



The VHPA AVIATOR

The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association ~ Issue 29-02 ~ March/April 2011



Our 'Poster Child' for this issue's front cover is the Kaman H-42 'Huskie'; this twin (wooden) rotor workhorse was used by the US Air Force in Vietnam for Crash Rescue and Fire-Fighting missions. We're featuring one on this cover in honor of Jason Stone, one of the contributors' to our centerfold story. Although Jason was 'Pedro' crew member for the Air Force, he loved 'killing time' by flying on missions with the 120th Assault Helicopter Company. Well one day while flying with the Razorbacks, Jason found himself in the middle of one heck of a fight and while I'll not spoil the story for you, I will sum it up by saying that by the time they got back to Tan Son Nhut that evening, Jason had become a life-long friend/fan of his adopted unit.

You can read the story of that day on our centerfold, pages 20 & 21; you can also find information on a DVD Jason has produced that's dedicated to the Razorbacks in Vietnam on page four of this, our March and April 2011 issue of the VHPA Aviator - David Adams



Complete
Information of
the 2011 VHPA
Reunion in
Orlando, Florida
runs on pages
9 through 19

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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Understanding Executive Council Duties

By Bob Hesselbein, VHPA Junior Member-at-Large

I wish to thank those of you who have placed your name into candidacy for the coming 2011 Executive Council (EC) election. Along with your declaration, you have asked some great questions regarding EC duties that all VHPA members may find interesting.

Simply put, the Executive Council determines the very best way to keep the organization goal-focused, effective, and responsive to our members. The mission covers a wide area of member interests: the annual reunion, the VHPA Aviator Magazine, the Membership Directory, our military history preservation efforts, the annual calendar and VHPA website and links.

The EC's major priorities include ensuring the Association's funds are efficiently employed, sustained and protected, and finding ways to keep the magazine, directory, HQ administration and annual reunion costs reasonable and within the means of our membership. A strong sense of custodial mission in regards to the VHPA legacy is always present, and is reflected in the careful approach used to approve requests for VHPA name and logo use.

The EC mission is extraordinary in many ways. The EC must look forward to prepare VHPA products, services, and reunion activities that enhance the bond of our individual and common Vietnam experiences, and it must look backward to record the wartime events that gave reason for its existence; ironically, the EC must also consider the VHPA's eventual ending and legacy as our group ages and passes into history.

Although individual EC members reside across the nation, specific VHPA functions are addressed through a monthly conference call meeting, and by daily e-mails between individuals that are copied to all. We dis-

cuss each forthcoming reunion—the most time consuming effort of the VHPA EC, indeed—with attention to the smallest details (location, administration, facilities, venue, activities, reunion logo, etc.).

Surprisingly, the diversity of opinion within the council membership often leads to a greater discussion of concise details than one would expect—and that's a good thing. Frequently a proposed "great idea" is brought forward by one individual for consideration, and then frequently refined into a "better idea" through evaluation and discussion by other members possessing different perspectives. The final solution is always derived by consensus building within the EC to achieve the best solution for our association.

During my time on the council, I have observed the EC leadership strive to ensure specific mission focus is sustained and not distracted by individual or partisan efforts that would divert the VHPA from its clear and honorable purpose. This is extraordinarily important to the continued unity and wellbeing of our organization, and should be a rightful point of pride for all us.

Are Executive Council efforts challenging? Yes. Are they daunting? No. I am confident the next successful candidate elected to the EC as Junior Member-At-Large will find the leadership is efficiently getting the work done (Special note: we should all be grateful that the majority of EC members are happily retired and willing to do the needed and important grunt work).

In advance of July's annual membership meeting in Orlando, I thank you for volunteering your time and talents to aviator members of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association.

INTERESTING LINKS FLOATING AROUND THE INTERNET:

New Sikorsky helicopter breaking speed record in level flight
www.devour.com/video/worlds-fastest-helicopter/

The latest and greatest in a long line of "Flying" Cars – except this one looks like it might actually make it to market!
www.eaavideo.org/video.aspx?bcpid=90015277001&bctid=635469588001

Interesting Fox News story about the Army's new XM-25 infantryman rifle:
www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/11/24/armys-revolutionary-rifle-use-afghanistan/

Great U-Tube link to a late 1960's DOD film about the Army's Helicopter Flight School program:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7IX0IRRGcc&feature=player_embedded

Last, Fox News reported recently that people who are mandatorily required to pull money from their IRA's, but who failed to take the full amount required by law in 2010 will be subject to a 50% tax on the amount they did not take. A law was passed allowing them to instead, make a charitable contribution to avoid paying the tax. This applies to Vietnam Veterans age 70.5 or older. Here's a link to the article:

www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2011/01/03/attention-seniors-tax-break-disappears-feb/

Should anyone wish to make a contribution, here are some suggestions:

In The Shadow of The Blade, www.intheshadowoftheblade.com and/or The VHPA's General and Scholarship fund, www.VHPA.org

AVIATOR PRIVACY STATEMENT

The VHPA Aviator 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 the VHPA Officers, Committee Chairmen and/or Staff listed in this publication.

E-mail items to The Aviator at: editor@vhpa.org

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VHPA OFFICERS

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VHPA Memory Map Project	Ron Bower
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VHPA Aviator Newsletter	David Adams, Editor

VHPA SUPPORT

Legal Advisor	Wally Magathan
Investment Advisor	Bob Potvin

VHPA HEADQUARTERS
1-800-505-VHPA (8472)

VHPA ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESSES

VHPA Headquarters	HQ@VHPA.org
President of The VHPA	President@VHPA.org
VHPA Secretary/Treasurer	
VHPA Chapter Liaison	
Historical Chairman	
Membership Chairman	Membership@VHPA.org
National Reunion Chairman	Reunion@VHPA.org
Public Relations/Publications	
Records/Database	Roush@VHPA.org
VHPA Calendar Project	Calendar@VHPA.org
VHPA Membership Directory Editor	Roush@VHPA.org
VHPA Memory Map Project	
VHPA Scholarships Program	
VHPA Aviator Newsletter	Editor@VHPA.org

Official Web Site of the VHPA
www.VHPA.org

**From Woody McFarlin,
President of the VHPA**



As of the writing of this article, the Orlando reunion is coming together nicely. Registrations are coming in, final touches on event scheduling, tours, etc. are happening, and we can count on good weather in Orlando as opposed to what many of us have seen during the past couple of months, yes even here in Georgia.

Membership; always an important topic. Over the past two months plus a few days, we have had 72 new members sign up. Unfortunately if you check the Taps section of this and the past few issues, we are losing our fellow pilots in significant numbers. Our new HQ office is now doing a great job of sending out timely renewal notices and sending out information to potential members and those who have not renewed their membership in some time. Their efforts are paying off.

If you know anyone who has never been a member or who has not renewed their membership in some time (you can check this by going to VHPASERVICES.COM) you need to encourage them. A tool you can use is to call HQ and have a recent copy of The Aviator sent out to them. Since coming on board as editor, David Adams has done a tremendous job with the publication. It is a publication you can be proud of and a tool to help build our membership. David has done such a dynamic job, plus he has accomplished it in a very fiscally responsible way.

A while back I reread portions of some older issues of The VHPA Newsletter, predecessor of The Aviator, and found an interesting paragraph written in 1994 by then president Phil Marshall. Phil said the following about our organization: "we have no cross to bear, no cause to champion, no politics to pursue, no lobbying to do, no need for federal or state legislation, no bake sales, no pleas for cash and no garage sales to generate funds" as so many other organizations have to do. "We're just a bunch of Vietnam helicopter pilots who stay in touch and get together to share a common experience; plus, have a good time doing it." From my experience working with many other groups, I thought that was a great summary of who we are and what we do.

Bob Hesselbein, our Junior Member at Large who is putting together this year's election, reports a good number of guys showing interest in this year's election for both the Junior Member at Large and the Vice President positions. We can never have too many running for these positions. If you have any interest, get in touch with Bob and go for it. If you don't make it this year, its good practice for next year.

So guys, get your buddies together and come on down to Orlando, I think you'll be pleased you did.

NEWS FROM VHPA HEADQUARTERS

With three solid months completed as your headquarters service provider, Military Reunion Planners thought you might like to see the progress we have made toward renewing memberships, bringing new members in, and coaxing expired members to reup.

In addition to all the daily duties we manage for VHPA your energetic HQ staff also mailed over 1700 membership notices a month on average.

Here are the Stats:

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MONTH	NOV	DEC	JAN
Current Member Renewals	506	543	599
Expired Member Renewals	12	16	51
Brand New Members	22	22	12
Brand New 3-Year Members	6	3	4
Brand New Life Members	8	0	2
Coversions from Member to Lifer	12	5	6
Notices Returned Undeliverable	89	61	*

* number not available as of printing deadline

We are also diligently correcting old mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. that had been long neglected. If you call HQ you will be asked for your current contact info, which we are comparing to what's on file. We are striving to clean up the VHPA database, one record at a time. Please help by notifying us when any of your contact information changes. We can be reached at 800-505-VHPA or HQ@VHPA.org

We truly appreciate all of the members and want to make sure you are continuously informed of the great things that are happening with your

new and improved VHPA.

We are anticipating a huge turnout for the 2011 Annual Reunion in Orlando. Reunion information is available, and reservation channels are now open so why not make your reservations today to assure you are housed in the main hotel. We have some very special surprises in store like "Lunch with an Astronaut" at Cape Kennedy and musical performances by the "WHO" and the "Rolling Stones" impersonators. This is sure to be one of the all-time great reunions. Of course being in Orlando just makes it that much better, so bring the whole family and enjoy some Florida fun.

On a sad note, it is with deep regret that I share with you the news of the passing of Janel Huette McFarlin, wife of VHPA President "Woody" McFarlin, after an extended battle with cancer. Huette and Woody were married for 39 beautiful years before she went to be with her Lord on January 11, 2011. Huette was a Sales Administrator with Bekaert Corporation. She and Woody were active in church, community and veterans group activities, where they served in many leadership positions. In addition to Woody, Huette is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law; Chad McFarlin of Atlanta and Jason & Melissa McFarlin of Smyrna, GA and grand-daughter Bradley. Your President has shown amazing resilience and continues to capably lead the VHPA forward. Please keep Woody in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

On a lighter note, we are requesting your input to name this column. Please call or email HQ@VHPA.org with your suggestions.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments please email me directly:
raycasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com or call 817-251-3551

SEE YOU IN ORLANDO!

The Shadows of Men - Documentary -

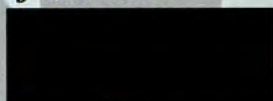
In 1964, an armed helicopter platoon was formed in Vietnam. In operation until 1972, the Razorbacks flew combat missions in support of ground troops, military operations and were instrumental in the defense of Saigon and Tan Son Nhut Airbase during the TET offensive of 1968.

With 22 interviews intertwined with film and photos of the Razorbacks in action during the Vietnam War, this documentary reflects the dichotomies of war, its aftermath, the bonds of friendship that endure... and the Shadows that forever cling.

Send check or money order
for \$29.95 to:

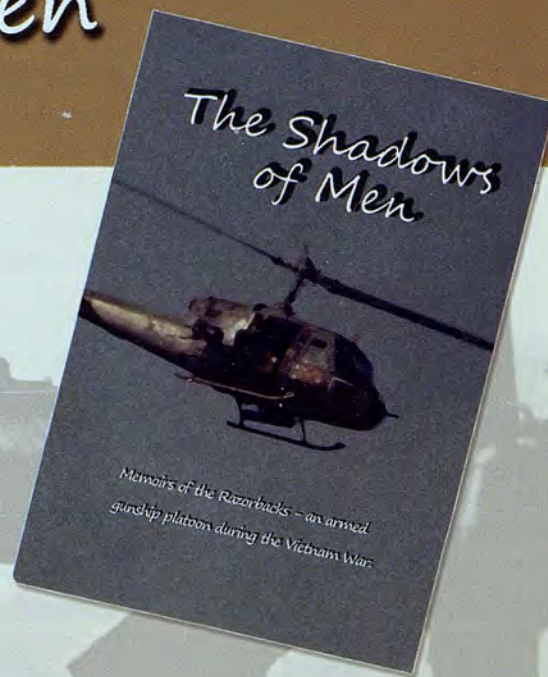
(Shipping & Handling Included)

Jason Stone



PayPal orders at:

<http://theshadowsofmen.com/store.html>



Running time: 51:20 minutes

Visit the companion website at:

<http://theshadowsofmen.com/index.html>

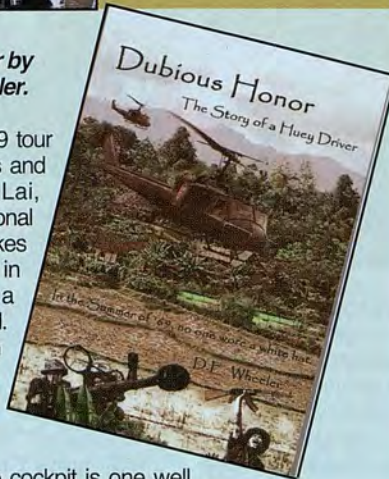
BOOK REVIEWS



By VHPA
Life member:
JOHN PENNY

DUBIOUS HONOR: *The Story of a Huey Driver by* **VHPA member D.E. Wheeler.**

It is the story of his 68-69 tour with the 71st AHC (Rattlers and Firebirds) based at Chu Lai, RVN. It is an intensely personal and detailed memoir that takes you from Wheeler's youth in the LA area to the cockpit of a Huey in combat and beyond. It is also about young men "proving" themselves in a stressful environment in which they know that some of them will not survive.



Wheeler's journey to the cockpit is one well known to us. At "loose ends" after high school, a letter from his draft board eased him into the office of an Army recruiter who informed him about the Warrant Officer Flight Program. Basic Training and graduation from Primary and Advanced Flight Training resulted in his arrival in RVN as an "FNG" with "a lot to learn." The real training that would help keep him alive in an "active AO" soon began.

Wheeler progresses from "peter" pilot to aircraft commander under watchful eyes, both in the cockpit and in the unit. Establishing the unspoken respect of your fellow pilots and crew was a subtle, but important rite of passage. Learning the true limits of the aircraft and the techniques that will help you survive getting in and out of a hot LZ, taking hits from enemy fire, and flying "Sneaky Pete" missions for CCN were all part of the focused "curriculum." In Wheeler's case, he repeats this rite of passage when he eventually transfers from "slicks" to the unit's gunships. When his tour was over he was more than ready to leave, however, some part of him was left behind.

The style Wheeler uses to write *Dubious Honor* almost makes you feel he is writing about someone else and he refers to himself in the book as a ghost. He is writing about the experiences in the Vietnam War and the parts of him that still remain there. Wheeler says he wrote this book as personal therapy, something other authors of books I have reviewed have also acknowledged. I highly recommend that you read this well written and touching book.

Dubious Honor: The Story of a Huey Driver (250 pages with photos, \$18.99) by D.E. Wheeler, ISBN: 978-0-578-05691-3 is available from sales@shes-hot.com, Amazon, and other book suppliers.

NOTED WITH INTEREST

Just published and awaiting my review:

Skycrane by John McKenna
Vietnam Special Flight, Inc. by Ron Miller
Crusader 23: I'd Rather be Lucky Than Good by Tom Tesmar
Tiger Lead, Your Flight Is Up by Gordon Hall
Before the Memories Fade by Robert Michel (posthumously)



"Let's Smoke On This"

by VHPA Columnist
Charlie Gossett

I use these words from the movie "Little Big Man" where the old chief would answer, when asked to comment on a particular subject, "I will smoke on this". I don't know what he smoked but it gave him time to

reflect on the subject and to think before answering. My goal in this column is "smoking" on various common issues that affect many of us in the VHPA. This time let's talk about awards, decorations and medals.

Awards, decorations and medals that Vietnam pilots received seem to have been received with mixed and conflicting feelings. The most common expressions I hear are, "I was just doing my job"; "I was doing what all the other pilots in my unit do"; "I'm not a Hero" etc., I absolutely agree and have had the occasion to say the same. We see Medal of Honor recipient say that they are wearing the medal for all who have put themselves in harm's way, they just did what was necessary at the time. I believe this to be true of the other valor medals as well.

If you have received an award, I'm sure you have been asked questions like, "What did you do to earn the Distinguished Flying Cross?" This can make the person being asked this question uncomfortable, and maybe even embarrassed, this is particularly true when the person doing the asking has never served in combat. I think you can be gracious and informative in your answer but you don't need to fill in all the horrific details, as they probably won't understand. But I believe the award brings recognition not only yourself but to your unit and fellow pilots. You could simply let the questioner know that you were just doing your job and then one day, a person of authority made a report that resulted in a commendation. You were performing your duty just as a wingman, or the flight before you, or basically like all other Cobra, Huey and all other helicopter pilots. You simply wear the medal all of them earned.

Our old Dress Blues and Greens are packed up somewhere because we are civilians and besides they probably don't fit anymore. We can still wear unit insignias, wings, patches or mini-medals on our hats or on that old flight jacket. When I see an 'ol boy wearing his WWII hat, I go out of my way to recognize him and to thank him for serving his country. These guys light up with pride and always mention their unit. When you wear your Purple Heart lapel pin, it gives you the chance to speak about other Vietnam Vets, and you can still maintain your "quite pride".

When we get older and reflect back on our lives, the mementos, plaques, certificates and medals hanging on our walls represent not only what we did as individuals but also what we did collectively. I always feel sad for the family of a deceased Vet that finds an award they never knew about. The medal kept a secret about the person, his unit, his friends and companions who served with him. Gone was a chance for people to hear about the First Calvary Division or the Big Red One or whichever unit they served with. Gone was the chance to hear about the time that Vet was "just doing his job and then one day, a person of authority made a report that resulted in a commendation. So - let's take those medals and other memorabilia out of that box and tell their story, our children and grandchildren will forever cherish that moment.

I heard an old paratrooper tell the following story on TV. He said his grandson asked him, "Were you a hero in the war Granddad?" to which he replied, "No, but I served with a company of heroes." I believe we should keep our pride, the pride of our fellow pilots and our part in the Vietnam War alive and in an honorable place in history.

Charlie Gossett - Blue Max 49 Juliet



Giving Back - Two Odysseys to China



Bob holding Olivia (28 months old), Barb holding Margaret (almost 4 years old), outside the American Consulate in Guangzhou, China, on 23 Jan 2000.

Like most Vietnam-era pilots, I returned from my 1967-68 tour, finished my military service, and then adjusted to civilian life and a career in aviation. And, like most pilots, I had mixed feelings about the war and my role in it. I always felt I wanted to do something more, to give something back, to put back into "the system" some good deed in return for all the good things I've gotten out of life. Part of this desire was fulfilled by my occupation of flying an emergency medical service helicopter for a hospital in Minneapolis. Being part of a life-saving operation which operates eight Agusta A-109 helicopters is very rewarding, but I was looking for something more, some very tangible method of saying thanks for where I was in life.

After raising two children, who in turn have their own children, my wife Barbara and I decided to explore adopting an Asian child as a means of "giving back" to society. When I was in Vietnam I had always thought the Vietnamese children were beautiful in many ways. During my tour I seemed to take a lot of photographs of them. When Barb and I decided to go ahead with the adoption we naturally decided to look into adopting a Vietnamese orphan. We started discussions with one of the premier adoption agencies in the United States, one which just happened to be located near us in Minneapolis, Children's Home Society of Minnesota (www.childrenshomeadopt.org). We found that not only were we over Vietnam's age limit of 35 years old for adoptive parents, but also that we might find some bureaucratic obstacles and lingering ill will over my having been a combat helicopter pilot during the war. We were told it might be better to look elsewhere.

Having come this far, we then turned to adopting from China. We were delighted to find that Chinese culture accorded respect and honor to age and therefore had an elevated age limit of 50 years for adoptive parents. In every other respect we qualified, and we were both surprised and pleased the Chinese authorities had great respect for my occupation as a medical pilot and Barb's as a general surgeon. They felt we'd make good parents for their children and would give them a good home. We moved ahead with the process

which was an 18-month period from start to finish.

Initially I thought I might encounter some resentment on the part of the Chinese once we arrived there. Releasing their orphan girls for international adoption is a tacit admission that they're incapable of caring for them, I thought, a major loss of face. I also wondered how much the Chinese could love their children if they were willing to see them go overseas. Once we arrived in China Barb and I realized how off base these thoughts were. We found the Chinese, like parents everywhere, dearly love their children, they're just pragmatic. Since overpopulation is a major issue in China, the government dictates which families can have a child (just one), and moreover, determines when they can have that child.

But what if a family has a daughter and that's to be their only child? The family loses their links to their ancestors when the daughter marries and becomes part of the husband's family. The parents also don't have a son to care for them in their old age. Consequently, many Chinese couples give up a first-born daughter for adoption so they can try again for a son.

In December 1996 we left Minneapolis on a Northwest Airlines flight to Hong Kong where we stayed overnight. The next morning we flew via Dragon Air from Hong Kong to Hangzhou, China, on the coast of the East China Sea south of Shanghai. This adventure would fill a book, so I'll just say that we met our new daughter, Margaret Chun Hao Steinbrunn, 9 months old, and life has never been the same since. It's difficult to describe the good feelings derived from tanking an orphan home to give her love, a family, an education, a sense of identity, and not the least of all, enough food to eat.

An illustration of the Chinese attitude towards

American adoption of their children is this. When I was walking around a lake in Hangzhou with Margaret in my back pack child carrier, a Chinese gentleman approached me and asked if I was in China on holiday. I said "No holiday, no vacation. Child adoption!" "Ah!" said he. "Lucky Girl!"

Margaret's Chinese name means "Good Spring", an auspicious name for a future Minnesotan who had yet to embrace the depths of the Minnesota winter. After a week of processing paperwork in Hangzhou, we flew south to Guangzhou (formerly Canton) where we spent a week out processing through the American Consulate. Then on to Hong Kong for a RON, and finally home to Minneapolis.

Barb and I found the process so rewarding, so fulfilling, and so much fun that we decided to do it again. "After all", I was informed by my lovely bride, "Two children are just as easy to care for as one, and don't you think Margaret needs a sister to play with?" Then, as she batted her eyes at me and flashed her cutest smile, I found myself caving in.

We repeated the adoption process and in January 2000 we were winging our way to Changsha, China, to meet our second daughter, Olivia Lingli Steinbrunn, who was then 28 months old. Her Chinese name means "quick, nimble, elegant, sharp", an appropriate name for the accomplished dancer and artist she's become.

The years have passed, the girls have grown, and time marches on inexorably. I find myself reflecting on my great good fortune of military service, aviation career, marriage, and two lovely daughters. They provide me with a balance in my life and a link to my service in Southeast Asia, and I count myself lucky in all respects.



Margaret (11) and Olivia (9) growing up to be two lovely American girls, December 2006.

Robert N. Steinbrunn

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

CHILDRENS LIBRARY PROJECT IN VN



To the Members of the VHPA

The men of the 61st AHC are teaming with the Children's Library International group to build a Library/Learning center in Bong Son, near LZ English in Vietnam and we need the help of every member of the VHPA. We are seeking contributions to support this effort. Our share will be about \$60,000, of which \$6000 has already been pledged, your contributions are tax deductible.

The 61st AHC is continuing its mission of providing opportunities for a better way of life for the young people of Vietnam. Why, because that's what Americans do and secondly, we want to establish an on-going relationship with the people around Bong Son in Binh Dinh province.

The Vietnamese value education, and we can help them learn English, which is an important way to enhance career opportunities. It will also be a chance for us to have a cultural exchange of information so that the Vietnamese people can see that Americans are the "good" guys and not the guys depicted in the Vietnamese memorial at My Lai.

This is not an "apology" but a way to show that we Americans are thinking of the future, not the past. Plus, it really is a lot of fun to visit Vietnam now, it's warm in December, traditional/American food is interesting and not too expensive, people are friendly, Phu Cat is a commercial airline terminal, there are no bomb craters, the Bong Son river is clear, there are trees on the ridge lines and mountains, and palm trees are waving at the resort hotels in Qui Nhon as the waves roll in to the beach.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY INTERNATIONAL



We hope to dedicate the Library/Learning Center in December of 2011. We have already signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the provincial and local authorities and we plan to break ground in March of 2011. The Library of Vietnam Program (LOVP) organization have built 25 library/learning centers in Laos, Cambodia, Viet-

nam and China and have formed an umbrella organization for their oversight. Full details of Children's Library International program are available on their website: www.childrenslibraryinternational.org - full details on the Library planned for Bong Son are available at: www.childrenslibraryinternational.org/mission.aspx Anyone interested, including family members and friends, are invited to travel to Bong Son to attend the dedication ceremony. The LOVP will provide tour information, at a later date, for

Children's Library International Projects

1. Francis J. "Chuck" Theusch Library, Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province
2. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Quang Tri Town Library, Quang Tri Province
3. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Dak Rong/Khe Sahn Library, Quang Tri Province
4. Francis J. "Chuck" Theusch Library, Vinh Linh District, Quang Tri Province
5. Dr. James R. Langworthy Library, Trieu Phong District, Quang Tri Province
6. George N. Wright Memorial Library, Gio Linh District, Quang Tri Province
7. Le Thi Hoa Dombroe-Bill Dietzel Memorial Library, Ho Chi Minh City
8. Kent Converse-Kinsley Rotary Unification Library, Kien Giang Province
9. Cam Lo District Library, Quang Tri Province
10. Francis J. "Chuck" Theusch Le Loi High School Library, Dong Ha Town, Quang Tri Province
11. Francis J. "Chuck" Theusch Thuong Hien School Library, Kien Xung, Thai Binh Province
12. Worley/Engelken/Nguyen Library, Vo Thi Sau School, Nui Thanh, Quang Nam Province
13. Oconomowoc High School/Vinh Linh High School Library, Vinh Linh, Quang Tri Province
14. Kenneth R. Burton Quang Tri Town High School Library, Quang Tri Province
15. Roland G. Fontaine Memorial Library, Vinh Long City, Vinh Long Province
16. Hue Medical College, Hue
17. Village of Hope Orphanage, Da Nang
18. Bac Giang Blind School
19. Quang Tri Orphanage



attending both the dedication at Bong Son and the My Lai Library/Learning Center dedication on the following day.

We hope you will join us in making the 61st AHC Bong Son Library/Learning Center a reality. We believe that the kids and adults that use the library/learning center will be the "Lucky Stars" of the future.

Need more information? Contact me, [redacted] **or**
Mike Zogleman, [redacted]

Southern Museum Of Flight Special Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

The back cover of the last issue of the VHPA Aviator magazine featured several photos of the Southern Museum of Flight's tribute to Vietnam veterans. As director of the museum, I was pleased and honored to see the photos in your magazine of this very special project.

The diorama depicts the shoot down of an AH-1G Cobra, working in a "Pink Team" with an OH-6 (Loach) from the 1/16th Cav (The Outcasts), 1st Cav Div. The Loach is seen while in a rescue of the Cobra crew, when it is fired on by a camouflaged VC, hiding in the tall grass, near a banana palm. The audio portion of the display is triggered by electronic beams, and begins with, "Taking Fire, Taking Fire", the sound of the OH-6 overhead, the AK-47 firing and ending with a burst from the Loach's M-60.

The Grand Opening for this exhibit is now set for Thursday, April 21, 2011

We have invited a number of special guests to attend, including several Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients, and pilots from the Navy, Air Force and



Marine Corps. Although the exhibit is based on Army helicopter action, the event pays tribute to all Vietnam veterans in all branches of military service. The evening will include a bagpiper at the outdoor flag area, welcome and introduction of special guests, veterans salute, musical tribute, symposium on "The Air War over Vietnam" moderated by Bill Lawson and light foods and drinks following the event.

I want to invite all VHPA members to attend this event. We are expecting around 350 Vietnam vets and family members to be present. There is no admission charge to attend the evening event. Normal daytime admission to the museum is \$7.00, admission is free for active military and their families.

Birmingham offers many hotels for those flying or driving to the event. The Birmingham Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM) is serviced by

several airlines. Southwest and Delta are two of the largest. The museum is located three blocks east of the airport.

As a side note, we have had several VHPA member's contact us with artifacts from Vietnam that they want to donate to the exhibit. A few very interesting and rare items have been donated already. Some will be used in the diorama, and others will be used in the exhibit and display area. If you have any items that you would think would add to the display and wish to donate them, contact me at:

Dr. Jim Griffin (Jim)
Director, Southern Museum of Flight

The Southern Museum of Flight is located at 4343 73rd St. North in Birmingham, AL 35206. Phone 205-833-8226 or visit our website at: Southernmuseumofflight.org

We look forward to honoring you on April 21st, 2011

A Story About Slick Pilots

Danny C. Cox

I recently had a conversation about the role of helicopters in Vietnam and how they supported the fighting soldiers on the ground. Of course, the mission of supporting the Army's maneuver forces that are engaged in combat was, is, and always will be why Army Aviation exists. However, during the conversation I seemed to note an inference that Army aviators were not real warriors, and I was reminded of a story I heard while serving in Vietnam that stayed with me all these years. I am sharing this story as I remember it, but first I need to provide some insight as to why it made such an impression.

I was in the armed reconnaissance business while serving in an air cavalry troop in Vietnam. I flew the OH-6 in a scout platoon for six months and never flew in a unit that carried soldiers into battle; however, this story is about those who did. Frequently, pilots in cavalry units could make individual choices as to how much risk they were willing to take during a given mission. (I need to say many of my peers had an unbelievably high tolerance for risks.) We didn't get to choose where we went or the mission once we arrived, but we had some choices we could make inside the cockpit as to how we performed the mission. The guys (then they all were guys) flying an air assault mission by inserting the infantry into their battle space and supporting them once they were on the ground, seldom had the luxury of making personal choices on how they performed the mission. The term "slick" was used to describe the UH-1 Huey helicopter that carried the infantry into battle and this story is about "slick pilots."

Having participated as a pilot in air assaults by screening (flying along the flanks of the landing zone) before, during, and after the insertion, I gained an appreciation of how complex the whole operation is, even in training. I came to realize that air assaults are real cheek squeezers for everyone involved. The command and control, fire support planning, integrity of the unit being inserted, and the enemy's action all lead to a thousand moving parts. Once that first helicopter unloads its troops, everyone is committed to getting enough forces inserted to insure the success of the mission. When the landing zone (LZ) is under fire or hot, the insertion



becomes challenging and complex. In Laos, during Lam Son 719, when US Army aviation supported the Vietnamese Army, 168 US Army helicopters were shot down and 618 were damaged in a six week period. In the Ashau Valley, along the Khe Sanh Plain, in Cambodia, and many other areas of operation in Vietnam the landing zones were almost always hot and the North Vietnamese goal was to screw up a brilliant plan. Regardless, if the plan was executed as it was written, the mission was accomplished as changes were made and executed literally on the fly. The Army's assault helicopter units, whose mission it was to fly soldiers into battle did what they did every day, and they were very good at inserting combat forces where their commanders wanted them and supporting them once on the ground.

My story takes place in the Ashau Valley during the Vietnam War. The Ashau was an extremely difficult area of operation during the entire war and we were never totally successful at denying the North Vietnamese freedom of movement. The Valley is next to Laos, close to North Vietnam, both of which had intricate road networks that wove their way South from North Vietnam. The Valley was an extension of the Ho Chin Minh trail and was the sight of the battle that is featured in the movie Hamburger Hill. The infantry air mobile assaults into these areas of operations during the 1968-70 time frame were often little more than raids, but they were frequently fierce and deadly. The North Vietnamese had sophisticated communication centers, hospitals, bulldozers, and vehicle maintenance operations. We believed, or maybe we hoped, that fire power such as B-52 strikes, air strikes, artillery, and Army aviation would be successful in denying the North Vietnamese Army freedom of operations. As often as possible, the

North Vietnamese operated underground in caves and tunnels. When we would blow up an underground garage, the North Vietnamese would quickly dig another one. When we blew craters in their roads, they filled them in and kept on trucking. It would have taken a nuclear weapon to shut down the Ashau Valley and that would have killed mostly monkeys.

This story was told to me in an officers club in Vietnam by a fellow aviator on his second tour. It may be true, but if not, it makes its own point.

This aviator was in a flight of 8 Hueys loaded with infantry headed for the Ashau Valley to participate in an insertion and the landing zone was anticipated to be hot. The flight was directed to follow radio silence while enroute and was headed for the LZ when chalk 2 (the 2nd aircraft in a flight of 8) took a hit in the rotor mast which took off the entire rotor system. (A helicopter in flight without a rotor system is analogous to a rock). As chalk 2 went down, a single radio call was heard: "tell my wife I love her." After about 30 seconds the flight leader transmitted: "Chalk 3, you are now chalk 2, everyone tighten up, cut the chatter."

As a young aviator, the story made an impression. I thought that the only thing the guys that carried troops had to do was maintain their position in formation, follow the guy in front of them, and keep off the radio. Given that anyone can be brave on a given day, it is a challenge to be brave everyday. Maintaining your position in a formation, following the guy in front of you and keeping off the radio was not a simple task and those aviators that flew slicks were a special breed everyday.



Our Author, Danny Cox served with C Troop, 2-17 Cav, 101st Air Mobile Division during 69-70. After returning from Vietnam, Danny remained in the Army and commanded C Troop at Ft. Campbell, KY in the 70s and commanded the Squadron at Ft. Campbell in the 80s. He retired as a colonel in 1993 and worked for United Way and Northrop Grumman. Presently he and his wife divide their time between Northern Virginia and Atlanta, GA being grandparents to 4 grandsons.



WELCOME HOME 2011

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JUNE 17-19, 2011 ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

All veterans, their families & all supporters of our Armed Forces are invited to this very special event of the
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-  Presentation by Veteran authors.
-  "Moving Wall" on display at Navy Pier.
-  Saturday morning kick-off rally at Navy Pier – opening ceremony followed by entertainment.
-  Saturday banquet with Bill Kurtis as the Master of Ceremonies, acknowledging the City of Chicago and honoring all veterans with Medal of Honor Recipients as special guests.
-  Sunday morning inter-faith ceremony featuring Reverend John Steer.
-  Information booth, vendors, variety of seminars and hospitality suites for mini-reunions.
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Paul E. Bartlett

Vietnam Veteran Helicopter Pilot

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VHPA 28th Annual Reunion • Orlando, Florida • July 5 – 10, 2011

NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Information and register online at www.vhpa.org or mail completed form
to: VHPA Headquarters, 407 W. College St., Grapevine, TX 76051-5218

Fax (954) 301-0742
Voice (800) 505-VHPA (8472)
Email HQ@vhpa.org

Member name: _____ Member No.: _____ Wheelchair? ☐ Yes
Address: _____ Address change? ☐ Yes
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email address: _____ Telephone: () _____
Wife/guest name: _____ Hometown: _____ 21 or older? ☐ Yes/Wheelchair? ☐ Yes
Guest name: _____ Hometown: _____ 21 or older? ☐ Yes/Wheelchair? ☐ Yes
Guest name: _____ Hometown: _____ 21 or older? ☐ Yes/Wheelchair? ☐ Yes
Guest name: _____ Hometown: _____ 21 or older? ☐ Yes/Wheelchair? ☐ Yes

EVENT	# of people	Price	Total
Registration through 4/30/11*		@\$40	
Registration 5/1/11 and after*		@\$50	
Registration for under age 21		@\$15	
Early Bird Reception (July 5)		No Cost	
Huey Ride (July 6)		@\$85	
Pontoon Boat Tour (July 6)		@\$89	
Fantasy of Flight Tour (July 6)		@\$65	
Poker Tournament 1 (July 6)		@\$25	
1st Time Attendee Reception (July 6)		No Cost	
Welcome Reception (July 6)		No Cost	
Concert-Rolling Stones Tribute (July 6)		Side Bar	
Golf - Metro West (July 7)		@\$89	
HPF #1 VA on PTSD (July 7)		@\$25**	
HPF #2 Tom Marshall LS 719 (July 7)		@\$25**	
Daytona Speedway Tour (July 7)		@\$85	
Kennedy Space Center Tour (July 7)		@\$82	
Kennedy & Astronaut Lunch Tour (July 7)		@\$115	
Kissimme Air Museum Tour (July 7)		@\$31	
Winter Park Tour (July 7)		@\$46	
Scholarship Fund Dinner (July 7)		@\$45	
Concert - The Who Tribute (July 7)		Side Bar	
KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast (July 8)		@\$26	
Gold Star Family Sponsorship (July 8)		@\$26	
Annual Business Meeting (July 8)		No Cost	
Spouse/Guest Event (July 8)		@\$39	
Luncheon w/speaker JPAC (July 8)		@\$32	
Poker Tournament II (July 8)		@\$25	
HPF #3 Frank Anton POW (July 8)		@\$25**	
Arabian Night Dinner Tour (July 8)		@\$69	
Memorial Service (July 9)		No Cost	
Pontoon Boat Tour (July 9)		@\$89	
Stamp Set Show & Tell (July 9)		@ \$7	
Winter Park Tour (July 9)		@\$46	
Fantasy of Flight Tour (July 9)		@\$65	
HPF #4 Memory Map Team (July 9)		@\$25**	
Quilt Show & Tell (July 9)		No Cost	
Closing Banquet (July 9)		@\$76	
Closing Banquet Child (July 9)		@\$18	
Non-Registered Guest at Banquet (July 9)		@\$90	
Kennedy Space Center Tour (July 10)		@\$82	
Daytona Speedway Tour (July 10)		@\$85	

Total from sidebars	XXXXX	XXXXX
VHPA dues (if not dues current)	1 year	@ \$36
VHPA dues (if not dues current)	3 years	@ \$99
Life membership	(full \$540 or 3 inst of \$185)	
2011 CD or Paper Directory Fee		@\$10
Mult. year CD or Paper Directory Fee	(# of Years x \$10)	
GRAND TOTAL \$		

Concerts

One Concert \$20
Both Concerts \$30
Total \$ _____

T-Shirts

Total \$

__S@\$18 __M@\$18 __L@\$18
__XL@\$18 __XXL@\$19 __XXXL@\$20

Banquet Meal

__Beef __Fish __Vegetable

Voluntary Contributions:

VHPA Membership Fund \$ _____
VHPA Scholarship Fund \$ _____
VHPA General Fund \$ _____
Vietnam War Museum \$ _____
VHPA Reunion Sponsorship \$ _____

REFUND POLICY

IMPORTANT: Please review the details of the Refund Policy, including the limited opportunity to purchase a Refund Guaranty available only on a one-time basis at the time of registration, which is posted online at the official VHPA website: www.vhpa.org

Refund Gurantee Fee

(10% of Total Events) \$ _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

MC/Visa #: _____
Exp. Date: _____
Signature: _____

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYMENT

In lieu of a credit card, you can mail a check or money order payable to "VHPA" with form.

* Each person 21 and older must pay the full registration fee, except for banquet-only guests.

** HPF Fee: Only one \$25 admission fee is required PER FAMILY to attend any or all sessions of the WSC and HPF events. Each family will receive a free DVD of last year's HPF/WSC presentations (a \$30 value).

REUNION 2011

Let me tell you why you need to come to this VHPA Reunion *by Mike Law*

FIRST~ I trust everyone knows what the expression 'my bucket list' means? Well, I have known Warren Silva for at least 15 years. He helped me get a wonderful CH-54A picture published in a VHPA Calendar and we became friends. I've never shaken his hand. We have exchanged dozens of emails and a few snail mails. Warren's health wasn't too good a few years back. Blessedly he is rather well right now. I am 67 years old and Warren is older. Warren has never been to a VHPA Reunion. Got the message? I'm guessing there are hundreds of Warren's in the VHPA. Sadly the Taps Section of the Aviator only gets longer with each passing year. I need to shake Warren's hand and look him in the eyes and smile!

SECOND~ let me tell you grandpa why you need to bring some of your grandkids (and their mother or father [your daughter or son]) to this VHPA Reunion. We have reserved a great family friendly hotel in a world class family

fun destination at a very nice price. My kids were 'fish' in the summers – always in the water. I suspect your grandkids are also 'fish!' The hotel's Wild River and the Orlando area will certain give them hours of smiles. AND you can actually sit alongside that grandkid in a Huey and fly again for a few minutes. Have you ever heard, "Grandpa tell me about Vietnam about when you flew helicopters?" Now you can let them see, touch, and smell a Huey. I'm guessing that 10 years from now you would be delighted to have the chance to do these things again but that window of opportunity may not be available at that time!!

THIRD~ let me tell you why you need to attend even one of our five scheduled Historical Presentation Forums (HPFs) even though you don't like history!!! Because this is your legacy! You can listen to Tom Marshall or Frank Anton or Ron Bower and watch their video presentation with several hundred "We were soldiers once ... and young" brothers. I

wasn't in Lam Son 719 and I wasn't a POW but I fought in the Ia Drang Valley and I've been to Dak Seang and refueled at An Khe and lived at Phan Thiet. I can appreciate what Tom and Frank and Ron will say to me. I am grateful the VHPA provides the venue for Smithsonian class presentations when I was a soldier once and young.

FOURTH~ let me tell you why you need to attend this VHPA Reunion – because you can safely walk up to just about anyone and "start the story in the middle of the movie!" You don't have to tell me what JP4 is or what a Piastre is or why we wore chicken plates or what a collective is – you know what it is and so do I! You can simply say – "God the jungle west of Ban Me Thout was beautiful wasn't it?" And I'll say, "Yeah – too bad there was a little war going on – would have been a great vacation spot!" You can't do that at church or the golf course or with the guy next door – "start the story in the middle of the movie" – but you

can at a VHPA Reunion!!!!

FIFTH~ let me tell you why you need to visit Joe Kline's table in the vendor room – because you have a space on the wall of your 'man cave' that seriously needs a good picture of your Huey (or Cobra or LOH or Chinook or Sky-crane or CH-21). Yeah you can see kool stuff online and in catalogs that come in the mail – but you can actually show Joe a picture of you standing next to "old 732" and he will paint 732's markings on his UH-1C poster for you! And you, my friend, will have THE PERFECT piece for your 'man cave' – trust me I've see dozens of happy guys walking out of the vendor room with round tubes tucked under their arms.

OK - now let me tell you what is new and/or unique about this Reunion.

Mike Law
Chairman for the 28th
Annual Reunion of the VHPA



FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE VHPA'S OH-6A DISPLAY

Tuesday, July 5th through Saturday, July 9th under the white tent at the front door

of the hotel. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida (VHPAF), an independent chapter of the VHPA, will display their famous OH-6A during this Reunion. The photo on the left shows LTG (Retired) Hal Moore and Joe Galloy of 'We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young' famous with the OH-6A during the VHPA 2000 Reunion in Washington D.C.



FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE VHPA'S MUSEUM/MEMORABILIA ROOM



Tuesday, July 5th through Saturday, July 9th in the Lake Lucerne room on the Lobby Level. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida (VHPAF), an independent chapter of the VHPA, will display part of their famous museum during this Reunion.

28th Annual VHPA Reunion

Orlando, Florida 5 – 10 July 2011

Schedule and Event Details

INFORMATION

Unlike previous VHPA Reunions, for the 28th VHPA Reunion in Orlando there is only one source for official information and that is at

www.vhpa.org

GETTING THERE AND GETTING AROUND

Reunion hotel: The Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway (formerly Canadian Court), Orlando, Florida 32819 [REDACTED] [Warning - this hotel opened in September 2009 and some services such as Google Map do not provide completely accurate driving directions.] The hotel's website is: www.thehiltonorlando.com

Reunion hotel reservations: There are at least three ways to make your hotel reservations while insuring that you receive the VHPA Group Rate of \$119 per night during the period 1 - 14 July 2011. Please consider the following:

■ **Hilton's Group Services** established a personalized website specifically for this Reunion. To use it simply type the following address into your web browser:

www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/ORLOCHH-VHP-20110704/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

If you are a Hilton HHonors member, then sign in at the top of the screen. Please remember that for at least the next three years, the VHPA Reunions will be at Hilton hotels so it might be worth your while to become a member.

■ **The hotel's Toll Free reservation line** is 888-488-3509. You should say you want to make a hotel reservation and need to mention any number of keywords such as "VHP" or "VHPA" or "VHPA National Reunion" so the agent can find the contract.

■ **The Toll Free Hilton central reservations line** is 800-445-8667 (Hiltons). You should guide the agent to the Hilton Orlando property and use the keywords outlined above to find the contract.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE AND PARK PASSES:

Hello Florida! built a special website for our Reunion at www.hello-usa.com/tickets/vhpa11. Mears Shuttle is the Official Shuttle service for the Reunion. You can save \$4 off the regular round trip fee of \$30 by obtaining and using the discount coupons located under the Mears logo on the website.

DISCOUNT ATTRACTION TICKETS AND DINNING GUIDE: The Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau built a special website for our Reunion at www.vhpa.orlandomeetinginfo.com.

VICINITY AROUND THE HOTEL: The hotel is connected to the Orange County Convention Center. It is located approximately in the middle of the famous International Drive. There is a wonderful Trolley (www.iridetrolley.com) for out-of-towners that runs on International Drive. The hotel is near SeaWorld and Aquatica. There are convenient shuttles to other attractions such as Universal Orlando and Walt Disney World.

PARKING AND INTERNET ACCESS:

Self-parking is free to VHPA attendees. There is a large parking structure attached to the hotel.

Internet Access: VHPA attendees enjoy free internet access in their room as part of our contract with the Hilton.

WHO MAY ATTEND THIS REUNION?

As a general rule anyone who is "dues current" in the VHPA can register, order tickets, etc. simply by paying the Reunion Registration Fee. All who served in the Vietnam War as helicopter pilots must not only be a member of the VHPA, but also must be current with respect to their annual membership dues as of the first day of the Reunion to register. Anyone who was not a pilot, but is a current subscriber to the VHPA Aviator magazine is also welcome to attend. Exceptions to the above are (only) vendors, specifically invited performers/speakers, Gold Star Family guests, and Non-Registered Banquet Guests. Any

member in Attendance may also invite other people to attend the Reunion (and its events) as long as that person is not eligible to be a member of the Association in their own right, but that person must pay the Reunion Registration Fee. Also, anyone wishing to purchase a ticket for any of our events, (for example a helicopter ride, a tour, attend an HPF, attend a concert, etc.) must have paid the Reunion Registration Fee. The only exception to the above is found in the Non-Registered Banquet Guest (NRBG) Fee. It was specifically designed years ago to accommodate for the guests of any registered Reunion Attendee to attend our Closing Banquet. This is the only event we host where every attendee does not have to be registered into the Reunion as a whole.

As a general rule, VHPA Membership and Subscriber dues expire on the last day of the month. Thus someone's dues could expire on 30 June 2011. This same person could register, say, in February 2011 and state "I am dues current today" and, indeed, he/she is. However, this same person will not be dues current on 6 July 2011 which is the first day of the Reunion. For this reason, the VHPA Reunion Registration software and procedures are "forward looking" with respect the dues status.

It is important to know or recall that all Reunion Attendees (anyone who pays the Registration Fee) are treated as equals. A VHPA Life Member, a former enlisted man, the widow of a deceased Vietnam Vet, a good friend – they are all treated as equals once they pay the Registration Fee. They are all equals because they can purchase tickets at the same price, receive the services (name badges, refunds, banquet seating, etc.), stand in the same lines to board buses, etc.

The only exception is that only VHPA Members can attend the Annual Business Meeting.

DRESS CODE

Florida casual is the dress code for this Reunion with some obvious reminders and suggestions as follows:

■ Many men wear a suit and tie with the ladies wearing a nice dress to the Closing Banquet. You will even see Dress Blues.

■ It is always a good idea to wear your Reunion lanyard.

■ Bring your swimwear. The hotel's Lazy River is a wonderful area for the whole family.

CANCELLATION DATE AND REFUND POLICY

22 June 2011 is this Reunion's cutoff date to cancel a registration and receive a refund minus the Reunion Cancellation Fee. HQ must receive the Refund Request prior to 5 pm CDT on Wednesday, 22 June 2011 including those via US mail. HQ can receive a Refund Request via US mail, email, FAX, or phone. A Refund Request can be for a specific event, for an individual guest, or for an entire registration. A Refund Request can include any registration fees and/or tickets for meals, tours, events. Any membership dues, product fees (including Reunion T-shirts and Directory Fees, etc.), donations/contributions/sponsorships gifts paid or associated with Reunion Registration payments ARE NOT refundable. While the VHPA Reunion Committee reserves the right to have non-refundable events, this Reunion has no such events.

This Reunion's Cancellation Fee is \$10. This fee is subtracted from any refund due regardless of the number of items in the Cancellation/Refund Request. It also applies to each refund transaction which is defined as whenever a check is issued. As a general rule, HQ will process all refund checks not later than close of business on Friday, 22 July 2011. If, however, you request more than one refund check (for example one in April and then one in June), then there would be one Cancellation Fee per check.

Each Refund Request received prior to the cutoff date mentioned above will be processed by HQ not later than close of business on Friday, 22 July 2011. Since refunds are traditionally paid via check the goal is to have all checks in people's hands not later than Saturday, 30 July 2011.

CANCELLATION PENALTY WAIVER PROGRAM AND REFUND GUARANTEE FEE

The follow is extracted from the "Addendum to the Reunion Refund Policy Refund Guarantee" document posted in the Policies area of the VHPASERVICES website.

Notwithstanding the details outlined in the Cancellation Date and Refund Policy above for an additional fee of 10% of the total of the registration fee and event ticket prices, an Attendee pays the Reunion Guarantee Fee and enrolls in the Cancellation Penalty Waiver Program. To benefit from this Program, however, the additional fee must be paid along with other registration fees **at the time of initial registration**. Enrollment in the Program will not be available at any time thereafter. *The Program offers you and your guests the opportunity to receive a refund should you cancel or interrupt your trip to the Reunion for the following reasons:*

1. Sickness, injury, or death of yourself, a traveling companion or members of either of your immediate families, which is diagnosed and treated by a physician at the time your trip to the Reunion is terminated;
2. Involvement in a traffic accident, en route to the Reunion that causes you to miss the Reunion or a particular event;
3. Your home is made uninhabitable by a natural disaster such as fire, flood, earthquake, hurricane, or volcano between the time you registered but prior to the Reunion;
4. You are recalled into active duty by the military that causes you to be unavailable to attend the Reunion;
5. Subpoena or being called to serve for jury duty between the time you registered but prior to the Reunion;
6. You are quarantined or prevented from traveling to the Reunion by governmental action.

The Program will not provide a refund should you cancel or interrupt your trip to the Reunion for any of the following reasons:

1. Business, contractual, or educational obligations of you, and immediate family member, or traveling companion;
2. Any unlawful acts, committed by you or a traveling companion;
3. Other condition, event, or circumstances occurring prior to your purchase of the VHPA Cancellation Penalty Waiver Program.

ACTIVITIES

Florida Chapter of the VHPA's OH-6A Display

Tuesday, July 5th through Saturday, July 9th under the white tent at the front door of the hotel. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida (VHPAF), an independent chapter of the VHPA, will display their famous OH-6A during this Reunion. The photo on pg. 11 shows LTG (Retired) Hal Moore and Joe Galloway of 'We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young' famous with the OH-6A during the VHPA 2000 Reunion in Washington D.C.

VHPAF received this OH-6A from the Tampa Police Department in 1991. They received seven from the Pennsylvania National Guard when they were replaced with the OH-58 and flew them to Tampa. The one we have 062 flew in Vietnam in 70-72 with the 1st Cav. It is trailer mounted which enables us to attend numerous functions in the area. It is shown about three times a month at schools, Vet's activities, reunions, parades etc. We are fortunate that the Hilton's General Manager approved our request to park the trailer just outside the Lobby Level area from the Chapter's Memorabilia Room. The VHPAF guys will remove the doors, have an M-60 and a Cav hat in the back seat plus a flight helmet in the front seat. This could be a wonderful opportunity to show your family what it was like to be in a Vietnam Era helicopter. Picture taking is encouraged! Questions? Contact Jim Basta [REDACTED]

Florida Chapter of the VHPA's Museum/Memorabilia Room

Tuesday, July 5th through Saturday, July 9th in the Lake Lucerne room on the Lobby Level. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida (VHPAF), an independent chapter of the VHPA, will display part of their famous museum during this Reunion.

VHPAF has a collection of Vietnam memorabilia brought home by our members. This collection contains approx thirty (30) 2'x 2' boxes displaying items ranging from handmade Montagnard items to field gear, C-Rations (remember those?), R&R items, and books written by VHPA members. We also have a small collection of weapons: a mini-gun, M-60 and a 2.75" rocket among others. Please come and tour our display. It is a walk back thru your history. I am sure you will see something which you have not thought about in the last 40+ years.

The display also gives you a chance to show family members things you have only talked about with them. Now you can show them the actual item. You are welcome to take pictures with our exhibit items. Donations to help us maintain the museum are most welcome. Join us in Orlando - you will not regret it. Questions? Contact Howard Smith at [REDACTED]

MINI-REUNIONS

Wednesday, July 6th through Saturday, July 9th in various Lobby Level rooms - Keeping in mind that one of the primary reasons for our Reunions is to reconnect with past compatriots from your RVN unit and flight school. The best way to meet up with unit members is to schedule your own Mini-Reunion. If your unit does not have a Mini-Reunion, why not take the initiative to start one up, or you could combine with other sister units you are familiar with if you wish. In addition to specific units and flight classes, we've had Mini-Reunions for such subjects as tandem rotor, Dust-off, Operation Lam Son 719, anyone who was stationed at Soc Trang, VHPA chapters, anyone interested in radio controlled aircraft models. Really there are no rules! Mini-Reunions are typically scheduled in 4-hour blocks and are available for booking on most days during the Reunion. You can also request a second four-hour block. However, this second block will be granted on a space available basis with priority for the particular space given to units requesting only one block. Due to decreased usage and increased expenses, you need to request any AV equipment you may need. Once your Mini-Reunion is scheduled the details will appear on the webpage. You still should make an effort to get the word out to your buds. Use your directory to contact members (encourage them to re-up with the VHPA if they are not dues current), write a short article for the VHPA Aviator, and schedule early so we can list your unit in articles such as this. It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at VHPA.ORG and email it to Rebecca Bittle at [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED] or mail the completed form to HQ in Grapevine.

UNIT TOC (TACTICAL OPERATION CENTER)

If you have a big group that you know are coming (say approximately 20 registrants), then we invite you to schedule a TOC. TOCs will provide a room for all day several days for the group. So, this is like a super Mini-Reunion. Since the group is going to "hang out" in the same room for several days, they can bring almost anything into the room (food beverages, AV stuff, displays, etc.). Contact Mike Law [REDACTED] directly to schedule a TOC.

HONOR KEG BEER ROOM

Tuesday, July 5th 11 am - 11 pm daily through Saturday, July 9th in the Pocket Lake room on the Lobby Level. It is only fitting that the "official opening" of the Reunion happens at the Honor Keg Beer Room at 11 am on Tuesday, July 5th! World famous Kenny Bunn will pick-up where he left off in San Diego - namely the tradition of a Vietnam unit's Officer's Club which you can get a draft beer and shoot the breeze with your buddies. This year things will be a little different than in San Diego because the hotel requires one of their bartenders to be present. The price for a 12-oz cup is \$4 versus about \$6 at one of the hotel bars.

HISTORIC PRESENTATION FORUMS (HPFS)

Without a doubt the HPF concept is the VHPA Reunion's greatest success story of the last five + years! Each year video recording of these presentations are compiled on a DVD that is distributed at HPF attendees at the next Reunion. These DVDs can also be purchased by contacting HQ. Most presentations are on par with a university seminar. Because they are making such a significant contribution to the VHPA's legacy, the DVDs are given to The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX. As we've done in the past, a ballroom section is dedicated room to the HPFs, set up theater style and equipment with high-end audio visual presentation equipment. *This year's HPF line-up is as follows:*

Veterans Administration on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Thursday, July 7th, 9 - 10:30 am, Orlando ballroom is HPF #1. Dr. Capehart from the Veterans Administration will be introduced by Deb Stegemann, wife of VHPA Member Bill Stegemann. Dr. Capehart will outline how the VA can assist in this critical area. For approximately two days during the Reunion, Dr. Capehart will hold question and answer sessions for those who would like to met with him.

Tom Marshall on Lam Son 719

Thursday, July 7th, 2:30 – 4 pm, Orlando ballroom is HPF #2. VHPA Member Tom Marshall is the author of *The Price Of Exit* published in 1998 by Random House. As part of the Reunion's commemoration of Lam Son 719, Tom will share the results of literally years of research and interviews on this subject. Tom will also share some really incredible video footage gathered and edited from the DoD Media Archives.

Military Writer's Seminar

Friday, July 8th, 2:00 pm, Lake Florence. This event is scheduled to conclude about 3 pm.

VHPA Member and published author, Bob Mason, will conduct a Q&A session around the theme "How to find a publisher/agent for your book?" and "What to avoid when signing with a publisher/agent?" Bob has been in the business since the 1980s when his book *Chickenhawk* hit the streets. Join VHPA Aviator Editor, David Adams, and VHPA Book Reviewer, John Penny, at this seminar.

Frank Anton on Prisoners of War

Friday, July 8th, 3 – 4:30 pm, Orlando ballroom is HPF #3. VHPA Member Frank Anton was shot down and captured on 5 Jan 1968 and spent the next 62 months as a POW. He completed a career in the US Army and next flew for American Airlines. Frank with Tommy Denton authored an autobiography published in 1997 by Summit Publishing titled *Why Didn't You Get Me Out?*

MEMORY MAP PROJECT UPDATE

Saturday, July 9th, 10 am – noon, Orlando ballroom is HPF #4. The details of the Memory Map Project were presented at the Guest Speaker Luncheon in the San Diego Reunion. This year Ron Bower and Ken McElroy will describe and demonstrate the Memory Map Project. They will show how our history can be displayed and recorded using Google Earth on the Internet. They have digitized all of the 1:250,000 and 1:50,000 maps that cover Vietnam and parts of Laos and Cambodia from the Vietnam era and can overlay these 1960s maps on Google Earth. They then add layers describing helicopter crashes, casualties, LZs, fire support bases, base camps, etc. This is a truly exciting project and a must see at this year's reunion.

MORE JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND

Saturday, July 9th, 3 – 5 pm, Orlando ballroom is HPF #5. This is a "follow-on" presentation by MAJ Osorio and the JPAC team to the Guest Speaker Luncheon given on Friday, July 8th. In this HPF they will show in some detail the actual JPAC documentation for at least one closed case. We have asked for a case that relates to a helicopter incident from the Lam Son 719 era. If you have not seen the material normally only shared with the soldier's family, be prepared to be impressed. You will see photos, diagrams, and results from field excavations. You will see the results from various laboratory analysis efforts of components and remains excavations. You will see historic interviews with soldiers who witnessed the event as well as interviews with locals.

WAR STORY CONTEST (WSC)

Saturday, July 9th, 2 – 3 pm, Orlando ballroom – Back by popular demand is yet another War Story Contest session. Mike Sheuerman and the usual suspects will entertain us with their "This ain't no sh_t stories" about Vietnam. This is both fun and frivolous.

POKER TOURNAMENTS

Wednesday, July 6th and Friday, July 8th, 2 – 5pm, Lake Virginia room on the Lobby Level – The proceeds from this annual event go to the VHPA Scholarship Fund. This is a social activity for people who enjoy playing poker. No money changes hands but you must have a ticket to play. We obey all local gaming regulations while having a good time.

SATISFACTION/THE INTERNATIONAL ROLLING STONES SHOW

Thursday, July 7th, 8 – 9:30pm, Orlando ballroom – This is a private 90-minute concert by a highly recommended Tribute band. You must have a ticket to enter the room that is just down the hall from the Welcome Reception.

From the streets of London in 1962 to the stages around the world in 2002 & 2003, it's the words concert goes long to hear..."Ladies and

gentlemen.. The Rolling Stones". We welcome you to the world's greatest Rolling Stones tribute band, Satisfaction, a "Rolling Stones Experience." Thousands of audiences in over 40 states have witnessed this re-creation with the highest regard of authenticity. And now you are invited to take a step inside the Voodoo Lounge and let's spend the night together... pleased to meet you!

THE WHOLIGANS SHOW

Thursday, July 7th, 8 – 9:30pm, Orlando ballroom – This is a private 90-minute concert by a highly recommended Tribute band. You must have a ticket to enter the room.

The Wholigans capture not only the sound and essence of The Who but could easily pass for the original members of The Who. The band concentrates on the 'Live at Leeds' era, but their set list contains a majority of the most popular material from The Who's catalogue from day one until the untimely death of Keith Moon. From the stage clothes to the authentic stage gear The Wholigans have captured the total package - that is The Who. Started in Toronto Canada in 1982 this Tribute band continues to play all over the world, including numerous tours to Germany, UK, Canada & the USA.

ORLANDO VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, July 7th – buses depart the hotel at 7 am. Golfers should be back at the hotel by 2 pm. A continental breakfast and lunch are included.

This Reunion's golf tourney honors all deceased Vietnam Helicopter Pilots with special feelings for our KIAs. Because the Reunion is held in Orlando, we will specifically reflect on these six helicopter pilots whose home of record was Orlando when they died in Vietnam:

WO Douglas John Campbell	2 Nov 1970	191st AHC
WO Robert Barry Gentry	8 Feb 1971	174th AHC
WO James G. Hodgskin Jr.	18 Aug 1969	B/1st Avn 1st Inf Div
WO Silvestro Reali Guido Jr.	7 Feb 1968	134th AHC
1LT Charles Vale	3 Jun 1969	HHC/2nd Bde 1st Cav
WO Joseph Vincent Zappini Jr.	4 Jun 1969	128th AHC

"Voted the Best Golf Course in Orlando" MetroWest Golf Club is a Robert Trent Jones Senior Signature Design course featuring a beautiful lay out providing a fair, yet demanding challenge to make a pleasurable golf experience for players of all skill levels. Visit: www.metrowestgolf.com.

This Tournament will include a helicopter golf ball drop that will excite all former pilots. The helicopter will drop balls on one of the greens and one lucky person will win a large cash prize! Each golfer also has a chance to win four hole-in-one prizes – one features a 2011 Harley Davidson FATBOY. Prizes for the top three teams will be MetroWest pro shop gift certificates. Famous Grouse Scotch whisky is sponsoring a par-3 with a greenside surprise. Our "scramble" Tournament package includes golf, GPS equipped golf carts, bus transportation from/to the Hilton, range balls, continental breakfast, and a delicious sit-down deli platter luncheon in the beautiful clubhouse with the prizes presented at the conclusion. Our Power Pack will be another surprise for lots of CASH prizes. Our 07:30 Memorial Service, Roll Call, and helicopter golf ball drop will profess to be one of the most memorable events at this year's Reunion. We want you to leave with remembering this one as the Best VHPA Golf Tournament ever. You won't want to miss this one. So get your four-somes together and register for this event. Contact Chris Garbow at [REDACTED] or Gary Spooner at [REDACTED]

KIA/MIA GOLD STAR FAMILY BREAKFAST

Friday, July 8th, 8 am, Lake Eola room on the Lobby Level. This event is scheduled to conclude by 9:30 am.

The following material appears on page 6 in Jan/Feb 2011 *The Aviator* with the title "Invite a Fallen Buddy's Family to Breakfast" by Julie Kink. As aviators who have seen combat, most of you remember someone from that long-ago time who didn't make it back from Vietnam. A few of you have connected with the families of your fallen buddies, either through the Family Contacts Committee or by other means, to share with them a memory or two, perhaps a photo, most

of all, the knowledge that their loved one was never forgotten. Have you thought of inviting them to attend the VHPA reunion, and particularly, the Gold Star Family Breakfast, with you? As a sister of a fallen Vietnam helicopter pilot, I remember first time I sat down with veterans who served with my brother, who was killed while flying C 1/9 Cav scouts at age 19. The experience of being with men who could tell me more about his life and his service was powerful. I learned that not only are we families of the fallen welcome at veterans' reunions, we are welcomed "warmly" by those who knew our loved ones and shared their last days. You might have wondered previously: "Should I invite John's family to a reunion? What in the world would they do there, among 600+ of us rowdy pilots? Would they feel out of place?" For the past few years, there's been an event designed especially to bring Gold Star Families (families of the deceased) together with pilots in remembrance and celebration of the lives we lost: the Gold Star Family Breakfast. We are still working out the details but we know this year, as in the past, the breakfast will be a fitting time for you to share great stories about the lives of the guys we lost, with their families, and the rest of us. For family members, reunions provide a great opportunity to experience, firsthand, the camaraderie that our loved ones shared with veterans who have never forgotten them. Have you been sending Christmas cards to John's family all these years? Been calling Harry's mom on the phone at Mother's Day just to brighten her day? Have you been emailing back and forth with Bob's brother for years, but just never got a chance to shake his hand? This is the opportunity to do that. Invite them to attend the reunion and bring them to the Gold Star Family Breakfast. I'm happy to answer questions about the breakfast, as details get confirmed, or about how to connect with a buddy's family.

Little sister, Julie Kink sister of WO David Kink C Troop 1/9th CAV KIA 8-3-1969. I am also a member of VHFCN Family Contacts Committee. Visit <http://www.VirtualWall.org/contacts> or email me at [REDACTED]

PROJECT PEACETREES VIETNAM – ANNUAL UPDATE

Thursday, July 7th 1:30 – 2:15 pm, Orlando ballroom is the place for the VHPA's first 'scheduled formal presentation' from PeaceTrees Vietnam. Many VHPA'ers and Reunion attendees know Jerilyn Bresseau and the PeaceTrees organization because she and her Gold Star Mother, Rae Cheney, have attended many recent Reunions.

Rae Cheney's son, Jerilyn's brother, LT Dan Cheney, was KIA January 6, 1969 near Di An in Vietnam while flying with A troop, 3/17th Cav. Rae helped found PeaceTrees Vietnam in his honor to renew relationships with the people of Vietnam and to promote a safe, healthy future for their children and families of Central Vietnam. Their work is centered in Quang Tri Province where they sponsor clearance of unexploded ordnance, Mine Risk Education, survivor's assistance, citizen diplomacy tree planting missions and community building projects in partnership with the local people. Additionally, they build kindergartens and libraries in the remote areas of Quang Tri Province. For full details of their work, go to www.peacetreesvietnam.org.

Last year VHPA Members Dave Hansen and Jim Robbins joined Jerilyn and Rae, (making her first trip to Vietnam at the spry age of age 90), to dedicate a library and kindergarten honoring her son and now, both Dave and Rae will give us a 30-40 minute presentation of that historic trip. As in prior Reunions, PeaceTrees will again have a table in the vendor room but we thought for this year it would be good to "take their presentation to the next level". Dave & Rae will speak in the same room used by our HPF's and even if you didn't fly over Quang Tri in Vietnam, you can still appreciate the good work being done there by PeaceTrees.

SPOUSE/GUEST/LADIES LUNCHEON

Friday, July 8th, 10 am, Orlando ballroom. This event is scheduled to conclude about 1 pm.

Marci Arthur, the owner of Truffles & Trifles, is our guest speaker. She is an Orlando Magazine Dining Hall of Fame 2009 inductee. She will provide an interesting discussion on the importance of food in our lives and then provide a cooking demonstration. All attendees will also enjoy a fresh lunch buffet that includes mixed greens and potato salads plus assorted artisan sandwiches.

GUEST SPEAKER LUNCHEON - JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND

Friday, July 8th, 12:30 pm, Orlando ballroom. This event is scheduled to conclude about 2 pm.

MAJ Ramon J. Osorio and JPAC team member Linda Read are coming all the way from Hawaii to address us on the full-accountability efforts. Prepare to be seriously impressed! If you have not seen the detailed documentation from a site visit or hear details of the annual updates given to POW/MIA families, you will find this most informative. All attendees will also enjoy a fresh lunch buffet that includes mixed greens and potato salads plus assorted artisan sandwiches.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM)

Friday, July 8th, 10 am, Orlando ballroom. This event is scheduled to conclude about 12 noon.

This is a "ticket event" for this Reunion. As with all "ticket event" everyone who enters the room must show or surrender their ticket. The VHPA has a long standing policy that only VHPA Members (versus vendors, Subscribers, spouses of deceased members, family members of VHPA Members, etc.) can attend the ABM. The then current VHPA President is the only one with the authority to approve exceptions. Traditionally the only exceptions are individuals specifically invited by the Executive Council to address the ABM attendees such as the HQ contractor, the annual auditor, a representative from the hotel, etc.

All VHPA Member Attendees receive their ABM ticket in their Registration Packet. It is important to remember that while the ABM is a mission critical feature of the VHPA Reunion, any dues current VHPA Member can attend the ABM without registering for the Reunion. All dues current VHPA Members who desire to attend the ABM and are not registered for the Reunion must obtain their ABM ticket from the on-site Reunion Registration Desk.

The current VHPA President, Woody McFarlin for this Reunion, presides over this meeting. The Executive Council approves the meeting's agenda including the sequence and time allocation for each speaker and/or agenda item. Traditionally the six major agenda items are as follows:

- Committee Reports – Secretary/Treasurer, Membership, Reunion, Calendar, Directory, Scholarship, Aviator Editor, History, etc.
- Special Reports – (Always as directed by the VHPA President) – examples are current HQ Contractor, Annual Auditor, Reunion hotel representative, etc.
- Election of Officers – normally the Vice President and Junior Member At Large are the only two offices to be filled.
- VHPA Constitution and/or Bylaws Changes (if any)
- Old Business
- New Business

If you have any questions about the ABM, please contact the current VHPA President or any member of the Executive Council.

HELICOPTER RIDES

Wednesday, July 6th, 9 am, Rear Bus Loading Area. This event is scheduled to conclude about 5 pm.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (AAHF) in Hampton, GA will bring a restored UH-1H to Orlando to provide rides for Reunion attendees. The Huey carries about 8 to 10 passengers. The Huey will operate from a heliport about a mile from the hotel. Exact details are being worked out but the current plan is to manifest the passengers for each flight at the hotel, bus those scheduled for one or two flights at a time to the heliport, enjoy about an 8-10 minute flight around Orlando, and return to the hotel via a bus. The goal is to avoid having people stand out in the sun any longer than necessary, to conduct this in an orderly and efficient manner, and to be away from the hotel a minimum amount of time.

As we did at the San Diego Reunion – this is the perfect opportunity for a dad to have his family and/or a grandpa to have his grandkids experience a ride in a real Huey. It is getting more and more difficult to even see a Huey let alone see one flying or to fly in one! In a few years the opportunity to ride in a Huey may well be gone for good. Stamp Set Show & Tell

STAMP SET SHOW & TELL

Saturday, July 9th, 10:00 am, Lake Mizell. This event is scheduled to conclude about noon.

Wanda Roettger, wife of VHPA Member Al Roettger, is the leader/teacher for this Show & Tell on how to make custom cards. This craft is called Stamping. Briefly, your ticket covers the materials and supplies so you can make two cards similar in concept to those as shown on the website. This is a 'hands-on' craft event. You will leave with the cards you made plus an understanding of the Stamping techniques. Wanda has arranged with some Orlando 'stampers' to help her so there will be an 'expert' for every two tables. Because Wanda needs to order the materials in advance, you need to purchase your ticket for this Show & Tell prior to May 1st. If you have questions about or suggestions for this event, please contact Wanda Roettger at [REDACTED]

QUILT SHOW & TELL

Saturday, July 9th, 2:00 pm, Lake Virginia. This event is scheduled to conclude about 4 pm.

Since there were plenty of smiles (25+ ladies and 2 guys) last year at our first scheduled Quilt S&T, we decided to have it again. Last year Cheryl Ranes, a professional longarm quilter, was the discussion leader and T-Shirt Quilts was the theme. This year Judy Dickerson from Quilt Shop Orlando will be the discussion leader. If you have questions about or suggestions for this event, please contact Dianna Law at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. This event really is a

Show & Tell, so please consider bringing some of your own work.

Remember the rule? If guys can have Mini-Reunions and tell war stories, it is only fair for the ladies to have a Mini-Reunion and talk about crafty stuff!

CLOSING BANQUET

Saturday, July 9th, 5:45 pm, Orlando Ballroom. This event is scheduled to conclude about 9 pm.

Over the years the Closing Banquet has developed its own personality. Plans for this year include the following:

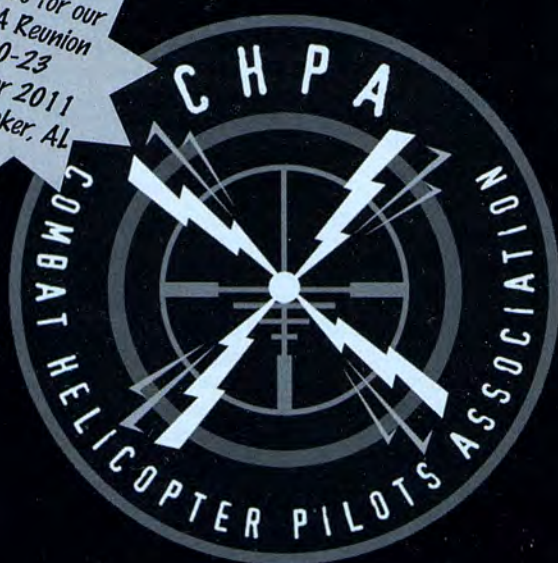
■ Back by popular demand the New York City Police Emerald Society Bagpipers will provide their stirring opening to the Banquet with their wonderful tribute to the United States military services.

■ Returning after an absence of too many years is the Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) Chorus under the direction of VHPA Member Mike Roulier. Mike will sing our National Anthem and the Chorus will sing "This is My Country" immediately after our Missing Man Tribute. The Chorus will sing "God Bless the USA" immediately following the VHPA President's closing remarks at the banquet. If you aren't familiar with their history, the chorus started in 1966 at Fort Wolters. These days, however, they allow RLOs to sing with them! Please spread the message: if you enjoy singing, you are welcome to join them at this Reunion. Contact Mike at [REDACTED] if you are interested in performing, and he will get information on rehearsals, etc. sent to you as we get closer to the reunion.

■ This year we will test a slightly different concept for dance music. First, there will be NO AMPLIFIED SOUND in the dining room following the President's closing remarks and the WOC Chorus presentation of "God Bless the USA." Our promise is – you and your party can sit at your table or anywhere in the dining room for as long as you wish and you will NOT HAVE TO TALK over the dance band music/entertainment sound. The Cash Bars will remain open until they are no longer needed. Second, for those who wish to dance and simply listen to the music/entertainment, we will have a professional group playing DOWN THE FOYER from the dining room in a place with a proper dance floor, cash bars, and seating. Naturally you can come and go as you please.

COMBAT HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Join Us for our
CHPA Reunion
20-23
October 2011
Fort Rucker, AL



DUTY • HONOR • COURAGE • NEVER EVER FORGET

DUTY • HONOR • COURAGE • NEVER EVER FORGET

CHPA is an all-service, non-profit, military association of active duty, NG, Reserve, and former U.S. combat rotary wing pilots from all wars.

Our purpose is Unity, Legacy, and Remembrance of our fallen comrades.

For Information on Preserving Our Legacy, visit the web site or request a brochure from our HQ in Washington, DC.

www.CHPA-US.org

Combat Helicopter Pilots Association
PO Box 15852
Washington, DC 20003-0852

COMBAT HELICOPTER
PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Is it Your Time to Step Forward?

Do you possess the time to participate on the VHPA Executive Council? The VHPA leadership circle is the focal point for executing and ensuring the association's mission, and is made up by members just like you. The Executive Council (EC) consists of seven members: past President, presiding President, Vice President, the three members-at-large (senior, mid-term and junior) and the Association's Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Council participation is interesting. It provides a portal to understanding and assisting the efforts that create successful national reunions, year after year, and gives you the chance to assist in the long term VHPA effort to ensure a complete historical legacy and enduring scholarship program.

The mechanics of EC activities include a monthly telephone conference call to discuss and make administrative decisions on VHPA functions, and frequent e-mails to share details of ongoing activities.

An election is held each year at the Annual Business Meeting to fill the positions of Vice President (VP) and Junior Member at Large, and each brings a three-year commitment to ensure leadership continuity. The elected VP candidate will serve the first year as Vice President, the following year as President, and the final year as Immediate Past President; the elected Member at Large will serve one year as Junior, one year as Midterm, and one year as Senior Member at Large.

The requirement for candidates is straightforward: the individual must be an active member for one year prior to the first day of the 2010 annual VHPA National Reunion (July 7, 2010). The nomination process is easy, as well. You may personally volunteer or you may nominate another active VHPA member who is willing to serve. The nomination, however, must be received in writing (e-mail or letter) by the VHPA EC Junior-Member at Large not later than midnight, June 15, 2010.

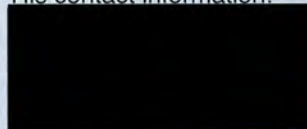
The election will take place at the Annual Business Meeting during the 2011 reunion in Orlando, FL. Although candidate attendance at the meeting is not required, it is strongly recommended. Rules for conducting the election shall be provided in the application packet.

Please note Executive Council members are expected to attend and assist during the annual national reunion, participate at the annual business meeting, be available for the monthly conference call and actively attend to VHPA interests. Since you are expected to attend and serve at the reunions, the hotel is contracted to provide you with complimentary accommodations.

To volunteer, nominate, or to discuss the EC duties and election process, please contact Bob Hesselbein, current Junior Member at Large and Election Coordinator. He will provide you with an application packet and form to complete

and return. The nominee form details basic biographical information which shall be posted to the VHPA website by June 20, 2011. This notice fulfills VHPA policy to notify members and to seek nominees for the Vice President and Junior Member at Large positions.

His contact information:



The VHPA remains successful through the work of volunteers just like you. Please consider contributing the gift of your time and enthusiasm and volunteer to serve on the VHPA Executive Council.



Will 2011 Be Better Than 2010?

I HOPE SO!

By Bill "Moon" Mullen

Last year I asked our VHPA Aviator faithful readers to help me raise donations for our organization by soliciting sponsors for events at our Annual Reunion. Suggested sponsors were you, a company you own, a company you work for, a company you know of that's run by a member of the VHPA or just a rich relative that doesn't know what to do with all their wealth!

Out of over 8,000 readers...I got three, yes just three, responses. But here's what's important - I was able to turn two of those leads into a donation (just one did not work out). When it was all over, we raised \$880.00 from just those two donations.

Let's do the math -- last year 67% of all leads resulted in an average donation of \$440.00. Now let me dream a little for this year. If the membership sent me just 15 leads, the same success rate would yield \$4,400.00 in donations. Sending me 90 leads could raise almost \$26,500.00 for us. The easy part is getting to 90 leads as that would take just 1 in every 100 members sending in a lead. Don't depend on your wing man to send me a lead; I need you to do it!

ALL THAT I NEED IS:

1. Name and address of company we should target (e-mail address also if you have it)
2. Name and title of contact person to be targeted and their phone number (toll free if available)
3. Your name and VHPA number so that I can thank you.

Send the above info to Bill "Moon" Mullen, [REDACTED] or PO Box 2082, Pocono Pines, Pa 18350.

MAKE AN OLD MAN HAPPY SEND ME A LEAD!!!!!!!!!!!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

VHPA 28th Annual Reunion in Orlando, Florida

WALT DISNEY World.



TIMES

EVENT

LOCATION

There are no VHPA sponsored celebrations, activities or gatherings on Monday, July 4th, 2011

~ TUESDAY, JULY 5TH ~

8:00am - 1:00pm	Vendor Room Set-up	Lobby Level Window Rooms
8:00am - 5:00pm	Registration	Convention Registration
8:00am - 6:00pm	Pre-Registration	Lake Down
8:00am - 5:00pm	Tour Office	Spring Lake
11:00am - 11:00pm	Honor Keg Room	Pocket Lake
1:00pm - 4:00pm	T-Shirt Room	Ruby Lake
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Vendor Room	Lobby Level Window Rooms
7:00pm - 10:00pm	Early Bird Reception	Orlando Foyer

~ WEDNESDAY, JULY 6TH ~

8:00am - 6:00pm	Welcome/Information Desk	Market Place Lobby
8:00am - 5:00pm	Registration	Convention Registration
8:00am - 7:00pm	Pre-Registration	Lake Down
8:00am - 5:00pm	Tour Office	Spring Lake
9:00am - 5:00pm	Vendor Room	Lobby Level Window Rooms
9:00am - noon	Mini-Reunions	Lobby Level Rooms
9:00am - 5:00pm	AAHF Huey Rides	Rear Bus Loading Area
9:00am - 4:00pm	Pontoon Boat Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
9:30am - 3:30pm	Fantasy of Flight Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
11:00am - 11:00pm	Honor Keg Beer Room	Pocket Lake
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Mini-Reunions	Lobby Level Rooms
1:00pm - 5:00pm	T-Shirt Room	Ruby Lake
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Banquet Seating Room	Sand Lake
2:00pm - 5:00pm	Poker Tournament I	Lake Virginia
6:30pm - 7:30pm	1st Time Attendee Reception	Orlando
7:00pm - 10:00pm	Welcome Reception	Orlando
8:00pm - 10:00pm	Concert - Rolling Stones Tribute	Orlando

~ THURSDAY, JULY 7TH ~

7:00am - 2:00pm	Golf - MetroWest	Rear Bus Loading Area
8:00am - 6:00pm	Welcome/Information Desk	Market Place Lobby
8:00am - 6:00pm	Registration	Convention Registration
8:00am - 5:00pm	Pre-Registration	Lake Down
8:00am - 5:00pm	Tour Office & T-Shirt Room	Spring Lake
9:00am - 5:00pm	Vendor Room	Lobby Level Window Rooms
9:00am - 10:30am	HPF #1 VA on PTSD	Orlando
9:00am - noon	Mini-Reunions	Lobby Level Rooms
9:00am - 4:00pm	Daytona Speedway Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
9:00am - 5:00pm	Kennedy & Astronaut Lunch Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
9:00am - 5:00pm	Kennedy Space Center Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
9:30am - 1:30pm	Kissimmee Air Museum Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
9:30am - 3:30pm	Winter Park Tour	Rear Bus Loading Area
11:00am - 11:00pm	Honor Keg Beer Room	Pocket Lake
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Mini-Reunions	Lobby Level Rooms
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Banquet Seating Room	Sand Lake
1:30pm - 2:15pm	PeaceTrees Vietnam - Annual Update	Orlando
2:30pm - 4:00pm	HPF #2 Tom Marshall LS 719	Orlando
4:30pm - 7:00pm	Scholarship Fund Dinner	Orlando
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Concert - The Who Tribute	Orlando

~ FRIDAY, JULY 8TH ~

8:00am - 9:30am	KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast	Lake Eola
8:00am - 6:00pm	Welcome/Information Desk	Market Place Lobby
9:00am - 5:00pm	Vendor Room	Lobby Level Window Rooms
9:00am - 5:00pm	Registration, Pre-Registration & T-Shirt	Convention Registration
10:00am - 12:00am	Annual Business Meeting	Orlando
10:00am - 1:00pm	Spouse/Guest Event Truffles & Trifles	Orlando
12:00am - 11:00pm	Honor Keg Beer Room	Pocket Lake
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Luncheon w/speaker JPAC	Orlando
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Banquet Seating Room	Sand Lake
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Mini-Reunions	Lobby Level Rooms
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Writer's Seminar with Bob Mason	Lake Florence
2:00pm - 5:00pm	Poker Tournament II	Lake Virginia
3:00pm - 4:30pm	HPF #3 Frank Anton POW	Orlando
7:30pm - 11:00pm	Arabian Nights Dinner Tour (or) Dinner & Evening on your own	Rear Bus Loading Area

~ SATURDAY, JULY 9TH ~

8:00am - 9:30am
8:00am - 5:00pm
8:00am - 6:00pm
9:00am - 5:00pm
9:00am - 5:00pm
9:00am - 5:00pm
9:00am - noon
9:30am - 3:30pm
9:30am - 4:30pm
10:00am - 4:00pm
10:00am - noon
10:00am - noon
11:00am - 11:00pm
1:00pm - 5:00pm
2:00pm - 3:00pm
3:00pm - 5:00pm
2:00pm - 4:00pm
5:45pm - 9:00pm
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Memorial Service
Tour Office
Welcome/Information Desk
Registration, Pre-Registration & T-Shirts
Vendor Room
Banquet Seating Room
Mini-Reunions
Fantasy of Flight Tour
Pontoon Boat Tour
Winter Park Tour
HPF #4 Memory Map
Stamp Set Show & Tell
Honor Keg Beer Room
Mini-Reunions
War Story Contest
HPF #5 More from JPAC
Quilt Show & Tell
Closing Banquet
Dance Band

Lake Eola
Spring Lake
Market Place Lobby
Convention Registration
Lobby Level Window Rooms
Sand Lake
Lobby Level Rooms
Rear Bus Loading Area
Rear Bus Loading Area
Rear Bus Loading Area
Orlando
Lake Mizell
Pocket Lake
Lobby Level Rooms
Orlando
Orlando
Lake Virginia
Orlando
Orlando

~ SUNDAY, JULY 10TH ~

8:00am - 9:00am
9:00am - 4:00pm
9:00am - 4:00pm

Tour Office
Kennedy Space Tour
Daytona Speedway Tour
Enjoy Orlando or depart for home

Spring Lake
Rear Bus Loading Area
Rear Bus Loading Area



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"Cementing A Friendship-The Hard Way"

By Steve Bookout

I recently had the good fortune to meet Jason Stone at a recent Razorback Reunion through one of our old crewchiefs, Bill Stribling. These two had been friends since the mid-1960s. There's an exciting story here, but first a little back ground. Jason attended the reunion to record interviews with some of our former crew members in order to flesh out a made for TV documentary he was assembling about the Razorback guns. After all the lies and war stories had been filmed, I asked Bill how he got acquainted with this guy in the wild luau shirt. It turned out that Mr. Stone was an enlisted member of an Air Force air rescue unit, callsign "Pedro", flying HH-43B Kaman "Huskies". Pedro's mission was to rescue downed US and VNAF aircrew during the Vietnam War. It also turns out that both the Pedro's and Razorbacks flew out of Tan Son Nhut. I automatically assumed their friendship sprang up from working at the air base with one another, but you know the old adage about the word 'as-

sume', eh? And in this case, "boy was I wrong!" The narrative is in Bill and Jason's own words, so set back and enjoy. Cheers, Steve Bookout - Razorback 33

So, as Paul Harvey would say if he could: Now for the rest of the story.

Bill Stribling's account of that day's action: A VNAF C-47 had gone down in the Saigon area, and there were casualties that had to get medical attention ASAP. Jason and another Air Force Husky crewman were left behind in order to load all of the VNAF casualties on board. After their Medivac aircraft left, VC from a nearby village approached the downed aircraft, and a firefight ensued. Things didn't look too good for Jason and friend, when suddenly a Razorback light fireteam came thumping along, sized up the situation, rolled in, and killed most of the VC. Jason found out it was MAJ Chad Payne, the Razorback platoon leader that got him out of the jam and arranged to meet him. They became friends and Jason started hanging around the Razorback flight lines with both our Starcom and "30 minute" teams. Jason then started flying missions with us, strictly as an observer of course, and while there he took lots of combat photos. I made friends with Jason that way, but we got pretty tight after being on my ship the day we were shot down supporting a downed 25th Div bird.

We were flying recon when we heard the Mayday call on Guard from a Centaur gunship that had been shot down in a dry rice paddy. The crew was still under fire and the NVA were closing in. We got there within five minutes and saw the gunship on its side, in a series of dry rice paddy's with bamboo growing up on all of the dike lines in an about ten-acre area with a village nearby. Our bird was the wing ship in the team and when we rolled in on our first pass, I saw guys in uniform everywhere on the ground. They were in both the thick bamboo and out in the open. I clearly remember one big guy running with a RPD machine gun. The dust, smoke, and noise were incredible, and seemed to get worse with each pass. We were getting hit pretty regular on every pass, some of which came from .51 cal machine guns. On the fourth pass, we smelled fuel, and the fuel warning light lit up. WO Davis, our right seat pilot, rolled to our right, trying to fly over a wide swath of jungle but the girl just couldn't stay in the air - we made a hard landing about 100 meters beyond in a large dry paddy.

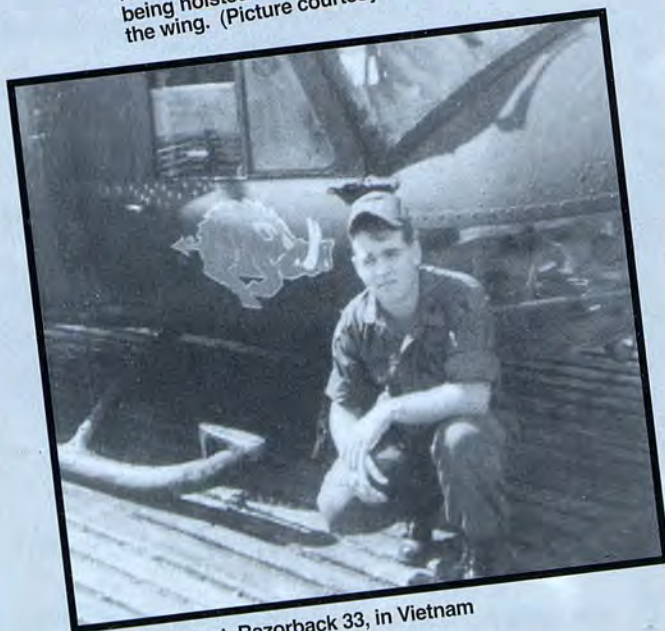
Razorback 6 started an orbit around us while we got the pilots out. Mike Klinker, the other crew chief, Jason, and I set up a perimeter behind a dike facing the direction of the fight. We immediately started receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from the tree line and returned fire. Overhead, 6 could see 30 or so bad guys in the edge of the jungle and called two F-100's to our position pretty quick. They dropped napalm, and 250 pounders on the woods, then made 20 MM cannon runs.

While all this was going on, a 25th Div Cav unit was in the area, and a young M-60 tank commander made the decision to get the 25th Div gunship aircrew out by himself. He punched through the bamboo and dikes to the aircraft's position firing his .50 cal machinegun. The crew got on board under heavy fire and as the tank was attempting to back out to safety, the young tank commander was struck in the head and killed by an AK 47 round. The gunship's crewchief got in the cupola and fired the .50 cal at the enemy as the tank made its escape.

Meanwhile, our fire team lead, Major Payne, had burned his fuel



Pedro rescuing aircrew from an Army Otter that was forced down in a minefield. Note one of the crew being hoisted aboard while the other waits on top of the wing. (Picture courtesy of Jason Stone)



Steve Bookout, Razorback 33, in Vietnam

load down e
landed the e
took off und
a gun barrel
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and I were r

Jason Stone
Adding to Bill
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pilot's door a
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tracted by s
head. I said
that it wasn't
They were
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We started
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MAJ Chad R
stayed at th
Watkins cam
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16 when I s
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enough to try and lift Jason and our crew out. He
ship and we all piled on board at a dead run and
er extremely heavy fire. Everybody that could get
out the left door started firing at the woodline. We
erloaded that Razorback 6 had to bounce his ship
ur times in order to get enough translational lift to
ke lines. Arriving back at Hotel Three, we were
y ship to fly missions that night, they sling loaded
ck by Chinook, and Jason took a picture of me
A .51 cal bullet hole. After that experience, Jason
pretty close.

ne adds:

ill's narrative, what I remember is when the Razorbacks
ed the Mayday call, one ship had been shot
another was covering it. By the time
the second ship had also gotten
so we flew top cover for them until
ot down ourselves! Things are a
ays, but I remember opening the
after the crash to help get him out
s seat's armor plate was blocking his
en set up a perimeter and I was dis-
several upset bees flying around my
d something to Bill and he informed me
t bees but enemy bullets coming at us!
e so close to my ears that I could hear
ng as they went by.

d firing into the tree line until some F-100's
-hoa came in and raked the area with na-
20 mm cannon fire. They made an eerie
a banshee, but gave us a little relief. When
Payne, Razorback 6, flew in to pick us up, I
he rice paddy dike shooting until Mr. Early
me over and told me to get my a** in the chop-
running for the helicopter, I lost my balance and
ug into the ground. Getting on board, there was
everywhere at us. I was almost ready to fire the
stopped, put the safety on and
ne barrel. Sure

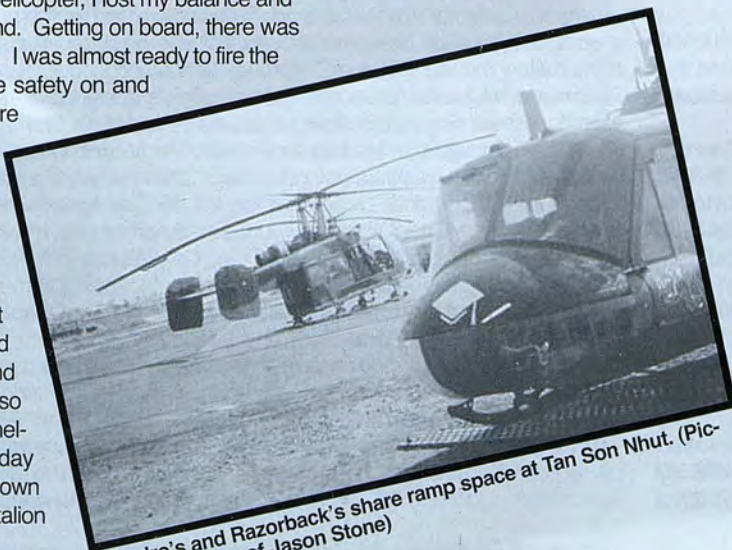
e barrel was
with dirt from
d lost my bal-
mediately broke
own so that it
e grabbed by
I had pulled that
e of us would
ably been around
ale. It seems also
as yet another hel-
ot down that day
total of 4 birds down
e of an NVA Battalion
action.



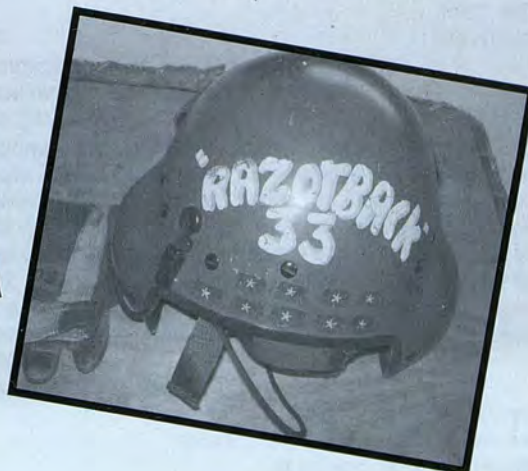
Jason Stone in Vietnam, dressed for
his Air Force Search & Rescue mission.
(Picture courtesy of Jason Stone)



Bill Stribling, Crewchief for the Razorbacks in
Vietnam



Pedro's and Razorback's share ramp space at Tan Son Nhut. (Pic-
ture courtesy of Jason Stone)



LOOKING FOR

Looking for information from Pilots that served with the 129th AHC

Looking for information from Pilots that served with the 129th AHC out of Ahn Son/Lane Army Airfield in the last half of 1971. I was a pilot with A Troop 7/17th Air Cav based out of Phan Rang Air Force Base. The Air Force team at this base had it pretty good for Vietnam, air Conditioning, nice thick mattresses on the beds, etc. The CAV was in a dusty bump on the perimeter of the base and it was typical CAV, in other words not very posh. During the latter half of 1971 (Aug through Nov??) a Typhoon caused the 129th to fly South to Phan Rang to protect their aircraft and they were allowed to stay at the Air Force transit Officer Quarters. I did not meet any of the 129th guys but apparently the Air Force brass was all in a huff and wanted to "nail some Army pilots to the wall". It seems that when the Air Force checked the Officer Quarters after the 129th left the base they were missing quite a few items (like Air conditioners, mattresses, lighting, etc.). In fact, the word I got from an Air Force Captain at the O'club was "Those f***ing pilots took everything but the kitchen sink!!"

A few months later the 7/17th stood down and returned to the states, I'm thinking this was around December 1971. Anyone lucky enough to have 181 days in country at the time went home. Not being one of the lucky ones to return stateside, I was transferred to the 129th along with a friend and fellow pilot, 1st Lt Tom Shaw. Upon arrival at the 129th we were surprised to find that we had to "buy" our room. We found a pilot that was leaving in a few days and negotiated a payment for the room. I'm not sure of the exact amount that we paid, but 300 dollars seems about right. And was it ever decked out! Nice thick mattresses, air conditioning, it even had a Florescent lighting with USAF stamped on it.

So, here is what I'm looking for: The pilot that sold me the room? I also want to know the story of the "Famous Phan Rang Heist of 1971" The 129th turned out to be a great unit with some real "characters", one in particular was Augie Bailey and I'm still looking for him, I have some pictures he will surely want.

If you can help with information on the above please contact me at

**Jim Crigler
Bulldog 12**

Looking For info on James Warren Arvidson, KIA on 8/2/68

I am James Warren (Jim) Arvidson's younger brother, Chuck Arvidson. I spoke with a classmate of my brother last night and he thought that I might be able to find more people with information about Jim within your organization.

Jim was flying with B Troop, 1st/9th CAV, 1st CAV DIV from 4/1/1968 until his death on 8/2/1968. Other information is that both Jim and the gunner died in the crash (tail # 66-15055), the other two crewmembers survived the crash.

**Thanks,
Chuck Arvidson, E-Mail:**

Looking For name of aviation unit

While I was station in Vietnam during 1966-67, I often flew in Huey's out of Tan Son Nhut Air Base. I've been trying to remember name and/or number of the aviation company that was stationed there and I am hoping that your membership can help me out.

**Thanks - and Welcome Home!
Maurice McGleish**

E-mail:

Man from Oklahoma is looking to thank Cobra rescue pilots....

My name is Rusty Hair and I was a grunt in Vietnam. What I would like to do is find the two Cobra helicopter pilots who saved my life in late

March or early April of 1968.

My unit, the 1/18 Inf of the 1st Cav Div was operating across the border in Laos in II Corps, probably almost directly west of Pleiku. We had been in contact and were being extracted from the hot PZ by, I believe, three Huey's who were supported by two Cobras. First the Huey's landed and we all got on, but my Huey couldn't lift off because of being over weight. All the pilots huddled together on the radios and I was told to get off the slick, they said one of the Cobras would pick me up.

Sure enough all the Huey's left the PZ and then one of the Cobras landed. I was motioned to jump on wing and sit on the rocket pod facing backwards and to hold on to the trailing edge of the wing - all of which I reluctantly did. We took off and I was taken all the way back to Pleiku where I finally got off. What a ride!!

I would like to find those pilots today and thank them. The only thing I remember about the helicopters was that I believe they had either a horse or lion painted on their nose. I have also been told that they were probably from a Cav unit, but I'm not sure of that.

If you think you can help me find those pilots, call my friend, Tom Payne here in Tulsa, Oklahoma at [redacted] or email him at: [redacted] I work in the field and am often hard to reach but will contact you back.

**Thanks for your time!
Rusty Hair**

Looking For anyone who might have known William Dvorack in Vietnam

I am writing a couple of stories about VHPA veterans and need to contact any members who flew for the 498th Dustoff in 68-69 and have knowledge of CW2 William T. Dvorak's crash during his tour of duty there. Bill injured his knees in the crash, is all I know. He returned to civilian life and was killed in an offshore helicopter accident a few years ago.

I knew Bill and his family when we worked together at Western Helicopters in Rialto, CA. I am working on my third book of nonfiction and Bill's story is very poignant. If anyone can lend a hand, I'd sure appreciate it.

**Yours truly,
Dorcey Wingo**

E-mail:

Searching for information on a Catholic Chaplain from Vietnam

I am searching for information on a Catholic Chaplain for the purposes of composing a short bio to tender along with his personal effects to one of the military museums (82nd/Chaplaincy/1st Cav).

His name is Charles A. Conroy. He was officially assigned to the 228th Aviation Assault Support Battalion supporting the 1st Air Cav from late 66/early 67 through 68. He has a number of Air Medals and other artifacts that show he was frequently in the air. One of which is a letter written by Capt. Richard C. Deppey of the 1st Air Cav to the Chaplain's mother after the Chaplain was wounded. Another is a hand made plaque to the Chaplain from the 610th Trans Co (GS) marked 1966-67.

If you can please help point the way for me for finding someone, or some records that help me to piece together where the Chaplain was and what he did while he was there, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you in advance for any time or knowledge you can share.

**Patrick Long
IPG MES
Evanston, IL USA**

Editor's note - On Jan 18, 2011, Patrick added these facts that he though might help in the search about the life of Chaplain Conroy:

He was a Jesuit priest that was born in Chicago and was the only surviving child in his family. He attended, and later ministered at, Loyola

LOOKING FOR

Academy and Loyola University.

He was with the 82nd in Operation Powerpack (his assistant was KIA by a sniper) and later joined up the 1st Cavalry. He appears to have been a line Chaplain with the 288th of the 1st Cav, based in An Khe with Company C (perhaps) and with the Guns-A-Go-Go detachment - he's got a photo of one of the gunships displaying its ordinance load signed by a number of the gunship crews such as "Doc Holloway; Ralph Jones, Jeff Overson; Dick Stressner and two others I can't read").

In November 1967 he was in Dak To and was photographed by Dana Stone; apparently he came in with the one of the 1st Cav's supply ships or with the Cav's Medical Evacuation group coming to support the 173rd that was engaged at Dak To. At some point in his tour he was on board a Chinook hauling drums of chemicals (CS) that took fire, ruptured the drums and forced the aircraft to the ground in enemy territory. He helped set up a perimeter long enough to clear the ship and get it airborne again.

He also helped an ambushed patrol pull its wounded troopers out of the line of fire and at some point was wounded himself (the last time badly enough to be sent to the 85th Evacuation Hospital). After Vietnam he was stationed at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Leonard Wood and Schofield Barracks. He retired in 1984 from Army & Church, he passed away in his home in Colorado in 1988. He was described as "being like a coiled spring, very vibrant, thin, in shape, outgoing and very funny but could turn dead serious in a flash - like switching on a light".

My name is Thom Cerny and I'm a former Army Combat Engineer.

I am trying to gather some information that might help me put together a tribute for a fallen 189th AHC member's surviving family.

My friend, the fallen 189th AHC member is PFC Norman Dale Adkins. He was 19 years old at the time of his death. His MOS was 67A1F and he had only been in country for 35 days when he was killed. Here's what little I know about the incident:

On 25 April 1970, Norm was serving as a door gunner on Avenger 158. His UH-1C (tail number 66-15158) was crewed by Pilot Lt. William "Killer" McKibben (posthumously promoted to Captain), Aircraft Commander WO1 Robert "Turkey" Pierce and Crew Chief Sp4 Gus Smith. While on a "beans and bullets" mission supporting friendly troops on Hill 31 near the small SF camp at Dak Seang, Kontum Province, II Corps, Avenger 158 was shot down and crashed into the dense jungle. The incident number was: 70042555, the coordinates of the crash were YB887433. All four crewmen were initially listed as KIA - Died While Missing. All four bodies were recovered in July 1970, PFC Adkins was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his "exceptionally valorous" actions on 25 April 1970.

Here's what I am looking for. Does anyone out there remember witnessing the crash? Can anyone help me determine the configuration of the aircraft that day? Is there any way of estimating how many missions Norman might have flown? Do any of you know where I can obtain an Avenger's (coffin-shaped) patch? Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to offer.

Thomas P. Cerny

Looking For information on my uncle (SP4) Tim Betz

I am searching anyone who might have know my uncle Tim Betz, specifically for members of D Troop, 1/9 Cav., 1st Cav. Division when my uncle served with them from September 1970 through September 1971.

I teach history in the Buffalo, NY and use my uncle's service and the 1st of the 9th Cav as my basis when I teach about the Vietnam War. I am always looking for new and interesting information to use in this class. I have been also directed to searching for LT. Steve Bean who I believe might have been the Troop Commander at one time. Also, the

names Lt. Owens, WO Sellers, and Ronald D. Justice keep coming up in photos of people he served with. Other possible men who may have served with him are Larry Brown (CO?) and Roger Snow both of E Troop, 1/9 Cav. Last, I know there were other Betz's that I am more distantly related to that served in Vietnam with these units, A Co. 2/7, B Co., 1/7, and C Co. 2/7 and any info on them would be greatly appreciated.

**Please email me with advice, ideas, or connections you may have.
Thank you for your time and efforts.**

Jeff Betz

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

VHPA Member Tom Ellis sent us this request:

I am looking for pictures of the side art on the CH-47 Chinooks that were assigned to A co, 228th HSC during the time frame February 1969 through 1970. I'm especially looking for the art of the aircraft known as "Wiley Coyote", and "Vietnam Fickle Finger of Fate" or any of the side art on any of our aircraft.

Feel free to contact me via e-mail at:

**Regards,
Tom Ellis**

Looking For any Medivac Crewmembers who might remember...

the day that I was wounded for the third time on the same day in Quang Ngai Province in Vietnam.

On April 15th 1970 I was twice wounded while in combat on the ground. About 5:00 PM that evening, I was again shot as we were leaving the area in a Medevac helicopter. My company was the Charlie Company, 198th LIB, 1/52th Infantry and we were based out of LZ Stinson, Chu Lai was the location of the hospital where I was taken for treatment. While picking me up in the PZ that day, the Medivac pilots were told where the enemy fire was coming from, but they turned toward it anyway. The on-board medic treated me for my 3rd wound while enroute to the hospital.

I'm not mad at the pilots, s*** happened all the time over there. The only reason I'm asking if anyone recalls this incident is because I am seeking to be awarded a third Purple Heart for this action as I was wounded in three separate instances (I only received 1 Purple Heart that day after all was said and done). I feel I should be awarded a cluster for the second and third incidents, so I would like to have as much documentation as possible on-hand before I submit my claim. Hopefully someone out there can help me.

**Sincerely,
Francisco Garcia**

Email: [REDACTED]

On Tuesday, February 1, 2100, the VHPA received the following short note in our Comments/War Stories section of our website (www.VHPA.org)

I could tell all of you some real stories about Vietnam. However I would just like to say thanks to all of the VHPA members living and dead, who served in Vietnam both before and after my unit was there, and that supported me and my unit while we were in-country. I was with Charlie Company, 1/1, Marine Division, I was in-country from March '1970 to '1971.

**A special shout out to "purple haze"
CH46's, thanks again for never hesitating.
Greg Karr**

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Continued on page 28

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor of the VHPA Aviator,

Just wanted you to know that I have just received the Jan-Feb copy of the Aviator and thought I recognized the bird on the cover.

At that time that photo was taken, Supergrunt flew with C Company, 229 AHB, 1st Cav Division. I wasn't in Supergrunt that day, but I was on that mission. According to my flight records, I flew 3.6 hours that day, with 18 landings.

Keep up the great work!

David Kime

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

To the Editor of the VHPA Aviator,

I am writing this letter to the Membership to let them know that we only have 40 copies of the 2011 VHPA Calendar in stock, and because of that - we've marked them down by 15% (to only \$11.22 each!)

Full ordering details are available at: www.AcclaimPress.com or by calling 1-877-427-2665

Mike Law

We hear from Allen Noll... the man that wanted to make contact with his rescuers after his aircraft was involved in a mid-air collision in 1970.

I am thanking all of you for writing and sending pictures in an answer to my letter in the May/June 2010 VHPA Aviator. I have met, been called by and written to by so many good people. It has been wonderful. Some of the questions I had were answered but there are still some left and apparently only the good LORD knows them. I wish I could share with you all the responses that I have gotten, but it would be almost a 30 page book. I will share some of the great things that have happened since I wrote that letter: First of all, Mike Jones (HAWK 39) wrote back that he was the Loach pilot who was flying with a mini-gun that day. He gave me gun cover because I jumped out of the burning Huey so fast I took nothing with me. THANKS MIKE!

Also, here in Wisconsin, in May of 2010, we had LZ Lambeau. It was a great and big homecoming for Vietnam veterans. I met a lot of great bothers and heard their stories; I even got to have a 2-hour talk with a Pearl Harbor survivor. But then - enter Phil Marshall, a friend of Mr. Poe, the pilot that was killed in the mid-air. That conversation, mostly about Mr. Poe and his cowboy boots, really helped come to terms with what happened that day so long ago.

In September of 2010, I was honored to serve as a guardian on the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight trip out of Milwaukee to Washington D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial. What a great one-day trip that was. But "the icing on the cake" that came from that letter I wrote to the

VHPA was when I talked to Ed Phillips, the pilot who pulled me out of the crash site that day. We plan to personally meet with each other next October.

Thank you all again for your time and information, and may the LORD bless you all.

Allen Noll

C Co. 158th Aviation, 101st Airborne

To the Members of the VHPA

I want to pass along an interesting development to the membership regarding the Gold Star Family Breakfast that we host at every Reunion.

On January 20, 2011, we lost one of the members of our Family Contacts Committee, Frank Reilly. Frank was a medic in the 116th AHC and he used to attend

many of the VHPA reunions. Through his service on the Committee, Frank helped family members of the fallen learn about their loved one - not only how they died, but more importantly, how they lived - by locating men who trained or served with their loved one. The work of the committee was extremely important to Frank. He was a regular contributor and attended several of the Gold Star Family Breakfasts. When he died, Frank requested that memorial donations be made in his name to the "Family Contacts Committee." We now have money on hand to help pay for unfunded Gold Star Family members (families of the fallen) who would like to attend this year's Gold Star Family Breakfast.

If you know a family member of a KIA/MIA who you would like the Family Contacts Committee to sponsor to attend our annual Gold Star Family Breakfast, feel free to contact me and I will do all that I can to make that happen.

The Family Contacts Committee is a group of volunteers who assist family members of helicopter crewmen and pilots who were casualties of the Vietnam War by finding information and/or putting them in touch with friends of their departed loved one. To date we have assisted in more than 400 cases of Vietnam helicopter casualties.

Regards,

Julie Kink, "Little Sister of WO David Kink", C

Troop 1/9th CAV, KIA 8-3-1969

<http://www.VirtualWall.org/contacts>

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

To the Editor of VHPA Aviator

It was a joy to know that Mike Moran and Ron Phears would for ever be remembered by those who would read my article that you printed in last months Aviator.

I know there are so guys out there from 1Cav, 2nd Bde Avn, 1968, who remember Ron and Mike, and I hope the families will see that my friends will never be forgotten. I must tell you that I have to give 100% credit to PeaceTrees Vietnam for making it all possible. I would have never have found the location they went down with out PeaceTrees help. Again, to all those units who lost good friends in the Khe Sanh AO, you might contact Blair Burroughs at PeaceTrees Vietnam and see if you can get their names on the "Wall of Honor". They are good people and they are also "getting it done."

Jim Robbins

Dancer 26, 1967-1968

To the Members of the VHPA,

Someone sent an article to you which ended up being published in your latest newsletter. The article was regarding the return of the remains of three SOG Soldiers that were killed when the Huey they were riding in crashed while attempting a pick-up during a classified LRRP mission.

And while I am a life member of the VHPA, I am not the man who originally sent you that article. I am quoted in the article from an old e-mail of mine, but I don't recall my permission being given to use my name or input in any articles. However, I do not mind that such happened, I do deeply regret an error that appeared in the story.

The purpose today is just to say that I was mistaken when I said that (then) Captain John (Jack) Koshinsky (now LTC, retired) was the pilot who airlifted SFC Zabitosky, and the pilots of the crashed Huey out of the PZ after they crashed started to burn. That pilot, according to Jack Koshinsky (Gladiator 3), was (then) CW2 Herbold of the 57th AHC. I apologize to the VHPA, its membership, to Jack Koshinsky a friend for 45 years, and to CW2 Herbold for my error. The Crocodile gunship platoon of the 119th AHC, then led by me, had only a peripheral role that day as back-up to other gunships, but we (my wingman and I and our crews) did put a lot of hot steel on some very deserving targets.

Finally, I wish to say only that I was honored to personally know Fred Zabitosky and Robert (Bob) Howard, both who earned the Medal of Honor on separate missions which were supported by our battalion, 52d CAB (Flying Dragons). No braver men than Fred and Bob ever walked the face of the earth. I salute them and pray God has welcomed them "home" to a place of eternal honor.

Thanks - Donald L. (Don) Martin

Master Army Aviator (retired)

VHPA Life Member,

former Crocodile Six - 1967-68



To the Editor of the VHPA Aviator,

After publication of my story in this last issue about the first flight of the Q-model Cobra, I received a call from Audie Stern who is mentioned in the story. Audie reminded me that he and George Marcotte were in Alaska at the time of that flight to train crews and IPs for the initial deployment of the basic OH-58 to Alaska and NOT in support of the float-equipped OH-58's. That happened a year or so later. Sorry about the mix up.

Bob Taylor
Ft. Worth, TX

To the Editor of the VHPA Aviator,

Everyone has been asking me about availability of the video that was taken during my Dad's (Don Wann) Welcome Home Service on August 21 of this year. I have recently received the completed DVD from the Fort Sill National Guard and anyone who would like a burned copy please e-mail me with your mailing address. I'm requesting a small donation for the DVD, all monies received will go to the National League of POW/MIA Families for the continued support in recovering the Americans still listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

I want to again thank all of you for your

support for our POW/MIA and their families and families of this current war. And also for supporting me last summer with the awesome Welcome Home Service for my Dad. I'm still in awe of the outpouring and support you all have showed me and my family. But we still have more men to bring home. I'm not selling the DVD, it's simply a request for a donation to help the League, if you are not able to donate and still want a copy, still contact me and one will be on the way.

Shannon Wann Plaster, Daughter of Recovered
MIA CW2 Donald L. Wann
National League of POW/MIA Families

www.pow-miafamilies.org/LeagueHome.html

VHPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Gentlemen – Now is the prime time to request 2011 VHPA Scholarship applications from AAAA.

There will be 4 AND MAYBE 5 \$1000 VHPA scholarships available. And this doesn't include the many AAAA scholarships our applicants are also considered for.

There are only two requirements for applying - 1) you must be a dues current member of VHPA and 2) you must be a member of AAAA OR the applicant must be an Associate member

of AAAA.

Last year we had 40 applicants with 18 of them receiving scholarships totaling \$19,500. Almost 50% is not bad at all. Please encourage your descendants to apply. This is a great deal.

Thanks
Mike Sheurman
Scholarship Committee
Fundraising

**Coming
Spring
2011!**

"Kicking the Hornet's Nest"
By Joe Kline

Full color, highly detailed limited edition print. 20" X 24"
Can be customized with your unit markings \$125.00,
\$80.00 for standard print. Price includes postage.
Advance orders being accepted. Satisfaction Guaranteed
Joe Kline Aviation Art, [redacted] Gilroy,
CA 95020 [redacted]

The dates 10, 11 and 12 May, 2011 have been set for the Gulf State Veterans annual Veterans Military Golf Tournament.

The participants will play three separate courses in the Fort Rucker/Ozark/Dothan Alabama Area and at least one meal will be provided each day.

The participating Golf courses are the Silver Wings Golf Course at Fort Rucker; the Ozark Country Club in Ozark and the Dothan National GC in Dothan, Alabama. The format for the 54-hole tournament will be by select shot or captain's choice method, individual golfers will be categorized at an "A", "B", "C", or "D" level according to handicap; each day each player will be teamed with three new players as the player progress through all three golf courses. Each team player will receive the same score representing the team



effort, at the end of tournament play; each golfer will have three separate scores to combine for their total.

All Veterans of the Military Services, DOD civilians and their spouses are eligible to enter. Entry Fee is \$175.00 if received prior to 1 April 2011, after 1 April the fee increases to \$200.00 and is limited to the first 360 entries received. This is an all-volunteer run Golf Tournament, 95% of the proceeds are returned to the winners in each flight, the other 5% cover our organizational expenses.

This year we have added a new and challenging golf course to the rotation, the "Dothan National Golf Course and Hotel". Mr. David Grand, the General Manager and has offered special rates for those who would like to stay at this hotel while they participate in the Tournament.

Full details and registration information is available at the Association's Website: www.gulfstatesveterans.com or by contacting the Tournament Director, Ward Coleman, at [redacted] or by e-mail at: [redacted]

VHPA CHAPTERS

I am happy to report that the Chapters are doing well. We currently have 24 Chapters, two newly formed in Alaska and Central New York and one, hopefully to come on line within the next six months, in Arkansas. This being said, I am always looking for new possibilities. If you are in an area without a Chapter, perhaps you might be interested in forming one. Call me and I would be happy to discuss it with you.

Jack Salm
or e-mail:

We have two new chapters.
ALASKA CHAPTER
Victor Micol

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER
Jerome T. Severin

Arizona Chapter
Bill Sorenson

California Chapter North
Ken Fritz

Fort Rucker Chapter
Roscoe V. Souders

Fort Wolters Chapter
Lee Westbrook

Georgia Chapter
Carl "Skip" Bell

Hawaii Chapter
Don Harlor

Louisiana Gulf Coast Chapter
Phil Nuss

Mid South Chapter
"Pete" Norman IV

Montana Chapter
Todd Brandoff, President

North Alabama Chapter
Jim White, President

New England Chapter
Bill Williams, President

North Carolina Chapter
J.D. Lawson

Ohio River LZ Chapter
Dave Garner

South Dakota Chapter
Harold Pardew

South Missouri Chapter
John Sorensen, President

Rocky Mountain Chapter
Walt Wise

The Alamo Chapter
San Antonio, Texas
Jim Bauer, Pres.

South Carolina Chapter
(Celebrate Freedom) Chapter
Larry Russell, Pres.

Southern California Chapter
Carl Cortez, Pres.

VHPA of Florida Chapter
Gary Harrell, President

Virginia Chapter
Ben Gay, President

Washington State Chapter
Mark Hansen, President

The VHPA and Chapters share information and guidance with one another for the mutual benefit of each other. All of our Chapters are separate and independently managed organizations not under control of the VHPA. The VHPA is not authorized to act as an agent or a representative for any of the Chapters nor are any of the Chapters authorized to act as agent or representative for any of the other Chapters or the VHPA as a whole.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON STATE

We are planning for our annual luncheon meeting and reunion at FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ in Tacoma. Interim President Mark Hansen will be working the team to have this meeting in late February or early March. Look for our e-mail flyer and a postcard mailer soon. A few days ago I learned that I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to the Washington State Voting Systems Certification Review Board. This involves a two year term in office. As such, I will become very busy dealing with the day to day activities of that board. In light of this appointment and in order to do justice to that position, I feel that I must relinquish my duties as your president.

Between now and our next regular meeting of the chapter, expected to be our annual luncheon at FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ in Tacoma, Mark Hansen, pilot extraordinaire for the KING 5 News helicopter, has agreed to assume the duty of president. I will continue to remain active in the chapter by providing e-mail support to our membership list. For the short term, I will assume Mark's position as Sergeant at Arms until at least the next meeting and the expected election of new officers and support staff. The past year has been fun and quite rewarding to me personally and I thank you all for your support. Now, please support Mark in his new position as your president.

Bob Brown, Past President

SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy new year, and, like our membership, you are looking forward to 2011. The Chapter plans to hold four quarterly meetings; the first will be held on February 19th in St. Louis at the World Headquarters of Wings of Hope, 18370 Wings of Hope Blvd from 11 to 2 PM as mentioned in the Jan/Feb issue of the Aviator.

The second will be held in mid-May in Kansas City; the third is yet to be determined; and with many requests to do so, the fourth will again be held at the Keeter Center, on the campus of the College of the Ozarks, on November 5th—to kick off the Veterans Week activities in Branson.

The Chapter Council is also looking to hold activities between our quarterly meetings where we gather just to have fun and enjoy lunch together, while celebrating fellow veterans and showing our pride in serving our great country. Such events would include museum tours, our book donations to Veteran's Homes and hospitals, and greeting Honor Flights as they are scheduled. Please keep checking our website, vhpasmo.org as these, and other events are scheduled. Finally, the South Missouri Chapter wishes to extend to our National President, Woody Mc Farlin, and his family our deepest sympathy in the recent loss of a loved one. May God Bless You All.

John Sorensen, President

VHPA OF FLORIDA CHAPTER

Here are the activities that we currently are scheduled to support with our members and OH-6. We have requests every day so check our website for current events.

29 January - 10 AM to 4 PM. Classic car show as a fund raiser for the Vets. It will be in Brandon at the POLE BARN on Bloomington Ave.

26 March - We will heave the OH-6 and displays in support of a Rolling Thunder event at Steak and Lube in Clearwater, FL

29 Mar thru 2 Apr - Display of all equipment for SUN & FUN celebration at the Linder Airport in Lakeland.

During Feb, March and April of this year, we already have 6 schools that we are scheduled to support with presentations on Vietnam and the role we played in that war. Participation is always welcome! Gary Harrell, President

Submitted by Jim Basta, Secretary

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER

Our next Chapter meeting will be the 1st Saturday in March (5 March, 2011) at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst, TX.

The Vietnam War Museum's Visitor Center still needs volunteers to man the building. Please contact Jim Messinger to sign up.

Lee Westbrook, President

OHIO RIVER LZ CHAPTER

Our annual reunion was held 25-26-27 February at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati. We had an excellent turnout, numerous prizes and everyone had a wonderful time. General Doug Brown, (USA, Ret.) was our guest speaker. General Brown pioneered Army Special Operations from its inception. He commanded the 160th Avn. Rgt. "Night Stalkers". Gen. Brown entered the Army as a Private, went to OCS and became a pilot in 1971. He is the first Aviation Branch member to be promoted to that 4-star rank. He retired as CG Special Operations at Mc Dill AFB.

Thanks to all of those who made this reunion such a success. Our next annual reunion will be held in February 2012 at a place to be determined.

Dave Garner, President

MONTANA CHAPTER

Our next chapter meeting is tentatively set for June, date to be determined. We are still in the formative stage and would welcome all those interested in joining our group. You must have flown helicopters in S.E. Asia between 1963-1972 to be eligible, or you can qualify as an associate if you are still interested but don't qualify for full membership. Contact me at [REDACTED] or via E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Todd Brandoff, President

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER

We are a new Chapter and welcome all qualified personnel to membership in our Chapter. Please call me at [REDACTED] for full details.

Harold Pardew, President

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NORTH

VHPA-CCN had the Huey, complete with fresh paint and a new trailer at the Cal State Military Museum on Feb 5th for Sacramento Museum Day. Last year more than 5,000 visitors were at the museum between 10 and 16 hundred hours. It appeared that here were more in attendance this year.

Ken Fritz, President

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Continuing in the spirit of laid-back South California, we are planning a St. Patrick's Day meet and greet on Saturday, March 11, 2011 at the Los Alamitos NAS O'Club. The fun begins at 12:30 hrs (got to get there early to get a good seat!). All are invited to attend, both active and potential members.

Carl Cortez, President

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be held in Raleigh, NC on Feb 5th where we will elect new officers. If you wish to be brought up to date on the Chapter's activities for March & April of this year, feel free to either call me at: [REDACTED]

JD Lawson, President

FORT RUCKER CHAPTER

Our February meeting was held on Wednesday, 2 Feb, 2011 and we will maintain that schedule (the first Wednesday of each month) from now on. For February we will have a VA speaker, for January we had a urology doctor from the VA talking about prostate cancer.

In March we are planning on having a dining out with the wives and we are working on a project titled "Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines" on which there will be more info in the next issue. 30 members attended the last meeting so come join the crowd!

Roscoe Souders, President

LOUISIANA GULF COAST CHAPTER

We hold our meetings on the third Thursday of the first month of every quarter. The next meeting will be in April at Smilie's Restaurant in Elmwood, LA. Complete details available through our POC of record on the first page of this section.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

The next scheduled exhibit for the Traveling Vietnam War Museum is an all day event at Prairie View High School in Brighton, CO in April, 2011. The high school is putting together a 2-day program to study the Vietnam War and honor all those who served. All classes at the school will tour the Museum during the daylong event to learn about the history of the war.

Gary Hurrell, Past President

SOUTH CAROLINA (CELEBRATE FREEDOM) CHAPTER

The South Carolina Chapter is busy working with the Celebrate Freedom Foundation while they get ready to host the 2d National Vietnam Era Homecoming. This year the theme is "The Helicopter War" and the NC Chapter is providing all of their helicopters for display.

Martha Reeves and the Vandellas will give a free Motown concert on April 16th in 5 Points in Columbia, SC. We'll also be honoring the Montagnard people with participants from the 5 tribes (with their chiefs) that live here in South Carolina. The regional convention of the SE Chapters of the Special Forces will also meet and greet at that time. There will be a banquet dinner Friday the 15th where we honor and recognize the Tribes and the Teams!!!

This will be a great event and fun for all that can make it. But we need a lot of help to meet our part in pulling it off so any veteran in the Columbia, South Carolina area that would like to help, please contact me (Larry Russell) at [REDACTED] (cell). Full details are also available on our web site at: www.CelebrateFreedomFoundation.Org

Larry Russell, President

ALASKA CHAPTER

We are a new Chapter in the process of forming up in the Anchorage area. All qualified persons, those who flew helicopters in S.E. Asia from 1963 to 1972 are invited to join. If you were not a pilot you may still join as an associate member. Please call me at [REDACTED] for full details,

Vic Micol, President

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

Please contact me if you are interested in membership in the Central New York Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopters Pilots Association (VHPA). If you flew helicopters in S.E. Asia 1963-1975 you are qualified for membership, you can also join as an associate member if you didn't fly but have a lot of interest in supporting our effort. Call me at [REDACTED] (cell), [REDACTED] or E-mail to: [REDACTED]

J.T. Severin, President

Continued from page 24

LOOKING FOR

Looking For pilots who served with the 165th Transportation Co. in Vietnam

My name is Pat Collins and I am a former member of the 165th Transportation Company (ADS) that was located in Bien Hoa and Phu Loi from 1969 to 1972. I am very close to finishing a new website for the 165th that should be on line by now. We are also planning a reunion in Indiana this September that's open to all the units which served under the 520th Trans. Bn. (AM&S) (GS).

Although I have found a number of men from several of our units, we have yet to find any of our pilots. If you are one of the ones we are seeking, please contact me at: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Collins
Copperopolis, CA

Looking for Army One pilots who flew VH-1N Serial No. 158551 or any other VH1's between 1972 and 1976.

Mike Thompson, the curator of the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama is researching a VH1N helicopter that is in their park. The aircraft was flown in to the park in May 2009; it was one of the 3 VH1's under control of the US Army in HMX-1 until May of 1976.

According to the flight summary, this aircraft was one of the helicopters that went to Egypt in 1974 with President Nixon. We intend to display the aircraft here in the Park in its "White Top" scheme as it appeared in April 1982, while on President Reagan's first trip out of the country to Barbados.

I am looking for anyone with pictures of 551 when it was under Army control. About all that we now have is a picture of ARMY ONE that was

found in a most unusual place, on the Antiques Road Show. On the show, one of the pilots brought in some items from the aircraft (a candy dish, cigarettes, and a pen that was used in signing some documents, given to him by Richard Nixon) for appraisal.

If you can help, I may be contacted at both (phone) [REDACTED] and E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Regards,
Mike Thompson
Battleship Memorial Park, Mobile, Alabama

Looking For any information about the loss of SP-4 (PFC) Edward Smiley who was KIA on 4 Dec 1969

I am the Senior Army Instructor in Army JROTC here in West Melbourne, Florida and I am trying to help the mother of one of my cadets. She lost her brother in Viet Nam and I am trying to help her get some additional insights from possible crew members or other whiteness's to the incident.

SP-4 (PFC) Edward Smiley was KIA on 4 Dec 1969 while he was serving as a Gunner on UH-1C #66-15031.

Ed was assigned to the 195th Aviation Company when the helicopter went down. He was officially listed as KIA in Cambodia. The records indicate he was the only non-survivor of the incident so perhaps there is someone out there who can help.

Edward's sister will be joining us at this year's Reunion and is looking forward to attending the Gold Star Memorial Breakfast, so let's see if we can help her get some closure to this part of her life.

Charles C. Cox

TAPS

ALAN ROBERT DAVIS

Alan Robert Davis, 63 passed away on February 5th, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Berkeley, California and earned his Aviator Wings after graduating in Flight Class 69-41. He went on to serve in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and in fact, his entire professional career was spent in aviation.

Alan was devoted to his family and loved golfing, boating and bridge. Alan was preceded in death by his son, Edward but he is survived by his wife, Sharon; one daughter and four grandchildren. Alan's charm and optimism was infectious and he is much-loved and missed by his family and friends. Alan lived every day to its fullest.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Oregon Food Bank.

BERNARD PATRICK SULLIVAN

Bernard Patrick Sullivan, 81, of Radcliff, Kentucky, died Thursday, January 13, 2011 at University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, KY.

CW4 (Ret) Sullivan served thirty two years in the US Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam War in which he did two tours of duty with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). He was a dual-rated Master Army Aviator and instrument examiner. Among his many assignments, he served with the original 2nd ROTC Flight Detachment, and flew with the flight detachments of ARRV, and Fort Knox. After retirement Pat served as an SFTS instructor at Fort Knox Kentucky.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian M. Sullivan of Radcliff, Kentucky, two daughters, two sons, four grandchildren; four great grandchildren and a sister. Burial was in the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff with military honors.



CARL L. KING

CARL L. KING (Age 70) of Manassas, Virginia passed away on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011.

Carl was born in Paris, TX and raised in Wichita Falls, TX. Carl was a graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL. Carl graduated from Flight School class 67-26 Fort Rucker, AL. In 1968, he was assigned to the 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade serving in Vietnam. Carl led various combat air missions piloting OH-6A Cayuse, OH-58 Kiowa and the AH-1 G Cobra helicopter. Captain Carl L. King married Captain Julia Devine USA N.C. in 1970 at Fort Knox, KY and continued with his Army aviation career. In 1988 Carl retired from the Army as a LTC and became an Apache Program Manager until he retired in 2007 from the Boeing Company.

Carl enjoyed spending weekends boating and water skiing with family and friends. He also developed a passion and skill in skeet and trap shooting, developing strong friendships at Isaac Walton League and Bull Run shooting ranges. More than anything, Carl enjoyed spending time with his family



and spoiling his grandkids.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Julia (Devine) King, three sons and one daughter and six, soon to be seven, grandchildren. Carl is also survived by two sisters and one brother. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Donations may be made to Medical Missionaries (medicalmissionaries.org), condolences may be sent to www.piercofh.com.

VHFA Member Mike Hodge added his tribute to Carl...

Carl King was a professional, mission oriented Aviator. My memories of his Scout Platoon leadership in the 7/17th are of a man who looked out for his team and people. He was fearless and kept his UH-1C gun cover team on their toes! For example, Carl was so intent on scouting for the bad guys; he would sometimes take off hovering down a trail covered with bamboo and other vegetation which the enemy used to camouflage the route. We (his Charlie Model gun team) would have to have him transmit on FM so we could triangulate his position! More than once however, he would simply "pop up" through the trees and bamboo - transmit "you see me?" Then much to our consternation, drop back down and continue the hunt when we radioed back we "got you!" Carl was an original. He is fondly remembered by his family and friends.

*Michael W. Hodge
7/17th 68 - 69*

CARL WILLIAM GUSTKE JR.

Maj. Carl William Gustke Jr. (Ret.), 63, of Granbury, died Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 at the VITAS Hospice unit in Baylor All Saints Medical Center of Fort Worth, Texas.

Maj. Gustke (Ret.) served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1987. As an Infantry soldier and helicopter pilot (Flight Class 71-12) during multiple tours in Vietnam he was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry as well as two Purple Hearts. He received his Bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, advanced to the rank of Major and retired from the military at Fort Hood.

He was born Sept. 25, 1947, in Fort Worth, Texas. Survivors include three sons, two daughters, six grandchildren, one brother and one sister. Major Gustke was buried in the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas. Gustke was an avid golfer, fisherman and patriot. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

DEAN R. PAQUETTE

Dean R. Paquette, 80, died Monday, January 17, 2011 in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Dean was born in Detroit, Michigan, July 15, 1930. He spent his first 16 years in Ferndale, Michigan. He enlisted in the Army at age 16 in 1946. He served with the Corps of Engineers in assignments in the Southeast US and Greenland. He attained the rank of Technical Sergeant and was 1st Sergeant in the 809th Engineer Battalion. He graduated from the Engineer Officer Candidate School in May 1952; following graduation he married Emma Shirley Jones in July 1952 in Alexandria, VA.

Col. Paquette served overseas in Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia. He was a Combat Engineer Company Commander in Korea, an advisor to the Indonesian Army, a Battalion Commander in the 1st Cavalry Division in Viet Nam and was the senior

US Army officer in Australia.

He attended the Engineer Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff Course, Fixed and Rotary Wing Flying Courses and the National War College. He held a Bachelors Degree from the University of Maryland and a Masters Degree from George Washington University.

Col. Paquette had various command and staff assignments including three assignments to the Pentagon on the Army General Staff. He retired from the Army in 1976 and went to work for Control Data Corporation in the Washington Office. He retired from Control Data in 1991 and moved to Pinehurst, NC in 1992. He was active in the Daedalions, the Quiet Birdmen, Association of the US Army, the Army Engineer Association, and the VFW.

His awards and decorations include three awards of the Legion of Merit, The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, and The Air Medal with 8 oak leaf clusters and various other commendations and service medals. He is a member of the Corps of Engineers Hall of Fame and was designated as a distinguished member of the Corps of Engineers by the Chief of Engineers.

He is survived by his wife Emma of Pinehurst, two daughters, one son, five grandchildren, one brother and one sister. Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project.

LTC DIRICK CARL "DICK" OVERHAMM

Editor's note - We ran an obituary for LTC Overhamm's in the last issue of the Aviator, but Member Marty Heuer thought it was important for us to note these additional facts about Dick's Army career...

Dick graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Dairy Husbandry. He enlisted in the Army on 1 November 1954 and after basic and advanced engineer training, he attended Infantry OCS, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1955, followed by Ranger School. He was awarded the silver wings of an Army Aviator upon graduating from fixed-wing training with Class 56-8 at Spence Air Base, Moutrie, GA.

He was assigned to the 25th Aviation Company in Hawaii where he was the OIC of both the Army Rescue and Aerial Delivery Teams. He attended the five-week U.S. Navy SCUBA Diving School at Pearl Harbor Submarine Base in 1959, the first Army officer so qualified. He served a ground duty tour as XO, Combat Support Company and S-4, 39th Infantry Battle Group, 4th ID at Fort Lewis, WA. While on ground duty, he attended the Air Transportability Planning Course at Fort Eustis, VA and the Combat Surveillance Radar Course at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

Dick returned to flight status with the 4th Aviation Co, 4th ID at Fort Lewis. He completed the FW Instrument Qualification Course conducted by Ross Aviation in Oakland, CA. He next attended the Officers Rotary-Wing Qualification Course at Fort Wolters, TX from 3 August to 28 September 1962 with Class 63-1Q. He then attended a transition course to become qualified to fly the CH-37B Mojave at Fort Sill, OK en route to Korea to serve with the 19th Transportation Company, 8th Army. While there, he attended the USAF Open Sea Survival School in Japan and spent a TDY tour in RVN flying the Mojave recovering downed aircraft.

TAPS

Dick returned to the states to attend the Infantry Advanced Course at Fort Benning, GA and then was assigned as Operations Officer, 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC. He was reassigned on 15 November 1965 to the 174th Aviation Company at Fort Benning, the unit being organized and trained for transfer to RVN, where he served in the gun platoon. When Dick arrived with the 174th at Lane AHP, 12 miles west of Qui Nhon, he wrote a letter to BG Robert L. Scott the former fighter commander of the China Air Task Force, also known as the Flying Tigers, to request permission to use the Sharks Teeth of the Flying Tigers on the nose of the 174th gunships. Bob Scott wrote to Major Overhamm on 28 June 1966, granting permission and the UH-1Cs were promptly decorated, making the unit the only one in Vietnam with authorization to do so. Dick commanded the Shark platoon until he was reassigned as the Liaison Officer to the Capitol ROK Division, headquartered adjacent to Lane AHP. Dick returned to the states in March 1967 to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA where he served as an instructor, flight commander and safety officer and later as Commander, Academic and Synthetic Training Division for both U.S. and VNAF aviators. He served his third tour in Vietnam during 1971-72 with the J-3 Section, MACV in Saigon. From 1973-74 he served with the Department of Aerial Surveillance, Systems Operation and Maintenance for the OV-1 Mohawk program at Fort Huachuca, AZ. He retired on 30 November 1974 in the grade of lieutenant colonel after 20 years military service. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/OLC, Air Medal with V and numeral 13, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with V and OLC, and other service medals and badges.

After his retirement, Dick began building a home of considerable size on property in Show Low, AZ, mainly by himself with a minimum of tools. He fell 15' from the roof of this nearly completed home while winterizing it and died two days later of internal injuries.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine ("Toni") Overhamm, two sons, one step-son and two grandchildren.

DONALD RALEY

After a lengthy struggle to recover from severe, debilitating injuries resulting from a 2008 accident, Royce Donald Raley died Wednesday, January 25, 2011 at Oakview Nursing Home in Hubbard, Texas.

Don's life was richly marked with service to his country. When he was only 17, he made a surprising decision, and his parents gave their consent for him to enlist in the United States Army. By the time he was 18, he was stationed in Korea, and in 1958, became a lifetime member of the Army Aviation Association of America. Military assignments took him to Ft. Rucker, Alabama, Ft. Lee, Virginia, and Ft. Greely, Alaska. Later, he proudly completed two tours of duty in Vietnam, 1964-65 and 1968-69. He received many Army Commendation medals for meritorious



service, one with its accompanying oak leaf cluster. He was also awarded the Distinguished Combat Service medal from the 147th Hillclimber Association as pilot of the Chinook. In 1999, he was recognized by the Fort Wolters' Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

Once he retired as a Chief Warrant Officer, W-4, after 23 years of military service, Don returned to Dawson, Texas where, for a time, he owned and operated Navarro Mills Bait House and Store. Don's commitment to living a life of service to help others continued in his community where he worked for a time as Dawson's night watchman and then as a trained EMT, serving for several years as a member of Dawson's Volunteer Ambulance Association. His work as a reserve officer with the Navarro County Sheriff's Department led to his being named Peace Officer of the Year by the Navarro County Peace Officers' Association. From 2001-2004, he was Navarro Country Precinct 3 Constable. His life was expansive, serving his community as well as his country.

In 1991, Don married Anita Richardson, who loved him beyond measure and not only was he her husband but her best friend as well. Throughout Don's illness, Anita unceasingly devoted herself to him as his loving caregiver. Don was strong-willed, sometimes to a fault, but he also possessed a generous nature and a willingness to help people. His life speaks of his caring about others on the other side of the globe as well as his community and family.

Survivors include his wife of nineteen years, Anita, two daughters, two step-sons, stepsons, two sisters, one brother and eight grandchildren. Donations can be made in Don's name to the Dawson Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 126, Dawson, TX 76639.

EARL CHARLES "CHARLIE" RODENBERG

Cancer took his earthly life but not his dignity, spirit, or soul. Earl Charles "Charlie" Rodenberg entered the kingdom of heaven on Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

He was born to Earl and Sarah Jane Rodenberg on December 12, 1945 in White Township, Pennsylvania. He grew up in Brazoria County and attended schools in Sweeney, Texas. In 1968, he graduated from Texas A&M University and began a career in the United States Marine Corps that spanned 24 years. He was a Designated Naval Aviator and flew both helicopters and jet aircraft. He was a combat veteran of the Viet Nam War and Operation Desert Storm. The highlight of his military career was the honor of serving as the commander of an aviation squadron.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, he enjoyed a second career as a commercial airline pilot. Charlie is survived by his wife, Mervyn Ranson Rodenberg; two children, his father, his sister and three grandsons. He loved being their "Papa" more than anything in this world.

Charlie will be remembered for his positive outlook on life, his witty sense of humor, loyalty to his friends, and his generosity. He was a firm believer in his faith and wished his passing to be a celebra-



tion of life. He was interred at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made in his honor to Austin's Christopher House to the Capital Area Food Bank in Austin, Texas. Condolences available at www.cookwaldenforestoaks.com.

FRANK ALDEN DRUYOR

Frank Alden Druyor, 1923-2010 Veteran Pilot in three wars- WWII, Korea, and Vietnam,



Born in Cherokee, IA, his life in the Military took him all over the globe; he spent life after the Army in St. Petersburg, FL. His family passed on a love of travel; he combined that with photography, scuba diving, and painting he learned from his fathers paint store. In later years, he built houses with solar water heaters (1970's) and the Chateau Apartments and a barn for his daughter's farm. He was also a retired Real Estate Broker and active property manager. Flying was his passion in the Army - from a Piper Cub between the front lines directing artillery (he was the first to arrive at Dachau Concentration camp as Germans were leaving, landing on the road in front of the last vehicle before the tanks arrived); to bubble top helicopters in Korea, then the Huey Helicopter in Vietnam where he flew with the 116th Aviation in 1965 under the callsign Homet 03.

Frank is survived by his second wife, Grace Snead Druyor, four children and five grandchildren. He is free of this earth, but we hope never to be free of his memory. Please visit Frank's personal online guest book at www.andersonmoqueen.com.

G.J. "JAY" BARTON

G.J. "JAY" Barton, of Brighton, Colorado passed away on December 23, 2010.

The VHPA shows Jay to have graduated with Flight Class 62-2W and to have flown in Vietnam with UTT in 1962-63m and with the 196th ASHC in 1967-68. While there he used the callsign's Playboy and Flipper 03.

Burial was held in the Ft. Logan Natl Cemetery, in Denver, Colorado. Memorial Contributions in his memory can be made to: Harvest Fellowship Church, [REDACTED] Brighton, CO 80602.

HAROLD P. SCHWALM

Harold Schwalm, 64, of Greeley, Colorado, died Dec. 30, 2010 at the Hospice Inpatient Unit at North Colorado Medical Center.

He was born Jan. 15, 1946 in Greeley Colorado, he graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1964 and attended Colorado State University from 1964-69 before being drafted into the Army. He later earned his masters of business from UNC and went to Aims where he received a fire science degree.

He graduated flight school with Flight Class 69-40 & 69-44, he flew out of Plantation under the Sidewinder callsign with the 117th AHC from January 1970 through January 1971. After returning from Vietnam, Harold built houses in Loveland, CO and later applied for a position with the Greeley Fire

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Department from which he retired five years ago. Harold was a member of the First Congregational Church of Greeley. He drove the DAV van to Cheyenne every Thursday and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2121, the NRA and the Good Guys Car Club.

Harold loved people and would do anything for anyone. He belonged to the Darling Reservoir and helped out there. He enjoyed fixing things including his 1939 Chevy. He also enjoyed reading, shooting and pheasant hunting in South Dakota every October.

Survivors include his wife, Patty of Greeley, one son, one daughter and one sister.

J. Y. HAMMACK

Retired US Army Colonel J Y Hammack, 89, died Sunday, Jan 2, 2011 in Crowell, TX and was buried in Goodlett Cemetery. He was born in Goodlett, Texas in October 1921. He enjoyed sports and was accustomed to hard work while growing up in a farming community, despite his overwhelming size he was very adapt at playing basketball.

He enlisted in the United States Army in July 1942 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1943 after completing Officer Candidate School. J Y then underwent flight training and received his first pilot rating to begin his long career as an artillery officer and aviator. He saw action in WWII in the European Theater and participated in campaigns in both North Africa and Italy. Following the war J Y attended and completed an early class of helicopter pilot training.

J Y left the service active duty roles in August 1948 to continue his college education at Texas Tech University studying Geology. He returned to active duty in OCT 1950 and was assigned as Commanding Officer, 6th Helicopter Company and moved with his unit to Ft Bragg, NC in 1952. In late 1952, J Y Hammack deployed the company to the Korean War zone and was the first Assault Helicopter Company to arrive in Korea. He returned to the states for assignment to Ft Eustis, VA and the Pentagon as personnel assignments officer. He attended the Command and General Staff College and was assigned to Ft Sill where he remained through 1963. During this assignment, J Y was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, served as the Army Aviation Officer and Commanding Officer, Artillery Aviation Group, US Army Artillery and Missile Center and while there he received the Master Army Aviator Badge. J Y was then assigned to Vietnam as the Commander, 13th Army Aviation Battalion, one of only three aviation battalions in combat operations in the Vietnam war. The 13th, as a result of his leadership was selected as the "Outstanding Army Aviation Unit of the Year". After Vietnam, J Y returned to Ft Sill with the 9th Field Artillery Missile Group, in 1966, he was assigned to Ft Benning, GA and eventually became the Commander of the 10th Aviation Group.

In December 1968, J Y was reassigned to FT Rucker and the US Army Aviation Center as the

Deputy Chief of Staff G-3 with follow on positions as Director, Department of Rotary Wing, Army Aviation School and then as Chief of Staff, Ft Rucker, AL. J Y was once again reassigned to Ft Buchanan, Puerto Rico as the Deputy Commanding Officer in FEB 1972 for two years where he also completed his BA in Education. He returned to Ft Bragg, NC in July 1974 where he retired after 34 years of active service to his country.

Colonel Hammack's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 12 Oak Leaf Clusters and one "V" device, multiple campaign and service medals, Order of Crown of Italy Degree of Cavalier and Master Army Aviator Badge.

J Y was married to the former Ruth Bumpass of Quanah, TX and they had four boys. J Y was preceded in death by Wife Ruth and Son Mark. Submitted by Jeff Murray

JAMES WARREN BROWN, ESQUIRE 1943 - 2011

James W. Brown of Savannah, Georgia passed away on Friday, February 4, 2011 after complications from surgery.

Mr. Brown was born in Springfield, Illinois on October 16, 1943. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving during the Vietnam War as a CW2. He graduated flight school with Flight Class 68-29 and served with the 195th AHO in 1968-69 as a member of the Thunder Chickens Gun Platoon. While in Vietnam he was awarded Two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 27 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, 15 Air Medals and numerous other medals and awards. While in flight school at Hunter Army Airfield, Jim met the love of his life, Marjorie B. Brown. They would have celebrated their 41st anniversary in April, 2011.

Upon returning to Savannah, he earned his doctorate of jurisprudence from John Marshall Law School in 1978, his son, William A. E. Brown joined his practice in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, his son, one granddaughter, his father, one brother and several nieces and nephews. His Obituary Guest Book is available at: savannahnow.com/obituaries.

JOE VAN SMITHERMAN

Joe Van Smitherman, 74, of Longview, Texas passed away December 21, 2010 following a long battle with cancer.

Joe Van was born October 6, 1936 in Longview, Texas. He attended Judson High School, and graduated from Texas A&M in 1958. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, and attended Rotary Wing Aviator School in Fort Wolters, Texas with Flight Class 59-7.

Joe Van continued his career in the Army, serving his country for more than two decades. He helped pioneer the use of helicopters by the Army. He completed two tours of duty in Viet Nam, serving as a Helicopter Pilot, Infantry Liaison Officer and Company Commander in the 1st Air Cavalry Division. For his service he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He also served two tours in Korea.

After retiring from the Army, Joe Van worked on the family farm raising cattle. He was the Scoutmaster of Troop 620 for 30 years and served as the Troop Chairman until he passed away.

He is survived by his wife, Linda W. Smitherman, three sons, three daughter-in-laws, six and an extensive family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

VHPA Member Aaron Ault passed on these thoughts to the membership...

I want to make sure the Membership knows that Joe Van Smitherman, age 74, passed away in Longview, Texas on Dec 21. He was buried in Longview, Texas on Dec 28 with Fort Hood providing full military honors. He had a long battle with cancer and was in hospice when he passed away. He is survived by wife and 3 sons and 6 grandchildren. I believe that he graduated in flight class 59-7, he was not a member of VHPA but I'm sure he is known by many of our members. We have all lost a great soldier and a helicopter pioneer.

Aaron Ault, Jacksonville, Tx

JOHN F. DUNN JR.

John F. Dunn Jr. of Bluffton, South Carolina, 68, passed away Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011 after a long battle with cancer while in the Coastal Carolina Medical Center, Hardeeville, S.C.

He was born in Oklahoma City, Sept. 6, 1942. He was a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army who served in Vietnam. John graduated flight school with ORWAC Flight Class 70-20, he served in Vietnam with HHC/227AHB 1 Cavalry Division and with the 128th, AHC on 1970-71.

He was a Christian and an avid golfer. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Dunn of Bluffton; five sons, three daughters and several grandchildren.

Submitted by Jay Riseden, Gunslinger 35, 128th AHC

JOHN M. SCHILLEREFF

Please notify the Membership of the death of John M. Schillereff, 59, of Shadyside, Ohio who passed away at his home on April 6, 2010.

John was born September 19, 1950, in Seattle, Washington; he was a graduate of the Puget Sound University with a degree in Chemistry and Biology and a minor in Theology.

He was retired from the U.S. Army as a CW4, having served his country faithfully for 30 years. He graduated flight school with Flight Classes 70-7 & 70-11; he served his first tour in Vietnam in 1970 with the HHT of the 1.9th Cav, 1st Cav Division. He returned to Vietnam in 1972-73.

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where he again flew with the F Troop 1/9th Cav in the 1st Cav Division. John received numerous awards and decorations, including the Purple Heart for his efforts in both tours.

John was an accomplished poet with several Poet Laureate Awards. He was a member of the DAV Post 117 Bellaire serving as their Service Officer and Vice Commander and a member of the Purple Heart Society and was a recipient of the Broken Wing Award. John was a successful author, pilot and engineer.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl L. Dale Schillereff; one son and one daughter, one sister, one brother and one stepson. Interment with full military honors was held in the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Memorial contributions may be made to the DAV Post 117 in Bellaire, Ohio. You may share your thoughts and memories with John's family at www.altmeyer.com

CPT JOHN W. "JACK" GREEN, III

John W. Green (Jack), 72, of Baton Rouge, LA died December 11, 2010 of pancreatic cancer.

Jack was a member of flight class 64-1, and in 1965 joined the 145th Airlift Platoon in Viet Nam, the first army aviation unit attached to the 5th SFG, Detachment B-52, Project Delta, for helicopter support. Jack served as the operations officer, and was the first aircraft commander to fly a long-range reconnaissance mission for Project Delta. Jack is also credited with being the first army aviator to fly a mission that utilized the McGuire Rig in an emergency extraction to rescue a member of a recon team. He remained in the 145th as it was absorbed by the 2/171st and ultimately the 281st AHC, which was attached OPCON to the 5th SFG in May of 1966 to support Special Operations. Among Jack's many awards and decorations is the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to him for accomplishing the extraction of a Delta Recon team under heavy fire.

In civilian life, Jack became a successful businessman and raised a family. He was involved in model railroading and organized a national chapter of the model railroading association. He was a charter member of the 281st AHC Association and served as its Vice President and President. He recently developed the idea of having a book written about the 281st. Association members are now carrying on the work of that project. Surviving is his wife Linda, his two daughters, one stepdaughter, two stepsons, and 13 grandchildren. Jack was an officer and a gentleman who earned the respect of the 281st AHC Association (the Intruders) family.

LARRY DON PATTON

Larry Don Patton, 64, died Feb. 3, 2011, in Round Rock, Texas. He was born Nov. 3, 1946, in Brownfield, Texas to Arville and Evelyn Patton.

Mr. Patton was preceded in death by his mother and his first wife; survivors include his wife, Lori; his father, one sister, his son, his daughter, one stepson and five grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to Lighthouse Hospice, 100 N. College St., Round Rock, TX, 78664. You may offer condolences on line at www.crawfordbowersfuneralhome.com

Unfortunately the VHPA was notified of Mr. Patton's death very close to the press deadline for this

issue. There are no details of either his military training or his Vietnam experience available at this time.

LEWIS WELDON WRIGHT III

Lewis Weldon Wright III, Colonel, U.S. Army Retired, age 77, a loving husband and caring father, grandfather and great-grandfather passed away peacefully on January 24, 2011 after bravely enduring a prolonged stand against cancer. Colonel Wright was a native of Fort Worth, Texas.

Wright was drafted by the US Army in 1954, his military education included the Artillery Officer's Candidate, Advanced and Nuclear Weapons Employment courses at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma; Army Flight School in both San Marcos, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama; the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He served overseas in Korea, Hanau, Germany; and two combat tours in Vietnam where he served as the Platoon Commander (Snoopy) and operations officer of the 120th Aviation Company, and Commander, 200th Assault Support Helicopter Company (Pachyderm).

Stateside assignments included the Pentagon, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Headquarters, US Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia, the US Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia and Comptroller of Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. During his military service he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with 21 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart and various campaign medals.

Wright began his college education at Texas Southern University for Negroes in Houston, Texas; then it was on to the University of Illinois, in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois; the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); he eventually earned a BS from the University of Nebraska at Omaha; an MBA degree from American University, Washington, DC; a Masters Degree from Old Dominion University Norfolk, Virginia; he also engaged in doctoral study at George Washington University, Washington, DC and the University of Texas at Austin.

Wright married the lovely Irene Solomon in 1964 in Fort Worth, Texas. Following retirement from military service in 1982, the family moved to Austin, Texas where he was employed by The University of Texas at Austin school system. He served there for 22 years in various positions at the University and in all of these positions, Wright was an advocate and facilitator of equal educational, business and employment opportunities to persons of color. Beyond his own love of learning, Wright knew well that education, or "how the world works" as he was prone to explain it, is the indispensable foundation upon which one builds one's own quality of life. Lewis and Irene spent many weekends attending Longhorn football games around the country, alumni banquets, graduations and many other social events at the University of Texas and the UT System. Wright also served as chair of the committee



which produced "A Call to Action" plan for revitalization of Austin Downtown. He was a member of the Austin United Way Planning and Research Committee, a member of the board for the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center, a member of the task force to study the reuse of Mueller Airport, and a member of the board of the Austin Chamber of Commerce where he was vice chair for community development and education.

Wright is survived by his wife Irene (Solomon) Wright; four daughters, two sons and by a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and their families. Burial was held at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. Contributions to Mount Olive Baptist Church are deeply appreciated. The family encourages all to become blood platelet donors. A man of integrity, strength, and grace, Colonel Wright was an example of God's love to his family and all who knew him. Condolences may be left at www.cookwaldenfuneralhome.com

LOREN ELLIS LEONBERGER

Loren Ellis Leonberger was killed in a helicopter accident in Tucson, Arizona on January 31, 2011.

Loren graduated flight school with Flight Class 70-9 and 69-49, in Vietnam he flew under the callsign Pelican 23 and while there, he was awarded the Bronze Star plus many more Service Ribbons. Loren then became a pilot for the Az. Dept. of Public Safety serving for 21 years. During his DPS career Loren was awarded the Valor Award for his heroic efforts in rescuing a downed helicopter crew member. After retiring from DPS, Loren went to work as a Deputy/Pilot for Maricopa County Sheriff Office working for ten years. In 2008, Loren went to work for the Pima County Sheriff Office as Deputy/Pilot and served that office well until his tragic death on January 31, 2011.

Loren was born on November 26, 1950 in Shawneetown, Illinois. He is survived by his wife Kirby Jean Peterson; six brothers, two sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Arizona Highway Patrolman Association's Scholarship Fund of Phoenix, Arizona.



MARSH RAMEY

"Never let a day go by that you don't tell someone 'Thank you, I love you or I forgive you'". These were the words by which Marsh lived until his passing on August 6, 2009. Colonel Ramey passed away from complications associated with Agent Orange and was buried at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery with full military honors.

Marsh was born in Cottonwood, Idaho on September 10, 1936, he graduated from Boise High School in 1954 and Idaho State College in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. While in college he was designated an ROTC distinguished military graduate and then he entered the United States Army as a second Lieutenant. He retired in 1982 after 23 years of service and attaining the rank of full Colonel. He attended the

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Army helicopter school in 1959 and served two helicopter tours in South Vietnam. He acquired over 4000 hours of helicopter flight time and was qualified to fly every type of helicopter the Army had at that time. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, bronze star with oak leaf cluster and 29 air medals for his service in South Vietnam. He has recently been awarded the Army Aviation Association Order of St. Michael medal and has been nominated to the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. In 1970 he was selected to be part of an elite task force in Washington, D.C. To design the Army's new attack helicopter, resulting in today's AH-64 Apache-Longbow helicopter. Additionally, while stationed in Washington, D.C., in 1980, he was instrumental in forming the special operations helicopter unit that today is named "Night Stalkers".

After retirement from the military, Marsh joined Hughes Aircraft Company in Los Angeles, California and spent the next 17 years developing international business opportunities involving infrared pilotage and targeting sensors for both manned and unmanned aerial platforms.

Marsh is survived by his parents, his wife Ann, his son Ryan, two grand-daughters and numerous nieces and nephews. Marsh loved life to the fullest and all the challenges it brought with it. He often remarked "People are your most precious commodity, don't abuse this gift". He leaves behind many friends and acquaintances, including three military comrades listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Any contributions should be made to the Parkinson's Disease National Foundation.

MARVIN B. OLSON

Marvin B. Olson, 78, passed away suddenly Monday, Dec. 20, 2010.

After graduation from high school at Cranfills Gap, Texas, he graduated from Texas A&M, Class of 1954. He served in the U.S. Army where he flew fixed-wing aircraft (class of 55-01) and helicopters. Following honorable discharge, he returned to work at Texas A&M, then continued his career in the computer industry and in construction related businesses.

Marvin was born on Aug. 8, 1932, he is survived by his wife of 24 years, Sandra Tarver; one sister, two brothers, nephews and nieces and Sandra's extended family members, who adopted Marvin as their own and loved him dearly.

Memorials: American Heart Association or St. Olaf's Cemetery Fund, Cranfills Gap, Texas.

RAY BURNS

Col. Ray Burns (Ret.), left to be with his Lord on Tuesday February 1, after a courageous battle with brain cancer. His family and close friends supported him through the entire journey. Ray deeply loved his Lord, family, church, and Texas A&M University. He adored his three grandchildren and spent as much time with them as possible. He treasured golf, fishing and hunting trips along with Aggie football and basketball games.



Ray was the oldest child born on August 19th, 1936 in West Columbia, TX. He grew up in Ganado, TX with his sister and brothers on a farm and enjoyed all things about life; fishing, hunting, swimming while also learning the value of hard work. He graduated from Ganado High school in 1954 where he played basketball, ran track, baseball and was Class President. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1959 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education. He loved his alma mater and his senior class of 59 where he served as class agent from 2004 to 2009. He met his wife of 51 years, Marsha, on a blind date in his last semester at A&M and they married 3 months later at the Ganado Church of Christ. They had a wonderful military career making life long friends.

Upon graduation from Texas A&M College in 1959, Ray was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery and faithfully and courageously served his country for thirty years, retiring with the rank of Colonel. After attending Airborne and Aviation training as a young officer, he rose up through the ranks in numerous command and staff positions of increasing responsibility. He served two tours in Vietnam as a helicopter aviator and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism, along with many other awards and decorations too numerous to mention. He served as an Aviation Company Commander in Germany and as an Aviation Battalion Commander in Korea. As a senior officer he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and was assigned to various staff levels, culminating with five years on the Department of Army staff of the Personnel Directorate.

After retiring from the military in 1989, Ray & Marsha moved to College Station, TX where they became members of the A&M Church of Christ and Pebble Creek Country Club. Ray is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marsha Joe Burns (Foster) of College Station, one son, one daughter, three grandchildren, one sister, one brother, two brother-in-laws and numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

The following was provided by VHPA Member Chuck Qualline

I first met Ray in 1957. He was an upperclassman in the same Texas A & M Antiaircraft Artillery battalion. It was a military school when we attended. Later, when I joined the 119th Aviation Company in Vietnam in 1965, Ray was already there and was my flight section leader. We often flew together, sometimes in the same cockpit and sometimes in the same formations, on many hairy missions. We were usually the first to reach the club every night. We have had many good times over the years, the last time being in San Diego at the VHPA Reunion in July of last year. One night there, our wives feared we would be thrown out of a restaurant because we were laughing so hard.

Ray Burns was the pilot who flew the famous correspondent, Joe Galloway, into the Plei Me Special Forces Camp while it was under siege in October 1965. Our company lost a gunship and the entire crew on the first morning of the battle. In Joe's book is a photo of the camp taken through Ray's Huey door as they landed, with mortar shells falling.

There will never be another Ray, and we all will miss him greatly.

RICARDO D. (DAN) AGUILAR

Ricardo D. (Dan) Aguilar, born April 6, 1945 passed away on November 28, 2010 in Covina, California after suffering from acute leukemia.

He graduated from Flight School with class 64-2W as a Warrant Officer in 1964. Dan was a rotary wing Pilot assigned to the 120th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) (CAC) at Saigon, Tab Son Nhut. South Vietnam in 1964/1965 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and several Air Medals while flying Combat Support Missions with his Company. After his tour of duty in Vietnam, Dan became a MOI Instructor at the Primary Helicopter School at Fort Wolters, Texas and was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer. W-2, transitioned into the CH-47 Chinook helicopters at Fort Rucker and was a rotary wing pilot assigned to the 178th Aviation Company, Assault Support Helicopter in South Vietnam in 1966/1967. After his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Dan was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1967 to 1970, graduated from the Warrant Officer Intermediate Career Course and the Helicopter Flight Instrument Examiner Course at Fort Rucker and headed for South Korea where he served in 1970/1971. After leaving Korea he was stationed at Fort MacArthur, Georgia until he retired as a Chief Warrant Officer, W-3 in June of 1973.

Dan went on to continue his aviation career as the Chief Flight Instructor for Heliflight Systems Inc. at their Long Beach, California base.

RICHARD ROBERT (BOB) BURROUGHS

"Bob" Burroughs, 66, peacefully passed away Christmas Eve surrounded by his loved ones in his Huntsville, Alabama home after a long fight.

Mr. Burroughs proudly served in the Military for 32 years as a helicopter pilot. During his Army tenure, Bob was involved in two tours in Vietnam, the Gulf war, and numerous combat operations with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment of which he was a plank holder. Originally earning his wings with Flight Class 67-20, he flew in Vietnam with the 71st AHC in 1967-78 under the callsign Firebird 96 and again in 1970-71 with the 17th CAG. Bob retired as a CW5 with numerous medals and accolades to include the Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Stars, and 30 Air Medals.

Originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, Bob and his wife Karen settled in Huntsville after retiring from military service at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1997. In retirement, Bob was an avid golfer and grandpa. He loved nothing more than spending time with family and close friends, especially when he was in charge of the grill!

Bob was preceded in death by both his father and his mother. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Karen Stewart Burroughs of Huntsville, one brother, one son, two daughters and six adoring grandchildren.

While Bob's military career was highly decorated and his selfless service to country



TAPS

commendable, those who loved him and knew him best will most remember his sense of humor, his playful spirit, his abundant generosity, his sensitive soul, and most importantly, his caring and loving nature. He will be truly missed. The family requests that donations be made to Family Hospice Care at 3304 West Mill Drive, Huntsville, AL or www.hospicefamilycare.org in memory of him.

LTC (RETIRED) RONDLE LEE NELSON

I am very saddened to report that Ron Nelson, 67, of Georgetown, TX passed away on Thursday, October 28, 2010. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

Ron served our country honorably for over 22 years in the US Army retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1988. Ron was a Senior Army Aviator and was awarded a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, five Air Medals and an Army Commendation Medal.

I was fortunate to have known Ron for many of the years he was in the Army. Ron and I attended the Fixed Wing Flight Training class 69-8 together, beginning at Ft. Stewart, GA, and finishing up at Ft. Rucker in June of 1969. We then attended the Rotary Wing Qualification Course at Rucker, Cobra School at Hunter AAF, and then the Aviation Maintenance Officer Course at Ft. Eustis before going to Viet Nam in the Spring of 1970. While in Viet Nam, Ron served with the 79th Transportation Maintenance Company in Qui Nhon.

After retiring, Ron worked as a Project Manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California for 17 years.

Ron married Sandra Ann Walsh in July of 1968 in Grand Rapids, MI. They traveled around the world during his army career. Ron was an avid model train collector and assembler. He enjoyed golfing with his friends and fishing with his Son and Grandsons. Ron loved his Harley Davidson and was a proud member of the Patriot Guard Riders for the past three years.

In addition to his loving wife of over 40 years, he leaves his Daughter Stephanie Harshman and family, his Daughter Allyson Nelson and her family, both of Redmond, WA, and his Son Jonathan and his family of Sacramento, CA and many other relatives and friends.

*Jerry P. Mellick
VHPA Life Member*

RONNY "CURLY" WAYNE ROSS

Ronny Wayne "Curly" Ross, 67, passed away Nov. 27, 2010 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was a graduate of Ranger High School, Texas in the Class of 1961.

Mr. Ross was born March 11, 1943 in Dublin, Texas. He served in the Dallas Police Department for 30 years and retired with the rank of Sergeant. He was a helicopter pilot in the Viet Nam War and received a Bronze Star for his service in the Army. After retiring in 2002, he moved to Blooming Grove, Texas with his wife Barbara.



He became a very active member in First Baptist Church of Blooming Grove and was loved and admired by all who knew him. He gave of himself to everyone in need. He was a very selfless individual.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, one son and one daughter, two grandchildren, a sister and numerous other relatives. His family opted for a private graveside service at the DFW National Cemetery that was complete with a Police escort and military honors. The family requests that contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, Navarro Unit Memorials in Corsicana, TX 75110.

SAMUEL PAUL MUNN

Aviator, warrior, husband and father, Capt. Samuel Paul Munn, U.S. Army (Ret.), passed away January 26, 2011, in San Antonio. He was born January 20, 1948, in Columbia, South Carolina, he graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Pepperdine University and completed studies for a doctorate at the University of Georgia.

Samuel served in the U.S. Army for 20 years. He initially graduated with Flight Class 68-23 & 68-41, he then served with valor in Vietnam in D Troop, 3rd/5th CAV flying under the Callsign Crusader 30. He was one of the first 1,000 to pilot the Cobra attack helicopter. Following retirement from the Army, he worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and Premier Aeronautics.

He was a member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Distinguished Flying Cross Society, National Association of Flight Instructors, AOPA and EAA, and a lifetime member of VFW and DAV.

Samuel is survived by his loving family, his wife of 36 years, Connie Pylant Munn; one daughter, one son, one sister, one aunt and numerous nieces and nephews. Interment with full military honors was held in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on February 1, 2011. Memorial contributions may be made to Sunshine Cottage, 603 E. Hildebrand, San Antonio, TX 78212 or EAA Young Eagles. You are invited to sign the guestbook at www.porterloring.com

TIM HAVEN BATES III

Tim Haven Bates III, 60, died peacefully Dec. 23, 2010 in Hiawatha after a long battle with cancer.

Tim was born May 14, 1950, in Omaha, Neb, he graduated from Davenport Central High School in 1968 and briefly attended Iowa State University before joining the military. After graduating from flight school with Flight Class 71-7, Tim served his country with distinction as a MedEvac helicopter pilot in both the Active and Reserve Army spanning 20 years from 1970 to 1990. Tim obtained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3 during his military career. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and 20 air medals while flying in Vietnam.

After active duty, Tim attended the University of



Iowa where he obtained a Liberal Arts degree with emphasis in English, philosophy, literature, science and the arts, and computer science. Tim also obtained a minor in East Asian language and literature — Mandarin Chinese. Tim was employed at the University of Iowa for 30 years beginning in July 1981 as an ECC Dispatcher for AirCare Emergency Transport and ending with the University's IT department where he dedicated countless hours to his work and was a role model to many. His impact to the department and all who worked with him will be missed.

Tim is survived by his mother and several sisters and brothers. Tim chose to be cremated and interred in a private ceremony at the Rock Island National Cemetery. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring with family and friends.

Online condolences may be sent to Tim's family through the web at www.gayandciha.com

WILLIAM EDGAR DILLON

William Edgar Dillon I, 79, Clarksville, died Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at his residence. Interment was held with full military honors at the Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

He was born March 23, 1931 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Dillon was a retired Chief Warrant Officer with the US Army. He served in Korea with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, and was an Army Aviator in Vietnam. He was a member of the Masonic Order, a 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner. He served as Past Master of Masons in Germany, and was a Past Grand Master of Ceremonies with the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3537 and Fr. William E. Morgan Assembly No 2328, both of Clarksville. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Helen Hannah Dillon. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Nellie Lorraine Bright Dillon; one daughter, two sons, three grandsons, six granddaughters and numerous other relatives including two brothers and one sister. On-line condolences may be made at www.NaveFuneralHomes.com.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE WHELAN

William Lawrence Whelan, of Laguna Niguel, California was born on July 5, 1929 and passed away on January 9, 2011.

A retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marines Corps, he served 27 years as a jet pilot. He was also the Marine helicopter pilot for Jacqueline Kennedy in Marine 2 and in Marine 1 for President Johnson.

He served two tours of duty in Viet Nam, where he received two distinguished flying crosses for the Tet offensive and the Bronze Star air medal combat V with 26 attachments and the Purple Heart.

Larry was born in South Kingston, Rhode Island, and was a graduate of Boston College class of 1952. One sister, Peggy Keenan and his loving companion, Lillian Keane, survives him. Gifts in his memory may be made to St. Mary's Hall, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

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WILLIAM LEE SMITH

William Lee Smith passed away on January 8, 2011, at the age of 62. He is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years Vicki Wilson Smith.

Bill graduated with flight class 69-19 and served in 1969-70 in A/3/17th

Cav as Silver Spur 18. Bill was a member of VFW Post 8541 in San Antonio, the Alamo Chapter of the VHPA, and the president of our Silver Spur Veterans Association, which includes all ranks from the A/3/17th Cav. Bill retired as an Air Traffic Controller with the FAA.

Roger "Bear" Young, the Spur webmaster who also served as a Scout Line Chief, wrote: "I have nothing but wonderful memories of serving with Bill in our Scout platoon under the extremely capable guidance of Scout Platoon Leaders Reynolds & Estep. My first impressions were that Bill was too young to be a pilot with his boyish looks and sense of humor. He treated all of us enlisted extremely well and in addition to his dangerous scout pilot duties he maintained our generators at DiAn. Of course he took good-natured jabs from all of us when the generators failed and our refrigerators, reel-to-reels, turn tables & fans ground to a halt! One of the most memorable events for me was when Bill was on



a mission and tore the left skid from his OH-6 when he made contact with a tree and all of us in scout maintenance at DiAn scrambled to remove the mini-gun, ammo, and gun mount, fill sandbags and place the jacks while Bill steadily hovered the bird with us working within inches of the spinning tail rotor. All worked out extremely well and he was able to set the bird down as it was designed as such. Within a few days "The Pusher" was back in the AO."

Submitted by Chuck Oualline

Last, the Editor and Staff of the VHPA Aviator deeply regret the mistakes we made in two of the Obituaries we ran in the last issue. First, VHPA Member Tom Gaillard pointed out to us that the photo that accompanied the obituary of LTC Ret. Joseph M.F. May was indeed that of his dear friend Kenneth Lance and should have ran in the obituary that ran directly under the write up for LTC May.

Next, we had two VHPA Members let us know that not only had we printed the wrong photo next to the entry for LTC May, we had also printed several incorrect items in his Obituary itself. The following is the corrected obituary for LTC Ret. Joseph M.F. May

JOSEPH M.F. MAY

LTC Ret. Joseph M.F. May passed away early on the morning of November 17, 2010 from the effects of a massive heart attack which he had suffered several days earlier.

He was born in New York City, New York and after joining the Army he graduated from Fixed Wing flight training on 24 August 1956, and then rotary wing flight training on 18 June 1957. In Vietnam he served his first tour in 1966-67 on both the repair ship Corpus Christie in Cam Ranh Bay, later he was assigned to Headquarters of the 34th Support Group in Saigon. On his second tour in Vietnam he was assigned as a Supply Officer to US Army Aviation Materiel Management Center, USARPAC-RVN and he then served as the Commanding Officer of the 110th, Transportation Company, USARPAC-RVN. He received a Bronze Star for his efforts on each tour.

After completing a 20-year career in the U.S. Army, Joe followed that up with another career in the U.S. Post Office.

Joseph is survived by his wife Jackie; his son Joseph and his wife Catherine; his son Tommy and one sister. A military Service was held on December 1, 2010, at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. He will be greatly missed.

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Battery F, 79th Artillery
An Loc



4th Battalion, 77th Artillery
Hamburger Hill - Lam Son 719

All current and former members of the Association and members of the ARA units in Vietnam, CONUS, and post Vietnam "BLUE MAX" units are invited to attend. Special events and tours, including dinner on the USS Yorktown, are planned for attendees and their families. Full details for room reservations and reunion registration are available on the ARA Reunion Website at:

www.ara-reunion.org

or by contacting Jesse Hobby

at [REDACTED]

or by phone at [REDACTED]

WELCOME TO THE VHPA!

The following 72 Aviators have joined the VHPA from 1 October 2011 through 28 Jan 2011 (three months). Look the list over and if you recognize anyone, give them a call, drop them a line or send them an e-mail welcoming them into our Association. Full contact information is available either on-line in the Member Services section of our website, or through our staff at HQ by calling 1-800-505-VHPA.

Line 1, Last, first, MI and/or nickname of new member; double asterisks () ID new life members**

Line 2, his current city and state, branch of service

Line 3, his (Flight) Class and Vietnam (VN) Unit(s) served with, if that info is available

Benson, Leonard K
Riverside California, Army
Class 71-11, VN Unit(s) D/229 AVN 1 CAV

Best, David
Reston Virginia, Army
Class Unreported, VN Unit(s) C/1/9 CAV 1 CAV
in 66-67; 101 ABN DIV in 69-70

Birmingham, James A.
Chesterfield Missouri, Army
Class: 69-41 69-39, VN Unit(s): 135 AHC in 70-71

Boals, Jeffrey A.
Oak Hill Ohio, Army
Class: 70-4 69-48 VN Unit(s): Unreported

Bodiford, Tom
Lakeland Florida, Army
Class: 70-5, VN Unit(s): F/8 CAV in 70-71

Burgess, Glenn
Herndon Virginia, Marine Corps
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): HMM-364 in 69-70

Byerley, B. E. 'Mick'
Mesa Arizona, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 197 AHC in 65-66; 57 AHC in 69-70

Cancellare, Joe
El Paso Texas, Army
Class 66-20, VN Unit(s): 190 AHC in 67-68; 191 AHC in 67-68; HHC 145 AVN in 70-72

Chaney, Mark **
Clarksville Tennessee, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): B/1/9 CAV 1 CAV
in 70-71; F/1/9 CAV 1 CAV in 71-72

Close, Michael L.
Dublin Ohio, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 1 AVN BDE in 69-70

Daugherty, Joseph P.
Roswell Georgia, Army
Class: 66-18, VN Unit(s): A/501 AVN in 66-67; 71 AHC in 67; 10 AVN BN in 71

Dixon, W. F. 'Dick'
Blue Springs Missouri, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 11 GS in 67; 227 AHB 1 CAV in 67-68

Dreibelbis, Ryland R. 'Roy'
Bowie Maryland, Air Force
Class: 56A, VN Unit(s): 37 ARRS in 70-71

Drennen, Jerry L.
Enterprise Alabama, Army
Class: 66-15, VN Unit(s): Unreported

Dupree, Lorin
Sebastian Florida, Army
Class: 69-29, VN Unit(s): 61 AHC in 70-71

Erickson, Dick
Jacksonville Florida, Marine Corps
Class: 69-49, VN Unit(s): HMM-363 in 67

Flynn, Vernon 'Vern'
West Jefferson Ohio, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): HQ/2/20 ARA 1 CAV in 65-66

Frazer, William A
Fairfield California, Army
Class: 65-15W, VN Unit(s): Unreported

Gold, Dave 'Rock'
West Chester Ohio, Army
Class: 67-9, VN Unit(s): 229AHB 1st CAV in 67-68

Green, Rip
Baytown Texas, Air America
Class: 54D ACH, VN Unit(s): AIR AMERICA in 70-74

Haas, Leslie J.
Guntersville Alabama, Army
Class: 69-37, VN Unit(s): Unreported

Hadley, Harry A.
San Jose California, Army
Class: 54-K 55 QC, VN Unit(s): 114 AVN in 63-64; AVEL NORTH/ in 67-68; 1ATCBN/34TH GROUP

Harmon, David W.
Hamilton Alabama, Army
Class: 66-22 67-7, VN Unit(s): Unreported

Harrison, Richard S.
Lakewood Colorado, Army
Class: 70-36, VN Unit(s): 71 AHC in 70-71; 131 SAC in 71; AFAT in 72

Hatch, Larry G
Olympia Washington, Army
Class: 66-17 66-15, VN Unit(s): 15 MED 1 CAV in 66-67; 355 AVN in 69-70

Hattan, James Thomas
Folsom California, Army
Class: 68-509 68-15, VN Unit(s): 189 AHC in 68-70

Herrick, Curtis J. 'Curt'
Annandale Virginia, Army
Class 66-1FW, VN Unit(s): 199 AVN in 67; 307 CAB in 68; 227 AHB 1 CAV in 72-74; 3/4 CAV in 78-79

Hinkle, William C. 'Bill'
Nampa Idaho, Army
Class: 64-7W, VN Unit(s): A/227 AVN 1 CAV in 65-66; 205 ASHC in 68-69

Hun, Nicholas J.
Hurricane West Virginia, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 68 AVN in 69; 145 AVN in 69; 190 AHC in 69-70

Johnson, Brian K
Mexico City MEXICO, Air America
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): AIR AMERICA in 66-74

Johnson, Walter I
Lexington South Carolina, Army
Class: 67-5 67-3, VN Unit(s): C/229 AHB 1 CAV in 67-68; 125 ATC in 70-71

Kelley, William R. 'Bill'
Prescott Arizona, Marine Corps
Class: Unrecorded, VN Unit(s): MM-262 in 62-63; VMO-2 in 62-63; VMO-3 in 66-68; MABS-16 in 71

Laferte, Albert E
Viera Florida, Army
Class: 64-9, VN Unit(s): 134 AHC in 64-65; 135 AHC in 68-69

Lott, Clarence J 'Jay'
Desoto Texas, Army
Class: 71-24, VN Unit(s): B/7/17 CAV in 72; H/17 CAV in 72

Lussier, William J 'Bill'
Wallingford Connecticut, Army
Class: 69-39 69-37, B/101 AVN 101 ABN in 70-71

Markle, Carl C
Chardon Ohio, Army
Class: 70-3, VN Unit(s): 7/1 CAV in 70; HHC/145 CAB in 70

Marshall, Ralph J.
Dubuque Iowa, Army
Class: 63-5W, VN Unit(s): 147 AVN in 65-66

Mazur, Steve
Northfield New Hampshire, Air Force
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): Unreported

Metcalf, Terry J.
Elk Grove California, Army
Class: 69-25 69-23, , VN Unit(s): 162 AHC in 70-71; H/10 CAV in 72-73

Mints, Lawrence M.
Fairview Texas, Army
Class: 69-3, VN Unit(s): 21 SIG GRP in 69-70

Mouw, James W 'Jim'
Salem South Carolina, Army
Class: 64-3FW 65QC, , VN Unit(s): 161 AHC in 67-67; 344 TC CO in 71-72

Mullen, Warren
Las Vegas Nevada, Army
Class: 54-L, VN Unit(s): B/2/20 ARA 1 CAV in 64-65

Murphy, Thomas
Phoenix Arizona, Army
Class: 67-21, VN Unit(s): C/229 AHB 1 CAV in 68-69; 21 AVN in 70-71

Welcome to theV PA..continued

Nelson, L. Lee
Austin Texas, Army
Class: 67-7, VN Unit(s): 162 AHC in 67-68; 336 AHC in 70-72

Nicholson, William J 'Bill'
Lakewood Colorado, Army
Class: 70-12, VN Unit(s): B/1/7 CAV 1 CAV in 68-69; 92 AHC in 70-71

Nuss, Philip W.
Metairie Louisiana, Army
Class: 71-24, VN Unit(s): B/3/17 CAV in 71-72; HHT 3/17 CAV in 72-72

Oliver, John H 'Jack'
Clarksville Tennessee, Army
Class: BN63-1, VN Unit(s): B/1/9 CAV 1 CAV in 65-66; 334th ATK HC 145 AVN in 69

Phillips, William B 'Bill'
Santa Paula California, Air America
Class: 39-60, VN Unit(s): HMM-164 in 65-68; HMM-165 in 65-68; AIR AMERICA in 69

Plasterer, Ross
Norfolk Virginia, Marine Corps
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): MM-162 in 65; HML-167 in 69-70; HMM-165 in 69

Potter, Mickey
Toledo Washington, Army
Class: 66-17 66-15, VN Unit(s): C/1/9 CAV 1 CAV in 66-67; 5 TC BN 101 ABN in 69-70

Pratt, Stephen H.
Raleigh North Carolina, Army
Class: 66-13, VN Unit(s): 1/10 CAV in 67-68

Reiner, Walter
Columbus Ohio, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 1 INF

Retta, Lawrence R. 'Larry'
Orlando Florida, Army
Class: 68-24 68-42, VN Unit(s): 116 AHC in 69-70

Rhule, Steven
Mercer Pennsylvania, Army
Class: 68-9 68-11, VN Unit(s): 1 CAV in 68-69; 4/77 ARA in 70-71; 101 ABN

Robertshaw, Thomas S.
Birmingham Alabama, Marine Corps
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): ML-367 in 71-76

Rushforth, Durward M. 'Dee'
Fairfax Virginia, Army
Class: 66-2, VN Unit(s): B/1 AVN 1 INF in 66-67

Sackman, John W.
Hidden Valley Lake California, Army
Class: 61-4, VN Unit(s): Unreported

Seymour, Edward C 'Ed'
Pearland Texas, Army
Class: 64-3W 64-8W, VN Unit(s): 54 SIG BN in 65-66

Shipley, Richard D.
San Antonio Texas, Army
Class: 70-50, VN Unit(s): HHC/1 CAV DIV in 71; 180 ASHC in 71-72; 159 ASHB 101 ABN in 73-74

Simmons, Armond C 'Si'
Pell City Alabama, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 82 MED DET in 69

Soupene, James C 'Jake'
Loveland Ohio, Army
Class: 56-3, VN Unit(s): HHC/229 AHB 1 CAV in 65-66; 40 TC 7/17 CAV in 67-68; 14 TC BN/79th TRANS in 68

Spanjers, Leonard J
Bayside Texas, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): 611 TC CO in 70-71; 334th 335th 68th in 67-68

Stevens, Jacob H. 'Jake'
Enterprise Alabama, Army
Class: 64-6W, VN Unit(s): 200 ASHC in 67; 179 ASHC in 68-69

Stewart, Robert L. 'Bob'
Woodland Park Colorado, Army
Class: 66-10, VN Unit(s): A/101 AVN 101 ABN in 66-67; 336 AHC in 67

Stoddard, Harry C
Midlothian Virginia, Army
Class: 68-12 68-18, VN Unit(s): 187 AHC in 68-69

Thornberry, James K. 'Jim'
Waynesville North Carolina, Army
Class: Unreported, VN Unit(s): B/228 AVN 1 CAV in 70-71

Thornhill, Franklin T. 'Frank'
Lillian Alabama, Army
Class: 67-18, VN Unit(s): C/2/20 ARA 1 CAV in 67-68; HHC 223 CAB in 70-71; HHC 17 CAG in 70-71

Viano, Paul
Walpole Massachusetts, Marine Corps
Class: 67-11, VN Unit(s): HMM-362 in 68-69

Wheeler, Dennis E.
San Rafael California, Army
Class: 68-27, VN Unit(s): 71 AHC in 68-69

Williams, Howard M.
Lincoln Alabama, Army
Class: 65-9W, VN Unit(s): 178 ASHC in 67-68

Wilson, Denton Ray
Charlottesville Virginia, Army
Class: 69-1, VN Unit(s): 240 AHC in 69-70

Wood, Daniel A.
Lubbock Texas, Army
Class: 68-9 68-11, VN Unit(s): Unreported



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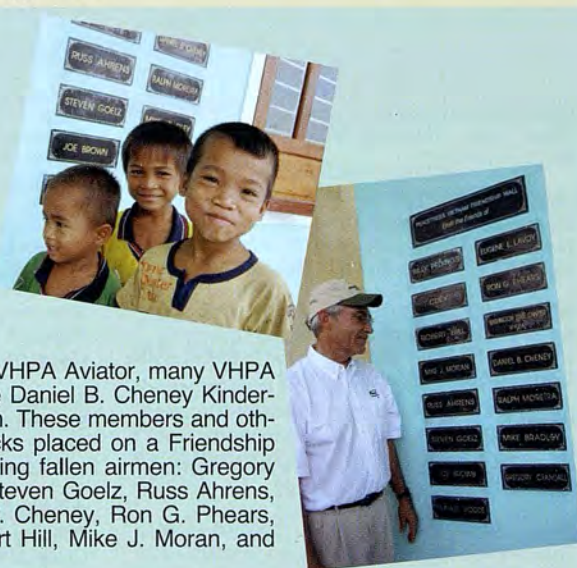


KINDERGARTEN NEAR KHE SANH DEDICATED TO FALLEN HELICOPTER PILOT

By Dave Hansen, Dustoff 702



On January 6, 1969, 1LT Dan Cheney gave his life on a mission to save another downed pilot near Hau Nghia, South Vietnam. In the years that followed, Dan's mother, Rae, and sister, Jerilyn, decided to turn their grief to a force for good by founding Peacetrees Vietnam, an organization dedicated to clearing unexploded ordnance, planting trees, and constructing kindergartens and libraries in Quang Tri Province, near the former DMZ.



As a result of an earlier article in the VHPA Aviator, many VHPA members donated to help construct the Daniel B. Cheney Kindergarten in Khe Da Village near Khe Sanh. These members and others contributed to commemorative blocks placed on a Friendship Wall including the names of the following fallen airmen: Gregory Crandall, Donald Woods, Joe Brown, Steven Goetz, Russ Ahrens, Mike Bradley, Ralph Moreira, Daniel B. Cheney, Ron G. Phears, Eugene L. Lavoy, Billy Pedings, Robert Hill, Mike J. Moran, and Oscar M. Dardeau.



A group of Americans, including Vietnam Veterans, VHPA members, Veteran's relatives and others traveled to Quang Tri Province in early September 2010 for the dedication ceremonies of the kindergarten. The first stop was at the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center where we learned firsthand the lethal extent of the unexploded ordnance problem, even now after over 40 years! We visited with recent victims and toured the educational center and the forest of trees planted on the former Dong Ha Marine Supply Depot.



On September 10, 2010, the group travelled by bus west on Route 9, past the Rockpile to Khe Da Village, about 10 km SW of the old airfield at Khe Sanh. The dedication ceremony included speeches by officials including US Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Michalak and Quang Tri provincial leaders.



A very moving moment was the meeting of Rae Cheney, whose son Daniel was killed by Vietnamese, with Ho Thi Moan whose sons were killed by Americans. As the two grey-haired mothers tearfully embraced, everyone in the audience knew that a real reconciliation, symbolizing a new era, had taken place.



A group of dignitaries, veterans, donors and local villagers participated in the ribbon cutting and scores of delighted children got their first look at a school with a safe playground.

Later the veterans and relatives joined local residents to plant trees symbolizing a turn to the future for everyone affected by the war.

The event was inspirational for all. The parents and children of Khe Da are very grateful for the donations made to construct the new kindergarten. For more information on Peacetrees VN activities, go to www.Peacetreesvietnam.org.



Rae Cheney, considered the "heart" of PeaceTrees VietNam is awarded the Peace and Friendship Among Nations medal.

While Rae was in Vietnam for the dedications of PeaceTrees two latest projects in Vietnam, the Mothers' Peace Library and the Dan Cheney Kindergarten in the Khe Sahn area and the Pat Lucero Mothers Peace Library in the Quang Tri Province, she was presented with the Peace and Friendship Among Nations medal by the Vietnamese Government.

The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations presented her the "Medal for Peace and Friendship Among Nations", their highest honor that may be bestowed upon a foreign citizen. According to Vietnamese officials, Rae was the first American mother, who lost a son or daughter in war, to be honored by the Vietnamese people for humanitarian service.

Both US Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Michalak, and Vietnam Ambassador, Nguyen Tam Chien, participated in the presentation. Members of the Vietnamese and International press surrounded Rae both during the presentation and the Library dedication and wrote numerous news articles of both her, and the work of PeaceTrees VietNam. These articles have appeared in Vietnam and in other countries around the world. In late October, Vietnam Television will air a documentary in Rae's honor.

Rae was 90 years old at the time of her trip and it was her first visit to Vietnam. VHPA members are familiar with Rae's work to honor her son, Dan Cheney, a US Army Helicopter Pilot who lost his life in 1969. Pat Lucero also served in the US Army in Vietnam and was killed in action in 1968. His family and friends from across the US traveled to Vietnam to honor Pat, and to commemorate the library that carries his name, PeaceTrees 10th Mother's Peace Library in Vietnam.



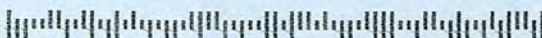
Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien presents the Peace and Friendship Among Nations medal to Rae Cheney



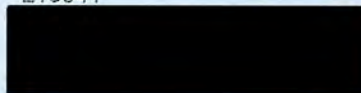
US Ambassador Michael Michalak speaks at the Kindergarten Dedication



Rae Cheney and her daughter, Jerilyn (1st LT Dan Cheney's sister), enjoy the dedication ceremonies

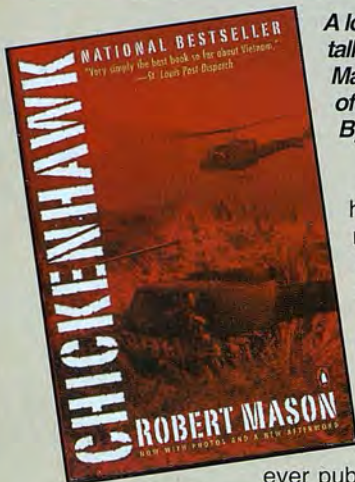


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Checking In with **BOB MASON**

Author of the Best Selling book - **Chickenhawk**



**A look back, and a talk with Robert Mason, the author of Chickenhawk.....
By John Penny**

In 1983, Chickenhawk, by VHPA member Robert Mason who served in Vietnam with the 48th AHC and B/229th AVN, hit the best seller lists. It was the first memoir

ever published by a helicopter pilot who served in the Vietnam War. Its immense success however is not just a matter of being first. It is a particularly well written and engaging story of the journey of one young man, and many others like him, into the Vietnam War. There he faced a crucible of incredible danger where no amount of skill, training, or experience guaranteed survival against a deadly enemy. Mason's narrative of the daily pressures of flying in the face of imminent death and dealing with the living conditions and absurdities of the Vietnam War are well known to us no matter what kind of tour we had. The legacy of his book is that it informed our nation of the sacrifice and service of all who flew in "the Helicopter War."

A Conversation with Robert Mason

Recently, I was privileged to have an interesting and candid conversation with Robert Mason. He and his wife Patience, who writes and blogs extensively on the issues of PTSD and whose book *Recovering from the War* is still in print, are longtime residents of Florida. He is an articulate

conversationalist and a man of many interests. His creative interest in artificial intelligence has led to an as yet unpublished sequel to his two novels on the subject: *Weapon* and *Solo*. In a curious switch, *Weapon* was made into a movie entitled *Solo* starring Mario Van Peebles as a robot designed as weapon that starts thinking for itself. Currently Mason is working on an extensive history of the helicopter and is looking for material to use in that story. I was impressed by his knowledge on the subject. His interest in helicopters, particularly affordable ones, also extends to the ultra-light designs now being assembled, flown, and tested at Mosquito Aviation; not far from his home in Florida.

We talked extensively about *Chickenhawk* which Mason originally started to write as a novel. Mason's approach to every writer's challenge of the blank page is the use of mental pictures to guide his writing, a technique he attributes to his background and training as a graphic artist. To write *Chickenhawk*, he used some 220 specific events of his tour in RVN as a basic outline and arranged them with a time line pulled from the letters he wrote home to Patience. Patience had salvaged all his letters from the garbage after Mason had thrown them out.

When it came to getting published however, luck played a significant role when a friend, Martin Cruz Smith, who later became well known as the bestselling author of *Gorky Park* and others, introduced Mason to his literary agent. He was very impressed with Mason's preliminary manuscript and suggested he write a memoir rather than a novel, but cautioned him about getting his hopes too high. From there on, it was a matter of time, focus, hard work and multiple revisions, but nine-months later, Viking press surprised him with an advance of \$2,500 for the first part and offered the same for the next two parts. To this day, Mason states that he doesn't think there was

anything special about himself, or his Vietnam experiences and he is continually surprised by the success of the book and all the attention he has received as a result. He indicates that he is willing to talk about his book at the Orlando Reunion with members and will be happy to sign copies.

Mason was also very surprised by the events that led to his spending two years in the Eglin Federal Prison for helping smuggle marijuana into the U.S. This experience is the core of Mason's sequel *Chickenhawk: Back in the World* published in 1993. This sequel did not achieve anything like the commercial success of *Chickenhawk* and when I asked why Mason wrote the sequel he said, "I only wanted to write a no bull-shit follow-up to *Chickenhawk*." It is that indeed.

If for some reason you haven't read *Chickenhawk* or its sequel *Chickenhawk: Back in the World*, I recommend you do so. Penguin Books published a paperback fifth edition of *Chickenhawk* with photos and a new afterword in 2005 (ISBN: 9780143035718). The afterword provides many of the real names and actual units with whom he served, rather than the pseudonyms used in the earlier editions. As for *Chickenhawk: Back in the World*, you can get a copy from Amazon for \$49.50, try E-bay for a more affordable copy, or go to your local library and ask for an inter-library loan if they don't have a copy. Robert Mason has a web site at www.robertcmason.com with information and pictures about his books and upcoming projects. You may use his on-line guest-book, if you would like to contact him. Patience Mason has a PTSD website at www.patencemason.blogspot.com



From David Adams, Editor of the VHPA Aviator

I want to pass on to the Membership that Bob Mason has agreed to hold a special "Writer's Seminar" and book signing at this years Reunion in Orlando, Florida.

We've reserved the Lake Florence Room on Friday, July 8th, starting at 2:00 PM. Bob will be on-hand to provide some general guidance on finding an agent for YOUR book and some of the common pitfalls to avoid before you sign on with a book publisher.

So please join myself, John Penny, the "official" Book Reviewer for the VHPA, and Bob Mason for an hour or so of a very interesting and informative discussion on how you can get started on publishing the next *Chickenhawk*.

David Adams