

Battle of Dak To, for those that fell at Hill 875

November of 1967, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and B Company 504th Military Police Battalion came together in Pleiku after the Battle of Dak To. The exact date is lost in the chill of being near to death while tending to more than a hundred of those who had recently experienced it. The impact it had on us was dark for so long but much later became intertwined with the understanding of the honor we were unknowingly given by our fallen brothers.

We had heard the rumors about the hell going on at Dak To and that the 173rd had run into some heavy shit and was taking a beating. The details were sketchy then but history bears out that it was some of the most ferocious close combat of the war. The Sky Soldiers met the enemy eyeball to eyeball on hill 875 and took it from them, sending what was left of the NVA back to Cambodia in defeat. With the enemy retreat came the horrendous task of bringing our fallen off the battlefield for the beginning of their return home.

When the CH47s headed for Pleiku, we were called upon to move our fallen from the aircraft to graves registration for the next part of their journey home. During that mind numbing ordeal of moving them from the chopper to a truck and from the truck into the morgue a bond was formed between us and those Sky Soldiers. In the moment, I doubt that thought was given to the homage that we were giving them or that we had become connected anonymously for the rest of our lives by the humbling task. Those thoughts only surfaced into the light when enough time had passed and we had matured enough to start pulling that little crate of horror out of the black hole of that night where it had been packed away out of our conscious mind. From time to time over the past 40 years I am sure that we all felt something claw at our soul and heart, something that existed in a splatter of that toxic night that had clung to each us from touch, image and smell. Some relief is taken now just knowing some of the what.

I am proud to have been of service to them but I would rather have had spent some time over many too many Ba Mui Ba’s with them at MaMa San’s.

Sky Soldiers, I SaluteYou!

Thank you for your service and welcome home brothers.

One of the M.P.s



This roll call is for those Sky Soldiers that fell at Dak To between November 20, 1967 and November 22, 1967, many fell at Hill 875. I feel that the members of this group are very likely to be those that were assisted on their journey home.

Michael Edward Adams

Louis George Washington Arnold

Gregory Charles Bauer

Bruce Martin Benzing

Neal Ira Best

David Brooks Betchel

Roy James Blackwell

Robert Tildon Bly

Harvey Lee Brown

Manfred Francis Camarote

Ernesto Soliz Cantu

Mario Alvarez Cisneros

Gary Robert Cooper

Thomas Louis Corbett

Claude Lee Crawford

Charles Richard Crews

Jack Lee Croxdale

Billy Ray Cubit

Bruce Wayne Cunningham

John D Agostino

Larry Aime D Entremont

Benjamin David De Herrera

Robert Paul Degen

Casimiro Dianda

John Micheal Dunbar

Michael Le Roy Ellis

James Cabell Farley

Michael William Ference

Angel Ramo Flores-Jimenez

James William Flynt

James Carl Frederick

Troy Alexander Galyan

Juan Manuel Garcia

Gerald Lee George

Michael Jay Gladden

Herbert Hoover Gray

Dennis Greenwald

Prelow Grissette

William Thomas Hagerty

Clarence Hall

Bobby Gene Hastings

William Allen Hawthorne

Mark Richard Hering

William Donald Herst

Aaron Kamala Hervas

William Cecil Hinkle

Thomas Pate Huddleston

Donald Iondoli

Kenneth James Jacobson

Harold James Kaufman

Michael James Kiley

Gerald Klossek

Jeffrey Wayne Koonce

Roger Allen Kros

Robert C La Vallee

Weston Joseph Langley

Roy Ronald Lee

Witold John Leszczynski

Robert William Lindgren

Carlos James Lozada **MHC**

Roger Dale Mabe

Roland Will Manuel

George Michael Mattingly

Raymond Wil Michalopoulos

Josh Cain Noah

James William Nothern

Wallace Lee Ogea

Andrew John Orosz

John Manuel Ortiz

Kenneth grant Owens

Robert Edward Paciorek

Thelbert G Page

Joseph Pannell

James Robert Patterson

Robert Charles Payne

Arnold Pinn

John L Ponting

Steven Reed Powell

Walter Donald Ray

David Richard Reynolds

Leonard Jeffrey Richards

Olis Ray Rigby

Gary Doyle Roerink

William Allen Ross

Jesse Sanchez

Robert James Sanders

Valdez Sharp

Jerome Charles Shoemaker

Jack Henry Shoop

Donald Eugene Smith

Jesse E Smith

John William Smith

Lewis Benjamin Smith

Ervin Spain

James Ronald Speller

Harry Herbert Spencer

Harry Edward Stephens

Frank Edward Stokes

Robert LeRoy Szymanski

Ernest Ray Taylor

Nathaniel Thompson

Richard W Thompson

Arthur Turner Jr

Lester Tyler

Ernesto Villarreal

Thomas Joe Wade

Richard Walker Jr

Rudolph Nathinal Ward

Charles Joseph Watters **MHC**

Earl Kennon Webb

Merrel P Whittington

Charles Edwards Willibanks

Remer Garth Williams

Lemuel Taylor Williams

John Roby Wolf

John Wesley Wooten

Ronald Wayne Young