

Sender

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 1999 19:43:03 EDT

Subject: Advanced Copy My ltr to CO VAL-4 Assn

To:

CC:

991011

Arlington, VA

Dear Jim & Phil,

FYI the following is an advanced copy of my letter mailed this PM to Marty Schuman, who was the 2nd CO of VAL-4 Black Ponies in Vietnam. He was chairman of their 3rd reunion, just completed here 8-10 October. They are a great group and I think you will get some positive results from them. Jim and Judy OH will also get a paper copy by US Mail.

Best wishes,

Emmett

ADVANCED COPY OF EHT LTR OF 11 OCT 1999 POSTED TODAY, W/CC TO JIM & JUDY:

[3-star Flag ltr head]

11 October 1999

Captain Marty Schuman, USN (Retired)

Virginia Beach, VA

Dear Marty,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful arrangements and attention you gave to Muggs and me Saturday evening at the VAL-4 Black Pony Reunion Banquet. We know how busy you were in the background, and the great amount of pre-planning required for such an event to be executed so smoothly.

Every one of those that we met were so very cordial, welcoming us warmly. We truly felt part of The Team. Thank you for the Black Pony cap -- I've already proudly worn it on an errand this morning. However, there'll be no "work details" in that cap! Your thoughtful inscription on the photo where you were briefing me for my night "indoctrination" flight in 1969 is sincerely appreciated. Now, my sons will surely believe some of my Black Pony sea stories.

I have e-mailed Dr. Jim Reckner about the interest indicated by you, and several others, in the Vietnam Center and Archives at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. You can expect to hear from Jim in the near future. The Center would be an ideal repository for your Black Pony Association files, histories, rosters, personal narratives and documents of all kinds.

Memorabilia, artifacts, photos and artwork are also appropriate. When I briefed Admiral Zumwalt by phone Sunday, he was very pleased to hear that your Association was considering

The Vietnam Center as a permanent repository. He chuckled at the possibility that his participation in your record setting "Shortest OV-10A Landing" could become part of history in those Archives.

Someone inquired about an actual OV-10A Bronco for display when I mentioned a Huey! Yes, there will be a very limited number of such items selected for outside display. If your Association is genuinely interested in trying to obtain, restore, deliver and prepare for display of a Bronco, I think it would be a very appropriate selection for the limited list. Few unit's combat mission and performance served such a totality of forces engaged in close combat as did VAL-4 in the III and IV Corps. Their total life span of a little over three years was fully deployed for incountry service. However, you should submit such a request at the earliest date to Dr. Reckner. That address would be:

Dr. James R. Reckner, PhD, Director
The Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University
P.O. Box 41045
Lubbock, TX 79409-1045

Marty, Muggs and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting your wife, Mary Ann and your beautiful daughters. Thank you for making all that possible. We look forward to staying in touch. Keep sending up those prayers for Admiral Zumwalt and family!

Sincerely,

Emmett H. Tidd

Copy to: Admiral Zumwalt/ Dr. Reckner

END OF COPY.

G'nite,

EHT

EoM