

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Dale Dye

Dale Adam Dye, Jr. was born on October 8, 1944, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Dye had hoped to attend Annapolis, but after failing the entrance exam three times – "my math and science skills were weak, and my English skills were huge" – and having exhausted his family's meager funds getting through military academy, he enlisted in the Marines in January 1964. His unit was among the first to deploy to Vietnam. Officers in the unit noticed his keen observational skills and literary interest and encouraged him to reclassify as a combat correspondent. He became one of a very few Marine combat correspondents. He sent stories to military publications and to the home town newspapers of fellow Marines. As a correspondent, he saw more battle than many low-ranking infantrymen. Dye developed an immense respect for the grunts who took the brunt of any action.

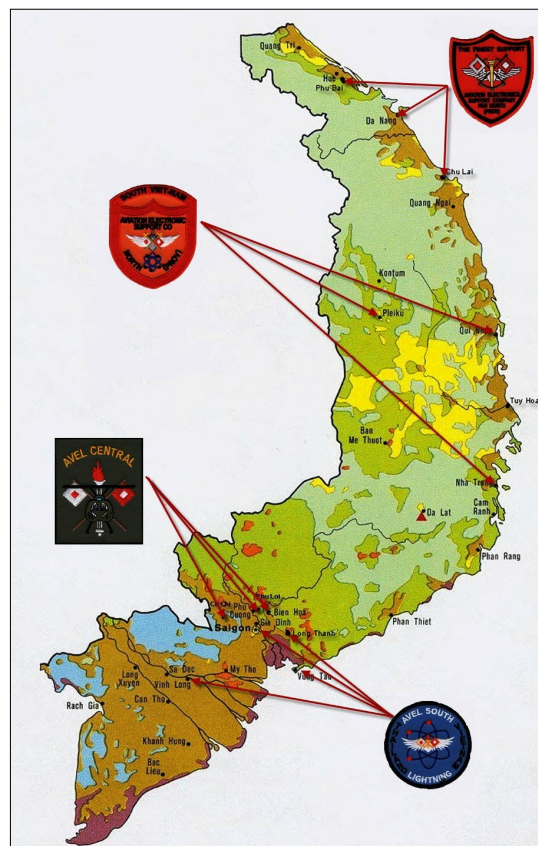
Dye was wounded during the Tet Offensive in 1968. While recuperating in a rear area, the 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines, a unit he had traveled with, was preparing for Operation Ford. Dye persuaded them to let him accompany them as a war correspondent. During the next week, the unit engaged in a number of fire fights with People's Army of Vietnam (NVA) units.

On 18 March 1968, Dye replaced an assistant machine gunner who had been killed. The position was isolated forward of the remainder of the unit. Although wounded, Dye exposed himself to "intense enemy fire" and retrieved ammunition to supply the machine gun, and helped hold off a superior enemy force throughout a night-long battle. During other engagements, he exposed himself to enemy fire and rescued several wounded soldiers, including a medical corpsman. As a result of his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism.

"Dye's heart is with the grunts," says Bob Rea, who worked with Dye as a combat correspondent during the worst of Tet. "He feels like he owes something to those people. He is a grunt wannabe." During three tours of duty in Vietnam, he participated in 31 combat operations.

During his 1967 to 1968 and 1969 to 1970 tours of duty, he was attached to different battalions of the 1st Marine Division. Dye spent a total of 13 years as an enlisted Marine, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant before being appointed a Warrant Officer in 1976. This led to Dye receiving a commission as an officer, also known as being a "mustang." (An individual who is promoted from enlisted ranks to an officer is known as a mustang.) While he was Captain he was deployed to Beirut for duty with the Multinational Force in Lebanon in 1982 and 1983. Shortly after his return, the Marine barracks were attacked and 241 Americans died.

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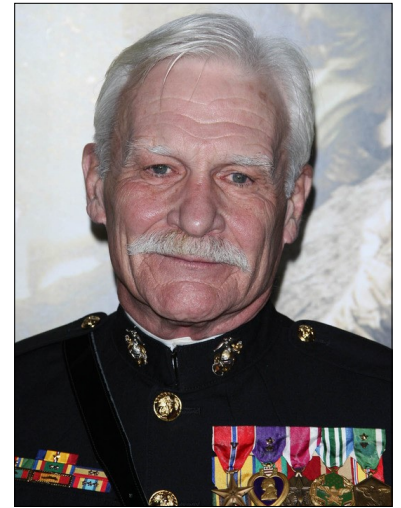
Dale Dye, Continued from Page 1

Dye retired from the Marines in 1984 and founded Warriors, Inc. The company specializes in training actors in war films to portray their roles realistically and provides research, planning, staging, and on-set consultation for directors and other film production personnel. His company is the top military consultant to Hollywood



Dye has written a number of novels, including *Run Between The Raindrops* (1985, also published as *Citadel*) and *Conduct Unbecoming* (1992). In addition he wrote the novelization of the film *Platoon*. Dye, along with wife Julia and comic book artist Gerry Kissell created one of 2011's critically acclaimed and best-selling graphic novels, *Code Word: Geronimo*, for publisher IDW Publishing, that tells the story of the Navy SEAL raid on Osama bin Laden's compound.

Dye was determined to improve the realism in how Hollywood depicted battle. He offered his services to a number of directors but was only successful when he pitched to fellow Vietnam veteran Oliver Stone a plan to put actors through a mock boot camp before production of the movie *Platoon*. Dye put the principal actors—including Charlie Sheen, Willem Dafoe, Johnny Depp and Forest Whitaker—through an immersive 30-day military-style training regimen. He limited how much food and water they could drink and eat and when the actors slept, fired blanks to keep the tired actors awake. Dye also had a small role as Captain Harris. He also wrote the novelization based on Oliver Stone's screenplay. After *Platoon's* critical success, Dye played a role in another Vietnam War movie, *Casualties of War*, and also played Colonel Robert Sink in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*, on which his company also worked. Dye also worked as a military technical adviser on the HBO companion piece to *Band of Brothers*, the ten-part mini-series *The Pacific*, which was shot in Australia.

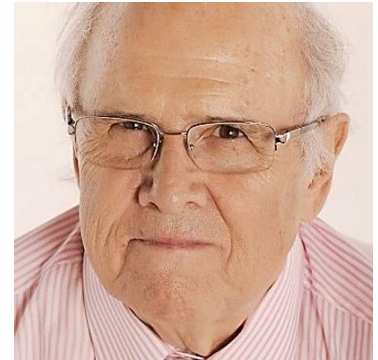


Welcome Home Dale

Fifty years after my military service, a sea of change on veterans and war.

From Thomas DeFrank, former senior White House correspondent for Newsweek and Washington bureau chief of the New York Daily News, is a contributing editor at National Journal.

When I worked at the Pentagon in 1968, I was told to avoid wearing my uniform off-duty. People now thank veterans and I believe the Vietnam Memorial is why.



WASHINGTON — I started as a summer intern in Newsweek's Washington bureau in June of 1968. I was to work there briefly before reporting for Army duty at the Pentagon in the fall. Like many a visitor to the nation's capital expecting only a brief tenure, I stayed. Fifty years later, the drama and turmoil of that memorable year remain etched into my memory.

By any measure, 1968 was an epic year in the American experience, defined by twin traumas of war and racial unrest. Vietnam, the most polarizing war in our history, would drive President Lyndon Johnson from office. The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in April triggered several days of race riots in the capital that left several city blocks in ashes. Federal troops patrolled Washington's streets to maintain a tenuous order.

'Avoid wearing your uniform'

At the Pentagon, I reported to Rear Adm. Shannon Cramer, a silver-haired submariner. I distinctly recall two pieces of advice. Never forget, he confided, that his boss and ultimately mine, the assistant secretary of Defense for public affairs, was the civilian equivalent of a five-star general.

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Then he turned somber: “Lieutenant, I’d also recommend that when you’re off duty, avoid wearing your uniform whenever possible. This is not the best of times for our military, especially in this city.”

That was an understatement. A year earlier, 100,000 demonstrators marched on the Pentagon to protest the Vietnam War. Draftees continued to die in sizable numbers in Southeast Asia, but military commanders assured President Johnson the war would soon be won so long as ever more troops were dispatched to the combat zone. Public opinion began to wane — especially after a seismic February 1968 report by CBS anchor Walter Cronkite cast doubt on the Johnson administration’s glowing reports.

Outside the Pentagon cocoon and the many bases ringing Washington, the military wasn’t much welcome, much less honored, by many civilians enraged by the war’s escalating toll.

Today, a remarkable turnabout has occurred.

At a white-tie dinner recently, tourists from New Jersey noticed the medals on my lapel and said, simply: “Thank you for your service.” This gratifying salute happens regularly when we veterans show our retired-military IDs at airport security checkpoints. These days, those five words are a national mantra, welcome evidence that Americans have finally begun to grow up about Vietnam.



What explains this change? I believe the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was the catalyst. Those 10-foot-high slabs of black granite humanize the Vietnam War dead. They convey a sense of legitimacy to their sacrifice that can’t be ignored.

Moreover, the wall isn’t merely a powerful icon enabling survivors to mourn 58,000 fallen brothers and sisters in arms; it also helps an aging generation of anti-war activists recognize the distinction between the troops who returned, often with deep physical and psychological scars, and the military brass and politicians who sent them there.

The wall is a uniquely American analogue to John McCrae’s haunting World War I poem:

***In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place. ...
We are the dead.***

There aren’t any poppies at the wall, but each dawn brings a fresh supply of combat boots, dog tags, stuffed animals, medals, faded uniforms and other symbolic links between the living and the lost. It’s America’s own Flanders fields.

Rick Rodriguez

BARTLETT, Ill. -- If you have been down Route 59 and Stearns Road in Bartlett, Illinois you’ve probably seen Rick Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the face outside Mr. Car Wash most days of the week. While he’s a familiar face to the locals, some have no idea he is also one of the country’s highly decorated Vietnam veterans.

“This car wash has saved my life,” he said. “It saved my life. I know that sound extreme, but only I can tell you how much it’s done for me.”

For nearly 50 years, Rodriguez has battled PTSD. “It’s the emotional part that people need to understand,” he said. “It never goes away. Sometimes I have dreams where I remember every single thing like it just happened yesterday.”

Rodriguez was just 19 when he went to fight in Vietnam. It was that same year, Sept. 28, 1968, that Rodriguez will never forget.

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Rick Rodriguez, Continued from Page 3

Charging an enemy bunker alone, Rodriguez was credited with rescuing his wounded platoon leader and saving the lives of many members of his squad. He returned home two years later with a uniform covered in medals including two Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and a Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest honor.

"I have a hard time dealing with that because you know, I never considered myself a hero," Rodriguez said. "When you lose a brother, it's very difficult. I'm 70 now and I still feel that emotion very intense. I lost very good friends and I think they should've gotten those medals, not me."

Thirty-seven flags dot the perimeter of the car wash representing the 37 men in his company that didn't make it home. "Those flags stand for something," Rodriguez said. "They were my brothers and they shall never be forgotten."

Most who pull in to the car wash will never know the back story on those flags or why a little side window conversation means so much to Rodriguez. He'll tell you he isn't here for the paycheck. In fact, every day Rodriguez is there he is as a volunteer. He said the good he gets out of it is worth more to him than any paycheck. It was the one thing that was able to bring him back from a dark place.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

None Registered

TAPS

None Reported

PHOTOS

None Submitted

DOES YOUR UNIFORM STILL FIT?

We received a few photos and want MORE! Send them to my email and I will publish them in the next Newsletter! [Send them to jmccabe51@gmail.com](mailto:jmccabe51@gmail.com).



Jerry Mahanay, Avel Central
"I can't believe my hat doesn't fit!"



Jack McCabe, Avel Central
"My hat doesn't fit either!"



Dave Lyons
Avel South

All Avel Gathering/Reunion 2018

This years gathering/Reunion will be held in Huntersville (near Charlotte), North Carolina. AS of this News-
letter we have 61 people attending including 33 vets and 28 guests. I expect more to register as the summer
progresses.

October 18 - 21, 2018

Country Inn & Suites

16617 Statesville Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078

We have a room block from 15 - 24 October but please reserve your room as soon as possible if you think you are coming. You can always cancel your reservation without cost 48 hours before check-in.

They have 3 handicap rooms and one has already been reserved.

Call 704-895-6565 and tell them you are with the Avel Vietnam Reunion. If you have any problems call Jack McCabe at 847-778-3473.



Events Planned

If you are flying in please note that there is no shuttle from the airport to the hotel. However, when you have made your flight arrangements we will pick you up at the airport when you arrive and drive you back for your return flight.

The hotel is just a short 30 minute (when traffic is good) to downtown Charlotte. Information of attractions and activities in Charlotte and the surrounding area will be forthcoming.

Wednesday, 17 October

Early bird arrivals will be treated to dinner at the McCabe's house on their deck.
Our house is a short 25 minute drive from the hotel.

Thursday, 18 October

Ft Jackson hold basic training graduations on Thursday morning at 09:00.
Those who would like to go will be car pooled or bused there. When confirmed, I will need a head count.
For those interested we will car-pool to Port City Club in Cornelius for dinner

Friday, 19 October

Ladies luncheon at Red Rocks Café, Birkdale Village. We will provide transportation
John Veers Martini Golf Outing: Verdict Ridge Golf & Country Club, 11:00. Cost is \$44.00/per person. We can bring our own beverages on the course.

Saturday, 20 October

We will bus to two wineries for tasting and lunch. Tasting is on Avel, you will have to purchase your lunch
Final group dinner at the hotel in the Hospitality Room

Sunday, 21 October

Transportation to the airport will be provided by Jack and others with cars for those who need.

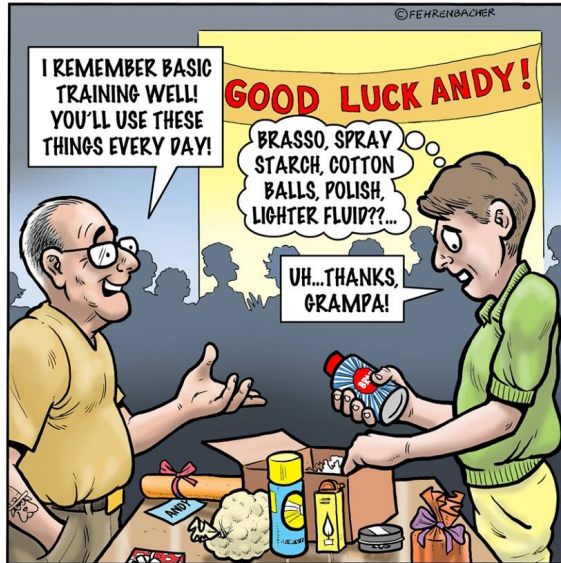
We will have a hospitality room with complete beverages and snacks throughout the event.

Cost of the Reunion is \$70.00/person payable to Avel Reunion

Mail checks payable to "Avel Reunion" to Jack McCabe, 2120 Augusta National Dr., Denver, NC 28037

MILITARY HUMOR

IN-COUNTRY VET



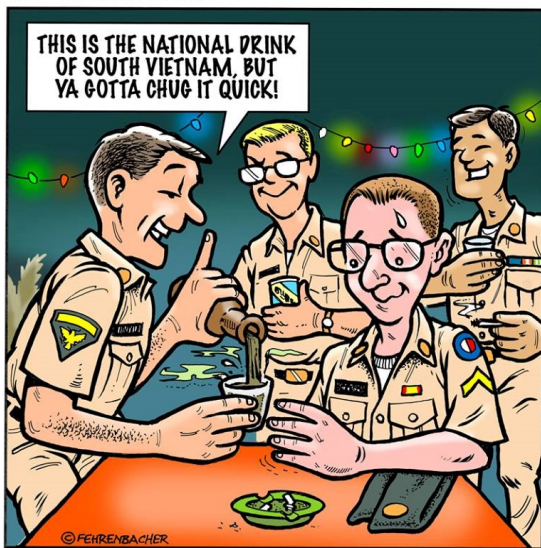
STILL LOST IN THE SIXTIES?

IN-COUNTRY



WELCOMING THE REPLACEMENT...
AND...HIS RATION CARD!

IN-COUNTRY



IN-COUNTRY EDUCATION:
INTRODUCTION TO NUOC MAM 101.

IN-COUNTRY



LEARNING CONVERSATIONAL VIETNAMESE.



AVEL VIETNAM



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