

Fellow Sky Soldiers,

My name is Dan Roden. I proudly serve you as your Chapter's Sgt at Arms. I was born in Malden, MA. 3/14/1949. My family moved to Saugus in 1957, and I reside there now. I graduated from Saugus High School in 1967, and entered the U.S. Army on 31 Aug. of that year. I was inducted at the Boston Army Base, and bussed to Ft. Dix N.J. for basic training. The D.I.'s made it quite clear where most of us would be going and one, a 101st vet, told me if you're going to be in a faraway land with a lot of hostile natives, you're better off being with people who think it's perfectly OK to exit an aircraft in flight. I then went to Ft. Gordon GA. for A.I.T. and then bussed across Georgia to Ft. Benning for Jump School. Upon completion, I received orders for the Brigade. I arrived in-country at Cam Rahn Bay 3 Apr. 1968, and, already assigned, preceded to An Khe for Jungle School and in-processing. After about a week there I went to Tuy Hoa and joined B 4/503. It was dark when we got to the 4th Bn. area and shortly after sunrise I got my first (of many) Huey rides out to Bravo Co. During my tour I served as Grenadier, Rifleman, and R.T.O., until Apr 69, when I extended for six months and went to Brigade HQ at L.Z. English as a V.I.P. driver for the Command Section. I Left Viet Nam in November 69 and finished my term of enlistment at Ft. Benning, GA., separating 28 Aug 1970.

My first year of civilian life consisted of working on the docks as a longshoreman and as a boilermaker on various jobs around New England. I was initiated into the apprenticeship of Ironworkers Local 7 in August 1971, and retired March 2005. On 12 Oct. 1975, I married Rose Ann Trudeau. She passed away on 30 July 2003, and is greatly missed by all.

I have one son, Sean, and my daughter in law Kristen. Sean, as many of you know, served with the Brigade (C/2/503) in Iraq, making the combat jump on the Bashur Air Field, 26 March 2003, and is currently the Chapter's Vice President. For the first twenty or so years after Viet Nam I was sort of "in the closet" as a veteran. I belonged to the V.F.W. and the Brigade Society but not very active in things that I should have been, then one night I got a call from John O'Dea, who was the Chapter President at the time, informing me about our own New England Chapter. As we talked we discovered that we were both working on the same construction site in Boston. I started getting involved and believe it's been very beneficial for me. The Chapter and my comrades from Bravo 4th Bn. were extremely supportive following the death of my wife, and helped me through a very low period of my life.

In closing, I hope to see more of you guys as we are trying to hold meetings in different locations around New England, and if anybody goes to the Bedford V.A. I'm there at volunteer services Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, (Donut Dolly)

AIRBORNE
Dan Roden