



The VHPA AVIATOR

The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association

34TH ANNUAL
VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

VHPA
R E U N I O N



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JULY 1-6, 2017

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

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From the President of the VHPA

~ JOHN SHAFER ~



B Troop 7th/17th Scouts, Scalaphunters

A New Year has started; hope your Christmas and New Years were enjoyable. This year's reunion is in Indianapolis IN; there will be good things to see and do, more details on the VHPA website at Reunion Information, set the date aside and start planning now to attend. Hope to see you there.

The effort by the VHPA to place a meaningful memorial within Arlington National Cemetery honoring the rotary-wing pilots and crewmembers killed in the Vietnam War came extraordinarily close to becoming law. In the late days of the 114th Congressional Session VHPA volunteers traveled to the halls of Congress and convinced the House of Representatives to unanimously pass H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. The Senate companion bill, S. 3447, did not make it to the floor before the end of the December session.

The Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act will be reintroduced in the 115th Congressional Session, and we are confident of successful passage before Summer, 2017. For those of you who communicated with your legislators, well done! We will provide additional information in the next Aviator on

how you can continue to support the memorial mission.

Many years ago, the VHPA selected The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University as its official location for all historical information. The Vietnam Archive takes all materials concerning the Vietnam War, it is also collecting oral histories through their Oral History Project. If you are interested in being interviewed there are five steps: Step One: Questionnaires, Step Two: Schedule an Interview, Step Three: The Interview Agreement, Step Four: The Interview, and Step Five: Transcription and Review. Go to <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/participation/> for more details. Participate in preserving the history of Vietnam helicopter pilots with pictures, stories, other documents, and memorabilia by donating to the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University, contact them at: 806-742-9010.

FROM THE VHPA STAFF AT HQ!

FROM THE STAFF AT HQ

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

It is that time once again ... by the time you read this, the R2017 on line registration will be up and running. There are several capacity controlled events again this year so be sure to register early for first shot at these events!

The 2017 Calendar is still available through Acclaim Press. Visit their website at www.acclaimpress.com, call them toll free at 877-427-2665 or mail an order form to Acclaim with your payment. If you do not have an order form, give HQ a call & we will be happy to send one to you.

We now have the 1994-2016 Calendar CD available for the cost of \$8. If you would like to purchase one, call HQ to place your order. We also have a couple of small, a couple of 2XL & several 3XL t-shirts from R2016 in Reno. We also have a small, a couple of medium, a couple of large & three XL t-shirts from R2015 in Washington. Give HQ a call if you would like to purchase one.

Don't forget to order your 2017 directories that will be mailed out in October.

REMEMBER - You can now pay your dues and pre-order your

CD or Paper Directory on line thru the On Line Directory at <https://directory.vhpa.org>!

Don't forget...if you move, you can go on line to <https://directory.vhpa.org> and log in with your member number, then set up a password or use your social security number. Then on the left side will be a box with red lettering that says "Other Services". Under "Other Services" will be a box that says "Update My Information". Click on this button and you can make updates directly to your information. You can also call HQ with an update to your contact information! If we do not have your correct address on file, you will not receive your Aviator!

If you know of anyone who served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and they are not a member of VHPA, give us a call and we will check to see if they are in our database. We would love to send them membership information and a copy of the newsletter for their review. And, of course, we would love for them to become a member!

As always, our goal is to make VHPA the best it can be for you, the members! If there is anything we can do to make that happen, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Sherry Rodgers
VHPA Office Manager

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As per the VHPA constitution and bylaws the Executive council proposes the following changes to membership in the VHPA. This resolution was adopted at the 2016 Annual Business Meeting.

This proposal will be presented to the individuals present at the ABM in July 2017 for a vote at that time.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate Membership will be offered to individuals in the following classes of people, subject to the restrictions noted below:

- Veterans with a DD-214 and Honorable discharge.
- The current wives of VHPA members.
- Surviving spouses of VHPA members.
- The direct descendants of VHPA members.
- Gold Star members.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates for an associate membership must be sponsored by a dues-current VHPA member.
- Associate member dues will be identical to full membership dues.
- Associate membership excludes participation on the Executive Council.
- Associate membership is at the convenience of the Executive Council, and may be revoked for cause.
- Associate Members would have no voting rights and would not attend the ABM.
- Associate Member status would be dissolved with the passing of the last VHPA member.

Have You Considered Running for the Executive Council Of the VHPA?

By Art Price Junior member at Large

Your VHPA is an organization that is dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots that flew gallantly in the Helicopter War. In addition, we provide the opportunity to reunite with those we served with in combat so many years ago when we were young and soldiers. We take no political stands and we honor those with whom we served that are no longer with us in this world but who will live forever in our hearts as long as even one of us takes a breath and remembers.

The VHPA is organized to be governed by an Executive Council that is elected by the membership at the annual business meeting that is held during the annual convention. All of us are long time members who have worked in the Military and private industry accumulating many talents that we believe qualify us to serve the organization. Many are retired, like me with time on our hands for the first time in a long time. Others still work and dedicate their available time to the organization. The VHPA does not run itself. Elected members of the VHPA take care of the day to day activities necessary to keep it humming along for the balance of the membership. The Executive Council is comprised of the President, Vice President, Sr. Member at Large, Mid Term Member at Large, Jr. Member at Large and the immediate Past President. Entry level to the Council is normally at the Jr. Member at Large office.

If you have considered a run for office in your organization, now is the time to step forward and throw your hat into the ring. You will need to provide the current Jr. Member at large a short summary of your qualifications and a statement on where you would like to see the VHPA go in the future. Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to address the members at the next convention and the members will select the next new member to the EC. You have nothing to lose, and your VHPA will be a better organization if you choose to serve.

Give a run for office a serious look. If you decide to run, contact A.R. Price, Jr. Member at Large at [REDACTED]. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Indianapolis in July.

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OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
MARTIN MADERT AT
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Welcome to the 34th Reunion of the VHPA!

*From the Chairman of the VHPA Reunion Committee,
Mike Law*

Speaking for the VHPA Executive Council (EC), the Headquarters staff, and the entire Reunion Committee – I cordially invite you to attend the VHPA's 34th Annual Reunion in Indianapolis from Saturday, 1 July through Thursday, 6 July 2017 at the JW Marriott. We have a wonderful Reunion planned for you, your family, and your friends!

This may well be our 34th Reunion, but we are still learning and adjusting as we go; mid-course corrections if you will. Each year we experiment a little and each Reunion leverages what we've learned of late. In the next few pages you can see lots of details, the schedule of events, the registration form, some policies and procedures, plus some neat pictures. Before you delve into the full activities, I'd like to emphasize the following points.

Hotel Reservations - Please do NOT call the hotel directly to make sleeping room reservations. If you don't want to use the online links, make certain you connect with a Passkey agent at 866-704-6162 or 877-303-0104 then mention the phrase "VHPA 34th Annual Reunion 2017 JW Marriott Indy" to the agent. You are looking for a \$119 base rate.

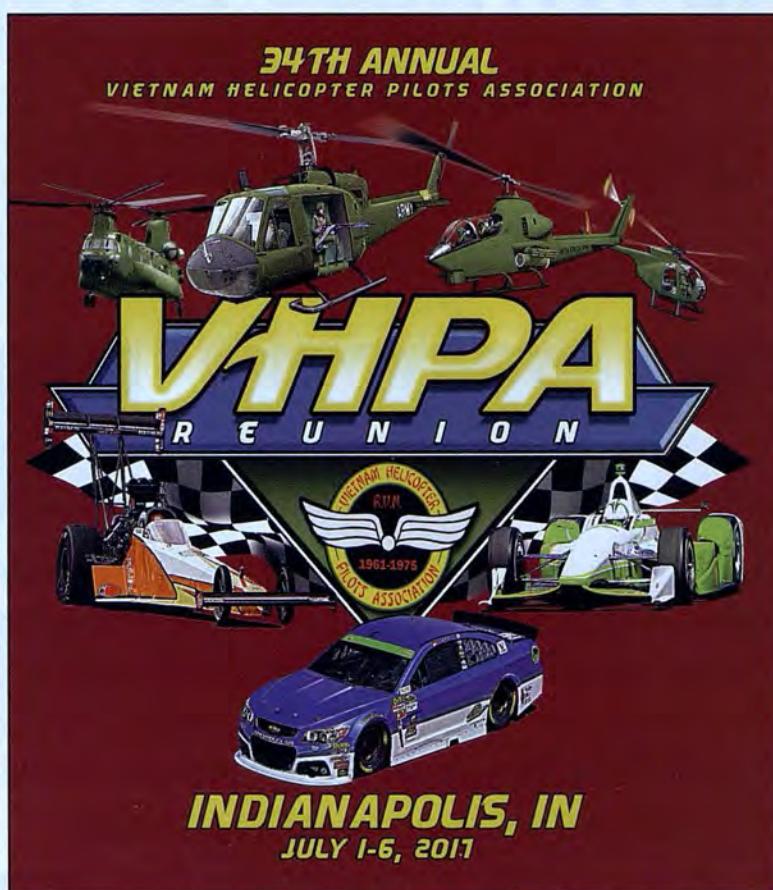
Transportation from the Airport - The JW Marriott does NOT provide an airport shuttle even though the airport is not a long distance from downtown. As you know there are three key points to selecting airport-to-hotel or hotel-to-airport transportation: Comfort, Schedule, and Price. The most cost effective commercial option is Go Green Shuttle for \$10 per person. Please see the half page flyer on page 11 for details. Even though its last stop (or first stop if outbound) is in front of the JW Marriott, it is not as comfortable or as quick as a regular taxi. Concerning the hotel to airport route, please remember the Go Green Shuttle would not get you there in time for many early morning flights from Indy. If you have lots of luggage or

wheelchair type needs, a regular taxi is a better option.

Hotel Parking - The JW Marriott shares the underground structured parking facility with two adjacent Marriott hotels plus a major restaurant. Even with the 20% VHPA discount, for 2017 we estimate (exact rate unknown at publication time) the daily rate will be higher than \$34. Sadly, because of the near-by government buildings, convention center, Baseball Park, and museums – there isn't much help "just across the street." GATE TEN is a most cost effective surface lot option about seven (7) blocks from the hotel. Please see the half-page flyer on page 11 for details. So if you need access to your vehicle frequently during the day – using hotel parking might be right for you, but plan on about \$35 or \$36 a day. Finally, GATE TEN's official shuttle hours are 6am to midnight. However, check with them about your departure needs when you park there. For example, you are dropping someone at the airport for a 6am flight – need your car at 4:30am – see if the shuttle will pick you up at 4am? It never hurts to ask – or use the Hotel parking for that one night.

VHPA City Shuttles - There was a SERIOUS DEMAND for shuttle bus service at the last three Reunions! Upwards of 40% of all attendees pur-

chased city shuttle tickets or their equivalents. While chartering dedicated buses for these shuttles and hiring tour guides to answer questions is expensive, this line item for the last three Reunions resulted in a significant profit (because the demand over shot the breakeven estimate). Therefore, with the EC's approval, we will have some 'payback' for use in Indy: (1) Apply some of the previous Reunions' profit as a budget credit for the Indy City Shuttles. (2) reduce the ticket price to \$20 (versus \$25 in Reno and \$26 in D.C.). (3) Increase the frequency to every 30 minutes on most days. (4) Offer two separate shuttles – a downtown route and a Zoo/Motor Speedway route. (5) Run them deeper into the evening so people can



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at least take them to dinner. FYI, there is a \$5 flat rate taxi zone in downtown Indy that includes the hotel and most eateries! (6) Make things very simple. For example - no museum passes this year. Many museums are free or offer special admission prices if you wear your VHPA lanyard; so this is a pay for play deal this year. The ticket is good for multiple trips and days for the duration of the reunion. (7) Use the shuttle buses for "small and short" tours, like the special VHPA only Lucas Oil tour, versus having dedicated buses for just that tour. Please know that other than three museums and the baseball park "across the street" from the JW Marriott, most all the "fun stuff" is at least three blocks away. (8) We've also customized the routes - cute shopping areas and fun watering holes get only two or three visits during the day.

Event Schedules and Capacity - As is often the case, some event venues are not built to accommodate the crowds the VHPA normally puts up. For example, we had more than 1,000 folks on the Aircraft Carrier Midway during the San Diego Reunion and 700+ on the Fireworks/Dinner Cruise in San Fran on the 4th of July. However, only 50 folks max can take the Dallara Indy Car Factory tour AND ACTUALLY DRIVE AN INDY CAR! Solution, offer the tour at multiple times and on multiple days if possible.

Book Early - I sound like a broken record again this year! On the Registration Form you see at least 28 tours and events... (Down from 35+ in Reno.) However, 14 are capacity controlled to 100 folks or fewer! News flash! Book what you want early to prevent disappointment!! Now sometimes we are able to put on another bus or get an additional tour; but sometimes no! We use a "waitlist" process when events sell out; but even so disappointment occurs. This year, for example, we were able to get only two Indy Motor Speedway Twilight tours PERIOD and two Dallara Indy Car Factory tours PERIOD. These, and others, are not normally open to the public but the VHPA can get them because we can guarantee certain numbers on certain days about eight months in advance.

Read Carefully! Please make certain you understand the VHPA's **Reunion Registration, Cancellation, and Refund Policy**. Copies of this policy are posted on www.vhp.org and in the Online Reunion Registration Application (ORRA). You can also contact HQ to get a copy. The Official Cancellation Date (OCD) is close of business (usually about 3pm Central Time Zone), Friday, 16 June 2017. A cancellation made prior to the OCD will be processed for a normal refund. Only those who purchase the Guaranty Refund Insurance (GRI) at the time of their initial Registration will be considered for a refund if they cancel after the OCD and meet one of the GRI criteria. We start processing all refunds about two weeks after the

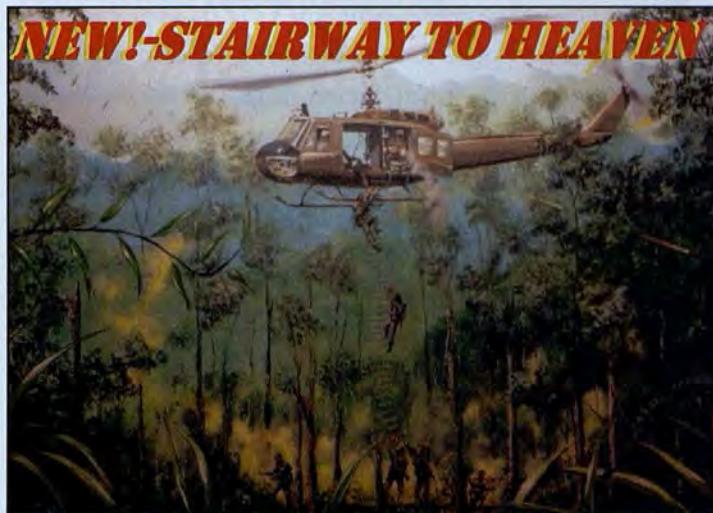
Reunion closes and try to get all refund checks mailed by the end of July.

Seek the most current information-Since this VHPA Reunion has literally a hundred "moving parts" even as GREAT as The Aviator is - there is no way we can communicate details and status to you with printed media. Please, please look to www.vhp.org for the most up-to-date information.

Our Goal-VHPA Reunions are all about renewing old and making new friends based on our common bonds forged when we were soldiers once and young. Please invite your friends and plan on having a good time.

Questions or comments?

As always, get in touch with HQ at 800-505-8472
or [REDACTED]



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GETTING THERE AND OTHER DETAILS

Last updated 28 November 2016

Reunion hotel: JW Marriott,
10 S West St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Reunion hotel reservations: There are at least three ways to make your hotel reservations while ensuring you receive the VHPA Group Rate **of \$119 plus tax** over the dates of **June 27 thru July 8**. *Cutoff date for the hotel rate is 1 June 2017.*

Please consider the following:

- Via the Reunion's personalized website, go to: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/VHPAIndy>.
- Via www.vhpa.org, then Reunion Information and use the reserve your hotel room link.
- By calling the hotel's reservation line at **866-704-6162** or **877-303-0104**. You need to mention "**VHPA 34th Annual Reunion 2017**". PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY or MARIOTT'S CENTRAL RESERVATIONS NUMBERS. You MUST speak to a Passkey Agent.

Transportation from the Airport

The hotel does not offer a shuttle to/from the airport. VHPA suggests the Go Green Shuttle. The cost is \$10 per person each way. The shuttle departs Indianapolis Airport every hour and half hour from Zone Seven. Service hours are 5:00 am – 11:00 pm, seven days a week. The first shuttle arrives at the airport at 5:30 am and the last shuttle departs the airport at 11:00 pm. The JW Marriott is the last stop on the route, Stop #9. You can book the Go Green shuttle online via www.goexpresstravel.com or call 800-589-6004. Major credit cards are accepted online and on the shuttle; major credit cards and cash are accepted at the Go Green kiosk or with the Go Green attendant at the airport. **CASH CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED ON THE SHUTTLE.**

Parking

VHPA has negotiated a 20% discount for parking at the hotel. At the time of this publication deadline, the hotel did not have their 2017 pricing set. The 2016 prices with our discount are \$32 for self parking and \$36 for valet parking. Parking is very limited around the hotel and government buildings nearby so we have negotiated better rates with a nearby parking lot called GATE TEN Events & Parking to provide an alternative for car and RV parking. The rate for a car/truck/SUV will be \$15/day and RV parking is \$40/day. They do provide multi day discounts. Gate Ten will provide a shuttle to the JW Marriott and back to your car or RV when you need it. RV parking does provide overnight sleeping but does not include any sewer, water, or electrical needs. All parking with Gate Ten provides entry, exiting, and overnight privileges. You can use the Gate Ten link at <https://squareup.com/store/GateTen> or call (317) 737-2036 to reserve your spot. So, if you need access to your vehicle frequently during the day - parking in the underground hotel parking garage might be right for you but plan on about \$35 per day.

Internet Access

The VHPA has negotiated free internet for attendees in their sleeping rooms. The hotel will provide a special code to access the internet when you check in.

Who Can Attend this Reunion?

As a general rule, anyone who is "dues current" in the VHPA can register, order tickets, etc. simply by paying the Reunion Registration Fee. All who served in the Vietnam War as helicopter pilots must not only be a member of the VHPA but also be current with respect to their annual membership dues as of the first day of the Reunion to register. Anyone who was not a pilot is also welcome to attend so long as they are a "dues current" subscriber to the VHPA Aviator magazine. Exceptions are vendors, specifically invited performers/speakers, Gold Star Family guests and Non-Registered Banquet Guests; these people do not have to be a subscriber to attend. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket for any of our events must pay the Reunion Registration Fee.

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Another consideration is since VHPA Membership and Subscriber dues expire on the last day of the month, someone who is dues current when they register, could be non-dues current on the 1st day of the Reunion (01 July 2017). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is "forward looking" with respect to the dues status.

Please understand, all Reunion Attendees (anyone who pays the Registration Fee) are treated as equals. A VHPA Life Member, a former enlisted man, the widow of a deceased Vietnam Vet, a good friend – are treated equally once they pay the Registration Fee. The one exception is that only VHPA members can attend the Annual Business Meeting.

The bottom line – Who Can Attend This VHPA Reunion? Answer – anyone who pays the Registration Fee and is "dues current" as outlined above. So, please consider inviting anyone and everyone to attend with you!

Cancelling a Reunion Registration

The VHPA Member or Subscriber who made the Reunion Registration is known as the Primary Registrant (PR). A PR may cancel all or portions of his or her registration any time prior to the reunion by contacting HQ via US Mail at 2100 North Highway 360, Suite 907, Grand Prairie, TX 75050, Email to HQ@vhpa.org, Phone at 800-505-8472 or Fax at 817-200-7309. It is important to note that reunion registration cancellations and hotel reservation cancellations are entirely separate business processes. The PR is responsible for both processes. PRs cannot assume when they cancel their hotel reservation that the hotel will notify HQ to cancel the reunion registration or vice versa.

Reunion Refunds and Cancellation Fees

The Executive Council establishes the official cancellation date (OCD) for each reunion. **The OCD for R2017 is Friday, 16 June 2017.** Only cancellations received by HQ by close of business Central Daylight Time (normally 3pm) on the OCD (including those via US Mail) are considered for refunds, unless covered by Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) described below. For reunion registration cancellations under consideration for a refund, there is a \$15 cancellation

fee for each PR and each registered guest. It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: dues payments, directory orders, donations or voluntary contributions plus any event designated as non-refundable. There are zero nonrefundable events for R2017. Additionally, if the PR enrolled in the GRI program cancels the entire registration prior to the OCD, then the GRI fee is refundable. For cancellations after the OCD, the GRI fee is non-refundable. As a general rule, HQ starts processing refunds about two weeks after the reunion ends. No refunds are processed until after the reunion is over. For PRs receiving a refund, there is a two-step process. First, the PR receives a letter and/or a statement from HQ outlining the details of the refund including the amount. Normally this correspondence is sent from HQ by US mail but it can be via email. Second, the PR receives a check via US mail from the VHPA's bank. The goal is to complete the entire refund process not later than one calendar month after the reunion ends. Any clerical errors in the details of the refund should be brought to the attention of HQ.

Guarantee Refund Insurance Program (GRI)

As part of their initial registration transaction, a PR may enroll in the Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) program by paying a fee calculated at 10% of their total registration fees and event ticket purchases. As mentioned above, dues payments, directory orders, donations or voluntary contributions are not included in this calculation. The GRI program allows the PR to receive a refund for himself/herself and/or their guests that have to cancel or have their reunion travel plans interrupted for any of the following reasons:

1. Sickness or injury of PR, a traveling companion or members of immediate families, which is diagnosed and treated by a physician or requires hospitalization during the time of the reunion.
2. Death of PR or immediate family member.
3. PR's involvement in a traffic accident, en route to the reunion that causes you to miss the reunion or a particular event.

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4. PR's home is made uninhabitable by a natural disaster such as fire, flood, earthquake, hurricane, or volcano prior to or during the time of the reunion.
5. PR is recalled into active duty by the military that causes you to be unavailable to attend the reunion.
6. PR is served a subpoena or called to serve for jury duty during dates of the reunion.
7. PR is quarantined during dates of the reunion.

The GRI program covers only specific VHPA events and fees, and does not cover cancellation costs that might be associated with hotel rooms, airfares, rental cars, and other non-VHPA generated expenses. PRs enrolled in the GRI program and needing to take advantage of the program's features are encouraged to contact VHPA HQ either by email or at the HQ desk at the host reunion hotel as soon as possible in the event of cancellation.

Dress Code?

The dress code is casual for this Reunion, with the following reminders and suggestions:

- It is a good idea to wear your Reunion lanyard so other attendees can recognize you are with VHPA.
- At the Closing Banquet, many men wear a suit and tie with the ladies wearing a nice dress. You will even see Dress Blues.

Reunion T-Shirts

Honor & Pride is this Reunion's "Official Reunion T-shirt" contractor as he has been for over a decade. This year's Reunion T-shirt will be a maroon color with VHPA logo on left front and a large version of the Reunion Logo on the back. This year's prices are the same as you have enjoyed for many Reunions. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with a Reunion Registration until 09 June 2017. All orders after 09 June 2017 are subject to inventory on hand at the end of the Reunion. If we have a supply of the shirts you requested, we will mail them to you; if not we will refund your T-shirt money. All cancellations made prior to 09 June 2017 come with the option to have the T-shirt mailed to you after the Reunion or having the amount paid for the T-shirt refunded. There is a \$5 shipping & handling fee per shirt when HQ mails the T-shirts. Please notice that the cutoff

date for ordering the T-shirt is different from the official cancellation date (OCD) described above.

Please know it is possible to order Reunion T-shirts even if you do not plan to attend the Reunion. Simply contact VHPA HQ and tell them you only want a "Reunion T-shirt order". The shirts will be mailed to you after the Reunion.

Vendor Area

The Vendor Area has been a huge success for the past several years! If you are interested in becoming a Vendor for R2017 please go to www.vhpa.org and download the Vendor/ Book Seller/ Exhibitor Contract, Waiver and Vendor/Book Seller/Exhibitor Policy Rules & Regulations. Complete the forms and mail, fax or email to VHPA HQ. If you know of anyone that you think would be an asset to the Reunion Vendor Area be sure to let them know or contact VHPA HQ to give us the info and we will be happy to give them a call.

Volunteers

The VHPA needs your help! The Ohio River LZ Chapter is this reunion's Host Chapter and as such will organize the volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are organized around stations and then shifts with the number of volunteers needed for that shift. Sounds like a Duty Roster! We've found that 3-hour shifts will not take up much of your time or make you too tired. Additionally, we can guarantee everyone is trained on their duties. Needless to say but WE GREATLY APPRECIATE having volunteers! Not only do we avoid the cost of hiring local convention bureau temps but we get a chance to interact with each other while performing the tasks EXACTLY as a VHPAer would have it done. As is our tradition, the Host Chapter, Ohio River LZ Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact Dan Gulley, of the Ohio River LZ Chapter at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or contact HQ at 800-505-8472. In early January, the Duty Roster is loaded onto the Reunion Information page at VHPA.ORG for the rest of us to "join in on the fun"! Instructions for how to volunteer at that point will be posted on the website. BTW, husband and wife teams can volunteer.

THANKS!

Mike Law Reunion Chairman

VHPA 2017 Reunion ~ Indianapolis, Indiana ~ July 1st - July 6th



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VHPA 34TH ANNUAL REUNION DISCOUNTED PARKING RATES



DISCOUNTED RATES

Car/Truck/SUV

\$15 DAILY RATE

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QUILTER'S SHOW AND TELL

As many of you members of the VHPA are aware, a number of the ladies of the VHPA have been making patriotic quilts for giving away the last three to four years at the annual reunions.

I am glad to report that the last 3 quilt tops of the total of eight quilts to be presented at this next year's reunion are complete and shall be sent to be quilted shortly.

A special thank you goes to the American Legion Post 370 of Overland Park, KS. They were kind enough to allow us to convert their conference room into a sewing room. In the two days spent sewing we had the pleasure of having a few of their members drop by and inquire about the projects we were working on. One fella insisted that we sell him one of the quilts when we left! Of course, we couldn't and didn't because we will present them in Indianapolis, IN next July!

I would also like to thank Wanda Payne and Phelba Wecas for their kind and expert help in assembling the last three quilt tops at the Post. I would also like to thank all the many quilters in VHPA Quilters Group for their blocks this year which were used to make the eight quilts.

We are all looking forward to the 2017 VHPA Reunion in Indianapolis, IN, when these eight quilts will be presented, as well as, having a "Show and Tell" of blocks for future quilts and projects whether complete or in progress.

As a Reminder, Requirements for Next Year's Blocks are the Same as Last Year.

1. Please prewash all fabrics including batiks, as some of the dark blues and reds are over-dyed and may bleed.
2. Color scheme: red, white and blue, you may use two or all three colors.
3. The blocks must be 12.5" x 12.5" unfinished. Please use 1/4" seams in your assembly.
4. Block design is of your choice, there are many to choose from, Rail Fence, nine-patch, Grandmother's Flower Garden, Appliqué block, Robbing Peter to Pay Paul, Orange Peel, Bow Tie, just to name a few. They may be simple or as complex as you like.
5. Make one or more blocks as you wish, we will construct



Wanda Payne, Phelba Wecas and Kathleen Sherfey at work at Post 370



Laying out blocks



as many quilts as possible from the donated blocks and any blocks left over will be saved for the following year.

6. Please print your name and state on a slip of paper and pin to the back of your blocks.

7. Please bring your block(s) to the 2017 VHPA Reunion for Show and Tell.

So guys, tell your wives or daughters (or whoever is a quilter in your family) to plan to begin on the new blocks for the 2018 quilts.

If they are unable to attend the VHPA reunion in Indianapolis in 2017, they may send the new block(s) to Kathleen Sherfey, [REDACTED]

If there are any questions you can reach Kathleen Sherfey by using the email address or [REDACTED]. If you e-mail, please send to: [REDACTED]. In the subject line use: VHPA Quilter.

Thank you and see you in Indianapolis in July 2017.

By Kathleen Sherfey, Project Leader

VHPA Memorial Service

We conduct a Memorial Service to honor those no longer with us. The service is an opportunity to share our memories of departed helicopter pilots:-those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Combat, those who died after tour, and especially those who have died since our last Reunion. I find the service to be a moving and healing experience.

Each year, the Memorial Service takes a slightly different path, but this year we will go back to a format that has been very well done before. All those who participate will be afforded a minute to specifically address the life of a departed pilot. One we hold in our heart and desire to share with those present so they too can help us hold the memories alive for so long as we breathe.

Please consider joining us this year. Be assured Gary Roush will be providing the latest details and lists. We lose more pilots each year. Honor their memory, they earned it.

By Art Price Junior EC Member

Reunion Info

Last updated 30 November 2016

Transportation from the Airport: The hotel does not offer a shuttle to/from the airport. VHPA suggests the Go Green Shuttle. The cost is \$10 per person each way. The shuttle picks up at the Ground Transportation Center located directly across from baggage claim area on the lower level of the main terminal. Pick up for Downtown Indianapolis will pick up in zone 7. The shuttle departs Indianapolis Airport every hour and half hour, 5:00 am – 11:00 pm, seven days a week. The first shuttle arrives at the airport at 5:30 am and the last shuttle departs the airport at 11:00 pm. The JW Marriott is the last stop on the route, Stop #9. You can book the Go Green shuttle online via www.goexpresstravel.com or call 800-589-6004. Major credit cards are accepted online and on the shuttle; major credit cards and cash are accepted at the Go Green Kiosk or with the Go Green attendant at the airport.

CASH CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED ON THE SHUTTLE.

Reunion T-Shirts: This year the reunion t-shirts are maroon with a large reunion logo on the back and a small VHPA logo located on the front.

Cutoff date to order a T-shirt is June 09, 2017

S, M, L & XL - \$18; XXL - \$19; XXXL - \$20

Primary Attendee (Member or Subscriber)/Adult Guest Registration - The registration fee for the member/adult guest is **\$30** through 4/30/2017 and \$40 thereafter.

Please remember each person 21 years and older who wants/needs an event ticket and/or a Reunion name badge and lanyard must pay the registration fee.

Under 21 Guest Registration - The registration fee for someone under the age of 21 years is **\$15**.

Mini-Reunions: 1 July through 5 July - Keep in mind one of the primary reasons for our Reunion is to reconnect with past compatriots from your RVN unit and flight school. The best way to meet up with unit members is to schedule your own Mini-Reunion. If your unit does not have a Mini-Reunion, why not take the initiative to start one up, or you could combine with other sister units you are familiar with if you wish. In addition to specific units and flight classes, we've had Mini-Reunions for such subjects as tandem rotor, Dust-off, Operation Lam Son 719, anyone who was stationed at Soc Trang, VHPA chapters, anyone interested in radio controlled aircraft models. Really, there are no rules! Mini-Reunions are typically scheduled in 4-hour blocks and are available for booking on most days during the Reunion. You can also request a second four-hour block. However, this second block will be granted on a space available basis with priority for the particular space given to units requesting only one block. Due to decreased usage and increased expenses, the Reunion no longer provides AV equipment for Mini-Reunions. Once your Mini-Reunion is scheduled, the details will appear on the webpage. You still should make an effort to get the word out to your buds. Use your directory to contact members (encourage them to re-up with the VHPA if they are not dues current), write a short article

for the VHPA Aviator, and schedule early so we can list your unit in articles such as this.

Unit TOC (Tactical Operation Center): If you have a big group you know is coming (say approximately 20 registrants), then we invite you to schedule a TOC. A TOC is a specific Mini-Reunion room given to your group for all day or for several days. This is like a super Mini-Reunion. Since the group is going to "hang out" in the same room for several days, they can bring almost anything into the room (AV stuff, displays, etc.).

It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion or TOC. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at VHPA.ORG and email it to Sherry Rodgers at Sherry@vhpao.org or call 800-505-8472 or mail the completed form to HQ in Grand Prairie, TX.

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast Sponsorship - \$15

Use this item to make a contribution to the Gold Star Family Breakfast organized by Julie Kink. Effectively you are paying the price of the meal for a Gold Star Family member. This item was added to the VHPA Reunion Registration form at the request of VHPA Members attending the Annual Business Meeting during the 2010 Reunion in San Diego. Thank you for your generosity.

O'Club: 30 June – 4:00pm-8:00pm / 1 July – 4 July - 11:00am – 11:00pm / 5 July - 12:30pm – 11:00pm

In the tradition of a Vietnam unit's Officer's Club you can get a beer and shoot the breeze with your buddies. The O' Club will again be part of 'ground zero' – meaning the Vendor Area, Ballrooms, Registration and Pre-registration, and the O' Club are all within hand grenade range. The O' Club prices are generally \$0.50 to \$1.00 below the Hotel Bar prices. For the record, the O' Club inclusive prices are: Domestic Beer \$5.25, Imported Beer \$7.25, House Wine \$8.00, Cocktails \$8.00, Soft Drinks \$4.00 and Bottled Water \$2.75.

Indianapolis City Shuttle: 1 July 12:00pm – 6:30pm, 2 July thru 4 July – 10:00am – 6:30pm & 5 July - 12:00pm – 5:30pm - \$20

The downtown area offers many attractions such as museums, monuments, shopping and unique restaurants. A Daily shuttle service will be provided from the JW Marriott and around downtown Indianapolis with scheduled stops at the Monument Circle, Mass Avenue, Virginia Avenue, Lucas Oil Stadium, the Indianapolis Zoo, American Legion Mall, Veterans' Memorial Plaza and many more. We will even make special trips to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We want you to enjoy getting around town, seeing unique shops, and dining at all the different choices downtown offers. There will be a tour guide on each shuttle bus to answer questions, provide recommendations, and give all the interesting history and facts Indianapolis holds. This ticket does not include attractions or admissions, it is for the shuttle only to get you around town and can be used as many times as you would like during the reunion. A detailed shuttle schedule and maps will be available on-site at the reunion. Also, a list of negotiated discounted admission prices to different locations will be provided.

Note: A VHPA shuttle map with stops plus a list of restaurants and museums will be provided onsite.

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Early Bird Gathering with Entertainment: 1 July – 7:00pm – 11:00pm - NC

This social gathering continues the long-standing tradition of having an appointed place and time for everyone who comes "early" to the Reunion to meet and greet others. Since the room is configured with lots of tables and chairs, you can sit, stand, and walk around as you see fit. The O'Club is in the Prefunction Area right outside the JW Grand Ballroom and the Early Bird Gathering is in the JW Grand Ballroom 6. We'll position other cash bars to make certain no one has to stand in a long line.

About one hour after the Early Bird Gathering kicks off, *The Chilly Winds* will entertain us with Classic Songs of The Kingston Trio and 60s Folk Era music.

Note: No food is provided at this gathering.

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast: 2 July - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$15

Gold Star Family Breakfast is a traditional VHPA reunion event organized by Julie Kink. This is an opportunity to recognize our Gold Star families. All are welcome to attend. These families are extremely appreciative of the fact that their loved ones did not die alone and that we care about them and remember them like a brother. If you would like to sponsor guests for the breakfast you can use the Event Sponsorship section under Voluntary Contributions in **Step 2** of the online registration.

If you would like to invite KIA/MIA Gold Star family members who will not be registering for the Reunion, please call VHPA HQ to provide their names and contact information so we can have Name Badges prepared for them.

Julie Kink often writes something like the following as a separate article in *The Aviator*: "As aviators who have seen combat, most of you remember someone from that long-ago time who didn't make it back from Vietnam. A few of you have connected with the families of your fallen buddies, either through the Family Contacts Committee or by other means, to share with them a memory or two, perhaps a photo, most of all, the knowledge that their loved one was never forgotten. Have you thought of inviting them to attend the VHPA reunion, and particularly, the Gold Star Family Breakfast, with you? As a sister of a fallen Vietnam helicopter pilot, I remember the first time I sat down with veterans who served with my brother, who was killed while flying C 1/9 Cav scouts at age 19. The experience of being with men who could tell me more about his life and his service was powerful. I learned that not only are we families of the fallen welcome at veterans' reunions, we are welcomed "warmly" by those who knew our loved ones and shared their last days. You might have wondered previously: "Should I invite John's family to a reunion? What in the world would they do there, among 600+ of us rowdy pilots? Would they feel out of place?" For the past few years, there's been an event designed especially to bring Gold Star Families (families of the deceased) together with pilots in remembrance and celebration of the lives we lost: the Gold Star Family Breakfast. We are still working out the details but we know this year, as in the past, the breakfast will be a fitting time for you to share great stories about the lives of the guys we lost, with their families,

and the rest of us. For family members, reunions provide a great opportunity to experience, firsthand, the camaraderie that our loved ones shared with veterans who have never forgotten them. Have you been sending Christmas cards to John's family all these years? Been calling Harry's mom on the phone at Mother's Day just to brighten her day? Have you been emailing back and forth with Bob's brother for years, but just never got a chance to shake his hand? This is the opportunity to do that. Invite them to attend the reunion and bring them to the Gold Star Family Breakfast. I'm happy to answer questions about the breakfast, as details get confirmed, or about how to connect with a buddy's family. Little sister, Julie Kink sister of WO David Kink C Troop 1/9th CAV KIA 8-3-1969. I am also a member of VHFCN Family Contacts Committee. Visit www.VirtualWall.org/contacts or email me at [REDACTED]

Breakfast #1 ~ "How the VHPA Works": 2 July - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$15

This is the first of four breakfasts with speakers offered at this Reunion. Several VHPAers will make 5-minute presentations about important subjects the membership doesn't normally know about. Examples are: VHPA President John Shafer and the VHPA's Annual Budget, Gary Roush and the VHPA On-line Directory, Tom Kirk and *The Aviator*, Mike Law and *The VHPA Calendar*, Art Jacobs and *The Reunion Site Selection*. If you've ever wondered "How does the VHPA do that"? Well, this is your event!

Enjoy the JW Marriott's breakfast buffet fare including assorted whole fresh fruits, assorted pastries, scrambled eggs, crisp bacon strips, breakfast potatoes, orange juice, coffee & hot tea. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

Note: Breakfast #1 and this year's KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast are scheduled at the same times; you must choose which one to attend.

Aviation Trail #1: 2 July – 7:30am – 6:00pm - \$46

This is a private, custom tour for the VHPA escorted by an experienced local guide on each bus. Dayton is The Birthplace of Aviation – a heritage begun with the invention of the airplane by Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1903 and continues to today's aerospace projects of the future now under development at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The official Aviation Trail has sixteen stops including a suite of museums, parks, National Park Service locations, memorials, etc. This VHPA Tour visits at least five of these. The **National Museum of the United States Air Force** has more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts on display in more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. The much anticipated Fourth Hangar is open. Have lunch (on your own) at the museum's restaurant. You visit the **Wright- Dunbar Interpretive and Aviation Trail Visitor Center** that includes the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum and is adjacent to **The Wright Cycle Company**. These are National Park Service buildings. Not only was the airplane invented here in Dayton but also the

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free-fall parachute! Additionally, the bus will stop for a quick visit to the **Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center**. After their historic first flights at Kitty Hawk, NC in late 1903, the Wright brothers continued the development of their invention at Huffman Prairie field in 1904 and 1905. Later, from 1910 to 1916 The Wright Company operated a flying school at Huffman Field. Visit the website at: www.nationalmuseum.af.mil for more information and <https://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm>

Capacity: Each tour is limited to 100 participants.

Note: Be advised this tour includes an approximate 2-hour bus ride EACH WAY from the hotel to Dayton. Each bus will have a restroom onboard.

Historic Dayton Tour #1: 2 July – 7:30am – 6:00pm - \$56
This is a private, custom tour for the VHPA escorted by an experienced local guide on each bus. Dayton is one of America's great places for innovation, engineering, and industrialization. The aviation industry basically started here as the Wright brothers moved from building bicycles to manufacturing airplanes. National Cash Register and Delco (Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company) were the pioneering "grandfathers" of many companies like IBM and General Motors. This tour includes at least three venues. At the **Carillon Historical Park** you will meet the "founding fathers" of Dayton (Wilbur and Orville Wright, Col. Edward Deeds, Charles "Boss" Kettering and John Patterson) in an amazing 4D Theater production, have lunch (on your own), visit 25 historical buildings (many staffed with "period actors"), see historic treasures such as the 1905 Wright Flyer III, a 1935 B&O steam locomotive, the first automobile self-starter and more. A six-person golf cart is available to help get to various buildings. The bus will travel through **Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum** as the guide tells you stories of the famous Daytonians. Finally, you will visit the **VA Museum** and the fully renovated, gorgeous **Protestant Chapel** at the **National Soldiers Home** (Dayton VA Medical Center).

Capacity: Each tour is limited to 100 participants.

Note: Be advised this tour includes an approximate 2-hour bus ride EACH WAY from the hotel to Dayton on I-70. Each bus will show a promotion/introduction video on the way to Dayton. Each bus will have a restroom onboard.

Lucas Oil Stadium Tour: 2 July – 12:30pm – 2:30pm - \$8

There's no better way to add a dose of adrenaline to your next Indianapolis visit than a behind-the-scenes tour of this state-of-the-art sports mecca. The tour will give our members an up-close and personal look at all the stadium has to offer. The tour will last approximately one hour to one hour and fifteen minutes and include visits to the playing field, an NFL locker room, Lucas Oil Plaza, the press box, and numerous other areas (depending on availability) generally inaccessible to the public. You will, also, be guided by a knowledgeable Lucas Oil Stadium Tour Guide who will showcase all the stadium's features and amenities and answer any questions. This is a walking tour, so please be sure to wear comfortable shoes.

Visit the website at www.lucasoilstadium.com for more information.

Note: TRANSPORTATION IS NOT INCLUDED. Lucas Oil Stadium is about two blocks from the JW Marriott and is connected by a skywalk or you can purchase City Shuttle tickets and ride the shuttle to the stadium.

Capacity: Tour is limited to 150 participants.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #1: 2 July – 5:45pm – 9:00pm - \$43

Come see the Indianapolis Motor Speedway like you never have before. You will enjoy an approximate two hour behind-the-scenes look at the grounds of the Speedway with a professional guide to answer any questions. The Twilight Tour will take you on the track at Turn 4 and the famous "Yard of Bricks", into a Gasoline Alley garage, up to the top level of our Pagoda, onto Victory Circle, and through our Media Center. To top the tour off, it will conclude with an exclusive perk of a lap on our road course that twists its way through the infield of the Speedway. Bring your cameras because you won't want to miss the beautiful sunset vantage points of the track and city from high above. Visit the website at www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com for more information.

Capacity: Each day is limited to 110 participants.

1st Time Attendee Reception: 2 July – 7:00pm – 8:00pm - NC

This is a special reception for those attending a VHPA reunion for the first time. Besides meeting other first-time attendees you will visit with members of the VHPA Executive Council and various VHPA committee chairmen in an informal setting. After a brief presentation about the history of the VHPA and the way the VHPA operates there is time for Q&A and one to one conversations. For example - maybe you want to meet and speak with the VHPA President or the Editor of The Aviator? Maybe you have a question about how the annual financial audit is conducted? Maybe you have a photo you'd like to see published in the VHPA Calendar? Now is a good time to have these conversations! While the primary audience is VHPA members, their guests and friends are also welcome. A cash bar is available in this reception.

Note: At the conclusion of this reception, you are welcome to join the Welcome Reception already in progress.

Welcome Reception with Entertainment: 2 July – 7:30pm – 11:00pm - NC

Traditionally, this reception was the first official event for everyone to get together FOR SURE at a Reunion. Now it is just a "get together" at an appointed place and time for everyone who attends the Reunion. Please don't be concerned about the word "reception." There will be NO RECEIVING LINE and NO FORMALITIES. The room will be configured with lots of tables and chairs so everyone can sit and talk. We'll position cash bars to make certain no one needs to stand in a long line. You are welcome to bring a unit sign or guidon so people will know where "your table" is located. We CAN-NOT hang unit banners over the tables at this Reception, sorry.

About one hour after the Welcome Reception kicks off, **Wayne Young and the New Legends** band will take the stage near the dance floor. For those who don't wish to have the music interrupt their

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their visiting, additional tables and chairs are available in the O' Club at the other end of the Ballroom.

Breakfast #2 ~ "Helicopter Medal Of Honor Tribute": 3 July - 7:30am - 9:00am - \$15

This is the second of four breakfasts with speakers offered at this Reunion. On 18 July 2016 VHPA member Charles Kettles was awarded the Medal of Honor. At this breakfast the VHPA will honor not only Charles Kettles and his family but also all helicopter pilots and crew members who have been awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. Enjoy the JW Marriott's buffet breakfast fare including sliced watermelon wedges, assorted sliced fruit breads, scrambled eggs with diced ham and cheddar cheese, sausage links, hash browns, orange juice, coffee & hot tea. We've scheduled each breakfast to conclude prior to most other Reunion tours or events for the day.

Aviation Trail #2: 3 July - 7:30am - 6:00pm - \$46

See Description on July 2

Capacity - Each tour is limited to 100 participants.

Historic Dayton Tour #2: 3 July - 7:30am - 6:00pm - \$56

See Description on July 2

Capacity - Each tour is limited to 100 participants.

Dallara Indy Car Factory Tour #1: 3 July - 8:30am - 12:30pm - \$45

Come check out the 202,000-square-foot facility that is the destination for race-enthusiasts, and those who are brand new to the sport, to get their fill of all things Indy Car! Our members will have their photo taken with an Indy Car. The photo will be printed and framed on site during the event and it will appear as though you are on the front stretch at the famous "Yard of Bricks."

After your photo session, the Dallara Indy Car Factory is offering VHPAers the chance to explore 20,000 square feet of interactive and hands-on exhibits centered on the engineering and technology of the world's fastest sport! This tour will include a guided Factory Tour where you will see actual Indy Cars being made. You will have the opportunity to get the feel of what it's like to race at the famous 2.5-mile oval when you sit behind the wheel of an Indy Car race simulator and race using iRacing! After learning the elements of building an Indy Car and testing your driving skills in a racing simulator, feel the rush of adrenaline as you strap on a helmet and slip into our Street-Legal Indy Car 2 seater and get to physically drive a race car yourself.

Visit the website at: <http://www.indycarfactory.com/> for more information.

Capacity - Each tour is limited to 50 participants.

Golf Outing @ Brickyard Golf Course: 3 July - 9:30am - 5:00pm - \$150

This year we will play the Brickyard Crossing Golf Course. Buses depart the hotel at 9:30 am. Golfers should be back at the hotel by 5:00 pm. Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, score cards, status board scores, complimentary range balls and lunch. Rental golf sets of 2016 Taylor Made Clubs includes 2 sleeves. Logo Balls are available for \$70/round.

The Power Pack rules are carried forward from previous VHPA

events. One (1) Power Pack is included with your golf registration. A Power Pack ticket cost \$20 and can be purchased at the HQ Registration Desk in the hotel with cash or credit card. Cash is required to purchase an individual team member Power Pack at the golf course. Included in the Power Pack Bonuses are the following: Two each Mulligans off the tee only for each 9 hole side (total of 4 per team member). Mulligans are for each player and cannot be used by another team member. One each "Get-Out of Hazard Free" per 9-hole side (total of 2) per 18 holes - Place ball where last traveled before entering the hazard or OB, no penalty. Used for sand traps, water, and Out of Bounds with no penalty. Use of the most forward tee, one (1) per side (total of 2) per 18 holes- Not available on Par 3s.

Visit <http://www.brickyardcrossing.com/Home.aspx> for details about the course.

Capacity: 100 participants.

Writer's Workshop: 3 July - 10:00am - 12:00pm - NC

The Writer's Workshop is organized by John Penny, the VHPA book reviewer. Meet VHPAers who have managed to wind their way from idea to manuscript to published novel, history work or autobiography: Tom Philips - co-author of *Leave No Man Behind, The History of Combat SAR*, Rex Gooch, author of *Ace - The Story of LTC "Ace" Cozzalio*; Bill Reeder, author of *Through the Valley*; Phil Marshall - the author of *DMZ Dustoff Vietnam, Dustoff & Medevac Vietnam*, and *Helicopter Rescues Vietnam Vols. I - IV*; Tom Kirk - the VHPA Aviator Managing Editor; and Marc Liebman - author of *Big Mother 40, Render Harmless, Cherubs 2, Forgotten and Inner Look*. All have taken different routes getting their books published. Rex and Phil went the self-publishing route for their books. Tom Philips went through an agent to get his book on the history of combat SAR published while Bill and Marc worked directly with a publisher to get their books to market. In the workshop, you will have the opportunity to ask them questions about:

- How to get started outlining a book;
- Writing a book proposal and query letter;
- Benefits, costs and pitfalls of self-publishing;
- Working with editors, proofreaders and publishers;
- Key terms you need to include in a contract; and
- Marketing the finished work.

Dallara Indy Car Factory Tour #2: 3 July - 12:00pm - 4:00pm - \$45

See Description on July 3 AM tour.

Capacity - Each tour is limited to 50 participants.

Quilter's Show & Tell: 3 July - 2:00pm - 4:00pm - NC

This special meeting continues the tradition started at least five years ago to present wonderful hand-made, American flag themed quilts to VHPAers and possibly local area veterans. At the 2017 Reunion the group plans to present eight (8) quilts mostly to reunion attendees who are Vietnam veterans versus the five (5) that were presented in Reno. Each year there is a "little twist" in the selection process. This year one of the guiding points - the recipient (or suitable proxy) must be able to attend the presentation portion of the Show & Tell. Following

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the presentations, each quilter will have the opportunity for a show and tell of their quilt blocks or projects, either completed or in progress.

Mind Tripping #1: 3 July – 3:00pm – 4:30pm - \$10

The Mind Tripping Show is the longest running live theatre show in Indianapolis and they are coming to the JW Marriott. This event will be an intimate, interactive, theatrical show that will shock, startle, and create laughter for our members as you witness the impossible. You will experience Mind Reading, Influence, Psychological Illusions, and Comedy that will all come together to create a fantastic event of delightful fun. Have your perceptions challenged and your expectations turned upside down with Christian & Katalina, the #1 Husband & Wife Comedy Mind Reading Show. You will laugh as much as you will be amazed. It is as funny as it is mind blowing. Experience an event of head scratching, hilarious, mind bending enjoyment. Check out the website for videos and clips. Visit the website at: www.mindtrippingshow.com

Capacity - Each day is limited to 150 participants.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #2: 3 July – 5:45pm – 9:00pm - \$43

See Description on July 2 tour.

Capacity: Each tour is limited to 100 participants.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame #1: 3 July – 6:45pm – 10:00pm - \$25

Enjoy a good old fashion baseball game at beautiful Victory Field in Downtown Indianapolis. Victory Field has been named the “Best Minor League Ballpark in America” by Sports Illustrated and Baseball America! The Indianapolis Indians (affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates) will be playing the Louisville Cats (affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds). Your ticket for this event will include a shaded reserved box seat for the game plus two \$5 Tribe Tokens that can be redeemed at any concession stand, concourse kiosk, vendor or gift shop. The game starts at 7:05pm.

Note: Transportation is not included. The ballpark is directly across the street from the JW Marriott.

Capacity: This event is limited to 70 participants.

Breakfast #3 ~ “Your Personal Legacy”: 4 July – 7:30am – 9:00am – \$15

This is the third of four breakfasts with speakers offered at this Reunion. We will review in some detail how any VHPAer can ensure his history, opinions, memorabilia, etc. can be preserved for both your family and the collective legacy of the VHPA. Our young friend, Martin Madert, of the Witness to War Foundation will describe how they are dedicated to capturing the stories of individual combat veterans and then preserving them via venues like the Library of Congress. We will also review the VHPA's relationship with The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech that offers VHPAers additional legacy preserving options.

Enjoy the JW Marriott's breakfast fare including fresh fruit salad, mini cinnamon & pecan rolls, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, Potatoes O'Brien, orange juice, coffee, & hot tea.

American Huey Museum: 4 July – 7:30am – 5:30pm - \$118 with VHPA transportation - \$84 with your own transportation

The American Huey Museum is located about 90 miles north of Indy at the former Grissom Air Force Base. Today we will leave the hotel early to spend most of the “Day with the Hueys” ~ two restored flyable UH-1Hs plus one restored flyable UH-1B joined by VHPA member Peter Bales' restored OH-6A LOH flown in from Wisconsin, plus the “First Hounds” from the Michigan area. The “First Hounds” are a group of living historians that portray Charlie Company - 1st Battalion - 27th Infantry Regiment - 25th Infantry Division (C Co. 1/27 Inf. 25th ID), the Wolfhounds, during the Vietnam War. Their goal is to accurately portray a 1967 infantry squad “in country”. They team with the four helicopters mentioned above to perform a Combat Assault Reenactment (CAR) near the American Huey Museum's hangars to rescue a downed US Air Force pilot. You will also tour the Museum, have “hands on” experience with at least the H Models, see plenty of Vietnam Era artifacts, attend a briefing about the Museum's new facilities, interact and even have lunch with the “First Hounds”, and much more. The ticket price covers the food and support infrastructure for our group, travel and event expenses for the “First Hounds” and the LOH, costs to “open” the museum, event insurance, plus fuel and blade time expenses to put on the CAR. You will also have an opportunity to become a member of American Huey 369 Organization. For the several thousand who witnessed the CAR in Louisville during the 2014 Reunion, yes ~ these are the same group of “players” – Hueys (crewed by mostly Vietnam vets), LOH, and Wolfhounds. The UH-1B restored gunship is a most welcome addition as is the Museum's ability to “play” at home with long term friends and brothers in arms! The VHPA will use special wristbands to identify those entering the museum and the buffet lines as having paid. Those traveling on the VHPA buses will exchange their VHPA tickets for a wristband. Those traveling by POV should exchange their VHPA tickets for a wristband prior to leaving the hotel. Because we need accurate counts for the caterer, only a limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the Museum door. Please know you CAN NOT purchase a food-only ticket.

Visit the website at: <http://americanhuey369.com/>

Capacity: Limited to 300 participants.

Mind Tripping #2: 4 July – 2:00pm – 3:30pm - \$10

See Description on July 3.

Capacity: Each tour is limited to 150 participants.

Take me out to the Ballgame #2: 4 July – 5:45pm - 10:00pm - \$30

See Description on July 3 but enjoy a spectacular view of the Downtown fireworks. The game starts @ 6:05pm. **Capacity: This event is limited to 120 participants.**

Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast: 5 July – 7:30am – 8:45am – \$15

This is the fourth and final breakfast with speakers offered at this Reunion. The Memorial Service, scheduled to begin at 9 am in a room adjacent to where this breakfast is held, is primarily a time to honor the several hundred VHPA members and potential members who passed away since the 2016 Reunion in Reno. To help us reflect on the “bond of brotherhood” that is so important to many of us, VHPA Member Dave Hansen will review several ideas about

VHPA 2017 Reunion ~ Indianapolis, Indiana ~ July 1st - July 6th

patriotism, camaraderie, and even reconciliation that are critical themes in our special brotherhood.

Enjoy the JW Marriott's breakfast buffet fare including assorted whole fresh fruits, assorted pastries, scrambled eggs, crisp bacon strips, breakfast potatoes, orange juice, coffee & hot tea.

Memorial Service: 5 July – 9:00am – 9:30am – NC

The Memorial Service has been part of the "Reunion's Fabric" for at least ten years. It has evolved into the perfect setting / opportunity to reflect and remember our fallen brothers and friends. Since the KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast is dedicated to our KIA/MIA brothers, this Memorial Service is dedicated to those who passed away after their service in Southeast Asia with SPECIAL EMPHASIS on those who have passed SINCE THE LAST VHPA REUNION. The VHPA often uses the term DAT (Died After Tour) to refer to those who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era, survived the War, and then passed away. A roster of all DATs (known to the VHPA) since the last Reunion is printed in the program. In Louisville, there were 284 names on the roster! In Washington, 327 and in Reno, 229.

The brief Memorial Service is patterned after a traditional grave-side service many of us experience at a National Cemetery. It begins with the Posting of the Colors and we all repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. There is an opening prayer and we all sing the Star Spangled Banner.

Traditionally a local pastor or a VHPAer delivers a short message. Often Taps is played or a special musical arrangement is presented. We all sing God Bless America as a closing hymn. A Closing Prayer is offered. It is important to note that no financial donations or contributions are requested or accepted during the Memorial Service.

Questions concerning this event should be directed to VHPA Executive Council Member Art Price or by contacting VHPA HQ.

Spouse/Guest Event – "The Dinner Detectives": 5 July – 10:30am – 12:30pm – \$57

We all want to know "whodunit?" and our guests are about to find out with a morning event full of twists and surprises. You never know who you can trust. The Dinner Detective Show is the largest interactive murder mystery comedy show in the United States and they are coming to the JW Marriott to help solve our case! The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Show has been voted one of the best dinner shows around, so come join the fun. While you help solve a hilarious murder case, you will enjoy a fantastic lunch buffet. Just beware, the killer is hiding somewhere in the room, and you may find yourself as a Prime Suspect. Keep your eyes and ears open and never turn your back. The audience member who gives the best correct answer of "whodunit?" before the killer is revealed will walk away with a stellar prize package. Visit their website at: www.thedinnerdetective.com/indianapolis/ for more information

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Annual Business Meeting: 5 July – 10:00am – 12:30pm – NC

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is when we conduct the official business of the association. On Wednesday morning, you will hear

committee chairmen give reports on their activities over the past year and you will have the opportunity to vote on administrative issues plus elect our next two Executive Council members. This is a good time to learn about the workings of the VHPA behind the scenes and to influence the future direction of our association.

Only VHPA Members in good standing (meaning the former pilot is dues current and HQ has a valid mailing address for him in the database) may attend. You must present your ticket at the door. VHPA Members in good standing who are not attending the Reunion can also attend the ABM but must obtain a ticket from the Registration Desk.

Closing Banquet: Registered Adults – 5 July – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$70

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (beef, chicken or fish) plus the dance band for someone who has also paid the adult reunion registration fee. The highlight for most reunion attendees is our closing banquet. This is the only "dress up" occasion of the reunion. It is a celebration of our time together opening with a tribute to our missing men and closing with the change of command from our current president, John Shafer to the new one, Mike Sheuerman after the meal. For those who just want to visit after the closing remarks, please know you can stay at your table until 11 pm. Cash bars remain open until they are no longer needed.

For those who want to dance or listen to music, the 8-piece Uptown Band featuring Butch Kaufman will perform for us in the Ballroom. The dance band has a current copy of the Official VHPA Song List. A smaller ensemble from the band, probably a trio, will perform during cocktails, 5:15-5:45 pm. As per the finer Reunion traditions, following the VHPA President's closing remarks the full band will play a 90-minute set, take a 15-20-minute break, and conclude with a 45-minute set. Those who want to visit with their friends without having to talk over the music and dancing are welcome to use the tables and chairs in the O'Club at the other end of the Ballroom.

Closing Banquet: Registered Child <10 – 5 July – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$16

This ticket is for a "kid's meal" for the closing banquet. A word of warning is appropriate here. This meal is designed for children under the age of 10 years old. Trust us when we say that this meal will NOT MAKE a teenager happy at all!

A few years ago the only meal option available was an adult meal for children. Rather expensive indeed. While this price is still rather high for a "kid's meal" it is much more attractive than paying for an adult meal for a 10-year old!

Closing Banquet: Non-Registered Guest – 5 July – 5:45pm – 10:30pm - \$80

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (beef, chicken or fish) plus the dance band for someone who has NOT PAID the adult reunion registration fee. Please review the Non-Registered Banquet Guest (NRBG) details in the Reunion Information at www.vhpa.org.

A non-registered guest enjoys all the features/details described in the registered adult narrative above.

VHPA 2017 Reunion ~ Indianapolis, Indiana ~ July 1st - July 6th

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS- Updated 28 Nov 2016

Due to publication lead times, the status of tour availability may have changed in the interim
 Please consult our website at: www.VHPA.org for the latest details and to register for the reunion.

TIME	EVENT	TIME	EVENT
Friday, June 30		Monday, July 3 Continued	
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Welcome Desk & Pre-registration	8:30 am - 12:30 pm	Dallara Indy Car Factory #1
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Vendor Room Open
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	O'Club Open	9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Mini-Reunions/TOCs
Saturday, July 1		9:30 am - 5:00 pm	Golf Outing - Brickyard Golf Course
8:00 am - 8:00 pm	Welcome Desk & Pre-registration	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Writers Workshop
8:00 am - 8:00 pm	T-shirt Pick Up	10:00 am - 6:30 pm	Indy City Shuttle
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	HQ Registration Desk	11:00 am - 11:00 pm	O' Club Open
9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Mini Reunions / TOCs	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk
12:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Indy City Shuttle	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Dallara Indy Car Factory #2
11:00 am - 11:00 pm	O' Club Open	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Quilters Show & Tell
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Vendor Room Open	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Mind Tripping #1
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk	5:45 pm - 9:00 pm	Indy Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #2
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk	6:45 pm - 10:00 pm	Ballgame #1
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Early Bird Gathering		
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Early Bird Entertainment - "The Chilly Winds"		
Sunday, July 2		Tuesday, July 4	
7:30 am - 9:00 am	KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast	7:30 am - 9:00 am	"Your Personal Legacy" Breakfast
7:30 am - 9:00 am	"How the VHPA Works" Breakfast	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	American Huey Museum
7:30 am - 6:00 pm	Aviation Trail #1	8:00 am - 11:00 am	Consolidated HQ Reg, Pre-Reg & T-Shirts
7:30 am - 6:00 pm	Historic Dayton Tour #1	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Welcome Desk
8:00 am - 11:00 am	HQ Registration Desk	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Vendor Room Open
8:00 am - 8:00 pm	Welcome Desk & Pre-registration	9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Mini-Reunions/TOCs
8:00 am - 8:00 pm	T-shirt Pick Up	10:00 am - 6:30 pm	Indy City Shuttle
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Vendor Room Open	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Banquet Seating
9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Mini Reunions / TOCs	11:00 am - 11:00 pm	O' Club Open
10:00 am - 6:30 pm	Indy City Shuttle	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Consolidated HQ Reg, Pre-Reg & T-Shirts
11:00 am - 11:00 pm	O' Club Open	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Mind Tripping #2
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk	5:45 pm - 10:00 pm	Ballgame #2 w/Fireworks
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Lucas Oil Stadium Tour		
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Banquet Seating		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk		
5:45 pm - 9:00 pm	Indy Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #1		
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	1st Time Attendee Reception		
7:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Welcome Reception		
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Entertainment - TBD		
Monday, July 3		Wednesday, July 5	
7:30 am - 9:00 am	"Helicopter Medal of Honor Tribute" Breakfast	7:30 am - 8:45 am	Pre-Memorial Breakfast w/ Speaker Dave Hansen
7:30 am - 6:00 pm	Aviation Trail #2	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Consolidated HQ Reg, Pre-Reg & T-Shirts
7:30 am - 6:00 pm	Historic Dayton Tour #2	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Welcome Desk
8:00 am - 11:00 am	HQ Registration Desk	9:00 am - 9:30 am	Memorial Service
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Welcome Desk & Pre-registration	9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Vendor Room Open
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	T-shirt Pick Up	10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Annual Business Meeting

REUNION CONTINUING EVENTS

Unit Mini-Reunions and Unit TOC's are scheduled daily at various times - See posted schedule.
 Indy City Shuttle - See posted schedule for scheduled stop times.

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VHPA'S 34th Annual Reunion Registration Form ~ Indianapolis, IN ~ July 1-6, 2017

For information and to register online: www.vhpa.org or mail completed form to:
VHPA Headquarters, 2100 North Highway 360, Suite 907, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Toll Free: (800) 505-VHPA (8472)

Email: HQ@vhpa.org

Fax: (817) 200-7309

Member name:

Member No:

Address:

Telephone:

Wheelchair? yes

City:

State:

Zip:

Email address:

Phone:

Spouse name:

City:

Wheelchair? yes

Guest name:

City:

Wheelchair? yes

EVENT

DATE

QTY

PRICE

TOTAL

Registration through 4/30/2017 *

July 1-5

\$30 EA

Registration for under age 21

July 1

\$15 EA

Registration 5/1/2017 and after *

July 2

\$40 EA

Indy City Shuttle

July 1-5

\$20 EA

Early Bird Gathering

July 1

NC EA

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast

July 2

\$15 EA

"How the VHPA Works" Breakfast

July 2

\$15 EA

Aviation Trail #1

July 2

\$46 EA

Historic Dayton Tour #1

July 2

\$56 EA

Lucas Oil Stadium Tour

July 2

\$8 EA

Indy Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #1

July 2

\$43 EA

1st Time Attendee Reception

July 2

NC EA

Welcome Reception

July 2

NC EA

"Helicopter Medal of Honor Tribute" Breakfast

July 3

\$15 EA

Aviation Trail #2

July 3

\$46 EA

Historic Dayton Tour #2

July 3

\$56 EA

Dallara Indy Car Factory #1

July 3

\$45 EA

Golf Outing - Brickyard Golf Course

July 3

\$150 EA

Writers Workshop

July 3

NC EA

Dallara Indy Car Factory #2

July 3

\$45 EA

Quilters Show & Tell

July 3

NC EA

Mind Tripping #1

July 3

\$10 EA

Indy Motor Speedway Twilight Tour #2

July 3

\$43 EA

Ballgame #1

July 3

\$25 EA

"Your Personal Legacy" Breakfast

July 4

\$15 EA

American Huey Museum w/transportation

July 4

\$118 EA

American Huey Museum w/o transportation

July 4

\$84 EA

Mind Tripping #2

July 4

\$10 EA

Ballgame #2 w/Fireworks

July 4

\$30 EA

Pre-Memorial Breakfast w/ Speaker Dave Hansen

July 5

\$15 EA

Memorial Service

July 5

NC EA

Spouse/Guest Event - "The Dinner Detectives"

July 5

\$57 EA

Closing Banquet - Adult

July 5

\$70 EA

Closing Banquet - Child

July 5

\$16 EA

Non-Registered Adult Guest at Banquet

July 5

\$80 EA

Pre-Ordered T-Shirts

Small

\$18 EA

Medium

Medium

\$18 EA

Large

Large

\$18 EA

X-Large

X-Large

\$18 EA

XX-Large

XX-Large

\$19 EA

XXX-Large

XXX-Large

\$20 EA

Voluntary Contributions

Gold Star Sponsorship **

\$15 EA

Membership Fund **

\$10 EA

\$10 EA

Reunion Sponsorship **

\$10 EA

\$10 EA

Scholarship Fund **

\$10 EA

\$10 EA

National American Huey Museum **

\$10 EA

\$10 EA

Army Aviation Heritage Foundation **

\$10 EA

\$10 EA

Vietnam Archives **

\$10 EA

\$10 EA

Refund Guarantee Total

(From Side Bar)

\$

VHPA Dues (if not dues current) ** 1 year @ \$36 or 3 years @ \$99

\$36/\$99

Life Membership (Call HQ for exact amount) **

2017 CD Directory Fee **

\$10 EA

2017 Paper Directory Fee **

\$15 EA

GRAND TOTAL

Registration Form Revised 28 Nov 2016

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 website:
www.vhpa.org

REFUND GUARANTEE FEE

10% of Total Events \$ _____

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION CANCELLATION DATE TO RECEIVE A REFUND WITHOUT HAVING PURCHASED THE REFUND GUARANTEE IS
CLOSE OF BUSINESS, CST
FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2017

Banquet Meal

Beef _____ Chicken _____

Fish _____ Special *
* If Special meal is selected, please call HQ to provide special dietary info

Banquet Seating Preference

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

MC/Visa # _____

Expiration Date: _____

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYMENT

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

Notes:

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

**Denotes a contribution, donation or fee that is not refundable as part of any cancellation process.

The policy has changed - you can no longer pre-order up to 5 years of directories. We are now only taking pre-orders for 2017 directories.



Looking for Surviving Pilot

I am working with the Family Contact Committee of the VHFCN, assisting a family effort to find the pilot who apparently survived the incident involving the aircraft and crew below I was just assigned a case that involves a 1st Cav 2nd Bde Avn Platoon aircraft. I have located a number of pilots who came in after the incident with no luck in identifying the 2nd pilot. Some of the details are sketchy to say the least!

The aircraft appears to have been doing C&C work with 2/8 Cav, two Captains and a 1st Lt were KIA.

I have a MACV log for that day, notes the loss of the aircraft, stating five KIA and two WIA. 1/8th Cav log states "Bde assuming 2/8th C&C bird shot down, two WIA's, four KIA's."

VHPA data: "On March 21, 1969, UH-1H #66-16926 of 2 BDE 1 CAV was shot down in Tay Ninh province during a mission. Lost with the aircraft were the aircraft commander, WO1 David Edward Herschbach, the crew chief SP5 Earl Martin Matthews, and the gunner PFC Christopher."

Please contact [REDACTED]

Thank You,
Jack Taber
4/77 ARA

I'm looking for information on an action that occurred on 12 January 1970 near Tam Boi Mountain in Vietnam. In this action, door gunner Gary L. Headley was awarded the Air Medal for his involvement. I'm trying to find out more about the pilots who were on that UH-1H with Gary and the crew of the downed OH-6 - i.e. their names, current status, photos etc....whatever is available. Gary Roush has found a record (see attachment) of a downed OH-6 on that date, tail number 67-16365 at map reference YD261068 near Tam Boi Mountain that appears to fit the description in the Air Medal citation. Any info your members, could provide about the action, and the movements of the unit that day would be appreciated. Please feel free to forward this query to your members, or any other organization that may be able to help (Please note that the citation refers to a "Tambot Mountain"...I believe this is a typo) because the mountain located near the coordinates is labeled as Tam Boi Mountain.

I was an Army Helicopter Pilot myself; Aeroscout Platoon Leader, A Company, 3rd Bn, 4th Avn Regiment, 8th Infantry Division, Finthen Army Airfield, Germany, circa 1989.) Thank you very much for your time.

Please contact David Dunlap [REDACTED]

Scouts Out!

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 67-16365

The Army purchased this helicopter 1068

Total flight hours at this point: 00000903

Date: 01/12/1970

Unit: A/2/17 CAV

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY

This was a Recon mission for Unarmed Recon Unknown this helicopter was Unknown at UNK feet and UNK knots.

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YD261068

Helicopter took 4 hits from:

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in size. (12.7MM)

The helicopter was hit in the Engine Compartment

Systems damaged were: ENGINE

The helicopter made a Forced Landing. Aircraft Destroyed.

Both mission and flight capability were terminated.

Destroyed by friendly forces

Long story short...

I live in Enterprise AL and work at Fort Rucker.

I received a call a few weeks ago from an individual who was trying to track down a James L. Israel and asked if I knew of him. He indicated that he had served with him in 'Nam in '67 or '68 and wanted to find him. The individual looking is: Dr. Jack Steven and he provided a phone number, [REDACTED]

He said the call was an international call but he did not say from where. I have called the number a few times and I do get an answering machine with his voice so I do not know how often he checks voice mail.

VHPA does have a listing for a James L. Israel and that was all the info I have been able to find. Hope you can put this info out and see if anyone can provide current info back.

So at this point in Dr. Stevens's life he has a need to close the loop with an old friend that he spent a year with in 'Nam. Hope we can help him out.

Thanks,

reply to:

Orrin M. Israel
Directorate of Public Works
[REDACTED]

Kentucky Aviation Museum Seeks Information on AH-1

Dear VHPA Membership,

My name is Carl Hallen and I am a volunteer at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky in Lexington, KY. I've been conducting research on our documented combat veterans in our collection and came across your site "museum.vhpa.org". A very nice collection of pictures!

I'm specifically trying to find any addition details of the AH-1F Cobra in our museum, her serial is 67-15759 (photo attached). We know she is a Vietnam Veteran from 1968-1972 with around 1,900 combat hours, as an AH-1G. We know she served the majority of her time with following unit in Vietnam: A Battery, 2/20 ARA 1 Air Cav.



We were able to decipher that the second unit she served with in Vietnam was B Troop, 7th Squadron, 1 Cavalry Regiment. We have added a placard showing her as a Vietnam Combat Veteran (1 of 3 Vietnam Aircraft Combat Veterans in our museum) and as we update more of our displays, we'd like to include any photos of her in Vietnam. On another note, from her logbook, we have noted documentation that she was wounded 4 times by ground fire, 3 times by 7.62 mm and once by .51 cal.

We were able to find one photo of "759" on your site. We also need help in determining the other unit she served with, we pulled the below from aerial-rocket-artillery.org: "B TRP 7 1ST ACS" UIC is WGZ6B0. Does this refer to B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment?

Any assistance the members can provide on any/all questions will assist us in completing the history on our Combat Veteran will be appreciated. We want to ensure her story is told to future generations. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional details. Thank you!

Very Best Regards,

Carl Hallen: Volunteer, The Aviation Museum of Kentucky,
Lexington, KY www.aviationky.org

Looking for input from 161 AHC pilots (14th Aviation Battalion, 17th combat Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade

I am working SSGT (Ret.) Donald Oneal Smith (SSN 428-66-1791) in order to upgrade a DFC to the Medal of Honor. The original award was given for his actions in the battle for Tuy Hoa in June of 1966. Donald Oneal was a door gunner in one of the helicopters in that event. We would appreciate input from anyone who can supply information regarding his actions in that battle.

Contact: Tim Gallant USN Ret.
Maine Staff Assistant to Rep. Bruce Poliquin (CD-2 ME
[REDACTED]

**Hi I hope one or more of your members
can help me regarding UH-1 # 65-9628I.**

I am Frank Roales Asst. Curator (Aviation) of the Indiana Military Museum. We have just learned that the Huey we have was in the 121st

Attack Helicopter Company from Feb 69 to Aug 70, then with the 336th AHC from Sept 70 to Nov 70. However, it flew in-country for some 400+ hours before those dates but no unit is listed. Total flight hours in VN were 2,247. We would appreciate any history for that period.

When it was obtained it was marked Air Cav. We will be doing a repaint in the near future and would like to return it to how it looked while in the 121st, so I am looking for any knowledge, remembrances, and especially pictures of this aircraft between 2/69 and 8/70. I hope you or some of those who visit this site can help.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Frank www.indianamilitarymuseum.com

Dear Tom,

Many thanks for your help and suggestions.

Dear Fellow VHPA Members,

For remembers whom I'm not known to. I am one of the 33 Royal Australian Navy Pilots who served 'in-country' with the 135th AHC, Vietnam.

After recent lobbying by the Australian Army, the Australian Government is now conducting its third, and most likely, final Defence Review Tribunal of Honours and Awards, arising from events and incidents, involving Australian Service Personnel, during the Vietnam War 66-72.

Of particular interest is the loss of a Taipan Gunship, on 02 February 1969. With Gary Roush's help we now know the 'chopper' is (was) UH-1C, tail number 65-09522. The US Army 'Goldbook' report gives no crew or incident details beyond the fact that UH-1C 65-09522 AC was taken-off the 'books'.

From local knowledge we know the downed 'chopper' was piloted by Sub-Lieutenants Warwick Symons RAN (AC) and Tom Supply RAN. And the fleeing crew was subsequently rescued by me AC and Sub-Lieutenant Bob Kyle. My logbook lists our back seat crew as Spears and Francis. The 'gunnies' have no names listed in their logbook, however as yet today Rick Symons the names 'Ken Rucker' Crew Chief and 'Shepherd' spring to mind.

It was a very busy day for me as Flight Lead in supporting two Army Operations and the last minute rescue of a crew fleeing the VC/NVA in hot pursuit, while evading .50 Cal fire, concluded a busy 13 hours 20 minutes of continuous rotor time by the time we all recovered to Vinh Long. The Taipans we busy minimizing their 'laundry' bills and so nobody had the time to record all the details relevant to a comprehensive incident report.

CAPT Bob Ray RAN, and CMDR's (L/Col) Max Speedy, Eddy Bell Ran are three of the Naval Advocates involved in the Tribunal, and they are seeking to speak with the backseats crews and hear any information relevant to a comprehensive incident report. At present we only have third party reports of the downed 'chopper' being torched after the weapons had been removed and that rescue I was involved in was the first rescue attempt.

I flew a lot with Spears and Francis. They were my favorite crew and later we went on to survive an engine which exploded into pieces at 300' on climb out. (135th engineers say they witnessed the Chinook slightly spread the skids on drop-off and not us. Spears and Francis is an excellent crew for both AC and guns. I would like to meet up them again and also initiate paper work for some an appropriate award or

commendation for instinctively returning fire on seeing the .50 Cal passing astern of our tail at 1,500'. It was then me questioning him, 'for firing without orders' that helped lead to the rescue. So please pass-on any information or thought as they could also lead to other avenue of investigation.

May we also take this opportunity to wish all members, and their families a happy, safe, healthy festive season?

Sincerely,

Mike Perrott
[REDACTED]

Looking for: Aviation insignia signage



Edward Taylor, COL USA (Ret.) Dustoff 86 in Vietnam sent us a Med Evac card that he used after Vietnam when he was just 1st LT in Korea.

Art (most of the nose art I will leave to John Brennan and his super books). But I recall in the Aviator that someone was collecting Calling Cards. Can you tell me who what was? I am interested in writing a book about the aviation unit signage (unique and interesting) as well as other art work from the aviation units. I still have my calling card from my year with the 192nd AHC Tigersharks and I have always wanted to see more of these. I know there were some collected and displayed in the Aviator. Any help in pointing me to the person that collected these would be appreciated.

Thanks

Jim VHPA L00680

Jim Godfrey, [REDACTED]

Jim, the individual with the cards was an advisor in the Delta (not an Aviator), and saved the cards he received from various crews who supported his location. He's unavailable for now, but we're including his cards again. - Ed.

Looking for a UH-1?

This UH-1 with gimble mount is available. Owner in SE U.S. is looking for an offer. Interested? Please contact us at Aviator@VHPA.org.

Tom Hirschler, Editor



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VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS
ASSOCIATION SATISFIED CLIENTS

- Dan Fox	- Bruce Brattain
- John Shafer	- James Tinney
- John Penny	- Bill Medsker
- Lenny Julian	- Pete Rzeminski
- Terry Opdahl	- James Oden
	- William C. Brooks

KOREAN WAR VET SATISFIED CLIENT

- Kenny Hames Photos of War Tour
- 1952-53 Heartbreak Ridge & Sugarloaf

Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: It was particularly gratifying to be able to publish John's request. I often flew with his brother in the gun platoon and valued his skill, sense of humor and generosity.

Tom Kirk,

I want to thank you for posting in the VHPA July/August issue my note on connecting with some of the people that knew Jim in the AHC 135th. I have since crossed emails with several people, and had some nice, long phone conversations with, Phil Russo, Robert Johnson and Tim Noyes. Last week I, and Jim's older brother and sister, had an opportunity to meet in person with Jerry Chapman, who grew up close to where Jim and I grew up in St. Paul.

You likely may be aware of this book by John Steinbeck – Dispatches from Vietnam – book released in 2012 by UVA—a 170 page collection of his articles for Newsday columns done during his trips into Vietnam in 1966-67. I recently tripped across it in our local library and thought his description of Huey pilots was fantastic...page 23; 1-7-67 flying in a Huey:

"I wish I could tell you about these pilots. They make me sick with envy. They ride their vehicles the way a man controls a fine quarter horse. They weave along stream beds, rise like swallows to clear the trees, they turn and twist, and dip like swifts in the evening. I watch their hands and feet on the controls, the delicacy of the coordination reminds me of the sure and seeming slow hands of Pablo Casals on the cello. They are true musician's hands and they play their controls like music and they dance like ballerinas and they make me jealous because I want so much to do it."

Many thanks for making the connections.

Regards,
John Dexheimer

www.upress.virginia.edu/title/4440

www.airspacemag.com/military-aviation/steinbecks-dispatches-from-vietnam-3883122/?no-ist

Editor's note: The author of Hitching a Ride on page 10 of the July/August issue of the Aviator felt his story needed a better introduction and its title needed to be clarified. Since it's not possible to revise the already-published version, below are the newly titled story's first two paragraphs.

Hitchhiking on Hueys

We were on a road trip, driving north along the South China Sea on Highway One, heading toward Qui Nhon from Cam Ranh Bay. It was a delivery of some test equipment to be calibrated, then returned to our base at Cam Ranh. As we made

our way through old rubber plantations there was a series of pot holes we had to dodge. Chum, my partner, told me on his last trip he had seen a man's head on a stake along the road. This was a depressing thought; later that day we were informed the NVA had taken out three bridges we had driven across. It was around the last day of March in 1972. The Easter Tet Offensive had begun. As I thought about this later, I realized the NVA must have been sitting in the bushes along the road watching us drive by. We were just small potatoes.

When we arrived in Qui Nhon, the outskirts were under attack, so we watched the fireworks from the rooftop of our hotel. Not that there hadn't been action nearby that day. One of our company's pickup trucks had been the target of a hand grenade. A wire had been tied connecting the pin of the grenade to the fan blade under the hood. When the truck was started in the parking lot, the grenade exploded, killing the driver. At a bar a few doors from our hotel, an American had his throat cut by a Vietnamese hood. As this American civilian stood in the doorway, the hood ran by and reached out with a razor, cutting his throat. The rumor was his Vietnamese girl friend had paid for it to be done. These incidents, plus the three bridges they had blown up behind us on Highway One, were all the impetus we needed to hitchhike out of there, we hoped, on an available Huey.

Posted by Jack Johnstone

Rotor heads can paddle too!

Fellow VHPA members,

I am writing because I would like to get the word out on a special Mission that I am conducting in Late April or May of 2017.

In Vietnam I flew with the 129th Assault Helicopter Company. Like most of you I flew many combat missions in Vietnam. But my toughest mission of the war was the Burial Escort duty to bring my KIA roommate home to his family. It was also my Mission of Honor. And as I look back, it was my first experience with a Gold Star Family.

Today I'm a Life member of the VHPA, a Founding member of the National American Huey History Museum, and a Life member of American Huey 369 (and occasional co-pilot). But next year I plan on trading in my flight helmet for a canoe paddle because I want to make an audacious statement. Next year at "ice out" in Northern Minnesota I will begin a solo canoe paddle the entire length of the Mississippi river from its source in Lake Itasca, MN to the Gulf of Mexico. All 2350 miles of it! And I'm doing this for two reasons: 1) To honor All of our Gold Star Families, but especially the Vietnam Gold Star Families. In my opinion these Americans

have not gotten the recognition and honor that we owe them for their great sacrifices. Every paddle stroke I make will be in honor of those families and every Gold Star Family member I meet along the way will get a personal THANK YOU from me. I hope to actually start a quiet movement to simply "Thank" these families. A simple card mailed or a phone call. These are small things that could mean the world to a family that feels forgotten.

2) I am on a mission to raise 2.5 million dollars for American Huey 369 and the National American Huey History. This 501-3c charitable organization does more than any other group that I've seen to honor our Veterans and Gold Star family members. To our troops in Vietnam the sound of those Huey blades meant the sound of hope. Today, thru Huey 369's efforts, the sound of those blades is one of Healing and of Honor.

In two words what I'm looking for is "your support". Friends, I can go down the Mississippi River alone but I can't raise awareness and this kind of money without the support of people like you. If you can donate, that's great. If you can't donate then please help me to spread the word through your friends, family, and social media. The website is www.americanhuey369.com. Donations are tax deductible. But more importantly it goes to help thank many of those that made our FREEDOMS possible.

Jim Crigler email [REDACTED]

James "Sneaky" White Jr.

Dear Mr. Kirk,

As a long-time member of the Association (L1881) I look forward to each-and-every VHPA AVIATOR, and read each and every page, usually several times, keeping up with our "Band of Brothers."

In the recent issue of the AVIATOR (35-05) in the Upcoming Reunions section on page 19, one of the notifications mentions Rear Admiral (USN Ret.) John Boyington's outstanding career. It states Boyington is the only known WOC to work his way up to earning his wings as a Naval Aviator.

For those who want to learn of a very interesting career one should look at Major (USA Ret.) Richard "Sweet Griffin" Freeman. Now I don't know Rick's VHPA membership number but it must be very low as he was at the first (and probably all but one/two) of VHPA's Reunions. Rick started out as a WOC then off to Vietnam where during his 2 1/2 years in country he was flying Charlie Models and then Cobras for C/4th/77th ARA "Griffins" out of Camp Evans. He was the Griffins' Standardization/IP and every flight with him was considered by us all as "instruction time." He primarily flew MACV-SOG, CCCN missions during this time. Besides earning a Silver Star among his numerous awards, he also

received a direct commission to LT (ADA). His call sign "Sweet Griffin" was very well known in northern I Corps. After returning to the States and while still in the active military as an ADA officer, Rick continued his education. At some point, Rick separated from the Army but continued his education to include being part of Naval ROTC.

After graduation with his degree as well as a Navy commission he then became a Naval Aviator and was stationed in Southern California where he flew F-4s. I would have loved to see his first day checking into his squadron as an Ensign where he was wearing all his "fruit salad." It must have been an eye-opener to his fellow Naval Aviators. When his naval commitment was up, Rick returned to the Army with a National Guard unit where he flew LOHs and was involved over the years in numerous classified operations in South America. His civilian job was as a Captain for Southwest Airlines. When he finally retired from both Southwest Airlines and the National Guard, Rick free-lanced flying for "the Agency." This took him to an operation night flying a modified Queen/King Air in Afghanistan for multi-tours. Right now, the retired Major is looking for other interesting jobs that a highly-experienced aviator might be needed to do.

For those of us who know Sweet Griffin we know that his is the Best of the Best. As a fellow member of the Special Operations Association (SOA), I was not surprised to learn Rick was the first Army Aviator to be allowed membership. And if he is in the States, you can bet he will be at the SOAR each year in Vegas.

For me, being a former Marine (7 1/2 years) who transferred into the Army, my tours flying with Sweet Griffin had a lasting, to this very day, impact on my life, which I would not trade one moment for. For my fellow Band of Brothers if you ever have a chance to sit down and talk with Rick... please take the time as you will find not only an outstanding human being, but some really-wild experiences.

Dau tranh

James "Sneaky" White Jr., GCRB Blythe, CA

Special Flight

I'm looking for some help from my fellow 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) members who were in Vietnam during 1969. First, I want to say I never worked with a better bunch of guys as those in the 227th AHB, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Lai Khe, Vietnam.

We of the 227th AHB knew our first mission was to support the ground troops and we did that job the best of all the AHBs (anyway, I believe this). Because we always did our best we were trusted and respected by the troops we supported. We always heard the famous sound "He's everywhere, He's everywhere" followed by the "Chickenman" squawk whenever we used our call sign of "Chickenman."

It was in Vietnam I really learned to fly a helicopter. Prior to Vietnam, I learned the mechanics of flying, but in Vietnam I became a pilot.

One of my most memorable missions as Aircraft Commander (AC) was going into a Landing Zone (LZ) the ground troops had been working on for three days in the middle of the jungle north east of Saigon. The ground troops popped smoke so we could find their LZ. After flying over the LZ at the top of trees which appeared to be between 100 and 200 feet, I told the Captain in charge of the ground troops the LZ was not big enough for me to land or hover down to unload supplies. Many years have passed since this flight so I may embellish somewhat and not remember all, such as how tall the trees were.

The ground commander said they had been clearing it for three days and had not received any supplies for about a week. In addition, there were a number of his troops due to go on R&R or home. He also said two pilots from other companies refused to try to get supplies to him.

I flew back to the LZ and hovered over the opening in the woods and asked my fellow crew members, the crew chief, the door gunner, and my co-pilot, if they thought the site was large enough for us to hover down. They all agreed to give it a try. We knew one of our duties was to support the ground troops as best we could which meant getting their supplies to them. We also knew they really needed the supplies so we felt committed. This meant taking in hot meals and ammo plus taking troops out so they could go on their R&R or, most importantly, rotate back home. We were willing to risk our lives to get the supplies to the ground troops; one little mistake and we could crash.

As AC, I flew and watched the rotor blades out front and somewhat to the left. The co-pilot watched the blades to the right and front. The crew chief watched the blades to the left and the tail rotor. The gunner watched the tail rotor and the rotor blades to the right. It seemed to take us a long time to get

down going back and forth, side to side, moving the tail rotor one way or the other, whatever we had to do so the blades did not hit tree branches, to get down to the bottom to unload the supplies. The movements of the controls had to be minuscule to keep from going too far one way or the other. With a little sweat and constant guiding from the crew, we made it to the bottom without trimming any branches. Once to the bottom of the LZ, we discovered we could not land, so had to hover with one skid on one of the trees felled to make the LZ. Then we had to get out, going up with the same type of maneuvers, slow and easy (yeah). This also took a long time. We did this at least three times, and not once did we clip branches, thanks to the crew.

On our last trip we were asked if we could take the ground troops scheduled to leave for R&R and/or go home. We took all of them (seems like it was around 12 with all their gear). We were low on fuel, making the helicopter lighter so we felt we could haul all of them. We were overloaded as far as specs go, but because of the low fuel the Huey handled it just fine. I prayed, as did my fellow crew members, that we would not run out of fuel before we got to the rear area. We managed to get to their company rear area and unload the troops and then to a refueling stop before heading back to Lai Khe.

My co-pilot, who was also the Company Executive Officer, told me when we reached refueling he had "blacked out" and asked where we were (He did not want to remember I had overloaded the Huey). He then stated he thought my flying in and out of the LZ was some of the best flying he had seen.

Out of all the missions I flew in Vietnam, I remember this one the most. We helped the ground troops when they really needed it. And on that day I did some of my best flying. I don't remember who my fellow crew mates were on this mission. If you were the co-pilot (XO), crew chief or door gunner, I would like to hear your version and who you are.

Wayne Truett

INTERESTING LINKS ON THE WEB

FUTURE USAF CONCEPT HELICOPTER VIDEO

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=FCH00W9B0WU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCH00W9B0WU)

WHY ENEMIES FEAR THE AH-64E

[HTTP://NATIONALINTEREST.ORG/BLOG/THE-BUZZ/WHY-AMERICAS-ENEMIES-FEAR-THE-AH-64E-%E2%80%9CGUARDIAN%E2%80%9D-HELICOPTER-18175?PAGE=SHOW](http://NATIONALINTEREST.ORG/BLOG/THE-BUZZ/WHY-AMERICAS-ENEMIES-FEAR-THE-AH-64E-%E2%80%9CGUARDIAN%E2%80%9D-HELICOPTER-18175?PAGE=SHOW)

FUTURE US ARMY HELICOPTER DESIGN

[HTTP://NATIONALINTEREST.ORG/BLOG/THE-BUZZ/US-ARMYS-NEW-FUTURISTIC-HELICOPTERS-WONT-BE-ANYTHING-YOU-18394](http://NATIONALINTEREST.ORG/BLOG/THE-BUZZ/US-ARMYS-NEW-FUTURISTIC-HELICOPTERS-WONT-BE-ANYTHING-YOU-18394)

HUMAN AND AIRCRAFT IN FORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Khe Sanh Peace Garden

Contact Person: David Hansen, St George, Utah

Phone Number: +001 (435) 668-0628

Email Address: dave@khesanhgarden.org

Website URL: www.khesanhgarden.org

PEACE GARDEN APPROVED FOR HISTORIC KHE SANH VIETNAM COMBAT BASE

The name "Khe Sanh" is known around the world as one of the fiercest battlefields of the Vietnam War. Due to its remarkable preservation and scenic location, it has come to represent everyone's battleground. Now, veterans and friends of all ages, from all sides of war, have joined forces to build a Peace Garden here. The Peace Garden will occupy a large section of the old Combat Base next to an impressive war museum at the Khe Sanh Historic Site in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

On May 5, 2016 an agreement was signed with Vietnamese government officials establishing the Khe Sanh Peace Garden. Construction will occur over a three to five-year period. Peace Trees Vietnam, based in Seattle, will sponsor the first two phases, then a not-for-profit corporation, Khe Sanh Garden, Inc will sponsor the remaining work. Total cost is estimated at about \$400,000.

The journey began in July 2011, when Dave Hansen, a former Army Dustoff helicopter pilot shared this idea with Jerilyn Brusseau, Co-Founder of PeaceTrees Vietnam at the VHPA Reunion in Orlando. The vision started to become a reality when Ngo Thanh Bao,

Director of Quang Tri Landscape and Relic Preservation Center signaled his interest in the project during a tree-planting event in 2012. Over the next few years, veterans and friends from different generations and from all sides of the war continued to come together and plant trees at Khe Sanh. For example, Nguyen Xuan Quang, a soldier in the communist People's Army during the war and past commander of the local Huong Hoa District Veterans group, joined tree plantings with various American veterans such as Mike Law, Past President of VHPA, and Adam Tousley, Army veteran of the Iraq war.

"During our tree planting with the Americans I see they are very friendly and very emotional because they came to realize that the people of Vietnam are also very friendly" - Nguyen Xuan Quang, People's Army of Vietnam veteran

"The plan to establish a peace garden on the site of the former combat base at Khe Sanh uplifts my spirit, re-energizes my soul, and makes me believe more strongly than ever in the brotherhood and sisterhood of the world." - Dennis Mannion, Marine, Khe Sanh siege, 1968

The Khe Sanh Peace Garden is revolutionizing the healing process for veterans of multiple generations. It has given me an opportunity to serve the veteran community, to learn from those before me and gives me great hope that one day my generation can return to Iraq."

- Colby Williamson, Marine, Fallujah siege 2004

At Khe Sanh, visitors can experience both the dramatic history of bitter warfare as well as today's brighter reality of friendship and reconciliation. Here, at this special place, visitors from any background can feel the return to peace that brings us full circle from a darker past.

To learn more, and to help build the Peace Garden, please visit the website at: www.khesanhgarden.org

UPCOMING REUNIONS

227th Assault Helicopter Battalion Reunion

When: April 25 – 29, 2017

Where: Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Who: All members, guests and friends of the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion are invited to attend.

Details of the reunion and hotel information is available on our reunion website at: <http://reunion.227ahb.org/>

Submitted by Howard Burbank chickenman@227ahb.org

The 50th Anniversary Reunion of W.O.C. Flight Classes 66-23/67-1

"Class Blast 2017" A really big deal...be there!

When: April 27th – April 30th (out on the 1st of May) 2017

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, Kansas City, MO

Contact: Tom Pearcy,

Email @ tpsp@cox.net or call 479-855-4666

A/2/17 Reunion

Unit: A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division Alumni Association

Date: May 3-6, 2017

Location: Crowne Plaza (Airport), 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd, N., Charleston, SC 29418 - \$129/night

Contact Military Reunion Planners account manager Leanne Casey at 817 251 3551 (casey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com) or Alpha Troop Alumni Chairman Doug Doerr at 904 509 2814 (ddoer4uf@aol.com) for details and reservations. Or call the Crowne Plaza desk and mention the reunion for the appropriate discount (843 744 4422). More details on www.AlphaTroopAlumni.com

The 24th Annual Reunion of the 174 Assault Helicopter Company Association

When: May 5-7 (most arrive on the 3rd)

Who: All assigned to the 174 AHC in Vietnam

Where: Best Western Beachfront, 380 Santa Rosa Blvd / Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, Florida 32548 PH 850-243-9444 FAX 850-243-5445

Email contact: lcollins@bestwesternfbw.com
(specify 174th rates)

Submitted by Ralph Elliott (Butch),
Witchdoctor05elliottriii@msn.com

Want to see your Reunion listed here? Send details to: Aviator@VHPA.org

Combat SAR

Late afternoon March 14, 1966, and US Air Force Captain David Westenbarger's 33rd ARRSq HU-16, callsign Crown Bravo, was "Duckbutt Bravo," the brevity code name for the afternoon SAR orbit in the southern Gulf of Tonkin.

The orbit mission boredom came to an end when an F-4C of the 480th TFS was hit by AAA and tried to get feet wet. The crew ejected a mile off Hon Ngai Son Island about eleven miles east of the coast, and abreast of Vinh, North Vietnam. Hon Ngai was reported to be heavily defended. The Phantom's wingman reported the airmen down in a semi-circular cove about a mile in breadth, with a high ridge on the right shore. There were North Vietnamese sampans nearby.

Crown Bravo raced to the rescue, sighted the two survivors, made a low approach over them, turned into the wind, and landed near the survivor closest to shore; bringing the raft close aboard the tail of the amphibian. The rescue crew could see the pilot was injured, so PJ Airman First Class James Plieman dove into the water with a tag line attached to him and swam to the pilot's raft. He did so because it was far speedier to pull the raft to the Albatross than to swim the raft back.

As Plieman reached the pilot, sampans started to converge on the plane, and enemy shelling began. At that point, the sampans began laying small arms fire on the Albatross. Radioman Hilton returned fire with his M-16 until the gun jammed. Then Captain Don Price, the navigator, took the rifle, cleared it and resumed firing at the sampans. Just as the raft came alongside the hatch, a 130mm howitzer round hit the HU-16. Hilton was killed outright, SSgt Jackson, the flight engineer (FE), was blown out the hatch, Captain Price was thrown against the bulkhead and burned, Airman Plieman was killed, (probably by the concussion), and the plane began to sink. Westenbarger and his copilot, Lieu-

tenant Walter Hall, escaped through the overhead ditching hatches as the wreckage settled.

The F-4 pilot in the raft next to the plane, Major James Peerson, injured and unable to propel the raft, cried for help as flaming fuel spread toward him. Price, egressing through the cabin hatch as the plane sank, swam through the burning fuel and towed Peerson away from the fire. Lieutenant Hall, took the wounded FE

Jackson in tow, and the six men tried to escape the flames.

When the F-4 originally made its Mayday call, the closest helicopters available, two unarmored Navy H-3s from HS-4 on a logistics flight, were diverted to the scene. They were not configured for CSAR as were the other eleven aircraft in the squadron.

They did, however, have machine guns mounted both port and starboard. One was flown by Lieutenant Rick 'Blinkey' Klippert, and the other by Lieutenant JG Bill Terry. They increased their speed when they heard the distress call from Crown Bravo. Enroute, they passed USS England (DLG-22), where the alert UH-2B of HC-1 Det 5 was landing to quickly refuel to respond to the Mayday.

As the HS-4 aircraft approached the scene, they saw hundreds of small sail-powered junks. Terry, about a mile behind Klippert, noticed as Klippert went past the junks the people on board crouched down showing a submissive demeanor. As soon as the helicopter was past, however, they would rise, produce their hidden weapons, and open fire. Apparently, they hadn't noticed Terry trailing along a mile behind. Terry commanded his gunners to strafe each 'innocent' junk as they passed. At the scene of the fight, a large motorized junk, perhaps 125 feet in length was shooting at the men in the water. That was until a Navy A-1 from VA-115 (call sign Arab), which had just arrived, rolled in and



Navy H-3 with Hoist

salvoed his entire load of 2.75" rockets on it. The junk literally disintegrated and kindling rained down for the next several seconds. The other junks hastily moved away.

Terry and Klippert moved in among the six survivors, each hovering as small arms rounds splashed all about them. Heavier artillery rounds had been landing initially, but the A-1s had been working over the beach with tremendous effect. As a result, only small arms fire persisted for some minutes. Klippert picked up three survivors quickly and announced his aircraft was full and he was departing. As luck would have it, the three Klippert rescued were uninjured, those Terry was trying to pick up were all injured. Terry was approaching his second survivor when Klippert broke his hover. Both first and second survivors had trouble getting into the hoist and long minutes were spent trying to position the sling for them.

Then things began to get really difficult. A solid wall of water erupted right in front of the helicopter - so

close Terry did not know how it had missed them. He felt he could have reached out and touched the cascading column. Within seconds, another wall of water rose close aboard to port. Even over the H-3's own noise, the explosions of those large caliber rounds were so loud Terry related they seemed to come from inside his helmet. He transmitted "Get the sons-a-bitches off my ass, Arab, or I can't make the pick-up." Arab replied: "Sorry, Big Mother, I've expended my ordnance. I'll continue to make runs at the gun emplacements and see what I can do for you."

Finally, the second survivor was aboard, and they moved from the spot where the shells had been bracketing them. Air taxiing toward the third survivor, Terry had a chance to glance around at the first two. One looked like hamburger. He had taken shrapnel full in the face, and had deep wounds in the groin, leg, arm, stomach, and face. The other man was stretched out over the troop seat, with a broken back,



Navy H-2



Navy H-3

according to the crew chief. The third survivor did not take the hoist.

"Pilot, the hoist is lying on his shoulder and he won't take it." They positioned it twice more. The victim was not responding. Terry looked in his rear-view mirror and saw large shell splashes walking toward them, each closer than the one before. Then one fell right in front - straddled. That did it! Not waiting for the final adjustment, Terry pushed his nose over to gain speed as he pulled all the power the helicopter could deliver, just as the crew aft cried: "Pilot, we need to get the f--- out of here."

He told the crew he was going around to re-enter the hover as soon as the rounds stopped falling, land in the water, and try to get the guy that way. The SH-3A has a boat hull to enable landing on the water in emergencies.

As they approached the hover, the rounds picked up

right where they left off - very close - and Terry waved off again. Flight after flight of RESCAP reinforcements began to check in on the radio. In addition, Lieutenant Commander Dave McCracken, OIC of the UH-2B detachment from England, checked in. The crews were gathering and another helicopter was on the scene - enough. Terry felt he could depart, and started for USS Kitty Hawk and medical help for his two injured survivors, monitoring the continuing rescue effort as he went.

McCracken, with Ensign Robert Clark as his co-pilot, first crewman, Senior Chief Electrician (AECS) Herbert G. Davis, with Airman Edward Campbell as second crewman, arrived on scene and had only a slight delay until more RESCAP arrived and started hitting the gun batteries. With the RESCAP on task, McCracken darted in at 110 knots, Campbell firing his Thompson out the right door at the sampans firing at them. He killed one man and made the others stop firing. Over the top of survivor Captain Price McCracken tried using the loud hailer to get him to abandon the raft, but with no response. Quickly, he trapped the raft with the rotor wash and they were able to get Price to take the sling, and while he was still being reeled in, departed the hover no more than sixty seconds after entering it. It turned out Price could not hear the loud hailer because the exploding shell that destroyed the HU-16 had deafened him.

The two fighter crewmen had been rescued at the cost of two rescue men and one HU-16. Both the Albatross and the helicopters risked lengthy periods of time within range of too many defensive weapons. Better tactics were required to make the pick-up under those conditions if successful rescues were to be made with minimal casualties. One of the lessons learned by HS-4 from this rescue was the advisability of putting a rescue swimmer in the water for each pickup. It would become SOP in the near future. The condition of a man in the water is often difficult to ascertain from the hovering helicopter, and injured men are challenged to properly enter the rescue sling.

Editor's note – in our Jan-Feb 2014 issue we ran the story 'The Rescue of Ron Ball from North Vietnam' which was sent to us by member Tom Phillips. Tom has sent us several stories to include last issues 'Death From Above' story telling us about life in a cramped aircraft carrier berth cabin packet with "treasures" from the many Golden Far East Shopping Opportunities available to naval aviators during their Vietnam tours. In this story, Tom recounts a harrowing SAR mission from the early days of 'Duckbutt' missions. The hero of this story is again Tom's Vietnam CO, Bill Terry, the same man who flew the mission to rescue Ron Ball.

ATTN: ALL 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION VETERANS

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AVIATOR CONTENT

Based on the attendance of Reunion 2016's Writers Workshop, it appears there are many who have thoughts of writing a book. That is far easier in the digital age to accomplish with little or no expense. At the same time, The Aviator has the smallest collection of articles awaiting publication since I first became involved over two-years ago.

Writing an article (which would still be eligible for inclusion in a later book) might be a good way to start your project. As we reach our later years, there is a 'double edged' sword if you will. We have the time to reminisce about and record our experiences, yet the memories are harder to capture in great detail. Even if producing a book is not a likely venture, there are many of us with recall of certain events that make interesting reading.

In my tenure, we have printed nearly every article submitted. I haven't calculated an exact percentage, yet it is certainly ninety plus percent. We now have the luxury of two individuals to edit submissions to 'fine tune' just about any story we receive. In many cases, this simply consists of reducing word count in a manner that preserves the essence of the story. In all cases, the result is presented as the author's work. If one needs a bit of help with their work, it is available and transparent.

Both Tom Hirschler and I encourage you to finally write that story or stories that have been on your mind awaiting some 'free time' or some encouragement. I can't speak for your free time, but the encouragement is *we need those stories*.

By Tom Kirk

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To donate to any of these charitable funds, enter the amount to donate in \$10 increments (\$10 minimum). You can select more than one or even all of them if you wish. After selecting all that you want to donate, click on CHECKOUT. Make any changes necessary, then when satisfied click on PAY with PayPal to use a credit card or your PayPal account. You do not need a PayPal account to pay by credit card using PayPal. Follow the PayPal screens to complete the donation(s). A receipt will be sent to your e-mail address. All of these donations are tax deductible. If you need help, please call HQ during normal business hours on 800-505-VHPA (8472).

Gary Roush, Webmaster

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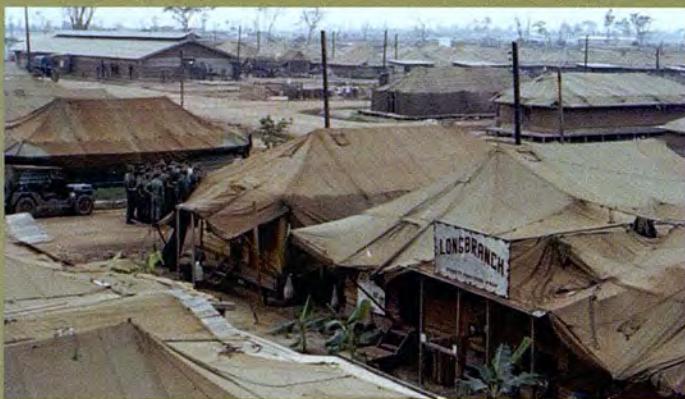
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REFLECTIONS ON A CHRISTMAS THAT WAS LONG AGO IN A LAND THAT WAS FAR AWAY



Christmas-1967

The Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth puts on a wonderful Christmas Cantata, but when I was there with my family last year, my mind kept wandering, and I kept thinking about a Christmas that was long ago, in a land that was far away.

Now most, if not all, of you, have spent a Christmas in Vietnam, but little things, like you having been there, and done that, have never stopped me from telling this story before, and they are not going to stop me from telling it now either.

And with that said, I would now like to take you back in time to December of 1967, when the 191st Assault Helicopter Company, was getting ready to spend its first Christmas in Vietnam, at a 9th Infantry Division Base Camp, that was known as Bearcat.

As you can probably imagine, me and my 191st Army buddies were really depressed about having to spend Christmas in that miserable place, but after we had a few drinks in the Longbranch...OK...so maybe it was after we had a lot of drinks in the Longbranch, but we eventually got around to agreeing, that if we had to spend Christmas in Vietnam, we might as well try to make the best of it, and someone decided that we should have a BBQ, and the 191st was blessed to have a Crew Chief named Skip Waugh, who volunteered to take care of getting the meat for our Christmas BBQ.

Now the way that Skip took care of getting the meat for our Christmas BBQ, was by rounding up his lifelong buddy Rich Fleming, and Skip and Rich then went out and shot a couple of large Elks, that we hauled back to Bearcat, by sling loading them under a couple of our Hueys.

By the way guys, I just love those old pictures of Skip and Rich with those Elks.

But getting back to this story: After Skip and Rich got those Elks butchered, we needed to come up with a BBQ sauce, and it was here that we ran into a

little snag. Specifically, a 191st Pilot named Robert (Pirogue) Schega had this kick-ass recipe for a Cajun BBQ sauce, but Pirogue's recipe called for jalapenos, which, as you know, were hard if not impossible to come by in large quantities in Vietnam.

So we needed to come up with something that we could use as a "special seasoning" for our BBQ Sauce, and after much consideration, we decided George Dickel's fine Tennessee sipping whiskey was just what our BBQ Sauce needed.

It's funny how things worked out, but it seemed like the more Dickel we put into that BBQ Sauce, the better it tasted, and I think we eventually ended up with a BBQ Sauce that was about 40 proof.

In case you are not familiar with George Dickel, don't feel all alone, as I can't recall knowing anyone who drank that stuff, before I joined the 191st, and met a guy named Robert C. (Bob) Stack, who not only introduced us to Mr. Dickel's fine products, but who also had the foresight to invite some guys from the Infantry to our Christmas BBQ, and those Infantry guys showed up in a jeep, towing a trailer full of icy cold beer.

But getting back to this story again: Bob Hope brought his Christmas Show to Bearcat that year, and one of the stars of that Show was Raquel Welch. Lord have mercy...BBQ, George Dickel, Icy Cold Beer, Bob Hope, and Raquel Welch, how could Christmas have possibly been any better than that?

Now I know that most, if not all, of you have already figured out what I just said was not quite the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Because even someone as dimwitted as I am, could easily think of about a million ways of how Christmas could have been better than that.

But, the point I am trying to make with this story, is since I had to spend Christmas in Vietnam, my 191st Army buddies sure showed me how to go about making the best of it.

And that "life lesson" was one of the best, and one of the most useful Christmas presents I have ever received, and it isn't just me who feels that way, because the story of our Christmas BBQ gets told and retold at every 191st Reunion, or at least at every 191st Reunion that I have attended.

And perhaps the reason our Christmas BBQ made such an impression on those of us who were there, was because it taught us that when life gets messy, and things are not going the way we would have liked for them to have gone, that there isn't any reason for us to get all depressed and melancholy, because we learned that with the help of our Lord, and that of our families and our friends, if we try to make the best out of those situations, we will be able to deal with just about anything life can throw at us.



Skip Waugh Shot The First Elk For Our Christmas BBQ



And His Lifelong Buddy Rich Fleming Shot The Second One.

And our learning that "life lesson", sure helped about a month after our Christmas BBQ, when Charlie kicked off the Tet Offensive, just as it did for the rest of the time we spent in Vietnam, and for the rest of our lives.

By Ed McKee, Life Member

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stories about the larger than life 191st duo of Skip Waugh and Rich Fleming have previously appeared in several magazines, including *The VHPA AVIATOR*. See e.g. the article entitled *THE APPARENTLY NEVER ENDING SAGA OF THE RESCUE OF BUZZARD 44, AND STAN CHERRIE'S PORK TENDERLION SANDWICHES AND CHOCOLATE MILK*, that appeared in the July/August 2015 Edition of *The VHPA AVIATOR*. Additional information about the 191st and the personnel involved in this story can be obtained from the 191st website is located at www.191ahc.org And there is a link to a page for video slideshows on the front page of the 191st website, and one of those slideshows depicts Skip and Rich presenting a silver pilot's wing bracelet, and a letter of appreciation to Bud Patnode, the 191st AHC's first combat commander, and the first president of the 191st AHC Association. Other pictures and slideshows on the 191st website depicts many of



But Then They Had To Clean Them. Sometimes Having A Fork Lift Was Downright Handy.

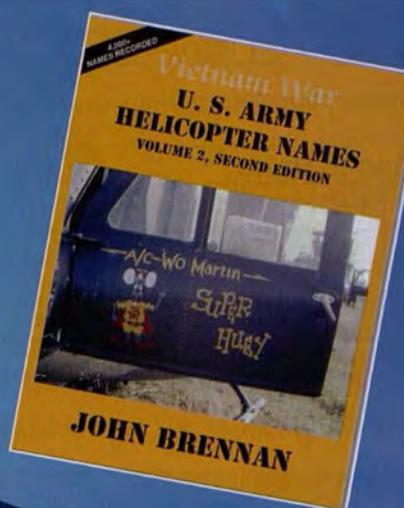
the 191st personnel who were present at the Christmas BBQ portrayed in this story. Bill Janes, the Vice-President of the 191st AHC Association, is the creator and webmaster of the 191st website and Bill can be reached at Email: billjanes@tx.rr.com

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Lynn Kile, President
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ARIZONA CHAPTER
Bill Sorenson, President
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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NORTH
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CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER
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FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER
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GEORGIA CHAPTER
Bob Lanzotti, President
[REDACTED]

LOUISIANA GULF COAST CHAPTER
Victor Lent, President
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Email: VHPA-NewOrleans@earthlink.net

MICHIGAN CHAPTER
Richard Deer, President
[REDACTED]

UPPER MIDWEST CHAPTER
Don Abrams, President
[REDACTED]

MONTANA CHAPTER
Todd Brandoff, President
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NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER
Marshall Eubanks, President
[REDACTED]

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
(currently inactive, seeking members)
[REDACTED]

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
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[REDACTED]

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John Wilkinson
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
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VHPA OF FLORIDA
Dr. Joe Ponds, President
[REDACTED]

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
Dave Saunders
[REDACTED]

HAWAII CHAPTER – Provisional
Ken DeHoff - POC
[REDACTED]

Notice to all Members of the VHPA

For a limited time, liaison between the National HQ of the VHPA and the Independent Chapters has reverted to John Sorenson of the Chapter Liaison National Committee. John can be reached at 417-759-7487 or via E-Mail at: jsorenson7106@gmail.com. Feel free to contact John concerning any details on opening your own local Chapter of the VHPA and/or for seeing what assistance is available from HQ to support your efforts.

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

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



ALAMO CHAPTER

The Chapter ladies enjoyed more luncheons at Russo's at the Rim on October 14 and at The Stone Werks on November 18. Chapter members met for lunch at 54th Street Grill and Bar on October 11th and at the classic and famous Earl Abel's Restaurant on Election Day, November 8. No lunch meetings were scheduled in December because of the Christmas party.

Our Christmas party was enjoyed on Friday evening, December 9, in the Army Residence Community Sky Lounge in San Antonio. It was, as always, a huge success, with about fifty members and guests enjoying live music, dancing, and good food. We even had a few drinks. Thank you once again, Secretary Al Flory, for sponsoring and arranging this fine party.

Our new officers have assumed their responsibilities for 2017: President Jim Boykin, Vice President Chic Carter, Secretary Al Flory, Treasurer John Deer, Sr. (MAL) Member-at-Large Chuck Oualline, Intermediate MAL Jim Martinson, and Jr. MAL Mike Clark.

As always, members should watch for e-mails and check our Chapter website www.vhpa-alamo.org for scheduled events and details. Thank you, Treasurer John Deer, for your maintenance of this fine site, and especially for the great photographs you originate and post there.

Our next evening meeting at the Barn Door Restaurant will be sometime in March or April.

By Chuck Oualline



GEORGIA CHAPTER

On November 19, 2016 the Georgia VHPA Chapter conducted its final bi-monthly breakfast meeting of the year at our home base, the Marietta Rib Ranch (LZ Romeo Romeo).

Our speaker for this meeting was David Bores (LTC, Ret.) who gave an outstanding and comprehensive power-point presentation addressing the Islamic immigration threat to the United States and Europe. David's Army career included one tour in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division where he commanded an MP Company. Following his Army retirement, David served over two decades in a variety of law enforcement senior leadership positions within two Atlanta neighboring cities. To date, David has given over 100 presentations about the threat of Islamism to various civic, religious, political, veteran, and other audiences in Georgia, North and South Carolina. He has also provided Islamic threat training to law enforcement agencies in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

During the business meeting, we discussed our role in helping assure placement of the Vietnam Helicopter Crewmember Memorial within Arlington National Cemetery. All members were given the contact telephone numbers of Georgia's two US Senators and a homework assignment to call them and solicit their support.

Our next meeting, the first bi-monthly meeting of 2017, is scheduled for January 21. Our guest speaker will be Laura Bartholomew Armstrong. Laura's father, LTC Roger Bartholomew (Black Bart), a hero of the Vietnam War, was killed on his second tour when his gun-

ship was shot down north of Da Nang in November 1968. Laura was eight years old when she lost her father. Laura has degrees from the University of Georgia in journalism and political science. An advocate for veteran and military families, Laura has been a weekly columnist for the Marietta Daily Journal and her articles frequently appear on the web, in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and the Wall Street Journal. She plans to launch her own blog sometime in early 2017. She is the widow of one Marine and now the wife of another Marine who retired after 30 years of active duty.

Former Vietnam helicopter pilots interested in joining our Chapter, please view our website at www.ga.vhpa.org for a schedule of future meeting dates. For questions regarding our organization and/or directions to our meeting location, please contact me at [REDACTED]

By Bob Lanzotti, President



WASHINGTON CHAPTER

This is a continuation from the last issue where we took our mobile Huey to a parade in Pacific Beach, Washington. Little did we know that it was to be a highlight of the year for our Huey and us. As I mentioned last issue, Pacific Beach is a very small community located on the Washington coast with a population of 321 and a downtown only about four blocks long. The neighboring town of Modips has a population of 207. At first, we thought why haul it out there (a one hour drive) each way. Then we thought 'lets' do it, this is what we are all about, sharing our piece of history with the citizens and Veterans of our state." We had a great time 'slowly' going down the state highway 2 miles holding up traffic for over an hour before we even got to Pacific Beach. Once we finished the parade we pulled up in front of the 'Whacky Warehouse' to be on static display for another two hours. The people and organizers virtually demanded it. We were the hit of the parade!

Our associate member Jim Fleming and his wife Rosaline usually go with us to our events and this day was no exception. While I, Jim and Jack Combs accompanied the organizer to survey the 'entire' route, Jim's wife Rosaline and other members of the chapter stayed with the aircraft to help people and answer questions. The next section is her story as she wrote about it to me.

While visiting with people I noticed a car stopped across the street with the driver looking over at me. I waved and said come on over. He got out and went to the passenger side door and helped an older lady out. As they came over he asked if she "could see the helicopter". He asked me a few more questions and then the lady started to cry and asked if she "could touch it". I said of course you can; even sit in the pilot seat. She said "no", but the young man said, "Yes you can Grandma." We helped her up into the helicopter and into the pilot seat. She proceeded to touch the instrument panel and the controls and said; "now I know where he was and what he was doing when he died after being shot down and crashed." Through her tears she kept thanking me and saying, "Now I know, now I know this is real and now I can let go." Through my tears I asked if she was okay. She told me "all she had ever seen was some pictures she had of him with the Huey and

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

that she never really knew all these years what it was really like being in that helicopter." We helped her down the steps and we hugged. Her grandson said, "Thank you, he was my dad."

Jim Fleming our associate member and flight engineer on Chinooks in Vietnam wrote the next account: While we were on static display for the next several hours at Pacific Beach, a Vietnam Veteran came up to the Huey and asked, "Is this one that actually flew in Vietnam?" I said yes and he proceeded to tell me the story of his "last flight out of the jungle."

This occurred several days before he was to leave Vietnam. Their unit was pinned down and had been partially overrun and then the Hueys brought in replacements and started evacuating the wounded. He was to remain until they were able to fly out the dead. Many of his buddies had been loaded on several helicopters in body bags. "I thought I would be left behind until

another lift came in but the pilots on the last aircraft let me board and I came out on that last flight. I felt very lucky to have survived, get out and to be going home. For a while I really didn't think I was going to make it." With that he touched the Huey with tears in his eyes and said "we both made it out of Vietnam, to be connected again in the USA." He said he could not thank us enough for making the Huey available for Veterans to see and relate with.

Now we really understand why no event is too small. It might make a truly BIG difference to a veteran or even their family members!

By David Saunders, President,
vhpwa.ch.pres@scattercreek.com



ALASKA CHAPTER

We decided to hold our Fall dinner a bit early this year since so many of our members leave Alaska in December to visit family in the States. We had a very nice turnout of 54 folks! With a very full schedule, a short business

meeting was followed by the Daughters of the American Revolution who were on hand to present 50th Vietnam Commemorative pins to the members, a very nice presentation. The awarding of four Quilts of Valor followed. The State of Alaska presented the Alaska Veterans Coin to each member.

We added two new members from the dinner bringing our Chapter to 76 ... this is way more than we ever envisioned as we come to the end of our third year. We also reviewed our schedule of events for next year, paying close attention to the Indy Reunion. Halibut fishing, Midnight Sun Baseball, Memorial events, picnics, and other gatherings will be on the card for 2017.

We hope all the VHPA Chapters enjoy a wonderful Christmas and charge happily into the New Year! Remember, there is pride in knowing we flew!

By Lynn Kile, Nomad 23, President



John Brown receiving the 50th Vietnam Commemorative pin



David Benesch receiving the Quilt of Valor



Maurice Hendrickson receiving the Quilt of Valor Guests at the dinner.



Bill Woollen receiving the Quilt of Valor



Lucky Wilson receiving the Quilt of Valor



Chapter Group Photo

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NORTH

OCT - NOV 2016

October 1-2 found CCN represented at the California Capitol Airshow at Mather Field in Rancho Cordova, CA. Curt Knapp and crew arrived on Friday Sep. 30. for set-up. Saturday and Sunday had perfect California weather with large (10,000-20,000) crowds both days. Thanks to Jim Stein, Dave Anderson, Greg Hutson, Ed Morris, Curt Knapp, Frank Kulhavy, and our FNG Tom Schaub for herding the crowds and answering questions. This was a great Airshow, with the Blue Angels, Golden Knights, and much more - the C5-A with its nose up parked behind the helicopters!

Our plan to support the "Corvettes for Vets" car show in Placerville,



UH-1H 961 from the Vietnam Helicopter Museum parked with our UH-1C 563

CA on 16 OCT was cancelled due to unexpected, but welcome, rain in California. CCN is planning to close out the year with a Holiday party on 3 Dec at the Fritz Farm in Sacramento. We managed to display UH-1C 563 at 11 public events this past year, got together for four work days, and one party. One party to go this year! Happy Holidays from CCN! We are already planning events for 2017.

For more pictures and information, please check our website: www.vhpaccn.org.

By Dave Anderson, VHPA-CCN webmaster

FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Florida Chapter ended 2016 on a very high note as we participated in two special Veterans events. The first event was "Take a Veteran to School Day" on November 4th at Sea Park elementary school located in Merritt Island, Florida. "Take a Veteran to School Day" is a national program developed by HISTORY (The HISTORY Channel) and launched in 2007 to link veterans with students nationwide. Schools and communities invite veterans of all backgrounds to share their stories and receive thanks for their service, typically on or around Veterans Day. After we registered around 08:00 that morning and picked up our name tags, we were served a conti-

nental breakfast. We then gathered at our LOACH which was a 'static' display, and all classes came out to see the helicopter and have their questions asked and answered.

The children, faculty, and staff were also treated to several low-level passes and 'gun runs' by our COBRA gunship. After the aerial exhibition, we attended an all-school assembly program. The school principal started the program by welcoming the group and a student lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the wonderful, mostly student-led program, we were invited into the classrooms to share our stories with the students and teachers. It was a great way to connect generations and bring history to life in the classrooms while



JROTC students gather for a photo.



Sea Park Elementary School - VHPAF members answer student questions about Vietnam.



Sea Park Elementary School - Dr. Joe Ponds, VHPAF President, gives a presentation to 5th Graders



The 'Loach' on display enticed many folks to visit.



Flagler County Freedom Fest - VHPAF "Sales Store"



Flagler County Freedom Fest - AH-1G on static Display next to "Sales Store"

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

helping young people learn about the past. Finally, they fed us lunch! What a great way to end a very special day.

The second and final event of the year was Flagler County's Freedom Fest, November 11-13th held at the Flagler Executive Airport. This Veteran's Day event included the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall (always a reminder of the great sacrifices that were made during the Vietnam War), the VHPA of Florida, and a few military aircraft. As always, the COBRA gunship

was much appreciated. Not only did it fly low-level down the runway a few times and perform a few cyclic climbs while simulating gun runs, but it actually landed, shutdown, and co-located with our LOACH and 'Sales Store' as a static display. What a wonderful way to celebrate Veteran's Day and to end another great year of Veterans events!

By Dr. Joe Ponds, Chapter President



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

September - Current

Editors Note:

Because of a mislabeled file on our end, the chapter's prior report was overlooked the Nov/Dec. Issue. It has been added to this version. I apologize to the members for this administrative error. Tom Kirk Sunday September 11th at Maple Grove Airport

The Michigan Chapter of the VHPA was well represented

with a total of nine members. There were about 30 fixed-wing and 11 or 12 helicopters that flew in, and the crowd was in the multiple thousands. Everyone seemed excited to be there, the weather was perfect; very few high clouds and a nice gentle, cool breeze. The event include a special '911' remembrance.

I arrived at 09:00 and three or four members were already there, making the set up quick and easy. Although we were prepared to stay until 17:00, the crowd disappeared about 13:00, within an hour after the all-you-can-eat Breakfast stopped. As a result, we packed up and left early.

I want to express my appreciation for the great efforts of all the volunteers who supported the mission. The credit for this success belongs collectively to the following members: Mark Benjamin, Rich Deer, Charles Eliason, Doc Farrell, Dave James, Charlie Martin, Charles Marvin, Bob Rich and Glen Veno. We plan to repeat our participation in this event in 2017.

Past President Charlie Martin, was presented with a quilt from the National VHPA, awarded for special recognition for his work, founding this Chapter.

By Dave James, Boomerang20, Vice President

The Michigan Chapter had a very active year in 2016. Our spring meeting in Grand Ledge was attended by 19 members, spouses and guest speaker LTC Todd Fitzpatrick of the Michigan National Guard. The meeting launched three activities



At Maple Grove Airport: Seated L-R Rich Deer, Dave James, Mark Benjamin, Charles Eliason Standing L-R Bob Rich, Doc Farrell, Charles Marvin, Glen Veno



VHPA MI Quilt presentation to Charlie Martin on 9/11/16: L-R Rich Deer, Charlie Martin, Dave James

that chapter members undertook for the year.

In June, the "Lest We Forget" in Benton Harbor was attended by four members and was a repeat of the previous year. Although it was cut short by weather it is an impressive event and worthy of another repeat participation in 2017.

Another repeat event was the Operation LZ Michigan in Oscoda in July. Our display included a static UH-1H from the Wurtsmith Air Museum which drew a steady crowd. Being located next to the American Huey 369 flight activity increased attendance as well, though we were reminded of the power of Huey rotor wash as it challenged our canopy and took all hands to hold it during takeoff and landing operations. Being that close to a flying Huey was fantastic. We wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Six chapter members with a detached VHPA member from Wyoming stood their posts at this event.

The next planned activity is expected to be our spring meeting, details TBA. Chapter members and interested parties will receive updates on the particulars. Everyone is encouraged to bring spouses, family members, former crew members and anyone interested in our role in the Vietnam War.

For any VHPA members in or near Michigan that would like to be added to our email list for updates on our activities, contact me at richdeer@att.net. You do not have to join the Michigan chapter to be listed as an interested party if you prefer.

By Richard Deer, President

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER

November 30, 2016

The North Alabama Chapter (NAVHPA) has completed our usual frantic fall. We started with several school displays. These are always fun for our members. We have the chance to punctuate the children's knowledge of the Vietnam War, a topic that is ancient history to them. Remember their grandparents may be too young to really remember Vietnam! The NAVHPA's UH-1C, Buccaneer 3 (Buc 3) is the hit of any display, but it is the members of the chapter who can make it more real to the kids that gives us the greatest pleasure. Relating what it was like to fly in combat in this helicopter is memorable for the children and their teachers.

A recent addition to Buc 3 is a stunning set of replica miniguns for the M-21 kit that the chapter displays. They look so real that many parents are reluctant to allow their children in close proximity. NAVHPA friends, Trevor Bennett and Aaron Stanfield built them from commonly available household materials. The results are terrific.

Cullman, a city about one hour South of Huntsville, was the scene of another of their Veterans' Parades on November 4th. Many of our members stayed there the night before because Buc 3 had to spend the night to be early enough for the parade. Some members brought their RVs to a convenient campground and others spent the night in a local motel. In either case, many good war stories were told. In the words of NAVHPA Chapter Secretary Sam Maki, "Saturday morning was an early start to get the Huey and the display area set up. I must say our new canopy looks great with our logo. As always, we had plenty of people stopping by. And the BBQ with stuff was good also. Somewhere after 2:00 PM we started the break down. The Buc-3 convoy left for Meridianville and the motelers headed home. We four campers went back, relaxing with a beverage, due to the day of stress, ate and watched college football. Some folks were sad; some really, really happy.

While many NAVHPA members were supporting the Cullman effort, Gil Fluhr and a couple other members were at a display with the chapter's newest aircraft, an OH-6A LOH. The LOH is still in really bad shape. No plexiglass, no rotor head, no tail rotor, etc. But the Chapter believed it was important to be represented at the annual celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War at the Jackson Center in Huntsville. Those attending there were impressed that we were confident the LOH would eventually look as good as Buc 3, which they had seen the year before.

On November 8th, the movement team took Buc 3 to the city of Gadsden, approximately 70 miles south west of Huntsville. The citizens of Gadsden appreciated the chapter bringing Buc 3 there and showed it to our members.

November 11th, Veterans Day, was Buc 3's sixth appearance in the



Replica miniguns for Buc 3 complete the look of a Vietnam era gunship.



NAVHPA members (L-R) Bob Monette, Jim White, Sam Maki and Gil Fluhr prepare for a parade in Cullman, AL.



School displays allow youngsters to experience a part of Vietnam up close and personal.



NAVHPA members erecting a new canopy with the Chapter logo for the Cullman display



NAVHPA members and spouses marching in the Huntsville Veterans Parade

Huntsville Veterans Day Parade. This is the biggest such parade and the longest running veteran's event in the state of Alabama. The NAVHPA was well represented with Buc3 and over 40 members, spouses, children and grandchildren participating. Notably, many members, in their 70s, marched the two miles. Several remarked the pace seemed faster than previous years. One former Colonel said he had forgotten how to jog! Immediately following the parade, the chapter moved to our restaurant partner, The Schnitzel Ranch, for lunch and comradery. Several German Beers and many schnitzels were consumed.

Throughout the month of November NAVHPA members and spouses have again participated in the "Wreathes for Veterans" program. They have spent many hours fluffing and straightening wreaths, transporting them to the gravesites and placing them on veterans' graves. This is our service to veterans and their families.

The NAVHPA will end the year with a Christmas party at a local hotel on December 14th. At that meeting we will elect officers for 2017. Our guest speaker is Col (Ret.) John R. Reitzell, a noted special operator during the turbulent 1980s. We expect this to be the final event of 2016.

If you live in the North Alabama and Middle Tennessee areas we want you to join our chapter. You can find out more about us at <http://www.navhpa.org>. You can contact us at navhpa@gmail.com. Come on out!! We'll give you a chance to get all those good old war stories out of your system.

By Ralph Weber

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

OLD DOMINION CHAPTER

UP COMING EVENTS

9 November 2016 Wednesday

Richmond MOAA Dinner with Lt Gen. Dana Atkins CEO & President of MOAA, 4000 fighter pilot hours and former Thunderbird Pilot 16:00 hours \$24.00 per person. Must register by 4 NOV. Dress Coat & Tie. Sign up using form in link below.



https://gallery.mailchimp.com/371146d70a051697f83f3bb5/files/2016_11_Newsletter_Complete.pdf

11 November 2016: Veterans Day Memorial Services at The Virginia War Memorial IN Richmond, VA. 10:00 Hours Guest Speaker : Governor Terry McAuliffe. www.vawarmemorial.org

29 & 30 November Tuesday & Wednesday

“Hall Walk” with Bob Hesselbein on Capitol Hill Meet at 08:30 AM at Designated location to go to Senators and Congressmen offices to further Promote HR 4298 and S 3447.

7 December Wednesday: 2016 Christmas Gala with MOAA @ Meadowbrook country club 18:00

Dress: Coat & Tie.

7 January 2017 Saturday 13:00 Normal Meeting Legends Brewing

February meeting tidewater area Saturday the 4th or 11th

4 March 2017 Saturday: 13:00 Normal Meeting Legends Brewing

8 April 2017 Saturday: meeting at National Museum of the Marine Corps Quantico, VA

28 May 2017 Sunday: DINNER Gathering



Autumn Rambler Over the James River (prior fall activity)

somewhere in Northern VA 6:00 pm (please give us your suggestions). Frosty Price has 9 rooms reserved at Crown Plaza Hotel Crystal City, VA

29 May 2017 Monday: Attending Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony

1-5 July 2017: VHPA National Reunion, JW Marriott, Indianapolis, Indiana

September 2017: Day trip Cruise to Tangier Island, date to be determined later

October 2017: Train Ride, Autumn Rambler, Old Dominion Chapter National Railway Historical Society , Buckingham Branch Railroad, Dillwyn, VA date and time to be determined later

By Don Agren, President

Website: VHPAVirginia.org

Note: By publication, some of the events have already occurred, but they are included to reflect the chapter's full agenda. Ed.



Autumn Rambler Robbers

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER AND THE HELICOPTER WAR MUSEUM (HWM)

We held our October meeting at the American Legion Post # 1. Several members, Mike Silva and Dale House among them, attended a special presentation of the “Lest We Forget: The Mission” project by the Sculptor, Major Fredric Arnold, USAAC (ret.). This sculpture depicts his squadron members in a pre-mission briefing not unlike the mission briefings we once attended during our tours. Major Arnold is the last remaining member of P-38 Group 42J which fought in the African Campaign during WWII. This Exhibit is currently on display at the Wings

over the Rockies Museum in Denver, and will soon travel to New Orleans and become a permanent exhibit at the National World War II Museum. You can see and hear more about this amazing exhibit by going to www.LestWeForgetSculpture.org.

The weather in Denver was beautiful for Veterans Day, and chapter members, Bill Bates, Phil Lanphier, Greg Mann, John Mitchell, Doug Neil, and Walt Wise marched in the Veterans Day Parade sponsored by the American Legion Hall in Longmont, CO on November 11, 2016. Carl Cavalluzzi manned the Museum until their return. This



Sculptor Maj. Fredrick Arnold, Mark Hagenback, Dale House, Marc Arnold, and Mike Silva



Longmont parade participants LR Jeff Roy, Bill Bates, Walt Wise, Phil Lanphier, John Mitchell, Greg Mann, and Doug Neil



Denver Union Station Plaza Veteran's Day ceremonies. Al Harnick and Wife, Dale House, Greg Mann, Brian Wold, Bill Robie and Wife, and Rick Beaver.

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

showing of our Museum concluded our Museum schedule for 2016.

The Chapter sent out Membership Drive mailers and our Membership Committee, Doug Neil, Phil Lanphier, George Mayl assisted by Dale House followed up with phone calls to 63 past members whom we haven't seen in a while. This was very successful and resulted in 13 past members reengaging.

Chapter members Bill Robie, Brian Ward, Al Harnick, Dale House, Rick Beaver and Greg Mann attended Veterans Day ceremonies as guests of the VFW Post # 1 in Denver, which was organized by Joe Diaz. The Ceremonies were held at the Denver Union Station Plaza and were dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. John Harry, Commander of VFW Post # 1, was Master of Ceremonies. Major General H. Michael Edwards, Adjutant General of Colorado, was the Key note speaker. Jessica Thrasher sang the National Anthem. As a Marine, she dedicated her service reintegrating combat soldiers returning stateside from their tours in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Chapter President Dale House said a few words about the meaning to the phrase, "Welcome Home." The event was followed by fireworks over downtown Denver.

Other Chapter and Upcoming Activities:

In the next newsletter we will report on our annual Christmas Party that will be held at Greg Mann's house on December 3, 2016. We have also been invited to attend a Gala Dinner at the Brown Palace Hotel and Spa in Denver to celebrate the 117th anniversary of the founding of the VFW and the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. What will make this gala extra special will be an appearance by Ann Margret who will receive the 2016 Life Time Appreciation and Achievement Award for her dedication to our



Denver Union Station Plaza Veteran's Day ceremonies Key note speaker, Major General H. Michael Edwards



Denver Union Station Plaza Veteran's Day ceremonies Marine Cpl Jessica Thrasher, singing the National Anthem.

Vietnam Veterans. I'll report on those activities in the March/April issue of the Aviator.

Meeting Schedule and other Information:

We normally hold meetings once a month, on the third Saturday of the month, at 10:00 hours at the American Legion Post #1, I-25 and Yale Avenue. We occasionally change venues, so contact us at the address below to verify dates, times and location. We do not meet in December or July, but normally have a holiday get together in December. The Museum committee will meet periodically to continue categorizing inventory and developing additional displays. Visit our new Web site www.RMCVHPA.com

We continue to look for artifacts for the Museum; among these items are a chicken plate with the cloth holder that our visitors can put on and see what it was like to wear a chicken plate. Please contact our Chapter President and Museum Curator, Dale House with anything you'd like to donate or loan to the museum. We can be contacted through our mailbox at: RMC.mailbox@yahoo.com

By Dale House, President

SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER

The fourth- quarter meeting of the South Missouri Chapter of VHPA was held at the Keeter Center of the College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO, near Branson. Held in the Silver Dollar City Parlor of the Keeter Center, this is the meeting most looked-forward-to by chapter members. The faculty, staff, and students, who do all growing, harvesting, preparing, and serving have consistently provided first class service for the meetings we have held there for the last seven years. Our thanks to all of them for the great service.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the chapter president. This was followed by the invocation, given by John Sorensen, past chapter and national VHPA president, and currently the national VHPA chaplain. Chapter member Harris Flanigin conducted the Missing Man Ceremony in recognition of those lost and missing in battle and since return from the war zone.

Chapter president John Wilkinson welcomed the members, spouses and their guests to the meeting and dinner. Dr. C. David



Meeting attendees on the steps of the Keeter Cent

Dalton is Professor of History and teaches the Vietnam History course required of all student hosts prior to their participation on any Patriotic Education Trip to Vietnam with Vietnam veterans. He spoke to the group about the program and about the course. Bryan Cizek is the director of the Patriotic Education Program and spoke of the program and the role of the Patriotic Education Trips in the goals of the program.

Chapter business was conducted, with the adoption of a change in chapter by-laws changing the terms of office for officers and a

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

modification of the signatory requirements for check writing. All proposed changes were passed. Richard Elgin was elected vice-president, filling the vacant position. John Sorensen gave a short presentation on the VHPA Quilter's Show and Tell program, which is being coordinated by Kathleen Sherfey, the wife of Ken Sherfey, a chapter member. This quilting activity

has spread to several local chapters including the South Missouri Chapter. Quilts are being made by volunteers among the wives of members, and outside volunteers, for distribution to veteran facilities in the area. A quilt was also made by Liz Sorensen, Pat Clifton (members' wives) and Jo Maples, who volunteered her time to its making. A drawing was held for the quilt, and it was presented to Ed Smith.

Chapter members Leonard Rutledge and Bill Thompson participated on the Patriotic Education Trip to Vietnam in March 2016. Leonard presented an overview of the trip and its impact on him and other members of the excursion. There were two notable highlights of his trip. One of his observations was the demeanor and industriousness of the people of the South. Although the South had been conquered in the military sense, there was a cheerfulness and a positive attitude in the people. Everywhere in the South were small businesses, with entrepreneurship being very much in evidence. In the North, there was much less free enterprise in evidence, and the people were more reticent.

As they were preparing to leave Vietnam, Leonard met a Vietnamese pilot who had been at Hunter Army Airfield in pilot training at the same time Leonard was there. After the fall of South Vietnam, he had escaped with his family in a Vietnamese UH-1, flying to an aircraft carrier in the South China Sea. He was on his twelfth trip back to Vietnam to visit relatives with his adoptive



Dr. C. David Dalton, COO
Professor of History



Bryan Cezik, COO Patriot
Education Program



Leonard Rutledge, featured
speaker

brother. Leonard said he felt these are indicators the Vietnamese have moved forward, and though the South may have lost the battle for their country, they seem to have won the war with life and living on with a great spirit of optimism.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and the rest of the afternoon was given over to conversation and fellowship.

On Veterans Day, the Veterans Day Parade was held in Branson. As in past years, several chapter members marched (or walked) in the parade. This year, approximately a dozen members participated.

Planning is underway for 2017 meetings. The first quarter meeting is planned for the Kansas City area in the late March or early April time frame, with two venues under consideration. Again, e-mail and the chapter website (vhpmosmo.org) will be used to give the information. The second and third quarter meetings are strictly TBA. The fourth quarter meeting will be held again at the Keeter Center, the College of the Ozarks, on November 11, 2017.

Because of deadline requirements, this is being written just before Thanksgiving, so I want to say I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, and Christmas and New Years as well. Best wishes to all for a great 2017.

By John Wilkinson President 2015-2017

SO CAL CHAPTER

Our SoCal Chapter business meeting on November 19 was successful at the Newport Beach Elks Lodge. Twelve of our members attended. The Elks Lodge seated us overlooking the harbor and treated us to lunch. I was again elected your SoCal president, Ron Warner VP, and Jim Grimm Sec/Tres. Our guest speaker was Richard Jellerson a VHPA member with two tours in Vietnam. He shared with us a trailer of his upcoming documentary *A Solemn Promise-America's Missing in Action*.



SoCal Members at Newport Beach Elks Lodge

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On October 19, Ron Warner and I were invited to the Fisher House SoCal Opening Dedication Ceremony at the Long Beach VA. This 16-unit home allows Veterans families to stay for free while their loved one is in the VA Hospital. Staying at the facility is like a five-star hotel.

Our Chapter is very proud to be a part of this beautiful Fisher House which is number 71 with more to be built at other locations. We made an additional donation of \$500.

On October 23, our Chapter had an information booth at the 15th Annual Wings Wheels and Rotors Expo at Los Alamitos Army Airfield. We had a good turnout and were honored to have members of Quad A and Freedom Commit-



Fisher House SoCal at Long Beach VA. 71 Fisher Houses so far have been built for Veterans families while visiting veterans at the VA for free



L/R Members Jim Grimm, Ron Warner, David Fey and Sven Akesson at Wings Wheels and Rotor Expo, Los Alamitos Army Airfield

tee of Orange County helping get the word out of our Veteran Organizations. We had a great location about 100 feet from the Air Force Thunderbirds who put on a great show for us after their show in Huntington Beach. About 20,000 attended the Expo.

By Sven Akesson, President

UPPER MIDWEST CHAPTER

November 2016

The Upper Midwest Chapter partnered with the Wisconsin Chapter of Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter for a Veterans Day program at the New Richmond Wisconsin Middle School. The VVA brought their towable Huey to the delight of a couple hundred middle school students. The students moved through rooms with displays and speakers from all the conflicts from the Revolutionary War through the current war in Afghanistan. It all culminated with a chance to sit in the seat and mix the controls of the Huey and "shoot" the door guns.

On November 17th, the Chapter held its Fall Dinner meeting with our wives at a Vietnamese restaurant in St. Paul. Chapter member Jim Crigler told us about his upcoming solo



Students from New Richmond Wisconsin Middle School



Members enjoy the Fall Dinner

canoe trip down the length of the Mississippi to raise funds for Huey 369 and their Gold Star Family Program. His trip will begin at "ice out" at Lake Itasca and culminate in New Orleans before the Indianapolis reunion. We also celebrated the birthday of member Bert Leach, who has achieved 87 years of cheating death! Way to go Bert!

By Richard Anderson

UTAH CHAPTER

I am happy to announce the formation of the Utah chapter of the VHPA (UTVHPA) with 23 dues paid chapter members and our first official meeting and get together social on October 22, 2016 at the Army Museum, Ft. Douglas, UT (SLC).

We had a very productive meeting with wives included and introduced the leadership of the chapter from a vote taken over the summer. This was a compilation of several months' work

beginning in 2015 to determine the interest in forming a Utah chapter. Of the 66 current VHPA members in Utah, 34 responded to an initial mailing and met in June 2016 to formulate a chapter. Members also informed fellow Vietnam aviators of the chapter proposal and we picked up two new members at our meeting.

Several items Identified as potential goals for the chapter were discussed; foremost was the future opportunity of making members available to various military, veterans and civic organizations

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

for educational forums on the Vietnam War and the role of the helicopter. Future considerations were also given to reconditioning the three Vietnam Era helicopters on static display at the museum where we conduct our meetings. Several of our members also made it to the Reno 33rd Convention of VHPA. The social afterwards with a spread of catered BBQ and side dishes provided by the members was enjoyed by all and permitted tremendous opportunities for everyone to become better acquainted. We were able to take some pictures of this first meeting to be included in a chapter scrap book which will include member bio's and a history of our chapter.



Business mtg with members 22 oct at Army Museum at SLC



Our missing man tribute at Oct 22 meeting (moment of silence for honor at each meeting)



Chapter mtg 22 Oct



Chapter photo with members/wives and Museum Huey

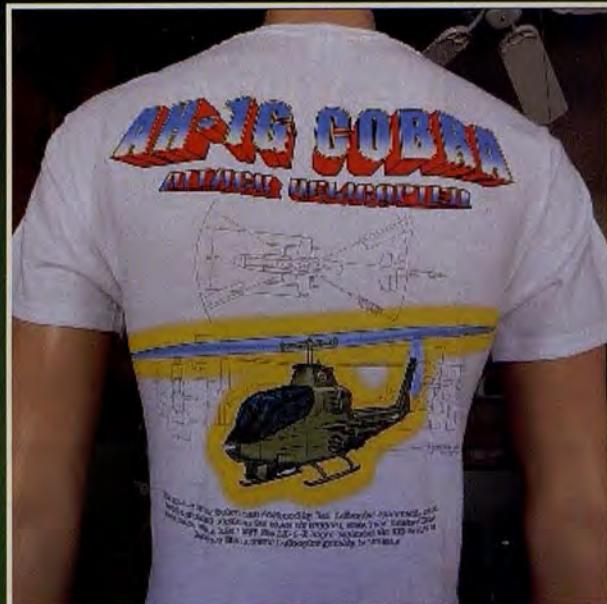


Chapter photo with members and Museum Huey

We look forward to our next meeting in May of 2017. The leadership will meet more frequently to develop the recommendations of the October meeting such as a chapter LOGO, possible Facebook page, website and contacts with civic groups. We believe our chapter will grow as word spreads and our presence is felt in the community and throughout the state. The current list of Officers is; Doug Drury, President, Tom Meville, Vice President, Lee McCown, Secretary Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of Lloyd Blackburn, Stephen Jackson, and Claire Mendenhall.

By Doug Drury, President

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WELCOME TO THE VHPA!

Look the list over and if you recognize anyone, give them a call, drop them a line or send them an e-mail welcoming them into our Association. Full contact information is available either on-line in the Member Services section of our website, or through our staff at HQ by calling 1-800-505-VHPA.

Line 1, Last, first, MI and/or nickname of new member; double asterisks (**) ID new life members. Line 2, current city and state. Line 3, branch of service. Lines 4 to 6, flight class and Vietnam units and served with, if that info is available.

We welcome these 6 new Members to the VHPA!

All have joined our Association
during the period from
October 10, 2016 - November 8, 2016.

Louy Michael S
Pensacola Florida
Navy
63-12
HA(L)-3 in 67-68

McGinnis William M. 'Bill'
Sioux Falls South Dakota
Army
70-39 70-41
203 AVN in 71-72; A/228
AVN 1 CAV in 71-72

Mcwilliams Brian M.
Little Rock Arkansas
Army
69-10
F/79 AFA 1 CAV in 72

Perry Charles E.
Naples Florida
Army
63-4
5 TC BN 101 ABN in 66-67

Presley Vernon Glenn
Keller Texas
Army
70-17 70-19
229 AHB 1 CAV in 70-71



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TAPS

Ball, Eldon K. USA LTC (Ret.) Flight Class: 59-7, RVN: 67-68 185 RAC, 70-71 C/1/9 CAV 1 CAV, Callsign: Pterodycke 16/ Cavalier 6.



Keith Eldon Ball, born May 15, 1935 and raised in Lamesa TX died on July 21, 2016 in Dripping Springs TX.

He was a loving husband, father; career Army aviation officer, decorated Vietnam Veteran, and devoted member Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by parents Clyde V Ball & Clara Belle Campbell Ball. He is survived by his wife Betty Roberts Ball, his daughter, two sons, five grandchildren and three siblings.

Suggested donations:

The Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org or Army Fisher Houses with designation to BAMC Brook Army Medical Center at <https://armyfisherhouses.org/#donation>.

Burial: Ft Sam Houston Cemetery.

Carrigan, John A. USA
Flight Classes: 67-5/67-3,
RVN: 67-68 119 AHC,
Callsign: Irish.



John A Carrigan passed away on October 21, 2016, in Colorado Springs, CO. Loving husband and father, distinguished Vietnam veteran. A thoughtful and insightful leader, John had a meticulous attention to detail and a remarkable knack for getting people to work together. Whenever there was a friend in need, he was the first one in line to lend a hand. Born in 1945 to parents Bessie and Bernard Carrigan in Peoria, IL, John was the youngest of four children. He attended Bradley University before enlisting in the U.S. Army where he served as a helicopter pilot. For his selfless acts in Vietnam, he received two Purple Hearts, and was recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Army's sixth-highest award. John was also awarded the Air Medal for his distinguished service during his 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam.

On March 9, 1969, John married Susan Montgomery and proceeded to raise three wonderful children. He worked for AMP/Tyco for 27 years as a

Director of Sales & Marketing. Upon retirement in 2010, John and Sue moved to Colorado. Never able to stay fully retired, John joined the Pikes Peak Chapter of Military Officers of America (PPC-MOAA), and became chapter president in 2016. He absolutely loved his role as the president and was passionate about helping the returning vets. John is survived by his wife, Susan (Montgomery) Carrigan; two daughters, one son, two grandchildren, two brothers and a sister.

Burial: private with honors will be held at a later time at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Chole, Hilbert H. USA LTC (Ret.) Flight Class: 67-6, RVN: 67-68 B/1/9 CAV 1 CAV, 70 E/1/9 CAV 1 CAV, 70-71 HHT/1/9 CAV 1 CAV.



Fellow Troopers,

Last Saturday, November 26, we lost Bert Chole, a two-tour veteran of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. At age 80, with a history of heart, lung, and kidney problems, his systems just wound down, and Bert refused to be placed on life support. His wife Eileen reports he said, "I'm ready. Let me go home to heaven." You can bet that on arrival there, Bert started looking up old friends.

Bert was Saber White (the B Troop Scout Platoon leader) on his first tour, and wrote *Flashing Sabers* as a memoir of that time. On his second tour, he commanded Echo Troop, a provisional unit formed as part of the in-country "Air Cavalry Combat Brigade" experiment. He later caused to be published the 9th (Air) Cavalry Brigade (Provisional) Combat After-Action Report – a document whose original drafting he oversaw.

Later, Bert was the squadron executive officer when the 9th Cavalry re-entered Cambodia, in support of ground forces of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. That's where I got to know him, when he chaired the "MIA Board" for a soldier A Troop lost in Cambodia. When it came time for the squadron to come back to the United States, Bert commanded the detachment that brought the colors back to

Fort Hood. At the time of his death, he was at work on a third book, intended to be a comprehensive history of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, from its formation at Fort Benning and deployment to Vietnam to its return to the States.

I first reconnected with Bert in 1999 or 2000, when I saw the name "Hilbert Chole" in a long string of email addresses and figured there could only be one of those in the entire United States Army. I sent him a note, asking if he was the same Bert Chole who'd been the XO of the 1-9 Cav. He responded immediately with a hearty "Welcome Home" and an invitation to join Bullwhip, the squadron association. I accepted the invitation, and looking back now it is hard to imagine the time when we all kept our Vietnam experiences bottled up inside. Thanks to Bert, I've reconnected with old friends and made new ones.

Bert's numerous combat awards include the Silver Star and four awards of the DFC.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years Barbara Eileen Chole, two sons and seven daughters, 23 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and a sister. Bert is predeceased by his son Hilbert H. Chole, brother Raymond Chole, and sister Lillian Sedlor.

Clifton, Floyd M. USA CW3 (Ret.) Flight Class: 65-3W, RVN: 67 196 AVN, 68 243 AVN, 69-70 132 ASHC 23 INF, Callsigns: Flipper 62/Hercules.



Mr. Floyd Matthew Clifton, age 81, of Mayfield, KY passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 1:12 AM at his residence. He was of the Christian Faith, a helicopter pilot, a retired telephone repairman for West Kentucky Telephone. Retired from the U.S. Army, he was a Veteran of Vietnam and Korea.

He is survived by his son; a daughter, two granddaughters, four grandsons and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Rose Nell Clifton; his parents, Henry Richard & Mary Jeanette Flatt Clifton, a brother, and four sisters.

TAPS

Fisher, Harold R USA LTC (Ret) RVN: 67 D/3/4 CAV, 70-71, B/227 AHB 1 CAV, Callsign: Masher 6.

Harold Reid Fisher, 81, went home to his Lord and Savior on October 30, 2016, after a five-year battle with cancer. The son of the late H. V. and Marie Fisher, Harold was born in April 1935 in Cramerton, NC. He was a graduate of Cramerton High School. In October 1958, he was drafted into the United States Army as an infantryman. During his 20-year career in the U.S. Army, he was commissioned as an officer, and completed both fixed-wing and rotary-wing flight training.

Among his many overseas and stateside assignments, Harold served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a UH-1 pilot and unit commander. During his second combat tour of duty, Major Fisher's call-sign was Masher 6, but was more affectionately known as Mr. Clean.

For his service in Vietnam, Harold was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal (three awards), the Purple Heart and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm.

In 1978, Harold retired from the US Army. In 1980, he moved with his family to Gastonia, NC and worked as a purchasing manager for Homelike Corp. In 1989, the Fisher family relocated to Rockwell, where Harold worked for several local firms before ultimately retiring in 2011.

For 23 years, Harold was an enthusiastic member of the Midway United Methodist Church in Kannapolis, where he taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. He was also a past board member of Opportunity House in Kannapolis and a volunteer in the Kannapolis City Schools.

In addition to his parents, Harold was preceded in death by his wife, the late Susan Hensley Fisher. He is survived by his two sons and two grandsons.

Burial with honors: Gaston Memorial Park

Fust, John W. Jr, USA COL (Ret.) Flight Class: 56-2, RVN: 63-64 61 AVN, 69-70 4 AVN 4 INF, Callsigns: Highroad 70/Spader 6.

John (Jack) William Fust, Jr. 84, passed away on August 28, 2016, at Inova Loudoun Hospital. He was born on July 12, 1932 and grew up in Louisville, KY where he attended Louisville Male High School. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1954 with a BA in physical education/biological sciences,

and later earned an MS degree in Mass Communications from Shippensburg University.

Colonel Fust served his country for 23 years with distinction and pride as a US Army officer. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry in 1954. He earned his Airborne, Jumpmaster, and Ranger qualifications in 1955, and qualified as an Army Aviator in 1956 and as a Master Army Aviator in 1963. He piloted both fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, and served in the US, Korea, Vietnam, and Germany. He was awarded the Legion of Merit (2-OLC), the Bronze Star (3-OLC), Air Medal (2-OLC and "V" Device), Army Commendation Medal (1-OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal 1st Class, and Vietnam Service Medal (with 4 Bronze Service Stars), Vietnam Campaign Medal (with 60 Device), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm (2 awards).

Upon retirement from the US Army, Jack pursued a successful second career for 16 years as a financial planner in the US and then Germany, assisting military service members. When he returned from Germany, Jack went into business with his wife and two daughters for another 16 years, operating The Potomac Gallery in Leesburg, VA, an art gallery specializing in, among other things, military-themed art. Throughout this time, Jack pursued many other activities and business pursuits, and was an active participant in the Army Otter-Caribou Association. He enjoyed keeping in contact with his many friends and colleagues and always had a story to tell.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gloria; four children, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Suggested donations: Fisher House Foundation 111 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20850. Online at: donate.fisherhouse.org

Burial: Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors will be held at a later date.

Gonzales, Orlando E. USA MG (Ret.) Flight Class: 56-10, RVN: 68-69 268 CAB, Callsign: Lightning 6.

Orlando Gonzalez passed away on November 1, 2015 at the age of 84 at Belvoir Community Hospital with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife Maye; two daughters, two sisters, four grandchildren, and a great-grandson. He is preceded in death by his daughter, JoAnn Gonzales and brother, Leo Gilbert Gonzales.

Orlie was born on December 20, 1930 in Model, CO. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1951 and served for 35 years before retiring as a Major General in 1986. A Master Aviator, he served in the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts and ran many major military commands throughout his career.

Burial: Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors will be held at a later date.

Henley, Roy L. USA Flight Classes: 68-519/68-3, RVN: 69-70 170 AHC Callsign: Bikini 12.



Roy passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and friends on Veteran's Day November 11, 2016 thereby ensuring himself his own national holiday which will from this moment forward be referred to as Roy Henley Day. Roy is survived by his beloved wife of 13 years, Susan; two daughters, two sons, mother Lois Henley, four siblings and many loving grandchildren.

Roy Lee Henley had a smile that could light up your world and a laugh that stays etched in your brain for a lifetime. A gifted helicopter pilot who got his start flying as a Warrant Officer in Vietnam '68, he was every inch an officer and a gentleman, with just enough mischief and wit sprinkled in to keep us all in trouble and happy about it.

He was a Dad, a husband, a business owner (Universal Air) and an epic best friend who deeply loved life and all the people in it.

Memorial donations may be made to the Vietnam Veterans of America at 8719 Coleville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or online at <https://vva.org/donate>, or Give Kids the World, 210 S. Bass Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746, online at <https://gktw.org/donate>

Hrubik, John A. USA CWS (Ret.) Flight Classes: 68-39/68-521 RVN: 69 191 AHC/69-70 164 GP, Callsign: Boomerang 22/Delta 6 Alpha.



Our beloved husband, father, Granddad, and fishing buddy John A. "Jack" Hrubik died suddenly on November 17, 2016, after a valiant battle with a severe illness. He was born in Orwell, OH, on July 15, 1943, to John and Helen Hrubik. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for 36 years, receiving many honors including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 21 OLCs

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and numerous other awards. He was honored by the U.S. Army as a Distinguished Member of the Signal Regiment. He retired as the senior CW5 in the Signal Corps in 1999. He was married to the love of his life, Nancy, in 1969, and was blessed with two wonderful daughters. He is survived by his wife, daughters and four grandchildren.

Hurley, John E. USA Flight Class: 71-30 RVN: unk

John Edward Hurley, Jr., 70, passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2016 in Marshall. John was born April 25, 1946 in Ft. Sam Houston, TX to John Edward Hurley, Sr. and Peggy Poole. He graduated from Corpus Christi Carroll High School and received his Bachelor Degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. He served his country honorably in the US Army receiving a Vietnam Service Medal, Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. He was also a member of the Commemorative Air Force. John cared deeply for his community and was greatly involved in many organizations, including Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, Marshall Metro Rotary (Past President) and First United Methodist Church. Brother John Hurley was an Endowed Member and Past Master of Marshall Lodge No. 22 A.F. & A.M., received the prestigious Golden Trowel Award in 1999, and was presented with the 25-year Lodge Service Award in 2014. He was a member of the York Rite bodies of Masonry in Marshall, Longview, and Carthage and was a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Texas. He also served as Past Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star. John was active as a Shriner, serving as President of the Harrison County Shrine Association. He was a long-time member of the Sharon Shrine Pistol Team and loved to help children by volunteering his time to the Shriner's International Pancake Day and "Paper Day." He was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. John's devotion to helping others will never be forgotten. John was preceded in death by his parents, John Edward Hurley, Sr. and Peggy Poole, and stepmother, Margaret Montgomery Hurley. He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Fran Hurley; two daughters, three grandchil-



dren, and a sister.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be sent to Marshall Rotary Scholarship Fund, Shriners Hospitals for Children or Dayspring Therapeutic Equestrian Center of Harrison County.

Jones, Leroy E. Jr. USA LTC (Ret.) Flight Class: 66-2, RVN: 68 C/159 ASHB 101 ABN, 68 54 AVN, 69 10 CAB Callsign: Playtex26.

Leroy Jones was born June 18, 1936 in Aliquippa, PA, to Leroy and Alberta Jones. He attended Elementary School in High Point NC, Middle School at Palmer Institute and Dunbar High School in Wash. D.C. He participated in football, track and swimming in High School. He received a four-year scholarship to Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN. After graduating in 1956 at age 19, he started the first swimming team at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA., and served as Head Coach until he was drafted into the Army in 1960. He retired in 1980 as a Lieutenant Colonel after two tours in Vietnam with over 3,500 combat flying hours. He also served two tours in Korea and one tour in Germany. He was a Master Aviator and was qualified in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

He moved to Houston in 1981 and entered the H.I.S.D. system as a Junior R.O.T.C. Commandant (Barbara Jordan High School for Careers, and Sam Houston High School). In 1991, he became Assistant Principal at Waltrip H.S. until he retired in 2000.

"The Colonel", as he was known to family, friends and associates, was a member of Payne Chapel for almost 30 years. He served as Trustee, Steward, Pres. Of Sanctuary Choir, Pres., V.P., Parliamentarian, and D.O.L.A. of the Local Lay Organization. Delegate to Annual Conferences, Connectional Lay Biennial, and General Conference. He served as Church Financial Administrator of Payne Chapel until his health failed. He served as State Lay Treasurer for 8 years, served on 10th Dist. Finance team for over 14 years. Was a member of the Connectional C.L.E.D.C. Board of the Lay Organization. He was a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and served as Polemarch of the Galena Park Chapter.



"Colonel" is survived by his loving wife, Doris; three daughters, three sons, seven grandchildren two, great-grandchildren, a sister and a brother.

King, Jack J. USA CW3 (Ret.) Flight Class: 64-5W, RVN: 66-67 C/228 AVN 1 CAV/69-70 70 AVNDET.

Jack J. King September 7, 1933 – November 28, 2015, was born to Lewis C. King and Gertrude Winkle. He was the eighth of nine children, born in the depth of the Great Depression in Tacoma, WA.



Jack had always wanted to fly; therefore, he joined the U.S.A.F. He also changed his name officially, to Jack J. King.

However, without a college degree and with the Korean War spooling down, his dream of flying for the Air Force was not a reality. What was a reality was the Air Force Flying Clubs; Jack immediately took advantage. He received his first pilot's license from Canada! From then on, there was no stopping Jack. He went on to obtain any and every license and rating a pilot could possibly achieve.

In the meantime, while being based in Maine, he met and married Patricia O'Neal. She gave him two beautiful children. Pat and the kids would endure the lives all military families do, separation and sacrifice.

A rumor got around that the Army was looking for "A Few Good Men" to fly their aircraft. Jack didn't hesitate. His pay would double and he would finally move up in rank. In one day, Jack left Barksdale, LA and reported the next day to Ft. Wolters, TX with only a flight suit and a few pairs of skivvies. He reported for duty thinking he would be flying fixed wing aircraft, but they surprised him when he was immediately enrolled in helicopter flight training.

Since Jack had already obtained flight instructor status on fixed wing, once he completed helicopter training, he was sent to helicopter flight instructor school. Once he became a helicopter flight instructor, he was training young men to go off to fight in Vietnam. Jack did this with a heavy heart, however, he made sure they were well trained, confident, and knew every trick he could teach them to get them out of trouble should it arise.

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Eventually, Jack's turn came to serve in Southeast Asia. His first tour was 66-67 and the second 1969. He received his two Distinguished Flying Crosses during his first tour. Although he has always been proud of his medals and of his brothers and sisters that have also received the medal, the real heroes are those that are left behind; those that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Jack retired from the U.S. Army on January 31, 1979. Wisely, he worked at Flight Safety for a year in St. Louis, where he knew he would make contacts for future employment. He was picked up by Convair, which was later bought by General Dynamics, and finally by Hughes. While working, he finished both his bachelors and Masters Degrees. When the flight department closed, Jack became a contract pilot at Professional Pilot Services. When his beloved Pat became seriously ill, Jack finally retired from professional flying. However, he still needed an outlet and became interested in the Commemorative Air Force.

Jack was a wonderful husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, brother, uncle, teacher, mentor, and friend. He was unique among men. He gave much and asked little in return. The house is lonely now, and my best buddy is gone. May God grant him the T-34 he always wanted and a blue sky where he can soar to heaven's content! Be at peace, Jack, but know you are loved dearly and sorely missed!

Kruckemeyer, William C. Jr.
Flight Class 71-18, RVN: 71-72 388TC CO, Callsign: Helping Hand 75.



William C. "Bill" Kruckemeyer Jr., a Vietnam veteran, age 69, passed away on Thursday, September 15, 2016 from suspected effects of Agent Orange. Much heartfelt thanks go to the many Dayton VA Medical Center's compassionate, caring medical, nursing and support staff who supported Bill through his numerous hospitalizations over the past seven years as his terminal illness of sarcoidosis slowly took away his health and life. Bill was born on July 2, 1947 in St. Louis to the late William and Lorraine Kruckemeyer. He is survived by

his wife of 47 years, Margaret Kruckemeyer RN; a brother and his step-mother, Helen Kruckemeyer.

Bill entered military service by joining the University of Missouri at Rolla, MO's ROTC program in 1965. Attaining his pilot's license and rising to the rank of cadet LTC within Pershing Rifles' unit while attaining his degree in mechanical engineering. During his eight years of service (1970-1978), he served as a U.S. Army aviation maintenance officer/test pilot rising to the level of Senior Aviator and was awarded the Bronze Star. Not only did he rescue shot down helicopter crews in Vietnam, he also was the main pilot who served during Ohio's great 1978 blizzard in air rescue when U.S. Army support was urgently needed. Upon his arrival to Dayton to start a 30 year engineering career with Delphi Chassis, first in test engineering, then 16 years later as a senior project's engineer, he also used his love of flying by sharing his talents and skills by serving as a private instrument flight instructor, back up helicopter pilot to WHIO's former Chopper 7 news service, and volunteer for the American Veteran's Heritage Center's flying and technical support activities.

Bill's friends best remember him as a tall, strong, humble guy who dedicated his life to service to his church, veterans caring activities, and his research development work for Delphi Chassis. After being inducted into Delphi's Inventor Hall of Fame in 2000, the Affiliate Societies Council of the Engineering Science Foundation of Dayton, The Dayton Foundation, honored him on Feb 21, 2002 with their Outstanding Professional Achievement Award for his "professional accomplishment and enhancing the stature of the engineering and scientific professions." Prior to his enforced retirement in 2009, Bill was recognized for the creation and development/implementation of 75 US Patents and nearly 50 trade secrets for Delphi.

Donations may be made to www.americanveteransheritage.org (AVHC P.O. Box 28098 Dayton, OH 45428) or Dayton VA Medical Center Hospice program, Building 320, 4100 West Third St. Dayton, OH 45428.

Leask, Steven T. USA Flight Class: 69-27, RVN: 69-70 B/1/9 CAV 1 CAV, Callsign: Saber 12.

Dr. Leask was born on June 1, 1950 and

passed away on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. He was a resident of Las Cruces, NM at the time of his passing.

Steve graduated from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology. He earned his Master's and Doctorate degrees from New Mexico State University in Educational Administration in 2003.

Steve was a US Army veteran and served as a helicopter pilot in Korea, Vietnam, and Alaska as Chief Warrant Officer. He earned several military awards including the Air Medal and Vietnam Service Medal. He was married to Elizabeth.

At his request, cremation has taken place and services will be held at a later date.

Lebda, Francis J. Flight Class: 66-9W, RVN: 66-67 121 AVN/69-70 A/228 AVN 1 CAV, Callsign: White Tiger/Wildcat died on January 12, 2015. No obituary provided.



Martin, George C. USAF MAJ (Ret.)
Flight Class: 45-B, RVN: 65 38 ARRS, Callsign: Jolly 1.



George C. (Jolly Green) Martin was born April 30, 1924, in Chicago, IL to Ida and Harry P. Martin and passed away October 21, 2016. He was 92 years old.

He enlisted in the Army February, 1943 and attended flight school, graduating in April, 1945. He stayed in the Reserves until recalled for the Korean War in 1950 and stayed in the Air Force until retiring in 1967. His last assignment was as a "Jolly Green" pilot rescuing downed pilots in Vietnam. He was preceded in death by his daughter, two sons and a grandson.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley Martin; three daughters, four sons, a stepson, a step-daughter, 13 grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and 8 step great-grandchildren.

George was one of the original "Jolly Greens" with Det. 1, 38th ARS in the Jun-Oct 1965 time frame, operating from Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, flying the original CH-3Cs that were on loan to the Air Rescue Service from Tactical Air Command resources. On July 27, 1965,

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George was the pilot of a CH-3C (using the call signs "Shed 85 & Jolly Green 01") tail number 63-9675 staging out of Lima Site 36 in northern Laos that rescued F-105D pilot, Capt. Frank J. Tullo (call sign "Dogwood 02") after he had ejected from his 'AAA' damaged aircraft about five miles west of the Black River, near Hoang Trung, NVN. This was the first combat rescue accomplished by the USAF CH-3C helicopters during the Vietnam War.

Donations may be made to Jolly Green Scholarship Fund, Lee T. Massey, 916 Aloma Faye Lane, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547; Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or your favorite charity.

Note: The only photo of George is the far left of the assembled crew following the above described rescue.

Mercer, Warren H. USA
COL (Ret.) Flight Class: 59-
C6, RVN: 62 UTT, Callsign:
Dragon 3.

Warren H. Mercer was born on October 23, 1936, to Wilmon and Mary Ann Gregory Mercer in Belcross, NC; he died on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. He was 78.

Mercer was the oldest of four children. His family moved to Rye, NY, and settled in Connecticut in 1948. He attended school in Waterbury, CT and graduated from Naugatuck High School in 1958. He was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). He completed the Army Flight Training with a promise of going to Air Flight School.

Mercer served as an Army officer with dedication and outstanding service. In 1963, while in the Republic of Vietnam, he made Captain and received many decorations and medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mercer returned to the United States to attend the Infantry Advanced Course at Fort Benning, GA in 1964, the same year he married Earlene H. Mercer, whom he had met in 1962. Their son, Donald H. Mercer was born in 1967 when he was assigned to Fort Benning Infantry School.

Mercer served in the Army for 24 years until July 1983, when he was offered a job with General Electric Corporation in King of Prussia. Following his retirement from the Army, Mercer worked as a systems engineer

for more than 20 years with General Electric/Lockheed Martin. He continued after his retirement to work for Vencor Incorporated until his illness.

Mercer joined Zion Baptist Church in Waterbury, CT. at an early age and attended church or chapel services throughout his military career. Before moving to Pennsylvania, Mercer was a member of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington D.C., where he was presented a plaque for faithful service and was also president of the Florigia Club.

After moving to this region, Mercer joined Bethel AME Church, Bryn Mawr in February 1984 along with his family. He served as assistant church treasurer; a member of the finance committee; vice-chair of the trustee board and a member of the Lay Organization until his death. In past years, he served on Bethel Bryn Mawr Child Care and Development Board where he was honored for his work on the board. He served as president of the 150 Club for several years. He was selected as Man of the Year at the Bethel Bryn Mawr in 2002, and he was nominated by his church and received the Unsung Hero's Award presented by the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

He was preceded in death by his parents. In addition to his wife and son; he is survived by his brother and two sisters.

Owen, William T. Flight
Classes: 67-1/66-23. RVN:
67-68 C/7/17 CAV/68 F/8
CAV 123 CAB, Callsign:
Blue Ghost

Bill was born on July 22, 1947 in Phoenix AZ. He grew up in several locations, graduating from Estherville Iowa High School Class of 1965. On February 23, 1966, Bill joined the US Army in the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program. Due to the Army's strange ways, Bill and a small select group of pilots were assigned to similar locations from Basic Training, flight school, then forming C Troop 7/17 CAV, then a nice boat cruise to RVN, forming up F/8 "Blue ghost" and even returning stateside as instructor pilots. This resulted in a Band of Brothers that only death can change. After leaving active duty, Bill worked as a commercial pilot and later became involved in the mining industry. He retired from the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration as an accident investigator, safety and health inspector and as a field office supervi-

sor in 2010. While in the service, Bill married Linda Sapp to whom their son was born. Later, Bill met and married Susan (Hague) Owen and to them a daughter was born. Anyone who knows Bill knows there were two words he couldn't stand...and they are CAN'T and REQUIRED. This at times has been a challenge to those who use these terms, but he always believed that was their problem not his. This resulted in several awards, (i.e.) the Good Conduct Medal, 25+ Air Medals and a DFC. Bill completed his last earthly mission on November 11, 2016 at his home in Gilmore City, Iowa, surrounded by friends and family.

Memorial donations may be made to The Wounded Warrior Project in Bill's name. He WILL be missed by all, especially his "BROTHERS."

Burial: Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Van Meter, IA

Price, Robert A. USA LTC
(Ret.) Flight Class: 55-3, RVN:
66-67 179 ASHC/70-71 520
TCBN, Callsign: Shrimpboat

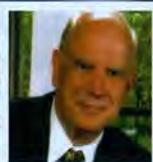


Robert (Bob) A Price smiled and gently slipped away after an uplifting prayer led by his son while surrounded by his family and Army Chaplains at Sentara Hospital in Williamsburg on Monday October 31st. He lost his last battle in his war against Pulmonary Fibrosis. Robert was born December 7, 1931 in Omaha NE to Harold and Dorothy Price. He is survived by his wife Janice (Jan) to whom he was married 63 years; three sons, four grandsons and a great grandson Grayson, born to his predeceased grandson Adam. Price served two tours in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and retired after 21 years of Army service in 1975.

He then worked in different enterprises until he joined the civil service in 1983 working with the Transportation Corps designing medium to heavy tactical wheeled vehicles for the Army. He retired as a GS-13 in 2005 after 43 years of service to the country he loved. Family, God, and Country were Bob's loves. He dedicated his life to being a good Christian, and passing these values onto others. He had a passion for singing, grilling and smoking food, reading, family events, soldier safety, and doing the right thing. Bob has touched more lives than he will ever know, and will be truly missed.

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Redmon, John D. USA
CW2 (Ret.) Flight Class: 65-1, RVN: 66-67 129 AHC/67
189 AHC, Callsign: Cobra Chief.



John "David" Redmon died on October 27, 2016. Born to Lubie and Odessa Redmon on July 15, 1943 in Houston, TX, he lived there until moving to Corpus Christi to attend college and subsequently joining the Army. David was a loving and devoted husband; father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. Everyone who knew him was charmed by his simple elegance, generosity, integrity, intellect, and wisdom. A man of many interests; he was an avid reader, collector, outdoor sportsman, and history buff.

After returning from Vietnam and settling down in Fort Worth, David met and married Demetra Anne "D'Anne" Derdeyn. After moving to San Antonio, TX, they had two daughters.

He graduated from UTSA with a business degree, and retired from Civil Service after 32 years and the Army after 38 years. Between his reading, collecting, and love of history, David could answer most questions without hesitation. He was the "book of knowledge" for kids struggling with homework and was quickly designated the "phone a friend" when asked who you'd call if you were stumped on the Millionaire game show.

He will be truly missed by his wife of 38 years, D'Anne; his daughters, and his two grandchildren. He also leaves his sister.

He was an active member of Alamo Heights Baptist Church, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the San Antonio Gun Club. David will always be remembered as a gentleman to his core, an able friend to many, a committed Christian, a stalwart patriot, a devoted husband, adoring father, and ardent grandfather. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the American Heart Association or to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Burial: San Antonio National Cemetery with Military Honors

Resemius, Wayne G. USA Flight Classes: 70-19/70-17, RVN: 70-71 176 AHC, Callsign: Minuteman 19.

On October 12, 2016 Wayne "Lightnin'" Resemius passed away from lung cancer at the age of 65. He grew up in Minneapolis, MN, and later ran from the cold and snow to retire

in Marco Island, FL. Wayne was a retired army Vietnam veteran helicopter pilot, and ran his business Custom Plastic Laminates. He has left behind his beloved wife, Missy, and his three children. Through his battle with cancer, Wayne remained faithful and trusting in God's grace and love. While God brought him to heaven much too soon, we take comfort knowing he is building Missy's dream home in heaven.

Memorial donations: DAV (Disable American Veterans), or to Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa, FL.

Burial: Marco Island Cemetery, Marco Collier, County, FL.

Roths, Patrick J. USA Flight Class: 70-39, RVN: 71 174 AHC, Callsign: Shark 10.

Patrick James William Roths, "PJ", born May 5, 1947, peacefully ended his struggle with Carcinoid Cancer on Thursday, September 29, 2016, at Ochsner Medical Center in Kenner, LA.

PJ was born in Ransom, KS, but spent most of his young life in Kansas City. School attendance included St. Benedict's grade school and Bishop Ward High School. PJ was a proud alumnus of Kansas Newman University, where he earned a degree in English Literature. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Jeanette Walker, PJ became both a helicopter pilot and the father of two children. His love of flying began during Army flight school and continued through his service in Vietnam and a 40-year career flying for PHI in the Gulf of Mexico. PJ's loves included his family, music and literature, wood carving, hunting, canoeing, camping, and remaining close to the guys of the 174th Aviation Co. In addition to being a loving husband and father, PJ's life was filled with the joy of being a grandpa to his "three girlies." He was preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Phyllis Van Degrift Roths; his father in law, Les Walker; and his brother, Mike Roths.

His memory will be cherished by his wife of 48 years, Jeanette Walker Roths; his son, his daughter, three grandchildren, and three sisters.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family suggests those preferring memorial contributions may send them to the Neuroendocrine Cancer Awareness Network (NCAN) in memory of Patrick "PJ" Roths.

Skipper, Donald B. USA LTC (Ret.) Flight Class: 70-24, RVN: 70-71 213 ASHC, Callsign: Black Cat 17.

Husband and father Donald Bruce Skipper of Conyers, GA., passed away, Thursday, April 17, 2014, at 5:20a.m. He was diagnosed in late March 2014 with stage-4 lung cancer.

A Senior Army Aviator, he flew CH-47s in Vietnam and CH-47s for the King of Thailand (where he earned the Royal Thai aviator's badge). He also flew UH-1s and OH-58s in Germany and stateside assignments. He was proud of the fact that he was the only pilot to successfully survive a dual hydraulic systems failure that occurred at 5,000 feet over II Corps in Vietnam. He managed to bring the Chinook safely down to a POL site with no damage to the aircraft or crew.

Don graduated from Infantry OCS in 1969 and was assigned to Ft. Jackson, SC as a training officer. Three weeks into that assignment he so impressed the Commanding General with his determination to prepare his trainees for Vietnam that he was given his own basic training company. That set the precedent for unique assignments always earned ahead of the schedule of a normal career track. He commanded the basic training Company as a 2nd Lieutenant. As a Captain, he commanded the V Corps Instrument Flight School, an Armor Company and 5/33rd Armor Battalion (Provisional). All were highly successful commands with outstanding, measurable results reported in every inspection and command review. During his last command, Don was handpicked to serve in the new Office of Armor Force Management to help implement the recommendations of the Chief of Staff of the Army to improve the Armor Force worldwide.

During the last years of the Vietnam War, when resources to support Army Aviation in Germany were slim and aviator morale was low, Don formed the Taunus Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). He coordinated with American Express Tours, secured the USAREUR Commander's permission and arranged for 500 aviators and their families to attend the Paris International Air Show as well as the Farnborough, England International Air Show on permissive TDY status for 10 days.

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During the last years of the Vietnam War, when resources to support Army Aviation in Germany were slim and aviator morale was low, Don formed the Taunus Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). He coordinated with American Express Tours, secured the USAREUR Commander's permission and arranged for 500 aviators and their families to attend the Paris International Air Show as well as the Farnborough, England International Air Show on permissive TDY status for 10 days.

Reassigned stateside, Don became the President of the AAAA Air Cav chapter, then President of the Metro-Atlanta Chapter, before finally throttling back to simple membership in AAAA. He also became the first President of the Blackcat Association.

During his assignment at Forces Command (FORSCOM) he invented, developed, secured the budget for and then successfully grew the Reserve Component Overseas Deployment Training Program (ODT).

Following his retirement, Don became the Director of Operations for an international medical imaging company, Senior-Vice President for a corporate outplacement company and then formed our own business – Career Beginnings, Inc. family owned and operated, Career Beginnings specialized in assisting military officers in transition to secure excellent civilian positions and careers. In 25 years of operation, he helped many thousands of officers to secure just the right civilian position.

Don became a professional educator in 1979 when he became an adjunct professor for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He continued teaching for the next 25 years in a variety of roles at several colleges and universities.

Don is survived by his loving wife, B. Kathy Skipper, of the home; two sons and five grandchildren. Don lived his life at full throttle; influencing everyone he met to exceed his or her goals. He always had a helping hand for those in need and made a positive contribution to his family and to America's future. Commander, Professor, Mentor, Dad, Husband, Papa/Grandpa, Friend - he is and will continue to be deeply missed.

Stone, Richard D. USA MAJ (Ret.) Flight Classes: 68-15/68-25, RVN: 70-71 B/2/17 CAV 101 ABN, Callsign: Banshee 12

Richard Stone, a 12 year resident of San

Antonio TX, passed away on June 3, 1916. He was born in San Francisco CA in 1945.

He was shot down three times while in Vietnam, once walking out of the combat zone. Among his many combat awards was the Bronze Star.

Following his tour, he obtained a BA in Political Science and became a commissioned officer while he continued with aviation and transportation assignments. He fin-

ished his military service with the Washington Army National Guard.

He next worked as a Federal Service Employee monitoring Naval contracts at Boeing for twenty years.

Richard is survived by Donna Stone, his wife of 35 years; two step-sons, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a sister and a brother.

Records of the recent deaths of the following potential members of the VHPA were gleaned from internet searches within the last two months. All the information VHPA has for these pilots may be found at VHPA.org or by calling 1-800-505-VHPA. If you knew any of the pilots listed, please help VHPA by sending any information you know about the person to HQ@VHPA.org or call 1-800-505-VHPA (8472) so it can be added to our database.

Non-Member Obituaries

Chappell, James H. USA died on October 9, 2016 (no other data).

Dowler, Gary K. USA Flight Classes: 66-5W/66-5 died on September 21, 2016 (no other data).

Fraioli, Gerald USMC MAJ (Ret.) died on July 16, 2016 (no other data).

Horton, Edward L. USA Flight Classes: 68-16/68-26 died on August 7, 2016 (no other data).

Komich, John N. USAF LTC (Ret) RVN: 70-71 37 ARRS (He served in country for 18-months flying Jolly Green rescue helicopters, died on January 21 2013 (no flight class data).

Pinard, Joseph LR. USA CW4 (Ret.) RVN: year unknown 228 ASHB 1 CAV died on October 21, 2016 (no other data).

Shanahan, James L. USMC COL (Ret.) died on October 30, 2016 (no other data).

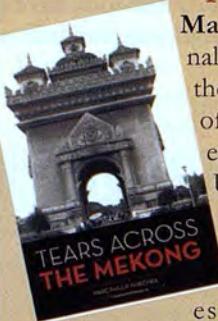
Sprowls, Leigh R. USA MAJ (Ret.) Flight Classes: 59-13FW/61-4Q, RVN: 65-66 73 AVN, 66 334 AWC died on October 2, 2016.

Sittingdown, Quincy D. USA LTC (Ret.) Flight Class: 70-36 died on November 21, 2015.

Zachary, Rex A. USAF LTC (Ret.) died on September 24, 2016 (no other data).

BOOK REVIEWS

By VHPA Life Member: JOHN PENNY



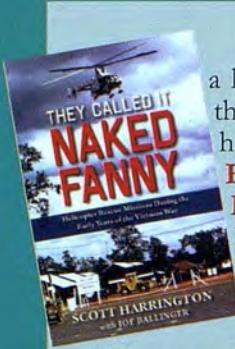
TEARS ACROSS THE MEKONG by Marc Yablonka, a military author and journalist, is an insightful narrative chronicling the hardships of the communist takeover of Laos, and the suffering of the Laotians, especially the Hmong who supported the US against the NVA, after the US pulled out of the so called "secret war" in Laos.

As many as 200,000 Laotians fled across the Mekong into Thailand to escape the Pathet Lao. Those lucky enough to survive the perilous journey were unwelcomed by the Thai government and poorly treated in the UNHCR Camps administered by Thailand. Many lan-

guished there for years separated from their families.

Yablonka has done an excellent job of relating the history of the war that engulfed Laos during and post-Vietnam. His extensive research includes in-person interviews of Laotians who survived the war and were subsequently resettled in the U.S. I highly recommend this book.

Tears Across the Mekong (280 pages paperback with photos and bibliography) Marc Phillip Yablonka, ISBN: 978-0182202492 is available from Amazon, or other book suppliers. Yablonka is also the author of **Distant War: Recollections of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia** published in 2011.



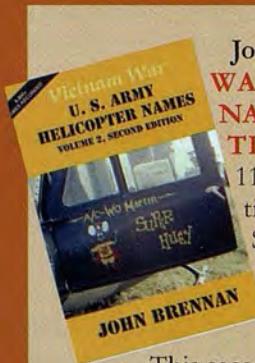
Scott Harrington and Joe Ballenger, a life member of the VHPA and served in the Air Force with the 38th ARRS in 65-66, have published **They Called It NAKED FANNY: HELICOPTER RESCUE MISSIONS DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE VIETNAM WAR**. In 1964 the Air Force laid down 6000 feet of PSP in the jungle at Nakhon Phanom in northeast Thailand to enable SAR rescue services for pilots shot down over Laos and Thailand. In time this expanded to include SAR missions into North Vietnam.

The initial aircraft fleet was an odd mix including HU-16B Albatross a twin engine amphibious flying boat, Sikorsky CH-3c and HH-43Bs. The HH-43Bs,

call sign Pedro, had a small radius of action between 125 to 140 miles. They had been designed for local base rescue only and fire suppression if needed. The decision to employ them in a war zone makes for interesting reading.

The book follows the service of the five TDY units that rotated through Nakhon Phanom vividly describing the incredible dangers these men faced rescuing downed pilots under fire. Their story of service has not been told in detail before and provides an excellent reading experience.

They Called It Naked Fanny (336 pages paperback with photos) by **Scott Harrington with Joe Ballenger**, ISBN: 978-1555718374 is available from Amazon, or other book suppliers.



John Brennan has published **VIETNAM WAR U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER NAMES VOLUME 2, SECOND EDITION**. Brennan, who served with the 114th AHC in Vietnam as a Flight Operations Coordinator has worked for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Library and authored 5 books detailing the names, duties, units, and missions flown by their crews.

This second volume outlines the names helicopter crews gave their aircraft, and the locations of those returned to the US after the war. Surprisingly, some are still actively flying in civilian service. Many others can be found

on display all over the country. Another section includes background on the many pilots and crewmen who contributed information for this book, reflecting his extensive research.

Brennan has done a great service to all of us who served in Vietnam. His research is a significant factor toward maintaining our legacy of service all those years ago. I highly recommend this book.

Vietnam War U.S. Army Helicopter Names in Vietnam, Volume 2, Second Edition (120 pages with 42 photos, \$20.95) by **John Brennan**, ISBN13: 978-1937748265 is available from the author, Amazon, and other book suppliers.

Prototype Huey Restored

On October 21, sixty years ago, the Huey prototype XH-40 performed its first flight. It has now been restored for display at The Army Aviation Museum in Ft. Rucker AL.



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