

India Company Newsletter

July, 2010



1stMarDiv/India Co Reunion

Aug 26-29, 2010

El Tropicano Hotel
Riverwalk

San Antonio, Texas

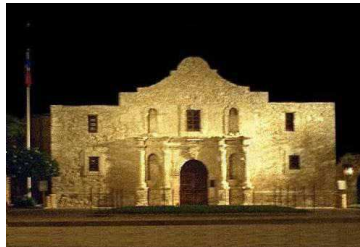
Rooms \$105/nite
Reservations
1-866-423-7814

2010 1st MarDiv/India Co. Reunion

The hotel is right on the famous River Walk. The newly renovated rooms are \$105/nite and parking is about \$10/nite. Tex Stiteler is arranging a hospitality room for India Company.

There will be 2 city tours and 2 National Museum of the Pacific War tours in picturesque Fredericksburg. The full schedule and registration forms are attached to your cover letter. The 1st Mar/Div reunion registration form and info can be accessed at <http://www.afr-reg.com/1stMarine/>

There is a lot more to see in and around San Antonio than you can cover in 4 days. If you



walk the River Walk at night, you will probably want to do it more than once. Take a day excursion to the LBJ ranch on the Pedernales River in the nearby hill country. The Alamo is within walking distance of the hotel. It takes about 1/2 day to give it a good tour. The historical tour is well worth taking.

Daniel Flavin is bringing 2 boxes of '60's C-Rations for auction. They have been stored in a house at 70 degrees.



1st Recon/India Co. 5 Nite Cruise

Nov. 8-13, 2010

Tampa, Fla to Costa
Maya and Cozumel,
Mexico to Tampa

Contact Marcy Brown at
marcy.zenith@vacation.com

1-800-336-5355

2010 Myrtle Beach Reunion Recap

Thank you Marines and Marine families for making Myrtle Beach a great reunion. Attendance was down a little, but we all had a great time.

Adapt, Improvise, Overcome—we went to Golden Corral instead of a banquet at the hotel Friday evening; everyone filled up!

25 of our veterans attended and were accompanied by many wives, children, grandchildren and friends.

2-WWII: Billy Crabtree and Robert Gray

9-Korea: Gilbert DeLaPena, Daniel Dipierri, Al Lavine, Haskel Morrell, Lloyd Schmidt, Robert Weiss, Stan Zembrieski, Leo Roberts and Robert Malocowski.

14-Vietnam: Randy Bolden, Nat Brown, Tony Chambers, Denny Deibert, Ralph Denny, Sidney Hart, David Heisel, Paul Holm, Sherman Jones, Charlie Killough, John Miller, Ed Stiteler, Stan Villarreal, Jr, and Jack Williams.

Other Marines attending: Curt O'Brien and Daniel Killough

"Band of Brothers" Vietnam 1969-70

Nov 9-13, 2010

Best Western Iwo Jima
Hotel, Wash. D.C.

Res. 703-524-5000

Room \$99 + tax

Thank You, Denny Deibert '67-'68

TAPS



Jimmy Lee LaChapelle, Death of a Warrior

Jimmy Lee LaChapelle, age 61, passed away on April 14, 2010, after heart complications. Born in McMinnville, Oregon April 16, 1948, he was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, uncle and MARINE who dedicated his time to helping others. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Freida LaChapelle; a son, Chad LaChapelle in Australia; a daughter, Rene LaChapelle in Australia; seven grandchildren; a sister Linda Zehentner in Arizona; and his father, Frank LaChapelle in California.

A visitation and celebration of Jimmy's life was held on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at Mountcastle Funeral home, in Dale City, VA. Services were held Friday, April 23rd at Mountcastle followed by burial at Quantico National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the National Museum of the Marine Corps (877- 635-1775).

Jimmy served in 3rd Platoon, India Company in 1968 and 1969.



Jimmy and Freida LaChapelle



Refugio M. "Cook" Barela passed away on April 22, 2010 of complications from oral cancer.

He is survived by his wife, Marylu; his children Troy, Jeremy, Rebekah, Serah, Deborah, Joannah and Elizabeth and four grandchildren.

Cook served as a machine gunner in 1st Platoon, India Company in 1967 and 1968.

Cook was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico, worked the labor fields of the San Joaquin Valley, joined the United States Marine Corps, and then the Los Angeles Police Department. During his police career Cook earned a masters degree in Christian Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He became a chaplain in the LAPD. Cook retired from the LAPD and went on to become elected to the board of the Jurupa, California Unified School District. He also served as a director on the Jurupa Community Services District Board. Cook was also an accomplished professional photographer and author.



Refugio "Cook" Barela

Packages for India Company

We're sending four packages @ 28 pounds per package Among the items sent are hard candy, red vines, licorice, gum, fruit chews, gummy worms, generic handiwipes, Koolaid and Crystal Lite drink mix . We went with drink mixes that were available in individual type servings for easier distribution. Along with candy and drinks we sent 60 pair of "issue grade" socks . We don't know what these young Marines actually need, but we know they all like candy and appreciate clean socks. Our point of contact is 1st Sgt R. Clark, the current India Co. 1st Sgt. We asked him to let us know of any *specific* needs and told him we'll send whatever they ask for. *This is an ongoing operation.* Anyone else who would like to participate can send checks payable to Tom Smith to his address: PO Box 378 Pine Valley, CA 91962.





THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
Washington

The President of the United States, takes pride in presenting the
NAVY CROSS posthumously to:

PETTY OFFICER EUGENE S. HANCOCK
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism on 24 February 1969 while serving as Corpsman in Company "I", Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, in connection with operations against enemy aggressor forces in the Republic of Vietnam. With a squad from Company "I" conducting a search and destroy operation east of Highway 5 near La Chau (5) in Quang Nam Province, when the unit came under a heavy volume of small-arms, automatic-weapons, and rocket-propelled grenade fire from a concealed and well-entrenched North Vietnamese Army company and sustained several casualties, Petty Officer Hancock immediately proceeded to the assistance of three casualties, treated their wounds and, aided by his comrades, removed all three men to a position of relative safety. Upon observing a critically wounded Marine who was lying in an area dangerously exposed to the intense enemy fire, Petty Officer Hancock maneuvered across the fire-swept terrain and methodically applied tourniquets to the Marine's legs to stop the profuse bleeding. Assured of the casualty's immediate evacuation to friendly lines, Petty Officer Hancock then valiantly ran through the intense hostile fire to yet another seriously wounded comrade, but was himself mortally wounded by automatic-weapons fire before he could reach the Marine. By his heroic and inspiring efforts, Petty Officer Hancock was directly instrumental in saving the lives of four Marines. His courage, bold initiative, and selfless devotion to duty in the face of heavy enemy fire were in keeping the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,
Secretary of the Navy

India Company and 3/7 in Afghanistan

Security is tight concerning specifics on locations, operations and casualties. India Company is operating in the general area of Marjah in Helmand Province in south central Afghanistan. The province includes a fertile river valley with developed irrigation and is the prime opium poppy growing area in Afghanistan. The general mission includes providing security for shopping bazaars and for farmers so they can grow alternative crops to opium without interference from the Taliban. The Taliban rely on opium to finance a large part of their operations. Part of the mission is to provide a secure environment for the Afghan government to establish itself in the Marjah area. The following pictures show India Company and other 3/7 units.



3rd Plt on patrol



India Co. Marines on a break



Patrol in the rocks



Patrol through village



Poppy field

2011 Myrtle Beach Reunion
April 27-30, 2011
Compass Cove Oceanfront Resort
Myrtle Beach, SC
Reservations at 1-800-228-9894
Oceanfront Rooms and Jr. Suites
\$74 to \$84 + 13% tax



Afghan soldier and Marine with poppy farmers



Free ride to 'indian country'

TRICARE and CHAMPVA

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. The program is administered by Health Administration Center located in Denver, Colorado.

Due to the similarity between CHAMPVA and the Department of Defense (DOD) TRICARE program (sometimes referred to by its old name, CHAMPUS) the two are often mistaken for each other. CHAMPVA is a Department of Veterans Affairs program whereas TRICARE is a regionally managed health care program for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. In some cases a veteran may look to be eligible for both/either program on paper. However, if you are a military retiree, or the spouse of a veteran who was killed in action, you are and will always be a TRICARE beneficiary, you can't choose between the two.

CHAMPVA Eligibility:

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, you cannot be eligible for TRICARE/CHAMPUS and you must be in one of these categories:

1. the spouse or child of a veteran who has been rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability by a VA regional office, or
2. the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service connected disability, or
3. the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who was at the time death rated permanently and totally disabled from a service connected disability, or
4. The surviving spouse or child of a military member who died in the line of duty, not due to misconduct (in most of these cases, these family members are qualified for TRICARE., not CHAMPVA).

Medicare Impact

CHAMPVA is always the secondary payer to Medicare. If you are eligible for CHAMPVA, under age 65 and enrolled in both Medicare Parts A&B, SSA documentation of enrollment in both Parts A&B is required.

For your benefits to be extended past age 65, you must meet the following conditions:

- if the beneficiary was 65 or older prior to June 5, 2001, and was otherwise eligible for CHAMPVA, and was entitled to Medicare Part A coverage, then the beneficiary will be eligible for CHAMPVA without having to have Medicare Part B coverage.
- if you turned 65 on/or before June 5, 2001, and have Medicare Parts A and B, you must keep both parts to be eligible.
- if you turned 65 on or after June 5, 2001, you must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible

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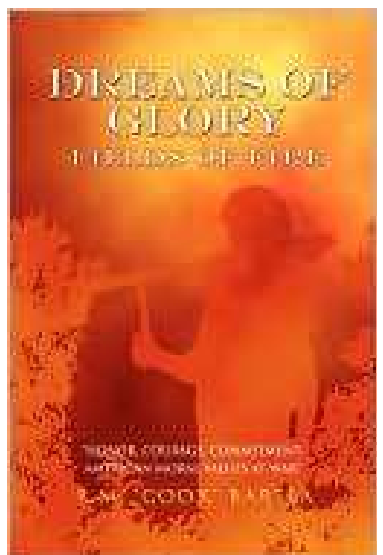
Cook's Book is Out!

DREAMS OF GLORY, Fields of Fire by R.M. "Cook" Barela is the story of one Marine's tour of duty with India Company 3/7 in the Vietnam War in 1967 and 1968. The book is the result of a 13-year effort dealing with difficult memories and emotions. Cook traveled to Washington D.C. five times to research USMC archives such as unit diaries and after-action reports. He interviewed dozens of India Company combat veterans to round out his research.

Author Biography :

R.M. "Cook" Barela has authored many short stories, poems and news articles that have appeared in magazines, newspapers, and on the internet. "Dreams of Glory, Fields of Fire," is written from a diary he kept as a US Marine. He is a retired Los Angeles police officer, and has an MA degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. A noted photographer and artist, Cook Barela passed away recently. His wife lives in Jurupa, California.

Marines and their families can order the book online from **Barnes and Noble** or order at any of their brick and mortar stores. The paperback is \$20.51 plus shipping. The hardcover is \$29.91 including shipping.



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articles email
submissions to
publishers:*

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