



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER REUNION INFORMATION

“ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH”

**NDQSA 33rd
ANNUAL REUNION
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.
June 10-14, 2015**

**It is not too late to make your
reservations and attend!!!**

The 2015 Reunion Committee has arranged for hotel and meeting space at the Marriott Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado, just across from US Air Force Academy. See the reunion flyer and registration form inside this newsletter for details.

REMEMBER TO VOTE! FOR 2015-17 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee has presented a slate of seven executive officers for the next two-year period. The formal ballots were separately shipped to all active members or with the 2015 Rosters with a return SASE. If you have not already sent in your ballot, please do it NOW! **There are still some 180 members that have not sent back their ballots. Please do your duty and help select the next round of NDQSA officers!!!!**

MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

Do not use out of date forms from past newsletters. The multipurpose form has been updated again for 2015. This is the form to use to pay your annual dues, make donations to projects and to order products. **DO NOT USE OLD MEMBERSHIP FORMS WITH THE OLD FAIRFAX VA ADDRESS!!!!**

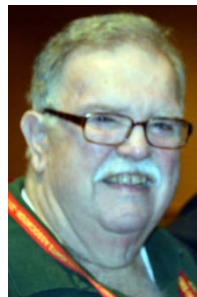
SUMMARY OF LAST FEW BOARD MEETINGS

Board members participated in several conference calls to go over the activities and plans for the 2015 reunion. **Association finances are strong, restoration projects are continuing, and membership continues to rise (540+).**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear brothers and their families,

Hope everyone had a good winter. Spring looks like it is off to a good start. The reunion in Colorado Springs is right on track. I would like to thank all the people that have been working to make this one of the most enjoyable yet. Please keep Friday in your plans. This will be a President's party with free pizza and appetizers. Bring your dancing shoes as there will also be music.



Sadly, we recently lost a faithful reunion attendee Henry (Hank) Garbarino from New York. We salute him and twenty other members and family members that have recently passed. Rest in Peace Brothers. Also Valerie May, the first NDQSA Gold Star Mother passed in December.

I would like to congratulate Retired Colonel Vincent Tedesco. He had the honor of having a hall at the ADA school renamed in his honor. We would also like to acknowledge the renaming of a room at the Patriot Club at Fort Sill in honor of the Dusters and Quads. All in attendance made a trip to visit our ADA Memorial.

Hope to see all in Colorado Springs.
John F. Huelsenbeck
President NDQSA

NDQSA MAILING ADDRESS
NDQSA, PO Box 890130, Oklahoma City, OK 73189

Summary of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meetings Dec 5 & 12, 2014 and April 24, 2015

Amended with subsequent information as needed.

| Members Present | Time in | Time out |
|--|---------|----------|
| President: John Huelsenbeck | | |
| 1 st Vice President: Bob Cuce | | |
| 2nd Vice President Paul Kopsick | | |
| Secretary: Garry Severin | | |
| Treasurer: Allan Penwell | | |
| Past President: Paul Hanson | | |
| Director: Joseph Belardo | | |
| Director: Bob Lauver | | |
| Director: Bruce Geiger | | |
| Director: George Nagelschmidt | | |
| Director: Duane Gettler | | |
| Parliamentarian: Luke Clark | | |
| Director: Dave McCray | | |

Reports of Officers:

President, John Huelsenbeck
First Vice President, Bob Cuce
Second Vice-President, Paul Kopsick
Secretary, Garry Severin
Treasurer, Allan Penwell - Allan stated we had a \$1K profit for the 2014 reunion and have \$95,000 in the bank at year's end. Our official audit of the books is complete and we will file with the IRS in May (Form 990). The finances are sound.

Next are discussions to *Standing Committee Reports* (note they are not necessarily in order of discussion):

Reading of previous BOD Meeting minutes, motions made and seconded and motion accepted. No dissention noted.

Legislative (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver):

A question was raised by the President concerning changes in by laws (specifically the time frame in which nominees have to file before an election from ninety days to sixty days) Answer, the proposal has to be brought before the board and the board will vote on it. If passed by the board it will be brought before the membership for their vote at the annual business meeting. A motion was made by Bob Lauver and seconded by Paul Hanson. The motion has passed with no dissenting votes cast. This change to the bylaws will now be brought before the membership in Colorado in 2015 for their vote.

Products Committee (Duane & Mary Gettler, Bruce Geiger, Paul Kopsick & Bob Lauver):

John Huelsenbeck made a motion to start compensating the Getter's for mileage and tolls incurred in the transport of sales items they bring to and from our

reunions in his trailer, some members were under the impression that this was being done already. Bob Lauver recommended we use the IRS tables for mileage compensation. After discussion, it was recommended by John Huelsenbeck & Bob Lauver that we pay his gasoline expenses both ways to the reunion and he could submit the receipts for reimbursement.

St. Barbara & Molly Pitcher Committee (Vince Tedesco, John Huelsenbeck & Suzanne Tedesco):

Paul Kopsick expressed concerns of privacy issues related to providing a list to the ADA of current members (whose dues are paid up) in order for the ADA association to provide membership cards to our eligible members. Luke Clark and Vince Tedesco reassured Paul that the ADA would not sell or disseminate member's information. A vote was taken on the motion and passed with no dissenting votes. Dave McCray stated he found in the Dec 19, 2013 minutes that the Board had voted to provide the information to the ADA Association. Luke Clark ruled as parliamentarian the board is not out of line to provide the current list of members and addresses to the ADA Association. After another vote by the Board Of Directors that approved sending the members information to the ADA Association, Paul Kopsick was directed by John Huelsenbeck to send current Members name and addresses to Vince Tedesco so he could provide the information to the ADA Association.

Website Committee (Bob Lauver, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger, Robert Schmeisser):

Bob Lauver, Bob Cuce and Paul Kopsick will continue to work on the website. Volunteers are needed to test the sites ease of use and user friendly aspects. Also members are needed to monitor the site once it is up and running. Bob Lauver, Paul Kopsick and Joe Belardo will concentrate on getting the new web site up and running after the June reunion. The next newsletter should be published about May first if all goes well according to Paul Kopsick.

Special Projects – Restoration Notes -- Other:

Allan Penwell proposed the organization look in to overall record backup including Finance and Historical records being moved to "cloud storage".

Luke Clark announced his intention to collect donations for a raffle for two custom made knives that would benefit **History Fanatics** (they restored the Quad truck) the final drawing for these custom made and engraved knives would take place at Houston Texas later this fall.

Meetings were adjourned and minutes recorded.

NDQSA Officer Elections

All active dues paying members of the NDQSA were invited to submit nominations for the 2015-2017 election of the association's Director positions. Members in good standing may submit their own names or the names of other eligible members for the ballot. As long as the nominee consents to be listed on the ballot, their names will be submitted for election to the voting membership. Each nominee will have their photo and a brief introductory biography included with the ballots to help the membership become familiar with the nominee's qualifications. The ballots will also allow for write-in votes of any qualified member to be elected into an office. Furthermore, last minute nominations may be made during the annual membership business meeting at the 2015 NDQSA reunion in Colorado Springs.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following tentative slate of names for the seven (7) open directorships for 2015-2017. The nominations are:

Ron Almon Joseph Belardo (*)
Bruce Geiger (*) Duane Gettler (*)
Robert Lauver (*) Al Martin
G. Nagelschmidt (*) Jim Smith

Parliamentarian Luke Clark (*) and Dave McCray (*) have offered up their Director positions in an effort to open two slots for 'new blood' to enter the Board. Incumbent officers (*)

The deadline for submitting nominations to be listed on the official ballot expired February 28, 2015.

MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Hubert S. Ratliff, 35th AAA 18Dec14
Valerie May, GSM 31Dec14
Michael Gappa, D-71 '66-67 23Sep13 NE
Joseph R Barber, G-55 '71 15Sep14 OH
Richard Finkenbinder, H-4/60 '68-69 30Sep14
Louis Silas G-65, '66-67 9Nov12 IN
John Coe, C-1/44 '68-69 2Nov11
Gerald Harrison, D-5/2 '68-69 12Mar14 VA
Richard N. Sender, D-5/2 '68-69 SC
Dwain Tilton, D-5/2 '66-67 26Nov14 OH
Drayton Markle, A-5/2 '69-71 6May13 UT
Raymond L. Burrows, Jr. H-4/60 '68-69 13Jan15
MSG Jack Lemmon, A-5/2 '69-70 31Oct14
Jimmy Karpowicz, A-1/44 '70-71 23Jan13 WI
Jimmy Shea, D-5/2 '66-68 14Feb10 CA

Bud Speth, D-5/2 '70-71 28Jan13 UT
Henry 'Gabby' Garbarino, C-1/44 '66-67 3Mar15 NY
SFC David L Lindsey, 1st Cav '49-52 28Mar15 OK
James Fritz, B-1/44 '69-70 20Mar15 IL
Doug Goldstein, I-29 '68-70 2Jun13 WI
Robert Baczick, H-29 '69-70 24Apr15ID

They will be missed and we give honor to their service, their lives and their families.

NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

Butch Fertig, B-1/44, '69-71
Richard Spillman, G-65, '66-67
Robert Babbit, G-29 '69
William Gofta, D-71 '66-67
George Demott, D-71 '66-67
Terry Guilfoyle, D-71 '66-67
Richard McCalla, D-71 '66-67
Freeman Ipock, D-71 '66-67
Robert Abbott, G-29 '69-70
Curt Rangaad, D-5/2 '70-71
Barry Cross, I-29 '67-69
Murl Dumont, D-5/2 '70-71
Larry Reynolds, 4-60, 68-71
Neil Steiner, D-71 '71-72
Larry Semsch, D-71 '71
Thomas Bosl, D-71 '71-72
Gary Costa, H-29
Carson Guerrant, B-1/44
Percy Hunter, 4/60 '67-68
Timothy Segvich, D-4/60 '67-68
William Schmoch, D-4/60 '67-68
Richard Wojs, C-1/44 '68-69
Dennis Smock, C-5/2 '66-67
Jeffrey Huttner, H-4/60 '70-71
LuVern, Speer, B-6/56 HAWK '66-67
Michael Smith, A-5/2 '69-70
Joseph Mazza, C-5/2 '67-71
Van Collins, G-65 '68-69
Joe Montoya, G-65 '68-69
Frank Lira, C-5/2 '68-69
Rowland Miller, H-6-71 HAWK '65-66
Ralph Garvin, H-29 '70-71
Karl Spreitzer, C-1/44 '70
Carl Profrock, G-55 '68-69
Gerald Wilson B-5/2 '67-68
Richard Patterson, C-1/44 '70-71
John Brychta, 4/60 '68-69
Richard Renken, I-29 '69-70
Garry Biller, I-29 '69-70
Karl Jorgensen, C-1/44 '68-69
Larry Kohn, B-1/44 '69-70

LATE BREAKING REUNION NEWS

The **Free Pizza on Friday** during the reunion has been expanded by order of NDQSA President John Huelsenbeck to include: additional snacks and a DJ with period appropriate music. This is an effort to allow attendees more time to socialize with other NDQSA members. Too often in the past, couples would go out for dinner and not return to the hospitality suite until much later. This way everyone will have a place to eat (FOR FREE!) and a chance to recover from the day-trips.

The head count for the June reunion is already **over 120 members with 17 being identified as “first time attendees”** or “F-N-G’s” as we used to call them!

The itinerary for Friday’s trip has also been changed. The Thursday trip **will be leaving at 7:00 AM.** We could not arrange the visit to Cheyenne Mountain but will instead receive access to **Air Force Space Command** which is way-cooler. **Recent security concerns at military bases may force us to relocate our Memorial Service from Ft. Carson.**

We will also have attending our reunion, representative(s) from the **Oral History Project at Texas Tech University’s Vietnam Center and Archive.** They travel to a number of Vietnam veterans’ reunions around the country to offer a short briefing on the work they do collecting and preserving the historical record of the Vietnam War, and encouraging veterans and their families to participate through donations of historical materials and by participating in oral history interviews with us. You may want to plan on preparing to present your own oral history to the group during the reunion.

So if you are west of the Mississippi, this is the reunion you should be making every attempt to attend, if health and resources allow. NDQSA can only make the reunions available to you. We cannot make you attend. Even if you do not find a buddy you served with, you will find brothers in arms that shared your sacrifice and want to meet you and your family.

Remember to bring something for the Saturday night auctions. Also remember that Denver and Colorado Springs are at **“Mile-High” elevations** and some of you with respiratory issues may need to plan for that fact.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

There were a lot of returned newsletters last time around. A number were due to guys with split mailing addresses or ‘snowbirds’.

It costs the Association over a dollar for each returned newsletter, and if we need to mail them out again to another address, that is another \$0.70.

If you have multiple addresses and your listed address does not save or forward bulk mailed items, please contact the Historian to make other arrangements for receiving your newsletters.

CELL PHONE NUMBER UPDATES

We have a lot of families that routinely change cell phones or move away from land-line phone to only cell phones. Also many inactive members have not had any contact with the historian in many years and we do not know if your addresses and phone numbers are correct. **Soooo...please take a moment and email the historian with your current contact info.** If you do not have a computer, use the multipurpose form and just fill out the personal info side of the form and mail it in. PLEASE!!!

2015 Membership Rosters

The 2015 Membership rosters were printed and mailed out in February so people will have time to send in their 2015 dues (if necessary) with updated contact information. When you get your roster there will also be your 2015 membership card.

REMEMBER

SECURE YOUR NDQSA ROSTERS!!

When you are ready to discard your old NDQSA Members Roster, please handle it as CONFIDENTIAL information. Please shred it or otherwise destroy it so it can not end up in the hands of an identity thief. A copy of our 2007 Roster was utilized by an identify thief according to Lifeloc™.



Valerie M. May

Jan 11, 1931 - Dec 31, 2014

Resided in Midland, MI

Mrs. Valerie May from Midland, MI is Past National President AGSM, Inc. Her son, CPL Rollie M.

Northouse, was with the "Black Knights" of C Troop 3/5 CAV, 9th Inf. Div. Rollie died on 30 April 1968 in the

Khe Sanh Area of Operation (AO).

Joe Belardo remembers:

Mom May is the reason we started "Operation Gold Star". I danced with her many years ago in WDC at the Veterans Day dance called "DMZ to Delta Dance" and asked her how DQS could help the Gold Star Moms? To my surprise she said they all wanted to go back to Vietnam for closure. I then had John Huelsenbeck dance with her and he got the same response.... the rest is history.

Mrs. May said to me: "I've had the dream of going to Vietnam, but I guess that is just what it is, a dream. Social Security won't go far enough to cover this, and my little savings had better stay where it is for emergencies. This would clear out my savings and more!" Then, talking about Gold Star Mothers traveling to Viet Nam with DQS, Mrs. May wrote, "As we are not getting any younger and age of course brings on health problems, the sooner this could be arranged the better."

I am proud of my DQS Brothers for making her and the other NDQSA Gold Star Mothers' dreams come true.

Bruce Geiger adds:

Valerie May was among the four GSM's that made the first of five Operation Gold Star trips to Vietnam beginning in 2000 along with NDQSA escort brothers John Huelsenbeck (and wife Sally), George Nagelschmidt, Jim Smith, Ed Allen and myself. These courageous women have become surrogate moms for those of us that were honored to fulfill their dream of

traveling to Vietnam to 'walk in their sons' footsteps'. Valerie May will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. Valerie is on the right (2000)



Sam Hopkins adds:

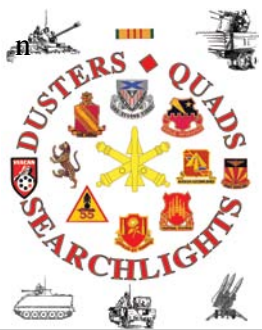
Thank you (Joe) and John (H) for honoring Mrs. Valerie May and all Gold Star Mothers by instigating the NDQSA escorted trips to Vietnam for their benefit.

The two highlights of my career were to accompany the Operation Gold Star trip in 2004, and conduct the military funeral at Arlington for COL William Brandt.

The NDQSA has been vital for fulfilling our roles of serving our country that began when we wore uniforms in a foreign land. For God and country.

Paul Kopsick: I saw Valerie for the last time on Veteran's Day 2014. She was looking frail but it did not deter her from sitting front row center while then Defense Secretary Hagel made his remarks to the crowd. Afterwards, as was our tradition in NDQSA, I offered to escort her to the panel on The Wall where her son's name was listed. She already had an escort but I stayed around to make sure her completed her annual mission. Her dedication and perseverance to the memory of her son is a testament to the wonderful lady she was.





33RD Annual NDQSA Reunion

“Rocky Mountain High”

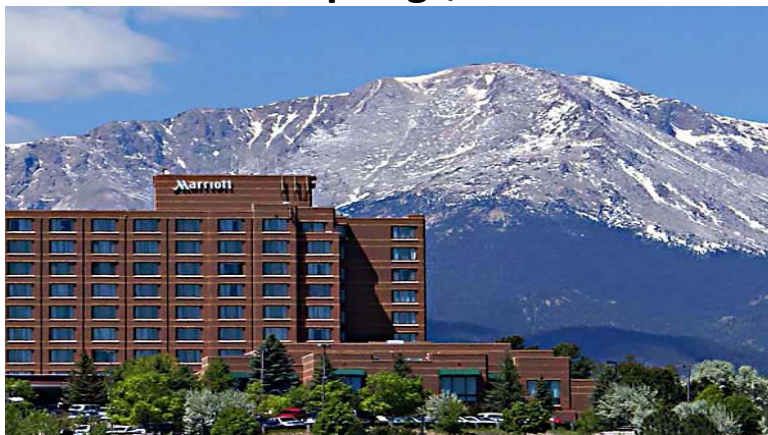
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

June 10-14th, 2015



NDQSA is pleased to announce that our 33RD Annual Reunion will be held [in Colorado Springs, CO](#) at the beautiful Colorado Springs Marriott Hotel.

Colorado Springs Marriott Hotel
5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80919



Phone Reservations: 1-800-932-2151 or 1-719-268-4218
Use Group Code: NDQSA
For Online Hotel Reservations Use Link at < [NDQSA 2015](#) >
Room Rate: \$109 + tax single/double
Room Rate includes 2 Daily Buffet Breakfasts!
Free Parking! Hotel Discounts!
Group Rate is in effect for 3 days prior to and after official reunion dates. Come early, stay longer!

Marriott's Free Shuttle will pickup group members from Colorado Springs Airport only
Requires reservation one week advance!
Call Ray Martinez (719)268-4220

From Denver Int'l Airport to Marriott
Front Range Shuttle Reservations (719)237-2646
Online <http://www.frontrangeshuttle.com>

From Colorado Springs or Denver Int'l Airports to Marriott
Colorado Springs Shuttle Reservations (719)687-3456
Online <http://www.coloradoshuttle.com>

Wednesday June 10th

Registration opens in Hospitality Suite.
You are on your own to explore around the city.
Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight.

Thursday June 11th

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Bus Tour Manitou Springs,
Cog Train to Pikes Peak,
Garden of the Gods
Lunch & Shopping on your own
5:00 PM Buses Return To Hotel
Cost: \$ 75 per person round trip

5:00 PM Buses Return to Hotel
Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight.

Friday June 12th

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Bus trip to HQ Air Force Space Command
Fort Carson, Memorial Ceremony, Lunch on base
4:00 PM buses return to Hotel
Cost \$ 45 per person round trip
Hospitality room in evening
***Free* Pizza Party, music, snacks**
Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight.

Saturday June 13th

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Annual Business Meeting
(All members required to attend)
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Ladies Continental Breakfast in
Hospitality Room

12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM
Annual NDQSA Banquet
Guest Speakers, Awards, and Presentations
Cost: \$40 per person

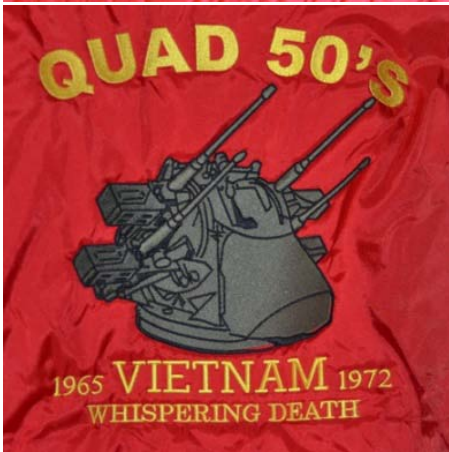
Evening Hospitality Room
Activities, Auctions & Raffles

Sunday June 14th 9:00 AM

Chaplain's Service in Hospitality Room
followed by cleanup and out by noon.

NDQSA PRODUCT ITEMS 2015

Duster, Quad & SLT
Embroidered Jacket Artwork
HAWK can be made also



Searchlight Print (\$60 min)



Logo Patch \$5



Logo Decal \$5



NDQSA Challenge Coin \$10 @
NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @



50-cal bottle opener \$12



NEW NDQSA Cap \$15 Made in the USA



NDQSA BUMPER STICKERS
\$10 each

New Products Size Chart Subject to stock on hand

Give 1st & 2nd choice on color

T-shirt: Medium
Black Large
Green/Khaki XL
Gray XXL
\$15 XXXL
XXXXL

Mens Polo: Small
Black Medium
Tan Large
White XL
Green/Khaki XXL
\$30 XXXL
XXXXL
XL Tall
XXL Tall

Light printed NDQSA Jacket: no longer carried

SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

Embroidered Jacket:
Medium
Large
\$140+ XL
XXL
XXXXL

(Duster) (Quad 50)
(Searchlight) (HAWK) (Vulcan)

You can have your name, unit, years of service added at no extra cost.

You can have it made as either a light or heavy weight jacket model. Use the multipurpose form in the newsletter to order these items.

NDQSA HISTORY BOOKS ARE
SOLD OUT

Contact Paul Kopsick if you want one of the Lego Searchlights or Dusters

D-

/ /14 # \$

Q- S- E- P6

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape to envelope

NDQSA

PO Box 890130

Oklahoma City, OK 73189

2015 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / ROSTER UPDATE / PRODUCT ORDER FORM

(Tear off this page and mail it in with your up to date contact information and unit history)

This version supersedes any previous forms as certain options are not available.

Roster Contact Information (Please Print)

Are you a new or existing contact (New) (Existing) circle one

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email(s): _____

Home Phone: () -

Cell Phone: () -

Service Information (Vietnam) (fill out even if on file)

Dates of 1st tour (m/yr): ___/___ to ___/___

Addtn'l tour (m/yr): ___/___ to ___/___

Primary MOS: _____

Primary Battery/Unit: _____

Attached To: _____

Names of bases:

Names/hometowns of buddies you knew:

Rank (highest grade while in Vietnam)

Grade: Officer: _____ NCO: _____ EM: _____

Valor Awards

PH () DSC () SS () BS/V () ACM/V ()

If you want to get the newsletter only by email and forego the paper mailed copy, please check this box. ()

If you want to switch back from email to paper mail, please check this box. ()

DUES - DONATIONS – PRODUCT ORDERS

Make check/MO payable to NDQSA

Shipping is included in the price of all items.

Dues: circle payment(s) for (2015) (2016) (2017) (2018)

DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR \$ _____

Donations: Operation Eagle \$ _____

Quad 50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight restoration \$ _____

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ _____

2015 Good Works \$ _____

Product: NDQSA Emb. Patch ___ @\$5 = \$ _____

NDQSA Logo Decal ___ @\$5 = \$ _____

Bumper Sticker ___ @\$10 = \$ _____

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT)(HAWK)(Vulcan)

Challenge Coin: ___ coin @\$10 = \$ _____

NDQSA Pin Set: ___ sets @\$8 = \$ _____

.50-cal bottle opener ___ @\$12 = \$ _____

NEW NDQSA HAT ___ @\$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA T-shirt (black)(grey)(green)

Size: ___ # ___ @\$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(white)(green)

Size: ___ # ___ @\$30 = \$ _____

(regular) (tall)

NDQSA Custom Embroidered Jacket

Size: ___ # ___ @145 = \$ _____

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT) (HAWK)(Vulcan)

Allow 60 days for delivery.

[] Light weight [] Heavy weight

TOTAL \$ _____

If paying dues presents a hardship for you but you still want to be an Active Member, check this box []. Some members have made donations to assist you.

2015 NDQSA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY AND MAIL THIS FORM TO THE TREASURER – SEE ADDRESS LABEL BELOW

33rd ANNUAL NDQSA REUNION, COLORADO SPRINGS, JUNE 10-14TH 2015

| | |
|---|--|
| Colorado Springs MARRIOTT 5580 Tech Center Drive Colorado Springs Colorado 80919 | Phone Reservations: 1-800-932-2151 or 1-719-268-4218 Use Group Code: NDQSA Room Rate: \$109 + tax single/double For Online Hotel Reservations Use this Link -> NDQSA 2015 Room Rate includes 2 Daily Buffet Breakfasts! Free Parking! |
|---|--|



Name: _____ Spouse: _____
 (print)

Cell Phone Number: _____

Which days are you planning to attend the reunion? (circle)
 June 07 08 09 **10 11 12 13 14** 15 16 17
 Su M Tu **W Th F S** Su M Tu W

Remember to make your hotel reservations ASAP to insure room availability.
 If you have already made your reservations, check this box [].



To help planning reunion activities including buses & meals, please pre-register now and send fees for the following activities.
 As always, should unforeseen circumstances occur and you are unable to attend the reunion, you will receive a full refund.
 Activity times are tentative and subject to change as plans are finalized.

ACTIVITIES

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Wednesday June 10th Setup and Registration Hospitality Room Opens Open Day for Sightseeing | Thursday June 11th 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM Bus Tour Manitou Springs, Cog Train to Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods Lunch & Shopping on your own 5:00 PM buses return to Hotel Cost: \$ 75 per person round trip Hospitality Room in evening | Friday June 12th 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Bus trip to USAF Space Command Fort Carson, Memorial Ceremony Lunch on base 4:00 PM buses return to Hotel Cost \$ 45 per person round trip Hospitality room in evening President's *Free* Pizza Party with music and food! | Saturday June 13th 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Annual Business Meeting (All members required to attend) 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Ladies Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM Annual NDQSA Banquet Guest Speakers, Awards, and Presentations Cost: \$40 per person Evening Hospitality Room Activities, Auctions & Raffles |
| | | | Sunday June 14th 9:00 AM Farewell Service |

Select & Pay for Activities

No. of Persons Amount

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Wednesday, June 10 th Registration - Sightseeing on your own – Hospitality room open. | |
| Thursday, June 11th: 800–1700 hrs.- Bus Tour Manitou Springs, Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods.. (\$75) x _____ = \$ _____ | |
| Friday, June 12th: 0830-1600 hrs. – Bus Trip: Space Command , Ft. Carson, Memorial Svc, Lunch (\$45) x _____ = \$ _____ | |
| Saturday June 13th: Luncheon Banquet with Guest Speakers and Awards (\$40 per person) x _____ = \$ _____ | |
| Voluntary donation to 2015 NDQSA Reunion Good Works Service Project Fund (any amount welcome) \$ _____ | |
| Reunion Registration Fee: <u>Make sure you add it into your total!</u> (\$20 per individual / \$25 per family) \$ _____ | |
| Total >>>>>> | \$ _____ |

Allan Penwell, NDQSA
 1501A Theodore Drive
 Champaign, IL 61821

Make your pre-registration check payable to **NDQSA**
 and mail to NDQSA Treasurer:
 ← **Cut out this address label and tape it to your envelope.**

Tear off this
 page, fill it out
 and mail it in.

NDQSA HONORED AT FT. SILL

On March 27, 2015 several members of NDQSA were present for the formal dedication of a portion of the "Patriot Club" at Fort Sill as the "Duster & Quad Room". Meant to be a tribute to all the ADA/FA troops that served in Vietnam.



Attending: Luke Clark, Dave McCray, Paul Hanson, Bob Lauver, Jim Smith, Aaron Lauver (son), John F. Huelsenbeck, Vinny Tedesco, Earl Holt and Joe Belardo (now shown).

At the ceremony, presided over by MG Major General John Rossi and Brigadier General Christopher Spillman, NDQSA President John Huelsenbeck unveiled a plaque highlighting the Duster and Quad-50 crew served weapons and the men that manned them.

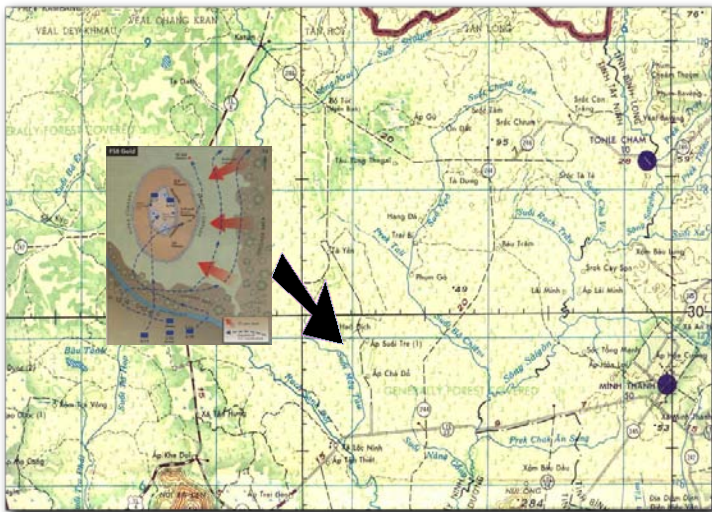


The ceremony was part of the dedication of a wing at the ADA school at Snow Hall (Bldg 730) in honor of retired Colonel Vincent Tedesco. MG Spillman, Vinny and Suzanne Tedesco and CSM Lincoln.

Afterwards the group went out to the NDQSA ADA Memorial for a moment of solemn observance.

The Battle of FSB Gold - Soui Tre

One of the largest and most important early battles of the Vietnam War was the battle of Soui Tre, aka FSB Gold. In late March of 1967, as part of Operation Junction City, a new LZ/FSB was being developed on the north side of the Soui Samat River approximately 14 km NE of Nui Ba Dinh (Black Virgin Mountain). In support of the operation two D-71 quad 50 machine gun squads under the command of SSG Robert Heinzl were airlifted by Chinook from the landing strip at Soui Da into the clearing near Soui Tre. It would soon become a killing field and the two quad-50s of D-71st ADA would provide a key role in defending the base from the largest daylight ground made by the VC/NVA till the time.



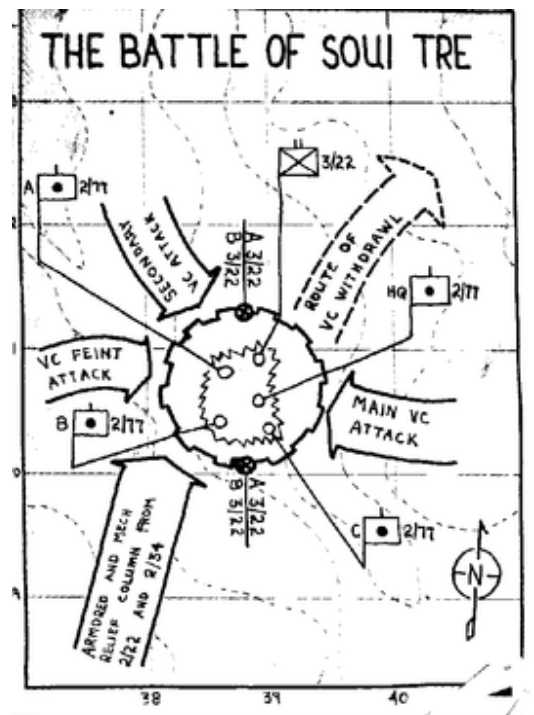
On March 21, 1967, the 3-22 and 2-22 Infantry, along with 2-77 Artillery and 2-34 Armor, earned the Presidential Unit Citation for their actions that resulted in over 600 NVA and VC killed in action. US casualties were 31 KIA* and 187 WIA. In summary, LTG Jonathan M. Seaman states: "Fighting against a numerically superior and well equipped foe, elements of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, with supporting elements, inflicted a devastating defeat on major elements of the 272nd Main Force Regiment. This is the most decisive defeat the Viet Cong have suffered in the III Corps Tactical Zone in my 18 months in Vietnam.

This all started with an early January call from Joseph Engles of A-2-77 Arty (105mm towed). I responded to his request for information on any of the participants from D-71st Arty (MG) at the battle of FSB Gold aka Soui Tre on March 21st 1967. Joe was looking for information on the quad-50 crewmen largely believing them all to have been killed during the ground assault of the base. I informed him that the only known fatality

from the battle from D-71 was PFC Jesse Bea Rose (AR) and that all the other crew members must have survived the battle. He found this to be incredulous and asked for help in locating any surviving crewmembers so he could tell them of an upcoming reunion at Ft. Carson (CO) in March of 2015.

At first pass, I did not locate anyone with firsthand knowledge of the battle. So I sent out emails to a number of D-71 vets from that timeframe to see if anyone knew anything. I received a return communiqué from LT/Capt. Leo Jezierski who was a platoon leader for first Platoon D-5/2d Arty (Dusters) who were guarding the airstrip at Soui Da(?). He would later become the Battery Commander for D-71 Quads. He told me that NDQSA member Robert Rohrs was at Soui Tre.

I had known Robert Rohrs from an earlier NDQSA reunion and had archived his photo albums several years ago. In his holdings are photos of what could be their setting up of their positions at Soui Tre (or another LZ as many early firebases looked very similar).



I also researched the Coffelt database to confirm that no other members of D-71 were killed at Soui Tre. I was able to provide Joe Engles with a comprehensive list of 38 names of fatalities from the battle. This list included PFC Jesse Rose of D-71 and the two Air Force Captains killed when their FAC plane was shot down. The list also included the names of several men that would later die of wounds from the battle. *A total of 38 names are currently tracked as being casualty of that battle. A difference from the 31 KIAs listed in many reports of the time. See web links at the end of this article.

I told him that we do not have very much in the form of official documents from our ADA units from Vietnam. Locating the actual crewmembers of a specific Quad-50

on a specific day would be near on impossible. But I told Joe I would see what I could find. As I reviewed my digital holding acquired from individuals over the years and my research at the National Archives in Bowie, MD, I was astounded to find the following document in my archived document:

**SUBJECT: Historical Activities for the Period
(Jan 67- Mar 67)**

On 21 Mar 67 at 0630 hours the 1st and 4th squads 4th Section located with the 2d Bn 77th Arty and Infantry elements at coordinate XT385710 were attacked by an unknown Viet Cong force using mortar and recoilless rifles **in a human wave attack**. The action continued until about 1045 hrs. The 4th Squad located on the east side of the perimeter opened fire on the Viet Cong when they appeared at the wood line approximately 30 to 50 meters from their Quad-50 emplacement. The squad fought very effectively until the mount was hit and destroyed by a RPG-2 a short time after the attack started **PFC Jesse Bea Rose loader was killed** and **SP4 George F. DeMott** gunner was wounded at this time. The remaining members of the squad evacuated the wounded and along with the Infantry fell back to the Artillery position where they continued to fight with their individual weapons until the attack was repulsed.

The 1st Squad located on the north side of the perimeter opened fire on the Viet Cong immediately after they started their two pronged attack. Squad Leader, Sgt **William Gofta** and gunner **SP4 Henry W. Cole** sustained wounds but continued operating the Quad-50 until they had fired all available ammo. **PFC Robert Rohrs** (also wounded) defended the position with an M-60 machine gun while the remaining Squad members evacuated the wounded and attempted to get re-supplied with 50-caliber ammo. Before the resupply was made the Quad-50 mount **took a direct hit** from an 81MM mortar and was destroyed. After expending all available ammo, PFC Rohrs fell back to the Artillery position where he and the remaining Squad members continued to fight with their individual weapons until the attack was repulsed. The two Squads were commended for their actions under enemy fire by the Artillery Commander and given credit for **killing over 100 Viet Cong** by body count. The two damaged quads-50 mounts and remaining crewmembers, **SSG Robert J. Heinzl (PH)**, **PFC Richard McCalla** and PFC Rohrs were evacuated at approximately 1700 hrs to Soui Da RVN.

This document gave me seven confirmed names of D-71 Quad-50 participants in the battle of Soui Tre. SSG

Robert Heinzl (d.2012) is believed to have been in charge of both squads.



The 1st Squad consisted of Sgt William Gofta (right) with SP4 Henry W. Cole as the gunner and PFC's Robert Rohrs and Michael McCalla were loaders.

The 4th Squad listed only two other names, the gunner George F. DeMott and right loader PFC Jesse Rose (left). The names of the other squad men were not listed, but an interview with DeMott puts SSGT Heinzl with the squad during the battle.

Additional research identifies another soldier coming to the aid of the crew and he was killed by enemy fire.

BREWER, JAMES D. RA15743050 SP4 E-4
Co A, 3d Bn, 22d Inf, 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div
Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
(Posthumously) Date Action: 21 March 1967

“For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Four Brewer distinguished himself by heroic actions on 21 March 1967, on Operation Junction City, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Brewer's company was set up in a perimeter defense northeast of Soui Da in Tay Ninh Province, when a Viet Cong regimental force attacked the perimeter and surrounded it. Specialist Brewer's position was under heavy concentration of automatic weapons and mortar fire. Specialist Brewer, seeing the .50 caliber machine gun position being overrun, maneuvered through intense enemy fire to the beleaguered position and placed highly effective fire on the oncoming enemy force until he was mortally wounded. His actions were directly responsible for keeping friendly casualties to a minimum. Specialist Brewer's disregard for his own safety, coolness under fire, and personal bravery are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.”

**Battle of Soui Tre/FSB Gold:
1st Squad North Position**

Gofta was the Squad Leader of 1st Squad, 4th Section, D-71st ADA (MG) Quad-50 cal crew. Typically they were deployed on the back of a 2 ½-ton truck as its prime mover. When needed, the M-55 gun mount and trailer can be decoupled and air-lifted into a firebase/LZ

not accessible by a roadway. The gun-mounts were slung along with several thousand rounds of ammo and other supplies under a Chinook.



Gofta and Cole recall that they were told they would be going into a “Hot” LZ. Historical records indicate that during the initial landing on March 19, 1967, the enemy triggered several command detonated mines, including one presumably fashioned from an earlier dropped 250 lb aerial bomb that failed to detonate. The explosion destroyed and damaged several choppers bringing in B-3/22 Infantry to secure the LZ and establish the perimeter. The Coffelt database identifies at least 14 fatalities on this date including men of B-3/22 Inf., and the 68th and 118th AHC, 145th Avn Bn.

Preparing for battle



Gofta recalls that 1st and 4th Squads were dropped off by Chinook while the initial perimeter was being established and that wherever the Chinook dropped them was where they set up. While the LZ was a largely open clearing, the ground surface was very irregular and thick with tall but flattened grass. Even though it has two wheels, the heavy M55 gun mount was not very maneuverable in uneven terrain.

Cole states that they got into the LZ just before dark (on the 19th) and spent the night preparing their guns for action. They also started to construct defensive bunkers using the excavated dirt to fill sand bags. They constructed a bunker-like foxhole and made a low wall of sandbags in front of the gun mount. They completed their fortifications throughout the day of the 20th.

Cole states that there was at least 100 yards of open field before the tree line. Gofta stated that there was a big tree directly in front of their line of fire so they attempted to cut it down with hand tools. As it was coming down, an army of red ants (or termites) came out and swarmed all over them. The only way to get them off was to dive into the water that collected in one of the bomb craters.

When asked about coordination with the base command, Gofta and Cole (1st Squad) both indicated that no one in authority ever came to their position. They did not have any radio or land line communication with the Command Post.



On the morning of the 21st Sgt. Gofta states that they were still in their bunker when they awoke and heard the start of the attack. There was no warning, no alert or instructions given to his squad. The experienced crew went to their guns and proceeded to defend their position.

SP4 Cole stated that he awoke to the sound of incoming fire and jumped into his gunner’s position wearing only his underwear. Cole stated that thinking he would not survive the attack, he quickly ran back to the bunker and got his pants on so his body would not be found wearing only his skivvies. During the opening salvos he was hit in the lower stomach and left leg with shrapnel, some of which he removed himself. Gofta manned their M-60 at the bunker and used it to protect the squad from any flanking attack. The VC were firing RPGs, mortars and small arms at their position. Gofta recalls, that the enemy’s heads were popping up everywhere he looked.

The crew fired all their 50-cal ammo (~3000 rounds) and during the battle, the gunner (Cole) was wounded again by shrapnel this time to his left hand. The guns were so hot that he didn’t have to pull the trigger; the rounds would detonate as soon as the bullets entered the

chamber. The barrels on the quad were burning out and towards the end of their ammo, the 50 caliber tracer rounds could be seen cork-screwing in every direction.

Meanwhile, Gofta remembers seeing a projectile coming laterally at his position (RPG?) at their foxhole. When it exploded he was hit in the shoulder with shrapnel and was forced to leave his position.

When the ammo ran out, they left their position and continued to fire with personal weapons from further inside the perimeter. Still wounded in the stomach, leg and hand, Cole jumped out of his gunner's seat. He carried his personal weapon to a foxhole midway between the Quad and 2/77th 105mm gun pits. There he says he ran into an officer (Colonel?) who observed him continuing to shoot at the enemy. **This Col. would observe PFC Robert Rohrs fighting from his position with the M-60 and put him in for the Silver Star.**

Both Gofta and Cole related that it was much later in the day before they did receive treatment for their wounds (theirs being much less critical than so many others). The medic told Gofta to leave the metal shrapnel where it is for now. They wanted to wait and let the swelling go down before trying to extract it. To this day both Gofta and Cole still have metal fragments in their bodies. Both were awarded the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with "V" device for their actions that day.

Both Gofta and Cole indicated that they never got back to their quad position on the 21st. Neither had any idea of what transpired afterwards at the northern squad's gun position or what specifically happened to their M55 gun mount.

Additional published accounts (D-71st AAR dated 4Apr67) indicate that after the 1st Squad's gun was hit/damaged by an 82mm mortar, PFC Rohrs then manned the M-60 and continued to defend their position while the rest of the wounded crew evacuated themselves. Not long after he too was forced to a deeper position inside the perimeter.

It is further reported that when the enemy reached the quad-50, they attempted to turn it around (rotate the gun turret?) in hopes of using it on US forces. **The 105mm crew of A/2/77 Artillery seeing enemy activity at the quad then destroyed the Quad with a 105mm round.** This account is interesting in that even if the enemy had commandeered the mount, by Gofta and Cole's accounting there was no .50-cal ammo left to fire with and the barrels were essentially melted or warped.

We have yet to see any after action photos of this quad-50 position (1st Squad, north perimeter). Indeed if it was hit with an 82MM mortar and a 105mm round at 'point blank range' there would not be much left. Cole stated that after the Impact Awards ceremony back at D-Battery / Battalion HQ he did see what was left of his Quad and it was unrecognizable. **Neither Gofta or Cole knew that it was actually blown apart by a 105mm round from 2/77th Arty's guns until I told them of that report.**

4th Squad, Eastern perimeter

D-71st After Action Report, 4Apr67

"The 4th Squad located on the east side of the perimeter opened fire on the Viet Cong when they appeared at the wood line approximately 30 to 50 meters from their Quad-50 emplacement. The squad fought very effectively until the mount was hit and destroyed by a RPG-2. A short time after the attack started PFC Jesse Bea Rose loader was killed and SP4 George F. DeMott gunner was wounded at this time. The remaining members of the squad evacuated the wounded and along with the Infantry fell back to the Artillery position where they continued to fight with their individual weapons until the attack was repulsed." We know that SSG Robert J. Heinzl was in command of this position with SP4 George DeMott (gunner), PFC Jessie Rose (loader).

I was fortunate to locate the gunner for this squad, SP4 George F. DeMott. His is the only 'first-hand' account we have for the 4th Squad during the battle. SSG Heinzl (PH) passed in 2012. PFC Jesse Rose was KIA at his position along with SP4 James D. Brewer (Co A, 3d Bn, 22d Inf, 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div) also killed defending this position.

SP4 George Demott states that they were very conscientious in setting up and sighting in their guns at the firebase. He would make notes about where things were so at night if things were not where they were supposed to be, they were valid targets. DeMott confirms that only SSG Heinzl and PFC Jesse Rose were manning the guns.

DeMott also states that they did not have any commo with the base's Command Post and were not given any warning of any eminent attack. They awoke to the sound of gun fire and explosions and immediately manned their guns.

Within seconds of firing back at the enemy, the front of the M55 gun mount, which had a small berm of sandbags to protect its front, was hit by a mortar round (82mm?). PFC Rose would be mortally wounded around

the head and neck. SP4 DeMott, in the gunner's position, would have his protective armor shield perforated with shrapnel and severely wounded in the groin and legs.

It is unclear of SSG Heinzl's status at the time, but he did receive a Purple Heart attributed to this attack. With the gun mount disabled and the crew dead or wounded, they survivors attempted to make it back inside the perimeter. SP4 Demott grabbed his personal weapon and crawled on his stomach into a fox hole with several other wounded men. **SP4 DeMott speaks of the horror and chaos of those minutes. Men screaming and bleeding all around him. He recalls one soldier attempting to peer out of the fox hole and having his head shot off. He says they all thought they were going to die.**

While the battle still raged, a few helicopters did make it into the firebase. As they attempted to remove some of the more severely wounded, he was brought out into the open. He was not the first to be evacuated. He was forced by his wounds to be in a sitting upright position. As rounds went off around him, his litter bearers took cover and left him stranded in the open, "just sitting there." He felt sure he was going to die right there. He states he was put on a chopper, just like the ones used in the old M.A.S.H. TV show. The ones with the big bubble front. As they were taking off, he had an aerial view of the battle and actually saw events told by other participants in the battle of the enemy crawling over the tanks that came to the rescue.



This is the only picture so far documented to be of one of the two quads used in the Battle of Soui Tre. (SP4 George DeMott, 4th Squad). It was brought back to D-

71st compound and shows the battle damage. The front gun shield is missing where the gunner DeMott sat.

Battle of Soui Tre: Summary

This summary of interviews with surviving D-71st Quad-50 crewmembers at the Battle of Soui Tre is only one part of the greater story of the events of the day. So many men from some many different units and branches of service made the difference that fateful day.

This battle was like the old Cowboy and Indians movies of the past. The beleaguered 'cowboys and settlers' arranged out in the open with their "wagons in a circle" and the 'enemy' closing in for the kill.

Truth be told, without the ever-present air support and that the armored cavalry had been unable to ford the river and get tanks and APCs to the firebase precisely when they did, the entire firebase and its defenders would have been obliterated and would have represented a major victory to the enemy.

Instead, the enemy was held back just long enough for "the cavalry to ride to their rescue". The enemy was routed with tremendous loss of life and resources. As a consequence, the NVA/VC would no longer stage such a large attack in the daylight against a US firebase.

The rest of this incredible story is available in various parts of the web and include contributions from a large number of units. **Some of the info related to the quads is now out of date based on this research.** As more information comes to light, we hope that these 'first-hand' accounts will help fill-in the blanks and support other accounts of the events of the day.

NDQSA is proud to help in this effort and grateful that so many fellow Vietnam Veterans were there to save as many lives as they did of the defenders of FB Gold at Soui Tre. **FOOTNOTE: Rohrs and DeMott of the D-71 were able to attend the Soui Tre reunion in March 2015.**

Web resources:

Wikipedia: [Soui Tre Battle](#)

2/77 Arty: [Soui Tre](#)

118 AHC: [Soui Tre](#)

VHPA: [Soui Tre](#)

C-3-22nd Inf: [Soui Tre account](#)

Memorial Service Mar2015: [video](#)

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We welcome and encourage all ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam to join NDQSA and to share the fellowship, mutual support, and continued service to our nation on behalf of all military veterans and active duty personnel.