

David McCray

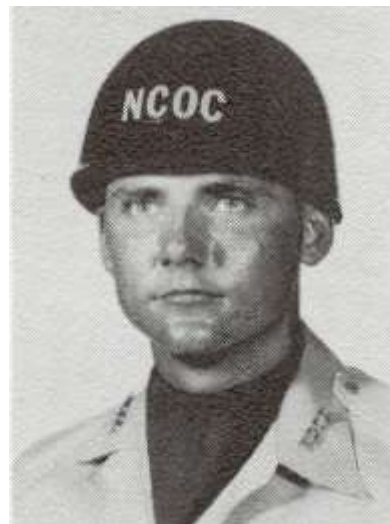
C Battery, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery (AW)(SP)
and E-Battery, 41st Artillery Quad 50 caliber (MG)
Vietnam 1970-1971, Sergeant E5

Long time member of
National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association, Inc.



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 and President.



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 Tom Mahoney 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"



L-R-V Dave McCray and Sgt Robin Bak

Comments from the associated 2016 Facebook post

Terry Garrett

CAREFUL WHER YA POINT THAT THANG.LOL

Dave McCray

We were hit the night before and we found it in the wire the next morning.

Mike Dunkerly

My DI would still be kicking my ass if I lost MY weapon.

Dave McCray

We opened up right over their heads and we think they just ran.

Dave McCray

I guess he thought an AK against 40MM was not a fair fight

Mike Dunkerly

I always thought it was. But I was always next to the 40 mm

Dave McCray

Yeah, I would not like that searchlight. Nothing to shoot back, but your M-16.

Mike Dunkerly

Don't kid yourself. I had my 16, a M60, a M79, a knife and oh yeah, a Thompson sub machine gun. I had to tow a trailer for ammo.

Dave McCray

Fantastic! We had all that too, plus a grease gun and the AK.

Patrick L Johnson

In my opinion, the M42 A1 AWSP "Duster" and crew was the single heaviest armed squad sized ground unit in Vietnam. Each track was equipped with twin 40mm BOFOR cannons, M60 machine gun and M 79 grenade launcher. Each crew member was issued an M16 rifle with bayonet. Most tracks carried one or more claymores and hand grenades. Some tracks were issued 12 gauge shot guns. Hard to think of a ground unit with more firepower than the Duster and its crew.

Dave McCray

Amen to that, the VC ran when we entered the equation.



NDQSA Reunion 2000 Washington, DC

Wheelchair: Joe Parrish

Bottom Row (L to R): Tom Mahoney, Richard Burmood, Steve Belt, Tim Tweedell, Pete Breckenridge, Gerald Chapman.

Top row (L to R): Robert Dembinski, Mike Dunkerly, John Mowatt, Dave McCray



Reunion Washington DC 2014 at the Wall
L-R Dave McCray, Tom Mahoney, Richard Burmood



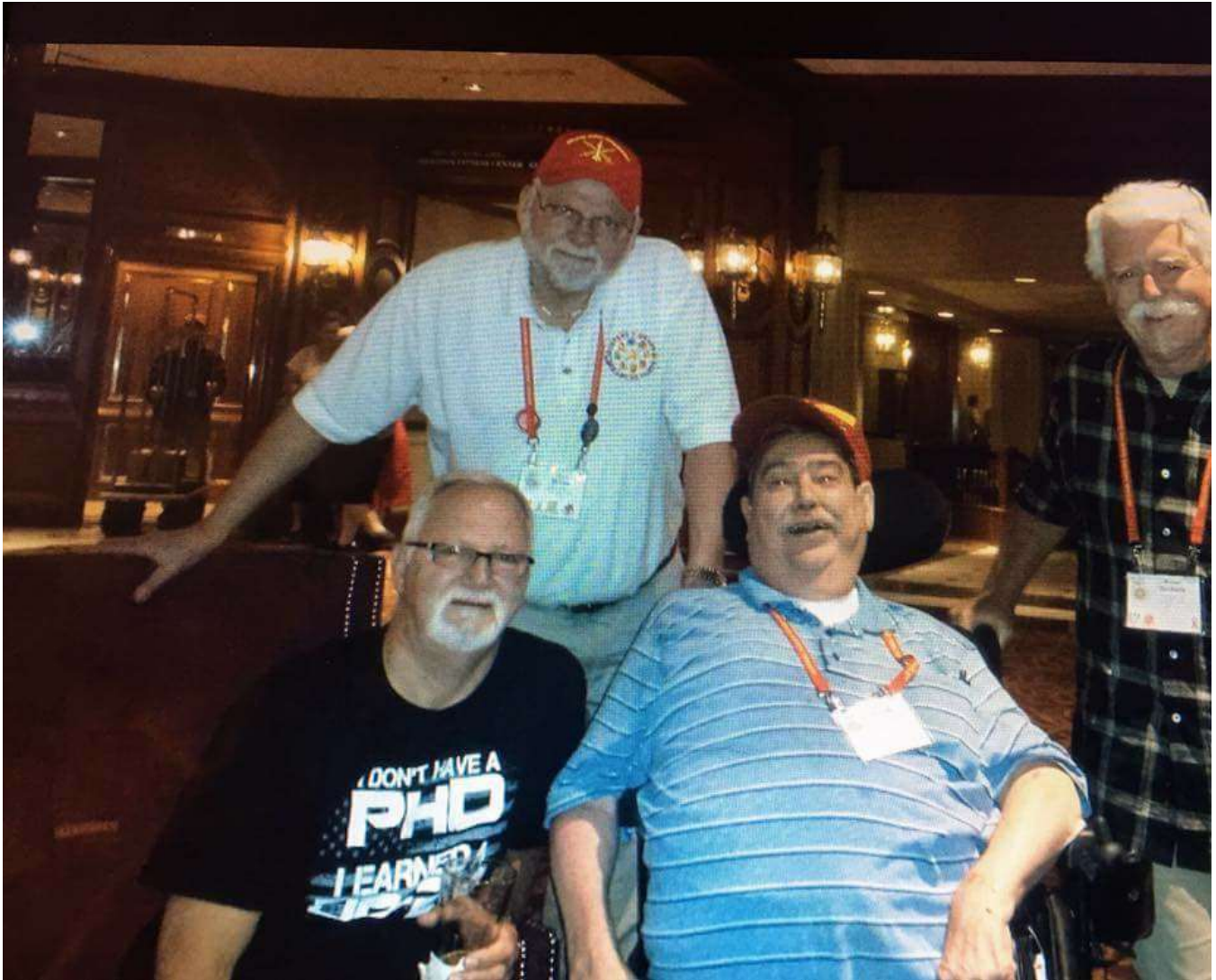
Reunion Washington DC 2014

L-R Dave McCray, Richard Burmood, Tim Tweedell, Steve Belt.
Tom Mahoney



NCOCC classmates at 2015 NDQSA reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

L-R Jim Kriskowski, Tom Mahoney, Steve Belt, Richard Burmood, Dave McCray, Mike Dunkerly, and John Mowatt.



NCOCC classmates at 2016 NDQSA reunion in Nashville, Tennessee

L to R John Mowatt, Dave McCray, Joe Parrish and Mike Dunkerly at the 2016 NDQSA reunion in Nashville



Friendships Last a Lifetime

L-R John Mowatt, Mike Dunkerly, Dave McCray, and Tom Mahoney



With my friends Joe and Steve who are gone too soon from us now
L-R Dave McCray, Joe Parrish, Steven Belt

Steve, Joe and I attended AIT and NCO Candidate School together prior to us going to Vietnam. Forty-four graduated from our NCOCC 2-70 class and 42 of us went to Vietnam, We all arrived in Vietnam shortly after New Years day of 1971. Most of our class has remained in touch. Steve was a tremendously generous person and donated an engraved saber yearly to the NDQSA for auction yearly. Joe was severely wounded in Vietnam and lived a full life as a quadriplegic. We were very close and I visited him in Alabama a couple times. Our beloved classmate Joe passed in 2017 with a tremendously loving family at his side. Steve passed in 2019 from cancer due to Agent Orange exposure.

We did not let distance keep us from talking and seeing each other yearly at reunions and sometimes in between.