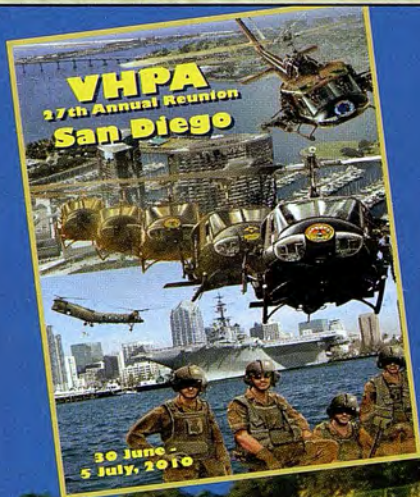




# The VHPA AVIATOR

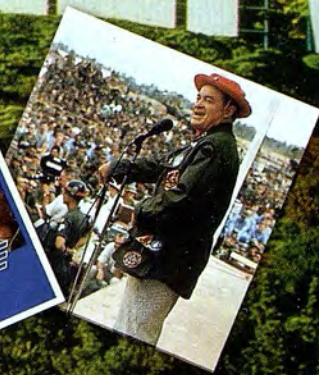
The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association ~ March/April 2010



Hey Pilgrim,  
join us in Southern  
California for the 27th  
Annual Reunion  
of the VHPA!

# HOLLYWOOD

Contains 14  
pages of info  
on the 2010  
VHPA Reunion!



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ★ 2010 Reunion Information starts on pages 4 through 7, continues on pages 12-21
- ★ 2010 Reunion Registration form..Pg 12
- ★ No Greater Love hath no man.....Pg 10
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*Gary Roush*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE VHPA

### Members of the VHPA – As we prepare to meet in San Diego

With unusually cold weather in all parts of the country this winter, it is time to think about the bright warm sun in Southern California - specifically San Diego. The Pacific Ocean moderates its temperature between 76 and 65 degrees in July and the humidity is 74 percent so we can almost guarantee you perfect weather for our reunion 30 June to 5 July. It is a super place to have a vacation. San Diego has a world class zoo and many museums along with the top attraction walking distance from the reunion hotel - the USS Midway. Read more about what's available and the Midway elsewhere in this magazine. Our reunion hotel, the San Diego Marriott and Marina is one of the best hotels we have ever used for a reunion and it is within walking distance to downtown San Diego and the Gaslamp District.

This is our reunion issue so everything you need to know about the San Diego reunion is in this magazine. Our reunion chairman, Mike Law has done a great job in setting up this reunion. He has tried his best to provide a quality experience without breaking the bank. We realize that our reunions can be expensive so we work hard to negotiate the best rates possible considering the location and the facilities. If you are on a tight budget, you can still enjoy this reunion. You do not have to participate in any of the paid events to enjoy the camaradery of your peers. There are inexpensive places to eat within walking distance from the hotel and although \$125 per night for the hotel is more expensive than a Days Inn it is very reasonable for this first class hotel. San Diego is a Southwest Airlines destination so flights are reasonable. Hope to see you there.

One of the things that is different about the San Diego reunion is the involvement of the local Southern California Chapter of the VHPA. Not only are they helping Mike Law with the planning and setup, they are also organizing additional activities to entertain you beyond VHPA activities. See their web site for details. Thanks guys for pitching in - it is tremendously helpful. Thanks also to the Northern California Chapter especially Mike Nord and Ken Fritz for bringing the MOC (Mobil Officer's Club) to the San Diego reunion making it their tenth year. The Florida Chapter is already working with Mike Law on the Orlando reunion for next year. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer so if you are interested, please contact one of these chapters or Mike Law. This is what the VHPA is all about. Thanks guys!

The Historical Presentation Forum (HPF) is going to be very entertaining this year. VHPA members Jack Swickard, Tom Baca, Larry Liss and Kenneth Dolan had a documentary made about a mission they were on in Vietnam. They have agreed to show this excellent film to you and explain details about it. We also have great war stories each year so come and tell yours and hear those from others. Everyone of us has at least one good war story to tell. So be sure to sign up for HPFs and War Stories sessions. These sessions are all recorded on a DVD that we provide for sale each year starting in 2006. This is one of the ways we record our history. Pilots who attend one or all HPF and/or War Story sessions will receive a free DVD from the 2008 reunion. It is a \$30 value. For those of you who have never attended a reunion, these DVDs are a great way to experience part of each reunion for very low costs. They make great presents too.

Ron Bower and Jim McLaughlin will have an update for us in San Diego on their work with 1:50,000 Vietnam maps as illustrated in the history section and on the cover of the 2009 membership directory. This Memory Map project is very exciting and we look forward to this update at the luncheon right after the business meeting. They are looking for some specific help from members. If you have experience working with GIS software or ArcGIS Server software, we can use your help. Please contact Jim or me.

As I noted in the last Aviator, we are experimenting this year with an honor bar similar to what we had in many officers' clubs in Vietnam. The center of this is self serve keg beer. Mike Law has negotiated a special price for kegs, so it will lower your costs at this reunion. The objective is to provide a place to meet and greet. This will be the perfect rallying point to meet old and new friends. Kenny Bunn has volunteered to help with this experiment. Thanks Kenny!

Most of you have never attended a reunion so you may be concerned about your dues subsidizing an activity that you do not benefit from. The Executive Council understands that concern and has taken steps to ensure that does not happen by establishing a reunion reserve fund. This fund accumulates "profits" from reunions to use in case of a short fall in a future reunion. In other words, we are accounting for reunion activities separately from other operations to ensure that your dues do not subsidize reunions and vice versa. Both reunions and HQ activities have separate budgets and we manage them that way. This is a change from past practice.

Introduced in this issue for the first time is a new initiative put together by Jim Fulbrook

*continued on pg. 5*

**E-mail items to The Aviator at: [editor@vhpa.org](mailto:editor@vhpa.org)**

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE VHPA (2891) CONTINUED

to recognize our members for their life time achievements. Each year as I prepare the membership directory, I am struck by the wide variety of professions our members have. They range from astronaut to farmer and just about everything in between. In other words, our members are the backbone of our society. We are the sons of the "greatest generation" and in my opinion you have exceeded that greatest generation in achievement. I believe history will prove me right. We hope that this project will begin to tell the world about our life time achievements. So that the world has an opportunity to learn about the sons of the greatest generation, we will post this information on one of our web sites. Another way to look at this is that you have an opportunity to publish your obituary before you die. We hope all of you will participate.

Another change is an effort to get sponsorships (meaning donations) for specific projects. Bill "Moon" Mullen has taken this on in addition to magazine advertising. He is working hard on getting sponsorships for reunions and things like the \$5,000 software needed for the Memory Map project. Not only are we looking for outside sponsorships but also internal donations as well. All donations including your dues to the VHPA are tax deductible. If you know of a company or any individuals who would like to sponsor any of our activities, please let Moon know.

As a reminder, the online password protected membership directory at <http://www.vhpaservices.com> is now our primary directory that is included in your dues. It is updated weekly and contains e-mail addresses, phone numbers, most past newsletters and directory history sections. It also contains a full copy of the last three paper directories for you to use to print pages or just to browse. This is a major improvement over the paper directory that is obsolete by the time you receive it. If you want to receive the 2010 paper and/or CD directories in addition to the online directory, you must tell HQ before 1 September. If you take no action, you will not receive a paper directory. Since the paper

directory is now an extra product, the charge is \$10 each before 1 September. After 1 September, the charge is \$20 if there are any left. The directories are printed in September so we need to know before they are printed whether or not you want one. This applies to life members as well. The directory included free for your life membership is access to the new and improved online membership directory.

One of the things we all did routinely in Vietnam was to risk our lives for our fellow soldiers. That continues today in ways that might surprise you. In 2007, VHPA life member Lou "Rocket" Rochat experienced kidney failure. After many months of weekly painful dialysis treatments and no progression on the kidney transplant list, he put out a request for help to his 1st Cav buddies. A fellow 1/9 Cav Cobra pilot and VHPA member Ron Livingston volunteered to go through the test for a possible match. It was a near perfect match so the transplant was completed in January. Read more about this incredible story elsewhere in this magazine.

Our headquarters administration contract is up for renewal in September so we are requesting bids. It will be divided into two contracts this year which could both be done by the same company or two different companies. One service is reunion registration including online, telephone and on site registration and the second contract is everything else related to administering the VHPA. If you are aware of any companies that could do either or both of these functions, please tell a member of the EC.

Another administrative thing we do each year is have an outside CPA firm audit HQ. If you are involved with a company that does audits and think they can save us some money, please contact Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Payne with the information.

A few times each year, I scan the Social Security Death Index looking for potential and past members who have died. In January, the scan result was 211. This is disappointing from two respects. First it is disappointing that we are beginning to die at an accelerated rate and second it is disappointing that I can only find out this informa-

tion by checking a sterile database. It would be easier to take if our members were looking out for each other and keeping track of our fellow veterans. Please do not wait to learn about your friends from the past by reading that they have died. Log on to the online directory, look them up and contact them now. Don't wait until they are added to the died after tour list.

Speaking of our pending death, now is the time to write down your experiences in Vietnam and give that to the VHPA or to the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech University. If you prefer telling about your experiences instead of writing them down, either come to a reunion and tell your stories at a War Story session or participate in the personal history projects that Texas Tech, the Reagan Library, the Library of Congress and many museums have in place. Please contribute your piece of our history before you die.

We are really pleased with the increase in chapter activities over the past couple of years thanks to the efforts of Jack Salm and many of you. Check out the chapters section in this magazine and you will see that it continues to grow. Jack is now trying to get chapters started in Hawaii and Alaska so if you live in those states and are interested, please contact Jack.

Finally your executive council and a few dedicated volunteers continue to work very hard to take the products we provide for your membership to the next level while doing our best to minimize the costs. Our hope is to someday be able to lower your dues. One of the ways to help with cost is to increase membership and one of the best ways all of you can help is to recruit new members. There are still 25,000 guys out there who have never been members. David Adams has started a new membership initiative by providing you with the opportunity to send a friend a VHPA Aviator. Send HQ \$5 and the person's name and they will send out a magazine from you. We would appreciate your help.

*Hope you have a great Spring!*

**Gary Roush**  
**[president@vhpa.org](mailto:president@vhpa.org)**



# REUNION 2010

## PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE SAN DIEGO REUNION TODAY!

Previously we announced that the Online Reunion Registration system would be open about 15 December then that date slipped to about 5 January. As of press-time the system is not yet ready for the public to use. Possibly by the time you read this all the issues will be resolved and the delay became a distant memory – but maybe not.

### **Please consider the following:**

- First, review the Reunion details presented in this issue. Note the scheduled times and costs for the events you are interested in.
- Second, go to [www.vhpareunion.org](http://www.vhpareunion.org). If it's working - complete the registration process, use the link at the end to reserve your hotel room and smile.
- Third, if [www.vhpareunion.org](http://www.vhpareunion.org) is not working – fill out the registration form printed in this issue and mail, fax, or email it to HQ. Alternatively you can call HQ and they will fill out the registration form as per your instructions. They will give you

instructions for making your room reservation. Then you can also smile.

- Fourth, with the smile on your face you can start making travel plans using the "Getting There" information printed in this issue and on the various websites. HQ can even email you these details.
- Fifth, start contacting your friends to attend Mini-reunions, invite them to join you for dinner on the July 3rd "Free Night" and see if they are interested in being at your Closing Banquet table.

We recognize and appreciate the Herculean efforts of those working on the Online Reunion Registration system. But if it still isn't working by the time you read this, the message is **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE** now. Please register for the Reunion today.

**Thank you, The VHPA Executive Council,  
National Reunion Committee, and VHPA HQ staff**

**Reunion Hotel Update!  
VHPA Rooms  
are now available  
from 30 Jun through 6 July  
ONLY  
Reserve yours today!**



### ***UH-1B from the Wings & Rotors Air Museum lands on the fantail of the USS Midway on 19 Nov 2009.***

This is EXACTLY what we plan to do on Friday, July 2, 2010 during the 201 VHPA Reunion. VHPA Member Randy Zahn was one of the pilots, VHPA Member Tom Woehl was one of the crew, Wings & Rotor's chief pilot and good friend of the VHPA's Pat Rodgers, was the other pilot in this Huey. Former HA(L)-3 EM Door Gunner Bill Rutledge, an icon with the Seawolf's, was the other gunner.



# REUNION 2010

(updated for Mar/Apr issue)

## This is the Reunion you've been waiting for!

***This Reunion is like a box of assorted chocolates ~ there is something for everyone!***

We have the meeting room space, the weather, the location, the events – it will be an absolute hoot!

If ever you considered bringing your children or grandchildren to a VHPA Reunion, the Southern California (SoCal) Chapter and the National Reunion Committee promise – this is the Reunion you've been waiting for!

To prove my point I'd like to review with you details about two events – the July 2nd BBQ on the Midway and the July 3rd opportunity to be "up close and personal" with helicopters at Ramona.

On 21 November, the Seawolfs had a 'Micro-reunion' on the USS Midway and were kind enough to invite me. Since this was an absolutely perfect 'dress rehearsal' for the VHPA's July 2nd event, I jumped at the chance to join them. Spending time with Walt Lester and Lloyd Parthemer (both Navy helicopter pilots with Vietnam War service and both extremely active with the USS Midway Museum and Naval Helicopter Historical Society) was an absolute treat. There are five WONDERFULLY restored helicopters on the Midway. You (and your wife, grandkids, best friends) can walk in them, touch them, take pictures next to them. I'll bet you can't do that in your hometown! *Thank you Walt and Lloyd!!*



**B-Model Aircrew - Bill Retledge, Tom Woehl, Randy Zahn and Pat Rodgers.**

Talking to Pat later I learn there are only 80 hours left on the B model's blades. They fly it about 30+ hours a year. Pat said they don't have another set of blades and once those 80 hours are spent, this Huey becomes a static display.

Now, you will not be able to fly in the Huey off the Midway; but here's the plan. The B Model spends the

night on the Midway and early the next morning repositions to the Ramona Airport – home of the Classic Rotors Museum and their flyable CH-21. Wings and Rotors fly their OH-58 to Ramona. Helistream Helicopters fly their Super Huey to Ramona. We bus you from the Marriott to Ramona. Got the picture?

*It is rare these days to even see a Huey fly over your house let alone be able to stand next to one or better yet fly in one! In 5-years time we will not be able to experience any of these! **Don't miss out – This is the Reunion you've been waiting for!***



**Dick McCaig (VHPA Ramona event OIC), Mark DiCiero (Classic Rotors chief pilot), Tom Crosby (VHPA SoCal President), Russ Janus (VHPA)**



**Classic Rotors' CH21 at Miramar AirShow Oct 2009. See the article on Al Doucette's radio controlled helicopters in this issue.**

*It is safe to say – this event will not be easy to duplicate! Don't miss this opportunity for you and your family. Go to:*

**[www.vhpareunion.org](http://www.vhpareunion.org)**

*to see more details, to register and get hotel reservations.*

Two words of warning. Parking is limited even at \$22 a day! The number of seats on the various helicopters is very small.

**- WE EXPECT 1,800 PEOPLE TO ATTEND THIS REUNION – BOOK EARLY!**

**Go to: [www.vhpasocal.org](http://www.vhpasocal.org) for details on the SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Mike Law, National Reunion Committee Chairman**



## VHPA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN & STAFF 2009-10

President	Gary Roush
Vice President	Woody McFarlin
Past President	Jack Salm
Members At Large	
Senior Member	Mike Law
Midterm Member	Jim Fulbrook
Junior Member	Bill Mullen
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Payne
Founder	Larry Clark

### VHPA NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRMEN

National Reunion Chair	Mike Law
Membership	Mike Sheuerman
Records/Database	Gary Roush
Public Relations/Publications	Bill Mullen
Membership Directory	Gary Roush, Editor
The VHPA Aviator	David Adams, Editor
The VHPA Calendar Project	Mike Law, Editor
Chapter Liaison	John "Jack" Salm
Vendor Coordinator	Woody McFarlin
Historical	Mike Sloniker
Technology Steering	Charles Holley
Investment	Bob Smith
Scholarship	Tom Payne

### VHPA SUPPORT

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Investment Advisor	Bob Potvin
VHPA Headquarters	(800) 505-VHPA

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VHPA Reunion Website	www.vhpareunion.org
VHPA EC Forum	www.vhpa.info
EC Forum Webmaster	webmaster@vhpa.info
VHPA Membership Website	www.vhpamembership.org
Membership Webmaster	webmaster@vhpamembership.org

## Hertz announces special Car Rental rates for the 2010 VHPA Reunion!



To reserve your special meeting rates, please provide CV# 022L2989 to your corporate travel department, or your travel agent, when making reservations. You can also make reservations online at Hertz.com or call Hertz directly:

**(In the U.S. and Canada) 1-800-654-2240**

**(Other) 1-405-749-4434**

At the time of reservation, the meeting rates will be automatically compared to other Hertz rates and you'll be quoted the best comparable rate available. Rates extend from June 23rd through July 12th, 2010.

**Car Class A – Economy** - \$43.00 Weekday rate, \$23.00 Weekend Rate, \$175.00 for 5-7 day rentals

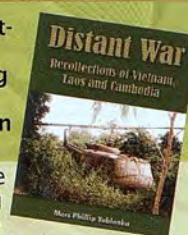
**Car Class C – Midsize** - \$53.00 Weekday rate, \$28.00 Weekend Rate, \$208.00 for 5-7 day rentals

**Car Class F – Fill size 4Dr** - \$59.00 Weekday rate, \$34.00 Weekend Rate, \$230.00 for 5-7 days

**Car Class G –Premium** - \$72.00 Weekday rate, \$65.00 Weekend Rate, \$296.00 for 5-7 days

*Similar savings available on all class'es not mentioned here, i.e. SUV, Mini-Van, Convertable etc.*

**DISTANT WAR:** Recollections of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia by Marc Phillip Yablonka. A collection of articles covering some 18 years of his freelance reporting on the aftermath of the U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.



Marc is not a war correspondent but as he notes, he became a chronicler of war by telling the stories of those who had "been there." He has written for Reuters and been published in the Army Times, Stars and Stripes, and Vietnam Magazine to name a few. See what these reviewer's had to say about the novel....

*To say there are many untold stories of the Vietnam War is an understatement. The war was a many faceted conflict that involved soldiers serving their country, and a wide variety of American and Vietnamese civilians. Yablonka's articulate and sensitive reporting brings the personal stories of these men and women alive on the page, providing a very interesting retrospective of that distant war.*

*~ John Penny - VHPA Aviator contributor*  
Kudos on your book. It's a very interesting read, well written and well researched. Glad you righted the wrong done to the Air America guys. Can't believe there was still a Huey lying in the weeds at Cu Chi as late as 1990 [cover photo], Cu Chi was my first duty station flying with the 116th Assault.

*~ Richard Jellerson, Storyteller Films*

**Distant War: Recollections of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia** (258 pages with photos, \$19.95) by Marc Phillip Yablonka, ISBN13: 978-0-557-08441-8 is available from merriam-press.com, Amazon, and other book suppliers.

## 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 those officers, committee chairmen, and staff listed above, in the VHPA Officers, Committee Chairmen and Staff 2008-09.



# REUNION 2010

## Going on the Museum Tour and Helicopter Rides staging event on July 3rd at the 2010 Reunion?

Then you'll meet VHPA Member Al Doucette and his two RC Model Helicopters while you are at the airport in Ramona, CA. Al was a crew-chief on a CH-21 on his first tour in Vietnam in 1962, he then went to flight school and returned to Vietnam as a slick pilot with the Minutemen on his second tour. Al has been working with Classic Rotors (the museum in Ramona where we'll do the actual helicopter rides) for more than a year to build a flyable, radio controlled model of a CH-21 to add to his model CH-47. He's got the CH-21 nearly complete as you can see. He built it from scratch and it's virtually PRICELESS. Al and his buddies plan to display and fly some of their RC models while we are at the airport in Ramona on July 3rd!



## *The VHPA NEEDS A FEW GOOD MEN...* By Moon Mullen, Junior Member at Large

### **Yes, we need a few good men to throw their hat in the ring and run for positions on the VHPA Executive Council.**

The VHPA Executive Council (EC) consists of six members: past President, presiding President, VP, and three members-at-large (senior, midterm and junior). Every year an election is held to fill two positions: VP and Junior Member-at-Large. This notice fulfills VHPA policy to notify the members and to seek nominees for the VP and Junior Member at Large positions.

If you read this request each year  
and you use the following excuses not to run:

- 1) *not many people know me*
- 2) *I don't have a history of other VHPA activity*
- 3) *I wouldn't have a chance of getting elected*

*...then you can no longer use those excuses! I, Moon Mullen got elected last year and these are the same excuses I have always used! You just need to be an active VHPA member and be willing to serve.*

A member can volunteer as a nominee or someone can nominate another member, although we suggest you check with the person you intend to nominate to ensure they are willing to serve.

This year I, Moon Mullen, our current Junior Member at Large, is the election coordinator. **A person must contact me in writing no later than midnight, June 15, 2010 to be nominated.** Contact may be done by email [redacted] or USPS mail [redacted] Pocono Pines, Pa 18350). A phone call will not serve as a nomination application, but you may call me for additional information (570-643-5036).

When a nomination is received, I will provide an application packet and form which must be completed and returned by the nominee. The one-page form asks basic information and can

be briefly answered. Then the names of nominees for either office will be posted to the VHPA website by June 20, 2010.

The election will take place at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) during the 2010 reunion in San Diego. Rules for conducting the election will be provided in the application packet and any VHPA member may contact me for this information. Note: a member may attend the ABM without being registered for the reunion.

What does the EC do? We fly the organization thru VFR and IFR, thru hot LZ's and safe LZ's. We have a telephone conference call once a month to discuss and make decisions over issues concerning VHPA.

We also use email between monthly conference calls to steer us to timely decisions. I am happy to be serving as the Junior Member at Large, still surprised that you elected me and doing my best to represent you. Now, need YOU to get involved and run for office!

When elected, you will be expected to attend the reunions. Face time with other EC members, attend the ABM, and help to make sure all the reunion plans go according to plan. Since you are expected to attend the reunions, the hotel contract while you are in office, will provide you a complimentary room.

The Junior Member at Large is a three year position where each year you move up the ladder to become the midterm and then the senior member at Large. The senior member may then competitively run for VP. The VP moves up to become the President of our Association the next year and the past president the year after that.

**The VHPA depends on and needs a quality EC,  
this election is important.....new guys, new ideas,  
new energy.....the VHPA needs YOU!!!!**

**More Reunion Event & Registration Details Start on Page 12**



# FRIENDSHIP WALL NEAR KHE SANH WILL BE DEDICATED TO FALLEN PILOTS

By Dave Hansen, Dustoff 702

1st Lt Daniel B. Cheney, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, was killed in action at Hau Nghia, South Vietnam, on January 6, 1969. Daniel was serving as pilot aboard a 17th Cav Cobra when an OH-6 Scout crew was shot down. In a valiant and successful action to save the lives of the Scout pilot and observer, Daniel and the Cobra AC aggressively engaged the enemy but were killed instantly when their helicopter crashed due to intense enemy fire.



Jerilyn & Rae

I never knew Daniel, but like most VHPA members I lost several good friends in action. At the Philadelphia reunion last summer, I had the honor to meet Dan's mother Rae and his sister Jerilyn. We have all dealt with grief and loss in our own way. Rae and Jerilyn have transformed theirs into a powerful and effective force for good in Vietnam's poorest Province, Quang Tri.

The idea for PeaceTrees Vietnam arose from their desire to turn sorrow into service. In 1995 when relations between our countries were normalized, Jerilyn Brusseau and Rae knew that it was time to build bridges of peace and friendship between the American and Vietnamese peoples. PeaceTrees began its work clearing mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from a former Marine supply base in Dong Ha and planting trees to restore the land. The site now houses a park of forty acres of trees and a landmine education center.

Over the past fifteen years PeaceTrees Vietnam has maintained its vision while broadening the scope of its work. It presently sponsors three explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams in Quang Tri Province. It provides accident survivor assistance and mine risk education. Its list of accomplishments as of this date includes:

- 305+ acres of land cleared
- 49,489+ ordnance items removed
- 41,150+ trees planted
- 470 participants on 34 citizen diplomacy trips
- Mine Risk Education provided for 69,000+ people
- 100 family homes, 8 libraries and 4 kindergartens built
- Assistance to 797+ UXO victims and their families

The amazing success of this small organization has led both the US and Vietnamese governments to approve a remarkable memorial to Dan Cheney—a kindergarten for non-Vietnamese speaking Van Kieu kids in Ba Nang Village, Lao Bao not too far from Khe Sanh. The school will be dedicated to his memory and the memory of his fellows.

For a short time, until this June, there is an opportunity for each of us to sponsor black granite blocks inscribed with the name of our fallen friends, to be placed into a prominent Friendship Wall in the school. Also, all contributors and friends are invited to join the opening ceremony in Lao Bao in early September.

My good friend, Greg Crandall was killed near Lao Bao during Lam Son 719, so I am definitely chipping in with other friends to sponsor a block with his name for the wall. I hope to see many of my fellow pilots at the opening ceremony in Vietnam where we can truly honor our fallen friends with a living legacy.

**On the next page there is an ad with details of how to sponsor a block for your fallen friends.**



"Riders on the Storm"

**For Sale**  
**Joe Kline Originals**  
serious inquiries only  
contact: Toby Hardy  
assault21@downrangehot.com



"Chariots of Fire"

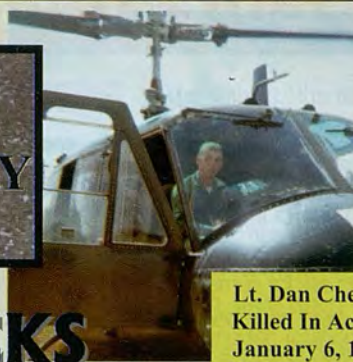




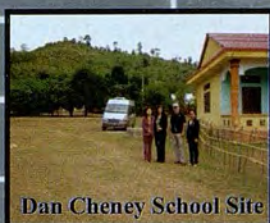
## Friends of DANIEL CHENEY

# 50 BLOCKS

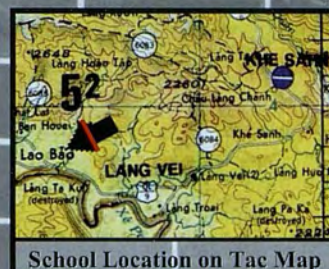
Lt. Dan Cheney  
Killed In Action  
January 6, 1969



## BUILD A LIVING LEGACY TO OUR FALLEN FRIENDS



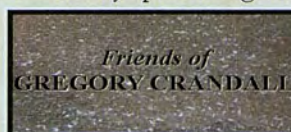
Dan Cheney School Site



School Location on Tac Map

Fifteen years ago Gold Star Mother Rae Cheney and her daughter Jerilyn decided to transform their grief into a force for good by founding PeaceTrees Vietnam with the mission of removing unexploded ordnance in Quang Tri Province and replanting cleared areas with trees. Now, after removing over 49,000 pieces of deadly ordnance from over 305 acres of land, and planting over 41,000 trees, the US and Vietnamese governments have approved a unique memorial project- a new kindergarten school near Khe Sanh DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF FALLEN COBRA PILOT DAN CHENEY, killed in action January 1969.

Each of us can honor the memory of OUR fallen aviator friends by sponsoring an inscribed black granite block in their name. Each block will be built into the prominent **Friendship Wall** of the Dan Cheney school, and only **50 BLOCKS** are needed to pay the entire construction cost. Many blocks have already been sponsored by friends going in together to raise the \$500 donation.



All contributing friends are warmly welcome to attend the opening ceremony in early September in Ba Nang village near Khe Sanh. This can be your chance to return to Vietnam. Travel arrangements can be made for you.

**ACT NOW** TO BE SURE YOUR FALLEN FRIENDS ARE HONORED. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BLOCKS WILL CLOSE ON JUNE 30TH IN ORDER TO INSCRIBE AND INSTALL THEM FOR THE OPENING.

## JOIN US

By donating online now to the memory of your fallen friend. For Easy Donation Instructions go to:  
[www.peacetreesvietnam.org/donate\\_now.htm](http://www.peacetreesvietnam.org/donate_now.htm)  
Click on the green "Donate Now" button and then select the "Dan Cheney Kindergarten" project.  
Contact Information: Milica Koscica, Peace Trees Vietnam

Please pass this on to  
other aviators who may wish to  
honor their fallen friends.



# Greater Love Hath No Man ...

## Jay Brown

A few months ago, Lou "Rocket" Rochat, former scout pilot for 1/9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division put out a call in the blind. He was in search of a part and was doing one of the things he'd been famous for in the past. He was scrounging.

"I find myself needing to ask for something very important. I do not feel good about asking for it, but I have been pretty sick since 2007 and just like the rest of you, refused to see a doctor until I almost killed myself when I made the 2008 Flying Thunder Mission in a restored B-model Nam War Bird Huey gunship from California to "The Wall" in DC and back to California."

Rocket did not complete that mission. At the 3,700 nautical mile mark, at the Mineral Wells, TX airport (Downing Heliport), he had his wife pick him up, as he just couldn't go any further. The next day Rocket was hospitalized in San Antonio for nine days with a medical verdict of end stage kidney failure.

So now Rocket was in search of a kidney. How does one go about such a scrounging mission? Where does one start? Rocket knew. His call in the blind went out over the network of the 1st Cavalry Division via their newsletter, "Saber". Rocket had flown with the 1/9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, and he knew his best source would be the men with whom he had fought and lived during his service in Vietnam. The response was almost instantaneous, even with Rocket's qualifier that the kidney not be "pickled" from old partying habits. In true Cavalry fashion, Rocket offered trading materials if need be and also disqualified anyone whose employment would be adversely impacted by donating a kidney. Over 40 old 1/9th Cavalrymen answered the call, and that's not even counting the one where one man volunteered his ex-wife's kidney, no testing necessary.

As fortune would have it, Ron Livingston, fellow 1/9th Cavalryman and former Cobra pilot just happened to see a note sent through the Cav email channels about Lou being on dialysis and in need of a kidney. Once Ron determined that he and Lou had the same blood type, Ron was in contact with the CHRISTUS Transplant Institute (CTI) in San Antonio and they sent him a blood kit, which determined the two pilots were a possible match. After another six weeks of testing, including a three day stay in San Antonio in December for extensive testing, it was



determined that Ron was pretty much a perfect match.

More incredible is that CTI typically only takes living donors between the ages of 18-60 (Ron turned 62 on Thanksgiving Day), but because of Ron's incredible health and physical shape, they were willing to make an exception. Ron walks four to five miles a day and works out with weights and his old army calisthenics.

It turns out that Lou and Ron didn't serve together in Vietnam and really didn't even have any life and death ties from serving together in combat. Ron had finished his tour in Nam 30 days before Lou ever got there. They did know each other through unit reunions but Ron still volunteered to donate one of his kidneys. "What do you say to a man like this?" Lou said, "What do you do for him, give him, and trade him or anything else one can imagine for such a sacrifice?" Ron's response was simply "It's the right thing to do for a fellow Trooper and soldier."

So, after a few delays for medical testing, screening and preparation, Rocket received a kidney from Ron. The procedure was completed on January 13, 2010. Both Ron and Rocket were prepped and wheeled into surgery but the mission did not precede without a pre-mission photo op, complete with Cavalry Stetsons, according to Ron's wife, Bequi.

During the run up to the exchange, Ron posted the following sitrep, showing a shared sense of humor with Rocket: "I just returned from my three and a half mile walk in 20 degree temperatures, plus completed 90 sit-ups, 75 push-ups and most of the old army "daily dozen". The left kidney (Lou's) was eager to go and reluctant to stop. The right kidney (Ron's) wanted to stay in where it was warm and wait until summer to go out. We went out anyway because my days are numbered to take both of them out for their exercise. When we returned home Lou's kidney wanted a drink of water. My kidney wanted a beer. I compromised and made some fresh coffee from the Dunkin Donut coffee Ann gave us.



Lou Rochat, Lad Vaughn, Ron Livingston and Bert Cholie await surgery complete with their Cav Hats and 1st Cav Division patches. The story of all four of these men has been the talk of the hospital.



Lou Rochat & Ron Livingston spend a few quiet minutes talking about the upcoming surgery. Both men were watched over by a remarkable team, their pre-op nurse (Bonnie) was a kidney donor herself (to a sibling 14 years ago) and her husband is a Vietnam Veteran. Ron's surgeon is a Lt. Col. in the Air Force Reserves (medic) who loved showing everyone his numerous helicopter posters.



"Both kidneys know that in a few days they will have separate addresses but both are up to and looking forward to the challenge. Lou's kidney is ready to improve Lou's health and go on hunting and fishing trips. My kidney is a whiner but is ready to take on the duty of two kidneys as long as there is still quality beer on the menu."

According to Ron's wife, Bequi, Ron knew on that first day that this was his fate and what he needed to do and he has never faltered or looked back. It's his conviction. Bequi adds, "There is so much more to this story as well that would be great to tell! One of the underlying stories here is how these incredible veterans continue to support each other and are willing to lay down their own lives 30-40 years later. That says it all! What a great story to share with new soldiers."

What a great story indeed. We've all heard the platitudes; "The army takes care of its own" and hundreds more. But this is the spirit that binds us all put into action.

Undoubtedly both families have insurance, but there are also many expenses that insurance does not cover, like travel expenses, lodging and meals. Both families had to travel from their respective homes to San Antonio to make this happen. CHPA has teamed with the 1/9th Cavalry Association to establish a fund to help cover these costs. If you'd like to donate you may do so by contacting CHPA at 800-832-5144, or you can send a check made out to CHPA with "Rochat/Livingston" in the memo field to:

**CHPA**  
**PO Box 15852**  
**Washington, DC 20003**

*All donations will be tax deductible and will be used to help the Rochat and Livingston families pay those expenses not covered by insurance.*

*CHPA thanks you all for your support and your generosity.*



The author of this story is Jay Brown. Jay has twenty-five years active duty in the US Army including tours with HHT, 3/17th Air Cavalry in Vietnam flying UH-1H from 1971 to 1972; Task Force 118 during Operation Prime Chance flying armed OH-58D from 1987 to 1990 when he had the "privilege" of serving ten rotations in the Persian Gulf; he also flew with HHT, 4/17th Air Cavalry during Operation Desert Storm again flying armed OH-58D's in 1991.

Jay is Life Member of VHPA and a Charter, Founding and Life Member of CHPA. He was the original Vice President for Membership and is the immediate past President and current Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of CHPA. As such he was first to receive the suggestion that CHPA could partner with the 1/9 Association to collect donations to defray the costs not covered by insurance for the kidney transfer.

This story originally ran in The Swashplate, the newsletter of the CHPA. We at the Aviator wish to thank both the Author of this story and the CHPA's current President, Lori Gaff for letting us repeat their words in our Aviator. The CHPA will again have a table in the vendor's room at this year's VHPA Reunion. We encourage you to stop by and speak with their representatives.

## COMBAT HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION



**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](http://www.CHPA-US.org)**

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

**COMBAT HELICOPTER  
PILOTS ASSOCIATION**



# VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

27th Annual Reunion • San Diego, California • June 30-July 5, 2010

## NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Register online at [www.vhpareunion.org](http://www.vhpareunion.org) or mail completed form to:

VHPA Headquarters, 5530 Birdcage St., Suite 105, Citrus Heights, CA 95610-7698

Fax signed credit card authorization to: (916) 966-8743

Member name:	Member No.:	Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Address:		Address change? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
City:	State:	Zip:
Email address:	Telephone: (    )	
Wife/guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

EVENT	No. of people	Price	Total
Registration through 4/30/10*		@\$50	
Registration 5/1/10 and after*		@\$65	
Registration for under age 21		@\$15	
Early Bird Reception (June 30)		No Cost	
San Diego & Old Town Tour (July 1)		@\$35	
USS Midway Audio Tour I (July 1)		@\$35	
Harbor Sightseeing Cruise (July 1)		@\$45	
Golf - Sea N Air Course (July 1)		@\$90	
1st Time Attendee Reception (July 1)		No Cost	
Welcome Reception (July 1)		No Cost	
KIA/MIA Gold Star Function (July 2)		No Cost	
Annual Business Meeting (July 2)		No Cost	
Spouse/Guest Event w/lu (July 2)		@\$35	
Luncheon w/speaker (July 2)		@\$26	
Poker Tournament I (July 2)		@\$25	
War Story Cont./Historical Pres. I (July 2)		@\$20**	
BBQ Dinner on USS Midway (July 2)		@\$84	
Coronado Parade (July 3)		@\$25	
Helicopter Tour & Rides (July 3)		Use Side Bar	
Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour I (July 3)		@\$59	
San Diego Zoo I (July 3)		@\$65	
USS Midway Audio Tour II (July 3)		@\$35	
Luncheon Cruise (July 3)		@\$79	
Poker Tournament II (July 3)		@\$25	
War Story Cont./Historical Pres. II (July 3)		@\$20**	
Movie Night (July 3)		@\$5	
Memorial Service (July 4)		No Cost	
Sunday Brunch (July 4)		@\$33	
Temecula Winery & Lunch Tour (July 4)		@\$59	
Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour II (July 4)		@\$59	
San Diego Zoo II (July 4)		@\$65	
Quilt Show & Tell (July 4)		No Cost	
Closing Banquet (July 4)		@\$80	
Closing Banquet Child (July 4)		@\$18	
Non-Registered Guest at Banquet (July 4)		@\$100	
Fireworks (July 4)		No Cost	

<b>Helicopter Tour &amp; Rides Total \$</b> _____ Museum Only \$36* _____ CH-21 Ride \$121 _____ UH-1B Ride \$121 _____ OH-58 Ride \$94 _____ Super Huey Ride \$66 <small>* Includes transportation to the museum/heliport, museum admission &amp; lunch w/drink. Chopper rides are in addition to this base fee.</small>
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<b>T-Shirts Total \$</b> _____ S@\$18    _____ M@\$18    _____ L@\$18 _____ XL@\$18    _____ XXL@\$19    _____ XXXL@\$20
--

<b>Banquet Meal Entrée Choice</b> _____ Beef    _____ Fish    _____ Vegetarian
---

<b>Voluntary Contributions Total \$</b> VHPA Membership Fund \$ _____ VHPA Scholarship Fund \$ _____ VHPA Reunion Sponsorship \$ _____ VHPA General Fund \$ _____ Vietnam War Museum \$ _____
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**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 VHPA reunion website: [www.vhpareunion.org](http://www.vhpareunion.org)

**Refund Guarantee Fee**  
 (10% of Total Events) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CREDIT CARD PAYMENT</b> 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 completed form.*

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

\*\* HPF Fee: Only one \$20 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).

Total from sidebars	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
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)	
2010 CD or Paper Directory Fee		@\$10
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		



## Reconnect with your own Mini-Reunion or TOC at San Diego

VHPA members should keep 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. We have also had mini-reunions for such areas as flight classes, tandem rotor, Dust-off, Operation Lam Son 719, and the Vietnam Pilot's Cross Stitch and Cross Dressers' Club (OK – I made up this last one).

The webpage from the VHPA website where you can go to schedule a mini-reunion or to see what units are signed up is <http://www.vhpareunion.org/minireunion.htm>. Mini-Reunions are typically scheduled in 4-hour blocks and are available for booking on most days during the reunion. If slots are filled (sold out) for set-aside rooms, you can still schedule a mini-reunion during these periods if you provide your own room. Mini-reunion meeting rooms can have audio-visual equipment, but you must request it.

A group may request a second four-hour block for a mini-reunion. 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. Use the "Comments" section of the mini-reunion scheduler to request a second block and for AV equipment. Keep in mind that mini-reunion rooms are not to be used as TOCs (continuous hangouts).

Finally, once you schedule a mini-reunion, your unit and contact info will appear in the slot on the webpage. However, 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 current), write a short article for the VHPA Aviator, post notes at the reunion message board, and schedule early so we can list your unit in articles such as this. In that regard, several units have mini-reunions every year, which we encourage (e.g., 175th AHC, 48th AHC Blue Stars, 229, AHB 1st Cav, 192nd AHC, F Troop 4th Cav, 7/17th Cav, HHC 3 Bde 1st Cav (Snoopy), and the 361st ACE/AWC Panthers).

We expect lots of entities to schedule mini-reunions at SD, so check the webpage and get your own reconnection going on ASAP to get the best times! The link for the mini-reunion list for Philly 2009 is: [http://www.vhpareunion.org/minireunion\\_2009.htm](http://www.vhpareunion.org/minireunion_2009.htm). Charles Holley is the POC for the mini-reunion web-page

**Unit TOCs:** If you have a big group that you know are coming (say approx. 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. There are limits on AV equipment due to cost, but the group can bring anything they desire (well almost anything) into the room (food beverages, AV stuff, displays, etc.). Contact Mike Law directly to schedule a TOC.

**NON-VHPA Member Attendees:** This year we encourage VHPA members to invite other non-members to attend the reunion. Non-members may register on their own and will be given a number that will give them the same access members have except the Annual Business Meeting. Of course, anyone could add a non-member as a guest for registration as well. We encourage this so you can broaden your mini-reunion or TOC with other enlisted and officer members who were not pilots. Registration costs are the same for everyone. So, why not expand your group and make this the best reunion ever!



The views are  
far friendlier  
these days  
with MHT!



**MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS (MHT)** is proud to offer VHPA two new choices in our series of historic tours to Vietnam. Come back with brother VHPA Aviators to visit places that have deep meaning for all helicopter pilots with names like: Saigon, Cu Chi, Dong Tam, Phouc Vinh, Bien Hoa, An Loc, Long Bien, Da Nang, Vung Tau, Quang Tri, An Khe, Pleiku, Tay Ninh, Dong Ha, Song Be, China Beach, Khe Sanh, Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue City, Quy Nhon, and many more. Only \$3495, includes round trip air from LAX.

Contact us for brochures and tour details:

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**MILITARY**  
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC.



## Vietnam Helo Ops Overview

"Rotorheads Return"

9-23 May & 27 Aug - 10 Sep

Tour Leader: John Powell, 1/9 Cav

Sign up for either tour to go back!

*The most experienced Vietnam Tour Leaders!*





# HISTORIC PRESENTATIONS AND WAR STORY CONTEST

## at San Diego Reunion

Here is an update on what we have planned for the Historic Presentation Forum (HPF) and the War Story Contest (WSC) at the San Diego Reunion. This year we have two sessions of HPF planned. One of our historic presentations will be a series of videotapes of a UH-1 preflight and starting procedure film, followed by two videos of speeches provided by Gary Roush and Jim Fulbrook at ceremonies where the Vietnam helicopter pilots and the UH-1 were recognized on Veterans Day 2009 and in a special UH-1 retirement ceremony in October 2009. These films are all well done and a DVD of them along with electronic documents such as the -10, UH-1 checklist and more will be available to purchase.

Another HPF will consist of a 50-minute documentary titled, "Vietnam Firefight." This documentary provides a re-enactment of a rescue that VHPA members Jack Swickard, Larry Liss, Tom Baca and Kenneth Nolan conducted in Vietnam. These members will be there to introduce the film and answer questions. Tom Marshall will be back to present again this year. Tom is a VHPA member and the author of a very successful book on 'Nam called Price of Exit. Tom's HPF session will present some really incredible video footage gathered and edited from the DoD Media Archives. This year's film will focus on the Battle at Fire Support Base Ripcord (near the A Shau valley), which took place in July 1970 between the 101st Screaming Eagles and a large North Vietnamese Army force.

We also have a couple of other speakers pending. Look for updates in the next issue of the Aviator. In another article in this issue, we point out that our annual luncheon speakers will be Ron Bower and Jim McLaughlin (both VHPA members). Jim and Ron have developed an interactive digital map called "The Vietnam Memory Map." Think Google Earth and more on this, a sure crowd pleaser. We are also looking to add another session with a speaker who will discuss Veterans benefits, Agent Orange issues, and things such as that.

This year we will have two sessions of the War Story Contest (WSC). Doug Womack will MC the first session again with such headliners as Mike Sheuerman and the usual suspects who will entertain us with their "This ain't no sh\_t stories" about the 'Nam. Mike S. will then MC the second WSC for more fun and frivolity. This year one of these sessions will be set up as a contest between units where each unit will put forward 3 or 4 members to entertain us with their stories and then we will select the best unit for some type of "prestigious reinforcement and recognition device." If we get two units, 4 will speak. If 3 or more units sign up, then 3 members from each unit will tell their stories in 10 minutes or less per speaker. Call Jim to sign up your unit ASAP.

Note that when you register this year there is a one-time charge of \$20.00 for the VHPA member to attend one or all of the HPF and WSC events. In addition, for your \$20, each registered member will receive a free copy of the DVD of last year's HPF/WSC events - 7 hours of really good stuff from Philly. The DVD is a \$30 value, so don't get your Nomex panties in a wad over the cost here because we need to cover AV and costs on these events. Please notice that any guests registered for the reunion will be admitted free to any of these events, so bring them along. Ok, we put these events together to entertain and inform you and your family/guests. This is our 5th year doing these and each year the attendance has gone up, so don't miss out (days and times do not conflict with other internal events).

Last notes on HPF/WSC: The time is now to sign up to give your war story at one of the WSCs. Contact Jim Fulbrook at [redacted] or email at [redacted] to get on board or to ask questions. We will take guys from the audience for the WSC, but we really prefer a list to start, please (provide name, contact info and title of story). We are also open to adding any other HPF speakers if you are interested or know of someone who would be appropriate for our members. Yes, we will do a DVD again this year as well. OK, that's it - now are you convinced you should come to San Diego? Be there or be square dude, and "that ain't no sh\_t!"

### Announcement from HQ about the 2010 Reunion in San Diego

Don't want to register on-line? We are taking your registrations by phone at 1-800-505-8472, by e-mail at [hq@vhpa.org](mailto:hq@vhpa.org), by fax at 916-966-8743 or by mail at 5530 Birdcage Street, STE 105, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.

If you have several friends who want to sit together at the Banquet and are not affiliated with a particular flight class or unit, all you have to do is to come up with a unique group name and then contact all the people you want to sit with. Be sure everyone uses that same unique name for table preference (by

using the "other" box) on the registration form, we will do our best to seat you together.

Also, you will need to mark the Fireworks event on your registration form even if you aren't going to go to the Reunion Banquet. The fireworks will be a wristband or ticket event so you will still need to mark it if you want to attend with our group.

Any questions?  
Feel free to call HQ,  
we're open  
Monday-Friday,  
8 am to 5 pm PST.

If any members are interested in  
selling any item(s) through the vendor room  
at the San Diego reunion, or know of others  
who may be interested, they need to contact  
the vendor room coordinator  
Woody McFarlin immediately at:  
or through his  
home number



## GETTING THERE AND GETTING AROUND

**REUNION HOTEL:** The San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101 619-234-1500. By agreement between the hotel and the VHPA, we are using the Passkey System to make, modify and cancel hotel reservations. It is important to know that calls directly to the hotel or any of Marriott's regular toll free reservations numbers result in the caller being asked to use the Passkey toll free number. There are two ways to use Passkey:

■ Online via the VHPA Booking Website in Passkey. You can paste the following link in a browser to get to the Passkey Website.

**[www.resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=1577959](http://www.resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=1577959)**

The VHPA Registration Website has a link to this Passkey Website once you complete your Reunion Registration process.

■ Toll Free Passkey reservation line is 800-266-9432. Callers say they want to make a Passkey reservation and need to mention any number of keywords such as "VHPA" or "VHPA Reunion" so the agent can find the contract.

**VICINITY AROUND THE HOTEL:** The hotel is sandwiched between the San Diego Convention Center and the Hyatt hotel. West Harbor Drive is to the front and a large marina to the rear protected by the embarcadero. The hotel Concierge provides a walking map to the famous Gaslamp Quarter and to Seaport Village on the embarcadero. Literally there are more than 100 restaurants, shops and a Ralph's grocery store within walking distance from the hotel. You will receive a San Diego Visitor's Guidebook that has details for the area. If you are not into walking you can also ride in a Pedal Cabs or take The San Diego Trolley (light rail system), Convention Center Station is immediately in front of the hotel.

**OFFICIAL AIRLINE:** We have two options:

■ American Airlines: For the period June 26 – July 11, 2010 for travel to San Diego, CA, the Promotion Code is **6460AR**. Receive a 5% discount off the lowest applicable eligible published air fare. The percentage discount can be booked on-line at **[www.AA.com](http://www.AA.com)** for American Airlines and American Eagle flights only with no ticketing fee. Reservations may also be made via telephone (800-433-1790) from anywhere in the US or Canada with the Promotion Code. There is a \$20.00 extra per-ticket charge via the phone, \$30.00 extra per-ticket for airport purchases.

■ United Airlines: For the period June 27 – July 8, 2010 for travel to San Diego, CA, the Promotion Code is **586QC** from the domestic 48 States, Hawaii, and Canada. Receive a 5% discount off the lowest applicable eligible published air fare or a 7% to 10% discount for over 30 days advanced ticketing for certain booking codes. The percentage discount can be booked on-line at **[www.UAL.com](http://www.UAL.com)** for United Airlines, United Express, and United code share flights operated by Island Air or Great Lakes only. Reservations may also be made via telephone using the promotion code by calling the Meeting Services Desk at 800-521-4041.

**OFFICIAL RENTAL CAR:** We have two options:

■ Avis has special rates available from seven days before to seven days after the Reunion. The Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number is **G028272**. Call Avis directly at 888-754-8878 or by using the link provided below.

**[www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservation/ReservationsInitialize?&AWD\\_NUMBER=G028272](http://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservation/ReservationsInitialize?&AWD_NUMBER=G028272)**

■ Hertz has special rates from June 23 through July 12. Cars can be picked up from any corporate Southern California location (including the Marriott's lobby) and returned to any other Southern California location! Use [hertz.com](http://hertz.com) or 800-654-2240 and the CV# **022L2989**.

**Airport to Hotel:** The airport is 3.1 miles from the hotel. The hotel

does not provide shuttle service. For less than \$10 you can take a taxi or for even less than that a shuttle van to the hotel. The VHPA arranged for a group discount via Cloud 9/SuperShuttle, you can go to **[www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)** and use the group code **PXE6Z** or call 800-258-3826. Book your ride, get your luggage and take the sky bridge or cross walk over to the ground transportation islands. Look for the blue overhead sign that reads 'Shuttles for Hire.' Show the driver your reservation with the discount. Warning – the drivers MAY GET snippy with you if you just walk up and demand the discount...so call or use the website.

**Hotel to Airport:** If you didn't book your return trip via Cloud 9/SuperShuttle, check with the Concierge Desk or the Bell Captains at the front door for the van schedule. They run about every 15 minutes and cost about \$7 per person.

**Amtrak to/from Hotel:** The Santa Fe Amtrak Station (also known as the America Plaza Transfer Station for the San Diego Light Rail system) is less than one mile from the hotel. From the Santa Fe Station you can take a taxi, shuttle, or Light Rail Orange Line train two stops to the Convention Center Station that is immediately in front of the hotel.

**Parking: WARNING!!** Overnight hotel parking is \$22 per night for self-parking and \$32 for valet. Parking near the hotel is less but not by much. Even the SoCal members don't have a cheaper answer to this challenge.

**RV Parking:** Recommend starting with the Mission Bay RV Resort. Go to [www.missionbayrvresort.com](http://www.missionbayrvresort.com) or call 858-270-4300. Their park is about 8 miles away.

**Power Scooter:** For anyone wishing to rent a power scooter, wheel chair, etc. while you are in San Diego. Please call 888-441-7575 or **[www.scootaround.com/rentals/s/sandiego/](http://www.scootaround.com/rentals/s/sandiego/)**.

**Tours and Buses:** Unless otherwise noted all tours begin at the 'coach loading point' near the fountain in front of the hotel. Exit the front door of the hotel, take a left and walk down the hill. The Fountain is on your right and the bus loading point is in the parking lot access driveway before you reach Harbor Drive.

### REUNION SPONSORSHIP

This year for several good reasons, the VHPA Executive Council is encouraging "sponsorships." For example – pretend that you attended the Memorial Service during the 2009 Reunion in Philly and you think that it is a good idea to have someone sing a hymn and play a keyboard at this event. You call Tom Payne – the OIC for this event. Tom says he likes your idea but it is going to cost \$250 and this wasn't included in the Reunion Budget. You say, "OK I'll donate \$100 for this. How do I do that?" For example, your boss or your company would like to "buy 100 guys a beer at the Reunion." How could they do that? The two best ways to make a Sponsorship donation is to put the amount in the Reunion Sponsorship area (in the Voluntary Contributions sidebar) on your registration form and/or contact HQ to make the donation. Please contact Moon Mullen at [REDACTED] for more details and Sponsorship opportunities.

### REUNION INFORMATION

**[www.vhpareunion.org](http://www.vhpareunion.org)** Contains info about all the official events, mini-reunions, etc. **[www.vhpasocal.org](http://www.vhpasocal.org)** For what to do in your spare time between official VHPA Reunion events, the Southern California Chapter advises that they are planning a number of their own events in San Diego to coincide with the VHPA Reunion. The Chapter invites all interested VHPA members to visit their website, [www.vhpasocal.org](http://www.vhpasocal.org), or to contact Mike O'Neil at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for details. The VHPA as an independent organization has had no role or participation with the Chapter in this effort, all credit for planning and offering such activities goes to Mike and the SoCal Chapter.



## REUNION DRESS CODE

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

■ A jacket and long pants are a VERY GOOD idea whenever you go out on the water whether to the Midway or on one of the Harbor Tours. The first thing the SoCal local guys have to say is "Bring a jacket!"

■ 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.

■ The area around the hotel is near the ocean, the outdoor temperatures will be just about perfect night or day. The Ramona Airport where we will fly in the helicopters is 30 miles from the water and it can be HOT while we are there.

## REUNION EVENTS

Ground Zero for this Reunion is the 3rd Floor in the South Tower. Please know that the Lobby Level is also the 2nd Floor. So once you get to Starbucks in the South Tower, take the escalator up to the 3rd Floor. Registration, the Vendor Room, the Keg Beer Room, the unit TOCs, the Early Bird and Welcome Receptions, most of the Mini-Reunions, the Annual Business Meeting, the WSC/HPFs, etc. will all happen on the 3rd Floor of the South Tower. Most of these events will be in various sections of the Marina Ballroom.

**Vendor Room:** Marina 'G' – Opens at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30th and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, July 4th. Anyone desiring to be a Vendor or to recommend a Vendor should contact Woody McFarlin at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

**Registration:** Marina Foyer. Opens at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30th and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, July 4th.

**Honor Keg Beer Room:** The Green Room on 3rd floor South Tower. Hours basically from 9 a.m. until late from Wednesday, June 30th until just before the Closing Banquet. In the finest traditions of an "Officer's Club" from Vietnam your Reunion Lanyard is your ticket to this room. We've arranged to have keg beer and friendly faces available. Contact Kenny Bunn at [REDACTED] or [bunn@vhpa.org](mailto:bunn@vhpa.org) if you have questions and/or want to help staff this room. \$3 is the "suggested donation" per beer.

**MOC (Mobile Officers' Club):** Continuing their ten-year tradition the Northern California Chapter's MOC will be parked on Marriott Hall Drive (between the North Tower and Marriott Hall that will host the Closing Banquet). The MOC is virtually always open and a good place to have a smoke, a beer, and good conversations. Contact Mike Nord at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if you have any questions.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30TH

**Early Bird Reception:** Marina 'D' & 'E' from 7 p.m. until whenever. Find your unit's table, bring your unit banners to hang up, join with the SoCal guys (plus the VHPA Executive Council members and Committee Chairs), be prepared to meet old friends and to make new ones. Cash bars only – no food so please eat your evening meal before coming to socialize. The Honor Keg Beer Room will be in a near-by room. For information about bringing a banner, reserving a table, etc. contact Dan Ferguson at [REDACTED] or [ferguson@vhpa.org](mailto:ferguson@vhpa.org).

## THURSDAY, JULY 1ST

**Golf – Sea N' Air Course on Coronado Island:** Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 11 a.m. Includes lunch plus two drink tickets. Plan to be back to the hotel about 6:30 p.m. Go to [seanairgc.org](http://seanairgc.org). Contact Bob Whitford at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

**San Diego & Old Town Tour I:** Buses leave from the bus load-

ing point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 10:30 a.m. return to the hotel about 2:30 p.m. This tour is a great introduction to San Diego. Highlights include some of the most famous sites of San Diego including the Gas-Lamp Quarter, La Jolla, Coronado, Balboa Park, and Old Town. Board your coach for a narrated tour of San Diego and experience the many diversified and unique areas of this beautiful city. Your tour includes the vibrant downtown, the Gas-Lamp Quarter, with its old world buildings, and the Embarcadero, offering a wonderful harbor view. Ride through famous Balboa Park, home of the San Diego Zoo; La Jolla, known as the jewel of the Pacific, and see the historic landmark Hotel Del Coronado. You'll get off the bus in Old Town, discovered by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, and often considered California's birthplace. Here you will find the history and energy of the original settlement of the city of San Diego brought to life by history-tellers, free museums, historic displays, plaques and time lines. Lunch will be on your own in Old Town, where you'll find many restaurants and cafes to choose from. Explore the village and discover superb shopping and many small galleries. This will be a great day out!

**USS Midway Audio Tour I:** Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 12:30 a.m. return to the hotel about 5:00 p.m. This self-guided audio tour of the USS Midway offers 25 restored aircraft and 60 exciting exhibits from the powerful engine room to the Conning Tower & Bridge. She was firing Tomahawk Missiles during the Liberation of Kuwait and now the USS Midway begins her tour of duty in the San Diego waterfront area. One of the true icons of the U.S. Navy in the latter half of the 20th century, she is a modern marvel. This is the most modern warship available for general touring today. You will take a look back at the history of America's longest serving Aircraft Carrier through many of the museum exhibits. The Midway Museum tour is a self guided audio tour which allows you to tour at your own pace. Elevator access is available to 75% of the exhibits. The tour will take you through the hanger deck and up onto the flight deck. There is a gift shop and café on-board.

**Harbor Sightseeing Cruise:** Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 3:45 p.m. and return to the hotel about 6:45 p.m. Enjoy a 2-hour, fully narrated, harbor tour, including Harbor & Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, the Coronado Bridge & much more. Board your yacht and embark on a 2-hour Harbor Tour. This is a fully narrated tour, which passes by awesome Naval Bases (there are usually warships in port), the munitions bunkers, and attack helicopters. You will also sail under the Coronado Bridge, to Point Loma to see the Cabrillo Monument. Snacks, drinks and bathrooms are all available on-board.

**Reception for 1st Reunion Attendees:** Marina 'D' from 7 to 8 p.m. VHPA President Gary Roush and Secretary/Treasurer Tom Payne (along with the rest of the Executive Council and several VHPA Committee Chairman) provide a special welcome to all 1st Timers. They will present a brief history of the VHPA and will answer questions. Immediately following this reception, we join forces with the Welcome Reception.

**Welcome Reception:** Marina 'D' 'E' and 'F' from 8 p.m. until whenever. Because more people are involved, this will be an "expanded version" of the previous night's Early Bird Reception. Find your unit's table, bring your unit banners to hang up, join with the SoCal guys (plus the VHPA Executive Council members and Committee Chairs), be prepared to meet old friends and to make new ones. Cash bars only – no food so please eat your evening meal before coming to socialize. The Honor Keg Beer Room will be in a near-by room. For information about bringing a banner, reserving a table, etc. contact Dan Ferguson at [REDACTED] or [ferguson@vhpa.org](mailto:ferguson@vhpa.org).



## FRIDAY, JULY 2ND

**KIA/MIA Gold Star Function:** Coronado room on Level 4, South Tower from 8 a.m. This traditional function usually involves a breakfast and a program conducted by Julie Kink. It is totally supported by donations. Please contact Julie at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] with questions.

**Annual Business Meeting:** Marina 'D' and 'E' from 10 a.m. until 12 a.m. This event is open to dues current VHPA members only and a ticket is required. Someone who hasn't registered for the Reunion can obtain a ticket from the VHPA Registration Desk. VHPA President Gary Roush will conduct this meeting. Besides electing officers and conducting other official business (such as reviewing the Audit Report), all Committee Chairmen present brief reports. Please contact our Secretary/Treasurer Tom Payne at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more details.

**Spouse/Guest Event:** San Diego 'B' from 10 a.m. until about 1 p.m. This traditional "ladies function" is always scheduled at the same time as the Annual Business Meeting. This year it includes some "fun stuff" plus a luncheon. Please contact Mike Law at 303-988-7797 or [mglaw@earthlink.net](mailto:mglaw@earthlink.net) for more details.

**Guest Speak Luncheon:** Marina 'F' from about noon until about 2 p.m. Since everyone leaving the Annual Business Meeting is usually interested in lunch and talking with their friends, the Reunion added this luncheon with the same Spouse/Guest Event menu. VHPA Members Jim McLaughlin and Ron Bower are the Guest Speakers. The subject is the Vietnam Memory Map Project as illustrated on the cover of the 2009 Membership Directory. If recording, preserving, and displaying information about a KIA or a helicopter incident is important to you, this luncheon will show you where and how the VHPA plans to move these ideas to the next level. You will walk out of this luncheon proud to be a member of the VHPA! Please contact Mike Law at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more details about the luncheon and Ron Bower at [REDACTED] for details about the Vietnam Memory Map Project.

**Poker Tournament I:** From about 1 p.m. until about 5 p.m. The proceeds from this traditional event go to the VHPA Scholarship Fund. Contact Pat Ewing at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more details.

**War Story Contest/Historical Presentation Form I:** Marina 'D' from 2 p.m. until about 5 p.m. Contact Jim Fulbrook at [REDACTED] for details.

**USS Midway:** Remember rule #1 – Bring a jacket because it is cool on the flight deck when the sun goes down. Remember rule #2 – We are going to time sequence the bus loading at the hotel to avoid all 1,000 of us standing in line. *The plan is to issue a bus loading ticket AND a Midway boarding ticket.* We'll provide more details on these two tickets later. Buses start leaving from the bus loading point about 6:00 p.m. and basically circle to the hotel until about 11:00 p.m. Visit [www.midway.org](http://www.midway.org) for a visual taste! The USS Midway is the Number 1 attraction in San Diego (it eclipsed the famous Zoo several years ago) and you will enjoy it in very special ways:

- Wings and Rotors Museum ([www.wingsandrotors.org](http://www.wingsandrotors.org)) will land their restored UH-1B. It will shut down and be wheeled to join the five helicopters on permanent display on the flight deck. An active-duty Naval Helicopter Squadron may provide an SH-60 Seahawk "escort" for the Huey.

- VHPA Founder, Larry Clark, plans to bring a newly restored HA(L)-3 Seawolf UH-1B to the Reunion. If at all possible Larry will also land this UH-1B on the Midway, so we could have two Hueys landing during the program.

- A special program featuring Navy helicopter pilots who flew in and off Vietnam during the war.

- A BBQ meal cooked on the flight deck. There will be several serving areas to minimize waiting in line. Cash bars.

- Docents will provide below deck tours to two special areas – the History of the Navy Helicopter Exhibit and the restored Helicopter Ready Room plus the Junior Officers Berthing area - where the heli-

copter pilots bunked. (During a catered event like ours, only the top two decks plus the tower are open. These docents help us experience the helicopter side of the Midway. Since it takes about four hours to get the 'full experience' we've arranged separate Audio Tours for Reunion Attendees on July 1st and 3rd.)

- Light entertainment featuring a USO Band.

## SATURDAY, JULY 3RD

**Coronado Parade:** Buses start leaving from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 7:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 3:00 p.m. Since San Diego is such a military supporting community the Coronado Parade is very special indeed. The SoCal Chapter and the Distinguished Flying Cross Society participate in this parade every year. They invited any and all VHPAers to join them. Warning! Traffic over the Coronado Bridge is SPECIAL for this event, so we chartered a bus. Contact Mike O'Neil at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more details.

**Helicopter Museum and Rides:** Buses start leaving from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:00 a.m. and return to the hotel about 2:00 p.m. The Ramona Airport is home to the Classic Rotors Museum ([www.rotors.org](http://www.rotors.org)) which has a flyable CH-21. The Wings & Rotors Museum ([www.wingsandrotors.org](http://www.wingsandrotors.org)) plans to position their flyable UH-1B and OH-58 at Ramona for this event. Helistream Helicopters plans to position a flyable Super Huey at Ramona for this event. 12-minute flights in these four aircraft are possible. Additionally, Larry Clark plans to position his restored UH-1B at Ramona but it can't accommodate riders. Finally, Al Doucette plans to display and possibly fly some special (built from scratch) radio controlled helicopters (including a CH-21) near the Classic Rotors Museum's building. Contact Dick McCaig at [REDACTED] for more details.

- Basic Museum Tour option – includes bus transportation, lunch w/drink, entrance to the Classic Rotors Museum plus 'photo opportunity' access to the helicopters mentioned above. Anyone planning to fly in a helicopter during this event must purchase a Basic Museum Tour ticket. If ever you want to give your family an "up close and personal" helicopter experience – this is the event for you!!

- Overseas Aircraft, the company Larry Clark works for, is going the extra, extra mile to restore a UH-1B (tail number 327) that actually served with HA(L)-3 in Vietnam. The restoration effort plans to be completely accurate down to the smallest detail – instruments, weapons, seats, EVERYTHING. After the VHPA Reunion, they go to Oshkosh for the EAA fly-in and airshow and then to the main HA(L)-3 Reunion in November 2010 in Charleston, SC.

- It is important to note that the VHPA is not selling or offering a ride in a helicopter per se. What we are offering is an opportunity to purchase an annual membership in the Classic Rotors Museum and/or the Wings & Rotors Museum. With this membership comes the unique opportunity to sign a 'hold harmless' form and then receive a 12-minute flight. If the person does not sign the 'hold harmless' form, they can't fly in the helicopter.

- Since the Helistream is a commercial helicopter company licensed to carry passengers, they are able to let someone fly in their helicopter for simply the purchase of a ticket and the VHPA will sell them.

**Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour I:** Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 4:30 p.m. San Diego's renowned urban cultural center, Balboa Park is home to 15 major museums, lovely gardens, and many other cultural and recreational attractions. Your day pass allows you to select 4 of the Parks' Museums that interest you the most. Spend the day at Balboa Park - a special place where you can experience San Diego's natural beauty, wonderful art and culture and stunning Spanish Revival architecture. Your motor coach will take you to the Air & Space Museum. You may choose to visit the museum or board the free tram at the museum to begin your day at an alternate attraction. Your pass provides complimentary admission to

*Continued on Pg 20*



# REUNION 2010

## Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, June 30th, 2010

7:00am – 1:00pm  
1:00pm – 5:00pm  
1:00pm – 8:00pm  
7:00am – 10:00pm

Vendor Room Set-Up  
Vendor Room  
Registration  
Early Bird Reception

Marina G  
Marina G  
Marina Foyer  
Marina D-E

### Thursday, July 1st, 2010

9:00am - 5:00pm  
9:00am – 8:00pm  
9:00am – Midnight  
10:30am – 2:30pm  
11:00am – 11:00pm  
12:30pm – 5:00pm  
1:00pm – 5:00pm  
11:00am – 7:00pm  
3:45pm – 6:45pm  
7:00pm – 8:00pm  
8:00pm – 10:00pm

Vendor Room  
Registration  
Unit TOC's  
San Diego & Old Town Tour  
Honor Keg Beer Room  
USS Midway Audio Tour I  
Mini Reunions  
Golf – Sea & Air Golf Course  
Harbor Sightseeing Cruise  
1st Time Attendee Reception  
Welcome Reception

Marina G  
Marina Foyer  
3rd Floor South Tower  
Bus loading point  
Green Room  
Bus Loading Point  
1st & 3rd floors, South Tower  
Bus Loading Point  
Bus Loading Point  
Marina D  
Marina D-F

### Friday, July 2nd 2010

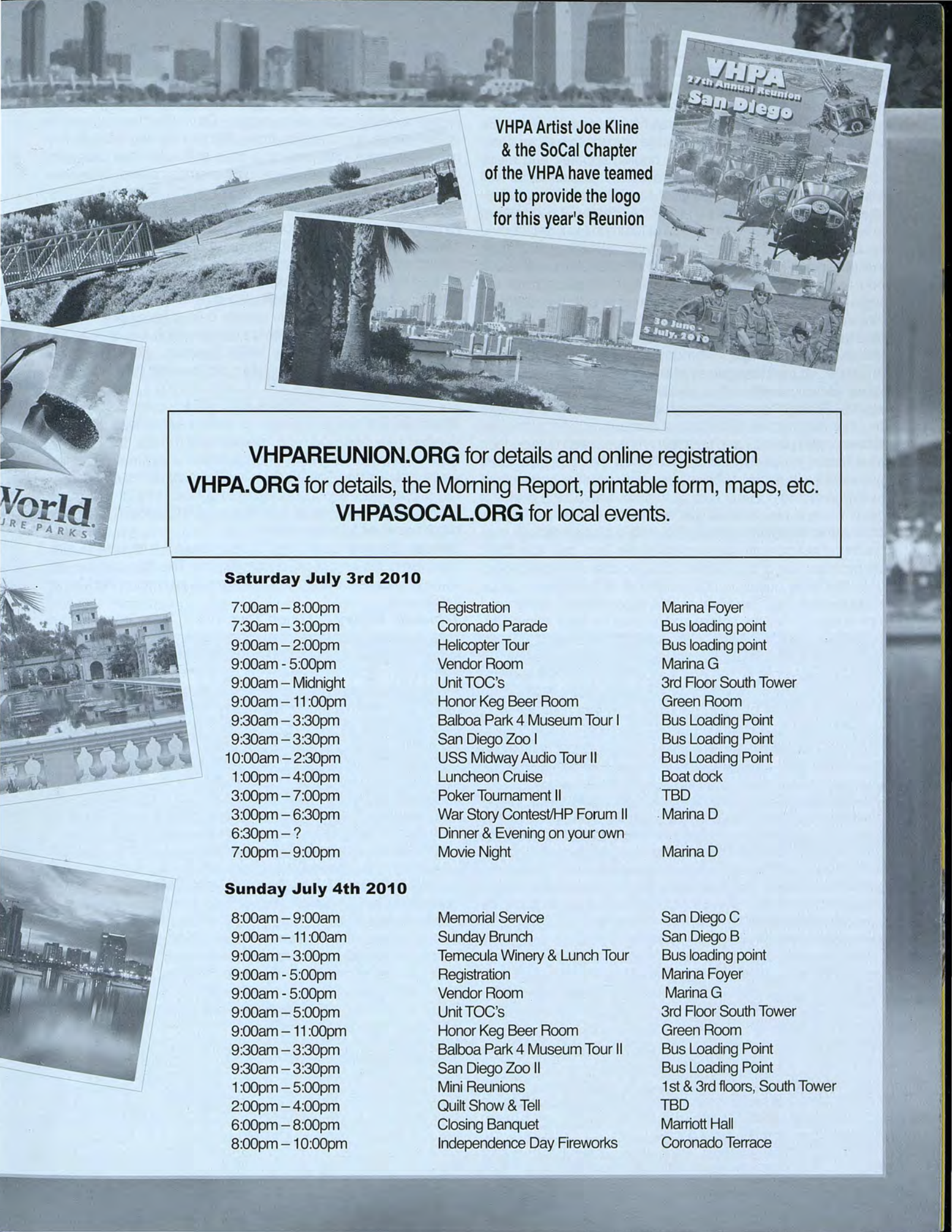
8:00am – 9:30am  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
9:00am – 8:00pm  
10:00am – 12:00am  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
Noon – 2:00pm  
Noon – 11:00pm  
Noon – Midnight  
1:00pm – 5:00pm  
1:00pm – 5:00pm  
2:30pm – 5:00pm  
6:30pm – 10:30pm

KIA/MIA Gold Star Function  
Vendor Room  
Registration  
Annual Business Meeting  
Spouse/Guest Event  
Luncheon w/Speaker  
Honor Keg Beer Room  
Unit TOC's  
Mini Reunions  
Poker Tournament I  
War Story Contest/HP Forum I  
BBQ Dinner on USS Midway

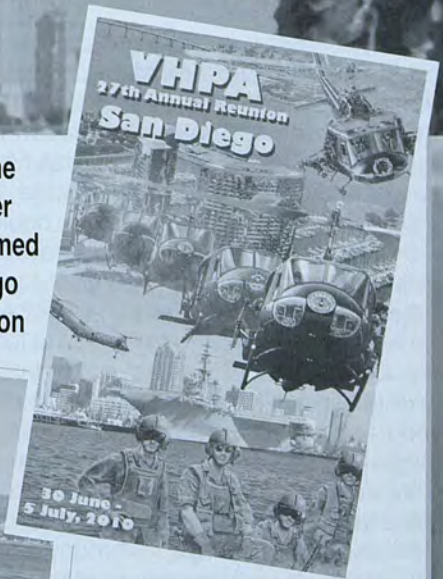
Coronado  
Marina G  
Marina Foyer  
Marina E-F  
San Diego A-B  
Marina D  
Green Room  
3rd Floor South Tower  
1st & 3rd floors, South Tower  
TBD  
Marina D  
Bus loading point







VHPA Artist Joe Kline  
& the SoCal Chapter  
of the VHPA have teamed  
up to provide the logo  
for this year's Reunion



**VHPAREUNION.ORG** for details and online registration  
**VHPA.ORG** for details, the Morning Report, printable form, maps, etc.  
**VHPASOCAL.ORG** for local events.

#### **Saturday July 3rd 2010**

7:00am – 8:00pm	Registration	Marina Foyer
7:30am – 3:00pm	Coronado Parade	Bus loading point
9:00am – 2:00pm	Helicopter Tour	Bus loading point
9:00am - 5:00pm	Vendor Room	Marina G
9:00am – Midnight	Unit TOC's	3rd Floor South Tower
9:00am – 11:00pm	Honor Keg Beer Room	Green Room
9:30am – 3:30pm	Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour I	Bus Loading Point
9:30am – 3:30pm	San Diego Zoo I	Bus Loading Point
10:00am – 2:30pm	USS Midway Audio Tour II	Bus Loading Point
1:00pm – 4:00pm	Luncheon Cruise	Boat dock
3:00pm – 7:00pm	Poker Tournament II	TBD
3:00pm – 6:30pm	War Story Contest/HP Forum II	Marina D
6:30pm – ?	Dinner & Evening on your own	
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Movie Night	Marina D

#### **Sunday July 4th 2010**

8:00am – 9:00am	Memorial Service	San Diego C
9:00am – 11:00am	Sunday Brunch	San Diego B
9:00am – 3:00pm	Temecula Winery & Lunch Tour	Bus loading point
9:00am - 5:00pm	Registration	Marina Foyer
9:00am - 5:00pm	Vendor Room	Marina G
9:00am – 5:00pm	Unit TOC's	3rd Floor South Tower
9:00am – 11:00pm	Honor Keg Beer Room	Green Room
9:30am – 3:30pm	Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour II	Bus Loading Point
9:30am – 3:30pm	San Diego Zoo II	Bus Loading Point
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Mini Reunions	1st & 3rd floors, South Tower
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Quilt Show & Tell	TBD
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Closing Banquet	Marriott Hall
8:00pm – 10:00pm	Independence Day Fireworks	Coronado Terrace



any 4 museums you choose. Some of the other options include the Museums of Art, Photography, International Culture, San Diego History, Automotive, Sports, Model Railroad, Natural History, the Science Center, Japanese Friendship Garden and much more. This is the "Smithsonian Museum of the west". Be sure to stop by the visitor's center, which includes an exceptional gift shop featuring regional maps, books, apparel, and much more. You will be provided a list of available museums, as well as a tram map to help you plan your day. The park offers restaurants for lunch on your own. The motor coach will depart from the Air & Space Museum at 4:00pm to return to the hotel.

**San Diego Zoo I:** Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. and return to the hotel about 4:30 p.m. San Diego Zoo is home to many rare and intriguing creatures from nearly every region of the world. With more than 4,000 animals representing 800 species, the zoo is home to a diverse collection of animals, many of which are rarely seen at other zoos. Spend the day at the famous San Diego Zoo, where you will have plenty of time to visit some of the most popular attractions, as well as personal places of interest. Don't miss Mei Sheng, the second baby panda born at the San Diego Zoo, this is truly one of the most unique and most beloved species on the planet - and very few are ever seen outside their native habitat in northern China. Don't miss the zoo's Absolutely Apes exhibit, where you will see eye to eye with the gorillas, and the expansive rain forest habitat, where orangutans and siamangs live and play together just like in the wild. Your zoo pass includes the 40-minute narrated tour on a double-decked bus, covering about seventy-five percent of the Zoo. Your tour ticket also includes use of the Express Bus, double or single-decked buses that allow guests to hop on and off at five different stops throughout the Zoo. The Express Bus passes by the designated stops every 20 minutes or less and is great for quick transportation to the different exhibits. You may also take an "airborne" shortcut over the treetops. This aerial transportation also offers a spectacular view of the Zoo and surrounding Balboa Park. The Zoo offers many restaurants for lunch on your own. The restaurants offer a variety of choices including all-American favorites and tasty treats from around the world. There are numerous lifts and moving sidewalks to help get you through the park, however there is obviously still a fair amount of walking required at the Zoo.

**USS Midway Audio Tour II:** This is the same tour that is described as occurring on Thursday, July 1st **EXCEPT** that this tour departs from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 10:45 a.m. and returns to the hotel about 2:15 p.m. Private Luncheon Cruise: A special private 2-hour lunch cruise on San Diego Bay. Board your luxury yacht at the Marriott Hotel's dock at 11:30 a.m. and embark on a narrated cruise featuring an all you can eat lunch buffet. You will return to the hotel about 2:15 p.m. Enjoy the afternoon on board a beautiful re-created turn-of-the-century coastal steamer, with luxurious interiors and spacious salons. The climate-controlled boat offers three decks, four salons, and a raised sun deck providing spectacular views of the San Diego Harbor & skyline. Enjoy a buffet luncheon while viewing 25 scenic miles of San Diego's magnificent skyline. This is a private cruise just for the VHPA. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to spend time with your family and friends.

**Poker Tournament II:** From about 3 p.m. until about 7 p.m. The proceeds from this traditional event go to the VHPA Scholarship Fund. Contact Pat Ewing at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more details.

War Story Contest/Historical Presentation Form II: Marina 'D' from 3 p.m. until about 6:30 p.m. Contact Jim Fulbrook at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more details.

**Dinner on your own this evening** - The Reunion Committee designed this evening for units, friends, families, etc. to enjoy some quality time together. If you want to organize a meal in a private meeting room at the hotel - Do it! We have at least a dozen rooms you can pick from. Want to go out - Do it! The hotel Concierge can provide a map of the famous Gaslamp Quarter and to Seaport Village on the embarcadero. There are more than 100 restaurants and shops within easy walking distance from the hotel. Contact Tom Crosby at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for more ideas, details and suggestions.

**Movie Night:** Marina 'D' from 7 p.m. until about 9 p.m. We'll have popcorn and beer plus the Audio Visual equipment needed for the War Story Contest/Historical Presentation Form. Want to watch In The Shadow of the Blade with other Vietnam helicopter pilots and get the 'behind the scenes details' from Gary Roush? We will show Above the Finest produced Bob Boudreaux and Mike McDonald for the 1984 VHPA Reunion. Contact Gary at [REDACTED] or webmaster@vhpa.org for more details.

### SUNDAY, JULY 4TH

**Memorial Service:** San Diego 'C' from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. This service has been gaining momentum during the last few Reunions as people gather to remember and pay tribute to those we've lost recently. The NYC Police Emerald Society Bagpipers will support this event. Contact Gary Rossome at [REDACTED] or Tom Payne at [REDACTED] for more details.

**Sunday Brunch:** San Diego 'B' from about 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Most everyone enjoys a Sunday Brunch! This one can be with some of your best friends or someone you just met at the Memorial Service.

**Temecula Winery & Lunch Tour:** Buses leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:00 a.m. return to the hotel about 3:00 p.m. Spend the day in Temecula Valley, home to over 25 award-winning wineries. The day begins at one of Temecula's finest wineries offering many award winning wines. Begin with a tour of the winery, meet the winemaker and learn about the winemaking process. Following the tour, relax in the tasting room and sample some of the wines made on the premises, followed by a light sandwich lunch. Then, board your coach for the short drive to downtown Temecula. Learn about the history of this quaint California town and how it has grown over the years. Following the tour, there will be time to stroll along the wooden boardwalks and shop the specialty boutiques, antique stores and art galleries. Whether you are a history buff, antique collector, or window shopper; enjoy a step back in time in this town reminiscent of our historic "Golden West" in the 1880s.

**Balboa Park 4 Museum Tour II:** This is the same tour that is being offered on Saturday, July 3rd **EXCEPT** that we are scheduled to return to the hotel by 3:30 p.m. The buses will still leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. but will return to the hotel about 3:30 p.m. (the motor coach will depart from the Air & Space Museum at 3:00 p.m. to return to the hotel). The description and highlights of Saturday's tour will still apply.

**San Diego Zoo II:** This is the same tour that is being offered on Saturday, July 3rd **EXCEPT** that we are scheduled to return to the hotel by 3:30 p.m. The buses will still leave from the bus loading point (near the fountain on Harbor Drive) at 9:30 a.m. but they will return to the hotel about 3:30 p.m. The description and highlights of Saturday's tour will still apply.

**Quilt Show & Tell:** From about 2 p.m. until about 4 p.m. (The time and venue may change.) During the San Antonio 2008



Reunion a beautiful thing happened quite by accident. Three ladies were talking in the Vendor Room as their husbands looked around. They started talking about quilts. One lady said that she was almost finished with a T-shirt Quilt from her husband's collection of VHPA Reunion T-shirts. The others asked if they could see it. Ten minutes after she returned with her quilt there were more than ten ladies admiring her work. Now – San Diego has a world-class quilter's shop called Rosie's Calico Cupboard. If the guys can have a mini-reunion, why can't the ladies have a similar event? Bring your quilt to show to others. Maybe we'll take a bus trip to Rosie's shop? Maybe we'll have someone from Rosie's shop come and give us a short class. Contact Dianna Law at [REDACTED] for more details and/or suggestions.

Closing Banquet: We can't stress strongly enough how important it is to make your table seating preferences known to HQ as early as possible. A preference could be a unit such as B/1/9th Cav or a flight class such as 67-14 or a VHPA Chapter or the name of an individual (Howard Horton). We have lots of challenges here. About 1,200 people will attend this dinner. We want each to have a special memorable experience. We seat 10 people to a table. Some "lucky person" gets to assign everyone to a specific table. This "lucky person" will be at the Banquet Seating desk all during the Reunion to accommodate any last minute changes. Even with all this preparation, someone will come in on July 2nd with the news that he just purchased a ticket and he is now sitting with Howard Horton. The problem is Howard's table already has ten people! Please – please make your seating preferences

known to HQ as early as possible. Thank you.

Doors to the Marriott Hall ballroom open at 5:45 p.m. We guarantee the presentation of the colors will make you proud to be an American. Back by popular demand the NYC Police Emerald Society Bagpipers will again treat us to their very special tribute to the military services. Gary Roush's last official act as President of the VHPA will be to welcome Woody McFarlin as the new President. After the meal the Fantastic Diamond Band presents an incredible tribute show that takes us through a musical journey of Neil Diamond's greatest hits that span the last forty years. You can enjoy the band for a while and then adjourn to the Coronado Terrace to watch the 4th of July Fireworks display fired from barges in the bay between the hotel and Coronado Island.

**Fireworks:** Even though during the summer, especially when there is a concert on the embarcadero, there are fireworks most every night in the bay between the hotel and Coronado Island; the 4th of July presentation is SPECIAL. The Coronado Terrace (on the roof top of the fourth level, South Tower facing the water) is a PERFECT viewing area. We'll have cash bars and some live music so you can enjoy being outside. San Diego has an ordinance prohibiting amplified sound after 10 p.m. So by that time the fireworks will be over and so will be live music.

**MONDAY, JULY 5TH**

*Enjoy San Diego or depart for home.*

## *Seeking Stories and Writers For Chapters on Lam Son 719*

Calling all Lam Son 719 participants: In the last issue of the Aviator, we had a short article where Doug Womack and I were seeking photos and other media from Vietnam, especially from the Khe Sanh area and during Lam Son 719 (LS719). We received a very good response and after speaking with several contributors, we came up with an expanded idea. We are seeking contributors who have or are interested in writing stories about their LS719 adventures. We now plan to do a book dedicated to LS719 and include specific chapters written by other contributors who will be given author attribution. In other words, Doug and I will write portions, but then will serve as editors of chapters/stories by other authors.

Specifically, we wish to include chapters that focus on a given unit and mission area. For instance, we have a CH-54 pilot who will write on CH-54 missions and his unit during LS719. So, if you ever aspired to write a book, but found that to be too daunting, but you think you could do up a good story or chapter on your unit or missions, then please contact us. Don't worry about your writing ability. If you can get the basics down, we will edit your text and interview you to fill in gaps, etc. In that regard, we would like a chapter author on topics such as ARA, CAV missions, CCN, CH-53 rescue, Medevac, CH-47, artillery scout, Witch Doctor, specific battles: Lolo (yes we

are aware of the coverage there already thanks to Mike Sloniker), LZ Brown or Hotel, Tchepone (LZ Hope), etc.). We are open to any ideas for topics. If you already wrote and published something, you could rewrite it or seek permission to reuse the material and of course any photos and documents that back up the chapter material would be great. So, this is a chance to update and improve what you might have documented before.

OK, we are not getting any younger, this might be your last chance to tell your story or assist someone in contributing to a history of one of the most important battles of the war. Our goal is to produce a book that provides more detail and documentation than any previous. We will also recognize each of the soldiers who were KIA or MIA during LS719, so if you can contribute info on any of these or on anyone badly injured from an incident, then please contact us.

Thanks. Jim Fulbrook, PhD (Snakebite Charlie, a.k.a., Rattler 20) and Doug Womack (Rattler 28). Please use email to make contact:

Phone numbers and addresses are in the VHPA electronic directory. We discourage phone messages because they quickly became too difficult to manage on our last request, but if you are not into email, then call if you must, we understand.



## Arthur L. Morgan

Arthur L. Morgan, 64, died on 13 April 2009 at his home in Mt. Zion, Illinois as a result of a protracted battle with leukemia.

Art was an Army Aviator graduating with Flight Class 68-29 and flew under the Roadrunner call sign with the 163rd Aviation Company in I Corps from Camp Eagle from 1968 – 1969. He went on to retire from the Illinois National Guard in 2004 as a CW5. He also flew with ARCH Aeromedical service until 2007.

He is survived by his wife Colleen and two daughters, Anne and Jennifer (Harris).

## Boyd E. King Jr.

KING, JR. Brigadier General (Ret) Boyd E. King, Jr. - passed away unexpectedly on Monday, April 20, 2009. Mr. King, known and loved by all who knew him as Butch, was born on April 24, 1943 in Atlanta Georgia. He was preceded in death by his wife, Diane Wells King.

Mr. King had been the CEO of VT Halter Marine since 2002. He was instrumental in reorganizing and revitalizing the company. Mr. King was retired from the Army after 36 years of service. He served as an enlisted man, a NCO, a warrant officer, a commissioned officer and retired as a brigadier general.

He served with honor in Vietnam and was subsequently stationed in Germany, England, various US postings and the Pentagon. Mr. King loved his country and was proud to serve. He was a leader who truly led by example. He valued honesty and integrity and inspired those characteristics in others. He showed the same devotion to his family, his friends and his church. Butch was a warm, generous man with a kind word for everyone. He loved to laugh and brought joy to all who knew him. He was an energetic person committed to doing the best in each of his endeavors. He will be deeply missed for all that he brought to his family, friends, workplace and community. Most of all we will miss his charismatic spark that brought light to even the darkest room.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Leigh Ellen and Chris Davis; his sister Elizabeth King Thurbee; his girlfriend Debra Traugher and her daughter and granddaughter. He is also survived by numerous cousins, great nieces and great nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations made be made to the Coast Guard Foundation or a charity of your choice.

## Lt. Claude E. Woolard

Claude E. Woolard, 66 died after a lengthy illness on October 18, 2009 in the VA hospital in Long Beach, California. Caude graduated flight school with Flight

Class 67-23 and flew with the 188th AHC in 1968, the D/101 Avn, 101 Airborne Division in 1968-69 and the 10th Combat Assault Battalion in 1971-1972 under the Spider, Hawk and Vagabond callsigns.

His career spanned over 22 years culminating in his assignment to Warrant Officer professional developments branch and the Division of Concepts Analysis, Fort Myer, Virginia upon his retirement. His Military Awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service medal w/ 2 olc, Air Medal (40), Air Medal w/ Valor, Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal (6) and the Master Aviator Badge.

He is survived by his daughter, Christine M. Woolard-Miller of Long Beach, CA and his son, Jason B. Woolard of Denver, CO. They may be contacted through Christie at: [REDACTED]

## Regarding the late Dennis R. Freeman

Dennis R. Freeman left us on December 09, 2009.

He is survived by his mother, two brothers, his wife Marilyn, four daughters, three stepchildren and six grandchildren.

"Denny" served with B/7/1 Cavalry and D/3/5 Cavalry in 1969-70 as a Warrant Officer combat assault helicopter pilot. He was awarded the Bronze Star in 1970, along with several other medals for his volunteer service.

Mr. Freeman treasured the freedom of adventure and he had more adventures in his life than most of us could ever dream of. He has been a world traveler, ocean sailor, decorated Vietnam Vet, equine apprentice, oral historian, singer/songwriter, playwright and professional storyteller. His amazing voice and incredible delivery brought his songs and stories to life and will echo in many hearts forever. Flying represented freedom to Denny, which he treasured so much. So fly free, Denny – and may your story never end. [By Marilyn Freeman]

## Jim Hardy Clary

Jim H. Clary passed away on Jan. 11, 2010. He was 70. Jim was born on Sept. 23, 1939, in Plainview, Texas, the second son of Arthur and Gladys Clary. In 1941, the family moved from Plainview to Lubbock and established residence on 22nd Street, on a block west of what was then College Avenue. He then entered Texas A&M University and in 1962, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics.

While attending A&M, Jim was a member of the Aggie Corps of Cadets and upon graduation, he received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry in the U.S. Army. His first military assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. He served

as a rifle platoon leader. During this period, he led his platoon on 16 parachute jumps, including one of the largest peace time military airborne maneuvers in U.S. history, Operation Swift Strike. After 12 months at Fort Bragg, Jim entered the Army's Officer Rotary Wing Flight Training Program. He earned his Army Aviator wings in 1964. His flight class (64-3) was the first Army Aviator class to be assigned, as a class, to Vietnam.

Jim spent two, one-year tours of duty in Vietnam, where he amassed over 1,000 hours of combat flying time, the majority of which was in helicopter gunships. In 1964, Jim participated in the Battle of the La Drang Valley, made famous by the Mel Gibson movie, *Once We Were Soldiers*, and Young. In 1968, Jim flew virtually around the clock during the Tet Offensive. For his efforts in Vietnam, Jim was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Air Medal with 23 Oak Leaf Clusters and 2 "V" devices, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal. Jim was one of the first Army Aviators to fly the Huey Cobra Gunship in combat; he separated from the service in 1971 with the rank of Major.

As a civilian, Jim established and operated an agricultural irrigation business in West Texas for nine years. In 1980, he entered the financial services industry, where he spent the next 28 years distinguishing himself as an Investment Advisor and Certified Financial Planner. During this time, Jim received numerous awards and designations. His accomplishments provided Jim and his beloved wife of 33 years, Sue, the opportunity to travel to many desirable domestic locations and numerous international sites such as Brazil, Venezuela, Switzerland, Spain and Canada.

During his active career, Jim served a three-year term as a board member of Lubbock's Better Business Bureau. He was a member of The Former Students Association at Texas A&M, The Aggie Club, Lubbock A&M Club, Texas Tech's Red Raider Club, The Chancellor's Council at Texas Tech and The West Texas Museum Association.

For the 14 years prior to his retirement in May 2008, Jim was the owner and principal of Clary Securities, LLC, a Broker/Dealer and Clary Asset Management, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor.

Jim is survived by his wife Sue. They were married Aug. 10, 1976. Jim is also survived by his sons from a previous marriage, Scott of San Antonio, David and Ross of Houston, and Stephen of Dallas. It was Jim's wish that there be no memorial service. Memorial gifts can be made to the American Cancer Society, 3411 73rd Street, Lubbock, TX 79423-1101.



# TAPS

## John Parry

John Parry passed away on January 3m 2010 after a bout with cancer related diseases in Houston, Texas.

John graduated Flight School with class 68-29 and served two tours in Vietnam. From 1968 to 1969 he flew with the 61st Assault Helicopter Company under the callsign Lucky Star 49. From 1971-1972 he flew with the 362nd Assault Support Helicopter Company under the call sign United 14 and with the 180th Assault Support Helicopter Company under the callsign Big Windy 49.

He is survived by his wife Loy of 17 years.

Burial with full Military Honors was held in Memorial Oaks cemetery in Houston, Texas.

## John Rendell Braddon

John Rendell Braddon, 80, a Marine pilot whose 1964 rescue of downed helicopter crews in



Vietnam resulted in the award of the Silver Star medal, died Dec. 11 of heart disease at Capital Hospice in Arlington. He lived in Fairfax County.

Col. Braddon, then a major, was maintenance officer of a Marine helicopter squadron and was assigned to pilot one of the rescue units during the U.S. military insertion of more than 400 South Vietnamese soldiers into the Viet Cong stronghold of Do Xa in the country's central highlands.

The April 27, 1964, operation was just underway when a South Vietnamese air force fighter pilot, Pham Van Hoa, crashed and became trapped in his burning aircraft. Maj. Braddon landed under heavy fire, dashed to Pham's A-1 Skyraider and dragged Pham to the Marine helicopter, which had been damaged. He then flew Pham to safety in Quang Ngai. The Marine returned to the battle and landed his helicopter to evacuate the crew of a U.S. helicopter that had crashed in the same vicinity.

"We took a lot of fire and our bird had many holes," then-Maj. Braddon later wrote. "As I lifted from the zone . . . I noticed that some of the electrical components were not working and there were new terrible sounds coming from the engine component. . . . We determined that one of the 50 cal. rounds had gone through us end to end and taken out the firewall junction box causing the electrical problems. Another round had put a hole in the exhaust system which accounted for the new engine noise. I finally decided that except for some electrical damage and exhaust problems, I still had a bird whose engine was

developing satisfactory power, the transmission and drive trains were intact and we had radios, we were ready to rejoin the mission."

He rescued the crew of a second South Vietnamese helicopter that had gone down, and that crew placed its heavy guns in firing positions at the windows of the Marine helicopter. "Those big guns, firing those big rounds out of the aircraft, bounced my flight helmet up and down on my head," Maj. Braddon reported.

His "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action," flying into concentrated automatic weapons fire, and his lack of hesitation in doing his duty were noted in his Silver Star citation.

John Rendall Braddon was born in New York on Oct. 19, 1929. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1952. After college, he joined the Marine Corps and served a short active-duty tour in Korea. He was designated a naval aviator in 1954 and served in the Marines' fighter, attack, photographic and electronic reconnaissance groups, as well as helicopter squadrons. He was an instrument flight instructor and took part in air-to-air missile tests at the Naval Missile Center at Point Mugu, Calif., and served with the Naval Air Systems Command.

Col. Braddon served two tours in Vietnam, in 1964 and in 1969. During the second tour, he was operations officer of a Marine aircraft group and commanding officer of a Marine fighter attack squadron.

In addition to the Silver Star, his military awards included the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and two awards of the Air Medal.

After he retired from the military in 1976, Col. Braddon became an agent for New York Life Insurance, where he qualified for the Million Dollar Roundtable and was elected to the board of the D.C. Life Underwriters Association. He retired from that job in 1997, and for the next two years, he worked for the Fairfax County public schools, first as a substitute teacher and then as a full-time special education teacher. He also volunteered for and was president of Mended Hearts, a support group for people undergoing open-heart surgery.

Col. Braddon was volunteering for the Smithsonian Institution as a docent at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, near Dulles Airport, when he met Quang X. Pham, the son of the Vietnamese pilot that Col. Braddon had rescued in 1964. Pham, himself a Marine helicopter pilot who served in the Persian Gulf, wrote about his father and the rescue in "A Sense of Duty: My Father, My American Journey" (2005).

Survivors include Col. Braddon's wife of 57 years, Jean Anne Lipani Braddon of Fairfax County; four children, John D. Braddon of Fairfax County, Virginia R. Braddon of Fairfax City, David K. Braddon of Frederick, Colo., and Tracy N. Braddon of Clifton; a brother; and two grandchildren.

## Joseph B. Duncan

Joseph B. Duncan passed away Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009, from complications cancer at his home near Lake Whitney, Texas. Joe graduated from flight school with class 68-32 and flew with D troop, 3/5th Air Cav from 1969-1970 under the callsign War Wagon 19.



Army buddies from across the nation are expected to attend Mr. Duncan's Dallas service, said former Vietnam helicopter pilot Bob Schultz of Euless.

"I've never heard one single human being – over the last 45 years – who ever said anything negative about Joe," Mr. Schultz said. "He was never down. You couldn't get the man to say anything bad about anybody; you couldn't get the man to complain about the weather."

While Mr. Duncan sometimes flew heavily armed Cobra attack helicopters in Vietnam, he was piloting a smaller scout helicopter June 25, 1969, when he came upon two American infantry platoons pinned down and battling a superior force of Viet Cong.

"My brother Joe brought his helicopter over the enemy position into a hover and threw hand grenades out the door of the helicopter down on the Viet Cong," said Roger Duncan of Tucson, Ariz. "His helicopter was being hit by the Viet Cong fire. He continued to do that until the American troops were able to disengage." He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for that action and went on to receive the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and 37 Air Medals for his hours in combat.

"He was quiet and friendly," his brother said. "He was loyal to his friends. He has had friends since his Army days. They are very close.

"He liked to live a simple life," his brother added. "He liked Texas. He liked playing golf with his friends."

He served in Vietnam before being transferred to Fort Wolters near Mineral Wells, Texas, where he was an Army helicopter instructor. He was discharged from the Army as a captain in August 1974. Mr. Duncan settled in Dallas, where he was a sales manager for Glazer's, the wine and spirits distributor.



# TAPS

He retired several years ago and moved to the Lake Whitney area.

In addition to his brother, Mr. Duncan is survived by another brother, Bruce Duncan of Milton, W.Va.

*Joseph L. Klesen*

## Dear VHPA Membership.....

I am saddened to announce that a former member of the VHPA, Joseph L. Klesen, 63, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died, after a very brief battle with cancer, on September 23, 2009.

He was born in New Kensington, PA and raised around the world; graduating from Chalmette High School in New Orleans in 1964 and enlisting in the US Army. He was a member, and graduated with, Flight School Class 67-19 and served two tours in Vietnam with 7/17 CAV and B/7/1, "Dutch Master 31" (68) and the 307th ATC in 1971, where he was awarded the Silver Star and numerous other service and campaign awards. He accepted a Direct Commission and served in various ground and aviation assignments until his retirement, as a Major, in 1985.

Following his military career, Joe was a pilot for the Angel One Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas and in 1993 began a career in the transportation industry with JB Hunt and Ryder Integrated Logistics. He retired to Bella Vista, Arkansas, working for a short time for Wal Mart. In 2007 he retired to a life of friends and golf.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Klesen; one daughter, Stacy Klesen and a stepdaughter, Karen Buckland.

*He will be missed by many...*

*Soar with the angels Joe.....*

*Submitted by.....T L Pearcy,  
Sr., Blueghost 18*

## Ralph Barsanti

Ralph Barsanti, 65, died after a long illness on March 6, 2009 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ralph graduated flight school with class 67-68 and flew with the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company in the Da Nang area in 1967-1968 under the Black Cat callsign. After leaving the Army, Ralph worked in the insurance industry in the Des Peres/St. Louis area.

He is survived by his wife Catherine of Des Peres, his son's John, Chris and Tony, and daughters Mary and Beth along with four grandchildren and numerous other family and friends.

## Rhett Wayne Lewis

Rhett Wayne Lewis, age 66, died December 21, 2009 at home in Pensacola, Florida after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends.



Rhett was born in Greenwood, South Carolina on Jan. 5, 1943. He graduated from Greenwood High School, where he played football. He went on to also play football for Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina where he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. He was a graduate of Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tennessee, where he was a life time member of Alpha Kappa Psi. He was a lifetime member of Mathews Methodist Church in his hometown of Greenwood where he played the piano and sang with the choir.

Rhett completed Infantry Officer Candidate School in 1968, and graduated from Rotary Wing Flight School Class 69-19 in 1969. He served in Phouc Vinh, Vietnam as a Lift Pilot with C Troop 1/9 CAV, 1ST Air Cavalry Division from August 1969 - August 1970 under the call sign Cavalier 43.

Upon his return to the United States, he served as a UH-1 instructor pilot while stationed in Ft. Rucker, Alabama. He was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Air Cavalry/Attack Helicopter Commanders Training Course, Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He also served in Germany prior to his separation from the service. Rhett was a Lifetime Member of the Bullwhip Squadron 1/9 1st Cavalry Air Mobile and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's Association.

Rhett's military awards and decorations include: The National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with 34 oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with "V" three oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, and the Silver Star. Rhett was also awarded the Parachutist Badge and Senior Army Aviator Wings.

Rhett is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 41 years, Deborah Brandon Lewis; his beloved son, David Alan Meredith and wife Debbie and numerous family members and friends. Rhett was predeceased by his beloved son, Bradley Wayne Lewis, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident at the age of 24.

Rhett Lewis is also survived by many fellow troopers and friends of the 1/9th Cav. As one of those troopers, I am finding it difficult to say farewell. Rhett was my roommate in Vietnam, my co-pilot, and my lifelong friend since the day

I met him in August of 1969 in Phouc Vinh. He was a true patriot and American hero both in combat and here at home. I know. I witnessed his bravery and dedication many times. If anyone had The Right Stuff, he had it. He was a patriot all of his life, and often said that the proudest thing he ever did was to serve with the 1/9 Cav.

Rhett's love for his wife and children was unparalleled. He also treasured his extended family, friends, his home, and his pets. He lived a full life of both joy and tragedy. All who kept in touch with him in later years can attest to the heartbreak that he and his wife, Debbie, endured with the loss of one of their sons, Bradley, in a tragic car accident several years ago. Surviving this was Rhett's greatest challenge ... greater than surviving the war.

It is always difficult to say goodbye, so I will simply say, "Farewell, my friend.....for now," to my soul mate and best buddy, Rhett Lewis.

Graveside services are planned for Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 11 a.m. in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., with full Military Honors. He will be buried there on the same day as Michael Martin, our fellow C Trooper and friend.

Donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, [Woundedwarriorproject.org](http://Woundedwarriorproject.org), in memory of Capt. Rhett W. Lewis.

*Respectfully,*

*Jim Pressman, CPT, Lift Pilot, Cavalier 39, C  
1/9 1st Cav 1969-1970*

## Robert F. Merrihew

After surgery and a long illness, the death of VHPA Member Robert F. Merrihew was reported to the Membership on February 3rd, 2010 by his brother, James E. Merrihew. Robert graduated flight school with class 69-26 and served with the 173rd Assault helicopter Company (the Robin Hoods) from 1970-1971, he flew under the callsign Robinhood 16.

James Merrihew went on to write "To all members of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and especially Robert's fellow Robin Hoods. At approximately 04:30 this morning, my Brother, Captain Robert F. Merrihew, medically retired, passed after surgery and a long illness. He passed at Sentara Bayside Hospital, in Virginia Beach, Va.

Robert told me that he was shot down three times in Vietnam and once in Laos; he always expressed his pride in being a ROBIN HOOD. I am proud of the fact that my brother served his country, and prouder still, that he was my brother."

*Respectfully submitted,*

*SFC James E. Merrihew, US ARMY  
CHEMICAL CORPS, Retired*



## ROBERT KUND

Robert "Bob" Kund, 62, lost his battle with cancer on December 15, 2009, at his home in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Bob grew up in Everett, PA where he and his brother Denny were raised by their mother, Jean Kund. He attended high school in Framingham, Massachusetts, and later attended Framingham Teachers College before joining the United States Army to become a helicopter pilot. After graduating from Army flight school in Savannah, GA, at Hunter Army Airfield as part of Class 68-7, Bob was assigned to the 191st Assault Helicopter Company, Bear Cat, in South Vietnam.

While serving with the "Boomerangs" in Vietnam Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal (with numeral 53). Bob spent three years on active duty and an additional 13 years flying for the District of Columbia Army National Guard. When he left military service in 1990 he had attained the rank of CW3 and was a Senior Army Aviator. He also remained a current member of the VHPA.

After completing his military service Bob continued to work for his country as a dedicated Federal government employee with the General Service Administration. He worked as a Transportation Operations Specialist in Washington, DC, for 38 years and recently retired in February of 2009.

Bob was a remarkable person who was always able to find a way to connect with anyone he met. He seemed to always know the best way to approach people and could always be counted on for a laugh, a shoulder, or an answer. His passing will be a loss felt by many.

Bob leaves behind his wife Margaret, his son, Matthew, his daughter, Megan and a grandson, Alexander.

## Stephen Marc Samberg

Samberg, Stephen Marc  
October 15, 1948 - January 19, 2010

Stephen (Steve) was born in Brooklyn, NY, and graduated flight school with class 68-23. He flew in Vietnam with the 114th and the 336th Assault Helicopter Company's. After leaving the Army, Steve went on to spend his professional life in the securities business throughout the Midwest. He lost his difficult battle with Lung Cancer at his Addison, Texas home.

He is survived by his loving wife Cheryl, as well as stepchildren Garrett Eaton, wife Sara and grandson Finnegan Eaton of Chula Vista, CA, and Kristi Wilkerson and husband Weston Wilkerson of Knoxville, TN.

Steve was an accomplished and dedicated professional in every facet of his life, serving others as a director of the Dallas Margarita Society, a member of the board of the Hoffman

Foundation, and a member of the Viet Nam Helicopter Pilots Association. He was a good and true friend and was always the first to offer help to others in their time of need. He was Managing Director of Sterne Agee's Dallas office at the time of his death.

He will be greatly missed by everyone who was privileged to know him. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the American Cancer Society of Dallas or to Dallas Children's Charities at [www.dallaschildrenscharities.org](http://www.dallaschildrenscharities.org)

## Tom McKnight

Though he passed away in Richmond on December 20, Tom was a true New Yorker at heart.

After graduation from Fordham, Tom joined the Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam as an H-34 helicopter pilot. After his discharge, Tom worked for Pfizer for 34 years and served in the Marine Corps Reserves flying H-46's and H-53's, retiring as Colonel.

Tom was a true renaissance man: A voracious reader, and passionate about the arts, politics, history, geography, carpentry, inventing, gardening, cooking, oil painting, and restoring old Jaguars. He was a dancing fool, and loved a good party and conversation. As Scout Master, he was so proud that 10 of his cubs went on to become Eagle Scouts.

Tom was a proud papa, husband, son and brother. He leaves behind his wife, Carol; and their fantastic kids, Lauren, Emily and Guyon; and daughter-in-law Kim. He loved his mother, Olga Schem; his brothers, Roger and Howard; his sister-in-law, Rosemary; and his nieces, Krissy, Claudia and Christine.

Interment was held at Quantico National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or the Boy Scouts.

*The following is an "open letter" that was written post-mortem to Michael J. Novosel Jr. after one of our members, Ken Cowles, found out about his death after reading the Taps information in our last issue. Ken sent the letter to Michael's family and forwarded a copy for us to print...*

### Dear Mike,

This poem arrives at a very special moment in my life. You are a good friend that I lost track of for 23 years and I have just read in two of my Vietnam and Combat Helicopter associations that just before Christmas 2009 you had flown your final mission on this earth.

Your father was my senior TAC officer and a Medal of Honor recipient—Mike Novosel Sr.

You and your Dad were the only father and son Dust Off pilots to serve in the same unit at the same time during Vietnam. You both had the extreme privilege of saving each other's

lives one week apart when each of you was shot down.

I got to know you, Mike Jr., while at the advanced course in 1983 and then in Korea you would come to my unit and stay in my room on weekends and remember your dad in stories of war and peace. We shared the tears and the laughs of memories we hoped no one would ever have to live again. You both died of the same type of cancer one Short Tour apart.

The Commanding General of Ft Rucker flew to your side and presented the Medal of Honor flag to you in honor of your father just 30 hours prior to your death.

There was no news of any national coverage of your death. There wasn't any local news coverage at your home in Florida either. But I don't want you to think that no one noticed your passing.

*Thanks my friend for your dedication to these United States of America.*

*You were truly "Above the Best".*

Ken

Ken Cowles, Dust Off 59

## PASSING OF A LEGEND

Col Robert Howard died December 23, 2009. Bob was the most decorated soldier to serve in Vietnam and, believe it or not, he probably got about half of what he deserved. In a 18 month period as an enlisted man with the Special Forces SOG mission in the Tri-Border area of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam he was submitted for "THE MEDAL" three times finally receiving it the third time. In the same period he earned and was awarded the Purple Heart 14 times. He held the DSC, several SS, numerous BS w/V, a few ACOM w/V, the AM w/V and countless other awards. He was the consummate SOLDIER.

Reading his OBIT I realized there were Pink Panthers involved in every action he fought in, providing gun cover on the way in, while he was on the ground and on the way out. The Gladiators of the 57th were there on occasion to put him in, resupply him and pick him up as were the Gators of the 119th and the Bikinis of the 170th. But the 361st was always his gun cover. He was a modest man, good father, great soldier and an inspiration to all he served with and knew him.

Robert Howard will be buried at Arlington Cemetery on February 22, 2010. Pink Panthers will be there to see him laid to rest, also.

Mike Sheuerman

Panther 15

5/71-4/72





## Local VHPA Chapter Starts Up in San Antonio, TX

*From: The San Antonio Gang of Seven*

In November 2009, on the northwest side of San Antonio, Texas, VHPA Member's Jon Osborn and Bob Dillon were talking one afternoon and decided they would like to start a local VHPA Chapter for the greater San Antonio area, rightfully believing that there would be a sufficient number of VHPA members located in "Military City, USA" to justify a chapter.

At almost exactly the same time in November 2009, on the northeast side of San Antonio, VHPA Members Mike Maloy and Jim Rivoio were sitting in their VFW having a couple of cold beers and decided they would like to start a local VHPA Chapter for the greater San Antonio area as they too, believed there must certainly be a sufficient number of VHPA members in the area who would be interested in getting together to swap war stories and tell lies. Jon and Bob contacted Gary Roush at VHPA National HQ who put them in touch with Jack Salm to draw on his experience with starting a local chapter.

A few days later Mike and Jim also contacted Gary Roush and Gary not only put them in touch with Jack Salm, but also gave them phone number for Jon and Bob. Meanwhile, Maloy had contacted two other Chinook drivers, Al Barefoot (in the same 8-Ball league as Maloy) and Jim Bauer (in the same same VFW as Maloy and Rivoio). Maloy also contacted Bobby Walker (also in the same VFW as Maloy, Rivoio, and Bauer).

Three days later, the San Antonio "Gang of Seven" (Barefoot, Bauer, Dillon, Maloy, Osborn, Rivoio, and Walker) got together for their first meeting at the VFW Post 8541 on the northeast of San Antonio. Tom Andrews, who went through Chinook transition with Maloy and currently lives just north of San Antonio, was contact by Mike but couldn't make it due to a conflicting business meeting. The "Gang of Seven" elected provisional president and vice president Osborn and Bauer to sign off on their letters to National HQ and their letter to potential members in the area. Gary Roush came through in record time with a database search of all potential members in the greater south Texas area and our initial mailing went out to more than 100 current VHPA members who happen to reside in San Antonio.

We agreed on a first formal meeting of all interested members to be held on 12 January, 2010 and were glad to receive an excellent response to our initial mailing. A total of 29 members showed up and joined the newly formed Alamo Chapter of the VHPA. In addition we had four wives and/or girlfriends attend the meeting and all agreed that in the future, all such guests would be more than welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings as one of the purposes of our chapter is to socialize and enjoy the company of old friends. All those in attendance on 12 January can now call themselves Charter Members of the Alamo Chapter of the VHPA.

One of our very first acts as a newly formed Chapter was to make Major General (ret.) Patrick Brady, MOH, an honorary life member of the Alamo Chapter. We were also fortunate to have Mike Law join us at the meeting as an honored guest. Mike and family just happened to be visiting in New Braunfels (north of San Antonio) and read about our start-up meeting plans in the VHPA Aviator.

During the meeting we formed a number of committees to get the chapter moving in the right direction. It was agreed by all that nominations for officers would set at our February meeting with elections being held in our March meeting. We have come a long way in just a few short months and owe a lot of that to both Gary & Jack. Those two guys made it very easy for us, and they can do the same for you.

## *The following attended the Charter Meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the VHPA held at VFW Post 8541 in San Antonio on 12 Jan 2010:*



Robert P. Anders, Tom Andrews, Allen Barefoot \* \*\*, Jim Bauer \*, Patrick Brady, Charles R. Carter, Charles W. Cupp, John L. Deer, Robert F. Dillon \*, Alan J. Flory, James E. Fowler, Cliff Hyatt, Walt Henderson, Victor M. Hernandez, Joseph A. Hines, David G. Jayne, Robert Jones, Thomas E.G. Lewis, Richard C. Lukens, Michael R. Maloy \*, James Lowell Martinson, Lawrence W. McBee, Russ Miller, Wiley Mitchell, Jonathan M. Osborn \*, Charles E. Qualline, James H. Rivoio \*, Alex Sayer \*\*, William L. Smith, Thomas J. Terry, Warren D. Tinseth \*\*, Bobby H. Walker \*

\* Denotes the 'Gang of 7' that met on 1 Dec 2009 to get things going for the Alamo Chapter of the VHPA.

\*\* Denotes someone missing from the photo.

## IN THE CATEGORY OF "BEEN THERE ~ DONE THAT."

*War makes some people a bit crazy  
-- not bad crazy, but a bit off kilter.*

My friend Scotty wanted to do two things in Vietnam. He wanted to throw a Frisbee from a helicopter at 10,000 feet and see how far it would go (19.2 nautical miles) and he wanted to wire a sink to the skids of a Cobra and release it at the end of a gun run, allowing him to truthfully brag that he "threw everything at them including the kitchen sink."

Scotty enlisted the crew chiefs in his project. They located and appropriated a sink, painted it pink, signed it and got everything ready to go. One of the SGTs figured out how to drop it without fouling up the tail rotor or otherwise taking out anything important.

don't know who was finally afforded the honor of flying the mission, but the story goes that the sink was sent flying toward an enemy bunker on Chu Pau Mountain south of Kontum at the end of the Easter Offensive of 1972.

Would have been a great experience if accompanied by the strains of the Pink Panther.

Forrest  
Panther 19



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear VHPA,**

My brother, William Robert Menucci, recently passed away.

He was a decorated WO2 helicopter pilot of the war in South Vietnam (11/68 - 11/69) with the 1st Cav., (61st AHC) out of LZ English (Bong Son, II Corp). I (and he) will always be proud of the sacrifices made there for the country he loved.

I also came across his diary from when he was in Southeast Asia (incredible stories to share) and was hoping I might be able to try to contact some of those he flew with. Can you help?

*Sincerely, a proud brother.  
John Menucci*

**Gentlemen,**

Because of the length of time it takes to produce a book like U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER NAMES & NOSE ART IN VIETNAM, I request that you please notify me if you ever change your e-mail address. I will need to get back with you individually when the time comes to finalize this book project, and ready it for publication.

Another option that you may prefer would be to leave me a telephone number or a mailing address, if that seems more permanent.

Thank you for your past help, and for any future courtesy calls regarding change of contact info.

All the best,  
John Brennan,  
former SP5, 114 AHC, 1970-71  
Vinh Long AAF, Mekong Delta

**To the Editor of the VHPA Aviator**

*RE: The article "Interesting New Development" in the VHPA Aviator where you talked about the "Kobb Etchell's effect."*

Actually the "Kobb Etchell's Effect" has been known in aviation since the early days of flight. The static electricity that forms around the spinning prop or on the wings is properly called "St. Elmo's Fire" and it has been observed under varying conditions since the first days of Aviation. In aircraft, it occurs in storms or dusty conditions. I observed it on the props of a U8 between St Louis and Ft. Worth in 1977 when Hersh Reynolds and I were flying in thin dust at alti-

tude above a huge dust storm. The prop surface and small particles created a static glow.

"Here is what Wikipedia has to say about St. Elmo's Fire:

"Physically, St. Elmo's fire is a bright blue or violet glow, appearing like fire in some circumstances, from tall, sharply pointed structures such as lightning rods, masts, sensible spires and chimneys, and on aircraft wings. St. Elmo's fire can also appear on leaves, grass, and even at the tips of cattle horns. Often accompanying the glow is a distinct hissing or buzzing sound."

And further more, some of us even read about it in our flight school text hand outs. It is certainly nothing "New".

*Bob Taylor, Ft. Worth, TX*

*An old pilot is one who remembers when flying was dangerous, and sex was safe.*

**Gentlemen,**

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed seeing my pictures in the two stories I have ran in the Aviator (Vietnam Battle of An Loc and Flying Christmas Trees) and on the pages of 2010 VHPA calendar. My days of flying in Vietnam seem so very long ago until I look at those pictures, and then it all comes streaming back again.

Speaking of streaming . . . I have posted my Vietnam flying tour slide show on-line where you can watch it as a streaming video. These are the pictures that I took while flying in the Cav at Ben Hoa and the 358th Aviation Detachment supporting the 525 MI Group from Nha Trang. You can watch the video by typing in this link: [www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow?fl=3086335&alb=0](http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow?fl=3086335&alb=0)

Note: to begin with you will need to install the free little Presenter plug-in to give your computer the tool it needs to run the streaming video so just click install when you see the Presenter install message pop-up and then you will be able to see the slide show picture and be able to click it to begin watching the streaming video. There is absolutely no spyware, no adware of any kind and you will not be added to some companies advertising list to receive a lot of spam emails, trust me.

There is also a hidden pop-up menu at the bottom of the window when the show starts that will allow you to select full screen. Just

click on the icon on the bottom right side and the window view will expand.

I spent over 6 months working on the slides to create this slide show so I hope you all enjoy viewing my work (BIG SMILE).

*As always,  
Dan Fox*

**Members of the VHPA,  
Case of Mistaken Identity  
Dear David,**

I was re-reading the November/January 2009 edition of the Aviator when I came upon "Not such a bad day, 7 December 1972" by Chris Cole. It was a really nice article about the F/8th "Blue Ghosts." Upon close examination of a rather grainy black and white photo which identified one of the aviators as "1LT Steve Bremwell" I recognized my old buddy Steven T. Brownell. Since Steve was my Best Man some 32 years ago and his own parents have confirmed the photo, I think there is no doubt he was misidentified.

Steve is flying helicopters these days out of Doha in the Arabian Gulf and last time I saw him he was a died-in-the-wool Blue Ghost without a doubt. Now if could just get him to come to the next reunion.

*Keep up the good work!  
Regards,  
John Penny*

**Aviators,**

Your publishing the article about the subject helicopter far exceeded our highest hopes of maybe contacting a person who flew in or knew this helicopter. ACs, Pilots, CC/CEs of 736, and others have contacted us. Some were moved emotionally to learn of the ship and our plans for her. Others shared some less than fond memories. All of us have gained much and thus our lives have been made better. While the words are inadequate, a hearty "THANK YOU" is the best we can offer for what you have done for others.

Again, I thank each of you and all others who played some part in this effort.

*Drive On!  
Bill Spies  
An Army Ranger*

**Remember, the deadline for the next Aviator ~ Friday, March 28th**

**David Adams, Editor of your VHPA Aviator**



# Looking For....

## **Looking For the family of David Popp**

My name is William "Bill" Deuchar. I went through Flight School with David Popp back in '68.

I am currently writing my memoirs of my experiences in Vietnam called *Fragments of Far Away*. I begin my book with my arrival at Tan Son Nhut which is where I again ran into David and those remembrances have led me to wanting to reconnect with his family. Unfortunately Dave and his co-pilot, Phil Pannel were shot down and killed by enemy ground fire on March 14, 1969 just north of LZ Barbara in Tay Ninh Province.

Can anyone out there assist me in finding any of David Popp's family?

Sincerely,  
Bill Deuchar

## **Looking For (CW3) Cornelius Daniels**

VHPA Member Thomas Nadeau is looking for information (CW3) Cornelius Daniels, believed to be a Primary Flight Instructor for Doss Aviation at Fort Rucker in the 1970s. Tom believes Cornelius to be father of Mark Daniels, another Army aviator once assigned to Fort Rucker.

Mark Daniels and Tom both attended East Gate Junior High, Ozark, AL in 1964-65 along with Dale Metz, who also became and Army aviator.

If anyone can help Tom become reacquainted with either Cornelius or Mark Daniels, please contact him at:

## **Looking For Vietnam Survival Map**

Does anyone out there have any idea where I could purchase one of the vinyl Survival Maps that we used in Vietnam? As I

recall they had South Vietnam on one side, North Vietnam on the other but I could be wrong on that.

*I would appreciate any help you can provide.*

Regards,  
Tom Ellis

E-Mail: [REDACTED]  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **Seeking Veterans of the Battle of the Ia Drang valley.**

Our school is having an assembly to honor six Veterans of that battle from the Texas/Louisiana area and would like to extend an open invitation to other men who might have participated in the battle to also join us for the day.

We are based in an inner city school in San Bernardino, California and are looking for men who would be willing to talk with my students in the School of Leadership and Justice at Pacific H.S. We are doing a character education project to teach character and leadership skills to our inner city high school students and our program on March 23 will be dedicated to honoring Gen. Hal Moore as a leader, and as a role model for all men. The more Veterans of the battle that we can get to be here the better.

In the future we will concentrate on other men and battles, but it just happened that this was our focus for our first assembly. We will have a fair at lunch with representatives of the armed forces, various local vets, activities, etc. the program beginning at 1pm, and a reception following after the assembly for all of the vets who attend and our students and staff. Some of my kids are really getting into this and are excited with the information we receive and are turning it into presentations for the ceremony and for the website that will be up soon.

But it's the personal stories of the people we are covering as "heroes" that interest them the most. And the firsthand info from the people who know or knew them is the best way to keep their interest.

Thanks you for your time,  
Laurie Haller

Academic Affairs, Chairperson  
School of Leadership and Justice  
Pacific H.S., San Bernardino, CA  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **Looking for the family of Quincy Dent**

I recently learned that my old OCS, flight school and Vietnam tour buddy Quincy Dent has passed away and I found an old photo of him that I would like to share with his family.

If anyone out there can help me by providing any possible leads as to their whereabouts, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thomas K. Crider  
Major USA Aviation Retired

Home [REDACTED]  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **Looking for photos or information on Peyton Stetson Scales**

Peyton was (he passed away on August 30, 1991 in Homer, Georgia) the uncle of my sons. We have no photos of him and very few stories to share and that troubles me very much.

Your site shows he graduated with flight class's 69-31 & 69-35 but we do not have any other details of his service either state-side or in Vietnam.

Thank you very much,  
Sheila Giammetta  
e-mail: [REDACTED]

## **"HE TRULY COULD TURN TEARS INTO BEERS."**

I'm not sure how many of you know Jim (Smokey, Jimbo etc.) Rohrer but I'd bet quite a few. He's on his last legs in a battle with cancer and is literally riddled with it. Jim said that he has just a few months left so I asked him if I could tell a few folks and he said that would be fine. You don't have to write him a long letter; something like a simple "pre-sympathy" card would just fine. His wife April and their three kids are taking Jim's sickness in stride.

VHPA Member Robbie Cryer requested that we run this notice in our next Aviator. Robbie knows Jim (Rohrer) from their days when both were in the unit that fielded the first Tow Missile equipped AH-1

Cobras in Germany. Robbie goes on to note that "Jim was in Class 69-37 and served in RVN with the 11th ACR during 69-70. I never saw him under pressure or not happy, he truly could turn tears into beers."

## **ADDRESS YOUR CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

Jim and April Rohrer

Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Their phone number is [REDACTED]



# STATUS OF THE VHPA CALENDAR PROGRAM

by Mike Law, Calendar Editor



Even though we are now a few months into 2010, you can still order a copy of the 2010 VHPA Calendar from Turner Publishing by calling 1-800-788-3350, or through their web site at: [www.turnerpublishing.com](http://www.turnerpublishing.com).

The easiest way to find it on their website is to click Search on the home page, then use the key words "VHPA Calendar" in the Search Screen. You'll find it near the bottom of the resulting display.



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

The 2009 issue sold out in early January 2009, but the 2010 issue is still available as of the end of January 2010.

I am pleased to announce that the 2011 VHPA Calendar is now in the printer's hands. This is our 18th calendar! As is our tradition, you will be able to see (and order) this new calendar at Reunion in San Diego.

I think it is safe to say that "there is a story behind every photo" we've ever published in a VHPA Calendar – those in the 2011 issue certainly do! At least twenty people sent us candidate photos and stories this past year. Thanks to them and those who contributed in previous years, the 2011 issue has something of a "life and times" theme. You'll see a lot of tents and helicopters. You'll be able to show your grandkids – this is how we lived, worked, and flew! This is what I did when I was 20 years old!

For all those who flew H-23s and H-13s in Vietnam – your ship has FINALLY come in! After years of begging and begging for "little bird" photos and stories, about five guys responded this past year. What we've published will put a smile on your face FOR SURE!

I am also pleased to report that we were FINALLY (after about a 5-year quest) able to publish photos of the first USMC twin-engine Cobras, the AH-1Js, that served in Vietnam as well as photos of

the rare USN UH-1Ls. These "successes" all started because someone sent us the only photo he had of an AH-1J and we were able to put it with another guy's "only photo" and then work with our Pop-A-Smoke friends to get another here and another there. The resulting collage is the collective effort of about six or seven guys. The same thing happened with our Seawolf friends – the USN guys who flew Hueys in the Delta. There were only eight UH-1Ls initially procured by the Navy during the Vietnam Era. All of them saw action in Vietnam; six were damaged or destroyed. Again the collective effort of few helped add to the legacy the VHPA leaves the world by publishing these photos and stories.

So, if you've missed out contributing to the VHPA Calendar project in the past – not to worry. It just so happens we are looking for a "few good men" to contribute their photos and stories for the 2012 issue. You can do that RIGHT NOW! Please start by contacting me. Trust me – we'll both benefit from the experience and those slides that have been in the box in the closet for 40 years now will see the "light of day" again.

Thanks,

Mike Law,

VHPA Calendar Editor, [redacted] Denver, CO 80227, [CALENDAR@VHPA.ORG](mailto:CALENDAR@VHPA.ORG)

## Do It For Dusty...

**Invite a potential member into the VHPA under this special program.**

For only \$5.00 the VHPA will mail your friend an "Introduction to the VHPA Packet" that includes a personalized letter from our President inviting them to become a member of our Association and an invitation for them to join us at the 2010 Reunion in San Diego. Your friend will also receive details on a no-cost, 30-day full membership access to our website and a copy of our

latest VHPA Aviator.

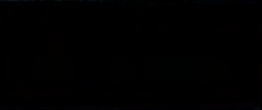
Over 30 of your fellow members have already taken advantage of this easy and low cost (remember, David Adams picks up all the expenses over your original \$5.00) program. Not sure of your old buddy's current address? Try contacting Gary Roush for help ([Webmaster@vhp.org](mailto:Webmaster@vhp.org)), he has access to several search engines that might be able to help.

**Call (1-800-505-VHPA) or E-mail Tannith (HQ@VHPA.org) to get started.**

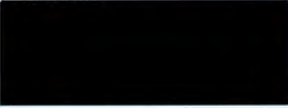


# VHPA CHAPTERS

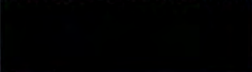
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Bill Sorenson



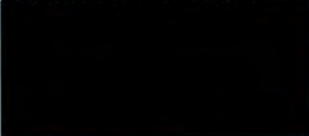
**California Chapter North**  
Ken Fritz



**Fort Rucker Chapter**  
Roscoe Souders, President



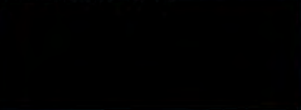
**Fort Wolters Chapter**  
Pat Richardson, President



**Georgia Chapter**  
Carl "Skip" Bell



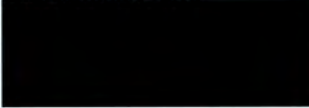
**North Alabama Chapter**  
Jim White, Pres.



**Mid South Chapter**  
"Pete" Norman IV



**New England Chapter**  
Bill Williams, Pres.



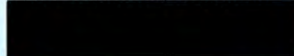
**North Carolina Chapter**  
J.D. Lawson



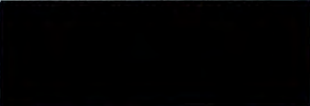
**Ohio River LZ Chapter**  
Dave Garner



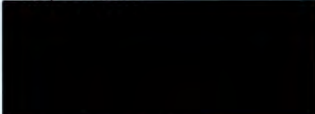
**Montana Chapter**  
Todd Brandoff, President



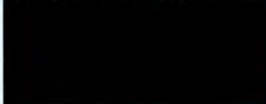
**Southern Missouri Chapter**  
John Sorensen, President



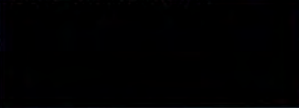
**Rocky Mountain Chapter**  
Gary Hurelle



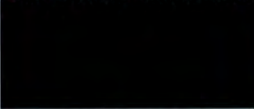
**The Alamo Chapter**  
San Antonio, Texas  
Jon Osborn, President



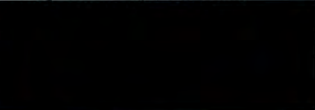
**South Carolina Chapter**  
(Celebrate Freedom) Chapter  
Larry Russell, Pres.



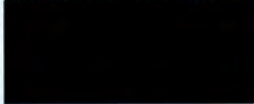
**Southern California Chapter**  
Carl Cortez, Acting President



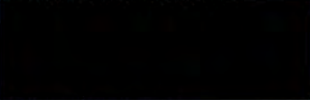
**VHPA of Florida Chapter**  
Gary Harrell, President



**Virginia Chapter**  
Ben Gay, President



**Washington State Chapter**  
Frank Jones, President



[www.vhpawa.org](http://www.vhpawa.org)

*The VHPA and Chapters share information and guidance with one another for the mutual benefit of their members. Chapters are separate and independently managed organizations not under control of the VHPA. Neither the VHPA nor any Chapter is authorized to act as agent or representative of the VHPA or any other Chapter.*

*We are actively looking for someone to start up Chapters in both Hawaii and in Alaska. Contact Jack Salm for full details on potential members in your area tips on how to get a new Chapter started! E-mail him at: [REDACTED]*

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

The Southern California Chapter is working on the 2010 reunion and not much else is going on... Bob Whitford has the golf tournament all set. John Gretzinger is trying to put together the motorcycle ride. He needs to know how many attending the reunion would like to join in and their needs. (See the SoCal web site for more info). I will be setting up a list of volunteers to work the Registration table. I would like to have four hour shifts. If you cannot work four hours I will take any time you can work. If you would like to work with a buddy we can work that out. Please call me [REDACTED] or e-mail me at [REDACTED]. Our webmaster, Michael O'Neil, has our website ([www.vhpasocal.org](http://www.vhpasocal.org)) up and running with a link to the Reunion's "UNOFFICIAL ACTIVITIES" where you can find special deals and tourist attractions. So, come early and stay late. We will add some things up in Los Angeles to the list. The Getty Museum and Mansion, Griffith Park and Observatory, Hollywood walk of fame, TV Game and Talk Shows (all Free). You may want to take advantage of the special offer from Hertz (6/23 to 7/12) cars can be picked up from any Hertz and returned to any Hertz in California with no drop off penalty. The code is CV#022L2989. For visitor information go to ([www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org)).

Tom Crosby, President

### NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

The North Carolina Chapter has not had any events lately. By the time you read this we will have had our annual meeting, elected new officers and conducted a memorial service at the Vietnam Memorial on the State Capitol grounds. The after action report will be in the next issue.

JD Lawson, President

### FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER

At our December 5 meeting we found our "missing" Junior Member at Large. Charles Moffitt is now on board and the records have been updated. Texas State Senator Wendy Davis is scheduled to be our guest speaker at the March 6 meeting. Senator Davis is a member of the Senate Veteran Affairs & Military Installations Committee and plans to discuss items of interest to veterans. Our June 5 meeting will be at The National Vietnam War Museum site in Mineral Wells. The chapter meeting will be short so we can attend dedication ceremonies for the Soldier's Cross sculpture and an updated panel on the Vietnam Memorial Wall followed by a BBQ lunch museum fund raiser.

Pat Richardson, President

### GEORGIA CHAPTER

The Georgia Chapter continues to hold its bi-monthly Saturday morning breakfast meetings and continues to assist in local efforts to educate people about the Vietnam War by furnishing speakers to high schools and colleges, Boy Scout Troops, other youth organizations and civic groups who want to learn about the Vietnam War from people who were there. We also continue to assist other Vietnam Veteran's groups in the area with their projects by providing personnel and other resources. Our primary activity however, continues to be our breakfasts. The folks who participate really enjoy the opportunity to get together and enjoy the camaraderie. If there are former Vietnam Helicopter Pilots in the Atlanta area who would like to join our group please see our website at ([www.ga-vhpa.org](http://www.ga-vhpa.org)) or e-mail me at [REDACTED] or by phone at [REDACTED].

Skip Bell, President



# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## ALAMO CHAPTER

Our initial meeting was held at the VFW Post 8541 in San Antonio on Tuesday January 12 and it was a rousing success. We signed up more than a dozen members. We have several hundred more letters being prepared to be sent out to other potential members in and around the city of San Antonio and I wouldn't be at all surprised to see us with more than 100 dues paid members in the next few months. Pat Brady, formerly of the Washington State Chapter, showed up and our first official act was to make him an honorary life member. We are off to a rousing start.

Submitted by Mike Maloy.

## SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER

The South Missouri Chapter of VHPA has had its initial quarterly meeting and we are looking forward to a year of growth, fun and service. Our next quarterly meeting will be held in June, in Branson, MO. Exact place, date and time will be available on our website (vhpasmo.org). Our website also continues to grow, and as our membership grows, so will our website. We will soon have photo galleries, member bios and other very interesting features, so keep checking. It's hard to believe that so much has been accomplished in such a short period of time and through the holidays at that. Special thanks are due Jack Salm and Gary Roush for their guidance as we start out and go through the "growing pains".

John Sorensen, President

## MONTANA CHAPTER

I would like to invite anyone who flew in Southeast Asia between 1962 and 1975 to join our newly formed chapter. If you are military and didn't fly in Nam contact me anyhow. You will be welcome as an associate member. Contact me at [REDACTED] Lolo, MT 59847 or by phone at [REDACTED]

Todd Brandoff, President

## VIRGINIA CHAPTER

We have had a reorganization of the chapter. Ben Gay is the new president and we are looking for members. We welcome all those who flew in Nam and even if you didn't fly if you are interested give me a call at [REDACTED] or by e-mail at [REDACTED]

## NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER

North Alabama Chapter has had numerous health problems and La Rue "Lash" Weisner turned the reins over to Jim White. All the best to "Lash". We are still recruiting new members. If you live in Northern Alabama and flew in Vietnam 1962 to 1975 please contact me at [REDACTED] or e-mail at: [REDACTED]

Jim White, President

## FORT RUCKER CHAPTER

This is an open invitation to all those aviators who flew in Southeast Asia from 1962 to 1975 to join the new formed chapter of VHPA located at Fort Rucker. If you live in Southern Alabama or the panhandle of Florida we would welcome you as a member of our group. [REDACTED]

Roscoe Souders, President

## SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (Celebrate Freedom Chapter)

The chapter ended the year with a great, but cold, Christmas party with 42 in attendance. We presented some Gold and Silver Spur Awards, a few letters of appreciation, and even a couple of Freedom Team Salute packets. The group was briefed on the status of AH-1F Cobra 517 and that it's to be painted in Tiger Stripe camouflage and should be flyable by Spring! Rides anyone? HOOAH! We're also gearing up for the Foundation's 1st National Vietnam Era Veterans Homecoming to be held in April. The first activity, April 17th, will be a motorcycle poker run we're calling "THE HO

CHI MINH TRAIL RIDE", ending up with a USO Show April 24th! Go to ([www.CelebrateFreedomFoundation.Org](http://www.CelebrateFreedomFoundation.Org)) and check it out.

Larry Russell, President

## MID SOUTH CHAPTER

A meeting was held January 23rd with Life Members of the Mid South Chapter. For the past year I have had some major complications with my health, but everything seems to be coming along better now. I am still working on the TH-55 which is located in Clarksville at the North Central Institute which is an Aviation Maintenance Technology Center. I am still looking for pilots who would like to help put this helicopter back in flying condition. I have acquired a couple of helicopter trailers where the aircraft can be transported for display. With all the pilots located in our district I look forward to reestablishing regular meetings and renewing the interest of the Mid South Chapter pilots. At our age the camaraderie among our peers becomes even more important, especially in the age honored tradition of drinking coffee and BS'ing. For those wishing to do this you can contact me at [REDACTED]

Pete Norman, President

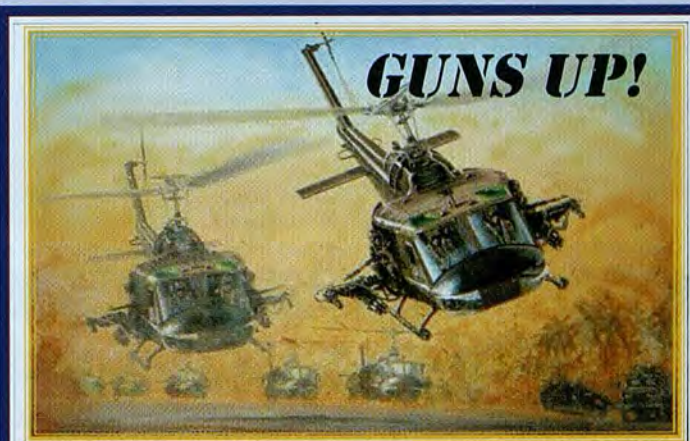
## Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter has released their Airshow Schedule for April 2010. Look for more events to be throughout the Spring and Summer, contact Gary Harrell, [REDACTED] for full details.

13-18 April, 2010. The OH-6 and Memorabilia on display at the air-show Sun and Fun in Lakeland Fla.

21 April 2010. The OH-6 will be on display and briefed to students at Coco Beach High School in Coco Beach Fla.

22-26 April 2010. The OH-6 will be at the Vietnam Wall in Melbourne Florida for the annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion.

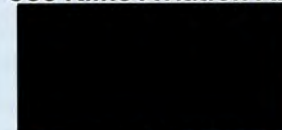


Full color. 22" x 28" , limited edition print of Huey gunships. Standard version as shown, \$80.00 ea. Customized version with markings of your choice, optional armament and B or C Model \$125.00 including postage. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

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## D TROOP, 1/10 CAV REUNION

The 1968-1971 Members of  
D Troop, 1/10 Cav are inviting all  
fellow soldiers of all ranks to gather  
at their Reunion in Orlando, Florida  
later this year. Full details are  
available through Valerie and John  
Gayle at: swim46@gmail.com



## NEED HELP ID'ING THESE WINGS

Many years ago I saw an illustration of this set of wings in a collector's journal devoted to Vietnam era insignia. The story was that it was unofficially "awarded" to Helicopter crews who supported Vietnamese Navy coastal operations.

Since then I haven't seen any information or representation of it. The example shown was hand embroidered in typical Vietnamese style and modified so it can be removed from the uniform easily. Does anyone have any recollection of this insignia or know anything about it?

John Conway

[www.vhpamuseum.org](http://www.vhpamuseum.org)

E-mail: [REDACTED]



## Interested in advertising in The VHPA Aviator?

1/4 page black and white ad - \$125.00, 1/2 page black & white ad - \$250.00

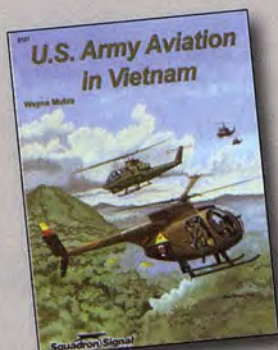
Full page black & white ad - \$500.00, full color ad's are available on the Back Cover, rates by request.

Contact Moon Mullen at [REDACTED] for details

## ONE MORE BOOK REVIEW ... BY JOHN PENNY

**U.S. ARMY AVIATION IN VIETNAM, BY WAYNE MUTZA** is his newest book in a series of excellently written and richly illustrated books on aircraft that he has written over the years. The book takes us through the history of the airborne concept and includes every helicopter type and weapons system that was deployed, even briefly, in RVN. Many of these photos were provided by VHPA members and include combat damage shots. For you dual rated types Mutza has included every airplane that served there some of which I didn't know were in the Army inventory. The photographs are amazing and really make this book worth getting your hands on.

*U.S. Army Aviation in Vietnam* (80 pages with 194 photos and illustrations, \$18.95) by Wayne Mutza, ISBN13: 978-0-89747-596-9 is available from [www.squadronsignal.com](http://www.squadronsignal.com) (click on special titles then on Vietnam Studies Group) and other book suppliers.



Wayne Mutza is working on an in-depth book about helicopter gunships and is seeking stories and photos. You can contact him at directly at: [REDACTED]



# BOOK REVIEWS

By VHPA Life member JOHN PENNY

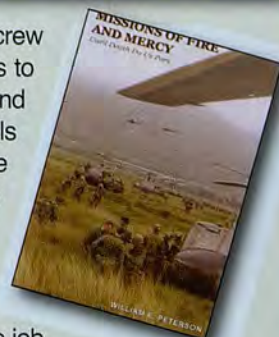
John Penny, a VHPA Life Member, served with A/377 and is semi-retired from his career as a helicopter pilot, and teacher. He lives in Ellensburg, WA, with his beloved wife of 31 years, Janet.

**MISSIONS OF FIRE AND MERCY BY WILLIAM E. PETERSON** is the story of his time as a Huey crew chief with C/227th Assault Helicopter Battalion (Ghost Riders), 1st Air Cavalry in 67/68. The title refers to the dual role of providing covering fire power in hot LZs and snatching troops, sometimes wounded and dying from those same LZs. He has done a great job of bringing together the lives, losses, and trials faced by crew chiefs on the Ghost Riders' missions. Every mission is defined by a mutual trust; these young men put their lives in our young hands and we in turn did the same. Many of us owe our lives to their courage and dedication under difficult conditions. This book recounts those days long ago, when together, we mounted up to face danger and uncertainty.

Peterson's story follows his path from small town America to becoming a combat crew chief in much the same way as many of us would talk about our own path to a helicopter cockpit. He was bored by school, wanted to do something different, and had "a lack of adventure" in his life. The Army had just the job for him. And what a job it was: cleaning and maintaining his assigned "bird" 24/7, flying heart pounding missions day and night, getting "busy" with the door gun when needed, forever filling sand bags at base camp, and pulling perimeter night guard duty just to name a few. But he was also closely involved in taking care of those who came aboard his Huey: the "grunts" being dropped off and picked up, and the wounded, the dying, and the dead.

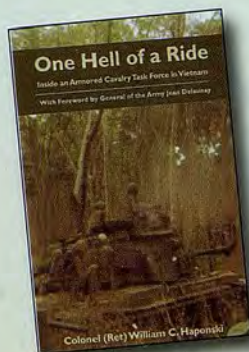
This story interweaves the author's own narratives and recollections with his own letters home while in Vietnam. Fortunately, his father saved these letters which provide a chronicle of intense combat during his tour with C/227th. These letters provide the reader an intimate view of what Peterson was thinking at the time including; the fears, sorrows, and doubts he and his fellow aircrew members experienced as they prepared for and flew their missions.

Peterson notes that it has taken him 40 years to get around to telling his story and states "... it is finally "OK" to let it all out." He encourages other Vietnam vets to do the same as "a good way to get it out of your system." He says that "My survivor guilt, nightmares, and flashbacks have helped me to write more vividly." This he has certainly done.



*Missions of Fire and Mercy: Until Death Do Us Part (302 pages with photos, signed, \$18.00)*

by William E. Peterson, ISBN13: 978-1-4392-5837-8 is available directly from the author at <http://www.missionsoffireandmercy.com> or from Amazon, and other book suppliers.



**ONE HELL OF A RIDE BY COLONEL (RET) WILLIAM C. HAPONSKI** is the aptly titled memoir of his time in Vietnam in command of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry (the "QuarterCav"), an armored cavalry squadron, and its attached units also known as Task Force Haponski. Well researched and uniquely written, it presents accounts of some of the most intense fighting of the war in and around the Michelin Plantation, Route 13 (Thunder Road), and the Iron Triangle. Col. Haponski has put together a compelling narrative of the combat situation he faced in his AO and the consequences of that combat in the voices of the French forces that preceded him, the soldiers of the NVA, his troopers, and the Vietnamese who were left behind.

We are all aware the French had been in most of the AOs we operated in: reminders of their influence in Vietnam were everywhere. Col. Haponski provides an excellent review of the French operations in his AO and their problems. He notes with regret, this history "...should have mattered to those at high levels of government and military, and mattered a lot." He is not shy about his criticism of "the higher ups" for forcing him to use inappropriate tactics and resources. Col. Haponski's descriptions of Task Force Haponski's battles are an engaging reading experience. His unique minute by minute descriptions of the action using the voices of the participants, including members of the NVA forces, gives perspective to the combat and lays bare the emotions of the men involved.

To tell this story, Col. Haponski draws upon his own personal experiences, interviews with the troopers and soldiers of his unit and some 15,000 pages of documents from the National Archives. The documents include translations of original NVA histories and original French material. The extensive research and scholarship Col. Haponski has put into writing this book is outstanding and reflects his academic life as college professor and Ph.D. It will be an outstanding resource for future researchers and history buffs. However, make no mistake; this is a compelling account and by no means a "stuffy" read.

Col. Haponski's final chapter shares his postwar return journey to Vietnam. His description of the areas where he and the QuarterCav fought are very interesting but his reunion with a Vietnamese family and their daughter he had helped in a small village north of Bien Hoa is particularly touching. Expecting the worst, he was surprised to find the family doing well and the young girl now a successful and happy mother and wife. Col. Haponski, a dedicated and sensitive leader who respected his enemies, has written and dedicated this book to the men of Task Force QuarterCav.

*One Hell of a Ride: Inside an Armored Cavalry Task Force in Vietnam (560 pages, \$23.99) by Colonel (Ret) William C. Haponski, ISBN13: 978-1-4392-4436-4 is available at amazon.com, and other on-line book suppliers.*



# These "scrapbook" photos were sent to us by the 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion at Bear Cat, he flew throughout the 1st Cav's



Fire Support Base Grant



UH-1H Huey that had crashed trying to land on the top of Nui Ba Dinh mountain. We sling loaded it back to Tay Ninh for repairs.



Tom beside another unit aircraft, the Silken Snarl. The art was modeled after a Super Bee logo that adorned Plymouth Dusters back in the states. I'll never forget the day we were assigned to fly the aircraft, we went to the flight line and found the bird was still buttoned up. Seems both the Crew Chief and the Door Gunner had DEROS'ed and gone home without telling anyone!



A joke we played on our Commander at his going away party. The Motor Officer presented him with the same 50 Cal. machine gun barrel that the Old Man had through was a ¾ ton truck axle when they inspected the motor pool one day.



At a high hover doing what we did best, delivering another sling load of supplies wherever the 1st Cav needed us.



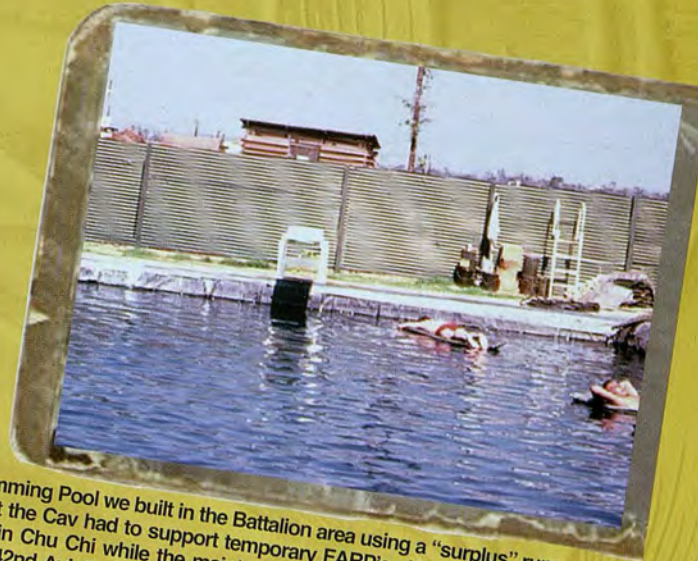
Details of the gates to the Cow-di Temple in downtown Tay Ninh



Back home at Bear Cat. The Battalion had three Company's, A Co., B Co., and C Company and we all lived pretty much the same in, looking back at it, pretty nice conditions.



# VHPA Member Tom Ellis. Tom was assigned to from February 1969 to 1970. While stationed A0 working the Tay Nihn, Quon Loi and Song Bay areas of III Corps.



Swimming Pool we built in the Battalion area using a "surplus" runway fuel blivet the Cav had to support temporary FARP's. We found the "surplus" filter in Chu Chi while the maintenance office was scrounging parts from the 242nd Aviation Company (The Mule Skinners). The filter costs us two captured, take-home weapons. The pool itself had a M-60 machine gun ammo can full of C-4 buried underneath it with a clicker that was wired to the bar at the officers club along with a note telling the last guy out of dodge to blow the pool and don't let Charlie get it. I've often wondered if it was ever used.



These pictures show a shot-down Huey being returned for repair, a 105MM Howitzer and piggy-back rounds enroute to An Loc and empty 105 MM Arty brass casings being returned from Lai Kay for turn-in.



Almost "new" and fresh out of retrofit, The Queen was my favorite ride, it even still smelled new!

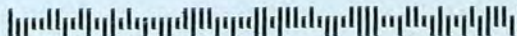


Scrambling back to Bear Cat before that scattered layer becomes a full overcast.



I included this photo thinking everyone would enjoy remembering the saying in the yellow placard on the nose of this Chinook. In case you can't read it, it says "CHUCK YOU FARLIE"





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## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

### Tyler Ogg

Tyler Ogg graduated as valedictorian of his class at Alvarado High School in 2009. During high school, he was involved in a variety of activities, and as a senior played varsity football, participated in UIL theater productions, and acted as an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) tutor. When not busy with school responsibilities, he enjoys playing his guitar and gaming. Tyler won the 2009 Major Harold Roy, Ancient Army Aviator and Jack Dibrell/Alamo Chapter Matching Scholarship for a total of \$2,000 in scholarships.

Tyler is now in Austin in his freshman year at the University of Texas, fulfilling his lifelong dream of being a "Longhorn." He will major in math, possibly moving toward a degree in actuarial science.



### Joshua Ogg

Joshua Ogg graduated "Top Ten" in his class at Alvarado High School in 2008. During high school, he went to TSA (Technology Systems Applications) National Competition twice, securing third place his senior year. Additionally, he played varsity football and acted as an AVID tutor. When not busy with work or school, he enjoys working on electronics and his car. Joshua won the 2008 EADS North America Corporate Matching Scholarship of \$1,000.00 each year for 2 years.

Joshua is now in his second year at The University of Texas at Arlington where he is pursuing a dual degree in aerospace and mechanical engineering. He hopes to someday be involved in aerospace design with Bell, Boeing, or even NASA.

Tyler and Joshua Ogg are two grandsons of VHPA Member Tom Grant, Sr. who flew with the 361st Aviation Company (Pink Panthers) from August 1969 through August 1970 out of Camp Holloway, Pleiku, Vietnam. Tyler and Joshua are but 2 of Tom's 9 grandchildren so look for more Grant/Ogg students showing up on the AAAA scholarship roles in the future.



## ATTN: Former Members of the 237th Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance)

### SIX MONTHS AND A WAKE-UP!

AUGUST 7 & 8, 2010, INDIANAPOLIS,  
WE WILL BE FLYING A VIET NAM DUSTOFF HUEY AGAIN.

Briefly, Friday the 6th of August is a travel day, so you need to start making your flight reservations now. We will be bus- ing to the flight line Saturday morning, so you don't want to cut your travel time too closely.

The plan is to fly Saturday with Sunday reserved for gathering at the Hotel LZ with videos and socializing. Sunday night will be "sit-down" buffet dinner. If case of bad weather on Saturday, we will have dinner Saturday night with flying on Sunday. Flying day will include a noon BBQ at the airfield.

Note that the Vietnam Dustoff Association will be co-locating with us. They normally have about 50 attend their reunions while we have had about 100 attend our first two reunions. Even though they will also be flying that weekend, I believe that their Hotel dinner is scheduled for Saturday night.

Again, if this reunion is going to fly, I have GOT to have some numbers. PLEASE let me know if you plan to attend and how many. Also, do you plan to fly...a flight requires membership in American Huey 369 which is \$100 per year. Whether you get to fly up front or in the back, the membership is the same. See their web site for membership details at [www.americanhuey369.com](http://www.americanhuey369.com)

Giving me your intentions now is not a firm commitment, but I must be able to plan. If you will NOT be attending, I would appreciate that info, also, but of course, you can still show up at the last minute and we will accommodate you.

Don't forget your Hotel Reservations, see our web site for that. [www.dmzdustoff.org](http://www.dmzdustoff.org) More reunion details will follow, once I have better numbers from those planning to attend.

*Counting down the days...*

*Phil Marshall*

## SCHLOARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING!

**NOW IS THE TIME.** Yes, now is the time. Time to get started putting you kids, grandkids, great grandkids, etc that are eligible on the road to applying for the three VHPA scholarships given by the AAAA. These are MERIT scholarships, not NEED scholarships and in applying for our three scholarships, your relations are also considered for almost all of the AAAA scholarships. Last year fifteen out of thirty seeking the three VHPA scholarships received either one of the VHPA scholarships or an AAAA scholarship. Fifty percent of VHPA applicants received in excess of \$18,500 in scholarships. Not bad when you consider VHPA has around \$90,000 total in our corpus.

There are two requirements to apply; 1) you must be dues current with VHPA and 2) your applicant must be an associate member of AAAA (\$20, I believe). Have your applicant or applicants go on line to [www.quad-a.org](http://www.quad-a.org) and see what needs to be done or get the forms necessary. The deadline for scholarship entries is May 1 of every year. Applications are available from AAAA, only. NOW IS THE TIME. Don't wait, do it now.

And, as usual, feel free to contribute whatever you can to the VHPA SCHOLARSHIP FUND. There is no amount that is too small or too large. Our goal is five VHPA Scholarships by 2012. Help our Scholarship Fund attain that reachable goal.

*Mike Sheuerman*  
**Scholarship Committee**  
**Fundraising**