

# THE PACER

An American story

## CHAPTER FOUR

By DAVID PARAMORE

Da Nang was fun, and I certainly had much better-looking company there than what I had left back in the 1st Squad!

Pretty girls, plus three nights of sleeping in a real bed, eating good food and just relaxing -- it does not get any better than that. But it was over way too soon!

I really enjoyed my time out of the field, and strangely the rocket attack was, in my mind, one of the better parts.

Keeping Haji afloat for that hour was no work at all. Maybe that was why we bonded, as friends, but bonded, nonetheless.

I made my way back to my company and pretty soon fell back into the routine of guard duty from a foxhole I dug every night.

Then, I enjoyed a breakfast of C-rations, followed by a long day's march, only to dig another foxhole.

Vietnam was always too hot and too wet. I tell those who ask that there are only two seasons in Vietnam.

Both are hot, and during the monsoon season it rains all day, but during the other season, it only rains every day!

And, if it is not raining, well hell...there were always rice paddies to wade

through.

About two weeks after I came back from Da Nang, we were airlifted into LZ Pedro, a firebase situated about 20 miles south-southeast of Kea Sanh.

It had been built on a round hill, about 500 feet tall sticking up from a fairly flat plain.

We were all assigned bunker guard duty around the perimeter of the firebase.

We were told we would be there seven to 10 days, as we had been in the field for almost 40 days with a break.

Life on Pedro consisted of nightly guard duty, usually broken up into four-hour shifts.

With four grunts assigned to each bunker, one man could always get a full night's sleep.

We would rotate, each taking a turn being the fourth man.

During my time with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam I got damn few full night sleeps.

Our guard shifts usually ran from six p.m. to 10 p.m., then from 10 p.m. to two a.m. and from two a.m. to six a.m. for first, second and third shifts.

We would also rotate personnel until every man got at least one 10 p.m. to two a.m. shift, which everyone hated.

The first or last shift was everyone's favorite.

It was hard to sleep before 10 p.m., so when you had the middle shift you did not get much sleep that night. But, as long as we kept one man in the bunker awake, daytime was usually our own.

We would eat, shower,

get a haircut, see the dentist (when one came out for a day) and just generally goof off.

Almost a quarter mile away out in front of our bunker was the only feature on an almost-bare, grassy plain.

It was a water hole that we would take turns shooting at, and the only way to know you hit it was when you saw a splash.

The area had once been rice paddies, but because of the war and pacification, all the farmers had been pulled closer to Quang Tri City, where they would presumably be safe.

The water hole was a long ways away, but we were nearly 500 feet higher in elevation.

After a little practice we all got pretty good at hitting that hole every time.

I still laugh when I think of some archaeologist in the distant future stumbling over all those spent rifle rounds and scratching his head.

(To be continued)

**Editor's Note:** The Pacer, An American Story was written by local author David Paramore as a fundraiser for Point of Grace (POG) Christian School. The Pacer is available for purchase on Amazon as a paperback or Kindle e-book download, with all proceeds going to support the expansion of POG. Kindle Unlimited members can download the book for free and support the POG expansion by way of Amazon paying a "royalty" on each download. Visit [www.thepacerstory.com](http://www.thepacerstory.com) for more information.

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## 'I made it home alright from playing last night. You always wanted me to let you know'

COMMON'TATER

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folding chair balanced on the sawdust, you could've actually shook your finger only inches from that cheating Mario Galento's nose. That would be much better than poking at the TV

screen from your Jim Walter living room, sitting in that naugahyde-covered ringside seat in North Florida, a hundred miles from his actual nose.

The only other time I remember you touching the TV screen was when you were helping Oral

Roberts pray for a drunk who stumbled into the Tulsa revival tent.

Yep, I believe you would have liked the live wrestling match. One good thing about it, it would have been harder to re-gift that at some future Christmas.

Oh, lazy me started to

send you the same "Mothers Day letter" that I wrote to you last year. But it might not have been laziness that caused me to even consider it, but just that re-gifting gene you passed on to me.

Well, it's finally daylight, and I've got to go feed the horses, so I'll close.

I'll try not to take a year to write you again. I know you would like that, too.

But before I disappear into the barn shadows, I do want to thank you.

"For what?" you probably think.

For your prayers, because without them, and that set of

Western Auto jumper cables Daddy gave me, I don't know where I'd be on this Sunday morning.

Still your loving son,

Billy

PS: I made it home alright from playing last night. You always wanted me to let you know.

## LEGALS

(continued from page 10)

County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR

MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

RAMONA PARKER  
5950 Beach Road  
Perry, FL 32348

ANGELA M. BALL, Attorney for Petitioner  
FL BAR NO.: 0796557  
Post Office Box 734  
Perry, Florida 32348

DATES OF PUBLICATION:  
5/12, 5/19

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE #20-530CP**

IN RE: The Estate of JAMES MCNAIR Decedent.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JAMES MCNAIR, deceased, whose date of death was October 20th, 2020, File #20-530CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348.

The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and

other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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NAKELIANNA MCNAIR  
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Attorney for Petitioner  
FL BAR NO.: 0796557  
Post Office Box 734  
Perry, Florida 32348

DATES OF PUBLICATION:

(850) 584-8960

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT THE TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 AT 9:05 A.M. TO UPDATE THE PUBLIC AND RECEIVE INPUT AS TO THE STATUS OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM.

IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, A CONFERENCE LINE HAS BEEN SET UP TO ACCOMMODATE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE MEETING.

CONFERENCE LINE: 1-917-900-1022

ACCESS CODE: 32347# THIS IS NOT A TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO LONG DISTANCE CHARGES, ACCORDING TO YOUR LONG DISTANCE PLAN.

When the chairperson opens the meeting for public comment, please follow the below instructions:

If you wish to speak please dial \*5. The moderator will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak, and

notify you by announcing the last 4 digits of your telephone number. Please announce your name and address. You will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMED ON THE TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FACEBOOK PAGE - <https://www.facebook.com/taylor.bocc>

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 286.0105, THAT ANY PERSON OR PERSONS DECIDING TO APPEAL ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE HEARING AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCESSING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, 201 E. GREEN STREET, PERRY, FLORIDA 32347.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY THIS NOTICE.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM: JAMI EVANS, GRANTS COORDINATOR (850)

838-3553 OR AT [grants.assist@taylorcountygov.com](mailto:grants.assist@taylorcountygov.com).

TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

### PUBLIC MEETING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
Please take notice that the Three Rivers Regional Library Board will hold a Board Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., at the Lafayette County Public Library, in Mayo, Florida.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Please be advised, that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

"Person with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 294-1600 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771."



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