





Welcome

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Americal Division Veterans Association

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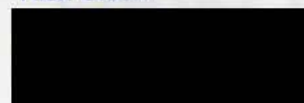
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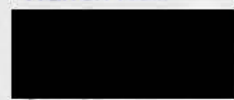


196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

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196th LIB LRP Det. (Prov)
Co. E, 51st Inf. (LRP)
Co. G (Ranger), 75th Inf.
Ranger Platoon, 196th LIB

1999 Reunion Executive Committee

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

Bill Knight
Warren Neill
Ken McKenzie

Americal Division Veterans Association

PNC Ronald L. Ward, Reunion Treasurer
PNC Gary L. Noller, Reunion Program

Colonel Richard F. Carroll (Retired)

Colonel Thomas N. Boland

June 17, 1999

Dear Veterans, Family, and Friends:

We would like to welcome you, your families, and friends to St. Louis for our 1999 reunion. We hope that you have an enjoyable time and that this will be a reunion that you will always remember.

Planning for this event began two years ago when members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association and the Americal Division Veterans Association selected St. Louis for a reunion site. Neither association has met in St. Louis before and its central location has helped ensure a large attendance.

This is also the first time that the two associations have had a joint reunion. The 196th LIB was one of the three infantry brigades that formed the Americal Division in Vietnam. Some veterans are members of both associations and look forward to attending reunions of both groups

An initial estimate of lodging requirements for reunion attendees was set at 275 rooms. The E-51st and G-75th LRRP Ranger Association members decided to join the reunion. The room block at the Radisson was increased to 325 rooms, the maximum available from the hotel for our use. An additional 50 rooms was secured at the nearby Henry VIII Hotel when it became apparent that a second hotel was required.

Many individual members have done a great job in promoting the reunion and in encouraging groups of their buddies to come to St. Louis. We have had excellent support from invited speakers and guests that has enabled us to offer an outstanding program. All this adds up to an attendance that is sure to be a record.

Thank you very much for attending the reunion and in supporting your associations. Whether this is your first reunion or just one of many we hope that you make new friends and create many fine memories. If there is anything we can do to make this event more enjoyable please let us know. Have a great time!

Reunion Planning Committee

Bill Knight
Ken McKenzie
Warren Neill
Gary Noller
Ron Ward

Unit History

In May 1942, General Douglas MacArthur, commander of allied forces in the Southwest Pacific, activated the **AMERICAL Division** using American troops already on New Caledonia, thus the name AMERICAL. The division landed on Guadalcanal on 12 October 1942 and relieved the 1st Marine Division, becoming the first U.S. Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in that war. After bitter combat on Guadalcanal the division left in February 1943 for extensive training in the Fiji Islands and struck next at Bougainville Island 25 December 1943 where it fought until November 1944. At that time the division was sent into the southern Philippines, where it served through June 1945. It took part in the initial occupation of Japan and was inactivated 12 December 1945. It was reactivated on 1 December 1954, officially redesignated the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) and served for almost a year and a half till 10 April 1956 with headquarters in the Canal Zone. It was reactivated again when Gen. William C. Westmoreland, needing an infantry division in Vietnam but aware that none would be arriving from the United States for some time, and conscious of the AMERICAL Division's relationship with the 1st Marine Division in World War II, decided to reraise the army division to operate in the northern coastal sector adjacent to the Marines. He first established a headquarters known as Task Force OREGON and, as additional troops arrived, transformed the task force into the AMERICAL Division. Because Department of the Army policy required that divisions be numbered, the division was known officially as the 23rd Infantry Division (AMERICAL) and was reactivated as such in Vietnam on 25 September 1967. MACV, however, preferred the name AMERICAL, listed it as such in numerous official orders, called it "the Army's only named division on active service," and used the vehicle bumper abbreviation AMCAL. The rugged terrain of southern I Corps Tactical Zone, where the division made its home at Chu Lai, ran the gamut from marshy, coastal lowlands to triple-canopy jungle on steep mountain slopes. The AMERICAL Division battled the strong enemy influence in both Quang Nam and Quang Tri Provinces 11 November 1967-11 November 1968 in Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA with two of its brigades. Another brigade was sent to Quang Ngai Province in early 1968. During 1969 and 1970 the division continued to fight in the Duc Pho, Chu Lai and Tam Ky areas along the coast. In November 1971 the division was inactivated and the 196th Infantry Brigade became separate. The 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) served a total of 1,526 days in Vietnam.

Task Force OREGON was a provisional division-sized organization established and deployed to Quang Ngai and the southern part of Quang Tin Province, where unabated enemy activity threatened security of that sector of Vietnam. The arrival of the task force permitted the U.S. Marines in Quang Ngai Province to move units further north to reinforce the DMZ vicinity. The presence of this large force in the north also hastened the northward extension of 1st Cavalry Division support operations in the coastal area of Binh Dinh Province and the opening of Highway 1 to Da Nang. Task Force OREGON was headquartered at Chu Lai with a provisional headquarters, division support troops borrowed from various units and three combat brigades taken from areas where they could be spared at minimum risk: the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division; the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and the 196th Infantry Brigade (Light). In September 1967 the task force was replaced by the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL). With the impending arrival of two other brigades, the 11th Infantry Brigade and 198th Infantry Brigade, the division was able to release the two brigades borrowed from other commands. This left the 196th Infantry Brigade as the only brigade to serve both the task force and its descendant, the AMERICAL Division.

The **196th Light Infantry Brigade** was raised at Fort Devens and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966 but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone. It initiated the operation into War Zone of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered 19 October 1966. In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and then moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone. The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967. The 196th Infantry Brigade officially joined this division 15 February 1969. It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division was closed out of Vietnam 29 November 1971, the 196th Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations. In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties. It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal.

The above information was taken from the book **VIETNAM ORDER OF BATTLE** by Shelby Stanton.

Colonel Richard F. Carvell (Retired)

Colonel Carvell retired from the Army in 1979 after 30 years of active duty. He enlisted upon graduation from Shinnston (WV) High School in 1949. After completing combat basic training he qualified as a gliderman, parachutist, and Ranger.

When the Korean War began he put aside plans to attend West Point and volunteered to fight in Korea with an elite Ranger unit. When the ranks of his unit were decimated, he volunteered to remain for a second combat tour as an infantryman. He was subsequently wounded again, decorated for valor, and recommended for a battlefield commission.

In the early 1960's he commanded multi-lingual Special Forces units on missions involving the Chilean Commandos, the El Salvadorian Rangers, and the Panamanian and Cuban Crises. In the mid-late 1960's and 1970's he served multiple tours in Vietnam, commanding Green Beret and various other infantry fighting units. In 1967 his infantry battalion was attached to the 196th LIB in the Tam Ky-Que Son areas. From 3/70-11/70 he was the CO of the 1/46th Inf. and fought at FSBs Professional, Mary Ann, Regina, Judy, Siberia, and West.

Under Carvell the 1/46th Inf. was awarded the Valorous Unit Citation for its heroic actions against two enemy regiments in May-June, 1970. During his tours in Vietnam he was shot down, wounded, and decorated on various occasions. He served in the Americal Division on two different occasions. He was inducted into the Infantry Hall of Fame in 1976, the 744th officer so honored since 1776. He earned 55 awards and has served on five continents.

As a senior officer, Colonel Carvell was appointed to top level staff and command positions. He was selected to attend the Command and General Staff College (1968-1969) and the Army War College (1972-1973), graduating with honors. He holds degrees from Nebraska and Shippensburg. Today he is one of two retired Colonels who serve as Honorary Commanders of active duty regiments, his being the 46th Armored Inf. Regt. at Ft. Knox.

Carvell has held a variety of senior positions in government and corporations with responsibilities in Venezuela, New York, Puerto Rico, Argentina, California, and Mexico. Since 1996 he has dedicated his life to writing, speaking, and volunteering. In 1998 he performed medical and Christian mission work in the jungles of the Congo, treating "river Blindness" and other diseases.

Colonel Carvell resides with his wife Judy at St. Albans, WV. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Colonel Thomas N. Bedient

Colonel Bedient is the Deputy Assistant Commandant for Reserve Affairs, J.F.K. Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He has served as an active duty Army Reserve officer since 1986.

Colonel Bedient was born in Corning, New York, but grew up in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana. He entered the Army as a Private, and became an Infantry Second Lieutenant after completing Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Infantry AIT at Fort Lewis, and Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning.

His military education includes the Special Forces Officer Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Air War College. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from Montana State University and a Masters degree in Management from Central Michigan University.

Colonel Bedient's recent job titles include Brigade S3, Chief of Mobilization, Deputy Inspector General, Personnel Staff Officer, and Assistant Professor of Military Science. He also served with the Army National Guard, and Army Reserve in a variety of command and staff assignments.

He served in the AMERICAL Division in Vietnam from November, 1968 to October, 1969. He was a Platoon Leader with 3rd Platoon, C Company; Recon Platoon, E Company; 1st Platoon, D Company; and Battalion Liaison Officer in the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. Just prior to Vietnam duty he was a Training Officer and a Patrolling Instructor at the 2nd Infantry AIT Brigade, Fort Ord, California.

Bedient's awards and decorations include the Silver Star (w/Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device (w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Special Forces Tab.

Tom and Donna Bedient have been married for over 31 years. Donna is a Registered Nurse with a specialty in Oncology. They have four children, Brandon 24, Anne 22, Adron 22, and Brynn 15.



1999 St. Louis Reunion-----Schedule of Events

Please watch the bulletin board and listen to announcements for changes to this schedule.

Wear your name tag for entry into hospitality rooms and display areas.

Please have your event tickets available at the appropriate time.

Tour tickets will be collected as you board the buses.

Show your tickets as you enter to banquet room. Tickets will be collected at your table.

Friday concert tickets will be collected at the door or at your table.

Some events are at capacity. Please be early to take your seat.

Some banquet tables will be taken down to make room for after-dinner entertainment.

Wednesday		Early check-in at hotel.	
16-Jun-99		Time on your own.	
		No scheduled events.	
Thursday	9:00 AM	Registration opens.	Lobby
17-Jun-99	10:00 AM	Hospitality Rooms open.	Main hall
		Vendors and displays open	Main hall
	5:00 PM	Wine and Cheese reception.	Ballroom
	9:00 PM	Registration Closes.	Lobby
	11:30 PM	Hospitality Rooms close.	Main hall
Friday	8:00 AM	Load buses for 8 hour tour.	West door
18-Jun-99		Morning registration opens.	Lobby
		Hospitality rooms open.	Main hall
	8:15 AM	Buses depart for 8 hour tour.	West door
	8:30 AM	Slide and video program- Vic Bandini.	Hospitality room
		Vendors and displays open.	Main hall
	10:15 AM	Load buses for 5 hour tour.	West door
	10:30 AM	Buses depart for 5 hour tour.	West door
	11:00 AM	Morning registration closes	Lobby
	11:30 AM	Memorial Service, downtown St. Louis.	Soldiers Memorial
	2:00 PM	Afternoon registration opens.	Lobby
	3:30 PM	5 hour tour returns to hotel.	Front door
	4:00 PM	Slide and video program- Vic Bandini.	Hospitality room
	4:30 PM	8 hour tour returns to hotel.	Front door
	5:30 PM	Cocktail hour begins.	Ballroom
	6:00 PM	Afternoon registration closes.	Lobby
	6:30 PM	Banquet and Guest Speaker.	Ballroom
	8:30 PM	Michael J. Martin Concert.	Ballroom
	11:30 PM	Hospitality rooms close.	Main hall
	Midnight	Ballroom closes.	Ballroom

Saturday	8:00 AM	196th LIB Assn. membership meeting.	Ballroom
19-Jun-99	8:30 AM	ADVA Executive Council Meeting.	TBD
	9:00 AM	Registration opens.	Lobby
		Vendors and displays open.	Main hall
		Hospitality rooms open.	
	10:00 AM	ADVA membership meeting.	Ballroom
	12:00 PM	Lunch on your own.	
	2:00 PM	Eagles Drill Team.	Ballroom
	3:30 PM	Booksigning.	Hospitality Room
	5:30 PM	Cocktail hour begins.	Ballroom entry
	6:00 PM	Registration Closes.	Lobby
	6:30 PM	Banquet and Guest Speaker.	Ballroom
	9:00 PM	Recorded dance music from Doc Mosher.	Ballroom
	11:30 PM	Hospitality rooms close.	Main hall
	Midnight	Ballroom closes.	Ballroom

Sunday	9:00 AM	Spiritual service.	Hospitality Room
20-Jun-99	10:00 AM	Hospitality rooms open.	
		Time on your own.	
	12:00 PM	Hospitality rooms close.	

Some events are at capacity. If you have tickets that you will not be able to use please tell the reunion committee. The committee will try to find someone who would be interested in purchasing your tickets.

Free hotel shuttle service to the airport, Northwest Mall, and Metrolink is available on request.

Free hotel shuttle service to and from the Radisson Hotel and the Henry VII hotel is available on request.

Call your hotel if you need to be picked up from the airport, Northwest Mall, or Metrolink.

Radisson Airport Hotel, 11228 Lone Eagle Dr. (I-70 & US-67), Bridgeton, MO 63044, 314-291-6700

Henry VIII Hotel, 4690 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63044, 314-731-3040

Please report lost-and-found items to the hotel registration desk.

Schedule Changes:

Keith William Nolan

Keith Nolan was born in 1964 in St. Louis, MO. He wrote his first book, Battle for Hue, while still in high school. The book was published in 1983 when he was 19 years of age. Nolan has written several magazine articles and books about the ground war in Vietnam. His books include Into Laos, Into Cambodia, Battle for Saigon, Operation Buffalo, The Magnificent Bastards, Death Valley, and Sappers in the Wire. He is a co-author of A Hundred Miles of Bad Road.

Nolan's first endeavors involved interviewing Marines who were veterans of the fierce battles in the city of Hue during the 1968 Tet offensive. He continued to use veteran interviews as a chief means of research in all his books. He is a full time historian and writer on the Vietnam War.

His works that examine battles fought by units of the Americal Division are Death Valley and Sappers in the Wire. Americal Division units are also featured in The Magnificent Bastards and Into Laos. Nolan has a BA degree in history from Webster University, St. Louis. The Americal Division Veterans Association recognized the achievements of Keith Nolan by awarding him a Honorary Life Associate Membership in the association. Keith and his wife Kelly live on a farm just outside the St. Louis area.

Chester "Chuck" Carlock

Chuck Carlock was born in 1945 and volunteered to become a helicopter pilot in 1966. He was convinced that the war in Vietnam would be over before he finished flight training. However, after completing basic and advanced flight training in the United States, he was sent to Vietnam to fly helicopters the 71st Assault Helicopter Company. He was 22 years old.

The 71st AHC was assigned to the 14th Aviation Bn. which supported units of the Americal Division and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Carlock flew UH-1C "Firebird" gunships with the primary mission to attack and clear the enemy from landing and pickup zones. On some days he was required to fly hours on end and hop out of one helicopter and into another in order to keep pressure on a relentless enemy. His tour in Vietnam was complete in September, 1968.

Carlock returned to Vietnam for a visit in 1993. He flew over many of the same areas that he had last seen 25 years before. He published his book Firebirds in 1995. His work has been called "the best first-person account of helicopter combat in Vietnam ever written."

After leaving Vietnam, Carlock served as a helicopter flight instructor. He earned a college degree in accounting and became a partner in a national accounting firm. He is a CPA and the Director of Taxes for a prominent Texas family. He and his wife Kathy have three grown daughters and live in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Frank Anton

Frank Anton was an "Air Force brat" who attended nine grade schools and four high schools. His father had a 29 year career in the military and retired as a full Colonel. Anton was born in 1944 in Philadelphia and always considered "Philly" as his hometown. He graduated from high school in Labrador in 1962.

Anton attended colleges in Warrensburg, Missouri and Newburgh, New York. In November, 1965, with his father's encouragement, he went to visit the local Air Force recruiter. The Air Force recruiter was at lunch but the Army recruiter was in. An hour later Anton joined the Army.

He was trained as a helicopter pilot at Ft. Wolters, Texas and Ft. Rucker, Alabama. He arrived in Vietnam in April, 1967 and was assigned to the 71st Assault Helicopter Company. He flew combat missions in the Que Son valley of the rugged I Corps tactical zone.

On the night of January 5, 1968 Anton answered an frantic and desperate call for help from Co. C, 3/21st Infantry, 196th Lt. Inf. Bde. A few minutes later his helicopter was hit by a barrage of enemy rounds and Firebird 90 went down. Anton survived the crash but was captured by the enemy at first light. He spent the next 62 months in Vietnamese prisons in South Vietnam and North Vietnam.

Anton remained in the Army as an aviator and retired after 21 years of service. He then flew for a commercial airline until his eyesight, damaged by poor nutrition in the Vietnam prison camps, prevented him from continuing his flying career. His book Why Didn't You Get Me Out? was published in 1997. He and his wife and two daughters live in Satellite Beach, Florida. He is retired and is frequently asked to speak about his life's experiences.

Michael J. Martin

Michael J. Martin is a singer, songwriter, and guitar player who grew up in Texas, New Mexico, and Vietnam. He served twelve months as a pointman in 1968-69 with Co. C, 4/3rd Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Silver Star.

In the early 1980's Martin teamed with Tim "Doc" Holiday, a decorated three-tour Navy corpsman, and performed all across the country. Their musical skills and inspiring leadership made them prominent figures in the veteran movement. Martin and Holiday co-founded the veterans' advocacy group The Last Patrol. In 1995, Tim Holiday was diagnosed with throat cancer and was forced to retire from the duo.

Martin performs a variety of styles to include folk, country, jazz, blues, gospel, rock and roll, and rap. He matches his music to his audience and mixes classics with his own original songs. He has performed at concerts at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the United States Capitol in Washington, DC.

The G.I. bill allowed Martin to study English, Theater, and Music. He has earned a living acting in Summer Stock and Dinner Theater. He signed a contract with Screen Gems and has recorded songs in Dallas and Nashville. His albums include Windmill, Take Me a Ride on the Moon, and Skyline.

Eagles Elite Drill Team

The Eagles Elite Drill Team is sponsored by American Legion Post 307, Madison-Venice, IL, and Eagles Aeries 1126, Granite City, IL. The group consists of ten rifle spinners and color guard and range in age from 11 to 19. They hold the title of 1998-1999 Illinois State Junior Color Guard Champions.

The Eagles were the youngest group invited to perform at the Gateway Invitational ROTC Drill Meet held in St. Louis, Missouri. The girls are active in both veteran and civic functions and performed at approximately 40 events in 1998. Since 1997 they have performed as guests of the Branson Veterans Task Force for their Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veteran Day ceremonies. The "Branson Veteran's Homecoming" week in November is one of the largest gathering of veterans in the country.

The group is attempting to raise money to attend the groundbreaking of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Veteran's Day, 2000. They have raised \$600 toward the building of the actual Memorial, and are featured in the Spring, 1999 National World War II Newsletter for their fundraising efforts. The group is performing for reunions to help pay their travel expenses.

71st AHC Association Helicopters

The 71st AHC Association is comprised of veterans assigned to the unit during the Vietnam War. Co. A, 501st Aviation Battalion was activated in Vietnam in December, 1964. The utility helicopters were given the call sign RATTTLERS while the gunships were designated FIREBIRDS. On September 1, 1966 this unit was renamed the 71st AHC and supported units of the Americal Division in I Corps.

The association provides helicopters for static display at veterans reunions. Available for the 1999 St. Louis reunion are a UH-1H and a UH-1C. The C model is configured as a gunship with rocket pods, machine guns, and other armaments. The UH is an abbreviation for Utility Helicopter while the trailing letter indicates the model revision number. The helicopters were transported to the reunion by Chuck Carlock and Ron Seabolt.

Rich "Doc" Mosher

Rich Mosher was born in Evanston, IL and resides there today with his wife and five daughters. In Vietnam he was a medic with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade working out of the brigade headquarters at Hawk Hill. He worked with various field units while assigned to the 8th Support Battalion. This unit was responsible for all medics working within the 196th LIB. Doc was later assigned to F Troop, 17th Cavalry to finish his tour.

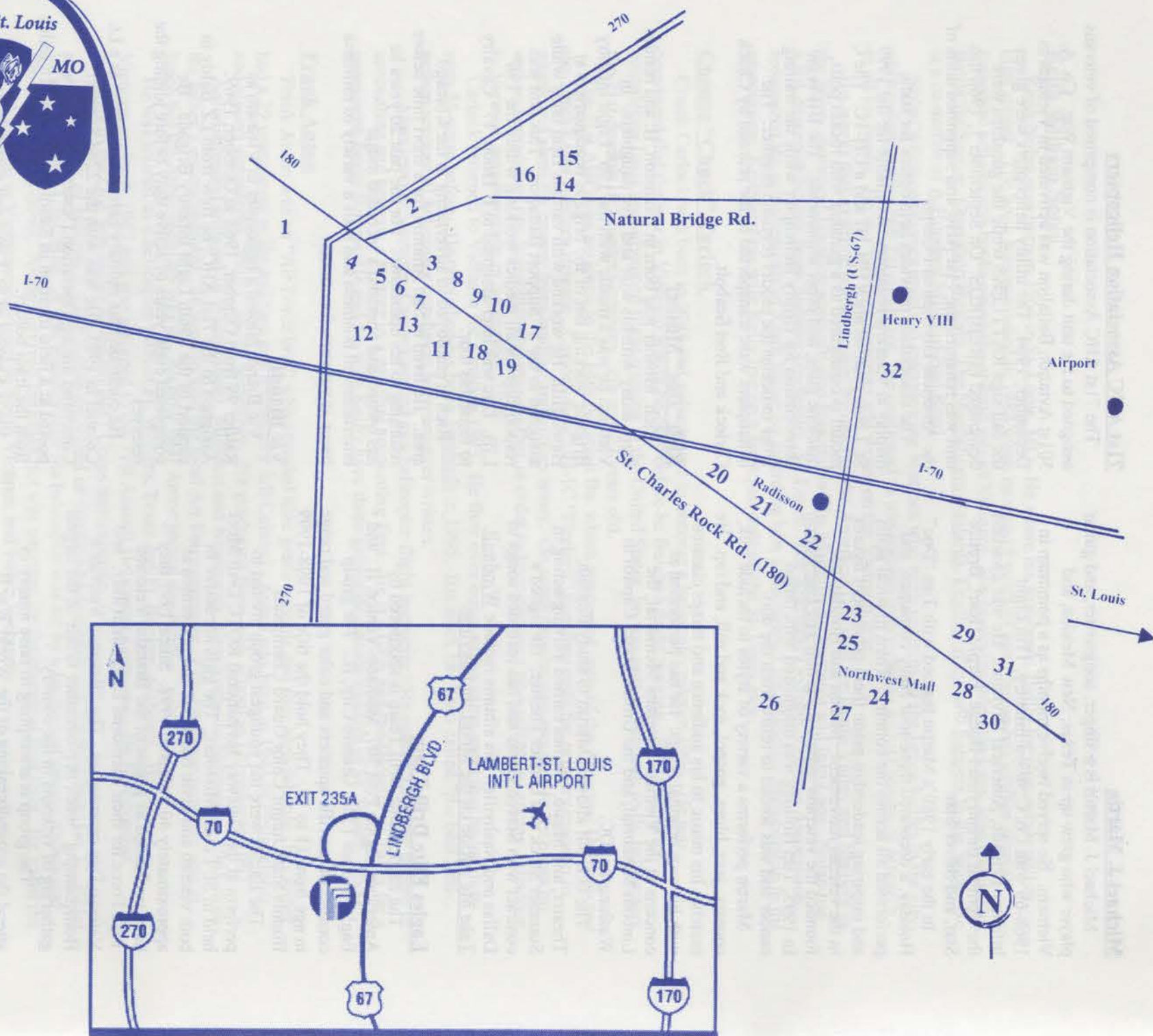
Rich is employed in advertising in the Chicago area.. He lived in San Antonio for a short time before returning to his hometown. For the past 20 years he has owned and operated a recorded music entertainment business and sells a variety of militaria items at veterans functions.

Vic Biandi

Vic Biandi piloted a helicopter in Vietnam as Rattler 99 from October, 1968 to October, 1969. Assigned to the 71st AHC, he flew from LZ Baldy in support of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. He completed eight years of active duty before joining the reserves.

He continued his military career and retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1995. He was with the 22nd Support Command during Operation Desert Storm and was posted at a field location in Saudi Arabia only 18 miles from the Iraqi border.

Vic is a native of St. Louis and currently lives in Indianapolis, IN. He and his wife are the parents of two college age girls. He is employed by the Gas Turbines Division of Rolls-Royce Industries and is a chairman for the 71st AHC Association reunion to be held in 2000.



Local Guide

Map Coordinates

1. Olive Garden
2. McDonalds
3. Coastal Grill
4. Ponderosa Steak House
5. Taco Bell
6. Chinese Buffet
7. Jack-in-the-Box
8. Walgreen Pharmacy
9. Applebee's
10. Lone Star Steakhouse
11. Pizza Hut
12. DePaul Medical Center
13. Country Buffet
14. Post Office
15. Schnucks Grocery
16. Italian Restaurant
17. Imo Pizza
18. Sports Bar
19. Big K K-Mart
20. Westlake Hardware
21. Red Lion Beef Sandwiches
22. Building Store
23. Mexican Restaurant
24. Mall Food Court
25. American Bandstand
26. Steak-and-Shake
27. McDonalds
28. Picadilly Cafeteria
29. Wal-mart
30. Shop-and-Save Grocery
31. Walgreen Pharmacy
32. Duffy's

A variety of restaurants, fast food shops, retail establishments, and service centers are located near the hotel. Refer to the map and coordinates for just a few of the local businesses.

Highway 180, also known as St. Charles Rock Rd., is a major business street. From the Radisson, exit Right onto Lindbergh, immediately take the ramp to 180, then turn Right or left onto 180.

From the Henry VIII, exit Right onto Lindbergh, immediately take the ramp to Natural Bridge Rd. Turn Left on and follow Natural Bridge Rd. to the 180 (about 3 miles.) Or, return to southbound Lindbergh and exit Lindbergh at 180 (about 1 mile), then turn Right or Left onto 180.

Left turns into the Radisson or Henry VII from Lindbergh are not permitted. You must be southbound on Lindbergh to enter the Radisson. You must be northbound on Lindbergh to enter the Henry VIII.

There is an interchange on I-70 at Highway 180. There is also an interchange at I-270 and Highway 180. There is major construction on I-70 just outside the downtown area. Expect delays if I-70 is used to travel downtown.

Northwest Mall is a major shopping center. It features Sears, Penneys, Dillards, and Famous-Barr department stores. It also has a food court and several restaurants. Free shuttle service to the mall is provided by the hotel. When you are ready to return to the hotel from the mall you must phone the hotel to have them pick you up. The mall closes at 9:00 PM.

Other major hotels, restaurants, and services are conveniently located near the airport. Exit I-70 at the airport ramp (Marriott Hotel), turn right, then proceed left or right on the frontage road on the south side of I-70.

The MetroLink light rail is located at the airport terminal. MetroLink runs to major locations within the downtown St. Louis area to include stops near LaCledes Landing, the Arch, and Union Station. Check schedules for hours of operation. The hotel Bell Man will be able to assist in getting cabs

If you have questions about getting around the area please ask the hotel staff or the reunion committee. Please keep a high regard for your safety while travelling. Please do not drink and drive. If you need assistance, please contact a reunion committee member. Have a great reunion!

The Charge of the Light Brigade

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not tho' the soldiers knew
Someone had blundered:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell,
Rode the six hundred.

Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air,
Sab'ring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wondered:
Plunged in the battery smoke,
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre-stroke
Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not--
Not the six hundred.

Cannon to the right of them,
Cannon to the left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?
Oh, the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honor the charge they made!
Honor the Light Brigade,
Noble Six Hundred!

Tommy

By Rudyard Kipling

I went into a public-'ouse to get a pint o'beer,
The publican 'e up an' sez, "We serve no red-coats here."
The girls be'ind the bar they laughed an' giggled fit to die,
I outs into the street again an' to myself sez I:
O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, go away";
But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when the band begins to play,
The band begins to play, my boys, the band begins to play,
O it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when the band begins to play.

I went into the theatre as sober as could be,
They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'and't none for me;
They sent me to the gallery or round the music-'alls,
But when it comes to fightin', Lord! They'll shove me in the stalls!
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, wait outside,"
But it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide,
The troopship's on the tide, my boys, the troopship's on the tide,
O it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide.

Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep
Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap;
An' hustlin' drunken soldiers when they're goin' large a bit
Is five times better business than paradin' in full kit.
Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, 'ow's yer soul?"
But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll,
The drums begin to roll, my boys, the drums begin to roll,
O it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll.

We aren't no thin red 'eroes, nor we aren't no blackguards too,
But single men in barracks, most remarkable like you;
An' if sometimes our conduct isn't all your fancy paints,
Why, single men in barracks don't grow into plaster saints;
While it's Tommy this an' Tommy that, an' Tommy, fall be'ind!"
But it's "Please to walk in front, sir," when there's trouble in the wind,
There's trouble in the wind, my boys, there's trouble in the wind,
O it's "Please to walk in front, sir," when there's trouble in the wind.

You talk o' better food for us, an' schools, an' fires, an' all;
We'll wait for extry rations if you treat us rational.
Don't mess about the cook-room slops, but prove it to our face
The Widow's Uniform is no the soldier-man's disgrace.
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!"
But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot;
An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' anything you please;
An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool -- you bet that Tommy sees!

Editor's Note: The World War I slang term for an English soldier was Tommy. This derives from the fact that the fictional name "Tommy Atkins" was used as an example in filling out various military forms.