

The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association is a fraternal Veterans organization filed under IRS Code section 501(c)19. We are established for the purpose of holding reunions, writing unit and battalion history, and to re-establish the comradery of the Battalion, units and Detachments associated with the 145th CAB, (45th Trans BN in the early days). We are trying to locate everyone who served with the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion and 45th Trans Bn. in Vietnam, the units of HHC, 8th, 33rd, 57th, 81st, 93rd Trans CO's, the UTT, 18th, 25th, 68th, 71st, 74th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 135th, 147th, 184th, 190th, 197th, 213th, 242nd, 334th, 335th AVN Companies, CO A-82nd AVN BN, CO A-501st AVN BN, 57th MED, and all Detachments. Many of these units served with the 145th Battalion for just a short time in Vietnam. To truly re-establish the comradery of the units we welcome everyone assigned to these units to join in with us. To us a unit is a unit no matter what other battalions it may have been assigned to.



**145th COMBAT
AVIATION BATTALION
(Vietnam)
ASSOCIATION**



JAMES L. BODKIN
National Director/Coordinator

3719 Forest Hill Ave.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

(219) 483-5149
(Home Phone)

Address Correction Requested



145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association
"OLD WARRIORS"
Newsletter

JULY 1988, VOL.7

3719 FOREST HILL AVE, FORT WAYNE, IN 46805
1-219-483-5149

Our Association is doing very well, still locating new people and having membership dues coming in. As you will see in the Financial Report we are still keeping our head above the red ink, thanks to you people. There will be two different Page 1's being sent out with this newsletter, this one to the people who have joined our Association and a different one being sent to those who have not joined and will be taken off the mailing list after this newsletter. 1 July 1988 started another membership year, 88-89, you should have all received your membership card so please check them to see when your membership should be renewed. I'm happy to say that the copy machine will be paid for in August and then maybe we will be able to start saving some money for the future. We will still have the expense of the service contracts and postage but those expenses will come down as we lower the number on the mailing list who have not joined or renewed. The other Page 1 being sent to those who have not joined will contain a warning that if they don't join they won't be receiving any more newsletters from us. If you happen to see anyone who served with our units ask them if they have joined yet, if they haven't maybe that will encourage them to join.

In the last newsletter I wrote my opinion about LTC North, it was pointed out to me that I shouldn't put things like in our newsletter, that's not what our Association is about. I apologize to anyone it may have offended, I will try not to let it happen again. I have made some mistakes in the past and will make some in the future, if you will be kind enough to point them out to me I will only make them once. The one good thing that did come out of it was I got enough mail to start the Readers Response article I had been wanting to start, see page 2.

I talked with Larry Lombard a few days ago about the August 89 Reunion plans and he's in the process of selecting the location in the Denver area. The reunion update article is on page 12. I was glad to hear that a few others in the Denver area have volunteered to help Larry, so many of the details can't be made until just before the reunion, one person would get overloaded. One thing that is a big help is knowing how many people can't make it, or will try to make it, or will be there for sure. So please drop Larry a note and let him know your plans.

In the last three newsletters I tried to highlight those who have done something special for the association. In this newsletter you will find some articles about COL. Joost, Battalion Commander 1966, and you will find an article written by him outlining the importance of writing the Battalions history. I will continue to highlight special people in future newsletters.

I have gotten many positive comments about the article called "Battalion History, The Early Days" and "Battalion History, The Early Days (Continued)" in the last newsletter, so the article is continues on page 6 of this newsletter. The article starts with the beginning of 1966 and cover to Dec. 1967 when LTC Robert M Deets took command. It might take 2 newsletters to cover LTC Deets command because of the large amount information sent in from that time period. If you would like to see more details on your time with the 145th please send in any information you can. Remember I was there in 69-70 and that's the only time period that I can remember, so please put in as many details as possible. And for those of you who served with a unit before or after it was assigned to the 145th please send me info on your unit so I can cover them after the Battalion History is completed.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, I tried to put in many interesting articles. Please let me know what you think, positive or negative. If you have anything you think would be of interest please send it in, I would appreciate it.

Thank You

James L Bodkin

READERS RESPONSE

NOTE: In the last Newsletter I wrote an article called "OLLIE NEEDS OUR SUPPORT", even though it was clearly marked as MY OPINION, it really had no business being in the newsletter. I apologize to anyone it may have offended, I will try not to let it happen again. I thank those who responded, they help keep our Association what it was intended to be. Most of the readers response was about the Oliver North article. Here are the responses.

Dear Jim: Enclosed is a check renewing my membership. While I appreciate the time and effort you have put into forming the Association, I strongly object to the article "Ollie Needs Our Support" in the March 1988 issue of the Newsletter.,

The Newsletter states that the Association is "...a fraternal organization... established for the purpose of holding reunions, writing unit and battalion history, and to re-establish the comradery of the Battalion...". The article does state clearly that it is your opinion. In my opinion, however, this Newsletter is not the appropriate forum for you to express your opinions regarding national and international events. Can we expect a 1988 presidential endorsement in a future issue of the Newsletter?

You state that North is "...willing to standup and fight for justice..." The fact is, North and his lawyers are using all legal strategies possible to avoid such a fight. For example, they have tried to get the indictments against North overturned on the basis that the law establishing the independent counsel is unconstitutional. Is this the action of a man who has not committed a crime and who wants his day in court to prove it?

Are you aware of the fact that, when he realized the FBI was going to confiscate the files in his office, North spent the night feeding these files into a shredding machine? Are you aware of the fact that he had his secretary pull letters out of files, change the dates or contents of these letters, and then reinsert them into the files? This is the innocent man to whom you are going to lend your moral and monetary support?

Nobody is questioning the sincerity of North's motives in helping the Contras. However, we are a nation of laws, not of people acting on their well-intentioned motives. Children are being blown up by car bombs in Belfast and Beirut. They are starving by the hundreds of thousands in Ethiopia while food convoys are being attacked. The people responsible for these actions firmly believe that their causes justify these actions. North firmly believed that his cause justified breaking the law. (Even you, Jim, have to admit that, at a minimum, he broke the law making it a crime to destroy documents belonging to the federal government.) You are correct, of course, in stating that you did not vote for the independent counsel. You did have the opportunity, however, to vote for one representative, two senators, and one president who were involved in making the law establishing the independent counsel. And by the way, I didn't vote for Ollie North to conduct foreign policy.

I enjoyed reading your letter, and would not have objected to your using the Association mailing list to distribute it (at your own expense, of course). If this type of commentary is going to appear in the Newsletter, I would suggest changing the Association by-laws to indicate as such. Sincerely, R Curtin

Dear Mr Bodkin: I just received your latest newsletter with a solicitation for membership and the editorial regarding Lt. Col. North. Please do not send me any further communications or newsletters.

I consider the tone of the editorial as an insult and certainly not in keeping with any organization I wish to associate with.

I am proud to be a member of several veterans groups that respect the right to political thought by keeping it out of the organization. I would have considered joining your group as a method of finding old friends and associates, but not to support a platform for your personal bias and obvious contempt of differing political thought.

Thank you for the previous newsletters, and I wish you the best in your endeavors, whatever misguided motives you may have. I Remain, R H Duensing

Dear Mr Bodkin:.....(NOTE: I the first part of Col H K Joost letter dealt
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with a proposal for accomplishing the publication of a Battalion, Unit history, and my lack of a response back to him about it. I have apologized to him and asked him to write an article for Newsletter detailing the importance of the history, the types of information needed, and where the information might be obtained. He also had some comments on the North article which follow.)

In regards to your "OLLIE NEEDS OUR SUPPORT", I feel that you are making a great mistake for politicizing the Association. Although every Association member served, we are not all alike in our political orientation. I'm certain if a survey were taken you would find a great number of members who believe that LTC North should be tried if for nothing else his destruction of documents and lying to the Congress. Col H K Joost

Mr Bodkin: I didn't know LTC Oliver North was a member of the 145th, if not what the hell place does he have in your (???) or 145th CABVA publication??? Your opinion stinks! If you believe all that Ollie has had to say, I would like to sell you some ocean front property in Gila Bend, AZ. The other shoe has not yet dropped. If this is a sitting for the future editorial tone of your publication, please remove my name from your membership & mailing list. J M Lee (membership card returned)

And comments on another article in the last newsletter.

Dear Jim: I read Pat Campbell story in the "Old Warriors" newsletter and because I feel so strongly about the issue he raised I feel compelled to voice my opinion. First off I'm sure I speak for the majority of Vets in that a great deal of us (me included) would like to go back for a visit to Vietnam, take that trip down memory lane, see how things change and all, meet the people and so forth, kind of like a WWII Vet going back to Okinawa or Europe.

I'm totally against Pat Campbell's philosophy and feel his reason for wanting to return to Nam is for all the wrong reasons. If he feels he owes the Vietnamese people something let him support the freedom fighter or visit one of the refugee camps in Thailand. Those people deserve the help that our government failed to give.

I'm against normal relations, private or government, with the Vietnamese until the MIA/POW issue is settle. This includes any kind of aid or support. Any aid or support we give the Vietnamese at this point would be counter productive in that the Vietnamese freedom fighters would look upon us as we look upon Jane Fonda.

I feel as a veterans organization we should stay away from controversial and political issues. Well that's all I've got to say so will close for now. Take care my friend. Tom Halliwell

NOTE: I have written to each of these people to apologize to them for printing my own personal opinion into the last newsletter. And I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to anyone else that I may have offended, I promise to try my best to keep my personal feeling not directly related to the purpose of our Association out of all future newsletters. Hopefully all will be forgiven and this issue will be over and done with.

I have made some mistakes in the past and will probably make more in the future, but I learn from them. In the future if I make some mistakes or do something that offends you please let me know, I'll try to correct it, I've put too much time, effort and money into our Association to lose any members because of my mistakes. So please bare with me and with your guidance we'll build an organization we'll all be proud it be a member of.

For those people that have been located in the last year or so here is a little of the history of how our association got started and how I became the National Director/Coordinator. In September of 1985 I went to a large Vietnam Veterans gathering in Kokomo, IN, while there I checked the sign in roster many times looking for names of other aviation people from the 3 Corp area in 1969 and 70. A few days later another Vet suggested inviting some people from my old unit to the next years get together. After locating a few people we decided a reunion would be great, I placed some ads in some Veterans magazine for people from the 68th to contact me. In a few weeks I started getting calls and letters from other former Top Tigers. I also got calls and letters from people from the other units of the battalion saying if we were having a reunion

they would like to be there, so we had a Battalion reunion in Kokomo, IN in Sept. 1986, where we formed our Association. By that time I was starting to get pretty good at locating people, which I really enjoyed. The people at the first reunion voted me to head up the association, I figure, because of my skills in locating people. It certainly wasn't my speaking or organizing skills, of which I had none. Since that time I have been learning how to manage an organization and working on my speaking and writing skills. I was re-elected at the 87 Reunion to serve till the 89 Reunion. Should anyone want to run for National Director/Coordinator at that time I would only ask that they let me help with locating new people. That's the part of the job I really enjoy.

And another response was from Gary B Roush who takes care of the memorial list for the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. In the last newsletter in the article "Battalion History, The Early Days (Continued)" I reported that Dana Edward Brann was the youngest Army Aviator to be killed in Vietnam, he was born on 8 August 1946 and died on 16 November 1965, he lived 7040 days. It turns out that Dana E Brann was the second youngest Army Aviator to be killed in Vietnam. The youngest was WO1 Raymond Howard Chase, Jr., born 13 August 1948 and died 10 November 1967, he lived 7028 days. Thank you Gary for pointing this out, your doing a very valued service for the VHPA, hopefully soon we'll have volunteers for our Memorial Committee.

And in the same article I report that the 117th left the 145th in August of 1965, in a letter from Carl Vogel who served with the 117th in 64-65, he stated that the 117th at that time was with the 52nd CAB., do any of you from the 117th remember when the 117th left the 145th the first time. Carl also sent some copies of orders and information on the history of the 117th. Thank you Carl.

Mike Hannum who served with the 68th from 1965 to 1968 sent me a detailed report about his time with the 68th, 30 pages, and many copies of orders. Thanks Mike it was very good reading and is very helpful in writing the unit history.

Jim Aretz, 334th 66-68, sent me some orders, company roster, and some old address. Thanks Jim, these will be very helpful.

Terry Carney, 68th 69-70, sent some orders and is planning on being at the 89 Reunion.

And Emmett Knight who served as an Officer in the 57th Trans. Co., sent me a copy of the unit history for the 57th Trans. Co. and the 98th Trans. Det. that he and the Boeing Vertol Company put together for a unit reunion at Fort Rucker in June of 87. He has volunteered to be the unit historian for the 57th and 98th for us. The unit history book goes into great detail of the history of the 57th and the H-21. If any of you from that time period would like a copy he has a few left, please contact him. Thank you for the book and all your effort, Emmett.

UNIT HISTORIANS

118AHC FRED	ECKELMAN		DRUMS	PA.		1967 1969 EM*
190AHC VON	KENNER		CUPERTINO	CA.		1969 1970 EM*
57 TRAN EMMETT F.	KNIGHT		WILLIAMSBURG	VA.		1961 1962 OF*
145 CAB JOHN	LANGWASSER		WOODBIDGE	VA.		1965 1966 WO*
120AVN JOSEPH M	NEALON		BAYONNE	NJ.		1965 1966
74 AVN JAMES E	SPARENBERG		ARNOLD	MD.		1966 1967 EM*
UTT-334 JOHN	SYNOWSKI		FT. WORTH	TX.		1969 1970 OF*
71 AVN DOUGLAS	WOMACK		HANOVER	MD.		1970 1971 WO*
335AHC CHARLES D	UTZMAN, LTC, US		AUSTIN	TX.		1967 1968 OF*

UNIT HISTORY

Although the purpose of a fraternal veterans organization is to continue the comradery of its members, a more lasting, and in my opinion, the most important task which confronts us is to publish each unit history.

We owe this not only to ourselves but to our families and fallen comrades. We want our accomplishments on record for the entire world to know of our role in that conflict.

Every member of the association carries within himself the knowledge that would write that history. We all therefore, must contribute.

Most units, that at one time comprised the battalion, have a designated unit historian. For those not covered, we ask for volunteers to represent those units. The unit historian becomes the focal point for the production of the history with the assistance of representative members. Your unit historian will contact you for specific information. Everyone should, however, prepare personal experiences and gathering appropriate photographs, maps, diagrams and other visual and textual material.

The battalion historian will consolidate the substance of each unit history.

Now is an appropriated time for us to complete our unit history. The publishing world is going full-bore with turning out Vietnam material. Much of this, in my opinion is sadly lacking or inaccurate. We can render a service by printing our true picture. If nation-wide distribution of our results is accomplished, it would provide a substantial source for association funding.

Horst K Joost, Colonel Inf (Ret)

I would like to add a few notes on Col. Joost article on the unit history. First, I will be writing an article about Col. Joost, Battalion Commander 20 Feb 1966 to 25 June 1966, later in this newsletter. Second, I have written articles in the last few newsletters about the battalion history. I have tried to put in as many details as I could, but the history is a little vague and maybe inaccurate. I realized when I started writing the articles that, even though I had experienced the 68th AHC in 1969 and 70, I could only guess on the details of the unit in the early days. A lot of the details like, type and number of aircraft, normal and special missions, weapon systems used, basic set up of units and detachments, and many other things, were missing from the printed material I have. These are details that most of us know from our own time period. As an example, I couldn't tell you how many aircraft or if they were H-21 or UH-1 were in the 118th or 120th in 1964, but I bet a lot of you could. If most of you would write down that basic type of information and sent it to the unit historian or me it would be a big help in putting together the history, no details are too simple or unimportant. Look over the list of topics list above and see if you can write down anything on any of the topics, please put down the unit and the dates you serve with the unit, we need this type of information from everyone to be completely accurate.

I will be writing to all the Unit Historians and Regional Director/Coordinator to see what type of a basic floorplan we can come up with in writing the units history so they will be able to be put together to form a complete Battalion History.

Third, I have gotten a little more information on the people from our battalion who were killed in action. As we put our history together let's not forget these people. Each one of them should be remembered and recorded in our history, their being and their deaths.

I printed a list of the unit historian in this newsletter on page 4.

BATTALION HISTORY

THE BUILD-UP YEARS

1 January 1966 started off with LTC Charles M Honour commanding the Battalion. In the next two years the 145th would be credited with many "First" and many awards. Although I don't have the exact dates, the 145th was the first Aviation Battalion to fly "Fire Fly" combat operations in Vietnam and the first Aviation Battalion to fly "Smoke Ship" combat operations in Vietnam. Starting in 1965 the Army started building up many new helicopter units and battalions, Vietnam would become known as the Helicopter War. The 145th played a large part in the build up and set the example for other battalions to follow.

On 18 February 1966 LTC Charles M Honour was killed in action. LTC Horst K Joost, who was the executive officer of the 173d Airborne Brigade at the time, replaced LTC Honour on 20 February 1966.

The 1st Aviation Brigade was formed on the 1st of March 1966 and the 145th served under the 12th Group of the 1st Aviation Brigade. This was done for better command and control of all army aviation units and operations.

Under LTC Joost command the 118th Assault Helicopter Company received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period June 1963 to June 1966. And the 117th and the 135th Assault Helicopter Companies were awarded the Valorous Unit Award for the period 1-20 June 1966 while serving with other battalions in Operation Hawthorne/Dan Tang in Kontum Province.

LTC Walter F Jones replaced LTC Joost on June 28, 1966. Under LTC Jones the 118th Assault Hel. Co. was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for their actions on 19 July 1966. The 120th A.H.C. was transferred to Capital Avn Bn in July of 1966. The 184th Avn Co (Surv Light) arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the 145th on 13 August 1966. While serving with 10th C.A.B. the 117th Assault Hel. Co. was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation service for the period of December 1965 to September 1966. And the 135th was also awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period January 1966 to December 1966 while serving with the 10th C.A.B.

September 1966 brought another name change for the 197th A.H.C., they became the 334th Armed Helicopter Company, this was the fourth and would be the last name change for them. The 334th A.H.C. retained their fine history earned under the names UTT, 68th A.H.C., 197th A.H.C., and continued with many more first and unit awards. Co A, 82nd Avn Bn name was changed to the 335th Avn Co in September 1966. The 1st of September 1966 brought a name change for A Co, 501st Avn Bn to the 71st A.H.C..

From the 14th of September 1966 to the 24th of November 1966 the 145th was involved in Operation Attleboro, the largest U.S. operation to date in Vietnam. On 19 October 1966 a sizable enemy base area was uncovered in War Zone C (Tay Ninh Province).

On 1 December 1966 LTC Howard M Moore replaced LTC Jones. The 335th A.H.C. (formerly Co A, 82nd Avn Bn.) earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 August 1966 to 31 January 1967. The Valorous Unit Award was earned by the 145th C.A.B., 68th A.H.C., 118th A.H.C., and 334th A.H.C. for their actions on the 19th of March 1967 under the command of LTC Howard Moore. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm was awarded to the 145th C.A.B., 68th, 118th, 120th, 147th, 213th, 334th, 335th Aviation Companies for the period 1 March 1966 to 26 March 1967. These last to awards were earned during Operation Junction City in Tay Ninh Province, 2,728 known enemy casualties. The 117th was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 5 September 1966 to 31 March 1967. In March of 1967 the 184th Avn Co was transferred to the 11th Avn Bn and in April of 67 the 71st A.H.C. was transferred to the 14th Avn Bn.

LTC John A Todd replaced LTC Moore on the 7th of August 1967. The 190th A.H.C. arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the 145th in September 1967, shortly there after to be sent on temporary duty to I Corp with the Marines. The 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 13 February 1967 to 15 October 1967. And under the Command of LTC Todd the Presidential Unit Citation was awarded for the

period of 6 to 23 November 1967 by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States to the 335th Assault Helicopter Company. The award to the "Cowboys" was for extraordinary heroism during Operation Mac Arthur in Kontum Province in November 1967.

Part of the 334th A.H.C. was transferred to Thailand the 24th of November 1967 on temporary duty to fly escort duty over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They were to fly gunship cover for troops placing and picking up listening devices all along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Their refuel point was to be Khe Sanh which went under seize shortly there after, the mission was called off the 3rd of March 1968.

On 1 December 1967 LTC Robert M. Deets replaced LTC Todd. The Battalion History article in the next newsletter will cover LTC Robert M Deets command of the 145th and their role in the victory of TET, 1968.

George "Pops" Ecker, 1923-1988

George "Pops" Ecker - father, husband, Marine, Army Aviator, friend and founder of the Viet Nam Helicopter Crew Member Assn. Int. passed away June 12, 1988 after a short battle with cancer.

My first contact with George was in January of 1987, George had been reading the Army Times and seen the ad I had sent in about the Association. George was excited about seeing the ad and give me a call, it was 4 AM Indiana time, something I kidded him about each time I talked to him after that. George had served with the 81st Trans. Co. in 1962 and 63 and with the 68th Aslt. Hel. Co. from April 1968 to September 1968 as Maintenance Platoon Sergeant, and other tours in Vietnam. George quickly sent in his membership. He planned on attending the 1987 Reunion, he left Huachuca City, AZ and headed for Texas to visit some army buddies and rest up a few days, he called me from Texas to let me know the trip was to hard on him and he should head back home. I never got to meet George in person but I talked with him many times on the phone, times when I got discouraged I could count on George to get me going again. I'll miss George as will those of you who served with him those who knew him.

George was born in Michigan on December 17, 1923. He was a career military man and retired after serving 26 years. George is survived by his wife Kathryn Ecker of Huachuca City, AZ; two sons, Michael Brunofski of San Jose, CA., and John Brunofski of San Francisco; two daughters, Lodi Evens residing in the Phillipine Islands and Connie Batton of Michigan, five grandchildren. Graveside services were held June 15, 88 at the Fort Huachuca Cemetery. George "Pops" Ecker was buried with full military honors. In lieu of flowers the family suggests remembrances be made to the Viet Nam Helicopter Crew Members Assn., P.O. Box 4888, Huachuca City, AZ. 85616

The 145th C.A.B.V.A. will be making a \$30 donation to the Viet Nam Helicopter Crew Members Assn. in remembrance of George Harold "Pops" Ecker so that the work he started with them will continue and that he will be remembered. This is outlined in our By-laws, Article 15.

So long Pops, we'll be thinking of you till we meet again, rest in peace.

WATCHFIRE

In June of 87 I received a letter from Mrs Titus, mother of Karl W Titus, 68th AHC, KIA 2 Oct. 1970, the letter included articles about a Watchfire they had around Middletown, NY. (Watchfire is a Revolutionary War custom, revived to remember those who died in service to our country). Karl had shared a room with me and Bill Sheets for a few months before his helicopter crashed. When I read the article I made a commitment to myself to have a Watchfire here this year.

The 1987 Watchfire in New York was lit at 2400 hrs (mid-night) on Friday night on Memorial Day Weekend for 24 hours till 2400 (mid--night) on Saturday night. Following the same tradition the 1988 Northeastern Indiana Watchfire was lit at 2400 Hrs on May 27, 1988, and the bonfire burned until 2400 Hrs May 28th. There was about 130 Veterans and family members at the lighting any about 50 at the closing ceremony. The 1987 New York Watchfire was for Vietnam Veterans but the 1988 NE Ind. Watchfire was expanded to include all Veterans and family members.

The site for the NE Ind. Watchfire was the National War Veterans Memorial Shrine of American History, Inc., a 40 acre site of partly wooded rolling country located 2 miles west of Fort Wayne, IN., belonging to all Veteran, (I'll report more on the Shrine later). The grounds officially opened for Watchfire at 6 PM on the 27th of May, with the Colors being posted at 8 PM. A stage and sound system were set up for Watchfire and a DJ was on hand till 11:30 PM on the 27th. At 11:30 we started the Memorial service led by an in-country Vietnam Veteran Minister with the fire being lit at 2400 Hrs, in the name of all Veterans, then reading a list of names of people to be remembered turned in by people attending the service, as the fire grew larger. Most of those attending were Vietnam Vets, about 10 Korean War Vets and about 15 WWII Vets. We even had 9 WWI Veteran come out Saturday afternoon from the VA Medical Center here in Fort Wayne. There was an estimated hundred or so people stop by on Saturday afternoon to visit and show support for what we were doing.

Saturday afternoon a few of us tried to put into words what the Watchfire meant to us and why we were there, what we came up with was that the moment of silence before the Indy race and the Veterans Day parade with all the High School Bands just didn't seem to be enough to honor those who died in service to our country. One vet seemed to sum it up pretty well for us Saturday night, he had worked all day Saturday till about 7 PM, arrived home in time to watch his 4 year daughter while his wife went to work, he turned on the TV just in time for the 8 PM news brief about Watchfire, he said when he heard about it he had to be with us.

About 10:30 Saturday night one of the guys wanted to know if we could do something more than just say a few words than put the fire out, what we did was, each person there that wanted to, put a shovel of dirt on the fire in memory of those they remembered. Some just put the shovel of dirt on, some spoke of those they remembered, some couldn't find the word to express their feelings, some you could see the hurt and anger coming out after all these years. There wasn't a dry eye there. About 15 minutes before midnight we lit 6 torches from the embers of the main fire, one for each of the branches of the service and one for the Lady veterans. The torches burned out during the services at midnight.

There were about 6 others who had spent many hours with me getting the site ready for Watchfire and many others helped with the planning. We all made some very close friendships which is continuing. And there are many more who found out about Watchfire just before it happened and are now working to help improve the site for next year. Next year we estimate about 4 times as many people will attend and the idea of Watchfire will continue to grow. All the local TV and newspaper media gave us some very positive press.

There were two other Watchfires that were spin off from this Watchfire, one in Marion Ind. and one around Lexington KY., some people there heard about what we had planned, and planned one for their area. And after being involved with the Watchfire here I would love to see them in every part of the country next year. If any of you would like more information about organizing a Watchfire in your area please let me know.

Colonel Horst K. Joost

Colonel Horst K. Joost was in-country as Executive Officer of the 173d Airborne Brigade in 1965 being supported by the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. On the death of LTC Honour, he assumed command of the 145th on 20 Feb. 1966.

Col. Joost retired in Tampa, Florida after serving 31 years which began 1937 with his enlistment at age 15. He served in every rank (except WO) in both enlisted and officer category. He is a member of the Infantry Hall of Fame, and served for many years in airborne. In the early 1960's, he became FW and RW qualified and became involved in the early development of airmobile doctrine and techniques.

Following his retirement, he pursued advanced university degrees, having completed his undergraduate work while in the service and became a professor at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Col. Joost is currently involved in the antiquarian book trade, specializing in early Americana. He and his wife of 40 years reside in Tampa. His son born at Fort Benning, is a professor at anthropology.

Although Col. Joost has a very busy schedule he is very interested in getting the history of our Battalion put together. It's people like Col. Joost that will make and keep our association a very fine organization. Thank you Col. Joost.

NATIONAL WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL SHRINE

"NO VETERAN WILL EVER BE FORGOTTEN", this slogan began as a promise to The Almighty in the trenches of Marne, France in 1918 by the late Mr. Eric Scott, a six-star combat veteran of the Sixth Engineers, Third Infantry Division, U S Army. During a night which saw many of his buddies killed in action, Eric made a pledge that if he were spared he would build a shrine dedicated to all veterans.

The years passed quickly after the end of WWI, WWII ended and Eric still missed his buddies from WWI. He started making plans to someday try to locate his old friends and make good on his pledge. In 1952 Eric was finally able to arrange a Battalion reunion for his WWI buddies and another reunion in 1953. By 1954 Eric had built a large room 80x30 onto the back of his house for holding reunions to keep the cost down. As time went on it became a Regimental reunion. At each reunion more and more War Relics were brought, it was at this point that the Scotts made the decision to make the room a permanent Memorial to all Veteran. Thus, the National War Veterans Memorial Shrine of American History was created.

In 1973 the Shrine became totally tax exempt as a non-profit corporation. The Portico of the Memorial Chapel was built by Eric and dedicated by Indiana's Governor Otis R. Bowen, MD., on July 31, 1976. Eric dream was to build the rest of the Memorial Chapel, which was not to be in his life time.

Eric Scott died 13 August 1981, at the age of 82, his wife Cleo died last September, they died before seeing their dream completed. Between the time Eric made his pledge until the death of the Scotts, Eric and his wife earned many awards for their dedicated service to veterans.

With their passing the Scotts left everything they had to the Shrine, through the Board of Directors, for all Veterans to use. Along with the house, Museum and the start of the Chapel there is 40 acres of ground. The Board of Directors of the Shrine, of which I am a member, have made a commitment to continue the dreams that the Scotts worked so many years to complete but time ran out for them. May they rest in peace knowing that the dreams they had, will be completed and the ideals of the Shrine will continue.

When you read the article about "Watchfire" keep in mind the history of the National War Veterans Memorial Shrine of American History, I think that you will agree that I couldn't have found a better place to hold Watchfire to honor the memory of all who have died in service to our country.

The Shrine is funded only through donations and associate memberships, no government money is accepted, associate memberships are five dollars a year. If any of you would like an associate membership or would like to make a donation you can send them to me, make checks payable to: Veterans Memorial Shrine (the full name doesn't fit on a check very well). The work I do at the Shrine and the donations I make are in memory of those served with the units associated with the 145th, some day I would like to see a complete Memorial List from the 145th along the Battalion History on display at the museum.

The Shrine belongs to all of us.

FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report covers 29 March 1988 to 30 June 1988. This report is intended to give you an over all look at what your dues and donation money is used for. If you have any questions or suggestions please let me know. I want you to know that your money is being used for the intended purpose.

Balance 29 March 1988.....\$427.50
Total deposits 03/30/88 to 06/30/88(Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)...\$775.50

Total.....\$1203.00

Expenditures

Postage.....\$211.47
Long Distance Phone.....\$101.38
Copy machine payments.....\$383.27
Service contract (copy Machine)...\$170.00
Miscellaneous (see note).....\$274.97
Bank Fees.....\$14.51

Total expenditures.....\$1155.60 -\$1155.60

Balance 30 June 1988.....\$47.40

Miscellaneous includes computer supplies (paper, mailing labels, printer ribbons, etc.), newsletter supplies (paper, staples, etc.), envelopes, notes books, ink pens, Fund raiser supplies, etc.

As you can see from the financial report we spent \$380.10 more than we brought in this last quarter. We either need to increase the income or cut expenences. WHAT WE NEED IS FOR EVERYONE WE HAVE LOCATED WHO HAVE NOT JOINED THE ASSOCIATION TO JOIN. WE NEED THE MONEY TO KEEP GROWING. So please check your membership card, if the card is expired or if you don't have one please join our association, we need your support.

After this newsletter we need to cut our expenences down by only sending newsletters to those have joined the association, in the past we have been sending three newsletters or more before requiring membership. NOTICE if you have not joined please do so, if not you probably will not recieve any more newsletters. When I receive membership dues I code the indivisials file with the membership year/s they joined, example 87-88, 88-89, 89-90, if the code is not on your file the printer will not print a mailing lable for you. Membership years are from 1 July to 30 June, now is the time to join or renew your membership. Our Association will continue for all those who join.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

.....CUT.HERE.....

145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association Membership Form

Name_____

Street_____

City,State,Zip_____

Phone_____ check one EM_____ WO_____ OF_____

I served with the 145th CAB with (Unit)_____ from (Date)_____ to_____

I have enclosed \$10 for each membership year. Total____ for 1 July 19____ to 30 June 19____

(Family)
Regular____ Associate____ Renewal____

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

I would like for you to join our Association first, but I also want to let you know about some other organizations that have helped us in our efforts to locate people. If you should decide to join any of these organization tell them that you heard about them in our newsletter.

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### VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

The VHPA is an association just for the Pilots. Their membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in S.E. Asia during the Vietnam Era (1961-1975). Their annual dues are \$20 (\$300 Life membership). The purpose of the VHPA is to improve helicopter flight techniques, to provide professional advice on the use of helicopters, and to help reunite pilots who flew together in Vietnam. From what I hear they are really a great organization for pilots. I understand they have about 3000 members. For more information you can contact them at:

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 9592

WICHITA, KS 67277

PHONE 1-316-946-4047

They have been a big help to us by putting a reunion notice in their newsletters for 8 months before our last reunion and continuing to help us find new members. Thank you VHPA.

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VIETNAM HELICOPTER CREW MEMBERS ASSN.

The VHCMA is an organization for enlisted helicopter crew members. Their annual dues are \$30 (\$200 Life Membership). Regular membership required information is (1) crew status [CE, Gunner, Dustoff Medic, AO, AS] (2) Years and units served with in Vietnam. Associate membership open to other than crew member, must give years and unit in Vietnam.

When you join the VHCMA you receive a membership certificate, membership card, T-shirt (size needed), quarterly newsletter, and directory (with quarterly update). For more information you can contact them at:

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Assn.

201 Apache Street

Huachuca City, Az. 85616

Phone 1-602-456-9561

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### "Patches" died age 69

Helen "Patches" Musgrove died June 7, 1988 at Humana Hospital in Westminster, CA. She went to Vietnam in 1966 and became a correspondent for the Jacksonville, FL Journal. She reported for the next 6 and 1/2 years, covering all the services. She also entertained US servicemen or helped out with medical needs. Mrs. Musgrove was given the name "Patches" by GIs who gave her their medals, military insignia and patches. She sewed them onto her clothes as mementos. She had no survivors.

May she rest in peace, from what I have read she spent most of her life giving to others. Those she met along the way will remember her fondly.

~~~~~

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you move or change your mailing address please let me know. When I send out the newsletters they are sent with address correction requested because the postal service won't forward bulk rate mail. If the newsletter is not deleived to you I need to know that. It cost the Association 30 cents for each address correction plus I then must send another newsletter with 1st class postage, altogether it cost the Association about a dollar if you don't let us know your new address. And we don't want to lose you. Please if your mailing address changes let us know.

"REUNION 89" UPDATE

Our 145th C.A.B.V.A. "Reunion 89" will be held on August 11, 12, and 13th, 1989 in the Denver, CO. area. It will officially begin at 12 noon on Friday the 11th of August 1989 and will end at 12 noon on Sunday the 13th of August 1989. Larry Lombard who was a pilot with the 118th Aslt Hel Co in 1965 and 66 is the Reunion Committee Chairman. Larry will appreciate any help you can offer. If you would like to serve on the reunion committee please let Larry know.

A few of the things we might be doing at the reunion are showing in-country slides and movies, displaying photo albums, golf, business meeting, and a memorial service. There are many things we could have scheduled but we need to know what you would like to do.

I hope that all the people we have located in the Denver area will get with Larry and help put together a fun reunion, show us what Colorado hospitality is all about.

For the most current information on the reunion or to offer suggestion or help contact Larry at:

Larry Lombard
[REDACTED]

Start making your plans now to attend the 89 Reunion, and let Larry know so he can plan on the number attending. The information we can send to Larry will be very helpful in picking the reunion site. Don't wait, write to Larry today!

KOKOMO 88

The Howard County, Indiana Vietnam Veterans will be holding their 6th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion on Sept 16, 17, and 18th, 1988. This years theme will be "...remember the ladies..." they will also be featuring Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients Sam Davis and Gary Wetzel, the Rev. John Steer, Britt Small and Festival Show Band, Chris Noel, and many other great people and bands. For more information call 1-800-445-1840 or in Indiana call 1-800-445-6690. This is one event I attend every year, this year they expect over 10,000. The dress is casual, regular clothes or combat fatigues. There will be vendor booths, issues tent, military displays, and family fun. Admission is free, it's funded by donations.

I first attended the Kokomo reunion in 1985, that's where I got the idea of having a battalion reunion. We held our first battalion reunion at Kokomo in 1986 and formed our association there. They were a great help in putting our first reunion together, they set everything up for us free of charge, that's why I believe in advertize for them, they are a great bunch of people. If you can make it there look for me and the others wearing the "First In Vietnam" T-shirt or Unit T-shirts from our Battalion. Kokomo is a great place for an unofficial battalion reunion this year. See you there.

Army Otter-Caribou Asso. Reunion

The 3rd Annual Army Otter-Caribou Association will be held at the Colony Inn Motel, Enterprise, AL on 19th, 20th, and 21st of August 1988. From the sound of their plans it should really be a great reunion for all those who served around the Otter and Caribou aircraft. For more information on their reunion and association contact them at: The Army Otter-Caribou Association, PO Box 6091, Columbus, GA. 31907-0073 1-404-568-6416

NEW PEOPLE LOCATED LIST

1 August 88

The list is arranged chronologically by unit. I arranged the list as accurately as possible with the information I have. Some people I only have the year they entered Vietnam, others I have the complete date. I would like to have at least the month and year in and out of the unit, if possible. I tried to list people's rank in one of three categories, OF=Officer, WO=Warrant Officer, or EM=Enlisted Men. Please check the list for accuracy, please notify me of any mistakes or blank spaces. The * beside the rank denotes those who have sent in their annual dues already. Note the date on the top of the page. Thank You

UNIT	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	STREET	CITY	STA	ZIP	PHONE	DATE	DATE	RANK
HHC	WOOTON	JOSEPH E		COLORADO SPRINGS	CO.	80918		1962	1963	EM*
HHC	FARNHAM	ROBERT E		APD NY		09633		1964	1965	WO
HHC	BASS	RALPH L		CHESAPEAKE	VA.	23320		1966	1967	CSM*
HHC	TAKEUCHI	STAN		NEWPORT NEWS	VA.	23602		1968	1969	EM
HHC	STEWART, ED.D	ROBERT W		GREELEY	CO.	80631		1969	1970	OF*
18 AVN	SEXTON	CHARLES		BEL AIR	MD.	21014		1963	1964	OF
57 MED	TAYLOR	COL ED		SAN ANTONIO	TX.	78231		1965	1965	OF
57 MED	HONAMAN	J. CRAIG		TALLAHASSEE	FL.	32312		1967	1968	WO*
68 AHC	FISHER	M.		APD NY		09742		1967	1968	EM
68 AHC	RAYES	RAY		GARVERVILLE	CA.	95440		1967	1968	EM
68 AHC	FERGUSON	DAN		NEWARK	CA.	94560		1969	1970	WO*
N/501	GWALTNEY	PATRICK		INDIANAPOLIS	IN.	46226		1965	1966	
N/501	TEELIN	PAUL A		DeFUNK SPRINGS	FL.	32433		1966	1967	WO*
71 AVN	WOMACK	DOUGLAS		HANOVER	MD.	21076		1970	1971	WO*
8 TRANS	UNDERWOOD	JOE D		LONGMONT	CO.	80501		1961	1962	OF*
117AHC	BORG	DONALD E		BEDFORD	TX.	76022		1963	1964	WO
117AHC	DONNENWIRTH	ROBERT G		LILLIAN	AL.	36549		1963	1964	WO
117AHC	HOWARD	JAMES R		GREENVILLE	TN.	37743		1963	1964	WO
117AHC	ST GERMAN	DAVID B		BARAGA	MI.	49908		1963	1964	WO
117AHC	ALVITRE	EARNEST A		TEMPLE CITY	CA.	91780		1964	1965	EM
117AHC	DIGMAN	L. E.		OPELIKA	AL.	36801		1968	1969	WO
118AHC	LAWLER	LYNDON V		MAZONANIE	WI.	53560		1966	1967	EM
118AHC	SMITH	CHARLES T		FIELDAGE	VA.	24089		1966	1967	EM
118AHC	STEWART, ED.D	ROBERT W		GREELEY	CO.	80631		1969	1969	OF*
81 TRAN	FOWLER	JEWETT "CHIP"		MOUNTAIN VIEW	CA.	94040		1963	1964	OF
119AHC	IRWIN	JAMES L		MINERAL WELLS	TX.	76067		1964	1965	WO*
119AHC	PADUAN	DAVID J		PORTLAND	ME.	04103		1970	1970	WO*
57 TRAN	KNIGHT	EDMETT F.		WILLIAMSBURG	VA.	23185		1961	1962	OF*
57 TRAN	RODGERS	RONALD D		KEARNEY	NE.	68847		1961	1962	WO*
120AVN	GIUHAN	JOHN B		ANDALUSIA	AL.	36420		1963	1964	OF*
120AVN	HAROLD	VIRGIL		APD NY.		09250		1964	1965	EM
120AVN	HOLBROOK	CHARLES D		DECATUR	AL.	35601		1964	1964	WO*
120AVN	BROWNING	BILL		BEAUMONT	TX.	77707		1964	1965	WO*
120AVN	REISSIG	JOEL		WAPAKONETA	OH.	45895		1966	1967	EM
120AVN	LOVELESS	COL KENNETH D		SALT LAKE CITY	UT.	84121		1967	1969	OF*
121AHC	LINDSEY	BILLY W		ST PETERSBURG	FL.	33715		1964	1965	WO*
184AVN	HODGE	THOMAS W		HONOLULU	HI.	96818		1966	1966	EM*
190AHC	WEBB	LYNN S		UMATILLA	OR.	97882		1968	1969	WO*
190AHC	SPENCER	BILL		GREELEY	CO.	80631		1969	1970	WO*
UTT	TODD	ALAN R		EULESS	TX.	76040		1963	1964	OF
UTT	BASS	RALPH L		CHESAPEAKE	VA.	23320		1964	1965	EM*
UTT-197	ERICKSON	PAUL G		MISSION VIEJO	CA.	92691		1964	1965	EM*
197AHC	ALVERSON	FRANK L		PALM BAY	FL.	32905		1965	1966	OF*
334AHC	REECK	HAROLD		DEARBORN	MI.	48125		1967	1968	EM
334AHC	GWALTNEY	PATRICK		INDIANAPOLIS	IN.	46226		1968	1969	*
242AVN	ROUSH	GARY B		PAINTED POST	NY.	14870		1968	1969	WO*
335AHC	RISVET	WILLIAM C		TACOMA	WA.	98445		1971	1972	

GOLDEN HAWK PINS

Frank Danosecs, Regional Director/Coordinator for the state of Florida has Golden Hawk pin for sale for the Association. He is donating the pin to the Association. The cost of the pins are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. The pin come facing left or right, if ordering one please indicate left or right, if ordering 2 for \$5 they come as a set. To order write to: Frank Danosecs, 8526 Delaware Dr. Spring Hill, FL. 34607. 1-904-596-7925 Inclose the proper amount of money for the pins. You can make checks payable to Frank Danosecs



RIGHT



LEFT

FUND RAISERS

We have a few on going fund raisers, the purpose of these is to raise operating funds for the association and to provide you with items you might like.

UNIT T-SHIRTS

The next fund raiser project is the T-shirts. The shirts sale for \$10 plus \$1 postage, all together \$11 each, \$1.50 goes to the association for each shirt sold. Right now we have shirts made up with 68th, 117th, 118th, 190th, and 334th with unit insignia on the back, wings, huey, and BN crest on the front. On the 334th shirts the Cobra Gunship replaces the Huey on the front. We also have 145th BN (First in Vietnam) T-shirts made. We have them in Large and extra large sizes. If you would like to order some, send \$11 each with a note stating which unit or BN T-shirt and size you want to Jim Maxwell. Jim is making the art work for the silk screen for the other units of the BN, so let him know what you want and he will get them made, Jim Maxwell, 704 N Douglas, Belleville, IL 62221, 1-618-277-7851. He's one of our people, he served with the 68th, he is doing this for us. See order form in back of newsletter.

TOP TIGER PATCHES

Gary Allison had 200 Top Tiger patches made up, they sell for \$4 each. Everything over the cost and mailing goes to the association. He funded this project with his own money. After this project is completed we hope to be able to have patches made for the other units. Hopefully the association will be able to fund these projects, the demand and the availability of a patch will determine which patch we have done next. Contact Gary Allison, 1295 Harvard, Berkley, MI 48072, 1-313-545-1032. See order form in back of newsletter.

CASSETTE TAPE

The tapes "Bien Hoa Attack, Tet Jan. 31, 1968" and "Combat Assault 190th Avn. Co. (Gunship)" I am planning on putting on one tape. Bien Hoa Attack on one side and 190th Gunships on the other, and calling it "Battle of Bien Hoa and Gunship Action". At the reunion we was selling these for \$10 each, I was thinking we might try to sell the double tape for \$15 as a fund raiser. I can run the copies on my duel cassette deck, figuring cost of tape, labels, and mailing, we should be able to make about \$12 a tape.

Mike Davis from the UTT, 68th, 197th has volunteered to donate \$1 from each tape he sales to our people to the association. I listen to Mike's tape on the cassette player in my car often. Some of the songs will be on the VCR tape of the reunion but since most of us don't have VCR players in our car you can order the tape from Mike Davis, LZ Papa PO BOX 486, Pilot Point, TX 76258 1-817-686-5226. Cost \$12 each, see order form in back of newsletter.

REUNION VCR TAPES

I am currently working on the VCR tapes from the reunion and they are ready to reproduce. I edited the tapes down to 4 hours, that is 2 (2 hour) tapes. The cost is \$35 for both. The tapes include the 35mm slide show, 8mm movie show, business meeting, our entertainment, some of the childrens activities, general reunion shots, and part of the memorial service. These are not professionally produced tapes, but if you were there I'm sure you will want a copy. If you couldn't make the reunion, this is the next best thing to being there. Attend the reunion on tape, watch and listen to the slide and movie show, watch for the people you served with, see how the business meeting went, and enjoy the entertainment.

We are ready to start accepting orders, all orders must be prepaid, please state either VHS or Beta. Order form on back page.

145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association Membership Form

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ check one EM _____ WO _____ OF _____

I served with the 145th CAB with (UNIT) _____ from (DATE) _____ to _____

I have enclosed \$10 for each membership year. Total _____ for 1 July 19____ to 30 June 19____

CASSETTE TAPE or REUNION VCR TAPE

Send me the indicated tape/s. By ordering these tapes I agree not to copy them and to protect the copyrights for further distribution. Signature required on bottom of form.

_____ "Battle of Bien Hoa and Gunship Action" Audio Cassette @ \$15 each.

_____ "Reunion 87" VCR Tape @ \$35.00 per set. _____ VHS _____ BETA

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Signature _____

Complete amount inclosed \$ _____ Send order to: 145th CABVA, 3719 FOREST HILL AVE, FT WAYNE, IN 46805

TOP TIGER PATCHES

Send me _____ Top Tiger patches at \$4 each

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____

Send order to: Gary Allison, 1295 Harvard, Berkley, MI. 48072 1-313-545-1032

UNIT T-SHIRTS

Send me _____ Unit T-Shirts at \$11 each including postage. (Mark Unit, Size, and Color)

_____ 68th AHC _____ 190th AHC _____ Large
 _____ 117th AHC _____ 334th AHC _____ Ex-large
 _____ 118th AHC _____ 145th BN (FIRST IN VIETNAM) Asso. _____ other size _____

_____ Blue (standard) _____ White _____ both with black ink

Send order to: Jim Maxwell, _____
 Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. See page 14 for t-shirt description.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____

SONGS OF VIETNAM HELICOPTER CREWMEMBERS

Send me _____ Copy/s of the cassette, I am enclosing \$12 each. Sold through 145th CABVA

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____

Send order to: Mike Davis, _____