

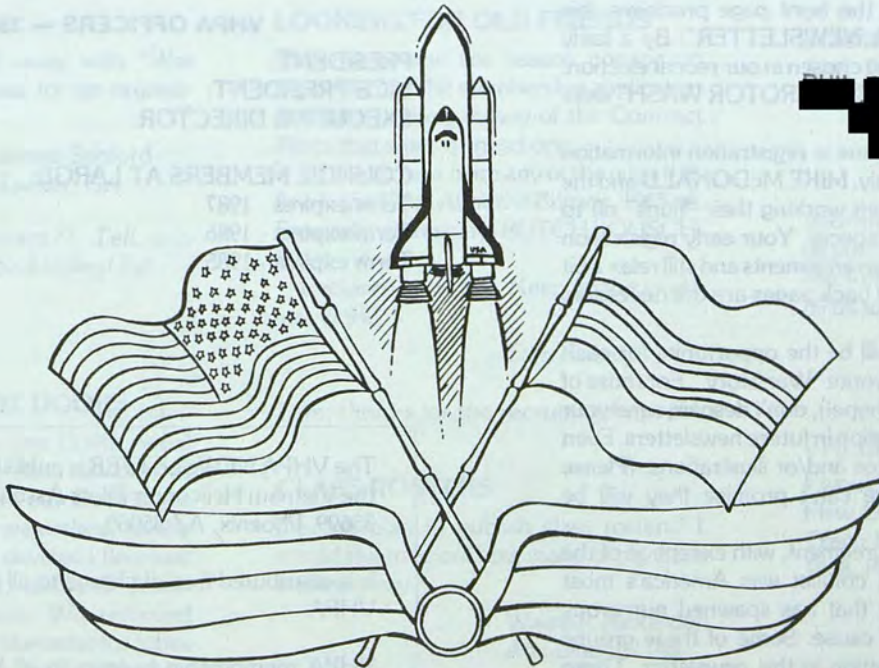


**VIETNAM
HELICOPTER
PILOTS
ASSOCIATION**

The VHPA Newsletter

P.O. Box 35699 Phoenix, Arizona 85069

May 1985



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOC.



**2nd REUNION OF THE VHPA
HOUSTON, TEXAS
4-6 JULY 1985**



FROM THE EDITOR:

As you probably noticed, the front page proclaims this publication to be the "VHPA NEWSLETTER". By a fairly wide margin, this was the name chosen in our recent election. For the record, "FLAT PITCH" and "ROTOR WASH" were neck and neck for second place.

The main purpose of this issue is registration information for the upcoming reunion in July. MIKE McDONALD and the Reunion Committee have been working their "buns" off to make this reunion something special. Your early registration will allow them time to finalize arrangements and still relax a bit prior to the big event. On the back pages are the necessary forms to make it all happen.

A feature of the reunion will be the opportunity for each attendee to videotape their favorite "War Story". For those of you who can't attend (none, I hope!), don't despair; send your best War Story to me for inclusion in future newsletters. Even better, send stories with photos and/or illustrations. (Please only duplicate photos, as we can't promise they will be returned.)

There is probably little disagreement, with exception of the Civil War, that the Vietnam conflict was America's most controversial. A controversy that has spawned numerous organizations championing a cause. Some of these groups have sent material for publication in this newsletter. These items have not been published because that could imply VHPA support and departure from the VHPA's role as a social organization. The original and continuing intent of the VHPA is a brotherhood of individuals who have shared a unique experience, with membership based solely on that experience and not on support of any particular issue. Also, helicopter pilots are some of the most opinionated folks around and with little middle ground concerning most Vietnam subjects, the impossible task of choosing which cause to support becomes apparent. Therefore, we suggest each of you support the organizations and/or causes of your choice, being confident your welcome in the VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION is never in jeopardy because of that choice.

Finally, I would like you all to know that this newsletter would be nothing more than scrawls on yellow paper if it were not for the hard work of my wife, LINDA SUE and the continuing support of TERRIE and LARRY CLARK. See you in HOUSTON!!

Roger Gould
Editor



VHPA OFFICERS — 1984/85

PRESIDENT: Bill Ringer
VICE PRESIDENT: Vacant
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Larry Clark

COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE:
Term expires - 1987 Mike Law
Term expires - 1986 Mike McDonald
Term expires - 1985 Roger Gould

The VHPA NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

It is distributed free of charge to all members of the VHPA.

VHPA membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era (1961 to 1975). Annual dues are \$20.00 or Life Membership for \$300.00.

The VHPA is a non-profit war veterans organization filed under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Material published in the VHPA NEWSLETTER is contributed by members and other interested persons. The VHPA does not guarantee or endorse any product, organization or person mentioned in this publication.

The VHPA NEWSLETTER welcomes letters to the editor. As space permits, we will publish as many as possible. Letters are subject to editing for brevity and accuracy. Mail to Newsletter Editor, VHPA, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOC.



INCOMING MAIL

CARRIED AWAY!

Let's not get carried away with "War Stories", etc., as a basis for an organization. So far so good!

James Sanford
Tucker, GA

Who? VHPA members?? Tell war stories?? You got to be kidding! Ed.

MORE ON NO PILOT DOORS

On no pilot doors - my unit (334th Aerial Weapons Co.) received many new devices for testing. In addition to our Cobras, we outfitted our UH-1s as we wished, for the most part. One of the devices I flew was the "Sniffer" machine, used to detect ammonia concentrations. We removed the pilot doors because the collector tubes were routed through the opening and then onto the skid steps. The mission profile was downwind to upwind, no more than 40 knots at 50 feet. We were always teamed with two or more of our company's Cobras, one flew low and close just downwind to us, and the other was at altitude. Of course, that low and slow in a fixed pattern made for exciting times. We also tested a bullet detecting device, but whenever the mini-gun was fired, it counted the outbound rounds as well. The device also had an audio alarm and warning light. I hope to make the reunion in Houston, my calendar currently shows that I will be completing a trip to Corpus Christi Army Depot on July 3rd, so I'll see about stopping off. I'll also be in St. Louis for the AAAA meeting - will you be having a booth?

Bob Risner
Fort Sheridan, IL

Sorry, Bob, no booth at AAAA's St. Louis convention; maybe next year. As I remember, the hairs on the back of the neck and the "ole pucker factor" were not bad bullet detectors. Ed.

LOOKING FOR OLD FRIENDS

There is a new fire season coming up soon. I'll copy the membership application and pass it along to any of the Contract Pilots that want or need one.

I'd like to hear from any of the guys that flew in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 1965-66. Especially interested in BUTCH ROUSCH, a lost friend.

Enclosed is my \$20. Keep up the excellent work.

Tom Koenig

Tom, thanks for the recruiting help. Ed.

CLASS ROSTERS

Do you plan to publish class rosters? I would like to know how many of my class walked away.

Wayne R. Alexander
[REDACTED] UAE

OK, all you guys from 67-13 still out there, please report in. Ed.

SCHARP UPDATE

Enjoyed the newsletter very much. Here is a brief description of what I'm up to. Flying right seat (First Officer) on DC-9s for Ozark Airlines out of our home base at Lambert Field, St. Louis. Members flying through the area should feel free to give a hello call at [REDACTED]. My call signs were "Pelican" for the 123rd Avn Bn for the first 7 months and then "Phoenix" when I transferred to Div Arty, all at Chu Lai in I Corps. I'm posting the newsletter in the Company office. Maybe that will attract attention. Happy Landings!

Bob Scharp
[REDACTED] MO

P.S. We have a "Pelican Association" also, for Pilots of the Pelican Unit. Contact Don Bullard or myself.

Cool the beer! (BUD, that is). Thanks for the invite and posting. Ed.

INFO REQUEST

I would like an information packet about joining the Association. WAYNE NUTSCH was a classmate of mine in flight school and J. C. MEYERS highly recommends the comradeship of this group. As a graduate of WORWAC Class 66-1, I am trying to organize a Class Reunion for 1986. Joining the Association will obviously help me contact those of my class who are still around. One person usually keeps track of at least one other and so on and so on.

[REDACTED] (Work) or send information to [REDACTED]

CW3 John L. Keller
Rapid City, SD

Information packet on the way! Now if all you 'Wo-Jugs' from 66-1 would attend the VHPA Reunion, John could kill two birds with one beer. Ed.

CALLING ALL 'VIKINGS'

I would like to contact other "Vikings". Flew UH-1B guns with the 121st at Soc Trang between August 1967 and August 1968. [REDACTED]

Robert "Hal" Duensing
[REDACTED] CA

Hal, if not a 'VIKING', will a 'TIGER' do? Ed.

UNIT CALL SIGNS

I'd like to see the newsletter devote some space to aviation units, to include the schematics of the Groups or Battalions, with signs and/or locations.

Larry Feonard
[REDACTED] AL

Thanks for the comment, Larry. The directory will have a cross reference of unit call signs. Ed.

WHEELS?

Glad someone is doing this. I'd be interested in knowing who is/are the 'wheels' from Phoenix. I'm from Mesa. (Mesa High '62).

Jack Smith
[REDACTED] TX

continued from previous page . . .

No Wheels, just a Skid or two. Of course, Larry Clark, who founded this illustrious group lives in Phoenix; and yours truly, just a Skid Shoe, lives in Fountain Hills (works in Mesa). Ed.

DOWNSIDED

Started flying model helicopters (radio controlled) this year. First one is a Gorham Hughes 300, done as a TH-55.

Ronald Nelson
WI

Does it autorotate any better than the real thing? Ed.

AH! THE GOOD LIFE!

I am currently residing with my wife Susan, a registered nurse, in the lovely village of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Enjoy numerous outdoor activities commensurate with the accepted Florida life-style. Frequently enjoy the Bahama out islands and will assist others looking for great vacation areas. Thoroughly enjoyed my tours in Vietnam and have established long and lasting friendships which still exist. Would appreciate hearing from others and can be reached at [redacted]. [redacted] Would love to work on a study to test the waters for a VHPA Yearbook. Photos of action shots, combat assaults, drinking clubs, etc. Could also include shots from the reunion in Houston. Get those cards and letters coming.

Charlie Prather
FL

Sounds like you got it made, Charlie. The VHPA will have a photo book available after the Houston Reunion, for sale to all members. Ed.

OH NO! WE BLEW IT!

I got the certificate and patch and I want to congratulate you all on a very nice job. When I got the last newsletter, I noticed an article talking about the mailings and it said there was also a decal in the package. Not mine! Sure would like to add one to my back window, but . . .

Jack Agnew
CA

Jack, by the time you read this, your decal should be in your back window. Ed.

Vietnam's Heroes

Almost 1 out of 50 killed in Vietnam was a helicopter pilot!! Additionally, 1 out of every 20 helicopter pilots sent to Vietnam died there.

They made the supreme sacrifice.

ARMY	38,320
MARINES	14,795
AIR FORCE	2,696
NAVY	2,661
COAST GUARD	7
TOTAL	58,479
MALE	58,471
FEMALE	8
HELICOPTER PILOTS	1,103
HELICOPTER CREW	2,547

New Members

It has been estimated that approximately 20,000 helicopter pilots flew in Vietnam. If so, there are a great many pilots out there somewhere who have not filled out application forms. The most effective way to reach these unfound pilots is YOU!!

There are numerous ways you can help your association grow. The following article in the *Marion Star*, is how HARLEY JONES went about it:

A Marion area man is seeking information on former helicopter pilots in Vietnam.

Harley T. Jones, 2960 Harding Highway E., said he is trying to find people to join the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. The organization is open to anyone who served as a military or civilian pilot during the Vietnam War.

There are 1,200 members so far, he said, and the organization plans a July 4-6 reunion in Houston, Texas.

Members in the organization are provided names and addresses of their counterparts so they can resume contact, Jones said.

The headquarters for the group is Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

THANKS TO DEB MARTEN AND THE 'MARION STAR' FOR THE FINE ARTICLE, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED FREE OF CHARGE. HARLEY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS. I AM SURE OTHERS OUT THERE HAVE IDEAS THAT WILL WORK AS WELL. LET US HEAR ABOUT IT! Ed.

Member News

CARY SHELTON just couldn't stay away from those OD vertical flying machines. After an eighteen year respite, he is back strapping on an Army Huey once again. Cary was given the OK to resume flying, with the Virginia National Guard, in January 1985. The former active duty aviator last flew in 1967 as a Flight Instructor at "Mother Rucker". In 'Nam Cary flew with the 117th Avn. Co. (AirMobile Light) way back in 1964-65, in the Central Highlands.

DAVE GRIEGER has been corresponding with numerous Vietnam Vets. He sent us letters from several grunts praising helicopter pilots; the following is one of them we thought you would enjoy.

Hi Dave,

I was a grunt at Kham Duc in August 1970, when 2nd of the 1st, 169th revisited the place. Glad I missed 68.

I've read "Chickenhawk" and wrote to Bob Mason in a way to say thanks for all the chopper pilots did for us grunts. Where to start? How to say thanks? Having been shot down, I guess you know how good it is to see the chopper at times. For us grunts it was every time we got one, be it food, water, medivac or whatever, they always felt like some sort of security blanket. Except, of course, hot LZ's, when we usually couldn't un-ass 'em fast enough.

I've only met one chopper pilot in Cleveland since I got home - by chance in a bar when he recognized the 196th patch on my arm. That must have been ten years ago. Luckily he drank a shot of whiskey on me, 'cause I always used to say, 'If I run into a chopper pilot stateside I'm gonna offer him a beer or a B.J.' He didn't want a beer and I got real nervous till he said a shot would be okay. Some war stories are hell.

Greg Cook
Cleveland, OH

A man was walking down the street pulling a chain. When asked why, he replied, "Ever try pushing one?"

Review

TO BEAR ANY BURDEN by Al Santoli

Many of you have enjoyed Al Santoli's book about the Vietnam experience, *Everything We Had*, and have since read stories by him in *Parade Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and other national publications. Well, here's good news for you. Al has a new book out called *To Bear Any Burden*. This book is an oral history, told in the words of those who were there. Santoli has selected people who were in the nook and cranny of the "big picture" of the Vietnam war and its aftermath. You can find stories by and about Vietnamese, Americans, Cambodians, Laos, Montagnards, Hmongs, and others between the covers of this new book.

As an example, a scout with the 3rd Marines at the DMZ remembers: "Barren . . . it looked like something out of a World War I movie. I was afraid of it. I knew there was something bad in there. It was a haunted place. This was the DMZ. Barren and bombed out, with big craters. It looked like nothing real. Six hundred meters to my rear were banana trees and tea plantations. I mean, just a few hundred yards and you were in hell."

TO BEAR ANY BURDEN has been selected by the Military Book Club as a main selection and by the Literary Guild as an alternate selection. It's a hardcover, published by E.P. Dutton at \$18.95.

Reviewed by TOM GARCIA,
member of the VHPA

1986 Reunion

If any of you out there have suggestions concerning next year's reunion, such as location, etc., BILL RINGER needs to hear from you prior to the business meeting July 6th.

1985 Directory

Your 1985 VHPA Directory is at the printers and should be in the process of being mailed at the time you lay your eyeballs on this.

Upcoming Events

The VHPA NEWSLETTER welcomes notices of future events that may be of interest to our members. Mail to Newsletter Editor, VHPA, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, Arizona 85069.

July 4-6, 1985

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Reunion. Astro Village Hotel, Houston, Texas. Registration forms on the back page of this newsletter.

July 6-7, 1985

2nd Statewide Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Raiser. Decatur, IL. Call: (217) 422-9211.

July 26-August 2, 1985

EAA International Fly-In Convention and Sport Aviation Exhibition. Wittman, Airfield, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Information: (414) 426-4800.

August 1-4, 1985

First Cavalry Division Association Reunion. Killeen, Texas. For details contact: First Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522-1799.

August 14-18, 1985

Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association Meeting. Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, California. Contact: David E. Prewitt, Suite 1225, 1411 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, (215) 557-9998.

VHPA Financial Statement

For a six (6) month period ending 31 December 1984 and beginning at the formal founding on 16 June 1984.

Starting Balance:	\$1303.53
Income:	6956.25
Expenses:	(3560.58)
Balance Forward:	\$4699.20

Change of Address

Please send the VHPA a change of address if you move. It took hard work to find you originally and to lose you when you move would be shame. Not filing a change of address causes extra work and expense; for example, your association must pay the post office 22 cents for each newsletter returned and then put it in a 5 cent envelope and pay an additional 39 cents to mail it to your correct address. This is on top of the postage it paid to mail it originally. As you can imagine, as our membership grows the expense and work of getting your newsletter to you could become a real problem.

HELP!! HELP!! HELP!!

Your hard working, dedicated reunion committee desperately needs audio tapes of AFVN broadcasts. Please send them to Mike McDonald.

VHPA Reunion

July 4-5-6, 1985

Astro Village Hotel, Houston, TX

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY — JULY 4

Bar-B-Que/Free Beer

Fireworks Display - Viewing from MiniDome located on top floor of the hotel.

Cash Bar

FRIDAY — JULY 5

NASA Tour

Free time to see the sights of Houston or just relax and reminisce with "ole" acquaintances.

Evening Dance — Live Band

SATURDAY — JULY 6

Business Meeting

Lunch

Static Display

Banquet — Hawaiian Luau



Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association
P.O. Box 35699 — Phoenix, Arizona 85069

Annual Dues \$ 20.00
Life 300.00

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

FLIGHT SCHOOL CLASS _____

OFFICE USE
MN _____
DP _____

List below information about EACH Vietnam helicopter tour:

DATE		UNIT	LOCATION	CALL SIGN
From	To			

Total Combat Hours _____ Would you like to attend next year's reunion? _____

Present occupation _____

Remarks: (Models of helicopters flown, hobbies, talents of value to VHPA, telephone, medals & awards, etc.)



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