

September 10, 2020

Gentlemen:

All of us are very disappointed that the reunion had to be cancelled. In the past today, the Thursday before the Reunion, I would leave home at 6:00 AM to arrive at the Reunion about 4:00 PM. But not this year as all of us are most at risk. Our spouses are also in that group. Hopefully a vaccine will be available before next year's reunion.

Our Chaplain, John Bendick wanted Robert Hammack, our long time Chaplain to be named Chaplain Emeritus. We never got that done while Bob was alive. In his memory a Video Memorial Service has been prepared for our web site that we can all view this year. It combines video, audio, and still photographs. I urge you to take the time to watch that video and remember our fallen brothers. It is not like being at the reunion, but it is a thing we do together at the reunion.

While we have pictures of all of our fallen brothers on the virtual wall, one photograph does not show a face. The last photograph we are still seeking is that of Cecil Dixon. Cecil was in the 137th and attached to Company "D" of the 39th Engineer Battalion at Duc Pho. He was part of a seven man rock crusher crew, sent from the 19th to set up the rock crusher.

Cecil volunteered to go on mine sweep on July 4, 1968. He was killed along with Richard Robey from the 39th. Cecil as part of the security detail was to the right of and slightly behind Richard who carried the mine detector. The Platoon Leader Jim Shamblen was walking behind Richard and Cecil and Jim was thrown to the ground by the concussion from the blast. I spoke to Jim this month and he told me that he could never find the family of Cecil Dixon and he didn't find the family of Richard Robey until 2002. He also told me that the author of "They died on the 4th of July" was unable to find the Cecil's family.

This is a challenge for us. Cecil Dixon left a wife Emily and two young sons Lamont and Frank behind on Passic Street in Trenton. Surely we can find some photograph showing a likeness of Cecil, somewhere. The "Trentonian" has an online article dated May 28, 2007 on page M7 with further details. "They died on the 4th of July" also provides more information. Please help find a picture of Cecil Dixon showing his face. What we have now is a photograph from mine sweep that day.

Four younger brothers were killed in Desert Storm. We do not have any of their photographs. We need the photographs of: Stephen Mark Hansen; Thomas Eugene Walreth; John Clinton Fowler; and Anthony Troy Patterson. With a little work we can have all those pictures posted by next year's reunion.

In closing stay safe and hopefully we will all see each other next year.

Keith Dilworth