



# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

FOUNDED 1945

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2004

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Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller  
Contributing Editor: David W. Taylor



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2004 - 2006

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**Chapter Commander**  
Central Midwest Region  
David A. Chrystal  
Centralia, MO 65240  
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**NOTICE**  
Send new applications and dues renewals to Ronald R. Ellis, Asst. National Finance Officer.  
Do not send any mail to the former post office box in Boston, MA. It is no longer in use. Send mail for general delivery to Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant.  
08/04

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

I hope this issue of the Newsletter finds every one well. After a week in Reno for the Reunion I am still trying to catch my breath. With all that Rich Merlin had going for us and then going motorcycle riding in the mountains for two days. Ah, what a trip! I would like to thank Rich for putting on a great Reunion this year. I hope everyone that was there had as good a time as I did. For those of you who haven't made it to a Reunion, you are missing out really special time. We had at least four instances of guys that served together but hadn't seen each other since then and I believe even a couple of WWII veterans. This is what Reunions are all about. Again Rich, thank you for a great Reunion. You, Larry Levy and all the guys and their wives who helped out really did a fantastic job.

I would like to offer my congratulations to everyone who was elected to positions on the Executive Council and to Don Shebesta, who was elected Junior Vice Commander. Also my thanks to all the people who have accepted positions with the Association. I think we have a great bunch of guys on board for my term. And I am looking for some more people who would have some time to donate to the Association. I have a space reserved for the Kokomo Reunion and could use some help there and in Melbourne, Florida next April. Also I would like to try to continue Ed Marsh's good work by having us represented in DC near The Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Ed did this for many years, mostly by himself although some of us helped as we could and Colonel John Isani was always there helping get everything done, and I think it is time for the rest of us to step up. If anyone can offer a hand, please contact me.

Remember that you are the ones that make our Association as great as it is. I would also like to get the membership numbers up. If anyone has any old Americal orders with more than their names on them, please send me copies, not originals, that I can get to the membership committee and the people who will do a search. Or if you are still in contact with guys from then who haven't joined, please send me the info as I would like to contact them myself. There are a lot of Americal vets out there who don't know that the Association exists.

In closing, I can only hope that I can do as good a job as those that have held this position before me, Rich Scales, Ron Ellis, Ed Marsh, Gary Noller, and all those that came before them. It is really an honor to be the National Commander of such a fine organization made up of such a group of men. I wish you all well in the coming months and hope to see some of you at Kokomo, Indiana, DC, Melbourne, Florida or some of the other events planned this year, like the 26th Engineers Reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. And if you have any friends from your unit who haven't joined, bring them along and lets get them signed up. We are always looking for more good men to join the Association.

Jon Hansen  
National Commander

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?  
TOMORROW  
MAY BE TOO LATE!  
\*\*\*\*\*

FROM YOUR PAST COMMANDER

The time I had representing the Americal as the National Commander was one of the most enjoyable times of my life. There are many things that the National Commander has to learn and then do their best to keep the Association running as smooth as the day you took office. With the help of the Past Commanders and the membership, I think the job was done. Some things took a little longer than planned and others went very smooth. What I did receive, along with good advice, was some of the greatest friendships you can imagine. Not only from the Vietnam memberships but also from the Old Guard. As my tour went by, I've seen one thing that really made me sad and that was seeing less of the Old Guard at the Reunions. But there are plenty of good memories.

I don't want to leave anyone out, so I am going to thank each and everyone in the Association. There were times that I didn't know how, where or when to get the job done, so I relied on the help from others. I am proud of all my appointed officers for a great job and I say thank you. The Americal is moving forward with all the help that the membership provides and with our Historians getting the true story of the Americal told, it will never be forgotten.

The Reunions were fantastic and I am glad that I was the Commander for the ones in Little Rock and Reno. They are going to be hard to beat.

Thanks to each and every member for your support. I hope to see you all at one of our Reunions. Until then take care and God Bless.

Sincerely,  
PNC Richard Scales

\*\*\*\*\*  
A RESOLUTION HONORING THE WORK OF LES HINES  
ADVA VIETNAM HISTORIAN

WHEREAS, Les Hines faithfully served his country as a crew chief with the 123rd Aviation Battalion, Americal Division, in Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, he has spent considerable time and personal resources to obtain historical information about the Americal Division in Vietnam to include documents, records, reports, letters, articles, interviews, magazines, newspapers, photographs, videos, and other significant items, and

WHEREAS, he has transcribed this information to electronic files on compact discs and made available to veterans, families, historians, authors, and scholars to further preserve, promote, and distribute the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, he has competently and enthusiastically served as Vietnam Historian for the Americal Division Veterans Association,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Americal Division Veterans Association hereby recognizes and commends Leslie Hinds for his outstanding achievements as a veteran and as a Vietnam historian, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the results of his fine efforts be named The Leslie Hinds Collection of Americal Division Vietnam History.

PNC Richard Scales



TAPS TAPS TAPS

164 Inf Ser Co. 101 Medical Reg  
Robert E. Burns William J. English  
Castle Rock, WA Leominster, MA  
May 30, 2004 January 11, 2003  
132 Infantry 182 Infantry C Co.  
Lawrence Higby Alphonse A. Hudon  
Lander, WY Lowell, MA  
March 27, 2004 July 4, 2004  
20 Infantry 1/20 536 Sig Heavy Con.  
Richard Parry Jack D. Penland  
Wappinger Falls, NY Hot Springs, AR  
September 26, 2003 June 28, 2004  
221 Field Artillery 101 Band Americal  
Alfred K. Petsche John A. Ramalho  
San Bruno, CA Lowell, MA  
April 29, 2004 April 4, 2004  
182 Infantry I Co 221 Field Artillery  
Douglas F. Surrence Harpole Teddie  
Stoneham, MA Mabank, TX  
March 14, 2004 September 19, 2003  
11 LIB B/4/21 Inf MAY THEY  
REST  
James D. Wimberley IN PEACE  
Dundee, FL  
May 12, 2004

REINSTATED

Mr. Everett H. Barraclou Mr. Virgil Box  
198 LIB 57 Inf Scout Associate  
Staten Island, NY Oxford, MS  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #Bernie Chase  
Maj George Bryant III (R Mr. Douglas J. Chiasson  
11 LIB HHC/4/3 Inf 11 LIB C/4/3 Inf  
Hampton, VA Cut Off, LA  
#W.G. Reed #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Jon R. Craig Mr. Harold E. Erickson  
245 FA Hq Btry 132 Infantry G Co.  
Columbus, GA Salt Lake City, UT  
#Bernie Chase #Floyd Petty  
Mr. Jerry L. Feldman Jr. Mr. Bernard W. Frost  
196 LIB 182 Infantry E Co  
Phoenix, AZ Enfield, CT  
#Self #Jim Buckle  
Mr. Mayo K. Gravatt Mr. Gerald R. Grey  
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf 123 Avn Bn 178 ASHC  
Blackstone, VA Clipper Mills, CA  
#Bill McLaughlin #Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Gene L. Hockenson S/Sgt. Robert W. Hunt  
178 ASH Co. 8 AIR CAV Troop F  
Belvidere, IL Alamogordo, NM  
#Bob Kapp #Charles T. Manchester  
Mr. John LeCates Mr. Paul E. McCarthy  
178 A.S.H.C. 832 Sig Ser Bn  
Delmar, MD Manhattan, KS  
#Robert K. Rodweller #Bernie Chase

Dr. Robert Rhodes Mr. Arthur R. Sanchez  
23 M.P. 23 M.P. Co.  
Avondale, MD Reedsport, OR  
#Paul Stiff #Rich Merlin  
Mr. Edward C. Van Lennep Mr. Robert J. Wood  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf 523 Sig Bn  
Garber, IA Millboro, VA  
#John McKnown Jr. #Memb. Com.  
Mr. George C. Yates #Sponsor  
182 Infantry  
Canonsburg, PA

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21 Recon Troop 1 Cav A Troop  
Tallahassee, FL New Glarus, WI  
#Self #Self  
Mr. Mike Batkin Mr. Jan D B A. Heath  
196-198 LIB 26 Engrs 198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
El Paso, TX Laguna Miguel, CA  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #Dan Young  
Mr. Kurt W. Johnson Mr. Kevin D. Kavanaugh  
11 LIB E/4/3 Inf 196 LIB D/1/46 Inf  
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#R. Castronova #Membership Committee  
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1 Cav A Troop 1 Sqd 196 LIB D/3/1 Inf  
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#Castronova & Babler #Norman Gravino  
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196 LIB D/4/3 Inf 182 Infantry I+Ser  
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#Gary L. Noller #Self  
Mr. John D. Weber #Sponsor  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
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198 LIB D/1/52 Inf 18 Com Eng C Co.  
Sandpoint, ID Palm Harbor, FL  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #John W. Anderson  
Mr. Joseph M. Berklich Mr. Richard D. Beville  
164 Inf I Co. 198 LIB A/5/46 Inf  
Hibbing, MN Cleveland, TN  
#Art Cole #Dave Taylor  
Mr. Jack M. Boyer Mr. Robert S. Brindle  
223 FA 2/Hdq 11 LIB 4/21 Inf  
Manchester, TN Bakersfileld, CA  
#Jim Buckle #Self

Mr. John W. Brown Mr. Frank R. Carlini  
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf 198 LIB 2/ 1 Inf  
Flagstaff, AZ Bordentown, NJ  
#Dan R. Young #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Martin S. Castanon Mr. Gerald F. Coffey  
164 Infantry D/1 82 Arty D/1/82  
Woodland, CA Atkinson, NH  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Edward E. Davis Mr. Edmund F. DeJonghe  
11 LIB B/6 Arty 196 LIB A/3/82 Arty  
Townsville, SC Genoa, IL  
#Robert J. Miller #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Curtis W. Dean Mr. Garry Deines  
196 LIB 2/1 Inf 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Stuart, OK Anaheim, CA  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #Dan R. Young  
Dr. Lance J. Edwards Mr. Benjamin P. Fishbur  
164 Inf 1/ Staff JA HHC  
Butte, MT Washington, DC  
#Don Ballou #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Donald (Jerry) J. Fo Mr. Mariano Guzman Jr.  
26 Eng Bn 123 Avn Bn D/1/1 Cav  
Topeka, KS Rohnert Park, CA  
#Rich Merlin #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Larry L. Hucks Mr. William J. Johnson  
198 LIB H/17 Cav 1 Cav 1/1/A Cav  
Heath Springs, SC San Antonio, TX  
#Don Ballou #PNC Gary L. Noller  
SGM Robert A. Kandler Mr. E. Mahoney  
23 Div Arty 16 Arty A/3/16  
Prospect park, PA Mount Laurel, NJ  
#Kevin #Self  
Col. Frank J. Maurer Mr. Thomas Mayer  
196 LIB B/4/31 Inf 198 LIB A/1/52 Inf  
Highlands Ranch, CO Cumming, GA  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #Dan R. Young  
Mr. Matthew J. McCauley Mr. Allen W. McHugh  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf 1 Arm Cav 1/1  
Beaver Falls, PA Columbus, OH  
#Dan Young #James O. Thomas  
Mr. Larry M. McMullen Mr. William Miles  
198 LIB B/1/46 Inf 196 LIB 3/21 Inf  
Lenoir, NC Penn Valley, CA  
#Dennis Powell #David Eichorn  
Mr. Michael T. Mooney Mr. Lawrence L. Rigg  
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf 198 LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Mendota Heights, MN Willard, OH  
#John McKnown #Dan R. Young  
Mr. Alan C. Rossman Mr. Victor Ruiz  
11 LIB C/4/3 Inf 26 Eng Bn HHC  
Springfield, OR Hesperia, CA  
#Neil A. Burke #PNC Gary L. Noller  
Mr. Rudolph V. Shotts Mr. William L. Speer  
196 LIB B/3/82 Arty 196 LIB B/4/31 Inf  
San Diego, CA Milford, KS  
#Edward Den Braven #Self  
Mr. Timothy R. Stives Mr. Lamont A. Sullivan  
11 Lib 4.3 Inf Associate  
Tampa, FL Clayton, NC  
#PNC Gary L. Noller #Self  
Mr. Harold W. Thomas Mr. Virgil L. Umphenour  
196 LIB A/4/31 Inf 23 Div Hdq Sniper Off  
Louisville, KY North Pole, AK  
#Joseph R. O'Bryan #Self

Mr. Bruce W. Usher Mr. Hovey E. Waldrop  
23 Div HHC 245 F.A. B Btry  
Johns Island, SC Brevard, NC  
#Millard Heistand #Robert J. Miller  
Mr. Phillip J. Walker Mr. Jack L. Walker  
198 LIB C/1/46 Inf 196 LIB D/4/31 Inf  
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#PNC Bernard Chase #Mike Lester  
Mr. Donald D. Wood Mr. John Woodard  
198 LIB C/1/52 Inf 11 LIB C/1/20 Inf  
Galveston, IN Lakeland, FL  
#an R. Young #ob Kapp  
Mr. Bobby Wrenn Mr. William D. Wright  
11 LIB E/1/20 Inf 11 LIB A/1/20 Inf  
Carrollton, TX Bloomfield, IN  
#Jim Buckle #Self

LAST ROLL CALL

Alphonse A. Hudon C Company  
Stephen P. Ranere B Company  
Herbert F. Zuess B Company  
Lawrence L. LaCau L Company

THANK YOU, BERNIE

This summer has brought many changes to the Americal Division Veterans Association, not the least of which is the change at the National Adjutant's position. After 15+ years of dedicated service to the ADVA Bernie Chase is stepping down as Adjutant. Bernie has been a great asset and worked tirelessly for the Association taking care of a lot of day to day business that goes on. He took care of the P.O. Box and daily mail, membership list, vote counts, meeting minutes, just to name a few. He will be missed in this position but will always be remembered by those of us who spent time working with him and getting to know him. My thanks to him for all he has done for this Association and the people in it.

Jon Hansen  
National Commander

YOUR NEW ADJUTANT

Roger Gilmore  
Rowlett, TX 75099  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

THE NEXT NATIONAL REUNION

Kansas City we are truly at the heart of it all!  
June 15 - 19, 2005

KANSAS CITY HERE WE COME!

CHECK THAT ADDRESS LABEL NOW!



### FAR WEST CHAPTER

AZ, CA, CO, HA, NV, NM, UT

COMMANDER  
Richard Merlin

Riverside, CA 92505

Vice Commander  
John Bowley

Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Chaplain  
Paris Tognoli  
Isleton, CA 95641

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Mission accomplished, and what a successful mission it was. As you all know, the Americal Division Veterans Association held its annual Reunion in Reno, Nevada which was hosted by the Far West Chapter with lots of help from the 23rd MP Company. We had 633 registered participants which included 25 Vets from WWII. We had representatives from 45 states and 5 countries, with some of our Vets coming from as far away as Australia, Portugal and Thailand to join us. Over forty different units were represented with the 1/20 Inf. leading the way followed closely by the 23rd MP Company and the 1/1 Cav.

There was plenty to keep everyone busy and everyone appeared to have a great time. Besides the fellowship at the Reunion and the casinos, 300 Vets and guests attended the Rodeo on Friday night, and over 300 participated in the many bus tours that included Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, Donner Pass, Truckee, and the Art Tour.

To top the whole weekend off, we had a great dinner on Saturday night with an outstanding band, dancing and lots of entertainment topped off with a great guest speaker in Adrian Cronauer, who was portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie, "Good Morning Vietnam". Truly, a night and Reunion to be remembered.

I wish to thank all those who helped out, and especially those who were on the Reunion Committee who worked with me for almost two years putting everything together.

Pat Levy - Larry Levy - Gene McGrath  
Curt Rothacker - Dale Meisel - Kurt McFadden  
Tom Packard - Dave Taylor

That was a great Reunion!!

At our Far West Chapter meeting we elected the following officers:

Commander - Rich Merlin,  
Vice Commander - Kurt McFadden,  
Sec/Treas - Gene McGrath.  
Sergeant at Arms - Curt Rothacker,  
Chaplain - John Bowley.  
Effective October 1, 2004.

REUNION - REUNION - REUNION

San Diego, California  
September 2005

### CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER

ND SD KS NE MO IA

CHAPTER COMMANDER  
David A. Chrystal Sr.

Centralia, MO 65240

email:

Vice Commander - Ron Green  
Sec/Treas - Ron Ward  
Rich Smith - Sgt. at Arms

This past quarter has been a big one for the Midwest Chapter of the ADVA. Meeting in Reno, NV we discussed the preparations for the 2005 Reunion in Kansas City. Commander Dave Chrystal announced that John (Ron) Green would be the Vice Commander, Ron Ward would continue as Sec/Treas, and Rich Smith would be the Sgt at Arms. Many new members have been added since the last Newsletter with more coming in every day. Help is still needed to get the Newsletter going, and soon we will need workers for the KC Reunion as well. Till next quarter, Dave.

David A Chrystal Sr.  
Chapter Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

ARTHUR R. WOOD CHAPTER  
SOUTH EAST CHAPTER  
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

COMMANDER  
Paul Stiff

Pt Charlotte, FL 33949

SEC/TREAS  
Allen Feser

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Greetings to my Fellow Americal Veterans!  
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rich Merlin and all his Reno Reunion Committee staff members for providing us with another Outstanding! National Reunion this past June! I know that those attending enjoyed the brotherhood shared during this Reunion. For those of you that couldn't attend Reno, let me remind you that Dave Chrystal has promised a Reunion even better than Reno's for 05, only next time it will be in Kansas City! Remember, it's your party please attend! year.

It's been the lazy days of summer for most of us. Vacations and family activity have over taken any Chapter events. But it won't be long and we in the SE Chapter's AO will have to start thinking and planning for this spring's Melbourne event. This coming spring the Chapter hopes to host an Americal Veteran Welcome area at the Melbourne Park. Any ideas and/or volunteers for this event would be much appreciated! Also, it looks like the South East Chapter could be the host for the next LZ Oceanside event this coming year! The details of this event are being worked out and again we want this to be a membership involved event, so YOUR help is needed! A word to those who spend the winters in our northern states! If the thoughts of the cold, overcast, lifeless days of winter sends cold shakes to your bones, just wait until winter gets here! It could help you to know that this spring you are all invited to join us in arm, Sunny, Florid, during one of the largest annual Veteran events. For many years now, Melbourne, Florida has been the host city each spring to over 20,000 veterans. This event seems to get bigger and better each year. The happenings for the LZ Oceanside event are held at the Holiday Inn just a short couple of miles from the Melbourne Park Veteran's event. This hotel is on the ocean front with mile after mile of sandy

beaches. The hotel has a pool and a large beach side patio (with bar) that has night time entertainment good enough to bring many locals for their evening parties. This is an April event and the weather that time of year in Melbourne is "Tops". Rooms are good, clean and cheap! Be watching for more notices on this event coming soon!

The membership numbers for the South East Chapter continue to grow and we did let a few more join up while attending Reno. If we have somehow missed making contact with you, and you feel left out, if you want to join the fastest growing Chapter in the ADVA, then just send me an email or contact me by mail at: South East Chapter of the ADVA, P.O. Box 495991, Port Charlotte, FL 33949.

We would be very happy to send you a Chapter application and add you to our membership of SE brothers. The Chapter now has a Yahoo Group site that will allow us to send "special messages" to all that sign on. It's also a good place to watch for messages posted on the Veteran's happening around our AO, or to post about ones you know about. The web site is:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SECADVA/>

All of you are welcome to join on and post, but only as long as you keep your messages fairly clean! LOL

Thanks for your Attention! Peace To You All!! I hope to be seeing you at KoKomo in a little over a month, and then again in Bowling Green the following month. For those brave souls that enjoy the cold there's always the Winterfest event in Wisconsin during early January but you won't be seeing me there! LOL

Paul Stiff

P.S. If you want to see a smile on your wife's face, ask her to join you in Florida this spring!

\*\*\*\*\*

### EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC DE KY MD NJ NY OH PA VA WV

COMMANDER  
David Eichhorn

Fleming, OH 45729  
Tel:

SECRETARY  
Joe Tunis

Lake Ariel, PA 18436

VICE COMMANDER  
Jay Flanagan

Cranford, NJ 07017  
Tel:

TREASURER  
Mark Deam

Sidney, OH 45365

Leo Orfe - Sergeant-At-Arms  
Everitt Williams - Chaplain  
Visit our web site at:

<http://home.woh.rr.com/sidneyalum/advaerc/>

Reservations for our annual Chapter Reunion are steadily flowing in to our treasurer, Mark Deam. There is still time to reserve your place for what promises to be an exciting schedule of events.

Reunion Chairman, Wendall Strode has succeeded in getting fantastic rates for the Hotel and Activities. We are looking forward to October 7-10 in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Ed Taggart reports that three busloads of World War II veterans and their families from the Berks County, Pennsylvania area traveled to Washington,

D.C. for the dedication of the World War II Memorial on May 29, 2004.

They were guests of local U.S. Representatives members Jim Gerlach, Tim Holden, and Joseph R. Pitts, and the MIA Forgetmenots.

The three congressmen and the MIA-POW group financed the trip for 50 veterans who joined the celebration. Another 51 relatives accompanied the vets, a three hour bus ride to the MCI Center in the Capital. The trip was arranged too late to reserve seats at the Memorial site, but the Berks County contingent watched the ceremony on two large TV screens in the MCI Center.

The trip was organized by Bob Kelly, a member of the ADVA's Eastern Region and an Americal Newsletter correspondent. Bob also arranged for donated food and soft drinks on the buses. Kermit E. Trout, a longtime ADVA member was unable to attend because of health problems. A new member, Ed Taggart, however, did enjoy the occasion by making the acquaintance of several old soldiers, sailors and Marines.

On May 25, 2004 at a meeting of the county commissioners of Berks County, PA was held to honor local veterans of WWII. Below is a picture of three Americal veterans that attended this meeting.

### AMERICAL GENERATIONS



L-R: Ed Taggart-246 Field Artillery WWII, Dave Varone-723 Main Bn, Bob Kelly-196 LIB.

Visit our web site for Chapter activities and information:

<http://home.woh.com/sidneyalum/advaerc/>

Joe Tunis  
Secretary

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GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER  
IL, IN, MI, MN, WICOMMANDER  
John Mathews

Verona, WI 53593

ADJ/FIN OFF  
Terry Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574

The Great Lakes Chapter will be setting up again on Friday and Saturday in the big tent from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. each day at the Kokomo, Indiana Vietnam Veterans Reunion. This is the 22nd Annual Reunion, which the dates are: September 16-19, 2004. We will have a sign up sheet on the table so you can check to see who's in or not. This is a good way to find buddies and so on and we will have shirts, patches, decals, etc. for sale. The Americal group picture will be on Saturday at 3:00 P.M. CST at the big flag. Look forward to seeing everyone again. Total attendance for the Reunion is usually around 30,000 people. Last year we had 120 sign in for the Americal.

The Great Lakes Chapter Regional meeting will be held in New Glarus, Wisconsin on January 15, 2005 at the Chalet Landhaus Inn on Highway 69 on the 2nd floor in the meeting rooms. We will begin at 9:00 A.M. This is also the weekend of the 19th Annual Winterfest All Veterans Reunion in New Glarus run by the Veterans and their wives and girl friends.

A lot of things to do all weekend. The dates are: January 13-14-15-16, 2005. We always get a good attendance from the Americal and its attached units. About 300-400 veterans attend every year.

Dave Taylor of Medina, Ohio who served with the 5/46 Infantry of the Americal Division will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet. Dave's speech will be titled, "The Pride of Being a Veteran".

The Parade, Auction, Poker Run, Hospitality Room, burning of Winter Ceremony highlight this Reunion is billed as the 1st Veterans Reunion of the New Year, in the Nation. We had people from 22 States last year.

Its time to reserve your room for next year. If the Chalet Landhaus Inn is full, get on the waiting list right away. The phone number is 1-800-944-1716. Say it's for the Winterfest 2005 or check with Swiss Aire Motel which is the back up hotel just one block away. Their phone number is 1-800-798-4391. More info on this event, contact the above officers.

For those of you that may not be a member of the Great Lakes Chapter yet: the dues are \$5.00 a year which covers two Newsletters a year. One Newsletter in the Spring and the other in the Fall. For all current members, please check your mailing labels. If your dues expire by August 2004, your dues are now due.

Terry Babler  
Adjutant

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER YET?  
IF NOT  
YOU'RE MISSING A LOT OF FUN!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOUTH MID WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER  
Cameron Baird

Stonewall, TX 78671

VICE COMMANDER  
Bill Bacon

San Antonio, TX 78250

TREASURER  
Roger Gilmore

Rowlett, TX 75089

Tel: [REDACTED]

Alfred (Bruce) Mobley - Sergeant-at-Arms  
Rev. Perry M. Woerner - Chaplain

The inaugural Chapter event for the year was held on February 7th in Abilene, TX in conjunction with the 17th Annual Tet Reunion sponsored by the Abilene Grunts Association. Turnout was light with only four ADVA members in attendance, but contact was made with 10 non-member ADVA vets among the 1,000 people there. It was a nice function with some good speakers, an enthusiastic "USO SHOW" and some mighty fine barbecue. All ADVA members are invited and encouraged to attend next year's reunion, which is always on the weekend following the Super Bowl. Not even Reno Rich can match a \$39.00 room rate, so come next year and have a good time.

The second Chapter function for the year was held May 15th in conjunction with the inaugural southern Veterans Reunion held at Rose Crater outside Henderson, Texas. Eight Americal vets attended the event, which featured some great entertainment in a unique and pleasant setting. PNC Ron Ellis helped coordinate the reunion, which was open to veterans of all branches and he expects the prime sponsor to repeat the effort next year.

All are welcome in Fredericksburg for ceremonies at the National Museum of the Pacific War on November 11th and December 7th. Please contact the Chapter Commander if you can attend either of these very nice ceremonies.

Remember--The next scheduled Chapter gathering will be held at the Abilene Tet Reunion the weekend after the Super Bowl. Great rooms rates are available, and the Abilene Grunts Association has had a lot of practice in putting together a really nice function.

Cameron Baird  
Chapter Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

NORTHWEST CHAPTER  
AK WA OR ID MT WYCOMMANDER  
Dave Hammond

Beaverton, OR 97005

email: [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK - NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER  
MA, NH, VT, ME, CT, RICOMMANDER  
Arthur G. Cole

Wakefield, MA 01880

SEC/TREAS  
Joseph Mullen

North Eastham, MA 02651

## 2004 ADVA SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The Scholarship Fund Trustees met on June 24, 2004 at the annual Reunion in Reno, Nevada and authorized awarding \$25,000 in scholarships. The drawing for the \$250 raffle prize from our annual fund raiser was also held at the Reunion. The winner was John Gasper of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

There were forty-three applicants for ADVA scholarships this year. Twenty-five were sponsored by Vietnam veteran members of our organization and eighteen were sponsored by World War II members of our organization. After an independent selection of three educators reviewed all applications and provided recommendations, scholarships were awarded as follows:

The first place award of \$3,000 went to Angela Veldhuisen. Angela attends Iowa State University and was sponsored by her father, Evert Veldhuisen Jr., who served in Vietnam with the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry.

The second place award of \$2,500 went to Scott Little. Scott attends Taylor University and was sponsored by his father, Allan Little, who served in Vietnam with the 174th Aviation Company.

The third place award of \$2,000 went to Melissa-Ann Camp. Melissa attends Northwestern College and was sponsored by her grandfather, Conrad Krueger, who served in World War II with the 164th Infantry Regiment.

The fourth place award of \$1,500 went to Kari Ewing. Kari will attend David Lipscomb University and was sponsored by her father, John Ewing, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.

The fifth place award of \$1,000 went to Philip Hake. Philip attends Penn State University and was sponsored by his grandfather, Donald Eichelberger, who served in World War II with the 164th Infantry Regiment.

The following individuals each received an award of \$500:

Tracy Andrews will attend the University of Florida and was sponsored by her grandfather, Frank Cohee Jr., who served in Vietnam with the 23rd Supply & Transportation Battalion.

Bethany Andrzejewski attends Wright University and was sponsored by her father, Lawrence Andrzejewski, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry.

Jeanna Biliti attends the University of Michigan and was sponsored by her father, John Biliti, who served in Vietnam with the 23rd Military Police Company.

Martha Burch attends Kent College and was sponsored by her father, James Burch, who served in Vietnam with the 26th Engineer Battalion.

Abigaile Colicchio attends Virginia Tech and was sponsored by her father, Anthony Colicchio, who served in Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery.

Joseph Davis attends Ball State University and was sponsored by his father, Frank Davis, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Jeffrey DeGroot will attend DePaul University and was sponsored by his father, John DeGroot who

served in Vietnam with the 23rd Military Police Company.

Bethany Fawkes will attend Bradley University and was sponsored by her father, Raymond Fawkes, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery.

Brian Gates attends Western Illinois University and was sponsored by his father, Kenneth Gates, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Kathryn Glen will attend Knox College and was sponsored by her father, Thomas Glen Jr., who served in Vietnam with the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry.

Erin Hatch attends the University of New England and was sponsored by her grandfather, Leonard Oliver, who served in World War II with the 221st Field Artillery.

Kendall Hatch will attend Framingham State College and was sponsored by his grandfather, Leonard Oliver, who served in World War II with the 221st Field Artillery.

Elijah Johnson attends the University of Kentucky and was sponsored by her grandfather, James Leonard Johnson, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry Regiment.

Stephanie Loeb will attend the University of North Carolina and was sponsored by her grandfather, Everard Loeb, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry Regiment.

Sasha Maluk attends the College of Staten Island and was sponsored by her father, Stephen Maluk, who served in Vietnam with the 26th Engineer Battalion.

Laura McGoldrick will attend the University of Massachusetts and was sponsored by her grandfather, William McGoldrick, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry Regiment.

Laura McLean attends Belmont University and was sponsored by her grandfather, Nicholas Shealy, who served in World War II with the 132nd Infantry Regiment.

Mark Orthmann will attend the University of Washington and was sponsored by his father, Dennis Orthmann, who served in Vietnam with the 174th Assault Helicopter Company.

Alison Reinsch will attend Westminster Choir College of Rider University and was sponsored by her grandfather, Joseph Thompson, who served in World War II with the 125th Quartermaster Company.

Allison Reitchel will attend the University of Maine and was sponsored by her father, Paul Reitchel, who served in Vietnam with F Troop, 8th Cavalry and the 123rd. Aviation Battalion

Juel Reynolds will attend the University of Oregon and was sponsored by his grandfather, Jack Morton, who served in World War II with the 182nd Infantry.

Kevin Ritz will attend the University of Maine and was sponsored by his grandfather, Joseph Ritz, who served in World War II with the 22nd and 721st Ordnance Companies.

Lynn Robbins will attend Midland College and was sponsored by her Dad, George Robbins, who served







## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION

I've been asked about my trip to Washington during the World War II Memorial Dedication by several of you so I thought I would share. I love to talk about it, the experience was really beyond human description but I will try. So often my words are inadequate, awkward and misunderstood. So much so that more and more I have been trying to just stay to myself but God showed me a lesson in humility on Memorial Day weekend that I feel I will always remember.

The Memorial is beautiful, it sits in between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Memorial. There is a fountain on each side, there is an arc that you walk through on two sides, one represents the Atlantic and one represents the Pacific theaters. There are bronze/copper like castings that are throughout the Memorial that picture events of the times. There are quotes from Roosevelt, Admiral Nimitz, and Churchill among others cut into the walls throughout the Memorial.

The quote that moved my Dad was one that said, "They fought together as brothers-in-arms. They died together and now they sleep side by side. To them we have a solemn obligation". My Dad asked me to take a picture of it and I did. There is a sort of a tower for every state and the Philippines and others that circle the fountain.

And there is a wall with over 4000 hand cast gold stars. Each star represents 100 hundred lives lost, over 400,000 men died, there is a reflection pool directly in front of it and the Lincoln Memorial is directly behind it. At night the water is lit up, the stars reflect the light and the Lincoln Memorial is lit up in the distance and I thought it was breath taking.

The part of the weekend that to me was so memorable however, was the living memorials that visited. The World War II vets that came from all over and they were eager to tell their stories. The men that were there really brought home the meaning behind it all and made it spectacular. Since it was the dedication weekend there were WWII vets from all over, some in their original uniforms. The first day I met two men who fought together in Normandy, with another Normandy survivor they had planned the trip for over a year. The weekend before the dedication, the third friend died. The two made the trip without their friend. How bittersweet. That set the ground for what was a moving and emotional weekend.

For one weekend the men were heroes again although they all said the same thing. We're not heroes. I met a man who was on the second USS Nebraska (I think that was the ship he told me). He told me how the first ship was hit and sunk and many of those that didn't die in the attack, were eaten by sharks, but over three hundred made it to shore and all three hundred were captured by the Japanese. Those were the men that helped to build the bridge over the River Kwai. The second ship with that name was attacked as well and had to be towed to safety.

I met a emotional young lady at the ceremony who came for her grandfather who had suffered a stroke three weeks before.

I sat with two divers, one from Colorado and one from Maryland. One said he weighed 153 lbs and the Navy suit was like a rubberized suit with camouflage over the top and there was a hose that air ran through. He said the first time he suited

up, each boot weighed 17 1/2 pounds and the belt weighed 200 pounds and then a chest plate was added and a helmet and then they told him to stand up. He said, "I don't mind telling you Susan, I had a few choice words to say". (Ha!)

President Bush gave a very nice tribute, as well as Ton Hanks. Senator Dole's tribute was absolutely moving. but it was the words and stories of the vets that moved me more than any of the others. I met a bombardier from Kansas and listened to the stories of a man who was among those who went into the German concentration camps and told how they could not believe what they saw. They did not know what to do for these people. They couldn't believe these people were alive the way they found them.

One vet said he came out five inches taller and twenty five pounds heavier than when he went in and that was on the worst rations in the world. He said his mother didn't believe at first it was really him and asked him where her son was.

My Dad was in the Americal Division and his squad suffered heavy casualties. He had been to a few Americal Reunions over the years but has never met anyone from his squad. He may well be the only surviving member of his group. He knew that. But in the Remembrance Tent they had partitions with names of divisions at the top and vets could post their names and information to be contacted by others that may visit there. Despite what he knew was probably true, he checked that board several times anyway. It really got to me.

There were young service men there shaking hands and listening to the old vets. When we were seated and waiting on the ceremony in our section we saw current military officers with their numerous medals, in full dress uniforms in the sweltering heat, walking through the crowds and shaking the hands of the vets. Senator Dole was there the morning before shaking hands of many of the vets.

My Dad who is never at a loss for words, just seemed overwhelmed and seldom seemed to have a lot to say.

I sat behind and met a Pearl harbor survivor, I saw prisoners of War survivors and heard so many stories, I took most of my pictures of these men, rather than anything else including the Memorial. The vets were all willing to share.

On Sunday was something called "Rolling Thunder" where bikers from all over the country ride their Harleys into D.C. to call attention to the Vietnam Memorial, POW's/MIAs and I saw so many burly type guys shaking hands with the older WWII vets. It was like a common bond that they all shared, fighting for our country must do that, It was truly wonderful!

Driving to my motel I even saw an older man along side a huge old white car, (must have been an old Cadillac), he had some kind of a hat on with military symbols but I couldn't tell what they were. He was surrounded by Bikers who had pulled over and were changing his tire. It was how things should be. Every where we went people were thanking the vets. One old man told me he was hugged enough to last a life time. People were handing me cameras asking me to take pictures of them and their families in front of different portions of the Memorial. They were asking everyone and everyone seemed to be more than willing to oblige.

I even saw Hulk Hogan who rode his bike in on

## 101st MEDICAL REGIMENT

Enclosed is a photo of my Dad with another soldier that we do not know. They look so happy that we imagine they have just finished basic training because there are no stripes on their sleeves.

We were wondering if you could print the picture to see if anyone knows who the other soldier is. The family of the unidentified soldier may like to have a copy of the picture.



L to R: Unidentified - Maurice E. Sullivan

My Dad was someone who was very involved with the Americal organization. One week before he passed away he attended the Americal Christmas Dinner in Norwood. A true veteran he was all of his life.

My Dad's name. Maurice E. Sullivan, 101 Medical Regiment, Americal Division.

Thank you from the entire Sullivan family that stays active with the ADVA for all fund raising..

Bless you all,  
Elizebeth (Sullivan) Pariseau

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## DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Pfc Avedes (Vito) Tarpinian

On April 6, 1945, he was assigned to G Company, 182nd Infantry on Cebu Island. He was killed in action on April 12, 1945 it is believed, during the battle for Babag Ridge.

It is hoped that someone may have know and served with him from May 1944 until his death on April 12, 1945. Please contact:

Charles and Anne (Tarpinian) Margosian

Palatine, IL 60067  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Sunday. The weekend was history in the making and it was wonderful!

Just thought I would share.

Suzanne

Ed. Note: Suzane is the daughter of Charles R. Bayman who served with Company D, 182nd Infantry. If anyone reading this letter served with him I am sure he would like to hear from you. His address:

Charles R. Bayman  
[REDACTED]  
Avon Park, FL 33825-6038

Ed Note: I was going to write a story of the Dedication for I attended with four members of my family, but after reading Suzanne's letter I felt she touched all the bases and there was nothing more I would be able to add.

I want to thank all the members of the ADVA for sponsoring my trip to the Dedication.

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THANK YOU!

To The Editor:

I am happy to be a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association and 'thank you' for a very wonderful magazine.

Just to let you know as a veteran, some of my hardest battles have been with our very own VA office, not only here, the state of Washington, but in other locations as well.

What we earned in battle has been legislated away by members of congress. I've had to ask my senator, Senator John McCain from my home of record, Arizona, to help me with my VA claim

Please tell other members not to be afraid to ask for help from their Senator. They need to earn their dollars

Thanks for a wonderful group at Americal.

Sincerely,  
David C. Blankenship  
Capt. USAR (Ret)

Ed Note: Capt. Blankenship served with the 1st Special Forces in Vietnam.

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## HOW TO REQUEST YOUR MEDALS

If you are an Army veteran or the next-of-kin (un-married widow, eldest child, parent, eldest sibling, eldest grandchild) of an Army veteran, you may request a set of authorized medals and decorations by sending a written request along with a copy of your DD form 214 or other discharge papers (if available) to:

National Personnel Records Center  
[REDACTED]  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Or you can visit the National Personal Records Center website at <http://vetrecs.archives.goc>.

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## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

I was 19 years old when I was drafted to Vietnam in 1971. It was there I met Bill Myles, who was 20 years old when he was drafted. We were everyday guys, drafted into unfamiliar territory. It was the first time either of us had fought in a war. We were at the age where guys go to college, or get married and begin their lives. But instead, we were willing to sacrifice for our country.

I was a Medic called "Doc". I handed out Malaria pills, cleaned and bandaged jungle rot and patched up wounds whenever I could. There was plenty of losses and injuries, in our battle for freedom. Bill was a rifleman and RTO-he carried the radio, along with the rifle.

We worked with an extraordinary man: 1st Sgt George Fitz, known as "Top". He was 38 years old and serving his second Vietnam Tour, when we met. He was of tall stature, and offered calmness amongst chaos. He focused on the safety and security of our platoon. He was a rock of strength and gave us courage to pull up our bootstraps and embark upon the chaos..anguish..fear..noise..and stench of war, one day at a time.

As a Co. Medic, there was a time I called for a Medavac, and the C.O. questioned my decision. "Top" let me know that if I ever had trouble again to come talk to him. He would give me, and others, fatherly advice, at times of need.

For a time. I had acquired a taste for alcohol. "Top" knew before I did, that alcohol had its grip on me. I'll never forget the time he said to me, "Doc, God dammit, be careful, alcohol has its evil eye on you." He wasn't one to sugar coat things! "Top" was right, although it would be 21 years later before I acknowledged that truth. Today I do not include alcohol in my life. He was a wise leader, for a lot of us guys. He was one of those fellows you just don't forget, through the years.

We began a journey as strangers, and soon developed a brotherhood that goes deeper than friendship. We were willing to die for one another, if fate would have it. Sadly, some did just that. War is not kind. We were amongst the fortunate, to return to begin the lives we had left behind.

In 1980, nine years after our tour of duty, I located Bill Myles. We spoke briefly. In 1998, I received a call from Bill. I was happy to hear from him. There was contentment in knowing he was okay and life was treating him well. He had married and was raising their first child. We spoke for 5 or 10 minutes. Months later, when I reflected on that phone call, I cried. I'm not certain why, but I suspect it was in remembering the life-changing journey our paths had crossed, back in Vietnam, as well as gratitude for the chance to be a part of everyday life.

With that phone call, Bill and I arranged to meet in Sacramento, CA. It had been 28 years since we had seen each other. I met his young family. We were 48 and 49 years old. I kept planning on contacting "Top" many times through the years, but I never took the time to do it. Life seemed to get busy...work, children, farming and grandchildren.

In June 2004, Bill and I met and attended our first Reunion at the Nugget Resort Hotel Casino in Reno, NV. There was a special camaraderie in attending the Reunion with someone I had been in Nam with. It was great seeing people I knew in

Nam, and meeting people that were in my same unit, and meeting people that I shared a common bond with...people who had fought the war in Vietnam.

It was at that Reunion that I found out from Tony May, that "Top" had died a year earlier, in February 2003. I was filled with remorse, for I had never taken the time out of my busy life to contact him. I had wanted to thank him, for who he was in my life, during the Vietnam War. He had helped me to be the best Medic I could be, and helped me to have the courage when I was filled with fear. He had helped me to keep some semblance of sanity during those days of terror. He had helped me to be the person I am today.

And now that he is gone, I will never have a chance to verbally express my gratitude to that courageous soldier. I have sadly learned that time does not wait for life to "slow down".

So let me have made the mistake for you. It's too late for me to talk with "Top", but maybe it's not too late for you to contact your buddy.

Take the time...use the internet, make a phone call, write a letter...whatever it takes...hunt your buddy down and make that connection.

You will be forever grateful that you did, for to those people you share a common bond, and have been forever changed, by the Vietnam War. and, as I learned in Nam, there is strength in numbers.

Dave Eichhorn

Ed Note: I am printing this message in the "Old Guard" section. Just substitute WWII for Vietnam or substitute any name for the name of one of your buddies and substitute your name for the author. Sounds familiar--as I have said many times, "Call that Buddy TODAY! Tomorrow may be TOO LATE!

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AMERICAL WORLD WAR II VETS  
SEND YOUR STORIES AND PHOTOS FOR  
PUBLICATION

This is just a reminder from the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA) to send any information or remembrances you have to David Taylor, ADVA World War II Historian.

David Taylor is also the Americal Newsletter Contributing Editor and will be contributing your stories to the "LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD" section of the Newsletter. Original photos will be returned to you. We will make copies of the photos you send and return your original copy.

## WE WANT YOUR STORIES AND MEMORIES

\* Send your photos, memorabilia and stories. You can type or write your comments.

\*.Include your address and phone number so we can follow-up as we prepare your story.

\* My contact information is as follows:

David W. Taylor  
ADVA World War II Historian  
Medina, Ohio 44256  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

LET US HEAR FROM YOU SOON!

REMEMBRANCES OF V-J DAY, AUGUST 14, 1945  
by Leonard Owczarzak

In the latter part of July 1945, our unit was engaged in patrolling and manning road blocks in the north and north central part of Cebu Island in the Philippines.

The 7,000 to 8,000 Japanese who had survived the initial battle for the island, which began in April of 1945, were engaged in a game of hide and seek, seeking to elude the American forces which were attempting to corner or capture them. They were still a potent force capable of extracting high casualties on anyone they came in contact with. After the war ended Japanese servicemen had held high hopes to the very end, that their government would come to their rescue and evacuate them from the island.

Toward the end of July, we were told by our commanders that we would soon be given amphibious training for the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland. We already had received tracked vehicles that were to pull our new 120MM-AA guns that had been delivered to the docks of Cebu City.

Our original unit had been at Pearl Harbor and had experienced the Japanese attack. The majority of us now had 30 months of overseas duty, and had earned several battle stars in our journey across the South Pacific, the Solomon Islands and the Philippines. We were aware of the heavy bombing of Japan by our B-29's, and that we were approaching the final phases of the struggle but were completely unaware of the atomic bomb, what it was or what it could do.

The day the Japanese announced their surrender we first heard ships in Cebu City Harbor firing their guns and sending rockets up into the evening sky. Then all the local churches started to ring their bells. We then knew something important was happening and our first sergeant went through our area announcing that the Japanese had accepted the surrender terms.

Our first reaction was overwhelming joy at the thought of not having to be involved in the invasion of Japan and the knowledge of our being able to return to our loved ones after serving our country thousands of miles from our homes for almost two and a half years.

It took almost a week to convince the 6,000 to 7,000 Japanese on Cebu that the war was really over. They had to be provided with radio communication to hear their Emperor declare it was over.

There were some very delicate arrangements that had to be made by the Commanding General of the Americal Division to specify where the surrendering Japanese troops were to appear, and bring along their weapons.

When this was arranged the Americal Division left the island for Japan. A section of our unit was given the task of collecting the weapons the surrendering Japanese troops were bringing in, then searching them for any hidden weapons, papers, money, etc. after which they were loaded onto trucks for transportation to the base's POW camp several miles south of Cebu City.

Battery "D" was given the assignment of running the POW camp. Newly arriving Japanese prisoners were given the opportunity of showering, given clean clothes, assigned tents and issued cots and blankets. Medical treatment was also provided.

They were then given a hot meal, prepared by their cooks; were given orientation talks as what their duties would be; were not required to work but could volunteer to work loading ships at the Cebu City docks for which they would be paid a small salary and were advised as to when they might be expected to return to their homes in Japan.

The camp usually had a population of nearly 2,000 to 2,500 prisoners at a time. We never experienced any problems with the prisoners. No one tried to escape. They seemed to be very happy that the war was over and that they were going home. We had one incident where a Japanese officer was attempting to force fellow prisoners to perform close order military drill, but our Commanding Officer reminded him that the war was over and only physical exercises "calisthenics" would be allowed.

While on duty as a corporal of the guard one day I had a very interesting experience with one of the Japanese officers. As I was checking the barbed wire fencing around the camp this officer came out of his tent and motioned to me that he wanted to talk. I approached the fence near to where he was standing and asked him what he wanted. To my surprise he answered in perfect English, "Could I have a cigarette?" I said, "Yes", but told him I would give him a whole pack for his Naval belt buckle that he was wearing and he agreed. The exchange was made--another souvenir for my collection. When I questioned him about his perfect English he said he had studied at UCLA in California in the 1940's. When he returned home in early 1941, to visit his parents in Tokyo, there was a knock on the door several days later and several Japanese officers standing at the door advised him because of his studies in the United States and his knowledge of English that the Emperor desired his services. He further explained that there was no choice about accepting, especially when one officer made a gesture of drawing a knife across his throat if he refused!

He then questioned me about where our group was located while fighting was still in progress on Cebu Island. I described our road block position near a bridge in the very northernmost part of the island. To my surprise he took a stick and in the dust at his feet drew an exact sketch of our road block position, our patrol activities and even the number of GIs at the location. When I asked him how he could possibly know all of this, he coolly remarked, "We were dug in on the next ridge of hills watching you!" I then inquired why they hadn't fired on us or even attacked. He said, "We knew we were outnumbered and if we had fired on you, we would have divulged our position. We still had hopes of our government sending reinforcements or evacuating us."

When most of the Japanese had been processed for their return, our group was loaded aboard LST ships and taken to Tacloben, Leyte. We disposed of all of our equipment, and were processed for our return to the United States.

On December 17, 1945 we boarded the USS Thomas Jefferson for our trip back to the Golden Gate and San Francisco. A Very happy group of GIs arrived in San Francisco on January 2, 1946, ready and willing to resume civilian life again, thanking God again and again for allowing us to arrive home "safe and sound".

Leonard Owczarzak  
746 AAA Gun Bn.





## ORCHIDS IN THE MUD

The enclosed picture appears on page 378 of the 132nd Infantry's book, Orchids in the Mud. The caption reads, "The Amphibious Landing at Danao." This was a mistake made by the printer of the book. I called the editor, Robert Muehrcke when I received my first book. Bob agreed that it was a mistake and said, "But there is nothing we can do about it now." The picture should be on page 355 over the caption, "Hitting the Beaches at Talisay, Cebu City." The picture first appeared in the pictorial section of the book, Under the Southern Cross by Francis D. Cronin. The caption read, "Initial Americal Division assault Waves Move Across the Heavily Mined Beach at Talisay, Cebu to begin the Ground Phase of the Victor II Operation". Since Under the Southern Cross was written many years before Orchids in the Mud, this is proof that the picture is of the Talisay Landing.

The following is the tactical situation as the picture was taken by the 132nd Infantry Regiment photographer on March 26, 1945 at Talisay, Cebu. Item Company Rifle Platoons have debarked the three amphibious tractors which have been disabled by land mines. Mike Company Heavy Weapons are in direct support of Item Company for the assault. They have just debarked the assault boat (white star on the right side). Mike Company 3rd Platoon

(81mm mortars) are now in the exploding mine field. There were two killed and six wounded. One of the six wounded was Corporal James Moriatiy. The man on the left (white smoke) is Staff Sergeant Polumbo of the first squad Mortar Platoon. He is yelling for a medic because two of his men have been hit. The tall man on the right (silhouetted against the white smoke) is Mike Company First Sergeant Butler. His booming voice is heard over the rattle of gun fire and exploding land mines. "Follow me...step in somebody's tracks if you can".

Sometime later I spoke with a friend from the Combat Engineers that cleared out those mines. He told me they found fifty unexploded mines in the area around the three disabled amphibious tractors. Item and Mike Company men might want to find yourselves in the picture.

Bill Krentz

Ed Note: Bill Krentz served with M Company, 132nd Infantry and was Contributing Editor to Orchids in the Mud.

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

\*\*\*\*\*

ATTENTION - Veterans of New Caledonia - ATTENTION

Several years ago I established the Americal Museum Association of New Caledonia. I have also researched the history of United States troops in the South Pacific.

Presently I am researching airfield construction during 1942 at Oua Tom, La Foa, Plaine des Gaiacs and Nepoui and of the 810th Aviation Engineer Battalion that worked on this construction.

I am interested in obtaining plans of the construction, photographs of the construction, planes on the tarmac or other pictures.

I would appreciate anything in the way of stories and pictures that you may be able to supply.

Contact:

Paul Paturel

News Caledonia

E-mail: paturelpaul@lagoon.nc

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DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I am trying to locate someone that knew my Dad during his service in the Americal Division. His name is Daniel Lujan and he enlisted from Whittier, California at the age of twenty-two.

He joined the Americal Division in late 1943 on Fiji Island and saw combat service on Bougainville and also in the Philippines.

I do not know what unit he served in except I know he was with the Americal Division. Please contact me at:

Ms. Debbie Kraft

Orange, CA 92869

E-mail:

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1st BATTALION - 164th INFANTRY

I am looking for anyone that knew my grandfather, Lorenzo G. Flores, I am trying to put together his time in the service. All I know is that he served on Guadalcanal. Please Contact:

Lorenzo Leyva

Lindsay, CA 93247

Tel:

E-mail:

\*\*\*\*\*

57th ENGINEERS

My grandfather, John Roderick, served with the 57th Combat Engineers on Guadalcanal. He was born and lived in East Cambridge, MA during his service. If you knew him please contact:

MS. Amy Card

Cambridge, MA 02140

Tel:

E-mail:

\*\*\*\*\*

DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I am trying to find information on my Uncle who was wounded and left blind during the fighting on Cebu. I know that he was awarded the Purple Heart and possibly other awards, but I do not know what unit he served with. His name is Pvt. Van Williams, drafted from Rayville, Louisiana, when the draft age was lowered to eighteen (18) and raised to forty (40). That may have been in 1943. Any information about his unit, their mission or his citations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much. Contact:

Thomas R. Williams  
Contract Administrator  
USPFO for Nebraska

Lincoln, NE 68508-1092

Tel:

E-mail:

\*\*\*\*\*

L COMPANY - 164th INFANTRY

Looking for anyone that knew my father, Everett Hultman, on Guadalcanal. Contact:

Gary Hultman

Eveleth, MN 55734

E-mail:

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247th FIELD ARTILLERY

Just thinking the other day about an experience in WWII on Cebu in the fall of "Cebu City". We (Americal) had made a beach head and were encompassing the city. The Japanese had mined and blown up the city and were now burning everything.

As the last Jap torched the one remaining house in our section, the Americans caught with him and put his fire out. (Both home and his life). The house was only a few years old and quite large having a two level living space. Our Battery got permission from the owners to occupy this house as our Battery Hdqr. The Filipino owner was a graduate of Cornell University (USA) and his wife was an R.N.

As we settled in making ourselves at home, building dining tables and chairs, we began feeling at home but one fact that couldn't be hidden was the hungry little Filipino kids. They stood by our tables waiting for us to finish eating. Each had an old tomato can held up by the lid. When the G.I. finished eating, he would dump his leavings into the tomato can. This became a daily routine.

One day the General came by and jumped out of his staff car and came over to our tables. "Who's in charge of sanitation here?" I had just been transferred to A Battery as a Medic so I told him I was. He yelled at me, "Get those ---- kids out of here!!" I said "Sir, how do you propose to do that?" He stammered a moment and said, "Build a fence", and stormed off.

We built a fence some little distance from the dining area, and I was worrying about those hungry kids. I should not have worried. The first G.I. to finish marched down to the fence and dumped his mess kit in as many cans as he could and the rest followed suit. I felt a great relief and it made



me proud the G.I.'s were going out of their way to feed those kids. The General be damned!

(Copied from The Cannon-Newsletter of the Far West Chapter).

Sylves Benson  
A Btry 247 F.A.

Ed Note: This was true of G.I.'s in every theater of WWII and it is still true in Iraq today. You can read stories of these happening's in Iraq in the American Legion Magazine and the VFW Magazine. Needless to say, you will not read it in you daily newspaper.

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#### A FOND FAREWELL

As I come to the end of the last page of, "LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD" I find that I have arrived at the end of my career as the Editor of the Americal Newsletter.

My records go back to a copy of the Newsletter dated September 1965. PNC Dan Merlin Jr. now deceased, was the Editor. At that time the Newsletter was put out monthly and was a six page typewritten product and the mailing addresses were all handwritten. In late 1966 the ADVA boasted of having 319 members.

The last issue of the Americal Newsletter that Dan Merlin edited was the March-April 1975. By now it has grown to twelve pages and was put out bi-monthly, The ADVA now had a bulk mailing non-profit mailing permit. The Newsletter had now grown to fourteen pages.

I may be missing a few issues but the next one that I have is the issue of Nov-Dec 1975 and William J. McLaughlin, now deceased, is the new Editor. Bill resigned after putting out the March-April 1985 issues.

PNC William Dunphy put together the May-June 1985 issue and after I was elected National Commander in July 1985 I assisted Bill as Editor until the May-June 1986 issue when I was appointed Editor.

While recovering from heart surgery in January of 1989 I brought the ADVA into the computer world. At first a labeling program was developed and the ADVA purchased a machine to place the labels on the Newsletter. I learned to type the Newsletter using a word processor. From here a data base file was made of the ADVA membership. All of our records were now brought into the twentieth century. I owe the ability to be able to do this to my wife's son David. He had the knowledge and patience to teach me.

Oscar Patterson took over the position of Editor from November of 1998 until July of 1990 when I was once again appointed Editor.

In January of 1995 it was decided to print the Newsletter four times a year and its size was increased to thirty-six pages. The April-May-June 2004 issues was mailed to over thirty one hundred homes.

During my years as Editor I was very fortunate to have the assistance of several Vietnam Editors, the first being Ron Ward who helped me from July 1985 until September 1992. Ron was also the first Vietnam veteran to be elected National Commander of the ADVA. Ron was followed by Dave Recob who served from September 1992 until his untimely death in September of 1994. He was followed

by Roland Castronova, the second Vietnam National Commander, who served from September of 1994 until June of 1997. John McKnown was the Vietnam Editor from July of 1997 until June of 1998. PNC Gary Noller took over in June of 1998 and is still serving in that capacity.

The primary reason that I am now giving up being your Editor is to honor the men I served with during World WarII.

I joined E Company, 182nd Infantry, on September 9, 1940 knowing that they would shortly be inducted in Federal service and would be training at Camp Edwards in Bourne, Massachusetts, less than one hundred miles from my home. This looked like a good deal, being near home and with men I knew, rather that wait to be drafted the following year and not knowing where I might wind up. Wrong!

My Regiment returned home from Carolina maneuvers on December 6, 1941. Instead of being discharged on January 16, 1942, the 182nd Regiment was relieved of duty with the 26th Yankee Division and on January 23, 1942 we went sailing out of New York harbor. You know the rest. I served through the Guadalcanal and Bougainville campaigns and returned home on rotation in November of 1944.

E Company was from Wakefield, Massachusetts. This town has a military history that dates back to 1644. It was then known as South Redding. The 182nd Infantry dates back to 1636. The oldest military unit in the United States.

A fairly good history of Wakefield's military units has been kept up until the 1930's.

I made a pledge to myself many years ago that I would bring that history up to date. I have made three trips to St.Louis in my search for records and I have acquired fifteen hundred Morning Reports plus many other records. I started to computerize these records in the late eighties but I have hardly touched them in the last five years.

My purpose in this project is to turn these records over to the Wakefield Historical Society.

Since the late 1940's I have held a Reunion for E Company, and also the Medical Detachment for they came from Wakefield also, almost every year. For one five year period my wife, Frances, prepared a roast beef dinner for fifty members of E Company and the Medical Detachment.

I know that our numbers are dwindling and I also know the hour is late for I passed the eighty-fourth milestone last June.

So, I must return to my first love and finish this history while there is still time.

Thank you all for allowing me to be your Editor these many years. I really appreciate the kind words and letters I have received. They were my payment--in full.

I know that I leave the Americal Newsletter in good hands. Both Gary Noller and Dave Taylor are dedicated men and will always produce a Newsletter that will honor the ADVA.

I will always enjoy hearing from my old friends and readers of the Americal Newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Jim Buckle

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#### 2004 NATIONAL REUNION. TOGETHER AGAIN!

Over 600 total attendees were on hand for the Americal's annual reunion in Reno, Nevada. This included over 20 World War II Vets! (Above) The registration desk was located in the Nugget's ornate lobby and kept busy. It's popularity no doubt due to the ornate lobby bar located just 20 feet away (Below). Throughout the weekend a number of Vets met with fellow soldiers they had not seen since Vietnam. (Left) Dave Taylor (on the right) was a platoon leader with the 5<sup>th</sup>/46<sup>th</sup>, 198<sup>th</sup> LIB. Standing to his left is Everett ("Doc") Rowles, his platoon medic, whom he had not seen since being dusted off in 1969.



**JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET  
RENO, NEVADA**





## LAKE TAHOE SCENIC TOUR



## VIRGINIA CITY TOUR



## DONNER & TRUCKEE TOUR

**ADMIT ONE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2004**

(bus boarding starts 8AM)



### SIGHTSEEING & RELAXATION

(Above) Reunion attendees look out over Lake Tahoe; (Below left) Attendees shop and relax in Truckee; (Below) Americal Vets relax after lunch at the "Sierra Vista" restaurant, overlooking Lake Tahoe. From left to right are Les Hines - Vietnam Historian, Virgil Umphenour - the officer who developed the Americal Division sniper program in Vietnam - enjoying his first ADVA Reunion; Jim Bartlett, John Murphy and Terry Babler.



### FRIDAY NIGHT RENO RODEO!

Americal reunion attendees became cowboys and cowgirls on Friday night, even if just for one night! (Below) Jim Taylor, Medal of Honor recipient and his wife Sandy are all ready for the rodeo to begin!







### HONORING COMRADES, PAST & PRESENT

(Upper left) Adrian Cronauer, guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet. Cronauer, a former U.S. Air Force Sergeant, co-authored the original story for the motion picture, **Good Morning Vietnam**, where he was portrayed – loosely – by Robin Williams. He spoke about the movie after dinner and during the day, gave an update on the POW/MIA issue. (Upper right) After Saturday's annual meeting a memorial service was held to honor our fallen comrades. At the Saturday night banquet a "Missing Man Table Ceremony" was also held; (Lower right) Rich Merlin, reunion chairperson and ADVA Far West Region Chapter Commander, offers comments and thanks to attendees. Seated to the left are Larry and Pat Levy, reunion committee members who hosted the reunion in their home town of Reno, Nevada. Larry was the Master of Ceremonies and Pat handled all the registrations for the reunion.

## Memorial Day 2005 Washington, D.C.

PNC Ronald Ellis poses with Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Ridge gave an address at The Wall on Memorial Day, 2005. He stayed around the area after the ceremony and greeted veterans and the public.

Ellis commented that meeting Ridge "finished a great trip" that included the dedication of the WWII Memorial on the previous Saturday.

Ridge served as a squad leader Co. B, 1/20<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 11<sup>th</sup> LVB in 1969. He began his address by saying, "I was called to serve in Vietnam when I was 22 years old. I was a grunt, a 'ground pounder.' I am proud to have served with so many of you and am honored to be in your company."

He is the former governor of Pennsylvania. A complete text of his remarks can be found on the internet at

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=42&content=3668>



## VA News

### CARES study

You may have heard of the VA "CARES" process, one of the largest planned overhauls the VA system has ever undertaken. CARES stands for Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services.

CARES was a study across the country that looked at trends of demands for VA health care. This was geographically and health care demand driven, looking at areas of the country that may have facilities underutilized and those that see a large growth in demand for VA health care.

CARES was unpopular in several locations where veterans felt they were losing health care facilities. The VA is determining if it can save millions of dollars by not keeping underutilized buildings open and maintained. That money could be saved and transferred to areas that need expansion of services.

It is estimated that when CARES is implemented, the cost savings in closing or changing missions of such underutilized facilities would go from \$3.4 billion to \$750 million a year.

The VA has unprecedented demand for care and funding has not kept up with such demand. It is hoped that dollars saved could be used to build new facilities where veteran demands are overwhelming existing facilities. I am told by Wisconsin veterans that when they try to get care in some Florida VA facilities during the winter it is impossible to get an appointment. CARES hopes to realign such demand.

The CARES funding need is in addition to the budget the VA requests annually. There has been support for MANDATORY FUNDING for the VA annually. At this

time the VA's budget in its complicated process. Some veterans groups hope to change this with mandatory funding.

This is an election year and I encourage all ADVA members to ask their elected representatives their stance on inadequate funding for veterans' health care and to request their support for a solution to this problem.

### Reno health care screenings

I also must clarify the mix up with the VA "health care screenings" at the Reno reunion. The VA staff from Reno did perform some health screenings but there was a mix up with the times these were scheduled. I am sorry this mix up occurred, but I had some nice feedback that those screened were appreciative. The VA staff enjoyed the "stories" from some of our ADVA members. I will work with Dave Chrystal to get the Kansas City VA to our hotel for such screenings, as this seems to have been well received by members at the last four reunions.

Dr. John Hofer, ADVA Service Officer  
B 5/46, 70-71

## Appointments announced

National Commander Jon Hansen has announced the following appointments:

Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant, replacing Bernard Chase

Dave Chrystal, Chaplain, replacing Rev. William Elliott and Rev. Richard Shannon  
Richard Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms, replacing Carlo Pola

Steven J. Reisdorff, Judge Advocate, in addition to Mike Twomey

All other appointed offices were left unchanged. Appointed officers take office on July 1 and serve one-year terms.

The Nominating Committee will be announced at a later date.

Elected officers were sworn in at a special ceremony during the Saturday banquet at Reno. This included commanders and Executive Council members who begin two-year terms.

## Membership services

Several changes have taken place this year that effect membership services. After serving for nearly 20 years, ADVA National Adjutant Bernic Chase stepped aside effective July 1. His duties are now divided between Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant, and Ronald Ellis, Asst. National Finance Officer.

Ellis will handle the receipt and deposit of dues payments. All new applications and dues renewals are to be sent to his attention. Gilmore will send out dues notices, maintain membership records, and distribute membership cards. Mail should no longer be sent to Chase's address.

If you have questions about the current status of your membership you may contact the Ellis or Gilmore. Their contact information is in the directory at the front of this newsletter.

There have been some delays in reporting changes but everything is expected to be caught up by end of the year. No one will be dropped from the membership rolls during this transition period.

Bernie Chase will hold the position of National Adjutant (Emeritus) to recognize his many years of faithful service. He continues to recover from a recent illness and will be happy to hear from members. He can be reached at [REDACTED] Yarmouth, MA, 02664.



**Americal Division Veterans Association**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting**  
 June 26, 2004  
**John Ascuaga's Nugget**  
 Reno, Nevada  
 Minutes taken by Gary Noller on behalf of  
 Bernard C. Chase, National Adjutant

Call to order by National Commander  
 Richard Scales at 10:30 AM.  
 Opening prayer led by David Taylor.  
 Pledge of Allegiance led by Richard Scales.  
 Self-introductions by officers and members.  
 Introduction of special guest Adrian  
 Cronauer by Richard Scales.

**National Commander's Report: (Richard Scales)**

- a) Finances are improving.
- b) Asst. National Finance Officer Ronald Ellis appointed.
- c) Use of credit card for Association receipts has been enacted.

**National Adjutant's Report:**

**(James Buckle)**  
 No report given.

**National Finance Officer's Report:**  
**(Spencer Baba)**

- a) Fiscal year showed approximately \$38,000 income.
- b) Year ended with a positive balance.
- c) Product sales showing positive returns.
- d) Budget for 2004-2005 has been approved by the Executive Committee.
- e) Ronald Ellis is now collecting member dues.

**Editor-in-Chief's Report:**

**(James Buckle)**  
 No report given.

**Scholarship Chairman's Report:**  
**(Robert Short)**

- a) Use of website has increased number of applicants.
- b) 43 applications received, 25 Vietnam vet sponsors, 18 WWII sponsors.
- c) Contributions were approximately \$19,000.
- d) Interest income was approximately \$7,000.
- e) Expenses were \$1,200.
- f) Balance before awards was approximately \$125,300.
- g) 35 awards to be made totaling \$25,000.
- h) A motion was made to change the eligibility rules for scholarship applicants. Descendants of deceased members of ADVA who were in good standing at time of death to be eligible to apply. Motion to approve change made by Dutch DeGroot. Second by Maurice Henson. Motion carried.

**2005 Reunion Chairman Report:**  
**(David Chrystal)**

- a) 2005 reunion to be in downtown Kansas City, MO Marriott Hotel June 16-19.
- b) Highlights to include outdoor barbeque, tour to Harley Davidson plant, Truman Library, Liberty Memorial, Union Station, Steamboat Arabia.

**2006 Reunion Chairman Report**  
**(Dave Hammond)**

- a) 2006 reunion to be in Portland, OR.
- b) Tentatively planning for Friday night river cruise dinner.

**2004 Reunion Chairman Report:**  
**(Rich Merlin)**

- a) Total attendance exceeds 800.
- b) Saturday night banquet to exceed 600.

**WWII Memorial Dedication Report:**  
**(James Buckle)**

James Buckle thanked the ADVA for having him represent WWII veterans at the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day weekend.

**Membership Report: (Ronald Ellis)**

- a) Send all dues to Ron Ellis. Do not send dues to Bernie Chase.
- b) Keep address current.
- c) Make notification of deceased members.

**Nominating Committee Report:**  
**(Gary Noller)**

- a) Approximately 1,000 ballots were returned.
- b) All by-law changes were approved.
- c) Results of officer elections were read.

**Product Sales Director Report:**  
**(Wayne Bryant)**

Motion made by Ron Ellis to offer credit card with ADVA logo. Percentage of card sales would be returned to the ADVA. Second by Bill Allen. Motion approved. Ron Ward to handle arrangements.

**Executive Council Report:**

**(Les Hines)**

Meeting was conducted with a majority of council members present.

**Introduction** of Jim Taylor, Medal of Honor recipient, by Richard Scales.

**Presentation** of resolution and award to recognize the work of Leslie Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, by Richard Scales.

**Presentation** of plaque to outgoing National Commander Richard Scales by Gary Noller, representing Bernie Chase, National Adjutant.

**Old Business:**

No old business

**New Business:**

a) Terry Babler made bid for 2007 reunion, possible location to be Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day. David Eichhorn made a bid for the 2007 reunion to be held in the East region. Babler withdrew bid for reunion. Membership approved 2007 reunion for East region.

b) David Taylor described plans for a trip to Vietnam to be offered to Americal veterans by a Vietnam travel agency. ADVA will not be a sponsor of trip. Members indicated interest in plans for a trip.

c) Dr. Richard Verrone, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, asked members to contribute oral histories, Vietnam related documents, artifacts, and memorabilia to the Vietnam Center.

## ADVA Reno Reunion final report

By Richard "Reno Rich" Merlin

Mission accomplished, and what a successful mission it was. As you all know the Americal Division Veterans Association just held it's annual reunion in Reno, Nevada which was hosted by the Far West Chapter with lots of help from members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> MP Company. We had 633 registered participants, which included 25 Vets from WWII. We had representatives from 45 states and 5 countries, with some of our Vets coming from as far away as Australia, Portugal and Thailand to join us. Over 40 different units were represented with the 1/20<sup>th</sup> Inf. leading the way followed closely by the 23<sup>rd</sup> MP Co and the 1/1 Cav.

There was plenty to keep everyone busy and everyone appeared to have a great time. Besides the fellowship at the reunion and the casinos, 300 Vets and guest attended the rodeo on Friday night, and over 300 participated in the many bus tours that included Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, Donner Pass, Truckee and the Art Tour.

To top the whole weekend off, we had a great dinner on Saturday night with an outstanding band, dancing and lots of entertainment topped off with a great guest speak in Adrian Cronauer, who was portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie "Good Morning Vietnam". Truly, A night and reunion to be remembered.

I wish to thank all those who helped out, and especially those who were on the Reunion Committee who worked with me for almost the last two years putting everything together.

The Reno reunion committee consisted of Pat Levy, Larry Levy, Gene McGrath, Dave Taylor, Curt Rothacker, Dale Meisel, Kurt McFadden, and Tom Packard.

## Oral historians receive training at reunion

Four ADVA members completed a one-day training course in oral history interviewing at the Reno reunion. The participants were Alan Allen, Steve Dant, Dave Eichhorn, and Gary Noller.

David Taylor, ADVA WWII Historian, and Dr. Richard Verrone, Texas Tech University Vietnam Center, presented the training. Taylor is leading the oral history project on behalf of ADVA members.

The ADVA seeks to interview WWII veterans and Vietnam veterans in order to completely and accurately document the history of the Americal Division. A goal of twelve interviews per historian per year has been set.

If you would like to volunteer to be interviewed and to tell your story, please contact one of the members named above.

## '05 ADVA REUNION KANSAS CITY, MO June 16-19, 2005

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Make your hotel reservations directly with the Kansas City Downtown Marriott, [REDACTED] Kansas City, MO, 64105. Call the hotel at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and identify yourself as being with the Americal Division Veterans Association. Room rates are \$89.00 per night. Cutoff date is 9 May 2005. The hotel is located next to the convention center in downtown Kansas City, close to I-70 and I-35 junctions and 20 minutes from the Kansas City International Airport. The KCI Shuttle operates every thirty (30) minutes from the airport to downtown at a cost of \$23.00 round trip per person. To learn more about the hotel, see their website at [www.marriott.com/property/propertyPage/MCIDT](http://www.marriott.com/property/propertyPage/MCIDT).

### MEMORY BOOK

The memory book will be delivered approximately 90 days after the reunion. Once again, we will have a first class edition, professionally upgraded, in full color, at least 24 pages including individual, unit and event pictures.

### HARLEY DAVIDSON TOUR

See how Sportsters, V-Rod, and Dyna-Glides go from the drawing board to the street. Whether you like to wear black leather jackets or just enjoy a ride with the wind in your hair, this new Kansas City production facility will interest and amaze you.

### KANSAS CITY HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

A driving tour of Kansas City will acquaint visitors with the historic buildings, the newly erected federal courthouse and the government square. Stops will be made at Lewis and Clark Point, Steamboat Arabia Museum, Hallmark Crown Center, Union Station (where over 80% of the servicemen and women of WWII passed through), the majestic Liberty Memorial (dedicated to those who lost there lives in WWI), the famous Country Club Plaza (more than 170 boutiques and shops, modeled after Seville, Spain) and a drive along Ward Parkway to see the homes and estates of some of the city's most prominent citizens.

### FRIDAY NIGHT BARBEQUE IN THE PARK

Held at Barney Ellis Park Downtown across from the hotel. A sample of the famous Kansas City barbeque will be provided. Local artists will provide entertainment for your enjoyment.

### SATURDAY TOURS/ A VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT

Enjoy a driving tour of Independence, Missouri, home to the 33rd President, Harry S Truman. You will see the old square, the

churches, the unusual Temple and Auditorium of the Community of Christ, the Truman Library and Museum, the renovated cars of the president. Guests will enjoy lunch at the Stephenson's Apple Farm.

### SATURDAY LADIES

Tour a miniature doll and toy museum followed by shopping in the Country Club Plaza. More info to follow.

### SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER DANCE

A world class award winning buffet dinner. Live band and dancing, entertainment, and much, much more. Recommended dress is business casual.

### Reunion Chairman

Dave Chrystal; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Home)

[REDACTED] (Work)

## H Trp., 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry

H Troop, 17th Cavalry is having a reunion at Killeen Texas on Oct 8-12, 2004. For more information please contact Ramon B. Vega, [REDACTED], or email [REDACTED].

## 1/1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry

The next national reunion of the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry will be in Kansas City, MO on June 16-19, 2005. This is a good spot because of its location in the center of the country and cheap airfares. More details will be announced at a later date.

The New Glarus Winterfest R & R All Veterans Reunion will be held January 13-16, 2005. This is the earliest major veterans' reunion of the year. Contact me for further information on either event.

Terry Babler; President, 1/1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Assn.  
 [REDACTED]

## Co. D, 1/20<sup>th</sup> Infantry

We lost one of our men, Sgt. Richard Parry, on Sep 26, 2003. He had served with D/1/20 from September 1968 to September 1969 and was awarded the Bronze Star.

D Co., 1/20<sup>th</sup> Infantry, held its bi-annual reunion on April 27, 2004 in Pigeon Forge, TN. The internet links below feature the reunion newsletter and group photos.

Reunion Newsletter:

<http://www.deltacompany.org/news504.php>

Delta Reunion Picture:

<http://www.deltacompany.org/re2004.php>

This was the most attended and largest reunion yet. The fellowship was without peer. Special guests from Alpha Co., parents, and sons of our lost brothers were also in attendance. Many photographs and other materials were copied and will be added to our website. The group photo is now online and a gallery page is started.

The Delta website link is  
<http://www.deltacompany.org/>.

Alan Conger; Co. D, 1/20<sup>th</sup> Inf.

## Asheville awes

## Americal artillerymen

The Americal Division Field Artillery Reunion for 2004 was held in Asheville, NC this year. We had a moderate turnout of our WWII veterans. A few Vietnam guys came as well.

There were daily meetings in the hospitality room and two organized group tours. Biltmore House was featured on one tour. It required a lot of walking but it was worth every step and stride. The next day we took a motorized trolley tour of downtown Asheville. It kept our heads turning throughout the 90-minute ride. We really got to know the town well.

One of our stops was at the historic Grove Park Inn. We enjoyed the opportunity to stretch our legs, shop, have lunch, and enjoy the splendor of the inn.

Our farewell dinner was on May 6. We all entertained each other by sharing personal experiences and discussing how our service to America in the Americal Division has brought us together.

Elbert Horton, a veteran of Guadalcanal with the 246<sup>th</sup> FA, began the reunions. Next year will be my third year of planning the reunion. We plan to meet in Charleston, SC. More information will be available after Elbert and I do a recon mission to Charleston later this fall.

All Americal artillerymen are invited to attend next year. If you would like more information call [REDACTED] or write to [REDACTED], Farmington, NY, 14425

Bob Miller; Btry. D, 1/82<sup>nd</sup> Artillery

## 1/52<sup>nd</sup> Alaskan Experience

Members of 1/52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry are sponsoring a reunion called "The Alaskan Experience" from July 9 through July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The reunion will be held at the Army Recreation Center, Seward, Alaska.

Reunion coordinators say, "We secured a great opportunity with the Army, and we want to pass this on to every veteran that is willing to allow themselves an Alaskan Experience. This is open to friends and family as well. Imagine your entire family experiencing Alaska, in the warmest and driest month."

"The concept of a longer reunion, during the middle of the summer, is to allow everyone time to really enjoy Alaska. Opportunities abound, including wildlife tours, glacier tours, salmon and halibut fishing, hiking, historic sites, and more. The best part is that the Army will provide significant discounts on the major excursions."

For more information contact Max Loffgren [REDACTED], Willows, CA, 95988. See the website at <http://www.americal.org/1st52nd2005.htm>.



## Election Day 2004

Dear fellow ADVA members,

On November 2, 2004, Tuesday, Election Day, all Americans across our land, of voting age, will have an opportunity to participate in and determine the direction that our Great Republic will take. Each of the major presidential candidates has their own vision of what direction America should take and the strategy and tactics necessary to achieve that vision.

I believe the results of this election will have a most profound impact on the future of our country. I urge all ADVA members to get out and vote and to encourage family and friends to do the same.

The vote you cast may help make the difference in the election. Let us not forget that the presidential election of 2000 was decided by a handful of votes.

Don Nafis; Co. E, 4/21<sup>st</sup> Inf., 11<sup>th</sup> LIB

## Americal veteran's Vietnam Vignettes is now available

My new book, *Vietnam Vignettes: Tales of an Infantryman* was recently released. One can view the book and read an excerpt by visiting the website at [www.booklocker.com/books/1600.html](http://www.booklocker.com/books/1600.html).

LTG (Ret) Hank Emerson reviewed the book and said: "Hell of a read. This book tells the heroic story of the 'grunts' in the Vietnam War. It helps explain why most who fought so bravely are still haunted by the experience, and by the subsequent lack of public respect for their exertions."

Medal of Honor recipient Drew Dix wrote the foreword. He said, in part: "*Vietnam Vignettes* recognizes our true heroes, gives family members a better understanding of what their loved ones went through, and what may have been going on in their minds while they were away."

Barnes and Noble carries the book. It can be ordered from most bookstores if it's not in stock.

Lee Basnar; Co. C, 1/52<sup>nd</sup> Inf., 198<sup>th</sup> LIB

## Questions on 3/16<sup>th</sup> Arty

I served with the 3/16<sup>th</sup> Artillery for a couple of months in the summer and fall of 1971 before my DEROS. My original unit, 6/11th Arty., stood down and went home between April and July 1971. I was transferred from Duc Pho to Chu Lai to serve the last few months of my tour. I was stationed at Bronco, an old Marine firebase which had been recently occupied by an infantry battalion, which I think was attached to the 198<sup>th</sup> light infantry brigade. I would like to confirm facts or answer questions:

1. Was 3/16 Arty attached or assigned to the 198<sup>th</sup> and not the 196<sup>th</sup>?
  2. What infantry battalion was 3/16 Arty supporting?
  3. Was 3/16 Arty on firebase Bronco during July-October 1971?
  4. Who was/were the Arty battery commanders at the time? Memories fade.
- Thanks for any info. Contact Thos. H. Glover, [REDACTED] Lexington, Ky., 40307, [REDACTED].

## Highway to be named in honor of Lester R. Stone, MOH

The New York State senate recently passed a bill to rename New York State Highway 79 as the Lester R. Stone, Jr. Memorial Highway. Stone was killed in action as a result of enemy fire on March 3, 1969. He received the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in action.

SGT Stone was serving as a squad leader with Co. B, 1/20<sup>th</sup> Inf., 11<sup>th</sup> LIB when his platoon came under intense enemy fire. Stone provide cover fire to assist in the recovery of wounded American soldiers. He is credited with saving the lives of several of his buddies.

Stone is survived by his mother who still lives in the family home. A dedication ceremony to change the name of the highway is in the planning stages.

For additional information, contact Charles S. Seketa, [REDACTED] Liverpool, NY, 13088, [REDACTED]. Seketa also served with 1/20<sup>th</sup> Infantry and has volunteered to keep Americal veterans informed on this topic.

## Combat Infantryman Badge

I served with Co. D, 11th LIB, in 1968-69. I went through AIT at Ft. Ord, CA. In our mess hall I saw a big poster with a Combat Infantryman Badge. Below it were printed some words that left a lasting memory with me. But time has robbed me of those words. I know they were inspirational. Do you have any idea what was written in that poster? I sure would love to know. I have contacted other Army sources but no luck. Thanks. Amado Gonzales; Asst. Fire Chief Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. [REDACTED]

## Your stories are needed

Your stories and news articles are what make the Americal Newsletter. Please send items to Gary L. Noller, Vietnam Editor, 1662 Landmark Rd. S., Kerrville, TX, 78028. Send e-mail to [gnoller@aol.com](mailto:gnoller@aol.com). Photos should be copies as originals are not returned.

## Plaque added to Vietnam Memorial

A plaque to honor Vietnam War veterans who died after returning home was unveiled near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on July 8, 2004. The veterans made it back from Vietnam but died of as a result of such illnesses as Agent Orange poisoning, post traumatic stress syndrome, Hepatitis C, and other service related illnesses.

The plaque was installed near the statue of the three soldiers. It is two feet by three feet and has the following inscription: "In memory of the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. We honor and remember their sacrifice."

Relatives of deceased veterans campaigned for the plaque for several years. President Bill Clinton signed the bill authorizing its placement in 2000. An official dedication ceremony will take place on November 10, 2004

## ADVA members attend North Wall ceremony

Members of the ADVA attended the 9th Annual ceremony at the North Wall in Windsor, Canada. Another name was added this year for a total of 109. Last year a name from the 198<sup>th</sup> LIB, Americal Division was added.

Bill Allen, Jr., Great Lakes region Vice-Commander and veteran of Co. C, 1/20<sup>th</sup> Inf.; Gary Gardner, Trp. A 1/1st Cav.; and Harry Bryant, Trp. E, 1/1st Cav. attended this year's event. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony will be held July 1-5, 2005. Many activities are planned for this anniversary.

Contact Bill Allen, [REDACTED]. The north wall also has a web site at [www.glanmore.org/cdnas/memorialair.html](http://www.glanmore.org/cdnas/memorialair.html)

Bill Allen; Great Lakes Region ADVA

## Branson to host VN vets

Branson, Missouri is planning Operation Homecoming USA to be held June 13-19, 2005. Ross Perot is serving on the event organizing committee. It is likely to be a huge event. See more information at: <http://springfield.news-leader.com/news/today/0716-Longawaite-134797.html>

Larry Henry; 6<sup>th</sup> Spt. Bn.



The Special Collections Library (above) at Texas Tech University currently houses the Vietnam Archive. A new building is under development and will be completed in the near future.

## The Vietnam Project seeks participation from Americal Division veterans

Dr. Richard Verrone made a presentation at the 2004 ADVA reunion in Reno, NV on behalf of The Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX. The Vietnam Project was founded by a Vietnam veteran fifteen years ago and is quickly becoming the premier resource for Vietnam War history in the United States.

The Vietnam Project is requesting assistance from Americal Division veterans. Of special interest are documents and artifacts that are related to the Vietnam War. These can be of any form to include photos, letters, orders, records, memorabilia, books, videos, audio recordings, and the like.

In addition, the Oral History Project seeks to interview veterans for their personal stories. Oral histories will be made available on tape as well as transcribed into text documents. The project makes a large portion of its holdings available on the internet.

The Vietnam Archive is housed at the Special Collections Library on the campus of Texas Tech University. The archive materials are available to veterans, historians, authors, scholars, and the public.

Dr. Verrone has outlined the activities of the Vietnam Project in the article below. Contact him if you wish to make a contribution or if you have questions about the project. The ADVA supports the work of The Vietnam Center and encourages Americal veterans to assist the project in the collection and preservation of the history of the Vietnam War.

## The Vietnam Project

Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, Texas

By Dr. Richard Verrone

## The Vietnam Archive

The preservation of historical records provides the principal means for future generations to fully understand the past. Monuments call to mind significant events, but only documents, photographs, artifacts, and related materials can provide the basis for historical narratives, insight, and understanding.

The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University stands as a living memorial to all those who played some part in the nation's "Vietnam experience." Using the Archive, all those who are interested can study and understand the people, places, and causes of this critical time in history.

Dr. James R. Reckner, a two-tour U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran, founded the Vietnam Archive in 1989. The Archive's mission is to collect and preserve the history of America's experience in Southeast Asia during the period of the Vietnam War.

The first collection received by the Archive - a package of letters from a Navy hospital corpsman to his family while serving in Vietnam - symbolizes our commitment to preserve the record of individual participants and provide greater understanding of the war based on their experiences.

While the Vietnam Archive continues this commitment as its primary objective, it also collects materials from veterans' organizations, scholars, and other individuals and organizations who share experiences from the wars in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnam Archive has collected millions of pages of material including tens of thousands of photographs and slides, thousands of maps, periodicals, audio and video recordings, and books. It also has hundreds of oral history interviews related to the Vietnam War and Southeast Asia.

Collection materials cover the early history of Southeast Asia, the French colonial period to include the French-Indochina War, and the American experiences in Southeast Asia. The collection also treats the impact of these experiences on both the United States and Southeast Asia during and since the war.

The Archive possesses an unrivaled collection of microfiche and microfilm that includes materials from the National Archive and Presidential Libraries. It contains materials from the various branches and offices of the US government, the military services, and every Presidential administration from Harry S. Truman through Lyndon B. Johnson.

Current updates on the archive's holdings are available on the Vietnam Archive website. The archive's website contains detailed information on many of the collections, including finding aids and inventories for most of the collections.

The Archive accepts donations as small as a single page or item or as large as hundreds of boxes. Donations do not have to be organized and do not have to pertain to a

famous person, event, or organization. We accept any manner of material to include documents, photographs, slides, books, periodicals, films, audio recordings, artifacts, and anything else related to America's experience in Southeast Asia or Southeast Asian history.

Materials donated to the Archive are processed and stored in keeping with modern archival preservation and conservation practices. All materials are handled with the greatest of care and are stored in acid free folders and boxes. All boxes are lidded and are stored in a secure, state-of-the-art, archival facility that is light, temperature, and humidity controlled.

The Vietnam Archive is a controlled access facility and patrons who visit our facility to conduct research do so in a spacious and comfortable reading room. Patrons make requests to view materials on-site but materials never leave the facility and are not available through inter-library loan. While restrictive, this policy ensures that the materials donated to the Archive will be preserved and available for use by many future generations.

We urge you to please contact a member of the Vietnam Archive staff if you have any questions about accessing materials or about making a donation to the Archive.

## The Oral History Project

In 1990, the Vietnam Center initiated the Oral History Project. An element of the Vietnam Archive, the mission of the Oral History Project is to create and preserve a more complete record of the wars in



Southeast Asia by preserving, through recorded interviews, the recollections and experiences of the men and women who participated in these wars. It also records oral histories of those military and civilian personnel involved in activities surrounding the wars on the home front.

The Vietnam Archive believes that the historical record of the wars in Southeast Asia is not complete without the inclusion of the voices of the men and women who were involved in the wars. The Oral History Project employs full-time oral historians and several transcriptionists to fulfill this mission.

The Oral History Project is partnered with the Library of Congress Veteran Oral History Project and also works with the Marine Corps History and Museum Division and the Navy Historical Foundation to preserve and make available Vietnam-era oral histories conducted by those organizations.

The public can read and listen to all of the Vietnam Archive's completed oral histories at the Vietnam Archive and online at the Virtual Vietnam Archive.

## The Virtual Vietnam Archive

On December 17, 2000, the Vietnam Archive received a four-year \$2 million grant from the United States Congress and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create the Virtual Vietnam Archive. The purpose of the Virtual Archive is to scan and digitize all of the non-copyrighted materials in the Vietnam Archive in order to make them available to the public, free-of-charge, via the Internet.

The Virtual Archive is more than just a website; it is an online rendering of the materials in the Vietnam Archive. The Virtual Archive consists of all types of digitized materials and contains documents, photographs, slides, film negatives, audio recordings, film and video recordings, maps, posters, military manuals, government, military, and personnel records, as well as images of artifacts to include uniforms, weapons, medals, and many other materials. In essence, the Virtual Archive is all-inclusive of the non-copyrighted materials contained in the Vietnam Archive.

To make the online materials as accessible as possible, the Virtual Archive employs digital formats that are freely available to almost all computer users. Documents are scanned in Adobe PDF, images are available in JPEG format, audio streams over the web as MP3, and video streams as Windows Media Video.

The Virtual Archive is organized using Cuadra Star, which is an inverse relational database that allows for very rapid searching and retrieval of materials. Each item in the Virtual Archive has its own database record that contains all of the information available about that item. Materials are added to the

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Virtual Archive on a daily basis making it a constantly evolving resource.

The Virtual Archive is an important and authoritative source of information for people seeking to understand the complexities of the Vietnam War. People who donate materials to the Vietnam Archive benefit from knowing that their materials are not only preserved in a state-of-the-art archival facility, but are also available to a global audience via the Internet.

Collections at the Vietnam Archive are used much more often and easily since the Virtual Archive enables scholars, students, and all interested in this remarkable period of history to conduct research directly from the comfort of their universities, schools, libraries, and homes.

The materials online through the Virtual Archive can be used for any type of project whether for personal research and writing or for use by teachers and students at all levels of education. Of equal importance, the Virtual Archive enables Vietnam veterans - those who actually served - to access records and materials that might be of importance to them in their continuing efforts to understand their own experiences and can be used to facilitate the writing of personal memoirs and autobiographical works.

The Virtual Archive is available free to anyone with an Internet connection. We invite you to visit our site, use this new and invaluable resource, and give us your feedback. Also, please contact us if you would like to donate your collection of materials for inclusion in the Vietnam Archive and Virtual Vietnam Archive.

### Contact Information

**Website**  
www.vietnam.ttu.edu.

**The Vietnam Center**  
Texas Tech University  
Math Bldg. Room 4  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1045

Dr. James R. Reckner, Director  
Dr. Diane Oliver, Deputy Director  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

**The Vietnam Archive**  
Texas Tech University  
Special Collections Library, Room 108  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

Steve Maxner, Associate Director  
Dr. Richard Verrone, Oral History Project  
Dr. Laura Calkins, Oral Historian  
Mary Saffell, Archivist  
Justin Saffell, Systems/Web Administrator  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

## Hines honored as Vietnam historian

National Commander Richard Scales read a resolution honoring the work of Leslie Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, during the business meeting at the Reno reunion. The resolution recognizes the Hines' unsurpassed efforts to obtain and preserve the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam.

The text of the resolution follows:

*A resolution honoring the work of Leslie Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian*

*WHEREAS, Leslie Hines faithfully served his country as a crewchief with 123<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Battalion, Americal Division, in Vietnam, and*

*WHEREAS, he has spent considerable time and personal resources to obtain historical information about the Americal Division in Vietnam to include documents, records, reports, orders, letters, articles, interviews, magazines, newspapers, photographs, videos, and other significant items, and*

*WHEREAS, he has transcribed this information to electronic files on compact disc and made it available to veterans, families, historians, authors, and scholars to further preserve, promote, and distribute the history of the Americal Division in Vietnam, and,*

*WHEREAS, he has competently and enthusiastically served as Vietnam Historian for the Americal Division Veterans Association,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Americal Division Veterans Association hereby recognizes and commends Leslie Hines for his outstanding achievements as a veteran and as a Vietnam historian, and*  
*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the results of his fine efforts be named The Leslie Hines Collection of Americal Division Vietnam History.*

Richard L. Scales, National Commander Hines served as a helicopter crewchief with Co. A, 123<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Bn. His original efforts were to obtain records devoted to his unit during his time in Vietnam. He eventually expanded his efforts to acquire all available information about the Americal Division in Vietnam.

Hines has spent hundreds of hours in collecting items and transcribing them to a digital format. The files are available on a computer disc that can be viewed on a word processor.

Commander Scales also presented Hines with a stained glass rendition of the Americal Division shoulder patch. In accepting the award, Hines thanked all the veterans who have generously contributed to his efforts.

A copy of the computer disc of Hines' collection is available directly from him. A nominal payment of \$15 is requested to help defray postage, handling, and supplies.

## Relentless search for the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon

By Slater Davis; Co. B, 4/21<sup>st</sup> Inf.

I'd love to say the idea to write all of this down came from some wisp of inspiration or as a result of talking to a writer. But I can only give credit to my bladder. At my age there is usually at least one trip to the bathroom during the night and this night is no exception.

As I was pulled from my sleep by the "urge" I found my mind saying the first sentence of the article below. Stumbling to the bathroom it became clearer and clearer that I could do this. By the time I was back in bed my mind was racing with details, so I said to myself, "I will do this." Then I stretched out to return to my sleep. But that was not to be. The thoughts of this writing were racing through my head. So now, here I am. It's 2:00 AM, April 22, 2004. Let's see how it comes out.

It all began in the early spring of 2003. No. It actually began many years ago. I was a young man, 21 years old, married a year and a half, a new father, and here I was stepping off of a helicopter into the rice paddies of South Vietnam. It was December of 1970. Little did I know that during the next seven months bonds would be created somewhere deep in my soul with some of the men who I met that day, and with some I would meet in the coming months. I was joining the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon of Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Americal Division in the Rice Bowl just Southwest of Duc Pho.

Little did I know that the Rice Bowl was a very peaceful area. I was scared to death. The platoon was very relaxed, and that helped put me at ease. I met the platoon leader, Lt. Vince Varel, and he assigned me to Tim Frater's squad. "The rest," as they say, "is history." All I can say is I'm glad it's history because it sure isn't very clear in the memory.

A lot of the details are gone and have been gone for a long time. But the faces of those men, their names, their voices...these were not gone, just tucked away. Oh yes, there was LZ Debbie, the Rice Bowl, a Stand Down in Duc Pho. There were the 12 day missions and the Firebase security at LZ Debbie between missions. There was the heat, the rain, the quiet, and the sudden moments of fear. Then there was San Juan Hill, more missions, more heat, more rain, and leeches, let's not forget the leeches. But mostly, there were the men.

From time to time over the years I'd pull out my photo albums and remember those men. There was a connection there that I didn't fully realize. It was deep, buried beneath all the busyness of life. I was with these men, for the most part, 24 hours a day,

## VIETNAM NETWORK

seven days a week, from December 1970 until our unit was disbanded and sent home in June 1971.

From that point some went home, but most went to other units, as I did. Two of the men I had been with joined me at a new unit, but it wasn't the same thing. There was something different. The connection, for me, just wasn't made as it had been with the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon. So, there you have it. We were put together for seven months or so, then broken apart and sent in various directions with promises to write and stay in touch. Very few of us kept that promise, but I didn't find that out until years later.

Now, fast forward to the spring of 2003. The United States is again in a conflict where our soldiers are going into harm's way. I identified with these young soldiers. Even though the times are so different, a soldier knows a soldier. And yes, the situation is so different today than it was in 1971. But even with the differences, it is so similar. The political climate today reeks of the divisiveness and rebellion of the 1970s. All of the division and bitterness being expressed against the current administration's policies penetrated deep into my soul to a place long put away.

I was rapidly becoming a basket case! I was flying back and forth from anger and frustration at the politicians to exhilaration and excitement for our troops as they had success. I couldn't pull myself away from Fox News while waiting to hear the latest from the embedded reporters. And I railed at those who criticized, complained, and bemoaned the fact that we had troops in the field. What were we doing to our men? How could we, as a nation, again let our brave young soldiers go off to war and stay at home criticizing their efforts? What were our men thinking as they heard all of this?

These were my thoughts. And it all began to flood back from 1971. The memories that had been tucked away for so long in the private areas of my soul. I wept. I remembered. It had been these same questions that I had asked in 1971. Where was the "grateful nation"? It was sometime during the spring of 2003 that I decided I was not going to live alone anymore with my Vietnam experience. There were two things I "Had" to do. First, let my family know of my experiences, and second, find the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon. I didn't know how to do either.

The family part turned out to be fairly easy. For them I made a PowerPoint presentation of some of my best pictures along with a narrative describing the picture and the life of a grunt as seen in the picture. I sprinkled in a few of the poems I wrote while in 'Nam, and I put this presentation on CD. I gave it to all of the family with an open invitation to discuss the events with them if they so desired. That was pretty easy and painless.

Finding the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon would not be so easy or painless. I began looking through all of my pictures, taking them out of the albums and making note of the notes written on the back of them, gathering a list of names. Then I remembered I had an old address book from Vietnam. It contained the addresses of several of the men from 1971. Little did I know when I began this quest that I would end up looking for 36 men. Nor did I know that it would become an obsession with me.

I shared what I was doing with the Men's Sunday School class at my church and asked the men to pray for me. I also enlisted the prayers of a few others who I was close to.

I began in earnest in April with the names I knew and the addresses I had. I went to the Internet and discovered several search engines that would locate people. I decided to search for those with unique names first. David Bruski, Carl Groseclose, Vince Varel, Tim Frater, Darrel Fuhs and Ken Sciford were the names I started with. Then I began searching on other names that I had old addresses for. I got immediate results on some names and no results on others.

I began to compile a list of possible addresses for each name. As the days turned into weeks and the weeks into months I would find many of the men. Each one found, and the process of discovery, is a little story in itself. I feel I would bore even myself if I tried to write to that level of detail so I'll just hit the high points. Oh yeah, and the low points. Yes, there were some low points in this process.

There was discouragement, frustration, and even depression to the point of quitting for a time. But, there was joy, laughter, weeping with happiness and even exhilaration. Finding Carl Groseclose on the Internet was easy. His name popped up on the Internet. He had a little web page associated with a high school reunion, class of 1968 (that was about right I figured) in Apopka, FL. I also got a hit on David Bruski in his home state of record, and for Tim Frater.

Now I had to decide the best way to make contact with each of these. I decided to write a letter introducing myself, giving a history of my service with the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, then asking the addressee to respond to the letter if they were the person I was looking for as a fellow platoon member. Then I waited. June 6, 2003 I got my first response. It was an email from David Bruski. His email was full of excitement. I couldn't believe it, and yet I could. I wept with excitement.

David's email also contained names, names I didn't have and names I had spelled incorrectly. This was a big help in finding Vince Varel. I had spelled his name wrong in notes I had so was unable to find him. With the correct spelling I still couldn't find him using the People Locator search engines. Then I decided to try putting in his name at a regular search engine. I went to Google and



entered his name and up popped a link to a 3-year-old magazine article he was quoted in. I linked to the article and read some about the odor of cattle urine in stockyards. What great reading! From that point I linked over to the magazine home page, clicked on the "Contact Us" link and emailed the editor. It wasn't long before I heard from the editor who notified me that he had passed my email along to Vince. Needless to say, my excitement level was jacked up a bit that day.

Carl Groseclose was the second man to contact me, and he provided some more names and possible locations of others including Pat Byrne and Gary Dolen. The same day I heard from Carl, I heard from Vince. As I read the email from Vince I yelled out to my wife, Becki, "I've got Lt, I've got Lt." I couldn't believe I was having such great success. I had heard from 3 guys in a 3-day period. In fact, June would be a productive month. I would hear from nine members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon before month's end.

Just two days after Vince's email I heard from Tim Frater and Dale Hill. Both were excited to hear from me and were hoping for more communication. Then came Ken Sciford. I had actually made contact with his father of the same name, finding the name at a website and sending an email plus an associated letter to the address listed. I didn't learn until later that Ken got the letter from his dad.

Then came Dale Doege. I had his old address in Menominee Falls, Wisconsin. I couldn't find him on the Internet so I sent a letter to the old address. After waiting a couple of weeks I searched on Doege in Wisconsin. I sent a couple of letters to the names I found and one turned out to be Dale's brother. When Dale contacted me I was off the charts! The two of us had been very close in 'Nam and this was a connection hat I really wanted to make.

As a matter of fact, there was a short list I was working on that had to get done. Both Dales were on it along with Darrel Fuhs and Lonnie Johnson. I heard from Mike Gatewood the same day that Doege contacted me. I had used an old address for Mike from my address book. As it turned out, his mother still lived at that address and contacted Mike to let him know I was searching for him.

This happened again in finding another man, Gary Dolen. June was almost over, but there was still two more bits of information to discover before the arrival of July. One of those would excite me and the other would almost make me give up.

I had been spending a ton of time on the Internet. A lot of that time was spent looking for Lonnie Johnson. I had him living in Texas in 1971, but there were almost 300 Lonnie Johnson's in Texas that popped up on Internet searches. I contacted the newspaper in the town I had listed for him (Lampassas),

but there was no record of him. I finally decided to call every Lonnie Johnson on my list until I ran out of names, or until I found him. I spoke with some interesting characters during this time. All of them Lonnie Johnson and none of them the Lonnie I was looking for. Then there was a night that a young woman answered the phone. I explained who I was and why I was calling. She said that the Lonnie at that address wasn't home but that he did serve in Vietnam. Well, my breathing got a little faster at this point. I then asked if he had red curly hair. When she said it used to be my heart rate went up a little. Then I asked if he was an artist. She said, "Yes." That did it. I was pumped again. I left my name and number and a short time later I was talking with Lonnie! It was June 30. The short list was almost complete.

At the same time this was going on though, I had discovered some news that was unsettling. I had sent a letter to an address for Darrel Fuhs. Darrel had been my squad leader after Tim Frater was moved to CP. I really wanted to find Darrel. A couple of weeks passed with no response from the letter so I went to the Internet and did a Google search on his name. Up popped his obituary.

I couldn't believe it. He died just 3 months earlier, about the time I began the quest. I was devastated. The email mentioned his wife's name, so I sent along a card explaining who I was and expressing my sympathy. Her response came the first week in July. Her sadness and loss oozed from every sentence. She was really hurting and I was too. It took me a few days to get over this shock, and in fact, if Becki had not encouraged me, I don't know if I would have started back as quickly as I did (if at all).

And so it went. Searching the Internet, making list, and mailing letters. During July I located two more of the men, Pat Byrne and Gary Dolen. With each man found there was more information gathered about others. Gary had been in touch with both Nick Evans and Ken Cameron through the years and gave me info on them. He also was able to tell me the state Kent Swanson lived in. My little list was growing with each contact made.

At some point early in this process I decided to put all of my pictures on CD and mail copies to everyone I located. Cathy Sciford, Ken's wife, took the pictures and put them on the Internet at their family's photo website. This turned out to be a real joy for everyone. Cathy must have put hours into this, eventually moving the Vietnam pictures to its own site. Guys began sending pictures to Ken and Cathy, and before we knew it, there was this great website set up. It's fun to drop by and visit.

Also during this entire process there were the discouraging moments when I would find that a former platoon member had already passed away. The very first I discovered,

even before learning of Darrel Fuhs' death, was Dana Turmelle from Maine. I remember sitting in bewilderment at the news. I couldn't believe it. I would look at his picture and see the face of a 19/20 year old. It was with the discovery of Dana's death that I realized some of what lay ahead for me if I continued on. This became part of the motivation for me. I didn't want to wait another minute. We were all approaching that time in life. We would all get there sooner or later. I didn't want to miss a chance to re-connect with these men. So I pushed ahead.

August brought the locating of 4 more members of the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon, Nick Evans, David Myers, Terry Dickson, and Ken Cameron. I also located a fifth veteran, but not a member of 4<sup>th</sup> platoon. This was Vernon Sones. I discovered that Vernon had been the battalion commander during 1971 from a newspaper article I read. I almost didn't contact him, but decided just to call and say, "Hi" as one of his former soldiers. This turned out to be a great thing. He was excited to hear from me, and we have talked several times since August. Vernon was able to provide me with a complete roster of Company B.

The information on it proved to be a great help in finding the remainder of those yet to be found. Of great importance was the Social Security Number for each individual. I was able to use the first 3 digits to determine the state the number was issued in. Then I found another website that would identify a Social Security Number as "active" or "inactive". If the number was "inactive" the date of death would be listed. I quickly began entering the numbers for the remainder of the platoon.

Sadly, I learned that four more of our number had already died. That brought the total to six. I also learned that our former company commander, Ken Kroeger, had died. The name of Paul Ashley would be added to this list later. Paul's name was not listed on the roster because he left country earlier after being injured by shrapnel. Some of the men were really close to Paul, and it seemed as I contacted new people Paul's name would come up. I didn't have a SSN for him so the going was difficult. Later one of the men was able to provide me with the SSN and I was able to confirm his death. This was a sad time for many of the guys.

With the arrival of September came the locating of four more platoon members, Kent Swanson, Carl Beard, John Beaupre and Tom Duran. I remember coming home one evening from work and there was a message on the answer machine from Tom. "Slaters, is that really you?! I can't believe it! Is that really you?!" I'll never forget that message. It was like so many of the other "first contacts". It was full of excitement and joy and unbelief. There was that sense of, "pinch me, I must be dreaming!"

My joy was to get to experience that with every new contact! There was also excitement in watching the emails fly back and forth. We all usually copied everyone when we would email, so nobody would miss anything. I have come to the conclusion that Dale Hill must do comedy work on the side and David Myers must have had access to a photo lab because of the emails they would send. What fun!

It was sometime in September that I finally reached a point that I had gone as far as I was going to be able to go without some kind of help. There were 8 names I had not been able to locate. I located a service that would do a SSN search to gather "last known address" info. The cost of the service was \$10 per name. I figured for \$80 it was worth it. Turned out to be a good investment. As a result of the information I gained from the service I was able to locate John Schmitz (October), Freddy Velez, Charlie Sauer (November) and finally, David Olender on December 29, 2003. There are two men I think I have located, but who have not expressed a desire to make contact, and there is one that still remains unlocated. So, at the end of the day, twenty-four members of 4<sup>th</sup> platoon have been located alive and well.

What a ride! So what do we do with it now that we have it? We have a reunion! What else could we do?! What a great time it was. Somehow we decided on meeting in Las Vegas for a few days. So, April 1, 2004, fifteen of the men gathered in Las Vegas. Fifteen men in their 50's, from quite different places, lifestyles, and interest, yet with one thing in common.

It was like 33 years just disappeared in a flash. Most everyone said they had reservations about getting together, but everyone went home with a sense of satisfaction from having been there. It was a relaxed time. There was no schedule of events, but we spent several hours together as an entire group taking pictures, eating pizza, and telling stories. Oh how sweet that time was. We remembered. We laughed. We drifted off for a moment here and there to a place far away. There were a few tears shed. Men were honored. We decided to do it again in 2/3 years. Plans are in the works.

Personally, the Sunday morning we left Las Vegas I was as emotional as I had been at anytime thru the process. I had such a sense of fulfillment. Even the night before, as I was getting ready for bed, I was overcome with emotion. What a ride! What joy! Events of my youth, 33 years ago, will remain a part of me as long as I live. These men, such a part of me! I'm not sure I'll ever fully understand it. It's way down deep in my soul. Brothers once, brothers again, brothers as long as we live!

All those prayers from so many were answered in such a sweet way. God is so awesome! Thanks to YOU, my Heavenly Father, Who put it all together.

## Pizza Run-Nam Style

By Bruce M. Butler

I was a F.O. with Divarty in the I.O.S. squad in 1971. We were attached to the 1/6th Infantry and our job was to call in their fire missions. For a while we were occupying an OP about two clicks west of FSB Dottie. (I can't remember the name of it, maybe someone could help me out with that.)

One day I was BS'ing with the guy over on Dottie in the FDC. As usual, we were talking about where we were from back in the real world. Then he said to me that they had it made on Dottie. He said, "We even have a Pizza Hut here!" "No way," I said. He then explained to me that they had freeze-dried pizzas and that they were pretty good.

Now that got me thinking. I went over to the CO and told him about it. He gave me permission to get a patrol together. At 1300 hrs I called back to the FDC on Dottie and ordered 14 pizza's to go. I gave him my call sign (cranky floors 29er foxtrot) and I told him to let the perimeter people know that a patrol would be coming in about 1500 hrs.

At about 1500 hrs. we popped smoke and identified ourselves. We were directed to the PIZZA HUT. Sure enough, there were 14 pizzas all boxed up and ready to go. We thanked the FDC and those involved on Dottie and headed out.

On the way out of the perimeter one of the guys on guard duty asked what we came and got. I showed him the pizzas and told him that we got the MUNCHIES! He looked at us and told us that we were crazy! Hey! What can we say? At 1730 hrs. we arrived back at the OP.

I have to say that the pizza run sure was a moral builder that day.

I hope you enjoyed this little story. If you were there and can remember the name of that OP please let me know. I can be contacted at [REDACTED].

## Updates from the last Americal Newsletter

Co. C, 1/46<sup>th</sup> Inf. photos

Several readers had difficulty contacting Mr. Roger Brewer about the photos he has of CPT Richard Knight and members of Co. C, 1/46<sup>th</sup> Inf., circa March 1971. Brewer lives in Akron, NY and can be reached by phone at [REDACTED]. His e-mail address is [REDACTED].

SGT Paul Yost

Charlie Brewer reports that three Americal veterans contacted him with interest in providing information on SGT Paul Yost. Yost was killed-in-action on May 5, 1968 while serving with Co. C, 3/21<sup>st</sup> Inf.

Yost's son, also named Paul, was born after his father's death and would like to know more about his father's service.

## Co. B, 1/20<sup>th</sup> Infantry

I was assigned to Co. B, 1/20th Inf., in November 1968. I was the company 1st Sergeant. My Exec Officer and I went with the 3rd platoon on a combat sweep to meet up with a recon unit. An NVA company of 130 soldiers ambushed us. There were only 24 in our group. We lost 5 KIA and 8 wounded.

One of those killed, Lester Stone, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor; another, Sgt. Moreing, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The Exec Officer earned a Silver Star and I was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor.

This took place on 3 March 1969. I would like to find out what happened. Killed that day were: Dean Ward Moering, Lester Ray Stone, Calvin Edmunds, Duane Paepke, and Ronald Thiox.

Anyone with more information please write me at [REDACTED], Richmond, UT 84333  
MSG (Retired) Donald K. Winter

## Warlords website

The Warlords now have a website at [www.bco123rdavnbm.org](http://www.bco123rdavnbm.org). Stop by and check it out. Keep the trees out of the skids!!!

Larry W. Stoner; B Co. 123rd Avn. Bn.

## Amercal vet in Saigon

I am going back to Hiep Duc in August 2004. I have been living in Saigon for two years teaching English. I served in the Hiep Duc area in 1969-70.

Come and visit me. I will provide free room and board for 3-5 days to Americal vets. I would enjoy the company of other vets. Email to [REDACTED].

Bob Delzell; Co. D, 4/31<sup>st</sup> Inf., 196th LIB

## Co. A, 1/46<sup>th</sup> Infantry

I am looking for anyone who knew my nephew Steve Blaskovich and Lt. Johnny Krebs. They were K.I.A on June 8, 1970 in the Hiep Duc area.

I am Steve's Aunt and only three years older than he. We grew up more like sister and brother. I have a website in honor of Steve and hope anyone who cares enough will help me keep his sweet memory alive. I hope to find someone who may have known him. See my website for Steve at <http://cplsteveblaskovichjr.homestead.com/SteveBlaskovichJr.html>.

Betty Smith

**ADVA website**  
**[www.americal.org](http://www.americal.org)**



## Group Trip To Vietnam Being Considered For Americal Vets

Two vets whom have returned to Vietnam the past two years have arranged an Americal area of interest tour to Vietnam for those interested. Details are below.

- Fly from West Coast USA (Los Angeles) on direct flight to Danang international Airport and return.
- Vets will be responsible to book their own flights to the city of USA departure.

### PLANNED ITINERARY:

**Day 1:** Arrive Danaang City. Pass through customs. Drive to Hue. Check in hotel. Relax at hotel. Dinner on your own.

### Day 2: Hue:

- Visit the Royal Citadel and tombs in Hue – Tu Duc and Khai Dinh mausoleum.
- Group lunch.
- Boat trip on the Perfume River to visit the Minh Mang Tomb and the Heavenly Lady Pagoda.
- Return to hotel for evening. Dinner on your own at hotel.

### Day 3: Danang:

- Drive to Hoi An, stop to take photos at Hai Van pass and Lang Co Beach enroute.
- Danang City: the War Museum, Marble Mountain and Non Nuoc Beach.
- Group lunch in Danang. Travel to Hoi An.
- Check in Hoi An hotel. Buffet Dinner. Relax.

### Day 4: Hoi An:

- Morning walk as group through the Ancient City, Japanese Bridge, Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, Old House, etc.
- Return to hotel for lunch on your own.
- Afternoon free for relaxing and shopping. Dinner on your own at hotel or in Hoi An.

### Day 5: 196<sup>th</sup> AO (Tam Ky)

- Hiep Duc: LZ West, LZ Karen, LZ Siberia
- LZ Ross and "Happy Valley"

### Day 6: 196<sup>th</sup> AO (Tam Ky)

- LZ Young, Tien Phuoc, Hau Duc, LZ Professional, LZ Mildred
- Thon My (LZ Mary Ann),

### Day 7: (Morning):

- South on Highway 1 to Quang Ngai.
- Visit An Tan and take pictures from Highway 1 by the An Tan River.
- Pass Chu Lai complex 11 kilometers to Nam Binh 2 (Nuc Mau). Visit "LZ Gator". Before walking up the hill have a

- presentation to the local school of school supplies from the veterans.
- Travel south on Highway 1. Check into a hotel in Quang Ngai City.

### (Afternoon):

- Son My (My Lai 4).
- My Lai (1) ("PINKVILLE") and Beach.
- Chau Thoun (2) and visit tunnel complex just east of village (VC hospital tunnel and Memorial).
- Bantangan Peninsula (LZ Ann, LZ Paradise).
- Headwaters of the Tra Bong River (Son Tra 1). to take pictures with the panorama of beach area and Chu Lai..
- Veterans will have dinner on their own at the hotel

### Day 8: (Morning):

- West on Route 529 to the mountain area of Tra Bong. We will try to visit the Montagnard villages.
- Return to Quang Ngai City for Lunch. Check out of the Hotel and Travel south on Highway #1.
- Stop in Duc Pho briefly for picture taking.
- Stop in Qui Nhon for the evening. Dinner on your own.

### Day 9:

- Check out of the hotel early and drive to Nha Trang. Group lunch at the hotel.
- In the afternoon visit Pongar Cham Towers as a group, then return to the hotel for free time at the hotel, visit the beach or city.
- Evening dinner on your own.

### Day 10:

- Check out of hotel in morning, take flight to HCMC (Saigon).
- Check into the hotel.
- Group lunch at hotel (depending on flight schedule).
- Afternoon visit the War Museum, Independence Conference Hall and Notre Dame Cathedral. Return to hotel.
- The rest of the afternoon and evening on your own.

### Day 11:

- Drive to the Tunnels of Chu Chi. Visit the Tay Ninh Cao Dai Temple. Return to the hotel for lunch on your own.
- Afternoon is open.

### Day 12:

- The group will go to the airport early enough to get flights back to the Danang Airport, then take flight to USA.

### Hotel Fees Covered in Group Tour Price (Per Person Based on Two Person Occupancy)

- Hue (2 evenings of day 1 & day 2)
- Hoi An (2 evenings of day 3-4)
- Tam Ky (2 evenings of day 5-6)
- Quang Ngai (1 evening of day 7)
- Qui Nhon (1 evening of day 8)
- Nha Trang (1 evening of day 9)
- HCMC – Saigon (2 evenings of Day 10 – 11)

### Meals Covered in Group Tour Price (Per Person)

- 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 2 dinners that will be eaten as a group to accommodate the tour schedule

### Meals Individuals Will Pay on Their Own

- 9 dinners and 2 lunches. Note: This will give the individual some flexibility in having private or small group dining at their place of choice. A typical lunch or full dinner in Vietnam will cost about \$3.50 (dollars).

### Cost Estimates (final costs by late Fall)

- Tour price per person (50 or more) = \$498/person. This covers hotels, guides, air-conditioned busses, meals (see above) and entrance fees.
- Estimated airfare Los Angeles to Danang and return is \$930/person. In-country flights (Nha Trang to Saigon and Saigon to Danang) are \$98/each. Vietnam departure tax = \$12/person.
- Total Estimated Cost \$1,650/Person
- Individuals responsible for air fare from home to Los Angeles and return.

**Hoi An Travel, located in Vietnam will sponsor this trip. Americal Vets Dave Taylor and Mick Samples helped arrange the itinerary with Hoi An Travel but have no responsibility for the tour, nor does the Americal Division Veterans Association.**

### For Questions About The Tour Contact:

- Dave Taylor, [redacted] Medina, Ohio 44256 or [redacted]
- Mick Samples, [redacted] Charleston, WV 25302 or [redacted]

## Americal Division Veterans Association

These By-Laws were voted on and approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly, to be effective as of July 1, 1998.

This Constitution and By-Laws supersede all previous By-Laws and amendments enacted by this organization.

### Constitution

#### Preamble

We, the Officers and Enlisted Persons on active duty or who having been honorably discharged or released from active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and having served honorably with the Americal Division, do unite to establish a permanent organization which shall be known as the Americal Division Veterans Association, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### Article I

##### Objectives

The objectives of this organization are fraternal, patriotic, historical, social, and beneficial; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its constitution and laws; to honor its flag, to foster true patriotism; to maintain the institutions of American freedom; to preserve and protect the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to maintain the history of the Americal Division.

#### Article II

##### Organization

Section 1: This organization hereinafter referred to as "The Association", shall consist of a National Headquarters which shall be located in the vicinity of Boston, Massachusetts and such subordinate chapters as may be authorized within the United States of America.

Section 2: A. Should the organization dissolve for one reason or another, the assets are to be converted into cash. B. These moneys to be placed in the Americal Division Scholarship Foundation and used at the discretion of the Trustees of such fund.

#### Article III

##### Amendments

Section 1: This constitution maybe amended through the use of the official ballot at the annual election, by a majority vote of the individual active members in good standing.

Section 2: Amendments shall be made in writing and submitted to the National Adjutant who shall forward the proposal to the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall study the proposal prior to presenting it to the general membership.

Section 3: Amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted not later than February 1st of each year.

### By-Laws

#### Article I

##### Membership and Voting Rights

Section 1: **Classes of Membership:** There shall be three (3) classes of members- ACTIVE, HONORARY, and ASSOCIATE. Only active members shall have the right to vote. No person who obtains membership in this Association shall be permitted to retain such membership if their military service past or present, is other than honorable, or if that person is engaged in un-American activities.

Section 2: **Eligibility Requirements:** A. Active membership: Any officer or enlisted person, who has honorably served with the Americal Division, Task Force 6814, Task Force Oregon, and any other unit of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, who were attached with or assigned to and served with the Americal Division for a period of thirty (30) days or more shall be eligible for active membership upon submission of proper application and payment of appropriate fees and dues that may be established. No application for membership need be submitted to the General Assembly unless one (1) or more members in good standing raise an objection to the applicant being received into membership of this Association.

B. Honorary Life Membership: May be awarded to an individual who has served with distinction in the Americal Division or the ADVA. Life Membership shall be automatically awarded to Medal of Honor veterans of the Americal Division. Members receiving this award shall retain their right to vote. This award shall be made on the approval of the National Commander and the National Executive Council.

C. Associate Membership: Any person recommended by an active member in good standing may be eligible for Associate Membership who is not otherwise eligible for Active Membership. A person that has rendered outstanding service to the Americal Division maybe awarded an Honorary Associate Membership. Applications must first be submitted to the National Adjutant and approval given by the National Executive Council.

D. Associate membership shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of active membership as of January 1st of each year.

Section 3: **Right to Vote:** Active members in good standing only shall have the right to vote.

Section 4: **Right of office:** Only active members in good standing shall have their right to hold elective or appointive office, to serve on committees or other administrative bodies that may be established.

Section 5: **Application for Membership:** Application for membership, except Honorary, shall be submitted on an approved form, completed in full and signed by the applicant, and shall be accompanied by such fees and dues applicable to the period in which the application is made. No person convicted of a felony or who supports the violent overthrow of the government of the United States, or any of its subdivisions thereof, shall be accepted for membership.

Section 6: **Suspension or Expulsion:** Any member who has been suspended from office or expelled from the Association for any just cause may be considered for reinstatement upon appeal to the Chairman of the National Executive Council, who shall study the causes for expulsion and make his recommendation

to the National Executive Council asking for their vote in writing.

Section 7: **Causes for Suspension or Expulsion:** A. Any officer of this Association, elective or appointive, may be suspended from office and expelled from the Association for: failure to carry out the duties of their office, violation of their oath of office, continued absence, unauthorized or misuse of Association funds or property, conduct unbecoming their office, bringing discredit upon the good name of the Association, failure to pay assessments and dues collected, and any and all other actions detrimental to the Association, or failure to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

B. When found delinquent in their office, the individual concerned shall be notified by USPS certified mail of their contemplated suspension. This notice is to be signed by both the National Commander and the National Adjutant, and it shall request the individual to resign, or appeal to the National Executive Council, showing cause why he or she should not be removed.

C. All Officers who are removed from office by the National Executive Council shall not have the right of appeal.

Section 8: **Oath:** A. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear or affirm that I shall bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, to the governments of its component states and municipalities, and to be ready to defend the same against all their enemies whomsoever.

B. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do further swear or affirm that I shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association and shall carry out my assigned duties to the best of my ability, so help me God."

C. The Oath of Office shall be taken orally or in writing by each elected officer or member of the Executive Council for each term of office. The Oath of Office shall be taken no later than July 31 following the election. The Oath of Office shall be administered and documented by the Nominating Committee or its designee(s). Such documentation shall be submitted to the National Adjutant upon completion. (2004)

Section 9: **Dues, Fees, Assessments, and Funds:** A. The National Executive Council, may on the advice of the National Commander, National Finance Officer, and the National Adjutant, fix the dues, fees, and other assessments necessary to balance the budget and make the Association financially sound.

b. Annual dues shall become payable on January 1st, May 1st, and September 1st as assigned by the National Adjutant. The month is determined by the date membership application is accepted.

C. All fees and assessments shall become due upon demand.

D. Membership records shall be posted to show the date of payment and the date of expiration, and all membership credentials shall show the appropriate dates of membership.

E. Any member shall petition in writing to the Chairman of the National Executive Council for approval to solicit funds.

Section 10: **Right of Redress:** A. All active members in good standing shall have the right of redress to the National Executive Council for any action by this Association or its Officers.

b. Any such petition shall be submitted in writing, stating all the facts of the case, including any evidence or witness to the

complaint, to the Chairman of the National Executive Council, who shall present the petition to the National Executive Council. The Executive Council members shall be required to register their vote in writing.

#### Article II

##### National Officers

Section 1: **National Executive council:** A. The National Executive Council shall be an elective body consisting of not less than seven (7) members nor more than eleven (11) members, excluding Chapter Commanders, elected every two years. (1999)

B. The elected Chapter Commander of each chapter shall automatically become a member of the Executive Council.

C. The Council shall have a Chairman and a Recorder who shall serve as clerk. The member receiving the majority vote shall serve as Chairman. For any reason the member with the majority vote should refuse, the member with the second most votes, and so forth, shall be the designated Chairman. In the event of a tie vote, a flip of a coin shall decide the Chairman. The Recorder shall be elected from within the Executive Council.

D. The term of office for each member elected to the Executive Council shall be for two (2) years. A member shall be eligible for re-election not to exceed four (4) consecutive years in office. After four consecutive years in office followed by a break of two years, a member shall be eligible for re-election. (1999)

E. Vacancies on the Council shall be filled by the National Commander.

F. The National Executive Council shall serve primarily as the monitoring and advisory board of the Association.

Section 2: **Duties of the National Executive Council:** A. Approve a yearly budget for the Association, and to approve non-budgeted expenditures.

B. Inspect and audit books of all funds of the Association.

C. To cause additional assessments and fees as may be necessary to meet the obligations of the Association.

D. To handle all appeals, petitions, and recommendations of any nature pertaining to the Association from active members and officers of the Association.

E. When found necessary, to take such action to suspend from office or expel from membership or other member for just cause after investigation and review.

F. On all issues requiring the vote of the National Executive Council, the Chairman shall write to all Executive Council members, stating the question and enclosing a ballot. The ballot is to be signed and returned to the Chairman. A two-thirds vote shall be required to carry the question.

Section 3: **National Officers (Elective):** A. The elective officers of the Association shall consist of the following:

1. Commander, 2. Senior Vice-Commander, 3. Junior Vice-Commander.

B. The term of office for each elective officer shall be for two (2) years. After a break of two years, an elective officer shall be eligible for re-election. (1999)

Section 4: **National Officers (Appointive):** A. The appointive officers of the Association shall consist of the following:

1. Adjutant, 2. Historian, 3. Historian, Vietnam, 4. Sergeant-At-Arms, 5. Finance Officer, 6. Chaplains, 7. Editor-in-Chief, Newsletter, 8. Editor,



Vietnam, 9. Museum Curator, 10. Chapter Coordinator, 11. Judge Advocate.

B. The term of office for each appointive officer shall be for one (1) year.

Section 5. National Officers (Eligibility):

A. All active members in good standing shall be eligible for any office in this Association, provided that the member has not previously been suspended from office.

B. No member shall hold more than one (1) elective office at the same time, but they may hold one (1) appointive office at the same time, providing that one office does not conflict with the other office.

C. All officers, when duly installed, shall serve during the period which elected or appointed until the next election and installation of officers. Officers shall be considered duly installed when they complete the Oath of Office. (2004)

Section 6: National Officers (Duties):

The following duties shall be the responsibility of each officer holding office in this Association and shall be governed by these By-Laws and Constitution.

A. National Commander. 1. Preside at the General Meetings of this Association.

2. Insure that all business matters are handled in an efficient manner. 3. Appoint committees, fill vacancies, and insure that the Association has the necessary personnel, equipment, and supplies to conduct its business. 4. Check all records and reports submitted by the officers and committees and assure that they are in the proper order and properly signed. 5. Supervise all activities of the Association and cooperate with Executive Council and perform such other duties as may be required of this office. 6. Be

Chairperson, Ex-Officio, of all national committees. 7. Send a letter of condolence to the spouse of all deceased members. 8. Submit an annual budget to the National Executive Council.

B. National Senior Vice Commander. 1. The Senior Vice Commander shall preside in the absence of the Commander and shall assist the Commander in the performance of the duties of that office. 2. Be Chairperson of the Membership Committee and conduct such programs to obtain new members and retain present membership. 3. Perform other duties as may be required of this office.

C. National Junior Vice Commander. 1. The Junior Vice Commander shall preside in the absence of both the commander and Senior Vice Commander. 2. Perform such duties as may be required of his office.

D. National Finance Officer. 1. The finance Officer is to receive, hold, and disperse all funds of this Association. The Finance Officer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all funds, securities, financial records, and any other items concerned with the moneys of this Association. Incoming moneys shall be banked promptly and all authorized debts paid and receipts obtained. 2. The Finance Officer shall be bonded by the Association in a sum to be determined by the Executive Council. 3. The Finance Officer shall open the books and records to the Executive Council. He shall act as Financial Advisor to any committee or other body of this Association who may be dealing with Association funds. 4. Perform such other duties as may be required of this

office. 5. Shall not honor any request for payment of non-budgeted items.

E. National Chaplains: 1. The Chaplains are to provide spiritual guidance and other services required by the Association and its members. This shall include sending a letter of condolence to the spouse of a deceased member. 2. Chaplains may be appointed for each religion in the membership.

F. National Adjutant: 1. The National Adjutant is to handle all the administrative business of the Association and shall keep books, records, files, and correspondence pertaining to the Association. 2. Keep in a proper file all applications and records of each and every member. 3. Notify all members of dues, fees, and assessments due for payment and shall issue such receipts as necessary. 4. Make and keep records of all General Meetings and other business meetings as required. 5. Maintain a roster of all departed comrades. 6. Be custodian of all property of the Association and insure that such property is safeguarded and properly utilized. 7. In case none of the Commanders are present, the Adjutant shall preside and will designate an acting Adjutant. 8. Perform such duties as shall be required of this office by the laws of the Association or on orders from a competent authority. 9. Transfer to the successor, without delay, all records and property of the Association under his control.

G. National Historian: 1. The National Historian is to maintain from records and data submitted to him a true history of this Association and of the Americal Division.

H. National Sergeant-At-Arms: 1. The National Sergeant-At-Arms shall assist the Adjutant in those duties and shall act as assistant custodian of Association property. 2. Shall at the beginning of every General Meeting have the Colors posted, before taking a position at the entrance of the meeting place. 3. During the period the meeting is in progress, admit no on except members in good standing or such invited guests and other persons authorized by the presiding officer. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall escort and present to the presiding officer and invited or distinguished guest. 5. At the close of each meeting assure that all property is safeguarded and secured in a proper place.

J. National Judge Advocate 1. the National Judge Advocate shall be the legal advisor to the Association and shall advise the Commander and other officers on all legal matters concerning their office. 2. Have a copy of the constitution and By-Laws in his or her possession and shall rule on the Constitution and By-Laws and the proper conduct of business during each meeting. 3. Perform such other duties as may be required by this office.

Article III  
Committees

Section 1: Organization: A. There shall be two (2) classes of committees to be known as: 1. Standing 2. Temporary. B. Standing committees are of a permanent nature and are established by these By-Laws. C. Temporary committees shall be appointed by the National Commander when deemed necessary to carry out the business of this Association.

Section 2. Function and Purpose: The Membership Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Senior Vice-Commander, shall be charged with the organization and operation of the membership program for the purpose of recruiting new members, the retention present members, and to establish qualifications, records, and credentials. This committee shall, on the recommendation of the Commander, investigate applications for membership and shall notify the Commander on all applications rejected for just cause.

Article IV  
Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee: A. A Nominating Committee comprised of not less than five (5) members appointed by the National Commander and approved by the National Executive Council. B. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to the National Adjutant by February 1st. The National Adjutant shall verify the eligibility of the Nominated members. C. Further nominations for the National Executive Council shall be submitted to the National Adjutant no later than February 1st. Nominations of candidates for the National Executive Council must be endorsed by fifteen (15) members in good standing. D. The biannual balloting for the election of officers shall be at the direction of the Nominating Committee and shall be held between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. The results of the ballot count shall be posted to the National Adjutant within seven (7) days of the tabulation. (2004) E. Members nominated for the National Executive Council shall have their names drawn for position on the ballot. F. The plurality of votes cast by members voting the election shall decide the election. G. The term of office for elected officers and Executive Council members shall begin on July 1 following the election. The term of service for appointed officers shall begin immediately upon appointment by the National Commander. (2004) Section 2. Notifications. A. The Nominating Committee shall notify each nominee of the intention of placing the nominee on the ballot. The Nominating Committee shall ascertain that the nominee agrees to be on the ballot and will serve the post before placing the nominee on the ballot. (2004) B. The Nominating Committee shall notify each nominee, the National Commander, and the Chairman of the Executive Council of the results of the ballot count within fifteen (15) days of the tabulation of the ballots. (2004)

Article V  
Chapters

Section 1: General: A. Individual groups of members in good standing, to number not less than ten (10) will be authorized to form a local chapter under the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization. B. Each Chapter so formed shall abide by the laws and regulations of the Association and decisions rendered by the National Executive Council. C. Each Chapter shall consist of not less than three (3) elected officers who will be designated as follows: 1. Commander 2. Secretary/Treasurer 3. Sergeant-At-Arms 4. Chaplain

D. If additional officers are required by the chapter, the chapter Secretary shall request, in writing to the National Adjutant. The request shall be forwarded to the National Executive Council for approval. E. Chapter Commanders may appoint as many committees as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Chapter. Section 2. Procedures: A. To organize a Chapter, a request in writing must be submitted to the National Adjutant for review by the National Executive Council and must contain the following information: 1. Name, address, and card number of ten (10) members. 2. Name of each proposed officer. 3. The designated name of title of the proposed Chapter. 4. The mailing address of the proposed Chapter. B. The above request shall be signed by both the Chapter Commander and the Secretary. C. Chapter may be identified by the following: 1. Name of a deceased Americal veteran. 2. Name of locality in which Chapter is located. D. Upon approval by the National Executive Council, a Charter shall be issued to the new Chapter.

Article VI  
Alcohol Usage

Section 1. The policy of the Americal Division Veterans Association is that no alcoholic drinks shall be dispensed, sold, or otherwise distributed by the Association or its members in any hospitality room, official functions or at any other function of the Association. Previous arrangements shall be made to have the entity where the meetings are held dispense and charge for alcohol provided.

Article VII  
Miscellaneous

Section 1: Nothing herein constitutes members of the Association as partners for any purpose. No member, officer or agent of this Association shall be liable for the acts or failure to act under this Constitution and By-Laws, excepting only acts or omissions to act arising from willful misfeasance. Nothing herein shall constitute any liability for acts or omissions committed by any entity associated with the Association. Each such activity stands alone and is governed by its Constitution and By-Laws, Charter, or agreements.

Article VIII  
Rules of Order

Section 1. A. the official reference and guide for the proper conduct of business meetings ceremonies, and such other business of the Association shall be governed by the "Roberts Rules of Order". B. The latest edition of the above reference shall always be utilized and shall be in the possession of the Judge Advocate during all business sessions. C. The term, General Assembly, shall mean the general business meeting held within the annual National Convention. Revised and submitted in the year 1996 by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. PNC Peter J. Messina, PNC James C. Buckle, Nat. Fin. Off. Joseph B. Chin Voted and passed at the General Assembly at the National Convention, Reno, NV, 22Jun96. [Amended 1999 and 2004. Amendments are indicated by the year of the amendment following the change.]

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Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel now serving with or who have served with the Americal (23rd Inf) Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods:

World War II 1942-1945  
Korea War (Caribbean) 1954-1956  
Vietnam War 1967-1973

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 and Task Force Oregon. Branch of Service is immaterial.

### Dedication

ADVA is dedicated as a LIVING MEMORIAL to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

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**PNC Ronald Ellis**

**Henderson, TX 75652**

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