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# TALKING TURF

## NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2021

## President's Message

**By Cammi Campbell, Minot Park District**

Greetings NCTGA members,

I want to Thank everyone that came out to our annual scholarship golf tournament. It was a beautiful day. Weather-wise it may have been one of the nicest days for one of our tournaments. It was absolutely beautiful, 85 degrees, with no wind. When do we not have the wind blowing in ND, especially this summer!? I would like to thank David Wood and his staff at Oxbow. It was a beautiful course and the clubhouse staff was extremely helpful in everything they did for us. We had 68 players, which is our highest number in the last 5 years. Thank you to all the Vendors that sponsored holes, MTI for sponsoring Lunch, Bayer and Winfield for sponsoring the afternoon. With the support of our Vendors and Members we made this year's golf tournament a success.

We have this year's NCTGA and NDGA \$1,000 scholarship available on our website. These are eligible to students studying turf management. We also have our \$500 Legacy Scholarship available; the application can be found on the website under members only. That is eligible to a child of a current NCTGA member in good standing. If you have a child currently enrolled in their Senior year

in high school or an undergraduate college program. I encourage you to have them apply. Deadline to apply is January 15 and we will announce the recipients at our annual meeting at the conference.



We have NCTGA clothing available on our website for a reasonable price. This is on a pre-order basis and we are currently waiting to get enough clothing to place an order to keep cost down. If you are interested check out the website and place an order. We will either mail them out or they can be available for pick up at the conference. Our Conference will be held February 22-24, at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND. We have an excellent line up of speakers. With a virtual conference being held last year. I'm anticipating a great turnout and look forward to seeing everyone at our conference.

Continued on page 3...



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## President's Message continued

Continued from page 1...

I am extremely happy to announce that Sam Bauer will continue to be our Executive Director. We are very fortunate to have him as part of our organization, and grateful that he took the time to reconsider. The Board of Director's is appreciative for everything Sam has done for our organization. I am looking forward to continuing to work with Sam and excited for what we will accomplish.

- Cammi

### 37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

February 22nd-24th, 2022

In-person at the Holiday Inn

Registration available at: [nctga.net](https://nctga.net)



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## 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament Recap



The 2021 NCTGA Scholarship Golf Tournament was a great success! Over 68 NCTGA members joined for golf and participated in the new shop tours at Oxbow Country Club. Golf Course Superintendent David Wood and his staff had the course in superb condition for the event. A special thanks goes out to David, Jesse, and all of the staff at Oxbow Country Club for making our day such an enjoyable experience. Thank you to all the sponsors for this event, including: lunch sponsor (MTI Distributing), afternoon sponsors (Bayer and Winfield), hole sponsors, and proximity sponsors; without you this event could not happen! THANK YOU!!!

**First Flight Winners:** Jesse Rosco (Ortonville GC) and Tim Fleegel (MTI)

**Second Flight Winners:** Darvin Keys (Valley City) and Peter Jensen (Bois de Sioux GC)


**Longest Drive:** Kevin Gruber (Little Crow GC)

**Longest Putt:** Tim Fleegel (MTI Distributing)

**Closest to the Pin:** Brad Klein (Northern Turf Services)







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## **2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament**

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## NCTGA Apparel Available

NCTGA apparel is available for order under the “Members Only” section of the [NCTGA website](#). We have several different options for both men and women. This includes Cutter and Buck polos, and Clique half-zips, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. All apparel has an abbreviated NCTGA logo (below) that is embroidered. We get a special deal on these through a board member. Polos are just \$20, half-zips are \$30, t-shirts are \$10, and hooded sweatshirts are \$20.

Apparel can be picked up at the conference, or mailed to you. For questions, call or email Sam: 612-205-4428, info.nctga@gmail.com



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# 37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Join us for the 37th Annual NCTGA Conference and Trade Show from  
February 22nd-24th, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND

Register at: [nctga.net/conference](http://nctga.net/conference)

## Schedule at a Glance

### Tuesday, February 22nd

8:00am - 3:00pm: Vendor Setup

11:00am - 12:00pm: Registration and Networking

12:00pm - 12:30pm: President's Message (Cammi Campbell, Minot Parks)

12:30pm - 1:00pm: State of the Industry (Steve Randall, GCSAA)

1:00pm - 2:00pm: Community Sports Fields (Cole and Gus Flick, Dassel-Cokato Saints)

2:00pm - 3:00pm: Turf Dashboard / UMN Turf Program (Maggie Reiter, UMN)

3:00pm - 4:00pm: Weather Impacts on Green Industries (Chauncy Schultz, Tommy Grafenauer)

4:00pm - 8:00pm: Trade Show/Social

### Wednesday, February 23rd

7:00am - 7:30am: Registration and Networking

7:30am - 9:00am: Vendor Seminars (equipment and irrigation)

9:00am - 11:30am: Trade Show

11:30am - 12:15pm: NCTGA Annual Meeting

12:15pm - 1:00pm: Lunch

### Wednesday, February 23rd cont'd

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Golf Course Irrigation Upgrades (Eric Christianson, EC Design) concurrent

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Tree Selection for North Dakota (Dr. John Ball, SDSU) concurrent

3:00pm - 5:00pm: PGR Programming and Winter Injury of Turf (Dr. Bill Kreuer, GreenKeeper) concurrent

3:00pm - 4:00pm: CHS Field (Marcus Campbell, St. Paul Saints) concurrent

4:00pm - 5:00pm: Perennials that Attract Pollinators (Esther McGinnis, NDSU) concurrent

5:00pm - 7:00pm: Social/Silent Auction/Raffle

### Thursday, February 27th

7:00am - 7:30am: Registration and Networking

7:30am - 9:00am: Equipment Maintenance (TBA)

9:00am - 10:00am: Strengths Finder (NDSU Extension)

10:00am - 11:30am: Courage and Overcoming Obstacles in Your Life (Retired Col. Terry Branham)

12:00pm - 3:00pm: NCTGA Board Meeting

Register Here: <http://nctga.net/2022-Conference>



# NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

## 2021 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE: JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

The North Central Turfgrass Association (NCTGA) is offering one \$500 Legacy scholarship to a child of a current NCTGA member in good standing. The child must be currently enrolled in his/her senior year of high school or an undergraduate college program. Funds for this scholarship are generated at the Annual Scholarship Golf Fundraiser hosted by the NCTGA in the fall every year.

The scholarship recipient will be selected by an unbiased committee of academic professionals. The recipient of this scholarship will be given his/her award at the NCTGA Annual Conference and Trade Show, February 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND. Parent members of the NCTGA can also accept the award on behalf of their child.

Applications for the Legacy scholarship must be completed by the student. To be eligible for this scholarship, all items listed below must be post-marked or emailed by the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

- Name, email, phone, school address, home address, Major (or anticipated Major), GPA, extracurricular activities, anticipated graduation date, advisor
- NCTGA parent member's name, organization, and years as a NCTGA member
- Statement of Future Professional Goals (ex: where do you see yourself five to ten years from now?)
- Letter of Recommendation from advisor, professor, or employer
- Resume

Electronic submissions can be emailed to:

Sam Bauer, NCTGA Executive Director: [info.nctga@gmail.com](mailto:info.nctga@gmail.com)

Mailed documents can be sent to:

North Central Turfgrass Association

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# NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION AND NORTH DAKOTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

## 2021 TURFGRASS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

The North Central Turfgrass Association (NCTGA) and North Dakota Golf Association (NDGA) continue to offer scholarships to qualified student applicants in golf course/turfgrass management studies. This year we are offering two \$1,000 scholarships. The NCTGA scholarship is open to any qualified turfgrass student applicant enrolled in at least his/her second year of turfgrass/agronomy/horticulture studies. The NDGA scholarship is also open to a qualified turfgrass student in his/her second year but is restricted to residents of North Dakota.

These awards will be administered and voted upon by the NCTGA Board of Directors Scholarship Committee. Recipients of these scholarships will be given his/her award at the NCTGA Annual Conference and Trade Show, February 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND. Hotel accommodations will be provided if necessary.

Please include the following with your application:

- Name, email, phone, school address, home address, Major, GPA, anticipated graduation date, advisor
- Resume
- Statement of Future Professional Goals (ex: where do you see yourself five to ten years from now?)
- One letter of recommendation from employer or professor (can be sent separately)

Applications and reference letters must be postmarked by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Electronic submissions can be emailed to: Sam Bauer, NCTGA Executive Director: [info.nctga@gmail.com](mailto:info.nctga@gmail.com)

Mailed documents can be sent to:

North Central Turfgrass Association

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Phone: 904-271-0250



North Dakota Golf Association

A man in a blue polo shirt and cap is using a tablet on a golf course. The background shows a green field with a hexagonal pattern, trees, and a bridge. The text "That's intelligent." is visible at the top left.

[illegible]

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Jan. 26, 2022 Hosted Training	<u>Bismarck</u> , Burleigh County Extension -4H Bldg	Registration 8:30 a.m.	1/12/2022
	3715 E Bismarck Expressway	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Fargo</u> , NDSU	Registration 8:30 a.m.	
	Loftsgard Hall Room 380	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Grand Forks</u> , Grand Forks County Extension	Registration 8:30 a.m.	
	151 South 4th St Suite 302	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Minot</u> , North Central Research Extension Center	Registration 8:30 a.m.	
	5400 Hwy 83 S	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
Feb. 25, 2022 Face-to-Face	<u>Manning</u> , Dunn County Extension Center	Registration 7:30 a.m. (MT)	2/23/2022
	205 Owens St.	Training 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	
Mar. 17, 2022	<u>Harwood</u> , Harwood Community Center	Registration 8 a.m.	3/16/22 12 NOON
	210 Freedland Dr.	Training 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	
Mar. 17, 2022	<b>ZOOM WEBINAR</b>	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	3/16/22 12 NOON
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# NCTGA Conference Sponsorship Levels

The NCTGA Board has produced vendor sponsorship levels for 2022. The goal is to simplify sponsorships and allow more opportunities for NCTGA to promote our vendors. Newsletter advertisements will begin with the January issue of our newsletter, and vendors will have the option to pay in the 2021 or 2022 fiscal year. These sponsorship levels assume that the conference in February will go on as planned and this year we don't see that changing. In the event that the conference goes virtual or is canceled, we will work with NCTGA vendor members on refunds or holdover until the following conference.

## Sponsorship Levels

**Platinum (\$2,500):** includes 4 conference booths, 4 conference attendees and memberships, full page newsletter ad, large logo on website, platinum sponsorship advertised at conference and in all publications

**Gold (\$2,000):** includes 3 conference booths, 3 conference attendees and memberships, 1/2 page newsletter ad, medium logo on website, gold sponsorship advertised at conference and in all publications

**Silver (\$1,000):** 2 conference booths, 2 conference attendees and memberships, 1/3 page newsletter ad, small logo on website, silver level sponsorship advertised at conference and in all publications

**Bronze (\$500):** 1 conference booth, 1 conference attendee and membership

If you have questions on structuring of sponsorship levels or other comments related to this initiative, please reach out to Sam Bauer ([info.nctga@gmail.com](mailto:info.nctga@gmail.com)) or a NCTGA Board Member.

Thank you to all vendors for your continued support of the NCTGA!





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## Mowing Parks and Roadsides: Dispelling Myths

By Dominic Christensen, UMN Turf Program

(Editors note: thanks to the University of Minnesota Turf Science Program for allowing us to distribute their content. A full reference list to this article, and more articles can be found at: [turf.umn.edu](http://turf.umn.edu))

Mowing can have a significant impact on vegetation. The types of turfgrass and weed species and the total amount of coverage can be influenced by mowing. The primary objectives for mowing roadsides and parks are to maintain visibility for pedestrians and drivers, reduce turfgrass and weed seed heads, and to improve aesthetics for a community. In this article, I will discuss the height of cut, frequency, and other factors to encourage more effective, efficient, and sustainable mowing practices.

### Mowing height

A common myth that was present in a survey in 1969 and is still a myth today is, “cut it short so we won’t have to mow it so often” (White and Bailey, 1969). This may be a good practice if you desire to severely injure or kill most vegetation that is growing along roadsides, but the consequences may be greater weed abundance, and most weeds usually grow taller and so would need more mowing than turfgrass species. Additionally, in that same survey by White and Bailey (1969) most operators did not know the height of cut they were using on roadside vegetation. Recognizing the mowing height is the first step to improving mowing practices. It is also useful to note that roadsides and parks are not golf course greens. The quality of roadside soils are more often poorer and they are not regularly fertilized. Parks and roadsides additionally are usually not irrigated. Therefore, mowing lower than 3 inches will likely both reduce grass quality along boulevards and increase the frequency of equipment maintenance.

In general, only one-third of vegetation should be removed at the time of mowing. This is known as *the one-third rule*. This prevents turfgrass species from being excessively stressed from a mowing event. For example, if the target mowing height is 2 inches, then it would be ideal to not allow the turf to get taller than 3 inches to only cut off 1 inch during a mowing (1 inch would be  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 3 inches). If the mowing height is 4 inches, then the length of grass at the time of cut can be up to 6 inches. In the second scenario, this allows the grass to grow two inches. This relationship is a factorial one, meaning for every factored increase in the prescribed mowing height then the amount of growth for the grass can double before the next mow.

Continued on page 17....

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## Mowing Parks and Roadsides: Dispelling Myths

Continued from page 16....

The optimal height of cut for common cool-season turfgrasses in a low-input setting has shown to be within the range of 3-4 inches. A low-input setting is defined as little to no supplemental irrigation, fertilizer, and weed control. Mowing lower than 3 inches in low-input environments should be avoided because less leaf tissue will result in lower belowground roots and rhizomes (Juska et al., 1955). Additionally, lower heights of cut for some turfgrasses can promote disease (Hunt and Dunn, 1993). Crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.) has been found to be more abundant with a lower mowing height (Davis, 1958; Dernoeden, 1998). Mowing at 2 inches instead of 3 inches in a low-input environment has also been shown to result in less turfgrass coverage, density, and quality (Robins and Bushman, 2020). In a park setting, with grasses and flowering forbs growing together, a higher height of cut has shown to result in more flower blooms for at least one species (Lane et al., 2019).

### Mowing frequency

Above, I showed that a higher height of cut will allow the turf to grow more before it needs to be mowed....

Continued on page 18...



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# Mowing Parks and Roadsides: Dispelling Myths

Continued from page 17....

This will generally take longer and therefore effectively reduce the number of mowings that are needed (Dernoeden et al. 1998). Figure 1 shows the potential impact of mowing at a low height of cut and infrequently, which should be avoided. Deciding on the frequency of mowing should be made based on simply mowing when necessary. Different roadside boulevards, parks, and other turf areas will have different growth rates and some will need to be mowed more often. Less frequent mowing and higher heights of cuts also have the potential to favor abundance of forage grasses in turfgrass; those species could be timothy grass, brome grasses (White and Smithberg, 1969), orchard grass, and reed canary grass in Minnesota and these are usually less desirable in turfgrass settings.

### Other factors

Additional factors that need to be considered are the sharpness of mower blades, the timing of mowing, and knowing the grass species that are being mown. It is important to mow with sharp blades, because this will reduce tearing or shredding of leaf blades and therefore can reduce disease. If possible, avoid stressful times of the day or seasons (such as the middle of a dry hot summer for cool-season grasses). Fine fescue species are more susceptible to damage when mowing is poorly timed, so especially avoid mowing on the hottest and driest days of the year. If grass has recently been seeded, early low mowing of seedlings with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass can favor Kentucky bluegrass abundance (Brede and Duich, 1984). The mower type such as a flail compared to a rotary can have an effect on weed abundance, but is usually less of a factor compared to mowing frequency (White and Smithberg, 1972). In prairie settings, mowing early especially during the year after seeding has been shown to favor forb abundance and result in more flowers (Williams et al. 2007).

### Conclusion

Lower heights of cut will require more frequent mowing. More mowing means you are using more resources. The grass will then require more fertilizer, herbicides, and will likely favor less pollinator species. Mowing at a height of cut optimal for the present turfgrass species will keep roadside vegetation healthier, so next time think before, where, and how often vegetation in your cities are being mowed (Table 1).

Table 1. Generalized ideal mowing height and frequency for low-input settings. Low-input is defined as little to no fertilizer, supplemental irrigation, and herbicides. In this table, resources refer to fuel, fertilizer, supplemental irrigation, and herbicides.

	Less frequent mowing (mowing as needed, usually every 1-2 weeks or less)	More frequent mowing (mowing every week)
Recommended mowing height (3-4 inches)	<b>Good</b> - Promotes good turfgrass coverage and density; uses the fewest resources	<b>Ok</b> - Uses more resources and requires more equipment maintenance; poorer turfgrass quality in low-input settings.
Low mowing height (1-2 inches)	<b>Poor</b> - Promotes poor turfgrass coverage and density in a low-input setting; favors weed abundance	<b>Ok</b> - Uses more resources and requires more equipment maintenance; poorer turfgrass quality in low-input settings.



# NCTGA Conference Speaker Spotlight

## Retired Colonel Terry Branham

(Editors note: this article is re-published from Tee It Up for the Troops, a veterans support organization raising money through golf. For more information on this great charity, visit: [teeitupforthetroops.org](http://teeitupforthetroops.org))

### Vietnam War Battle Buddies Reunite After 47 Years

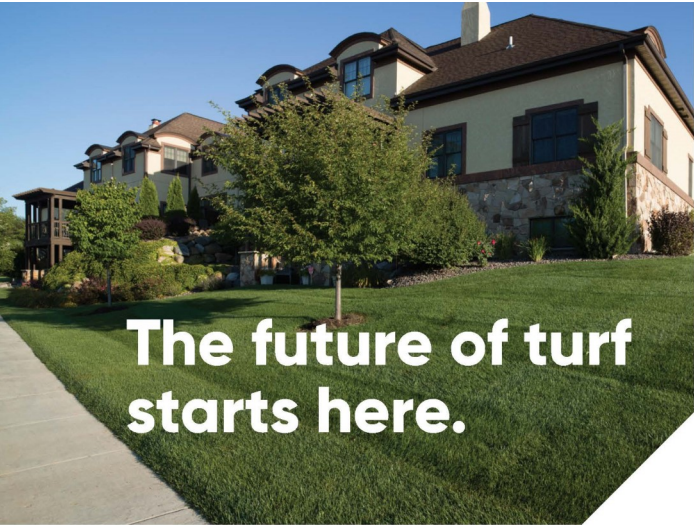


Terry Branham served 26 years of active duty in the U.S. Army and retired as a Colonel and Master Army Aviator. His service included conflicts in Vietnam, the Gulf War and the U.S. Drug War in South America as an Attack Helicopter Pilot. Among his many awards are several medals for valor, including a distinguished flying cross, a bronze star and silver star. This is Retired Colonel Terry Branham’s REUNION story.

*A man, who was like a kindred brother to me, was lost and could not be found.*

Let me take you back to June 1970 and how we were separated on the battlefield. Mike and I were both flying different missions in Cambodia. Mike was flying an OH-6 LOH aircraft that searched for the enemy and then Cobra attack helicopters would attack the enemy when the OH-6 was taking fire. Mike’s aircraft was struck in a barrage of ground-to-air gunfire and Mike was shot in the right elbow and leg. With an injured leg and an inoperable arm, he was unable to fly the aircraft and the helicopter crashed. Mike and his crew chief survived the crash but once outside the aircraft they were under fire. Somehow, they were able to run to cover and later were rescued by helicopter and whisked back to the base hospital. Mike, running on the leg with a bullet that sheared his femur, caused the femur bone to jam upwards past the break in the bone. I heard of his incident and asked every day to be released to go see him back at our base Cu Chi Hospital. Three days later, I was back from my mission and was able to see Mike at the base hospital. He was in a full-body cast, needed traction, and reconstructive surgery. He was being medically evacuated back to the states and that is the last time I saw Mike for almost five decades.

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## **NCTGA Conference Speaker Spotlight**

### **Retired Colonel Terry Branham**

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Over the years, we tried to find each other, however, without the internet, and with a name change for Mike and a military top-secret security clearance for myself, trying to track each other down proved impossible. It wasn't until four years ago, through another veteran, that I learned Mike was still alive and I was able to obtain his contact information.

#### *REUNION Program and Long-Awaited Phone Call*

With many Vietnam memories and emotions coming back to the surface, I was finally ready to pick up the phone and contact Mike. After a few phone conversations, I had an unbelievable opportunity to invite Mike to REUNION, a Tee It Up for the Troops outreach program that reunites combat veterans and helps them heal and work through the hidden wounds of war including anxiety, depression, isolation, and suicide.

REUNION is hosted in a secure and relaxing resort environment, Reunion Resort, in Kissimmee, Florida. If you are selected to attend REUNION, it is an all-expenses-paid trip including accommodations for you, your combat buddy, spouses or caregivers. Participants not only reconnect with those who are most trusted, they also develop new friendships and support networks to help them heal, transition, grow, and thrive. Mike and I both benefited from therapeutic time talking, participation in a variety of helpful breakout sessions, and playing some golf. Our spouses were able to meet, spend time together and benefited from peer support and educational sessions.

#### *My Reunion with Mike*

After not seeing my Vietnam combat brother for 47 years, I felt a wave of emotion when I saw and hugged him again at REUNION. It's how I picture heaven and reuniting with family members whom we have not seen for years.

We spent many hours sharing our post-Vietnam life stories which we wished we had been able to share throughout the years. We reminisced with stories about our shared combat actions and the good things we believed we were doing for our fellow brothers in arms. We shared pictures of our time in combat. We laughed about the same things that had made us laugh back then – taking away the tears we both shed when we were separated by Mike's medical evacuation.

I was relieved that Mike had recovered and made a great life for himself. However, I had unresolved issues that hung over me for all those 47 years that aggravated the harsh, negative side effects of war for me. What could have been different if I were flying with him that day? What would have happened? I now had answers to the prayers I said for Mike so many times – prayers that he would live the full and happy life that he so deserved. I also had the foundation of a strong new friendship with a person who understood exactly what it meant to put your life on the line in service of your combat brothers and country.

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## NCTGA Conference Speaker Spotlight

### Retired Colonel Terry Branham

Continued from page 20....

#### *A New Friendship and Inspiration Forged*

Before leaving REUNION, Mike and I pledged to honor our friendship by staying in touch and continuing to share our lives and plan more activities together, and we are doing just that. We go fishing together for a week every summer and talk about all the things brothers talk about. It has inspired me to finally write about my experiences in Vietnam and all I learned about myself as a man and a warrior. Those long-ago experiences steeled me to be a leader who cared about the men and women I served with as much as I cared about my family.

Warriors make families. Warriors truly know what life is about. We know it isn't about stuff. It's about relationships...like those very meaningful relationships at REUNION that get rekindled, help you to heal, and bring new friendships and meaning into your life.



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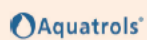
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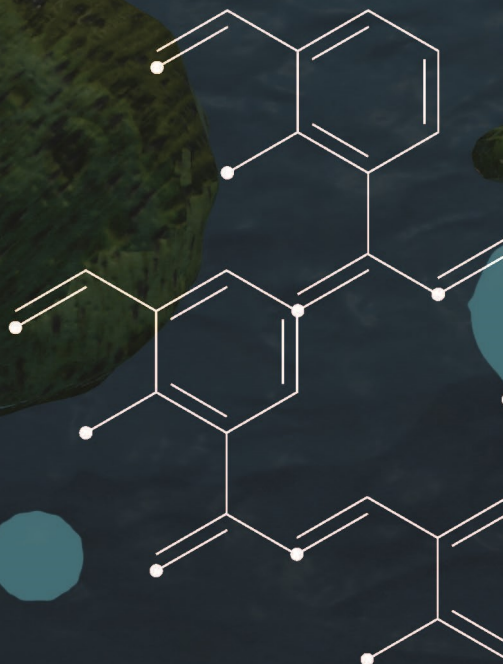
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