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VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION



MISSILE! MISSILE! MISSILE!

1999 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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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 AUG 15. Fourth-class postage paid at Rancho Cordova, CA.

VHPA membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era (1961-1975). Annual Membership is \$30.00 or Life Membership for \$450.00. Life Membership can be purchased on an installment plan. Contact VHPA.

LETTER FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dear VHPA Member,

Your 1999 Directory, the 16th edition, is another of the VHPA volunteer-produced items of which you can be justifiably proud. Our Newsletter Editor, Jack Swickard, has kept up the quality of the glossy full color covered 28 page magazine we all enjoy, the new contractor we engaged in December of 1997 has exceeded our expectations with good management and good service, and as a result our membership renewal rate is at an all time high. As this goes to publication, we have signed up member number 10,226 and in July, 1999, 110 new members joined! We don't have the data to prove it, but we believe that your VHPA is the fastest growing veterans organization in the country. Your efforts and enthusiasm for finding all of our old stick buddies never cease to amaze the world.

The late Ron Timberlake started the monumental task of assembling the historical section of the directory early last year. Unfortunately for all of us, Ron died as the result of an automobile running him down as he sat on his motorcycle at a stop sign. Fortunately for all of us, he had shared his work with your Historical Committee Chairman, Mike Sloniker. So it became Mike's task to finish the work. Mike did a wonderful job of continuing the research. We are certain Ron will be looking down on each of us with a smile as we read the finished product. Thanks from all of us go to Ron and to Mike for their tireless efforts. Your Executive Council and directory crew agreed with Mike Sloniker that this directory should be dedicated to one of the best helicopter pilots to fly Above The Finest: Ronald N. Timberlake. Inside you will find a short version of the history they put together. To give you the full version of the history we have added a new feature to the directory, a CD.

Gary Roush really outdid himself on this CD. It contains some of the indexed database material found in earlier directories plus newsletters and color photos from the past. The CD allowed us to contain costs of production and offer more information at the same time. Let us know what you think about this new idea.

Thankfully, Mike Law continues to provide technical assistance with the databases and desk top publishing for the directory.

The 2000 VHPA Calendar is now available, too. Look in the Newsletter for information on how to order it. We still have the VHPA Historical Reference Directories, back calendar issues (photos are collectible), and decals available from HQs. Just call (800) 505-VHPA. Your dues helped pay to produce these things. You owe it to yourself to look them over and share them with the public who still has grave misconceptions about what really went on during the "helicopter war".

The Mid-South Chapter did a fine job of southern hospitality with the Nashville Reunion and we are looking forward to being together in Washington, DC, July 4th for the 17th reunion of the finest helicopter pilots the world has ever known. Please invite all your stick buddies to attend with you.

It has been a good year for VHPA and we hope you approve of the new ideas we have put into action for you. Please let your Executive Council know what's on your mind.

Your Executive Council

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