

FILL OUT AND RETURN

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name Last, First)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Soc Sec No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rank (ret)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Current Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Address

Desire 1975 Reunion held at:

Ft Walton Beach \_\_\_\_\_

Dayton Ohio \_\_\_\_\_

Harlingen, Tex \_\_\_\_\_

Other: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Write in for 1975 Officers

Pres \_\_\_\_\_

V-Pres \_\_\_\_\_

V-Pres \_\_\_\_\_

Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

Treas \_\_\_\_\_

Write in for Ranchero Award

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS/ADDRESSES:

RANCH HAND - VIETNAM ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

COWBOYS,

Sorry your semi annual newsletter is 6 months late. If you noticed the heading of this letter, that's right, we are officially incorporated as a non-profit organization. All \$\$ sent to us is now deductible. A permanent Board of Directors was appointed consisting of all former Ranch Commanders. Russ Mohny, Ralph Dresser, Bob Dennis, Don Steward, Art McConnell, Rex Stoner and Bud Fisher fill these slots for us. Fitting recognition for up with the likes of us. Other folks elected for one year terms to various positions were Ray Lemaire, Paul Clanton, Pete Spivey and myself. Our incorporators were Jack Womack, Mick Mikolasy, Marv Zepf, Burk Mucho, Doug Riffey, Len Bochio, Stan Phillips, Mike Topolosky, Tom Boone, Hugh Scott, Tom Quinn, Dewey Barich, Walt Weston, Ed Kraft and Chuck Davenport.

Our reunion at the Sheraton Hotel in Dayton was typical. Folks flew in from all over the U.S., the Dayton Flight hosted it and we are still getting bills from the management of the Sheraton for some of our over exuberance. We must have done well since the Dayton police undercover vice squad used our 7th floor corner suite as a command post for a bust (of locals) they were working on. I'm happy to report none of our folks have forgotten their radio procedures. Every time one of the hippie dressed cops would see his radio down to use his binoculars to spy on the folks they were after, a helpful cowboy would make a transmission like "take 'em down cowboys" or "groundfire on the right" which just boggled the mind of the police dispatcher. The fuzz joined us for a few, and thanked us for our public spiritedness.

I would like your comments on the attached sheet as to where to hold the next reunion. We have received a great deal of publicity from Harlingen Texas trying to get us to use their convention facilities next year. Obviously they don't know too much about us. Once again I want to thank the Dayton Flight for hosting this one, it was handled in an outstanding manner and all details were covered. It was a real bell ringer.

Other items: Bill Knothe has been medically retired with what appears to be Parkinson's disease. I have been in close contact with the medics on this as some doubt exists as to whether it could have been Ranch-associated due to the chemicals we were in contact with. If any of you think you have any Ranch-related ailments keep me informed. The medics and the JAGs know who we are and that we are concerned as an organization.

I do have updated rosters and they are available if you request one. So many of our folks are retiring, there are a large number of changes. Also, we have tracked down more cowboys and now number more than 600. I still need more names of the early and the very last cowboys.

Again, I must ask for your best efforts in sending me donations with your replies to keep this thing going. The incorporation just about wiped out our kitty and we have things we need to do in the next six months. "Patches" was scheduled to be flown to the reunion, but Bernie Shearon and Patches were diverted on another mission at the last minute. We need funds to put a proper plaque on Patches when it goes to the AF Museum.

Bad News: John Beakley after 3 tours in SEA and an ejection from a T-33 last year, was fatally injured this summer in a car accident. John was an outstanding Ranch Hand and outstanding in everything he did. A great loss to his family, to us, and to the Air Force.

Good News: The Ranch is alive and swell, our fight to get the Vietnamese wings officially recognized is still kicking around the AF Uniform Board - no reply yet. We need \$\$\$ desperately (always will). We will have our 9th (count 'em) 9th annual reunion next spring, and there are more of us than ever! Hang in there and support the program. Thanks for your support - you're the greatest.

TO THE RANCH



President Ranch Hand Vietnam

MINUTES OF RANCH HAND-VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

REUNION #8, Sheraton Hotel, Dayton, Ohio

1. First order of business (after appropriate toasts, awards to Rancheros) was the reading of the financial statement. At the opening of the reunion the RANCH had \$305 in the Kirtland AFB Credit Union. This was considered enough to consider the following agenda item: (CLOSED)
2. A motion was made to incorporate the organization under the name of RANCH HAND - VIETNAM ASSOCIATION to insure the perpetuation of the unit. Approval was unanimous and Charlie Hubbs was assigned the task of completing this action. (CLOSED)
3. The nomination of Officers and a Board of Directors was accomplished and it was determined that the Board of Directors would be made up of (as permanent members) but not limited to, former Ranch Hand commanders. The election of the current years Officers (for a one year term) and the Board of Directors was unanimously approved. (CLOSED)
4. The site of the next reunion was discussed at length, with no decision being reached. Sites recommended were Dayton, Wash. D.C., Langley, Ft Walton Beach and Harlingen, Tex. The site will be selected by the Officers and Board based on members replies during the year (OPEN)
5. Mike Topolosky was authorized and assigned the task of providing and forwarding an official Ranch thank you to the Japanese National who aided us in acquiring our Ranch discs and our Lapel pins. (OPEN)
6. The subject of joining the Air Commando Association was discussed. Again it was determined unanimously that the Ranch would remain independent of the ACA as a unit, but would support ACA programs and policies and continue to urge Ranch Hands to join the ACA individually. The ACA had written to Charlie and said they would put out a special RANCH HAND flyer soliciting individual joining by Rancheros. There was no objection to this action. (CLOSED)
7. It was recommended that a bronze memorial plaque be acquired and a ceremony planned for the arrival of "PATCHES" at the AF Museum. Members will be solicited for donations for this project and the date of "PATCHES" arrival will be highly publicized to the members. Burk Mucho was detailed to ascertain the arrival date and cost of a plaque. (OPEN)
8. The design and inscription of the memorial will be recommended by the Dayton flight and final approval will be by the Officers and Board (OPEN)
9. The decision of pursuing the charitable portion of our charter and put up a monument at Air Commando Park or establish a scholarship was not made. It was decided to finish the "PATCHES" project first. (OPEN)
10. The AFMPC ruling against the wear of Vietnamese wings by Rancheros was discussed. Since Charlie's letter to MPC was turned down, it was decided to try other methods of getting the request to the AF Uniform Board. Russ Mohnney, Paul Clanton and Pete Spivey were given this task (OPEN)
11. The question of whether promotion points were authorized for the award of the VN Cross of Gallantry was raised. AFMPC says no based on AFR 39-29, Pages 4 and 5. (CLOSED)

## COWBOYS

The sixth reunion has gone. Turnout was lighter than anticipated due to many aircraft no shows. However, thanks to every crew that got a bird, every guy that caged a ride, and especially to those that paid their way to the reunion.

A great deal of business was conducted and we'll get right to it. Disappointed in some of our CONUS area coordinators. We need an officer coordinator at the following: Colorado Springs, Otis, Charleston, McGuire, Travis, McChord and Norton. WE WANT AN NCO COORDINATOR AT EVERY BASE. We must have the Autovon of those selected. This organization never had a rank problem, so let's hear from the NCO's. For transportation, don't overlook the AF Reserve outfits. They fly lots and are friendly.

We gave four Ranchero awards to early Cowboys (Tellez, Spey, Dresser and Mohny). We need nominations for later year personnel. Being a commander is not a criteria. Any Rancher you think deserving, any rank, in or out of service should be nominated. Also discussed dues. Last year had \$150 in Kitty. Costs us \$80 to send out roster just once. Last years expenses were \$265 and we made it through some unsolicited donations from some thoughtful Cowboys. (if you missed the point, we do accept donations).

A great debate was held on joining the Air Commando Association. They want us very much as a unit. You have three choices on the next page. Location of the next reunion came up. No one could find a better place than Ft. Walton. Comments please. Charlie Hubbs is at Kirtland, but feels he can run the roster from there although Ranch Hq still in Ft. Walton Bch. We'll try to get the next invitations signed by the highest ranking Rancher (hope to have our first B/G) to help NCO's convince their supervisors they have to attend.

We discussed incorporating (makes us tax deductible and solves some problems) also makes us permanent. Do we have any legal eagle help out there?

Our most famous aircraft "Patches" has been selected for the AF Museum. Russ Mohny working that, but needs copies of really good pictures, etc. you guys rat holed. The museum wants the best memorabilia we have on the Ranch. Please send this stuff in to Russ. If your address changes, send me a note so we'll know where you are. Many Cowboys retiring and getting permanent addresses. However, each Rancher should send a permanent address as well as a temporary one (please include zip code). Roster keeper needs copies of orders on Ranch Hand Unit awards (Outstanding Unit, Pres. Citation, etc).

We have an 8 x 10 color photo of a UC-123 just after touchdown with the drag chute out. Details on next page. Also available are Ranch Mugs: (See next page). If you need patches (cloth) tell us and we'll work on a large order at one time. If you need wings (metal) let us know and Tony Tellez, a full time civilian in Saigon, can fix us up.

The Ranch has paid for and have access to insignia good for building plaques, placing on cars, airplanes, desks, etc. Also paid for dies for Ranch lapel pins. These pins are outstanding! Like the decals, they are metal, in five colors, very well made - buy an extra for your wife or friend. Details on next page. Keep checking AF Times and AF Magazine for Reunion info.

*Charlie*

RETURN INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT THAN ABOVE:

NOMINATIONS FOR RANCHERO AWARD (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED AREA COORDINATOR(S) AT YOUR BASE  
OFFICER

NCO

Autovon \_\_\_\_\_

Autovon \_\_\_\_\_

SHOULD WE PAY DUES? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTED AMT # \_\_\_\_\_

SHOULD WE INCORPORATE? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

SHOULD WE: JOIN THE AIR COMMANDOS INDIVIDUALLY?  
JOIN THE AIR COMMANDOS AS A UNIT?  
MAINTAIN OUR IDENTITY AS RANCH HANDS  
(INDEPENDENT)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ (lose  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ identity)  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

IS THERE A BETTER RANCH HAND LOCATION FOR REUNION YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE EXTRA COPIES OF RANCH HAND UNIT AWARDS? SEND THEM ALONG

HAVE YOU SOME GOOD PICTURES FOR THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM? SEND THEM ALONG

TEAR OFF AND SAVE THE PORTION BELOW

TO ORDER THE FOLLOWING, CONTACT:

LAPEL PINS \$2.50 ea.  
3" Metal Ranch Insignia \$4.25 ea.

Lt Col Mike Topolosky  
Det 4, FTD (Tokyo)  
APO SF 96503  
Attn: Ranch Hand

Wings, Patches, Shirts

Tony Tellez  
269/4 Troung Minh KY  
Gia Dinh  
Saigon, S. Vietnam

Ranch Mugs \$2.75  
Add 50¢ for 1st name  
Add 75¢ for 1st & last name  
Add \$1.00 for 1st & last name & rank  
Lt Col D. B. Spivey  
7 Gerard Ct.  
Rockville, MD.

Color Picture-C-123 with drag chute out

Capt Richard Wagoner  
248A S. Nevada Drive  
Grand Forks AFB, N.D. 58201