

May 3, 2019

Good Morning:

“Memorial Day” as it is now known, was **“Decoration Day”** when I was growing up in Ohio. I remember the red poppies and the parades in which all the WW2 veterans in my small town (500 population) took part. I remember the rumpled and ill-fitting uniforms worn just once a year for the parade. These former soldiers and sailors were after all a little bigger around the waist than they were during the war. I am sure many of us can relate to that.

From 1868 to 1974 the observation for the Holiday was always on May 30. Since 1970 Congress changed the date to the last Monday in May so we could have a three day weekend. In 2002 the VFW stated: “Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. ...”

“Memorial Day is a time for all of us to remember our fallen Brothers and Sisters.” We, who had members of our company’s, our platoons, our squads, and our friends taken from us during the Vietnam War remember all 105 of those men our Battalion lost.

We remember those lost in Vietnam at our Memorial service held at the reunion as well as during the year at various times including Memorial Day. While we are alive we will never forget those Brothers.

We must also never forget those who during the war came home and suffered from various diseases both mental and physical who have now left this earth or those who still suffer from those diseases, and those who have had other forms of service related suffering since their return.

Finally we must not forget all those Brothers and Sisters that preceded the loss of our Brothers and those that have followed our service and that have been lost in the various conflicts across the world.

My home town has a monument fashioned after the Washington monument, to those lost in 1791 during “St Clair’s Defeat” when more than

900 soldiers were killed and another 300 were wounded, in the Northwest Indian wars. Many towns in the East have monuments to those lost in the Revolutionary war. Other towns have monuments to those lost in the Civil War. Many towns have monuments to those lost in both the World Wars and Korea. Some now have monuments to the Vietnam War. They will all figure prominently in our various Memorial Day remembrances.

“Memorial Service at Rock Island Arsenal”

If you are anywhere near the Rock Island Arsenal on May 24, 2019 please try to attend the 50th Anniversary Memorial service for our Brother Gary Neavor who was killed along with five others in the ambush of the “C” Company mine sweep the morning of May 24, 1969. See the web site for all the details.

“Virtual Wall”

The Association is now down to two pictures needed for all 105 men to have their pictures posted on the Virtual Wall. For one we just need a clear picture that does not look like a negative and the other just needs a picture. The information on those two men follows. Please help us get those last two pictures posted.

Kenneth Carroll Major, Jr. was with C Company and killed on 12-15-1968. His date of birth was 12-14-1947. Home of record was New York, New York City, New York. He was the son of Mr. Kenneth C. Major, Sr., 1014 Hoe Ave., Bronx, NY 10459; and the son of Mrs. Margaret B. Major, 53 West 128th St., New York, NY 10027. Burial was at: Section T, Site 3806, Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Avenue, Farmingdale, NY 11735-1211

William Gary Eggenberger, was with D Company and was killed on 5-13-69. His date of birth was 7-1-39. Home of record was Lyndhurst, Bergen County, New Jersey. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Eggenberger, 378 Hardin Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 (single – no children) Please note that at the reunion I was told by another member of

Delta Company that William had a pet mongoose. Would "D" Company men search your old pictures to see if any of you have any pictures showing a pet mongoose and people with the mongoose. Chances are if you have such a picture William will be in that picture.

Let's make an effort to have both pictures posted by Veterans Day. Veterans Day not Memorial Day because these last two pictures will be very difficult to find. This will take an effort by all the association members and by those persons entitled to be association members. Photos can be posted through the association web site. Please help.

Thank you

Keith Dilworth