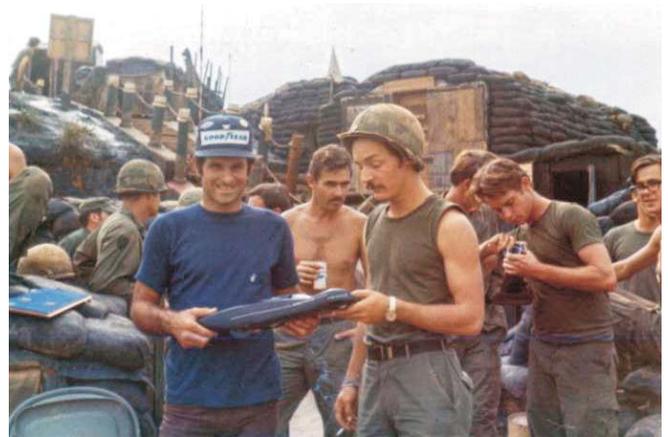
*Don Campbell (Teacher)*

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### DON GARLITS

I was pleased to see the article about Don Garlits from the 14 Jan 1972 Charger in the last newsletter.

Here is a picture of me and Don Garlits on LZ Maude.



Thanks,  
David Dispenza  
A Co. 2nd/1st  
10/71-2/72

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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)**

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" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address.

## MAIL CALL

### News Accounts "Glowing"

Dear Ken,

First, let me tell you how much I enjoyed my first reunion in Bellevue, WA. I was able to connect with my old platoon leader, Lt. Michael Decoudres. I also met many great guys, who served in the same AO as I and Mike. Although they were in neighboring battalions or there at an earlier time, they humped the same territory.

At the reunion there was a request made for pictures and stories about our tour of duty. A prior newsletter had the front page of the Southern Cross and an article about the news story. I dug out my picture albums from my tour of 1970 with Company A 3/21<sup>st</sup>. I have enclosed a copy of the front page of the Southern Cross concerning a firefight my com-



Vol. 3, No. 20

Chu Lai, Vietnam

June 5, 1970

# Night attack fails, NVA lose Bn CO

By SGT Dave Mckeen

**LZ CENTER (19th INF BDE IO) -- An NVA battalion commander and 18 of his men died in a futile attempt to overrun a 196th Infantry Brigade company's night position near Hiep Duc, 23 miles northwest of Tam Ky.**

The action began when elements of a NVA Main Force Regiment moved into the Hiep Duc area.

Alpha Company was air-lifted from their fire support bas, LZ Center, to a point southwest of Hiep Duc to reinforce the Recon

Platoon of the battalion which had been in heavy contact for five hours.

After linking with the beleaguered platoon, the two moved towards Hiep Duc tightening the circle of American and ARVN forces surrounding

the NVA.

"We were looking for a day laager position on high ground to set up as a blocking force northwest of the village," said Staff Sergeant Dale Sievert, El Cajon, Calif.

While in the process, the lead element received a burst of automatic weapons fire. The "Charger" soldiers spotted two NVA in spider holes and cut them down with small arms fire capturing one AK-47 rifle.

An artillery fire mission was called into the area, after the barrage, Alpha Company swept the area killing another soldier.

The men then moved from their blocking position and began to prepare night defensive positions.

Then, according to First Lieutenant Michael Decoudres, Sandy Lake, Pa. "We received last minute instructions to move further northeast towards Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st

pany had engaged in May 1-2, 1970. During this firefight I was wounded and received my first Purple Heart. This 'glowing' story did not mention the loss of six soldiers, and, the numerous wounded incurred. I have listed the six who were KIA's. The medic was assigned to HHC 3/21, but, was humping with first platoon. During the firefight two medivac flights evacuated the most seriously wounded. The first chopper of wounded went out after off loading ammunition. The second load of wounded was evacuated out with the same medivac, which was shot down and did a controlled landing onto LZ Karen. The following day the down crew and the wounded were evacuated by two medivac choppers.

Lt. Mike Decoudres also attended the reunion. As indicated in the story, he assumed command of the company after Captain Wilson was evacuated on the first

## 19 killed by dawn

(continued from page 1)

Infantry who was in contact. We were all packed up with our claymores and trip flares in and ready to move at seven in the evening when we received six rounds of 60mm mortar fire."

As darkness approached, the first of two enemy ground attacks began with a barrage of incoming small arms fire and CHICOM grenades.

"Just at dusk I saw several enemy stand up, their figures were silhouetted against the sky, and throw their grenades," said Sergeant Sievert.

The remainder of the night was spent in an uneasy calm interrupted by an occasional mortar round or CHICOM grenade -- and by two enemy probes.

Two hours before the dawn, the now acting company commander, Lieutenant

Decoudres, ordered his company to be on a 100% alert. Thirty minutes later, according to Specialist 4 Dennis Dunn, Seal Beach, Calif., "They hit us again with CHICOMs and small arms fire. The attack lasted until dawn."

With the coming of daylight, the weary but victorious soldiers of Alpha Company surveyed the scene of the battle. Nineteen enemy soldiers were dead -- one of them carrying identification indicating that he was an NVA battalion commander.

The remainder of the day, Alpha remained in their blocking position. Late in the afternoon they moved to a position just north of the battle-torn village of Hiep Duc where they linked up with an ARVN battalion.

The following afternoon Alpha Company was extracted to LZ West; their job was done.

## MAIL CALL

chopper. Mike is a retired LA police officer. If you want to contact him, I can give you his cell phone number. The platoon Alpha had assisted was E 4/31<sup>st</sup>.



Dean Wiegand takes a break while on patrol in Vietnam.

My second submission concerns Sgt Dean Wiegand. He was a replacement squad leader for second squad/second platoon. He was killed by a booby trap on August 21, 1970 in AK Valley. I was walking point when there was an explosion from a bouncing Betty. I received my second Purple Heart from the explosion. When I was in Washington, D.C. in February 1993, I went to the memorial. I located the panel for the date I went in-country. I followed along the lines of my tour. I located Dean's name on panel 8W line 128 for August 21, 1970. Continuing on I found Dean's name again on panel 7W line 24. I took a double take. I went back to the locator book to check for another Dean Wiegand. There is no other. I made etchings of both names and the names above and below his name. When I researched the placement of the second entry, his name was erroneously etched also for the casualty date of August 31, 1970. When the traveling wall was displayed in Tacoma, WA I made etchings of both placements. Additionally, a decade later in 2003 a picture of Dean taking a break in AK Valley was posted at his memorial page. Dean had handed me his camera and asked me to take that picture of him so he could send a picture of himself back to his family. Little did I know the picture I took in July 1970 would end up over thirty years later on Dean's memorial page.

Sincerely,

*Stephen Hemmert*, Tacoma, WA  
(253) 531-8705

### **KIAs Unreported in the news article were:**

Rank before posthumous promotion.

A 3/21

Sgt. Robert Doering

Spc. Martin Huska

Pfc. Charles Kefer

Pfc. Jack Noon

Sgt. Paul Rogalske

HHC 3/21

Pfc. Charles Lownes (Medic)

### **Angry over POW Accountability**

Good morning,

I just finished reading the book, "An Enormous Crime" by Bill Hendon and Mrs Steward." The book lists so much proof that the Vietnamese still have POWs, to read it the data is overwhelming and heart breaking. If by the grace of God, somehow one POW escapes or gets rescued, there is going to be a huge shit storm. If you have the time, it is a good book to read and then pass it on to another Nam Vet until enough people read it and start to write their congressmen and senators and put pressure on the US to bring home the soldiers we left behind.

I also finished reading "The Spy Who Loved Us" and was appalled and irate at what I read. The book was the story of Pham Xuan An, He worked for Time covering the war, but as it turns out he was the best spy the enemy had. He had access to everyplace all of the other reporters did and also had access to places some did not. He states in the book how he was responsible for the deaths of many American soldiers and was using the tunnels Of Cu Chi to pass on and work on his espionage to his connections.

I would like the readers learn of things that have been covered up for years. I know about bills asking for a full accounting and all that, but we have to address what is known by a few and repressed by many. We never leave any man behind is only an expression with most groups, but to those whom have read these books it means a lot of Vets in high places have let that statement become just a saying.

It seems the emphasis is on the past and not the present issues that should be a priority The same goes for Rolling Thunder going to Washington on every Memorial Day to partake in what has been done every year and that is to honor the dead. What about asking for accountability by protesting the issues I have stated.

*Jim Gales*

## LOOKING FOR

### David Lawrence Clouser

Looking for anyone who knew my Father, David Lawrence Clouser, C-4/31, 71-72. He was an 11C Mortarman.

He passed away a couple of years ago and I have just opened his box which contains his Nam memorabilia as well as some of my Grandfather's stuff from WWII.

If you knew my Father, or served in C-4/31 in 71-72, please contact me so I can make some sense of his Vietnam experiences thru his letters and photos. He never spoke of his time there.

Please contact me at:

Jonathan Clouser

158 Wade Ave.

Niles, OH 44446-1927

330-984-9043

e-mail: jonathan.clouser@gmail.com

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### Robert R. Polaski

My name is Robert R. Polaski. I was in A Co, 4/31 2nd Platoon, May 11, 1968 to May 10, 1969.

I knew a Dennis Weaver very well, because he took over the —60 from me when I moved up to squad leader. Very sorry he passed away.

I am 100% disabled with PTSD from what happened on Nui Cham, Nov 20, 1968. I received a Bronze Star with V Device for what I did.

What I'm looking for is I received another Bronze Star for Meritorious Service. Army records in St Louis don't have it on record.

Would the Company C.O. at that time remember giving it to me? I can't remember his name, it might be Captain Bates. Could anyone help me out? Anyone who remembers me could e-mail me also.

Thank you very much,

Ski (Robert Polaski)

N1872 N1 Dr.

Menominee, MI 49858-9302

e-mail: ski196th@yahoo.com

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### Ray Collins, A 4/31

Anyone who served with or remembers Ray Collins, A 4/31, 66-67, KIA 9/19/67, please contact his brother.

John Collins

1015 E 29th Ave.

Lake Station, IN 46405-1932

Phone: 219-689-2966

*(John served with the 2/12 Marines in 68-69)*

### Sgt. Norman Kenneth Gault

I am looking for anyone who was in Vietnam with my dad 1970-71. His name was Sgt. Norman Kenneth Gault, 196<sup>th</sup> LIB, Co. D ,2/1<sup>st</sup> ,3<sup>rd</sup> PLT.



I have attached a couple of pictures that I have.

It is my understanding from old family stories that he was wounded on 11 March 1971 in the DMZ trying to recover Lt. Richard C. Anshus and a pilot named Phillip Dean Prather who were shot down behind enemy lines. He was sent home where he recovered from his wounds. He died back at home in a car wreck about three months later.



He was Co. D 2/1<sup>st</sup> , pretty sure 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, but not positive. He was a sergeant and eventually a squad leader. Anything you may know, that you think I might like to know please pass along. Feel free to pass this info to anyone else that you think may be able to help me. I was very young and remember very, very little. I'm trying to piece together a little history for me and my kids.

Thanks for anything you may have,

Heath Gault

e-mail: hgault@crescentdirectional.com

## LOOKING FOR

### INTERPRETER SEARCHING FOR OLD FRIENDS

My name is Cau, I live in Vietnam. I was an interpreter and served with A Company, 3/21 from August 1967 to 29 January 1968, and then served with S2, S5 in 2/1 at LZ Ross, Baldy, and Hawk Hill until 1971 in Danang before the 196th pulled out of Vietnam.

Please help me contact all my combat friends from A, 3/21 and 2/1 Infantry. I'm looking for some of my old friends, but haven't ever been able to find any..

Thank you,

*Cau*

caunguyenhuu1945@gmail.com

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### MSG David Sterling

My father, MSG David Sterling passed away in 1998. He had served with HHC 196th LIB from 1966 to 1967.

I am trying to find out some information from Pop's tour of duty. I'd greatly appreciate any information from the commo guys with Brigade HHC.

Please contact me at: [rdsterling@comcast.net](mailto:rdsterling@comcast.net), or at my address.

Regards,

*David Sterling*

8 Minebrook Rd.

Rehoboth, MA 02769

508-455-2949



### 31st INFANTRY REUNION

The 31st Infantry Regiment Association will hold their 96th Anniversary Reunion on 10-13 August 2012 at Washington, DC.

For further information visit their website at: [www.31stinfantry.org](http://www.31stinfantry.org), or contact Karl Lowe at 703-978-1076

### POLAR BEAR FUND

The 31st Infantry Association recently dedicated the Polar Bear memorial at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning.

Putting the memorial in place is only the first step, and it will continue to cost the Association to maintain this fitting tribute to the regiment's service.

Contributions may be sent to:

Joe DeAngelis, Treasurer

3035 El Rio Dr.

Meridian, ID 83642

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### KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY

Florentine Films, a leading maker of documentaries for PBS, is looking for veterans of Co. A, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment (3/21) who served in Vietnam during the summer of 1969 to potentially interview for a forthcoming series about the Vietnam War.

Veterans who fit this description should contact co-producer Mike Welt at [mwelt@florentinefilms.com](mailto:mwelt@florentinefilms.com). More info about Florentine Films can be obtained at [www.florentinefilms.com](http://www.florentinefilms.com).

Thank you,

*Michael Welt*

Florentine Films

875 Sixth Ave., Suite 1101

New York, NY 10001

(212) 560-9770

## **2011 REUNION WRAP-UP**

Greetings Chargers,

We had another successful reunion in Bellevue, WA. Our turn out was light compared to previous reunions but we had a great time as usual. We had 324 members in attendance, including 20 Active Duty soldiers from Hawaii, with 506 folks attending the banquet.

We had another successful reunion in Bellevue, WA. Our turn out was light compared to previous reunions but we had a great time as usual. We had 324 members in attendance, including 20 Active Duty soldiers from Hawaii, with 506 folks attending the banquet.

We thank the Active Duty 196<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde for co-locating their annual meeting at the Hilton and for their continuing support of the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Association. COL Pritchard and his staff were, as usual, a very big part of our reunion.

We had great speakers in the person of John and Linda Seebeth. Linda wrote a book, [An Introduction to War](#), about John's journey from his wounding in Vietnam, his struggles with PTSD, through rehab and ultimately his reintegration into society. Their message was strong and well received and we thank them for honoring us with their talk.

Thanks also to our in-house DJ, Rich 'Doc' Mosher, for another outstanding performance.

For those who signed up, we had a terrific after-reunion cruise to Alaska for 50 Chargers and their guests, a little over 100 folks. Princess Cruise lines flew our flag, from the mast of the Sapphire Princess, at every port we visited. Thanks to Ron Dougard for the excellent job he did putting the cruise together. Rumor has it that Ron & Andrea are researching the possibility of another cruise following our next reunion, stay tuned.

And speaking of our next reunion it will be held 25-28 July 2013 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA. More details will be in a later newsletter. Mark your calendars, save up your nickels and dimes, and plan to join us for a grand gathering of Chargers in our nation's capital!

Warren

# **SAVE THE DATES**

# **FOR THE**

# **NEXT REUNION**

# **JULY 25-28, 2013**

# **WASHINGTON, DC**



*Details will be mailed by mid-January 2013*

# 2011 REUNION



2011 REUNION



# 2011 REUNION



# 2011 REUNION



2011 REUNION



AFTER-REUNION CRUISE TO ALASKA



# THE STORY OF SON

## BIHN PHU, QUANG NAM PROVINCE VIETNAM

It was late February 1968 when the chopper transporting Neil Hannan from Chu Lai touched down at LZ Colt, where Company A 3/21 was awaiting replacement troops. In short order, he found himself on the bunker line with 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

For several days, company elements of varying size conducted short patrols in close proximity to Colt. On one such patrol, Hannan and two others, while working along a path, came across a hooch. Peering inside, they saw a young wounded girl and her mother cowering in a corner. The girl's left foot and ankle were missing and the oozing stump, which had been wrapped with an old shirt, terribly infected. Through motions, the mother indicated that her young daughter had been wounded by a mortar round. Realizing that simply doing nothing and moving on would result in her death, the decision was made to carry her to LZ Colt. Her mother nodded in agreement.

Upon arrival at the LZ, newcomer Hannan was shocked by the medical personnel's disapproval of their bringing in a "wounded gook". Nevertheless, the wounded girl was taken away, at which time Hannan returned to his squad's bunker position.

Within a few days, Company A, along with tanks and APC's, was assaulting the 3<sup>rd</sup> NVA Regiment across a wet rice paddy not far from Colt. "It was one hell of a baptism", Hannan recalls. Little did he know at the time that his first battle action was front-page news in major U. S. newspapers. The LA Times article read, "GI's Pound Large Red Force".

With on-going action, the incident with the wounded girl slipped to the recesses of Hannan's mind. As the months dragged on, though, he occasionally thought of her, wondering what her fate had been.

Fast forward to September 2010. Hannan, with several A 3/21 comrades, was on his first return to 'Nam. The trip, complete with personal driver and guide, was arranged through Global Spectrum, a company that specializes in connecting 'Nam vets with their wartime "roots". The itinerary stretched from Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City, with emphasis on 3/21's former AO, in and around LZ Center and Nhi Ha (DMZ May'68).

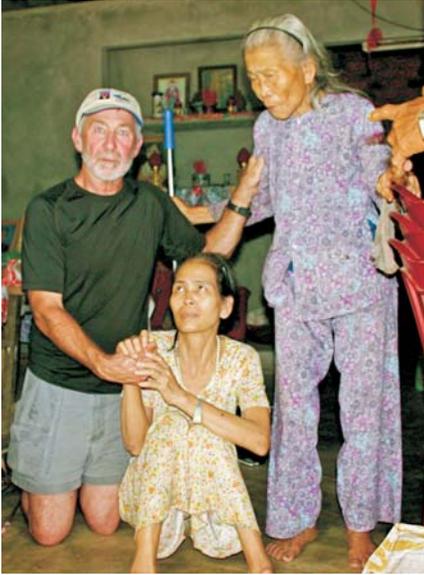
While in the LZ Colt area, Hannan related the February '68 incident involving the rescue of the wounded girl to Thong, the guide. Would it be possible to nose around to determine if she survived and was living back in the Colt area, he wondered. The "you must be kidding" look from Thong spoke volumes. However, the persistence of the group prevailed and Thong initiated inquiries with locals, including hamlet officials. Several possibilities surfaced and, via Thong's interpretive skills, were pursued.

After initial disappointment, one lead was beginning to show promise. Walking the path to that particular dwelling, a female with a missing lower left foot was observed sitting on the floor. Her elderly mother stood at her side. Both seemed understandably confused as to why we were there. Thong set about asking open-ended, non-leading questions to determine if we had found our "little girl". After the question and answer session, he looked back at Hannan with teary eyes, stating "Oh, my God, Neil". It was if a lifetime of



**Neil and translator Thong searching for Son**

## THE STORY OF SON (cont.)



Neil with Son and her mother

emotions had broken the floodgates, according to Hannan. Everyone, including the elderly mother, was overwhelmed.

The “little girl’s” name was Son. As Hannan knelt by her side, she held tightly to his hand. It was learned that, following being carried to LZ Colt, Son was transported to LZ Baldy, then to DaNang. Approximately two months following her rescue, she was returned to her mother.

Son’s father had been killed in action several years prior to her mortar injury. Son’s mother had been shot through the mouth by a helicopter gunship and insisted on showing her scars. Son’s daughter died in 2005 at 12 years of age of a brain tumor.

In observing Son, it was obvious to Hannan that she was very malnourished and in a pitiful state. Based upon the misery in which she existed, he wondered whether saving her was, as it turned out, a benefit to Son. She had been enduring a terrible existence.

Upon returning to his cabin in Alaska, Hannan decided to make an effort to remedy the plight of Son and her mom. Funds were raised through contributions by veterans, friends, relatives and other interested parties. The 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association is in full support of Hannan’s effort, entitled “Son’s Project”, and has vowed to contribute \$196 annually as long as the need exists. The funds raised by Hannan were transformed into meaningful assistance to Son through the guiding hand of Global Community Service Foundation (GCSF), which has personnel in Vietnam to facilitate the effort. Hannan approves all expenditures and is involved in all planning and decisions.

He returned to ‘Nam in 2011 to see first-hand the positive results. “It was amazing”, he says. In just one year so much had been accomplished. Initially, Hannan and GCSF developed a plan of action that focused on immediate and urgent needs, such as food and other essentials. Then Son was transported to DaNang for three months of rehabilitation therapy and a thorough medical evaluation. An addition to their tiny dwelling, a gravity-fed shower/toilet building, and a chicken coop were built. A wheelchair was obtained. Handrails were installed to allow Son to exercise. Defective and dangerous house wiring was replaced. Upon Hannan’s August 2011 visit, arrangements were made to dig a well.

Just recently, Son was taken to DaNang Rehabilitation for a semi-annual check-up that Hannan deems essential to ensure continued progress. The intended duration of the DaNang visits is two weeks. Hannan is in regular communication with GCSF personnel in matters involving “Son’s Project”.

“In a relatively short period of time, an amazing amount of progress has been made”, states Hannan. “Now the focus is on medical care, medication, and ensuring a regular supply of food. Due to many years of malnutrition and neglect, Son has medical conditions that require monitoring.” Hannan reflects on this amazing experience. “I can’t save the world, but I sure am intent on helping the girl that this green, unhardened grunt happened upon back in February 1968.



Son's house with an addition on the right and a bathroom also added to the far right

## THE STORY OF SON (cont.)

Son and her mother have experienced a lifetime of suffering due to that war. Transforming their lives from one of hopeless misery to one filled with hope and happiness, in my mind, is an effort to right a wrong. None of this would be possible without the support of the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Association and other caring folks. I have my fingers on the pulse of this effort and every penny is being spent wisely. This, I can assure you. Show up at Son's hamlet wearing your 196<sup>th</sup> shirt and watch the smiles and feel the pats on the back. We're quite a hit there. To me, this is all about unfinished business."



### Addition, bathroom, chicken coop and therapy bars

Contributions towards the effort to help Son and her mother can be made through Global Community Service Foundation via phone, internet, or mailed check. GCSF is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. In order to ensure that the funds are properly directed, make sure to designate "Son's Project" when contributing. You will receive a written acknowledgment of your contribution. The pertinent information is:

Global Community Service Foundation  
3907 Laro Court  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
Phone: 703-890-0599  
Internet: [globalcommunityservice.org](http://globalcommunityservice.org)

The 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association lauds Hannan's efforts and encourages your support. Every penny is appreciated and will be used wisely.

## CALL FOR HELP FROM KIT CARSON SCOUT

*Ken, I would be most appreciative if you could publish the following plea for information on behalf of Nguyen Duong in the upcoming 196th Newsletter. The KC Scouts, interpreters, and other Vietnamese who served with us in the field have been treated like inferior citizens since the war ended. Most are very poor and feel neglected and insignificant. They have a burning desire to make contact with their American comrades, but many haven't the means to do so. The requested plea follows...photo attached. Thanks.*

*Neil Hannan*



**Nguyen Duong**

Nguyen Duong served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Alpha 3/21 as a Kit Carson Scout from 12 Nov 70 to 22 Mar 71, when he stepped on a 60mm mortar round booby trap.

The severity of his wounds forced the amputation of both of his legs. Duong very much wants to make contact with anyone who served in Alpha Company with him, especially the platoon leader and company commander. His Kit Carson Scout ID card was signed by a man named Haywood L. West on 31 Oct 70. Duong lives in the LZ Colt area in a thatched hut.

If you remember Duong or know the names of anyone who may have served with him, please contact Cau, who served as interpreter for Alpha 3/21 Aug 67 to Jan 68, at: [caunguyenhuu1945@gmail.com](mailto:caunguyenhuu1945@gmail.com).

Cau lives in Chu Lai, not too far from Duong, and will serve as a conduit for any information obtained.

## SOCIAL SECURITY SERVES VETERANS

By: Kenneth Baron  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in New Hampshire

In September 2010, the agency published final rules about the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act. The HEART Act changes the way we treat some cash payments to members of the uniformed services and veterans under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. As Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue noted at the time, "This law allows the men and women of our armed forces, veterans, and their families to keep more of their military-related payments while also maintaining eligibility for valuable cash and healthcare benefits."

The HEART Act does the following:

Treats most cash military compensation as earned income for SSI purposes, which generally provides a higher benefit to the service member as a result of the SSI program's more favorable consideration of earned income.

Excludes certain State annuity payments to disabled, blind or aged veterans from countable income and resources used to determine SSI eligibility.

Excludes any cash or in-kind payments provided by AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps from countable income.

Social Security also makes it easy to get information about benefits for wounded warriors. The first place to go is our website designed specifically for our wounded veterans: [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors). There, you will find answers to a number of commonly asked questions, as well as other useful information about disability benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Please pay special attention to the fact sheets available on that website, *Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors* and *Expediting Disability Applications for Wounded Warriors*.

You will also find a "webinar" that explains the Social Security disability application process and expedited processing available to wounded warriors. This outreach program provides general information about Social Security disability benefits as well as topics unique to wounded warriors, and is a great way to orient yourself to disability benefits for veterans and active duty military.

It's important to note that benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

Military service members are covered for the same Social Security survivors, disability, and retirement benefits as everyone else. Military personnel have been covered under Social Security since 1957, and people who were in the service prior to that may be able to get special credit for some of their service.

To learn more about Social Security for current and former military service members, read *Military Service and Social Security*. You can find the publication online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html).

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### VET-CENTER TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

On March 31, 2011, a bill (S.696) was introduced in the U.S. Senate to correct an inequity in the VA health care system. The bill added an amendment to Section 111 of title 38, United States Code. The amendment was simple and stated only:

*Vet Centers shall be treated as Department facilities for purposes of providing payment of actual expenses of travel or allowance for travel to or from a Department facility under this section.*

What this bill would do, is allow travel pay to be reimbursed for veterans being treated at a Vet Center, just as they would be if they were being treated in a VA facility.

In some states, where VA facilities are distant from a veteran, and a Vet Center is the closest or preferred treatment facility, the travel reimbursement may mean the difference between a veteran receiving treatment or not.

On June 8, 2011 a hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs. Support for the amendment was voiced by the VFW, DAV, American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. A six month study was to be done, with an analysis of the legislation impact..

No further action has been forthcoming on this bill, and any analysis has not been published.

If you believe that this bill is important in ensuring veterans have access to Vet Centers for treatment of service connected health issues, please contact your Senator and ask what their position is on this bill. Ask them what the current status of the bill is, and when it will be voted on.

## POSTED TO THE 196TH WEB FORUM

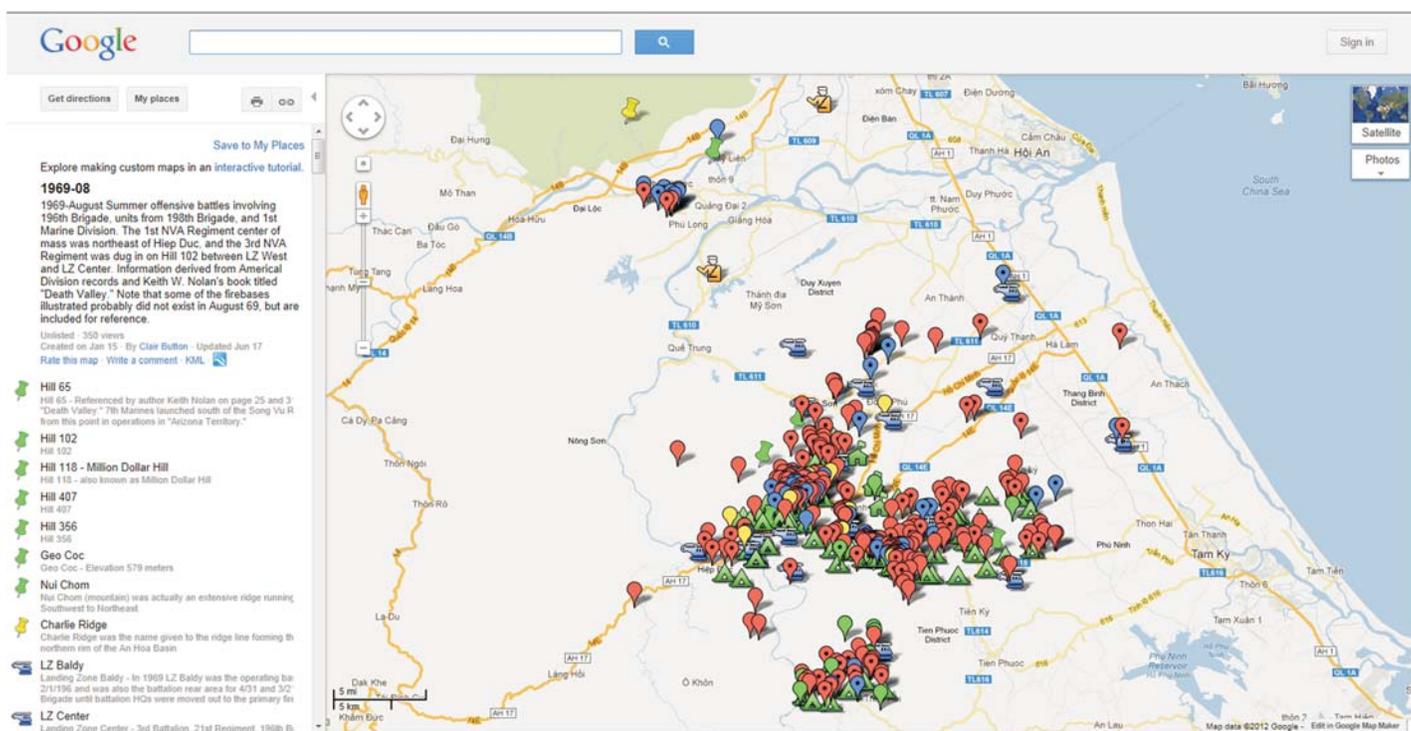
Just to let people know, there is a history project map (Google Maps) documenting the 1969 Summer Offensive and also a Google Earth .kml file available for download at my website at:

<http://www.recon.cfbutton.com/death-valley-1969.html>

You can enter that address into your browser bar.

The map was constructed from the Americal DTOC records using the military grid coordinates. Each data point opens a text description of an incident described in the DTOC records, sometimes with some notes from Keith Nolan's book *Death Valley*. It was a major project for me, and I welcome commentary from those who were there.

Clair Button



### EDITOR'S NOTE;

The map (shown above) is available from Clair's website. It is extremely detailed and should be of interest to anyone who served during this period. You can zoom right in using satellite images or map views.

Much of this information is available for other operations, but requires diligent work to create the Google Earth file which can be shared. In the future we'd like to make more of this type of information available on the 196th, or other websites. If anyone has the expertise and time to research records and convert grid coordinates to create these maps, the Association can provide many of the After-Action reports containing the information for Operations Attleboro, Gadsden, Cedar Falls and Junction City.

There is also an effort being made by other groups to identify the coordinates of each KIA, so that a similar map could be made showing the locations of each casualty.

*Ken McKenzie*

## "MY LIFE, MY HELL" By 196th Soldier

I served in D Company 2/1 196 LIB from August 1968 thru August 1969. I have written a book (*My Life, My Hell This Grunt's Journey Back to the World*).

It is a true story and deals with my life from birth until after I returned from Vietnam. I would like to send you a copy to read for yourself. As you will learn, as you read the book, it was written as an outreach to those vets who may be contemplating ending their own lives. Not just the lives of Korean Veterans and Vietnam Veterans like me but all our veterans no matter how great or small the war. It was also written so that those Americans who never went to war could understand the lifetime of suffering and pain veterans must endure because of their service. It is too, a guide to understanding for the family members of veterans who no longer recognize their loved one when they return from war.

**From the description at: [www.e-booktime.com](http://www.e-booktime.com)**

*The majority of Americans know of the fifty eight thousand who died in the Vietnam War, but very few have heard of the hundreds of thousands who have died since its end. They are the forgotten victims of a war fought by politicians instead of generals with no real plan for victory. Vietnam Veterans by the thousands have died since the war because of their exposure to Agent Orange, but so many more have taken their own lives to forget the Hell on Earth which they endured. In my book, I try to take the reader back in time so they can understand the real story behind the Vietnam War as seen thru the eyes of those of us who fought it. My story tells of the struggles of day to day life as I and my brothers faced the enemy in battle in Vietnam, and it also tells of their bravery and sacrifice for each other. I have tried to explain to the reader how combat affects those of us burdened with pain, loss and guilt for those who could not return. I hope my story becomes a lasting tribute to those men and women lost in a war in which America seemed to have forgotten so many years ago. I also hope and pray that it will save the life of just one veteran before he or she gives up their struggle to find peace.*

I believe my book can benefit many of my fellow 196 Veterans and their families. I hope after reading my book that you will lend your support. If you feel it worthy, please help me spread word of the book to all the members of the Association by highlighting it in the Brigade's news letter.

Sincerely,

Dan R. Vaughn, Jr. [drvaughn196lib@hughes.net](mailto:drvaughn196lib@hughes.net)

## BOOK BY 196th MEMBER

D.C. Hoop has written a collection of combat-related poems dealing with PTSD. The poems are dedicated to Co A 3/21 196th LIB and to all those warriors, both past and present, that suffer from the effects of PTSD.

D.C. was a member of Co A 3/21 3rd Platoon from Nov. 69 until Oct. 70.

The book is also dedicated to the tireless efforts of Vet Centers and VA doctors. The hope is that these poems will lead all those who silently struggle to walk the trail to a Vet Center and join a group of fellow combat vets; "You are not alone."

Available from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com), Title: *PTSD-The Struggle Within-From Saigon to Baghdad*.

### ALONG THE TRAIL

by: D.C. Hoop

I heard myself breathing,  
as I walked straight ahead...  
the jungle too silent,  
Was I alive, was I dead?

This nightmare recurring,  
Over and over for forty years...  
what's around the next bend,  
would it be my worst fears?

I struggle to wakeup,  
but I can't free from it's grip...  
the fear overwhelms me,  
as again now I slip...  
Back into this nightmare,  
along the trail that I walk...  
the voices screaming inside me,  
but I'm unable to talk..

That moment approaches,  
I sense the enemy near...  
My heartbeat increases,  
movement in the treeline so clear..

Then I jolt and awaken,  
still ready to fight...  
My eyes are wide open as I realize,  
that I've made it through the night..

My life along that slippery trail,  
as I try not to fall...  
But the fear of those nightmares,  
catches up to us all.

# 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, enjoy its brilliance for a lifetime.

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 priceless golden look and a brilliant surface that is so durable it carries Jostens exclusive life-time warranty.

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

## JOSTENS FULL WARRANTY

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.



**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.....\$160.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$560.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat White Gold.....\$560.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Questra.....\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$840.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat White Gold.....\$840.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$1217.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat White Gold.....\$1217.00	
<b>Engraving (inside ring)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> (3) Initials _____(FREE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Name (or other) _____		add \$15.00	
21 LETTERS & SPACES			
<b>Stones</b> <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
<b>Encrusting on Stones</b> (available on smooth stones only).....add \$15.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> Infantry	<input type="checkbox"/> MP Crossed Pistols	<input type="checkbox"/> Artillery	<input type="checkbox"/> Crossed Bayonets
Finger Size _____		Sub Total	
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	
		7% State Sales Tax	
		Shipping (per ring)	
		<b>5.95</b>	
		Total	
		Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.	

# 196<sup>th</sup> Merchandise

Prices shown include postage & handling.

Description	Price	Quantity	Amt Due
All weather 196 <sup>th</sup> Flag Durable/Double-sided	\$68.00	_____ x	\$68.00 = _____
“The Second Year” Yearbook (8/66-7/67)	\$20.00	_____ x	\$20.00 = _____
3 Flag Desk Set (US, 196 <sup>th</sup> , POW/MIA)	\$10.00	_____ x	\$10.00 = _____
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 Window/Bumper Sticker	\$2.00	_____ x	\$2.00 = _____
Lapel Pins	\$3.00	_____ x	\$3.00 = _____
Special Edition (Black) T-Shirt	\$15.00		
<b>(While supplies last - we will update the website when these are sold out)</b>			
3XL _____, 2XL _____, XL _____, L _____, M _____,		x	\$15.00 = _____
Classic (White) 196 <sup>th</sup> LIB T-shirts	\$15.00		
3XL _____, 2XL _____, XL _____, L _____, M _____,		x	\$15.00 = _____
Order Total =			_____

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)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As the Editor of the 196<sup>th</sup> newsletter and the website administrator, my e-mail address gets spread around quite a bit. As a result, I seem to get a disproportionate amount of political types of e-mail. I read most with interest, because I believe in free speech, and I am curious about the subjects and the truth of their claims.

I am becoming concerned with the tone and content of some of the e-mails I've received. I do a lot of fact checking, and while some of the messages may be somewhat based in truth, the truth is twisted in a manner to cause the reader to come to a false assumption or conclusion on the subject.

Many of you probably remember picking up Viet Cong leaflets exhorting American troops to defect or revolt based on exaggerated claims or distorted truths. I remember Hanoi Hanna on the radio with her laughable comments and biased facts. I've recently read an account by a North Vietnamese historian on Operation Junction City (which I participated in) with wild claims of thousands of US planes shot down and huge victories by the Viet Cong. These claims were false and are nothing more than propaganda.

Propaganda is generally an appeal to emotion, not intellect. What sets propaganda apart from other forms of advocacy is the willingness of the propagandist to change people's understanding through deception and confusion rather than persuasion and understanding. The people originating the e-mails know the information to be one sided or untrue, but this may not be true for the people who forward the e-mails without checking the facts, thereby helping to disseminate the propaganda.

The term propaganda may also refer to false information meant to reinforce the mindsets of people who already believe what the propagandist wishes. The assumption is that, if people already believe something false, they are therefore receptive to the reassurances of those who would reinforce those beliefs. For this reason propaganda is often addressed to people who are already sympathetic to the agenda.

Since few people actually double-check what they read on the internet or through e-mails, such disinformation will be repeated by propagandists, thus reinforcing the idea that the disinformation item is really a "well-known fact", even though no one repeating the myth is able to point to an authoritative source. The disinformation is then recycled in the media. Such permeating propaganda may be used for political goals: by giving citizens a false impression of the quality or policies of their country or a political candidate, they may be incited to reject certain proposals or certain remarks or ignore the experience of others.

Who are the originators of this propaganda? Often the e-mails are anonymous, or the original is attributed to some fictitious person. How do we know if a seemingly patriotic message is not actually part of an enemy plot to divide and alienate the citizens of this great country? Remember the old saying, "United we stand, divided we fall." Be very cautious of what you read, and what you pass on.

This is not meant to be a political or partisan denunciation. The propaganda comes from all sides of the political spectrum, and it hurts our ability to solve problems and compromise on solutions. Our platoon had a saying, "May we, God willing, be part of the answer, not part of the problem." Not a bad philosophy for most situations.

*Ken McKenzie, Editor*

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## Dues Renewal Form

(other side)

Please include your old address also if you have moved.

## 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 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 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" 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.

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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 good will. 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>Lifetime Membership: \$196.00</b>
I would like (number): _____ Additional Bumper Stickers @ \$2.00 ea.	_____ Additional Decals @ \$2.00 ea.
<b>Not included with membership package:</b>	
_____ Lapel Pin @ \$3.00 ea. T-Shirt @ \$15 each, (number of each size ordered) ____ XXL, ____ XL, ____ L, ____ M	
Name: _____	Telephone: _____
Street: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Dates served in the 196th: From: _____	To: _____
Unit: Bat/Reg _____	Company or Battery _____ Platoon _____
Service #: _____	Date of Birth: _____ E-mail: _____
_____ I cannot join at this time, but please add my name to the mailing list. _____ Address Change	
_____ Membership Renewal	_____ New Member _____ Life Member \$ _____ Donation

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

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

**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.



# 196th Light Infantry Brigade



## 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association

Warren Neill, President  
PO Box 434 Cicero, Indiana 46034

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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