



The VHHPA AVIATOR

The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association



See You in San Antonio!!

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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

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Midwinter...and I walk around my yard, all the grass is a dull brown color, no leaves on the trees, and the sky a dark gray with intermittent rain. I have a bit of winter melancholy going on and then I notice a few tiny patches of green with the most beautiful purple and pink Crocus flowers just beginning to bloom out. It's strange how such a small observation can change one's mood and outlook.

~ IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND ~

CW5 DOUGLAS D. HOUSER

1-29-1946/12-16-2022

The last couple of months have been busy and intense. The Executive Council has had a project in the works, consisting of a reformulation of the Endowment Agreement with Texas Tech University/Vietnam Center and Archive. Initially, when the agreement was executed in 2017, the VHPA had not yet started to think much about the eventual wind-down and what it wanted that process to look like. The original agreement essentially dealt with donations to the endowment in support of student technicians to help the staff digitize the archival information received from VHPA members, their families, and other veteran organizations. A good start, however, there were no provisions to establish or to utilize those funds in diverse ways, when at time period X, sometime in the future, the need for those technicians would be reduced. The amended agreement contains far more flexibility. It continues to fund the VHPA Student Assistant Program and initiates a VHPA Scholarship in Military History at the University. Additionally, upon completion of the VNCA War Museum, the VHPA will be acknowledged throughout the exhibits and will at some point include a physical monument citing the VHPA's legacy of service during the Vietnam War. This, along



with the AAAA Scholarships and Army Aviation Museum affiliation, will help ensure that the VHPA Legacy will live on into the future, long after the last bugle sounds.

April is around the corner, when registration for both the reunion and hotel will open. Unfortunately, there were a few folks that opted to reserve their hotel rooms prior to registration, for the Tampa reunion, and then decided not to attend without cancelling their rooms. Consequently, we had members that were unable to get the discount on their booking. Therefore, in order to provide a measure of mitigation, attendees must register for the reunion at HQ before reserving their hotel room. Passcodes will be provided upon reunion registration.

Donald R. LeMaster, President

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.

FROM THE STAFF AT HQ!

PLEASE HELP US REDUCE THE COSTS OF REMAILING ITEMS!

*If you move, PLEASE call HQ
with an update to your address!*

REMINDERS:

★ The on line directory is free at
<https://directory.vhpa.org>. As of the deadline
for this issue, updates to your information
is still not available via the on line directory.

You can log in and search for members.
We apologize for the inconvenience but things
are taking longer than expected.

REUNION INFO:

The 2023 reunion will be July 2 thru July 5, 2023 in
San Antonio, TX. The hotel room rate will be \$129+
tax. Hotel registration & reunion registration will not
be available until approximately the first of April 2023.
Please consult www.vhpa.org for the most current
reunion information & details.

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!

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*

ANGEL IN THE COCKPIT: Surviving Vietnam and PTSD ... a Helicopter Pilot's Story

by Joseph Sheridan

A vivid, fascinating, and compelling story of a heli-
copter pilot surviving Vietnam and its aftermath. Joe
Sheridan's memoir is one patriot's true account of the
helicopter war and the
brave pilots who fought
alongside him. Joe Sheri-
dan, a 1969 Niagara Uni-
versity graduate, was com-
missioned a 2nd Lieutenant
in the U.S. Army. He
served in the 101st Air-
borne Division in Vietnam
as a Cobra Helicopter
Gunship Pilot. With over

350 combat missions from September 1970 to Sep-
tember of 1971, he earned two Bronze Stars with "V"
device (valor), twenty Air Medals with valor, and the
Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

A Vietnam memoir in tribute to Loach, Cobra,
Slick, Dustoff, Crane, Chinook and Bird Dog pilots,
11 Bravo infantry, and...crew chiefs. No group of
men exhibited more loyalty to one another, or combat
valor in the presence of continuous and overwhelm-
ing enemy anti-aircraft fire. A prior during, and post-
Vietnam story of triumph, tragedy, and survival in an
intractable war that we warriors won despite being
restricted by senseless government sanctioned limited-
ed-war tactics. *A real, welcome home boys!*

Available on Amazon Books ~ *Angel In the Cockpit* by Joseph Sheridan
ISBN # 9798367893915 . Hard Cover, Paperback, and Kindle



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow VHPA and Gold Star members,

This is an invitation to reach out to any Gold Star families you may know. My name is Jeanne Harder, sister of WO James G. Zeimet, killed in action September 4, 1968 in Kon-Tum. My association with the VHPA began after attending a Huey 369 event, with my sister, in our hometown of Germantown, WI. in 2018. Phil Marshall, who is a member of both VHPA and Huey 369, invited us to attend the VHPA reunion in Indianapolis. Unaware of the reunion and Gold Star family activities, we were contacted by Gold Star sister and coordinator Julie Kink. She invited us to the reunion. Little did we know the impact this invitation would have on us.

Now we are part of a family of brothers and sisters we met through the following years of attending the reunions. The love, honor and respect of these relationships carry on our brothers and other Gold Star family members legacies. The emotions that come out after attending the Gold Star breakfast are so powerful and healing for both family members and our veteran brothers and sisters. Each story is different. As family members speak, our brothers we lost, are brought back from Vietnam. If you have never attended the Gold Star breakfast, I highly encourage you to sign up. I also thank all members who graciously pay for Gold Star families to attend.

Having attended three reunions, I look forward to each reunion as a time to be with my extended family of brothers and sisters. You represent what our loved ones were and would have been. You help us understand the Vietnam experience. I will forever be thankful to all of you for your friendship and service.

Please reach out and invite Gold Star families to attend the reunion in San Antonio. I would be happy to accompany any new attendees. My Gold Star sister, Julie Kink, is the most valuable asset to new families. Julie will provide information to you and interested families(kink100@att.net). I look forward to meeting you in San Antonio. Until then, may you be blessed.

Your Gold Star sister, Jeanne Zeimet Harder

Jeanne, be assured the devotion to our brothers in combat is continued by our membership to the relatives of the fallen. ~ED

Fellow members,

For those of you in retired status, retirees, and dependents there has been a change. Any ID with or without an expiration date must be replaced by 2026. The cards are in a new

format, called CAC (Common Access Card). While similar in appearance there are different scan codes for active duty and retirees/eligible veterans.

www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/

There is considerable information on the web for those with more questions.

Tom Hirschler, Editor VHPA Aviator

Help Prevent Mailing List Intrusions

Fellow members,

We now have tens of thousands of old paper VHPA membership directories out in the public. As you know these directories contain our names and mailing addresses. We are having increasing occupancies of some of these directories being placed on eBay.com for sale. Please help us to try and prevent these from getting in the wrong hands. eBay has a policy that membership directories are prohibited from being sold on eBay, however, this policy is very poorly enforced. If you see a VHPA Membership Directory for sale on eBay, please report it by following these steps: about a third of the way down the page on the far right is a link that says "Report this item." Click on that link then select "Prohibited and restricted items" under Report Category. Under Reason for report, select "Illegal items and items encouraging illegal activity." Under Detailed Reason, select "Mailing list and personal information." Then click on Submit Report. If you would like to have a notification when one of these appear on eBay, send me your e-mail address so I can send you a link for you to then join the rest of us in submitting a report. If eBay starts getting hundreds or reports, they may finally wake up and begin preventing membership directories from being sold.

You can also help by shredding, burning or recycling your old membership directories so they do not end up in the wrong hands. Early on we were successful in appealing to the sellers to remove them as they typically acquired them at yard or garage sales and were trying to make a profit. That has now changed as more and more sellers are doing this as a business rather than a way to make a couple of bucks. We currently have a seller who has tried blackmail by saying if you don't want it sold then buy it. Each time we successfully get the directory removed, he (or she) waits a couple of weeks then puts it back up for sale. For sellers like this, we need to complain in a way that hurts his Sellers' rating.

Thanks for your help,

Gary Roush, Director Editor



GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 08 FEB 2022

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS ★ JULY 2 -5, 2023

DUE TO THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED IN THE MAR/APR ISSUE, THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FINAL REUNION DETAILS WILL BE LISTED AT VHPA.ORG IN LATE MARCH 2023.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT DETAILS.

HOTEL & VHPA REUNION REGISTRATION IS ANTICIPATED TO OPEN THE BEGINNING OF APRIL

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

As a general rule, since VHPA Membership and Subscriber dues expire on the last day of the month, someone who is dues current when they register could be non-dues current on the 1st day of the Reunion (02 JULY 2023). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is "forward looking" regarding dues status.

Reunion Hotel Info: San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, 101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78205

The VHPA Group Rate is **\$129 plus tax per night for single, double, triple, or quad** over the dates of 02 JULY 2023 thru 05 JULY 2023 **(based on availability). The cutoff date for the hotel rate is 05 JUNE 2023.**

Information for booking hotel rooms will be emailed to you with your reunion registration receipt & itinerary.

Getting to San Antonio:

★ San Antonio International Airport: 9800 Airport Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78216

Located just 15 minutes north of downtown, San Antonio International Airport (SAT) offers competitive nonstop service to over 40 destinations across 13 airlines. The newest airlines at SAT include both JetBlue Airways and Spirit Airlines. The largest airline operating at SAT is Southwest Airlines which was founded right here in San Antonio.

★ Amtrak Train: 350 Hoefgen Ave, San Antonio, TX 78205

San Antonio station hosts two Amtrak services; the tri-weekly Sunset Limited and the daily Texas Eagle. Four days a week, San Antonio is the southern terminus of the Texas Eagle, which originates in Chicago. Three days a week, the Texas Eagle joins with the Sunset Limited, continuing westbound to Los Angeles. It is the second busiest Amtrak station in Texas, behind Fort Worth Central Station. Please visit www.amtrak.com for more information, pricing, schedules and more.



Transportation from/to the Airport: The hotel does not offer a shuttle to/from the airport. There are several options for going to and from San Antonio International Airport: Members can take a taxi cab which is available at the outer commercial curbside at Terminal A. For assistance, please see the Airport Ground Transportation employee (wearing a red shirt). Fares to San Antonio downtown areas start at \$24-\$29 per taxi cab. Members may prefer Uber or Lyft and pricing will fluctuate. Booking can be done by downloading and using the App on your phone for these approved ride share services.

SuperShuttle provides airport rides to and from SAT to any address in the Greater San Antonio area. SuperShuttle fares are flat rate by zip code with downtown SHARED-RIDE services at \$15 one-way/\$28 round-trip. Private Non-Stop rides can range from \$35 to \$40 per car one-way. Visit supershuttle.com for all shared-ride, private direct and black car services. SuperShuttle ticket counters are located in the Baggage Claim area of Terminal A and Terminal B and are open from 9:00 AM until 1:00 AM with after hour contact available 24/7 at 210.BLUE.VAN. Use VHPA code KHC6Y for a 5% discount.

Parking: VHPA has negotiated a 25% discount off the hotel's standard parking rates per day. More details will be posted on the reunion website at a later date.

You can also visit <https://www.sahbgcc.com/Visit-Us/Location-Directions-Parking> for more local parking options. The Marriott Rivercenter is attached to the Rivercenter Mall and across from the Convention Center for map reference.

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

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

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

Wheelchair Rentals – Toms Wheelchair and Scooter Rentals is located one block from the Alamo and Riverwalk and will deliver to the hotel. Reservations can be made by calling the number below or booking online.

Phone: (210) 223-7878

Website: <https://tomswheelchairs.com/>

Vendor Area: If you are interested or know of anyone interested in becoming a Vendor for R2023 please go to www.vhpa.org and download the Vendor/ Book Seller/ Exhibitor Contract, Waiver, and Vendor/Book Seller/Exhibitor Policy Rules & Regulations. Complete the forms and mail, fax, or email to VHPA HQ. If you know of anyone that you think would be an asset to the Reunion Vendor Area be sure to let them know or contact VHPA HQ to give us the info and we will be happy to give them a call. Be sure to send your form in early.





Oral History Interviews: Mike Law will be available to record and collect Oral Histories. As we have done in past years, we will be signing attendees up for slots in advance. Please contact Mike Law via email at mglaw@earthlink.net or visit www.vhpa.org for details about how to sign up prior to arriving in San Antonio so you can fit this history preserving event into your Reunion schedule.

Family-Friendly and Local Attractions: There are plenty of things to do around San Antonio for everyone to enjoy, no matter the age. We recommend bringing the kids and grandkids to all Reunions to see what the VHPA is all about and to check out things to do around the city. Many attractions are within walking distance of the hotel or, for a fee, there is a city shuttle that makes a loop around top areas in Downtown San Antonio. There are numerous places to visit with family outside the inner circle of San Antonio as well.

The following is a list of a few attractions that we recommend visiting, but **are not** included in our tours and may be within walking/driving distance:

Attached to our hotel is the Shops at Rivercenter Mall that has Legoland Discovery Center, Sea Life Aquarium, Dave and Buster's, and Spyder Jump of San Antonio. Also, there is the Amazing Mirror Maze, Ripley's Believe It or Not and Ripley's Haunted Adventure that is just right outside the hotel. Our hotel is located directly on the River Walk with many food and shopping options. Another area we recommend visiting is La Villita on the River Walk with shops, dining and local art. Expanding further outside the city there is SeaWorld, Natural Bridge Caverns, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio Zoo, and much, much more...this is only to list a few.

Volunteers: The Alamo Chapter is the Host Chapter this year and as such, will organize the volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are organized around stations and then shifts with the number of volunteers needed for that shift. Sounds like a Duty Roster! We've found that 3-hour shifts will not take up much of your time or make you too tired. Additionally, we can guarantee everyone is trained on their duties. Needless to say, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE having volunteers! Not only do we avoid the cost of hiring local convention bureau temps, but we get a chance to interact with each other while performing the tasks EXACTLY as a VHPA'er would have it done. As is our tradition, the Host Chapter, The Alamo Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact Ron Spearman of The Alamo Chapter at 706-244-4255 or ron@ronspearman.com. You can also contact HQ at 800-505-8472. BTW, husband and wife teams are welcome to volunteer.

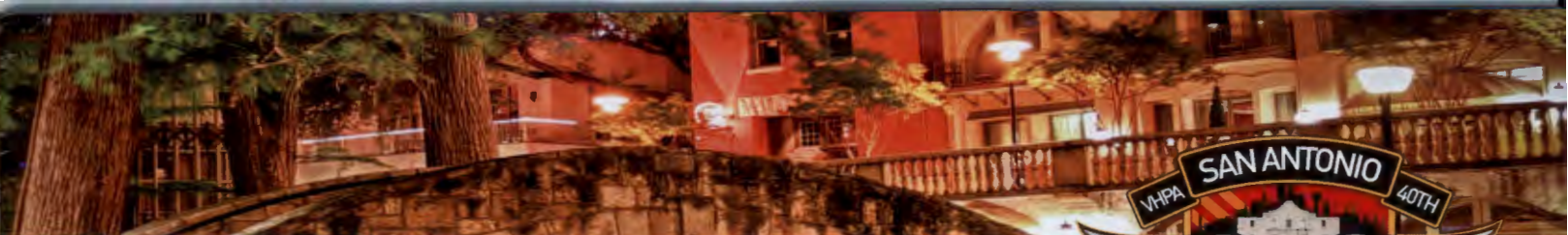
Reunion T-Shirts – The T-shirts for this year will come in two (2) colors: a tiger stripe with no front pocket and a forest green with a front pocket and will come in sizes small thru 3XL. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with your Reunion Registration until the cutoff date below.

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

S - L - \$19 XL - XXXL - \$21

Primary Attendee (Member or Subscriber) Registration - The early registration fee for the member is **\$40** through 01 July and **\$50** beginning 02 July.

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



Adult Guest Registration - The early registration fee for the member is **\$40** through 01 July and **\$50** beginning 02 July.

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

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

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

Canceling a Reunion Registration – The VHPA Member or Subscriber who made the Reunion Registration is known as the Primary Registrant (PR). A PR may cancel all or portions of his or her registration **any time prior to Monday, 29 May 2023** by contacting HQ via US Mail at 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011, Email to HQ@vhpa.org, Phone at 800-505-8472 or Fax at 817-200-7309. *It is important to note that reunion registration cancellations and hotel reservation cancellations are completely separate business processes. The PR is responsible for both processes. PRs cannot assume that when they cancel their hotel reservation that the hotel will notify HQ to cancel the reunion registration or vice versa.*

Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) Program - It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: the GRI itself, reunion registration fees, dues payments, directory orders, donations or voluntary contributions, cancellation fees, plus any event tickets designated as non-refundable. A PR may only cancel all or portions of his or her registration with GRI **any time prior to Thursday, 22 June 2023** by contacting HQ via US Mail at 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011, Email to HQ@vhpa.org, Phone at 800-505-8472 or Fax at 817-200-7309.

The GRI program covers only specific VHPA events and fees, and does not cover cancellation costs that might be associated with hotel rooms, airfares, rental cars, and other non-VHPA generated expenses.

Reunion Refunds - The Executive Council establishes the official cancellation date (OCD) for each reunion. **The OCD for R2023 is Monday, 29 May 2023 without GRI and Thursday, 22 June 2023 with GRI.** Only cancellations received by HQ by close of business Central Daylight Time (normally 3pm) on the OCD (including those via US Mail) are considered for refunds. *It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: the GRI itself, reunion registration fees, dues payments, directory orders, donations or voluntary contributions, cancellation fees, plus any event tickets designated as non-refundable.* As a general rule, HQ starts processing refunds about two weeks after the reunion ends. No refunds are processed until after the reunion is over. For PRs receiving a refund, there is a two-step process. First, the PR receives a letter and/or a statement from HQ outlining the details of the refund including the amount. Normally this correspondence is sent from HQ by US mail but it can be via email. Second, the PR receives a check via US mail from the VHPA's bank (Chase Bank). No refunds are issued back to credit cards. The goal is to complete the entire refund process no later than one calendar month after the reunion ends. Any clerical errors in the details of the refund should be brought to the attention of HQ.





Mini-Reunions: 02 July through 05 July - Keeping in mind that one of the primary reasons for our Reunion is to reconnect with past compatriots from your RVN unit and flight school. The best way to meet up with unit members is to schedule your own Mini-Reunion. If your unit does not have a Mini-Reunion, why not take the initiative to start one up, or you could combine with other sister units you are familiar with if you wish. In addition to specific units and flight classes, we've had Mini-Reunions for such subjects as tandem rotor, Dust-off, Operation Lam Son 719, anyone who was stationed at Soc Trang, VHPA chapters, anyone interested in radio controlled aircraft models. Mini-Reunions are typically scheduled in 4-hour blocks and are available for booking on most days during the Reunion. You can also request a second four-hour block. However, this second block will be granted on a space available basis with priority for the particular space given to units requesting only one block. Due to decreased usage and increased expenses, the Reunion no longer provides AV equipment for Mini-Reunions. Once your Mini-Reunion is scheduled the details will appear on the webpage. You still should make an effort to get the word out to your buds. Use your directory to contact members (encourage them to re-up with the VHPA if they are not dues current), write a short article for the VHPA Aviator, and schedule early so we can list your unit in articles such as this. ***NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS!***

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

It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion or TOC. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at VHPA.ORG and return by email to Sherry Rodgers at sherry@vhpa.org or mail the completed form to HQ at the address listed on the form. ***NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS!***

KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Sponsorship - \$25 - Use this item to support costs of events for Gold Star Families to attend events. This item was added to the VHPA Reunion Registration form at the request of VHPA Members attending the Annual Business Meeting during the 2010 Reunion in San Diego. ***PLEASE NOTE: This item does not provide you with a ticket to the Gold Star Breakfast, it helps to provide events for Gold Star Family Members. Thank you for your generosity.***

O'Club: 02 July thru 04 July -11:00am – 11:00pm / 05 July - 12:30pm – 11:00pm - In the tradition of a Vietnam Unit's Officer's Club, you can get a beer and shoot the breeze with your buddies. The O' Club will again be part of 'ground zero' – meaning the Vendor Area, Ballrooms, Registration and Pre-registration, and the O' Club are all within hand grenade range.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

CONSIDER RUNNING for the VHPA Executive Council at the 2023 Business meeting in San Antonio.

POSITIONS:

- 1. Vice-President** - Only those previously on the Executive Council (3 year term as VP. President and Immediate past President)
- 2. Junior member at Large** - This is our new blood and we need you! (3 year term).

.....
To see the requirements and National Election Policy go to the VHPA site, Login and select Administrative Documents. Scroll to Policies and open National Election Policy. Familiarize yourself with the policy and then submit a BIO/RESUME of no more than 500 words to:

**Dennis L. Faucher, Junior Member at Large
and National Election Chairman Cell: 814-363-1547
E-mail: drfaucher@verizon.net**

***NO LATER THAN: 30 days prior to first day of the
San Antonio Reunion, which begins on Sunday 2 July 2023,
so no later than: 2 Jun 2023. Must be present to run.***



Please note that descriptions for every event are included. Where, however, there are multiple instances of the same event the date/time are noted, but not the full description. You must refer to the first instance of the activity. It will be title 'X' tour/event #1.

This format saves a great deal of space otherwise dedicated to identical wording.

SUNDAY, 02 JULY 2023

Fredericksburg Winery Tour #1:

02 July – 10:30am – 5:00pm - **\$70**

Take in the views of Texas Hill Country on a one hour bus ride to Fredericksburg, Texas; known for its abundance of views and wineries. Locally owned Texas Hill Country Backwood BBQ will be the first stop of this tour for our members to grab lunch ON THEIR OWN. This tour will make a stop at historic Luckenbach Texas, where "Everybody's Somebody". Guests will visit Texas Wine Collective, which is a collaboration of three Texas wineries, learn about the winemaking process of the region, and sample several wines over the course of the tour. There will be time to freely explore the beautiful and historic downtown of Fredericksburg for additional wine tastings, and plenty of shopping.

Capacity: *This event is limited to 100 participants.*

NOTE: *Purchase of lunch is not included in price.*

Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War #1:

02 July – 10:30am – 5:00pm - **\$40**

Located about an hour away from San Antonio in the heart of Downtown Fredericksburg, Texas - this museum is the only one in the Continental United States centered on World War II's Pacific campaign and has gained a reputation as one of the premier military museums in the nation. Enjoy the gallery's 33,000 square foot exhibition featuring 40 media installations, approximately 900 artifacts in 97 climate-controlled cases, 15 macro-artifacts, and hundreds of photographs. Members will be given free rein to visit the entire museum at their own pace and grab a bite to eat or a sip of wine in Downtown Fredericksburg.

Capacity: *This event is limited to 100 participants.*

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #1:

02 July – 11:00am – 12:00pm - **\$15**

Jump aboard a private boat cruise, as it gently winds through the city center to take in the iconic River Walk from another perspective. VHPA Guests will see some of the most significant historical sites in downtown San Antonio and many architectural wonders.

Learn a little more about the history and the American, German, and Mexican cultures that helped transform the Alamo City into what it is today.

Capacity: *This event is limited to 60 participants.*

San Antonio Sightseer Tour #1:

02 July – 12:30pm – 2:30pm - **\$35**

Jump aboard a private bus tour with this one-of-a-kind city tour. This tour is the perfect way for VHPA guests to get a grand overview of old San Antonio, outside of the Riverwalk, with its rich history & culture. The Sightseer will include a personalized VHPA itinerary with guide and give a mix of history including the Alamo, King William District, Architecture, Riverwalk, La Villita, San Fernando & more! This tour is delivered in a way all ages and interests will enjoy!

Capacity: *This event is limited to 54 participants.*

San Antonio Sightseer Tour #2:

02 July – 3:00pm – 5:00pm - **\$35**

See tour Sightseer tour # 1 for details.

Capacity: *This event is limited to 54 participants.*

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #2:

02 July – 4:00pm – 5:00pm - **\$15**

See River cruise # 1 for details

Capacity: *This event is limited to 60 participants.*

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #3:

02 July – 5:00pm – 6:00pm - **\$15**

See River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: *This event is limited to 60 participants.*

Welcome Reception w/Folklore Show:

02 July – 7:00pm – 9:00pm - **NC**

Traditionally this reception was the first official event for everyone to get together FOR SURE at a Reunion. This year's reception is not only a social get together, but brings a piece of the San Antonio heritage to life with a Mariachi band and Folklore dancers that will include cultural traditional Mexican dancers. Cash bars will be positioned to make certain no one has to stand in a long line.



MONDAY, 03 JULY 2023



Golf Outing at Fort Sam Houston – La Loma:

03 July – 7:15am – 3:30pm - \$115

This year we will play the La Loma course at the historic Fort Sam Houston. The La Loma course is one of two 18-hole, championship courses at the historic Fort Sam Houston. The facility hosted the Texas Open in the '50s and '60s, making it the only military facility to ever host a PGA event.

Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, scorecards, complimentary range balls, one Power Pack, and lunch. Golf clubs can be rented for \$25.

Capacity: This event is limited to 50 participants.

Breakfast w/speaker – Thanh Boyer:

03 July – 7:30am – 9:00am - \$25

This is the first of three breakfasts offered at this Reunion. Thanh Duong Boyer was born in the Mekong Delta, South Vietnam, in May 1967. She is the oldest of six children, born in a wealthy family, according to Vietnamese standards. Then, as a young child, she saw her family struggle to survive after the North Vietnamese takeover. At twelve years old, her parents put Thanh and one sister on a boat, during the nighttime hours in an effort to escape Vietnam and its suppressive government.

Fifteen months later, she finally arrived in the United States as a refugee. Although unable to speak English, she worked hard, learning the language, becoming a U.S. citizen, and committing herself to bringing her parents and siblings to the states. She married and succeeded in having her family join her stateside. Thanh has two children who are examples of achieving The American Dream; her daughter is in medical school and her son is an electrical engineer. Her brother and three sisters also achieved success and are electrical engineers.

Today Thanh gives inspirational talks to groups and she and her husband, John, live in Madison, Alabama.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #4:

03 July – 9:30am – 10:30am - \$15

See Sunday entry for River cruise # 1 for details

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Mission Tour #1: 03 July - 9:30am – 1:00pm - \$45

Experience the beauty and history of the beginning of San Antonio with a guided mission tour. Enjoy mission silhouettes

like Mission San José, Mission Concepción and others that show the Spanish and Morish influenced architecture. Guests will see Espada Acequia, which is a 270-year-old irrigation system that is still in use today. The missions are a must see when visiting San Antonio and the only UNESCO World Heritage site in Texas!

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War #2:

03 July – 9:30am – 4:00pm – \$40

See Sunday entry Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War #1: 02 July for details

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Writers Panel – Putting Action into Words # 1:

03 July – 10:00am – 12:00pm – NC

The dreaded COVID is behind us and we plan to hold our next face to face meeting (first since Kansas City) this year in San Antonio. If you have ever owned a pen, pencil or grease-marker... have words in print or wishing to have in print, this event is for you.

This is the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas, experiences, dos and don'ts etc. Publishing, like flying a helicopter, can be great fun or a nightmare. This meeting is the time to sort through the pit falls and successes and put faces on names.



Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War.



San Antonio River Cruise Tour #5:

03 July – 10:30am – 11:30am - **\$15**

See Sunday entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Video Presentation – Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech #1: 03 July – 11:00am – 12:00pm – **NC**

The VHPA has been working with the VNCA for more than a decade. Each year things get better and better as we continue to build the VHPA's legacy at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

In addition to an update on adding new individual Collections (documents, images, plus museum items) and Oral Histories, at the San Antonio Reunion you will learn more about the Volunteer HQ Center. Currently there are **two opportunities**, for especially Vietnam Veterans, to add value to the Archive ~ **Photo Captioning** and **Document Transcription**. Search engines CAN NOT find a photo that does not have a caption containing keywords such as: AH-1G, 105mm howitzer, _ton truck, M-48 tank, etc. A hand-written letter or note taped to a map is worthless unless the words can be entered as typed text or computer readable document.

This last year, because of the efforts of VHPA Calendar Committee member, John Jones, the **Patch Project** will be the **third opportunity** in the Volunteer HQ Center. Again, a digital image of a cloth pocket or shoulder patch is worthless without associating a set of keywords and metrics such as: shield shape, containing colors: red, white, and black, 11th Armored Cavalry, 2.5" tall, made in Vietnam.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #6:

03 July – 11:30am – 12:30pm - **\$15**

See Sunday entry for River cruise # 1 for details

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

San Antonio Sightseer Tour #3:

03 July – 12:00pm – 2:00pm - **\$35**

See Sightseer tour entry # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

Casino Event:

03 July – 1:00pm – 4:00pm - **\$55**

Back by request, VHPA is bringing the Casino to its members in an exciting private Casino event at the Marriott. Come try your luck with blackjack, craps, poker, and roulette. Guests will be

given a set number of chips to keep them entertained for hours. Turn those winnings into a raffle ticket for your chance to win some grand prizes.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Note: THIS IS A COME AND GO EVENT so feel free to attend anytime during the event.



Video Presentation – EAA Aviation Museum-Restoration of UH-1B #1: 03 July – 2:00pm – 3:00pm – **NC**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Aviation Museum, formerly the EAA Air Venture Museum, located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is dedicated to the preservation and display of historic and experimental aircraft as well as antiques, classics, and warbirds. After several years of meticulous effort and consultations with Vietnam Veterans, including those from the 121st AHC, the "Huey: The Workhorse of Vietnam" exhibit opened to the public in 2020.

To those who served, as well as those who remember, the helicopter known as the Huey is one of the enduring symbols of the Vietnam War. This exhibit allows visitors to explore this remarkable machine and learn of the men who rode them into battle. This video shows how this Huey was restored and provides the background details for this unique exhibit.

San Antonio Sightseer Tour #4:

03 July – 2:30pm – 4:30pm - **\$35**

See tour Sightseer tour # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 54 participants.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #7:

03 July – 5:00pm – 6:00pm - **\$15**

See Sunday entry for River cruise # 1 for details.



The Alamo.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #8:

03 July – 6:00pm – 7:00pm - \$15

See Sunday entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Tejas PRIVATE Rodeo w/dinner:

03 July – 6:15pm – 10:00pm - \$75

Tejas Rodeo Company is a hidden gem, tucked away in the corner of Bulverde, Texas, just north of San Antonio, providing a true taste of Texas and its authentic Western-heritage. VHPA guests will get the rodeo in a private setting with just our members for this action-packed rodeo! Enjoy a BBQ dinner with 2 meats, 2 side dishes, dessert, and ice tea. The rodeo event will include Tejas award-winning drill team, Texas longhorn cattle entrance, bull riding, team roping, and barrel racing. There's fun for the whole family out at Tejas Rodeo!

Capacity: This event is limited to 250 participants.

TUESDAY, 04 JULY 2023

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast:

04 July - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$25

Gold Star Family Breakfast is a traditional VHPA reunion event organized by Julie Kink. This is an opportunity to recognize our Gold Star families. All are welcome to attend. These families are extremely appreciative of the fact that their loved ones did not die alone and that we care about them and remember them like a brother.

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

Have you been emailing back and forth with Bob's brother for years, but just never got a chance to shake his hand? This is the opportunity to do that. Invite them to attend the reunion and bring them to the Gold Star Family Breakfast. I'm happy to answer questions about the breakfast, as details get confirmed, or about how to connect with a buddy's family. Little sister, Julie Kink, sister of WO David Kink C Troop 1/9th CAV KIA 8-3-1969. I am also a member of VHFCN Family Contacts Committee. Visit www.VirtualWall.org/contacts or email me at Kink100@att.net.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #9:

04 July – 9:30am – 10:30am - \$15

See entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Mission Tour #2: 04 July – 9:30am – 1:00pm - \$45

See Mission tour #1 entry for River cruise # 1 for details

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Fredericksburg Winery Tour #2:

04 July – 9:30am – 4:00pm - \$70

See entry for Winery tour # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Video Presentation – EAA Aviation Museum-Restoration of UH-1B #2: 04 July – 10:00am – 11:00am – NC

See Video Presentation – EAA Aviation Museum-Restoration of UH-1B #1 for details.

Writers Panel – Putting Action into Words:

04 July – 10:00am – 12:00pm – NC

See Writers Panel – Putting Action into Words # 1 for details

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #10: 04 July – 10:30am – 11:30am - \$15

See entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

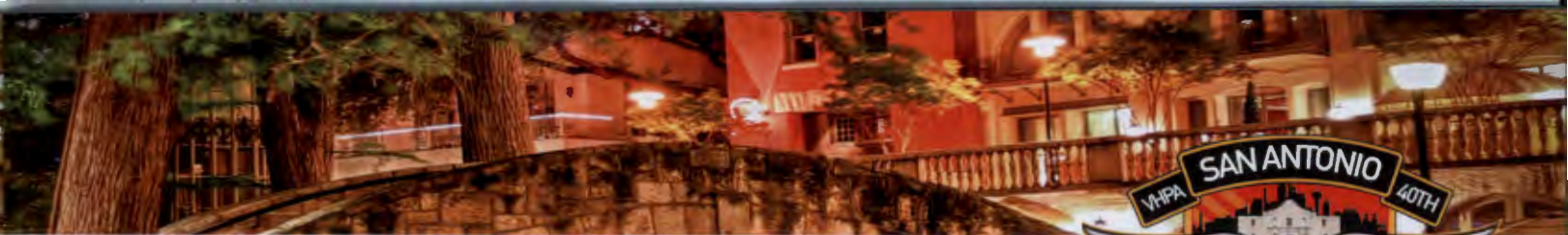
Video Presentation – Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech #2: 04 July – 11:00am – 12:00pm – NC

See Video Presentation – Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech #1 for details.



Tejas Rodeo Company.





Who Dun It Murder Mystery Lunch:

04 July – 11:00am – 1:00pm - \$65

The Who Dun It Mystery Show in San Antonio gives audiences an immersive experience into a classic murder whodunnit mystery while enjoying a lunch of salad, chicken, rolls, dessert, tea & coffee. The real twist is in the way the mystery is presented. While you uncover clues and watch interrogations unfold, you'll begin to realize not everything is as it seems. Among VHPA guests are plainclothes actors and actresses blending in for an extraordinary experience. You'll never know who the murderer is, so keep your eyes peeled! Who will be the closest to figuring it out before the killer is revealed by the end of the show?

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #11:

04 July – 11:30am – 12:30pm - \$15

See entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

Texas Air Museum – Stinson #1:

04 July – 2:00pm – 4:00pm - \$15

Since 1999, the Texas Air Museum at Stinson Field has been dedicated to telling the story of Texas and San Antonio's vital role in the development of military air power and the history of Katherine Stinson, the 4th woman to earn a pilot's license. It also pays tribute to aviation pioneers, technical achievements in the realm of aviation, and above all, pays respect and honor to those who gave their lives to defend freedom. This museum, run by volunteers, at Stinson Field maintains a significant collection of aircraft that illustrate changes in aviation technology across more than a century of development.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Note: This museum is located in a hangar with no air conditioning.

Veteran's Quilt Presentation & Quilter's Show & Tell:

04 July – 2:00pm – 4:00pm - NC

This special event is free and open to all reunion guests. Our quilting program, a tradition started on or before 2010, is divided into two sessions. The first, and our most important, is the presentation of personalized American flag themed quilts to randomly selected VHPA aviators. After our presentation program, quilters and other interested attendees are invited to remain for the "show and tell" session where quilters display and discuss their on-going

and finished masterpieces.

Also, during this session we will have a sneak preview of the quilting blocks being donated for inclusion in next year's quilts.

The Magicians Agency Theatre #1:

04 July – 4:30pm – 6:00pm - \$45

An award winning magic and illusion show VHPA members will enjoy an intimate setting of the Magicians Agency Theatre and experience the magic right before your eyes. To start off, members will enjoy included popcorn and soda as well as mind bending and close up magic from our strolling Magicians. When the show begins, enjoy an hour of nonstop, action packed magic and illusion that you will never forget. After the show, make your way to entrance area where the performers will be on hand to sign autographs and take pictures.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #12:

04 July – 5:00pm – 6:00pm - \$15

See entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.

San Antonio River Cruise Tour #13:

04 July – 6:00pm – 7:00pm - \$15

See entry for River cruise # 1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 60 participants.



River Cruise.



Tower of America Private Group Dinner:

04 July – 7:00pm – 10:00pm - \$120

A spectacular 4th of July event with an award-winning menu, the 750-foot-tall Tower of the Americas provides the most spectacular views of the Alamo City. While enjoying this private, you will have a bird's eye view of 4th of July fireworks surrounding downtown. Known locally as "The Tower", this is the tallest observation tower in Texas, and was the tallest in the U.S. from 1968 until it was surpassed by the Stratosphere Tower, Las Vegas in 1996. This event will include salad, main entrees of salmon, steak and/or chicken, with a dessert. This event does include an OPEN BAR for all guests that will include standard well spirits, wine and domestic bottled and draft beers.

Capacity: This event is limited to 260 participants.

Note: This event DOES include a 2 hour OPEN BAR.

WEDNESDAY, 05 JULY 2023

Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast:

05 July – 7:30am – 8:30am - \$25

This is the third and final breakfast offered at this Reunion. The Memorial Service, scheduled to begin at 9am is primarily a time to honor the several hundred VHPA members and potential members who passed away since the 2022 Reunion in Tampa, FL.

Memorial Service: 05 July – 8:45am – 9:30am - NC

The Memorial Service has been part of the "Reunion's Fabric" for at least eighteen years. It has evolved into the perfect setting/opportunity to reflect and remember our fallen brothers and friends. Since the KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast is dedicated to our KIA/MIA brothers, this Memorial Service is dedicated to those who passed away after their service in Southeast Asia with SPECIAL EMPHASIS on those who have passed SINCE THE LAST VHPA REUNION. The VHPA often uses the term DAT (Died After Tour) to refer to those who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era, survived the War, and then passed away.

It is important to note that no financial donations or contributions are requested or accepted during the Memorial Service.

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

Spouse/Guest Event –

Bingo: 05 July –

10:00am – 11:30am -

\$35

This will be a fun filled event for our ladies of VHPA with laughter and prizes included. This event will be some old-fashioned fun for all ages and our VHPA guests can spend time with their friends and getting the chance makes new ones. Get your daubers ready, because we're calling your number. You'll have a blast with a combination of different kinds of wins including traditional lines, corners, blackouts, multiple patterns, and more.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Annual Business Meeting:

05 July – 10:00am – 12:30pm - NC

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is when we conduct the official business of the association. On Wednesday morning you will hear committee chairmen give reports on their activities over the past year and you will have the opportunity to vote on administrative issues plus elect our next two Executive Council members. This is a good time to learn about the workings of the VHPA behind the scenes and to influence the future direction of our association.

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

Texas Air Museum – Stinson #2:

05 July – 1:00pm – 3:00pm - \$15

See Texas Air Museum – Stinson #1 for details

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Note: This museum is located in a hangar with no air conditioning.

The Magicians Agency Theatre #2:

05 July – 2:00pm – 3:30pm - \$45

See The Magicians Agency Theatre #1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.



Closing Banquet:

Registered Adults – 05 July – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$75

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (a dual plate w/chicken & salmon) for someone who has also paid the adult reunion registration fee.

The highlight for most reunion attendees is our closing banquet. This is the only “dress up” occasion of the reunion. It is a celebration of our time together opening with a tribute to our missing men and closing with the change of command from our current president to the new one after the meal.

For those who just want to visit after the closing remarks, please know you can stay at your table until 11 pm. Cash bars remain open until they are no longer needed.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm, PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00PM

Closing Banquet:

Registered Child <12 – 05 July – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$35

This ticket is for a “kid’s meal” for the closing banquet. A

word of warning is appropriate here. This meal is designed for children under the age of 12 years old. Trust us when we say that this meal will NOT MAKE a teenager happy at all!

Closing Banquet:

Non-Registered Guest – 05 July– 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$85

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (a dual plate w/chicken & salmon) for someone who has **NOT PAID** the adult reunion registration fee. Please review the Non-Registered Banquet Guest (NRBG) details in the Reunion Information at www.vhpa.org.

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

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm, PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00PM

Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage (FVSO) Kontum, Vietnam

Donations are tax deductible with 100% going to the kids, providing support for over 700 Montagnard children who live in 7 Vinh Son orphanages in the Kontum/Pleiku area of Vietnam. For over 20 years, FVSO donors have supplied food and medicine, dental care, education, clean water, housing and more.

Patrick Leary
FVSO PRESIDENT AND VDDV LIFE MEMBER



TO DONATE OR CONTACT FVSO

Our Monthly Newsletters Available on the Web Site

Website

FriendsofVSO.org

Email

FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Address

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



R2023 OFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

UPDATED 28 FEB 2023

Time

Event

SUNDAY, JULY 2

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
9:00 am - 8:00 pm
9:00 am - 8:00 pm
9:00 am - 8:00 pm
9:00 am - 10:00 pm
10:00 am - 11:00 am
11:00 am - 11:00 pm
10:30 am - 5:00 pm
10:30 am - 5:00 pm
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

HQ Registration Desk
Pre-Registered Packet and Tshirt Pickup
Welcome Desk
Vendor Room Open
Mini Reunions / TOCs
Oral History Interviews
O' Club Open
Fredericksburg Winery Tour #1
Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War #1
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #1
San Antonio SightSeer Tour #1
HQ Registration Desk
San Antonio SightSeer Tour #2
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #2
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #3
HQ Registration Desk
Welcome Reception w/Folklore Show

MONDAY, JULY 3

7:15 am - 3:30 pm
7:30 am - 9:00 am
8:00 am - 11:30 am
8:00 am - 8:00 pm
8:00 am - 8:00 pm
9:00 am - 10:00 am
9:00 am - 8:00 pm
9:00 am - 10:00 pm
9:30 am - 10:30 am
9:30 am - 1:00 pm
9:30 am - 4:00 pm
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
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12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
6:15 pm - 10:00 pm

Golf
Breakfast w/speaker - Thanh Boyer
HQ Registration Desk
Pre-Registered Packet and Tshirt Pickup
Welcome Desk
Oral History Interviews
Vendor Room Open
Mini Reunions / TOCs
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #4
Mission Tour #1
Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War #2
Writer's Panel
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #5
Video Presentation-Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech #1
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #6
O' Club Open
San Antonio SightSeer Tour #3
HQ Registration Desk
Casino Event
Video Presentation-EAA Aviation Museum-Restoration of UH-1B #1
San Antonio SightSeer Tour #4
Banquet Seating
HQ Registration Desk
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #7
San Antonio River Cruise Tour #8
Tejas Private Rodeo w/Dinner

R2023 OFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

UPDATED 28 FEB 2023

Time	Event
TUESDAY, JULY 4	
7:30 am - 9:00 am	KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast
8:00 am - 11:00 am	HQ Registration Desk
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Pre-Registered Packet and Tshirt Pickup
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Welcome Desk
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Oral History Interviews
9:00 am - 8:00 pm	Vendor Room Open
9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Mini Reunions / TOCs
9:30 am - 10:30 am	San Antonio River Cruise Tour #9
9:30 am - 1:00 pm	Mission Tour #2
9:30 am - 4:00 pm	Fredericksburg Winery Tour #2
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Video Presentation-EAA Aviation Museum-Restoration of UH-1B #2
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Writer's Panel
10:30 am - 11:30 am	San Antonio River Cruise Tour #10
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Video Presentation-Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech #2
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Who Dun It Murder Mystery Lunch
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	San Antonio River Cruise Tour #11
11:00 am - 11:00 pm	O' Club Open
12:00 pm - 6:00 pm	HQ Registration Desk
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Texas Air Museum - Stinson #1
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Veterans Quilt Presentation and Quilters Show & Tell
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Banquet Seating
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	The Magicians Agency Theatre #1
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	San Antonio River Cruise Tour #12
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	San Antonio River Cruise Tour #13
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Tower of America Private Group Dinner
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5	
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Pre-Memorial Breakfast
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Consolidated HQ Reg, Pre-Reg & T-Shirts
8:00 am - 1:00 pm	Welcome Desk
8:45 am - 9:30 am	Memorial Service
10:00 am - 11:30 am	Spouse/Guest Bingo Event
10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Annual Business Meeting
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Consolidated Reg, Pre-Reg & T-Shirts
12:30 pm - 11:00 pm	O' Club Open
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Texas Air Museum - Stinson #2
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Mini-Reunions / TOCs
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Vendor Room Open
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	The Magicians Agency Theatre #2
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Banquet Seating
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Closing Banquet w/Entertainment

Items in RED are outside events

Items in GREEN are inside events

Items in BLACK are general events or tasks



VHPA MINI REUNION REQUEST

If you would like to hold a mini reunion at the 2023 VHPA Reunion in San Antonio, TX space will be provided for you. Please complete this form and be sure to include any special requests you may have for your reunion.

Reserve your group reunion space now by providing the following info:

Reunion Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____ Estimated Number of Attendees: _____

Do you have a JPG File of your unit patch or logo? _____ If yes, please send with your request form.

What would you like printed on the sign to be placed in front of your room:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VHPA is providing a complimentary room for your mini reunion. The mini reunion rooms range in size from 490 to 810 sq. feet. We will provide the tables and chairs (please indicate below what type of tables you are interested in having).

VHPA will NOT provide any audio visual or food for mini reunions. If you are interested in ordering audio visual or food, call HQ for contact info. Your organization is responsible for the costs of these items.

No outside food or drinks are allowed in the meeting rooms per hotel contract.

Mini reunion coordinator must be registered to attend the reunion. Should the coordinator cancel his registration, the mini reunion request will also be cancelled.

*****VHPA may need to limit the days and times a group may reserve a mini reunion and a request is subject to demand and availability*****

Hospitality Room Set up Requirements: Please indicate any specific set up requirements (round tables, long tables, trash cans, etc....):

Please send this completed form with the attached schedule to:

VHPA HQ, 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011

Questions? Please contact Sherry Rodgers with HQ at the following email address or phone number:

sherry@vhpa.org

Phone: 800-505-8472

VHPA MINI REUNION REQUEST

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE WITH REQUESTED DATES AND TIME SLOTS

<u>SUNDAY, JULY 2</u>	<u>9:00am-12:00pm</u>	<u>1:00pm-5:00pm</u>	<u>6:00pm-10:00pm</u>
<u>MONDAY, JULY 3</u>	<u>9:00am-12:00pm</u>	<u>1:00pm-5:00pm</u>	<u>6:00pm-10:00pm</u>
<u>TUESDAY, JULY 4</u>	<u>9:00am-12:00pm</u>	<u>1:00pm-5:00pm</u>	<u>6:00pm-10:00pm</u>
<u>WEDNESDAY, JULY 5</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>1:00pm-5:00pm</u>	<u>N/A</u>
	X		X

Please put your group name in the time slots you are requesting for your reunion.

GROUP NAME: _____

COORDINATOR: _____

PHONE: _____

Please send this completed form with your request to:

VHPA, 1601 E Lamar Blvd, Suite 117, Arlington, TX 76011

Questions? Please contact Sherry Rodgers with HQ at the following email address or phone number:

sherry@vhpa.org

Phone: 800-505-8472

Book A Private Group Dinner Cruise



At The San Antonio Reunion!



VHPA guests can book their own dinner cruise on the River Walk and have a private gathering with friends, unit and/or flight class at the 2023 Reunion.

With many restaurants to choose from, GO RIO's Dinner Cruises are one of the most enjoyable experiences along the San Antonio River Walk. Food and beverages must be provided by a restaurant or catering company. You may not provide your own food.

All bookings are handled directly with the restaurant.

Visit the following link to view information and restaurants currently participating in GO RIO Dinner Cruises. <https://www.goriocruises.com/Cruises/dinner-cruise/>

**** VHPA HQ is not responsible for booking, confirming, or setting up private group events. ****



SuperShuttle San Antonio Airport VHPA Discount

SuperShuttle provides airport rides to and from SAT to any address in the Greater San Antonio area. SuperShuttle fares are Private Non-Stop rides that can range from \$35 to \$40 per car one-way.

VHPA Discount Code: KHC6Y

To book visit:

<https://www.supershuttle.com/>

or Call:

1- 800-BLUE-VAN (258-3826)



San Antonio Travel Alternative

Gather a group of friends and take a train ride to the 2023 Reunion.

San Antonio station hosts two Amtrak services; the tri-weekly Sunset Limited and the daily Texas Eagle. Four days a week, San Antonio is the southern terminus of the Texas Eagle, which originates in Chicago. Three days a week, the Texas Eagle joins with the Sunset Limited, continuing westbound to Los Angeles.

Please visit www.amtrak.com for more information, pricing, schedules and more.

Special Operations Aviation Regiment Tour

In 2020, then VHPA President Art Jacobs was organizing a tour of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky (The Night Stalkers) for a small group of VHPA members attending the AAAA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee that year. Then the COVID pandemic forced everything to shut down.

In his present capacity as VHPA Legacy Chairman, Art Jacobs has re-engaged with his contacts in the 160th and the tour has been resurrected. Here are the pertinent details and what to do if you would like to be on that sure to be fascinating private tour of the headquarters base of the most elite Special Operations helicopter pilots in the world:

- The AAAA Convention will be in Nashville 26-28 April 2023.
- The 160th tour will be on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.
- AAAA is arranging a bus to transport us to / from Fort Campbell.
- The tour size will be strictly limited to 30 VHPA members.

Qualifications, rules, and procedures if you'd like to be included:

- You must be both a AAAA and a VHPA Life Member.
- You must be registered for the AAAA Convention.

- You must have a Registration Badge to get on the bus.
- NO Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) will be allowed.
- Bus will depart precisely at 0700 on the 25th (returning by 1500).
- If you are not there, the bus will depart without you.

What to do if you are interested:

- Send your full name and your Life Member numbers for AAAA and the VHPA to Art Jacobs at: art.jacobs.tn@gmail.com
- Your numbers will be verified, and you will be added to the list (first come / first served). There will also be a waiting list.
- Art Jacobs will coordinate with AAAA to obtain your badge.
- You will be provided further instructions when the list is full.

Gentlemen, the 160th is preparing a full schedule for our exclusive benefit. The timing and logistics have been carefully considered. Since their combat missions include a plus or minus 30 seconds on target guarantee, we will respect their very valuable time and professionalism by leaving Nashville at 0700, and not being late. The bus WILL leave at 0700 sharp!

The Battle of Quang Tri - 1972 ~ Book 4 of 5 - Undaunted Valor series



Matt Jackson's latest release is based on the March 30, 1972, North Vietnam invasion across the Demilitarized Zone. No US ground combat forces were in Vietnam at the time except a light brigade guarding Da Nang and a brigade down in the Saigon area. Standing

with the South Vietnamese were Army and Marine Corps advisors supported by a few US helicopter companies. This is the story of the gallant actions by those advisors and flight crews and their contribution to turning back the North Vietnamese Army.

*Available from Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats.
Published in Kindle Book format - \$6.99*

"This is historical fiction and will give the reader insight into one of the pivotal battles of the Vietnam War. Matt's work putting this together was prodigious. I don't know how he did it. As a historical novel, I think it is great."

~ General Walter E. Boomer. US Marine Corps (Ret.)

Sales to date of the
Final Flight of Curious Yellow
Have generated over \$6500 for the
VHPA Scholarship Fund!

*We thank those who contributed to the book,
and those who purchased it!*



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Savannah, Georgia ★ Hotel DeSoto ★ 1 – 5 October



For details see the Cobra Reunion 2023 FB Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/818011722313360>

Or...

davesale64@gmail.com
denisdvorchak@gmail.com
(480) 203-7208



VHPA SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST

Fellow VHPA Members...

As Neil Sheehan wrote in his book, *A BRIGHT AND SHINNING LIE* "The aviation units were the only combat element of the US Army that did not come apart under the stress of war in Vietnam." pg. 762-763. That was the start of the VHPA Legacy.

Our Scholarship Program continues to grow! Aside from the legacy of our efforts in Vietnam it is our strongest and most significant way to ensure our legacy now and after we are gone! Now, the Scholarship Committee needs your help to increase the number of VHPA Scholarships we can offer each year. Last year, VHPA offered twelve (12) \$2,500 awards. The \$30,000 needed to fund these awards came from \$15,000 in interest donated from our VHPA investments, \$15,000 in interest on funds in our Scholarship corpus with AAAA and an additional \$10,000 in donations from members and friends of VHPA. This year, as result of the funds from the interest on our investments, the interest from the VHPA corpus with AAAA and donations from or members and friends, we are able to give eighteen (18) \$2,500 awards (already funded) and next year, with EC approval, we plan give twenty (20) \$2,500 awards. Each year we would like to increase the number of VHPA awards while we, VHPA members, are alive to see our descendants receive the awards.

Our Scholarship program will still receive the \$15,000 from our investments and the \$15,000, possibly more, from the Scholarship Corpus with AAAA but the additional funds needed come from you, the members. Every additional award requires an additional \$2,500 in donations. The Scholarship Committee members are not asking you to do anything we aren't doing; we both donate at least \$1,000 annually to the funds needed every year and will continue to do so for as long as we are able. Just asking you to join us and help fund more awards with whatever amount you can. Every dollar helps.

Last year, the 2022-2023 awards cycle, 147 VHPA descendants applied for the VHPA scholarships, twelve VHPA applicants received \$30,000 in awards from VHPA and an additional 80 of our applicants received \$113,500 in AAAA awards. That's 63 percent of our applicants receiving \$143,500. This year, the 2023-



2024 awards cycle, over 190 VHPA descendants applied for our 18 awards, an increase of 43 applicants. The awards to these applicants will be given in late April, early May. In the 2024-2025 awards cycle we should have well over 200 VHPA applicants. We expect more in the 2025-2026 awards cycle.

Guys, we need your help now. We want to add to our legacy and increase the number of VHPA awards NOW. We want to give awards to our descendants while we are still around to see them use the awards. Don't leave money in your wills or estate planning for VHPA, donate it NOW while we can see it awarded. Help the Scholarship Committee and our VHPA provide scholarships NOW for our descendants NOW while we can see them benefit NOW from our efforts on their behalf. We appreciate anything you can do, just do it NOW, please! Help us add to our VHPA Legacy NOW!

Tom Payne
Committee Chairman

Mike Sheuerman
Scholarship Committee, Fundraising

A MEMBERSHIP FOR THOSE HONORED FEW



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DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS
SOCIETY**

*"...for heroism or extraordinary achievement
while participating in an aerial flight."*

DFCSociety.org/membership

UPCOMING REUNIONS

OV-1 MOHAWK ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

Where: Charleston, SC North Charleston Marriot Hotel

When: September 21-24, 2023

Information: OV-1 MOHAWK ASSOCIATION
Dedicated to All Who Serve, Las Vegas, NV

243RD ASHC "FREIGHT TRAIN" ANNUAL REUNION

Hosted By Jon and Ann Beckenhauer

All former unit members

(Officers and Enlisted) are invited.

Where: Omaha Nebraska - Make Hotel reservations with Cambria Hotel Omaha Downtown
740 North 14th Street, Omaha, NE 68102.

Phone number (402) 218-1676

When: May 16-20, 2023

Information: beckenbauerj@yahoo.com Jon Beckenhauer,
703-216-8389

NOTES: Hotel and arrival information

Tuesday May 16 -Arrival & Check-in

www.choicehotels.com/nebraska/omaha/cambria-hotels/ne176

Request Reservation Operator

to give you a room reserved for

243rd Freight Train Reunion or "Bunker Party"

Last day to make reduced rate (\$111 per/night)
reservations is April 14th

THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION AND THE ALAMO

Eagles Chapter are hosting the Annual Reunion

When: August 23-26, 2023

Where: San Antonio, at the Westin North, on Colonnade

Information: <http://www.screamingeagle.org>, or directly
by phone at 931-431-0199.

There is a large contingent of Comancheros, and Medevac
pilots that attend each year.

... So sweepingly adventurous, death defying, and overflowing with bigger-than-life characters—that readers must remind themselves that Hoffman's account all really occurred."

~ JOSEPH BATHANTI,
North Carolina Poet Laureate (2012-2014)

FEW AMERICANS KNOW the facts about the final year of US combat operations in South Vietnam. As political will to sustain the fight shrank and most of their ground forces were withdrawn. The Soviets and North Vietnamese sought battlefield success to strengthen their negotiating position at the Paris peace talks. In March of 1972, North Vietnam invaded the South with the men and equipment needed to sweep the US air assets from the sky. They, however, miscalculated the difficulty of that task.

The remaining US aviation forces, (Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines) would not be easily neutralized. This is the untold story of heroism, dedication, and refusal to yield the battlefield despite being largely considered by US political leaders as "expendable".



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art.jacobs.tn@gmail.com

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 2 New Members and covers the period 12.20.22 to 2.09.23

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

Groesbeck Douglas D. **
 Wentzville Missouri
 Army
 69-11
 A/2/17 CAV 101 ABN
 in 69-70

Hall David T. 'Dave' **
 El Paso Texas
 Army
 68-6
 336 AHC in 68-69;
 180 ASHC in 72-73

Kirby Thomas Michael 'Tom' **
 San Antonio Texas
 Navy
 70-16
 HA(L)-3 in 71-72

Leslie Jean F. 'Les' **
 Whitewater Kansas
 Army
 66-13
 189 AHC in 67-68;
 57 AHC in 67-68;
 92 AHC in 71

Lewis Michael
 Daytona Beach Florida
 Army
 142 TC CO in 66-67

Mooney James C. **
 Annandale Virginia
 Army
 69-21
 A/4 AVN 4 INF in 69;
 1 BDE 4 INF in 69-70;
 F/8 CAV in 72-73

Orey Ralph B. **
 Oro Valley Arizona
 Marine Corps
 56-8
 HMM-262 in 66-67;
 MACV FLT DET in 70-71

Rodeberg Roger T **
 Sun Lakes Arizona
 Navy
 59-1

Swift Ronald J
 APO Europe
 Army
 69-37 69-29
 B/7/1 CAV 101 ABN in 70

Combat Helicopter Pilots Association

If you were a US military helicopter pilot or crew in combat or imminent danger area – in any conflict - you should be a member of CHPA.



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



A CO, 159 PACHYDERMS

By Tom Andrews

Throughout U.S.A. military history there have been numerous occasions where Army units have aided Marine Corps units in their combat operations. No shame or blame on the Corps as the Army has more manpower and heavier weapons to support sustained operations.

There was a unique situation during the month of March 1969 when a single Army aviation company of 16 CH-47 helicopters, with five crew members each, influenced combat operations for the 3rd Marine Corps Division, I Corps Military Operational Area aka Demilitarized Zone. The A Company - "Pachyderms" - of the 159th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion, 101st Aviation Group, 101st Airmobile Division suspended its ongoing operations adjacent to the 3rd Marines and moved slightly north to Marine Corps Vandegrift Combat Base. Beginning on the first of March '69 the USMC launched Operation Purple Martin to force the North Vietnamese Army (PAVN) 246th Regiment out of South Viet Nam and to secure the southern half of the DMZ. A Co. arrived on the 1st of March and stayed at Vandegrift until 1 April. Within just two weeks of A Co. support Marine commanders from company level to division level recognized that the Pachyderms were turning the tide of Marine combat operations with timely, gallant, unparalleled support. To show USMC Command's appreciation a 'sincere pat on the back to A Co. crews' was demonstrated with a presentation of 'Impact Valor Awards' on 19 March 1969 at the Vandegrift helipad.

LTG R. Stilwell, USA, XXIV Corps Commander, Maj Gen R. Davis 3rd Marine Commanding and BGen F. Garretson Assistant Division Commander presented six Distinguished Flying Cross medals and twenty-two Air Medal w/Valor device. Unfortunately, a number of the Vandegrift awards were not recorded in individual DD201 files with supporting General Orders (G.O.), the paperwork necessary for Veteran benefits as well as the personal recognition of those challenging days of combat with a determined foe of PAVN regulars. Concerning the mid-March 'Impact' awards of the six DFC's presented, only four had proper G.O. paper-work, and only four of the twenty-two Air Medal w/V were recorded with G.O. and none of the enlisted crewmen

received proper G.O. paperwork.

On the first of April, A Co. resumed its regular operations with the 101st out of its Phu Bai helipad - "The Beach." In May of 1969, the U.S. Army recognized A Co.'s valor during the second two weeks of its Marine Corps assignment of March. LTG Stilwell and MG Melvin Zais, 101st Commanding, presented ten Distinguished Flying Cross medals and twelve Air Medal w/Valor device. Fortunately, the Army's May awards were recorded with G.O. paperwork, but there were two issues of concern with these awards. During April of '69 several crewmen rotated home and were not recognized in the May ceremony and a DFC recipient at Vandegrift had been shot down and KIA along with his entire crew.

As the Internet has become an "Information Highway", I set out on a quest to find out if CW2 Harold Eckert (KIA) was properly recognized for his two DFCs and was his family notified of his heroism. If you have ever tried to correct your military records of years gone by, you may appreciate that as a non-relative of Harold, the task of securing official information about a comrade was a challenge. In this case, where to even start? Army, Marines, 101st, Pentagon ... ? I was able to track down a source who took interest in my request, at the U.S. Army Human Resource Command, Fort Knox, KY. So, back and forth with email the government man confirmed that Harold Eckert family did have information about one DFC, the Army May award. CW2 Harold Eckert family was somewhat aware their loved one was heroic, and I hope it eased the reality of his KIA. But there was still the matter of the second DFC that Harold had earned.

Aware that there were still so many other A Co. crewmen without General Orders officially documenting their heroism, I searched for more information. I discovered that Military General Orders are stored at The National Archives at College Park, MD.

With further on-line search of The National Archives, I was able to find: ARC Identifier 2,579,373/MLR Number A1 250/Boxes 1 - 54 Series record group 472. This series of the Archives file system are unique to the 101st RVN 1969. These records include daily Army military matters such as: promotions, reassignment, transfer

in and out of country, etc. and recording awards and decorations. All other Army units can be tracked down with similar Identifiers. None of these records are available on-line but can be viewed and copied in person at College Park, MD.

I volunteered my brother Paul (Col, USAF (Ret.)) and his wife Peggy who lived in Northern VA to visit the Archives in MD. One must register with the Archives, pay a small fee, watch a video on proper handling of official documents, and when all the i's are dotted and the t's crossed one is good to go for repeated visits to the Archives. I suggested names of A Co. pilots and listed a few G.O. numbers that I gathered from fellow Pachyderms that remain in frequent contact via email. Paul and Peggy did diligent research of many boxes with thousands of records in each box to determine that the name markers and specific order numbers that I suggested were found with recorded G.O. paperwork, but other names I was interested in e.g. Harold Eckert with unknown G.O. number could not be found. Paul noted that the file boxes had numerous inserts noting that G.O. xxx1 could not be found or xxx8 thru xxx15 not found.

Four years ago, I attended a mini-reunion of former A Co. enlisted mechanics and Chinook flight engineers

and connected with three of the FE's that I flew with in March 1969. We confirmed our connections of those days and were enlightened by each others' perspective. Guy in front seat vs guy in the rear watching, directing internal and external mission loads, monitoring hydraulic systems and an eye on two other crew. Each FE reported they did not receive any G.O. paperwork for the Air Medal w/Valor. Back to the Internet and on-line searching of The Archives did not yield any desired results. I hired a professional archive researcher and as soon as The Archives resumed operation after their Covid shutdown, he took up my search. \$955.00 later the pro researcher reported "Noted G.O.s Found But Numerous Series Of Missing Files That Could Be Relevant". The pro did search several other data files, but no other Valor awards for A Co. 159th ASHB were found. Bottom line the G.O.'s that were recorded in one's DD201 file were found in the Archives, G.O.'s missing from 201's were missing from the Archive.

Pachyderms! The crewmen of A Company, 159th Aviation Support Helicopter Battalion can stand proud for the extraordinary combat service to the Marines, the Army, and U.S.A. The Valor awards were presented, and our only records are some faded photographs. Aged like so many of us.

Vietnam Helo Operations-VHPA Rotorheads Return

15—28 April & 3—15

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

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

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UTAH CHAPTER

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Email: armyav8r11@msn.com

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

Alex Broman
Email: alexbroman1@comcast.net

Notice to all Members of the VHPA

The liaison between the national HQ of the VHPA and the independent Chapters has reverted to Tom Payne of the Chapter Liaison National Committee. Tom can be reached at 918-813-5132 (cell) or 918-298-5132 (home) or via E-mail at ka5hzd@att.net. Feel free to contact Tom concerning any details on opening your own local Chapter of the VHPA and/or for seeing what assistance is available from HQ to support your efforts.

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

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ALAMO CHAPTER

Whatever happened to winter? Except for a few days, temperatures in South Central Texas have been balmy and extremely dry. We are in a severe draught with little relief in sight. Having said that, there is no doubt that the San Antonio VHPA reunion will be of the best you've attended. So many things to do and so little time to do them. I've highlighted options available in earlier Aviator editions. Standby, the fun is about to begin.

On January 1, Chip Brown assumed left seat duties as our chapter president. He's fired up and ready to go with his sights set on supporting whatever is needed to make the reunion a success.

The chapter enjoyed a fantastic Christmas party at the Army Residence Community. The food was great, fellowship wonderful, and a good time was had by all. I believe most of us made it to 9 PM...Ha! I've included a few pictures of that wild evening. Many thanks to Jim Boykin for making the Christmas party happen.

The chapter continues support of the Huey 369 project and the Vietnam Archives Project at Texas Tech.

The chapter is alive, well, and active. Many thanks to Immediate President Dale Stout for his service and leadership during his 2022 term.

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

Until next time, stay happy and healthy.

Mike Clark
Chapter Secretary



Enjoying the evening.



Line Dancers; Chic Carter up to something.



Dessert Table.



The Band.



The Wild Bunch.

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



The rest of us after lunch.

CALIFORNIA NORTH CHAPTER

On 18 JAN 2023, eleven CCN members, four wives, and one USN C-130 pilot guest visited the Rowland Freedom Center Museum that is located in a hangar at the Nut Tree Airport in Vacaville, CA.

A very tired UH-1H with several other aircraft and military vehicles sit outside the museum. Inside a variety of five-six flyable airplanes and military displays can be seen. The airplanes are changed in the museum every few months. On this day, the museum was doing some major reorganization, but Paul Mirich, the museum manager, gave us all a great guided tour. Paul hopes to create a special Vietnam exhibit with the UH-1H as the centerpiece in the near future. If you are ever in the



Ken Fritz (standing) before lunch.

Vacaville, CA area, this is worth a stop.

Rowland Freedom Center
300 County Airport Rd.
Vacaville, CA 95688

www.rowlandfreedomcenter.org

After lunch, we all retired to the FUSO restaurant in downtown Vacaville for a great lunch. We also had a very short business meeting update on future CCN activities and VHPA reunion plans.

Dave Anderson
Secretary, VHPA-CCN

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The Michigan Chapter continued activities through the winter though a bit more limited.

Mark Benjamin hosted his monthly meeting on December 7th in Traverse City. The attendees shown in the photo are lots of his regular group which may have caused Mark to write "I can't think of what we discussed, but honestly, we all laughed a lot. It doesn't really get any better." In a follow up email exchange with Mark, he noted that "Bart Halliday was an A-4 guy on his second tour . . . and a Marine" noting the difference with Army experiences. That highlights the wide variety of representation across all the services. Mark added that "I'm so glad I did this (monthly lunch gatherings), I never would have known any of these people."

The next monthly gathering in Traverse City was on January 4th. Attending were Barry Witt, Walter Topp, Paul Fitzsimons, Clay & Linda Maxwell, Pat Buchan, and Mark Benjamin hosting.

Mark didn't have a photo but did recruit a new member. Patrick Buchan was in Vietnam in 1970 serving with the



189th AHC at Pleiku and the 170th AHC at Kontum. This was Pat's first event with any Vietnam Vet group so we're happy to have him with us. Pat told the story of how he got into the Warrant program and that he flew H & C model Hueys where he went.

L-R Paul Fitzsimons, Ron Hofmeister, Bart Halliday, Ed Canright, Mark Benjamin, Walter Topp, Barry Witt



December 7th in Traverse City.

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Other war stories included Clay Maxwell telling the story of his near fatal crash with a Cobra TR gear box that departed the aircraft in cruise flight. Paul Fitzsimons discussed some of his LRRP missions. Mark noted that was scary, glad he was only flying a helicopter.

On January 26, Pete and Peggy Frazier hosted a gathering on Florida's west coast. An alert went out to any Snowbirds in Florida and Chapter member Glen Veno joined them along with VHPA member Ron Paye. Pete wrote that they plan to host again in March with the Snowbird connection available through April. He got a hold of Tom Kirk, VHPA Aviator Editor, and hope to add him to the group next time. Any Michigan Chapter members or associates in the area who are interested in joining them can reach Pete Frazier at frazier@chartermi.net.

Glen wrote they had a cloudy but very nice visit aboard the "Pelican". Cruised Marco Island and lunched at CJ's On The Bay. He and Ron thanked Peggy & Pete for their generous offer, hospitality, and journey down memory lane with war stories.

As noted in the gatherings reports, whenever we can get together it is very common to start sharing war stories from our Vietnam "adventure. Since it is becoming more difficult to have these gatherings, we started to share some war stories from our members via email. Noel MacKinnon shared one titled "I'm Hit!", Dave Sebright shared his titled "Milk Run", Jim Hunt had a short one about a hot shell casing going down his back during a gun run, and Charlie Eliason wrote about his being assigned to fly CH-54 Flying



Glen Veno Pete Frazier Ron Paye

January 26 in Florida.

Cranes right out of flight school along with his accompanying war stories.

Additional information can be found on the Michigan Chapter VHPA website at <https://vhpami.wordpress.com>.

Look under "News" for past and recent events.

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.

Submitted by Rich Deer, president

NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER

On November 15th, 2022, the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) held its 1st Annual AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Dinner Concert at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, AL. Entertainment was provided by country star Michael Ray. VHPA funds 10 scholarships each year for VHPA member's children and grandchildren. AAAA administers these



scholarships. VHPA sponsored a table for the event. North Alabama Chapter (NAVHPA) Attendees were Don & Nina LeMaster, Art & Kathryn Jacobs, Bob & Mary Stewart, Julie Kink & Mike Sprayberry, and Marshall & Sharron Eubanks. The dinner raised about \$20K for AAAA scholarships.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism,



NAVHPA attendees at the Quad A Scholarship Foundation Dinner. Clockwise from near left; Linda & Don LeMaster, Art & Kathryn Jacobs, Julie Kink & Mike Sprayberry, Mary & Bob Stewart, Sharron Eubanks, Marshall is the photographer.



Remembrance Table at the NAVHPA Christmas Dinner.

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preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Nationwide, there are about 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters. Alabama has over 100 chapters. They present many awards and scholarships each year. The DAR Medal of Honor is awarded to native born American citizens. It's with great humility and pride that our chapter member, Bob Stewart, will receive the DAR Medal of Honor on 4 March 2023 in Auburn, Alabama. Congratulations Bob!

The Chapter gathered for the final meeting of the year on December 13th at the Huntsville Country Club. 69 people attended, included 34 members and 35 spouses/guests.

Along with the Christmas festivities we featured a Remembrance Table: Our Remembrance table consisted of the traditional Single Place Setting and Red Rose.

The single place setting to remind us of those who we have lost.

The single red rose to remind us of their families and loved ones.

We have lost two members since our last Christmas dinner – both on the same day, 18 July 2022. Jim White suddenly passed away at his home and Bruce Norton passed away at his home while under Hospice care. We learned in the Sep-Oct Aviator that former member Carl Rossomme passed away in May 2022. Since we started our chapter in 2010, we have lost 10 members, five spouses and three children of members. Our prayers are with all these families. We had a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of all those we have lost.

The Nominating Committee (Rick Davis) did not get any names for any of the positions on the NAVHPA Board of Directors and Officers. The good news was that the current officers and board volunteered to serve another two years! As per our By-laws, the members reelected the current board by acclamation for the period 2023 to 2024. Marshall Eubanks, President. Samuel Maki, Secretary. Sandy Weand, Treasurer. Ralph Weber, Director of Publicity. Bob Monette, Director of Activities.

Additionally, Les Haas volunteered to serve on the Board again as immediate past president. Tom Houser swore in the (old and) new Board.

Our scheduled guest speaker was unable to attend. He was greeting the arrival of his first grandchild. We were honored to have our very own astronaut, Bob Stewart talk about "The night Sky". From a fellow who has seen the sky



NAVHPA officers and board for 2023-2024. L-R Sandy Weand, Sam Maki, Les Haas, Marshall Eubanks, Ralph Weber, Bob Monette.



North Alabama chapter members and guests at the Christmas dinner, December 13, 2022.



Rededication of the VHPA plaque presented to Ft. Rucker in January 2023. L-R Art Jacobs, MG McCurry, Don LeMaster, Bob Mitchell. The plaque is visible between Art Jacobs and MG McCurry.

from orbit several times, his observations were uniquely right on.

At the start of the new year, three members of the NAVHPA attended the rededication of a VHPA plaque presented to our Army Aviation Museum at Ft. Rucker, AL on 19 Jan. 2023. We say rededicated because the first plaque was lost or misplaced during a move. The NAVHPA members were the President of VHPA, Don LeMaster, VHPA Legacy President Art Jacobs and Bob Monette.

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The plaque now has a permanent location in the foyer and outside the entrance to the Vietnam Memorial Room and next to a beautiful painting donated by our own Joe Kline. MG McCurry, Commanding General, United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Aviation Branch Chief, and the museum's director Bob Mitchell performed the unveiling as a number of local VHPA 'seasoned' aviators looked on. The plaque recognizes the invaluable instruction and outstanding services provided by Fort Rucker and cadre. It is also dedicated to the Pilots and Crewmembers who gave their lives in Vietnam between 1961 - 1975.

On January 10 and 11, NAVHPA helped the Huntsville, AL Wreaths for Veterans (WV) organization retrieve and box around 3600 wreaths from veterans' graves. These wreaths were placed November 15 and 16 at Valhalla (800 wreaths) and Maple Hill (2800 wreaths) Cemeteries. This project is NAVHPA's largest community service project each year. We provide support on eight days during the year. Four days of wreath preparation and boxing in early November, two days placing wreaths in the middle of November, and two days of wreath retrieval in early January. Around 35 NAVHPA members and spouses participate.



Picking up and boxing wreaths at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. Pictured L-R Gil Fluhr, Sharron Eubanks, two unknown volunteers, Les Haas, Pam Fluhr.



The Maple Hill Gang. Pictured L-R Weand, P Fluhr, S Eubanks, M Eubanks, Ruth Maki, Maki, Haas, G Fluhr. Not pictured Jean Rose & Malcolm Brown.

The chapter has discontinued our web site at <http://www.na-vhpa.org>.

We have a dedicated page on Facebook. You can see it by searching for "North Alabama VHPA" in the search bar in Facebook. See what we are doing.

The North Alabama Chapter meets in Huntsville, on the 2nd Tuesday of most months at 4:30 PM (1630). Stop in when you get a chance. If you live in the North Alabama and Middle Tennessee areas, we want you to join our chapter. You can contact us at navhpa@gmail.com or on the Facebook page. Come on out!! We know all those war stories need to get out of your system. We need to hear new ones.

Ralph Weber

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VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

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

We held our first membership meeting of the New Year in January as a Zoom meeting due to inclement weather. We had 16 members in attendance. Since our last article, three members were invited to speaking engagements. Also, Member Gregg Mann held his annual Christmas Party.

Gregg estimated that there were about 35 people in attendance at the Xmas Party. We do not have any pictures from that soiree, or any information for that matter. What happens at the Xmas Party, Stays at the Xmas Party.

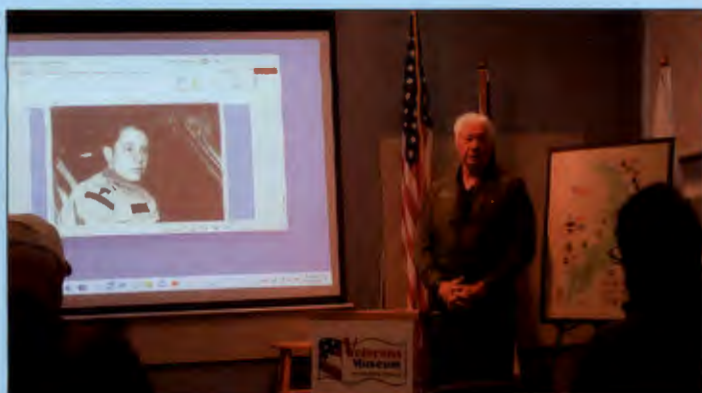
Bill Bates was invited to speak at the Veterans Memorial Museum in Broomfield, CO. He shared stories about his tours in Vietnam. Bill was a member of A Troop, 7th Squadron 17 Cavalry from April 1968 through April 1969, where he flew the OH-6 for the Scout Platoon. After his tour with the 7/17th Air Cav, he volunteered for a six month extension. For that, he received an "in-country" Cobra Transition and was further assigned to the 330th Transportation Company in Vung Tau. He returned stateside after that to continue his civilian career.

Bill also attended the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association Reunion in Washington, D.C. representing the Rocky Mountain Chapter. He and other CHPA members visited the "Vietnam Crew Member Memorial" at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as the Wall of Remembrance.

Rick Beaver was also invited to speak at the Veterans Memorial Museum the following month and shared stories of his Vietnam tour. Rick served between March 1967 to February 1968, with the 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st Cavalry, (Airmobile). He was shot down during the TET offensive while participating in the "Battle of Hue". He flew Logistical (Log) mis-



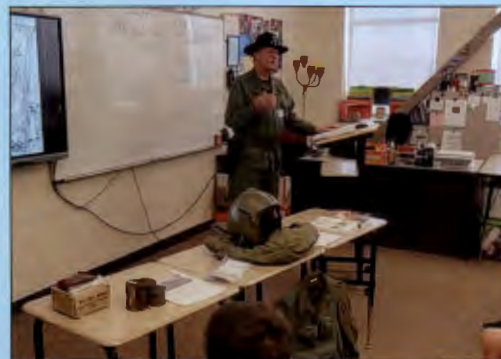
Bill Bates with his younger self.



Rick Beaver with his younger self.



Dale House with Teacher Kristi Smith.



Dale House-Aspen Crossing Elementry School.



Bill Bates 2nd from L with other CHPA Members.

sions supporting ground operations in I Corp. He continued to serve another four years on active duty at Hunter Stewart as a Flight Instructor, and then served in the New Jersey National Guard.

Dale House was invited to speak to 8th grade classes at Aspen Crossing Elementary School in Castle Rock, Colorado at the invitation of Kristi Smith, 8th Grade Teacher. He made a presentation which included a slide show with an adjunct Vietnam War history along with stories about his tour with A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry from April 1969

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through April 1970 in Pleiku and An Khe as a Slick pilot with the Aero Rifle Platoon. Dale continued to serve with a four year tour in Nuremberg, Germany with Air Cav Troop, 2nd ACR. After returning stateside Dale was assigned to the 431 Medical Detachment, 7th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, KY. He continued service with the 336th Assault Helicopter Company in California in the Army Reserve until retirement.

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

Stay Safe, and above all, Stay Happy.

*Dale House
President*

SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER

The November meeting was held in the Keeter Center at the College of the Ozarks (CofO) near Branson, MO. We had a good turnout of 40 attendees, including Dr. Jerry Davis the Chancellor and his wife Shirley and the new President of CofO Dr. Brad Johnson and his wife Laura.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer, offered by Ron Clifton our Chaplain, the meeting began with a Folded Wing Ceremony conducted by Don Merritt and his wife Karen. This ceremony honors the memory of 19 of our members who have passed since the founding of the chapter. As each name was read, a bell was struck. Upon completion, TAPS was played and a final prayer was offered by the Chaplain. These fellow aviators fought with us, fought for us, and are remembered by us.

Our speaker for the meeting was CW5 (ret) Greg McManus. Greg started his flying career in Vietnam in 1969 where he flew Cobra gunships and Hueys. He joined the Missouri National Guard in 1974 where he served as an Instructor Pilot, Standardization Pilot, Instrument Examiner and Aviation Safety Officer. He then served in Iraq from 2005 to 2007 where he developed tactical SOPs that are still in use by Army commands in SW Asia. Over his career, Greg accumulated over 16,200 flying hours in both airplanes and helicopters. In addition, he is the only Warrant Officer to attend and graduate from the Army's Command and General Staff College.

Greg's Powerpoint program documented his personal experiences in both Vietnam and Iraq and reminded us of the purpose and challenges of military service, as well as the ultimate costs we bear. It brought back memories of our own personal experiences in Vietnam and of those with whom we served. It was an excellent presentation.

Next, newly inaugurated CofO President Dr. Brad Johnson welcomed us to the campus and thanked us for



Rick Beaver with his younger self.



John receiving the Vietnam 101 classroom workbook kit.



Dr. Jerry Davis receiving a quilt made by Chapter wives in appreciation of his unwavering support for veterans and the U.S. military.

our service to the Country. The CofO is a strong supporter of Patriotism having it as one of the five Fundamental Mission Pillars. To support this Pillar, the College has established the Knight Center for Patriotic Educa-

VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Group photo.

Education. In addition, the military museum in the Keeter Center honors many CoFO graduates who served with distinction and paid the ultimate price for Freedom in every major conflict for over 100 years.

The Patriotic Education Dept. has developed a kit to send to high schools who wish to add patriotic education to their curriculum and expand awareness of the value of military service. John Sorensen was presented with a kit containing a copy of Dr. Davis's book *Vietnam 101*, a workbook for classroom application and a DVD of an interview John gave to the school on his Vietnam experiences. The presentation was made by Dr. Brad Johnson, Dr. Jerry Davis and Dr. Andrew Bolger.

A business meeting was then conducted beginning with the award of a quilt to Dr. Jerry Davis, Chancellor of the CoFO. The quilt was made by Liz Sorensen, Pat Clifton, and Kathleen Sherfey and presented in appreciation of our long, personal relationship with Dr. Davis and his strong patriotic support for veterans and the U.S. military.

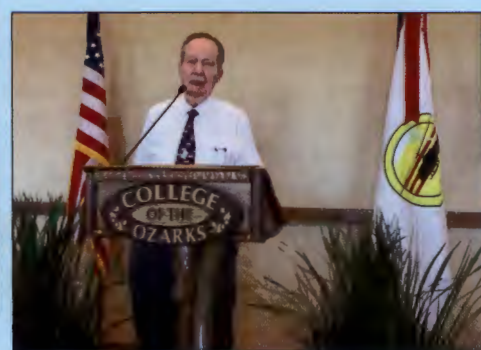
John Sorensen gave a detailed Treasurer's report which found the Chapter in a positive financial position. He then related that our Chapter endowment with the CoFO has now grown to \$20,355. The interest generated from the endowment allows the Chapter to award annual scholarships to deserving CoFO students.

The drawing for our annual fundraiser was won by Don Merritt. He received a beautiful quilt made by our chapter quilters. Money raised by the raffle goes to our CoFO scholarship endowment fund.

Two of our members recently went on an Honor Flight



Dr. Brad Johnson, College of the Ozarks President.



Tom Payne, a Chapter member, came all the way from Tulsa, Oklahoma and gave a talk.

to Washington, D.C. along with 79 other veterans and their Guardians. Tom Marty and Chuck Guy experienced a very special day filled with visits to many of our treasured monuments. The changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was especially solemn. While at Arlington, we were able to visit the stone memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crewmembers who lost their lives in the Vietnam war.

The need for volunteers to fill two open Officer positions- Vice President and Secretary was then discussed. The Chapter has been very successful over the last 13 years because of those who stepped up and took leadership roles. Members are asked to please consider these positions as opportunities to serve and to keep our Chapter strong. We are a voice for all who flew helicopters during the Vietnam war.

The subject of the bios found in the TAPS section of the *Aviator* magazine was then discussed. Copies of a Veteran Biographical Data Form were distributed to each table. The form was developed by the Rocky Mountain Chapter in Colorado as a way of gathering information about our military experiences and awards. This information will assist Chapters, families, and the *Aviator* publishing staff to prepare appropriate bios when needed. The form will

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be added to our website for easy access- vhpasmo.net

The Chapter meets quarterly at locations of aviation and/or military interest and is open to all members and spouses, as well as anyone interested in joining us. We have members all around the State of Missouri and try to hold our meetings in different areas of the State to facili-

tate attendance. Anyone wanting to know more about us or anyone who has an idea for a meeting location may contact me at 520-820-7339 or chuck-guy0765@gmail.com.

Chuck Guy, Chapter President

UPPER MIDWEST CHAPTER

On Veterans Day, a couple of the members attended the program at New Richmond Wisconsin Middle school. This has been a traditional event for the Chapter. There was a nice program to start things off followed by cookies and coffee. After that, we had a chance to look over the students' poster displays about veterans and their families.

Our November Chapter meeting was a couples' meeting for lunch in Minneapolis. The turnout was a little light as has been the case since COVID. After lunch, a few attendees went to the nearby Minnesota Veterans Home to visit some of the residents. One of our Chapter members is now a resident there.

In December, a couple of our members participated in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. There was a good turnout of volunteers to assist in this annual project. There was a nice open-

ing ceremony followed by the wreath distribution. Fortunately, the weather was cooperative, although we did get a couple of inches of fresh snow the night before. There were several hundred volunteers including whole families participating. It was a well-run event and I expect that I will do it again next December.

Our January meeting was a Zoom call so our snowbirds could participate. Unfortunately, we didn't attract a quorum, so no official business could be conducted. We did have some discussion of where the Chapter is headed, potential bylaw changes, and our next meeting.

It looks like our next meeting will be a lunch meeting in May with times and location to be e-mailed out to the members.

*Don Abrams
Chapter President*

UTAH CHAPTER

The Utah Chapter is attempting to be more interactive in all types of Veterans activities throughout the year to make ourselves better known and let our fellow Utah Vietnam Veterans know who we are and invite them to join us. In September we were part of the Utah Honor Flight and enjoyed two days in Washington D.C. visiting the memorials. This month we were invited to be part of the Utah Cold War Victory Medal Foundation's presentation at the Utah Military Academy in Lehi, UT. Myself and our past president, Steve Jackson attended on behalf of the Chapter and received our Victory Medals.

There were over 75 veterans from around Utah county to include one WWII veteran and veterans from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan who were presented with the Utah Cold War Victory medal as a thank you from the UCWVMF for our service from 1945 to 1991 during the Cold War period in the U.S.

The Utah Military Academy hosted the event with speakers, presentation of the colors, and a final salute to our fall-



Utah Chapter Banner, left to right, Smith Veteran Vietnam, Johnson American Legion, Doug Drury Chapter president UTVHPA, Perry Veteran Iraq.

en brethren with a beautiful rendition of Taps. The medal foundation presented a very prestigious and beautifully crafted medal to each of the veterans present. Several medals were accepted posthumously by children of the veterans who earned the medal.

The foundation presents these medals to veterans throughout Utah at several locations during the year. They also make accommodations for those who can't attend the presentation to have the medal mailed to them. This is a very worthwhile cause this foundation conducts for Utah

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Veterans. They conduct their events totally with private donations and all volunteer staff. This year they also had assistance from the service organization known throughout the U.S. as "The Battlin Betty's" Utah Platoon. This group of volunteer women dress in '1940's' attire and help host veterans events throughout Utah. A wonderful group of gals that add flavor, nostalgia, and a touch of class to any Veteran event. We thank them for their patronage.

Our Utah Chapter is not very big and with members being scattered from one end of the state to the other, holding regular monthly meetings are not possible so we make up for this geographical anomaly by holding one yearly meeting and BBQ so we can all get together and the rest of the year we focus on educational events for schools and civic organizations whenever we can. I hope our efforts will in

some way embellish the legacy of our service and experiences as Vietnam Aviators. We wish all our chapter brothers good health and retention of what little brain cells we have left and fond memories of past times

that will live with us always as we head for that big heliport in the sky. Carry on Brothers, "We were winning when we Left."



Steve Jackson, Past UTVHPA president receiving Victory Medal.



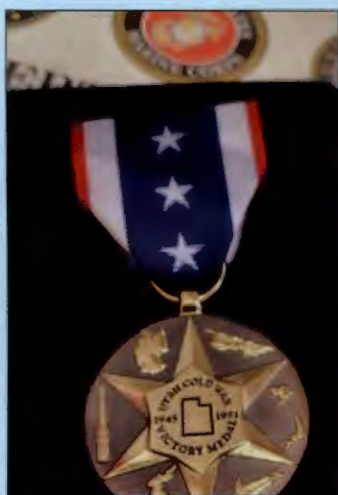
Victory Medal memorabilia display.



Utah Platoon Battlin Betty, Hosting the Cold War Victory Medal.



History of the Utah Cold War Victory Medal.



Utah Cold War Victory Medal.



Steve Fletcher, President of Utah Cold War Victory Foundation.



Steve Jackson receiving his medal.

Doug Drury
President UTAH Chapter

VHPA Legacy Activity Update

By Art Jacobs, VHPA Legacy Chairman

In my role on the VHPA Legacy Committee, I began to look at situations and opportunities that would solidify our reputation and our history with regard to the key relationships we have with certain other organizations, in particular, AAAA, with whom we have a sizable and popular scholarship fund for our descendants. I am joined on the Committee by Jim Crigler, Frosty Price (both current Executive Council members), Mike Law, Mike Sheuerman (both VHPA Past Presidents), and Bob Pope.

In the run-up to last year's reunion in Tampa, Don LeMaster, the incoming President of the VHPA at the time, and I met with Bill Harris, the AAAA Executive Director, and MG Tim Crosby, the AAAA President when they were in Nashville for the annual AAAA Conference. We discussed many things about our future as we begin to contemplate how the VHPA will one day wind down, and finally cease operations.

Tom Payne and Mike Sheuerman have been managing our VHPA / AAAA Scholarship program for many years, but at a more macro level, Don and I wanted to explore what else we can be collaborating on with AAAA, and how they might assist us down the road. We are talking to them about a number of things: 1. The VHPA tapping into their negotiating power for room rates at our annual reunions, 2. AAAA devoting pages in their Army Aviation magazine exclusively to the VHPA if and when our magazine may shrink as we wind down, 3. Offering free memberships to VHPA members in becoming new AAAA members, 4. Dedicating a room and refreshments for VHPA members attending the annual AAAA conferences, 5. Discussing ways to maintain the robustness of our scholarship program when we are gone, and, 6. VHPA representatives attending other AAAA events.

To point 6 above, last summer I became aware of a AAAA Fund-Raising dinner that would be held in Huntsville, Alabama in November, 2022. AAAA was looking for sponsors, and were offering a very sweet deal: If we donated \$6,000, then AAAA would set aside an additional \$5,000 in scholarships that our descendants would be eligible to compete for. Mind you, at

our current return of 3.5% on our funds, it would take \$143,000 in principal funds to generate \$5,000. Don and I collaborated on the VHPA being involved, and with the Legacy Committee's endorsement, he and I submitted a proposal request to the VHPA Executive Council, which was unanimously approved.

If you read Don's previous Aviator edition President's Corner, he describes in more detail that wonderful win-win cooperative event and the participants. You can also read the gracious AAAA letter published in this edition from Bill Harris and MG Tim Crosby, thanking us and the VHPA for participating in this worthy cause.

It is activities like these that the Legacy Committee and the Executive Council consider, and also in working with the Vietnam Center & Archives (VNCA) at Texas Tech, and the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, Alabama that will help ensure that our unique story as Vietnam Helicopter Pilots is heard and preserved.



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.

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GOLD MEDAL DOLLIES

By Donut Dollie Susan McLean and Author Richard Sand

The Donut Dollies were six hundred twenty-seven women volunteers, who with but two weeks of training by the Red Cross, braved the horrors of the Vietnam War for a year to serve their Country and its fighting men.

On September 22, 2022, New Jersey Congresswomen Mikie Sherrill, introduced House Bill 8978 to The United States Congress "To award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas program, also known as the "Donut Dollies" who served honorably during the Vietnam Conflict"

Congresswoman Sherrill is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served almost ten years on active duty in Europe and The Middle East as a Sea King helicopter pilot. She then earned a master's degree from The London School of Economics and her degree from Georgetown University before join-

ing the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The "Donut Dolly Bill" is co-sponsored by Representatives Spanberger of Virginia, Ryan of Ohio, Dean of Pennsylvania, Phillips of Minnesota, and Ross of North Carolina. It honors the "service and sacrifice" of those volunteers and their "extraordinary efforts" in serving in the front lines. The Donut Dollies were not afforded Veteran's benefits.

Previous recipients of The Congressional Gold Medal include the Women Airforce Service Pilots, The Tuskegee Airmen, Bob Hope, Generals' Colin Powell, Norman Schwarzkopf, and Douglas MacArthur, and Presidents George Washington, Andrew Jackson, and Harry Truman.

Cooperation with Congresswoman Sherrill was provided by Donut Dollie and VHPA Associate Life Member, Susan McLean, historian Richard Sand, and Vietnam Era Veterans George Slook and Al Longden.



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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.

Bigham, James R. USA;
Flight Classes: 68-23, 68-41; RVN: 69-70 174 AHC, 69-70 71 AHC;
Callsign: Dolphin One.



Jim Bigham of Lubbock, passed away on February 9, 2018 in Lubbock TX. James Russell Bigham, known by friends and family as "Jim" or "Bubba", was born on November 27, 1941 in Victoria TX.

Jim worked in the insurance and advertising fields, eventually opening his own agency. In his spare time, Jim enjoyed fishing and golf and was a member of the Lakewood Methodist Church in Lubbock.

He is survived by his loving wife of over 44 years, Marion "Recie".

Bolls, Thomas A. USA, CW5 Ret.;
Flight Class: 70-20; RVN: 71-72 B/5 TC 101 ABN, 72 142 TC CO; Callsign: Black Maria.

Tom, ("TA", or "Buddy" as he was known to family and friends), was born at home in Prescott AR on September 1, 1946. He graduated from Prescott high school, Class of 64; he went on to graduate from Henderson State College in 1969. After returning from the war, he joined the Arkansas National Guard serving a total of 37 years and retiring the first time in 2006 as Chief Warrant Officer 5.

Tom continued a life filled with purpose, flying as an Emergency Medical helicopter pilot from 2006 until retiring the second time in 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Katrina.

***Bresette, Allen M. USA,**
LTC Ret.; Flight Classes: 60-8, 65-18; RVN: 63-64 61 AHC, 67-68 162 AHC, 71-72 3/17 CAV; SS, DFC, BS (2OLC), Callsigns: Vulture 1, Vulture 5, Red Horse.



Allen Albert Bresette left this earthly battlefield upon orders from his Supreme Commander-in-Chief for his final assignment in Heaven on December 18, 2022. He was a recent resident of Panama City Beach FL, formerly from IN. He was born November 1, 1932 in Elgin IL.

Bresette proudly served his country for 30 years joining the Army at 17 in 1950 and retiring in 1980. He spent the first 10 years as enlisted Infantry/paratrooper. After graduating Officers' Candidate School in 1959, he became an Army Aviator.

***Brown, Herman C.**
USMC, LTC Ret; Flight Class: 58-24; RVN: 63 HMM-261, 68 HMM-262, 68-69 MAG-39.



Herman "Charlie" Charles Brown of Grand Isle, passed away on December 10th, 2022 at McClure Miller Respite House. Charlie was born on May 5, 1937 in Whitehall NY. Following high school, he attended Union College in Schenectady NY. During 1958, he entered Naval Flight Training at Pensacola FL.

He was a presidential helicopter pilot serving President Lyndon B. Johnson in mid-1960s. During the early 1970s, he managed the Corps' multi-million-dollar Expeditionary Airfields Program from Washington D.C. In the mid-1970s, he was a Production Officer responsible for the overhaul and repair of helicopters and AV-8 Harriers in Cherry Point NC. While at

Cherry Point, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel and to the position of Management Services Officer heading up the Comptroller and Personnel functions of the facility (approx. 2,500 employees). In the late 1970s, he was Operations Officer and then Executive Officer of the Marine Corps' largest helicopter base located at the New River NC. In the early 1980s he was the Assistant Deputy Director for the Marine Corps Museums and in charge of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico, VA.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

***Burke, Lawrence E.**
USAF, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 55-0; RVN: 65-66 217 SQDN VNAF.



Larry Burke passed away on December 2, 2022 from complications associated with Parkinson's disease. He was born on August 25, 1934, in Bernard IA. Raised on the family farm located in eastern Iowa, Larry graduated high school from Loras Academy in Dubuque IA. In 1954, he joined the Air Force, receiving his wings and commission through the Aviation Cadet Program.

His favorite assignment was that of Exchange Officer with the Royal Australian Air Force, serving at Operation Command HQ at Glenbrook, New South Wales. After 20 years in the Air Force, Larry retired to sunny San Antonio where he could golf year-round.

Larry was a devout Catholic, and with Beverly, he recommitted himself to his church life helping a new church to be constructed and growing his spiritual self through numerous Catholic programs and instruction. He was a member of the Order of Daedalians, USAF Helicopter Pilot

Association, Pedro Rescue Helicopter Association, Windcrest Optimist Club and Windcrest Golf Club.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Beverly.

Carter, Lewis L. USA, COL Ret.; Flight Class: 63-1T; RVN: 66-67 170 AHC, 70-71 123 AVN BN; DFC, MSM (2 OLC), BS; Callsigns: Buccaneer 6, Bikini 5.

Lewis L. Carter of Dahlonga passed away on, July 6, 2022. He was born at home in Flowery Branch on January 21, 1938. He graduated North Georgia College as a distinguished graduate. He served for 26 years in the Army.

Although Lewis had been battling declining health for the last few years, he handled it just like he handled everything- without complaining. He was a loving husband and dedicated to his wife Tona for 61 years.

***Compton, James M. USA; Flight Class 70-34; RVN: 71 C/7/1 CAV; Callsign: Comanche 38.**



James Michael Compton, known to friends as "Mike," passed away on August 18, 2017, his seventieth birthday. He was born in Knoxville TN, Mike spent much of his youth in Alabama. He graduated from Coffee County High School in Manchester TN in 1965. Mike attended Middle Tennessee State University where he was on the competitive shooting team, graduating with a degree in history in 1969. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

After his military service, Mike spent his entire professional career of 37 years with Texas Instruments, retiring as flight dispatcher and scheduler for the TI Flight Department in 2008. He served on the National Business Aviation Association Schedulers and Dispatchers Committee and chaired the committee in 2001. During his early time with Texas Instruments, Mike studied and received his MBA from St. Edward's University in Georgetown TX.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, "Kathy".

Curtis, Brian L. USA; Flight Classes: 68-514, 68-24.

Brian Curtis was reported as dying in the Philippines in mid-January. No other information provided.

Cyr, Arthur R. Jr. USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 60-9FW; RVN: 67-68 176 AHC, 70-71180 ASHC; Callsign: Big Windy 6.



Arthur Robert "Bob" Cyr, Jr. of Temple, died at a local hospital on May 2, 2017. He was born at Fort Benning GA on Nov. 10, 1937. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1959 with a Bachelor's of Science and eventually earned his Master's Degree.

During his post-retirement life, Bob was an entrepreneur and never shied away from adventure. He drove a bus for rock bands in the late 1980's and early 1990's. His most notable passengers were Madonna and Alice Cooper.

He lived in Central Texas for 20 years, was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, belonged to The Association of Graduates for (USMA) and The Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA) as well as the Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA).

***Rev. Daly, Jerome R. USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 59-12; RVN: 64-66 121 AHC, 67-68 121 AHC, 70-71 235 AWC; DSC, DFC (3OLC), BS (OLC), PH (OLC), ACM; Callsigns: Viking 21, Devil 6.**



The Rev. Jerome R. Daly has entered into his eternal rest. Fr. Daly died on January 16, 2023. He was born on July 21, 1931, in Oakland CA. He attended public schools in suburban Philadelphia and graduated from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia in 1954.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1949 and re-enlisted in 1958 after pursuing a career in

insurance. While in the Army, he held most ranks from private to Lieutenant Colonel, including warrant officer. For the last 22 years of his Army career, Father Daly worked in Army aviation. He was the most decorated American aviator of the Vietnam War. He flew the first smoke-ship mission in combat on a day resulting in 20 direct hits of 30 cal. Rounds. He returned to base safely.

After retiring from the Army in 1982, he entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg MD., and was ordained May 9, 1987, by Arlington Bishop John R. Keating. He served as parochial vicar at St. Ambrose Parish in Annandale, 1987-91, and St. Leo the Great Parish in Fairfax, 1991-94. Father Daly served as pastor of St. John the Beloved Parish in McLean, 1994-2000, and of St. Michael Parish in Annandale until his retirement in 2004. Father Daly lived his last years in a retirement community near Fort Belvoir.

Father Daly's experiences can be viewed on

Army Aviation Hall of Fame:

www.quad-a.org/Public/Awards/Awardees/DalyJ.aspx

***Dillingham, Martin D. USA, CW5 Ret.; Flight Classes: 69-39, 69-41; RVN: 70 134 AHC; Callsign: Demon 15.**



Martin Dillingham died on January 11, 2023 in Raleigh NC. He was born on February 28, 1948 in Pearl River NY. Duane grew up in Fort Montgomery NY. He graduated from Storm King High School, Cornwall NY in 1966.

In 1973, Duane graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach FL, and he lived his life with an immense sense of duty and purpose serving his country in the Vietnam War and Operation Enduring Freedom, earning more than 30 combat air medals. In his 42-year military career, he served in the Army and Army National Guard. He was the National Guard's last Vietnam Huey helicopter pilot to retire from service. Duane was the first chief pilot for Geisinger Life Flight, impacting an immeasurable

amount of people in the community. Even in the past few years, he found purpose in late night flights transporting organs for critically ill patients.

He is survived by his wife, Donna.

Denny, Rex C. Jr. USMC, COL Ret.; RVN: 65-66 HMM-161, 69-701 MAW.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Rex C. Denny Jr. (Celeste TX), who passed away on August 9, 2018, at the age of 94.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Helen Hudson.

Doehring, Richard L. USA; Flight Class: 67-14; RVN: 68-69 361 AVN; BS; Callsign: Panther 3.

Richard Lee Doehring of Houston passed away November 17, 2022 surrounded by family and friends. He was born January 3, 1943, in San Antonio TX. Richard was a 1961 graduate of the Kinkaid School. After graduation he attended Trinity University in San Antonio where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, graduating in 1966. During his time at Trinity, he continued his love for flying by spending every possible moment between classes at the airport flying or helping others with their planes.

Upon graduation from Trinity University, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Upon his release from active duty, he was employed as an aircraft salesman, flight instructor, and officer/pilot in the U.S. Army Reserve. He achieved the rank of Major and commanded the 273d Med Det based at Hooks Airport.

While in the U.S. Army Reserves he attended law school at South Texas College of Law from which he graduated in 1974. He was admitted to the Texas Law Association in 1975, at which time he began his law practice and eventually founded the law firm of Doehring and Doehring, where he was joined by his late brother, Sweeney Doehring. He continued to practice law over the years and was later joined by his nephew, David R. Doehring, who has taken the helm of Doehring and Doehring, PLLC.

Doty, Richard V. USA; Col Ret.; Flight Class: 61-6; RVN: 65-66 92 AVN, 67 B/7/17 CAV, 67-68 A/7/17 CAV, 68 HHT/7/17 CAV; SS, LM, DFC, BS; Callsigns: Cabin, Tornado 6.

Richard V. Doty, 84, entered into eternal rest on, January 12, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Gail Gore Doty. He was born in Detroit, MI, graduated from Winter Haven High School in 1955 and Florida Southern College in 1960 as a Distinguished Military Student.

He retired as Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Centcom in 1986 and resided in Valrico since 1981. He was Past President of the Greater Brandon Kiwanis Club, a Hixson Fellow and a member of the Kiwanis Leadership Society, a life member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida and the Military Officers Association.

Duncan, Scott R. USA; Flight Classes: 68-16, 68-26: 68-69 A/123 AVN 23 INF; Callsign: Pelican.



Elder Scott Russell Duncan passed away on January 7, 2022, while serving as a senior missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Florida Jacksonville Mission. He was born on October 8, 1945, in Jacksonville FL. Shortly afterward the family moved to Seattle WA, and eventually Southern California, where Scott spent his formative years.

Elder and Sister Duncan spent 25 years in Highlands Ranch CO, before their first mission call to serve in Nauvoo IL, in 2017. Elder Duncan loved the Lord and was actively involved in church service throughout his adult life.

He is survived by his wife, Judith.

Godwin, Ronald B. USA; Flight Classes: 68-40, 69-522; RVN: 69-70 B/229th AHB, 1 Cav; DFC (OLC), BS; Callsign: Killer Spade 26.

Ron Godwin of Irving TX, passed away on November 15, 2022. Born and raised in Tyler TX, Ron graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1963. Upon graduation from Stephen F. Austin State University in

1967, he joined the Army, attending OCS and Army Flight School.

After Vietnam, Ron was an instructor pilot at Fort Wolters TX, and ultimately became Final Check Pilot for Primary I helicopter training. Departing the Army in 1972, he became an insurance adjuster for J.O. Lochridge Company that later became Unified Building Services in Dallas TX. Ron worked in the Disaster Division, estimating tornado, hurricane, and fire damage.

Ron was a member of the J. L. Burgess Lodge #1305 and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, Valley of Dallas.

He is survived by his wife, Susan.

***Harrell, Denzil H. USA; Flight Class: 67-26; RVN: 68-69 213 ASHC; Callsign: Black Cat 26.**



Denzil H. Harrell of Smithville GA, died January 11, 2023 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. Denzil was born in El Paso TX on September 3, 1946.

After serving his country, Denzil moved to Smithville GA and farmed from 1972 until 1977 and then went to work with Brown Trucking Company. He was employed with Roadway Express Trucking Company for many years before becoming an Independent Trucker and owning his own Trucking Company.

Denzil was a member of Friendship Baptist Church. He was a member of American Legion Post # 30 and a member and current Commander of American Legion Post # 182 in Leesburg, GA where he served on the Honor Guard.

He is survived by his wife, Melba.

***Highhouse, Richard A. USA; Flight Classes: 68-23, 68-41; RVN: 69-70 B/229 AVN; SS: Callsign: Dirty Dick.**



Richard Allen Highhouse, 74, of the Forest Grove community, died on March 22, 2022 at Providence St. Vincent Hospital. Dick was born in Tigard OR. He graduated

from Tigard High School and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army. He served two tours of foreign duty in the Vietnam War.

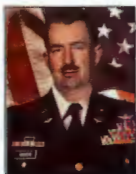
His time in the military brought with it a lifetime of close friendships. Dick greatly cherished his "Army buddies" for the rest of his life and would often join in regular reunions.

Professionally, Dick was an incredibly hard worker. Starting as a journeyman, he quickly earned his plumbing license, and eventually started his own business, Valley Plumbing and Heating.

Around the time of his retirement, Dick was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Soon after, he was additionally diagnosed with Dementia. Dick also lived with Diabetes for many years. His passing was brought on by the progression of these conditions.

He is survived by his wife, Nina.

Houser, Douglas D. USA, CW5 Ret.; Flight Class: 67-17; RVN: 68-69 D/1/1 CAV; DFC, LM, MSM, PH, ACM, AAM; Callsign: Boxcar 52.



Douglas Dean Houser passed on December 16, 2022. He was born on January 29, 1946. He joined the Army in 1966.

His Vietnam tour ended after being shot down. The results were massive fractures of his back and neck.

Upon joining the Reserves after Vietnam, he received his CH47 rating and became an instructor pilot in the Chinook helicopter. In 1996, he joined the National Guard and volunteered for a tour in Afghanistan. He served from July 2006 to October 2006. After returning to the U.S., his unit in the National Guard was deployed to Kuwait.

In civilian life, Doug graduated from the University of Washington as a CPA, and had many clients who depended on him.

From 1966 to 2008 Doug proudly served his country.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marlene.

***Johnson, Robert F. USA; Flight Class: 69-23; RVN: 69-70 135 AHC; callsign: Taipan 22.**

Robert (Bob) Johnson of Plant City FL passed away December 1, 2022 at the James A. Haley VA Hospital Hospice facility, with a co-pilot (a member of VHPA) and a Crew Chief (a member of the VHCMA) by his side. Bob was a co-founder of the Florida chapter (VHPAF).

After his service in the Army, Bob was a salesman and demo pilot for Hughes Aircraft, covering the southeastern U.S. After moving to Florida, Bob was a corporate pilot, flying a Hughes 500 D model. In his later years, Bob was "always a phone call away" and quick to show up with a truck full of tools to anyone who asked.

Jones, Charles B. USA, COL Ret.; Flight Classes: 68-507, 68-7; RVN: 65-66 HHC/1 INF, 68-69 61 AHC; Callsign: Star Blazer 28.



Charles B. Jones passed away in Marksville LA, on December 18, 2022. Charles entered the Army as an enlisted man and served a tour of duty with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1965-66. He subsequently graduated from the Warrent Officer flight program.

Following his RVN tour he received a commission in the Signal Corps and became rated as an air traffic control officer and a fixed wing aviator. He also served as the US Army representative to the US Embassy in the Republic of the Philippines. Colonel Jones was a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the USAF Air War College and served his final assignment as the US Army representative to the Air War College.

Upon retirement, Colonel Jones moved to his hometown of Marksville LA where he served as a teacher, basketball coach, vice principal and principal of the Marksville High School. After retirement from that position, he served on the local city council and then as president (CEO) of the Avoyelles Parish, LA. His entire adult life

was dedicated to the service of his country and his community.

***Karcher, George C. USA; Flight Class 63-5WT; RVN: 65 A/502 AVN, 68-69 E/725 MNT 25 INF, 68 25 AVN 25 INF; Callsign: Maverick.**

George Karcher passed on, October 17, 2022. No other information provided.

***Lester, Richard A. USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Classes: 68-15, 68-25; RVN: 69 10 CAB 70-71, 48 AHC; DFC, BS, LM; Callsign: Joker 94.**



Richard "Rick" A. Lester of Marietta GA passed away December 13, 2022 in Austell GA, surrounded by love from family and friends. He was born in Marietta GA in 1948, Rick spent his childhood in historic Marietta and on Air Force bases in Alaska and Newfoundland, Canada before his father's military career brought the family back to GA where Rick graduated from Warner Robins High School in 1966. He later earned a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Rick held his military service remarkably close to his heart, and he was a prominent member of several esteemed veterans' organizations including the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association (AVVBA) where he established memorials to honor fallen warriors, and supported the USO and the Veterans Scholarship Program. He was also a member of the Atlanta History Center, and through the AVVBA, he helped curate Veterans Park at the Atlanta History Center and led the 2013 "sacred soil" dedication ceremony to honor veterans of all major conflicts who fought for our country's freedom.

He and son Jonathan were recognized for heroic efforts after rendering emergency first aid to victims at the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Park bombing. In 2008, Rick appeared as an interview subject and served as a consultant for the Discovery Military Channel documentary TV series.

He became involved in the launch of elec-

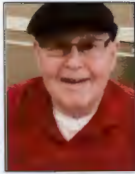
tronic percussion business, Zendrum, and a partner in Burnt Hickory Brewery in Kennesaw GA.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jane.

***Lethcoe, Gerald A. USA; Flight Class: 63-7; RVN: 67HHC/228 ASHB 1 CAV, 71-72 224 RRU; Callsigns: Thunderbird 33 / Vanguard 6.**

Gerald Lethcoe passed on November 3, 2022. No other information provided.

Letchworth, Robert USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 60; RVN: 66-67 1/9 CAV 1 CAV, 70-71 XXIV CORPS, 71 D/1/1 CAV 123; SS, DFC (OLC), BS, ACM (v); Callsigns: Raider 25 / Saber 6.



Robert Letchworth of Poquoson passed away January 11, 2021, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease from Agent Orange exposure. Bob was born September 13, 1937, in Fort Monroe VA. He was a Hampton native and graduated from Hampton High School, Class of 1955. He began his long and distinguished military career by attending The United States Military Academy, Class of 1959.

During his service in the Army, he continued his education and obtained three Master's Degrees that would prepare him for his next career with NASA Langley Research Center. After retirement from the Army in 1980, he took part in many projects with NASA LaRC that would help improve the Army's combat technologies. In 1999, he retired from NASA, totaling 43 years of federal service.

Bob also was a God fearing Christian and dedicated his life to his church by serving as a Deacon, an Elder, Sunday school teacher and Bible study leader.

Locke, Robert A. USA; Flight Class: 67-11; RVN: 67-68 159 MED DET, 70-71 242 ASHC; DFC, BS; Callsigns: Dustoff 13, Muleskinner.



Robert Austin "Bob" Locke of Kennesaw GA passed away on December 7, 2022. Robert was born in Los Angeles on September 28, 1944.

Robert graduated with a BFA in Painting and drawing from the University of California Long Beach. Bob was part of the first team for the Life Flight program in Atlanta, he was an EMS helicopter pilot for thirty-eight years. Robert was a member of Burnt Hickory Baptist Church; he served there in in the pre-school department where he worked with two-year olds.

He is survived by his wife of more than fifty years, Gay.

***Loveless, Kenneth D. USA, COL Ret.; Flight Class: 62-8; RVN: 67 1/9 CAV, 67-69 120 AHC, 69-70 162 AHC; SS, LM, DFC (OLC), BS (OLC); Callsigns: Vulture 6, Razorback 33.**



Kenneth Dale Loveless was born September 17, 1938 in Amarillo TX. He flew west and peacefully began Eternal Rest on December 24, 2022.

Ken graduated from University High School in Waco, West Texas State University, and received his Masters from Boston University. He began life in Adrian TX on the farm with his Grandparents Lemke where he developed an interest in aviation.

He volunteered for several years as a docent at the Bush Presidential Library. He was a 32-degree Mason and a member of Arabia Shrine. He was a member of Christ Church, the American Legion, DAV, Military Officers Association, AUSA, and a founding member of "Been Shot At" career aviators.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 49 years, Sandra.

***Maley, Thomas C. USA; Flight Class: 70-35; RVN: 70-71 C/227 AHB 1 CAV, 71 60 AHC Callsign: Ghost rider 00.**



Tom C. Maley, beloved husband, father, sibling, and friend, passed away peacefully

on December 19, 2022, after a short but valiant battle with cancer at the VA Hospice Unit.

Tom was born on November 22, 1949, in Framingham MA. He earned degrees in Chemistry and Business Management after Vietnam. He worked on numerous patents, wrote scientific publications.

He is survived by his wife, Diana.

Minkinow, Stanley USA, MAJ Ret.; Flight Class: 64-5; RVN: 66-67 54 AVN 1 INF, 70 2 CAB 54 AVN; DFC, BS (4OLC); Callsign: Big Daddy 6.

Stanley Minkinow, a longtime Huntsville businessman and philanthropist joined his wife Doris in heaven on 29 August 2020. He was surrounded by his family as he quietly departed. Stan began life far away from his beloved USA in Lodz, Poland on 6 October 1932. The Nazi invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939 interrupted his first day of school. His parents hid their Jewish identity until betrayed by a local, and the Gestapo arrested them on 13 January 1942. Young Stan and his parents were forced into the Lodz Ghetto where they remained until the Nazis transported them to the infamous Warsaw Ghetto. There, Stan encountered starvation, brutality and death on a daily basis. He dreamed of surviving and living in the USA.

Stan's father hatched a daring plan to escape. Disguised as non-Jews, and with help from outside the Ghetto, Stan, along with his parents, bravely stepped through the Nazi SS checkpoint to freedom. Had they been discovered; it would have meant instant execution for the three of them. The family assumed false identities for the remainder of the war in a house prepared in advance by Stan's father. From there, they continued the fight as members of the free Polish Resistance.

After several other difficulties for the family, Stan saw a recruiting video for the U.S. Army. Though speaking almost no English, Stan jumped at the opportunity when he learned that he could earn American citizenship through honorable service.

Stan was a member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, and he often spoke at local schools, businesses, and at the National War College on his Holocaust experience. His interview by the Steven Spielberg Shoah Foundation can be seen at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and his story is featured at the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center in Birmingham and was read aloud on the U.S. Senate floor and into the Congressional Record by Senator Jeff Sessions.

Oltman, Stuart M. USA; Flight Class: 69-16; 69-70 A/227 AVN 1 CAV; BS. PH. ACM; Callsign: Chickenman.

Stuart Michael Oltman of Scottsdale AZ, died December 26, 2022. He was born September 7, 1947, in Philadelphia PA. He attended Haverford High School (Haverford, PA) and graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy (Valley Forge, PA). In 1967, he joined the Army.

After the Army, he was a civilian helicopter pilot, flying for a variety of private companies and US Forest Service contractors. In 1983, at age 35, he started freshman year at the University of Arizona in pursuit of his undergraduate degree, later transferring to UC Boulder in 1984. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Marketing from the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1988.

He spent the last twenty years of his career as Senior Technical Editor of Wing World Magazine and well as writing/editing for other publications such as Motorcycle Consumer News.

He is survived by his wife, Hilogene.

***Orifici, Frank C. USA; Flight Class: 67-11; RVN: 67-68 121 AHC, 68 B/7/1 CAV; DFC; Callsigns: Viking Surprise/ Dutchmaster 26.**



Frank Charles Orifici joined the Kingdom of God on September 9, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife and life partner, Barbara

(Babs) Orifici.

After his military service, Frank was a salesman for Schenley Industries and later retired as the Deputy Director of the Maryland Department of Liquor Control. He was a member of Saint John the Baptist parish in, Silver Springs, MD and a lifelong Catholic.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

Othmer, John C. USA; Flight Class: 66-22; RVN: 67 A/229 AVN 1 CAV; PH; Callsigns: Hack-saw/Python 22.



John Othmer passed away on January 5, 2022, surrounded by immediate family and holding the hand of his beloved wife of 55 years. After a long 11-year battle with Alzheimer's, heaven gained an angel. John was born May 25, 1943, in Spokane WA. He graduated from North Central High School and Eastern State University. After completing ROTC training in college, he joined the U.S. Army.

After his discharge from the Army, they returned to the Pacific Northwest where John began his teaching and contracting careers. First in Everett WA, and seven years later in Colville WA until retirement. John was an educator, mentor, and friend to all he met.

Before John started teaching in Colville, he spent several years building homes in that area along with his partner, Richard Berg.

The following obituary is reprinted, because the original notice was absent a photo or any biographical data.

Papin, Edward R. USA, CW4 Ret.; Flight Class: 69-15; RVN: 69-70 1/11 ACR, 70-71 C/2/17 CAV 101 ABN, 71-72 D/1/9 CAV 1 CAV; LM, DFC, BS, MSM; Callsigns: Thunder Horse 11 / Condor 11.



"Pappy" passed away peacefully at his home in San Antonio TX on 25 Oct 22. He was born on 2 May 1948. He graduated

from Canterbury University with an MBA in Business Management in 1995. Following multiple back-to-back tours in Vietnam, Pappy distinguished himself as a founding member (Plank Holder) in the 160th SOAR (ABN) Special Operations Aviation Regiment known as the Nightstalkers. NSDQ. He was instrumental in pioneering NVG helicopter gunnery while flying AH-6 Little Bird gunships. Pappy then moved to another flying position within the SOF (Special Operations Forces) community. He became a legend in Special Operations aviation.

Following retirement Pappy kept busy. He farmed cherries in Washington State, was involved in the nuclear waste cleanup in Chernobyl, flew as a SWAT team captain at a nuclear plant here in the US, and was an active competitor in pistol and rifle matches. He was also part owner in a large Las Vegas-based ammunition reloading company.

Perry, Michael S. USA; Flight Class 70-33; RVN: 71 92 AVN, 72 201 AVN; Callsigns: Tiger Shark 37 / Red Baron 37.

Michael Perry died some years ago and no obituary appears to have been generated.

Scott, Bobby E. USA, CW3 Ret.; Flight Class: 63-2W; RVN: 64 114 AVN, 67 228 ASHB 1CAV, 68 HHC/1 CAV DIV; DFC (OLC), MSM; Callsigns: White Knight8 / Cottonmouth.



Bobby E. Scott, passed away on November 20, 2022, at the Olean General Hospital. Bobby was born on April 24, 1934 in Columbus GA. Bob attended Baker High School in Columbus GA. At the age of 16, Bob enlisted in the US Navy and spent his 17th and 18th birthday in Korea while serving his country. After returning he enlisted in the US Army in 1956.

Until his retirement on August 1, 1972, Bob owned a DuraClean franchise in Olean and became an executive at headquarters in Chicago IL for a few years

before moving to West Palm Beach FL. While in Florida, Bob owned a paint and carpet store for several years before moving to Fort Worth outside of Dallas TX where he worked for Pitney Bowes until his full retirement in the early 2000s.

Bob attended Basilica of St. Mary of Angels and was a member of the Knights of Columbus for many years.

***Skelton, Harold R. USA, CW4 Ret.; Flight Class: 66-7; RVN: 66-67 162 AHC, 70-71 B/159 AVN 101 ABN; Callsigns: Varsity 11 / Vulture.**



Harold Ray Skelton of Enterprise AL, passed away December 12, 2022 at his home. He was born on February 18, 1942 in Evansville IN.

Following his military retirement, he served as an instructor pilot and ground simulator instructor at Fort Rucker. He was

actively involved in numerous organizations, including the American Legion Post 73, VFW, DAV, VVA, Civitan, Mason's and Shriner's.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Donna.

Tompkins, Richard J. USA, MAJ Ret.; Flight Class: 67-20; RVN: 67-68 173 ABN BDE; Callsign: BS, ACM; Casper.

Richard Tompkins died on May 16, 2022. He was born on October 12, 1941. Rick was an alumnus of Webster Groves High School (Class of '59) and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Memphis. Rick had careers as a practicing attorney and a U.S. Army helicopter pilot. He began practicing law in 1974 in St. Louis and retired from family practice in Webster Groves in 2006.

As a third generation Webster Groves resident, he continued the family legacy of ser-

vice to community. He was a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Board of Education for Annunciation Catholic Church. He volunteered 11 years as a member and then chair of the Webster Groves City Planning Commission. He served in the military for a span of four decades.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gay.

***Wright, Robert K. Sr. USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 63-7; RVN: 65-66 119 AHC, 68-69 162 AHC; DFC, BS, PH; Callsigns: Crocodile 6.**

Robert K. Wright, Sr., age 89, went to be with the Lord on September 5, 2022, in Columbia TN. After his retirement, he piloted for Bowen Enterprise for 10 years. He was a dedicated member at The Edge Church of God in Columbia TN, where he served on the board of directors for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years.

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.

Banford, Alfred J. USN; RVN: 66-67 HA(L)-3 DET 4; DFC, PH (OLC); Callsign: Seawolf 41; died peacefully on November 2, 2022.

Bernsen, Thomas J. USN; Flight Class: 71-07NA; RVN: 71 HS-2 DET 1, USS ENTERPRISE, 73 HM-12 OPERATION END SWEEP; died on January 3rd, 2023.

Burch, Stephen A. USA; Flight Class: 66-17; died in 2021.

Curtis, Brian L. USA; Flight Classes: 68-514, 68-24; died on or about January 17, 2023.

Garcia, Robert B. USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 67-15; RVN: 67-68 117 AHC; PH (OLC), AAM (OLC); died on October 29, 2022.

Harmon, Fern W. USA, LTC Ret.; Flight Class: 67-20; died on October 1, 2022.

Kerr, Richard W. USA; Flight Classes: 68-25, 68-15; RVN: 68-69 HHC/3 BDE 1 CAV; PH; died in Brazil about 15 years ago.

Lange, Sammy D. USAF; RVN: 72 21 SOS; died on January 1, 2023.

Loomis, James M. USCG; RVN: 69-70 37 ARRS; Callsign: Jolly Green; died on Nov. 21, 2022.

McBeath, Thomas A. USA, CW5 Ret.; Flight Class: 65-17W; died on January 1, 2023.

Rice, Howard K. USA, CW4 Ret.; Flight Class: 68-7; DFC (OLC), BS, PH, MSM, ACM (2OLC) AAM; died on December 14, 2022.

Rymer, Richard P. USA; Flight Class: 70-1; RVN: 70-71 192 AHC; died on February 7, 2022.

Smithwick, Vaughan M. USA, Ret.; Flight Classes: 68-503, 68-1; RVN: 1 INF; died on January 8, 2023.

Swan, Daniel G. USA, CW4 Ret.; Flight Classes: 69-5, 68-43; died on January 25, 2023.

Ulakey, John W. USA; RVN: 7/17 CAV-No Bio Info

VonHatten, Richard L. USA; Flight Classes: 68-13, 68-21; RVN: 68-69 HHC 1 BDE 101 ABN; died on January 6, 2023.

LOOKING FOR

Looking for "good" pictures of Helicopter boat operations.

Hi guys, both of these pix came to me from David Katz, a member of the Alamo Chapter, who flew for A/9th AVN 9 INF. He flew A LOT of senior officers just about everywhere in the 9th Inf Div. I have one of his collages programmed for C2024 - on a subject I've been interested in for more than a decade ~ the airmobile artillery platforms. Anyway, the reasons why the 'Huey on Mike-Boat' is bad is one can hardly see the Huey on the boat at all and the trees in the background negate any context.

Even when I use powerful Photoshop tools, no joy. Now, the 'landing' photo shows good details of the boat, but nothing worthwhile about a Huey. I can't use either of them! Anyway, I've even attended a reunion or two with the goal to obtain photos from VHPAers on the Mobile Riverine guys ~ no joy yet. Please send me any photos that have sufficient detail and depict both the A/C and the waterborne LZ.

Mike Law mikelaw1943@gmail.com

Looking For

The Calendar Committee is ESPECIALLY interested in obtaining photos and stories from the following units: Mobile Riverine Force (we want GOOD photos of helicopters on boats)

- ★ The Aviation section of the 17th CAG based in NhaTrang
 - ★ The Aviation section of IFFV
 - ★ The Aviation section for the 10th Engineer Group
 - ★ The Aviation platoon of the 1 BDE 1 INF Division
- Naturally, we are mostly about helicopters, so the photos and stories need to included helicopter either directly or indirectly.

If you are interested in helping, contact: Mike Law
MIKELAW1943@gmail.com or **830-730-0950**,
John Jones (lives in the United Kingdom)
deltaregion1973@gmail.com, or Bennie Koon
bek082347@gmail.com or **770-979-1322**.



ATTENTION!

Thunderbirds and Bandits (118th Assault Helicopter Company)

Our traditional Thunderbirds-Bandits get-together is scheduled this summer at the VHPA Reunion in San Antonio, TX.

The VHPA Reunion will be July 2-5 at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, on the River Walk.

Though Reunion Registration and Hotel Reservations will not begin until April, make plans now to attend the Thunderbirds-Bandits get-together at the Rivercenter.

Call Jim Thorne at (830) 598-7000 or write to him at jimthorne1@aol.com to get on the get-together notification list.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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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?



*****FIRM 79409

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