

# DRAGON



# N

# E

# W

# S

# L

# E

# T

# T

# E

# R

WINTER 2021/22 ISSUE

[WWW.1-1CAV.ORG](http://WWW.1-1CAV.ORG)



Troopers  
Old & New  
**Unite**

# Letter from our president

1ST SQUADRON



1ST CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

Dear Members,

We did it. We held a reunion at El Paso in conjunction with the active duty 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and it was a success. Although we all would have liked to see better attendance, everyone in attendance had a good time.

The Mission tour on Thursday was the best ever, (I've been on it twice before) this time we had three tour guides: the regular one, one knowledgeable historian, and one an expert on the Buffalo Soldiers. It was a very informative and interesting tour.

On Friday we visited Fort Bliss. On entry to the base everyone had to pass a Federal background check. Everyone passed and it didn't take more than an hour. We arrived at the motor pool area for a meet and greet under the desert shade with a vehicle and weapons display which was followed by a visit to their Regimental Room with coffee and donuts. After that we visited the Squadron Headquarters area where the museum artifacts were displayed. After traveling to Freedom Crossing for lunch we visited the static displays in front of the First Armor Division Museum. We couldn't tour the museum because it was closed due to a structural issue.

Saturday morning we had our business meeting where officers were elected, a committee was formed to address membership recruitment, and another committee to plan the next reunion without deciding a place or date.

At the Saturday night banquet after we enjoyed a nice meal we were addressed by three First Squadron First Cavalry Squadron Commanders: Commander in Vietnam, LTG Graves, Ret, current Commander LTC Williams, and former Commander LTC Baker. For the finale John Murphy told the story of how the Association was formed by Terry Babler, which prompted Judy Babler to get up and say a few words. It was amazing. If you weren't there you should have been.

One theme repeated throughout was that is this association is to survive we need new members. Most of our members still are Vietnam Veterans and we are all over Seventy years old. We are thankful that Ken Bullock took the wherewithal to contact us and volunteer to publish this newsletter. Ken is a veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm is the youngest member of our team and the only one that didn't serve in Vietnam. We invite you younger readers to get involved with this great group. Call, write, or email. Join us in a Zoom meeting. The more the merrier.

We would all like to thank Bob Brahm, John Murphy, Bill Stucker, LTC Williams, CSM Barthel, MAJ Klein, Cpt Geddings, and the members of the First Squadron First Cavalry who contributed their time and energy to make the reunion a great experience.

**John Lessick**  
President - 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association

204 S. BRANDON AVE. • CELINA OH 45822 • [WWW.1-1CAV.ORG](http://WWW.1-1CAV.ORG)



## On the Cover

Lieutenant General Retired Graves and Major Mattingly chatting at the 2021 reunion in El Paso. On Friday, November 5th, 2021 the association toured Fort Bliss and a hosted visit with the currently active 1/1 cavalry troopers.

### **The 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry Association, Inc.**

204 S. Brandon Ave  
Celina OH 45822

[www.1-1Cav.org](http://www.1-1Cav.org)  
[membership@1-1cav.org](mailto:membership@1-1cav.org)

### **Officers**

**John Lessick** - President  
**Leon Franke** - 1st Vice President  
**John Murphy** - 2nd Vice President  
**Bill Stucker** - Secretary  
**Bob Brahm** - Treasurer  
**Ken Bullock** - Editor

### **Terry Babler** - Founder

Served: A Troop, 2nd Platoon., 1970  
To Fiddler's Green 28 April 2015



Scan with your smart phone QR/ barcode code reader or camera app to sign up/renew online.



## **36TH Annual Winterfest** January 13-16, 2022

This is the only veterans/patriotic festival held in the middle of winter anywhere in the U.S.  
New Glarus is a Swiss town that is just S/W of Madison, Wisconsin.

**Hope to see everyone at Winterfest**  
<http://www.wivietnamvets.org/Winter.htm>



# Minutes of Membership Business Meeting

First Squadron, First Cavalry  
Veterans Association

Bill Stucker, Secretary

November 6, 2021  
Wyndam Airport Hotel,  
El Paso Texas

**Call to Order:** The official Business Meeting of the First Squadron, First Cavalry Veterans Association was called to order at 1000, by Association President John Lessick.

**Opening:** Sergeant at Arms John Murphy led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Charles Klutts followed with the opening prayer.

**Minutes of the last General Meeting:** The Secretary read the Minutes of the August 10, 2019 meeting in St Louis MO. Gary Westrick moved to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Leon Franke. Motion passed.

**President's Report:** President John Lessick rendered his report on the status of the Association. He commented that the favorable hotel no-minimum on rooms clause in the contract with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc allowed us to proceed with the Reunion with less risk of financial shortfall, despite reduced attendance.

- President Lessick reviewed the events of the last 11 years since he assumed the office from Past President John Murphy in 2010 at the Chicago Reunion. President Lessick discussed that our emphasis had shifted from relationship with the Americal Division Veterans

Association to conducting stand alone Squadron reunions, beginning with 2011 in Las Vegas. Later reunions were conducted with the Active Duty Squadron in 2013 and 2021 in El Paso, and further stand alone reunions were conducted in Florida, Washington DC and St Louis MO. Some attempt was made to join in with the 1st Armored Division Veterans Association with limited success. The 1st AD Assn schedule and agenda did not match our needs, so there has yet to be a full scale official Reunion conducted with the 1st AD ASSN.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bob Brahm rendered his report:

- The Association treasury (bank account) is sound at this time. Some expenses for the Reunion, particularly for our distinguished guests from the Squadron to attend the Banquet, will be absorbed by the general fund. Otherwise the reunion expenses will be paid largely by registration fees from the attendees plus some generous donations from members.
- The impact of dues and Newsletter expenses was discussed. The dues supporting the Newsletter and administrative expenses had been adequate until recently. However with increases in US Postal Service mailing fees, plus general inflation, expenses are beginning to exceed the annual revenues from membership dues. Presently, membership dues are the primary source of income for the Association. A dues increase was to be an issue of discussion later during the meeting.
- Currently 291 members are carried on the roles. Some have expired but are retained for a 3 year grace period as determined by previously established policy. Twelve will be dropped from the membership roles if not reinstated shortly. 279 members are considered to be in good standing at this time.

**Newsletter Editor, Ken Bullock:** Ken discussed several issues regarding formatting, (color versus black & white), printing, and cost factors for various options depending what the Membership prefers.

**Membership Dues Structure:** Bob Brahm made a motion to raise the annual member dues to \$20 and the 5 year rate (if still offered) to \$ 90. Leon Franke seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

The anticipated additional revenue would be \$1,000 to \$1,300 annually. Leon Franke stated that if the increase proves to be inadequate to cover increasing expenses, perhaps an additional \$5 increase could be installed later. The Board of Directors has authority to act on dues structures if necessary.



**NOTE:** The Association has not increased the dues fee structure from the original \$15 since the beginning of the Association in the mid 1990s. Several members present commented that an annual dues of \$20 or \$25 would likely not be a problem for most members.

Discussion related to Dues structure:

1. General Graves remarked that increased membership numbers is key. The Active Duty Squadron represents the greatest opportunity.
2. Ed Sanders commented on the need to recognize donors who contribute to the Association fund.
3. Ken Bullock remarked that he could include donations in the Dragoon Newsletter and that possibly it could be addressed in the Association Facebook page.

**Membership Committee:** Treasurer Bob Brahm volunteered to chair a Membership Committee. Those volunteering to serve on the Committee include: Bob Brahm, Gary Westrick, Ken Bullock, and John Murphy.

**New Business: Election of Officers:**

- Bill Stucker nominated John Lessick for the office of President. John Murphy seconded.
- Bob Brahm nominated Leon Franke for First Vice President. Ken Bullock seconded.
- Bill Stucker nominated John Murphy for Second Vice President. Dan Guida seconded.
- John Lessick nominated Bill Stucker for Secretary. Bob Brahm seconded.
- Leon Franke nominated Bob Brahm for Treasurer. Bob Garrott seconded.

A call for any additional nominations was made. Hearing none, a motion was made to accept that the slate of officers be approved by acclamation. General Graves seconded.

A call for the vote was made and the slate of officers was passed as per the nominations stated above.

In accordance with the Association By-Laws, the elected officers comprise the Board of Directors of the Association.

- Appointed Officers: The President had previously appointed Ken Bullock to the Newsletter Editor position. Ken will continue in the position and is doing an outstanding job. The remaining previously appointed officers will remain in place for the next term unless otherwise announced by the President at a later date. Whether John Murphy will continue to serve as the Sergeant at Arms simultaneously with 2nd VP will be determined at a later date.
- Future Reunion Site: The discussion was opened for site and date selection of the next reunion/and official membership business meeting, recommended to be conducted in 2023. A number of potential sites were mentioned and discussed to varying extent, including: Las Vegas NV, Washington DC (or other location

on East Coast), Fort Hood TX, New Orleans LA, Kansas City MO, Branson MO, Chicago IL, West Point, Gettysburg PA, Frontier Days (Ft Dodge Iowa), Dodge City KS, & Reno NV.

We believe that the Americal Div ASSN will conduct a reunion in Reno in 2023, but dates have not been announced. Bob Brahm cautioned to keep in mind activities and attractions for the spouses in selection of Reunion locations.

**Reunion Committee:** A committee was appointed to research options for the next reunion, targeted for 2023, and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors and the membership. The target for action is to conduct research, develop options/alternatives, and report recommendations to the President and Board. President Lessick stated the recommendations would be published in the Dragoon Newsletter, soliciting feedback from the membership prior to a decision.

Those agreeing to serve on the Reunion Committee were:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dan Guida    | 5. John Murphy  |
| 2. Ken Bullock  | 6. Bill Stucker |
| 3. John Lessick | 7. Bob Brahm    |
| 4. Leon Franke  |                 |

- Possible 2022 Gathering: Some discussion was conducted regarding a possible "mini-reunion" (not the Official reunion and business meeting) in Washington DC. There is a precedent for gathering in DC every 5 years for an official or unofficial Reunion. Usually has been around Veterans Day, in conjunction with 5 year anniversaries of the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial ("The Wall"). A number of our East Coast veterans might choose to attend that venue, as well as other members. No formal motion or vote was made, but President Lessick and John Murphy will look into the possibilities to determine interest and feasibility to make it a "Gathering / Event" for those Troopers that might be interested in attending. We believe the Americal Association will be conducting their annual reunion in DC in August 2022. Those dates do not match for those interested in being in DC for Veterans Day.

**Good of the Order:**

1. General Graves: Spoke about the changing Army concepts of Combined Arms Battalions (Light and Heavy) which may impact on the configuration and TOE of the 1/1 Cavalry in the future.
2. Discussion of how to maintain contact with the 1/1 Cav at Ft Bliss. Our efforts to do so are essential to the future of the Association.

**Closing:** Sergeant at Arms Murphy led the closing prayer.

**Adjourned:** A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Bullock. Dan Guida seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1200 hours.



# 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association



**Application for Membership or Renewal**  
e-mail: [membership@1-1cav.org](mailto:membership@1-1cav.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates served: \_\_\_\_\_ Where served: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/platoon: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPLETE WHAT APPLIES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Associate member

Same Address: \_\_\_\_\_ New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Scan with your smart phone QR/  
barcode code reader or camera app  
to sign up/renew online.

Please submit this application with check.  
Make checks payable to: **1/1 CAV Association**  
1 year for \$20.00 OR 5 years for \$90.00.

**Mail to:**  
1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association  
c/o Bob Brahm  
7420 North Mercer Way  
Mercer Island, Washington, 98040

Roster of all Members. hard copy cost \$4.00

THE MOST BATTLE HONORED UNIT IN THE UNITED  
STATES ARMY

1<sup>ST</sup> UNITED STATES CAVALRY



FIRST SQUADRON



1<sup>ST</sup> REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS

ORGANIZED 1833