

# **Hill 4-11**

## **Vietnam Veterans Association**

**Founded 1984**

**October 2004 Newsletter**

### **2004 REUNION IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

By Don Duell

Did you enjoy your stay at the Renaissance Downtown Atlanta Hotel? Did you have fun in the hospitality room that the Renaissance provided? Did you find the Grey Line tour of Atlanta interesting? Did you find the banquet one of the best we have had in years?

Amy and I answer absolutely yes to all questions.

Thanks to Gene and Debbie Brown and all their hard work, the Hill 4-11 Association enjoyed another successful reunion. We had a great time and Gene and Debbie's efforts are appreciated.

The Renaissance Hotel, in Downtown Atlanta was comfortable, clean, and convenient to all the locations we visited. I especially enjoyed the hospitality room at the end of the downstairs hallway that provided us privacy and a hallway furnished with seating that allowed the room to spill over when story telling reached fever pitch.

Those of us that took the Grey Line Bus Trip received much more than expected. The bus passed every notable site in Atlanta and the driver described the former Olympic stadiums, the Atlantic Braves Ballpark, and every major public and private structure in the downtown area. The bus stopped to allow us to visit the following :

Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone With The Wind*, residence was an enjoyable stop. We learned among other things that Margaret was a cousin of Doc Holiday of the Gun Fight at the OK Coral fame. In addition, old Doc was the model for the *Gone With The Wind* character, Ashley Wilkes.

At the Kennesaw Mountain Battle Ground and museum we experienced a large amazing painting of the Battle of Atlanta. The painting encircled the room and the theater revolved to allow the tour guide to describe the battle that resulted in General Sherman's capture of the city.

Kennesaw Mountain battle ground also served as the site for our memorial service during which Dr. Jimmy R. Allen provided a eulogy for our fallen friends and comrades including recently departed Col. Les Stottle, John Walker, and Art Cammaressi.

During the Coca Cola Corporation Tour we discovered that coke is flavored differently for different cultures throughout the world. After tasting several samples I realized clearly that our sense of favor is not the most bizarre.

The area surrounding Martin Luther King Museum and Ebenezer Baptist Church National Park was one of the founding cradles of the civil rights movement. The nonviolent movement headed by Dr. King profoundly changed society and reformed government. Amy and I found that the original church building is now a national museum. Visitors can sit in the pews and hear recordings of Martin Luther King's original Sunday morning sermons.

We ended our reunion with the traditional banquet dance and 50/50 raffle drawing. This years banquet was one of the best we've had. The banquet room was located on the top floor of the Renaissance Hotel and allowed us an exciting view of downtown Atlanta through windows that extended from the floor to the ceiling. We had the surprise entertainment of a thunder storm. The food was great.

In conclusion, I must extend a thank you to all of our member families from Renee Knopp, the winner of our raffle. Renee is a young women and co-worker who recently married and bought a home. Like most young couples, Renee and her husband, found that owning a house has some surprise expenses and the raffle dollars came as a helpful relief.

It was a pleasure seeing you all again. Thank you Gene and Debbie for a wonderful reunion. We are looking forward to having everyone come to the 2006 reunion in Branson, Missouri

#### **HILL 4-11 VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS WHO CAME TO ATLANTA**

Dale Arnos  
Woodburn, IN

Jeff Baden  
Alpharetta, GA

Dan & Pam Barrett  
Evansville, IN

Gene & Debbie Brown  
Lawanda Brown  
Christie Brown  
Brandon McClain  
Covington, GA

Marty & Pat Buys  
Centennial, CO

Johnny Caldwell  
Dallas, TX

Jim & Carol Coe  
Gainesville, FL

Bill & Kathy Conklin  
Butler, PA

Nolan & Esther Cross  
Ravenna, OH

Louis Courchain  
Clarkston, GA

Mike & Sue Dankert  
Lansing, MI

Jerry & Lois Dinkel  
Great Bend, KS

Don & Amy Duell  
Amherst, OH

Ed Dyer  
San Antonio, TX

George & Ida Mae Ellis  
El Paso, TX

Ed Grabowski Rutland, VT	Owen & Cindy Harding W/ Bryan/Amy/Joe Muskogee, OK	George & Sue Hardman West Point, UT
Glyn & Sherrie Haynie W/David & Tarie Haynie & Kiersten. Wayne & Dolores Haynie Bryan & Aysha Haynie Cedar Park, TX	John & Stephanie Henyan Cordova, IL	Dick & Debbie Hill Kent, OH
Howard & Sharon Hobart Chattanooga, TN	Jim Isom Raytown, MO	James Ivester Atlanta, GA
Gary Koppen Gladstone, OR	Ed Lemberger Wever, IA	Dale & Linda McKinney Sioux City, IA
Michael McQueen Brandon, FL	Mickey Morgan W/ Mun & Kim Clarkesville, TN	Silas & Pam Morgan Tallahassee, FL
Robert Mushtare & Marian Warren Rochester, NY	Ed & Nancy Newton Zanesville, OH	Thomas Owens Doraville, GA
Jerry Parker Hickory, NC	Dwight & Rebecca Peirson Urbana, OH	Tom & Tima Petty Oklahoma City, OK
Don & Nancy Prochasko David City, NE	Kermit & Mary Reynolds Ona, WV	Sam & Carol Rice Toulon, IL
Doug Rompf & Kim Kambic Somonauk, IL	Louis Rowland Fayetteville, AR	David Shea Richmond, VA
Craig & Linda Smith Worland, WY	Greg & Denise Smith Batavia, IL	Hank Snyder & Linda Snyder Raleigh, NC
Glen & Nina Suttles & Kari Chestefield, IL	Lou Tarantino Dallas, TX	Frank & Magie Terry Jackson, MS

John Gary & Frances Thomas  
Southport, NC

Jim & Joanne Vitale  
Williamstown, NJ

Brenda Walker  
Haymarket, VA

Bill & Joyce Walsh  
Atlanta, GA

Bobby Wheeler  
Columbus, GA

Charlie & Rose Wood  
Goldsboro, NC

Gary & Mary Ann Young  
Ozark, MO

Paul Avallone (Journalist)  
(non-member)

### **50/50 RAFFLE**

The winning raffle ticket was sold by Don Duell to one of his co-workers. Renee Knopp of Painesville, Ohio received \$523.00. Proceeds from the raffle helped us to host the reunion without using money from the general fund. Our next 50/50 raffle will start in the spring of 2006 to raise money for our '06 reunion.

### **REUNION '06**

Our 2006 reunion will be hosted by Gary and Mary Ann Young in Branson, Missouri. Gary and Mary Ann are already at work making plans. Dates are July 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2006. Headquarters hotel is the Raddisson Branson. A special rate of \$78.00 + Tax has been negotiated. This very special rate is valid for three days prior to the reunion and three days following the reunion. You can make your reservation anytime, just contact the hotel at 1-800-333-3333 or (417) 335-5657. You can also email your reservation at [www.radisson.com/bransonmo](http://www.radisson.com/bransonmo). Be sure to mention you are with the Hill 4-11 Veterans Association to obtain the special rate.

### **REUNION '08**

Our 2008 reunion will be hosted by John & Stephanie Henyan in Moline, Illinois. Located on the Mississippi River, Moline along with Rock Island, Illinois, Davenport & Bettendorf, Iowa, make up the quad cities. In addition to numerous museums and historical sites to visit, there is river boat gambling for those who want to try their luck. (Reunion dates to be determined.)

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

In addition to selecting sites for the 2006 & 2008 reunions, a number of other items were addressed at the business meeting held Saturday afternoon in Atlanta.

Due to the untimely death of John Walker, it was necessary to fill the Vice-presidents office. Ed Dyer (San Antonio, 2002 reunion host), was elected to the position. Rather than complete the two years remaining in John Walker's term, it was decided to have Ed Dyer's term commence at the 2004 reunion and run for a full four year term. That way, the president and vice-president's terms will be staggered. The president and treasurer positions will expire with the 2006 reunion, the vice-president with the 2008 reunion.



## **E-MAIL DATABASE**

Skip Fahel has volunteered to establish an email database of association members. If you have Internet capabilities please contact him at EQF15@aol.com or via mail at 6513 Deer Lake Court Sarasota, FL 34240.

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

The membership agreed to establish a Life Membership option. Effective January 1, 2005 members may elect to purchase a life membership for a one time fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), instead of paying annual dues of \$25. Life Members will receive a deluxe membership card to indicate their life membership status.

## **HILL 4-11 HISTORY UPDATES**

Steve Lutz (B Co. Medic 1971) has volunteered to expand the Hill 4-11 history. Incidents in the history are listed briefly by date with limited information. There are association members who were present when these incidents took place who can fill in the gaps and flesh out the story. Please check your copy of the history and send your recollections to Steve. Adding your memories of the incidents you experienced will help create a history that will be informative and accurate, and also pay tribute to our fallen brothers. Contact Steve Lutz at: 726 Flamingo Avenue Portage, MI 61016-9446.

## **LIFE MEMBER NUMBER ONE**

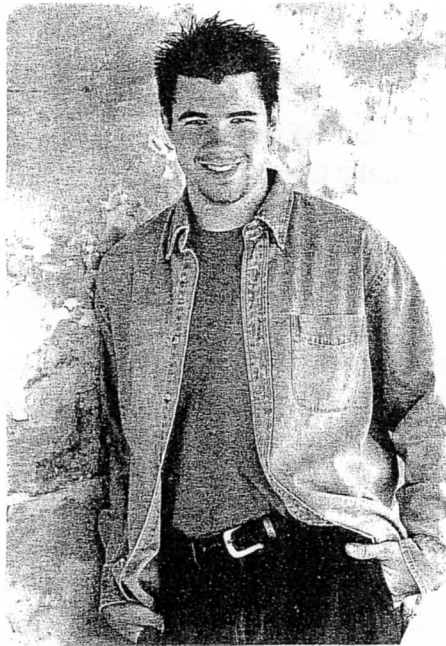
Several members thought it would be appropriate that the first life membership should go to the first commander of Hill 4-11. These anonymous members contributed the life membership fee on behalf of Col. George Ellis. The announcement at the Saturday evening banquet drew enthusiastic applause. Congratulations George, LIFE MEMBER # 1.

## **LESLIE J. STOTTLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

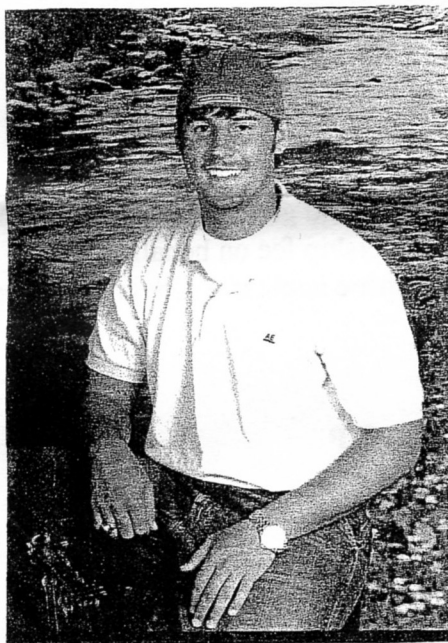
The scholarship committee has selected three students to receive \$500 scholarships for the 2004-05 academic year.



Jeffrey Coe, son of Jim & Carol Coe, Gainesville, Florida. Jeffrey is nearing the completion of his studies at Johnson and Wales Culinary University in Charleston, South Carolina. Upon graduation, Jeffrey will earn an associates degree in Baking and Pastry Arts, and a Bachelor's Degree in Food Service Management. His career plans are to work in his field and to eventually own and operate his own Bakery and Cafe.



Gregory J. Stottle, Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, grandson of the late Col. Leslie J. Stottle. Gregory is a 19 year old Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Firefighter attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) pursuing a Bachelors degree in Networking. Gregory's career plans are to work for an Internet service provider, in an industrial plant or corporation looking to expand their networking capabilities and services. Additional plans include advancing his emergency medical skills and obtaining paramedic certification at Harrisburg Area Community College. In addition to his studies, Gregory is active with several Pennsylvania fire companies and emergency medical services.

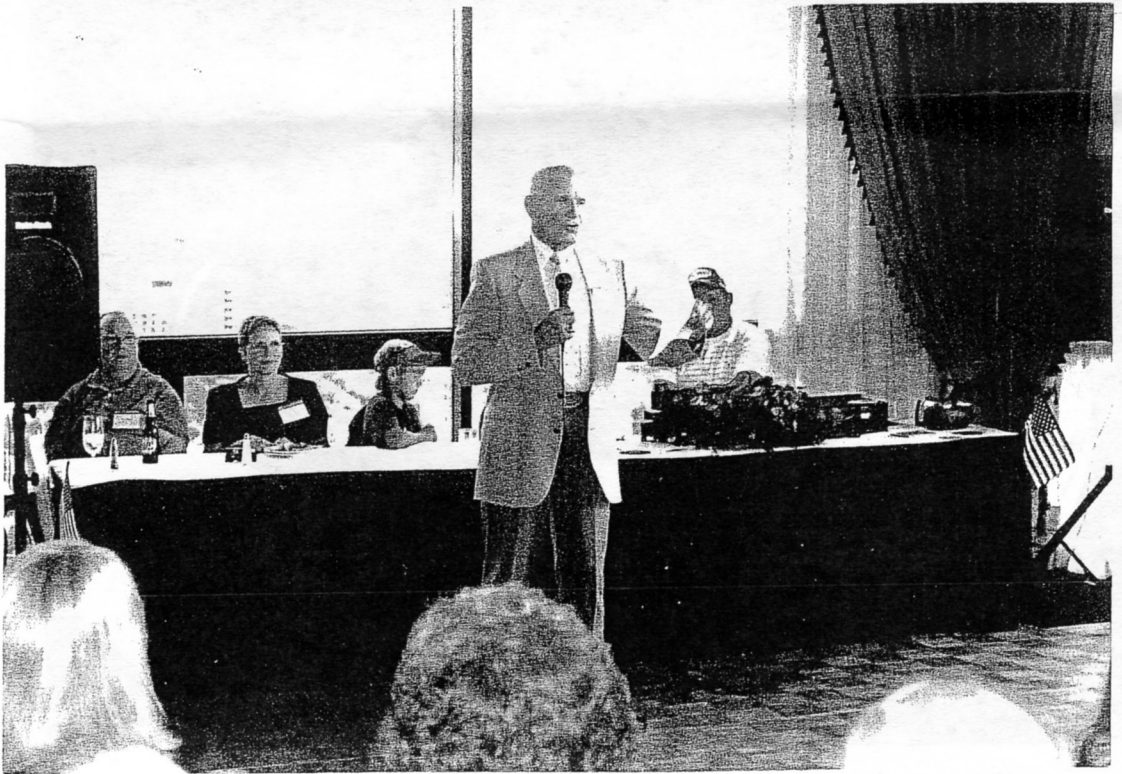


Joseph M. Freeman, son of Paul & Tessie Freeman, Newellton, Louisiana. Joseph is a student at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana pursuing a degree in graphic design. Upon graduation Joseph plans a career in communication design or consumer marketing.

All of this year's scholarship winners expressed their appreciation to the Hill 411 Association for the financial assistance to continue their studies. The Association extends to each of them best wishes and good luck in the future. We are confident they will succeed in their chosen fields.



Nolan Cross (Left) talks with Journalist Paul Avallone (Right)



Colonel Ellis addresses the members at the banquet.

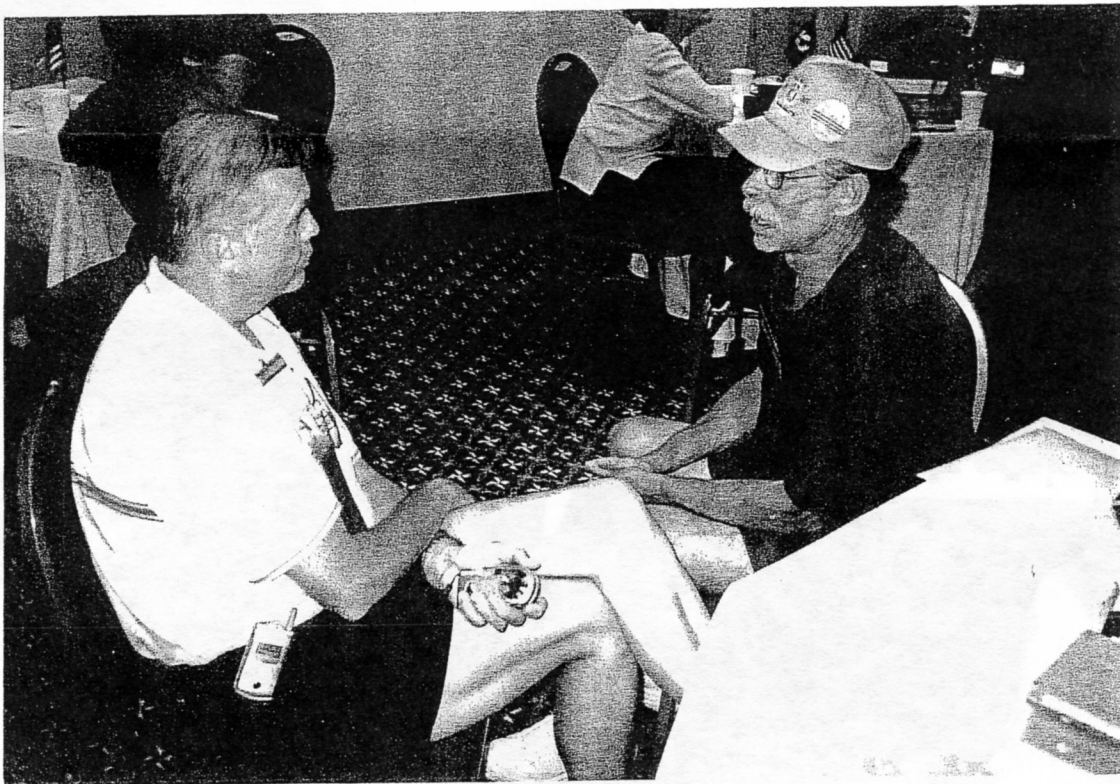


## Dues Payment and History Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_  
Vietnam Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Vietnam Service \_\_\_\_\_

Hill 4-11 Annual Dues.....\$25.00  
Hill 4-11 Life Member Dues .....\$150.00  
Scholarship Fund Contrabution .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Copies of Hill 4-11 History 2nd Edition @\$17.50 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

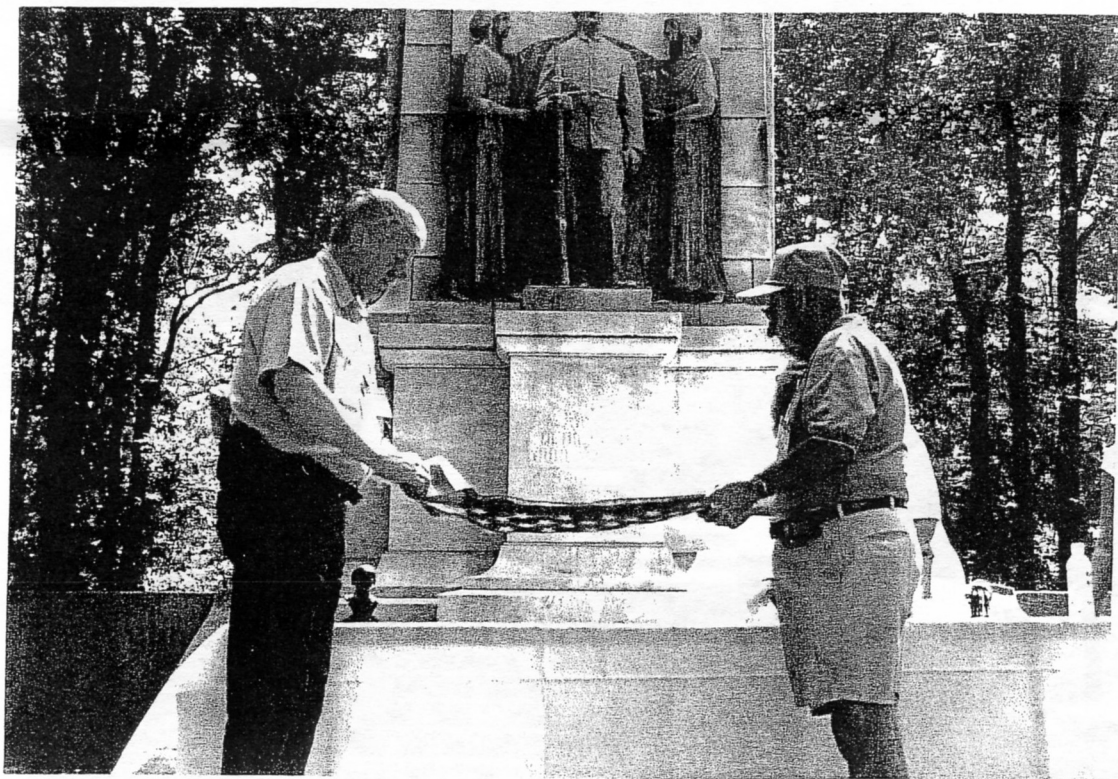
Make checks payable to Hill 4-11 Association  
Mail to: Dick Hill 630 Woodside Drive Kent, Ohio 44240-2664



President Greg Smith (Left) and Past President Tom Petty (Right)

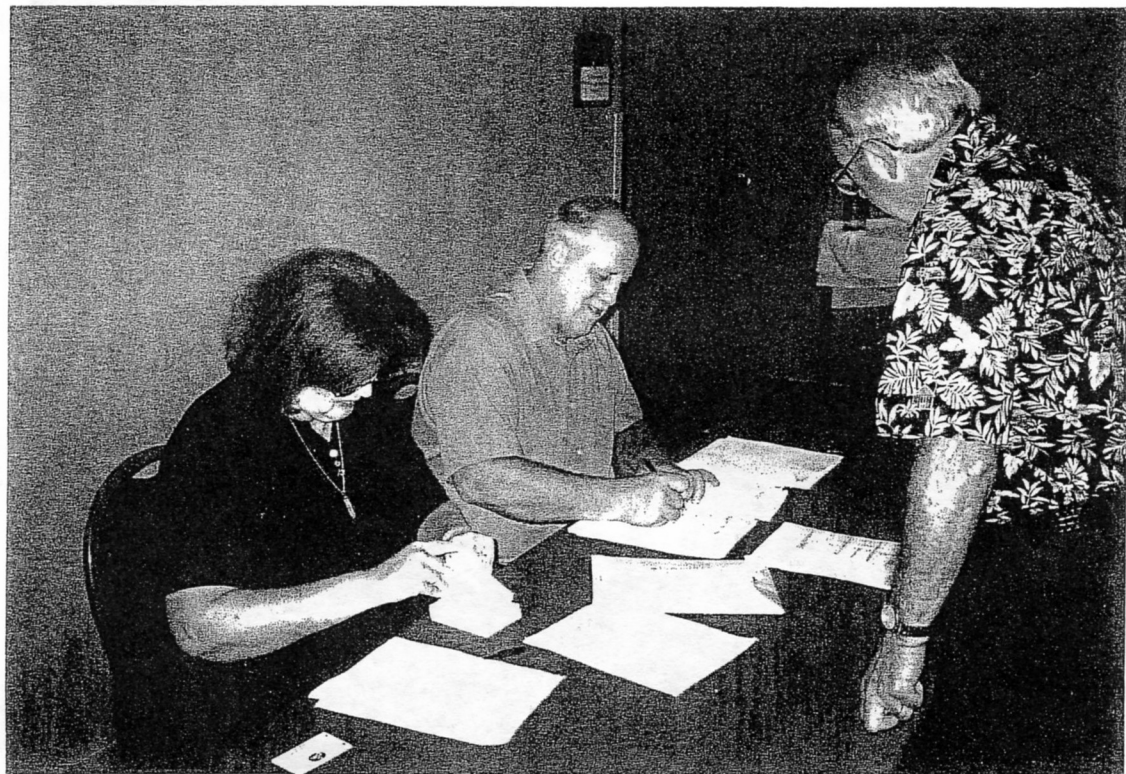


Delta Veterans at the Banquet

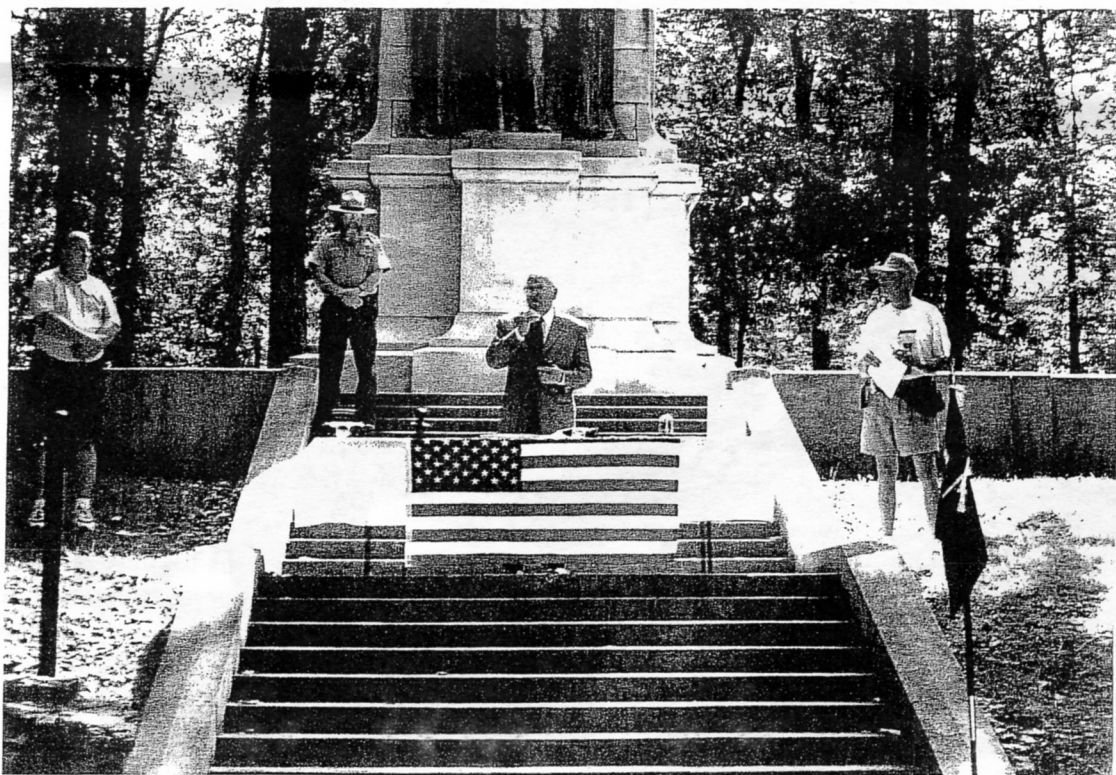


Dick Hill (Left) and Nolan Cross (Right) fold the Flag after the Memorial Service





Hosts Gene and Debbie Brown check-in Huey Fautheree at the banquet.



Dr. Jimmy Allen delivers the message at the Memorial Service

## FROM THE COMMANDER

To all members of Hill 4-11:

Ida Mae and I had a fantastic time at the Hill 411 reunion in Atlanta. Debbie and Gene Brown put on an outstanding reunion. They did this in a quiet and efficient manner that is seldom seen: however, has become the norm for sponsors of Hill 4-11 reunions. Thank you Debbie and Gene!!

The more I see our members in action it reinforces my belief that I served with the best of the best the Army had to offer. Colonel Jack Tredwell, the Commanding Officer of the 11th Inf. Bde., ranked the 3rd Bn. 1st Inf. as number one in the Brigade. General Lloyd Ramsey, Commanding General of the Americal Division ranked the 3rd BN. 1st INF. as number one in the Division. He stated as far as he was concerned the best battalion in the army!! This ranking was only possible because of the men in the battalion and those that supported us. You gave 110% and as we all know too many gave all....their lives. This country of ours is the best in the world because you served your country during it's greatest turmoil and still serving it in communities throughout the country. I am so proud of you, all of you, whether we served the 3rd Bn. 1st. Inf at the same time or not.

I would now like to comment on the efforts physically and/or emotionally individuals overcame to be with us in Atlanta. First, Brenda Walker the wife of John Walker, Hill 411 vice-president since 2002. John died suddenly at home on January 25, 2004 with Brenda at his side. Due to scheduling difficulties at Arlington National Cemetery John could not be buried until March 18, 2004. John was buried with full military honors, and the best I have ever attended. Brenda, told me then that they intended to attend Hill 411 reunion in Atlanta in July, that John had made reservations for before he died. So in less that six months from the day John died, Brenda was in Atlanta representing herself and John. Way to go Brenda.

Next is the physical effort of Owen Harding. His efforts remind me of individuals who are wounded in combat refusing medical aid until they defeated the enemy and the mission completed. Owen suffering from kidney failure, would not let this physical problem keep him and his family from traveling from Oklahoma to Atlanta for the reunion. Owen you truly exhibited giving the 110% effort I mentioned earlier. Owen you have given all of us an example to emulate!!

Last but not least, I want to thank those of Hill 411 Assn. who made it possible for me to be issued the first life time member of The Hill 411 Assn. I am honored and humbled by the special recognition. I know that I don't deserve it for there are too many of you that have worked so hard to form Hill 411 Assn. and to make it stronger reunion by reunion. It is the greatest honor for me and I thank you.

I will now close by enclosing a copy of a letter and poem Terry Weeks sent me in 2000. I think it points out how much family and loved ones have supported and found out so much more about these dedicated veterans of the Vietnam conflict and proud members of Hill 411 Assn.

I remain "Always First"      George Ellis

(enclosure, letter from Sara Rompf to past president Terry Weeks, date unknown)

Terry,

The following poem was written by Cassie Casner, age 14. Cassie is the step-daughter of Doug Rompf of Ottawa, ILL.

She wrote this poem about a month after the '85 reunion in St. Louis and after hearing "Douggie Daddy" talk about the men and new friends he was with in St. Louis. Also that these men were in Vietnam and on Hill 411 with him.

To her this poem is his reunion feeling through her ears and eyes.

Thank you,  
Sara Rompf

### **Not Forgotten**

by Cassie Casner

We were taught to kill  
As we survived on the hill  
It is not quite fair  
For those who are left there  
We could surely never replace  
Those of our own human race  
On this sad but happy night  
To remember who paid the cost  
And to those many who lost.

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From:  
Dick Hill  
Treasurer  
Hill 4-11 Assoc.  
630 Woodside Drive  
Kent, Ohio 44240 - 2664