

Hill 4-11 Association



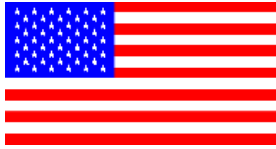
In Touch



3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 1, 2005



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Charlie Wood
webmaster@hill4-11.org



Former client celebrates 10-year anniversary on Compass Staff

By Julie Glanville

Vietnam veteran Bill Middleton at one time struggled with addiction and homelessness, moving from cheap hotel to cheap hotel to stay off the streets.

It was a long journey to where he is today. Bill now works as a computer specialist at Compass Community Services, celebrating ten years employed with the same agency that helped him in his recovery so long ago.

Bill first accessed Compass' services in 1982. His counselor provided him with support services, food, and a bus ticket to return home to Kentucky, which he now says was a vital step in his recovery.

Clean and sober, Bill returned to San Francisco and began to work part-time as a custodian. When Compass Community Services opened its transitional housing program, Clara House, ten years ago, Bill was hired as Clara House's full-time maintenance person.

During his past ten years at Compass, Bill developed computer management skills and took on more and more responsibilities. He now splits

his time between acting as the agency's Management Information Services Assistant, and the part-time Site Manager at Clara House. He is a beloved and integral member of our staff.

"The reason I'm still here is because I love the people I work with, and I love knowing I'm helping people," he says. "It has been a joy working at Compass."



Former client Bill Middleton once struggled with addiction and homelessness. Now he works as a computer specialist at Compass.

Continued on Page 3

Old Warriors Meet After 35 Years

By Charlie Wood

On May 12, 1969 near the village Xuan Thanh and about 4 miles south of Duc Pho, Hank Snyder was seriously wounded while serving with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry. Hank and Charlie Company ran into a battalion-sized force of the NVA. After the initial contact, Bravo Company and E Troop moved in to provide support.

During the encounter with the enemy, several members of Charlie Company were wounded and killed. On that day, Hank was waiting with other wounded comrades to be med-evac'ed out. But because enemy fire was so intense, the med-evac choppers could not safely land and had to turn back.

Hank had almost given up hope of surviving and being rescued that day when then LTC George Ellis, Battalion Commander, instructed the pilot of his Command & Control chopper to land in the fire zone to re-supply Charlie Company with ammunition. At the same time, LTC George Ellis' chopper picked up the wounded that were nearby. Hank happened to be close enough to make it to the chopper before it took off.

Hank and several wounded soldiers made it home because of what LTC Ellis did that day. LTC Ellis



Colonel George V. Ellis and Hank Snyder

was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions in directing fire on the enemy.

Over the years, Hank had always wanted to meet and personally thank the man who unknowingly saved his life that day. Hank made the pilgrimage to the 2004 reunion in Atlanta in hopes of meeting Colonel George Ellis. It was Hank's first attendance to a Hill 4-11 Association reunion. And, what a sweet one it was for him because he finally was able to embrace the man that saved his life 35 years ago.

Lifetime Memberships

By Dick Hill

The newest lifetime members of the Hill 4-11 Association are: George Ellis, George Ambrose, Mickey Stottle, Gary Barnes, Brenda Walker, Ed Grabowski, Greg Smith, Louis Bohn, Skip Fabel, and Bob Frank.

Lifetime memberships to the Hill 4-11 Associations are \$150.00. With your lifetime membership you will receive a special membership card and never have

to pay annual dues again.

To apply for your lifetime membership, send your \$150.00 check payable to the Hill 4-11 Association to Dick Hill, Treasurer. Refer to the return address of this newsletter.

Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship

By Dick Hill

The following members and friends made donations during 2004 to help fund the Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship: Victor Wakeling, Bob Frank, Skip Fahel, James Vitale, Ed Grabowski, Mickey Stottle, George Hardman, Greg Smith, David Shea, Howard Hobart, Robert Yawn, Douglas Frederick, Ed Dyer, Jerry Comer, David Ekberg, Bruce Morton, Doug Rompf, Gary Young, David Wenzel, Lee Taylor, George Ambrose, David Milstead, James Isom, George Ellis, Bar Delk, Louis Courchaine, Willie Williams, Richard Lawson, Sandor Tomasini, Robert Mushtare, Larry Finch, Glen McFarlane, Martin Buys, John Kuelbs, Glen Haynie, Ted Niess, Hank Snyder,

Louis Arauz, Ida Mae Ellis, Jerry Comer, Robert Miller, Louis Tarantino, and Dick Hill.

The deadline for applying for a 2005 scholarship is July 1, 2005. Descendants of Hill 4-11 Association members are eligible to apply.

Applications for the Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship can be obtained by writing to Jerry Dinkel, Scholarship Chairman:

Jerry Dinkel
3013 26th Street
Great Bend, KS 67503-7146
gjdinkel@ruraltel.net

VA's Guide on Agent Orange Claims, Compensation, and Pensions

Visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/AOno3.htm for information on how to file a claim associated with Agent Orange.

You can also get a free physical examination at your nearest VA Medical Center. This is called the Agent Orange Registry Exam. This exam consists of four parts: an exposure history, a medical history, laboratory tests and a physical exam of those body sys-

tems most commonly affected by toxic chemicals. This exam might detect diseases which can be treated more effectively the earlier they are diagnosed. You may also be entitled to free ongoing medical treatment at a VA medical facility. Information on VA health care is available at www.va.gov/vbs/health/index.htm. A listing of all VA medical facilities is available at www.va.gov/pubaff/fedben/99fedben.pdf.

Bill Middleton—continued from Page 1

Bill Middleton served with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry during the Vietnam War.

This article was published in the Fall/Winter 2004 issue of the newsletter for Compass Community Services, San Francisco, CA and reprinted here with their permission and with thanks to Julie Glanville, Community Outreach Coordinator.

Compass Community Services is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter and critical services to San Francisco's homeless and very low-income families. Twenty percent of Compass' staff were once homeless, and use their experiences to help current clients stabilize their families and achieve self-sufficiency. For more information, please go to www.compass-sf.org.

2004 Reunion Photos



TAPS

Larry Woodham passed away at home in his sleep on December 31, 2004.

Larry served with E Troop, 1st Cavalry and was a driver for the "Glory Stompers" armored personnel carrier (APC). He was with E Troop when Hill 4-11 was originally established in July of 1969 and was on the hill during the night of the first sapper attack.

Photograph provided by Hank Vasil.



2006 Reunion Slated for Branson, MO

By Greg Smith

For our 18th reunion, we are bound for the "Live Music Capital of the World." Nestled in the hills of the Ozark mountain country, Branson is a unique blend of neon and nature.

Our hosts, Gary and Mary Ann Young, have us headquartered in the Radisson Hotel Branson which is situated in the heart of Branson's Music Theater District. Radisson Hotel Branson hosted the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's 2003 Annual Convention. One of the hotel's restaurants is named the Veteran's Cafe. First class accommodations and veteran friendly, we couldn't ask for anything more!



RADISSON HOTEL BRANSON

120 S. Wildwood Drive • Branson, MO 65616

(417) 335-5767 • Fax: (417) 335-7979

www.radisson-hotel-branson.com

Look for details about the 2006 Reunion in future newsletters or go to hill4-11.org.

Americal Division Field Artillery Reunion WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans

The Americal Division Field Artillery reunion is scheduled for April 26-28, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Express located on US 17 South, 1943 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407.

For Reservations call 1-800-465-4329. Use group code A.M.E. The deadline for the group rate of \$87.00 + tax was February 18, 2005. For more information contact:

Robert J. Miller
67 Gannett Rd
Farmington, NY 14425-8912
585-924-5296



Hill 4-11 Photograph by Dave Eckberg

Emails



Letters

The following is a letter of apology regarding the disruption of the memorial service during the 2002 Reunion:

Mrs. Huey Fautheree
14103 Oakstead
San Antonio, TX 78231-1909

2 August 2002

Dear Mrs. Fautheree:

When Mrs. Carter gave me your address today, I welcomed the opportunity to write this letter. I owe you and the members of the Hill 4-11 Association an apology for my inexcusable error on 20 July. I interrupted your memorial service because I mistook it for a worship service. As a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, you probably know that purely religious functions are not permitted at the Alamo for the same reasons that political functions are not permitted. But I would have known who you were and what you were doing if I had only read the event calendar more carefully that morning.

I realized my mistake shortly after the incident occurred, and have been thinking about it ever since with extreme regret. I understand how offensive it was to have the memorial service interrupted for no valid reason.

What was lost that afternoon can not be restored, but the Alamo would like to demonstrate its support of the Hill 4-11 Association's purpose by establishing a permanent memorial here. If you and the Association members have no objection, we will install an engraved paver for you in the patio of the historic Gallagher House. The recently renovated Gallagher House is located on the original Alamo battlefield. The white, 12 X 13-inch paver, which will stand out among the red bricks of the patio, will be engraved to honor the fallen heroes of Hill 4-11, Vietnam.

I hope you and the people who were with you on 20 July will not think of the Alamo in a negative way because of the actions of one staff member. If there is anything I can do to ensure the success of your next visit, I will gladly accommodate you in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Vince Phillips
Chief, Alamo Rangers



Emails

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2004 1:41 AM
To: webmaster@hill4-11.org
Subject: FSB Hill 4-11

Hi Charlie,

My name is Brenda Frisard. I do volunteer work getting information in order to locate men who served in the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry in Vietnam. I finally got the opportunity to go thru the website and am very impressed. It makes what I do that much more fulfilling. Keep up the good work.

Date: Sunday, January 02, 2005 1:05 AM
To: webmaster@hill4-11.org;Ffdh749@aol.com
Subject: thank you

Dear Sir--

Thanx for doing this. It's obviously a labor of love. I'm one of the ones who found you by sheer luck. Or whatever. "B",3/1,11thLIB. Aug.3,1969 til about Dec.8,1969. 11 bush, RTO.

Capt. John Kuelbs was CO. I got jungle rot on both feet, went to rear, and the Capt. said" Get a job, so I can replace you with another man. with boots on." Ended up at Long Binh Post,HHC, Special Services. Doing theater.Made a few trips back to Duc Pho with duffel bags of sox. Clean, dry sox. Since I was safe, I extende tour so upon DEROSSept. 1970, I ETS'd at the same time. Cool. The story of how I got the job in the rear will amaze you. But that's for later.

Having found the site has put names to alot of those young faces, so many years ago. Joe Holmes, whom I held while he died, Benny Young, who had a Bris during the same ambush. I've never joined VFW or any other groups. I guess most of us felt the same way, for varying reasons. My sense of you and this site is that it's for us, and it's informational and informal, no rah-rah. Count me in.

When i get to the storage area, I'll pull out my album, and scan and send the pictures I have. It should be interesting. Maybe my stuff , through you, will change another guys life the way you changed mine. Anyway , thanx again for doing this. At fiirst, it was a rough ride and some sleepless nights, but the journey has been a trip and well worth it

Lee O'Connor

Date: Monday, July 26, 2004 12:39 PM
To: webmaster@hill4-11.org
Subject: Reunion

Hi Charlie.

We really enjoyed visiting with you at the reunion. Thank you for all the good work you do with the website! It is super!

Your friends from Iowa,
Linda and Dale McKinney

From:

Hill 4-11 Association
C/O Dick Hill
630 Woodside Drive
Kent, OH 44240-2664



Jungle Warriors

We're on the Web!
hill4-11.org

To:

Hill 4-11 History and Dues Payment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Vietnam Unit: _____

Dates of Vietnam Service: _____

Annual Hill 4-11 Dues \$25.00 or Lifetime Membership \$150.00

\$ _____

Scholarship Fund Contribution

\$ _____

____ Copies of Hill 4-11 History 2nd Edition @\$17.50

\$ _____

Total \$

Please check one of the following options:

☐ I wish to receive future newsletters via email delivery.

☐ I wish to receive future newsletters via U.S. mail delivery.

Make checks payable to Hill 4-11 Association and mail to:

Hill 4-11 Association
C/O Dick Hill
630 Woodside Drive
Kent, OH 44240-2664