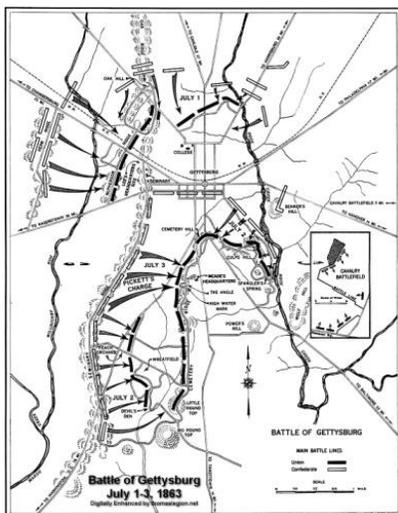


# CIVIL WAR TIMES

## LEE-MEADE CLASH AT GETTYSBURG!

### REBS SEIZE TOWN IN HARD FIGHT

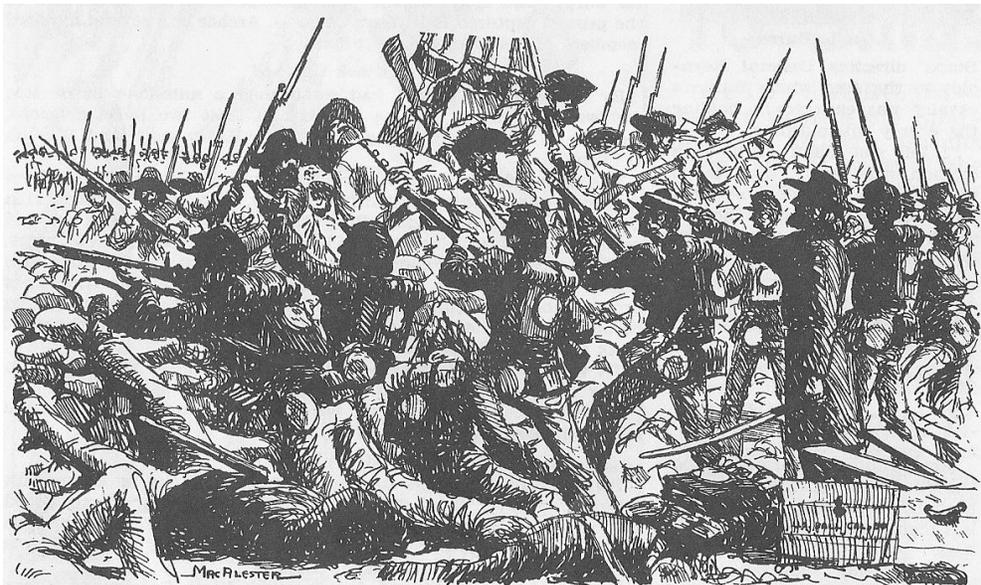


#### Yankee Forces Massing For Showdown Battle

GETTYSBURG, Pa. – The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia seized this little southern Pennsylvania town yesterday afternoon after routing two infantry corps and a cavalry division of the Union Army of the Potomac in bitter fighting west of here.

But broken units of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> U. S. Corps re-established themselves in a strong defensive position just south of here by nightfall.

As fresh Union troops steamed northward from Maryland, a showdown battle shaped up between the invading army of Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of the Potomac, under the newly appointed commander, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade.



A Scene From Yesterday's Hard Fighting West of Gettysburg.

Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, popular commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps.

#### Union Defense Collapses

The Federal forces first stopped the Rebel assault cold but their defense collapsed later in the day under heavy pressure from fresh Southern units in superior numbers.

Forced back through Gettysburg's streets, the Union units lost several thousand prisoners. But by nightfall, the remnants had been reorganized on a height overlooking the town from the south. Called Cemetery Hill" by the locals, this elevation enabled the Union artillery to fire upon the Rebels milling about Gettysburg and apparently discourage them from renewing their attacks.

Union Army spokesmen made no effort to conceal the fact that the day went badly for the Federal forces. "We

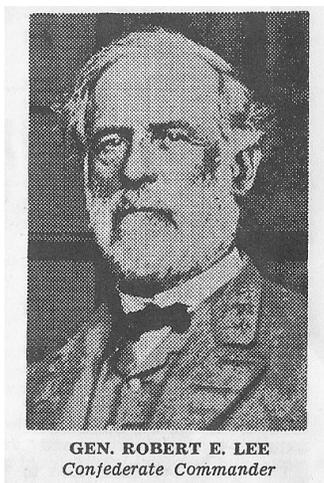
did everything we could to hold the Rebs, but there were too many of them. They hit us from every side." One highly placed officer said.

"It'll be a different story tomorrow," said another. "With all these new regiments moving up from across the Maryland border, we'll have the men to stand up to Mister Lee."

According to the best available estimates, about 20,000 Union soldiers took part in yesterday's action. They were matched against approximately 30,000 Rebels who poured in from the west and north.

Federal losses were estimated at between 9,000 and 10,000: Rebel, at about half that number.

Organized into three corps of three divisions each, Lee's hitherto undefeated army is believed to include around 75,000 men. Union Army spokesmen refused to discuss the total



GEN. ROBERT E. LEE  
Confederate Commander

Both sides suffered heavy casualties in the day long action under a hot sun. Among the Union dead was

troop strength but observers estimate that General Meade may have from 85,000 to 90,000 men at his disposal.

### **“Like a Shield”**

These forces have been deployed on a broad front, like a shield defending Baltimore and Washington, while the Confederate troops have been marauding across southern Pennsylvania penetrating in force as far as Carlisle and York.

But the bulk of the Confederate army of invasion has been concentrated west of here at Chambersburg and it was from that direction that the first attack came yesterday. Troopers of Brig. Gen. John Buford’s cavalry division, on picket duty west of Gettysburg, opened the action by firing upon a Confederate brigade fording a stream.

Survivors of the scrap told reporters that the Rebels attacked but that the dismounted troopers, armed with repeating carbines, held them back for more than an hour. Then, supported by the two infantry brigades of Brig. Gen. James S Wadsworth, Buford’s men established the front along the height called McPherson’s Ridge.

### **Fresh Rebels Attack**

Reinforced and amply supported by artillery, the Confederates hurled three regiments back momentarily to Seminary Ridge overlooking Gettysburg on the west, and nearly surrounded the 147<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment.

A counterattack led by the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment regained the lost position and captured several hundred Confederate soldiers of Davis’ brigade who were trapped in an unfinished railroad cut.

To the left of this area, General Reynolds directed Meredith’s “Iron Brigade” in a counterattack on a wood lying on the western face of McPherson’s Ridge. It was here about

10:15 am. That Reynolds was shot from his horse.

Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday assumed temporary command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corp. The Iron Brigade took possession of the woods and in the process captured Brig. Gen. James J. Archer and several hundred members of his Confederate brigade.

### **Attack Checked**

By noon, the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps had established a mile-long battle line and was successfully holding in check at least two Rebel divisions, believed to be commanded by Maj. Gens. Henry Heth and William D. Pender.

The approach of two new Rebel Divisions-Rodes and Early-from the north placed his position in jeopardy, however. The Union 11<sup>th</sup> Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Carl Schurz, was rushed up and posted in the open fields north of Gettysburg to meet the new threat.

This placed the two Federal corps in nearly perpendicular lines-one facing west, the other north. The two corps did not join force their lines properly, however, survivors complained later Rodes’ Rebel division occupied a prominence called “Oak Hill” looking down upon the right flank of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corp and the left of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

“It was the mistake that cost us the field,” a high ranking Union officer commented last night.

Confederate artillery set up on Oak Hill and was able to rake the rear of both Union corps.

### **Rebel Losses**

In their early attempts to smash the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corp with infantry, however, the Rebels did less well. The brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Henry Baxter caught an advancing Confederate brigade in flank and shot down so many that the remainder of the Rebel force-some 500 men-surrendered on the spot.

Later, the unit was identified as Inverson’s North Carolinians. “They

had us like sitting ducks,” one of the prisoners said. “We didn’t have no choice but to give up.’

Farther to the right, the Rebel division of Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early struck hard against the front and right of flank of the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps. Composed mostly of German immigrants, the units of this Corp held their exposed position bravely for a while. But finally under overwhelming attack from both infantry and artillery, they fell back to Gettysburg.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Corp Routed**

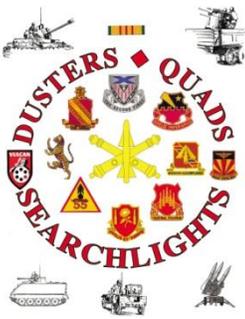
With the Rebels tearing at their flanks and heels, the Corp lost all semblance of organization.

“I never saw anything like it,” said an artillery officer who watched the rout through field glasses from Cemetery Hill. “Wagons and guns were all jammed up in the streets. Those poor Germans didn’t know which way to turn. It’s a wonder the Rebs didn’t capture more.”

Even after the collapse of the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps, the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> continued to fight. Forced off McPherson’s Ridge, they clung to a line along Seminary Ridge for a time but finally had to withdraw to prevent being taken from the rear. The retreat of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps was a more orderly than that of the 11<sup>th</sup> but even so, a number of men were taken prisoner.

= = = = =

***This is but a small taste of the rich history you will be exposed to during our 36<sup>th</sup> Reunion of NDQSA this June in Gettysburg. We hope it will spur many more of you to seriously consider coming to this particular reunion. Make this the year you finally come to a reunion and to all the faithful attendees, we have great activities planned. So make your hotel reservation NOW. Call you buddies! Make it happen, you might not get another chance. Brothers then...Brothers Forever!!!***



# NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER #1

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**2018 NDQSA 36<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL REUNION  
GETTYSBURGH, PA  
June 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **FEATURED STORIES:**

### **Gettysburg Details**

**My Story - Deward Pokrony G-55**

### **MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED**

Samuel 'Pete' Vick, A-4/60 '71 May2015

Harry Lippert, C-5/2 '68-69 19Mar17 TX

Onnie Rajamaki, A-5/2 '67-68 28Mar17 IL

Dale J. Paulin, E-41 '70-71 13May17 WI

Franklin D. Graham, D-71 '66-67 8Sep16

Walter Doc Washington, C-1/44

Paul Gulas, E-41 '67-68 7Oct17 NV

Doug Francescon, G-29 '67-68 30Oct17 WA

1SGT James Tubbs, E-41 '71-72 5Dec17 CO

CO Thomas Welch, C-5/2 '69 5Feb18 TX

Bernard Walasavage, A-5/2 '66-67 9Feb18 PA

Terry Gorby, D-1/44, '67-68 18Feb18 PA

Col. Chuck Meadows G-2/5 Marines Hue

Guest speaker at Tacoma Reunion, 1Mar18

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

There is more information and links to obituaries on my  
Facebook page: [Dqs historian](#)

### **NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS**

Raymond Finley, I-29<sup>th</sup> SLT '70

[Thomas Myers, D-5/2 '69-70](#)

Joe Pinto, A-6/71 HAWK '66-67

David Soper, B-5/2 '69-70

[Ed Gillette, G-65 '67-68](#)

If the name is blue and underlined, you can click on it  
and send a message to the new member. Maybe he  
knows someone you served with? Send him an email!!

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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**



Dear Brothers and Sisters

Its reunion time again. There has  
been a lot of planning going into  
this reunion.

Bob Lauver and Bruce Geiger  
have once again planned a very

good reunion. These two guys do the real work it takes  
to put the reunions together. Please thank them for all  
their hard work. Paul Kopsick keeps everything  
organized with the tracking of members and the  
publishing of the newsletter. Thank you Paul.

Thanks to all the Board Members that have served the  
last 4 years. I couldn't have served as your President  
without the hours these guys do to support me and this  
group. Thank you to all the women that work the  
tables. I would also like to thank my wife Sally for all  
her help. I could not do it without her support.

So...come join us at the Gettysburg Reunion. Lots of  
fun and learn about our country's history.

It's been a real pleasure serving as your President.

I LOVE YOU GUYS

Forever yours [John F. Huelsenbeck](#)

President NDQSA

## DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

Two pieces of contact information that frequently change are cell phone numbers and email addresses. Typically there are about a half dozen emails sent out each year to every member with a valid (current) email address on record with the Historian. If you (or a spouse) have an email address and you have not received any emails from me, dqshistorian@cox.net, it is time for you to record your email address with him. Simply [click here](#) and identify yourself clearly (full name). You might as well confirm your telephone numbers in the same email. When an email is sent to a bad email address, the Historian tries to contact the member by phone to determine their status. This is a time consuming effort, but it does give him a chance to talk to members.

## 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 call (202) 262-9560 or 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!!!

## 2018/19 Membership Rosters

The 2018/19 membership rosters will be printed and mailed out in March after we get a good number of 2018 dues payments in, so please update you contact information. Especially phone numbers and email addresses as they change. When you get your roster there will also be your 2018 membership card and 2018 Ballot.

Voting this year is for the executive officers: President, Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> VicePresident, Treasurer and Secretary. All ACTIVE (dues paying members) are required to send in their completed ballots when they receive it along with their rosters. Voting is your right and duty!

## BRICKMANIA NEWS

## NEW OFFER for Quad.50 guys!!



David Siskind, the owner of Brickmania and a good friend to NDQSA has just committed to making a special issue M55 Quad .50 Gun Truck Lego kit for NDQSA members. It will be based on their 2012 kit of the M35A2 truck and M55 gun mount that had a very limited run of 50 kits,. David is not sure if it will be on a 5-ton truck or the original M-35. David has gotten much better over the years so this update will likely be incredible. He will include a decal for the gun shield with the artwork for "The Widow Maker" a common theme among all the four Quad 50 batteries.

So if you want to pre-order a quad.50 kit send me a email ASAP or leave me a message on my cell phone with your complete contact information. The price is not set but I can assure you that it will be more than fair. IF we get 50 orders he says that he will try to have them in time for the Gettysburg Reunion. This is David's way of honoring the men that served on these unit in Vietnam.

- Paul Kopsick → [pre-order now email](#) link

Note: I still have a few of the Xenon Searchlight Jeep kits available for \$135 each. Proceeds go to our Searchlight Jeep restoration project funds. Contact Paul if you want one.

**FINAL NOTICE:** If you signed up for the limited NDQSA edition M42A1 Brickmania Duster kit and did not get your order in, contact Paul. You may still be able to complete your order. If you do not check in ASAP any remaining kits will be offered to other members, first come first serve.

## The DMZ 1966 to 1968 TET Offensive Celebration \*\*\* RECAP

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, NDQSA members celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1968 TET Offensive.

Army and Marine veterans who fought alongside Twin 40mm Dusters, Quad 50 Machineguns and Searchlight units along the DMZ from Dong Ha to Gio Linh, Con Thein, Camp J.J. Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Rock Pile, Delta-5, LZ Stud, Khe Sanh, Quang Tri and as far south as Hue City participated in this historic event.

The constant fighting along the DMZ area, from 1966 to the 1968 Tet Offensive played an important role in winning! Therefore, I have decided to offer you a chance to come together, talk about each fight, remember our brothers who were lost, and celebrate the victories that we achieved.

The event was coordinated by Vinny and Sue Tedesco and held in State College, PA

January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Around 16:00 to 17:00 - Our group met at Penn State College with their ROTC. Group Topics for discussion will be “Lessons Learned” and “What makes a great Lieutenant”



January 24<sup>th</sup> - Starting at 0945 with a welcome. Joe Belardo was the moderator for discussions about the fights along the DMZ and Route 9 from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh. At 1300, Bob Lauver was the moderator for discussions about the Battle of Hue City and other fights



during TET. At 1500, Bruce Geiger was the moderator for discussions about the siege of Khe Sanh, the Hill Fights and Operation Pegasus the Relief of Khe Sanh. Power point videos were shown to help with these programs and bring back memories.



We had a simple buffet dinner from 1700 until 1830 where we also had a short memorial ceremony to honor those that were KIA and other brothers that passed in the last 50 years. This will be supported by the Army ROTC. We will end the evening with a “PARTY” and entertainment by the famous female guitarist KJ Smile.

The goal of this reunion was to celebrate the combined military victories that 1<sup>st</sup>/44<sup>th</sup> Dusters & G-65 Quad 50's and Marines played in winning the battles from the DMZ to Hue City.

Also while at the 50th Anniversary of Tet gathering at State College on January 24th, Col. V. Tedesco arranged for a videographer/reporter from Penn State University (Ms. Min Xian) to come and Min took oral histories from several of the attendees that were involved in the Ambush on Route 9 and other Tet actions. Included were: Vinny Tedesco; [Joseph Belardo](#); and [John Huelsenbeck](#) of C-1/44th. Also interviewed were Bruce Geiger (A-1/44) discussing the Battles at Khe Sanh and Robert Lauver (G-65) discussing the attack on Hue city. Min and her group have posted the following brief video summary on their Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/wpsu.org/videos/10155984314748490/>

**36th Annual Reunion**  
**“Operation Gettysburg”**  
 June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
 (Official Schedule & Prices)

**Tuesday 5 June 2018**

1:00pm - ? Registration opens in Hospitality Room  
**You are on your own to explore area attractions.**  
 Evening - Hospitality Room Activities at the Hotel  
 Hospitality Room closes at ~ 12:00 Midnight

**Wednesday 6 June 2018**

Registration in the Hospitality Room  
**Eisenhower Home & Farm Bus Tour (approx.2-1/2 hrs)**  
 Staggered Buses leave 9:00 AM – 3:00PM  
**Bus Tour \$25pp (per person)**

**Open Afternoon Lunch & Sightseeing On Your Own**

Evening - Hospitality Room Activities at the Hotel  
 Guest Speaker/Historian: Battle of Gettysburg  
 Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight

**Thursday 7 June 2018**

**Carlisle, PA Bus Tour**  
**Army Heritage & Education Center (Army War College)**  
**Memorial Service, Tour Museums (Indoor & Outdoor) Duster Exhibit**  
**All Activities, Admissions & Lunch: \$45 per person**  
 8:45 AM Gather in Lobby - 9:00 AM Buses Leave  
 12:00 Noon Lunch  
 3:30 PM Buses Leave for the Hotel  
**Presidents Reception ‘60s Night – Compliments of NDQSA**  
 6:00 PM Hotel Grounds  
 Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight

**Friday 8 June 2018**

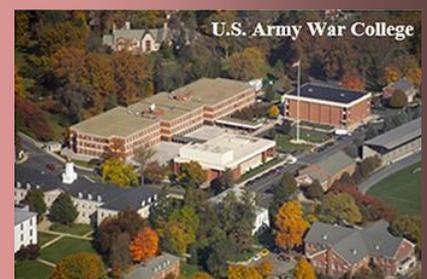
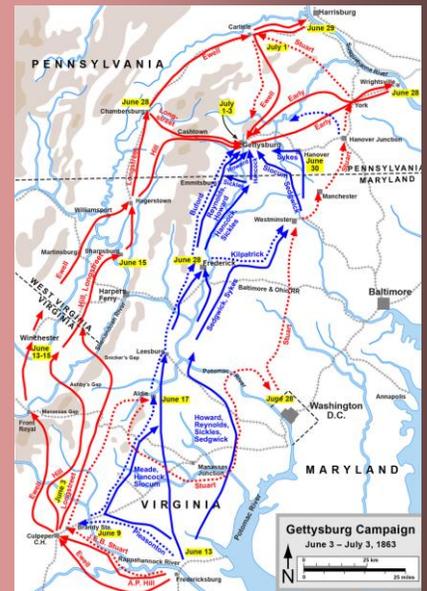
**Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center Film**  
**Battlefield Bus Tour**  
**All Activities, Admissions & Lunch: \$50 per person**  
 8:45 AM Gather in Lobby - Buses leave 9:00 AM  
 12:00 Noon Lunch  
 3:00 PM Buses Leave for the Hotel  
 Evening - Hospitality Room Activities at the Hotel  
 Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight

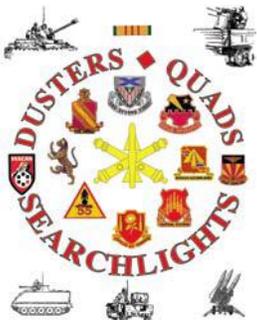
**Saturday 9 June 2018**

9:00 AM—11:00 AM **Annual Business Meeting\*** Room TBD  
 \*Members Attendance Required  
 9:00 AM—11:00 AM **Women’s Cont. Breakfast in the Hospitality Room**  
**12:00 PM—3:30 PM NDQSA Luncheon Banquet, Guest Speakers and Awards: \$45 pp**  
**Evening Auctions and Raffles—Don’t miss Event!**  
**Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight**

**Sunday 10 June 2018**

9:00 AM **Chaplain’s Service in Hospitality Room** followed by cleanup and out by noon.





# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual NDQSA Reunion

## “Operation Gettysburg”

### Gettysburg, PA

### June 5<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018



NDQSA is pleased to announce that our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion will be in Gettysburg, PA. Bruce Geiger & Bob Lauver have negotiated a great deal at the

[Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel](#)

95 Presidential Circle  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
1(717)339-0020



**Direct Hotel Phone Reservations:**

1(717)339-0020 “press 3”

>>[Online reservations link click here](#)<<

Use Group Code: NDQS Reunion

**Room Rate: \$119 + tax single/double**

Room Rate includes: Free Parking, 10% discount

In hotel's 1863 Restaurant & Lounge

**NDQSA Group Rate 2 days before & after**

Nearest Airport is Harrisburg, PA 46 miles

**Attendees responsible for making their own airport transportation arrangements**

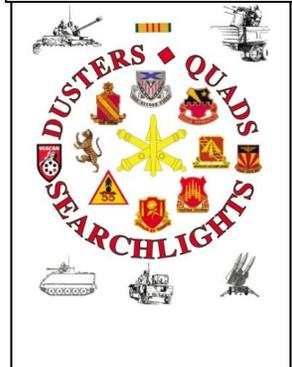


# 2018 NDQSA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

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

## 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NDQSA REUNION, GETTYSBURG, PA JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> - JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

<b>Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel</b> 95 Presidential Circle Gettysburg, PA 17325 1(717)339-0020 <a href="http://www.wyndhamgettysburg.com">http://www.wyndhamgettysburg.com</a>	Use Group Code: <b>NDQS Reunion</b> Room Rate: \$119 + tax single/double Room Rate includes: Free Parking, 10% discount in hotel's 1863 Restaurant & Lounge Direct Hotel Phone Reservations Weekdays: 1(717)339-0020 "press 3" Online Hotel Reservations Link < <a href="#">NDQS Reunion</a> > Nearest Airport is Harrisburg, PA 46 miles <b>Attendees responsible for making their own airport transportation arrangements</b>
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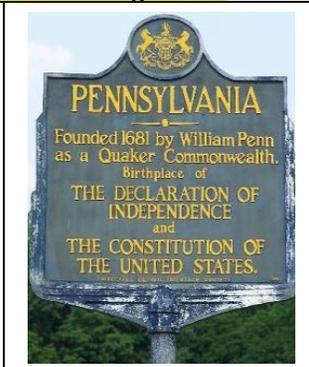
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (print)

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which days are you planning to attend the reunion? (circle)

**June 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12**  
 Su M Tu W Th F S Su M Tu

Remember to make your hotel reservations ASAP to insure room availability.  
 If you have already made your reservations, check this box [  ].  
 If you are local or not staying at the reunion hotel, 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				
<b>Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup></b>  Setup/Registration 1:00pm in Hospitality Room  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open Day Sightseeing On Your Own</b></p>  Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00	<b>Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Eisenhower Home &amp; Farm Bus Tour</b> 9:00am-3:00 Staggered Buses leave <b>Bus Tour (2-1/2 hrs): \$25pp</b>  Registration in Hospitality Room  <b>Open Afternoon Lunch &amp; Sightseeing On Your Own</b>  <b>Evening Activities Guest Speaker: Battle of Gettysburg Hospitality Room</b> closes at ~12:00 midnight	<b>Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup></b> Carlisle, PA <b>Army Heritage &amp; Education Center (Army War College) Memorial Service, Tour Museums, Duster Exhibit</b> 8:45am in Lobby 9:00am Buses leave 12:00 Noon Lunch <b>All Activities &amp; Lunch: \$45pp</b> 3:30pm Buses Leave for Hotel  <b>Presidents Reception '60s Night Compliments of NDQSA</b> 6:00pm Hotel Grounds  Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight	<b>Friday June 8<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Gettysburg Museum &amp; Visitors Center Film Battlefield Bus Tour</b> 8:45am in Lobby 9:15am Buses leave  12:00 Noon Lunch  <b>All Activities &amp; Lunch: \$50pp</b>  3:30pm Buses Leave for Hotel  Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight	<b>Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup></b>  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM <b>Annual Membership Business Mtg.</b> *Members required to attend 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM <b>Ladies Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room</b>  12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM <b>Annual NDQSA Banquet Guest Speakers, Awards &amp; Presentations: \$45pp</b>  <b>Evening Activities, Auctions &amp; Raffles Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00</b>
				<b>Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Chaplain's Farewell Svc.</b>

Select & Pay for Activities	No. of Persons	Amount
Wednesday, June 6 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Eisenhower Home & Farm Bus Tour (approx. 2 hours)	(\$25) x _____	= \$ _____
Thursday, June 7 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Bus to Carlisle, PA includes Activities & Lunch	(\$45) x _____	= \$ _____
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM President's Reception: 'Gettysburg 60's Night': *Compliments of the Association*		
Friday, June 8 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Ctr. Film, Battlefield Bus Tour & Lunch	(\$50) x _____	= \$ _____
Saturday, June 9 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 Noon - 3PM - Luncheon Banquet, Guest Speakers & Awards (\$45 per person)	x _____	= \$ _____
Voluntary donation to 2018 NDQSA Reunion Good Works Service Project Fund (any amount welcome)		\$ _____
Reunion Registration Fee: <b>Make sure you add it into your total.</b> (\$25 individual / \$35 per family)		\$ _____
<b>Total &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

**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.**

D-  
/ /18 # \$  
Q- S- E- P

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape  
to envelope

**NDQSA**  
**PO Box 890130**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73189**

**2018 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2018) (2019) (2020) (2021)

**DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations: Quad 50 restoration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Searchlight restoration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Quad-50 Print Sold Out

Product: NDQSA Emb. Patch \_\_\_\_ @\$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NDQSA Logo Decal \_\_\_\_ @\$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bumper Sticker \_\_\_\_ @\$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Challenge Coin: \_\_\_\_ coin @\$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Lucite Challenge Coin: \_\_\_\_ @\$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

NDQSA Pin Set: \_\_\_\_ sets @\$8 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

.50-cal bottle opener \_\_\_\_ @\$14 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NEW NDQSA HAT \_\_\_\_ @\$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NDQSA T-shirt (black)(grey)

Size: \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_ @\$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(tan)

Size: \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_ @\$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(regular) (tall)

NDQSA Lightweight Embroidered Jacket

Size: \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_ @145 = on hold

Circle (1 large Quad available)

(SLT) (XL) or (XXL) only

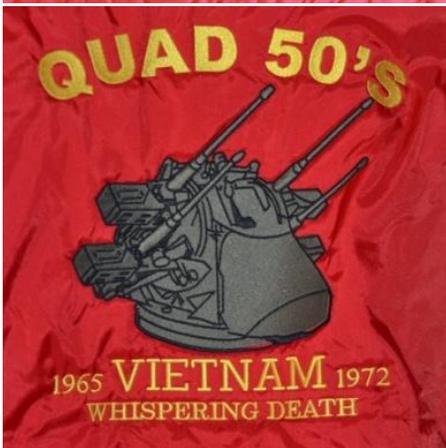
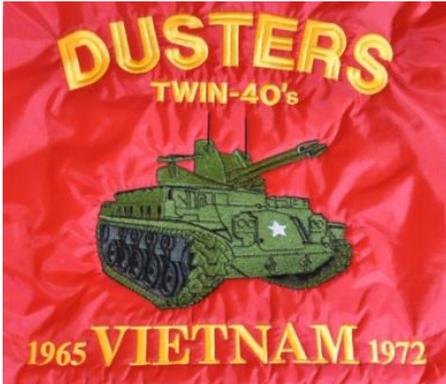
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# NDQSA PRODUCT ITEMS 2018

Duster, Quad, SLT, HAWK  
Embroidered Jacket Artwork

\*\*\*New Jacket sales on hold!\*\*\*



**Searchlight 50 Print (\$60 min)**  
Quad .50 print Sold Out



Logo Patch \$5



Logo Decal \$5



NDQSA Challenge Coin \$12 @  
NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @



Lucite Coin \$25



50-cal bottle opener \$14



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  
Gray XL  
\$15 XXL (Tall)  
XXXL (Tall)  
XXXXL

**Mens Polo:** Small  
Black Medium  
Tan Large  
\$30 XL  
XXL (Tall)  
XXXL (Tall)  
XXXXL  
XL Tall  
XXL Tall

**Embroidered Jacket:**  
Only a few Jackets remain!  
1(Quad 50)  
Large  
\$145 2 (Searchlight)  
XL  
XXL

**NDQSA is having a hard time finding a credible and reliable Jacket supplier. Orders are on hold until further notice.**

**NDQSA HISTORY BOOKS ARE SOLD OUT**

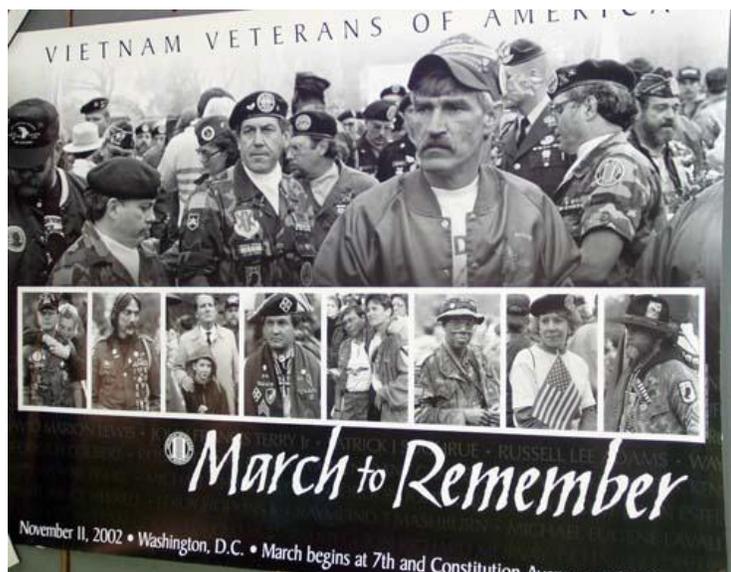
**Contact Paul Kopsick if you want one of the Lego Searchlights Kits**

# My Tour of Duty Oct 1968 – Oct 1969

By SP4 Deward “Popcorn” Pokrony G-55<sup>th</sup> Quads

(b. September 7, 1949 – d. September 17, 2002)

*Editors Note: I was so pleased to have found his handwritten story in the archives as well as photos of Deward while in the field. It is special on so many levels. I have transcribed it nearly word for word but I have reshaped a few of the sentences here and there for clarity and effect. I believe it was written in the early-mid 1990's so some of the references to post-Nam events are out of sync time wise.*



*Deward Pokrony was featured prominently in the VVA poster commemorating Veteran's Day November, 2002.*

I hope this story of my tour in Vietnam isn't too boring, but I am going to try and remember as much as I can.

I guess you could say my time started in 1967 in High School. I was a senior in a small class “D” school in a small town called Weston, Nebraska (which I still live in). We all read and heard of Vietnam in school and by watching TV or reading the newspapers. I didn't understand much about this place, but I knew that it wasn't a very nice place to be. Every day I heard about the draft and all the troops going overseas. So me and a few other guys tried to get into the Navy, but I didn't make it. So I forgot about it and told myself that I'd take my chances. Ha!

After I graduated from school I got a job with the telephone company. I worked there for the summer and

in early Fall... well the rest is history. I got the big brown envelop from the government and I was soon on my way.

From Omaha I went to Ft. Lewis for 6 weeks of basic training. Then on to good old Fort Bliss Texas for AIT. I never saw a Duster for Quad-50 before then and I was undecided which one I wanted to get killed on. After AIT, I got a 14-day leave and my Vietnam tour started on October 3, 1968. I left from Omaha, went back to Fort Lewis Washington and then to Anchorage Alaska. Next stop was some base in Japan and then finally I arrived in Cam Ranh Bay. As soon as I got off the plane I knew that I could not take this for 365 days.

We all sat around waiting for our orders and to move to our new battery. I came over with 53 other guys and we were all going to the same unit, but we still didn't know if we were going to a Duster or Quad-50 unit until we got to a place called Chu Lai, near the coast somewhere north of Cam Ranh.



I never heard of the place before, we were in ICORP, under the operational control of the Americal Division, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. We were assigned to G-battery 55<sup>th</sup> ADA, a Quad-50 battery. Historically we were the only Quad-50 battery NOT aligned with one of the three Duster Battalions already in Vietnam at the time. We were all replacements for some 50 other guys that were on their way home. It didn't take long for them to ship us out into the field, about 3-days. We were all going to firebases and LZs around the Chu Lai area.



We had 24 Quads in our battery and all but four were in the field. Two pulled convoy duty up and down Highway 1 and two pulled guard duty at base camp. I and three other guys got lucky and stayed at base camp for the first two months. It was just like state-side duty in base camp, all spit and polish and lifers f-ing with you. After a bit we then got orders for the field. It was the scariest thing I ever had to deal with and I didn't get much sleep for the first few days. Never knowing what might happen to us at any time.

I told you about the other three guys I was with; well we went through it all together. I was the gunner on our Quad, Joe Trujillo was my left cannoneer and Don Anthony was my right cannoneer. We were together for nine months and I must say to this day I love and still keep in touch with them to this day. If it wasn't for these guys, I don't think I would have made it home. I hope I did the same for them.

One thing about being in a war, you are a team and you have to work as a team. I guess when you live like we did and eat the same food and share letters from home with one another, you're pretty tight.

The third guy I was with was our squad leader and he was from Florida, but I cannot remember his name. Joe was from Salt lake City, Utah and Don was from somewhere in California (I was from Nebraska). I don't know how a 'country boy' got stuck with a couple of 'city boys' but as I think about it today, I am glad it turned out that way. We were a pretty good squad.



We were eventually air-lifted out to a hill later to be called [LZ Professional](#). When we got there, there was

nothing but about 20 holes in the ground the engineers made the night before. ([see link](#)) Those holes in the ground were our home for the first few weeks until we got our bunker built. We didn't get much sleep out there, we filled sand bags all day and pulled guard duty all night. We had no showers and after a few weeks we were smelling pretty rank. After we got our ammo bunker and emplacement for the quad built we started to make our living bunker. And what a nice place it was, wall-to-wall dirt, 10' x 10' x 10'.



(Actual photo of [Deward at LZ Professional](#) early 1969)

We got another guy in our squad after we got our ammo bunker made; he was Ike Nelson from Illinois. He was a black guy and one great guy and a heck of a fighter. He was our M-60 gunner and he kept it working all of the time. Ike and I often pulled guard duty together at night. We went two hours on and four hours off until sun up.

I guess my 'war story' really starts around and following the Tet Offensive in 1969. My first combat experience was early one morning around 0300 hours on May 12, 1969 when all hell broke loose. We got a rocket and mortar attack and about an hour later we got a big sapper attack. The night lit up all around us and the first thing we did was jump up on the Quad and start mowing the hillside trying to nail a mortar tube hammering our emplacement. We got firing so much that our barrels on

the Quad got red and white hot and the squad leader ordered us off the mount. It was hotter than hell on the guns and the mortars kept coming at us. They wanted to knock out our Quad real bad. One of the sappers did hit our mount with an RPG and took off the right guns. Thank god we were not on it. We got back to our bunker and got our M-16s and manned our position as best we could. We started firing our M-60, M-16s and our M-79 until day break. I never thought the night would ever end. After the smoke cleared there were seven dead VC in the wire below us. They were more than dead; they were chopped to shit by the .50-cals. It was the first time I ever saw a dead body as chopped up as that. We were lucky; we did not lose a single guy. I think the thing I can remember most about it was the smoke and noise, and after it was all over, the peace and quiet and the smell of the firefight and the death. The experiences of that night can never be fully described in pictures, words or text.



(Trujillo, Pokrony, Anthony and Nelson [firing quad](#))

I guess for me anyway, it was the ice breaking for me; I was a combat veteran now, changed forever. All through the rest of Tet we got our butts kicked night after night but even with the constant mortars and fire-fights we now began to take it all in stride. I know it sounds crazy, but that is the way it was to me. I was still scared as hell but I could accept it without going nuts every time it happened. The only other time I really got scared again was when I was getting “short.”

I guess this place called Viet Nam was for real and so is war. I guess after all my close calls and having a buddy of mine getting killed made it more than real. Me and

this guy went through Basic and AIT together, got drunk a few times and shared girl-friend stories together and went to Nam together. I’ll never forget him as long as I live. His name was SP4 [Terry Staman](#) from Oregon; he got killed in a chopper on March 22, 1969. It lost power and crashed on a hillside and exploded. (SP4 Charles Howell, G-55 was also killed with five others in the crash of the Chinook during a resupply mission.)

As the war went on you learned to mourn the losses and just keep moving on. Now after all this time we reflect and remember and some of us relive it all over again.

After Tet was over I was transferred to another hill called OP-1 where I ran into a couple of other guys I went through AIT with. I didn’t want to leave my old squad, we were together all that time and we knew our quad gun mount from end to end. I did not see my old squad again until it was time to DEROS.

OP-1 was a LZ manned mostly by Montanyards. There were only 25 American GIs on the hill and our Quad was the only defensive firepower up there. We had a great field of fire and plenty to shoot at. We got credited with a lot of kills.

The guys that I was with up there at OP-1 were Don Golden from Arkansas and Bob Crawley from California and a couple of green kids I did not get to know. I just recently got a hold of Bob Crawley after 22 years, he lives in Oklahoma now. I went to see him about a year ago. It was something I cannot explain to be together again after that many years. It was great.

After my stint at OP-1, I was on my way home and I don’t need to say anything more about that. Anybody that has been to Nam knows what going home means. I guess just the sound of going home makes your dick get hard (Ha!). But something was missing. I never got a “welcome home” from anybody but my family and nobody else much cared if you were alive or not. I was like somebody took a year out of my life and ran it down a shit hole.

After a few years I had a few problems with adjusting to life all over again.

I had a drinking problem and I didn't want to be around people much unless I was drunk. I guess I was trying to forget (but how can you?)

I got married but that didn't last long either. I guess she was looking for something better than a Vietnam Veteran for a husband.

Not until around 6 or 8 years ago I finally heard about a Dusters, Quads and Searchlights Reunion. I was scared at first to go because I didn't think I would fit in or worse that I would meet one of my buddies there. God it's been so long ago.

But as it turned out I just met about the greatest guys in my life and in the world. After that reunion I haven't missed one yet and if it wasn't for those guys, like the guys in my old squad in Nam, I wouldn't make it.

God Bless Duster, Quad and Searchlight "people", they are the best.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Your old buddy Deward (Popcorn) Pokrony, Weston, Nebraska.

*Unfortunately, something was broken and it could not be fixed in time.*



RIP Sept 17, 2002.

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"To the men Deward served with in Vietnam that are here today, we want you to know, he loved you guys very much, and talked of you often. He considered you part of his family as we do. Phyllis and I have the utmost respect for you men. The special bond you shared together is strong and meaningful. "Don't ever let it go."

In the end my brother took his life. In harsh reality, Vietnam killed him. Maybe now he can rest in peace with God forever. We loved him and will truly miss him."

-Wayne & Phyllis Pokrony September 2002

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## A Tribute to Dewey

How can any of us explain what happened to Deward Pokrony this past week and come up with a rational answer? Those last moments of his life, when he was perhaps having flashbacks of events that had taken place in his life, his experiences dealing with the horrors of the Vietnam war, when he, like thousands of other young men were drafted into a war we had no business being involved in, trained to kill, and then, if they were "fortunate" to survive, were expected to come back to their civilian lives to live a "normal" life. Who is to say what is "normal" for these wonderful people who go off to wars defending our freedom, and then, when they return, witnessing wars within their own communities, perhaps the greatest scourge of our nation, DRUGS, that captivate young people's minds and bodies and hold them in bondage and cause them to commit horrendous acts against others.

Dewey had keen perceptions and was able to ferret out what made other people "tick". When he spoke, his words had substance. In my observations of Dewey, TRUTH was important to him. If he had confrontations with others, he spoke as someone who knew what he was talking about, to whom he was addressing the issue, and why, and coming up with a pretty accurate conclusion to the matter at hand.

I didn't know Dewey personally, but his mother Virginia visited with my mother, Mary C. Gottberg, often. Virginia was a very committed auxiliary member. Our Lord Jesus Christ, warned us against judging one another, so let's place Deward Pokrony in the loving arms of God, who understands all and forgives all.

-Marlene Gaylord, Weston Nebraska (2002)

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Postscript: At Deward's funeral, several of the honorary casket bearers were former G-55<sup>th</sup> crewmembers: Joe Trujillo, Don Anthony and Ernie Buxton.



Americal Patch



G-55<sup>th</sup> Patch

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In looking for some more information on Deward and his time with NDQSA, I learned from our President John Huelsenbeck that Dewey was an active member in the early stages of the association. John remembers his smile and the special way he curled the front of his NDQSA cap (see photo). He would roll up the brim and tuck it inside the back loop of the hat when he was not wearing it to give it that extreme curl.

Dewey had an affinity for John Wayne and liked to be called "Duke". He also collected John Deere related items. He was an accomplished graphic artist and did several projects for personal and corporate aircrafts.

Like many of the early members, he was troubled by what he had experienced in Vietnam. Back then there was no real discussion of PTSD or Agent Orange and veterans dealt with their demons in any way they could. Drinking was a big problem but the reality was that it did not help any, it just deadened the pain. John also remembered that finally he and Dewey decided to stop drinking altogether and this became an issue at some later reunions when some of the guys got drunk and out of hand. Dewey recoiled from the group a bit and became more isolated after a time.

Joe Belardo was also a good friend of his back then, and recognized that he, like so many Nam vets, did not have any support groups to help them. Joe would periodically call Dewey who was living alone in a trailer in rural Nebraska. He often confided in Joe that he was depressed and did not know if he could cope much longer. When Joe could not get through to him by phone one month, Joe had the phone company check on him personally. It turned out that a storm had taken his phone line down and he didn't even know it.

Joe says that Dewey was such a gregarious person at the reunions. Dewey would make you feel like you knew him like he was one of your own crew.

The cover photo of the September-October issue of "The Veteran" the magazine of the VVA, was of Deward Pokrony. It was taken at the 2001 Veteran's Day ceremony at The Wall by Mike Keating. Joe Belardo's left arm is just to the right of him in this picture. The black and white photo was a testimony to the fateful "1,000 yard stare" associated with traumatized veterans.

Ms. Loana Hoylman of VVA informed me that several of the veterans that were displayed in the magazine cover and poster have since passed, but they were never aware that the person in the main image, Deward Pokrony, had committed suicide while the cover was in production.

Who knows what effect one more week might have made in the tragic story of Deward Pokrony. Had he been told or saw his face on the cover of a magazine that was such a strong advocate for Vietnam Veterans, it would have certainly had a positive impact on a depressed loner, fighting the never ending battle of PTSD and abandonment. He might have had a new purpose and sense of worth. We will never know.

It is a great honor for me to share his story with the group and I am sure it rings true to many of the experiences many of us have had to deal with. We have lost way too many men to the mental and physical scars of their own "Tour of Duty." For those of you still fighting, continue to fight. You are not alone and you are my brother. Brothers then...Brothers Forever.

Paul Kopsick, NDQSA Historian et al

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## **STILL LOOKING FOR BUDDIES?**

All the new contacts this newsletter were located with the help of long time member Bill Sturgeon. He has generously offered to help to try and locate buddies that you served with. But you have to have something to go by. I gave him some names and information from some orders I had and he was able to give me some numbers to call.

He had done professional searches as part of his career and has access to online resources unavailable to the Historian. He can be reached at (858) 663-4199 (cell/text) Please provide your full contact info and as much of the info you have of the person you are looking for: Name; Hometown; Nickname and birth date or at least how old you think he is.

Thanks Bill, I hope we locate a bunch of guys.

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National Dusters, Quads &  
Searchlights Association  
PO Box 890130  
Oklahoma City, OK 73189

**Forward Service Requested**



**Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans & HAWKS**  
**Air Defense Artillery**  
**“First To Fire...Last To Leave”**

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**  
**Gettysburg PA**  
**June 5 -10<sup>th</sup> 2018**

<http://www.ndqsa.com/>

Issue #1 March 2018

Face Book : [Dqs historian](#)

Many of you have already paid for multiple years, so look carefully at the mailing label for the year which shows when you are paid up through. (2018 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2017 and below, we have not seen a dues payment from you in a while. If you can't afford the dues, we fully understand so do not worry about it. We only ask that you update your status and verify your contact information, **phone numbers and email address**. Just mail in the info using the multipurpose form or send an email.

2018 Rosters are printed out when your form is submitted and will contain the most up to date information. So please make any updates or changes ASAP!

**If you have changed your phone number or email address recently**, send an email to Paul Kopsick at [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto:dqshistorian@cox.net) or leave a message on (202) 262-9560.

To be sure you get the newsletter via email, tell your email program to accept emails from dqshistorian@cox.net.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association™ (NDQSA™) is the original, official representative for ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam. NDQSA is the **only** organization of Vietnam ADA Veterans officially recognized by the Air Defense Artillery Association headquarters in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. As a tribute to the memory of over 200 ADA Warriors who lost their lives during the war in Vietnam, NDQSA members have funded, constructed and dedicated a magnificent monument in the Memorial Park at Ft. Sill.

NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck et al, holds annual reunions and has grown to about 600 active members with a directory of over 2200 ADA Vietnam Veterans and supporters.

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c) (19) non-profit veteran's organization and is incorporated in the State of Indiana.

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.