



GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC.

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
GAME WARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 5523
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455-0523

5/26/92

WEST COAST CHAPTER Bob KORN, [REDACTED] 7.

NORTH WEST CHAPTER Dave Wright, P.O. [REDACTED] 116-1 66-67

NORTH EAST CHAPTER Jack Babcock, RFD 2, [REDACTED]

SOUTH EAST REGION CHAPTER Ron Laratta, [REDACTED]

TEXAS CHAPTER: Jay Eichorn, [REDACTED] 70220

OKI (OHIO/KENTUCKY/INDIANA) CHAPTER: Bill Warren, [REDACTED]
Amelia, [REDACTED]

GAME WARDEN AREA REPS

SAN FRANCISCO	Ken DELFINO, 1126 Mayfield Circle, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Bob DWINELL, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
AZ/NM	Carl GERKEN, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
FL	Jim "Doc" GUY, [REDACTED] 32935, (305) 242-3490.	[REDACTED]
FL (West Coast)	CAPT Burt WITHAM, Jr., [REDACTED] 34224	[REDACTED]
SC	Mike BAILEY, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
NC	Bill GASKINS, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
NY	Frank RE, Route 2, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
NJ	Brad KONHAN, 8 Anderson Avenue, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
NH	Andy ONDERDONK, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MA	Chris BLAKE, [REDACTED] 02760.	[REDACTED]
KS/MO	Basil FRI, Route 1, [REDACTED] 110	[REDACTED]
PA	Galen HOOVER, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
IL	Bill PARK, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MI	Norm SLIMMER, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
WI (+Seawolves)	Tom THALMANN, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Northern VA/ MD/DC	Larry BROWN, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DE/MARVA Peninsula	Rich GLAZESKI, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
HI	Dick GODBEHERE, [REDACTED] 67-68	[REDACTED]
AL/LA/MS	Wm "Flash" GORDON, [REDACTED] 66-67	[REDACTED]
Australia	Geoff TIERNY, [REDACTED] (Caribou) 1/71-12/71	[REDACTED]

10/14/93

Dear Nancy & Frank,

Here's a short item for our next newsletter (#36?)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your National Gamewardens Headquarters.

We had a wonderful 26th Annual National Reunion in Norfolk in August 1993 and we are looking forward to Las Vegas next year. Steve Watson and Ed Canby should be sending out detailed 1994 Las Vegas reunion details soon.

Supplies - we are still snagged in our goodie supply pipeline, so, for this quarter only, we are suspending goodie sales. For those of you who have ordered goodies, we will fill your order at our earliest opportunity. We anticipate everything being straightened up by the first of the year.

History Book - I hope everyone got a chance to send in their input to the Gamewarden History Book. This is a once in a lifetime chance to get in a history book.

JOHN

Thanks,

John

REUNION 1993 REPORT by Ron Laratta

The 1993 Reunion in Virginia Beach was very nice. Everyone attending had a wonderful time. Many "first-time" attenders said they felt very welcome.

A very big THANK-YOU and "WELL DONE" to all the people in Virginia Beach who helped with the arrangements and activities. Especially: John and Irene Williams, Dave and Barbara Crockett, Monte and Sue Blackwell, Bob Adams and others, whom, when ever a list of thank-you's is made, they are not mentioned, but whose contribution and help we cannot do without. So, again- Thank You!

At the door, registrants were given an itinerary and everything that was included in registration (like bus transportation and a Reunion picture book) and a busy schedule of events. A HUGE difference from the reunion reservation notice/form issued June 30, 1993! The members that attend each year, for the fun and camaraderie (regardless of the location, etc.), were pleasantly surprised to find out about all the things that were included this year. (No doubt- many more people would have attended if they had this information published beforehand.) As always, it was great to see everyone- especially Burt Witham, Pete Ward and many out-of-towners. We missed Clif Clifton and a number of others, too. Anyway, the Reunion was a success. You should have attended.

The 1993 Reunion Pin was a big success too! Order yours now! (See form or send \$7.50 to S.E. Chapter.) Many new members signed up when they "dropped-in" from attending the V.V.A. National convention. We made many new friends. They found out about us from all the VVA Convention notices posted and "passing the word" -that Gamewardens was in town also. -We ALL need to continue to spread the word...that- Gamewardens really does exist and is growing by leaps and bounds each year. We also need to do all we can to maintain our current membership and keep them happy. This is no longer a few guys who get together every now and then.

In that vein, I'm very glad to see this National newsletter starting. The quarterly publication is being done by Frank and Nancy Re...**MANY THANKS!** ...and, to the REST of YOU: Send anything of interest even if it's not "veteran" related, -a "good idea" or a "words of wisdom" article will certainly be appreciated. So, keep those cards, letters and ARTICLES coming, folks!

THE LATEST ON THE HISTORY BOOK-There's still time!! Deadline now December 15th!


The response to this project is coming along very nicely. We want to include everyone we can...especially our newer members, the other chapters and those not attending the Reunion or who haven't even heard about this project yet. Notices have gone out. You knew a deadline was approaching...well, it's here...and this is another reminder!! You, as a member of Gamewardens, whether you are going to buy the GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM HISTORY BOOK or not, you need to:

1) Submit your 150 word (or less) biography AND 2 photographs -(1 incountry and 1 current) to the publishers in Kentucky, IMMEDIATELY! If you exceed 150 words- it will cost you .15e a word. (Send that "exceeded words" money to the publisher.) 2) DO NOT send any "book-order money" in with your story. Instead- Send BOOK ORDERS and PAYMENT to: SE REGION CHAPTER of Gamewardens, [REDACTED]

The SE Region chapter DISCOUNTED price is \$40 for the 1st book and \$37 for each ADDITIONAL book (prices INCLUDE shipping.) Publishers prices: \$55 1st, \$2.50 2+ 3) Deal directly with the publisher if:

a) You would like to order a deluxe, leather bound edition. \$85/book, \$6/shipping, \$5/stamp = \$96 total. b) or, You would like to have your name stamped on the cover. \$50/book, \$5/shipping, \$5/stamp = \$60 total. 4) THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS

BOOK AFTER THE INITIAL EDITION IS PRINTED! There might possibly be a second volume if the response is great...OR...if we don't receive A LOT more participation, there may not be a 1st edition. Gentlemen, it is up to you. Please follow the ad/guideline enclosed and SUBMIT AN ENTRY to be included in this book. Again, you do not have to purchase the book to be included. You MUST, however, be a member in-good-standing (ALL categories eligible EXCEPT

ASSOCIATE). You are encouraged to send in a "story of interest" for possible inclusion in the book. You are also encouraged to send in a story for a Memorial member or as an Honorary member. 5) Send biography, photos and stories to: TURNER PUBLISHERS [REDACTED] 

6) Send BOOK payments to: The SE Region Gamewardens Chapter to reserve your copies NOW (We need to know how many books to order AND we need to know BEFORE the book goes to press! (to tell them how many to publish)! Don't be shut-out! Send your payments now to: The SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER, 355 Ridge Court, Roswell, GA 30076-2620. (404) 641-8065.

7) Anyone may purchase any number of copies of the book.

8) Bottom Line: You are sending your biographies, photos and stories to Turner Publications and your book orders to the SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER (for your discount.)

9) ANY questions call: Ron Laratta 404-641-8065 History Book Project Chairman;

Here are 2 frequent questions: "What's the catch (or difference)...why should we order from you...?" and: "When will the books be published?"

ANSWERS: a) You're ordering your books from the SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER because they have committed to purchase 100 books (or more) at a quantity discount and they are passing that discount on to you. You save around \$15 per book. The "difference" is the books will not be stamped with your name- so, in that case, you save around \$20 a book!! b) Realistically- the book will be issued late 1994.

You MUST get your materials submitted so we can start to edit, compile and print the book!

Deadline is December 15, 1993.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PLEASE PRINT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR NEWSPAPERS, NEWSLETTERS, MAGAZINES, BUDDY SEARCHES, and ALL VETERAN AND COMMUNITY BILLBOARDS.

-27th NAVY INSHORE REUNION-

THE "GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM ASSOCIATION" -WHICH INCLUDES THE RIVER PATROL FORCE AND ALL NAVY INSHORE OPERATIONS, SUPPORT AND UNITS, ASSOCIATED WITH THE BROWN WATER NAVY of VIETNAM- WILL BE HOLDING THEIR 27th ANNUAL NATIONAL REUNION IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, AUGUST 3-7, 1994.

PLEASE CONTACT: RON LARATTA, PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

[REDACTED]: Same number for FAX!

"GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM ASSOCIATION, INC." started in 1968 and consists of U.S. Navy Veterans, mainly of the River Patrol Force -TF 116- (Operation Gamewarden), TF-115, TF-117 and all other related combat and support units with service in Vietnam.

The River Patrol Force operated in the Mekong Delta Region of the Republic of South Vietnam from 1966 until 1971. Task Force 116 included River Patrol Boats (PBR's), NAVY SEALs and Seawolf Helicopter Gunships. TF 115 and TF 117 included: Minecraft, LST's, Swift Boats, Riverine Forces and other Inshore combat units. ALL are members of the Association. Gamewardens have many members world-wide and know there are other veterans out there who don't know of this organization. Many people join to locate buddies, find answers about what happened to their outfits

after they left and to talk things out. It's great to be able to talk to someone who was there, in combat, and probably in the same unit!

GAMEWARDENS is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is "Tax Exempt" by the IRS. Their purpose is to "Revere the memory of those men who lost their lives in the service of their country." They have monthly board meetings in Norfolk, occasional LOCAL chapter meetings and an annual NATIONAL Reunion held around the country. There are 7 active, regional chapters: Norfolk, VA.-Headquarters; San Diego, CA.-WEST COAST chapter; Albany, Oregon-NORTHWEST chapter; Stonington, CONN.-NORTHEAST chapter; Charleston, SC/Atlanta, GA.-SOUTHEAST REGION chapter; San Antonio, TX-TEXAS chapter; and: Cincinnati, Ohio-OHIO, KENTUCKY, INDIANA chapter. (To contact one near you, write to the address above.)

Other functions of the association: Student Scholarship grants are awarded each Spring. Two Memorial Monuments (one on the East coast and one on the West coast) are dedicated to the Navy men killed in Vietnam. A service to the men listed on the monuments is held every year. They support the community by: annual "Civic Action" donations to and for veteran projects; help support each other to "fill in some blanks" about other people -where they are, if they made it back and sometimes just to lend an ear and listen. They all share information about: problems, concerns and the latest health-care programs available through the VA and other resources...(A topic we ALL are watching carefully). Provide a communication network consisting of others "who were there." They are also a source of substantiating claims by possibly locating a buddy and sharing common interests.

Reunions allow a time for fun and camaraderie. To share photos and stories and to remember the men and service to Vietnam. Please join us! There are: Life, Annual, Memorial and Associate memberships available.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in the GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM, Assoc. please write: "GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM, ASSOC."

at: 355 Ridge Court, Roswell, GA. 30076-2620

or: P.O. BOX 5523, Virginia Beach, VA. 23455. THANK YOU.

Ron Laratta PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
355 Ridge Court
Atlanta, GA. 30076
(404) 641-8065

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS NEWS RELEASE TO AS MANY PUBLICATIONS AND OUTLETS YOU CAN. DON'T FORGET YOUR BULLETIN BOARDS AROUND TOWN, AT WORK, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

Editors note:

Information and communication are vital to an organization like ours. It is our hope that this newsletter will have information from all the chapters in the future. We also hope that the chapters will make copies that they can distribute to interested parties.

Articles and information may be submitted in any form! However if you are on an IBM compatible computer we would appreciate submissions on disk in either Word Perfect or ascii files.



Placed on the proposed cover for the GAMEWARDENS History Book. The book will be hardbound, with Smyth-seam binding for durability and printed on acid-free paper for superior photo reproduction.

Dear Gamewardens,

The Gamewardens of Vietnam Association and Turner Publishing Company are teaming up to publish the Gamewardens' history. The hardbound, 9 x 12 inch book will contain hundreds of 'Nam photos, Association Roster, "war stories," your personal biographies with pictures and much, much more.

We have had more than 200 Gamewarden veterans send in their biographies and photos. Don't be left out of this book! Send in a 150 word personal biography and two photos (one from your service days and a current). You do not have to buy a book to be included.

I am proud to have served with you and am proud to be remembered with you in our history book.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Williams
President, Gamewardens of Vietnam Assn., Inc.

Turner Publishing Company is the world's largest publisher of military veterans association histories, having published more than 100 titles for Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard. For a free catalog check the box on the order form or call 502-443-0121

PLEASE PRINT

Send BOOK ORDERS to SE REGION CHAPTER and -
Mail all materials to:

**GAMEWARDENS of Vietnam
History Book**
P.O. Box 3101
Paducah, KY 42002-3101
(502) 443-0121

GAMEWARDENS	Qty	Price	Total
Standard Edition		\$49.95	
Duram, grained, real bonded Leather Edition		\$99.99	
KY residents add 6% sales tax		tax	
Embossing Charge		\$5.00	
Biography Charge: 15¢ per word over 150 word limit		\$15	
Shipping & Handling: \$5.00 for first book, \$2.50 for each add'l book		SHIPPING & HANDLING	
Protective, plastic book cover		\$2.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please mail me a free Front Line catalog		Total	

OR SEND \$40-1 book, \$37-on add'l book. SEH is INCLUDED for SE REGION CHAPTER 355 Ridge Court, Roswell, GA 30076 For STANDARD EDITION ONLY. Name-embossing not available.

Name to be embossed on cover (up to 24 spaces)

Please check method of payment ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

Your Name

Address

City

State

Zip

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I-GWAD - BM - For Office Use Only

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No. photos to	Amount
Other Photo fee	Emboss Code

THE BROWN WATER LOG

GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Volume 3 Number 1

September 1993

President Jay Eichhorn
San Antonio

Vice President "Bump" Harrison
La Grange

Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Rasco
Houston

Texas Chapter Welcomes Member From West Coast Chapter

Warren K. "Tom" Thomson recently relocated to Austin from San Diego, California. Tom is a native Texan and a retired OSCS who served about three and a half years in Vietnam on PBR's, first with an American river division and later as an advisor to the VN. For the last several years Tom had served as the Gamewardens West Coast Secretary/Treasurer. For those of you who are not aware the West Coast Chapter now has two PBRs, one of which has been restored and was on display at the West Coast annual picnic in June. Tom indicated that he would like to help out with the Texas Chapter after he gets settled into his new job. Knowing what Tom has accomplished while with the West Coast Chapter, I believe that he will be a real asset to our chapter.

Brown Water Navy Video Documentary Nears Completion

Brown Water Productions of Los Angeles is in the process of completing a one hour video documentary on TF116, Operation Gamewarden. Mr. Gene Frederickson and Mr. Brendan "Bud" Tully have been working on the project for better than a year and have covered a lot of the U.S. interviewing people like Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (COMNAVFORV from September 1968 to May 1970), General William Westmoreland, Elliot Williams (PBR sailor and Medal of Honor recipient), and many others. Gene and Bud were guests at the June West Coast Reunion and presented a condensed version of the video at the banquet. Rumor has it that the video documentary may appear as soon as early '94 on one of the cable channels. We'll keep in touch with Gene and Bud and provide more information as it becomes available.

Members Seeking Lost Buddies

Tom Thomson is trying to locate Master Chief Michael Fetty, American River Division 515 & Vietnamese River Patrol Division 56. Tom can be contacted at P.O. Box 1686, Georgetown, TX 78627 or (512) 863-8068.

Alfred Aralza who was a GMG3 attached to NSA Det Nha Be from February '68 to February '69 is trying to locate anyone who was also at Nha Be during his tour. Alfred can be contacted at 6734 Fellowood, San Antonio, TX 78238.

Jay Eichhorn who was an RM2 aboard USS INDRA (ARL37) at Cat Lo and Nha Be in 1966 is trying to locate Paul Shesko who was an RM1. Jay can be contacted at P.O. Box 29323, San Antonio, TX 78229.

GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM ASSOCIATION, Inc. GAMEWARDENS CUSTOM VEST ORDER FORM



Date _____

Olive green VEST w/front pocket, inner lining, embroidered GAMEWARDENS logo on back, name on front, right breast panel

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

\$60.00 (pre paid) + \$5.00 shipping

Name _____

SIZES: Sm, Med, Lrg, XL, (XXL) + \$5.00

Address _____

(Circle One)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone() _____ Work Phone() _____ Ext _____

EMBROIDERED Name or Nickname desired on right front panel: " _____ "

YOU MAY SELECT THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER TITLES to go UNDER River Patrol Force SEAL ON BACK OF VEST

(CIRCLE ONE)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. NORFOLK CHAPTER | 6. NORTHWEST CHAPTER |
| 2. WEST COAST CHAPTER | 7. NORTHEAST CHAPTER |
| 3. SE REGION CHAPTER | 8. O.K.I. CHAPTER |
| 4. OREGON CHAPTER | 9. TEXAS CHAPTER |
| 5. SAN DIEGO CHAPTER | 10. NONE - (BLANK) |

11. "Other" _____

(PRINT UP TO 16 LETTERS): _____

(include SPACES)

AMOUNT \$ _____

* PINS (Limited Supply)

25th ANNIVERSARY REUNION PIN

\$7.50 + \$1 Shipping

Cash _____ Check _____ Other _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

MAKE PAYABLE TO: S.E.CHAPTER of GAMEWARDENS

Send VEST Orders To: Mike Bailey, President
S.E.GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM



Order

Received by: _____ Date: _____

THANK YOU! SE CHAPTER of GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM, Ron Laram, Secretary 155 Ridge Court, Roswell, GA 30076-4044 404-585-1985 Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

RECEIPT Date: _____ Amount: _____ Cash/Ck _____ Bal.Due: _____ For: _____

Signed: _____

SEAWOLF REUNION



MAY 27-29 1994
PENSACOLA FLORIDA

FOR INFO. CONTACT-
U.S.N. HAI-3 SEAWOLF ASSOC.



Robert W. Kilgelly
340 Lafayette Rd.
Apt. # 108
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
9-17-93

GAMEWARDENS of VIETNAM
c/o C. J. CLIFTON
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear C.J.

I am a life member of the Northeast chapter. I am presently in college at Northern Essex Community College , Haverhill, Ma. I am studying to work in an advocacy position with veterans and their families. I also belong to the schools Veterans and Service persons club. This is the reason I am writing.

We as a club are looking for support of our cause with the administration of the school. In particular the college president. He has removed the POW/MIA flag that we as students have paid for and flown in respect for those comrades who never returned home or cannot return home to their loved ones . We established this for the duration of time , until congress finally states that the issue has been resolved.

All we can ask is that you please inform those people whom you believe could write Governor Weld of Massachusetts and let him know how the veterans population feels and cares about those whom are missing and his ability to order the flag flown for that period of time until this is resolved.

I thank you for your kind consideration, and time.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert W. Kilgelly

Northeast Chapter

Our 5th Annual Reunion held this past June was very prosperous and successful. A good time was had by the 24 guys plus 19 family members in attendance. We would like to welcome our new members.

Life - Bob Kil Kelly and Ted McCall.

Active - Mike Kiley, Colin Carter and Ed Stoneham.

Associate - E. Mac McCabe

Our next quarterly meeting will be held Nov. 13, 1993 at American Legion Sweeny Post, Maple St., Manchester, N.H. 2:00 PM. many of us meet for lunch beforehand at 99 House.

Tentative Northeast Reunion '94 date - July 9th

OFFICERS.

President Ray Snow - V.P. Walt Campbell - Sec/Tres. Jack Babcock - Chaplin Jocko Fallon

Days of War
by
Alfred Araiza

In the days of war so long ago
There was a time when men had to go
Striking swiftly often in the night
Engaging the enemy in fierce firefight

Deep in the rivers of Mekong land
Deep in the jungles of south Vietnam
We came, we saw, we fought for all
We gave our best for freedom's call

Just out of high school we were then
Young and foolish and without much sense
Soon we learned we were just mortal men
For the face of death was in every hand

Dying alone on a lonely hill
With thoughts of home was my friend Bill
I knelt beside him and held his hand
With a prayer on his lips he departed this land

Yes we were the men who traveled far
To a foreign land in the days of war
Do not forget us we say to you
For when you needed us we stood by you

(Alfred Araiza was a GMG3 attached to NSA Det Nha Be from Feb 68 to Feb 69)

IT IS TRAGIC AND SAD we have a new lineup of officers in the SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER

President: Pete Ward
Vice President: Ron Laratta
Treasurer*: Mike Bailey
Chaplain: John Malovic
Membership/Newsletter: Ron Laratta
* Appointed Treasurer 10/28/93

Special Advisor: Elliott Williams
Special Advisor: E. Buzz Porcell
Trustee: Adm. Elmo Zumwalt
Trustee: Gen. William Westmoreland
Chairman: Mike Bailey

NOVEMBER 1993 NEWSLETTER

REST IN PEACE - WE HAVE LOST TWO DEAR FRIENDS

BVBLYN COOPER - Everyone will miss her. She was loved by all. Our deepest sympathy and love are extended to Clarence Cooper and the family.

JIM WALKER - passed away 10/27/93. He was a good friend to all. We are all saddened by his sudden loss. We will miss him dearly. Donations may be made to the SE REGION CHAPTER of GAMEWARDENS. Write to: Terry Walker, 237 Harper St. Williamston, SC. 29697

I would like to add that, the treasury books were clear and up-to-date. The SE Chapter will "catch up" on a few items (orders, this newsletter, etc.) and issue a statement soon. S.E. members note: It was a pleasure to deal with Betty Jo Bagwell of the American Federal Bank in Williamston, SC. We would like to thank her. She handled the transfer of our funds quickly, graciously and professionally. We will be banking there for a long time.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

Relocation of their National Headquarters and archives to Patriots Point, South Carolina took place October 28-30, 1993

Pete Ward, Alan Wilson and Ron Laratta joined our own Elliott Williams (President of the NATIONAL SOCIETY of the MEDAL OF HONOR) at the Grand Opening ceremonies. We are very proud of him.

This is another new, "added attraction" to Patriots Point. While you're there - it would be a great time to visit the PBR Vietnam Firebase Exhibit and see all the refinements made since it opened.

The SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER is seeking a volunteer to fill the office of SE Chapter secretary. Duties include: taking minutes of all meetings, handling correspondence, directing visitors to the appropriate people and publishing the newsletter. Contact any officer of The SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER. Ron Laratta is doing this and will assist as long as necessary for the transition. Office will be held until February 1995. The SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER will rotate meeting locations around the SOUTHEAST REGION area, as indicated in our By-laws. Please become an active member in the chapter. (Candidates should have a computer for keeping track of our database.) Please join the Navy Gamewardens Association LOCAL chapters, too. You'll be supporting the local chapters and their endeavors - AND you'll be a member of the national organization. There are several types of membership available.

Remember to contribute whatever you can - in whatever capacity - by becoming an active member. That can be with donations and serving a term or two on the board. Your donations of ANY amount are appreciated - whether it's \$1 or \$100 - it all adds up and 100% stays in the local chapter. Renew your dues through the Chapters as well. We update our mailing lists and keep a portion of the dues. This is another way to support your chapter! Attend meetings, too. Reunions, Meetings and Events allow a time for camaraderie and to remember the passing of our friends - those in Vietnam, and those who have passed on since.

REUNION 1993

The 1993 Reunion in Virginia Beach was very nice. Everyone attending had a wonderful time. Many "first-time" attendees said they felt very welcome. A very big THANK-YOU and "WELL DONE" to all the people in Virginia Beach who helped with the arrangements and activities. Especially: John and Irene Williams, Dave and Barbara Crockett, Monte and Sue Blackwell, Bob Adams and others, whom, whenever thank-you's are made, they are not mentioned, but whose contribution and help we cannot do without. So, again - Thank You ALL!

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With all that's happening in the SE Region and nationally, you need to know what's going on and I need to fill you in on some things. National newsletter is coming soon... Some items will be repeated here and probably arrive at the same time. The quarterly publication is being done by Frank and Nancy Re... MANY THANKS! to those ... and, to the REST of YOU: Send anything of interest - even if it's not "veteran related" - a "good idea" or a "words-of-wisdom" article will certainly be appreciated. So, keep those cards, letters and ARTICLES coming, folks!

Send stuff to Frank Re, Rt 2 BOX 84, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549-9787 or Ron Laratta, 355 Ridge Court, Roswell, GA 30076-2620

OUR LOSS by Ron Larata

WE HAVE LOST 2 DEAR FRIENDS: EVELYN COOPER and JIM WALKER. We miss them both.

As you read in Jim Walker's obituary, he died in Tyler, Texas - far from his home in South Carolina. Terry, Jim's wife, was at his side - but, *alone* in a strange city. A quick call to Harold & Stella Sherman (Gamewarden members living in Tyler, TX) and they were at the Medical Center, at Terry's side, in a moment. The Sherman's were able to comfort Terry - and, by doing so, they eased the pain we all felt. Many of us wanted to be there for Jim and Terry - a time of need. The frustration of distance and time loomed before us. And then, Jim was gone.

The Sherman's thoughtful, sincere and fast response was wonderful. The Sherman's were welcome faces to the 'strangers' in town. They did all they could to assist and support Terry. The SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER of GAMEWARDENS and the entire GAMEWARDENS Association are eternally grateful to Harold & Stella Sherman. THANK YOU.

On Friday, when Jim arrived at the S.C. airport, Ron Larata and Alan Wilson escorted him to the funeral home.

Services were Saturday, Oct. 30, 1993. Gamewarden members, attending as pall bearers and military honor guard, were: Michael Bailey, Robert Czarkowski, C. Steve Carpenter, Ron Larata, James Maddox, William "Robby" Robinson, Ron Swafford, Alan Wilson and Thomas "Buddy" Wilson. Janet Rambo attended and represented her husband Vince Rambo, the CO of Jim's RivDiv 573.

It is comforting to know we have a network of family members we can trust, nationwide. We are proud of you, Harold & Stella... and, once again- Thank You!

WHY?

As combat veterans, we should be used to death, but never are. We can never erase the horrors we saw and experienced. Our profound losses, weigh heavily on our hearts. We still feel the sadness. In Vietnam, we didn't have *time* to grieve or say goodbye to each other... in peace. Gentlemen, I urge you to make that peace NOW. Go out in the back yard or somewhere quiet - perhaps with a stream running through. Say a prayer. Talk to the people we miss. Do what you didn't do, in combat...back then...say what you didn't say. Talk to their spirits and make peace. The spirits inside and all around us. Life is to be celebrated each day. I told Evelyn Cooper and Jim Walker I loved them and what they meant to me, over the years. I'm glad I did.

We have to stop and feel the emotion. This time, we can take time to grieve. We should. Gamewardens will never be the same. Jim and Evelyn would want us to go on, though. To support each other, to be in harmony.

It was an honor to know them, to love them and to be with them. Now, it's time for us to comfort and rely on each other - as we always do. We are family and each time we lose a part of it... Jim, Evelyn, spouses, relatives and friends, too... -we need to stop, reflect, and go on. They would like that. For our time will come also.

We will always remember them.

Goodbye Jim, you were a great friend. Goodbye Evelyn, thank you for being strong when it counted.

Rest in peace.

A sad, monumental lyric comes to mind:

★ "We just looked around, . . . and they were gone."
("...Has anybody here seen: Abraham, Bob, Martin and John?")

They are now smiling softly down upon us. Watching over us.
Be brave Terry. Be brave Clarence. We are here for you.

Now, if you don't mind... I will go to my quiet place. . . where no one can see me. . .

. . . and cry.

NEWSLETTER articles should be sent to:



REUNION

August 4-6, 1994

Las Vegas

Further details in next Newsletter