

**Subject: Re: Need proof reading.**

**Date:** Mon, 30 Nov 1998 15:41:05 EST

**From:** [REDACTED]

**To:** [REDACTED]

Great article.....and a great event. Boy do I hate it when a friend asks me to proofread something. Inevitably they end up hating me for the corrections. In another life I was a proofreader for your favorite fish wrapper in Lawton, Oklahoma. Some former friends have even called me anal retentive about commas and such. Oh well.....I only have a few very minor changes that I think will put a nice polish on this. Not sure how you want these so I am putting all the changes I am making in [ ]. Hope it makes sense. I didn't know how to put lines through stuff so I just deleted where appropriate.

Mike Maloy

In a message dated 11/30/98 3:51:42 AM Pacific Standard Time,  
[REDACTED] writes:

<< Note: Critique this. I need to know if it is understandable and what needs to be changed to make it understandable. It is for the VHPA newsletter. If you ladies don't understand what is being said, tell me. If you guys don't know what is being said, I got something for ya. I need a grammatical check.

Thanks Mike...reply to both my addresses on this note. Thankx

Dexter Florence from Arkadelphia[,] Arkansas. Not your everyday names, but it would be in Arkadelphia to honor Dexter that another example of the strength of the bond we have earned as Vietnam Helicopter Pilots and Crewmen would be demonstrated.

I would change this sentence to read as follows:

Not your everyday names, but in honoring Dexter Florence, the town of Arkadelphia has demonstrated one more example of the strength of the bond we have earned as Vietnam Helicopter Pilots and Crewmen.

The last time I witnessed a similar demonstration of a unit's strong bond was the October 5th, 1990 funeral for a former MIA C/158th crew at Arlington National Cemetery. Details are in Tom Marshall's book, Price of Exit.

Larry Cain, probably the quietest person I have ever met, took charge of an effort to rename the airport at Arkadelphia[,] AK to Dexter Florence Mun[i]cipal Airport. Dexter Florence, a scout pilot lieutenant in D/17 Cav, has the distinction of being the second to the last scout pilot lost in Vietnam when he died in Oct[ober,] 1972. He was one of ten Henderson State University graduates who died in Vietnam and his parents lived in Arkadelphia.

Why does the town's name, Arkadelphia, ring a bell? It was ravaged by a tornado less than 18 months ago[;] it has two Universities, Henderson State and Ouachita, in a town of 10,000 folks, and a spirit of small

town America that represents Americas strength: its people. This town showed up at the dedication of the airport.

What touched me was to see the outpouring of VHPA and VHCMA members that also showed up. Below is the list:

[YOU NEED MORE SPACING OR A COMMA OR DASHES BETWEEN THE NAME AND THE STATE]

Members of D/17 Cav:

Bob Whitford Massachusetts  
Mike Williams California  
Corey Thompson Minnesota  
Doug Brown California  
Mike Koone Washington  
Richard Cunnare Alabama  
John Robinson Oregon  
Hugh Mills Missouri  
John Bridgers Tennessee

Other VHPA/VHCMA members:

Larry Cain Arkansas  
John Grow Texas  
John Seabolt Texas  
Chuck Carlson Texas  
Ken Paulson Virginia.  
Tom Payne Oklahoma  
Mike Sloniker Virginia

Ft Campbell[,] KY's 101st Abn[.] Div[.] also showed up to honor this day by sending the troop commander of D Troop 2/17 Cav, two OH-58Ds plus the 2/17th Color guard. Ft Benning[,] GA was represented by the Silver Wings Exhibition Parachutists . The Arkansas ARNG and Army Reserves were also in attendance.

What made this ceremony unique? Chuck Carlock pulled his OH-6 (like the one that Florence flew), up from Texas for a static display. He also brought his amazing collection of artifacts [which] he [had] displayed at Ft Worth, [and which] was [such] a strong factor in the success of the 98 reunion. He was ably assisted by John Grow and the 71st AHC assn. organizer, Ron Seabolt. The family members and the community were seeing, close hand, the aircraft and the weapons of our war. Apparently they emptied the local schools and the [students and citizens of Arkadelphia] were in attendance en masse. Those children will not forget the charity of Chuck Carlock in his efforts to keep our history alive.

Hugh Mills, author of Low Level Hell was the primary speaker and spoke with authority of our sacrifices, our losses of close friends, our bond today, and our dedication to the memory of the fallen. Mills, an Arkansas native, brought his father who is a retired professor from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. It was very memorable to see the pride, respect and friendship the father and son have for each other. I appreciate Mills asking all the Vietnam Veterans' to stand and telling the audience that this is what the image of a Vietnam Vet[eran] should be and not the ragged, down and out, loser image portrayed by the media and Hollywood. [By contrast] COL Mike Williams (W01 gun pilot in D/17 Cav) in his USMC uniform and Bob Whitford in dress blues and black Cav hat [were perfect examples of what we as Vietnam Veterans have achieved in our lives].

Rich Cunnare also spoke. When he crashed, it was Florence who rescued

him and got him to the hospital. It was [a] very touching memory that Cunnare related. However[,] taking care of each was the norm amongst D/17 Cav vets. Doug Brown had been rescued by John Robinson and presented a living image of [a] bond that will never [be broken.]

I saw many images at this ceremony and reunion of old friends. I will never forget Larry Cain's close attention to detail, his perseverance, and how, he alone, turned [an] idea into reality. But most of all, I will not forget the faces on the remaining family members when they met and talked with the pilots and crewmembers that showed up for the ceremony. They thought they had suffered the loss alone and learned there were others.who also cared about their brother, nephew and friend. The power of Joe Kline's paint[ing] of Dexter's OH- 6 will be a permanent reminder. Most touching was the retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and his wife who had Dexter as the best man at their wedding[.] [They] now can show their children a testimony of their love for Dexter Florence, from Arkadelphia[,] Arkansas.

>>