



## NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

OF THE

## VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOT'S ASSOCIATION

### *A Touch of History*

The North Carolina Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's Association ( NCC-VHPA ) was incorporated on April 13, 1989. The specific purpose for which it was formed is to "...promote and perpetuate the bonds of brotherhood that binds a group of men who have shared and survived an experience fraught with danger yet filled with essence of pride and satisfaction –an experience unshared except by these unique men.

To provide a regional atmosphere in which to accomplish national and/or international goals of the Association, membership is limited to persons who flew helicopters in Vietnam during the period of 1961-1975 and who are members in good standing in the Vietnam Helicopter's Pilot Association (VHPA) national organization.

The goal of the NCC-VHPA is to preserve and present these aircraft (AC) as a living part of history. It is not the intention of the NCC-VHPA to glorify war but only to bring a small part of history to the public. In so doing we are able to have present personnel who flew these AC, giving people access to living history. These AC are listed with the National Historic Record in Washington, D.C. If these AC were placed on display in a museum it would limit access by the public, and only facts would be printed on an impersonal plaque behind a rope.

Throughout history, weapons used during conflicts have been synonymous with that period in history, from Hannibal's elephants, the first iron-clad ships, the first AC in World War 1, the fighter AC of World War II, jet AC in the Korean War, and the helicopters on Vietnam. The Helicopter touched everyone in Vietnam and became a symbol of the war. As the pilots developed the use of the AC in W.W. I , so did the helicopter pilots in Vietnam. Early pilots in W.W. I were said to have been flying " by the seat of their pants". In a lot of missions in Vietnam, the helicopter pilots flew by the seat of their pants.

The helicopter in Vietnam was at one minute the harbinger of death – functioning as an artillery platform raining down death and destruction – and the next minute could be an angel of mercy by functioning as an air ambulance while transporting the wounded. The helicopter also functioned as a jeep, truck, crane, scout and forward observation post.

In October of 1994, we began to bring the aircraft to North Carolina schools contributing to understanding history through hands-on exposure. As a result of static displays in Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina we have enabled thousands of people to have access to these AC. If not for the effort of the NCC-VHPA membership, these aircraft would be destroyed for salvage with a great loss to the people and a part of history.

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&  
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Walter Robbs Callahan &  
Pierce Architects, PA is proud  
to support NCVHPA's efforts  
in bringing "hands-on"  
educational opportunities to  
schools and events around  
North Carolina.

*Architects, PA*