

THE / HPANEWSLETTER

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association

December 1989 • Vol. 6 • No. 3



VHPA Has Moved to Cincinnati!!



President's Roll Call

As you can see from the cover of this newsletter, the VHPA "Headshed" is no longer in Wichita, but has moved to Cincinnati. After considering seven very fine proposals, the Executive Council decided unanimously that Performance Associates, Inc. (PAI) were the right folks to provide administrative services to our organization. The contract administrator for PAI is VHPA member Alan Fry, with member services being handled by Carrie Konkoly, Melinda Wieck taking care of the money matters, and Ray Phipps helping Mike McDonald turn out the newsletter. After two months, PAI's performance has been outstanding and it's apparent the Executive Council made the right selection. We would like to thank the folks at AAM, Inc. of Wichita for almost three years of service and wish them well in the future.

One of the major reasons for the VHPA is our annual reunion. One of the toughest jobs is making that reunion happen, with the first difficult step being to find the best location. The reunion site selection is not as simple as it seems. Like other worthy things, it becomes a compromise between competing considerations, such as giving ALL regional areas of the U.S. a turn, finding a facility large enough, keeping the room cost affordable, air transportation to and from the site, etc. Additionally, a big task is finding a VHPA member in the regional area who is willing and able to take on the monumental job of Reunion Chairman.

With all this in mind, your new Vice President, Greg Ross was dispatched to the Northwest (it had been previously decided it was this region's turn) to find the 1991 Reunion Site. Considering Greg was the 1989 Chicago Reunion Chairman and would be VHPA President during the 1991 Reunion (the guy you throw the rocks at if you have a lousy time) he was the logical choice for the task. In his normal Greg Ross, "you can take it to the bank" style of getting things done, Greg nailed down a great deal with the Golden Nuget in Reno, Nevada. Another upstanding VHPA'er by the name of Tom Percy agreed to serve as the 1991 Reunion Chairman. Tom lives in Reno, which just about makes things perfect. Tom and Greg, we thank you, the 1991 Reno Reunion will undoubtedly be added to the list of great reunions. Look for more information on the Reno Reunion in future newsletters. In the meantime, please note the registration forms and details on the 1990 New Orleans Reunion in this issue. The earlier you register the better for everyone.

Concerning the 1989 VHPA Membership Directory, I would like to apologize to two gentlemen who were omitted from the list of past presidents, shown inside the front cover. Don Hildebrand served as the first VHPA president in 1984 and Jay Elliott served as the fifth president during 1988. Both Don and Jay served partial terms of less than one year. In spite of this oversight, this year's directory is an outstanding publication which we are sure you will enjoy.

May you and yours enjoy the Merriest Christmas and the Happiest New Year.

Roger Gould President

Help the VHPA.

Get a Friend

to Join Today!



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Mike McDonald, Editor

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Unsolved Mysteries

In May (1989) I was elected President of San Diego Chapter 472 of Vietnam Veterans of America. This is quite an honor to me after only spending three months and 21 days "in country" (and, then, 3 years of the next 5 in the hospital).

Something that might be of interest to VHPA members who knew me in Flight School or Vietnam: After responding to an ad in the Vietnam Veterans of America newsletter "Veteran", I was chosen by "Unsolved Mysteries" to be a veteran they will help in finding a nurse who was important to his recovery after being wounded. I feel very honored that these things are happening in my life.

The "Unsolved Mysteries" segment is going to be about 20 minutes long and involves actors and actresses in the roles of my parents, wardmates, doctors and nurses at Madigan General Hospital in Fort Lewis, Washington. They also interviewed my parents and me in Los Angeles. It was quite a thrill.

The producer told me that they dramatized scenes of what I was like when I returned from Vietnam (my family could not recognize me) and different scenes of me during my hospitalization.

Even with all the "trying" things that have happened in my life, I sometimes feel like the luckiest person on earth. As a matter of fact, the only thing I would change is my little brother being killed in Vietnam on May 15, 1970-three years and one week after I was injured. If rewinding the clock and my dying would mean he would not have died, I would do it in a SECOND!

But, fate has not worked according to all of my wishes. My life now is devoted to being of as much a service to people as possible. Even my company is named after my little brother, the "Lt. David E. Meade Memorial Counseling Centers."

deserves to do any less.

America met for the first time on April 1, a constructive rather than a disruptive 1989, and it has attracted Vietnam veter- manner. Basically, I could not care less ans who were in the "closet" for years, and about Vietnam and the Vietnamese. They who are now ready to be of service to their had their chance. community and nation as VIETNAM VETER-ANS. We are making it known all over that a spineless, self-seeking Congress (nothwe want to be of service to groups or ing changes) composed of the William projects that want our help--our free help. Proxmires, Ted Kennedys and "crying" Fritz

nam Veteran--and, human being--is all confrontational, well-funded leftist minorabout, helping others. If any members of ity and a money-hungry, sensationalist, VHPA would like to also join the San Diego lying press. They are in the same league Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America as Traitor Jane, Donald Sutherland, Shirley and be a part of what we are doing "to be MacLaine and their ilk. of service to America", they can write me--and, send \$20.00 annual dues to "VVA" their country is and how some of them at: James P. Meade, Jr., Ph.D., San Diego "miss" the American presence. To putitin Chapter, Vietnam Veterans of America, their vernacular, xinh loi. What about our 850 State Street, No. 108, San Diego, CA own country? 92101.

Digest" article about my recovery from my understand his motivations particularly since injuries, "The Long Return of Warrant Offi- the producer and others were at our cer Meade", know that my life after Viet- banquet. Yes, I do have a deep and nam has not always been easy. Still, I am abiding mistrust of the press; mostly for the proudest person I know-proud of flying their sorry performance in Vietnam. Then, and fighting with so many Vietnam veter- for Mike to introduce this man and state ans and Vietnam veteran helicopter pi- how many Emmys he has won-well, I'm

God blessl

James P. Meade, Jr., Ph.D.

Saw your story on "Unsolved Mysteries" as well as the reunion with your nurse. As a member of the media, it gives me great pleasure to know that through the efforts of the media this reunion was made possible. Helping others is, also, what VHPA is

about. I am sure that there are other VHPA members out there who will be interested in joining the San Diego Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Thanks for the invitation!!

Watch for James' story on "Unsolved Mysteries". ED.

Full Circle

In the several weeks since Chicago I've had time to do a little considering andpondering. While my wife and I had one of the best times we've ever had anywhere, there was one thing I considered less than pleasant.

Mike McDonald's "Return to Vietnam" video presented at the banquet in lieu of Nobody who has been as lucky as I am a guest speaker was, to my mind, inappropriate. Let me state that these are My chapter of Vietnam Veterans of strictly my opinions and should be taken in

Our foreign policy was (is?) dictated by What we are doing is what being a Viet- Mondales. They were aided by a vocal,

I really didn't need to see how "poor"

While I can appreciate the efforts Mike The members who read the "Reader's and his crew underwent, I'm still not sure I not convinced this fellow produces out of the goodness of his heart. Mike may have done this video for the Association, but he certainly didn't do it for me.

It was professionally done, and I note with the intent of future sales quite evident, but to have one of the Vietnamese economics ministers make a blatant pitch for "economic assistance"-MONEY--was too much. Let them go to the Russians or their good buddies the Red Chinese.

Sure, we can consider some assistance

for the Vietnamese, just as soon as they turn over the rest of our POW's. How is it that subject wasn't addressed?

This presentation should have been voluntary--either at the business meeting or some other scheduled time. I did not appreciate being a captive audience and, from comments at my table and others overheard by my wife, there were similar sentiments.



Finally, I have a suggestion: since these reunions are an occasion for remembrance, camaraderie, friendship and overall good times, let's keep it that way. Choose a program or guest speaker who we can all respect or at least relate to in keeping with our fraternity.

James P. Fazekas



Different Views

I have just received a video tape from Lee Tate, formerly of the 119th AHC "Gators". I was thrilled to see the "Old Home Place"; Pleiku, Dak To, Plei Me, and on, and on. As I told him in my thank you letter, the tape gave my family a reality to put with the emotions they have seen in me. But what grabbed me most was your trip back to "The Nam." Just as we were forever changed the first time, no man could take that trip and not be forever changed once again. How fast the scars heal when you have the right medicine.

I remembered your eloquently written note in the June newsletter. It took great courage to expose yourself like that. No innocence can compare to that of a child. "Whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receives me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it would be better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the sea." (Mat 18:5-6) So you see, you are not the only one that has a large place in your heart for the children of our battleground. And they are our children: for out of our travail were they born.

In your note you were obviously concerned about your own emotions. Don't be. You are able to have emotions other than rage and that is a blessing. I know. For almost twenty years all I knew was rage and bitterness. In the film I saw your

eyes. The scriptures say that the eye is a window to the soul. I'm not sure what that means, but I saw the love of God in

your eyes. I saw deep gratitude that those little ones were happy, unmolested by war, and ripe to build for the future. Yes sir... I saw all that, and more. Number yourself fortunate and ride the waves of joy for your experience. Hang ten, man! That's why God made joy. The idea with the boots

was terrific. I wept. You accomplished for me what I am unable to do because of mere circumstance. Allow me the vicarious sharing of your emotions, and your joy. Although I lost them in a fire twelve years ago, the boots you "buried" were mine, too. It felt good. Thanks.

Lastly, if you sometimes think you are glone in your feelings, your deep emotions for having been one of the survivors. you are not. There was a time when I believed I was the only one who "felt", and that angered me. I now know it is not so. I know now that there are at least two of us, and I suspect that there are many more among us. Sometime next year I will probably retire from the Army, after more than 32 years of "... bearing true faith and allegiance . . . " I will go to Fort Braga to visit my son, and on to Virginia to see my brand new granddaughter. And I will finally go to The Wall and face myself in its reflection. And I suspect what I see will cause me to give voice to those famous words, "There but for the Grace of God, am I," And I will find a Bro' with which to share my joy and I will give sacrifices of joy, and they will be acceptable. I will find someone to share an idea or two, and who knows . . . maybe, just maybe, it will bring him - or her - a little closer to coming home. I can try. I have to try. I can't just leave them in the LZ.

And for the ones who say men like you and me, men who have had our metal tempered in blood, have paid the price of liberty, are too maudlin, I have only one very unChristian reply - if any:

Stick it where the sun don't shine!

Well, this "Old Warrior" has rambled on enough. Time to get my beauty sleep, and Lord knows I need it! Keep the faith, and 6600 RPM.

Lee Westbrook Gladiator 13

Even today Vietnam remains controversial. ED.

Army Astronaut

I wanted to give you an update on a very good friend, now deceased. His name was Douglas L. Dowd, and is listed on page 124 of the 1988 directory. When Doug returned from Vietnam, he was stationed at Rucker working staff for the Director of Instruction.

He was contacted one day in the spring of 1970 by his branch assignment personnel. It seemed that the Army wanted to get Army people into the space program along with all the other services. They had scanned all personnel records and came up with only three, him being one of the three. Would he like to get into the Astronaut Program they asked? Even though he was totally amazed, Doug leaped at the prospect.

The Army transitioned him from helicopter to fixed wing, and he trained in the OV-1 Mohawk.

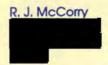
He was then sent to Edwards AFB and was transitioned into jets. After accumulating some flight time, he went back to school at the University of Texas and got his Masters in Aeronautical Engineering, and his Doctorate in Orbital Mechanics. Not bad for a "slick driver", eh?

By this time, it was around 1976-77 and the space program was cooling. Doug spent time in Houston waiting for a "ride" to come up. Meanwhile, he got back into the Army routine, and did Advance Course, etc. and a tour in Korea. He returned to the States in 1980 and was assigned to Patuxent River as the Chief R/W Instructor Pilot, still waiting for the call to go up from Houston.

On May 21, 1981, he was taking a Navy pilot on a familiarization ride in a Cobra that entered into mast bumping - resulting in the ship coming apart. Both were killed.

Doug was the finest, brightest pilot I ever knew and he was a wonderful person. I miss him. He really symbolized all that is wonderful, exhilarating, and challenging in aviation.

My thanks to all of you that put VHPA together and for bringing back the special feelings we all shared in that most unique of times some twenty years ago. I've sent information and applications to half a dozen or so former pilots and will keep searching. Keep up the good work.



gram and to aviation is evident. Thanks for for me too. Well as you can see, he sharing his story with us. He must have wasn't kidding. I was sure proud of Fred, been quite a guyl ED.

A Brother's Search

I noticed your advertisement in an issue of Flying magazine. I am not eligible to be a member but my eldest brother would have if he were alive.

My brother's name and unit are: Capt. Adrian J. Johnson, Jr., RA, BTRY A, 4th BN, 77th ARTY, 101st AIRBORNE DIV (AMBL). I know he was flying the "Cobra" this tour when he was killed on Friday, June 13, 1969. His nickname was "Jay".

I am trying to locate my brother's copilot/gunner and his commanding officer in order to find out what happened the day he was killed in action. I understand his copilot/gunner survived the crash. I also realize this may be a very difficult situation for them to remember much less to discuss but I would appreciate it if they could tell me what they can.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Gerald T. Johnson

Anyone knowing Capt. Adrian J. Johnson ("Jay") and the details of his crash, please contact his brother Gerald at the address above. Thank you. ED.

I Knew Fred Ferguson Before the "Medal of Honor"

Just a few lines to say hello, and I sent you some material for the historical files and other interesting information.

I found out about VHPA from Robert Taylor and Don Bailey. They called me from the convention during the welcome party - wish I could have been there.

Enclosed is a picture of my van (rear) I made the tire cover myself. Notice my license plate. Virginia lets you pick seven digits, any combination of letters and numbers. I was sure happy when VHPA-1 was available. I wonder if Bill Grawling ever got Maryland to go with his license U.S.A. Ret. CW03 John J. Smith plate idea.

I am sending a copy of the front page of the Ft. Walters Trumphet dated 5/23/69. I sure do think Fred's picture would make a great cover for the directory, or a news letter. Fred was my I.P. at flt. A10, when on a Friday he said, "I won't be here next week, I have to go to D.C. The President is going to give me the Medal of Honor." I

Doug's dedication to the space pro-remember saying sure and pick one up and proud to know and fly with him. (I think his teeth ground off about 1/8 inch just teaching me to hover the TH55). I think they should never be forgotten, and always remembered, these heros such as CWO Fred Ferguson, who was willing to go that extra mile to save his fellow soldiers lives, knowing that he himself could be killed in the process. For the past twenty years, I have shown many people this front page just so I could say "see this guy? Iknew him. He taught me to fly helicopters." For this reason alone I will remember Fred, but I will not forget the most important reason. He was the first

I do see him frequently on rescue and search missions. I admire his ability with the helicopter and his dedication to Army Aviation and aviators in general. Member Mike Norton from Tucson, a talented artist, has painted the mission for which Fred received the "Medal of Honor". Those interested in acquiring a print of this fine painting may contact Mike Norton (address in directory). ED.

What if ...?

I believe it is safe to say that all combat Vietnam Veterans who have had close calls in Vietnam have asked themselves the question, "What if . . .?" We look at where we are now and ponder what ef-



John J. Smith - Newport News, Virginia

Army aviator to receive the nation's highest award - The Medal of Honor.

Well I'll close for now, I see these few lines are turning into a book. I would like to say thanks for the VHPA. The Newsletters and directory are the best. Keep up the good work.

Thanks for your picture of the van - a rolling VHPA advertisement. I have the privilege of knowing quiet Fred Ferguson, a real legend here in AZ. While I have never had the opportunity to fly with Fred,

fect our demise might have had on events and people in our lives thus far. Frankly, I have often pondered this question. Undoubtedly it has provided me with a deep appreciation for having survived and an earnest appreciation for the Joys of life and the beauty of my surroundings.

I didn't contemplate this question immediately after my return. Like most of us I took my survival for granted as though my destiny was predetermined. I was still experiencing a misbelief that one accepts in a combat situation: the fatal bullet has your name on it. This fatalistic attitude is a defense mechanism normally applied so we can accept the day-to-day dangers of combat. Remem-

ber how it was the first month in our country? The fear of the unknown! We were a hazard to ourselves and those we flew with until we had enough experience to be aware of which dangers were real and which were only imagined. Although flying is inherently dangerous in itself, flying in combat multiplies the risk. A routine mission could end as a tragedy in a moment of indecision. Survival was dependent upon one's flexibility to changing situations, quick decision making, and a lot of luck.

Although I had my helicopter shot-up over thirteen times, most of the hits were in the tail boom and rotor blades which only reaffirmed my misconception that Charlie was a bad shot and was never taught to properly lead an aircraft. Feeling comfortable with this fact, I began to feel quite impervious to the enemy's bullets; however, my moment of truth soon came. While on a routine mission I was required to land in a rice field to pick up a POW, when all hell broke loose. As I approached the ground, Charlie opened up with everything he had. Glowing RPG rounds lit up my cockpit as they flew past my aircraft, and the sound of AK-47 rounds ripped through the panels of my ship. Just as I lifted off, no more than 20 feet above the ground, a round came through my co-pilot's panels, missing his head by inches and penetrating the top of my helmet. At first I thought the prisoner had escaped and hit me with a gun butt. My body flung forward and my helmet fell off my head. I managed to maintain control of my senses in time to hop over a dark structure ahead which I assumed was a treeline in the abyss of the night. I looked at my co-pilot, who was preoccupied with all the fireworks, then managed to 5170 put my helmet back on. I hoped that the wet trickle running down my forehead was sweat and not blood. After setting down at the medavac Pad, I realized I was one of the lucky ones! I received a superficial wound, which I call my John Wayne Wound, and an awesome headache.

A lot of "what if's" have run through my head since that day. What if my airspeed had been a little faster? What if I had slouched over the controls a little more? Obviously, I wouldn't be here today. I still have my helmet to remind me of this fact.

It wasn't until fifteen years after the war that it really hit home. I happened to read my Purple Heart award. My eye caught the date of the event, August 14, 1968, same day my son was born, but four years earlier. Randy Juge

August 14 - Coincidence or destiny??

We are very glad that your family can remember this date as a celebration of birth and not the end of a life. Thanks for sharing your story with VHPA. ED.

Ruthless Riders Patch??

I need some Ruthless Rider help. In my ceaseless quest for VN-made air cav patches, I found this one, sewn on an old jungle fatigue jacket at a yard sale last week.

I have never seen it, and none of my fellow collecting or historical buddies has ever seen it. It is obviously 7/17 Cav, but which troop? Did you ever see this? After all this research, I have yet to find any photos that show any troop of 7/17 that had cav guidons painted on the OH-6s like this one. Any thoughts? If you can help on ID, let me know.

Hank Johnson Kimscott Court Annandale, VA 22003 (703)978-2994

OK "Ruthless Riders" - identify this "mystery" patch . . .



Phoenix "At The Reunion"

Boy did we have a reunion!!

At the Chicago reunion, the Phoenix of C/158 Avn Bn - 101st had 34 members in attendance. The size of our group evidently caught the eye of the VHPA leadership, because Mike asked me to write a little something about our reunion for the Newsletter.

Our reunion efforts started two years ago with a nucleus of a few names

and addresses extracted from the VHPA directory. What followed was a lot of letter writing, phone calls, research, advertising, etc. trying to put together a reunion to coincide with the VHPA in Chicago. The key to the entire effort was a series of bulletins informing everyone of who had been located and who was planning to attend. We felt that once a guy saw a list of attendees with a lot of familiar names on it, he would be more likely to attend himself. That part of our theory was valid. However, the flaw in this "snow ball effect" theory was getting the snowball large enough to start rolling down the hill. We finally did, and by the time the Chicago reunion came around, the snowball was approaching

The story of how we got to Chicago isn't as important as what happened when we did. I have never before, and may not ever again, be witness to such a sincere display of affection, friendship and fellowship that I saw at our reunion. Friends who had lost touch over 20 years and friends who had just met, together in a celebration of a special something that eludes description.

Not only what I saw, but the array of notes and calls I have received since, attest to that feeling being shared by many. To auote one card received, "This time will remain very special to me since I was ready to back out as late as the night before. It is one thing to go to a 20 year reunion for high school buddies with whom the strongest emotion was losing the "big game" to Acme High, quite another to relieve the memories of times and friends long buried away. And lo and behold it wasn't a wake at all, but a grand celebration with the happiest fellows and best of memories." Comments such as this made 2 years of writing letters and licking stamps worth it all.

My thanks go out every year to the VHPA and the reunion committee for the work they do to bring this reunion together. My sincere appreciation this year to Greg Ross and his committee for providing the venue for what I consider the best time I've ever had.

Here's to Gary Slaughter, New Orleans and next year.

Thanks guys.



You said it all - "a witness to such a sincere display of affection, friendship and fellowship"--that's what makes it all worthwhile! Let this example be a challenge to all units!! ED.

A Message From Thailand

Hello Our Ex-Stick Buddies. First I'd like to introduce myself, I am O, Vu Van aged 42, was trained in the US in 1970 to become a because the bad guys were up in the chopper pilot, I'd learned at Fort Wolters, trees, uphill from us and close in. TX and Fort Hunter, GA. My IP were Messrs. Koronda, Profit, Von Angle and Steward.

Returning to VN the same year 1970 , I was sent to an American chopper company, the 61st company, call sign Lucky Star at Anson, Quyi Nhon for 12 weeks for further training. A year later again I attended another flying course with an American Dust Off company in DaNang (I wonder it was 236th company). I had studied night flight, IFR and using hoist there, and I had flown for VNAF 257th Squadron ever since.

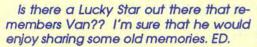
I've just got to Thailand a year ago after 13 years of vertigo in VN (South and North).

I am very interested in our buddies who had been in VN, and I want to know what you are doing, what your experience was and your impression as well.

time, please write.

Yours sincerely.

Vu Van O BT#005 House V#7 YWAM



A Shark Fan

I was pleased to find the picture of the shark C Model Grenship on the front of the September Newsletter, as it brought back many memories. I flew Dustoff during '68 and '69, first with the 498th Med Co, out of Lane Field near Qui Nhon, then with the 54th Med Det out of Chu Lai. With both units. I spent much time at Duc Pho, which was a single ship field site for us. While there, I had many occasions to use the Sharks for gun support. I worked with many good gun units in Vietnam, but the Sharks were the best. They never hesitated to answer an urgent call on "Guard" for support

into a hot LZ. One team once covered Note from a Door Gunner me into a hot LZ, stayed overhead, and covered me out again even though completely out of ordinance using just door gunners to keep Charlies' head down. Another time a Cobra from the Sharks gave me such close support on a hot hoist mission in the mountains southwest of Quana Ngai that he shot a hole in our tail boom! I was glad to have him close,

I would like to thank all of you who have done such a fine job putting the Association together, managing it, and in putting



I was a gunner with the "Fire Birds" (gunships) 71st AHC/1966-67, Bien Hoa & Chu Lai. W. O. Frank Anton (POW) was in my platoon.

I have 15 Air Medals 2 with V. 571 CA's and 461 combat hours. I am not trying to blow my horn. I just wanted to substantiate who, what, when, where and why. I want to title this letter "A view from the back seat".

We were just a few feet apart from the Pilot and Peter Pilot in combat. In our platoon very few wore their rank. All of us



out the Newsletter and directory. You have If it doesn't bother you or waste your done the rest of us an immeasurably valuable service. To those who would put the Association in danger by non-payment of dues, Isay get with the program. What we are getting with our dues has to be one of the best bargains we'll ever see.

> I would really like to hear from Dustoff pilots from the 498th and 54th who were there when I was. Of special interest to me is Phil Scheil, who was wounded while flying with me on my last mission in the country, and Fred Becker, who is the Godfather for my beautiful 19 year old daughter. If anyone knows where these guys are, please drop me a line. Also, Ed, I would love to hear from you again, but this time, please put your address or telephone number in the letter or on the enve-

Jerry Ewen

I, too, remember the colorful Sharks and always admired their flying ability with their overloaded Charlie models. By the way, I, also, remember a group of ill-mannered monkeys that lived with the 54th. No-- I mean REAL monkeys!!! ED.

humpedammo, filled sand bags, worked, slept and died together. God! We gunner and crewchiefs loved you guys. You busted your ass for us and we for you. With only one exception, you were the greatest guys in the world. I will always sing your

Just recently my wife and I visited with Dave Ellingworth, and his family. Dave was one of my pilots. I had not seen him for 22 years, although we corresponded with each other by phone and letter. Our meeting was quite emotional. Our bond of friendship is not like any other.

I reminded Dave of the many times he was almost killed and he reminded me of the same.

I am a member of the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association and I think it would be great if the two associations had their respective annual meetings together sometime in the future.

This letter is from your combat buddy,



I think a meeting with the VHPA and the VHCMA would be great. This is something that George and I discussed when the VHCMA was being formed. ED.

Who's Welcome?

If a unit wishes to hold a reunion within the annual VHPA reunion, can crew chiefs and gunners attend: A. The VHPA Reunion? B. Only the day of the unit's reunion?

Please let me know. We have put off our Reunion because of this matter of CE/Gunner and pilots.

Thanks for your help.

Col. C. Robinson Jr.

Anyone is welcome at the reunion but cannot attend VHPA functions unless they are a registered guest of a VHPA member (applicable registration fees must be paid) ED.

A Quest for "Knights"

While passing through Tucson, Arizona, on a vacation with my family I decided to try to look up an old friend, Mike "Stinko" Norton, from Nam. To my surprise I reached him on the first attempt which resulted in a wonderful visit over breakfast.

Mike told me about the VHPA and sent me a copy of an old Newsletter. I joined the association and made plans to attend the reunion in Chicago. Unfortunately I was moving from California to Pennsylvania and could not make the reunion, so was unable to look up more old friends. Since It will be a year before the next reunion I would appreciate your help in locating some of my fellow pilots.

Iserved with the 114th AHC in Vinh Long during 1969-70. Any fellow "Knights" wanting to correspond please drop me a line.

Thank you for your help.

Mike Cagle

Sorry you missed Chicago. I think I smell a story about "Stinko" Norton. How about letting us in on it!

Visitors Welcome

lextend an invitation to any of our VHPA members to visit the Aviation Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, at Fort Polk, LA if they are in the area. They are welcome at any time. I will be serving as the brigade commander until July, 1990.

Perhaps, I can update them on the latest developments in Army aviation and we can visit the flight line and our maintenance hangars. We still have a few Vietnam vets assigned who would be glad to join them at the Officers Club for a drink and a war story or two. I will assist with overnight accommodations as required.

My office telephone is (318) 535-6600 and my home number is (310) 537-3917. I would particularly like to hear from former 155th AHC Stagecoaches and Falcons.

Bud Henry

Many of us have memories of Fort Polk, some good, some bad. I think a lot of us would like to revisit where our military duty began. Thanks for the invite. ED.



Due to time elements on cut-off dates for this issue, a complete 1989 6th Annual Reunion Recap will be in a future issue. If you have pictures of groups, units, classes, etc., from Reunion please mail to VHPA Headquarters for use in newsletter.

VHPA Product Order Form

	Price	Total
Back VHPA Newslette (Complete set only)	ers\$15.00/Set	
1989 VHPA Directory. (VHPA Members only) (While supplies last)	\$12.00/each	
VHPA Decals	\$1.00/each	
FULL CIRCLE Return to Victorian	\$25.00/each	
(VHS Tape)	Grand Total	
Send check/money ord	der or charge to MasterCard/VISA	
Account No.	Exp. Date	
Signature		
MAIL FORM TO:	VHPA 7 W. Seventh St./Suite 1940 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	400 mm

From the Executive Director

By now everyone who was current with their dues as of late August should have received their copy of the 1989 VHPA Directory. If you did not receive one and you feel you should have, please contact VHPA Headquarters.

Lots of people helped with materials for this Directory. Special thanks must be given to Gary Roush again this year for his outstanding efforts with the KIA/MIA and deceased sections. Please do take a minute and see if you can add to any of that data.

The History committee made its first major contribution to the Directory and we can thank Bill Greenhalgh for his great work and dedication. Anyone that is interested in working on that committee should contact Bill because I know he has great plans for the future and could use the help. Bob Johnson and Jack Jordan provided the color cover photos and they were a big help. I think it is only fair to mention my wife, Dianna Law, who spent many, many an hour updating the Callsign database and helping produce the main membership rosters.

Like so many VHPA efforts, the Directory is a "labor of love". VHPA has given me many happy moments and I know it has a bright future; so it is easy for me to work for this fine association.

Again, any comments concerning the Directory or VHPA in general are always welcome.

SEE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS IF I DON'T SEE YOU AT "THE GATHERING" DURING HAII!

Mike Law 7/17 CAV 68-69

C. Armstrong (KIA) & L.B. Smith North of Vung Tau 1969 - 70

Looking For.....

CPT. LUTHER MCKIND LASATER

Garland, TX, KIA 13, 1972, while serving with F 1/9th. If you have any information, pictures or anecdotes his family would be greatly appreciated hearing. Address comments to Charles Lasater

CANADIAN HELICOPTER PILOTS

I would like information about any who flew during the Vietnam War. Please contact as soon as possible Fred Gaffen, Canadian War Museum

JOE GORECKI, 187 AHC 67-68 AND CHAS RODERICK, 1ST AIR CAV.

Trying to locate the two above. Also, if any member visits San Francisco (not Frisco) call me for a beer and tour guide.

Contact: Alan J. Donovan

WO1 JAMES G. HODGSKIN, JR., ORLANDO, FL, 19W-61, KIA 08/18/69 CLASS 68-27 If you have information about him please contact Don Hodgskin,

33.

In Memory

On September 9, 1989, James R. "Rick" Bollar of McCall, Idaho, passed away. Mr. Bollar served with the 175th AHC in 1969 and in the Idaho Army National Guard until his death.

On September 9, 1989, Dickie C. Hill of Boise, Idaho, passed away. Mr. Hill was with the class of 67-23 and served with the 57th AVN CO. He also received the following military honors: Air Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (3 awards), Armed Forces Campaign Medal (4 awards), Viet Nam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon. When he returned home from Viet Nam, he joined the Boise Fire Department where he served for almost 19 years.

New Life Members

ROBERT L. ACKLEN, JR. 68-20 71-28 68-71 189 AHC 57 AHC 71-72 48 AVN AHC 72 F/8 CAV Computer Analyst PHILIP M. ALLSTADT CHESTER "CHUCK" CARLOCK 69-17 67-13 69-70 B/1 1 INF 67-68 71 AHC 70 C/16 CAV CPA Carpenter **WILLIAM R. DAVIS III ROBERT J. AMIOT** RamCorp International, inc. 69-34 70-71 HMM 262 CPA HAROLD E. SMITH **GERALD H. EWING** 70-11 70-71 A/158 101 ABN 67-68 240 AHC

Retired

WILLIAM GREENHALGH III

67-19 68-69 162 AVN AHC 71-72 B/3/17 Air CAV

LEE POTTER

71-35 71-41 72-73 F/9 CAV 1 CAV 73 Task force AVN Maint. Tech., U.S. Army

WILLIAM C. WILSON

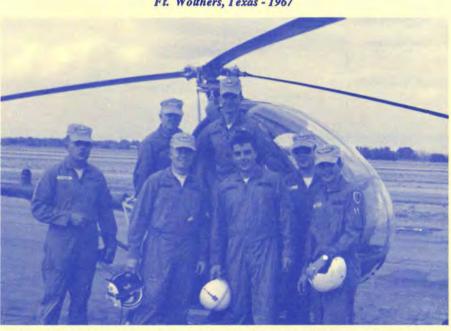
650565 121 AHC Owner - American Finanancial Underwriters ABN

	VHPA Gift N	dembership =	SUN RUN
Please send a gif	t membership to:		1901 - 1975
NAME:			48SOCIATIS
ADDRESS:			
-	City	State	Zip
No, let h	is \$20.00 for each gift	mes to the next reunion	nt it to him.
No, let h Enclosed I used ad	im find out when he co	mes to the next reunic membership included ecessary.	nt it to him.

Software Sales

Become a
Life Member
Today!
Call VHPA
for details.
(513)721-VHPA

Ft. Wolthers, Texas - 1967



(From left to right) Frank Emmons, Jerry Falkenstein, Tim Doreen, Ken Bryant, Ray Bosworth (KIA 7/4/68), Jim Carny, Mike Davidson



V.H.C.M.A. P.O. Box 237 Crowley, Texas 76036 (817) 297-4993

1988 **Annual Audit**

The December, 1988 Newsletter contained the results of an "initial audit" for VHPA and covered the period up to the end of 1987. This Newsletter contains the financial audit for all of 1988. Those who attended the Annual Business Meeting in Chicago will be glad to know that the "unaudited financial data" presented there do not differ substantially from this audit report.

I spent some time with Mr. Gose in September after he delivered his audit report to the Executive Council. He provided a few more details concerning his third paragraph (it begins with "The Association has changed its method of accounting for lifetime membership fees ") Basically what Mr. Gose is saying is that when a pilot sends in \$300 to become a life member it is not prudent for VHPA to claim this entire amount as "EARNED INCOME at that time. Indeed, the Association "OWES" the life member services (VHPA membership, Newsletter, directories, and the Reunion). Therefore VHPA takes on a \$300 "LIABILITY" and must "EARN" (or reduce the liability) a little each vear.

The same is true for annual membership dues as Mr. Goes points out in his Note 3 at the end of his report. So this accounting technique is simply a way for the Executive Council to look at the money it has in the bank and to know that some of it is "UNEARNED" (must be saved to provide the future services the member has paid for).

Any VHPA member with questions concerning this audit or VHPA's financial condition is encouraged to contact either myself or the president, Roger Gould.

Mike Law Executive Director

1988 ANNUAL AUDIT

MLEN L 000E CP

GALEN L. GOSE

**Marghat : Addle : Service of the s

THE AMERICAN METITUTE OF

Executive Council Vietnam Helicopter Pilote Association, Inc.

Galew L. Lose

I have examined the accompanying balance sheets of Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc. as of December 31, 1988 and 1987 and the related statements of support, revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my sudit in accordance with generally accepted suditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the sudit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my sudit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

The Association has changed its method of accounting for lifetime membership fees received to recognize revenue over a period of time, as further explained in the accompanying notes to financial statements. This change is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The accompanying balance sheet at Dacember 31, 1987 and the related statements of support, revenue, expenses and changes in fund balance and cash flowe for the year then ended have been restated to reflect this change.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Vietnam Helicopter Filota Association, Inc. as of December 31, 1988 and 1987 and the results of its operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

GENTHED PUBLIC ACCOUNT NATS

Note 1 - Organization

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc. is organized under the laws of the state of Arizons and operates as a non-profit organization in accordance with the provisions of Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (19).

Mote 2 - Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc. have been prepared on an accruel basis. The accounts of the Association are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Depreciation of office equipment is over an estimated five year useful life.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INC. NOTES TO FIMANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 1988 and 1987

Note 3 - Annual Membership Dues

Fees received from members for annual membership dues are recognized as earned ratably over the subsequent twelve months from receipt of payment. Accordingly, the unearned portion of dues received is reflected as a liability on the balance sheets.

Note 4 - Lifetime Membership Dues

Fees received from members for lifetime membership dues are recognized as earned over a period of fifteen years. Fifteen years is estimated to represent the average "use of service" period (for accounting purposes only). The unearned portion of dues received is reflected as a liability on the accompanying balance sheets.

VIETHAM BELICOPTER PILOTE ASSOCIATION, INC. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES AND CHARGES IN YURD BALANCES Year ended December 31, 1985 with comparative totals for 1987

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6,162	2,220	8,382	24,114
-			(11,180)
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VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 1988 and 1987

ASSETS	1988		1987
Current funds - unrestricted Cash - checking Cash - savings	\$ 4,125	\$	9,568
Cash - certificate of deposit	56,006 38,693 98,824	_	16,499 25,095 51,162
and the state of t		-	31,101
Equipment fund - unrestricted Office equipment	656		
(less): Accumulated depreciation	(66)	- 15
	590	=	
Total	\$ 99,414	5	51,162
Scholarship fund - restricted			
Cash - certificate of deposit	\$ 3,827	\$	2,220
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Current funds - unrestricted			
Accounts payable	\$ 1,263	S	2,392
Deferred dues:	4 1,205	4	2,372
Annual memberships (Note 3)	30,973		17,728
Lifetime memberships (Note 4)	43,980		24,880
	76,216		45,000
Fund belance	23,198		6,162
Total	\$ 99,414		51,162
	75,414	3	31,102
Scholarship funds - restricted Fund balance			
runo batance	\$ 3,827	\$	2,220

Upcoming Events...

February 4th & 5th "Gathering 1990"

VHPA wil be at the HAI Convention at the Loew's Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Our hospitality suite will be open 1700-2000 on the 5th, with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Stop by and bring prospective new members. Larry Boles 'Gathering' Committee

February 9,10 & 11, 1990 Ohio River LZ Chapter 3rd Reunion

Lexington, Kentucky Contact: Phil Marshall

February 21-25 Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association Meeting

The Ojai Valley Inn, Santa Barbara, California. Contact David E. Prewitt,



May, 1990 HMM-164 Reunion Washington, DC

Contact: Michael Triner,



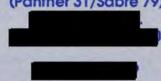
Continued on next page

Are You Located in the New England Area?

If so, you or someone you know may be interested in starting up a local chapter with other VHPA members living in the New England area.

For further information contact:

Bob Whitford (Panther 31/Sabre 79)





United Airlines is pleased to offer the attendees of the VHPA 1990 Reunion a 15 percent discount off unrestricted coach fares or 5 percent discount off lowest applicable fares, including first class.

This special offer, available only to attendees of this meeting, applies to travel on domestic segments of all United Airlines and United Express flights. These fares are available through United's Meeting Plus Desk with all fare rules applying.

United Meeting Plus Specialists are on duty 7 days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. ET to make your reservations. Call today, as seats may be limited. Please refer to account number 415KM to be advised.

United States and Canada 1-800-521-4041.

As a United Meeting Plus attendee you also qualify for special discount rates on Hertz rental cars. Mileage Plus members receive full credit for all miles flown. Tickets will be mailed by United or you can pick them up at your local travel agency or United Airlines ticket office.



Nu Awlands "Ark Light"



The 7th reunion planning for VHPA is going strong. July 4,5,6,7 of 1990 will be home for an expected record number of VHPA members and guests. New Orleans is a city that has something for everyone, and the Sheraton plans on making it truly a home away from home. As reunion chairman I have had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of people in New Orleans while trying to cover all bases and places our members will patronize, and have come to only one conclusion: the people and the city of New Orleans have extended a very kind and warm welcome to the VHPA.

We will kick off the reunion with a 4th of July BBQ on the pool deck of the Sheraton starting around 6:00 p.m., then at 10:00 p.m. a fireworks display, on barges in the Mississippi River, will capture everyone's attention. For the past two years the people who perform the Presidential Inauguration fireworks have also presented the fireworks display in New Orleans. Only the best for VHPA, right! All activities this day will be cash or credit card.

On July 5th we will charter an authentic paddle wheel boat "The Natchez", no one but VHPA members and guests will be allowed on board. Down the Ole Mighty Mississippi we will go, I'm sure singing more CAV songs than the Natchez boat captain has ever heard. Prior to boarding we will have a sponsored "FREE" Coors hospitality for about an hour, to get everyone into the spirit of "Rolling on the River". As you board the boat you will have your complimentary picture taken. The Natchez is located behind the old JAX brewery, now a shopping mall. It is approximately a ten minute walk from the Sheraton, or you may obtain a taxi. We will have limited availability because our group is so big, so please register and sign up for the Matchez cruise as soon as possible. An exciting Cajun buffet will be set up on board for your pleasure. This is also complimentary, so don't eat too much earlier. Later that evening a 1st Annual event will take place guaranteed to keep you laughing. The 1st Annual Peter Pilots Beauty

Contest and dance. We all were peter pilots at one time so don't be bashful, if you would like to be a contestant. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder! All the ladies will be the beholders and judge the contestants for beauty, poise, ability to answer a question, and talent. Kenny Bunn was the first volunteer contestant, so I asked if he would head up getting the rest of the contestants, please contact Kenny if you think you have any qualifications! But beware, two past presidents will be Master of Ceremonies for this spectacular event making sure you are in the spirit and qualified!!! This function will be a cash bar event along with cash hors-d'oeuvres available, Cajun style, for those who forgot to eat earlier or for folks like Greg Ross who just can't resist them.

July 6th was left open for everyone to enjoy their own taste of New Orleans. There will be no official functions this day. A zoo cruise for children and family will be available along with a swamp tour. These are only offered as options to hundreds of

others available. The zoo cruise departs at riverwalk pier on a paddle boat that gently paddles up the Mississippi to the Audubon Zoo of New Orleans. There you will enjoy zoo grounds that have been rated in the top ten in the United

States. The swamp tour will be an exciting adventure for all. A tour bus will pick you up at the Sheraton while driving to Bayou Segnette, you will be given a narrated lesson in Creole/Acadian culture and lifestyle. Once on the boat you will see many surprises such as alligators, Cajun homes along the bayou, cranes and other swamp birds and a part of the country you have never experienced before. The swamp tour will not be offered in our reunion registration. Because of limited space aboard, I will be handling the tickets myself. The price will be \$35.00 per adult and \$25.00

per child under 12 yrs. You may send check, payable to VHPA, to me anytime for your tickets. They may or may not be available after June 1, 1990, so reserve your seat early.

Saturday, July 7th, our last day will consist of the usual with a twist. A static display in the morning, on board the USS Cabot, a WWII aircraft carrier, now a floating museum. We are expecting this to be the largest static disply to date for VHPA reunions. Helicopter rides will also be available. That afternoon while the men are having their business meeting and the ladies gathering, this year a special children's pool party will be going on. All supervised activities. I would like to do this to free up all ladies to attend their function as well as planning a small event for children; for we are expecting New Orleans to be the largest family reunion so

The twist I was referring to will be the banquet. New Orleans is world famous for its Mardi Gras and what better way to celebrate our last night than with an indoor Mardi Gras parade and Mardi Gras Costume Ball. The parade will have the marching bands, floats, carnival participants, and all the jazz that goes with Mardi Gras including beads and doubloons thrown. The spirit of Mardi Gras is that, for one day, you can be what/whom you have always wanted to be. That's where the Mardi Gras costumes come in. You can make your own or rent one when you get to New Orleans. There are approximately 27,000 costumes to choose

from. An average cost is \$35.00. I am expecting most everyone to be in the spirit and costume but you are not required to do so; coat and tie minimum will be optional. To put the icing on the cake, we will have the first time a live band play-

ing your favorite songs on request from the '50's, '60's and early '70's.

For those staying over on Sunday there will be a **Champagne Jazz Brunch** at the Sheraton (see hotel for cost.) For more information concerning tours contact the New Orleans Tourist Commission,







REUNION REGISTRATION VHPA 7th Annual Reunion of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association New Orleans, Louisiana July 4th thru 7th, 1990

Name:	Member No:					
Wife/Guest Name:						
Address:						
City:		Zip:				
No. of Children /Guests:	Arrival Date:					
Is this your first reunion?	How many?					
	STRATION FEES					
No. of People		Total				
Registration before 6/4/90	@ \$15.00 per person = \$					
Registration after 6/4/90	@ \$25.00 per person = \$					
Natchez Paddle Boat - Adult:	@ \$20.00 per person = \$					
Natrchez Paddle Boat - Child:	@ \$10.00 per person = \$					
Banquet	@ \$35.00 per person = \$					
	GRAND TOTAL: = \$					
Harris Committee of the						
Enclosed is my check to VHPA Reunion '90						
☐ Please charge my MasterCharge or VISA						
Account No.:	Evo Date:					
Signature:						
	AG INFORMATION					
NAME:						
NAME OF WIFE/FRIEND:						
FLIGHT SCHOOL CLASS (NO. & YEAR):						
COMBAT UNITS & YEARS:						
HOMETOWN OR PRESENT RESIDENCE:						
HOMETOWN ON THEOLIGI RESIDENCE.						

MAIL TO: VHPA /7 West Seventh St./Suite 1940/Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



SHERATON HOTEL REGISTRATION 7th Annual Reunion of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association New Orleans Louisiana

New Orleans, Louisiana July 4th thru 7th, 1990

Name:	No of Persons in Party:		
Address:	State:	Zip:	
Arrival Date:	Departure Date:		

ROOM RATES:

One thru four occupants per room \$70.00 Plus Tax.

Rooms may be available at 12 Noon, check-in guaranteed at 3:00 PM.

These are Special Rates. Reservations Must be Received No Later than June 4th, 1990.

For guaranteed reservations the Sheraton must receive a deposit equal to one nights room charge.

For Credit Card Use: Card Type: Credit Card Number:	мс	VISA	AMEX	DINERS	
Expires:			Signature: _		
If deposit is by check, amo	unt enclosed is: \$				

DO NOT SEND TO VHPA MAIL TO:

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

The hospitality people of ITT
500 CANAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 504/525-2500



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VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

7 West Seventh Street, Suite 1940 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (513) 721-VHPA



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ANNUAL DUES:

\$20 \$300

ADDRESS CHANGE:

APPLICATION:

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$300 SUBSCRIPTION ONLY: \$12* (*Included in annual dues)

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			*Included in annual dues)	
NAME:				The second secon
ADDRESS:				
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Pleas	se charge my	MasterCard/VISA	Enclosed is a check/mone	y order payable to VHPA
Account. No.			Expiration Date:	
Signature: -				
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COMBAT FLI	GHT HOURS:		SOCIAL SECURITY NO	1
Information a	bout EACH Vi	etnam Tour:		
DATE	То	UNIT	LOCATION	CALL SIGN
	10			
	4			

Information about YOU: Helicopters flown, medals/awards, talents, hobbies and anything else.

Note: This form may be used for Directory corrections.