



OCTOBER 2000 SPECIAL EDITION

I was digging through old copies of the Dragonflight the other day and came across a article on why it was so important to attend the reunion. It was written 6 years ago to get you to attend the reunion. Actually the message is a fresh now as it was then.

Once we were young, with our lives ahead of us. We came together under extreme circumstances to fight a war in a foreign land. We fought that war under the worst of conditions, not even having the backing of a lot of our own countrymen. Our unit was one of the longest serving combat units in that war. For almost 10 years we insured that the central highlands had the best Helicopter support available. Operating from our bases at Bam Me Thuot, Kontum and Camp Holloway. We performed every task asked of us. We were pilots, cooks, crew chiefs, medics, mechanics, First Sergeants, avionics specialists, firemen, Commanders and privates, WO-1's and Platoon Sgts. We did the job, some of us died, some came home hurt mentally or physically, but most of us just came home, and went on with our lives.

Now we are no longer young, our flat stomachs are rounded, our strong bodies are more dream than reality. Hair, if any remains is starting to turn gray and sometimes white. We are no longer warriors and in fact we are now the fathers and grandfathers of those who defend our country. The last folks assigned to the Battalion left RVN in 1972, 28 years ago.

Most of us are still around, but our numbers are shrinking. Every other week or so I receive a note, someone is seriously ill or a letter from a wife or child that dad has passed away. I think some of the worst are when one of you tries to find a friend who we know is home and he is gone. Its time to get together again. Its time for us to gather and see old friends. It is time for us to remind each other how much we

DRAGONFLIGHT

*A A NEWSLETTER FOR THE 52D
CAB AND ALL WHO CALLED
THAT MUDDY RED PATCH OF
GROUND CALLED CAMP
HOLLOWAY HOME*

1 SEP. 2000

meant to
each

other. Sit down and have a beer with your crewchief, ask your cook what life was really like working all day in the messhall and then spending the night on bunker duty, was it better or worse than flying all day and spending all night on the bunker line. How about sitting in a bunker and listening to the 107mm rockets reach apogee and start their descent toward that patch of land we happened to be hiding on. We all share those terrifying moments. Have you ever tried to explain those moments to some one who was not there.

Why are you waiting for next year?? How many may not be around at that time. It's only three (3) days in October. If you must work fly in on Friday evening and you will still have almost 48 hrs. to be with friends. You can fly into Lambert Field and be at the hotel in 5 Minutes we're that close. The room rates are only \$66 a night. We've got a great band for two evenings and the tour of old St. Charles is a shoppers dream, so bring the wife. Far too many say to me, year after year, I can't make it this time but maybe next time, and for them next time never comes.

You've still have plenty of time remember the dates are 5 to 8 October 2000, Henry VIII Hotel, St. Louis, MO. If you decide at the last moment to come, there will be room.

P.S.

I had told many of you that "Pop Hocking" would not make it this year, but just received word his Doctor cleared him to travel and he is coming see ya VERN

REGISTRATION AND ORDER FORM

NAME _____ WIVES NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____
 HOME PHONE _____ - _____ - _____ WORK PHONE _____ - _____ - _____
 E-MAIL _____ FAX _____
 UNIT _____ DATES _____
 UNIT _____ DATES _____
 CALL SIGNS _____

MEMBERSHIPS LIFE \$160.00 (CAN BE PAID IN 4, \$40.00 PAYMENTS) \$ _____

GENERAL \$15.00 (PER YEAR) \$ _____

52D CAB HAT PINS \$5.50 (THIS INCLUDES POSTAGE) \$ _____

REUNION REGISTRATION \$30.00 (MEMBERS ONLY) \$ _____

REUNION BANQUET (\$30.00 EACH PERSON, THIS INCLUDE COST OF BAND) \$ _____

T-SHIRTS S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

COST PER SHIRT \$12.00 FOR MOST SIZES \$14.00 FOR XXL AND XXXL \$ _____

SHIPPING FOR T-SHIRTS \$4.00 FOR 1 SHIRT ADD \$1.00 FOR EACH \$ _____

ADDITIONAL SHIRT. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I need to get approximate numbers for the tours, The cost is around \$16.00 per person, per tour, but we don't need any money until you arrive. This is to order busses. So please let me know soonest.

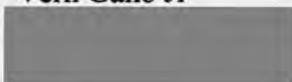
Tour St louis, on Friday the 6th of october. Number going _____

Tour old ST Charles, Octoberfest, Casno. Sat 7 October Number going _____

If you want to pre-order the 2000 DRAGONFIRE CHRONICLES with the MANIFEST enclosed please use this form to tell us how many you need and whether you will pick it up at the Reunion or want it shipped. They will be ready for shipment the first week in October. NUMBER WANTED _____ SHIP OR PICK-UP _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO "52d CAB REUNION"

SEND TO:
Vern Gano Jr



or phone _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS _____