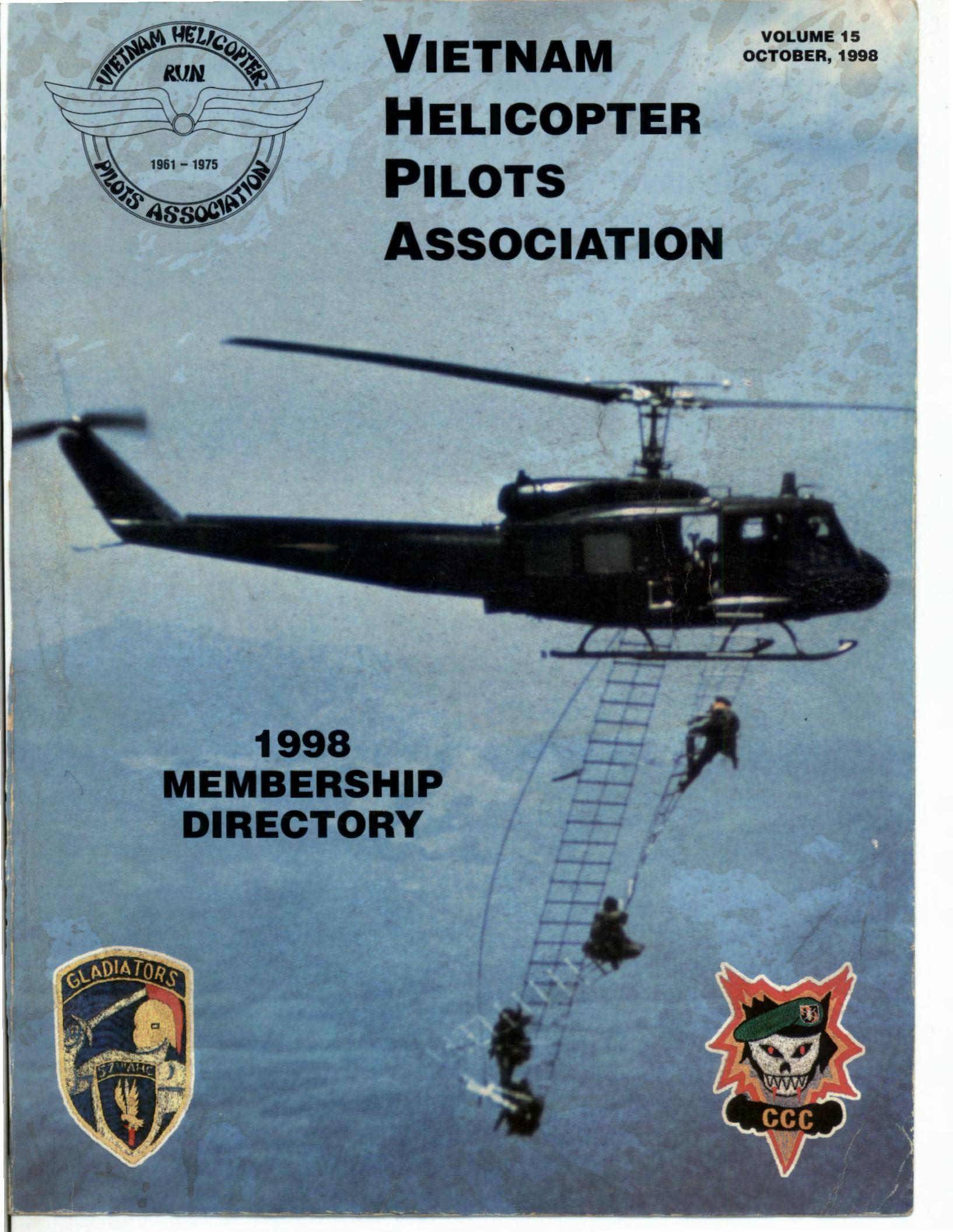




VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 15
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1998 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY





VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Vice President.....	Bob Smith
Past President.....	Mike Hurley
Senior Member at Large (term expires 1999).....	Bob Johnson
Midterm Member At Large (term expires 2000).....	David Rittman
Junior Member At Large (term expires 2001).....	Joe Bilitke
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Directory 1999.....	Ken Fritz
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Membership.....	"Pappy" Jones
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Reunion Site Selection.....	Kenny Bunn

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JUL 96-JUL 97.....	Charlie Rayl
JUL 97-JUL 98.....	Mike Hurley
JUL 98-PRESENT.....	Thomas Payne

THE VHPA DIRECTORY

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) Directory is distributed to members of the VHPA. The VHPA Directory is published annually by the VHPA and mailed in October to the members that are dues current as of September. Fourth-class postage paid at Citrus Heights, CA.

VHPA membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era (1976-1975). Annual Membership is \$30.00 or Life Membership for \$450.00. A Life Membership can be purchased on an installment plan; contact the VHPA for details.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dear VHPA Member:

We sincerely hope you enjoy the 1998 Directory - the 15th edition produced by the VHPA. With the six Newsletter issues and our major Reunion in July, this Directory completes the line-up of "products" you receive for your VHPA dues.

As is our tradition, the theme of the front and rear cover photos "dedicate" the 1998 Directory to those who flew helicopters outside of South Vietnam. The good news - because the Directory Committee started working on this helicopter history just after completing the 1997 Directory and because of repeated Newsletter articles asking for member input; we received a lot of input and members were able to review drafts for additional input. The bad news - we could have used more time and more member input! We want to thank those who helped this effort.

Looking back at the VHPA since the last Directory proves to be very satisfying.

Please consider the following:

- The VHPA Newsletter is sporting color covers and continues to support a 28 page edition six times a year.
- Several fine people have manned VHPA booths at public (e.g. the Sun & Fun Fly-in and Oshkosh) and industry (e.g. AAAA and HAI) events with great success in terms of new and renewing members and just making quality friends.
- The Fort Wolters Chapter did an outstanding job with this summer's reunion at Fort Worth. It was the largest yet in the 15-year history of the VHPA.
- The VHPA continues to enjoy success with its internet offerings and published the e-mail addresses of members in this Directory for the first time.
- The VHPA continues to see growth and success for individual unit associations and other fraternal associations such as the VHCMA and the various unit reunions.
- From a VHPA membership point of view, the beat goes on - just prior to this year's Directory cutoff date, we signed up our 9,500th member. We continue to enroll just over one new member every day.
- On the administrative side, the Executive Council selected a new primary contractor which has been well received by the membership.
- Several VHPA Committees have new leaders and/or new ideas for growth that really look encouraging. These, coupled with several "hard core" (really hard working or dedicated are better words) members in several focused areas, are a joy to behold!

It is important for the membership to know that the various VHPA committees who have the stewardship for collecting data and historical records are ALIVE AND WELL. The Database Committee is still collecting Flight Class, KIA and Died After Tour information. The Historical Committee is still collecting historic documents. The VHPA Pocket Patch Project can still use a color machine copy of your patches. The Database Committee continues to work on the Historical Reference Directory.

In closing, please remember that the VHPA is only as good as you help make it!! We need your comments, suggestions, additions, corrections, address changes, information on other Vietnam Era pilots (living or dead), unit histories, copies of Vietnam Era orders, flight class rosters, color copies of pocket patches, articles for the Newsletter, and photos for the VHPA Calendar. Your input is needed and it is welcomed.

Invite your buddies to our 16th Reunion in Nashville in July!

Your Executive Council

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