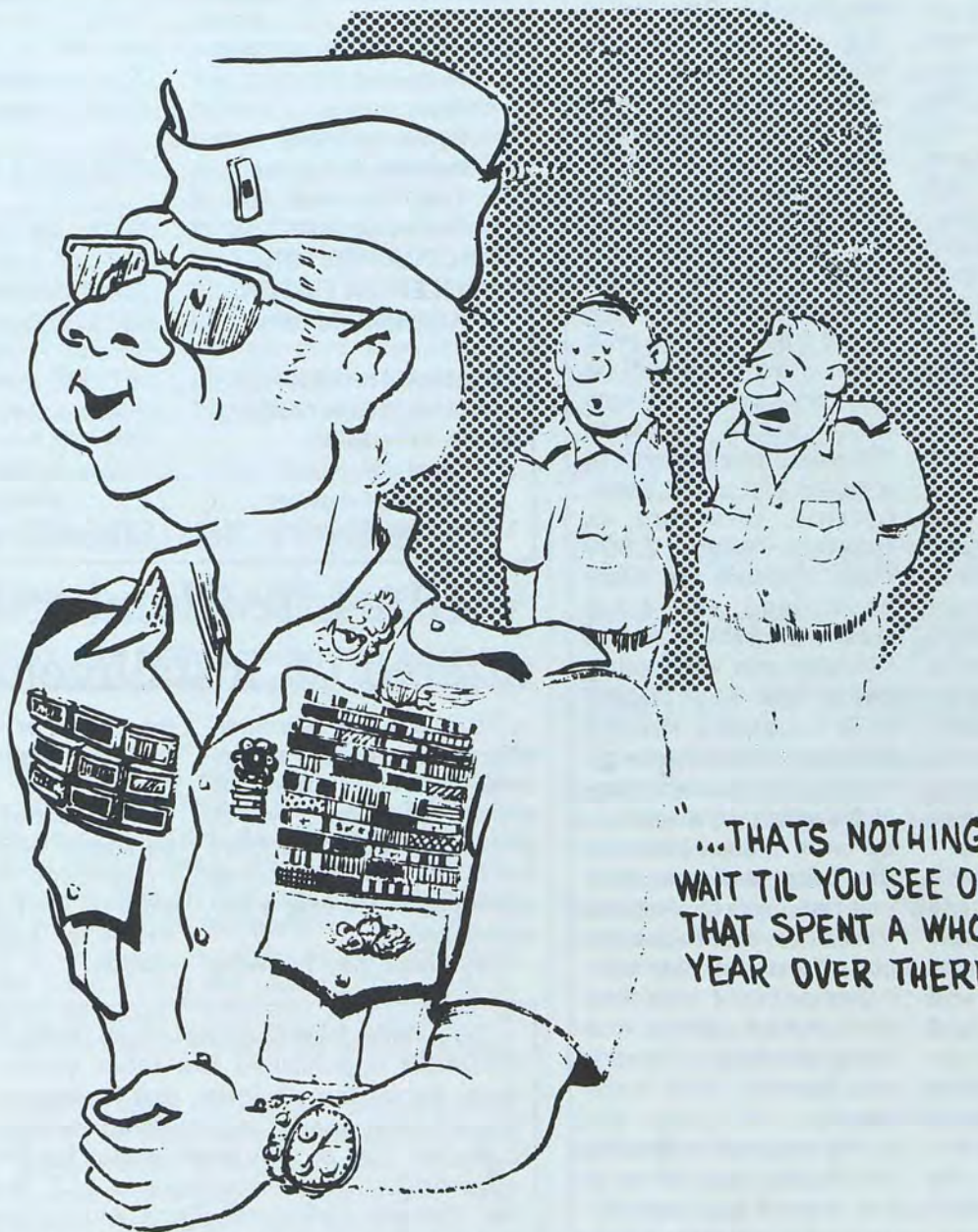




# The VHPA Newsletter

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association •

September 1992 Vol. 10, No. 3



"...THATS NOTHING,  
WAIT TIL YOU SEE ONE  
THAT SPENT A WHOLE  
YEAR OVER THERE..."

The cartoons of Bob Snead will become a regular feature of the VHPA Newsletter. Story, Page 14.

M00296 02/93



# President's Roll Call

I guess all that can be said about the Atlanta Reunion and the last VHPA year is "OUTSTANDING!" Certainly our heartfelt thanks go out to Gary as the President, Kenny and company for the Reunion, the staff at Headquarters and our VHPA committees for truly the BEST YEAR YET in VHPA's history. There are some solid examples of things that made this year great, but really it all comes back to the VHPAer on the street. You are the ones that participated in the Membership Committee's contest, that worked the VHPA booths at the other conventions and association functions, that put up the posters and helped "get the word out" about the Atlanta Reunion, that shared your copy of the Directory or a Newsletter with other Vietnam Era pilots, that called your friends and said: - "Come! I promise you'll have a great time!!" You are also the guys who saw the orange sticker on the Reunion name tag and stuck out your hand and said: "Hi - what did you do in Vietnam?" with a smile on your face. Almost 1,000 VHPA members attended the Atlanta Reunion and right at 1,400 the banquet. Not bad for a group that started with 66 souls (some said fools) and 34 supporters in Arizona nine years ago.

OK - now you're hooked on the VHPA. Let's look at the coming year. You already have your red flier outlining the Phoenix Reunion in '93 - plan to attend, bring your golf clubs, your swimming suit, your friends, and come see what Paul and company will provide. As we announced in Atlanta, the Crew Members Association (VHCMA) accepted our invitation to collocate their Reunion with ours - so there will be pilot and crew reunions on a grand scale in Phoenix. Look forward to a bigger and better Membership Directory in October - almost 2,000 more Vietnam Era pilots have been added, at least 40 percent of the KIA/MIA info was updated, a first ever index, plus expanded History sections. Plans are being finalized for two additional Newsletters a year - so write those Letters to the Editor and see them printed. Watch for the VHPA to capitalize on our efforts last year with other associations like HAI, AAAA, AHS, and other services - watch this space for more details.

My message is simple. Individually each of us is just a good guy, but collectively we are AWESOME. VHPA - I love what you do to me!!!

Mike Law  
President  
7/17 Cav '68-69

## VHPA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND STAFF 1992-93

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## VHPA Life Memberships offered on installment plan

To make Life Memberships more easily attainable, VHPA has an installment program which allows members to choose to make two or three equal payments over a six-month period.

Payments may be made

by check or with a MasterCard, Visa or Discover card.

The cost of a Life Membership is \$450.

Contact VHPA Headquarters at (513) 721-VHPA for additional information.

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# Reunion almost too much for words

The reunion in Hot-lanta was almost too much for words. After missing New Orleans and Reno, I decided to go have a look, doubting I'd meet anyone. Boy, was I in for a surprise!

Dragging my friend to see a "burner" patch, a voice boomed out: "Doty!" Right in front of me was Bill Loop — missing for 22 years. "Had I seen the others?" "No!!"

Thus began a fine damn weekend.

We checked the updated class rosters as more familiar names appeared. Kenny Bunn and crew were amazing. The welcome dance, the Sun Valley BBQ the business meeting . . . and the banquet just blew us away!

How can we ever repay those who worked so hard? How can we ever tell the rest of the hold-outs — COME TO A REUNION! Hell, it's worth the price just to see those CAV troops . . .

But my most memorable moment was the movie. The emotions that welled up as I watched, in the company of so many others . . . It was then I began to fully realize how much the hundreds of us in that room and the scattered thousands of us really share. We who flew choppers in RVN are bound by a profound experience that transcends years and careers. I am moved, touched, grateful . . .

So many shared that

wild ride in a hostile land far from home — from steaming jungle to dusty plain, across virgin beaches and endless rice paddies, and yes, past giant billowing clouds of burning . . . Remember those smells? The ville, the tents, the relief tubes . . . And the surrealness of it all: Silent red hoses, then the long burp in the too-black night; Marine arty spouting Tacan advisories on guard; ancient Buddas and bomb craters; pallets of Class VI and the dreaded flame drops.

How about jungle volleyball, hunting elephants, poke and 122 rockets? Blivot showers, AFVN Radio, water trailers, poncho liners and sandbags Caribous and A1-E's and

Air America's weird craft. Torque turns and pivotal takeoffs and getting to carry the SOP. "HYPO 3 o'clock LOW" seconds before the climbing F-4 flashed by in full afterburner . . . FM homing to "I have your purple smoke — OH, . . ."

Tell us about your R&R. Was it Bangkok, Hong Kong, Australia? Did you see those "Doughnut Dobbies" at the USO show? Warm Carling. Think it will ever stop raining? Hey, the Sea Knights have .50 calibers! Whaddya mean we can't return fire?!!! Practice GCAs on a Tac ticket . . . enuf said — COME TO A REUNION! We miss you.

Earl C. Doty

## VHPA member rejoins exclusive brotherhood

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following letter was written to Gary Slaughter, immediate past president of the VHPA:

Dear Gary:

Thanks for organizing the VHPA reunion in Atlanta. The four days I spent at the reunion were without doubt four of the best days of my life. As a "veteran" of past reunions, I'm sure you've heard that comment before.

The Atlanta reunion was my first and I feel as though I have rejoined an exclusive brotherhood. The title of Earnest Gann's book about the early airline pilots kept popping into my mind during the reunion. The book is entitled "Band of Brothers." Like the airline pilots in Gann's book, members of the VHPA are a true band of brothers.

I have never felt prouder of being a Vietnam helicopter pilot than I did as I walked the halls of the Atlanta Hilton. Gary, thanks again, and thanks to your family. Please let your family know that because of this reunion, I am happier now than I have been in the 21 years since I came home from Vietnam.

See you in Phoenix!

Wesley F. McCann, "Stogie 20"  
B Troop, 3/17th Air Cavalry

## Officer seeking pilot who gave support during Vietnam tour

My name is Darrell Elmore. I am currently a lieutenant colonel on active duty and I would like to determine the whereabouts of a pilot whose full name escapes me.

I knew him when I was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and his unit, the 61st Assault Helicopter Company, supported us.

His nickname was "Wild Bill" and his call sign was "Starblazer 17," I believe. The period I knew him was 1969-70. Our base was LZ English. His unit was in the south near Qui Nhon.

Two other officers from the same unit and time were named "Wood" or "Woods" and "Durham," obviously nicknamed "Bull." All three were CWOs and all flew gunships.

If you could put me in touch with any of them or provide a last known address, I would be very appreciative.

Regards,  
Darrell Elmore



# Classmates meet in Dublin, Ireland

Last November, five 67-5 and one 66-17 WOCs got together in Dublin, Ireland.

Mike Arline had been to see John Barnicle of Dublin in May as a consolation to himself for not getting to go to the Iraq war. He had such a good time with Barney that they got the idea of getting our little cadre together for Veterans Day.

We discussed the project at some length and decided to try for a dozen guys and to send the consulate a 10 grand damage deposit in advance with the stipulation that they throw us out when the money ran out.

Mike A and I, Mike B, arrived in London a day ahead of Bill Woollen (Class 66-17 and honorary guest). Two days later, Jack Breedlove and Bob Browne formed up.

A day or so later, while Bob videotaped us, we took the train into Wales to catch the ferry to Dublin and Barney. I hadn't seen Barnicle in 23 years, but the recognition was instant. After all, Mike, Barney and I had had some high times together.

To say that the Irish are a wonderful people and that we enjoyed ourselves is the understatement you expect. Did you



Flight school classmates (from left) Michael Bucove, Bob Browne, John Barnicle, Mike Arline, Jack Breedlove and Bill Woollen (honorary guest) met in Ireland for a reunion.

know that Guinness doesn't travel well? Put it in a bottle or keg and ship it more than 200 miles and the motion changes it somehow. You must go to Ireland to get good stout, a lot of it.

There is music in Ireland much as it is in Mexico; everywhere with everyone doing it.

Even Barney played a one-fingered tune and sang "The Old Brigade" to a full restaurant of patrons.

We saw horses and Red Heads galore, made dinner reservations for

2300 hours many evenings, got home to our very pleasant bed and breakfast by 0130 and then, just as we did when it was "cooperate and graduate," we stayed up 'til 0300 on the floor talking. We were so high it was like being in love, only different.

We drank to all of you, we drank to the fellows who didn't come, we drank to those who couldn't come, to the women who have been in our lives, we drank and ate, then did it again the next day.

Guys, if you ever get a chance to do what the six of us did, do it. Life is short but our memories are long and worth more than the money you lose by getting together.

It really was a boys night out, as all of our women seemed to know, and we were glad to be alone together.

Hooray for us, for 67-5, for 66-17, and all of you. 'Til we see one another again, slait!

Michael Bucove  
"Spook" F-8 Cav  
P.O. Box 8782  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

## Author seeks information from pilots

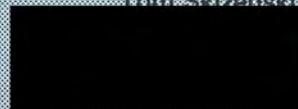
I am currently writing a history of the Vietnam War, and I am seeking information from helicopter pilots who flew in the area west of the city of Hue during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

One of your members, John Hazlewood, mentioned that you have a locator column in your publication where I can put the following notice:

Seek contact with pilots who

flew in area west of Hue during Tet Offensive, for inclusion in book about Vietnam War.

Sincerely,  
Tom Skizanski





## VHPA reunion was poignant for couple

Last year in Reno, my husband Ronald C. Richtsmeier and I attended our first annual reunion, and it was an especially poignant one for us both.

You see, 25 years ago last July in Pleiku, I was a young U.S. Army nurse, new in-country and I met a downed helicopter pilot who was one of my first patients at the 18th Surg; a year later, he became my husband. His co-pilot in the crash became my brother-in-law (my sister was also an Army nurse).

Although 20 years and 3 children later they are no longer married, we have all stayed quite close.

The U.S.A.F. "Husky" pilot that rescued my husband was shot down and later became a patient of mine also. Another U.S.A.F. "Husky" pilot from the same unit in Pleiku, rescued my future brother-in-law . . . and we all got together for the first time, 25 years after the fact! At the reunion, my husband finally got to meet and thank the man who saved his life and gave him all his tomorrows.

This (now aging) Army nurse had the opportunity to reminisce with four of the gallant helicopter pilots (and former patients) whose lives became so inextricably entwined with hers! What a reunion that was, for all of us!

At the time of the reunion last year, Ron was hoping to purchase a life membership but this past year has not been easy for us, as for many, and he decided to trim his share of the budget by allowing his VHPA membership to lapse . . . ! This August marks our silver wedding anniversary, and July marks the 26th anniversary of the helicopter crash that brought us together. Either occasion is certainly worth celebrating in grand style; for now, I think that renewing Ron's membership is a gift of special significance. I hope we can get him to Atlanta as well!

I'm sure you hear so many stories like ours . . . the VHPA serves such a wonderful purpose in getting people in touch with each other and with their past . . . a major part of who we are today. Thanks!

Judith Richtsmeier

## Chickenman helps locate Vietnam pal

Thanks to Daniel L. Higgins, a fellow 1st Cav. "Chickenman" from Nevada, not only am I honored to have found out about VHPA, but Dan has been able to do something that I couldn't do . . . since Vietnam.

Dan located my best Vietnam buddy, Ken C. Massa, in just a few weeks time! I don't know how he did it, but he did and asked Ken to write to me.

I was overwhelmed when, out of the clear blue, my wife handed me Ken's letter! She waited for the right moment, at our favorite restaurant in town. Well, I called Ken that night . . . and it's hard to describe that fantastic feeling I

had — talking to a flight buddy from 23 years back in my life.

We ended the hour-long conversation by planning to meet at the Atlanta reunion. Ken and his wife have never been to New York and my wife and I have always wanted to see Nashville, so . . . we have a lot to work forward to. I thank God for people like you and like Dan Higgins . . . who sacrifice and work hard because "you" are the "genuine people" who really care about others.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Sal Miliziano

## Pilots escaped injury in Blackjack 39 crash

The photo on Page 8 of your June issue was indeed of "Blackjack 39," which crashed following a low-level flight/short shaft failure. As I recall, the RLO A/C and WO Peter Pilot escaped injury!

What stirred my recall of this event was the clear photo of the beloved "Blackjack" on the battery access door, as I painted that one and approximately six others during my March 1969-March 1970 tour of duty at Camp Enari with A Company, 4th Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry Division.

They (the pilots of the crashed aircraft) were undertaking the dawn patrol that December morning and, according to the report, the ship actually "end-o'd" before self-destructing in the numerous trees! Lucky!!

It's been 22 years since I painted my last Blackjack and it was a labor of love. The ships' A/C or crew chief would bring a clean battery cover to my hooch, bribing me with paint and some bartering materials (wine, magazines, white underwear, stuff like that) and in three or four days, a new Blackjack would take to the skies over II Corps.

The last three or four almost got me in Dutch with the brass, as I began to ad lib with foreign objects painted into the hands and robes of the Jacks and Kings. (I think it was the roach that steamed 'em the most!)

Dorcey A. Wingo, Ex-CW2, "Blackjack 491"



# Member says: Thanks for putting together a great VHPA reunion

This past weekend I had the honor and pleasure of attending my first national reunion. I just want to say "thanks" to Kenny Bunn and all those responsible for putting it together.

I felt my wife, who went through the Army and Vietnam experience at my side, finally could understand

what we did and why. The movie at the banquet was excellent. I only wish I had been able to find some of the guys I flew with 20 years ago.

Well, maybe at future reunions, which I will do my best to attend, I can get to meet and thank some of the guys for making it possible for me to come back home and see my children grow up.

I would like to contribute to the unit histories and shed some light about a UH-1H, tail No. 6717497, lost on May 17, 1970. Old "497" was assigned to the 71st Assault Helicopter Company, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Chu Lai, RVN. Her A/C was Capt. Mike Callahan, "Rattler 26."

Mike was grooming me to take over as second platoon leader, so I flew with him as "Peter Pilot" until I received my A/C orders. Mike and I had been out flying resupply for the 4/31st Infantry, 196th Brigade of the Americal Division out of LZ West.

Late in the afternoon, we received a call over our company frequency to report to Hawk Hill, refuel and stand by for a mission. A few minutes out of Hawk Hill we met with the departing flight of about six ships, led by CWO Mike Curtis. We checked in with lead and were instructed to take up trail position. It seemed that some ARVNs were in some heavy contact and needed to be extracted.

After a short flight out to Hiep Duc Valley (better known as Death Valley), we started an approach, to the west, to a hilltop just to the north of LZ Siberia. The PZ sat at the base of Nui Chom, a ridgeline that separated the Americal AO from the 1st Marines to the north.

About 300 feet out of the PZ, in staggered trail formation, the flight came under heavy .51-caliber fire.

The PZ also erupted with incoming mortar rounds. Lead broke the silence on the radio, advising the rest of the flight that he had taken hits and instructed us to break up the flight.

At that point, our company commander, who was flying command and control, instructed the flight to reassemble over the village of Hiep Duc and he would direct us in, low level, to the PZ.

We dropped down to treetop level and started our run to the base of the hill. About halfway down the stream

bed we were following, a burst of white tracers flashed in front of the aircraft from the left. Unable to take evasive action at this low altitude, we flew right into the burst of fire.

Old "497" shuddered and kicked to the right. The next few seconds, which seemed frozen in time, went like this:

The intercom was damaged, but we

could hear the crew chief shouting that the aircraft was on fire. At that point, Mike and I were both on the controls. We started to set her down, but the .51-caliber still had a bead on us. We hovered around a bend in the stream bed and set "497" down.

After a quick survey of the instruments and controls, we were preparing to try and get her out when the company commander said he was sending in "Snake Doctor," our maintenance/recovery ship, to pull us out. We took quick stock of all crew members, who all were in good shape, and exited the burning "497."

No sooner had we cleared the burning ship when "Snake Doctor" dropped in. We quickly jumped on board, and were off and out.

The pilots of "Snake Doctor," whose names I hate myself for not remembering, took a lot of fire coming in and going out, but never took a hit. These guys were the greatest.

Old "497" sat in the stream bed, rotors still turning, and eventually burned to the ground. Why the JP-4 on board never exploded may have been due to the fact that we never had a chance to refuel and were very low at this point. Fate? Luck? Whatever?

I'm indebted to those guys flying "Snake Doctor" that day. If any of our members remember this incident or if "Snake Doctor's" pilots read this account, I would love to hear from you. I owe you my life, and my children and grandchildren owe you their gratitude. As for Mike Callahan, wherever you are, "thanks for saving me."

Mike Beaumont

If any of our members remember this incident or if Snake Doctor's pilots read this account, I would love to hear from you. I owe you my life, and my children and grandchildren owe you their gratitude.

— Mike Beaumont



# Old friends meet waiting for shots

I received my March 1992 Newsletter and just wanted to say thanks for the "friendly" reminder to renew my membership.

Now here is a story you may be interested in publishing:

In November 1991, the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade was conducting a preparation for overseas movement in conjunction with a brigade exercise.

While I was standing in line waiting to have my shot record checked, an older gentleman came

out of a conference room and walked past me en route to the latrine. At first I thought I was seeing things, the older gentleman looked just like Leo Borst, the communications maintenance warrant officer from the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, Chu Lai, Vietnam.

I watched as he walked by, trying to confirm in my mind that this was in fact Leo.

I waited until he passed me the second time and then asked one of the other gentlemen if that was Leo

Borst. He, of course, said it was.

I asked the second gentleman to tell Leo that Lt. Col. Ed Hughes, "Hornet 24," would like to talk to him.

Well, to cut a long story short, Leo and I spent the next 1½ hours telling war stories and catching up on the past 21 years.

I can tell you that it was great seeing an old friend, an old Hornet.

Ed Hughes

## What happened to Chinook mascot of aviation battalion?

I was given your address through David Baum on the military forum of Compuserve. I had left a message for any person who served with the 228th Combat Aviation Battalion in Vietnam. Mr. Baum thought I would have better luck with you, since there were no responses left for me.

I am seeking information dating from 1966 on the mascot for that particular battalion. I have very limited information to help you research or give me a different place to write.

The facts I can give you on this Chinook are as follows: Col. Max Clark was the commanding officer of the 228th. The article which gives the information is dated Wednesday, June 1, 1966. He came from Perry Greene Kennels and was five months old.

This dog was to land in Saigon during the rainy season of that year. The people who were the liaison between the kennels and Vertol managers were Mr. and Mrs. William Becker of Philadelphia, who became interested in the CH-47A helicopter in Vietnam.

There are no facts on this Chinook. Shortly after this dog was donated by Mrs. Greene Smead, she died. By the time the early '70s arrived, there were approximately 12 breedable Chinooks left. We nearly lost this breed. With dedication and hard work from a few people across the U.S., the number has risen to over 200. They are no longer on the Guinness records as the rarest dog.

A club has been formed of these owners with a board of directors to help and advise those in the breeding as to prevent this from happening again. I am on the board as the newsletter director. I have been doing a lot of research on their history.

The Vietnam Chinook is a mystery I have yet to gain any facts on. I would appreciate any and all information on this Chinook that you may have. It would be helpful to us to know his name and any factual data as to what he may have done in Nam. Did he survive or was he laid to rest there? Are there any people still in this division who may remember him? If so, is it possible to contact them directly for human interest stories for the membership?

Gail L. Skoglund  
Chinook Owners Association

## Address included in 114th newsletter

In the June edition of our Newsletter, we included the address of the VHPA. If you have no objection, beginning with the September issue, we plan to include a copy of your information form, and encourage all of our pilot members to fill it out and submit.

We believe it is important to record and preserve the accomplishments, contributions and sacrifices made by the people of military aviation; specifically, the helicopter people who fought in South Vietnam.

We in the 114th Aviation Company Association are dedicated to the same goals, but expand the circle to encompass all personnel who served with the "Knights of the Air," and all members of units that historically supported the 114th. We have been moderately successful in locating pilots and other officers, but have experienced much less success in locating former enlisted members.

If any VHPA member knows the location of anyone who was associated with the 114th Aviation Company, please send all available information to:

114th Aviation Company  
Association

George J. Young "Knight 6"  
National director



# VIETNAM HELICOPT

## Attention Vietnam Helicopter Pilots:

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association has teamed up with Turner Publishing Company the leading publisher of military association histories, to create the definitive history of helicopter aviation during Vietnam. No one can tell the true story of what happened in Vietnam like the actual men who served there. This is where we need your help. The unique feature of this history is the section of biographies and special stories submitted by the pilots themselves. Please help us preserve your legacy. **Send your biography and special experience stories today!**



## THE VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS HISTORY BOOK CONTAINS:

- ★ HISTORY OF HELICOPTER PILOTS DURING VIETNAM WAR
- ★ LIST OF HELICOPTER UNITS FLOWN IN VIETNAM
- ★ PERSONAL EXPERIENCE STORIES
- ★ INDEX
- ★ BIOGRAPHIES OF VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS
- ★ HUNDREDS OF RARE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ★ VHPA ROSTER

Book Style	Qty	Price	Total
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(KY residents add 6% sales tax)			
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### VHPA ad - LH - For Office Use Only

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# NAME ER PILOTS

*It's Easy to be Included - See Form Below*

NAME	
DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH	
BRANCH OF MILITARY CLASSIFICATION, DIVISION	DATE JOINED SERVICE
MILITARY LOCATIONS, STATIONS	
BATTLES PARTICIPATED IN	
MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES	
AWARDS/MEDALS	
DATE DISCHARGED	RANK ACHIEVED
FAMILY DATA	
WHAT YOU ARE DOING TODAY	



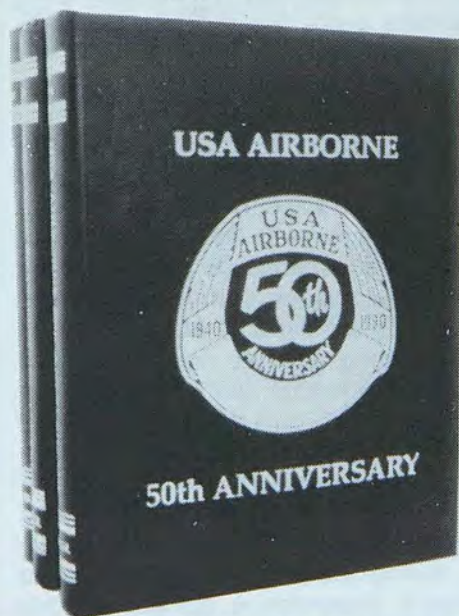
## Sample Biography

WILLIAM HAYDEN JONES, (PAPPY) CW3 US Army Aviation, RET, was born on Jan. 29, 1938 in Russellville, AR. He enlisted in the Army in 1960, spent eighteen months on a MAAG assignment in Iran. Jones went to Vietnam where he was assigned to HQ, MACV. Attended flight school and was appointed a Warrant Officer.



He received the Distinguished Flying Cross with an OLC, Bronze Star, Air Medal with two "V" device and numeral 21, Purple Heart with OLC, Army Commendation Medal with OLC, Good Conduct Medal with three knots and the Army Aviation Broken Wing Award.

He and his wife Susan, an active Army Nurse, are currently assigned to Ft. Gordon, GA where he is a Department of the Army Civilian.



*Pictured is the USA Airborne 50th Anniversary Book. The VHPA History book will be of the same fine quality.*

# DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 1992



# Membership drive a huge success

**JACK GLENNON**  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

For those of us who could make it to Atlanta, you probably heard sometime during the reunion that the membership drive was a huge success.

If you could not attend the reunion, I'll say it again: VHPA added more than 1,400 names to its database during the nine-month period of September 1991 to May 1992.

You will find out who we have "recovered" when the Membership Directory hits the street next month.

My thanks go out to all who participated in the drive, and a special thank you to Natalie Titus of VHPA Headquarters who kept tabs on all the stats. The top finishers in the drive were:

1. Jim "Sneaky" White
2. Mike Murray
3. Al Eason
4. Skip Butler
5. Bobby Bateman

Although these five guys all won something for their efforts, each of us benefit as the association grows.

One interesting footnote to the membership drive is the fact that 1,400 plus names were added to

our database as a result of the efforts of just 3 percent of our members. If we extrapolate these numbers, 20 percent participation would have doubled the size of our directory.

Thanks again to all who assisted the VHPA Recovery Team.

One additional note of interest: In the near future, you will receive VHPA bumper stickers.

These bumper stickers, displayed on every VHPA vehicle, will provide tremendous exposure for the association.

You guys wanted "no cost" advertising – you've got it. It's you.

## Council OKs six Newsletters a year

The VHPA Executive Council has approved increasing the number of Newsletters from four to six a year starting in 1993.

Instead of being published quarterly as they currently are, the Newsletters will be distributed to VHPA members every two months, Newsletter Editor Jack Swickard said.

A distribution schedule is being worked out now.

During the general membership meeting at the VHPA Reunion in Atlanta this summer, Swickard reported the Executive Council would be considering an increase in Newsletter issues.

Executive Council members approved the addition of the two issues during a telephone conference meeting the night of Aug. 11.

The cost of adding the two issues averages \$1.49 per VHPA member per year. Current dues will cover the additional cost.

As VHPA membership increases, the per-member cost of the Newsletter will decrease.

Savings in composition costs and the change to a different paper stock, as well as advertising earnings, during the past year have reduced the Newsletter's dependence on membership dues by \$800-\$1,000 per issue, Swickard estimated.

An advertising policy was instituted by the Executive Council last year to bring ad revenue in line with Newsletter printing and distribution costs.



Louis Palombo of Unadilla, N.Y., holds a life-like Rocky Raccoon during the Saturday night dance at the Atlanta reunion. The spring-loaded "raccoons" – sold at the hotel magic booth – were a hit with some VHPA members and wives. Palombo flew with the 118th Assault Helicopter Company and the 66th Medical Detachment.



# Historical Committee says thanks

**BILL GREENHALGH**  
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

I sincerely thank everyone for their appreciation of the accomplishments of the Historical Committee, but the members of the VHPA are the ones doing the work. I enjoy the glory.

The many people who have sent me copies of unit histories, orders of everything from aircraft commander to DEROS and so on, narratives about certain instances that occurred during their tour, and even some personal diaries and much more are the people we should all be grateful to for making the Historical Committee a success.

There are many individuals out

there who have donated a bit of their valuable time to work on specific units. These unit representatives are working with, not only their unit and a mini organization, but are sharing that information with the VHPA.

My plans for the future are grand. Attached to each unit history which will document (almost) every day of the life of the unit in RVN, I hope to have complete unit rosters. Every bit of information about the unit will be documented.

Some of the guys helping out include:

Ken Acker, 155th AHC; Gip Aubert, 187th AHC; Bob Crow, 188th and C/101; R.A. Crawley, F/8 Cav; Steve Franich, 134th AHC; Joe

Kane, B/229; Woody Leonard, C/227; Barry McIntyre, C/2/20; Marty Martines, C/7/17; Lee Moody, 120th ATC; Tom Payne, 125th ATC.

Also, Danny Pennington, 61st AHC; Ken Roach, B/101; Tony Robinson, 121st AHC; Ken Thomas, "Casper" Plt./173rd ABN; Ed Tripp, C/227; Russ Williams, C/16 Cav; George Young, 114th AHC.

And those two "records gatherers" Doug Womack and Charlie Yonts, and helping with editing and writing, Chris Genna.

Some others have volunteered to assist and, if I have failed to include your name, please let me know.

I want to thank YOU, our membership.

## VHPA Product Order Form

**MAIL FORM TO:** VHPA  
7 W. Seventh St.  
Suite 1990  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Back VHPA Newsletters \$20/set \_\_\_\_\_  
(Complete sets only)

1991 VHPA Directory \$10/each \_\_\_\_\_  
(VHPA members only,  
while supplies last.)

VHPA decals \$1/each \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Send check/money order or charge to your  
Visa, MasterCard or Discover card.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## VHPA briefs

### Videotapes sought

Mike McDonald is seeking any videotapes taken by members at past VHPA reunions.

He plans to assemble them for a program during the 10th Reunion in Phoenix this coming summer.

Anyone with videos can contact McDonald in care of VHPA Headquarters, or personally at 1 \_\_\_\_\_

### Directory arriving soon

Membership dues must be current by the end of the second week of September for the Membership Directory to be sent to members automatically.

Members joining after Aug. 14 will not receive the 1992 directory, but will receive the 1993 directory as part of their dues.

The directory will be delivered to the Post Office the first week of October, and should arrive in members hands within three weeks, said Mike Law, VHPA president and directory editor.

More than 8,300 pilots will be in this edition, an increase of 1,400 from last year.

### Advertising policy

The cost of advertising in the VHPA Newsletter is: Full page, \$500; one-half page, \$250; and one-quarter page, \$125.

Classified advertising is \$1 per line or \$7 per inch, whichever is higher.



# Seeking . . .

Hi. I saw your announcement in the St. Pete Times (Fla.).

If you should hear from a WO Hal Davis - I would love to have his address.

We went to school together and graduated from Gen. H.H. Arnold High School, Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1965.

The last time I saw him was in Arlington, Texas, in 1968. (I was a stew for American Airlines and he was going to Vietnam.)

His name is not on the Wall in D.C., so I'm hoping he's out there somewhere.

Any help would greatly be appreciated!

Good luck - I know the reunion will be a blast!

Kerry Kleine Birchette

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I read about your ad in the DAV in April 1992 about your reunion.

I was a doorgunner in the 12th Aviation Group, 145th Aviation Battalion, 118th Assault Helicopter Company assigned to Bien Hoa in 1969. I lost a friend and a pilot in a crash near a base camp of the 25th Infantry Division near Bear Cat southeast of Saigon.

My friend was a gunner and I can see his face and knew his nickname, but cannot remember his name. He was from Ohio. I need some help in finding out his name and also the name of the pilot.

"Popcorn" was the nickname of the gunner, and "Beetle Bailey" was the nickname of the pilot. "Popcorn" was a specialist 4 from the Columbus, Ohio, area. They went down in July or August 1969.

The memories are a reality, the faces are there, but the names aren't. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Ernie Collins

## Tentative schedule VHPA Phoenix Reunion July 1-4, 1993

### Thursday, July 1

- Registration, mini-reunions, vendors, video displays, LZs.
- Welcome dance.

### Friday, July 2

- Registration, mini-reunions, vendors, video displays, LZs, and sports and recreation.
- Golf, tennis, racquetball, volleyball, walleyball tournaments.
- Unit history luncheon.
- Pool party.

### Saturday, July 3

- Registration, mini-reunions, vendors, video displays, LZs, and sports and recreation.
- Golf, tennis, racquetball, volleyball, walleyball tournaments.
- Helicopter static display.
- Western dinner dance.

### Sunday, July 4

- Ladies activities.
- General membership business meeting.
- Cocktail party. Cash bars with VHPA prices, and photos.
- Awards banquet.
- Fireworks display and pool party.

## VHPA LOGO ITEMS (D&G - DAVE GRIEGER, L0066)

SATIN-LOOKING JACKETS	79.95	M, L, XL
(SILVER GRAY)	84.95	XXL, XXXL
W/NAME, UNIT, DATES, ETC.	9.50	3 LINES
(4 LINES? \$12.00)		
W/WINGS, ABN? CIB?	12.00	EACH
BACK PATCH - 8"	25.00	
BULLION PATCH	15.00	
GOLF SHIRT OR	16.50	
GOLF SHIRT ("LIFE MEMBER")		
T-SHIRT W/LOGO LT BLUE	12.95	M, L, XL
T-SHIRT (I ♥ MY HEL . . .)	12.95	
T-SHIRT (1991 REUNION)	10.00	M-XXL
(1992 REUNION)	10.00	M, L, XL
CAP (W/ OR W/OUT "LIFE"	10.50	WH, BLK, N
PATCH	5.00	
PATCH (W/ "LIFE MEMBER")	5.00	
PINS (LOGO, WOPA, RLO)	5.00	(MANY MORE)
BUMPER STICKER (3 X 7")	3.00	FULL COLOR
WINDOW STICKER (3")	3.00	FULL COLOR
VHPA LICENSE PLATE	6.00	
"ABOVE THE FINEST" VIDEO	39.95	
(AS SHOWN AT REUNION)		
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D&G, P.O. Box 12105, COLUMBUS, GA 31907  
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# VHPA president reports on year

**DAN FERGUSON**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Annual Business Meeting was held during the ninth annual reunion at the Hilton Hotel and Towers in Atlanta on July 3, 1992.

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Slaughter at about 1:15 p.m.

Slaughter said that during the previous year's membership drive, more than 1,000 new names were added to the data base.

He also reported that during the previous year, the Executive Council negotiated a new, three-year contract with PAI (Performance Associates Inc.) as the VHPA management company.

## Constitutional proposal

Vice President Mike Law presented a proposal to change the VHPA Constitution to provide for filling the past president position should it become vacant.

A member on the floor reminded the Executive Council that a decision was made at an earlier Annual Business Meeting in that all proposed changes to the Constitution must be submitted to the general membership no later than being inserted into member's reunion packets. Therefore, the vote could not be taken on the proposal.

Another member made a motion from the floor to table discussion of the proposed constitutional change. The motion was seconded and then approved by the general membership.

## Financial report

Dan Ferguson, secretary/treasurer, presented the VHPA financial report, comparing 1990 and 1991 figures. The numbers showed a healthy growth in VHPA and its membership.

However, this was reflected in higher expenses, due to growth itself and the increased cost of day-to-day business expenses.

Ferguson reported that the associ-

**Dan Ferguson presented the VHPA financial report, comparing 1990 and 1991 figures.**

**The numbers showed healthy growth.**

ation's savings and checking accounts increased to approximately \$76,949, and certificates of deposit increased to about \$128,647.

He explained that although it appears there is a large sum of money in the bank, the money has to be there to cover Life Memberships and cannot be used for general expenditures.

Ferguson reported total assets at \$188,575 and total liabilities at \$153,468, with \$35,107 in unrestricted funds.

## Election of officers

Phil Marshall, mid-term member at large, was elected vice president.

Charles Rayl, VHPA legal adviser, was elected junior member at large, a three-year term.

Kenny Bunn, 1992 reunion chairman, was elected senior member at large, a one-year term.

## Database Committee

Gary Roush, Database Committee chairman, thanked volunteers who helped with the flight school class rosters during the past year.

He reported the rosters are about 60 percent complete, with some 13,000 names.

Roush reported there are 4,682 dues-current members, including

530 Life Members. He also reported there are 1,753 potential members in the database.

Total identified as members and potential members is 6,435, he said.

## Membership Directory

Vice President Mike Law, who also oversees the Membership Directory, said the 1992 directory will contain an index by flight school class to make it easier to find old classmates. The index will contain the names of all who are alive or have died.

## Historical Committee

Bill Greenhalgh, Historical Committee chairman, said the association's historical data has grown considerably, but appealed to members for more information, specifically old orders, lists of units, unit histories, and so forth.

## Membership Committee

Jack Glennon, Membership Committee chairman, reported on the membership drive which resulted in 1,425 names being submitted.

He recognized the top five finishers in the drive.

Member No. 6,000 joined VHPA several weeks before the reunion.

## VHPA Newsletter

Jack Swickard, Newsletter editor, said he has taken over layout and assembly of the publication, resulting in a substantial savings to the association.

He also reported on the establishment of the Newsletter Committee made up of the Newsletter editor, the immediate past president and the Membership Committee chairman.

Swickard announced he is collecting data which he will present to the Executive Council seeking approval to publish six Newsletters a year.

He said this will require more letters, photographs and articles by VHPA members.

*Continued on Page 14*



# Officers report to VHPA members

*Continued from Page 13*

## HAI '92

Jack Jordan, HAI '92 chairman, reported VHPA had a party at HAI '92 — "Wish you'd been there." He said HAI '93 will be in Miami in February and, due to the efforts of Dave Owens, \$2,000 has been committed to fund the Gathering.

Jordan said there were several hundred people at the 1992 Gathering.

## 1992 Atlanta Reunion

Kenny Bunn, 1992 Reunion chairman, reported Coors Brewing Co. donated \$1,500 cash and 450 gallons of beer for the Sun Valley barbecue. Ernest & Julio Gallo donated 10 gallons of wine.

Bunn recognized Mike Carlisle, assistant reunion chairman, and the rest of the committee.

## 1993 Reunion

Paul Uster gave a quick report on the 1993 reunion, to be held in Phoenix, Ariz., at two adjacent resorts.

There is a tentative schedule of events. Uster reported drink prices will be the same as Atlanta and food prices about the same.

He added this will be the 10th annual reunion going back to Phoenix, where VHPA was founded.

## AAAA

Mike Law reported on the AAAA (Army Aviation Association of America) meeting he attended and manned a booth. The booth accounted for 72 VHPA members and 54 more names. The cost was

about \$400.

He thanked AAAA for its support. Law said Jack Jordan will run the Fort Worth AAAA in 1993.

## AHS 1992

Skip Butler reported that booth space, furniture, electricity, etc., were donated at the AHS (American Helicopter Society) convention in Washington, D.C.

## Turner Publishing Co.

Bob Martin of Turner Publishing Co. reported on the VHPA book the publishing company is working on.

Martin, who is the editor for the book, appealed to the membership for stories, pictures, etc., to be included in the book.

## A look at 1993

Incoming President Mike Law gave a brief report on activities planned for Phoenix and voiced support for the direction in which the Newsletter is moving.

## Open discussion

President Gary Slaughter opened the meeting up for general discussion.

Someone asked if telephone numbers could be published in the Membership Directory.

Slaughter replied that the numbers cannot be published at this time.

Another member suggested the HAI Committee be a standing committee and that Jack Jordan be committee chairman.

Slaughter agreed with the idea that HAI be a standing committee, but said that needs to be an Execu-

tive Council decision. As for Jack Jordan being standing chairman of that committee, Slaughter said each president selects his own chairmen.

Someone asked if any action was being taken on the questionnaire in the newsletter and if there were going to be any more questionnaires.

Slaughter responded he was not aware of any new questionnaire, but the Executive Council has gone over the previous one and tried to act on the desires of the membership, such as increased efforts to try to find more helicopter pilots.

Another member asked where the reunion would be after Phoenix. Slaughter said that is traditionally the project for the newly elected vice president, who will be president during that reunion.

Someone asked if VHPA has ever invited widows or children of Vietnam Helicopter Pilots.

Slaughter responded that as an organization, VHPA has not and is not equipped to do so, though, several have attended as guests of VHPA members.

A member asked what it would take to establish a VHPA scholarship fund.

Slaughter said such a fund was considered several years ago, but was dismissed because it is impractical to administer and requires considerable financing.

Another person asked if the Crew Members Association will be co-locating with VHPA in Phoenix in 1993? Slaughter said that was correct.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried.

## Newsletter to publish Bob Snead aviation cartoons

The works of G. Robert "Bob" Snead, whose cartoons are well-known to Army aviators, will appear regularly in the VHPA Newsletter.

Snead, now retired from the Army and living in El Paso, Texas, is himself a former Vietnam helicopter pilot and a VHPA member.

His works appeared in The Army Times for more than 20 years, as well as in various military post and civilian publications.

Snead's artwork has been exhibited in Europe, Africa, Central America and throughout much of the United States.



# Holley book strong on war action

"Aeroscouts" by Charles Holley. Publication date: June 1992 by Pocket Books. 252 pages. \$4.99.

Charles Holley ended up in the cockpit of an Army helicopter in South Vietnam the same way as many other members of the VHPA:

Looking for adventure after dropping out or flunking out of college.

## Book review

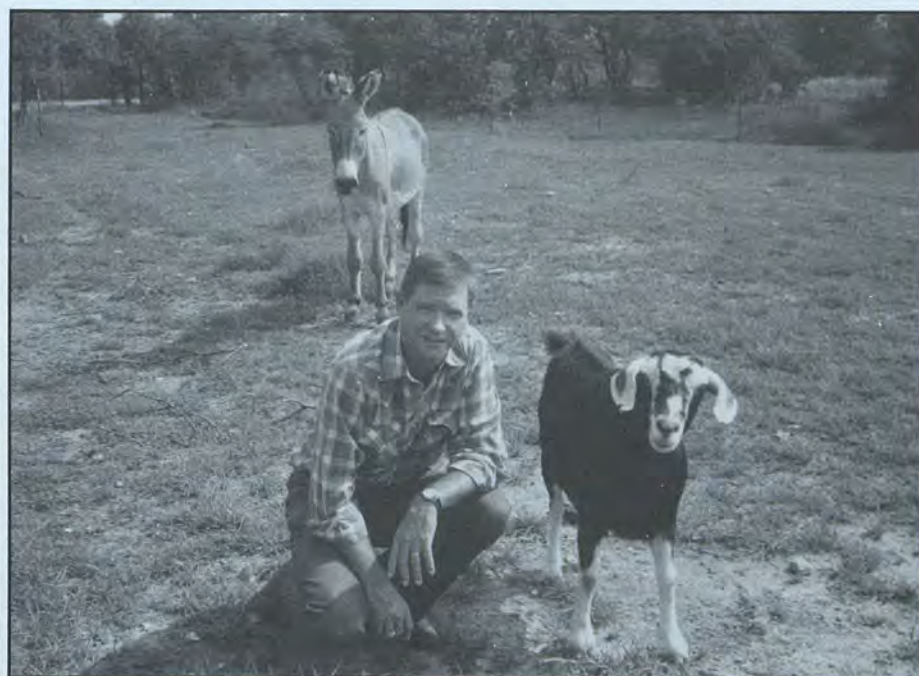
Like many of his contemporaries who wound up in the rotary wing aviator pipeline at Forts Wolters, Rucker and Stewart, Holley had no idea what a warrant officer was when accepted for flight training.

They soon learned, from Tac officers in the warrant officer candidate (WOC) companies and on the flight line and in the classrooms at Fort Wolters.

Though he gives more details than most other Vietnam War authors about the training of warrant officer helicopter pilots, Holley slides through the WOC experience too quickly for former and current aviation warrant officers to fully savor.

But "Aeroscouts" was written for a wider reader base than ex-Vietnam helicopter pilots.

These readers are more interested in face-downs with Viet Cong and NVA soldiers, rocket and mini-gun attacks against the enemy,



Author Charles Holley, with Miss Peggy and Better Business Burro.

helicopters being shot down or severely damaged by ground fire, and valiant rescues by chopper pilots.

And Holley gives them plenty of action — mixed with a healthy dose of humor — as he describes his life as a scout pilot with Delta Troop, 2/1st Cavalry Regiment (Air).

"Aeroscouts" will hold the attention of almost everyone who picks it up, including wives who yawn at the repeated war stories they hear at VHPA reunions. My wife, who

rarely finishes a book in less than three months, completed Holley's book during one day's drive while returning home from the Atlanta reunion.

Holley has a winner with "Aeroscouts." It should be on the bookshelf of every former Vietnam helicopter pilot — and wife.

If you want to know more about WOC life, though, Holley will have to explain it in person at future VHPA reunions.

— Jack Swickard

## Navy nurse writes about her Vietnam experiences

"A Navy Nurse In Vietnam, 1963-64" by LCDR Bobbi Hovis, NC, USN (Ret.) Publication date: May 1992. 167 pages. Photographs. Maps. List price: \$21.95.

In 1963, Bobbi Hovis and four other nurses arrived in Saigon charged with the monumental task of converting, in four days, a dilapidated apartment building into the first U.S. Navy Station hospital in Vietnam.

This memoir, one of the few books written by and about women in war, describes their efforts to provide the first American casualties with care despite third-world conditions.

Operating in a city of chaos, where the extraordinary became the ordinary as the war escalated, Hovis provides a rare inside look at Vietnam in the early years of conflict. Her vivid impressions contrast the serene beau-

ty of the countryside, before the ravages of full-scale war, with the excitement of Saigon and the horror of Viet Cong bombing attacks.

Her firsthand account of the Diem coup gives the reader a true sense of the turmoil and uncertainty experienced by the beleaguered medical staff.

Her recollections of activities that helped to alleviate the intensity of her hospital duty holidays in Cambodia, tennis and tea parties with the Westmorelands and Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge — further highlight the contrasts of her experience and allow the reader to become part of the small circle of U.S. personnel then in Vietnam.

This personal memoir makes a significant contribution to the history of the Navy Nurse Corps and the Vietnam experience.



# VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

7 W. Seventh St., Suite 1990 Cincinnati, OH 45202 (513) 721-VHPA

## Membership application/change of address

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application          | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual dues: \$30        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address change       | <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership: \$450   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directory correction | <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription only: \$12* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information only     | ( *Included in annual dues)                       |

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please charge my MasterCard/Visa/Discover
- ☐ Enclosed is a check/money order payable to VHPA

Credit card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

FLIGHT SCHOOL CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ SERVICE BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

Information about each Vietnam tour:

DATE OF TOUR		UNIT		LOCATION	CALL SIGN
	From:	To:			
1st					
2nd					
3rd					
4th					

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

How did you learn about the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association?