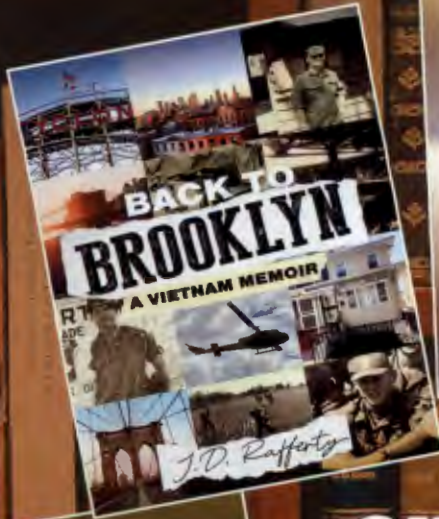


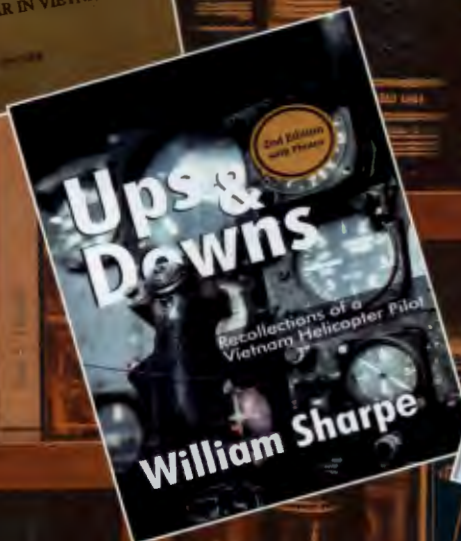
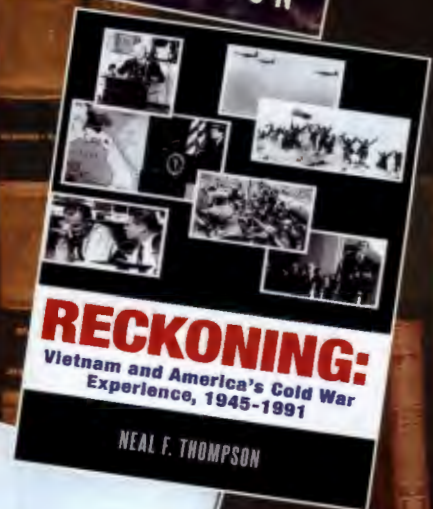


The VHPA AVIATOR

The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association



**CHECK OUT
THESE BOOK
REVIEWS!**



VHPA Officers, Members of the Executive Council 2025-2026

President	Jim Crigler	jimc@mrwinona.com
Vice President	Dennis Faucher	drfaucher@verizon.net
Past President	Frosty Price	frostyprice@me.com
Senior Member	Bob Hesselbein	beaner1138@aol.com
Midterm Member	Pat Leone	pache046@aol.com
Junior Member	Phil Marshall	dmz.dustoff@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer	John Shafer	johnshafercpa@comcast.net
Founder	Larry Clark	



VHPA Aviator Newsletter:
Aviator@VHPA.org

VHPA WebSite:
VHPA.org

VHPA Headquarters
and Headquarter Staff
contact Information

Phone:
1-800-505-VHPA (8472)

E-Mail:
HQ@VHPA.org

~ IN THIS ISSUE ~

Page 6 ~ Lighthouse Meets Crazyhorse
Page 12 ~ Book Reviews
Page 17 ~ Looking For
Page 22 ~ Chapter Reports
Page 36 ~ Taps

National Committee

Aviator Magazine	Tom Kirk, Managing Editor Tom Hirschler, Editor Kay Taylor, Art Director	aviator@vhpa.org tah44@msn.com
Chaplain	VACANT - Thank you John for your many years of service!	
Chapter Liaison	Frosty Price, Co-Chair Jim Crigler, Co-Chair	frostyprice@me.com jimc@winonasearchgroup.com
Elections	Phil Marshall, Chairman	dmz.dustoff@yahoo.com
Investments	Bob Smith, Chairman	tigersmity@hotmail.com
Legal Advisor	Mike Poindexter, Legal Advisor	poinlaw@aol.com
Legacy Committee	Art Jacobs, Chairman Jim Crigler, Asst. Chair	art.jacobs.tn@gmail.com jimc@mrwinona.com
National Reunion	John Powell, Chairman Sherry Rodgers, Asst. Co-Chairman Ashley Bird, Asst. Co-Chairman	rotorpylut@gmail.com HQ@VHPA.org HQ@VHPA.org
Public Relations	Bob Hesselbein, Chairman	beaner1138@aol.com
Records/Database	Gary Roush, Editor & Chairman Mike Law, Asst. Chair	groush2@earthlink.net mglaw@earthlink.net
Secretary/Treasurer	John Shafer, Chairman John Powell, Asst. Chair	johnshafercpa@comcast.net rotorpylut@gmail.com
VHPA Calendar Project	Mike Law, Chairman Bennie Koon, Asst. Chair John Jones, Asst. Chair	mikelaw1943@gmail.com bek082346@gmail.com deltaregion1973@gmail.com
AAAA Liaison	Art Jacobs	art.jacobs.tn@gmail.com
Texas Tech Liaison	Don LeMaster	hookpilot69@hotmail.com

From the Managing Editor...

Some of our members may have noticed a change on page two of the Aviator. The **Membership Directory** and **Historical** committee categories have been removed. Going forward, these activities will be combined with **Records/Database** function.

Aviator Privacy Statement: The VHPA considers member information proprietary and confidential. Use of any information in this publication for any type of solicitation is prohibited. Member information contained in this publication shall not be distributed to non-VHPA members without the express consent of the member.

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

THE VHPA AVIATOR, THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION (ISSN 1930-5737) (USPS 001-497) is published four times yearly ~ March, June, September and December. The VHPA is organized as a 501 (c) (19) fraternal military organization and one copy of each newsletter is included in each of our Member's Dues, yearly subscriptions to the Aviator are available to non-members for \$36.00. Published by Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA), headquartered at 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011. Periodicals Publications postage paid at Round Rock, Texas and additional mailing points.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: Submission of written, photographic, or artistic material to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association for publication in The VHPA Aviator constitutes an express grant to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and its assignees of a royalty-free, worldwide license in any copyright to the material. Said license to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association includes the right to use, reproduce, sell, publish, distribute, and sublicense said material for any purpose.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's Farewell:

Thanks to our VHPA Membership for allowing me to serve as your President. It's been an interesting fifteen months. I was blessed with a very competent Executive Council willing to donate much of their personal time working to support our membership, protect our legacy and assure the integrity of our organization. Jim Crigler will follow me as President. He is an astute businessman of many talents and will excel in his new position. I will continue to serve the EC as Past President and Chapter Liaison Co-Chair with



Jim. We will provide quarterly Zoom Meetings to keep the Chapters informed of EC activities. Thanks to my fellow officers on the Executive Council for their support and guidance in sustaining the heart and soul of our VHPA Membership. And last, but by no means least, thanks to our HQ Staff led by Sherry Rogers. These ladies tirelessly keep our organization running and successful despite the many challenges we impose!

Cheers!
Frosty

Vietnam Helo Operations-VHPA Rotorheads Return 14—27 April & 1—14 August 2026

Tour
Historian:

Bob
Hesselbein,
C/16 Cav

Tour
Leader:

John Powell, 1/9 Cav

Disabled Vietnam Veteran Owned & Operated!



MILITARY™
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC



13198 CentrepoinTE Way, Ste 202 Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
703-590-1295 * notify@miltours.com * www.miltours.com



WHERE HISTORY COMES ALIVE

**TAKE YOUR GROUP
& PICK YOUR
OWN DATES**

**For Your Information: The minutes of each monthly meeting of
the Executive Council are available on the VHPA website.**

FROM THE STAFF AT HQ!

We hope everyone that attended R2025 in St. Louis had a great time!

Mark your calendars now for R2026 in Louisville, KY - Aug 05 - Aug 08, 2026!

PLEASE HELP US REDUCE THE COSTS OF REMAILING ITEMS!

If you move, PLEASE call HQ with an update to your address! This is important if you head south for the winter and back north for the summer. You must call HQ to change your mailing address each time to ensure you do not miss an issue of your newsletter.

Reminders:

• The on line directory is free at <https://directory.vhpa.org>. As of the deadline for this issue, you can't make updates to your information via the on line directory. You can log in and search for members. Please call HQ with any changes to your contact info. We apologize for the inconvenience but things are taking longer than expected.

• Minutes to all EC meetings are posted in the VHPA website each month along with minutes to the Annual Business Meeting, VHPA Financial Reports and VHPA Policies. To view these documents please go to <https://directory.vhpa.org/>, click on member log in, sign in using your member number & setting up a password, under the "Other Documents" tab on the left – click "VHPA Administration Documents". If you know of anyone that 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 and attend reunions! As always, our goal is to make VHPA the best it can be for you, the members! If there is anything that we can do to make that happen, **PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

~Sherry Rodgers
VHPA Business Manager

JERSEY BOY TAKES FLIGHT

One Man's Story of Life, Loss, and Love During the Vietnam Era

“Peaceful as it looks from above,

a war was raging on the mountaintops, in the jungle, and in the rice paddies and villages below...

No boundaries, no warnings, no D-Days...
...but always lurking close by, and

fate was the hunter! ”

- Frank Fox



"Jersey Boy Takes Flight", by Frank Fox, is available through local bookstores, AMAZON, or other book suppliers in hard / soft cover, e-book, and audio-book (author read).



Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage (FVSO) Kontum, Vietnam



OUR MISSION

Raise resources in the form of cash and in-kind gifts to directly benefit the children of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai Orphanages. With our support the orphanages provide:

- Primary and Secondary education
- Life skills to become self sufficient
- A safe environment comprised of food, clothing, shelter & medical care



Read free monthly newsletters on our web site.

For over 20 years, FVSO donors have supplied food, medicine, dental care, education, clean water, housing and more for over 800 Montagnard children who live in eight orphanages in the Kontum/Pleiku area of Vietnam. As a Humanitarian Non-profit approved by IRS Code 501(c) (3), donations are tax deductible.



To Donate or Contact Us

Website: FriendsofVSO.org

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Address: FVSO, P.O. Box 9322 Auburn, CA 95604-9322



MILITARYTM HISTORICAL TOURS, INC.



**Easy Company,
Band of Brothers
Memorial, Bastogne,
Belgium!**



- ♦ Belgium, Waterloo & Dunkirk 1-8 Oct
- ♦ Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites 1-8 Dec
- ♦ "Victory in the Pacific" Iwo Jima & Guam 23-30 Mar

Read the MHT Blog @
miltours.com Info: e-mail
notify@miltours.com

Lighthorse Meets Crazyhorse



Lighthorse Troopers stand in front of AH-64E Apache gunship with CPT Genevieve Mc Cormick and 1LT Hayden Moelter of Crazyhorse Troop

If you have attended a VHPA reunion, you probably know that Lighthorse Air Cavalry was the only cavalry troop in Vietnam to wear silverbelly Stetson Cavalry hats. This proud tradition began in July 1968 and continues today, as Lighthorse troopers proudly wear their silverbelly Cav hats at VHPA and Lighthorse reunions.

Lighthorse Air Cavalry is also unique because it was one of the few cavalry units in Vietnam with two troop designations. This change occurred in February 1971 when Lighthorse, originally designated as D Troop, 3rd of the 5th Air Cavalry, was reflagged to C Troop, 3rd of the 17th Air Cavalry.

Fifty-three years later, the legacy of Lighthorse continues as C Troop has evolved into an attack helicopter unit within the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. They are now known by the nickname "Crazyhorse Troop." The storied name Lighthorse, once associated with C Troop, lives on with pride and honor at the squadron level, as the 3rd Squadron of the 17th Cavalry proudly carries the name "Lighthorse Squadron." The traditions and values we established during our time in Vietnam continue to inspire and thrive within today's Cavalry.

In a grand celebration of "new meets old," Crazyhorse Troop hosted the 32nd Lighthorse annual reunion at the



CPT Larry Glover, WO1 Robert "Bobbie" Keen orient Lighthorse trooper Rex Gooch in Apache gunship

3-17 Squadron headquarters located at Hunter Army Airfield on April 25, 2025. This event was planned and organized by First Lieutenant Hayden Moelter, the first platoon leader of Crazyhorse. The reunion kicked off with an engaging "meet and greet" gathering at the Hunter Club. This unique opportunity allowed Lighthorse troopers to connect, share their experiences,

and forge new friendships with their Crazyhorse counterparts. The event highlighted the common attributes of dedication to mission, hard work, and professionalism that define both units.

In a tribute to the Lighthorse tradition, Captain Genevieve McCormick, commander of Crazyhorse Troop, wore a silverbelly Stetson Cavalry hat, symbolizing our proud heritage. Joining her was Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Murphy, commander of Lighthorse Squadron, who warmly welcomed the Lighthorse troopers to the event and actively engaged in the sharing of stories, reinforcing our mutual sense of camaraderie and proud history.

After lunch, the reunion group moved to the Lighthorse Squadron headquarters for a brief orientation on squadron operations. Following the orientation, we were escorted to the flight line, where we, Vietnam Veteran Lighthorse troopers, received an up-close introduction to the formidable AH-64E Apache gunship from the highly skilled and professional Crazyhorse pilots. This incredible gunship was astonishing with its sophisticated systems, and its massive firepower. We could not help but contrast it to the AH-1G Cobra gunship flown in Vietnam and were incredibly impressed with the advanced capabilities of today's gunship.

That evening, the Lighthorse reunion attendees gathered for a dinner cruise aboard the Georgia Queen riverboat in downtown Savannah, Georgia. Our conversations primarily focused on the awesome Apache gunship and the exceptional professionalism, competence, and teamwork exhibited by the Army aviators and maintainers of the Lighthorse Squadron. We can take great confidence in knowing that the dedicated soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment are steadfastly defending our nation with outstanding skill and commitment.

By Rex Gooch



CPT Genevieve McCormick and Lighthorse trooper JD Botterff enjoy shared stories



CPT Genevieve McCormick orienting VHPA member/Lighthorse trooper Mike Howard in Apache



1LT Hayden Moelter, Rex Gooch, and CPT Genevieve McCormick



Rex Gooch, Lighthorse Squadron Commander LTC Jeff Murphy, and Bill Bailey

7/17 Air Cavalry Huey 233 Reunion



Many gathered from around the US for a mini-Reunion of Huey 17233. This gathering was to commemorate an operation that happened many years ago. Our own Mike Law organized this activity. He brought together the Alumni of the 7/17 Air Cav. We gathered at the headquarters of Rampart Helicopter (who owns the helicopter) in Ft. Collins, at the Northern Colorado Metro Airport (NORCO), here in Colorado. Rampart Helicopter hosted this event to allow us to commemorate an operation involving "Huey 233" at Duc Lap in the Tay Ninh Province in II Corps, Central Highlands of South Vietnam Honoring our fallen and recognize the heroic actions of all those involved. The operation is a part of the 7/17th Air Cavalry History, and I'm sure you've seen the story in a previous edition of the Aviator. For those that haven't heard this story, I've abbreviated it below. It resulted in several Service Medals, DFS's, POW medals, and many more.

Here's a brief history of the events of 2 Nov 1969 involving "Huey 233": WO George Greg and SGT Vernon Shepard (Shep) were flying Team Lead of a team of two B Troop 7/17th Cav OH-6As on a visual reconnaissance mission near the area of the Duc Lap Special Forces camp. George and Shep 'stayed a little

too long' over an NVA bunker hosting an anti-aircraft gun. They received fire and began streaming fuel as they flew a short distance to a 'large open' area, made a controlled landing and exited the LOH. WO Jim Nowicki and 1Lt Kirk Curran in the other LOH landed nearby. George and Shep got in, but before they could get airborne; they were shot down. Badly wounded Shep was able to get out of the LOH, but George was trapped inside as it began to burn. WO Mike Peterson, the AC of AH-1G #67-15616 with CPT Lou Chirichigno in the front seat, tried to land his Cobra near the downed LOHs to rescue the wounded but was shot down by a large caliber anti-aircraft gun. WO Bob Rogers was the AC of UH-1H #67-17233 from the Aviation Platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) of the 7/17th Cav. The rest of the crew was 1LT Joe Feeney as pilot, SP5 Chuck Lund as crew chief, and PFC Allen Sybesma as gunner.

While circling the area with B Troop's Aero Rifle Platoon Huey's preparing to insert their Blues, Bob saw some of the six men on the ground and attempted to land to rescue them. On short final, they received enemy fire and Joe was badly wounded in his foot.

Bob aborted that landing and flew to Duc Lap to leave Joe at the aid station. Bob had Chuck, the crew chief, get in Joe's seat and returned to the downed aircraft. It was now dark. B Troop had inserted their Blues. Their Lift ships were refueling and hoped to return with more infantry. Only B Troop's Cobras were on station. LT Kirk Curran turned on a strobe light and Bob started down again to rescue him against all the warning advice from the gunships. 233 took more hits going in but landed not far from where Kirk was hiding. Kirk started running toward the Huey, but as he got near, the Huey's landing light came on and blinded him. Chuck stepped out of the helicopter, grabbed Kirk as he ran by, and threw him into the cargo area; Chuck followed. Bob quickly lifted off.

That evening George died from his burns. Over the next few days Lou, Jim, Mike and Shep were captured by the NVA. On Thanksgiving Day, B Troop was allowed to retrieve George's body and extract Cobra 616 with a Chinook. LOHs #66-17760 and #66-07894 were destroyed. On 10 Dec 1969, Shep and

Mike were released by the NVA near Duc Lap, but Jim and Lou were sent north. They were released 27 Mar 1973 with the majority of the POWs held in North Vietnam.

Chuck and Bob remember looking at Huey 233 the next day. They counted at least 20 major hits and described the Huey as looking like Swiss cheese. It was turned in to Army maintenance command in Vietnam and eventually sent to the Corpus Christi Army Depot where it was sold as surplus. Huey 233 ended up here in Denver and was being operated by Rampart Helicopters conducting Fire and External load missions since the early 80's. In the picture with Huey 17233 are L To R: Terry Sullivan, Bill Bates, Walt Wise, Dale House, Mike Law, Lyle Borders, Chuck Lund, Bob Rogers, Chris Towne, and Bennie See who presented the history of the Duc Lap operation.

By Bennie See

Vietnam was an adrenaline rush for sure! What followed... would be equally as exciting!



More than 90 photos!

Chuck's post Vietnam career, piloting highly sophisticated equipped helicopters for a government agency which supported the CIA, NTSB, FAA, DEA, FBI, NASA and Marine One... ***kept the rush alive!***

Join him as he tracks the mob with the FBI, investigates air crashes with the NTSB. Read the fateful conversations between the crews and ATC. Chuck participated in the capture of Ramzi Yousef, (1993 WTC bombing planner), piloted astronauts for NASA, was the first to arrive on site at the "Miracle on the Hudson" US Airways flight 1549.

As a Test Pilot, he shares his views on the XV-15 (V-22 prototype), including other Vietnam era combat helicopter proposals declined by the Pentagon.

Available - Chuck's website: chucktheauthor.com or Amazon

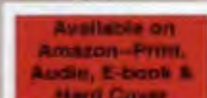
~ A New Release from Roger Lockshier ~

101st Airborne Helicopter Gunships Supporting
Airborne Infantry, LRRPs, and Special Forces SOG Units
in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos,
Bien Hoa, Hue, Northern I Corps, & the A-Shau Valley



As a UH-1C gunship platoon leader and pilot in Vietnam, I can highly recommend Roger's book. Primarily because while dozens of books have been written by pilots who flew in Vietnam, few have been written by crew chiefs who were as critical to mission success as the pilots and whose duties were not only varied but arguably more interesting. As one responsible for putting pilots and mission-ready aircraft together, scheduling pilots was rarely a problem, but keeping our aircraft availability up often called for herculean efforts on the part of crew chiefs and maintenance personnel. That work was over and above the daily aircraft preparation requirements even before the pilots arrived in the morning and the post-flight requirements at the end of the day. From my point of view, helicopter crew chiefs, gunners, and maintenance support personnel were the unsung heroes of the Vietnam War, and Roger's book demonstrates that well.

—Jerry R. Fry, Col. USA (Ret.), Black Angel-6, RVN: 1967/8/9



Saving INFANTRY and SOG Souls

ROGER LOCKSHIER

Saving INFANTRY and SOG Souls

A Crew Chief's View



ROGER LOCKSHIER

“Finally a book ... by a 101st Airborne aviator on his heroic role in the eight-year secret war conducted during the Vietnam War by SOG Green Berets. Over the last decade there have been compelling books printed by SOG Green Berets who ran missions across the fence into Laos, Cambodia and N. Vietnam, often understating in general terms the critical role of helicopter units and aviators like Roger Lockshier.

Now, Roger flies readers into the secret war, jutting through ack-ack anti-aircraft gunfire and the horror of being shot down in Laos, providing a well written account that grabs readers' attention. Thank you Roger”

~ John Stryker Meyer,
author of

On the Ground, Accross the fence, and SOG Chronicles



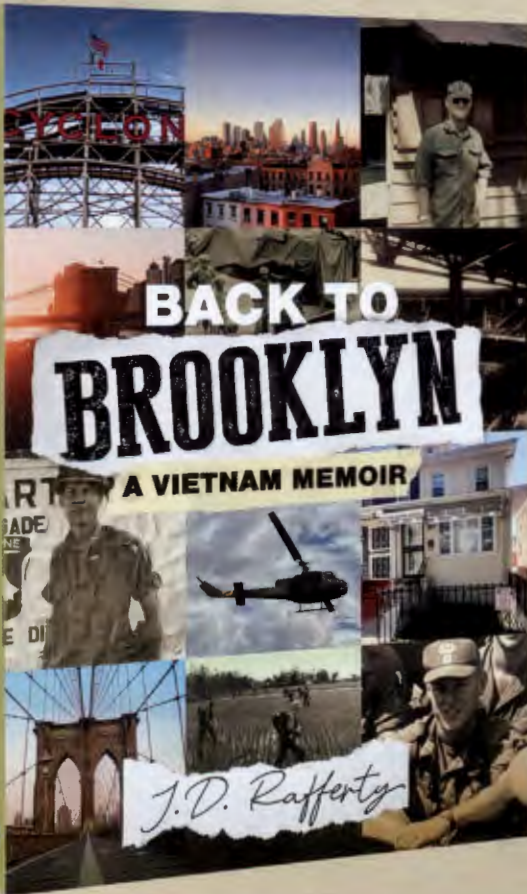
**101st Airborne Missions in
Vietnam and Laos During
the Vietnam War**

BACK TO BROOKLYN

A VIETNAM MEMOIR

J.D. Rafferty

B



"This is the story of a citizen soldier, a journey seen through one person's eyes highlighting the anticipation, loneliness, separation, excitement, successes, and failures, as well as dealing with friends and fellow soldiers dying around him. In the end, there is the final joy and satisfaction of having fulfilled an obligation he would have preferred not to have been compelled to undertake."

TO ORDER YOUR
COPY VISIT
amazon

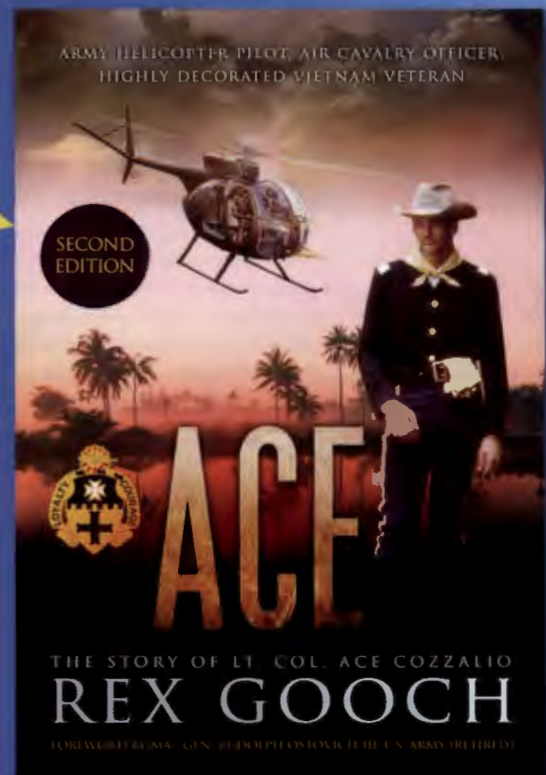
B BLUE
EAR
BOOKS

www.blueearbooks.com

Introducing The Second Edition of the ACE Book

- *Riveting New Details on The Battle of Phu My*
- *Narrative Enhancements Throughout the Book*
- *36 Additional Pages*
- *10 New Images*

Available at Amazon
in Paperback, Hardcopy,
and Kindle



~ Aviator Book Reviews ~

An important part of our VHPA legacy is the converting of memories to stories. The Aviator is one destination for those memories (both human interest and factual accounts). Books, however, and their digital equivalents are ideal, in that the author is not constrained by word count and the medium is not viewed by a limited number of readers. The magazine, of course, is convenient for affordable advertising and the placement of a book review.

The VHPA life member who is our current reviewer is Phil Marshall. Phil is an accomplished author with twenty-one published books of helicopter rescues / medevac accounts. I have had a few occasions to write reviews. I quickly learned it is a bit more complicated than a "thumbs up or thumbs down" exercise.

This issue features seven of Phil's reviews. That illustrates the amount of effort he dedicates



Phil Marshall in
American Huey '369.

to this valuable service. The time spent reading the material is considerable. The informative content of his reviews takes considerable time as well. Phil manages to be factual and always finds some aspect of the book to highlight in a way not typically seen in an Amazon description. This is not a criticism on Amazon, rather an example of how someone having like experiences can be a better judge of the work.

The VHPA enjoys the dedication of many volunteers who dedicate a significant amount of time in service to their colleagues. Phil Marshall is one of those volunteers. He not only performs the service, but produces an excellent product to the benefit of author and readers alike,

*Thanks Phil on behalf of the Aviator
and your fellow members.*

"Mayday, I am on Fire.....OH My God I am on Fire!"

"No one will say that Army Aviation did not do everything possible."

Cost of Valor is a novel based on a true story of survival, and brotherhood in the biggest aviation operation of the Vietnam War. Focused on one unit in the battle, the 48th Assault Helicopter Company. Ride with the crews as they press the attack to deliver South Vietnamese soldiers to their final objective in Laos, and then their efforts to get the South Vietnamese out when they are surrounded. Feel the pain of losses and the concerns for families back home. Laugh at the warped sense of humor that these young men had under these trying conditions and how they relieved the stress of constantly being shot at. Come to appreciate the quality of the leader that flew every day with them and the challenges he faced to protect his men but to accomplish the mission. Understand how he, when faced with a mutiny, exercised positive leadership and turned the attitude of the flyers to supporting the mission.

Matt Jackson presents the personal battles that aviation crews in particular had to deal with both in the air and on the ground. Personal struggles that affected not only the individual but also those that flew with them and those who waited for them back home.

Cost of Valor is a compelling read. It vividly captures the courage and sacrifice of the men of the 48th displayed in Lam Son 719. My thanks to Matt Jackson for honoring our service by accurately telling our story and memorializing our fallen brothers.

—CW9 Ed Newton Blue Star 77

COST OF VALOR
MATT JACKSON

COST
OF
VALOR





Book Reviews *by Phil Marshall*

Phil Marshall, is a Life Member and was President of the VHPA in 1994. He flew Dustoff in 1969 in Northern I Corps and he is also a Life Member of American Huey 369. He has authored over 25 books to include 19 books documenting the rescue missions that we all flew in Vietnam. **You can contact Phil at dmz.dustoff@yahoo.com**

Afterthoughts



"Afterthoughts"

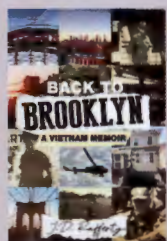
An Anthology of Rhode Island Veterans

By Tom Morrissey

ISBN 9798986678900

VHPA Member Tom Morrissey is one of several Authors of this book and according to the book jacket "Servicemen are often thanked but seldom understood." This book gives nine servicemen the opportunity to express themselves. Tom Morrissey's contribution is titled "Twelve Letters Home". According to a partial introduction of the book, "...what Afterthoughts is really about is all of the spaces before, between, and after war." The fictional writings of the nine Authors also include a lot of poetry and many of the writings are about each individual's military experiences as told in unique ways. For instance, one Veteran writes "We are still human, dealing with inhuman actions and experiences." He goes on to write "Nothing in

life can give us the pride we felt fighting alongside our brothers in the most hellish of situations. We do not share our stories except with fellow combatants and even then, it's just a flash of what each of us has experienced." Included are stories and poetry on various subjects other than combat which give some of the Authors a chance to have their writing skills showcased along with other Veterans. However, even though not so much "combat poetry", it is an opportunity for these Author's poetry and prose to be published. The book is sponsored by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts. To once again quote part of the book, "You'll find intimate works about warfare and violence, but also works about hope, community, aggressive AIs and fishing on Block Island with zombies." It is certainly a Veterans book that is written about more than flying helicopters in Vietnam; it gives the many Authors a chance to bare their souls a little bit more than that.



"Back to Brooklyn"

By J.D. Rafferty

ISBN 9798328278423

As a "forward" to this review of Jack Rafferty's book "Back to Brooklyn, A Vietnam Memoir", I would like to mention that I thought his "forward" was well thought out, concise and very informative for the reader, especially for someone reading it that is not a Vietnam Veteran. His 3 page "forward" is a view of the Vietnam War as a whole, which to me was concise, clear and hit the nail on the proverbial head. He provided an excellent background of the War for the unfamiliar reader. Even the reader familiar with the War should find this biography to be a quick, yet concise, read. The chapters are interesting, short and to the point. As with all good biographies, Jack Rafferty spends time recounting his "formative years". His family, his neighborhood, his friends; some of the people who shared his youth and helped

mold him into the man who volunteered for flight school after ROTC, knowing he would most likely be sent to Vietnam. Not surprisingly, he did not take the advice of those who encouraged him to "go to Canada". Realizing that if he did, not only would he regret it later, but someone else would have to take his place. His simple answer to the advice was always "It's my turn now." The Author gives a clean, no-frills memoir of his time before, during and after his tour in Vietnam. Mostly during his tour. But there are few hero stories here, no "There I was, 5000 feet, out of fuel, out of ammo and out of ideas" stories. Just the facts, ma'am. That doesn't mean it was boring; the book quite simply had little meaningless verbiage to make it longer. The Author gets to the point right away in each chapter and tells his story. Finally, if a reader wants to know what to do with 360 cases of beer (besides drink them), Captain Jack Rafferty can give you a few ideas...think M60 Machine Guns and OH-58 turbine engines.

Book Reviews *by Phil Marshall*



"Cost of Valor" *By Matt Jackson* **ISBN 2055909656**

When I do a book review for the Aviator, I take notes as I'm reading and I use those notes to write up my published reviews. With Matt Jackson's latest entry into his "Valor" series, I didn't take notes. Having read his previous works, I knew I was going to like it...and I was not disappointed. Not by the proverbial "long shot" was I disappointed! His previous books set the standard. Matt Jackson, his "nom de plume" (that's French for "not his real name, his pen name") is one of us. A REAL helicopter pilot with his own Viet Nam credentials to show for it. If you haven't read any of his "Valor" books yet, get your military butt in gear and rent, buy, borrow or steal one, you won't regret it. (Unless you get caught stealing, of course!) The man has a real talent for creating a fictional character or two and combining those fictional air crewmembers with real stories and real events. I recommend starting

with his Volume I of "Undaunted Valor" but one can start anywhere and still get the full effect. While this latest entry focuses on the "rodent intercourse" (MY words) of Lam Son 719, the reader does not need the background of the previous books to appreciate this one. I guarantee you will get so immersed in the narratives of this book that you will not realize how much time has passed until you hear from the Master Bedroom "Honey, are you coming to bed or not?" Yes, it's that good. Luckily, I missed out on this incursion, but a cousin flew in 719, a Rattler; a man who is more like a brother than a cousin to me. While he was one of the unlucky ones to be shot down in flames while "participating", he was one of the lucky ones because all of his crew survived. I'm sure that someone can give me the answer, but who was it that said "Where do we find men like these?" I can give you a partial answer...many of them are found in Matt Jackson's book "Cost of Valor". Good luck with the "Undaunted Valor" Movie, Matt Jackson. It will be as good or better than "We Were Soldiers Once", I'm certain. It can't miss.



"Dead Men Flying" *by Major General Patrick H. Brady* **ISBN 978163758-061-5**

While I usually don't offer direct quotes from books in these reviews, MG Brady writes this introduction to his "Dustoff book". Here is his very first paragraph: "Some time ago I visited the battlefields of Viet Nam, many of which were littered with statues of dead and surrendering American Soldiers, testimonials to our "defeat". Certainly, it is true that to the victors go the spoils, but it is also true that the American soldier was never defeated on any battlefield in Viet Nam. Our defeat was at the hands of our elite in the courtrooms, the classrooms, the cloak rooms, and the newsrooms: cowardly media-phobic politicians, an irresponsible dishonest media, and other cowards and spoiled brats and professors from Berkely to Harvard." Wow! Tell us how you really feel, Sir! I wish I had said that, because I agree with you 100%. While I believe that "Dead Men Flying" was written as an Autobiography, it is an excellent History of the birth and growth of Aeromedical Evacuation in Vietnam. From the very first Air Ambulance Hueys in Country, five UH-1Bs scattered from

one end of the country to the other, to what would become a very unique mission of several units with perhaps 100 Hueys and hundreds of crewmen, assigned to hospitals up and down the map of South Viet Nam. The randomly chosen callsign of "Dustoff" very early in the War is still used today, synonymous with "Medevac". General Brady goes into great detail of his time in Vietnam with, among other things, a month-by-month diary of his more memorable missions. And for those readers who were unaware of his Medal of Honor, he gives us a quite detailed account of the seven missions and over 50 men rescued one day and night in January of 1968 for which he was awarded. And that was just for the MOH...that day and night included other insecure rescues as well, not included in the Award Citation. Whether you are interested in Dustoff missions or not, it makes no difference. General Brady's book is full of information and incredible stories. An excellent read for anyone interested in helicopter operations during the Vietnam War, many of the tactics created then are still in use today. While many Viet Nam units and catchy callsigns no longer exist, there is still "Dustoff" on active duty to remind us of our Viet Nam legacy...and "Dustoff" will most likely be around long after we are gone!

Book Reviews *by Phil Marshall*



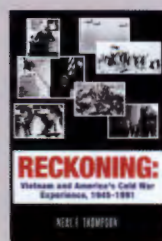
"Non-Hostile"

by John R. Walker

ISBN 979-8-218-59211-0

The Author gives us a VERY unique view of the Vietnam War in this book, one that I had never thought of. He answers a question that I would bet NONE of us ever thought of. "How many Americans died during my tour due to NON-HOSTILE action?" Here is a minor "spoiler alert". During John R. Walker's Vietnam tour of March, 1967 to February, 1968, the answer is 1,401 non-hostile deaths of American military during that period. Overall, during the Vietnam War, 20% of all deaths were due to non-hostile action according to his research. And what's even more eye-opening to me is that Walker has categorized and described in detail, how every one of those 1,401 non-hostile deaths occurred. I'm not saying his descriptions are in "gory detail", as if the fact we lost anyone to non-hostile activity wasn't gory enough. I'm talking, cold, hard facts. For example, 61 lives were lost in air crashes over land in December of 1967 alone. NON-HOSTILE! In one

month. John Walker describes every one of the losses, some by name, but all 1401 are detailed. He has done a tremendous amount of research and service to Veterans to put this book together. Citing many references sources, Walker also compares "our war" with other American wars of the past. Virtually every American war has had more non-hostiles casualties than Vietnam by percentage and by raw numbers. For instance, his research shows 74% of the casualties during our Revolutionary War were Non-Hostile. In my opinion, "our" Vietnam war losses would have been much higher were it not for our helicopters, doctors, nurses and medics. Of course, the Author includes recollections of his time in country, but his main work is focused on our non-hostile losses and gentlemen, this work has been very educational! And not just for Vietnam but all wars. Paul Simon wrote and sang "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover". John R. Walker wrote "21 Ways to Lose Your Life to Non-Hostile Causes". I'm shocked at the information he has uncovered but I am now better educated to discuss "our" War and ALL our Wars. It's an "eye-opener, fer shure"



"Reckoning: Vietnam and America's Cold War Experience, 1945 - 1991"

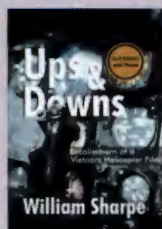
By Neal F. Thompson

ISBN 9780615622729

This book is a very, very intense research effort on the part of the Author and full of blunders...but NOT by the Author! It is full of references; virtually every page has references. The Author has been extremely thorough in exposing the facts and behavior of our government, citing decisions and the conduct of both our elected and "non-elected" individuals. Decisions and conduct which ended up creating the conditions which brought us to a war in Southeast Asia. This book is not a quick read...there is too much depth to skim through it and absorb the full content of the Author's research. Sixteen years of research and depth, that is! As early as 1930 we find that the seeds have been sown that will eventually find us involved in The Helicopter War. Not only were those seeds planted as early as 1930, you will find out who

planted them. Each President and his administration are critiqued in great depth; and for me, with many surprising results! One of the main points that I got out of Mr. Thompson's research was the behavior of both political parties which resulted in our involvement in the politics of Asia, not just Southeast Asia. The deceit and even confusion of both our political parties was very disheartening to me. I have always felt that, for the most part, we, as a nation, have had some "rather good" men and women making decisions for us as a country. Not so any more, at least for me. In my opinion, it's no wonder that we, as a Country, experienced the War in Vietnam and the unrestricted behavior of protestors during the Vietnam War. Our "Leaders" brought it upon us. The Author gives us plenty of ammunition to make our own decisions about America's "Cold War". If nothing else, I believe that the reader will have a much better understanding as to what transpired within previous administrations and why they sent us to a land far away...a land called "Vietnam".

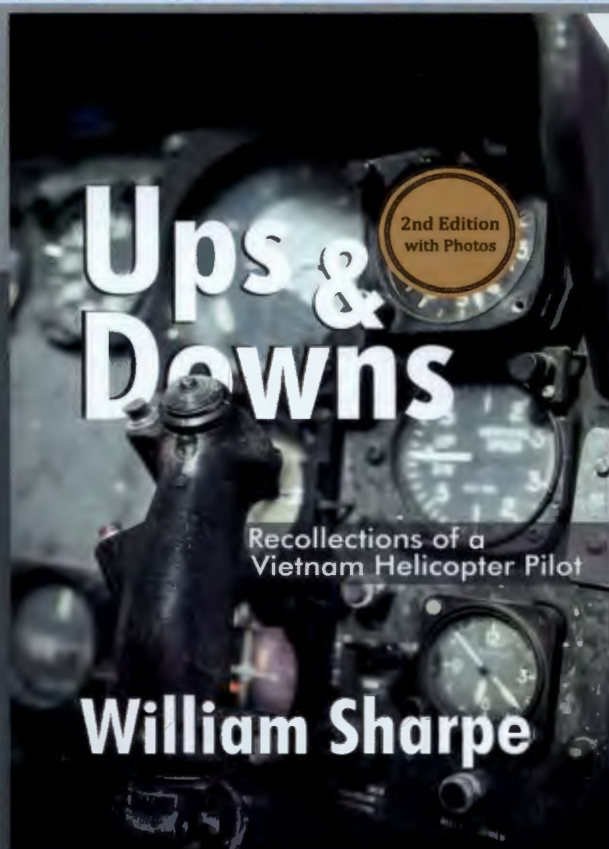
Book Reviews *by Phil Marshall*



"Ups & Downs"
by William Sharpe
ISBN 9798391146278

The Author offers us this Second Edition, with photos, and although I had not read the 1st Edition, I was glad that I had the opportunity to read the Second. Sharpe gets right to the "Meat and Potatoes" (or Lima Beans and Ham, if you prefer) of his ups and downs flying helicopters in Vietnam. There were no back stories about his youth or his trials and tribulations growing up, William Sharpe is in ROTC immediately after the "Foreword" of his book. The Chapters did not drag on, his messages in each Chapter are clear and concise. It was an "easy" read to me and it was a book that very much kept my interest throughout. What I liked most was that Sharpe did not use superfluous, unproductive,

unwarranted, gratuitous, dispensable, inessential or redundant words. He got right to the point in each Chapter and the pages seemed to fly by. His assignments in Vietnam were varied, and while he did not get a lot of flight time as an RLO, his recounting of his ground time was just as interesting as his air time. He documents some of the "stuff" that was going on while the rest of us were flying. Kind of like the "Ups & Downs" of his Vietnam tour, I suppose. I especially liked that the Author does not gloss over anything, he tells it like it was, to include Warrant Officer Prick. (You will have to read the book about THAT guy! No "Spoiler" from me.) Written from a slightly different perspective in that he writes about his time on the ground as much as his time in the air, William Sharpe's book will give any civilian or veteran a very good view of the ups and downs of a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.



"The deeply personal view of someone who actually participated in the Vietnam War... a vivid picture of what it was like to be there ."

-5-Star Amazon Review

- ★ 160 5-star reviews for the first edition
- ★ 45 new photos and 5 maps, including several of training at Fort Wolters
- ★ Expanded narrative, including an eyewitness account of the battle for Fire Base Cudgel by the author's brother, Jim Sharpe
- ★ Same price as the original: \$14.95

Available on Amazon

(search for the title to find it)

~ LOOKING FOR ~

My name is Benjamin Kristy, and I am a historian with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) here in Crystal City, VA. I am working a loss of a USAF A-26 in Binh Duong Province on 14 January 1964 with two Americans aboard – these men have not yet been accounted for. Wartime message traffic states that US Army helicopters were dispatched to try and reach the crash site but were waved off due to heavy enemy fire in the area. The 118th Airmobile Company has been identified as one of the possible units which might have responded, and I came across your wonderful website while researching the unit.

Is there any possibility of asking your membership of reaching out to me (via email) if they, or anyone they know from the 118th community, may have been involved in this incident?

Thank you for your time and efforts in assisting DPAA in bringing these two American warriors home.

Benjamin Kristy ~ Historian
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Vietnam Branch – Research Division (Virginia)
Email: Benjamin.H.Kristy.civ@mail.mil
Office: 703-254-2627



Full color. 20" x 28" Depicts all aircraft used by the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Standard version as shown, \$80.00 ea. **Customized** version with nose art / markings of your choice, \$125.00 including postage. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

See my other available prints, and place orders, at www.joeklineart.com



Joe Kline Aviation Art
 6420 Hastings Place
 Gilroy, CA 95020
 408-842-6979
klinejd569@aol.com
www.joeklineart.com



I was told you might be able to help.

My brother was helicopter pilot in Vietnam (Army). Not sure on the years but think 66-67 with C/ 229 AHB (confirmed by Data Base as well as flight class 66-7 Ed.) Jon died in 98 due to an aircraft accident due to an electrical fault.

He gave me a metal snoopy pin and a snoopy patch (I was 10). I lost both in a fire. There was also a picture of the snoopy on his helicopter.

I am looking for ANY information I can get on his service. I don't know what he did in Vietnam. I'm doing a book for his children and grandchildren. I'm looking to replace the snoopy stuff. Luckily I was able to give his wings to his son. Jon was an amazing man he flew his whole life.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me with any information you have.

Susan Wiswald
1511 Highview St
Waynesboro, TN 38485
susanwiswald@gmail.com 262-960-3857

Members,

My very close friend, a former Vietnam era Marine ask me to see if I could help research for the name of the Dustoff Army helo pilot that Medevaced him and two others out of an Army/Marine action in the late '60's time frame. If your organization has any information on this pilot, it would be of great value to this former Marine. Mr. Anderson provided me with the following information regarding that particular action:

What I would like to know is the Army not Marine Medivac pilot's name and where he lives, if he is still alive, who flew me and two others. One patient died on the way into the hospital, he was an Army infantry soldier. The area of our operation was Coco Island Southeast of Hue on May 26, 1968 in mid-afternoon. The pilot flew us from a very hot zone to Phu Bai in fact it was the only medevac that day, because of the intense fire fight. My Amtrac was attached to the Army on that day. The medevac pilot did not have to land because there was incoming fire. He is a hero! I would sure like to tell him in person. All Medivac pilots in my opinion were heroes.

Thank you,

Timothy Clark
clarkstlc@gmail.com
(Member, Sun City Aviation Club, Georgetown, TX)

~ LOOKING FOR ~

Dear Editor,

My brother and I are looking for information about WO Aube's service in Vinh Long Vietnam (Tom was three years behind Aube in high school). Aube was a star quarterback for a very successful team for several years.

Our purpose is twofold. First we would like to have Timothy Aube placed on the Salesianum High School Virtual Wall of Honor. Second we want to provide information to Aube's two sons about his service in Vietnam.

My brother, Tom Kenney, was the night shift radio operator in the TOC during his tour in Vinh Long February 1970 February 1971 working for Major James Hughes. When Aube arrived in Vinh Long, Tom and Aube connected after a briefing in the TOC. When Tom learned about the accident, he asked if he could visit Aube in the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon the next day. A pilot agreed to take him in an OH6A to Tan Son Nhut for a short visit. Aube's head injuries were so severe he had to be restrained to the bed due to violent seizures.

It was reported that during a hot refueling and rearming of his ship, and while inspecting the ship, he slipped and fell causing contact with the tail rotor. Tom visited Aube in a local VA hospital and eventually in his home where Aube received nursing support. Aube later moved to Jamaica where he passed away in 2016.

Would you please reach out to membership with a request for the following:

1. Does anyone remember circumstances surrounding his accident?
2. Does anyone have any photos of Aube in country?
3. Does anyone have any memories of Aube that could be passed on to his sons?

If anyone wishes to communicate with my brother, his contact information is:

SGT Tom Kenney
216 Atkinson Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 740-0691 (c).
Tomkenney2@horizon.net

Interested in

ADVERTISING in The VHPA Aviator?

*The Official Newsletter
of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association*

Prices range from \$135.00 for a quarter-page
to \$475.00 for a full-page, color advertisement.

*Our staff Graphic Designer will help
design your Aviator ad at no cost,
other price discounts are available.*

Full Details available at:
Aviator@VHPA.org

HELP PRESERVE YOUR HISTORY!

Unit specific items: Patches, Uniforms,
Headgear, Flight Gear, Calling Cards,
Souvenirs AND Captured Bad Guy Items!

WANTED

Helicopter Memorabilia from the Vietnam War

Contact: John Conway

NEW!!! 816-813-3488
JPConway@sbcglobal.net
NEW!!! Website: museum.vhpa.org

ARMY ~ NAVY ~ AIR FORCE ~ MARINE CORPS
Assault - Cavalry - Trans - Medical Rescue etc.

Fair Prices Paid. Not for profit.
References available.

Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive Opens Large Agent Orange Collection

Public perceptions about the Vietnam War remain filled with many myths, conspiracies, and misunderstandings, and the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War has had a lasting impact on Vietnam and on veterans. The Agent Orange Product Liability Litigation served as a widescale attempt by both plaintiffs and defendants to find answers such as whether the government and/or chemical companies were aware of Agent Orange's toxicity before using it and who would be liable for damages caused by Agent Orange. This landmark class action suit (1979-1984) brought together many of the individual suits filed by Vietnam veterans against these chemical companies claiming that their product caused numerous health issues for themselves and their children.

The Agent Orange Product Liability Litigation Collection, housed at the Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive, contains 550 linear feet of scientific studies, trial records, military documents about Agent Orange use, copies of case law relevant to the class action suit, and over 200 linear feet of deposition transcripts and exhibits from government officials, chemical company employees, representative plaintiffs and relevant expert witnesses who discuss a wide range of Agent Orange and dioxin related topics.

By processing and making this collection available for research, the Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive is providing previously unavailable infor-

mation and insight into one of the most controversial programs during the war – the use of chemical defoliants – and the long-term impact of their use on human health and the environment. This collection appeals to a wide range of audiences including veterans, legal scholars, scientists, medical professionals, historians, and students. Given the ongoing public and academic interest in the Vietnam War, it is very exciting to provide everyone with access to a new set of documents that can help shed light on such a controversial and impactful topic.

To learn more about the materials, which were processed through a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, go to the link below, to view the collection's finding aid.

<https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/items.php?item=2652000000>

These materials are not available online and can only be viewed in person in our reading room on the Texas Tech University campus, or you can order photocopies through our reference service if you cannot visit. *If you would like to access these materials, email us at vnca@ttu.edu for help planning your visit or to request copies.*

By Amy K. Mondt,

Associate Director
The Vietnam Archive Special Collections Library
Texas Tech University

Interested in Advertising in The VHPA Aviator?

*The Official Newsletter
of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association*

Prices range from \$135.00 for a quarter-page
to \$475.00 for a full-page, color advertisement.

*Our staff Graphic Designer will help
design your Aviator ad at no cost,
other price discounts are available.*

**Full Details
available at:**

Aviator@VHPA.org

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 (8472).

AVIATOR REPORT completed for 8 New Members and covers the period of: 6.20.25-8.6.25

Line 1 has the last then first names plus middle initial or name with the nickname in quotes. VHPA Life Members have ** at the end of line 1, Line 2 has his city and state, Line 3 has his military branch of service, Line 4 has his flight school number or wings date, Line 5 has his Southeast Asian tour information where the unit abbreviation is followed by the YEAR(s)
This roster is presented in alphabetical order by last name

Barrett Robert E. **
Seattle Washington
Army
69-41 69-39 336 AHC in 70-71

Jones Gary E. **
Independence Missouri
Army
70-37 129 AHC in 71

Sharpless Vernon J.
Big Bear City California
Marine Corps
HMM-163 in 67

Bloodworth George C. ** Kathleen
Georgia
Army
69-9 D/3/5 CAV in 69

Knutson Dean R. **
Forest Lake Minnesota
Army
70-15 70-13 C/158 AVN
101 ABN in 70-71

Tankersley Thomas R. **
Rainbow City Alabama
Army
71-1 B/7/17 CAV in 70-71 AVI

Brusse Leslie W **
Enterprise Alabama
Army
67-13 117 AHC in 67-68

Robinson Geoffrey **
Fort Meade Maryland
Army
69-25 69-21 C/227 AHB 1 CAV in 66; 82
MED DET in 67-68; 147 ASHC in 71



'Preserving the Legacy', all combat helicopter aircrews, all eras of warfare!



If you were a US military pilot or crewmember in combat or in an imminent danger area, in any conflict,

you should be a member of the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association!

Be sure to order your new CHPA aircrew gear online at: <https://fanmadefits.com/chpa-aircrew-gear>

Join the 2023 CHPA Memorial Day 5K Challenge at:

<https://www.goneforarun.com/virtual-race-chap-memorial-day-5k-2023/chp-0001.html?cgid=gfar>

Website: www.chpa-us.org / Email: hq@chpa-us.org / Phone: 800-832-5144

VHPA Chapters

Alamo Chapter

Mike Law, President
631 Lakeview Blvd, Apt B303
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-730-8950
Email: mikelaw1943@gmail.com

Alaska Chapter

Lynn Kile, President
12243 W Skyline Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577
Phone: 907-696-5453
Email: llkile@aol.com

American Huey Chapter

Chuck Canfield, President
3225 Sellkirk Bush Rd. SW
Warren, OH 44481
Cell: (330) 984-0889
Email: muskets176@gmail.com

Arizona Chapter

Dave Sale (provisional president)
Email: davesale64@gmail.com
404-663-0793

Arkansas Chapter

Fritz Kahley
623 Cobblestone Circle
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116
Phone: 501-690-0936
Email: fkahley525@sbcglobal.net

California North Chapter

Ken Fritz
5341 W Riego Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95837
Phone: 916-768-1675
Email: KenMM17@gmail.com

Florida Chapter

Dr. Joe Ponds, president
doctorjoe@memoryquest.net
352.746.1068

Georgia Chapter

Jim Crawford, President and Webmaster
404 663-0793
Email: jim@atlantaairphoto.com
www.GAVHPA.org

Hawaii Chapter – Provisional

Ken DeHoff - POC
808-754-6871
Email: khdehoff@gmail.com

Louisiana Gulf Coast Chapter

Victor Lent, President
P.O. Box 111
Arabi, LA 70032
Phone: 504-201-9070
Email: VHPA-NewOrleans@earthlink.net

Michigan Chapter

Richard Deer, President
308 W 4th St
Charlotte, MI 48813-2186
Phone: 517-543-2962
Email: richdeer@att.net

North Alabama Chapter

Marshall Eubanks, President
217 Golden Harvest, New Market, AL
35761
Phone: 256-527-5900
Email: marshallEubanks48@gmail.com

North Carolina Chapter

Joe Armstrong, President
Email: Outlaw_24@yahoo.com
Phone: 252-678-2566

Ohio River LZ Chapter

Dan S. Gulley, President
Phone: 812 948-1357
Email: dan.gulley@att.net
www.ohrivlz.org

Oklahoma Chapter

Mike Sloniker, President
3909 Creek Bank Rd,
Edmond, OK 73003
Home: 703-690-5856
Cell: 703-395-5147
Email: mikesloniker@yahoo.com
www.okvhpa.org

Old Dominion Chapter

Jim Squyres, President
728 Jouett Drive
Newport News VA 23608
Phone: 757-812-0658
Email: jimsquyres@gmail.com
Facebook: Old Dominion Chapter VHPA

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Dale E House, President
14520 Akron St.
Brighton, CO 80602
Phone: 303-659-8754
Email: RMC.mailbox@yahoo.com

South Missouri Chapter

Roy J. Irwin
1003 Brooksgate Manor Dr.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: Mobil (314) 660-0821
Email: rj.suzee@sbcglobal.net

South Carolina Chapter

(Celebrate Freedom) Chapter
Roger Lone, President
2533 B Airport Blvd
West Columbia, SC 29170
Phone Office 803 822-8812
Cell 760 851-5220
Email: rdlone@hotmail.com

Southern California Chapter

Jim Davidson, President
PO Box 3219
Crestline, CA 92325-3219
Home: 909-338-0907
Cell: 909-633-4427
Email: jimdavidson007@hotmail.com

Upper Midwest Chapter

Donald Abrams, President
Phone: 651-231-7034
Email: dbabrams@comcast.net

Utah Chapter

Doug Drury, President
801-857-8928
Email: lama527@comcast.net

Washington State Chapter

John Shafer CPA, LLC Treasurer
2331 Eastlake Ave East
Seattle, WA 98102
johnshafercpa@comcast.net
Ph: 206-324-4936
Fax: 206-328-0793

Notice to all Members of the VHPA

The liaison between the national HQ of the VHPA and the independent Chapters has been assigned to the current President and the Past President who will provide quarterly Zoom meetings to maintain continuity and camaraderie with our VHPA community. The current President and Past President are identified on page 2 as the Chapter Co-Chair Liaisons. Feel free to reach out to them as needed.

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 Chapters



Alamo Chapter

I suspect most of you have heard of the tragic situation in Central Texas surrounding the massive rains and resultant flood we experienced. Although the San Antonio metroplex was not nearly as affected as other areas, we did realize several deaths. The local focus is now on the rescue and recovery of those still missing from the July 4/5th flooding. Many are unaccounted for; many of whom are children.

One of our most active and supportive chapter members and his lady are leaving us. Past Chapter President and Executive Council Officer Dale Stout and his wonderful wife, Kathryn, have moved to Norman, OK to be closer to family. They will truly be missed. Hopefully Dale will be able to hook up with an Oklahoma Chapter. Our loss will definitely be your gain. A picture of Dale and Kathryn is attached.

At our past dinner, our local VSO presented a wonderful orientation on how to access the VA Disability and Claims program. His advice on how the system works, or in some cases, doesn't work, was insightful and provided guidance on what was needed to work within the system. He stressed that vets and their spouses or surviving family members should contact their local VSO for assistance; that's what they are there for.

Our monthly luncheons/dinners continue although we will take a break in August as a number of us



VSO (Veteran Service Officer)



Dale and Kathryn Stout

will be heading to St. Louis and the annual convention. It should be a great time.

The chapter continues to support the Huey 369 Project and the Vietnam Archive Center and Museum at Texas Tech University; it is also planning for our annual Christmas Party/Dinner, which is scheduled on 7 December at the Army Residence Community. This is always a great time. The chapter is alive, well, and active. President Mike Law occupies the left seat and continues to lead the

chapter to a successful year. Visit us at our web site: <http://vhpa-alamo.com/> for more information about the Alamo Chapter.

Until next time, stay happy and healthy.

V H P A Chapters

American Huey 369 Chapter

As we continue with our 2025 flying season with the annual maintenance sessions behind us, I want to take a quick look back at our past as an organization. An organization that was never intended to exist. It started when 2 brothers bought a complete but “non-flying” Vietnam Huey helicopter listed on Ebay, a Huey to simply plant in their pole barn. It was parked there so they and their buddies could sit around, drink beer and tell war stories. And tell stories they did, until someone said, “Let’s get this thing back in the air.” (Too many beers, perhaps? Nah!) They did just that, but it didn’t happen overnight. It took a lot of donations, a lot of volunteers and a lot of “sweat equity.”

Almost 20 years later, that first H-Model Huey, tail number 369 and a Dustoff bird that flew in Vietnam with the 498th Medical Company, it has become the iconic symbol of the American Huey organization. Again this year, we are flying 369 and 2 other Vietnam Huey Warbirds in Indiana and surrounding States at Veteran’s events, Air Shows and Memorials to honor not only the aircraft but those of us who flew them in combat. These are not helicopters on a stick in front of some VFW or sitting in a park somewhere collecting bird poop. These are living, breathing, noisy pieces of history; they are our LEGACY as Vietnam pilots and crewmen.

Over the years, we have scheduled the aircraft to fly to 285 events. During those 285 events, not one event has ever been cancelled due to weather or maintenance of the aircraft. How’s that for 50-year old medium jet turbinized helicopters?

Finally, the Museum. The National American Huey History Museum near Bunker Hill, Indiana, sits across the busy Highway 31 from Grissom Air Reserve Base. A goal of \$4 million was set 10 years ago to build the Museum; 3 million for the building and 1 million for a “Rainy Day Fund” to insure the Museum’s perpetuity. Proudly, I can announce that the Rainy Day Fund now generates \$50,000 a year in interest which is used to further grow the fund and also allows the Organization to award \$25,000 worth of Scholarships each year to Gold Star Fami-



lies. All thanks to your donations.

Not only is the Museum nearing completion, it is within the budget established 10 years ago. How is that possible? Donations in kind. It has thoroughly amazed me how many individuals and companies have made donations of time and materials to the Museum. For instance, how does one explain a donation of a \$240,000 fire suppression system? Or the tons of aggregate and thousands of yards of concrete at no charge or greatly reduced cost? Many, many more donations in kind than I can list here.

So...is YOUR history preserved yet? We have less than 100 spaces left on a 7-foot tall, 2000 pound bronze plaque that will be mounted in the main entrance to the Museum. Help us maintain these flying icons of our War. With a minimum donation of \$1000, you can set your name in bronze at the only Huey Museum in the world. As a donor, you have up to 24 characters on the plaque to show your support, to memorialize what we did, oh, so many years ago. *Or was it just yesterday?*

americanhuey369.com

Phil Marshall

***This could
be where
your story
starts!***

It was a dark and stormy night, and there I was, guarding the aircraft revetments. I had my three-candle-power flashlight, my .38 revolver, and 20 rounds of ball ammunition. The communist hoards were all about me...

VHPA Chapter Activities

Georgia Chapter MAY LUNCHEON



Beginning on 20 MAY, our Chapter Luncheon saw a great turnout and a super Speaker, our own Mister-COL Clyde Romero (Retired AF). Like all of his other presentations, this one was extremely informative and dealt with the rotary wing elements involved in the Raid on Bin Laden on 2 May, 2011. The top-secret planning involved in deploying Seal Team 6 into this very small compound in Abbottabad, PK was perfect, and the air assets were almost flawless. The H-60's, CH47's and super quiet prototype got the job done with no loss of life. Great recap of a proud moment in US history! "The research for this talk was taken from the books below. I highly recommend these books for and in-depth study on how the mission was accomplished".

~ Clyde Romero

By All Means Available
by Michael Vickers

Countdown to Bin Laden
by Chris Wallace

Relentless Strike
by Sean Naylor

Sea Stories
by Admiral William
McCraven

Dreamland
by Peter Merlin



Bill Lusk, Glenn Carr



Mister-COL Clyde Romero (Retired AF)



Donna Roe and General Keane



Gen Keane and
Chapter Pres Jim Crawford

CVMF GALA

17 MAY saw the Annual Gala and Fundraiser event by the Cobb Veterans Memorial Foundation in Marietta. This Fundraiser was hosted by the Foundation President and CEO, Donna Rowe, a Triage Head Nurse at the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, '68, '69. The guest speaker was, again, 4 Star General (RET) Jack Keane, a foreign policy and security expert, as well as an astounding speaker and news contributor. The Gala raised mega dollars and we are closer to construction start than ever!

CITY of MILTON

26 May, Memorial Day, provided an opportunity to respond to an invitation received from the City of Milton, Georgia with a static display of our UH-1H, "Hollywood". Our bird is provided by the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation. We were accompanied by several GA-VHPA members as well as several members of our Vietnam Veterans brother organization, the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association. The speakers were excellent and the 500 plus crowd very much enjoyed "Hollywood"!

VHPA Chapter Activities

4 JUL Marietta Square

A day of celebration for Our Country's Birthday. The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, The Georgia Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, and The Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance were in the thick of it! I never thought I would see Marietta Square this close to the ground through the windscreen of a Huey, but we did. I am sure I speak for all who rode in this Iconic Bird down Roswell St. and then onto the Square at Cherokee that we are convinced Patriotism is alive and well in Georgia! At every meter we were continually greeted with standing ovations and salutes! The cheers became roars at times, and I don't believe there was a dry eye onboard. At times, we became quiet in retrospection but quickly recovered to wave and thank the crowds for their salutations. The crowds were estimated from 10,000 to 15,000 along the two-mile route.

Very special thanks to Bill McRae for arranging our participation with the City of Marietta. And thanks to the City of Marietta's Emily Zillweger for their gracious invitation. We hope to see them again next year for the Country's 250th Celebration.



Martin, Crawford, Bayless, Mueller, Carr, Maynard, Lackey and Blank

JULY Luncheon

15 JUL finds us at our bi-monthly Luncheon at Dunwoody United Methodist Church. In addition to our normal itinerary, we discussed the upcoming VHPA Monument Ceremony at Ft. Rucker. This ceremony takes place on 10 September and there are many members who plan to attend. Almost all of us trained at Rucker and the VHPA has requested that each Chapter consider contributions to assist in covering the ever-growing costs for this ceremony. So far, our contributions have been substantial

Guest Luncheon Speaker

In 1967 and 1968, General Taylor had the unique privilege of flying for Air America. He assured us that the glamor shown in the movie by the same name was misplaced. Their aircraft of choice for his AOR was indeed a helicopter. But a CH34?? Which he flew on solo missions with no gun cover and with no co-pilot! As an audience, we were wrapped and thoroughly entertained. The description of the area covered and the upper echelon politics of the nation of Laos were captivating and we were thoroughly entertained. We hope to have General Taylor back soon for at least chapter two!

By Doug Lackey



Mueller and Speaker, Cary King

VHPA Chapter Activities

Michigan Chapter



The Michigan Chapter continued activities through the spring primarily with social gatherings.

On May 14th the monthly brunch in Traverse City was hosted by Mark Benjamin. He reported that the meeting was small but informative and so interesting. We went around the table and everyone told their story. Due to his major involvement in the Bat 21 story, John Van Etten clearly has the most unique story to tell. John was an OV-10 pilot in Vietnam and was the on-scene commander for the longest CSAR mission in history; nearly a week. If you're interested, pick up any of three books (information is, some are better than others) or a movie about the BAT 21 rescue mission from the jungles of North Vietnam.



May 14th in Traverse City

Those attending are shown in the May 14th in Traverse City photo starting with the red shirt and going clockwise: Mason Gault, Denny Klein, Mark Benjamin, John Van Etten, Sandy McLeod, Paul Fitzsimons, Bob Matlis.

Thanks so much for joining in John and thanks Sandy McLeod for bring coming and bringing him along. Also: thanks Denny Klein for making the long trip.

On May 17th Mark Benjamin represented our Michigan Chapter along with his other veterans' connections at the Veterans Benefit Expo VFW Post 2780 in Traverse City. Attendance was



May 17th Veterans Benefit Expo

light. Weather prevented setting up the canopy outside.

The annual Michigan Chapter VHPA business meeting was held on May 19th at the One North Kitchen and Bar on West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing with thirteen people attending. On arrival the socializing started with old friends meeting again and new friends made. The restaurant's wait staff was friendly and efficient while serving good food.

After the meal Rich Deer conducted the business meeting starting with the membership report. He advised that the roster includes 102 members and 30 associates. Unofficially there are 115 Army, 13 Marines, 2 Air Force, 1 Navy, and 1 Coast Guard listed. Two new members have been added in 2025 and there were seven added in 2024 while one Died After Tour was recorded.

Treasurer's report listed \$684.81 available after \$500 sent in support of the Fort Novosel Monument project.

A list of possible activities for our Michigan Chapter's participation was compiled by Glen Veno and previously emailed to the membership. While there was no specific request for any individual to head up a display for the Chapter, everyone is encouraged to check them out if interested. If someone would like to represent the Chapter at any of the events, resources such as a Michigan Chapter logo'd canopy are available.

The National VHPA Reunion is coming up in St. Louis and some Michigan Chapter members are planning to go. Since the registration hasn't started yet there hasn't been a Morning Report listing available yet to know all who may be going.

Rich Deer highlighted the support for the Michigan given by certain individuals. Mark Benjamin's monthly gatherings in Traverse City as well as many other veteran related activities. Glen Veno as the S-2 source for the activities list noted earlier. Bob Rich as the creator of the Michigan Chapter logo and serves as the webmaster for our website and Facebook page. Gary Copp for his work on Quilt of Valor presentations, along with Mark Benjamin's efforts for Q of V in his area. Charlie Martin as the founder of the Michigan Chapter. Many others who give support as simply as acknowledging the emails sent out reporting on our activities which assures Rich that someone is reading them.

VHPA Chapter Activities

The president and vice president of the National VHPA conducted a first-ever Zoom meeting of the chapter representations recently and covered several topics:

~ The Fort Novosel Monument dedication will be held September 10th. The Monument will be a near replica of the one at Arlington National Cemetery. Along with individual contributions the Michigan Chapter has sent a total of \$1,975 for the Monument. Individual contributors included Pat Mullen, Charles Marvin, Gary Copp, Larry Bush, Peter Fabien, Gary Brydges, Gabe Hudson, Bob Rich, Fred Jerome, Randy Maltby, and Rich Deer.

~ VHPA members can become life members of the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Novosel at no charge. The website armyaviationmuseum.org has the option for "get involved" then selecting museum membership. Select Membership Type and scroll down to VHPA VIP Lifetime.

~ Quad A is also considering allowing VHPA members to become life members of their organization. It was noted the organization essentially started because of the VHPA.

~ A memorial map is available on the VHPA.org website for all the helicopter pilot KIAs in Vietnam. On the home page select KIA Info By Name on the lower left and two links for Memorial Map will show on the next page. The information is very detailed covering the locations, dates, and other details of the KIAs.

In other business, Mark Benjamin has a framed Michigan Chapter logo that he would like to give to a good home. Mark Cosgrove took possession to see if the Army Aviation Support Facility would like to have it. The origins of the Michigan Chapter were heavily connected with the AASF along with the ongoing Army National Guard helicopter operations there.

Mark also had a number of Michigan Chapter logo pins to give away and there were takers. He had originally bought 500 and now wanted to see they would all be distributed.

The guest speaker was author John Wemlinger, a retired US Army Colonel with 27 years of service and fellow Vietnam helicopter pilot. He is the author of six novels in which he writes about what he knows best:



Business Meeting Speaker John Wemlinger

America's veterans and the issues confronting them. Four of his books have won awards including his most recent novel, *The Cut*, which was named by the State Library of Michigan as a 2022 Notable Book. His topic for the meeting was about Leadership in the military. His presentation included personal stories illustrating how leadership impacts everyone. A tally was made of the combined number of years of service for those attending which totaled 220. He highlighted that as the number of years

of leadership this group possessed. His speech was well received and appreciated by all those present.

After his presentation a drawing was held for six of his books as door prizes and other books were available for purchase.

In the photo for the business meeting attendees were



May 17th Veterans Benefit Expo

L-R Diane and John Wemlinger, Dennis Klein, Glen Veno, Roger Blaha, Mark Cosgrove, Gary Copp, Jim Carter, Rod Offhaus, Bob Rich, Wade Herzig, Mark Benjamin, and (Not Pictured) Rich Deer.

June 11th in Traverse City - A larger than expected group gathered for brunch at Willie's. A wonderful meeting, as usual, took place with lively discussion by lively participants.

Mark Benjamin briefed regarding upcoming activities in the Traverse City area such as:

- 27 June Golf fund raiser for Reining Liberty Ranch. The ranch uses equestrian in their efforts to combat PTSD. NW MI VHPA has contributed to this event and a T Box sign with our logo will be appropriately placed on the course. Anyone wish to contribute, contact Mark.

VHPA Chapter Activities

-27 June Annual Open Ramp at the Coast Guard Air Station here in Traverse City. We will again set up our MI Chapter VHPA tent as before. If you can show up at 4PM, we will have early access for set up. That way you can avoid the thousands trying to enter at 5:30. However, I only need a few folks, but please stay to the end to assist with take down. This year will feature an F-22 and an F-35(Marine version, it hovers)!!! As well as other airshow acts including war birds

-14-17 August Buckley Old Engine Show, Buckley, Michigan. We are assisting the TC VFW Post 2780 with the food concession at the Old Engine Show. Anyone can help with this major league effort. No need to be a member and they would sure appreciate it if we could provide. If interested, contact Mark Benjamin at mebmd11@gmail.com

GT Area Veterans Coalition VP and National Cherry Festival Military Liaison, Ron Hoffmeister, briefed everyone on veterans festival events that are free to veterans. For information on FREE STUFF call the Festival Office at 231-947-4230. Ron says to simply tell them that you are a veteran and wish to attend the airshow on the 28/29th of June or the 4 July fireworks and they'll take it from there. That number again: 231-947-4230.

Many war memories and unit talk as usual. Great group! Thanks Everyone!!

In the June 11th Traverse City photo starting at lower left with plaid shirt going clockwise: Paul Fitzsimons, Ron Reinhold, Pat Mullen, Mark Benjamin, Ron Hofmeister, John Van Etten, Art Tebo, Linda Maxwell, Clay Maxwell, Sandy McLeod, Mason Gault, Joe Meredith. Art Tebo



June 11th in Traverse City



June 27th USCG Open Ramp



Hobie Hammond & Karen Wallace



Gary Perkins, Jean Perkins, Hobie Hammond, & Karen Wallace.

was not aircrew. He was a counter intel specialist. He worked for an agency for whom the Army was a customer, then ended up COO of the Boyne Corporation.

On June 27 Mark Benjamin represented our Michigan Chap-

ter at the USCG Open Ramp in Traverse City. Two members who had planned to attend were unable due to personal emergencies. Mark reported the wind was strong which tended to lift the canopy but he was able to keep it safe.

The 9 July Traverse City meeting welcomed new guys Hobie Hammond and Carl Archambeau. We went around the room introducing ourselves and briefly telling each individual story.

Hobie Hammond was commissioned thru ROTC at the University of Oklahoma. He completed pilot training and went directly to C H - 4 7 training then to B co. 159 AHC, 101

Airborne, Airmobile. After 6 months he was assigned to AVN Group HQ, 101st Airborne Division flying the OH-6. After his Army service Hobie became a stock broker and investment products wholesaler. He then worked his last 10 years with ING. He is now retired and lives in Michigan right next door to his daughter Karen Wallace. Hobie was presented a Quilt of Valor by Jean Perkins, assisted by Gary Perkins and witnessed by his daughter.

Carl Archambeau went to Vietnam as an Enlisted
Page 28 The VHPA Aviator

VHPA Chapter Activities

Marine. Later, Carl joined the Michigan Army National Guard and was sent to pilot training. He flew for many years with the Michigan Guard at Grand Ledge retiring as a CW4. During his time with the Guard, Carl flew everything they had including Hueys and Cobras. In civilian life, he flew for various hospital medical evacuation companies.



July 9th in Traverse City

The conversation was, as always, lively and humorous. In the July 9th in Traverse City photo starting in the lower left corner and going counter clockwise: Bob Matlis, Hobie Hammond and Hobie's daughter Karen,

Sandy McLeod, Mark Benjamin, Don Pond,

NW Michigan Quilts of Valor Foundation representative Jean Perkins, Gary Perkins, Carl Archambeau.

For any VHPA members in or near Michigan who would like to be added to our email list for updates on our activities, contact me at richdeer@att.net. We have several non-Michigan residents on our roster so don't let that stop you from joining us.

More information on our chapter can be found online at

vhpami.wordpress.com and on Facebook at Michigan Chapter of the VHPA.

Submitted by Rich Deer, President



North Alabama Chapter (NAVHPA)

James "Jim" McWhorter, Jr, longtime NAVHPA/VHPA member passed away on 13 May 2025. Many NAVHPA members & spouses attended his service in Winchester, TN and his internment in Huntsville, Alabama.

Three interesting things happened then.

Firstly: Jim was the commander of the 188th AHC in Vietnam in 1967-1968. A former door gunner, Bill Crabbe, flew with Jim many times. Bill so respected Jim and his command style, that he flew from San Francisco to attend Jim's funeral. Bill evidently believed Jim was a great commander!

Secondly: A group of NAVHPA members & spouses went to lunch after Jim's service. We were all sitting at a long table when this gentleman named Vance Gammons, seeing our NAVHPA Shirts, walked up and asked, "Does anyone know Doug Madigan?" Well, Doug is one of our members and you can imagine our surprise when a stranger, out of the blue, in Winchester, TN, asks that. Vance is a good friend to Doug.

Finally: NAVHPA member Don



Chapter members at the service for Jim McWhorter. Center: Bill Crabbe from California.



The internment for Jim was SRO. It is easy to pick out NAVHPA members.

VHPA Chapter Activities



Many military vehicles were displayed for Armed Forces Day.



Sam Maki sharing his expertise about the Huey and Vietnam.

Bison tells Vance that he looks familiar to him. After a couple minutes conversation, Don realized that Vance had been his company commander in the 335th AHC, 1969-1970 at Bear Cat and Dong Tam. They had a long conversation sharing memories and experiences. Vance gave Don a copy of his book, "335th AHC What We Did After The Vietnam War."

On 17 May, NAVHPA joined with several North Alabama groups to celebrate Armed Forces Day at a Military Vehicles Rally at the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville, AL. The Veterans Museum displayed many of their operational military vehicles, including a M4A4 Sherman Tank and a M-36 "Jackson" Tank Destroyer, as well as over a dozen other vehicles. The Dixie Division Military Vehicles Club displayed many of their individually owned vehicles, including a 90mm Recoilless Rifle mounted on a M151 Jeep, a 1918 Liberty Truck, two WWII Harley Motorcycles, and many other unique vehicles.

NAVHPA displayed BUC-3, an NAVHPA restored UH-1C/M Huey gunship that flew over 1400 hours dur-



NAVHPA officers l-r (Buffalo) Bob Monette and Sandy Weand salute the memory of fallen aviation personnel in Vietnam. (Sandy is a reserve Deputy Sheriff in Madison County.)



NAVHPA participants and observers at the Veterans' Memorial on Memorial Day.



The NAVHPA contingent with BUC-3. As always, good participation.

ing two tours in Vietnam. Crowds seemed interested in the variety of "old" military vehicles on display. Folks enjoyed sitting in BUC-3's cockpit and being shown Vietnam War helicopter technology and how the controls worked. Our docents enjoyed discussing their Vietnam experiences with interested visitors.

On 26 May, NAVHPA participated in the annual

VHPA Chapter Activities

Memorial Day Ceremony and Laying of Wreath's, hosted by the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial As part of the Memorial Day Program, approximately 45 member NAVFOC organizations placed their wreaths at the Memorial. NAVHPA Treasurer Sandy Weand and Director of

Events Bob Monette placed our wreath this year. Each year, the wreath is laid by two people— either NAVHPA members, spouses or family members of deceased NAVHPA members. Visit the web site for Memorial details, <https://hmcvm.org/>.

By Ralph Weber



North Carolina Chapter

Once again, NC VHPA stays engaged with an active Summer display season. May 3 and 4 found us with the OH-58, UH-1H, UH-1M, and the OH-6 at Seymour Johnson AFB near Goldsboro for the Wings Over Wayne Airshow. The weather, though hot and mostly cloudy, did not hamper a continuous, enthusiastic crowd estimated at 15,000, which kept us busy both days. Nor were we restricted to a "low-level routine" as were the Thunderbirds because of low clouds. Member participants at this event were Jerry & Barbara Seago, Brock & Colleen Nicholson, Bob Ingles, Gerald Phelps, Ed Hughes and Vic Rose. Also joining us at this display were Bob & Patricia Lawson from Tennessee. And special thanks go to Ed's daughter and husband, Stephanie and Scott Worrell of Princeton, NC, for coordinating and reserving seating for the group at the local Dos Marias Restaurant.

Two weeks later we mustered at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC with the same aircraft to participate in the Spencer Shops Train Day and tribute to veterans. Attendance at this event was good and conversations with nearly 900 visitors were often interspersed by loud toots and horns blaring from the museum's train locomotives while taking tourists on scenic rides. At the end of the day, the helicopters were made ready for road travel and the following morning were on the way to the next display near Charlotte.

Getting three helicopters through the concrete pillar forest of the North Sundeck at Charlotte Motor Speedway for its Memorial Day events was A LOT easier than last year's exercise. According to Brock Nicholson, who spent more



Wings over Wayne Airshow



NC Transportation Museum



Memorial Day Charlotte Motor Speedway

VHPA Chapter Activities

than two hours last year maneuvering the Huey into its position, the aircraft entered via different route, made a big turnaround, then each backed easily into its parking space – a 300 % better process! Cooler weather this year also made the three-day event more tolerable to NC VHPA members and to the visitors, 1,500 of which came by on Sunday to view the OH-6, UH-1H and UH-1M on display. After the aircraft were in place, a huge fest tent was placed on the Sundeck's "big turnaround" area. At the conclusion of our display, the OH-6 could scoot by the tent, but not so the two larger helicopters. It wasn't until Wednesday following Memorial Day that the fest tent was removed by Speedway workers and the H and M-models could depart back to their respective home bases.

The following weekend on June 7, NC VHPA members participated in two separate events. Ed Hughes and Tom Braaten brought the OH-6 to the Great Trent River Raft Race in New Bern during which, according to the local ABC News12, "...participants raced down the Neuse River using paddleboards, kayaks, and uniquely crafted paddle-and-pedal rafts." Ed relates that they experienced a good crowd visiting him and Tom at the helicopter out of 3 - 5, thousand attendees at the race event. He doesn't recall any Vietnam War veterans dropping by, but they did have a chat with a few Marines from Cherry Point.

The other event on June 7 was having Ben Gay, Brock Nicholson and Jerry Seago bring the Huey slick and Kiowa to Ben's Liberty Baptist Church in Lanexa, Virginia as part of the congregation's community day and fish fry dinner. The public, with emphasis on first responders and military veterans, were invited to take part in the many free activities, and by the end of the day the church had handed out 500 dinners. The event was well attended by the community and much interest, as usual, was shown for the helicopter.

In early July a larger NC VHPA contingent of four helicopters converged in Southport for an event on-going for 230 years and established in 1972 as North Carolina's 4th of July Festival. We arrived at Waterfront Park midday on 2 July and were setup for display of the slick and

gunship Hueys and the Loach and Kiowa scouts by early afternoon. At day's end we were invited to Rick and Joy Mitchell's home for an enjoyable evening of camaraderie and delicious buffet dinner. Rick is also to be acknowledged for sponsoring NC VHPA's participation and travel expenses to this prestigious festival.

On Thursday, July 3, there was moderate attendance at the festival activities around the park during a day in



Taking a Break



NC Transportation Museum Photo 5 Trent River, New Bern NC



Liberty Baptist Church Community Day

VHPA Chapter Activities



Buffet Dinner at Rick and Joy Mitchell's home



The Fishy Fishy waterfront restaurant

which the weather mostly cooperated. Claudia Hughes used her prowess as a scout during the afternoon to find and reserve a space for us all for dinner, so, after getting the helicopters ready for the road, our group was quickly seated in the crowded Fishy Fishy waterfront restaurant for a great meal.

The big day in Southport was the fourth. We moved the helicopters early to the parade staging area (we were #70 of 110 entries) and then we became spectators as hundreds of people walked by on their way to the

parade viewing sites. Thirty minutes after the parade officially started, we began the two-mile route through an assemblage of 10,000 spectators lining the streets, cheering and waving. Quite a sight and quite an experience!

By Vic Rose

Photos Courtesy of: Jerry & Barbara Seago, Brock & Colleen Nicholson, Ed Hughes, Ben & Janet Gay and Vic Rose.

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

We have held three meetings since the last issue at Post #1 of the American Legion in Denver and provided Zoom conferencing for those who could not attend in person. We had 20 plus of the usual suspects in attendance with more on Zoom. We attended several events around town this last quarter. Member Bob White presented at the Exploration of Flight Museum; we attended the HHT 7/17 Cavalry Huey 233 Reunion; On Memorial Day weekend we had a 4-day showing; and on Aug 2nd we attended the 8th Annual Colorado Car Council Car and Air Show.

We had our Officer Elections at our last meeting. It was unanimous; Dale House is President once again, as are Vice President Bill Bates, Treasurer Jim McNamee, and Secretary Doug Neil. Carl Cavalluzzi is our Quartermaster, and Terry Olson is our Operations Officer.

Major Robert (Bob) White's Presentation:

Cliff Lawson presented Major Robert (Bob) White's Oral History Video at the Exploration of Flight in Cen-



Bob White and Cliff Lawson with OV-1 Bird Dog

ennial, Colorado. Member Cliff Lawson made the oral history video about Bob's 3 ½ years of captivity as a POW in South Vietnam.

Bob White was there to answer questions afterward. The demand was such that Cliff scheduled a second showing after lunch. The presentation of his story was a big hit. That's Bob with Cliff Lawson in front of an O1 Bird Dog in the picture. The same type of airplane that Bob first learned to fly on his way to a Mohawk transition.

VHPA Chapter Activities

Memorial Day at Veterans Park in Ft. Collins:

This was a four-day event. The Museum arrived at Veterans Plaza at 0430 of the first day. Larry Tomek met the Driver and spotted the Museum near the Pickle Ball courts. The docents began arriving shortly after to set up. Weather was good but rain was forecasted for later in the day. The Traveling Memorial Wall had arrived the day before and was already set up. Reading of the names had already begun and several of our members participated over the next four days.

The weather moved in as predicted and continued throughout the next 2 days. We struck our outside tent that we use for promotional materials and moved everything into the Museum and set it up on the Rotor Blade Bar in the rear of the trailer. In between the rain and sun, we had a continuous line of visitors. Despite the weather issues, we had a great weekend visiting with the public which included many Veterans from all services which included many Vietnam Veterans. Donations were very generous from the near 850 visitors we had during the four-day event.

Docents for the event were Bill Bates, Carl and Barbara Cavalluzzi, Al and Dottie Harinck, Dale House, Greg Mann and friend Kim, Doug Niel, Terry Olson, Terry Sullivan, Larry Tomek, Chris Towne, John Mitchell, Phil Lanphier, Wick Clark, and Bob Harris.

Collector Car Council of Colorado Car and Air Show:

It's not just a car show. The Collector Car Council of Colorado puts this show on every year at the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport in Broomfield, and is made up from many car clubs throughout Colorado. Approximately 400 cars were on display as well as some military vehicles. At noon an Airshow with participants of the Commemorative Airforce-Rocky Mountain Chapter had a flyover. Several veteran associations also participated setting up alongside the Vietnam Helicopter War Museum. We had approximately 300 visitors. Shortly after



Rick Overstake and Jim McGrevey with guests



1957 Buick Century



Carl Cavalluzzi with guests

Kid looking at Bill Robie

they announce the winner of the car show, the weather moved in with thunder and lightning. We hustled and got everything put away. Veterans of the monsoons, we took it in stride, and left with a sense of pride in a job well done. The Docents were: Bill Bates, Carlo and Barbara Cavalluzzi, James (Wick) Clark, Bruce Girvan, Bob Harris, Al and Dottie Harinck, Dale House, Don Kent (all the way from his home in Chicago), Phil Lanphier, Jim McGrevey (that's him on the landing at the entrance of the Museum), Doug Neil, Terry Olson, and Richard Overstake talking to guests just outside the museum.

Up Coming:

We have been invited by The Golden Colorado History Museum to the "Fall Fest" in Golden, Co. in October. Hopefully we will be invited back to the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in September.

We normally hold meetings once a month, on the third Wednesday, at 10:00 hours at the American Legion Post #1, I-25 and Yale Avenue. Visit our Web site at www.RMCVHPA.com for any updates. We continue to look for artifacts for the Museum. 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

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

(800) 505-VHPA (8472) voice • (817) 200-7309 (fax) • HQ@vhpa.org (e-mail) • www.vhpa.org (website)

Membership Application / Change of Address

☐ New Application

☐ Address Change

☐ Directory Correction

NAME:		DATE OF BIRTH:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
HOME PHONE:	CELL PHONE:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	OCCUPATION:	

Membership dues: ☐ Annual: \$36 ☐ Three years: \$99 ☐ Life (Based on applicants' age*) Total: \$ _____
*age 59 & below (\$450), 60-64 (\$350), 65-69 (\$250), 70-74 (\$150), 75-79 (\$100) 80 & above (75)

☐ Add \$ _____ for Vietnam Archive Donation

☐ Add \$ _____ for Scholarship Fund Donation

Aviator Subscription Only: ☐ Annual: \$36 ☐ Three years: \$99 ☐ Life (see above membership rates)

☐ Please charge my credit card (Visa / Mastercard & Discover accepted)

☐ Enclosed is a check / money order payable to VHPA

Credit Card No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Flight School Class: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Combat Flight Hours: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Information about each Vietnam unit:

	From	To	Unit	Location	Call Sign
1 st Unit					
2 nd Unit					
3 rd Unit					
4 th Unit					

Information about you: Helicopters flown, medals/awards, talents, hobbies, and anything else:

How did you learn about the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association? Referred by? Was this a gift membership? From whom?

Awards Legend: **MOH**= Medal of Honor; **DSC**= Army Distinguished Service Cross; **NC**= Navy Cross; **AFC**= Air Force Cross; **DSM**= Distinguished Service Medal; **SS**= Silver Star; **DSSM**= Defense Superior Service Medal; **LM**= Legion of Merit; **DFC**= Distinguished Flying Cross; **SM**= Soldier's Medal; **NMC**= Navy and Marine Corps Medal; **CGM**= Coast Guard Medal; **BS**= Bronze Star Medal; **PH**= Purple Heart; **MSM**= Meritorious Service Medal; **AM**= Air Medal; **CM**= respective service Commendation Medal

*If available, more obituary information for the individuals in TAPS can be found at: **VHPA.org** at the **Died After Tour Name List**.*

***Bartash, Dennis C. USA; Flight Classes: 67-21, 67-19; RVN: 68-69 B/15 TC 1 CAV, 70-71, B/7/17 CAV 71, 71 B/7/17 CAV 71; BS; Callsigns: STORM CLOUD/UNDERTAKER.**



Canyon country, CA resident Dennis Craig Bartash died peacefully at home on November 18, 2023. He was 80. Dennis was born Aug. 18, 1943, in New York City. He attended elementary and junior high schools in Fond du Lac, WI. In 1961 he graduated from New Holstein High School, New Holstein, WI.

In 1971, he was released from active duty due to a reduction in force. He then went to Australia to join the Royal Australian Air Force. He decided not to relinquish US citizenship to become an officer in the RAAF, and returned to Vietnam. Dennis departed Vietnam in 1974 after service with the US Embassy Defense Attaché' Office to accept a job to train Imperial Iranian Army Aviation Personnel in Isfahan, Iran working for Bell Helicopter International, Textron.

In 1980, they settled in Sheboygan, WI and Dennis worked for Bemis Mfg. Co. In 1981, they relocated to Canyon Country, CA where Dennis went to work for HR Textron as a Program Manager. He was active in the National Management Association (NMA) and was elected President of the HR Textron Chapter and later, a Director on the Board of Directors of the NMA. In 1989, Dennis went to work for TA Manufacturing as an ISO 9000 facilitator where he created the policies and procedures for TA Aerospace in Valencia, CA.

Dennis was proud of his military experience and was active in veteran functions including leading a PTSD support group. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) service organization.

***Budig, Sherwood R. USA MAJ RET.; Flight Class: 61; RVN: 65-66 128 AHC, 67-68 71 AHC; DFC, BS; Callsigns: GUNSLINGER/SNAKE DOCTOR.**



Sherwood R. (Woody) Budig, 88 of Casper WY, took his final flight peacefully surrounded by his family on April 25, 2025, due to complications of Agent Orange.

Woody was born in Madison WI on April 13, 1937. Sherwood graduated high school in Marshall WI and then went on to attend college at the University of Wisconsin where he graduated with his bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1959. After college he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the US Army Infantry where he decided to take to the shortest line for physicals for basic Officer Training with his best friend and much to his surprise he ended up getting a flight physical and attending flight school in Fort Wolters TX and Fort Rucker AL and becoming a UH-1 (Huey) Aviator.

While stationed in AK, he was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff at Elmendorf Air Force Base. At his last post in Fort Carson CO he invented, designed and the incorporated the first oxygen system for helicopters. He retired from the Army in 1980 and

earned the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal and Master Aviator Wings along with the Bronze Star and numerous other awards.

Woody went on to retire again from the Federal Aviation Administration in 2001. He was the Supervisor of the Flight Service Station in Sheridan WY until it closed. After retirement Woody went on to be a caretaker and provider for special needs individuals where he touched the hearts of many of them and their families.

He was a lifetime alumni member of the University of Wisconsin, The American Legion, The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, and The Distinguished Flying Cross Association. Remaining to cherish Sherwood's memory are his wife Patricia Budig.

***Cartwright, Alvin W. USA COL Ret.; RVN: 66-67 281 AHC; Callsign: WOLFPACK 36.**

Alvin Cartwright died on February 14, 2025. He was born on December 29, 1934. No obituary was listed.

***Conley, Martin E. USN; RVN: 70-71 HA(L)-3; Callsign: SEAWOLF.**

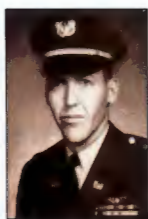


Martin E. Conley, 81, passed away Sunday, June 15, 2025, at his home in Dover, PA. Martin was born on December 29, 1943, in Darby, PA.

He graduated in 1961 from Haverford Senior High School in Haverford, PA. He later went on to graduate from Millersville State Teachers College in Millersville, PA. He was employed as a teacher by the Northern

School District in Dillsburg, PA. He later became a Tool and Die Maker and was employed by AMP/Tyco in East Berlin, PA. He attended church at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Abbottstown, PA. Martin proudly served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War as a Lieutenant and later served with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard as a Captain. He was a member of various organizations including the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Martin also served as a Mentor at the York County Veterans Treatment Court. Among various interests he bred Labrador Retrievers and later rescued Airedale.

***Crocker, Benny D. USA CW4 Ret.; Flight Class: 59-1; RVN: 65-66 11 GS 1 CAV, 68 478 HHC 1 CAV, 71-72 509 ASA GRP, 72 7 RR; BS, PH ACM; Callsign: HURRICANE.**



Benny Doyle Crocker passed away peacefully on April 8, 2025, at Oakview Manor in Ozark, AL, at the age of 92. A devoted soldier, public servant, and family man, he lived a life marked by courage, dedication, and unwavering faith.

He was born on January 23, 1933, in Poplarville, MS. Crocker's military career was both extensive and exemplary. As a standardization pilot for much of his aviation career, Mr. Crocker played a critical role in shaping Army aviation training. He trained numerous Army generals to fly military aircraft through the short course at Fort Rucker and ultimately served as the last commander of the CH-54 Crane Flight there. Among his many acts of valor, was a daring rescue mission as pilot of a CH-54 Skycrane. After an Air Force jet crew had been rescued by a Jolly Green Giant helicopter that was subsequently shot down, Mr. Crocker flew in to recover the downed aircraft and crew. For this act of heroism, he was recommended for both the Silver Star and Dis-

tinguished Flying Cross—though they were never formally awarded. His military decorations include the Purple Heart, Master Aviator Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, among numerous others—each a testament to his bravery and skill.

Following his retirement from active duty, Mr. Crocker continued his dedication to public service. He served as safety inspector for the Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant-Mason Chamberlain, served as a policeman with the Picayune Police Department in Mississippi, and later held the role of Chief Deputy of the Reserve Force for the Pearl River County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Crocker was also a member of Masonic Lodge # 445, Carriere, MS and Daleville Masonic Lodge # 903.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 73 years, Johnnie Faye Crocker.

Flournoy, John C. USAF MAJ Ret.; Flight Class 61-F; RVN: 70-71 Air Rescue Det; Callsign: PEDRO.

John C. Flournoy passed away on June 6, 2025. He was born on November 30, 1936 in Florala AL. He graduated from Vigor High School, Prichard, AL in 1955. He worked in a local grocery store and on a shrimp boat during his summers. He graduated from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) in 1959 with a Bachelor Of Science Degree in Business Administration.

John enlisted in the Alabama National Guard Band in February, 1954 as a Private in the 31st Infantry, Dixie Division. He transferred to the Army Reserve as a Corporal in 1956 and remained with the Army until transferring to the Air Force Reserve as an Airman First Class in 1957. In December 1959, John was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve through the Air Force ROTC Program at Auburn, receiving regular USAF status in 1960. One of his most memorable accomplishments during his initial overseas (Germany) assignment was receiving

the German Medal of Gratitude in 1963 for flying the H-19 and saving lives during one of the worst floods to ever hit Hamburg.

John retired after 35 years of service on 31 August 1988; a career that consisted of many key assignments and commands. He relocated from Florida to New Mexico in October 1988 where he assumed the position of Site Manager for Link/Hughes Training for the Aircrew Training Simulator operations at Kirtland AFB. He became the Mission Training Simulator Support Training Manager prior to his retirement from Hughes/Raytheon in 1998. He then worked for the Air Force Research Lab at Kirtland, followed by three months in Colorado Springs with Boeing working on the National Missile Defense Program. He returned to Kirtland to consult with the Research Lab and the USAF Safety Center until fully retiring in 2002.

In retirement, John and Charlene enjoyed being part of the Blue Crew, supporting "Out of the Blue" hot air balloon flights across the southwest. John was always committed to serving his fellow veterans and their families in a variety of capacities with, multiple military related organizations. He was President of both the Jolly Green Association (85-86) and Air Rescue Association (01-07) and, served in a variety of roles in those, as well as the Pedro Rescue Helicopter Association. John is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Charlene Lett.

Greenlee, Frederick E. USA CW4 Ret.; Flight Classes: 69-29, 69-31; RVN: 70-71B/228 AVN 1 CAV; Callsign: LONGHORN.

Frederick Earl Greenlee passed away on April 16, 2025 in the Villages FL. He was born in WV.

Following his RVN service, he joined the 316 Med Det from which he retired. As a life member of VHPA, up until recently, Fred looked forward to attending all the VHPA Reunions He will be missed.

Gass, James M. USA COL Ret.; Flight Class: 65-18; RVN: 66-67 25 AVN 25 INF, 66-67 B/25 AVN 25 INF, 66-67A/25 AVN 25 INF, 69-70 1/10 CAV 4 INF, 69-70 A/4/77 ARA 101 ABN; LM (3OLC), DFC, BS, MSM (4OLC), ACM- V (OLC); Callsigns: DRAGON 7/DRAGON 5/DIAMOND HEAD/LITTLE BEAR.



James Merrill Gass passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family on June 13, 2024. He was born in Garden City, KS October 30, 1941.

Jim spent his high school years in Stillwell, OK. Jim put himself through college through hard work. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Personnel Management from Oklahoma State University and later, a Master's Degree from Central Michigan University. Jim was commissioned through the ROTC program upon graduation from OSU. Following graduation from the Command and General Staff College, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Aviation School as a test and evaluation officer. Jim was also selected to attend the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

After Army retirement in 1995, Jim started his second career as a Special Consultant with MPRI in Alexandria, VA, FMC Saudi Arabia, Training Director of Military Implementation in the Republic of Croatia, and Special Assistant to the Director of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute of Terrorism Oklahoma City.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife Joan.

***Hapney, Jimmy L. USA CW4 Ret.; Flight Classes: 66-15, 66-13; RVN: 67-68 119 AHC, 69 163 AVN 101 ABN, 69-70 282 AHC; SS. KM BS; Callsigns: GATOR 4/ROADRUNNER 350/BLACK CAT.**

Jimmy Lee "Hap" Hapney, 85, of Fayetteville, NC, died Saturday, April 16, 2022, at Highsmith Rainey Hospital. Jimmy was born December 4, 1936, in

Charleston, WV.

After retiring from the military, he opened a locksmith business in Fayetteville, where he was a member and treasurer of the NC Locksmith Association. He also served as a volunteer fireman for the Raeford Road Fire Department.

He started the "Outlaws" website for his friends/enemies flying the WWII Theater games where he made friends from all over, including England and New Zealand. Some came to NC to meet him. He loved West Virginia, his home state. To him "Take me home country road" meant just that. Mr. Hapney was mesmerized by flight in all its forms. He loved flying helicopters, fixed wings, model airplanes, drones. Took rides in gliders and hot air balloons. His greatest unfulfilled dream: going into Space.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Hapney.

***Jones, William S. USA COL Ret.; Flight Classes: 62-7Q, 60-5FW; RVN: 66-67 179 ASHC, 69-70 132 ASHC; Callsigns: BOXCAR/HERCULES 6.**



William Stephen Jones, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2025, at the age of 88. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and decorated military officer, he lived a life of service, adventure, and quiet generosity. He was born in Sacramento, California, on May 19, 1936. He attended UC Davis, later earning a Master's degree from the University of Southern California.

In retirement, Bill continued to live with purpose. He built and flew his own airplane, often taking day trips with Nancy. They also enjoyed vacations and hiking in Mammoth Lakes and Yosemite. A skilled craftsman, he enjoyed woodworking, especially building birdhouses. He donated hundreds of birdhouses to local nature centers and schools to be used as art projects.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy.

***Kerr, John A. USA; Flight Class: 65-10 AB; RVN: 66-67 ACT/11 ACR, 67 HHT 2/11 ACR, 70 HHC IFFV; DFC, BS, MSM, ACM.**



John Alexander Kerr, 81, of Kenton, OH unexpectedly passed away on Monday, March 24, 2025. John was born September 24, 1943, in Denver CO.

John's military career spanned 21 years from Basic Training in 1962 at Ft. Knox to retirement from Tobyhanna Army Depot on 28 Feb 1983. While on active duty, John graduated in 1975 from Alaska Methodist University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences with a concentration in Business Administration and Economics. Skills he applied well while managing Officer Clubs in Darmstadt, Germany and Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. He brought fresh ideas and tons of enthusiasm as he grew each club into a profitable self-sustaining entity.

After retiring from the military John established a home in Kenton, OH where he forged community roots. During this time, John began a new career driving truck as a long-haul driver with Victory Express which became U.S. Express. His story was that he just wanted solitude, an open road, and nothing to manage or oversee. Despite his desire to stay out of management, John eventually became a trainer and then a Safety Officer with U.S. Express. His final job in the trucking industry was that of a recruiter for U.S. Express which took him all over the country. John loved speed and that feeling of wind on his face. After Vietnam, while stationed in Texas, John turned to racing Corvettes. He loved the challenge of the track and the thrill of winning. We all know of his love for his 65 Vette. You might call it his 'traveling companion' as it followed John wherever he was stationed.

John was a member of the Military Officers Association of America, 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, Blackhorse Association, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association,

Army Aviation Association of America, Ohio American Legion, Elks Lodge #157 in Kenton, OH, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Motorcycle Association, and the Harley Owners' Group. He loved sharing his stories with other veterans, friends, and family. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Gabelman Kerr.

***Laya, Robert E. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 58-8; RVN: 64-65 145 CAB, 65 52 CAB, 67-68 13 CAB; BS.**



Robert Edward Laya, age 91, passed away on June 11, 2025, in Alexandria, LA, while traveling to SC. He was born on Dec. 8, 1933, in Chicago, IL. Bob graduated from Kelly High School in 1952 and went on to play football for Texas Western College in El Paso.

Reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Robert retired after 20 years of service in Lawton, OK. His next journey took him into the financial planning arena when he joined United Services Planning Association. This career path eventually brought him to Corpus Christi where he had the good fortune to work with Naval Aviators, whom he loved working with, and loved to serve. He would work in this field for 20 years, while enjoying traveling extensively and making lifelong friends.

Bob's interests, outside of traveling, include painting, his membership with the Quiet Birdmen Association (55 years, including several years as President of the Corpus Christi hangar), the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Fantasy Football.

Bob is survived by his wife Bonnie.

***Lezynski. Edward J. USA; Flight Class: 68-7; RVN: 68-69 170 AHC; Callsign: BIKINI 22.**



Edward J. Lezynski, 77, of Centerville, MA, passed away peacefully at home on April 30,

2025, just weeks after the passing of his beloved wife. He was born in London, England on April 25, 1947.

After his military service, Ed built a career as a commercial fisherman aboard the Carole R II, later becoming captain of the vessel for the Ross Family out of the Ocean Street Docks in Hyannis, MA. A natural leader on the water, Ed was respected by fellow fishermen and known for his steady presence and deep knowledge of the sea. An avid reader, Ed had a deep love of books, particularly those about military history and world events. He also leaves behind many close friends, both locally and across the country, who will remember him for his intelligence, kindness, and steadfast spirit.

When the following obituary was published, there was no additional information about this member. Since then, a colleague has provided additional information and we have reprinted the notice with additions. ~Ed.

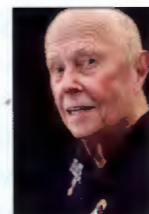
***Lockhart, Henry D. III USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 70-44; RVN: 71-72 175 AHC; PH; Callsign: BUSHWACKER 33.**

Henry D. Lockhart III, born on February 18, 1944 passed away on April 10, 2025, a short time after he was admitted to hospice care following a years-long decline due to multiple strokes leading to dementia, and blindness from glaucoma. He had lived with and been cared for in recent years by his son Jon and his first wife Bonnie.

He was commissioned via Infantry OCS in 1969 and graduated from flight school and Cobra transition in early 1971. Following Vietnam, he was an IP at Cobra Hall and had a variety of jobs and duty stations in the US and Italy, serving in both staff and command positions. He was discharged honorably in 1995 with 25 years of service.

Following his military career, he was the director of a Head Start program in

the Florida panhandle and later worked for the FAA in the Washington, DC area.



***Manso, Gary A. USA; Flight Class: 69-32; RVN: 70 A/25 AVN 25 INF, 70 B/25 AVN 25 INF; DFC, BS; Callsign: LITTLE BEAR 26.**

Gary A. Manso died on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the age of 81. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary, and two precocious Parson Russell pups. Gary grew up on Long Island and upon graduation from high school was accepted to The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. At the same time, he was drafted but granted a deferment. After graduating from Wharton, the US Army saw fit to draft him again. From basic training, he attended Officer Candidate School, where he volunteered for everything from Green Berets to Army Rangers. Since he had perfect vision, the Army sent him to flight school.

Captain Manso was a proud combat veteran and strongly supported the Veterans Administration's "Million Veteran Program," the largest bio-repository of Veteran data looking at how genes, military experiences, and toxic exposures affect the health and wellness of Veterans. At the end of the Vietnam War, Gary used the GI Bill to attend law school, which enabled him to launch a successful legal career that spanned four decades. To this day, and to the best of our knowledge, there are at least three of Gary's cases – which he won at the NYS Appellate Court level, that are binding precedent where past judicial decisions act as guiding authority for future cases.

Voted "Best Lawyer" in the Best of Long Island 2011 survey, Gary retired several years later.



***Maraglio, Richard C. USA CW4 RET.; Flight Class: 68-9; RVN: 68-69 11 ACR; DFC; Call-sign: BLACKHORSE.**



Richard C. Maraglio, age 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on January 18, 2025 in Lake Katrine, NY. Richard is survived and missed by his loving wife Carla (nee Corbin) of 19 years.

Richard grew up in Merrick Long Island and graduated from Calhoun High School in 1963. He studied at Mercy Hospital's School of Radiography and became a licensed radiologic technologist prior to commissioning in the US Army.

After his service to his country in the war, Richard returned home where Richard returned to college to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Science at Long Island University, CW Post Campus. He worked his way upwards to become a Hospital Administrator. The next chapter of Richard's life began when he decided to take a job as a hospital administrator in New Mexico where he hired his future wife, Carla Reed as his replacement. The adventures of Rich and Carla ensued and took them throughout the southwest and eventually to HI where they married in 2006.

He could construct or repair almost anything. A man with the strength of twice his size while presenting compassion and patience double of that. His unconditional love for his family and forgiving nature of others were without compare.

***Mateyko, John R. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 65-7; RVN: 65-66 A/501 AVN Callsign: RATTLER 21; PH.**

John R. Mateyko of Lansing, IL, formerly of Cincinnati, OH, passed away on Friday, October 27, 2023. He was born on September 18, 1940. He is survived by his wife, Janet Mateyko.

John Mateyko graduated from Thornton Fractional High School in 1958. He attended the United States Merchant

Marine Academy for two years before transferring to Indiana University and graduating in 1963.

After a short assignment in the Connecticut National Guard, he transferred to the Army Reserve and was assigned to ARADMAC in Corpus Christi, TX as a test pilot. Subsequent assignments were to Military Traffic Management Command and to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics (D/SLog) at the Pentagon. Lt.Col. Mateyko retired from the Army Reserves with five years active duty and 24 years in reserve components.

John was a member of the VFW, DAV, MOAA, MOPH (Purple Heart).

***Metcalf, Terry J. USA; Flight Classes: 69-25, 69-23; RVN: 70-71 162 AHC, 72-73 H/10 CAV.**



Terry J. Metcalf of Elk Grove CA passed away on March 15, 2025 at the VA Facility in Martinez, CA. He was born on December 19, 1946. Terry followed his Father's example and enlisted in the US Army during the Vietnam war. He completed Rotary Wing (helicopter) training at Fort Wolters, TX and Fort Rucker, AL. His first assignment was to Fort Hood, TX where his Father was also stationed.

After his discharge from the Army, Terry returned to Germany where he joined his wife Siggi for approximately 25 years. Terry and Siggi spent those years traveling the world and spending time at their homes in Mallorca, Spain and Carmel CA. He returned to the Sacramento area following Siggi's death in 2002. He very much enjoyed his home on Laguna Lake and all his wonderful neighbors.

***Michaud, Steven L. USA CW4 Ret.;**



Flight Class: 67-11; RVN: 68 D/1/1 CAV; Callsign: SABER 24.



Steven Leslie Michaud, 79, formerly of Chippewa Falls, WI, passed away in his longtime home town of Montgomery, AL on 1 March 2025 following an extended battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Steve joined the Army in 1966, attended Flight School, flew Hueys in Vietnam, and later continued flying in the Alabama Army National Guard where he eventually retired following 40 years of uniformed service.

Steve was a longstanding member and supporter of VHPA and various other service organizations. To those who knew him, Steve was a distinctly unique individual who will be missed.

Steve is survived by his wife Jana.

***Milavic, Jacob A.F. USA CW5 Ret.; Flight Class: 65-14; RVN: 65-66 A/101 AVN 101 ABN, 68-69 2 SIG GP; BS-V (OLC) Callsigns: THUNDERBIRD 1/SATELLITE 1.**



Jacob Antone Frank Milavic, known to many as "Jack," passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 21, 2025. He was born on July 29, 1940, in Chicago, IL. Jack led a life of extraordinary service, courage, and dedication to both his country and community. His military journey began at the age of 16 when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps before reaching the legal minimum age. After being honorably discharged upon discovery of his true age, he re-enlisted at 17 and began what would become a distinguished, multi-branch military career.

As a Marine, Jack trained with the elite Underwater Demolition Team and participated in joint training with foreign forces to help shape USMC Special Operations doctrine. His overseas assignments included six-month tours with both the French Foreign Legion and the British Special Boat Service (SBS). He served as an advisor to the

South Vietnamese Army and spent four years with the 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company. A certified parachutist and scuba diver, he was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps with the rank of Corporal.

Jack then joined the U.S. Army, completed Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, and deployed to Vietnam with a Green Beret A-Team. After returning stateside, he became a U.S. Army helicopter and fixed-wing pilot. After leaving active duty, Jack joined the Army Reserves, where he continued to serve with distinction. He retired with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5).

During his time in a Florida-based military helicopter unit, Jack responded to the tragic crash of Eastern Airlines Flight 401. Though a verbal order was given to stand down, Jack launched rescue helicopters anyway, believing lives were at risk. While initially reprimanded and threatened with disciplinary action, he was ultimately awarded a commendation medal for his courageous decision that contributed to saving lives.

Following his active-duty military career in Florida, Jack was an actor and took on roles in film and television. His strong presence and discipline served him well both on screen and behind the scenes, adding yet another layer to a truly multifaceted life.

Beyond the military, Jack remained dedicated to public service. He served as a Dade County Deputy Sheriff before beginning a long and successful career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In the early 1990s, he was transferred to Oklahoma City, where he also joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard. In 2002, he was selected by the FAA to assist in establishing the Egyptian Ministry of Civil Aviation—an international recognition of his aviation expertise.

Jack held a Master's Degree in Business Administration and Management from Oklahoma City University and a

Ph.D. from Cambridge International University in International Diplomacy. He is survived by his beloved wife of 20 years, Sylvia.

***Millican, Charles W. III**
USA Ret.; Flight Class:
63-1W; RVN: 65-66 11
GS, 68-69 132 ASHC.

Charles William "Bill" Millican III, of Saint Peters, MO, passed away Friday, May 31, 2024, at the age of 87. He was born on September 27, 1936. He is survived by Marlene Millican nee Mathieu. Charles proudly served 23 years in the United States Army (no retirement rank listed). He was a devoted member of the Knights of Columbus, even serving as a Grand Knight.

Charles was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

***Murphy, Daniel J. USA; Flight Class: 71-4; RVN: 71 C/158 AHB 101, 71-72 B/101 AHB 101 ABN, 72 A/229AHB 1 CAV; Callsign: BANNIT 78.**

Daniel J. Murphy died in his sleep from effects of Agent Orange on March 11, 2025 (no obituary provided).

***Richards, Danny L. USA**
CW4 Ret.; Flight Class:
71-9; RVN: 71-72 2 BDE
101 ABN; Callsign:
BRANDYWINE 77.

Danny L. Richards passed away on July 9, 2025. He was surrounded by his family at the time of his passing.

He was born on February 9, 1951, in Kansas City, KS. Danny was a 1969 graduate of Washington High School. He earned an Associate's Degree in Business Management from Northern Virginia Community College and his Associates Degree in General Studies from Central Texas College.

He dedicated over 25 years of service to the United States Army. He obtained his ATP license for multi-engine land

and helicopter. Throughout his military career, Danny received numerous distinguished awards and service medals. After retiring, he continued as a pilot working with multiple companies such as Cessna Share and Flight Safety.

Danny is survived by his loving wife, Amelia Stoller Richards.

Ryan, Edward G. USA
Ret.; Flight Class: 68-7;
RVN: 69-70 A/3/17
CAV; DFC, BS. Callsign:
SILVER SPUR 35.

Edward G. Ryan, 77, of Northbridge, passed away at home early morning on Friday, November 22, 2024. Edward leaves behind his loving wife of 49 years, Donna J. (Miller) Ryan. He was Born in Framingham, MA on June 15, 1947. He graduated from Framingham South High School and enlisted in the United States Army in May of 1967.

He retired from the Army in 1995 after a distinguished career and went on to serve as a flight simulator instructor at Fort Bragg, NC. In 1999, after living 25 years in North Carolina, Edward and Donna moved to Northbridge to be closer to their family.

Throughout his life and travels, Edward made many lasting friendships across the globe. He was deeply respected and loved by those who knew him. A reserved man, he carried himself with quiet pride as a veteran of the Army. Edward was a devoted and faithful Catholic, and his presence will be missed by family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

***Salm, John H. Jr. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 56-4; RVN: 66-67 48 AHC, 67 IFFV; Callsign: JOKER 6.**

John H. Salm passed on June 12, 2025. (No obituary was provided).



Shawver, William M. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 56-7; RVN: 65-66 39 SIG BN; ACM.



William "Bill" Martin Shawver, age 91, passed away on June 17, 2025. At his request, no service will be held.

William was born on January 26, 1934, in San Diego, CA. Bill retired in 1974 from the US Army after twenty years of service as a Lieutenant Colonel. He fought in two wars - Korea and Vietnam and in his last year at Fort Huachuca he served as Inspector General. After the war, he worked for Bell Helicopter in Tehran, until shortly before the Shah fell.

Bill was the opposite of a pack rat. Where some people save everything, he was never sentimental over things or stuff or understood why anyone else would care about things he didn't. Things that held memories were things to get rid of, so he didn't have to look at them (despite family pleading with him.) His legacy remains the people in his life, a slew of great stories, and a cache of medals and memories. Rest in peace, Bill. You are missed.

***Sisk, Robert W. USA; Flight Class: 66-7; RVN: 66-67 C/229 AVN 1 CAV, 67-68 70 AVN DET; DFC, BS; Callsign: WAGON WHEEL.**



Robert Wayne "Buz" Sisk, loving father and grandfather, passed away on July 18th at home in Sweet, ID. Buz was born in Peoria, Illinois, on September 27, 1937.

After graduating from East Peoria High School in 1955, Buz enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he was trained as an Aviation Machinist Mate. He served with anti-submarine squadron VS-37 as a plane captain on a Grumman S2F aircraft. The squadron was deployed to the Pacific 7th Fleet aboard the aircraft carrier USS Philip-

pine Sea. After completing his service with the Navy, Buz entered the construction trades. He served an apprenticeship as an ironworker while working on the Titan missile silos in the Tucson, Arizona, area. As a journeyman ironworker, he helped construct the Vehicle Assembly Building at Cape Canaveral, working as a structural ironworker connector.

In 1965, Buz was accepted into the U.S. Army's Warrant Officer Rotary Wing Flight Program. After a year with C/229, Buz spent another year in Southeast Asia flying out of Korat, Thailand, where he supported Special Forces operating in Laos and Thailand. His last duty assignment before leaving the Army was as a test pilot for various new weapon systems mounted on helicopters.

Buz entered the civilian flying profession in 1969 as a helicopter pilot in Alaska, working on the North Slope oil fields, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, aerial fire fighting, and other flying-related jobs; such as heli-logging, movie work, and search and rescue.

He took time off from flying when he bought and operated a western bar, The Big Steer, in Patagonia, Arizona. There was also a stint in law enforcement. At age 47, Buz graduated from the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy and served as a deputy sheriff for the Pima County Sheriff's Department. He also served as a deputy marshal.

After over 14,000 hours of flying, Buz retired from aviation in 2000. His ratings include: Commercial Pilot for Rotary Wing, Airplanes (single-engine and multi-engine), instrument ratings for both, and type ratings for the Sikorsky S-61 and Learjet.

Buz was a very proud published author, writing his first book in 1989; *Wings for the Valiant and Rampage by firestorm*, in 2024. Whenever Buz met someone new, they always left with an autographed book.

Skinner, Stanley J. USA; Flight Class: 70-28; RVN: 70-71 US ARV.



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Stan J. Skinner, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and icon in the outdoor sports community. Stan passed away on May 7, 2025, at the age of 80, in Tucson, AZ. He was born on July 26, 1944 in Oklahoma City.

Stan was an accomplished hunter, pursuing game across three continents, earning trophy species listings in Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game and the SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals.

He contributed hundreds of magazine and journal articles, edited major sporting publications, and authored several books, serving as an authoritative voice shaping the conversation around hunting, outdoor sports, and firearms. He further extended his influence on the outdoor industry in his role as a writer and editor for Safari Magazine, the flagship publication of Safari Club International (SCI).

Alongside his wife of 24 years, Barbara Mellman Skinner, who survives him, an outdoors veteran and influencer in her own right, they were truly a power couple of the industry, respected for their dedication to the outdoor sporting world.

***Smith, Michael L. USA; Flight Classes: 68-1, 68-3; RVN: 68 B/7/17 CAV, 68-69 C/7/17 CAV; Callsign: WHITE 24.**

Michael L. Smith was born on December 1, 1945. He died on December 26, 2021 (*No obituary was provided*).



Specht, Edwin J. USA CW5 Ret.; Flight Classes: 69-43, 69-41; RVN: 70-71 173 ABN BDE 71 498 MED CO.

Edwin J. Specht of Otsego, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by family at the Minnesota Veterans Home after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson Disease on April 18, 2025. Ed was born in 1950 in Elk River MS. He was a graduate of Elk River High School.

Ed began his career working alongside his family at the Specht Bus Company. He later answered the call to serve his country joining the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Ed continued his military service with the Minnesota Army National Guard, where he remained until his retirement in 2002 as a Chief Warrant Officer 5(CW5).

Ed is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Beth Specht.

Though Flying was his passion, Ed's greatest JOY was found in spending time with his family. In his younger years, he could often be found playing basketball or camping with the family. Later in life, he cherished riding his 4-wheeler, lighting fireworks, and soaking in the view from the cabin with his grandchildren, moments he treasured for as long as he was able.

***Squires, Gordon W. USMC MAJ Ret.; Flight Class: 33-62; RVN: 66-67 HMM-163, 67 MAG-16.**



Gordon Wayne Squires of Richland passed away peacefully on Monday, June 16, 2025. He was born in Detroit, MI on January 21, 1939. He graduated from Dearborn High School and continued his education at Western Michigan University, where he received a BS & MS in Aviation Engineering Technology.

Gordon faithfully served as a medivac helicopter pilot with the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam and also served with the United States Army and Michigan Army National Guard, retir-

ing in 1991 with the rank of Major after more than 29 years of faithful service. He also retired in 2001 from the FAA Battle Creek Inspection Field Office after more than 23 years as an Airspace System Inspection Pilot and Procedure Specialist.

Gordon was a founding shareholder and Secretary of the Board of Directors for Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo and was a Charter Member of the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. He was always very active in his community and was also a member of the Plainwell VFW, the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Plainwell Music Society, and was recognized as the "Volunteer of the Year" by the Otsego Public Schools.

He is survived by his wife Susan.

***St. John, M. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 70-32; RVN: 71 243 ASHC, 71 B/159 ASHB 101 ABN; BS, MSM (30LC) ACM; Callsigns: FREIGHT TRAIN 26/VARSITY 11.**

John Michael (Mike) St. John, 80 of Port St. Joe, FL went to be with God at his favorite time, sunset, May 17, 2025 CST 6:51 pm at Clifford Chester Sims VA ST Home in Panama City, FL with family. Mike was born on January 14, 1945 in Belleville IL.

He graduated from Colchester, IL High School (63). He then attended Western Illinois University. (63-66) First he was drafted after summer school (8-66). After 22 years of moving to forts and schools, he retired in August of 1988.

Once again he moved with his family this time to Olympia WA and spent the next 29 years honing his skill as a sea captain on five sailboats, sailing the Puget Sound and the Inside Passage to Sullivan Bay. Also reflecting on sails in the Caribbean through the Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands as well as the Puerto Rico Islands, where he and Amy learned to sail and dive. Plus, for 17 of those years he had a second career, working for Cubic Applications overseeing/ coordinating programs at the National Training Center (NTC

CA), McChord, WA, Germany, and Fort Polk, LA and Amy had a second career as an USA DAC for CYS until they literally sailed off into his and Amy's second retirement on the MaeLee.

Mike did not share advice for those of you reading this but his life might be the best advice to share: he was a country boy with an unending curiosity from genealogy, collecting gems and rocks, geology, constellations to cooking gourmet meals, reading non-fiction and telling funny stories, he loved listening to and making music, he was drafted in the US Army then enlisted, he divorced and found love again, he broke many bones (many different times) but healed, he loved his wife, kids, family, friends, neighbors, and perfect strangers, he loved this country and its flag, he was afraid of heights but learned to fly single engine planes and helicopters, he tried to help everyone he could, he brought a sense of humor, and security to so many and while it was cancer at the end, he lived with purpose, love, humor, and compassion from the beginning.

He is survived by his wife Amy St. John(Port St. Joe FL).

Stokes, Marvin R. USA; Flight Class: 68-22; RVN: 69-70 1 BDE 1 CAV; Callsign: CIRCUS 6.



Marvin Roy Stokes passed away on March 29, 2020. He was born in Dallas TX on October 12, 1937.

He was A career officer for twenty years in the US Army, retired in 1980. He was a disabled vet due to the Vietnam theater.

Marvin loved his country and his daughter, Melissa, who predeceased him nearly two years ago. He leaves behind his loving wife, Martina Stokes.

As a past president of the local AVA chapter - The Happy Wanderers, he walked in each of the 50 US states and ran in several marathons. He is so immensely missed.

***Stuth, John K. USA; Flight Class: 69-17; RVN: 69-70 F/8 CAV; Callsign: BLUE GHOST 37.**



John Karl Stuth, devoted father, son, grandfather, friend, and veteran passed away peacefully on November 4th, 2024. He was born in Sturgeon Bay, WI on March 9th, 1949. John attended Cherry School and Sturgeon Bay High School graduating in 1968. He went on to attend Madison Area Technical School before enlisting to serve his country in the United States Army in 1968.

John returned to Sturgeon Bay to his beloved wife Jennifer, and the first of their four children.

John was a driven and entrepreneurial man and the hardest worker in any room. A delivery driver, store manager, and self-described "peddler," he founded John Stuth Associates in 1981. The sporting goods manufacturers' representative agency later became Excel Marketing. His company expanded from Green Bay to Minneapolis and Chicago with business relationships that took him across the globe and created lasting friendships.

Amidst these achievements, John remained humble, lived his belief in surrounding himself with people smarter than him, and deeply respected his office family. He lived by the principle that no task was too big or too small and was never deterred by a challenge or learning something new. He demanded high standards and thrived on expectations, especially exceeded his own. He later served as president and CEO of a publicly held company, a role that reflected his dedication, intelligence and leadership.

As an avid outdoorsman, John's love for the outdoors and wildlife was central to work and play. He loved hunting in the woods that surrounded Waldo's cabin in Saxon, WI with his uncle, his father, his son, and the many family and friends whose camaraderie he treasured.

He was content fishing off the dock, at the rock pile, or in an ice shanty with family. Faith was a central part of John's life. Sadly, in 1995 while attending a Sunday service, John suffered a debilitating heart attack. Complications would compromise his memories and abilities for the next 29 years.

Family and faith were at the center of life for John. As his care needs changed and became more significant over decades, many contributed to skilled and loving support.

John is survived by Jennifer Stuth, for whom his love never faded.

Tidball, John C. USA; Flight Class: 67-7; RVN: 67 57 AHC, 67-68 170 AHC; Callsign: BIKINI 24.

John (Jack) Craig Tidball, of Kalama, WA, died of stroke and complications from agent orange exposure on December 8, 2024. He was born on November 5, 1943. Jack was from Hamilton, MT graduating from Hamilton High School in 1961. He attended Montana State University, Bozeman. After his military service, Jack returned to Montana State and completed his degree while serving in the Montana National Guard.

After receiving his degree Jack was hired by Hoffman Construction Company, Portland, Oregon in 1974 as a corporate helicopter pilot. At the time HCC was one of the largest commercial construction companies in the Pacific Northwest.

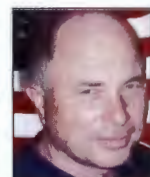
During this period HCC was expanding its work base geographically and needed a faster way to keep upper management in touch with various jobs scattered throughout the Northwest. HCC purchased a Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter and hired Jack as the pilot. In addition to flying the Jet Ranger, Jack assumed other duties within the company. He was involved with the startup and management of HCC's in-house iron fabrication shop in the Portland area. This facility fabricated many of the iron pieces needed on the HCC projects during 1970 through 1980.

Later, Jack transitioned into a new job, helping to expedite various materials being manufactured to meet critical project completion schedules across HCC's broad scope of work. Projects could be built only as fast as the materials got to the jobsite.

Jack traveled throughout North America and Europe visiting manufacturers of stone quarries, glass factories, mechanical equipment suppliers etc. As an expeditor, Jack had no equal. He was HCC's ears and eyes wherever in the world he had to go. More than one material supplier was shocked to see a guy walk in from somewhere on the other side of the country or world and know just as much about the product as they did.

Knowledge of product and good people skills put Jack above the rest, Jack retired from Hoffman Construction Company in 2006 becoming an avid golfer, dividing his time between homes that he designed and built in Washington and Arizona.

Trudo, Joseph S. USA; Flight Class: 66-15; RVN: 67 240 AHC, 68 190 AHC; Callsign: SPARTAN 22.



Joseph Scott Trudo, born on October 11, 1942, in McAllen, TX, was called home on February 21, 2025, in Denver, CO. Joe attended the University of Texas in Austin before pursuing flight training with the U.S. Army in 1965.

He piloted the Bell UH-1 'Huey' helicopter during missions in Vietnam and continued his aviation career with hospitals, energy corporations, and The Bureau of Land Management, flying across terrains from Alaska's wilderness to the Gulf of Mexico and the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

In addition to piloting, Joe was a certified mechanic, maintaining the very helicopters he flew. Beyond aviation, he was an accomplished welder and, for a time, crafted wood-burning stoves. He even attended a blacksmith school in

Santa Fe, NM and became a blacksmith. In his later years, he authored two books, *The Birthright Blanket* and *Swan Song*. A voracious reader, Joe possessed a vast knowledge of numerous subjects and delighted in sharing intricate details with anyone willing to listen. Joe is survived by his wife, Zahida Madi, whom he met later in life and shared his last 12 years with as well as her four children and five grandchildren.

Underwood, Ernest W. USA COL Ret.; Flight Classes: 68-510, 68-16; RVN: 68-69 A/9 AVN 9 INF; BS (OLC), MSM (2OLC); Callsign: JAYHAWK 33.

Ernest Wayne Underwood, 79, of Oxford, GA, passed away on the 12th of March, 2024 shortly after contracting COVID. Wayne was born on November 30th, 1944 in Porterdales, GA. After Wayne graduated from Newton County High School in 1962.

Wayne, a venerable husband, father, grandfather, Army helicopter pilot, Signal Officer, and decorated war hero, passed away surrounded by his loving family. He is fondly remembered for his unwavering integrity, steadfast dedication, and exemplary service to his family and country.

Wayne's illustrious military career spanned 24 years and was marked by combat in Vietnam, overseas deployments in Germany and Korea and numerous stateside tours. His life was a beacon of exemplary duty, honorable service, and unwavering integrity. He was a loving father, a dedicated husband, and a man who could always be counted on to selflessly help others without exception.

He is survived by his loving wife, Peggie. His memory will forever remain in the hearts of those he touched, serving as an enduring inspiration to all.



Waldrop, Thomas W. USA; Flight Classes: 70-15, 70-13; RVN: 70-71 B/229 AVN 1 CAV.

Thomas Winfield Waldrop, lovingly known as "Tommy," passed away peacefully on June 3, 2025, in Arlington, Texas, at the age of 78.

Born on February 10, 1947, in Dallas, Texas, Tommy was a lifelong Arlington resident whose roots and legacy run deep through the heart of the city he loved. Tommy graduated from Arlington High School in 1965.

His service was cut short with an honorable discharge to care for his newborn son, Shawn, who was battling meningitis. His bravery extended beyond the battlefield-into his family life, career, and community. After returning from service, Tommy worked for his father at Regal Tool before returning to the University of Texas at Arlington, where he earned his degree in 1980.

Over the years, he worked in various roles, including in the bolt and fastener industry and later at Bell Helicopter, where he excelled as a Procurement Manager. Known for his entrepreneurial spirit, he also ran a side business called "The Video Pros," capturing weddings and special events with his signature commentary and charm. Tommy had a passion for capturing memories on video, often narrating his sons' basketball, soccer, and football games with his own colorful play-by-plays. His camera was a permanent fixture at family events, scout meetings, and road trips. He was a dedicated Cub Scout Pack leader and an Eagle Scout himself by age 18-impacting many young lives along the way.

A true Arlington historian, Tommy could tell you a story about every corner of the city. From his days as a local paperboy to his involvement with the Arlington High School alumni association and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Lila Burges Waldrop.

***Wall, John W. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 66-15; RVN: 66-67 174 AHC; Callsign: SHARK 20; PH.**



John Warren Wall of Enterprise, AL, passed away Friday, June 27, 2025 at his home. He was 81.

He was a professional bass fisherman who went on to create and run the Alabama Bass Association, the only solo bass fishing tournament trail in the country at that time.

John was an avid golfer; he was happiest on the course or surrounded by friends in the 19th Hole. He held family in the highest regard and built a legacy of love with his wife of fifty years.

His distinctive voice and Southern charm will be remembered and held dear by those who knew him best.

Survivors include his loving wife, Pam Wall, Enterprise, AL.

***Ward, Dr. Michael L. USA LTC Ret.; Flight Classes: 68-19, 68-33; RVN: 68-69 116 AHC; Callsign: STINGER 94.**

Dr. Michael Allen Ward, 78, passed away on April 18, 2025, in San Marcos, TX. A dedicated professional, decorated military officer, and beloved family man, Michael led a life marked by service, integrity, and unwavering commitment to truth.

He was born on April 6, 1947, in Cumberland, MD, Michael's early years laid the foundation for a lifetime of achievement. He pursued higher education with determination and excellence. In 1974, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Towson University in Towson, MD.

Driven by a passion for healthcare and public service, he went on to receive his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1977. His commitment to advancing public health led him to earn a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 1985.

He further specialized his expertise by completing a dental public health residency at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1988.

Later in his career, Michael brought his skills and compassion to veterans as a dentist at the Amarillo Veterans Hospital in Amarillo, TX—a role he held for eleven years. His work there exemplified his lifelong commitment to serving others.

Michael's sense of duty extended beyond civilian life into distinguished military service. At the height of the Vietnam War, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a helicopter gunship pilot—a role requiring courage and precision under pressure. After active duty, he continued flying with the Maryland National Guard before transitioning into the dental corps by resigning his warrant officer commission to accept a commissioned officer role. He ultimately retired from the Texas National Guard with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel—a testament to decades of honorable service.

Michael Allen Ward was an asset not only to the military and dental professions but also to everyone fortunate enough to know him personally or professionally. His legacy lives on through those he taught, served alongside, cared for as patients—and most profoundly, in those who loved him.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 35 years, Patricia Shaffer.

***Whitener, John Jr.**
USA CW3 Ret. Flight
Class: 56-11; RVN:
65-66 UTT, 65-66 68
AVN, 65-66 187
AHC; Callsign:
SABER 8.



John Whitener, Jr. a resident of Ozark, died Wednesday evening, April 24, 2024, at his home at the age 95. He was a native of Bessville, MO.

Following high school, he joined the United States Army. He retired from the United States Army rank of after twenty years of service, and had served in the

Vietnam War and Korean War. Mr. Whitener was an instructor pilot after the military before becoming a Prudential Life Insurance Agent, where he retired after twenty-five years of employment.

He was also a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon, served in the choir and was a Sunday school teacher.

***Williams, Clifton G. USA; Flight Classes: 68-19, 68-33; RVN: 68-69 116 AHC; Callsign: STINGER 94.**

We bid farewell to Clifton Williams (Ashland, OR), whose journey of life gracefully concluded on March 23, 2025 at the age of 78.

Clifton touched countless lives with warmth and kindness, leaving behind cherished memories that will forever echo in hearts. As Clifton departs from our midst, his spirit ascends to join the cosmic dance of stars, a shimmering constellation of memories that will forever grace the night sky of the hearts of those who loved Clifton.

Though Clifton may no longer walk beside us, his legacy lives on—a testament to the enduring power of love to transcend the boundaries of time and space.

***Woodall, Lawrence A. Jr. USA; Flight Classes: 70-9, 70-7; RVN: 70-71 134 AHC; BS -V (OLC); Callsign: DEVIL 8.**



Lawrence "Larry" A. Woodall, Jr. was born October 25, 1944 and died December 11, 2024.

Larry graduated in 1962 from Ensley High School and after graduation attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham and subsequently the University of Montevallo.

In May of 1968 Larry enlisted in the United States Army. After his honorable discharge from the U. S Army, Larry served in the Army National Guard from 1971-1975. He went back to school utilizing his G. I. Bill to attend

flight school and obtained his commercial "fixed wing" license. He worked in the commercial coal industry as a helicopter pilot for over 25 years. In his lifetime he logged over 10,000 flight hours.

After his time as a pilot came to an end, he went back to school and earned his commercial real estate license. In 2001, he began to work for Alabama Power Company in Corporate Real Estate, in the Western Division as a Corporate Real Estate Specialist where he continued to work until his passing.

Larry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Margaret Wedaman Woodall.

Woodard, Joseph A. USA; Flight Classes: 70-1, 70-3; RVN: 70-72 361 AVN; DFC, BS; Callsign: PANTHER 27.



Joseph "Woody" Woodard, age 74, passed away Friday, May 9, 2025. He was born in Dayton, OH on October 19, 1950.

Following his military career, he joined the Metro Aviation family as an EMS helicopter pilot until his retirement in 2018. He was lead pilot at several bases including Tyler, TX; Las Vegas, NV; and Melbourne, FL, during his 34-year career with them. He was the 2011 and 2013 Florida EMS Pilot of the Year and as the 2013 Florida EMS Association President he worked to implement statewide EMS helicopter safety procedures. In his retirement, Woody participated in several podcasts and interviews pertaining to his military career.

Woody is survived by his wife of 38 years, Julia (Porter).



Young, Roger A. USA;
Flight Class: 64-6W;
RVN: 64-65 114 AHC, 65
1 AVN CO, 67-68 227
AHB 1 CAV; DFC
(OLC), BS -V (2OLC),
PH (OLC); Callsign: FANG 8.



Roger Alden Young, 84, of Salina, KS, passed away Wednesday, November 15th, 2023. Roger was born in Boston, Massachusetts on May 6, 1939.

He served in the United States Navy as an Aircraft Mechanic Crew Chief for four years and retired from the United States Army as a Chief Warrant Officer

4 after 26 years of joint service - including 2 combat tours in Vietnam as a Helicopter Pilot, flying Hueys and Cobras. Roger was also a conductor for Rock Island Railroad, the Sheriff of Dickinson County, Kansas, retired from Research Products as a Corporate Pilot, made 13 transatlantic solo flights to Scotland for K-State Salina, and retired as a conductor from Union Pacific. Roger loved to hunt; he was a Hunter Safety Instructor for numerous years. Roger also supported 4H, and was an annual sponsor for the Tri Rivers Fair. Roger was a patriot through and

through. He was a life member of the American Legion. He was also a proud lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge in Hope, KS, and the Hope United Methodist Church. The ocean was a big part of Roger's life; he spent his early years helping his Father as a commercial lobsterman. Roger loved to fish and spend time with his family at various lakes or any other substitute for the ocean, when on flat land. In retirement, Roger and Pat enjoyed spending their winters in Yuma, Arizona and had many friends in the Magnolia Village Resort.

Obituary Submissions

Individuals wishing to supply a notice of death and/or information such as online link(s) may do so by email to aviator@vhpa.org. Those wishing to write their own obituaries may submit same to that email address as well. Space constraints may limit the amount of text allowed. For self-produced versions, any edited narrative will be provided to its author for review as soon as feasible. Pilots meeting VHPA membership criteria, but have never been a member, will have a one line entry. Regardless of whether or not an obituary is abridged, an unedited version (full text) of all submitted obituaries will be posted on our web site at <https://www.vhpa.org>.

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.

Allen, Byron W. USA; Flight Class: 67-21; RVN: 68-69 68 AVN; died during April of 2023.

Aubee, Joseph L. USA; Flight Class: 70-33 RVN: HHC/229 AVN 1 CAV; BS (OLC); died on February 26, 2025.

Canup, Kenneth Sr. USA; Flight Class: 67-20; RVN: 71 134 AHC; died on April 24, 2025.

Caughron, Kenneth D. USAF LTC Ret.; RVN: 67-68 37 ARRS did on March 25, 2024.

Chalaire, Eugene C. USA; Flight Classes: 68-514, 68-24; DFC; died on December 31, 2024.

Coyle, Michael T. USA; Flight Classes: 68-524, 68-44; BS (OLC); Died on April 22, 2024.

Coley, Thomas W. USA MAJ Ret.; died on April 30, 2025.

Doyle, Arthur J. USA CW5 Ret.; Flight Classes: 69-37, 69-35; died on May 22, 2025.

Dunn, James K. USAF LTC Ret.; RVN: 69-70 21 SOS; SS, DFC; died on May 31, 2025.

Erickstad, Selmer R. USAF; RVN: 69 20 SOS; DFC; died on June 9, 2025.

Geishauser, Anthony J. USA MAJ Ret.; Flight Class: 65-13W; RVN: 65-66 335 AHC; died on May 24, 2023.

Groudhaus, James E. USA; Flight Classes: 66-17, 66-15; RVN: 66-67 117 AVN, 69-70 520 TC BN; died on April 25, 2018.

Kenton, James H. USA; Flight Class: 67-8; SS, DFC, BS, MSM, ACM; died on July 6, 2025.

Lott, William M. USA; Flight Class: 67-14; ACM; died on July 8, 2025.

Osborne, Kenneth J. USA; Flight Class: 69-13; RVN: 69-70 176 AHC; died on June 3, 2021.

Turman, Paul L. USA; Flight Class: 67-20; died on June 3, 2021.

Wentzel, Kenneth O. USAF LTC Ret.; 67 38 ARRS DET 5; died on March 30, 2025.

Young, Jerry D. USA CW3 Ret.; Flight Classes: 66-15, 66-13; died on August 12, 2014.

Young, Wade L. USA; Flight Class: 66-15; RVN: 67 240 AHC; died on March 24, 2019. Zogg,

Theodore M. USA; Flight Classes: 70-1, 69-49; died on February 9, 2025.



*****FIRM 79409

S14408
 VIETNAM CENTER ARCHIVE
 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
 PO BOX 41041
 LUBBOCK TX 79409-1041

VIETNAM

PILOT GEAR

- **T-SHIRTS** ~ Variety of message
tee-shirts available
- **POLOS** ~ Long & Short sleeved
- **DRESS SHIRTS**

- **JACKETS**
- **HATS**
- **FLIGHT JACKETS**

*Flight jackets can be embroidered
 with your wings, call sign, unit
 name, years of service and your
 name in various configurations.*

*Send us your patch
 and we can add it
 to your jacket!*

**MAKES A
 GREAT
 GIFT!**

AH-1 COBRA VIETNAM

AH-1 COBRA VIETNAM

vietnampilotgear.com

License Plate Holder

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

*Show'em
 Your Wings!*

800-505-8472

**IF YOU CANNOT GET
 ON THE WEBSITE,
 PLEASE CALL MIKE AT:**

214.802.4244

Wings available for: All service branches & pilot ratings • Crew Chief • Flight Surgeon

**Vietnam Pilot Gear is an authorized vendor of VHPA logo apparel
 Any personalized embroidery requires ONLY 1-2 weeks to complete and ship.**