



The VHPA Newsletter

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association ®

September/October 2004 Vol. 22, No. 5



Dave Rittman photo

A UH-1D Huey belonging to C/229th Aviation, 1st Cavalry Division, receives a cleaning after landing on a sandbar just south of LZ Two Bits on the Bong Son Plains in April 1967. Cleaning the aircraft in the river sometimes was the quickest way to wash the Hueys after combat operations in South Vietnam.



*****3-DIGIT 368

From the President

It seems like only yesterday I was struggling with the first From the President column, but here I am again. I must be stuck in a VHPA version of the Ground Hog Day movie!

The Executive Council has been extremely busy the past two months in preparation for this *Newsletter*. A decision was made to put all of the major governing documents for the VHPA in one publication and put it in the hands of the membership. This *Newsletter* is that publication.

Of course, this required a review of all the policies. If you are like me, you have stacks and boxes of old *Newsletters* scattered around the house, in storage or in the garage. All of those back issues are available somewhere, but finding a particular issue is like trying to find an LZ with the wrong grid coordinates!

You can set this *Newsletter* aside for future reference at any time without going on a search-and-destroy mission.



Dan Ferguson

Bylaws printed in Newsletter

The VHPA Bylaws are printed in this *Newsletter* and have been omitted from their usual place in the Membership Directory. The reasoning was two-fold:

- The membership search project headed by Gary Roush and Dana Young has been so successful, with thousands of new names added, there was a need to move a number of items out of the Directory and place them in alternate locations such as www.vhpa.org and the Newsletter. A good problem to have.

- It also serves to print all of the documents in one publication.

The Articles of Incorporation are printed in this *Newsletter*. A first! The Articles, along with the Bylaws, also are posted on the website. Another first for the Articles.

The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws can only be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. These documents depict our purpose as an organization and are the foundations of the rules and regulations we use to govern ourselves.

Policies included in Newsletter

This *Newsletter* also contains various "policies" which pick up where the Articles and Bylaws leave off. Policies help set guidelines for the day-to-day operation and governance of the VHPA.

Policies considered being of possible interest to the membership, such as the Election Policy, Financial Disclosure Policy, Reunion Refund Policy, excerpts from the Reunion Policy and Policy for Amendments to the Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation have been included in this publication.

Other policies, such as the Vendor Policy, have been left out of this publication due to space requirements.

All policies are posted on www.vhpa.org, and you are encouraged to view them at your leisure. Because policies are subject to change and modification as situations and needs arise, please check the website for updated policies periodically.

On a related subject, the Executive Council recently approved the posting of the Quarterly Investment Reports on www.vhpa.org. Up to a year's worth of quarterly reports will be kept posted on the site, along with the other financial reports already posted.

Committee prepares for San Francisco

Enough of the boring stuff. Let's talk about San Francisco.

Dave Rittman and Joe Bilitzke, your National Reunion Committee, have been hard at work developing events you just don't want to miss!

The Reunion Committee is planning an exciting evening of entertainment for the Welcome Reception to kick things off and is in the process of adding food to the function for all you hungry travelers who arrive on Saturday.

An event I am particularly looking forward to is the cruise of the San Francisco Bay the evening of July 4th. This event is complete, with band, food and a spectacular fireworks display . . . assuming no fog. This IS San Fran-

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Classified ads

SEEKING REVOLVER: I am looking for a Smith & Wesson .38 special that most Army helicopter pilots carried in Vietnam. If anyone knows of a source please contact Mike at (813) 293-0708 or email Mike@resdrywall.com. Also, does anyone know the actual model number and barrel length?

E-mail items to Newsletter at:
swickard@vhpa.org

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Newsletter privacy statement

This newsletter contains member privacy information the VHPA considers proprietary and confidential.

This information, including but not limited to the VHPA Chapter list, shall not be used for commercial solicitation purposes or for any correspondence related thereto without prior written authorization from the VHPA president.

Correspondence relating to commercial purposes or solicitations shall only be sent to those officers, committee chairmen, and staff listed above.

Jones stepping down as secretary/treasurer

I have had to step down as VHPA secretary/treasurer due to a medical condition called essential tremor, which affects the left side of my body, making it difficult for me to type.

Because the secretary/treasurer position consists mainly of typing, I decided to resign the position so as not to slow down the business of the VHPA.

Some of my close friends noticed my condition in Dallas and thought I was going through the DTs. It gets that bad at times. I don't drink. Haven't since Kansas City.

So, it is with a sad heart that I do this. I enjoyed it, as I have all the other assignments I have performed for our organization.

I wish Dan and the other members of the Executive Council, Godspeed.

— Hayden "Pappy" Jones

From the President

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cisco, so fog is always a possibility, but this will be an event for the scrapbook, regardless.

Seating is limited, so you will want to register early and reserve your boarding pass. (You will want to dress warm for this one: Layered clothing is key in San Francisco).

I had an opportunity to take a ride in a fully restored Vietnam-era Huey a few weeks ago. What a thrill! Although I finished my hitch at Fort Wolters as a flight instructor, I had not been up in a Huey since Vietnam.

Unless you flew generals around for tea, I doubt you ever flew anything in country as pretty as this UH-1. I know I didn't!

The crew is to be commended for an outstanding restoration. Oh, by the way, this is the Huey referenced in Dave Rittman's article.

The Reunion Committee is working on several other possible and varied events, some of which are detailed in Dave's article. Please read the related San Francisco Reunion article elsewhere in this *Newsletter* for more detail.

Simply put, this may be a once-in-a-lifetime reunion and you want to be there. Plan early. Register early. Come and make memories.

Until the next column,

— Dan Ferguson, VHPA president

Letters

Years make difference in pilot's homecoming

I lay wide awake with my wife; the jet lag had a strong hold on me. The day's events would not let me sleep, thoughts of a different time and place raced through my mind.

The freedom bird descended from altitude, there was dead silence as the pilot reduced power and the aircraft settled for landing. As the wheels touched the runway, a tremendous cheer arose from the silent passengers.

After a year in Vietnam, a lot of relief echoed throughout the cabin.

From reading and watching the news, we were apprehensive of our reception at home. As I left the plane, no one said "welcome home" or "thank you for your service."



In the airport, I was met with stares and gruff remarks, something like the plague had arrived. No one smiled or said "hello," it was as if I didn't exist.

I could not wait to get out of my uniform and try to blend in. After about a week, all I wanted to do was to go back to RVN to my friends and home. Well, that did not happen, life went on and we all adjusted and tried to forget.

The freedom bird descended from altitude, there was dead silence as the pilot reduced power and the aircraft settled for landing.

As the wheels touched the runway, a tremendous cheer arose from the silent passengers.

The R&R flight from Kuwait/Iraq had landed and the entire crew welcomed us home and thanked us for our service.

The USO was at the gate with my family, waving flags. At the sight of a soldier in uniform, everyone in the crowd cheered.

I could not walk 10 feet in the airport without a stranger stopping to shake my hand and to say "thank you."

As my family and I crossed the road to the parking lot, people honked horns and gave a thumbs up and yelled well wishes from their cars.

I was proud to be in uniform after 34 years, I did not want to go home and take it off. I had a great R&R with my wife and four college students/kids.

On the way back to the airport, we stopped for gas. A man stopped his car, got out and gave my wife and me a hug, and thanked us both for our service and sacrifice to our country.

To the people of the United States, I thank you for your support; it sure feels good to be home after 34 years.

CW3 John R.Q. Finke
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Chopper crew saves Special Forces team

A former Special Forces commander is looking for the helicopter crew that extracted him and his B-36 LRRP team from a B-52 bomb crater on a dark, rainy night some 37 years ago.

The commander would like to contact the captain and warrant officer who flew the helicopter and thank them for "saving his team's collective asses"!

The action took place in rainy weather the night of Sept. 16, 1967, in the area of the "Parrot's Beak" near Katum in northwest III Corps.

The B-36 LRRP team belonged to Company A, 5th Special Forces, and was in deep trouble after being surrounded by the enemy. The team had been pushed into a B-52 bomb crater and was thankful the Huey crew was able to hover in heavy rain down through the jungle canopy to the crater and pull team members up onto the skids during a hover.

The unit and call sign of the aircraft are not known, only the date and location of the incident.

Anyone who remembers this incident and can help identify those who flew the Huey, is asked to contact Tom Payne at [REDACTED]

Tom Payne
Tulsa, OK

Writer conducts survey of pilots at 2004 reunion

In the last issue, my article was published, "Connecting the dots." It was a request for information from fellow VHPA members regarding their hearing loss and tinnitus as a result of their military flying.

As a result of the response, I went the logical next step and surveyed the attendees of the 2004 Reunion and promised to publish the results of that survey in order to benefit anyone who may be filing a claim or going through an appeal with the VA.

VHPA currently has 11,900 members out of the 40,000 helicopter pilots who served in Vietnam. Of the 11,900 membership, 1,060 were present for the Reunion in Dallas and 202 (or 19 percent of all the attendees) filled out a four-page questionnaire, which made a statistically significant survey.

This 19 percent sample is large enough to significantly reduce the variability of result or it means that these results would have a very small probability of happening just by chance.

Besides an adequate number of respondents to ensure accuracy, I also avoided bias by taking a random sample, meaning everyone at the reunion had an equal chance of being chosen.

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Letters

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This is not a comprehensive summary of the survey, so the total numbers for each question don't tally up because some participants filled out only portions of the questionnaire, i.e., some only filled out hearing and others only complete tinnitus. The original questions have been removed for brevity considerations.

- Of the 202 surveys, over 75 percent suffered up to 50 percent hearing loss and 70 percent have hearing loss in both ears.
 - 70 percent realized hearing loss only AFTER active duty.
 - 59 percent had hearing loss reported on exams while on active duty.
 - 97 percent shows a hearing loss as a result of active duty.
 - 56 percent of the separation physicals indicated a hearing loss. 30 percent of the separation physicals showed inaccurate results relative to hearing, 14 percent had no hearing test performed on separation.
 - The largest other cause of hearing loss was due to explosions (17 percent) and trauma (7 percent).
 - 91 percent of the respondents attributed their hearing loss to engine noise, 44 percent of these men had between 1,000 and 3,000 hours, 75 percent had turbine aircraft time.
 - 79 percent of surveyed members had tinnitus, and of those with tinnitus 81 percent had it in both ears, 64 percent had it at a severe level — more than 50 percent of the time.
 - 72 percent felt the tinnitus was increasing in severity.
 - 59 percent noticed/evaluated tinnitus only AFTER active duty.
 - 80 percent of flight physicals on active did NOT test for tinnitus.
 - 81 percent of the physical examinations did not show tinnitus BEFORE active duty.
 - 34 percent indicated that their separation physical showed more hearing than was actually present. 26 percent later discovered tinnitus at a severe level of over 50 percent.
 - The most frequent cause of tinnitus besides engine noise was explosions in 16 percent of the cases.
 - Of the respondents with tinnitus, 47 percent had 500-3,000 hours of flight time, and over 75 percent of their time was in turbine helicopters.
 - 58 percent indicated that they were not required to wear ear protection.
 - Only 48 percent have made a claim for hearing loss and 29 percent for tinnitus.
 - 37 percent plan to file a claim.
 - Breakdown of respondents: Warrants, 48 percent; Commissioned, 40 percent.
- Years in service:

- 22 percent — 1-5 years.
- 14 percent — 6-10 years.
- 19 percent — 11-20 years
- 43 percent — 21+ years

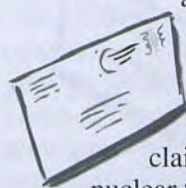
Conclusions

There is definitely a link between flying helicopters and hearing loss and tinnitus. These afflictions were not accurately reflected on the pilots' separation physicals and many times only were only accurately diagnosed many years after active duty.

Epilog

The current issue, July-August 2004, of *DAV Magazine*, Page 36, has an article entitled, "Radiation Study Clicks for Some Atomic Veterans" that you will find interesting. In essence it stated that:

The disability claims of more than 1,300 veterans exposed to ionized radiation during nuclear weapons tests in the 1950s are being reconsidered by the VA as a result of a study that found the levels of exposure estimated by the government was inaccurate.



The 1,300 claims were a small percentage of the over 11,000 disability claims made to the VA by veterans exposed to nuclear testing.

The DAV supports the presumptive service-connection for all veterans with recognized radiogenic diseases versus the estimates used by the government.

What is the connection?

The message to all helicopter pilots of the Vietnam era is clear: The VA should also recognize the presumptive service-connection for hearing loss and tinnitus veterans with flight time during that time period.

Please send your response to:

Jerry Gladysz

On your e-mail messages, please identify your response in the subject line as VHPA, and please don't include attachments with the initial message. You know how it is with aggressive antivirus enablements . . .

Wife thanks members for helping understand

It is time I publicly thank all the members of the VHPA.

I am a "Trophy Wife," a "Child Bride" married to a two-tour air cav pilot. Having been born in late 1967, the only thing I knew about Vietnam was what little I had an opportunity to read in history books. Not much!

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Then, in 2002, my husband received a letter explaining and asking him to join the VHPA, and to attend the reunion in Las Vegas. He immediately replied and we went to Vegas.

My life changed in a sense.

From the moment, before even being registered, a gentleman offered his hand to my husband with the words: "Welcome Home, Brother," I have seen and heard the bond between these men. At first I was a bit apprehensive, but my husband kept reassuring me that these guys are "cats of a different breed."

How right he was.

I have met his CO, XO, scout, lift and other gun pilots he flew with. And they are all truly "cats of a different breed." But not just those from his unit, but the Outlaws, Blue Max, Dust Off and Ghost Riders, plus all the others I have met.

Our first reunion, Las Vegas, I inadvertently left my purse and digital camera on a table in the "smoking LZ" while we talked to other pilots. When I thought of them, my husband assured me they were safe.

He was right. I have never met a more honorable bunch of guys.

Since Las Vegas, I found and truly appreciate that I am learning history, not by books, but by the people who made it.

Furthermore, after Las Vegas, my husband has found he can talk to me about RVN, for now, I understand. Thanks to the wonderful guys I have met who took the time and talked to me about many different aspects of the conflict.

When we left Orlando, we went to Washington, DC, as my husband wanted to make his first visit to "The Wall." As I stood about 10 feet behind him, I found that because of the members of the VHPA, I was feeling the pain and sorrow all of you feel. As he cried, so did I.

Thank you, all of you, for adding more to my life. Don't ever change, I love you all for it.

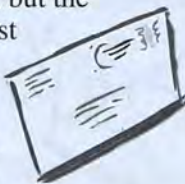
As my husband told me, all you helicopter pilots are truly "cats of a different breed" — fun-loving, hell-raising party people, but still honorable and compassionate.

In closing, I will bear gladly and with pride the terms "Child Bride" or "Trophy Wife" because now I know they are expressed with affection from probably the greatest group of guys I've met. And I'm honored.

I have learned from all of them, not just my husband, that although comparatively young, to take pride in being a "Cav Wife."

But I have also learned to take pride in the VHPA and in all its members.

So let me say this, you have become my extended family and I thank the association and all its members, and



Daughter seeking father's associates

I am Julie Wildes-Hutson and my Dad, Michael Layton Wildes, was killed in Vietnam on June 12, 1965, while flying in support of the Battle of Dong Xoai in III Corps.

The helicopter he was piloting crashed in IFR conditions, killing all on board. He was in the Cowboys, A/82nd Aviation, 173rd Brigade out of Bien Hoa. I was only six months old when he was killed.

I would like to find and talk to anyone who was in flight school class WORWAC 64-8 with my Dad or who flew in the Cowboys with him.

I live in Callahan, FL, and can be reached by email at [REDACTED]

Julie Wildes-Hutson
Callahan, FL

look forward to meeting more of you.

See you in San Francisco!

Jaqi Sellon

The day our gunships almost killed Steamer

Three teams were the most you could have operating across the fence at one time so, after inserting a third recon team in southern Laos, it had been a slow day at CCC, the forward operations base in Kontum for SOG.

Nothing but sitting around, reading, playing cards, playing Battleship, pitching horse shoes and waiting for something to happen and hoping it wouldn't.

The team we had just inserted, operating south near the Tri-border area, heard noise, figured they were being tracked and moved to avoid contact. The other two teams reported no activity at all. Everything seemed OK.

Every day the 361st ACE "Pink Panthers" and the 57th "Gladiators" were tasked with providing four AH-1G's and six UH-1D's, respectively, to support the mission of CCC. This particular day, one of the Snakes had a mechanical problem and returned to Holloway early after the team insert.

As quiet as things were, there seemed no need to request a replacement. Anyway, a heavy fire team always worked well if needed.

Gary Meyer was the AMC for the day. A relatively new AC, this was his first mission as Panther lead. Mike Harsh and Vince Sullivan were his wingmen.

Stan Stenbock, a Gladiator legend, was flight lead for the 57th. It was shaping up to be an easy day — 30-minute flight to CCC for the briefing, 2-hour insert southwest of Ben Het, 30-minute flight to Dak To II to "stand by," 30-

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Letters

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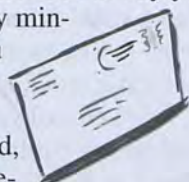
minute flight to Kontum and a 30-minute flight home to Holloway.

Around 5 p.m. the teams gave Covey the all-clear and he, in turn, released the air assets. Nine birds cranked, called clearance, pulled pitch and headed south toward Holloway.

An easy, fairly uneventful day. Just the kind of day you loved and hated at the same time. Twenty minutes later, as the two flights called Pleiku Air Force Base for overflight clearance, Covey called saying the team, inserted earlier in the day, had in fact been tracked, was in contact with a force of vastly superior size, was running for their lives and had declared a "Prairie Fire" AKA "come get me NOW or there won't be anything to get later on."

Covey had located a "door," a usable PZ, directed the team toward it and called for the extraction assets to get there ASAP. To add to the excitement, the weather was starting to get dicey.

Gary landed and headed to Panther Operations for a briefing, while Mike and Sully headed for refueling. Steamer and his flight were right behind. The slicks refueled first and took off west-northwest. The two snakes



were 5 minutes behind.

Forty-five minutes later Covey bingoed the PZ and the snakes set up a low-level gun pattern, 60 knots inbound, 120 knots outbound, and called Steamer down.

CW2 Stanley "Steamer" Stenbock was an outstanding slick driver. About 5-foot-6 and 160 pounds, big mustache and brass testicles, he could get in hover holes most pilots couldn't and make aircraft perform like no other pilot I've ever seen. He didn't know the word NO.

My first or second day on missions, I was flying with Mike, a college classmate and great friend. He suggested (told me) I was flying back to Holloway with Steamer so we could "get to know each other."

Steamer headed to Holloway, straight and level. All of a sudden, he starts a tight spiral to the left, pulls out at tree-top level and puts us in the tightest hover hole I'd ever been in; you know, the ones instructors wouldn't go into at Fort Wolters.

He then says to me: "New Guy, you got it." I took the controls, scared, sweating like a stuck pig.

He sits back, takes out a cigarette, lights up and says: "New Guy, while you're up there flying around in your air-conditioned Cobra, I'm down here risking my ass and the guys on my bird to insert or extract teams out of deep kimshe. You make damn sure you put your rockets and mini-gun where I tell you to or I'll have your ass. Do we understand each other, New Guy?"

"Yes, Sir," I replied.

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We know of one investment that always does well.

We believe one of the most profitable investments is an investment in relationships. At times like these, when the market can be volatile, that investment really pays off.

- Now is the time you need someone who understands your goals and risk tolerance.
- Someone who can help you adjust your portfolio in a changing investment environment.
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Letters

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After what seemed like the first seven months of my tour, Steamer took the controls and headed home. To this day, I still get nervous just thinking about it.

Back to the "Prairie Fire." It was getting on toward dusk. The weather was going south.

Steamer entered the pattern and headed inbound. "Taking fire 9 o'clock, taking hits. Taking fire 12 o'clock. I've got the team in sight. Taking fire 2 and 3 o'clock. Panther lead, bring it in close, bad guys all around the LZ."



Mike rolled in and fired two pair.

"No, no, too far to the left. Bring it in closer."

Sully fired two pair.

"Damn it, Panther lead, they're all around me in the LZ. Bring it in close."

As the Cobras broke left, tracers "rooster tailed" after them. Both snakes were taking hits.

Visibility was getting poor due to the weather and the onset of darkness.

Mike fired two pair on his next inbound. He could see Steamer's exhaust glowing bright orange. The rockets seemed to head right for the orange glow. In fact, the two pair obscured the exhaust completely.

Mike thought to himself, "My, God, I've killed Steamer."

At the last instant, the four rockets ducked under the slick, exploded in front of the aircraft, blowing holes in the chin bubble, putting several pieces of shrapnel in Steamer's legs and causing the aircraft to bounce upward.

"That's it, that's it. That's where the bastards are. Keep it coming, keep it coming." Steamer picked up all seven guys on his bird, turned and headed outbound. Tracers followed his path of flight.

Once away from the PZ, battle damage started to con-

cern Steamer and Mike. After flying toward Dak To II for several minutes, they decided to set down in an open field and check their aircraft.

By this time, Gary had arrived on station and set up a gun pattern with Sully, while Mike and Steamer quickly ran around their birds with flashlights, checking the damage. Convinced the ships were flyable, they headed to Kon-tum.

A couple of the team members had minor wounds, the three aircraft had multiple bullet and shrapnel holes, and the team had been saved from being overrun.

All in all, a successful mission. And Mike ONLY almost killed Steamer.

Mike Sheuerman

Panther 15 5/71-4/72

361st ACE/AWC "Pink Panthers"

People, spirit make VHPA reunions great

The 21st Annual VHPA Reunion is in the books and I'm back to the activities normally associated with making a living.

According to my wife, with whom I always agree, this was the best one yet. We had a ball, from the bag-stuffing party the night before until the day after the last horn blew.

The thing that makes the reunion great is the same thing that makes my Vietnam experience memorable. No, it's not the moments of stark terror or the genuine war stories, tall tales and lies (there's a difference?) It's not even the history.

The thing that makes the reunion is the people, and the spirit that prevails when we're together. I feel sorry for units that don't have what we have.

The reunion is seeing and talking to and partying with a bunch of guys we know would at one time have put everything on the line for us, and we for them.

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a DFC?**

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Letters

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The reunion is a certain unit IP who I'm still firmly convinced could, and probably still can, make a Cobra sit up on it's tail stinger and beg, if he had a good mind to.

The reunion is the kid who rolled on .50's, and ended up taking one in the chest.

The reunion is the unit entrepreneur who did well hawking makeup to the hootch maids; it's a certain officer who saluted the battalion commander from hands and knees as he crawled back to his quarters from a floor show; it's Bill and Flame and Bob together in the same place for the first time since May 9, 1972, a bad day for the Panthers; it's a certain wild-eyed ex-beer can thrower minding the keg and tending bar and calling the no-shows at 2 a.m.

from the Stickitt Inn — serves them right for not being there!

The reunion is meeting a loach driver you covered 32 years ago and being thanked for it.

The reunion is seeing that, for the most part, we've managed to do pretty damn well for ourselves since getting back to the world.

And the reunion is realizing that, at one point in the history of this planet, we were the absolute best in the world at doing the kinds of things we did.

That's what makes the VHPA and its reunions so great, why I am a life member of VHPA, and why I intend to come to every reunion I can as long as I'm able.

If we could bottle this kind of stuff, we'd make millions.

Forrest B. Snyder Jr.
Panther 19
RVN Class of '72

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Plan to attend Reunion 2005 in San Francisco

Reunion

San Francisco exciting location for annual event

DAVE RITTMAN

REUNION COMMITTEE

Our Association is about camaraderie, renewing old friendships formed long ago, and having fun together in the process.

You may have heard that this past summer Gary Roush and his committee developed a list of another 13,000 names and addresses of pilots who flew in Vietnam, and your Executive Council recently approved the funds to contact them over the next few months.

That effort will include the invitation to attend our next reunion . . . San Francisco!

Exciting news! If you have lost contact with that special someone from your Vietnam years, there is a good chance that person could be attending his first reunion next year . . . and you definitely need to be there to meet him!

Your Executive Council and Reunion Committee have booked one of the premium hotels in town . . . the downtown San Francisco Marriott at 55 Fourth St., right in the height of the tourist season.

The committee-negotiated room rate is only \$109 per night, plus tax. For any kind of quality or first class room, this rate is a virtual steal in this town. Typically, San Francisco sells out over many weekends in the summer months, and particularly the 4th of July, thus room availability will be definitely limited as the reunion dates approach.

While there will be plenty of time for meeting and spending time with your friends of long ago, several very special events are being planned throughout the reunion.

Our first "main" night of the reunion is Saturday, July 2, and current plans call for the welcome reception to conclude that evening with a spectacular stage show containing live appearances of several name bands and performers from the Vietnam era in a special show put together for the VHPA.

Another unique event will be the evening of July 4th in San Francisco Bay.

We have chartered a large yacht that will hold most or all of our attendees, providing they book early enough, for a special 4-hour sunset cruise on the bay.

Included will be a complete high-quality catered buffet dinner, a 5-piece band contracted to play music from the Vietnam era, \$2 beers, and a front row seat on the yacht to one of the largest firework displays in the country (fog and weather permitting).

We're telling you about this now to plan ahead and save up a few extra dollars in your budget. While we have negotiated very substantial discounts from normal rates,

due to the premium sailing date on the 4th of July, the overall ambience of this ship, and the quality of services, this event is expensive. However it will also be the experience of a lifetime. The key, again, will be to book early.

Another exciting event includes the tentatively planned static display of flyable aircraft at a nearby airport, combined with a buffet lunch and a tour through a well-known aviation museum adjacent to the field.

While not VHPA-sponsored or a formal part of our event, we understand there may be the availability to ride a fully restored UH-1 helicopter at the airfield during the display.

The final night banquet is always special, and this year will be no exception. Great entertainment has been booked and consideration is being given to starting and ending the banquet a little earlier in consideration of those early morning flights back East that many of you will be taking.

There also is the potential for a very special announcement and presentation at this banquet that will be very meaningful to the membership.

For the golfers in our group, Mike Whitten has planned another special event — this time at the premium Stone Tree Golf Club, in Novato, CA, on Tuesday morning, July 4th.

As the attendees for the past few years know, these tournaments have been spectacular and great fun for all, and Mike has arranged for another first class course to experience while at the reunion.

Looking to get out for a dine-around dinner in San Francisco and a show? Getting tickets is very difficult at the last moment, so we are attempting to reserve on your behalf the entire show for a special performance of "Beach Blanket Babylon" on Sunday evening, July 3.

Located in what is considered the Italian district of San Francisco, this theater holds only 393 people. Though we have an option to run a second "twilight" performance that night, seating will sell out quickly.

While the show is spirited in content (similar to a New York Broadway show), because we have arranged for alcoholic beverages to be available and served in the theatre on a Sunday, various state laws limit attendance to people 21 years old or more. Thus, we will not be able to have guests under 21 in attendance for this show.

There will be more entertainment in the hotel, a few tours and trips to special places that would be difficult for you to book at the last minute on your own, mini-reunions for your former units, the possibility of a post reunion trip to Maui in Hawaii (for golfers and non-golfers), and much more, but as mentioned above, there will be plenty of time

Continued on Page 13

Additional entertainment planned

Continued from Page 12

to meet and visit with your friends of long ago — and that is what we are all about.

You may have noticed we are providing this reunion information to you much earlier than previous years — and there is a reason.

To ensure we accommodate everyone who wants to come, we need your hotel and special events reservations much earlier than in previous years.

Because we are setting up functions in what typically is a sold-out town at this time of year, it is unlikely we will be able to hold rooms and/or space at key off-site events for last-minute arrivals.

Working with VHPA volunteer Charlie Holley and the Website Committee, we will be striving to open our registration system somewhat earlier than the typical mid-January of previous years.

It again will be possible to book your room this year at the same time you make your event registration with us, similar to how the procedure worked for Las Vegas and

Orlando.

The key is to plan ahead, make your decision to attend, and book early. By doing so, you assure yourself the time of your life with friends and comrades who meant so much to you in years past.

Food for thought: While the 4-day core reunion dates for our San Francisco reunion run from your arrival on Saturday, July 2, through departure on Wednesday morning, July 6, for very little additional dollars you could become an “early bird” and book your room for Friday evening, July 1, at the VHPA rate.

This would give you an extra day to experience the city on your own. Typical of previous reunions, your VHPA rate is good for three days prior and three days after the above core reunion dates.

Our next *Newsletter* will contain more information and details, but you can see from this brief overview this will truly be the reunion of a lifetime. Great location, great hotel, great company, great times. Make your plans now . . . and we look forward to seeing you next July!

Schedule

Events fill calendar at VHPA's 2005 Reunion in San Francisco

Friday July 1

“Early bird” arrival

Saturday afternoon July 2

Most members arrive, vendors open

Saturday evening

Welcome reception early evening
Name Entertainment Show (about 8:30 p.m.)

Sunday morning July 3

Annual business meeting
Spouse event

Sunday afternoon

Mini reunions, vendors

Sunday evening

Tentative Show – Beach Blanket Babylon
Entertainment in hotel later in evening

Monday morning July 4th

Golf Tournament at Stone Tree Golf Club
Mini-reunions all day, vendors

Monday evening

Sunset cruise on yacht, dinner, with fireworks (Weather and fog permitting)

Tuesday morning July 5

Mini-reunions morning hours

Tuesday, later morning

Tentative date for static display of flyable aircraft, museum, lunch ***

Tuesday evening

Final Banquet

Wednesday morning July 6

Most members depart for home, or Post reunion trip to Maui, Hawaii (tentative)

*** The date for the proposed static display of flyable aircraft, lunch, and the aircraft museum is not firm yet, pending final confirmation of the availability of the museum and aircraft. Details will be in next Newsletter.

All information current as of Sept. 4, 2004; subject to adjustment

Association details election policy

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION®

National Election Policy

This document sets forth the policy and procedures of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA™) regarding candidates for office, campaigning and campaign materials and election procedures. Much of this policy has always been in effect and the purpose of this document is to express the policy and procedure in writing in a singular source.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

The candidate must inform the Executive Council (EC) Coordinator in writing of his intention to seek a specific office NLT 12 midnight, June 15 in the year the candidate is seeking elected office. The candidate will receive a "Candidate Packet" with a copy of the VHPA Election Policy and a Candidate Information Sheet to be filled out and returned to the EC Election Coordinator. Any and all questions the candidate may have will be directed to the EC Election Coordinator.

The candidate must be an active member of the VHPA for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the first day of the VHPA National Reunion in which he is seeking elected office.

The names of candidates for each office will be posted to the VHPA website NLT June 20 in the year they are seeking elected office. All names will be posted at the same time and listed alphabetically by office sought.

CAMPAIGNING AND CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

The following rules will apply:

Candidates and/or their supporters may campaign and provide campaign literature and materials at the Annual Reunion.

Candidates and/or their supporters must obtain the permission of hotel management prior to posting campaign materials on the hotel property.

The VHPA or its HQ will not provide member information, of any kind, to candidates and/or their supporters to be used in the campaign.

Candidates and/or their supporters may not use any National VHPA website to post campaign information.

Candidates and/or their supporters may not use the VHPA Newsletter® to campaign for office.

Candidates and/or their supporters may not place campaign materials of any kind in the Reunion registration Packets.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

The following procedures will apply:

The EC Election Coordinator will conduct the actual elections in conjunction with the VHPA President's agen-

da for the Annual Business Meeting.

The EC Election Coordinator will assemble a group of election volunteers to assist with the actual elections. All volunteers must be active members of the VHPA. No volunteer can be a member of the Executive Council, a Committee Chairman, or a candidate of any office being decided at the Annual Business Meeting. The room will be "sealed" during the entire election process.

Ballots will have the names of each candidate, in order of declaration for office, listed on them. Ballots will be passed out by the election volunteers after all candidates for that office have spoken, marked by circling the name of the candidate to receive the member's vote and collected by the election volunteers.

The election for Junior Member at Large will be conducted first. The election for Vice President will follow the completion of the first election.

All candidates must be present at the Annual Business Meeting.

The order of candidate speaking will be determined by random draw prior to the start of the Annual Business Meeting.

Each candidate for office will be allotted two (2) minutes to speak to the member present and voting.

If there are three (3) or more candidates seeking the same office, a candidate must receive more than fifty (50) percent of the votes to win. If no candidate receives more than fifty (50) percent of the votes, a runoff between the two (2) candidates with the most votes will be held. The only exception to this rule will be if two or more candidates tie with the same number of votes for second place and the candidate with the most votes does not receive more than fifty (50) percent of the votes cast, all three (3) candidates will be in the runoff. If there is only one candidate for an office, the election of that candidate shall be done by voice vote.

Ballots will be taken from the Annual Business Meeting by the election volunteers under the supervision of the EC Election Coordinator, sorted by the election volunteers, counted by the election volunteers and the counts give to the EC Election Coordinator. The EC Election Coordinator will verify the count totals and add the vote totals of each election.

The EC Election Coordinator will announce the results.

All ballots and result sheets will be kept at VHPA for one (1) year.

An active member is not required to register for or attend the VHPA Annual Reunion to attend the Annual Business Meeting and vote in the elections of VHPA officers. However, active members not registered at the Reunion must check in at the Registration desk and pick up an admittance ticket for the Annual Meeting prior to the start of the action election process.

Policy spells out investment rules

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Investment Policy

It is the policy of the Association that excess funds shall be invested in a manner which will provide the highest investment return commensurate with a reasonable level of risk while meeting the cash flow needs of the Association.

Scope

This investment policy shall apply to all financial assets identified as excess, that is, all funds not needed for the day to day operation of the Association.

Generally, these are funds that the Association will not need for at least one year. Income from the investment of these funds may be used to fund current operating expenses at the discretion of the Executive Council (EC) or its delegate.

It is the intent of the Executive Council that the principal be reserved for investment purposes and not used to pay current expenses.

Investment Objectives

Safety

While safety is a consideration in making investment decisions, it is not to be interpreted as meaning that no risk is acceptable in managing these funds, but that risk should be commensurate with a reasonable expectation of reward.

The Council is willing to accept the risk of negative returns on its equity investments for periods of time up to one year in exchange for the potential of superior performance over time as measured against appropriate market indices.

Assets should be allocated between moderate and low risk investments in a manner best designed to achieve this purpose.

Liquidity

While it is not anticipated that these funds will be required to meet current operating expenses, sufficient liquidity should be maintained to meet those requirements that might be reasonably anticipated.

Return on Investment

Subject to the foregoing constraints, the Council will strive to maximize the return on the portfolio while assuming a moderate level of investment risk.

To obtain this objective, diversification is required in order to insure that potential losses on individual securities do not expose the entire portfolio to excessive risk of loss.

Prudence

In managing its portfolio, investments shall be made with the judgment and care, under circumstances then pre-

vailing, that persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs.

Delegation of Authority

Authority to manage the Council's investments is delegated to the Investment Advisor, with the advice and consent of one other person appointed by the EC.

In the absence of the person so appointed, the advice and consent of the President or Secretary-Treasurer of the VHPA shall be obtained prior to implementing any investment recommendation.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Investment Committee members shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution of the investment program or impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Members should disclose any material financial interest they have in a matter before the council.

Authorized and Suitable Investments

1. Bonds, securities and other obligations of the United States or an agency or instrumentality of the United States; as well as corporate debt securities of U.S. corporations rated BBB or higher by at least two rating agencies;

2. Certificates of Deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts and other deposit accounts of financial institutions insured by the FDIC, FSLIC, NCUIC or SIPC;

3. Commercial Paper, Repurchase Agreements and Bankers Acceptances of United States Banks;

4. Equity securities traded on the NYSE, AMEX and NASDAQ exchanges;

5. Mutual Funds and Investment Trusts with the authority to invest only in those vehicles which are otherwise authorized for direct investment by the Association;

6. Such other investments as may, from time to time, be deemed appropriate by the EC;

7. At no time shall more than 50 percent of the portfolio be invested in any single asset class with the exception of cash or near cash investments.

Investment Performance

The investment advisor shall provide performance information quarterly and at such other times as requested by the EC.

The performance analysis will include information regarding year-to-date returns and time weighted returns adjusted for deposits to and withdrawals from the account. Information regarding the performance of appropriate indices most nearly representative of the funds investment posture shall also be provided, to the extent possible.

*Approved by the Executive Council May 20, 2001,
and recorded in the minutes thereof.*

Reunion

Registration enforcement policy under review

EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpts from the **National Annual Registration and Enforcement Policy** (Due to space limitations and current review of this policy, only portions of interest to the majority of the membership is included here. Refer to the VHPA website at www.vhpa.info to view the entire policy.)

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION National Annual Reunion Registration and Enforcement Policy

This document sets forth the policy of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) regarding registration for the VHPA National Annual Reunion and our enforcement of reunion registration.

Much of this policy has always been in effect and the purpose of this document is to express that policy in writing in a singular source, along with establishing some procedural matters related thereto.

REUNION REGISTRATION

The following procedures are hereby adopted for reunion registration for those who wish to register and attend a VHPA National Reunion. The foundation for these rules resides in (1) a portion of the membership dues being used to pay for much of the reunion overhead and (2) the registration fee being used to pay for specific reunion overhead and to underwrite some reunion events. All registered individuals and vendors shall receive a registration badge, appropriate to their registration classification.

Member and Guest Registration

Payment of membership dues includes the RIGHT to register for and attend a reunion. Therefore, only VHPA members-in-good-standing shall be allowed to register for a reunion; they shall also be allowed to register eligible guests.

If a member's guests are over the age of 18, the registration fee for them shall be paid, regardless of the number of events they will be attending. (The remainder of this section is currently under review)

Non-member pilots who are eligible for membership in VHPA shall not be allowed to attend as the guest of a VHPA member. They must become members and register themselves. Likewise, a member shall not be allowed to

attend as the registered guest of another member.

Terminated members are not eligible to register for or attend a reunion and shall not be allowed to attend as the guest of another member.

REUNION REGISTRATION ENFORCEMENT

Have controlled access, with the exception of the registration area(s), vendor area, mini-reunions, and any other areas designated as non-access controlled. A registration badge, whether standard or restricted All areas — as defined in Paragraph 3, above — under VHPA control shall access, shall be required for access to these areas.

Members and eligible members of the Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers Association (VHCMA), who are not registered guests of a VHPA member, shall be provided access to some controlled-access areas — such as bars and lounges — under the following conditions.

Such individual shall be referred to Registration prior to granting access. Upon presentation of a current VHCMA Membership Card, Registration shall issue a restricted access badge to the individual.

In the case where an individual does not have his VHCMA Membership Card and indicates that he is eligible for VHCMA membership or is a member of VHCMA, Registration shall have him complete the VHCMA Application Form and collect the VHCMA dues.

The individual shall then be issued a restricted access badge and provided with a copy of his completed VHCMA application to serve as his VHCMA receipt. VHPA Headquarters shall forward all collected dues and applications to the VHCMA after the reunion.

In the case of military veterans who are not eligible for membership in either VHPA or VHCMA, and are not registered guests of a VHPA member, they shall be provided access to some controlled-access areas, such as bars and lounges under the following conditions.

Such individual shall be referred to the Chairman, NRC (or his designated representative), prior to granting access. The Chairman will attempt to screen out "wannabe's."

If the Chairman is satisfied that the individual is authentic, he shall instruct Registration to issue the restricted access badge described in Paragraph 5.a, above. The Chairman may, optionally, suggest that the individual register for the reunion as his guest.

**Spend July 4th holiday in San Francisco
attending VHPA Reunion 2005**

Amending

Bylaw, articles changes require rules

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE VHPA BYLAWS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The VHPA EC hereby establishes the following policy and procedure for amending the VHPA bylaws and articles of incorporation. This is intended as a supplement to the provisions in the bylaws pertaining to bylaw amendments, and to the provisions in the articles pertaining to article amendments.

Nothing herein shall be construed in a manner that would contradict the provisions of the bylaws or the articles.

Any current member of the VHPA may propose an amendment to the VHPA bylaws. The VHPA is incorporated in Kansas, the laws of which require that all amendments to the articles be proposed by the EC.

In accordance with the articles and the bylaws, all proposed amendments to the articles and the bylaws must be submitted to the membership for approval.

Proposed bylaw amendments should be mailed or delivered to HQ VHPA as soon as possible, but must be postmarked or hand-delivered to HQ VHPA or any VHPA Officer by the deadline set forth in the bylaws.

A motion to amend the articles must be approved and adopted by the EC no later than the deadline set forth in the bylaws for bylaw amendments. As of the date of adoption of this policy by the EC, the deadline is currently 90 days prior to the date of the annual business meeting or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered.

Proposed amendments received or adopted after the deadline will be deemed to have been submitted for approval at the annual business meeting for the following year.

For clarity, submitted bylaw amendments should state the existing bylaw provision followed by the proposed amended bylaw provision. However, no proposed amendment will be rejected for failure to state the current bylaw provisions.

Notice of the proposed articles or bylaw amendment and its availability for review on the VHPA website will appear in the next newsletter, or the following newsletter if the deadline for the next newsletter has passed on the date of receipt of the proposed amendment at HQ VHPA.

To avoid misunderstanding regarding the agenda of the pending annual or special meeting, a proposed amendment received or adopted after the deadline will appear in the first newsletter following the pending meeting, and will not appear on the website until publication of the notice.

If, for some unforeseen reason, the submitted proposed bylaw change is received in accordance with this policy but can't be noticed to the membership in a timely manner using the next scheduled newsletter, the EC reserves the right to notice the members through an alternate means of the EC's choosing.

Upon publication of the notice, a link to the secure portion of the website where the complete text of the proposed amendment is posted will appear on the home page of the VHPA website.

The secure site will include an area for discussion, both pro and con, of the proposal.

Only comments that are pertinent to the merits of the proposed amendment will be posted. Derogatory personal comments or comments that are offensive in nature or language will not be posted.

In the interest of focusing relevant commentary on proposed amendments to the designated site on the VHPA website and to avoid the potential appearance of any VHPA association with or support for unrelated websites, links to non-VHPA websites or comments referring to links to other such websites will not be posted.

Members, for or against the proposed bylaw change, shall not be allowed to place information in the registration packets.

The proposed amendment will be placed on the agenda of the annual business meeting as "new business." The time allocated for each agenda item of old and new business will be determined by the EC prior to the meeting.

The proponent of a bylaw amendment may withdraw the amendment at any time before notice is published in the newsletter.

After notice has been published, the proponent may request withdrawal of the proposal. Notice of intent to withdraw the proposal will be posted in the next newsletter and on the website. If no objection to the withdrawal is received from a current member by HQ VHPA within 30 days of the mailing of the newsletter containing the notice of withdrawal, the proposal will be dropped from the meeting agenda.

A request to revise a proposed bylaw amendment already submitted will be treated as a new proposal together with a request to withdraw the prior proposal, and the above procedures will apply.

The EC may withdraw a proposed amendment to the articles at any time, but may not propose a new amendment or make new modifications to a proposed amendment after the deadline set forth in the bylaws for bylaw amendments.

Policy establishes access to records

Policy for Disclosure of Financial Records

Requests have been received from a few members seeking the financial records of the VHPA.

In response, the following Policy has been adopted by your Executive Council to provide a reasonable balance between the interests of the VHPA and of its members who request an opportunity to review those records.

The goal of this Policy is to provide reasonable access to the financial records of the VHPA to members on request, subject to the VHPA's right to recover the costs of such requests, to protect any information in VHPA records that was obtained from third-party vendors or other providers in exchange for a promise of confidentiality, and to protect the VHPA staff and resources from being unnecessarily overtaxed by excessively overbroad or burdensome requests for information that are more in the nature of fishing expeditions than reasonable requests for information relevant to particular issues or matters of interest.

In accordance with IRS requirements, the VHPA makes its Form 990 (Annual Information Return) available for inspection at its Headquarters offices in Citrus Heights, California.

This form and supporting documents, kept on file with the IRS for three years, may be viewed during normal business hours. While no federal or State of Kansas obligation requires nonprofit veterans' organizations to provide access to their financial records or information, the VHPA voluntarily provides the membership access to its financial records in accordance with this Policy.

The VHPA voluntarily posts the current year's Auditor's Report and Statement of Financial Position. Please avail yourselves of the opportunity to examine the records

on our VHPA website (www.vhpa.info). They are open and available to any current member in good standing.

Requests for information beyond that which is provided at VHPA headquarters and the website will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Blanket requests for all financial records for past years, including check registers, contracts, all submittals to accountants, etc., will not be honored.

Unlimited requests for financial records without regard to time or scope and without reference to particular issues or points in question are overbroad, unduly burdensome, and could result in unintentional release of confidential information.

Requests for information concerning particular issues, points of interest, or particular documents will be considered when the question arises. In all such cases, the requesting party will be required to pay a reasonable charge for assembling, providing, and copying the records.

The requested information or an explanation of why it is not produced will be provided to such persons.

Persons seeking information beyond that made available as stated in the above policy should send their requests to:

**President
VHPA**

Citrus Heights, CA 95610-7698

Every effort will be made by the administrative staff to accommodate requests in compliance with this policy. Any member in good standing may also pose questions following the financial report during the annual business meeting.

Each of us could recruit new member or pay dues

Our Association is growing every year. As of the mailing of this *Newsletter*, VHPA has more than 7,500 dues current regular and life members.

During the past 20 years, more than 12,500 of our fellow pilots have been active members at one time or another.

Unfortunately, some 500 plus of this number have passed away since joining. Others have come in to the Association and then dropped out for some reason.

If you subtract the more than 2,100 of our number who were killed in action, the over 4,000 we know of that have died since their service in Vietnam and the 12,500 who have been members of VHPA at one time or another, Gary Roush estimates there are approximately an additional 22,000 individuals eligible to become members of VHPA.

And Gary is never wrong.

This means somewhere around 50 and 55 percent of those who could be eligible are not and never have been members of our Association.

We — you and I — need to change this.
I have an idea.

Here is my suggestion. Each one of us needs to either get one NEW GUY to join VHPA or pay for one NEW GUY to become a member during the next year.

The \$36 membership fee is not that much money. Pick out a guy you care about, someone you served with, went to flight school with, saved your ass when it needed saving. Don't tell him you're doing it. Just do it. Go crazy, sign him up or three years.

If we add one NEW GUY each, VHPA active membership doubles.

Now, wouldn't that be something? Some 15,000 active members.

Also, if there is a former member you would like to see back in the Association, contact him about getting involved again or sign him up yourself. HOWEVER, this shouldn't take the place of your NEW GUY.

— Mike Sheuerman

RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

I, the undersigned incorporator, hereby form and establish a corporation NOT FOR PROFIT under the laws of the State of Kansas.

ARTICLE FIRST

The name of this corporation is Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

ARTICLE SECOND

The location of its registered office in this state is 302 Broadway, in the City of Cottonwood Falls, County of Chase, Kansas 66845-0000. The resident agent at this address is Charles R. Rayl.

ARTICLE THIRD

This corporation is organized NOT FOR PROFIT and the objects and purposes to be transacted and carried on are:

1. The general purposes of the corporation are to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable, scientific, literary, educational, or veterans organization and to specifically engage in all associated activities, including one or more of the following:

EXHIBIT Z

Policy establishes access to records

- a. To enhance and accredit the cohesiveness, esprit de corps, and traditions of valor of rotary wing aircrews that flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era.
- b. To seek out, using whatever means available, individuals who piloted rotary wing aircraft in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era and inform them of the existence of the VHPA and encourage all eligible individuals to become members.
- c. To promote and perpetuate the bonds of brotherhood that bind a group of men who have shared and survived an experience fraught with danger yet filled with the essence of pride and satisfaction – an experience unshared except by these unique men.
- d. Assisting needy and disabled veterans, widows and orphans of deceased veterans.
- e. Providing entertainment, care and assistance to current members of the Armed Forces and veterans of the Armed Forces.
- f. Promoting social welfare in the community.
- g. Perpetuating the memory of veterans and comforting their survivors.
- h. Conducting programs for charitable, literary and education purposes.

- I. Sponsoring and participating in patriotic activities.
- j. Providing social and recreational activities for members.
- k. Any and all other allowed general purposes authorized for not-for-profit corporations under Kansas statutes.

2. To further such objects and purposes, the corporation shall have and may exercise all the powers conferred by the laws of the State of Kansas upon corporations formed under the laws pursuant to and under which this corporation is formed, as such laws are now in effect or may at any time hereafter be amended. Specifically, this corporation shall have power to acquire, purchase, hold, lease, convey, mortgage and pledge such real and personal property in Kansas, other states of the United States and elsewhere, as shall be necessary or convenient to the transaction of its business and the realization of its objects and purposes.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that in all events and under all circumstances, and notwithstanding merger, consolidation, reorganization, termination, dissolution, or winding up of this corporation, voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, the following provisions shall apply:

- a. This corporation shall not have or exercise any power or authority either expressly, by interpretation, or by operation of law, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in

any activity that would prevent this corporation from qualifying (and continuing to qualify) as an organization described in 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue statute) or as an organization of war veterans described in 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- b. This corporation shall never be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit.
- c. No compensation or payment shall ever be paid or made to any member, officer, director, trustee, creator, or organizer of this corporation, or substantial contributor to it, except as an allowance for actual expenditures or services actually made or rendered to or for this corporation; and neither the whole nor any portion of the assets or net earnings, current or accumulated, of this corporation shall ever be distributed to or divided among any such persons; provided, further that neither shall ever be used for, accrue to, or inure to the benefit of any member or private individual within the meaning of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

3. Upon the dissolution of this corporation the governing body shall obtain or make a provision for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, and dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such a manner, or to such organization

or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or qualify under 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, to the extent such distribution is allowed by law and to the extent that allowing such distribution will not prevent the receipt of donations by this corporation of contributions that are deductible by the donor as charitable contributions under the Internal Revenue Code, as the governing board shall determine. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is located, exclusively for the purposes or to such organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for the aforesaid purposes.

ARTICLE FOURTH

The corporation will NOT have authority to issue capital stock, and the conditions of membership shall be fixed by the bylaws. Members may vote only in person and no Member shall be entitled to vote by proxy.

ARTICLE FIFTH

The Board of Directors shall have all powers granted by Kansas law and statutes. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, conduct their business and operate under the name "Executive Council of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association" and in all matters the corporation's Board of Directors and its Executive Council shall be considered one and the same.

ARTICLE SIXTH

No director shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty by such director as a director. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a director shall be liable to the extent provided by applicable law (i) for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under the provisions of K.S.A. 17-6424 and any amendments thereto, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. No amendment to or repeal of this Article shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any director of the Corporation for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such director occurring prior to the date when such provision becomes effective.

In addition and not in derogation of the foregoing paragraph of this Article Sixth, the Corporation shall indemnify any past, present or future director or officer made a party, or threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or completed action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, which is brought to impose a liability on such person for an act alleged to have been committed by such person in his or her capacity as director or officer of the Corporation, or as director, officer, employee or agent of any other entity which he or she served at the request of the Corporation against judgments, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred as a result of such action or proceeding or any appeal (but not for taxes, penalties or fines), if such person is either successful in his or her defense or if the proceeding is terminated by settlement (or

nolo contendere if a criminal matter) or if such person acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the Corporation, or if in criminal actions or proceedings, such person acted without reasonable ground for belief that such action was unlawful. Fees and expenses may be paid in advance of final disposition of such actions, proceedings or suits upon an undertaking by or on behalf of the directors and officers, that if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to such indemnification as authorized by this resolution then all fees and costs advanced shall be refunded. The indemnity shall not be extended to include any and all acts by parties acting in the capacity as directors, members, officers or agent of Chapters of the Corporation as "Chapters" are permitted, provided and allowed under the Corporation's Bylaws, as such Bylaws are from time to time amended.

ARTICLE SEVENTH

The term for which this corporation is to exist is perpetual.

ARTICLE EIGHTH

No member of this corporation shall benefit financially from the dissolution thereof. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, the assets of this corporation shall be distributed as set forth in ARTICLE THIRD hereof.

ARTICLE NINTH

The name and resident of the incorporator is:

Charles R. Rayl, Route 1, Strong City, Kansas 66869.

ARTICLE TENTH

The Corporation shall have seven directors. The Board of Directors shall sometimes be referred to as the "Executive Council" and the directors shall sometimes be referred to as "members of the Executive Council." The Executive Council shall be comprised of the Corporation's President, Vice President, three members at large and the immediate Past President all of which being elected and, if appropriate, appointed according to the Corporation's Bylaws. The seventh member of the Executive Council shall be selected by the other six members and shall serve at the Executive Council's pleasure.

ARTICLE ELEVENTH

The names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as directors until their successors are elected and qualified are as follows:

1. Dana Young - 3728 Terrace Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709
2. Dan Ferguson - 7951 Spruce Ct., Newark, CA 94560
3. Mike Sheuerman - 2306 Greenbriar Ct., Grand Prairie, TX 75050
4. Joe Bilitzke - 8 Fairview Ct., San Anselmo 94960
5. Angelo Spelios - 110 Camelot Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086
6. Mike Whitten - 585 Eldridge, Novato, CA 94947

Bylaws of the VHPA

CHAPTER 1 — NAME

This Association shall be known as the "Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association," hereinafter referred to as the "VHPA." It is an organization for all helicopter pilots who flew helicopters in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era, (1961-1975).

CHAPTER 2 — OBJECTIVES

The VHPA is dedicated to the fulfillment of the following purposes:

1. To enhance and accredit the cohesiveness, esprit de corps, and traditions of the valor of rotary wing pilots who flew helicopters in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era.
2. To seek out, using whatever means available, individuals who piloted rotary wing aircraft in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era and inform them of the existence of the VHPA and encourage all eligible individuals to become members.

CHAPTER 3 — OPERATION

1. The VHPA will operate on a calendar year basis.
2. The VHPA shall operate as a not for profit organization.
3. An annual audit will be conducted by a recognized financial agency selected by the Executive Council.
4. The VHPA shall not engage in partisan politics or endorse political parties, candidates, or public officials. Nothing herein shall restrict individual members from being individually engaged in political activities, political parties, or political office. However, members may not mention their membership in the VHPA when involved in such political activities, political parties, or political office in a manner so as to imply endorsement by the VHPA.

CHAPTER 4 — MEMBERSHIP

1. Pilots who flew helicopters in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era are eligible for membership.
2. Members shall be classified as Life, General, and Honorary.
3. Membership classifications are as follows:
 - a. Life membership will be conferred upon an individual eligible for membership, who pays a specified amount of dues as directed by the Executive Council and approved by the general membership.
 - b. General membership will be conferred upon an individual eligible for membership, who annually pays a specified amount of dues as directed by the Executive Council and approved by the general membership.
 - c. Honorary membership is open to distinguished persons, such as aviation pioneers, guest speakers at annual reunions, and aviation dignitaries. Honorary memberships must be voted upon by the Executive Council. Honorary memberships shall be conferred for life by the Executive Council. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues nor shall they be permitted to vote at membership meetings.
4. In order to vote or participate in any VHPA election or petition, or to be elected or serve as a VHPA officer or on its Executive Council or to participate in VHPA offices, functions and/or meetings, or to be included within a quorum of membership, a member must be current in his VHPA dues.

CHAPTER 5 — EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of any classification, including elected and appointed officials of the VHPA, may be expelled for cause or conduct which the Executive Council deems contrary to the best interest of the VHPA or interferes with the fulfillment of the pur-

pose of the VHPA.

2. General members shall be suspended for nonpayment of annual dues and shall be dropped from the active membership roster until dues are brought current.

CHAPTER 6 — ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The officers of the VHPA shall be as follows:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President (who shall be President-Elect and who shall succeed the President).
 - c. Three Members at Large.
 - d. The Immediate Past President.
2. The Executive Council shall consist of seven members as follows:
 - a. President.
 - b. Vice President.
 - c. Three Members at Large.
 - d. The Immediate Past President.
 - e. Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Holding office, or other positions of influence and trust, shall be limited to members who are current in their dues.
4. Committees
 - a. The VHPA may have standing committees whose duties and responsibilities are outlined in the job descriptions and policy statements recommended by the current President and approved by the Executive Council.
 - b. Vacancies for the chairmanship of all committees will be filled by appointment by the President.
 - c. All appointments to the chairmanship of committees are subject to ratification by the Executive Council.

CHAPTER 7 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. A Vice President and a Junior Member at Large shall be elected by a majority vote of those members present and voting at the annual reunion business meeting.
2. A Vice President shall be elected to a consecutive three year term on the Executive Council. The first year he will be Vice President. The second year he will be the President. The third year he will be the Immediate Past President.
3. Members at Large shall be elected to a consecutive three year term on the Executive Council. The first year he will be the Junior Member at Large. The second year he will be the Midterm Member at Large. The third year he will be the Senior Member at Large.
4. Individuals newly elected to office shall assume duties of that office at the close of the annual reunion.
5. Individuals already holding office shall advance to the next position of their term at the close of the annual reunion.
6. Officers shall be elected by members using written ballots.

CHAPTER 8 — VOTING

1. All members who are current in their dues (with the exception of the honorary members) are eligible to vote.
2. Members, in attendance at a meeting or special meeting, are eligible to vote. Proxy voting of members shall not be permitted.
3. Only life members and general members who are current in their dues shall be eligible to vote in VHPA matters. A list of members entitled to vote shall be reasonably made available on premises at the time and place at which a vote of the VHPA is

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Bylaws of the VHPA

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conducted.

CHAPTER 9 — MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1. There shall be an annual reunion of the VHPA. This annual reunion shall also serve as the annual meeting of the VHPA membership.

2. The annual reunion shall be conducted at a place and time determined by the Executive Council.

3. The Executive Council shall announce the date and place for the next year's annual reunion at each annual reunion.

4. In the event of a national or natural emergency, the Executive Council shall have the authority to cancel or postpone annual reunions.

5. Special meetings of the membership may be called by either a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council or by the Executive Council upon it being presented a petition signed by one-third of the VHPA's members. Notice of a special meeting shall state the time and date of the meeting (which shall be no less than 45 days after the date such notice is posted) and shall further specify, in reasonable detail, all matters to be considered at the meeting. For purposes of the travel convenience of the members, all special meetings will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

6. The presence of three percent (3%) of the membership at an annual meeting shall constitute a quorum. The presence of six percent (6%) of the membership at a special meeting shall constitute a quorum.

CHAPTER 10 — RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. The board of directors shall have all powers granted by Kansas law and statutes. The board of directors may, from time to time, conduct their business and operate under the name "Executive Council of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association" and in all matters the corporation's board of directors and its Executive Council shall be considered one and the same. It shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the VHPA, including funds, programs, and regulations. It shall have the authority to approve budgets, authorize expenditures, seek and accept contributions, and approve annual meeting sites and program arrangements.

2. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein a majority opinion of the Executive Council shall prevail in all matters pertaining to the VHPA.

3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have a vote only as a tiebreaker.

4. In addition to business conducted at the annual reunion, there shall be a minimum of three quarterly conference calls made by the Executive Council between annual reunions for the purpose of conducting VHPA business. Said calls are to be conducted at a time that is convenient for the majority of the Executive Council and may be called by any officer. The presence of four members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum. The President or Secretary/Treasurer shall have the authority to initiate additional conference calls as deemed necessary.

5. The Executive Council may delegate authority and functions to the Secretary/Treasurer or specific members of the VHPA.

6. The Executive Council shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by these Bylaws.

7. The Executive Council may upon motion go into executive session for purposes of discussion, voting and taking action on the following matters:

a. Legal actions or litigation (except that votes, minutes and settlement agreements must be open to the public on final disposition unless ordered closed by a court of competent jurisdiction).

b. Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate and/or negotiations of bids or contracts where general knowledge might adversely affect the amount paid in the transaction.

c. Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting a particular employee.

d. Disciplinary and/or expulsion of any member.

The motion calling for the session must state the reason for going into executive session. The Executive Council may exclude the membership from such session and the minutes and records of such session need not be disclosed to members who are not members of the Executive Council until the applicable matter is disposed, no longer an issue, finally decided or concluded. Executive session may only be called during a properly convened meeting of the Executive Council and a record shall be made of all motions and votes calling for an executive session.

CHAPTER 11 — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the VHPA and all Executive Council meetings.

2. The President shall appoint or remove a committee chairman subject to ratification by the Executive Council.

3. The duties of the officers shall be those which are customary for such office and such other functions as may be prescribed by the Bylaws of the VHPA, the Executive Council, and written job descriptions.

CHAPTER 12 — SECRETARY/TREASURER

1. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be a member and shall be appointed or removed at the pleasure of the Executive Council.

2. The Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for signing all checks for debts incurred by the VHPA along with the President of the VHPA (and in the President's absence, the Vice President or the Immediate Past President).

CHAPTER 13 — EARLY SUCCESSION TO OFFICE

1. Should the President resign, become incapacitated, or otherwise be unable to fulfill the duties of the Presidency, then the Vice President (President-Elect) shall succeed him as President for the remainder of the resigning or incapacitated President's term. At the completion of the resigning or incapacitated President's term, the President shall begin serving the term of the Presidency for which he was initially elected. The position of Vice President shall remain vacant until the annual reunion.

2. Should the Vice President resign, become incapacitated, or otherwise be unable to fulfill the duties of the Vice Presidency, the position of Vice President shall remain vacant for the duration of the term of the resigning or incapacitated Vice President. A President and a Vice President shall be elected at the next annual reunion.

3. Should both the President and the Vice President resign or become incapacitated, then the Senior Member at Large shall assume the duties of the Presidency (become the Acting President) for the remainder of the term of the President who has just resigned or become incapacitated, but shall not automatically succeed to the position of President after his term of Acting President has expired. A President and Vice President shall be elected at the next annual reunion with the new President's one year term

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Bylaws of the VHPA

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beginning at the close of the annual reunion. The Immediate Past President shall serve one additional year on the Executive Council.

4. Should the Senior Member at Large resign, become incapacitated, or become the Acting President, then the following shall automatically take place:

a. The Midterm Member at Large shall immediately become the Acting Senior Member at Large. He shall remain the Acting Senior Member at Large until he succeeds to the position of Senior Member at Large under the terms to which he was initially elected.

b. The Junior Member at Large shall immediately become the Acting Midterm Member at Large. He shall remain the Acting Member at Large until he succeeds to the position of the Midterm Member at Large under the terms to which he was initially elected.

5. Should the Midterm Member at Large resign, become incapacitated, or become the Acting Senior Member at Large, the Junior Member at Large shall immediately become the Acting Midterm Member at Large. He shall remain the Acting Midterm Member at Large until he succeeds to the position of Midterm Member at Large under the terms to which he was initially elected.

6. Should the Junior Member at Large resign, become incapacitated, or become the Acting Midterm Member at Large, the President or Acting President shall offer the position of Acting Junior Member at Large to any qualified previous Executive Council member to be ratified by the Executive Council.

7. Should the Immediate Past President resign, become inca-

pacitated, or otherwise be unable to fulfill the duties of the Immediate Past President, the President or Acting President shall offer the position of Immediate Past President to any qualified previous Executive Council member to be ratified by the Executive Council.

CHAPTER 14 — CHAPTERS

1. Chapters may be recognized by the Executive Council. The Executive Council may revoke recognition of any Chapter for conduct of the Chapter or its officers or directors which the Executive Council deems contrary to the best interest of the VHPA or conduct which interferes with the fulfillment of the purposes of the VHPA.

2. Chapters are independent entities and are not and shall not be agents or partners of VHPA. Neither VHPA nor any Chapter shall have the right to contract for the other or bind the other to any contract without express prior written authorization.

3. VHPA shall not be liable for the actions or inactions of the local VHPA Chapters and the local VHPA Chapters shall not be liable for the actions or inactions of or by the VHPA.

CHAPTER 15 — BYLAW AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments will be submitted to the VHPA or any VHPA officer 90 days prior to the annual meeting or special meeting at which they will be considered.

2. The adoption of the amendment(s) at a meeting of the VHPA shall be by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. Unless otherwise stated in the amendment(s), all amendments to these Bylaws shall be effective the day following the conclusion of the meeting at which they were adopted.

Rules determine refunds on reunion events

No refund will be given for any reunion fee or event unless the member cancels the registration by faxing (916-966-8743), e-mailing (hq@vhpa.org), calling VHPA Headquarters (1-800-505-VHPA), or by U.S. mail.

Headquarters must receive notification by any of the above means no later than (insert date approximately 7 days prior to the first day of the reunion; to be determined for each reunion). After this date we have given firm commitments and guarantees to the hotel and others in your name that generate non-refundable expenses to our Association.

Donations, T-shirt orders and Reunion events identified as "Non Refundable Events" are not refundable.

There will be a \$10 cancellation fee charged for each refund request, regardless of the number of items (dinners, golf tournament, registration fee, etc.) included in the request.

T-shirts ordered and not picked up will be mailed and shipping charges deducted from the refund.

Each refund request received prior to the above time and date will be assigned a refund request confirmation number on the day the request is received by VHPA Headquarters, and a credit will be issued to your credit card by the third week of July (two weeks after the end of the reunion).

Members eligible for a refund who originally paid by check will be reimbursed by check timed to arrive by the end of July (three weeks after the end of the reunion).

Host hotel room charges

Notice of hotel reservation cancellations must be made directly to the (Insert Host Hotel Name) reservations system at (Insert phone number) by (Insert date x days prior to the first reunion date). Cancellations after this date will result in hotel charges to you equivalent to one night's room charge, plus applicable taxes. Should you need to cancel your reservation, please ensure you get and keep a cancellation number for your records.

Also, as a courtesy and to avoid any potential, non-reimbursed reunion fees (see above), please also let our Headquarters staff (1-800-505-VHPA) know that you have canceled. Please note that members who check out earlier than scheduled, without notifying the hotel at time of check in, will incur a \$50 administrative fee penalty plus one night's room charge and tax payable to the hotel.

The hotel policy is that you may shorten the length of your stay by requesting so at the time of check in without penalty, however an early check out after that time will result in being charged the \$50 fee plus a penalty of one night's room and tax.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

5530 Birdcage St., Suite 200 • Citrus Heights, CA 95610-7698

(800) 505-VHPA (voice) • (916) 966-8743 (fax) • HQ@vhpa.org (e-mail) • www.vhpa.org (website)

Membership application/change of address

☐ New application

☐ Address change

☐ Directory correction

Membership dues:

☐ Annual: \$36

☐ Three years: \$90

☐ Life: \$450*

Newsletter subscription only: ☐ Annual: \$36

☐ Three years: \$90

Add \$ _____ as my contribution to: ☐ Membership Fund ☐ Scholarship Fund

NAME

DATE OF BIRTH:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

HOME PHONE: ()

WORK PHONE: ()

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

OCCUPATION:

☐ Please charge my MasterCard/Visa credit card.

☐ Enclosed is a check/money order payable to VHPA.

☐ Add \$15 for current Membership Directory, plus \$5 for postage and handling

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?

**NOTE: Life memberships may be purchased with three bi-monthly payments of \$150 each.*