

National Dusters, Quads &
Searchlights Association
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WHO'S WHO IN NDQSA
Meet your Newly Elected
Officers & Directors
of NDQSA
"First to Fire...Last to Leave"

NATIONAL DUSTERS QUADS SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION

"Together then ... Together Again"



DUSTERS



QUAD 50s



SEARCHLIGHTS



VULCANS



**U.S. ARMY VIETNAM
1965-1972**

HAWKS



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER # 1 – September 2022

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – David McCray



Greetings everyone. With the resignation of Paul Kopsick, I have assumed the role of president. I want to thank Paul for his many years of hard work and dedication. He was a valuable and important member. We have begun filling the massive role he performed. Your organization is in good hands and many on the board of directors have stepped up. The reunion in Oklahoma City was highly successful. The baseball game on Wednesday night started with Col. Vince Tedesco throwing out the first pitch with his lacrosse stick. Vinnie received a standing ovation. The NDQSA hosted approximately 60 ADA soldiers from the newly formed 4th 60th Battalion with Commanding Officer LTC Alex Corby attending too. I want to extend many thanks to Rick Liebendorfer for coordinating this event. On Thursday, we visited Fort Sill and honored our fallen with a memorial service led by master of ceremonies Col. Vince Tedesco. Major Luke Clark then spoke about how the Operation Eagle came to be. In short, Luke purchased the eagle at a shop outside Marble Mountain, Vietnam while members were escorting some Gold Star Mothers. Luke designed the Operation Eagle and saw over the construction to completion. Dr. David Christensen also spoke briefly. The ceremony was very moving and thanks to the 30th Brigade for setting up the tents, chairs, water station and PA system. Again, I want to thank Vinnie for his work in helping coordinate with Dr. David Christensen and the 30th Brigade Staff. Next, we went to lunch at the Patriot Club which was provided by the NDQSA. Following the lunch, we visited both the ADA gift shop and the ADA Museum. The ADA Learning Center provided a nice cool place to rest while waiting for the gift shop on the tour. As the buses completed both the tours and gift shop, we sent them on back to the Skirvin Hotel instead of convoying back. One of the comments I personally heard was, “The museum was one of the best tours since it was our history.” On Friday evening, we held our annual banquet. After a nice meal, Melita Simley, Executive Director of the ADAA, was our featured guest speaker. She gave us an update on the condition and future of the ADAA. For those that don’t know, the ADAA is a private non-profit corporation. They sponsor the St. Barbara and Molly Pitcher awards. Our members should have received their **life time** ADAA membership. If you did not, please contact me by email and let me know. You can now go to firsttofire.net and set up your address, email and password to receive updates and the ADAA newsletter. Next, LTC Alex Corby spoke about the reactivation of the 4th 60th. He also spoke about the painting “Fire-Dragons of Route 19” and that prints will be available shortly on the Web of the ADAA above. Next, Col. Tedesco presented five St. Barbara awards to Richard Russell, Richard Burmood, Pat McLaughlin, Bob Cuce, and Allan Penwell. In addition, Suzanne Tedesco assisted Vinnie in presenting the Molly Pitcher awards to Becky Gorby, Mary Jane Clemens, and Debbie Wise. It should be noted that Col. Tedesco sits on the board of the ADAA. After the banquet, we were treated to the outstanding Tin Man Band. Many danced until 10 PM. On Saturday morning, the members held their annual business meeting. Highlights were introduction of new members, election results, choosing the 2023 reunion to be in Cleveland, OH and the 2024 reunion to be in Washington DC with the backup being Savanna, GA for both reunions. The women had their annual complimentary women’s continental breakfast while we were in our business meeting. Finally, I intend on performing my duties as President to the best of my abilities. In addition, everyone should know it is the board of directors that runs our organization. That being said, we have a very strong board of directors and we will make this a seamless transition. As Roy and Dale Evans used to sing, “Happy Trails to you, until we see meet again.” CLEVELAND 2023

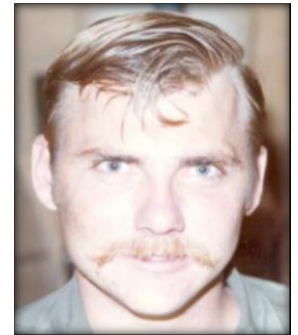
Meet your Newly Elected Officer's & Director's

WHO'S WHO IN NDQSA



David McCray – President

Sgt. E5 – C/4th/ 60th and E/41st Quads



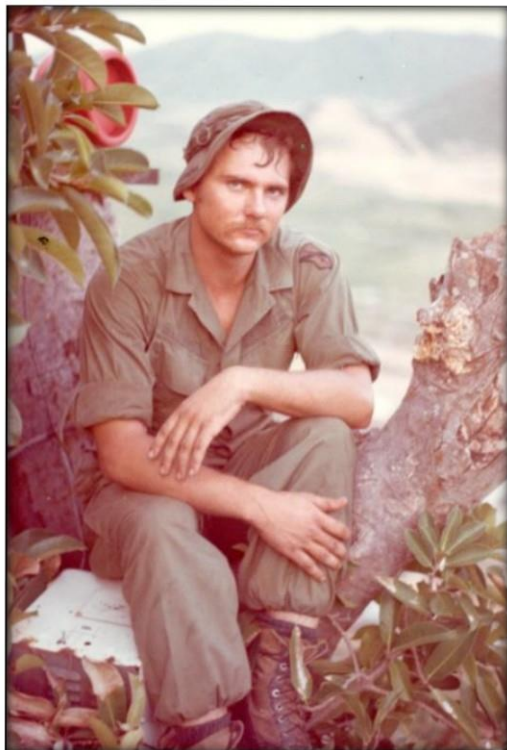
I am David McCray and was born in California and lived there until mid-way through the first grade. Both my parents were from Oklahoma and we returned to Oklahoma in December 1953. I attended several schools until I graduated High School at Newcastle, OK. I went to a junior college at Murray State and then attended Oklahoma University until I was drafted by the Army my senior year. I choose to not finish college and went into the Army to finish on the GI Bill. I then spent the next 9 months in Basic, AIT and NCO School. I began my Vietnam tour with C/4th/60th (Dusters) until the Battery went into stand down. I was transferred to E/41st (Quads) for the next 6 and half months. Upon returning, I married Vickie and we both finished *College*. I obtained degrees in biology and accounting with minors in mathematics and physical education. The majority of my time was spent with two companies as Accounting Manager and also was a VP in the accounting firm Cole & McCray, Certified Public Accountants. I joined the NDQSA in 1998 after talking to members John Mowatt and Joe Parrish. I attended my first reunion in 2000 at Washington DC with several of my NCO class members. My next reunion was at Branson in 2005 and have been all of them since. I have held several positions on the board of directors such as director, secretary, 2nd vice president, 1st vice president (short time) and now president. I look forward to serving the membership to best of my abilities.



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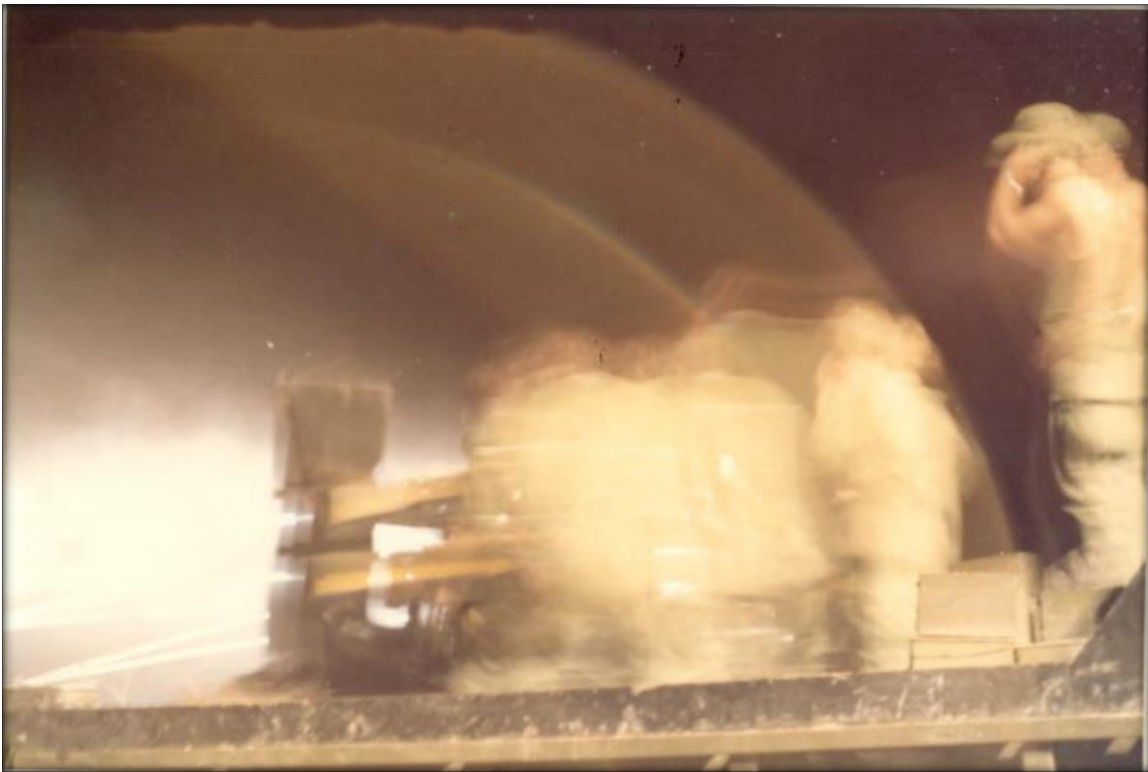
Left to Right: Sgt Paul Hanson, Spc Willie Williams, Spc Rodney Paul, Spc Billy Joe Galbraith, Spc Phillip Hadden, Sgt Jim Kilmire, Spc Tom Warchola, Spc Bob Leathers, Sgt Dave McCray



Dave in Vietnam



Dave holding an NVA 122 Rocket



Quad crewmen wonder why they can't hear. Dave took this photo of a Quad 50 firing full auto with a camera on a tripod with a delayed timer. Yes, that's massive vibrations and shock waves coming from the Quad firing. That's Dave holding his ears. Great photo to show the VA.



Sgt. Dave McCray and Sgt. Robin Bak at LZ Uplift On 4th / 60th Duster called "Now Heavy is Dead"



Dave received a letter and flag from Oklahoma Senator Henry Belmon

THE QUADS of E / 41ST



ALIVE "N" KICKIN"



HIRED KILLERS



MOD QUAD-I



MAD MAN "24"



Joseph Belardo – 1st Vice President

Sgt. E5 C/1st/44th



It is an honor to be your new 1st vice president. I am a dedicated member of NDQSA since it originated and have always been a board member. After a year of its existence I became the news editor, historian and created our KIA – MIA name list. Now with Paul Kopsick resigning from our association I volunteered to take on his responsibilities. I hope I can do as good a job. I was drafted into the Army in October 1966 and was sent to Ft. Hood, Texas for basic training and AIT on Honest John Rockets. On August 18, 1967, I was sent to Vietnam and was assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st / 44th. Although the 44th was an Army unit, it was deployed to Vietnam as the 3rd Marine Division's mobile combat fighting team and body recovery unit under Marine control. My area of operation was along fighting all along the DMZ, never going south of Dong Ha. My crew and I hold the distinct honor of twenty-seven combat missions and the loss of five Dusters. We were the last to leave the finally abandoned Khe Sanh Combat Base on July 13, 1968. I was discharged on August 18, 1968 with the rank of Sergeant E5.

I have devoted my life to helping veterans. I am the NJ State Commander of Military Order of the Purple Heart. Inducted into the Order of the Four Chaplins and the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame. The past President of VVA Chapter 233. Member of VFW, American Legion and DAV. I served as a board member of the NJ Vietnam Memorial, Museum and Education Center. The original member of Victims of Agent Orange, the predecessor of the first Agent Orange Commission. Our Agent Orange group was the moving force to have Congress recognize and treat the medical needs of Vietnam Veterans. We discovered fifty carcinogenic illnesses related to the eight various chemical defoliants sprayed in Vietnam. The 2018 recipient of National Jefferson Award, one of America's most prestigious awards presented by the President on June 2, 2018. Received the Army Artillery Saint Barbara's Award in 2017. The 2021 recipient of the New Jersey Quilt of Valor. For over 40 years Joe has conducted 254 oral power point narrated photo presentations about the Vietnam War to high schools, colleges, universities, civic and military organizations.

Appeared in three television Documentaries. Published my diary into a book called *Dusterman – Story of the Last Great Gunfighters*. Also published in the book, *The Soldiers' Story – Vietnam in Their Own Words*, Vietnam Magazine – *Dusters Battle for Route 9*, The Khe Sanh Book of Poetry and the Khe Sanh Vets' magazine, Red Clay. Featured article in the ADA magazine about combat actions in a January 24, 1968 TET Offensive battle. The New Jersey regional fund raiser for the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, DC. John Huelsenbeck and I created the Gold Star Mothers trips back to Vietnam. Regrettably, I could never go.

Represented all Vietnam Veterans as the Honorary Grand Marshal in the National Memorial Day Parade held in Washington, DC. In 2016, the Army Department of History at Fort Sill, Oklahoma dedicated a room and an 8 foot x 12 foot painting in honor of our battlefield accomplishments on January 24, 1968. Awarded the UNICO National Louis DeFillipo Armed Service Freedom Award for lifetime commitment to all veterans. Married to Nancy Painton Belardo on December 7, 1968. We have three children: Mary, Joseph Jr., and Patrick and four grandchildren. The founder of Support Systems, a custom metal fabrication company. I enjoy retirement, working with veterans, locally and nationally. Since 1968, I've been semiprofessional freshwater bass tournament fisherman. Competing in tournaments along the east coast. Dedicating my life to family, grandchildren and friends and enjoy bird watching and Doo Wop concerts.



Charlie Battery Dusters were called Comanche's called our Duster "The Grim Reaper"



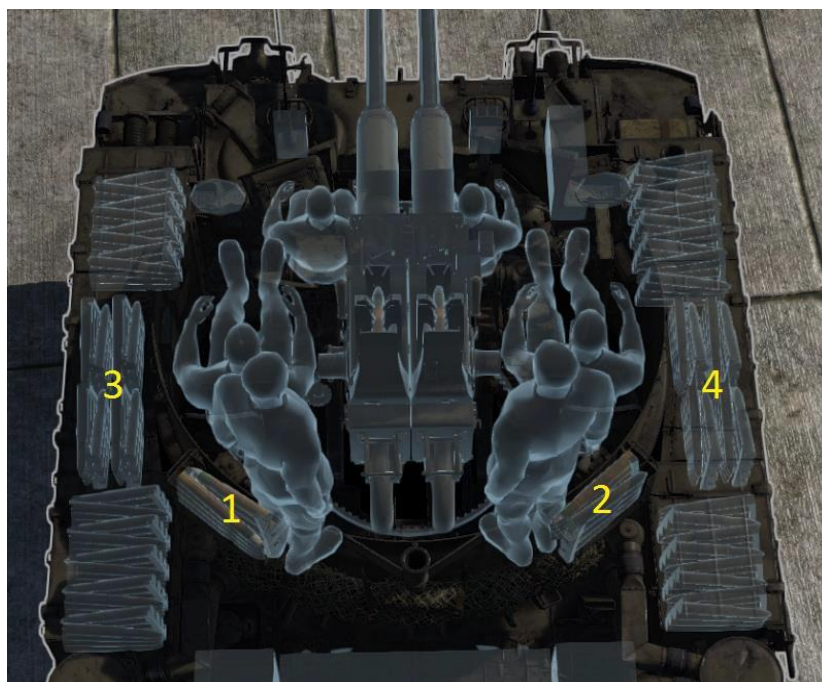
Last day at Khe Sanh July 13, 1968. Joe in the turret teaching Marine Lt how to use the radio.



Last day of the abandoned Khe Sanh Combat Base



Grim Reaper Club Flak Jackets





Rick Liebendorfer - 2nd Vice President



I trained in the spring of 1969 as a 16F at Ft Bliss, TX. In July 1969 after AIT they shipped me to 1st /44th and assigned me to Charlie Battery. Spent my first twelve months along Highway 9 on the DMZ. Charlie Battery was based at Vinh Dai the Seabee rock crusher site off Highway 9. We worked all along Route 9 doing the normal Duster stuff. Then extended six months and went with the battery when we were pulled down to Chu Lai fall of 1970 to support Americal Division. I was Squad leader on C221 and SSGT Olen Upshaw was Section Chief.

The NVA destroyed our Duster in October, killing SSGT Upshaw who was the last Charlie Battery KIA. Left Vietnam December 30, 1970.

After leaving Vietnam, the Army sent me to Germany. I got out a week before Christmas 1971. Married my best friend "Linda" six months later. She still puts up with me today as of now. After a career in the ceramic tile industry in Colorado, I did another stint as a corrections officer with the State of Missouri, retiring 2018. Linda and I live in rural northern Missouri.

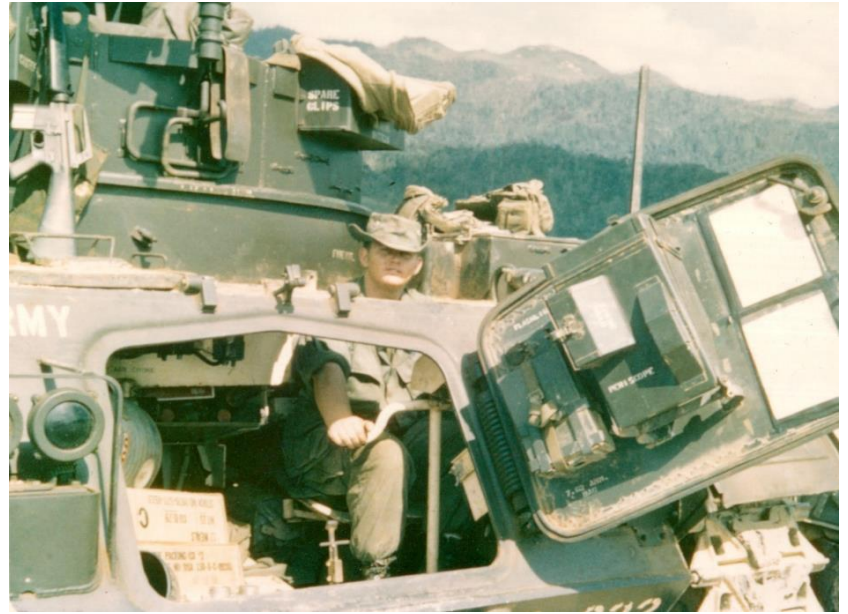
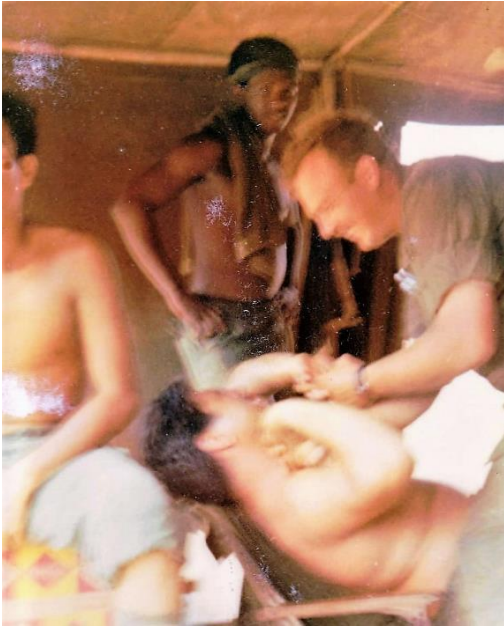
I have worked with NDQSA on the ORLL Translation Group and continue to offer my services on this project. I have traveled from my home in Missouri to Washington D.C. to assist in honoring our brothers and sisters on Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony in 2018 and 2019. I returned to Vietnam in October of 2017, spending two weeks visiting our former areas of operations along Highway 9 as well as FSB 4-11 outside of Quang Ngai. I continue to apply my organizational skills in helping NDQSA remain the strong brotherhood it has been.



Rick heading out on a Search & Destroy Mission



Rick at Mai Loc



Last photo taken on October 3, 1970 of his Duster the Duster crew C221 having fun prior to their next combat mission. Hours later the NVA would destroy their Duster, wounding many and killing SSGT Olen Upshaw. Olen would be the last KIA from Charlie Battery 1st / 44th

Walter McCoy driving Duster

Rick's Homes away from Home



Richard Burmood – Secretary

C/1st/44th



1971 Charlie Battery 1st /44th at Chu Lai and then battalion headquarters at Red Beach. When you look at this photo of me in Vietnam, what do you see? A clean uniform with a ball cap, and a clean track. My experience was very different than most of you. Not long after arrival in country in 1971, I was pulled out of the field to cover the duties of the “C” Battery, 1st /44th unit clerk while he went on R&R. The 1st Sgt conversation went something like this. Me, “Top, I can’t even type.” “Look, Burmood, neither can anyone else here. I pulled you because you had the highest ASVAB scores.” The clerk came back, and I never left because he was short. I learned one valuable lesson from that 1st Sgt.

*When you don’t know what you are doing, **do something.***

If it's right, do it that way again. If it's wrong, someone will tell you and now you know how. So that path has brought me to being your secretary, doing just what that old Top taught me 50 years ago. What have I personally gained from NDQSA? Reuniting with old friends and comrades. This picture is of me with Steve Belt (he’s wearing the black shirt) at Shaw Air Force Base, SC watching the 2017 solar eclipse.



ALPHONZA C. MARTIN

Director

E-4 / SPECIALIST – ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
Quad 50, Dusters – Battery Units D-71 & G-55



Alphonza C. Martin was born in West Virginia. At the age of 22, he was inducted into the United States Army military service. He was transported Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for basic training, Fort Bliss, Texas for advance individual training, and Panama for artillery automatic weapons for Artillery Automatic Weapons (Quad 50 & Duster) training. Upon completion he was sent to Southeast Asia – Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 front line battle duty. Martin served four (4) additional years as army reservist (in-active in Alexandria, Virginia. Total years of service six (6) years.

Upon his discharge from the Army Services, Martin began his civilian career in culinary food services. In 1972, Martin joined the Washington, D.C. metropolitan police department, where he worked for 33 years obtaining the rank of lieutenant. In 1984, Martin ventured out and started his own restaurant in Washington, D.C. called Papa’s Chicken.

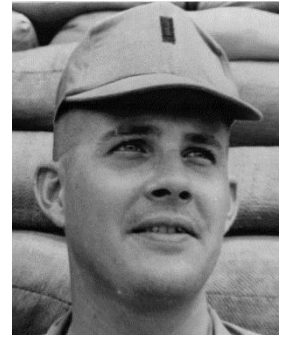
Martin has always been an active community service ambassador and is presently an active member of American Legion Post #9605 and board member of several civic association boards in Clinton, Maryland.



Allan Penwell – Treasurer

1st Lt. 5th / 2nd

I was born in Pana, IL in 1944, and it was a family tradition to serve in the military. Our family history includes three naval officers and two army officers including myself. My dad served in World War I, a cousin in World War II, and my brother in Korea. None of us were career officers, and it was natural for me to go into the service.



My Army career began after I was commissioned a 2nd LT through ROTC from Knox College. I entered active duty in August 1966 and graduated from ADA Officer Basic after being schooled in missiles. I was assigned to 1st Bn, 1st Bde at Fort Bliss to train AIT students on Dusters and Quads.

In September 1967 I went to Vietnam and was assigned to Charlie Battery, 5th /2nd ADA (Dusters). The battery was attached to the 9th Infantry Division with headquarters at Bearcat, southeast of Bien Hoa. I was platoon leader, and Pete Cheney was assistant platoon leader of first platoon. Our tracks were called, “Have Guns Will Travel.”

My time was spent with fire bases in the Bearcat area with no significant combat action that I can recall. In November 1967, Pete and I took two Duster sections on a 1st Brigade operation to FSB Wildcat east of Xuan Loc. We were located at the base of the May Tao Mountains, and intelligence indicated there was an NVA force occupying the mountains with a well-developed hospital. We were there for what seemed like weeks, but there was little enemy contact.

I would check daily with the artillery commander to see if we had any missions. On one occasion Pete took two Dusters with three or four 11th Armored Cav ACAVs to make a run to Ham Tan on the coast. I was a little hesitant about because the Dusters were prone to mechanical problems as well as having a limited range while being dependent on gasoline instead of diesel. When the tracks arrived at Ham Tan, their role was to provide security for a visiting dignitary. Pete was not certain, but he thought it was General Nguyen Cao Ky who was there for the day on some sort of junket. Thankfully, it was only a day trip, and the section was back for supper. Shortly thereafter, Pete left the battery and was reassigned to the Searchlights at Can Tho.

While at Wildcat, SFC Caesar Cuspert became my new platoon sergeant. Cuspert was a wonderful guy and often had a cigar in his mouth. I had tremendous respect for Sergeant Cuspert who was easily 15 years my senior. He had a way of explaining things to eager beavers like me. Things maybe were too quiet at Wildcat because after a while the brass started to fly in. I told Cuspert that we needed to have the men get cleaned up and their moustaches shaved off. His comment was, “But sir, do I need to get my moustache shaved off too?” That was an order that died in the graveyard of absurd lieutenant orders. Parenthetically, Cuspert and I met up at the NDQSA 2010 Charleston reunion and spent a wonderful day together having lunch and his personal tour of the city. He passed away in March 2020 at age 92.

In February 1968, 9th Division headquarters and 1st Brigade began the move to Dong Tam on the Mekong River to join 2nd and 3rd Brigades which had been there for some time. Two of my 1st Platoon sections and I became the advance party to set up the new battery headquarters, billets, and motor pool. The two sections were assigned to fire bases on Route 4 which ran from Saigon to Can Tho.

In spring 1968, I became battery executive officer which was truly a paperwork job with one exception. The NVA were building up for the May offensive, and in between Cambodia and Saigon was a Special Forces camp at My Phouc Tay in the middle of the Plain of Reeds. This was an old French Fort, and I took two Quad-50s by Chinooks and Hueys into the camp. We thought we might be overrun, but luckily nothing happened.

I left active duty in August 1968 and served three years in the active reserves. After returning stateside, I finished an MBA on the GI bill and had a 43 year career as a commercial banker. I have four children and six grandchildren, but unfortunately my first wife, Jan, passed away in 2012. I married Peg in 2020 whom I have known since 1974, and Peg and Jan were friends. Peg loved the 2022 reunion and looks forward to the next one. I have been NDQSA treasurer since 2009 and honored to be associated with the men in our organization.



Lt. Allan Penwell and his Driver SP4 Cody



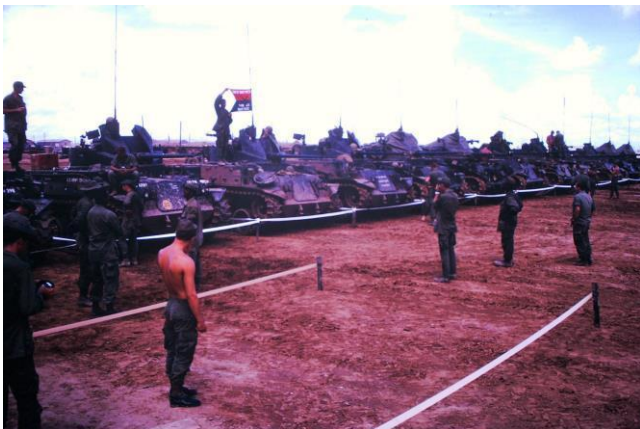
5th/2nd Famous Duster "Have Guns Will Travel"



"Have Guns" firing at the enemy



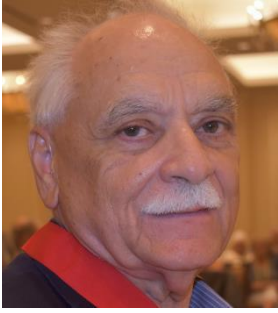
Duster "Road Runner Smoke Bringer"



**At Dong Tam 9th Inf. Combat Base – 16 Duster
Line up to show the infantry "Duster Firepower"**



CH47 Airlifting a Quad 50



Robert Cuce Immediate Past President

E/41st Quads

I was born in the Redhook section of Brooklyn, NY. My family moved to Long Island where we still live.

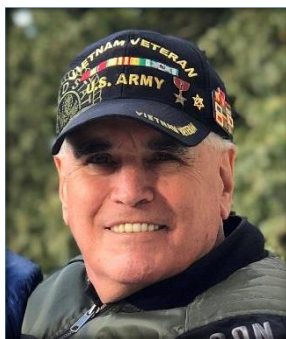
Served in E/41 from September 1970 to October 1971 as a Quad 50 gunner and participated in various convoys and perimeter security mainly in the Central Highlands with occasional convoys as far north Con Thien. Involved in Operation Lam Son 719 in 1971. Served at An Khe until October '70 and FSB Oasis until December 25, 1970. The Quad 50 I served on was then sent with its sister truck to Dong Ba Tin NE of Cam Ranh Bay where they remained until April 1971. I spent the remainder of my tour on a small fire base supporting the 101st Airborne south of Cam Ranh Bay.

Member of NDQSA since 1998. Served on the BOD as director, 2nd vice president, 1st vice president and president 2018-2022.

Worked for a DOD contractor and the commodities exchange at the WTC in NYC. Retired after 30 years working for Eastern Suffolk B.O.C.E.S as a data base manager. Hobbies: fishing, hunting and competitive shooting.



Bob – ready for combat in his Quad 50 “Backfield in Motion”

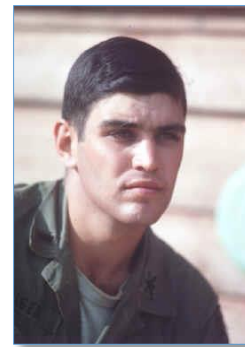


BRUCE M. GEIGER

**Past President
&**

Director

1st Lt. A & B Battery 1st / 44th



Bruce M. Geiger, born in Jersey City, NJ March 20, 1945. Graduated from Henry Snyder High School, Jersey City 1962. Received BA degree in Business Administration & Economics in 1966 from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ and MS degree in Education in 1994 from Fordham University, New York, NY.

Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army, 1966 at Indiantown Gap, PA and served on active duty 1966-67 at the US Army Air Defense Center, Ft. Bliss, TX, ADA Officers Basic Course, and Battery Commander, USAADS Command.

Served with US Army Republic of Vietnam, 1st Field Force, 1967-68 with B & A Batteries, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery AWSP, attached to 3rd Marine Division and later 108th Artillery Group, headquartered in I Corps at Dong Ha in northern Quang Tri Province near the DMZ. As a platoon leader he commanded M42 Dusters and attached Quad 50s in support of Marine units at firebases along the DMZ including Con Thien, Cam Lo, Khe Sanh, Gio Linh, and Dong Ha, and farther south at Quang Tri airfield, Quang Tri City MACV compound, and Camp Evans.

Received the Bronze Star with 'V' device for heroism in ground combat at Khe Sanh Combat Base in March 1968 during the 77 day siege. Awarded the US Navy Presidential Unit Citation for his unit's actions in defense of the reinforced 26th Marine Regiment during the siege at Khe Sanh. In addition he received the US Army Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous and Meritorious Unit Citations, and Republic of Vietnam unit citations and awards.

Upon discharge from active duty in 1968 he began a twenty-five year career as a corporate sales and marketing executive in the packaging industry. After leaving corporate America he became an elementary school teacher in the New York City public school system from 1993 until his retirement in 2004. He returned to Vietnam in 2000 with the Operation Gold Star inaugural group and again in 2004, escorting Gold Star Mothers to the sights in Vietnam where their sons were killed.

In his retirement he has served many years as a volunteer and board member of the Greenburgh Nature Center, volunteer at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Canine Development Center, board of directors of the Khe Sanh Veterans Association, and is a past president, current board member & reunion committee chairman of National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association.

Married to Dianne, a former teacher, in 1973 with two sons, David, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, graduate of MIT and Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, and Andrew, a real estate executive and graduate of Boston University. Currently, Bruce is also a dad to Jackson, a handsome and very smart 3-1/2 year old Black Labrador Retriever.



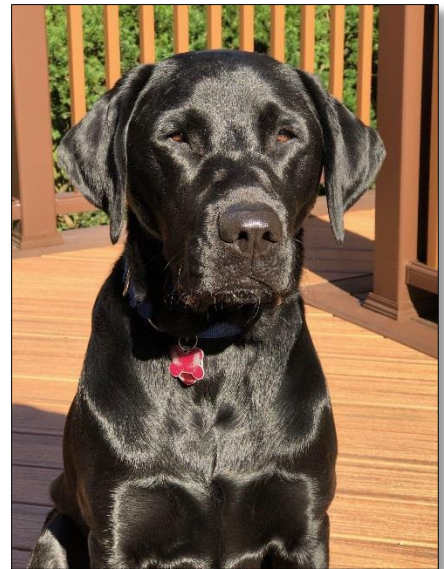
**Bruce giving artillery coordinates at
Con Thien at NVA targets**



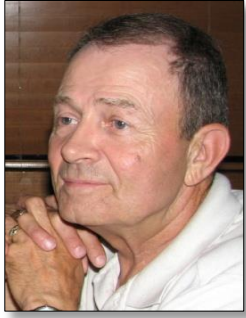
**Bruce humping 116 pound cans of 40mm ammo
getting ready for next firefight**



**Bruce being awarded his
Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism
at Khe Sanh Combat Base**



Jackson



Paul Hanson
Past President
&
Director



Command Sgt. Major (Ret.) 4th / 60th

I was born in Ogden, UT and raised in Utah, Idaho, Nebraska, and California where my son and daughter-in-law still reside with their daughters and my three great grandchildren. I came out of Southern California and into the Army in 1969 and went through NCOCS just after David McCray. I served in Vietnam from December 1971 to 1972 with E-41st and then "F" Co. 50th Infantry in DaNang. Stayed in the Army until 1991. I retired as an E-9 command sergeant major after 20 years in Duster/Quads, infantry, armor recon, armor, IG, and battalion, brigade, division and army level operations and training staffs. Spent ten years managing a large auto repair facility in Santa Cruz, CA before moving to Philadelphia to care for an aging family member. Earned my BA at Neumann University and completed my master of education degree in history and graduated doctor's degree. I supervised volunteer docents on the battleship New Jersey and serve as the Neumann University Veterans Representative. Currently teaching American history at Neumann University in PA and living outside Yellowstone National Park in Idaho. I was recently honored to be the reactivated 4/60th ADA command sergeant major.



Paul at Cha Rang Valley outside Qui Nhon



Paul at Fort Sill Reunion



George Nagelschmidt

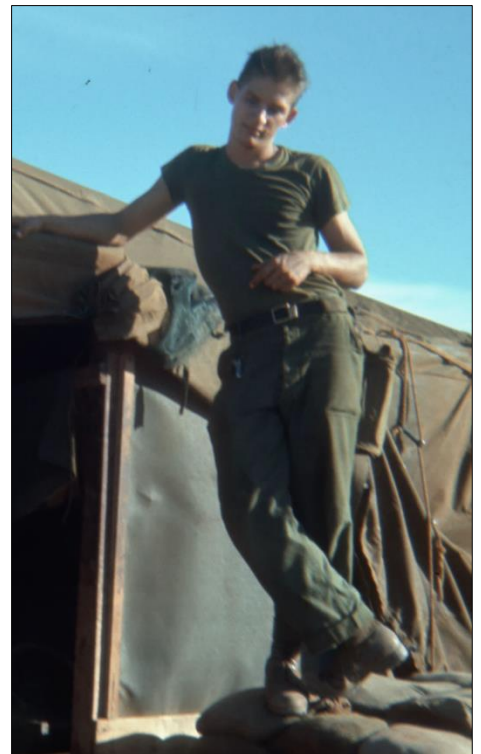
Director

Sgt. E5 C/1st/44th

I was born in December 1944, in Oswego, NY and graduated Oswego HS in 1963. I was inducted into Army in October 1965 where I completed basic and AIT at Fort Dix, NJ. In March 1966 I was assigned to Fort Bliss, TX C-Btry/1st Bn. 44th ADA, reactivated at Oro Grande, NM before shipping out to Vietnam. We arrived by ship in November 1966, went to Quin Nhon, Pleiku, Da Nang, Dong Ha and finally Camp J.J. Carroll. Spent the last 10 months attached to 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, 3rd Marine Div., I Corps. Had R&R in Japan, August 1967. I attained E-5 in 19 months. Last six weeks as acting E-6 before leaving Vietnam in October 1967. Most enjoyable event when 707 Freedom Bird lifted off at Cam Ranh Bay's runway - I had "made it." Received honorable discharge in October 1971. Certificate for Meritorious Performance of Duty in Vietnam and Cold War Certificate. Decorations include National Defense Service, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, two O/S Bars and Sharpshooter Badge. Back at home he pursued construction, utilized GI Bill to graduate De Vry Institutes in Broadcast

Electronics, RCA Institute Electronics Drafting. Worked with my brother at Midway Drive-in in Mineno, NY as a projectionist. At General Electric Co., Liverpool, NY I was an electronic tech, senior designer circuit boards, and control panels, enclosures and injection-molded plastic parts. I retired in November 1997. Not married, no children. Bagged several high peaks - NY Adirondacks including Mt. Marcy, enjoys travel, camping, military vehicles and museums, machinery, zoos, scale models and great music. My mother Doris (d. 2007) wrote and swapped tape recordings three times a week while I was in Vietnam. Two sisters, Joan and Donna, who processed and returned my photos and movies to Vietnam.

DQS pre-charter member since 1985. Initiated the original reunion register book and provided it yearly for every attendee to sign in. Helped a lot with reunion needs for first 20 years until others volunteered their services. Served eleven years as NDQSA vice president and thirteen years as a board director so far (2022). Worked on the committee to initiate Operation Gold Star and followed with inaugural trip to Vietnam in 2000. Worked on the committee for our ADA in Vietnam history book 2001-2009. Attended every reunion since 1985 as we've gone coast to coast, across our great country picking up new members. I enjoy chatting with fellow veterans and exploring America's treasures.





George J. Walko

Director

B/29th Searchlights



I was with B/29th from January 1967 to January 1968. After graduating high school in 1964 at 17 years old, I began work for an International Bank's Wall Street investment operations because they offered to pay for my college education. Toward the end of 1965, I, along with two friends volunteered for the Draft, because an older friend had been drafted and we thought he should not be the only one. By December, I was in Basic at Ft. Dix. That was followed by 18 weeks of generator maintenance and repair school at Ft. Belvoir (52D20), never to repair another generator.

When I reached B/29th, I became an OJT searchlight repairman, just as the Xenon lights replaced the carbon arcs, constantly moving from location to location often based on where a significant operation was underway or intelligence deemed most critical. I was attached to the 1st Cav, 4th ID, ROK Capital Div and 101st AB. After about 6 months, a higher grade, school trained repairman arrived and I became a searchlight operator for the remainder of my time, attached to the ROK White Horse Div.

Following separation, I returned to the bank until 1973, when I earned my bachelor's degree in Finance and Investments, (minor in Computer Science) at Hofstra University. I moved to Florida to a bank holding company in serious need of computerizing their paper based accounting and reporting systems. I stayed with them 14 years as Assistant Controller and VP Commercial Loan Operations. During that time I earned a master's degree in Finance at the University of North Florida.

Then, a neighbor who owned a national industrial firm that provided services to power plants and shipyards and needed automation to grow, asked me to join him. After several years, he financed the start-up of my business providing software and computer services to local companies and several national firms.

About 12 years later, I sold that to my partner. At the time VOIP phone service was expanding worldwide and I moved on to a fledgling telecommunications company as Controller. I semi-retired in 2010, doing consulting work for a cell phone company, until fully retiring in 2013. Now, I am an officer in VVA Chapter 1134, Chapter representative to the VVA Florida State Council and an American Legion member.

Sandy and I married in 1984 with a combined family of two daughters and a son. Ann has been a pilot since her late teens working for private businesses, the State Dept. and now as a flight instructor. Ashli has been an ICU RN for most of 20 years and Brian retired from the Navy several years ago as Chief Petty Officer following a 23 year career. Now working as a supervisor for Harris County Texas Highway and Street Department.



George Walko – A day off at Tuy Hoa Base Camp – September 1967



George Walko – A day off at the OK City Reunion 2022



Garry Severin

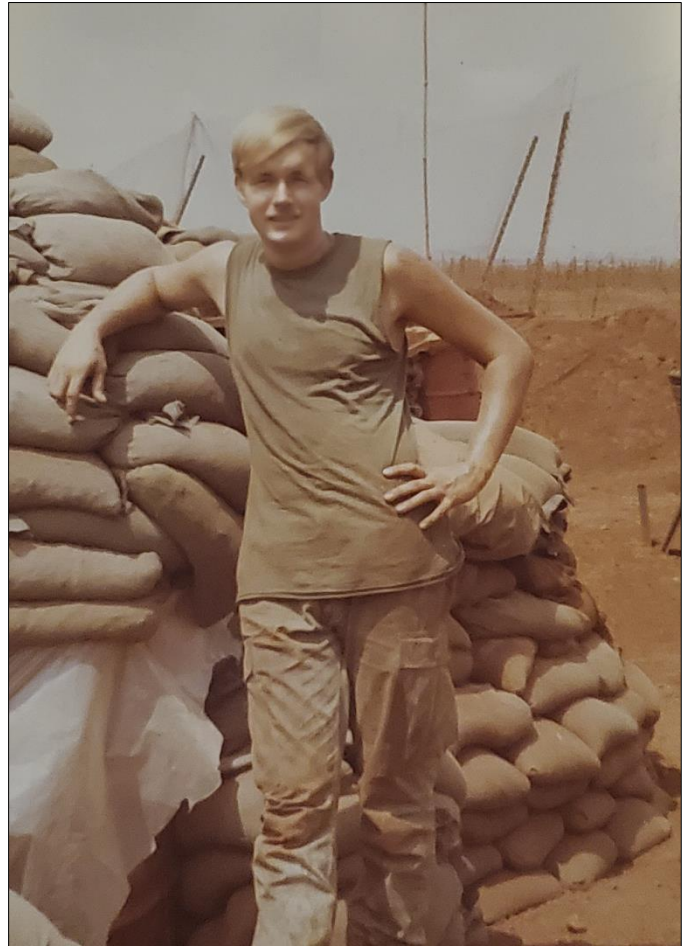
Director

D/71st Quads

My name is Garry M. Severin and have been a member of NDQSA since 2006. I was a winner in the draft lottery and began my military service on February 2, 1970 at Fort Campbell KY. I scored high on my initial testing and was given my choice of MOS. I chose Nike / Hercules. When I got to Fort Bliss TX. I found the class was full and the only way I could get in was to sign up for four years, it wasn't going to happen. I was given to Duster Quad MOS 16F10. After training as a Duster driver, I was sent to Viet Nam, arrived 12 July 1970. Three days later I was sent to D /71st artillery battery. Later that week I moved to the field at Bu Dop next to a Special Forces camp supporting the 23rd Artillery Group gun battery. My first days as a crew member, I was made a left cannoneer. We stayed there until Feb of 1971 when one Quad was air lifted to the border to provide security for an 8 in. and

175 arty, from 23rd Arty group. There was a Quad truck also at Fire Base Alpha and I was made a gunner, we stayed there a month then returned to Bu Dop to go on trucks. We left Bu Dop and went to Song Be to provide security for engineers building gun pads which were turned over to the ARVN'S. After completion at Song Be we went to the rear area to run convoy escort for the next two plus months. My last stop was with the 11th ACR at Hobo Woods where I left the military on 09 Sept. 1971 to return to the world. My choice of Duster and Quads was a good one as Nike Hercules was decommissioned in Oct 1970 and most members went to Nam to start a new twelve month tour. My father and most of my uncles served in the military in World War II. My uncle George was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. I am retired from the Ford Motor Co. where I was a production coordinator and final assembly mechanic.

I attended Lorain County Community College, and I am married to Mary Severin whom you will find at the registration desk during reunions. As long as I am physically able, I will support the organization in any way that is needed.





Roger Giza

Director

A & B Battery 4th / 60th



Hello fellow NDQSA brothers. My name is Roger Giza. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. Born and raised in the great state of Michigan. Graduated from Grosse Point High School in 1967. Went on to college at midterm in 1968 and left in 1969 and got my 1-A status very soon after. Went for my physical and did not pass the hearing test, so they classified me 1-Y. About 6 months after, went down for another test, I must of passed that one so how do you figure. Shortly after I got that magic letter to please report to Fort Wayne in Detroit. Did my basic at Fort Knox, KY, then on to Fort Bliss for ADA training. In 1970 landed at Cam Ranh Bay which was hot and smelly so everyone can relate to that. On to my first LZ Whiskey Mountain, north of Phan Thiet, that's where I meet Israel (Poncho). We were both cherry boys, maybe 2 weeks in country when we saw our first action on Highway 1. It would take too long to tell that story some funny, some very sad. We were together for about 6 months then we all got new assignments, I went north to the Central Highlands, LZ Weigt-Davis. That was the LZ where the Dusters had what was called the last Duster battle. I was put on a track at the main gate to the LZ. The Duster I was on only had one track and could not move. And let me tell you that place was not fun, that's all I have about that. After about 4 months all the Americans where leaving and we were down to 2 Dusters from four. I was assigned to the Duster called Have Guns Will Travel at the bottom of the hill and made the squad leader. Getting short we finally got out of there and back to Pleiku where I was told I had to drive my track to Qui Nhon only about 250 miles give or take. Nut's. That all I can say, but returning back to Pleiku my first lieutenant said we have another Duster to take to you know were. I made it next stop Cam Ranh Bay and the Freedom Bird. Also I have been married to my beautiful wife for 49 years Suzanne thank you brothers and sisters!



Roger and Driver Jerry Falls



Left to Right: Roger Giza, Oliver, Sgt. Collins and Israel Casas



Roger on the M60



**Roger Driving 4th/60th Duster
"Have Guns Will Travel"**



Giza Family - Suzanne, Grandson Kyle and Roger

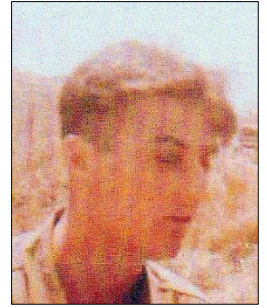


Peter L. Labarre

Sgt. At arms

Sgt. E5 - G/65 Quads DMZ 1967-1968

“Widow Maker”



I was born September 28, 1946 in New Orleans, La. Drafted in October 1966 and did basic training at Fort Polk, LA, then artillery training at Fort Sill, OK, then Honest John Rockets at Fort Hood, TX.

Sent to Vietnam in October 1967 as a Private in G/65 Quads 50's which ran convoys along Highway 9 and DMZ Firebases of Dong Ha, Gio Linh, Con Thien, Cam Lo Ville, Camp J.J. Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Rockpile, Calu and Khe Sanh. My gun truck was called the Widow Makers. Walter (Hippy) Seabock and I gave the Quad 50 its names and painted on its logo. Was discharged October 1968 as a Sergeant E5 and received a Purple Heart. My Quad was the last Quad 50 to leave the abandoned Khe Sanh.

Got married in February 1970 to Patricia Foret. We have one son Peter III and 3 grandchildren, Garrett, & Luke & deceased Pierce. We reside in Tickfaw, LA (north of New Orleans, LA)

I worked as a mechanic and also at a tire company. Hobbies: I like to rebuild old cars which are shown at local car shows. Also rebuild cars and drag race. Belong to NDQSA and have been to thirteen reunions.



The creator of the Famous Quad 50 “The Widow Maker” was Peter Labarre

Col. (Ret.) Chaplain Samuel W. Hopkins, Jr., Ph.D.

4th Battalion 60th Artillery

Vietnam 1967-68



From 1966 to 1968, I was privileged to serve with 800 men who were called upon by our country to go to Vietnam and fight against a dedicated and deadly foe. We formed a new unit together, trained for six months together, shipped out together, served our tour of duty together, and came home together. Togetherness is the main theme of our unit's wartime experiences, and I have documented in word and 90



photos the record of our wartime service.

My unit's veterans celebrate these precious bonds to this very day, especially our affections for our former fallen buddies and their surviving families. The National Dusters, Quads, and Searchlight Association actively supports the American Gold Star Mothers, an organization for women who lost their sons in combat.

For God and Country,



Chaplain Sam Hopkins holding church services for soldier of the 4th / 60th

Luke Clark Advisor & Parliamentarian

4th / 60th



These are few pictures taken on my first tour. All the pictures from my second tour with 4th/60th were lost during the three moves I have made in the last five years.

During my first tour it was my job to advise the District Chief, Thang Binh District Quang Tin Province. One shows me, the District Chief, and some of the Village Chiefs after a meeting. One shows me in a village being greeted by the children of Ky My Village. Another shows me on patrol in my first tour. One shows a platoon of 42 popular force platoons that we trained.





Luke Clark donated the NDQSA marble eagle that is the centerpiece of our memorial at Fort Sill.

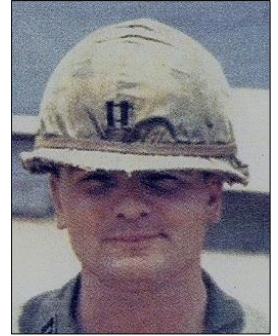
Col. (Ret.) Vincent J. Tedesco

Advisor

Charlie Battery 1st/44th



I graduated from the Pennsylvania State University and was Commissioned Second Lieutenant of Artillery in the Regular Army in 1964.



Served in Vietnam in 1967- 1968 in the 1st Battalion

44th Artillery. I was on the battalion staff and commander of Battery "C" headquartered out of Camp J.J. Carroll. Awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry In Action, the Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. He went on to later command the 1st Battalion 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 101st Airborne Division and the 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. Retired from the Army in 1991 after 27 years of service. After my retirement, the Army honored him by making him the Honorary Colonel of the 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment! The Penn State Army ROTC Battalion honored him by making him the Honorary Colonel of the Nittany Lion Battalion. In addition, a street at Ft. Hood, TX was named for him, Tedesco Way and a wing of Snow Hall at Ft. Sill, OK was named for him, Tedesco Wing. The Army Heritage Foundation in Carlisle, PA told the story of his actions, leading to him being awarded the Silver Star, as a stop along its walking history of the U. S. Army to demonstrate the Army's actions in the Vietnam War.

In 1964, he married Suzann Andrews. They have three children: COL (R) Vincent J. Tedesco III; COL (R) Matthew T. Tedesco; and Ms. Kim Tedesco Riley. He has 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandson



Captain Tedesco getting ready for a convoy



**I'm looking for my Driver Harold Smith
From New York City area.**



Robert Lauver

Past President & Director

G65th Quads

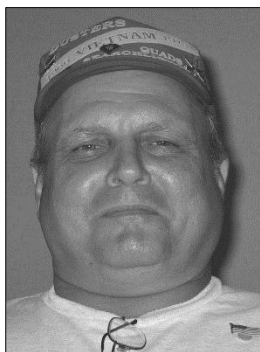
Robert H. Lauver, Born Lewistown, PA, September 27th 1946. Graduated from Rothrock High School, McVeltown, PA in 1964. Member of State Championship basketball team in 1963. Unable to afford college I bounced around several jobs before enlisting in the Army in February 1966. Basic training was at Fort Gordon, Ga, and AIT was at Fort Jackson, S.C. I then reported to Fort Bliss, TX as a battery clerk with Battery G, 65th Artillery at Oro Grande, a Quad Fifty unit attached to the 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery. In October 1966 the battalion was redeployed to Vietnam via the USNS Hugh J. Gaffey. I served as battery clerk for several months before volunteering to go in the field as a Quad Fifty crew member. I served as a gunner, squad leader and section chief providing escort duty for Marine Rough Rider convoys, fire support for Marine Operations, and perimeter support at Gio Linh, Con Thien, Khe Sanh, Camp Eagle, Phu Bai, J. J. Carroll, L.Z. Baldy, L.Z. Bastogne, L.Z. Ross, Hue and others. I was awarded a Silver Star for actions on 31 January 1968 during the TET offensive in Hue City, Awarded 2 Purple Hearts and the Army Commendation Medal. I served 18 months in Vietnam. My wife Sue and I researched and led Gold Star Mothers to Vietnam in 2002 and 2011 where they visited sites where their sons lost their lives. The 2002 trip with four Mothers was featured in the 2003 National Memorial Day concert at the United States Capital and featured on PBS. The 2011 trip was the last sponsored by NDQSA.

Following the service, I graduated from Bloomsburg University with a BA in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He completed two years of graduate school. Bob, a registered respiratory therapist, served as a department head at Evangelical Hospital until 1983. He then founded a home medical equipment business in 1983 which he sold in 1996. He continued to work as a regional manager for the company until 2003. In spring, 2003 He founded Care Plus Oxygen, Inc. He expanded the company to 8 branches throughout Pennsylvania and merged with a national corporation, AeroCare Holdings in 2012. A member of the board of directors of the PA Assoc. of Medical Suppliers, Lauver served as the organization's president for 3 years. He was the organization's legislative chair for many years. Lauver has been a speaker at seminars and meetings throughout the nation. He has published many articles on the healthcare industry and his Vietnam experiences. He has been active as an industry lobbyist at both the state and federal level. Since retiring in 2015 Bob has been active with veteran groups and organizations. Bob has served as president, board member, and is now active as an advisor to the BOD. We must continue to reach out to our brothers that served and should endeavor to greatly expand our membership. We were brothers then, we are brothers now, and we will be brothers in the future.

Bob and his wife Sue live in Selinsgrove, PA. A son and daughter, Aaron and Lindsay have joined him in the medical equipment industry.



Bob being awarded his Silver Star



John “Tank” Huelsenbeck
Creator of NDQSA
Past President
&
Director
Charlie Battery 1st/44th 1967-1968



I was born April 11, 1947 in Garrett, IN. Graduated High School in Avilla, IN. Worked at my dad’s Mobil Station for a while and in 1965 began working at Dana Corp. Drafted in 1966 and took basic at Ft Knox, KY and AIT at Ft. Bliss, TX. Sent to RVN in May 1967 and served with C-Btry, 1st Bn 44th Artillery (Dusters) on the DMZ in I Corp supporting 3rd Marine Division. Upon my arrival to C Battery, I immediately began convoy escort duty. Daily convoy security and body recovery. My combat life consisted of traveling from Camp J.J. Carroll to one of the following combat bases: Con Thien, Khe Gio Bridge, Rockpile, Calu, Khe Sanh, Delta-5 and Dong Ha. All were located along the infamous Route 9, the road that went from Qua Viet on the east coast, west to Khe Sanh.

I was awarded the Bronze Star with V Device, Army Commendation Medal with V Device, and a Purple Heart. DEROSSED in May 1968..

My wife Sally and I bought the family farm in ’73 and raised cattle on 400 acres calling it therapy for my PTSD. Sadly I lost Sally on July 1, 2021. I’m involved in 4-H, love baseball, softball and enjoy our grandkids. I was one of the original founders of DQS and in September 1981 we had the first gathering of Duster vets at my house which lead to the creation of NDQSA. We carried a makeshift banner in the Chicago and NY City Veterans Parades trying to get members and attended the 1982 dedication of The Wall. I have the distinction of being the only NDQSA member to attend every reunion since its inception. In 1996 I retired after 30 years with Dana Corp so that I could become a full time farmer. In 1999 I was elected as the Allen Township Trustee/ Assessor. I have served on the board of directors of the Farm Bureau and a homeless shelter. I also drove a school bus for elementary students.

In 2000 I had a life altering experience returning to Vietnam with the first Operation Gold Star trip. What a rewarding experience for my wife and me and four DQS buddies, escorting the four Gold Star Mothers to the places their fallen sons had been and to walk where their sons had walked.

Over the years I have served NDQSA as treasurer, director and advisor and was honored as a president. We the help of my NDQSA brothers and sisters we have created the best combat reunion association in this great nation.

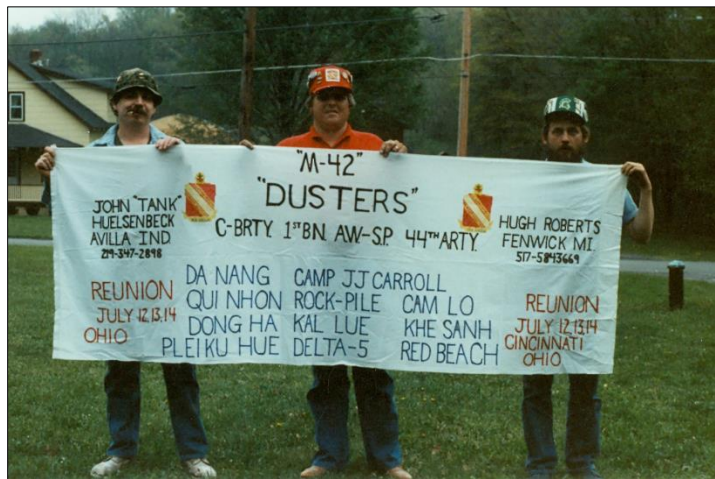
God Bless You All,
Tank



“Together Then – Together Again”



The creation of DQS – Standing Dudley Dingman & Joe Murphy. Sitting Hugh Roberts, Darrel Hale, Dick Zinc & John Huelsenbeck



The original DQS Banner carried in many parades. Tom Stark, John Huelsenbeck & Hugh Roberts



John sitting on Duster – Standing is one of John's Best Friend Billy Watson KIA August 21, 1967



John sitting on his Duster – ready for combat

From the New Publications and Historian Committee

The Publication and Historian Committee wants to thank Paul Kopsick for his many years of dedicated service. We wish Paul the best in his future endeavors. We will continue the tradition of publishing a great newsletter and preserving our units and our member's individual military history. After publication in our newsletter all collected historical and individual stories will be stored at Texas Tech Military History Library and Dr. David Christensen of the ADA History Department at Fort Sill for future reference.

This committee is chaired by Joe Belardo and overseen by Richard Burmood, Allan Penwell, George Walko and Roger Giza. All publications and historic reports will be reviewed by these committee members before being submitted for final publications and historic archives. Joe Belardo was the original full time editor and historian for the first 18 years of NDQSA.

We are starting a new mailing data base, if you want to receive future Newsletters via email instead of regular mail - please email your contact info to Joe Belardo.

Newsletters will still be posted on: www.ndqsa.com

Be part of our military history and share your stories and photographs with our members.

Please mail or email me your bios and military stories with photographs to:

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