



# The VHPA AVIATOR

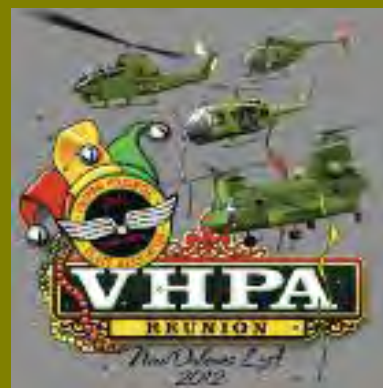
The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association ~ Issue 30-01 ~ Jan/Feb 2012



The right eye of Maggie stares down at all who behold her as she returned to the skies last November. Meticulously restored by the members of the South Carolina, Celebrate Freedom Chapter of the VHPA, Maggie first flew in support of the Opening of the Special Operations Museum at Fort Bragg, then it was on to two Veterans Day Parades overflights; the first in her hometown of Columbia, South Carolina and the next in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Her amazing paint scheme is the work of Dru Blair, a world renowned "photorealistic" air brush artist. Dru is especially proud of the way Maggie's 3-D "eye" projects out of the fairing designed around the gunner's cyclic control. Maggie's full story may be found on page 7 of this, our January and February 2012 edition of the VHPA Aviator!

2012 Reunion  
On-Line  
Registration  
Now Open!

We start our 30th year of publication of the VHPA Aviator with TEN PAGES of coverage for our 2012 Reunion in New Orleans which runs 31 July through 5 August, 2012. Full details of all Reunion Events and New Orleans area Tour Offerings start on page 8 and run through page 16, we close our coverage with a handy-dandy Reunion Registration Form on page 17.



## IN THIS ISSUE

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## Help Restore our Missing Symbols

In the spring of 1984 Larry Clark initiated the beginning of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, an organization that would grow to over 15,000 regular and life members. We stand proud of our organization, and prouder, still, of the challenges and risks undertaken to gain eligibility to our shared brotherhood. Like many veteran groups, the Vietnam Helicopter



Pilots Association established thoughtful symbols to represent our esprit de corps and sense of purpose.

Now two of our Association's symbols are missing, and we seek your help in recovering these shared symbols of duty and honor: the VHPA Cobra plaque and VHPA ceremonial flag. Routinely transported to reunions in the VHPA Northern California Chapter Mobile Officers Club (MOC), our symbols were last displayed and seen at the 2009 Annual Reunion held in Philadelphia.

Discovering the loss, the Executive Council immediately undertook a strong effort to recover the missing items without success. Now it is time to expand the search participation to our membership—to you.

We seek your assistance in restoring these important items to the VHPA. We further request the leaders of individual state chapters to inquire and determine if a chapter member possesses the missing symbols.

Recovery is the important thing. Whether the missing items were accidentally misplaced or intentionally taken is unimportant to our Association, but recovery of the symbols is vitally important to us all. Please join the search and help us restore our symbols for future reunions. It is the right thing to do.

*Respectfully,*

Bob Hesselbein  
Member-at-Large, VHPA Executive Council  
beaner1138@aol.com  
Cell: 608-628-9024

## VHPA/AAAA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

It's time to start thinking about submitting your descendant's scholarship application to AAAA for their 2012 Higher Education Scholarship Program. This year the VHPA will sponsor we FIVE VHPA-dedicated (these must go to VHPA descendants) scholarships.

Remember, all VHPA/AAAA scholarships are MERIT scholarships, not NEED scholarships. Last year 34 qualified VHPA descendants applied and 18 of those applicants received scholarships totaling \$21,500.00 from both the VHPA's 4 dedicated scholarships and another 14 from AAAA bank of scholarships. That's an over 50% selection rate for our descendants, not bad at all! This year our goal is to have over 50 VHPA applicants, but the deadline for applying is May 1st, 2012 so GET STARTED NOW!

If you have any questions concerning the VHPA/AAAA Scholarship program and/or the guidelines for applying please go to [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org), click on VHPA SCHOLARSHIP and check it out. If you still have a question, feel free to contact me at the contact information listed below.

Mike Sheuerman  
Scholarship Committee, Fundraising  
Phone: 214-802-4244 MB  
E-Mail: [msheuerman@tx.rr.com](mailto:msheuerman@tx.rr.com)

### Military Reunion Planners announces the establishment of a new, non-800 phone number for our members use.

The HQ of the VHPA may now be reached at (817) 778-4827 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, (Central time) Monday through Friday. The Executive Council requests that members having the ability to call "long distance" without incurring any toll charges, immediately change to using this number. If dialing long distance without paying the extra fees, or if your business needs to be conducted at times other than the ones listed above, then continue to use the old Toll Free Number, 800-505-VHPA (8472) and the Association will pick up the bill.

## AVIATOR PRIVACY STATEMENT

The VHPA Aviator contains member privacy information the VHPA considers proprietary and confidential. This information, including but not limited to the VHPA Chapter list, shall not be used for commercial solicitation purposes or for any correspondence related thereto without prior written authorization from the VHPA president. Correspondence relating to commercial purposes or solicitations shall only be sent to the VHPA Officers, Committee Chairmen and/or Staff listed in this publication.

## E-mail items to The Aviator at: [editor@vhpa.org](mailto:editor@vhpa.org)

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VHPA Memory Map Project	Ron Bower
VHPA Scholarship Program	Tom Payne
VHPA Aviator Newsletter	David Adams, Editor

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Investment Advisor	Bob Potvin

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**www.VHPA.org**  
Email: **Aviator@VHPA.org**

## FROM MIKE LAW, PRESIDENT OF THE VHPA

I'm certain we've all had this experience when reading a good book – you come to the end of a chapter and you have to turn the page. Recently the VHPA's Executive Council had to turn a page. A few months ago and after nine years of service, Wally Magathan announced that it was time to turn the page with respect to his position as legal advisor to the EC. Then a few weeks after that Wally recommended that the EC consider VHPA Life Member Mike Poindexter as the new legal advisor. Mike and Wally met at a lawyer's conference in Florida and got to talking about the VHPA. As good luck would have it, Mike Poindexter is a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter and lives near me – so we had a nice chat over lunch. The EC then accepted Wally's resignation and approved Mike's appointment to the position of legal advisor.

Now Mike becomes only our fourth legal advisor in our almost 30 year history. This morning I had an interesting 'walk down memory lane' on the subject of the legal advisor by looking through back issues of The Aviator on [www.vhpaservices.com](http://www.vhpaservices.com). Please allow me to give you a Reader's Digest summary of what I found.

The VHPA was established in 1984. Without much fanfare the September 1991 issue lists Charlie Rayl as the first office holder of the position of legal advisor. This was during the period of time when the Executive Council was maturing as the governing body of the VHPA, the position of Executive Director was eliminated and the concept of committee chairs was on the rise. Charlie helped develop some of the VHPA's early governance documents and filed them with the State of Kansas. Charlie also "went through the ranks" as a member at large and then the Presidency in the late 1990s. After serving about eleven years at legal advisor, Charlie decided it was time to turn the page. The July/Aug 2000 issue announced Charlie's resignation and that the EC was seeking someone for the position. In the Nov/Dec 2000 issue then President Charles Holley announces the appointment of Jim Gunderson. Poor Jim walked into a maelstrom of legal battles summarized in several 2002 and 2003 issues by then president Joe Bilitzke. In the Nov/Dec 2002 issue Joe Bilitzke announces Jim's leaving (after serving for three years) and welcomes Wally Magathan as the EC legal advisor with the mission to help the Executive Council in maintaining a "straight-and-level attitude" in all legal matters. For those who have forgotten the "bad old days" consider reading Joe's column in the Jan/Feb 2003 issue – OUCH!!!

It is a serious understatement to say that Wally has done "good yeoman service" to the EC and to the VHPA! I'd guess that he has reviewed no less than one hundred contracts, expressed legal opinion on more than twenty significant subjects, drafted at least a dozen letters for signature by the then current VHPA President, attended every Annual Business Meeting during his nine years of service save one, and spent hours and hours attending VHPA EC Conference Calls. Everyone should know that in my opinion Wally not only raised the bar of expectations for the position but left it set very high indeed for Mike Poindexter. The VHPA stands on higher and better ground today because of Wally.

Just to show you how stressful it has been on Wally, many of us almost didn't recognize him in Orlando last summer – he'd lost more than 50 pounds! Mike is a tall slender man so we'll have to go easier on him for sure!

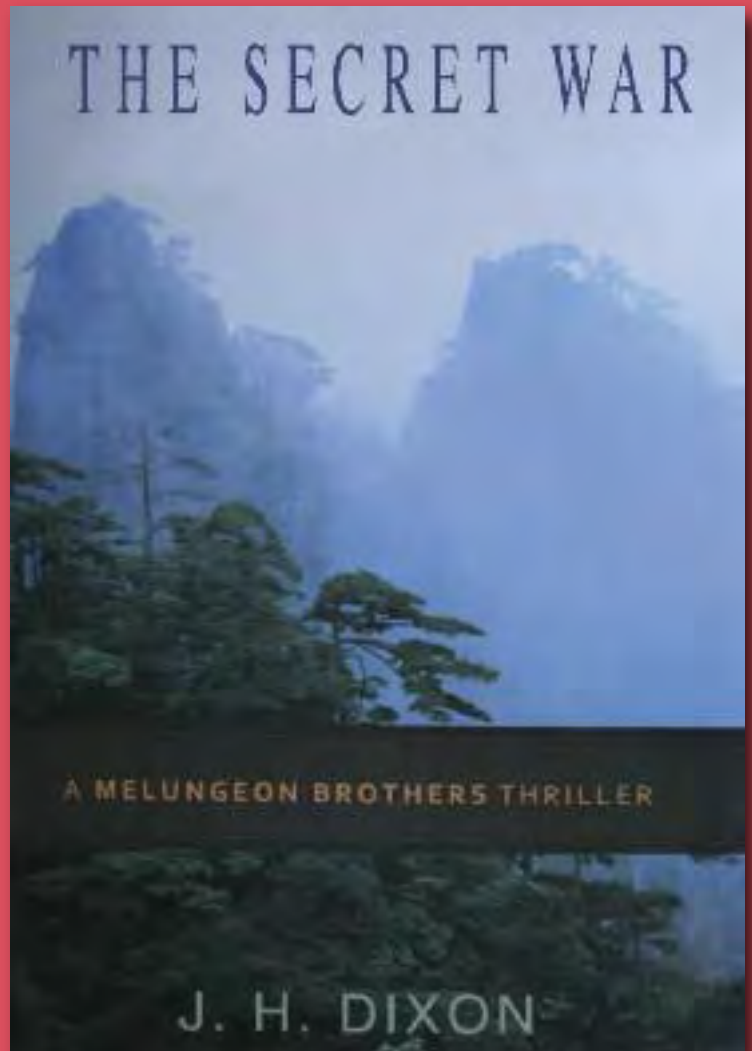
*Welcome aboard Mike Poindexter and thanks again Wally for helping us make the VHPA better!*

Mike Law 303-988-7797 or [president@vhpa.org](mailto:president@vhpa.org)

# ABOUT THE BOOK

In this fast-paced, action-packed military thriller set in 1962, Sergeant Jake Campbell from Nickelsville, Virginia and Corporal Henry Goins from Norton, Virginia earn coveted Green Berets and go to Laos with a Special Forces A-Team to train Hmong soldiers to fight the CIA's secret war. Their idealistic view of the world is turned upside down when they see the ugly underbelly of runaway power, corruption and injustice and fight for their lives in the steamy Laotian jungles amidst murder, conspiracy, and a superior who harbors a secret that, if revealed, will ruin him forever.

In the book's Foreword, Step Tyner, author of *Firebirds*, writes: "...it is not hard to believe that a situation like that so vividly described by Jim (J.H.) Dixon in this novel was plausible, even likely in the early 1960s (especially in light of what we have come to know of the activities of the CIA during that period). I have known Dr. Dixon as a cherished friend and valued colleague for some thirty years, and if anyone is better qualified to give us a "grunt's-eye" view of US operations in Laos in the early '60s, that person remains unknown to me. Jim is the only soldier I've ever known who has served his nation as an enlisted man, NCO, warrant officer, and commissioned officer, in the process progressing from high school graduate to doctor of philosophy and compiling a most enviable record as a combat infantryman, pilot, and military scholar. I have no reason to doubt that the essentials of his story reflect, perhaps in combination, real people and real events."



# WHERE TO GET THE BOOK

Available in:  
perfect-bound softcover, (\$19.95)  
hardcover with sleeve, (\$29.95)  
and E-book (\$3.99)  
You may also order from  
your favorite bookseller or from  
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personalized, autographed copy.*

# THE AUTHOR

Dr. J. H. Dixon was a Green Beret instructor at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He was a faculty member of the United States Military Academy in West Point and the National War College in Washington, DC. This is his third book.





# An Old Army-Marine Corps Cobra Soldiers On

*By Cornelius McMillan, Maintenance Test Pilot, Aviation Safety and Training Manager for Bell Helicopter Company*

My normal job has me performing production test flights on Huey II's. Having been associated with Army aircraft since 1969, I always spend a little time reviewing the Historical files on the UH-1's that we turn into Huey II's and TH-1H's. It's always fun to find an aircraft that I flew as an Army Aviator or one that has an interesting background such as Combat tours, unique assignments or just 10,000 hours spent turning out flight students.

Recently, I had the opportunity to do a return-to-service maintenance flights on four former U.S. Army AH-1F's, part of a Foreign Military Sales Program. Going through the records I found one of the aircraft was an older airframe. It was s/n 68-17108 and started life as an AH-1G. That was interesting but the first entry caught my attention. On the 19th of August 1970, 17108 had received small arms damage and was repaired by HML-367. This could not be correct because 17108 was an Army AH-1G and I knew that HML-367 was a USMC helicopter unit and they flew UH-1E's.

Now that my interest was piqued, I started sending out e-mails asking old AH-1 acquaintances for some help in sorting out what seemed like an error. I've flown AH-1's since May 1970 and while I had a couple of Marine Pilots in my Cobra Hall class, I knew that the Marines did not fly AH-1G's in combat. Of course I was wrong in that thought. Here is the true story of 68-17108.

AH-1G 108 came off the Bell line in Hurst in January 1970 and



was accepted by the US Army. It left Hurst and went to Fort Hood where it joined a group of AH-1G's being "loaned" to the Marine Corps. She was assigned to HML-367 and began flying combat operations in support of Marine units in I Corps Vietnam and the occasional cross border mission. 108 finished its combat tour and was transferred to the new USMC Cobra squadron, HMA-169, at Camp Pendleton, CA. In 1972, 108 went to Corpus Christi Army Depot for overhaul, after CCAD, 108 stayed with the USMC at Camp Pendleton until being transferred to the Defense Aircraft storage facility at Davis-Moahan AFB, (the bone yard), in April 1979.

She was transferred (escaped the bone yard?) to the Bell Helicopter facility in Amarillo in 1981 and in February 1982, 68-17108 rejoined the US Army as an AH-1F. She soldiered on with the 1st Armored Division in Germany and after a facelift in 1988 at

CCAD, went to Korea. She came back to the states in 1994 and the Army National Guard. Then in September 2001, 68-17108 went to Fort Drum and into storage.

And now 68-17108 is getting her final tweaking here at Fort



**Scarface 22, Marble Mountain, Vietnam 1970.**

Drum before she heads out for her next assignment and serving a new generation of attack helicopter pilots. She looks good, flies well and makes me feel like her sisters did 40 years ago, really young at heart!

For me this digging in the past has given me the opportunity to learn about a part of the Cobra history I was not familiar with. Additionally, I have heard from numerous members of HML-367 who flew 108 when she wore "Marine Green". Their stories remind me of the Army Cobra stories I know and the similarity makes me smile. We all know how War Stories start out and then they all run about the same.....And that ain't no ....

**Cornelius McMillan**



**68-17108, MTF complete. Wheeler-Sack AAF, Fort Drum, NY August 2011.**

**MTP, Avn Sfty and Tng Mgr.  
Bell Helicopter - Ozark  
CMcMillan@bellhelicopter.textron.com**

# and again... *Great Thanks*

My husband, Read P. Armstrong, is a life member of VHPA and looks forward to any and all occasions to connect with his fellow Aviators, whether it lies in reading our newsletter, or talking and e-mailing with his many friends. It's a relationship we both enjoy, it's a point of stability in a world of "civilians" where many Vietnam Vets only feel comfortable interacting with others that have shared the same experiences. It doesn't happen much now, but we have both learned that some folks have a hard time recovering from the effects of the Vietnam War.

Read is very proud of being a Vietnam Veteran, he has Veteran license plates on his truck. This Veteran's Day he spent the afternoon exploring the woods off the Bald Head Road in Arrowsic, Maine which is close to our new/old home. When he got back to his truck the attached note, written on a blank envelope, was tucked under his windshield wiper. Read loved the thoughts behind the words and quickly sent this photo of the envelope to the many members of our scattered family. Unbeknownst to him, I would like to share the same thoughts with the membership as I feel they apply to all our membership.

Read spent July 1969-1970 in Vietnam as a Medi-

vac pilot with the Flying Circus, 1st Cav. When he returned home, he continued to fly for 26 years with the 112th Medivac unit, Maine National Guard in Bangor, Maine. To include "show and tell" events for all 3 of our now grown children. With the support of the 112th, landing a Huey in the baseball field of our grammar school remains a childhood highlight for many Bath students. It warms my heart each time someone mentions those special "show and tells" so many years ago. Read's full time 36 year career was in building naval vessels at Bath Iron Works, in Bath, Maine. His overseas assignment to Taiwan was cut short when the 112th was deployed in 1990 to support Desert Storm. We have recently returned home after a 4 1/2 yrs assignment to South Australia on a Bath Iron Works project (where Read enjoyed flying his remote helicopter!). As of August 2011, his new career is one of retiree. He has had a full, exciting and successful career both in and out of the cockpit, I am very proud of my aviator. In February of 2012 we will have been married for 41 years

Anne Armstrong

E-Mail: [elliesmimi@yahoo.com](mailto:elliesmimi@yahoo.com)




**The Cub Inn** is a 5,000-square-foot log cabin that offers unique charm that blends our love of aviation with the great outdoors. Located in California's Sierra Nevada mountains just 25 miles from Yosemite National Park, our five guest rooms sleep either two or four people, and they all feature a private bath.

Our guests start each day with a hearty country breakfast and are also invited to join us in the living room each evening to enjoy a glass of wine and a light snack. The Cub Inn is the life-long dream of husband and wife team, Piper Cub owner and pilot Charleen Beam and VHPA Life Member Joe Riley.

**We proudly offer discounts to all veterans and members of the VHPA, CHPA, EAA and AOPA.**



**Full details and booking information are available on our website:**  
**TheCubInn.com**  
 Or call us at: 209-962-0403 (land line) to book.  
 Enjoy our low Winter Rates with VHPA discounted rooms now priced under \$90.00 a night!

## ATTENTION TO ORDERS:



All former "Ruthless Riders" of the 7/17th Cav in Vietnam are hereby commanded to appear at our Regimental Reunion on May 3-7, in Nashville, Tennessee.



This will be a joint "Return to Garrison" celebration with the 7/17th Cav, "Pale Horse" Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell who have just returned from Afghanistan. Reunion activities will include a joint Golf Tournament, socializing, shopping and sightseeing in Nashville and Ft. Campbell, a barbeque w/ADULT BEVERAGES at Ft. Campbell's Saber Field Hanger for both the Pale Horse Soldiers of today and the Ruthless Riders of Vietnam and a very patriotic Closing Banquet.

Complete Reunion details and registration forms are found at our web page: [www.RuthlessRiders.net](http://www.RuthlessRiders.net), or by calling 407-702-9576 and requesting same. The Reunion HQ is the Nashville's Sheraton Music City Hotel. \$89.00 room rates run from 2-7 May, reservations available at 888-627-7060, mention "7/17th Cavalry Reunion".

**POC for info & updates is Barry Speare, (407)702-9576, email: [bspeare47@gmail.com](mailto:bspeare47@gmail.com)**





# Maggie - Honoring the Past, enlightening the future

## *From the South Carolina (Celebrate Freedom) Chapter of the VHPA*

She may not have served in Vietnam, but her paint scheme did. The Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF), with the help of its VHPA Chapter members, has taken to the air honoring the memories and contributions of the Green Berets with their first flying AH-1F. Her "Vietnam Tiger Stripe" camouflage pattern is modeled after the Vietnamese Ranger's jungle fatigues and her fuselage is decked out with the Green Beret flashes, logos, and lettering in tribute to the men she supported on the ground.

Maggie is a US Army AH-1F Cobra gunship (S/N 80-23517, N517SF) that has been lovingly restored by an all-volunteereffort of the Celebrate Freedom Foundation. She was FAA certified in October 2011, to a fully operational condition, and though she still looks lethal the armament has been carefully demilitarized. Her mission now is to educate through the CFF SOAR program and to promote the Green Beret's and the military (patriotic) service through contact with the public at Air shows and other venues.

Her first mission was launched successfully on November 4th at Fayetteville, NC – home of Ft. Bragg and of the Green Berets. Maggie was part of the opening ceremonies at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum. It was the start of a weeklong celebration honoring Vietnam veterans. Though poor weather changed Maggie's arrival schedule she didn't disappoint the crowdmaking numerous passes, high hovers and even a bow. The all too familiar whop whop of the blades punctuated with a few growls of the Kamen/Cobra combination brought tears and cheers to many in the crowd.

Maggie returned home to overfly the Veterans Day parade in her home town parade of Columbia, South Carolina. Then back up to Fayetteville to overfly their parade that took place on the 12th. Three missions, three sets of huge enthusiastic and patriotic crowds, and three days of flying! HOOAH! AIRBORNE! De Opresso Liber!

The SC Chapter of the VHPA is a small part of the Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF), an organization that was formed back in the late 90's and incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit in 1999. Its forte was air shows drawing as many as 100,000 enthusiastic visitors. The CFF was host to numerous WWII "Warbird" shows such as the Doolittle Raiders, the Black Sheep Squadron, Code Talkers, Tuskegee Airmen and more. As the participants grew older and their transportation more difficult, they were gradually replaced with the "younger" Vietnam crowd. So we moved on from B25s, Corsairs and Spitfires and on to Hueys, Cobras, and a Loach or two. Thanks mostly to the NC VHPA Chapter.

In 2005, after hard work and unrelenting patience of CFF's President Jack Lovelady, CFF acquired 6 AH-1F Cobra's from the US Army, with a mission of recruiting and education. A few days after taking delivery a Marine compliment descended on our airbase and confiscated one of our Cobras. They needed one for weapons testing



and it only had 200 hours on her. Rats! Of the Five aircraft remaining, two of the aircraft are Vietnam veterans. One of our mem-



Members of the South Carolina (Celebrate Freedom) Chapter, members of CFF (Celebrate Freedom Foundation) and members of our affiliated SF chapter gather around Maggie as she preps for her first flight. Larry Russell, Chapter President and author of this story, is the 3rd man from the left in the front row.

bers, Col. Claude Lott, actually flew one while he was with the 1st of the 9th. The other is a bird that flew with 2nd of the 20th, an ARA bird, both 1st Cavalry aircraft. The remaining three are later 80 models with an average of 2000 hours airframe time. As a non-profit and all volunteer outfit, restoration took a lot of weekends and even more "lunch money". While the painting was going on John Woodward, our Cobra restoration guru, put a team together, came up with a plan, and worked countless hours bringing Maggie back to life. So after many, many years, a few moves, numerous parades, festivals and school visitswhile towing a Cobra, we finally had a flying version.

Some may ask why she was named "Maggie". The Green Berets developed a special relationship with a well known actress and entertainer of the day, Martha Raye, because of her persistent and courageous support of them during her entertaining visits to Vietnam. Martha as you may guess was known as "Maggie" to the men of the 5th Special Forces Group (RVN), and she always made it a point to visit these men in the less secure forward operating sites. Her courage and efforts earned her the title of an Honorary Green Beret, Colonel Martha Raye and are why this aircraft carries her name. To find out more go to <http://www.vietnamexp.com/morestories/MarthaRaye.htm>.

The paint scheme was done by Dru Blair, a world renowned "photorealistic" air brush artist. Dru mocked up the aircraft and Jim Filiatreault a Cav veteran spent months supervising CFF members and students from a local high school to get it finished. The unbelievably awesome rendition of the shark's mouth was done personally by Dru and his crew. He has painted hundreds of Air Force aircraft "Nose art" but never an entire aircraft. The pictures don't do it justice. Numerous people have mistakenly thought the 3D effect was done with some fancy sheet metal work. [www.drublair.com](http://www.drublair.com)

So come by and see it first-hand. Our "Viper Den" hangar is located at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport in West Columbia, South Carolina. You'll usually find us there on Tuesdays and Thursdays and one weekend a month. Give me a call if you'd like a tour or better yet want to help.

Help support our efforts and contact Larry Russell, 803-553-0113  
President, SC Chapter of the VHPA, Executive Director  
[www.CelebrateFreedomFoundation.Org](http://www.CelebrateFreedomFoundation.Org)



**The 29th Annual VHPA Reunion**  
**New Orleans, LA 31 July – 5 August 2012**  
**Hilton New Orleans Riverside**

*It's New Orleans - you're different here!*



## **New Orleans is back from Katrina better than ever!**

We have moved the date for this year's reunion away from the 4th of July weekend specifically for those who have told us for years they can not attend that weekend because of other commitments. Well now is your chance to attend a reunion so we hope to see you there 31 July – 5 August 2012! Yes. We know New Orleans is hot and humid in August. So was Vietnam. Unlike Vietnam, nearly everything is air conditioned so unless you play golf on Thursday morning, there is no need to spend much time in the heat.

We have three primary objectives for each reunion. The first is to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere for you to reconnect with your past experiences in the military especially those related to flying helicopters in the Vietnam War. It is comforting to be among those who have had similar experiences and those who truly understand those experiences. You do not have to know anyone when you arrive in order to have a good time. We are an elite group of men who have survived extraordinary risks by using unique skills requiring incredible courage. We are all of like mind so striking up a conversation with a "stranger" is easy and interesting. You will find that we are a fascinating group of men and our families are too. Many of us who have attended several reunions have developed new and lasting friendships beyond just reconnecting with our friends from the past. We also provide the opportunity to learn more about our war through the Historical Presentations and special documentaries.

Mini-reunions and unit TOCs (Tactical Operation Centers) are designed to help with this reconnection with our past. We have set aside a group of business rooms that can be dedicated to a specific group for as little time as one hour all the way to the full length of the reunion. We encourage groups (units, flight classes, etc.) to co-locate their reunions with the VHPA to avoid the time and expense to put on their own reunion. These groups can participate fully in all of the VHPA events while maintaining autonomy. Please check our web site at <http://www.vhpa.org> for details or to reserve space for your mini-reunion. New this year is the "O Club". This replaces the honor keg room and provides a meeting place to relax and enjoy the company of your old and new friends while partaking in an adult beverage from a dedicated bar with reduced prices specifically for the VHPA.

The second objective is to provide entertainment. This is the most challenging since our group has a very wide range of interests. Throwing family and friends into this mix adds additional challenges since they also have a wide range of interests. Our experience shows that providing a place to meet with friends is not enough. After a few drinks and war stories, you are ready for something new and new is the key to this objective. We not only move the reunion around to new and different cities each year to make it more convenient for members geographically but also to provide new entertainment experiences. The last time we were in New Orleans was 1990 so it was time to experience this unique city again especially after its renewal from Katrina.

The third objective is to conduct the official business of the association. This will be done at our annual business meeting on Friday morning where committee chairman will give reports and we will vote on administrative issues and elect our next two Executive Council members. This is an opportunity to learn about the workings of the VHPA behind the scenes and to influence the future direction of our association.

There is something magic about New Orleans that does not exist in any other city. Come find out for yourself. The hotel is the Hilton New Orleans

Riverside walking distance from the French Quarter with an incredible nightly rate of \$119. Many things are walking distance, however, the Riverfront Streetcar is out the front door if you don't want to walk. Share the excitement of the Warehouse/Arts District, or try your luck at Harrahs Casino across the street. Connected to the hotel you will find the Riverwalk Marketplace, featuring more than 140 shops and restaurants. You can also visit the Louisiana Children's Museum, IMAX Theater, The National World War II Museum, and Superdome. Nightlife? Ah, the nightlife. It's all there, waiting for you, and Hilton puts you front and center. Bring your friends and family. See the tour description elsewhere in this magazine. For an up-to-date schedule of events and registration, go to our web site at <http://www.vhpa.org> and click on Reunion Information.

We guarantee you that you and your friends and family will not be bored in New Orleans. We have many events to select from with the offerings so numerous it is impossible to attend all of them. This means we have covered the full range of reunion desires all the way from simply enjoying friends in the hotel over a few drinks in the "O Club" to spending the entire week on outside tours with just about any combination of inside and outside events in between. Personally I prefer to stay in the hotel and attend all of the Historical Presentations and War Stories. Jim Fulbrook and Al Roettger have put together an interesting group of historical presentations this year. Whether you come for just one day or for 10 days, we can fill your time and interest.

Here are the Historical Presentations for this year. Jack Heslin's presentation will be "The Battle of Kontum, 1972 Easter Offensive" 40 years after the event; representatives from Texas Tech University will update us on the Vietnam Archives which is our official archives; Tom Phillips, author of "Leave No Man Behind", will speak on US Navy Combat Search and Rescue operations; Les Hines will explain how he collects historical information on the Americal Division and Mike Sprayberry (MOH) will show a documentary *Fallen: but not Forgotten* about his quest to locate six MIAs. Other internal events are the Poker Tournament which benefits our scholarship fund, a military writers' panel discussion organized by John Penny our book reviewer and David Adams our magazine editor, a memorial service organized by secretary/treasurer Tom Payne and Gary Rossomme and a Gold Star Family breakfast organized by Julie Kink. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of these events.

Also in the hotel this year, we are having a comedian group perform on Wednesday night followed on Thursday night with a special premiere of a Dustoff documentary done by Arrowhead Films. This documentary will compare Dustoff operations in Afghanistan with Vietnam. Friday night will be the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the filming of the award winning documentary, *In the Shadow of the Blade*. This documentary got its start at our 2000 reunion in Washington, DC. Many of the "stars" of the show and crew members will be in attendance along with a special "director's cut" of the film. This is a must attend event.

Since New Orleans is world renown for its food, we have left two dinner times (Wednesday and Friday nights) open so you can sample the local food on your own. We will provide a list of recommendations along with transportation information. If you want to organize a group meal, Wednesday and Friday are the times to do that. If you need assistance with group meals, please let us know. You can then come back to the hotel for the evening events.

Please note that several events are capacity restricted. This means that if you want to participate in those particular events, you must sign up early. Also the hotel is restricting our room block so again you need to make reservations early to insure you benefit from our special room rate of \$119 per night. This rate may no longer be available once our room block sells out. If you run into problems with hotel reservations, please call.

The highlight for most reunion attendees is our closing banquet on Saturday night. 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, Mike Law to the new one, John Sorensen after the meal. Entertainment will be a brass

*(continued on page 16)*



By New Orleans VHPA Chapter President Vic Lent

## THE BIG EASY INSIDER

*Is there golf in New Orleans you ask?* There certainly is and the 2012 Reunion Golf Tournament should be one of the best ever. The New Orleans area is not as overbuilt with golf courses as some of our recent Reunion sites and thus we are not able to enjoy quite as good a deal on the greens fees portion of our entry fee. Normal greens fees at our tournament club are \$110 but obviously we have negotiated a better rate. Most local tournaments in the area that include two meals and self fund most of their prizes have entry fees in the \$120-\$140 range. We are firmly committed to put this VHPA tournament on for an entry fee of under \$100.00. This is quite a challenge considering that it is much harder to get local sponsors for prizes for a tournament that's composed of 99% out of town participants. But as anyone who has dealt with aircraft maintenance knows, we have done so much for so long with so little that we are now qualified to do almost anything with nothing.

So here goes. We are scheduled to play on August 2, 2012 at the historic Lakewood Golf Club (formerly Lakewood Country Club). Check it out at <http://www.lakewoodgolf.com/>. The club has been owned since 2003 by the local Fireman's Retirement Fund and they are helping their Brothers in uniform with a deal on prices. Lakewood is a 7,002 yard, par-72 course located in the City of New Orleans on "The West Bank" side of the Mississippi River. Most visitors to the city only see parts of the East Bank which is where you find the French Quarter, the Mercedes Louisiana Super Dome, Audubon Park and Zoo and on and on. The West Bank, or as folks who live on that side of the river call it, "The Best Bank", is quite historical for communities such as Algiers Point which is just a short ferry boat ride across the river from the Reunion hotel. Lakewood Gold Club is a historic site in its own right. The course opened in 1961 and was the New Orleans stop on the PGA TOUR from 1963 to 1988. Lakewood has also hosted two USG Championships as well as two Southern Golf Association Championships.

The VHPA will have at least two Champions this Reunion because we plan to have two Flights (nice golf term for a bunch of pilots!) of golfers. There will be the Valor Flight for foursomes composed of all VHPA pilot members and the Honor Flight for teams that have one or more guests playing in their foursome. More on the 2012 tournament will be provided in the months to come.

If you come in early, or stay late, there are special greens fees at Lakewood Monday thru Thursday for those who feel like playing later in the day and at anytime for those with a First Responders ID. I also have full details for two other great local courses available, the Audubon Park Golf Course in Uptown New Orleans and the TPC Louisiana, the site of the PGA's current tournament stop. E-mail me and I will be glad to fix you up with all the benefits of either course.

Want more info on local New Orleans activities, food and fun? Send your questions to Big Chief Vee at: [vhp-neworleans@earthlink.net](mailto:vhp-neworleans@earthlink.net) If you do not want your question/answer shared with other members, please state that in your email.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 2012 REUNION... PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

A small group of dedicated volunteers work hard all year to put together a memorable Reunion for our members, families and friends. This small group has to commit to entertainment and hotel contracts months and sometimes even years in advance without knowing how many people will attend a particular Reunion. This creates financial risk for the VHPA to the extent that in some years it is almost a "bet the farm" type of situation.

There is nothing more frustrating than having to re-negotiate tens of thousands of dollars in hotel and vendor commitments at the last minute because we are unsure of attendance. This not only has the potential of affecting the quality of the Reunion but also takes away financial advantages because we have to "give away" benefits (like lower drink and food prices and free rooms for staff and entertainers that now we must pay for) to lower financial risk. Believe me, the hotel takes advantage of our vulnerability.

The Orlando Reunion was a perfect example. A few weeks before the Reunion, registrations were so light it looked like we were going to miss our hotel room block commitment which would have created tens of thousands of dollars in penalties. In other words, we were going to have to pay for empty rooms. Because of that, we re-negotiated the room block with the hotel and thus gave thousands of dollars in benefits back to the hotel. We had to minimize our loss. Everything we saw said the Orlando Reunion was going to lose money. Then at the last minute reservations picked up and we met the original room block, so giving up the benefits turned into money lost to the VHPA. The hotel was happy because they made more money.

We went from a potential substantial loss to a slight "profit" thanks mainly to Mike Law's excellent Reunion management. But if Reunion Registrations and room reservations had been made earlier, we would not have had to re-negotiate the hotel contract, we would have generated a nice reserve for future Reunions and the Reunion Committeemen would not have gained a bunch of gray hair.

For Reunion planning purposes, we really need people to register early and not wait till the last minute. There are significant financial ramifications to the VHPA if we get projected attendance wrong so the earlier we know who's coming, the lower the risk. Experience indicates that opening registration in December is far better than in January or February, so we have moved everything forward and the on-line registration system for the New Orleans Reunion went hot in mid-December. But, having the Reunion planning complete by mid-December meant that the schedule, pricing, contracts, attendance numbers and the monetary commitment calculations also had to be complete by then. And so the "Guessing-Game" has begun; but unlike a lot of games, tens of thousands of dollars are again at stake.

Please do your part and register early for the Reunion. Some events are capacity limited and the hotel room block is also limited. If you wait to register for the Reunion, you might miss out on some events plus you might not get the special \$119 a night hotel room rate. Besides, this Reunion will be a lot of fun and one you don't want to miss!

*Thanks for registering early,*

Gary Roush  
E-Mail: [webmaster@vhp.org](mailto:webmaster@vhp.org)  
National Reunion Committee Chairman

# New Orleans Reunion – “New Orleans Area” Tour Offerings

## TUESDAY, JULY 31 EARLY BIRD: CAJUN DINNER 6:00pm Tuesday, July 31

What better way to start this New Orleans Reunion than with an authentic Cajun dinner. Take the short walk across the street to Mulates for a delicious Cajun dinner. Sit in the main dining room/dance hall, where the sights and sounds of the Cajun culture come alive in this authentic atmosphere. Your dinner includes salad, a choice of entrees including catfish, shrimp or chicken, and dessert. After dinner, stroll back to the hotel for the Early Bird Reception, take a spin on the dance floor or just sit back, relax and enjoy the sounds of the band. Don't miss it! *This tour is limited to just 80 people.*



## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1 NEW ORLEANS CITY & FRENCH QUARTER TOUR #1

9:00am-11:30am Wednesday, August 1

Board your luxury coach and travel through three centuries of history as you tour some of New Orleans' top attractions. Absorb the sights & sounds of the world famous French Quarter and historic Jackson Square, home of the Cabildo and Presbytere Museums. Visit one of the historic cemeteries referred to as “Cities of the Dead,” and learn about this unique above ground burial system. Marvel at stories of voodoo and piracy on Bayou St. John, the waterway used by Jean Lafitte and his band of pirates, as you make your way to the shores of Lake Pontchartrain, where you will see the longest bridge over water in the world, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. Follow the path of the St. Charles Avenue streetcar, the oldest continuously operating passenger railway system in the world, past the homes of former Kings & Queens of Mardi Gras, stately mansions and the world-famous, exclusive Garden District. Tour includes a drive through the Lower 9th Ward and the Lakeview area, two of the areas most affected by Hurricane Katrina. The tour will end near your hotel, in the French Quarter.

Following the guided city tour you may take the bus back to the hotel or spend some time on your own in the French Quarter. If you stay in the Quarter, the bus will pick you at 1:45pm to return to the hotel or you may return on your own later.

(This tour is also offered on Thursday, August 2, 9:00-11:00am & Friday, August 3, 1:30-3:30pm)

## COMBO TOUR: NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, LUNCH & VICTORY BELLES SHOW 9:00am-2:30pm Wednesday August 1

Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official World War II Museum. This remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era with moving personal stories, historic artifacts and powerful interactive displays. From the Normandy Invasion to the sands of Pacific Islands and the “home front”, the museum brings to life the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war and changed the world. You will have the morning to visit the Museum at your own pace. Your tour includes the film “Beyond All Boundaries”, narrated and produced by Tom Hanks, a unique and powerful film about the Greatest Generations journey. Then relax in the Stage Door Canteen for a very special lunch and show. The Victory Belles is a charming vocal trio who will take you on a nostalgic journey through World War II era musical classics. Enjoy a trip down memory lane with their spirited performances of such hits as Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,



Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, I'll be Seeing You, and Chattanooga Choo Choo. Prior to the show, enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat luncheon buffet. *Victory Belles show seating is limited.*

## WWII MUSEUM ONLY #1 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesday August 1

Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official World War II Museum. This remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era with moving personal stories, historic artifacts and powerful interactive displays. From the Normandy Invasion to the sands of Pacific Islands and the “home front”, the museum brings to life the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war and changed the world. You will have the morning to visit the Museum at your own pace. Your tour includes the film “Beyond All Boundaries”, narrated and produced by Tom Hanks, a unique and powerful film about the Greatest Generations journey. (Tour also offered on Friday, August 3, 1:30-5:00pm and Saturday, August 4, 9:30am-1:30pm)



## VICTORY BELLES SHOW & LUNCH ONLY

11:30am -2:30pm Wednesday August 1

For those of you who are interested in the lunch and show, but not the Museum, this is your tour! Transportation will be provided to the Stage Door Canteen, located in the WWII Museum in time to enjoy the lunch and show. The Victory Belles is a charming vocal trio who will take you on a nostalgic journey through World War II era musical classics. Enjoy a trip down memory lane with their spirited performances of such hits as Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, I'll be Seeing You, and Chattanooga Choo Choo. Prior to the show, enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat luncheon buffet. *Victory Belles show seating is limited.*

## COMBO TOUR: NEW ORLEANS CITY TOUR, LUNCH & VICTORY BELLES SHOW 9:00am-2:30pm Wednesday, August 1

Enjoy the city tour as described above, following the city tour you will be taken directly to the Victory Belles Show & lunch at the World War II Museum. Please note you will not have time on your own in the French Quarter if you choose this combo tour and you will not return to the hotel between the 2 events.



## 3 CHARMERS OF NEW ORLEANS COMEDY SHOW

8:30pm-10:00pm Wednesday, August 1

The 3 Charmers are amazingly funny comedians that bring the unique taste of New Orleans with its relentless spirit to the stage. Tonight's show features characters with personalities that are unforgettable because they are true New Orleanians and express that with their New Orleans accents on stage in a funny way. New Orleans has had its fair share of obstacles in recent years, from Hurricane Katrina to the BP Oil Spill. Yet, here is a culture that refuses to go away, and holds on tight to preserve its place as one of the most unique cities in the world. This production stages stand-up comedy along with skits that will take you through the trials that



New Orleans is having to overcome, and mixes it with the joy of being able to still call their city home. The heart-warming skits feature Ms. Inez Lappicola (played by Becky Allen) who says how she lost everything in the wake of Katrina and her dearest friend Ms. Loyce Cangelosi (Amanda Hebert) who stands by her friends trials through it all. Then the stand-up comedy of Jodi Borrello will share the meaning of the family unit in New Orleans with the type of humor like no other. By the end of the show you will come to love these ladies! Don't miss this evening of laughter presented by 3 women who are proud to share with you why they are never going to leave their hometown.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

**7:00am-2:00pm Thursday, August 2**

The Annual VHPA Golf Tournament will take place at the Lakewood Golf Club. A recent multi-million dollar renovation makes Lakewood Golf Club one of the most exciting courses to play with challenging fairways, tees and greens. Nestled among beautiful Louisiana cypress and oaks, Lakewood Golf Club is one of the South's premier golf destinations. The day will begin with a continental breakfast at the club followed by a shotgun start at 8:00am, and end with lunch at the Club House. The fee includes use of practice facility, greens fees, cart, lunch, roundtrip transportation, all taxes, and gratuities. Golf clubs are available for rent for a fee of \$55. Those who sign up to play will be contacted by the golf coordinator, Vic Lent with additional information.



## PLANTATION TOUR



**8:30am-4:30pm Thursday, August 2**

Today, you will experience a bygone era at two of the South's most spectacular Plantations. Begin at the Laura Plantation, located on the banks of the Mississippi River and in the middle of New Orleans Plantation Country. The home is surrounded by the sugar plan-

tation, gardens and slave cabins. Your guided tour of the plantation starts with a visit through the Maison Principale, built in 1805. The tour includes the raised basement and galleries, men's and women's chambers, offices, service rooms and common rooms. Even though you will see Laura's family heirlooms and their Creole furnishings, the tour spotlights the charmed but tragic lives of the plantation's inhabitants. Following the



guided tour, you will have time to visit the unique gift shop before boarding your coach for the short drive to the Oak Alley Plantation. Built in 1839, Oak Alley is one of the most photographed plantations ever. Upon arrival, marvel at the unbelievable quarter-mile long alley of 28 magnificent oak trees, each over 250 years old. Your plantation visit begins with a Cajun luncheon buffet in the turn

of the century pavilion (the pavilion is air conditioned). The luncheon menu includes gumbo, etouffee and jambalaya. Following the lunch, you will be taken on a guided tour of the mansion, which will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its history. After the guided tour, there will be time to stroll through the well-manicured grounds at your leisure, sit on the porch and sip a Mint Julep, as well as visit the Oak Alley Gift Shop and the Blacksmith's Shop. This is going to be a wonderful day out with your friends. Don't miss it.

*Please note: It is about a 1 hour drive to the Plantations in an air conditioned bus. Both Plantation homes are air conditioned. You will have time to stroll the grounds of both mansions where you will be outside. This tour is limited to 80 people.*

## NEW ORLEANS CITY & FRENCH QUARTER TOUR #2

**9:00am-11:00am Thursday, August 2**

A complete description of this event may be found under the same heading on the schedule for Wednesday, August 1st, in the 9:00am-11:30am slot. Following the guided city tour you may take the bus back to the hotel or spend some time on your own in the French Quarter. If you stay, the bus will pick you at 1:30pm to return to the hotel or you may return on your own later.



## PADDLEWHEEL LUNCH CRUISE

**11:00am-2:00pm Thursday, August 2**

Board your authentic steamboat and take a step back in time, when cotton was king and life was as slow as the current on the Mississippi River. As you cruise on New Orleans' only authentic steamboat, you will be amazed by the sights of one of the world's most active ports and the beautiful view of New Orleans from the comfort of your steamboat. Your narrated 2 hour lunch cruise includes an all-you-can-eat buffet which includes 3 entrees, several side dishes, salads, and an extensive dessert display. After lunch, enjoy the view as you relax to the sounds of the "Dukes of Dixieland" jazz band. Don't miss this wonderful day out on the river, and the chance to spend time with your friends and family.



## COMBO TOUR: NEW ORLEANS CITY TOUR & PADDLEWHEEL LUNCH CRUISE

**9:00am-2:00pm Thursday, August 2**

Enjoy the city tour as described above, following the city tour you will be taken directly to the paddlewheel lunch cruise. You will not return to the hotel between the 2 events and will not have time on your own in the French Quarter.

## NEW ORLEANS: MARDI GRAS & MAYHEM TOUR #1

**2:00pm-5:00pm Thursday, August 2**

New Orleans is renowned for Mardi Gras Celebration, in recent years the city has also become known for the disaster of Hurricane Katrina. Today you will learn about both. Since 1699, when Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville celebrated his arrival at the mouth of the Mississippi on Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras has been integrally linked to Louisiana's cultural heritage. Your tour begins at Blain Kern's Mardi Gras World which is literally the place where Mardi Gras magic is made. Step inside the giant warehouse filled with the famous Mardi Gras floats and props. Walk among the towering figures of fantasy, and watch the artists of Blaine Kern Studios, the world-renowned masters of Carnival sculpture and float building, at work in their shops. Mardi Gras World is a world of wonders, and the most unique expression of the spirit and culture of this annual Carnival. Then take the short ride to the Presbytere located in Jackson Square. You will see two fascinating exhibits: the Mardi Gras Exhibit and the Katrina Exhibit. Based on original research, the Mardi Gras exhibit traces the emergence of New Orleans' parades and balls to the present-day statewide extravaganza that attracts millions. The vast scope of the Museum's collection appears in three focus galleries complete with favors, souvenirs, invitations, which are displayed in huge cases and "open storage" cabinets. The most dazzling focus gallery - the Crown Jewels Vault - houses an astonishing array of tiaras, scepters, necklaces and other baubles worn by generations of royalty. Katrina & Beyond is a must-see exhibit on the history and science of this awesome storm. Eyewitness accounts, state-of-the-art multimedia displays and iconic objects collected in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, provide an unforgettable experience of loss and devastation. This exhibit will inspire you; it is ultimately a celebration of the spirit of service and resilience in the face of catastrophe & Mayhem. Please note: A small portion of this tour is not air conditioned; you will be required to walk 4 blocks from the bus to one of the Museums. (This tour is also offered on Saturday, August 4th from 10:15am-1:15pm.)





## MARDI GRAS WORLD DINNER 6:00pm-10:00pm Thursday, August 2

Step off the coach, and walk through the stunning Mardi Gras floats and props stored at Blain Kerns Mardi Gras world, you will be awed at the creations which bring Mardi Gras to life. Then step into the Grand Oaks Mansion, New Orleans' only indoor antebellum mansion replica. Enjoy a cocktail among the brick walkways, moss-draped oaks, starry night sky and winding waterway. Make your way up the mansions grand staircase to the River City Ballroom for dinner. As you sit among some of the floats and props, enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat buffet and beautiful view of the Mississippi River. After dinner, dance to the sounds of the band, or just relax and enjoy the music. Don't miss this dinner which will be as spectacular as Mardi Gras itself. This will be an unforgettable evening, don't miss it. For those interested in attending the "Dust Off" Movie at the hotel, early bus departures will be available.



## FRIDAY, AUGUST 3 SPOUSE/GUEST EVENT: NEW ORLEANS COOKING DEMO & LUNCH

9:30am-1:00pm Friday, August 3

"Make Your Mouth Happy" – Welcome to the Fun, Food & Folklore of the New Orleans School of Cooking! Don't miss this entertaining class where you will learn the basics of Louisiana cooking in a way you'll never forget. Fun is the primary ingredient in this kitchen! The Creole/Cajun experts will demonstrate how to cook some New Orleans specialties such as Gumbo, Jambalaya, Shrimp Creole and Pralines. Your chef demonstrators will also tell of New Orleans history, some tall tales and trivia. The event will take place in the beautiful Riverview room, located in the Jax Brewery, overlooking the Mississippi River. After the demonstration, enjoy a luncheon of the foods prepared by the chefs and of course, recipes to take home. Don't miss it!

*Event Capacity is 200*

## QUILTERS OUTING

1:30pm-4:30pm Friday, August 3

Attention Quilters, don't miss this opportunity to visit one of the best quilt shops in Louisiana. The Quilted Owl offers a warm, friendly quilting environment, while paying homage to the quilters of the past and their creativity by specializing in a vast collection of reproduction fabrics and patterns. Bring your quilt and enjoy the "sit and sew" and this unique opportunity to spend some time with your friends. There will be ample time to sew as well as shop at Quilted Owl, known as the "quilter's destination". While there is no cost to visit the Quilted Owl, participants are expected to pay their own taxi fare, if needed, to and from the shop and the hotel. Taxi fare is estimated at less than \$10-\$15 per person round trip in a full cab, \$15.00 per cab each way with all the riders splitting that cost. The VHPA will arrange for taxi delivery and pickup. *Tour is limited to 15 participants.*



## NEW ORLEANS CITY TOUR & FRENCH QUARTER #3

1:30pm-3:30pm Friday, August 3

A complete description of this event may be found under the same heading on the schedule for Wednesday, August 1st, in the 9:00am-11:30am slot. Following the guided city tour you may take the bus back to the

hotel or spend some time on your own in the French Quarter. If you stay in the Quarter, the bus will pick you at 5:00pm to return to the hotel or you may return on your own later.

## WWII MUSEUM TOUR #2

1:30pm-5:00pm Friday, August 3

A complete description of this tour may be found under the same heading on the listings for Wednesday, August 1, in the 9:00am-1:00pm time slot.



## FRENCH QUARTER ON YOUR OWN

1:30pm-5:00pm Friday August 3

We will provide round trip transportation from the hotel to the French Quarter. You will have the afternoon to explore the French Quarter on your own. Try a hurricane,



cane, enjoy some Cajun food, shop in one of the voodoo shops, take a walking tour or just walk down Bourbon Street and take in the sites. The bus will depart from the designated location at 5:00pm to return to the hotel. If you wish to stay longer you will be on your own for Transportation back to the hotel.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

### HANDS ON COOKING CLASS

9:30am-1:30pm Saturday, August 4

Today you will learn how to cook some New Orleans Specialty items. Join the chef at the New Orleans Cooking School and create your 4 course luncheon. This private class is a great opportunity to spend some time with your friends while learning new recipes. You will be preparing an appetizer, soup, entre and dessert. Menu items (subject to change) include Shrimp Remoulade, Corn & Crab Bisque, Etouffee, and bread pudding. Of course after you make the lunch, sit down and enjoy the meal you have just created. During the preparation and lunch you can enjoy unlimited Abita Beer, wine, iced tea and coffee. You will take home the recipes, a souvenir apron, and wonderful memories.

*Class is limited to 20 participants; get your forms in early!*



## WWII MUSEUM TOUR #3

9:30am-1:30pm Saturday, August 4

A complete description of this tour may be found under the same heading on the listings for Wednesday, August 1, in the 9:00am-1:00pm time slot.

## NEW ORLEANS: MARDI GRAS & MAYHEM TOUR #2

10:15am-1:15pm Saturday, August 4

A complete description of this tour may be found under the same heading on the listings for Thursday, August 2, in the 2:00pm-5:00pm time slot. Please note: A small portion of this tour is not air conditioned; you will be required to walk 4 blocks from the bus to one of the Museums.





# OFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - THE 29TH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE VHPA

New Orleans, Louisiana, 31 July through 5 August, 2012

See our Website at: **www.VHPA.org**  
for the latest details and to register for the Reunion

## Tuesday – July 31st, 2012

11:00am-11:00pm	O Club Opens (Stays open, same hours, throughout Reunion)
8:00am- 10:00pm	Unit Mini-Reunions and Unit TOC's open. They remain open 8:00am – 10:00pm throughout Reunion, see separate schedule
1:00pm- 4:00pm	Reunion T-Shirt distribution open
1:00pm- 5:00pm	Vendor Room Opens
1:00pm- 6:00pm	Welcome & Registration Desk opens
1:00pm- 6:00pm	Tour Desk opens
6:00pm- 8:00pm	Group dinner at Mulate's Cajun Restaurant
7:00pm- 10:00pm	Early Bird Reception

## Wednesday – August 1st, 2012

7:30am- 9:00am	Tour Desk open
9:00am- 11:00am (or 1:30pm)	New Orleans City & French Quarter Tour #1
9:00am- 1:00pm	WWII Museum (only) Tour #1
9:00am- 2:30pm	Combo WWII Museum Tour, Lunch & Victory Belles Show
9:00am- 2:30pm	Combo New Orleans City Tour, Lunch & Victory Belles Show
9:00am- 5:00pm	Vendor Room open
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome & Registration Desk open
11:30am-2:30pm	Lunch & Victory Belles Show (only)
1:00pm- 5:00pm	Banquet seating desk opens
2:00pm- 5:00pm	Poker Tournament #1
3:00pm- 5:00pm	Tour Desk open
7:00pm- 8:00pm	1st Time Attendee Reception
7:30pm- 10:00pm	Welcome Reception
8:30pm- 10:00pm	3 Chalmers of New Orleans Comedy Show

## Thursday – August 2nd, 2012

7:00am 2:00pm	Golf Tournament
7:30am 10:00am	Tour Desk open
8:00am 4:00am	Welcome & Registration Desk open
8:30am 4:30am	Plantations Tour & Lunch
9:00am 10:30am	HPF #1 - Les Hines, Collecting History
9:00am 11:00am (or 1:30pm)	New Orleans City & French Quarter Tour #2
9:00am 2:00pm	Combo New Orleans City Tour and Lunch Cruise
10:45am Noon	Military Writers' panel discussion
11:00am 2:00pm	Paddlewheel Steamship Lunch Cruise (only)
1:00pm 4:00pm	Banquet seating desk open
1:00pm 5:00pm	Tour Desk open
2:00pm 5:00pm	Mardi Gras & Mayhem Tour #1
2:30pm 4:00pm	HPF #2 - Tom Phillips, USN CSAR
6:00pm 10:00pm	Mardi Gras World Dinner at the Grand Oaks Mansion
8:00pm 10:00pm	Film Premiere – Dustoff Legacy Documentary

## Friday – August 3rd, 2012

7:30am- 9:00am	KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast
7:30am- 9:30am	Tour Desk open
9:00am- 4:00pm	Welcome & Registration Desk open
9:00am- Noon	Business Meeting
9:30am- 1:00pm	Spouse/Guest Event – Cooking Demo & Lunch
10:30am-4:00pm	Banquet Seating desk open
1:30pm- 3:30pm (or 5:00pm)	New Orleans City & French Quarter Tour #3
1:30pm- 4:30pm	Quilt Outing
1:30pm- 5:00pm	WWII Museum Tour #2
1:30pm- 5:00pm	French Quarter On Your Own
2:00pm- 3:30pm	HPF #3 - The Vietnam Archive
2:00pm- 5:00pm	Poker Tournament #2
3:30pm- 5:00pm	HPF #4 - Mike Sprayberry, Search for MIA's
8:00pm- 10:00pm	In The Shadow Of The Blade movie 10th Anniversary Celebration

## Saturday – August 4th, 2012

8:00am- 9:30am	Memorial Service
8:00am- 9:30am	Tour Desk open
9:30am- 1:30pm	Hands-on Cooking Class
9:30am- 1:30pm	WWII Museum Tour #3
10:00am-Noon	HPF #5 - Jack Heslin, Battle of Kontum
10:00am-3:00pm	Welcome & Registration Desk open
10:15am-1:15pm	Mardi Gras & Mayhem Tour #2
10:30am-12:30pm	Banquet Seating desk open
4:00pm- 6:00pm	Banquet Seating desk open
5:45pm- 10:30pm	Closing Banquet & Dance

## Reunion Continuing Events:

Unit Mini-Reunions and Unit TOC's are scheduled daily from 8:00AM till 10:00 PM every day of the Reunion – see separate schedule for your individual unit's date, time and room assignment.

The Vendor Room – first opens on Tuesday July 31st at 1:00pm and remains open daily from 9:00am - 5:00pm through Saturday, August 4th

The O Club – first opens on Tuesday July 31st at 11:00am and remains open daily from 11:00am - 11:00pm through Saturday, August 4th

Visit  
**www.VHPA.org**  
for the latest  
information on  
Reunion 2012

The 29th Annual VHPA Reunion  
New Orleans, LA  
31 July – 5 August 2012  
Hilton New Orleans Riverside

*It's New Orleans - you're different here!*



## INSIDE THE HOTEL EVENTS:

### 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Daily

Mini-reunions and unit TOCs (Tactical Operation Centers) We have set aside a group of business rooms that will be dedicated to specific groups for as little time as one hour all the way to the full length of the reunion. We encourage groups (units, flight classes, etc.) to co-locate their reunions with the VHPA to avoid the time and expense to put on their own reunions. These groups can participate fully in all of the VHPA events while maintaining autonomy. Please check our web site at <http://www.vhpa.org> for details or to reserve space for your mini-reunion. This is a great way to reconnect with your past.

### 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Daily

New this year is the "O Club". This replaces the honor keg room and provides a meeting place to relax and enjoy the company of your old and new friends while partaking in an adult beverage or two from a dedicated bar with reduced prices specifically for the VHPA. This will be in a private area near the center of all activity conveniently co-located with the mini-reunion rooms.

**Historical Presentations Forums (HPF)** - Jim Fulbrook and Al Roettger have put together an interesting group of historical presentations this year. See the schedule for specific times and dates:

#### HPF#1 - History of the Americal Division -

Les Hines will explain how he collects historical information on the Americal Division and makes it available through CDs, DVDs and paper copies. While the Americal Division is an interesting subject on its own, the main value of his presentation is to learn how he has put together the information. Les has the ability to reprint unit albums and has about 60 1:50,000 maps with LZs marked on them that he got from pilots. Using S2 and S3 reports from the National Archives, he has marked battles as well as LZs on these maps. He has acquired an amazing amount of information and provides the perfect model for how to do this type of historical research. The key is to make it available to others and he can teach you how to do that.

#### HPF#2 - Combat Search and Rescue in Viet-

nam. Tom Phillips, a career Navy helicopter pilot and Vietnam combat veteran - a Seawolf of HA(L)-3 - will speak, supported by slides, on US combat rescue operations mostly over North Vietnam and Laos. He is coauthor of "Leave No Man Behind: The Saga of Combat Search and Rescue" which recounts the history of combat SAR from

World War I through OEF in 2003. The presentation will deal largely with USAF and USN squadrons assigned the dedicated mission of combat rescue of downed allied aircrew. While the name Jolly Green Giant is relatively well known today, the names Big Mother, Sandy, Pedro, and Clementine and others are less well known but equally deserving of recognition. The full story of Vietnam CSAR has never before been collected and presented and the presentation will deliver material and history not seen in books, film, or even the History Channel.

**HPF#3 - The Vietnam Center and Archives** - representatives from Texas Tech University will update us on the Vietnam Archives and explain how to preserve your personal Vietnam War experience. The Vietnam Center and Archive collects and preserves the documentary record of the Vietnam War, and supports and encourages research and education regarding all aspects of the American Vietnam Experience. This is the official archives of the VHPA.

**HPF#4 - "The Battle of Kontum, 1972 Easter Offensive"** - Lt. Col. John G. "Jack" Heslin (U.S. Army, retired), the author, will speak about this battle 40 years after the event. On March 30, 1972, the Army of North Vietnam (NVA) invaded South Vietnam. The battle that had been in the making for years had finally begun. The enemy opened three major fronts. The first was in I Corps where he sent 30,000 troops streaming across the DMZ. The second was in III Corps where the enemy attacked out of his Cambodian sanctuaries and tried to capture the city of An Loc. The third was in II Corps where two NVA divisions tried to capture the provincial capital of Kontum. This book is a collection of personal reflections by friends, family and survivors of the Battle of Kontum as told to Jack Heslin.

**HPF#5 - Fallen: But Not Forgotten** - Mike Sprayberry (CMOH) will show a documentary about his quest to locate six MIAs. In October 1969, then-Lieutenant Mike Sprayberry received the nation's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his heroic efforts during a harrowing nighttime rescue in the A Shau Valley. But over the four subsequent decades, Sprayberry has remained determined to find the six lost men from this mission and bring them home, returning twice to Vietnam in search of evidence to initiate a formal recovery effort by the U.S. Army. This documentary profiles Sprayberry's most recent trip to Vietnam. Family members of the six men killed in action and their comrades together share the loss and immense frustration but also the undying hope that one day these fallen soldiers may finally come home. This documentary is produced by award-winning CBS News

cameraman Norman Lloyd and his foundation, the Commitment and Sacrifice Foundation ([www.candsfoundation.org](http://www.candsfoundation.org)).

### 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, 1 August

### 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday, 3 August

**Poker Tournament I & II** - This is an opportunity to exercise your skill at the table while spending time with your old and new friends in a friendly game of poker. Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund.

### 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, 1 August

### 3 Charmers of New Orleans Comedy Show -

The 3 Charmers are amazingly funny comedians that bring the unique taste of New Orleans with its relentless spirit to the stage. The show features characters with personalities that are unforgettable because they are true New Orleanians and express that with their New Orleans accents on stage in a funny way. New Orleans has had its fair share of obstacles in recent years, from Hurricane Katrina to the BP Oil Spill. Yet, here is a culture that refuses to go away, and holds on tight to preserve its place as one of the most unique cities in the world. This production stages stand-up comedy along with skits that will take you through the trials that New Orleans is having to overcome, and mixes it with the joy of being able to still call their city home. The heart-warming skits feature Ms. Inez Lappicola (played by Becky Allen) who says how she lost everything in the wake of Katrina and her dearest friend Ms. Loyce Cangelosi (Amanda Hebert) who stands by her friends trials through it all. Then the stand-up comedy of Jodi Borrello will share the meaning of the family unit in New Orleans with the type of humor like no other. By the end of the show you will come to love these ladies! Don't miss this evening of laughter presented by 3 women who are proud to share and interact with you why they are never going to leave their hometown.

### 10:45 a.m. – Noon, Thursday, 2 August

**Military Writers' Panel Discussion** - organized by John Penny our book reviewer and David Adams our magazine editor. We're changing the format from last year's "talk" to pulling together a "panel discussion" of 4 to 5 successful VHPA authors who have just published their own new book. John Penny will lead the discussion concerning how these new authors broke into the writing business, how they found an agent to champion their work and how they selected a publisher to print their book. We'll try to cover all the good things, as well as many of the potential pitfalls these men have encountered in bringing their dreams to life. Thinking of writing a book? Want to share it with others? Want to make some money doing it? Then reserve your seat at this year's Military Writer's panel discussion.



**8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Thursday, 2 August**  
**Dustoff Legacy Documentary Premiere** - by Arrowhead Films, producers of *In The Shadow Of The Blade*. This documentary will compare Dustoff operations in Afghanistan with Vietnam. Movie director Pat Fries traveled to Afghanistan to film today's version of Dustoff. The Unit he filmed was commanded by Major Patrick Zenk, whose father Bruce (now deceased) served in the original Vietnam War Dustoff unit and inspired his son to follow in his footsteps. It will touch your heart as you see today's helicopter flight crews save the lives of our young soldiers just as we did over 40 years ago. Dustoff dates back to the Korean War and was more fully developed during the Vietnam War, resulting in an unprecedented survival rate for combat injured troops. Today, an American marine or soldier wounded in action has a 95% chance of surviving, due in large part to the rapid response of highly trained helicopter medical evacuation crews.

**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Friday, 3 August**  
**Gold Star Family Breakfast** - 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.

**9:00 a.m. – Noon Friday, 3 August**  
**Annual Business Meeting (ABM)** – This is

when we conduct the official business of the association. On Friday morning you will hear committee chairman give reports on their activities over the past year and you will have the opportunity to vote on administrative issues and 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.

**8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Friday, 3 August**  
**In the Shadow of the Blade (ITSOTB)** 10th Anniversary Celebration of the filming of this award winning documentary. This documentary got its start at the VHPA 2000 reunion in Washington, DC. Many of the "stars" of the show and crew members will be in attendance along with a special "director's cut" of the film. *In the Shadow of the Blade* follows a combat UH-1 "Huey" helicopter across America to tell the stories of Vietnam veterans and their families. The Huey used in this documentary is now on display in the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, DC. ITSOTB has become a powerful catalyst for emotional healing, reconciliation, and tribute as veterans share, reflect, and demonstrate to the world that one can "hate war, but love the American warrior."

**8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Saturday, 4 August**  
**Memorial Service** - organized by secretary/treasurer Tom Payne and VHPA member

Gary Rossomme. It is the perfect setting and opportunity to reflect and remember our fallen.

**5:45 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 4 August**  
**Closing Banquet** - The highlight for most reunion attendees is our closing banquet on Saturday night. 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, Mike Law to the new one, John Sorensen after the meal. Entertainment will be a brass band playing tunes from our youth. For those who just want to visit, there will be a comfortable place just outside the banquet hall where it will be less noisy during the dance.

Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of these events. Also the HPF presenters will have their books, CDs and DVDs for sale in the vendor room throughout the reunion.

Check our web site at  
<http://www.vhpa.org> for the latest and greatest reunion information. Please sign up now so you do not miss out on those events that are capacity restricted.

Gary Roush  
*webmaster@vhpa.org*  
*National Reunion Committee Chairman*



**MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS (MHT)** is proud to offer VHPA two choices in 2012 for our moving tours back to Vietnam. Come back with brother VHPA Aviators to visit places that have deep meaning for all helicopter pilots; names like: Saigon, Cu Chi, Dong Tam, Phuoc Vinh, Bien Hoa, An Loc, Long Bien, Da Nang, Vung Tau, Quang Tri, An Khe, Pleiku, Tay Ninh, Dong Ha, Song Be, China Beach, Khe Sanh, Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue City, Quy Nhon, and many more. Our 15-day tour for **Only \$2495** for 2012. Register now to get back in country.

*Contact us for brochures and tour details:*  
 13198 Centrepointe Way, Suite 202  
 Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285  
 703-590-1295 \* 800-722-9501  
[mhtours@miltours.com](mailto:mhtours@miltours.com) \* [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com)



Above: Julie Kink & MHT Tour Leader Ed Gatt in Orlando at the VHPA Reunion! Ed has been back 90+ times.

**Vietnam Helo Operations**  
**"Rotorheads Return"**  
 25 Aug—8 Sep 2012 &  
 ★ **NEW TOUR: 20 APR—4 MAY 2012**  
**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR 1962—UH-21 TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES & OPERATION "SHUFly"**  
*Start of Helicopter Operations in Vietnam*  
 Tour Leader: John Powell, 1/9 Cav  
*Your dollars still go far today!*





# Take a Leadership Role in the VHPA

Do you have the time to participate on the VHPA Executive Council? The VHPA leadership circle is the focal point for executing and ensuring the association's mission, and is made up by members just like you. Your Executive Council (EC) consists of six members: past President, presiding President, Vice President, and three members-at-large (senior, mid-term and junior).

Executive Council participation is interesting. It provides a portal to understanding and assisting the efforts that create successful national reunions, year after year, and gives you the chance to assist in the long term VHPA effort to ensure a complete historical legacy and enduring scholarship program. The mechanics of EC activities include a monthly telephone conference call to discuss and make administrative decisions on VHPA functions, and frequent e-mails to share details of ongoing activities.

An election is held each year at the Annual Business Meeting to fill the positions of Vice President (VP) and Junior Member at Large, and each brings a three-year commitment to ensure leadership continuity. The elected VP candidate will serve the first year as Vice President, the following year as President, and the final year as Immediate Past President; the elected Member at Large will serve one year as Junior, one year as Midterm, and one year as Senior Member at Large.

The requirement for candidates is straightforward: the individual must be an active member for one year prior to the first day of the 2012 annual VHPA National Reunion. The nomination process is easy, as well. You may personally volunteer or you may nominate another active VHPA member who is willing to serve. The nomina-

tion, however, must be received in writing (e-mail or letter) by the VHPA EC Junior-Member at Large not later than midnight, June 15, 2012.

The election will take place at the Annual Business Meeting during the 2012 reunion in New Orleans, LA. Candidates for all positions must be in attendance, complete rules for conducting the election will be provided in the application packet.

Executive Council members have specific duties, but all are expected to attend and assist during the annual national reunion, participate at the annual business meeting, be available for the monthly conference call and actively attend to VHPA interests. Since you are expected to attend and serve at the reunions, the hotel is contracted to provide you with complimentary accommodations.

To volunteer, nominate, or to discuss the EC duties and election process, please contact Clyde Romero, our current Junior Member at Large and Election Coordinator. He will provide you with an application packet and form to complete and return. The nominee form details basic biographical information which will be posted to the VHPA website by June 20, 2012. This notice itself fulfills VHPA policy to notify members and to seek nominees for the Vice President and Junior Member at Large positions. My contact information is:

Clyde Romero

Email [Clyderomero4@bellsouth.net](mailto:Clyderomero4@bellsouth.net)

Cell 678 641 9932

*The VHPA remains successful through the work of volunteers just like you. Please consider contributing the gift of your time and enthusiasm and volunteer to serve on the VHPA Executive Council.*

*New Orleans is back from Katrina (continued from page 8)*  
dance band playing tunes from our youth.

We are meeting in New Orleans during the hurricane season so it is important to understand our cancellation and refund policy. The Hilton and the city of New Orleans have learned from Katrina and have put in place evacuation procedures to use in case of a threatening hurricane so you will not end up in the Super Dome with no food and water in the unlikely event of a hurricane while we are there. The reunion cutoff date is 11 July 2012. This means that full refunds can be received minus a \$15 cancellation fee if cancellations are received by HQ before noon on 11 July 2012. This is also the date our room block and special room rate in the hotel expires. Please note that this is three weeks before the beginning of the reunion. After that date, you can use our Cancellation Waiver Program for an additional fee. For details, go to <http://www.vhpa.org> Travel expenses are not the responsibility of the VHPA so if you are concerned about that financial exposure, you need to make other arrangements to cover potential cancellations.

For those of you flying to the reunion there are a few options for transportation to your hotel. You may consider a taxi, which will cost about \$35 each way. We have arranged for special discounted transportation rates with Airport Shuttle New Orleans. The discounted rate is \$35 per person round trip or \$20 per person one way. Reservations need to be made in advance on-line. See <http://www.vhpa.org> for a link to their site. After the initial online reservation, changes can be made by calling Airport Shuttle New Orleans on 866-596-2699.

There are several options for traveling around New Orleans. The hotel is located about 3/4 mile from the French Quarter, and close to many other downtown attractions (maps will be available at regis-

tration). You may want to walk to some of the closer attractions, remember the weather will be very hot and humid, don't forget to take bottled water. Taxis are also available at the hotel 24 hours a day. You may want to consider one of the historic streetcars. The Rapid Transit Authority offers three streetcar lines: the St. Charles line, the Canal Street line, and the Riverfront line. All lines either run along or intersect with Canal Street in the area between the French Quarter and the Central Business District (CBD). The streetcar is a fun and economical way to get around the city, and offer relaxing views of the beauty, charm and history of New Orleans for little cost. The streetcar fare is \$1.25 for adults and \$.40 for seniors each way (exact change is needed). Streetcar maps will be available at registration.

For hotel reservations, please use the special link on our web site at <http://www.vhpa.org>

Having difficulty getting around or need a wheelchair? That is no reason to miss this reunion. Home Medical Equipment and Supplies has made special arrangements with the Hilton to provide regular and powered wheelchairs for your use. To reserve a chair, please see <http://www.mrwheelchair.com/> or contact them by phone at 800-548-9672.

That's it. Check our web site at <http://www.vhpa.org> for the latest and greatest reunion information. Please sign up now so you do not miss out on those events that are capacity restricted.

Gary Roush

[webmaster@vhpa.org](mailto:webmaster@vhpa.org)

National Reunion Committee Chairman



# VHPA 29th Annual Reunion • New Orleans, LA • July 31 – August 5, 2012

## NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Information and register online at [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org) or mail completed form  
to: VHPA Headquarters, 407 W. College St., Grapevine, TX 76051-5218

Voice (817) 778-4827  
Toll Free (800) 505-VHPA (8472)  
Email [HQ@vhpa.org](mailto:HQ@vhpa.org)  
Fax (954) 301-0742

Member name:	Member No.:	Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Address:		Address change? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
City:	State:	Zip:
Email address:	Telephone: (    )	
Wife/guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Guest name:	Hometown:	21 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Wheelchair? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

EVENT	#Attending	Price	Total
Registration through 4/30/12*		@\$40	
Registration 5/1/12 and after*		@\$50	
Registration for under age 21		@\$15	
Group Dinner at Mulate's (July 31)		@\$45	
Early Bird Reception (July 31)		No Charge	
New Orleans City & French Quarter #1 (Aug 1)		@\$45	
WWII Museum (only) Tour#1 (Aug 1)		@\$39	
WWII Museum, Victory Belles & Lunch (Aug 1)		@\$79	
New Orleans, Victory Belles & Lunch (Aug 1)		@\$99	
Victory Belles Show & Lunch (only) (Aug 1)		@\$65	
Poker Tournament #1 (Aug 1)		@\$25	
1st Time Attendee Reception (Aug 1)		No Charge	
Welcome Reception (Aug 1)		No Charge	
3 Charmers Comedy Show (Aug 1)		@\$15	
Golf Tournament with Breakfast & Lunch (Aug 2)		@\$95	
Plantations Tour & Lunch (Aug 2)		@\$99	
New Orleans City & French Quarter #2 (Aug 2)		@\$45	
New Orleans City & Lunch Cruise (Aug 2)		@\$75	
Paddlewheel Lunch Cruise (only) (Aug 2)		@\$50	
Military Writers' Panel Discussion (Aug 2)		No Charge	
Mardi Gras & Mayhem Tour #1 (Aug 2)		@\$55	
Mardi Gras World Dinner (Aug 2)		@\$90	
Dustoff Documentary Premiere (Aug 2)		@\$7	
KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast (Aug 3)		@\$26	
Gold Star Breakfast Sponsorship (Aug 3)		@\$26	
Annual Business Meeting (Aug 3)		No Charge	
Spouse/Guest Cooking Demo & Lunch (Aug 3)		@\$49	
New Orleans City & French Quarter #3 (Aug 3)		@\$45	
Quilters Outing (Aug 3)		No Charge	
WWII Museum (only) Tour #2 (Aug 3)		@\$39	
French Quarter Transportation (only) (Aug 3)		@\$15	
Poker Tournament #2 (Aug 3)		@\$25	
In The Shadow of The Blade Screening (Aug 3)		@\$10	
Memorial Service (Aug 4)		No Charge	
Hands-on Cooking Class (Aug 4)		@\$165	
WWII Museum Tour #3 (Aug 4)		@\$39	
Mardi Gras & Mayhem Tour #2 (Aug 4)		@\$55	
Closing Banquet (Aug 4)		@\$74	
Closing Banquet - Child (Aug 4)		@\$15	
Non-Registered Guest at Banquet (Aug 4)		@\$90	
Total From Sidebars	XXXXX	XXXXX	
VHPA Dues (if not dues current)	1 year	@\$36	
VHPA Dues (if not dues current)	3 years	@\$99	
Life membership (Call HQ for exact amount)			
2012 CD or Paper Directory Fee		@\$10	
Mult. Year CD or Paper Directory Fee (# of Years x \$10)			

**GRAND TOTAL \$**

HPF event fee \$25.00  
*One \$25.00 PER FAMILY fee buys access to every one of the five HPF events for 2012. It also buys a DVD of all of last year's sessions.*  
**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**T-Shirts** **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_S@\$18 \_\_\_M@\$18 \_\_\_L@\$18  
 \_\_\_XL@\$18 \_\_\_XXL@\$19 \_\_\_XXXL@\$20

**Banquet Meal**  
 \_\_\_Beef \_\_\_Fish \_\_\_Vegetable

**Voluntary Contributions:**  
 VHPA Membership Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 VHPA Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 VHPA General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vietnam War Museum \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 VHPA Reunion Sponsorship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REFUND POLICY**  
 IMPORTANT: Please review the details of the Refund Policy, including the limited opportunity to purchase a Refund Guaranty available only on a one-time basis at the time of registration, which is posted online at the official VHPA website: [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org)

**Refund Guarantee Fee**  
 (10% of Total Events) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION CANCELLATION DATE IS NOON, CST, 11 JULY 2012.**  
**IMPORTANT: Please review Reunion Refund & Cancellation Policy carefully**

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**  
 MC/Visa #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYMENT**  
*In lieu of a credit card, you can mail a check or money order payable to "VHPA" with form.*

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



# LOOKING FOR



## *Looking for information on the Battle of Dong Xoai, June 10, 1965*

I have been doing research on the Battle of Dong Xoai and I recently found a paperback book about the battle which some of the rescued soldiers apparently collaborated on, but I would like to know more about the entire battle and whether there were other Special Forces soldiers injured in the fighting.

According to reports I have read from the 118th Aviation Company history, three helicopters made a daring rescue of 9 wounded SF soldiers who were trapped and out of ammunition. Major Harvey Stewart, CO of the 118th, made the decision to go in and rescue the remaining SF personnel early in the afternoon of June 10. Other 118th names that were included in the report were Ralph Orlando who provided notes from his diary, and Joe D Newsome Jack Waters and Jack Grasmeder, who also included photos. And while I have read several reports of this terrible battle, I would appreciate any more specific information, or pictures, that your members could provide.

I also am seeking information about similar attacks on other Special Forces camps near the Cambodian border at about that same period of time. It is difficult to find this information, but since helicopter units assisted in these rescues, I'm hoping members of your Association could be a good source.

*Sincerely,*

Ruth Verlinde  
E-Mail: Ruthver@aol.com

## *Looking for information men who knew Gene Armour,*

Danny Gene Armour, Flight School Class 70-09, died May 19th, 1985 in a scuba diving accident. I am his daughter and would appreciate any pictures or shared memories of him that your Membership might be able to share. I wish I could supply more information but I'm afraid almost nothing remains.

*Thank you for your service,*

Danna Johnson MS, ATC, LAT  
ATEP Clinical Coordinator. Cumberland University  
E-Mail: djohnson@cumberland.edu

## *Looking for the men who saved my life.*

In February of 1968 my company was airlifted from the Saigon area into Phu Bai. We immediately set out on foot traveling alongside Highway 1 towards Hue. On 25 February 1968, at grid co-ordinate YD771177 we came under heavy mortar and small-arms fire and me and several members of my unit were all shot to hell. Minutes later the prettiest Huey I had ever seen landed and took myself and several others from my Unit to the hospital in Da Nang.

*I just wanted to say THANKS for saving my life!*

Jim Schmidt  
E-Mail: jeschmidt\_ch@yahoo.com  
B Co, 2/327 Infantry & A Co. 3/506 Infantry, 101st ABN Div

## *Letters to the Editor*

### *An Offer to the Members of the VHPA,*

After too many years of collecting too many things, I'm finally getting rid of some things that I no longer want or need. One of the things is a number of back issues of Vietnam magazine. I know that I'm missing some of the issues and may even have duplicates of a few issues, but most of the issues are there from the Nov-Dec, 1998 issue on up to the present. If anybody out there wants this collection, you're more than welcome to them for the price of shipping. I suspect that they would all fit in two flat-rate priority boxes so they'd ship to anywhere in the USPS network for less than \$10. They're all in excellent shape and only have my address marked through. You can give me a call at (253) 858-5916 or drop me a line at my email address of putnam.tom@gmail.com if you're interested. If nobody wants them, then they'll end up going to recycle which I don't really want to see happen.

*Thanks in advance to anybody who responds to this*

Tom

**Editor's Note:** According to Wikipedia: Vietnam Magazine is a full-color history magazine published bi-monthly which covers the Vietnam War. It was founded in 1988 by the late Colonel Harry G. Summers, Jr. Colonel Summers served in the U.S. Army in both Korea and Vietnam, where he was twice wounded and decorated for valor. The current editor is David T. Zabecki, a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve and presently the Deputy Chief of Staff for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs for U.S. Army Europe. Contributors to Vietnam include journalists, military historians, political analysts and the commanders and men who served. Many articles are first-person accounts of combat operations, including personal interviews with enlisted men and officers, and specs on units and weaponry. Vietnam is published in Leesburg, Va., by the Weider History Group.

### *To the Editor of the VHPA Aviator,*

Having been a Life Member for some time I have sat silently by, reading the content of your publication, and am generally very pleased with its content.

I have not attended a reunion because I have so little in common with the general population of the membership. I served "in-country" for only 9 months. Only 20 days after arriving in Vietnam, on November 11th, 1967, I received a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat (to quote Monty Python "it was only a flesh wound"). Then my father died on July 4th, 1968 and my brother, who was also in Vietnam flying fighter jets at the time, said one of us must go home and take over our dad's farm. My brother convinced me that it should be me. Because of all this, I never really developed any friendships or camaraderie with anyone in my unit.

*This is a long way around to get to the real purpose of my letter.*

45 Years ago I was amazed that in WORWAC FLT School I was surrounded by a large group of guys that thought as I did, who saw humor in the same things I did and enjoyed the same relaxation events as I. Twenty years later it occurred to me that the commonality of those feelings was probably due to the Army's testing process that had initially grouped us all together and was tempered by the experiences we were all sharing.

Now 45 years, from my beginning this journey, I thank VHPA for TAPS that gives me a look ahead. Not because of where I was or what I did, but just because I was in a lucky sub-set of the population of likes, dislikes, and aptitude that was created years ago and who, undoubtedly, will succumb to the same similar maladies in the future. The dice started rolling in the 60's and because we started all the same, we to will end up all the same. "Brothers in the beginning and Brothers in the end"

RD Cranmer, Class 67-15  
E-Mail: woxofavn@gmail.com



## Members of the Arizona Chapter of the VHPA :

I know that it's been a long time since we have gotten together. I totally accept the responsibility for the lack of our activities. Sometimes life gets a little busy.

Over this length of time since we have gotten together VHPA members have moved or changed e-mail addresses. Some have gone to other states and we have had some new people interested in our group. I want to get everyone that wants to come together again. For this I need to get an update from people in Arizona on their current mailing address, e-mail address and phone number. If you do not have e-mail, you can call me at my home phone: 480-354-1135 or my cell phone: 480-204-1417. If we are not available, you can leave a message with your info. (I am still working.) If you have called me recently, please call again so I can get you on the updated list. My e-mail address is heavyhogah1g@cox.net.

I would have liked to get together for this Christmas, but again, we have run out of time. My intention is to have a meeting in the March/April time frame.

Carroll Vanick, our Secretary/Treasurer and I have been doing this for a while and now we're looking for anyone who has the enthusiasm for the positions and would like to take over as President, Vice-President and Sec/Tres. If anyone would like to volunteer for these positions, please let me know.

*Sincerely,*

Bill Sorenson, Griffin 83  
President, Arizona Chapter of the VHPA

## BACK HOME TO "MOTHER RUCKER"

....by Moon Mullen, Senior Member-At-Large

I graduated from H-34 Flight School with class of 61-10, that's an even 50 years ago for you late-to-the party whip'per-snappers! On November 19th of this year I returned to Fort Rucker to attend the Annual Reunion of the CHPA (The Combat Helicopter Pilots Association) that was HQ'ed in Enterprise, Alabama. (Note to self: Why in the world didn't you buy some of that cheap peanut farm land outside Enterprise? You could have sold it to Wal-Mart or Home Depot and done a heck of a lot better than in this market!)

But I digress, The CHPA are just a great bunch of people and a nice mix of both new and old aviators. And Fort Rucker really laid out the red carpet for us, the town of Enterprise provided the buses and my special thanks special thanks to Rick Roll who put the reunion together.

My favorite events were the time we spent in and around the Blackhawk demo on the flight line and the luncheon at the Army Aviation Museum. The restored aircraft are fantastic, and of course my favorite was the H-37 which I flew in Nam in 1963-64. Just seeing it brought back many memories, a few which were even good!

The CHPA is planning another Reunion for October 2012, this time for Washington, DC. Watch for their ad in the Aviator, or check their website. Then join up and join us! You will not be disappointed!

## INTERESTING LINKS FLOATING AROUND THE INTERNET

Here's a link to the new "Virtual Tour" of the US Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. You can click on the upper right hand corner of the opening MAP to bring down a menu of the different visual sites within the museum, then click on a dot within that site to view the exhibits from that camera angle. You then follow (click on) the directional arrows as though you were swiveling the camera itself.

<http://www.nmusafvirtualtour.com/full/tour-pkg.html>

An Air & Space Magazine interview with Capt. Eric Brown. He holds the world's record for most types of aircraft flown (487) and the record for most carrier landings (2,407). He ended up his career working civilian helicopter operations.

<http://www.airspacemag.com/history-of-flight/AS-Interview-Captain-Eric-Brown.html>

Video of the Dutch Army's AH-64 Apache aircraft drill team:

<http://www.military.com/video/aircraft/helicopters/dutch-ah-64d-apache-solo-display-team/1004466302001/#.TnqtNzQm4Tu.gmail>

## COMBAT HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION



DUTY · HONOR · COURAGE · NEVER EVER FORGET

DUTY · HONOR · COURAGE · NEVER EVER FORGET

CHPA is an all-service, non-profit, military association of active duty, NG, Reserve, and former U.S. combat rotary wing pilots from all wars.

Our purpose is Unity, Legacy, and Remembrance of our fallen comrades.

For Information on Preserving Our Legacy, visit the web site or request a brochure from our HQ in Washington, DC.

[www.CHPA-US.org](http://www.CHPA-US.org)

Combat Helicopter Pilots Association  
PO Box 42  
Divide CO 80814-0042

COMBAT HELICOPTER  
PILOTS ASSOCIATION

# BELL HELICOPTER 66-15107 - AN UH-1C HOUSATON

*by Ed McKee*



66-15107 as she appeared in Vietnam while serving with the 191st. The Mother Goose artwork was done by Specialist Richard Weske who was later killed in Vietnam.



Mother Goose while on display at the Pulaski Technical College in Georgia. She was well on her way to being declared surplus and eligible for scraping when saved by the members of VFW Post 9095.



Skip Waugh, Mother Goose's first Crew Chief and Richard Weske.



# HUEY GUNSHIP NAMED MOTHER GOOSE

In 1967, the 191st Assault Helicopter Company left the United States for deployment to Vietnam.....and Bell Helicopter 66-15107 was assigned to the 191st shortly after the unit established its first "home" in Vietnam at Bearcat base camp.

As you know, back in those days it was fairly common for the aircrews give their helicopters a name, and that name would oftentimes come to represent the feelings that the crews who flew those Huey helicopters in combat had for those magnificent machines. In our case, the name that her first aircrew gave to Bell Helicopter 66-15107 was "Mother Goose".

Upon arrival in Vietnam, Mother Goose's first Aircraft Commander was Stanley Cherrie (who eventually rose to the rank of General), Skip Waugh was its first Crew Chief and Rich Fleming was the aircraft's first door gunner. The Gunship served two tours in Vietnam with a trip back for rebuild in between, and served with the 191st until July of 1970. After a short stint for in-country rebuild, she went on to serve with various helicopter units, among them the 162nd AHC, the 134th AHC and the 338th TC until 1972. Then the aircraft's history records become sort of "sketchy" through March of 1973 when entries made by Air America start appearing in its log. Evidently the ship was one of 10 Charlie-Models based in Udorn, Thailand and were being flown by 26 Thai pilots on medivac missions to support the Tai Unity volunteer forces who were fighting in Laos, especially in MR2. Their call sign was White Horse and the aircraft's color scheme was overall olive drab with no national insignia and only a White Horse painted on their nose. This assignment for 069 lasted till the unit's stand down in 1973.

Back stateside, 069 floated around among various National Guard assignments until she was declared surplus and eventually she became a "Gate Guard" display aircraft at the Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, Arkansas. In 2007, even Pulaski Tech could no longer utilize this great aircraft and like so many of her sisters, she transitioned into "available for scrapping" status and that's where her story would have ended if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of several fine men of VFW Post 9095 in Little Rock, Arkansas. They successfully completed the seemingly mountains of paperwork required to obtain possession of the old girl, got her another trip through re-work and painting and built her a magnificent display pedestal for all to enjoy there in Little Rock. And that's where the story of 069 might have happily ended if it wasn't for the efforts of Tim Gould,

another member of the 191st that had come to love our "Mother Goose".

I had gone to High School with Tim in Northern Indiana but I had not seen him in 49 years. Tim had spent a lot of hours tracking down 069 and he eventually learned that she now resided in Little Rock under the care of VFW Post 9095. From there, Tim arranged for a meeting with the two of us with the leaders of post 9095 and that meeting culminated with the VFW becoming interested in having the Mother Goose art, the 191st insignia and her other markings restored to look like she was still serving with the 191st in Vietnam.

We have now dug up what information we have on-file of the design of the 191st Vietnam Unit Markings, unfortunately the artist who did Mother Goose's artwork, Richard Weske from California, was killed in Vietnam. We believe that Bell Helicopter is also going to help us in returning the Goose to its original paint specs and we are anxiously awaiting word from their executive team on just what they are willing to do for us.

But one day soon "Mother Goose" will be restored to her former glory and myself, Stan Cherrie, Skip Waugh, and Rich Fleming will gather together once again and drink a toast to our friends who have gone ahead before us.

Ed McKee  
E-mail: [ed@atsweb.net](mailto:ed@atsweb.net)

*Additional information about the 191st and many of the people involved in this story can be obtained from the 191st website, which is located at: [www.191ahc.org](http://www.191ahc.org), there is a video slideshow on the front page of the website showing Skip and Rich presenting a silver pilot's wing bracelet, and a letter of appreciation to Bud Patnode, the 191st AHC's first combat commander, and the first president of the 191st AHC Association. Also on the front page of the website is a slide show of many of the personnel of the 191st who were privileged to fly Mother Goose in combat. Bill Janes, the Vice President of the 191st AHC Association and the creator of the 191st website, can be reached at: Email: [billyj@191ahc.org](mailto:billyj@191ahc.org)*



Rich Fleming, Mother Goose's first Door Gunner in Vietnam in 1967.



66-15107 as she appears today courtesy of VFW Post 9095 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

# WELCOME TO THE VHPA!

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

Line 1, Last, first, MI and/or nickname of new member; double asterisks (\*\*) ID new life members

Line 2, his current city and state, branch of service

Line 3 -5 , his (Flight) Class and Vietnam (VN) Unit(s) served with, if that info is available

We Welcome 74 new Members to our Association in this issue. They have all joined the VHPA during the time frame of October 5th through November 2nd, 2011.

Avery, Charlie J.  
Canby, Oregon, US Army  
Flight Class: 68-12 68-18  
Vietnam Unit(s): 238 AVN in 69

Baggott, David L. 'Dave'  
Champaign, Illinois, US Army  
Flight Class: 69-35  
Vietnam Unit(s): 21 SIG GRP in 70-71

Bailey, John C. 'Beetle'  
Loomis, California, US Army  
Flight Class: 69-5  
Vietnam Unit(s): 174 AHC in 69-70

Berg, James R. 'Jim'  
San Antonio, Texas, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: 67-8  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-265 in 69-70

Boerman George F. 'Boomer'  
San Marcos, Texas, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: 54-14  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-365 in 64-65

Brown, Herman C. "Charlie" Brown'  
Grand Isle, Vermont, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: Dec 59  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-261 in 63  
HMM-262 in 68; MAG-39 in 68-69

Bullock, John 'Sonny'  
O Fallon, Missouri, US Navy  
Flight Class: 65 (USN)  
Vietnam Unit(s): SEAL TEAM 1 in 66-68

Cain, Frederick H. 'Fred'  
Troy, Alabama, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: V65-26  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-463 in 67-68

Chilton, Richard S. \*\*  
Orlando, Florida, US Army  
Flight Class: 63-4W 63-4  
Vietnam Unit(s): 1/9 CAV in 65-66

Dunn, Charles R. 'Ray'  
Wynantskill, New York, US Air Force  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Engel, Donald F.  
Chicago, Illinois, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-363 in 67  
1/9 MARINES in 67-68

Flynn, Neil F.  
Bradenton, Florida, US Army  
Flight Class: 70-38  
Vietnam Unit(s): D/3/5 CAV in 71  
F/8 CAV in 72

Graham, Robert L.  
Fairfax, Virginia, US Army  
Flight Class: 58-4FW  
Vietnam Unit(s): D/3/4 CAV in 66

Grimm, Marc E.  
Elk Grove, California, US Army  
Flight Class: 68-8 68-10  
Vietnam Unit(s): D/229 AHB 1 CAV in 68-69

Hale, Gerald L.  
Loudon, Tennessee, US Army  
Flight Class: 69-25  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Hills, Frank D.  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, US Air Force  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Honsinger, Larry E \*\*  
Leavenworth, Kansas, US Army  
Flight Class: 61-3FW 63-1QC  
Vietnam Unit(s): 52 AL PLATOON in  
64-65; HHC/222 AVN in 67-68

Jamison, Philip Charles 'Phil'  
Rockville, Maryland, US Navy  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): HA(L)-3 in 71-72

Long, William J. 'Bill'  
Flemington, New Jersey, US Army  
Flight Class: 66-8  
Vietnam Unit(s): ACT/11 ACR in 66-67

Loughman, Gary F  
Houston, Texas, US Army  
Flight Class: 65-5  
Vietnam Unit(s): 232 SIG CO in 62-63  
B/227 AHB 1 CAV in 67-68

Lund, Robert E.  
Plano, Texas, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Manning, Michael E  
Doylestown, Ohio, US Army  
Flight Class: 66-19  
Vietnam Unit(s): 161 AHC in 67  
117 AHC in 71-72

Mills, Freddie J.  
Lawrenceville, Georgia, US Army  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): 498 MED CO in 65-66  
57 MED DET in 68-69

Moses, George W.  
Tyler, Texas, US Army  
Flight Class: 57-12  
Vietnam Unit(s): HHC 14 CAB in 64-65  
HHC 269 CAB in 67; 21 AVN in 67-68

Mundis, George B.  
San Antonio, Texas, US Army  
Flight Class: 63-1W  
Vietnam Unit(s): 73 AVN in 64-65  
539 TC CO in 65-67; 18 AVN in 67-68

Murphy, William F.  
Easton, Kansas, US Army  
Flight Class: 67-26  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Noyes, Charles E. 'Chuck'  
North Aurora, Illinois, US Air Force  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Perry, Clarence R. 'Bob'  
West Chester, Ohio, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-162 in 60-61  
HMM-165 in 66-67; H&MS-17 in 70-71

Plamondon, Robert A. 'Bob'  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island,  
US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: 50  
Vietnam Unit(s): VMO-2 in 66-67

Saban, Michael J.  
South Padre Island, Texas, US Army  
Flight Class: 70-24 70-22  
Vietnam Unit(s): 128 AHC in 70-71

Schnee, Frank W.  
Robeson, Pennsylvania, US Air Force  
Flight Class: 60-E  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Schrage, Daniel P. 'Dan'  
Atlanta, Georgia, US Army  
Flight Class: 69-44  
Vietnam Unit(s): 162 AHC in 70

Scroggins, Donald R. 'Pappy'  
Shreveport, Louisiana, US Army  
Flight Class: 67-16  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Sellers, Wiley J. \*\*  
Brooklyn, Mississippi, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-164 in 66-67  
HMM-262 in 69-70

Shallcross, Walter W. 'Walt'  
Hubert, North Carolina, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: 70-34  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-165 in 72

Shapiro, Bruce L. \*\*  
Lebanon, New Jersey, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-261 in 65-66;  
HMM-164 in 69-70; HMM-263 in 69-70  
HMH-463 in 72-73

Sharkey, Daniel \*\*  
Darien, Connecticut, US Army  
Flight Class: 70-34  
Vietnam Unit(s): 498 MED CO in 70  
236 MED DET in 70; 571 MED DET in 71

Silvey, Bruce D. \*\*  
Saint Petersburg, Florida, US Army  
Flight Class: 62-7FW 66-QC  
Vietnam Unit(s): 17 AVN in 65; 17 CAG  
in 66; 173 ABN BDE in 68-69

Simpson, Nathan C.  
Loudon, Tennessee, US Army  
Flight Class: 67-7  
Vietnam Unit(s): 17 AHC in 67-68  
120 AHC in 70-71

Spain, Alfred T. 'Al'  
New Roads, Louisiana, US Army  
Flight Class: 67-9  
Vietnam Unit(s): 221 AVN in 67-68

Spencer, David T.  
Long Beach, California, US Air Force  
Flight Class: 67-A  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Spitler, Allan C. 'Al'  
Abilene, Texas, US Air Force  
Flight Class: 63-E  
Vietnam Unit(s): 37 ARRS in 71-72

Stanberry, Michael L. \*\*  
Divernon, Illinois, US Army  
Flight Class: 66-17 66-15  
Vietnam Unit(s): 121 AVN in 66-67  
131 SAC in 69-70

Stem, Fred H. \*\*  
Aiken, South Carolina, US Army  
Flight Class: 68-523 68-43  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Stern, Clifford H.  
Peachtree City, Georgia, US Army  
Flight Class: 69-26  
Vietnam Unit(s): 174 AHC in 70-71

Stevenson, James H.  
Sugar Land, Texas, US Army  
Flight Class: 70-28  
Vietnam Unit not provided



**Stinson, Philip D. 'Phil'**  
**Niceville, Florida, US Air Force**  
**Flight Class: 67-H**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): 20 SOS 14 ACW**  
**in 69-70**

**Stone, Ralph R. \*\***  
**Santee South, Carolina, US Army**  
**Flight Class not provided**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Sullivan, Daniel Phil**  
**Aurora, Colorado, US Marine Corps**  
**Flight Class not provided**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-165 in 68**

**Suppok, Regis J.**  
**Mahomet, Illinois, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 67-16 67-14**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): 335 AHC in 67-68**

**Terry, Charles F. 'Chuck'**  
**Clarksville, Tennessee, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 71-10**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Terry, Michael 'Mike'**  
**Palm Bay, Florida, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 66-14**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): D/3/5 CAV in 67; D/229**  
**AHB 1 CAV in 72; HHC 17 CAG in 72-73**

Thomas, Robert A. 'Bob'  
Saint Louis, Missouri, US Marine Corps  
Flight Class: 69-48  
Vietnam Unit(s): HMH-462 in 70  
HMH-463 in 70-72  
Tragesser, Gary V.

Orofino, Idaho, US Army  
Flight Class: 70-71  
Vietnam Unit not provided

**Trent, William E. 'Bill' \*\***  
**Fairfax, Virginia, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 60**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): 128 AHC in 66**  
**HHC 11 CAB in 66-67**

**Tuggle, Earnest E.**  
**Fremont, Nebraska, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 70-26**

**Turner, Harvey L. \*\***  
**Huntingdon, Tennessee, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 63-2W**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Tyler, Robert R.**  
**Decatur, Illinois, US Marine Corps**  
**Flight Class: 70-8**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-262 in 70-71**

**Underwood, Ernest W. 'Wayne'**  
**Oxford, Georgia, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 68-510 68-16**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): A/9 AVN 9 INF in 68-69**

Walker, Thomas M. 'Tom'  
Newton, Alabama, US Army  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit(s): 57 AHC in 71

Walters, David G.  
Orlando, Florida, US Army  
Flight Class: 72-12  
Vietnam Unit not provided

Watts, Wayne E.  
Hillsborough, North Carolina, US Air  
Force  
Flight Class not provided  
Vietnam Unit not provided

**Weber, Harry R. 'Bob'**  
**Portville, New York, US Marine Corps**  
**Flight Class not provided**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-262 in 69-70**

**Weikel, Gary L. 'Welk'**  
**Shalimar, Florida, US Air Force**  
**Flight Class: 72-10AF**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): 40 ARRS in 74-75**

**Whitener, Robert C. 'Bob' \*\***  
**Brooksville, Florida, US Marine Corps**  
**Flight Class not provided**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): HMM-364 in 65-66**  
**HMM-363 in 65-66**

**Williams, Ernest R.**  
**Huntsville, Alabama, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 72-26T**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Willingham, William T. 'Tom'**  
**Highland Village, Texas, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 68-10 68-14**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Wing, Bernard D.**  
**Marshall, Minnesota, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 67-9 67-7**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Woods, Kenneth P.**  
Olympia, Washington, US Army  
Flight Class: 72-58  
Vietnam Unit(s): 62 CAC in 73

**Wynn, Dennis M.**  
**Kempner, Texas, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 67-23**  
**Vietnam Unit(s): HHC 2 BDE 25 INF**  
**in 68-69: F/9 CAV in 71-72**

**Young, Virgil H. 'Bud' \*\***  
**Clarksville, Tennessee, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 62-2W**

**Zakarija, John P. \*\***  
**Paoli, Pennsylvania, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 72-6**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Zima, Richard C.**  
**Flossmoor, Illinois, US Air Force**  
**Flight Class: 68-F**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Zucchelli, William P. \*\***  
**Columbus, Georgia, US Army**  
**Flight Class: 63-2WT**  
**Vietnam Unit not provided**

**Want to see your Buddy's name here?**  
*Contact Mike Sheuerman for help!*  
 VHPA Membership Chairman  
 Phone: 214-802-4244  
 E-Mail: [mshuerman@tx.rr.com](mailto:mshuerman@tx.rr.com)

*Taken from the pages of history...*

*sent to us by VHPA Member Malvin Handy*

In 1952, Armon M. Sweat, Jr., a member of the Texas House of Representatives, was asked about his position on whiskey. What follows is his exact answer (taken from the Political Archives of Texas):

"If you mean whiskey, the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean that evil drink that topples Christian men and women from the pinnacles of righteous and gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, shame, despair, helplessness, and hopelessness, then, my friend, I am opposed to it with every fiber of my being.

However, if by whiskey you mean the lubricant of conversation, the philosophic juice, the elixir of life, the liquid that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer, the stimulating sip that puts a little spring in the step of an elderly gentleman on a frosty morning; if you mean that drink that enables man to magnify his joy, and to forget life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrow; if you mean that drink the sale of which pours into Texas treasuries untold millions of dollars each year, that provides tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitifully aged and infirm, to build the finest highways, hospitals, universities, and community colleges in this nation, then my friend, I am absolutely, unequivocally in favor of it. This is my position, and as always, I refuse to compromise on matters of principle."

*Editor's note: There is no evidence this man was ever an Army Aviator...*

# Rieger's Standard Offer No. 1

**4** full measure quarts  
of Rieger's Monogram Whiskey  
"Private Stock"  
at expense charges prepaid

\$3

The only offering ever, Rieger's Monogram Whiskey. Best, the standard of excellence. It is an absolutely pure, healthy, potent, medicinal and medicinal wine. It is a delicious and refreshing beverage and a stimulant for medicinal purposes. For Medical Purposes.

It is the only offering ever, Rieger's Monogram Whiskey. Best, the standard of excellence. It is an absolutely pure, healthy, potent, medicinal and medicinal wine. It is a delicious and refreshing beverage and a stimulant for medicinal purposes. For Medical Purposes.

It is the only offering ever, Rieger's Monogram Whiskey. Best, the standard of excellence. It is an absolutely pure, healthy, potent, medicinal and medicinal wine. It is a delicious and refreshing beverage and a stimulant for medicinal purposes. For Medical Purposes.

**8** full measure quarts  
of Rieger's Monogram Whiskey  
"Private Stock"  
at expense charges prepaid

\$5

The only offering ever, Rieger's Monogram Whiskey. Best, the standard of excellence. It is an absolutely pure, healthy, potent, medicinal and medicinal wine. It is a delicious and refreshing beverage and a stimulant for medicinal purposes. For Medical Purposes.

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Free With Each Order, 2 Sample Bottles, Tumbler and Cockscrew.

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# J. RIEGER & COMPANY

1512 Genesee St., Kansas City, Mo.

## **Dean C. Lyon – Flight Class 70-13 & 70-15. Flew in Vietnam with B Co, 228th ASHN, 1st Cav (1970-71) and the 362nd ASHC in 1971.**

Dean C. Lyon, 63, passed away on October 31, 2011 in Spokane, Washington after a courageous battle with cancer.

His son told the VHPA that "My Dad was a Chief Warrant Officer Chinook Pilot in Vietnam, El Salvador and an instructor pilot in Saudi Arabia. He is survived by one son, his mother, two brothers, one sister and two grandsons.

Donald George Richards – Flight Class 68-14 & 68-22. Flew in Vietnam with C/101 AVN in 1968-1969. Donald George Richards, Major, US Army, (RET.), passed away on August 28, 2011 at his home in Alto, New Mexico. He is survived by two daughters, one son, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and his brother, Major, US Army (RET) James Richards and one sister, Diane R. Brown

## **Edward J. Hickey**

Edward J. Hickey, 62, of Lopatcong Township passed away Thursday, December 1, 2011 after a 2 year battle with cancer. He was born in Newark, NJ in 1949.

Ed had the high privilege and distinct honor of serving his country during the Vietnam War as a helicopter pilot. He flew UH-1 Huey and OH-58 light observation helicopters in direct support of combat operations being conducted by the U.S. 3rd Marine Division, 101st Airborne Division, 1st Army of the Republic of South Vietnam and the 3rd Division Republic of South Korea Marines. He held numerous decorations and citations for his military service.

In his 40 year working career Ed held positions in finance and accounting as well as sales positions in real estate and insurance. He was a long-time member of St. Philip and James Catholic Church in Phillipsburg, NJ. He was also a 4th Degree Knight with Knights of Columbus and past president of the Holy Name Society. He also served as athletic director for the church and schools athletic program. This endeavor brought him great joy. Additionally he was a member of the Vietnam Veterans Helicopter Association of America; Army Aviation Association of America; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Edward is survived by his beloved wife, Diana; two daughters, one brother, three sisters, his step mother, a step sister, and all of their families as well many cousins, nieces and nephews both in the U.S. and in Ireland. The family requests that you please make donations to the St. Philip and James School Scholarship Fund, 430 S. Main Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

## **Engle Wayne Scott**

The Lord called Engle Scott, a retired U.S. Army colonel, home on Monday, Nov. 14, 2011. Engle was born in Lamed, KA., on Jan. 20, 1937, the youngest of eight children. Until the age of five, he lived in Ash Valley, Kan., where his father was a grain elevator and feed store manager. During World War II, his family moved to Great Bend, KA., where he graduated from high school in 1955. He attended Kansas State University where he met and married Miss Judith Ann Higgins on Aug. 31, 1958, then graduated in January 1960 with a B.S. in geology. He later earned a master's

degree in organizational communications at Shippensburg State College, Pa., in 1982.

Engle was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served proudly from March 1960 until February 1986. An artilleryman, a parachutist, and aviator with almost 4,000 accident-free flying hours, he became a master aviator. He flew 13 different fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. He served two combat tours in Vietnam with the 1st Aviation Company (Caribou) in 1963 and with the 205th Assault Support Helicopter Company and 12th Aviation Group in 1967-1968. He received the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, and Army Commendation Medal. He was a graduate of numerous Army schools and institutions, including the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and Army War College. Engle commanded Army Aviation units at company and battalion level, and served on the Army Staff at the Pentagon. He was commander of Aviation Safety and Standardization of all U.S. Army Europe, and inspector general at Fort Rucker, AL. His final assignment was as aviation officer, 5th U.S. Army, Fort Sam Houston.

Following his Army retirement in 1986, Engle joined Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, working as manager of V-22 Training, Government/Military Training, and tiltrotor training. He was responsible for the initial development of the tri-service training program for the V-22 Osprey and formulated long-range training plans for other military and commercial helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft. He retired from Bell in January 2000, and continued to operate his home picture framing business, EWS Enterprises. He spent a lot of time researching his family tree and became the unofficial historian for his extended Scott and Shumate families. He resided in Fort Worth until his death.

More than any of his other accomplishments, Engle was most proud of his family, love of God and humankind, honesty, work ethic, and sense of morality. Survivors include his loving wife, Judy; one son and one daughter and their spouses and five grand children. Burial was held with military honors at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. The family requests that if you wish to make a donation in Engle's name, please donate to the A.L.S. Association, 1231 Greenway Drive, Ste. 270, Irving, Texas 75081, or donate a book to a public library in a small town.

## **Eugene Francis Bannigan – Flight Class 65-5**

Eugene Francis Bannigan, age 70, of Jupiter, FL passed away Tuesday, November 15, 2011. Gene was a veteran of the US Army and served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

After attending law school, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and then practiced as a trial attorney in New York City. He was recently a volunteer with the Office of the Palm Beach County State Attorney. Gene was also a member and president of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches.

Survivors include his wife, Kathe Bannigan; one daughter, one son, three grandchildren, one brother and one sister. The family suggests contributions to Hospice of Palm Beach County, 5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach, FL. 33407. For online condolences,

please visit: [www.taylorandmodeen.com](http://www.taylorandmodeen.com)

## **Gerald W. "Gerry" Davis – Flight Class 57-5, flew in Vietnam with both the 128th AVN (1965-66) and the 146th AVN (1969-1970) under the Buffalo 6 and the Snoopy callsigns**

Gerald W. "Gerry" Davis, age 82, died of cancer on Sunday, December 26, 2010. Born June 22, 1928 in Minneapolis, MN, Mr. Davis had been a resident of Bartow, FL since 1985, moving there from Tampa, FL.

Mr. Davis was a retired Chief Warrant Officer with the U.S. Army with 23 years of service in Korea and Vietnam. He was a member of the Bartow First United Methodist Church; the Bartow Lions Club; American Legion Post # 3; and the Military Officers Association of America. He was a member of the Masonic Order; Scottish Rite and Egypt Temple Shrine.

He is survived by his wife of 58 yrs, Meromay B. Davis of Bartow; two daughters, one brother and one sister. Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 455 S. Broadway, Bartow, FL 33830. Condolences may be offered to family at: [www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com](http://www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com)

## **Harry Plude – Flight Class 71-39**

Harry Plude of Orange County, CA was the loving brother and friend of Jackie O'Brien (Walnut) and the son of the late Anna and Harry Plude. Hank was preceded in death by his longtime partner, Harry Vallandingham.

Born in Bridgeport, CT, Hank moved to Fullerton, CA at six month of age where he was raised and educated. Hank was a lifelong resident of Orange County and he was a proud Army Vietnam Veteran and experienced helicopter pilot.

He is lovingly remembered and greatly missed by his many relatives. Hank will be remembered for his smile, dry sense of humor, his love of McDonald's, and his devotion to his dogs. He was a true warrior and he will be greatly missed. Burial with full military honors was held at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery.

## **Jack Aaron Matson – Flight Class 68-19 & 68-33. Flew with the 162nd AHC in 1969-1970**

Jack Aaron Matson, 63, an accomplished real estate broker, astute investor, decorated war veteran, and dedicated father, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on Sunday, October 16, 2011 in his Oceanside home.



Jack grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, the oldest of three children. As a veteran of the Vietnam War, Jack served as an Army officer and helicopter pilot, where he earned several medals including two purple hearts. In 1972, Jack married Nancy Delavern, and followed his ambition to San Diego, where he became the proud father of two boys and started his real estate career. Jack's passion was helping San Diegans purchase their first home. He took pride in building lasting relationships with his many satisfied clients. As a trusted mentor, Jack was a kind soul who touched many lives; a skilled listener who would patiently ask the right questions as he helped you reach your own solution.



Jack later married Jackie Borner Matson, his long-time partner in life and real estate. Together they enjoyed sailing, tennis, traveling, camping, bonfires on the beach, and spending time with family. Jack was truly an honest man with a passion for learning and self-improvement. He led by example, with a can-do attitude and honorable strength of character that inspired others to see the potential for achieving any goal they set their mind to.

He is survived by his love, Jackie Matson; along with her three children, his two sons and their mother, his mother and father, his two siblings along with his many loving extended family and friends. Jack was laid to rest in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Donations of blood or money may be made to the San Diego Blood Bank, where Jack was a century club donor. Sign the Guest Book online: [obits.nctimes.com](http://obits.nctimes.com)

## **James Laurent Barousse – Flew in Vietnam with HMM-263 in 1965-1966**

James Laurent Barousse, age 71, passed away October 18th, following a brief and unexpected illness.

Jim was born in Opelousas, LA and attended A.I.C. (Opelousas Catholic High School). He graduated from LSU in 1962 and then joined the Marine Corps. As a Marine aviator he flew the UH-34D "Ugly Angel" helicopter on medevac missions in Viet Nam and was honorably discharged in 1966. Jim continued his aviation career as a pilot for Eastern Airlines. Following the strike in 1989, he continued flying for a variety of airlines. He ended his flying career as a test and ferry captain for Northwest Airlines.

Jim moved from Marietta, GA to Pensacola Beach with his wife in 2001 where he subsequently began a new career as a tax advisor with H & R Block. Jim got in a daily workout at The Club, palled around with his dog "Lucky", and loved his LSU Tigers. He never missed an opportunity to get together with old friends and trade Marine Corps and aviation stories. More than just about anything, he treasured time spent with his grandchildren, Delaney and Sean.

James is preceded in death by his parents; he is survived by Judy, his wife of 36 years; one stepdaughter and one stepson and their families, two grandchildren, his brother one a niece and a nephew. A funeral mass was said at the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel, interment followed at Barrancas Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to Our Lady of the Assumption, 920 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach, Florida.

## **Jerome Boyle – Flight Class 69-35 & 69-37. Flew in Vietnam with A troop, 1/9th Cav, 1st CAV from 1970-1971 and B troop, 1/9th Cav, 1st CAV in 1971 under the callsign Apache 24 and Sabre 24**

Jerome Boyle, callsign Apache 24, former policeman and author of "Apache Sunrise" about life in A Troop during 1970-71, gave it up on Thanksgiving Day 2011 at the nursing home in Montana where he had been for several months.

Jerry had been in decline for a long time, wasting away physically as well as mentally, so maybe the fact that he died peacefully with Andrea at his side is something to be thankful for, but it's a sad, sad thing just the same. Jerry was always just a little bit larger-than-life, with his red hair and booming voice, and the world

was a better place for his having lived in it.

*Fellow A Trooper John Bartlett adds:* Jerry also flew in Bravo Troop. When the squadron was standing down, he extended for six months and flew Cobras in B Troop, which stayed behind when the rest of the squadron came back to Fort Hood.

## **John W. Hill III – Flight Class 67-12. Flew in Vietnam with the 57th Med Det in 1967-1968 under the Dustoff 76 callsign.**

John Washburn Hill, III died on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia on January 8, 1943.

Mr. Hill was a 1961 graduate of Granby High School and a 1965 graduate of Virginia Military Institute. He also completed a Masters degree from the University of Southern California. He served in the U.S. Army for 4 years on active duty and then a full career as an army reservist, reaching the rank of Colonel. He settled in Atlanta in 1971 where he worked for the State of Georgia for almost 30 years, primarily as Chief Pilot for the Department of Natural Resources.

He is survived by his wife of almost 46 years, Carol Ann Dunton Hill and one daughter Dr. Jenna Catherine Hill. He is also survived by one sister and two nieces. Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.hollomon-brown.com](http://www.hollomon-brown.com)

## **John "Jack" Allison**

Colonel Jack Allison, 1926-2011, U.S. Air Force retired, passed away Wednesday, November 2, 2011, after a courageous battle with several medical issues. He was born on September 7, 1926, in Memphis, TN. Col. Allison is survived by his wife, Evelyn, their three children and spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Col. Allison's service spanned almost 35 years, including a few years in the Navy. His career included being a Jolly Green helicopter pilot during the Son Tay Raid for which he received the Air Force Cross. Internment will be held this spring at Arlington National Cemetery.

## **Johnie Armstead Wilkinson**

Johnie Armstead Wilkinson, Jr., of Grantsboro, NC, went to be with his Lord and Savior Sunday, September 25, 2011 at the age of 71. Born in New Bern, he graduated from Broughton High School of Raleigh. He went on to study at the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Johnie was a highly decorated Vietnam War hero and an outstanding officer and pilot. Nicknamed "The Hawk", he was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, The Bronze Star and Purple Hearts for his exemplary bravery. He was awarded 27 Air Medals, two with Valor for his heroism during his two tours of duty in Vietnam, along with many other medals. As a National Cribbage Open Champion, he will be fondly remembered for his passion for golf, his love of a good joke and the kindness in his heart.

He is survived by his mother, Mattie Pearl Williamson; one brother and one sister, four children, seven grandchildren and the mother of his children Patricia Ann Wilkinson. He is also survived by his cousins, nieces and nephews that loved their Uncle Buddy.

## **Nickolas W. "Nick" Montgomery – Flight Class 68-21. Flew in Vietnam with D/158 AHB, 101 ABN in 1969-1970 under the callsign Redskin 19**

Nick Montgomery, 66, died Monday, November 22, 2010, at his home in Vinton, LA following a brief illness. Nick was born January 5, 1944, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was raised in Gladstone, MI, and graduated from Gladstone High School. He also graduated from Northern Michigan University, majoring in Industrial and Special Education.

Nick proudly served his country in the United States Army for 35 years, retiring in September 2008. He was a helicopter and airplane pilot and Aviation Safety Officer, flying 11 different types of aircraft. He traveled extensively while he was in the military, living in 7 states, and he was also stationed in Bolivia and Germany. He served in Vietnam and the Gulf War. He received the Distinguished Graduate of Aviator Class, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star and numerous Air medals. He was a member of the Flying Tigers, U.S. Helicopter Pilots Association and the Military Officers of America Association.

Nick was a member of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lions Club and the Country Club in Vinton. He volunteered at Vinton-Shellsburg schools. He enjoyed golfing, sailing, music, hunting and Green Bay Packers football.

Nick is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lynn, one daughter, one son, two grandchildren, one brother and one sister. A memorial fund has been established, condolences may be left at [www.vsrhf.com](http://www.vsrhf.com).

## **Richard Chapman – Flight Class 68-9 & 68-507. Flew in Vietnam with A Battery, 2/20th ARA, 1st CAV in 1968-1969 under the Blue Max callsign.**

Richard "Dick" Chapman passed away on November 25, 2011 at home with his family by his side. He was born in Bremerton, Washington on May 24, 1947 to Swedish parents. His dad was in the Marine Corps, so they moved around a bit. Dick spent his elementary school years in China Lake, CA, and on his dad's retirement the family moved back to Seattle. Dick graduated from Ingraham High School in 1965 and attended the University of Washington for two years and then enlisted in the US Army to fly. He completed his flight school training and was sent to Vietnam as a Warrant Officer to fly the Army's then-new helicopter gunship, the Cobra. He served in the First Calvary, 2/20th ARA with the unit call sign "Blue Max." Dick spent 18 months in Vietnam and was discharged from the Army in April of 1970. He married Diane Ackles in October of 1970.

The light of his life were his children. He was hired by the Seattle Police Department in March of 1971. He received a two year degree in Law Enforcement at Shoreline Community College and a four year degree in Business from University of Puget Sound. He flew the police helicopter, worked the harbor boats, taught driving at the Seattle Police Academy and was a detective in the Accident Investigate Squad for 14 years, and retired after 26 years in 1997. Dick did consulting work at Traffic Collision Analysis, Inc. until colon cancer forced his final retirement in 2011.

Dick is survived by his loving wife Diane, his son and his daughter and their families and most precious, his granddaughter Holliane Marie Gunnels who is 3 years old. He is also survived by his brother Bob. Dick's request is that if you are over 50 and haven't had a colonoscopy, please do so. Remembrances can be made to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church.

**Richard C. Brunell Jr. – Flight Class 58-501 & 68-1, he flew in Vietnam with C/2/17th Cav 101st ABN in 1969 under the Condor 21 call-sign and in 1970 with A/2/17th Cav, 101st ABN under the Assault 21 callsign.**

Richard C. Brunell Jr., 64, passed away on 30 September 2011 in Huntsville, Alabama after a battle with cancer.

When Rick completed his active duty time he joined the National Guard and retired as a CW4. He earned an engineering degree and worked for the Corps of Engineers, spending four years in Saudi Arabia and later went on to retire from NASA.

Survivors include his wife, Nina Yager Brunell, three daughters, three grandchildren, three sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. He was an active member of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and the North Alabama Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. He was really looking forward to the Chapter's project of restoring our UH-1C Huey.

**Richard Eugene "Dick" Miller – Flight Class 56-12, flew in Vietnam with the 18th AVN 91962-63). 1st Cav (1966-67) and the 10th CAB in 1967**

Lt. Col. Richard Eugene "Dick" Miller (US Army Retired) took his final flight on Friday, October 7, after a rapid but valiant battle with cancer. Dick was born in 1932 in Greenville, Ohio. His younger brother Howard Miller preceded him in death.

Dick earned his Master Aviator wings during his 20 years in the Army. His Army experience also included two tours in Vietnam as well as lengthy assignments in Germany and Korea. After retirement, he worked as a mortgage banker in Homestead, Florida and as a tax preparer in Fort Walton Beach.

Dick enjoyed attending Kaiser High School reunions (Dayton, Ohio, Class of 1950) and maintained close friendships with many of his Kaiser friends. He was proud to be a member of the Order of Daedalian Seagull Flight 61, the Otter-Caribou Association, and the Santa Rosa Beach American Legion.

He is mourned by his wife of 49 years, Sigrid Miller, as well as one daughter, one son and three grandchildren. Dick's final resting place will be at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola with full military honors. The family requests that any donations be made to the Daedalian Foundation, which provides scholarships to young men and women who are pursuing careers as military aviators. Their address is: The Daedalian Scholarship Fund, Seagull Flight 61, P.O. Box 122, Fort Walton Beach FL 32549

**Richard E. "Sandy" Shores – Flight Class 69-26. He flew with in Vietnam with A Co. 158th AHB, 101st AB from Camp Evans in April 1970-1971 under the Ghost Riders callsign.**

*His wife wrote and sent to the VHPA - My beloved husband died in my arms on September 28, 2011. He had a wonderful life filled with many friends and family. He spent his early childhood years growing up in Los Alamos, NM, where he played baseball, football, went camping, and belonged to cub scouts. After high school graduation he worked for J. Edgar Hoover as a keypunch operator. The story goes that all of the girls did the hard key punch cards and left him the easy ones.*

From there he was drafted into the army, where he found another family, the Ghost Riders of A Co. 158th AHB/101st Airborne Div out of Camp Evans. He earned the callsign "Sandy" from his fellow Ghost Riders. He flew Huey helicopters front line during his tour in Vietnam and flew at Ripcord, a 23 day battle between the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and the North Vietnamese Army from July 1, 1970 until July 23, 1970. Rick received the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, the Bronze Star and several other medals including many air medals. He also took part in Lam Son 719 in early 1971.

After his military service, he received a college degree in Aeronautical Science at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK, where we met and married on August 21, 1976. After college, we moved to Santa Fe, NM, and he immediately started flying fixed wing airplanes. He flew Convair 580s with Aspen Airways out of Denver, CO, and Burbank, CA. Denver is where we were blessed with our son Michael on Feb 19, 1980. When Michael was a newborn, Rick would lay Michael on a pillow beside him, and watch TV sitting on the floor. I think he watched Michael sleep more than he watched the television.

Furloughs at Aspen Airways returned him to Santa Fe once again, this time to fly for TNT Investments, where he added new friends and family. It was a job he treasured always. In 1985, Rick went to work for America West Airlines, now US Airways, and flew as a captain. In November of 2004 we moved to Chandler, AZ, and finally, we moved to Lavernia, TX, where we were preparing for retirement. Then came cancer. He fought this battle with grace, dignity, and determination. And as typical with Rick, he never lost his sense of humor, or his upbeat attitude. He continued life with a smile on his face and laughter in his heart, always looking forward. And to quote him "it is what it is". Rick Shores was a true inspiration to me, and I was blessed to have him in my life for over 35 years. He was my best friend and the love of my life and although I will miss his stimulating conversations, I will miss holding his hand as we fell asleep.

He had a total of 42 years of flying and had many special experiences. Once, while flying back from Mexico, he saw the space shuttle preparing for a night landing only 11 minutes away in Florida. He also saw the Northern Lights in Alaska, and countless of other unique phenomena.

Rick was born in Oklahoma City, OK, July 12, 1949 and is preceded in death by his parents. Rick left behind his wife, son, two brothers and one sister. Rick's ashes will be spread over the mountains he loved and once called home. We all will miss you, my love. Charlotte Shores

**Robert Allen Waldo – Flight Class 63-2W. Flew in Vietnam with the 178th ASHC, 23rd INF DIV in 1967 and with the 62nd AHC in 1968-1969 under the Boxcar 33 and the Coachman callsigns**

Robert Allen Waldo, 77, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 10, 2011 in Everett, WA with family by his side. Bob was born December 8, 1933 in Cincinnati, OH. He was educated in Cincinnati Public Schools and had a degree from Central Texas College in Applied Science. Robert served in the US Army during the Vietnam War and retired from the Army a highly decorated helicopter pilot. While stationed in Germany Robert met and married his first wife, Adelheid Hubner. Together they had three sons. Their eldest son, Robert passed away from leukemia when he was seven years old.

Approximately ten years later, Bob's wife, Adelheid, passed away in Copperas Cove, Texas but shortly after, Robert met and married his second wife, Cindy and together they had a daughter.

Robert is survived by his three children, his five grandchildren, his sister and his brother. Robert enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing collecting die-cast cars, trains, coins, watching the History Channel, the Antique Roadshow and Barrett Jackson Car Auctions. Robert loved the Lord, his family and friends. He made friends everywhere he went. He will be sadly missed by everyone.

**Robert R. Marsh – Flight Class 55-0. Flew in Vietnam with the 478 HHC, 1CAV in 1965-1966 and 355 HHC in 1969 under the Workhorse callsign.**

CW4 Robert R. "Bob" Marsh, U.S. Army Retired, age 80, of Ozark, Alabama passed away on Saturday, November 26, 2011, at Dale Medical Center after an extended illness.

CW4 Marsh was born and lived most of his life in Dale County, Alabama. While still in high school, he joined the Alabama National Guard in 1947. After graduation from high school in 1949, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served until his retirement in 1970. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, having served two tours in Vietnam as a CH-54 Army helicopter pilot.

After his retirement from the Army, Marsh attended Troy University, earning degrees in history and political science. He also retired from the U.S. Postal Service, having served 20 years as a rural mail carrier. After his second retirement, he enjoyed gardening and self-taught woodworking as a hobby, which produced many exquisite items of furniture and wood work. He handcrafted a mandolin, taught himself to play it, and was an accomplished guitar player who loved the old bluegrass music. He was a member of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, the Retired Officers Association, the National Association for Uniformed Services, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Veterans of the Vietnam War, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the First Cavalry Division Association and numerous other service and civic organizations. His many military awards



include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with V device and 23 Air Medals. Mr. Marsh was a member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

His many military awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with V device and 23 Air Medals. Mr. Marsh was a member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and one brother. Survivors include his loving and faithful wife of 56 years, Mary Ezell Marsh; one son and one daughter and their families, two sisters and two brother, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. The family asks that memorials be made to your favorite charity, Condolences may be offered at [www.fuquabankston.com](http://www.fuquabankston.com)

## Wallace M. Evans

Wallace M. Evans, lieutenant colonel U.S. Army, retired, died November 23, 2011, at home in the loving care of his wife and eldest daughter Kathy. He was born October 9, 1933, in Scranton, Pa., and graduated from the Foxcroft Academy and the University of Maine.

He was commissioned and entered active Army duty in 1958. He was a decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam War. At various times he commanded a mechanized rifle company, a cargo helicopter company and a logistical support battalion. He was an instructor pilot and instrument examiner in both airplanes and helicopters. From 1970 to 1974 he served on the faculty of the Department of Logistics, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He served at locations throughout the U.S. and in Korea, Germany, Vietnam, Turkey and Brazil. At retirement, he held the position of deputy chief of staff for logistics of the U.S. Army Combat Development Experimentation Command.

From 1979 to 1983, he taught business logistics and management courses at the University of Maine, Orono, while simultaneously earning a graduate degree in counseling. He worked as a counselor in Farmington, a family therapist at St. Michael's Center, Bangor, and in private practice until his retirement.

Wally enjoyed years of working on his camps, white water canoeing, fly-fishing and cross-country skiing. He liked to build things and was nicknamed "MacGyver" by his wife for his creative problem-solving abilities. He was a longtime avid reader with a lifelong interest in maps, geography and weather. Most of all, he was the most loving soul mate to his wife, which only became more enhanced and inspiring as he dealt with the challenges of dementia, then cancer, with an attitude of mindfulness and gratitude for each day.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 23 years, Elaine Picuch; his four children and their families, one step-daughter, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews; and his devoted dog, Nelson and cat, Dora. He was predeceased by his former wife, Julie (Mahaney) Evans; and his brother. Interment was held at the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Augusta. Those who wish to remember Wallace in a special way may make gifts in his memory to Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256, or the Bangor Humane Society, 693 Mount Hope Ave., Bangor, ME 04401. Condolences to the family may be left at: [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).

LTC (RET) Walter R. (Russ) Miller, JR. - Graduated

## Flight School with class 71-28 & 71-30. Flew with F Troop, 4th Cavalry in 1971-1972 under the call sign Centaur 47.

LTC (RET) Walter R. (Russ) Miller, JR., passed away on November 1, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas from a heart attack. He was buried on November 5, 2011, with full military honors in the family plot in Port Gibson, Mississippi. At the time of his passing, Russ and his wife, Carol were preparing for his retirement at the end of this year and settling in their retirement home in San Antonio, Texas. Russ enjoyed a successful 27 year Army career.

Colonel Miller served two tours in Vietnam, the first as enlisted, the second as a Commissioned officer flying Cobra helicopters. Russ flew Cobras under the call sign Centaur 47, flying for F Troop, 4th Cavalry from Nov. 1971-Nov. 1972 where he earned three (3) Distinguished Flying Cross's (DFC), and Air Medal with V device. Russ ended his 27 year career as Commandant of ROTC at Ole Miss University.

After military retirement Russ and his wife Carol settled in their hometown of Port Gibson, Mississippi, where he was first Commandant for a local Military school and then he served as Sr. Vice President of a local bank for another 20 years. Russ touched all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and one son; he is survived by his wife Carol, one daughter and five loving grandchildren. All who knew Russ loved him and will miss him.

## William E. Bill

William E. Bill of Webster Groves baptized into the Hope of Christ's Resurrection on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at the age of 67

Bill worked in sales in the heavy construction equipment business for over 45 years, retiring from Mid-West Aerials and Equipment Services in November 2007. He was always held in high esteem by his countless business associates. Bill served in the US Military as a helicopter pilot and warrant officer during the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Kathy, four daughters and his mother. Bill will be missed as well by many relatives, nieces, nephews, and many cousins. Interment with Military Honors was held in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Missouri. Contributions in Bill's memory may be made to St. Patrick's Center 800 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101 or The Wounded Warrior Project 4899 Belfort Rd., Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Friends are invited to sign the online guest register at: [www.gerberchapel.com](http://www.gerberchapel.com)

## William "Bill" C. Bill Zeman - Flight Class 69-18

William "Bill" C. Bill Zeman, 66, passed on October 29, 2011 near Iliamna, Alaska. Born December 19, 1944 and raised in Saginaw, Michigan, he attended Arthur Hill High School. From there he went on to Western Michigan University where he met his wife, Bonnie. Bill was president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity his senior year and graduated with a business degree. His military career began with ROTC in college. During active duty he flew helicopters in Korea, was an instructor, and was honorably discharged as a captain from the US Army. After discharge, Bill and Bonnie came to Juneau, Alaska, meeting one of his helicopter instructors at the front desk of Livingston Copters. Bill was then hired for the transport of a new helicopter from Fort Worth, TX to Juneau. During his years as an Alaskan pilot, he flew all over the state. His skills, forti-

ties and knowledge were reflected in numerous customer requests for his services.

Livingston Copters, ERA Aviation, and Era Helicopters benefited from his expertise. He served these companies as pilot, chief pilot, tourism coordinator, and base manager. He pioneered early tourism, including flight-seeing and glacial dog mushing. Quality work, search and rescue, fire fighting, noise control, and jobs were important issues to him. Bill enjoyed being a member of "Battery B," Juneau's local artillery sporting group, Juneau Gun Club activities, fishing and crabbing with family and friends, annual hunting trips to Gambier Bay with his sons and landing "somewhere fishy." Bill leaves behind his wife, Bonnie, two sons, two sisters and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you Hug A Pilot.

## Robert Gene Dawson - Flight Class 67-5, he flew in Vietnam with the 334th AHC in 1967-1968 under the Dragon 33 callsign.



A salute to Robert Gene Dawson "Dragon 33", Chief Warrant Officer II in the 334th Assault Helicopter Company, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. Bob graduated flight school with Flight Class number WORWAC 67-5, Department of the Army Aviation School, Fort Rucker, Alabama in January, 1967. Bob's medals included the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Chief Warrant Officer Dawson distinguished himself while serving as aircraft commander of the command ship and fire team leader of a light fire team on a combat operation. His team was directed to provide illumination and additional air cover at the site of a downed aircraft, the two crew members of the downed ship were stranded while trying to recover the aircraft's armament systems. Due to intense enemy fire, all attempts to rescue them had been unsuccessful. Chief Warrant Officer Dawson volunteered to attempt the rescue and while approaching the disabled craft he was caught in a cross fire from automatic weapons. With little illumination and with automatic weapons fire completely surrounding him, he held his position until the aircrew members were safely aboard the aircraft. His outstanding flying ability and superb display of professionalism saved the lives of those two men. WO Dawson was totally familiar with combat employment of lift helicopters, he has flown over 500 combat flight hours in gunships and a considerable amount of this time has been after darkness while in command of the Firefly mission.

Bob was also a Kentucky Colonel, Masonic member of the Blue Lodge, Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Ward and a member of both the American Legion and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Bob maintained his commercial pilot license airplane single-engine and multiengine land and instrument airplane and rotor craft until his death.

Bob passed away on November 3, 2011 in Hudson, Florida. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on February 21, 2012 with full military honors. He is survived by his wife Chris Dawson, five sons, two daughter-in-laws, six grandchildren and one brother, John Dawson.

# VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

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*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

We met at the Barn Door Restaurant on October 4th, enjoyed cocktails and a meal, and made plans to participate in a parade in nearby Universal City, which is contiguous to San Antonio. Mike Maloy and Bill Beall own a restored 2 1/2-ton Army truck, better known as The Chief. We attach our VHPA Alamo banner, load up chapter members, and instantly convert to a parade float.

We rode in that Veterans Day parade on Saturday, November 5th. Yes, we know that was a week early, but that's when they have their parade. It was a great time, and some photos accompany this article. Luckily, the parade disbanded at the Universal City American Legion post, so our exhausted members were able to quickly recover with refreshments.

On Saturday, November 12th, our members enjoyed a cookout and informal meeting at the Del Webb Hill Country Retreat, on the far western edge of San Antonio. We enjoyed great food, Hawaiian beer, and fellowship in a luxury setting. Some of our members even live there. Accompanying photos of this event prove we others were there.

No meetings are scheduled in December, in deference to the holiday season. We will meet the evening of Tuesday, January 10th, in the new year of 2012. Any other VHPA members visiting in the San Antonio area are always welcome.

If anyone knows where and how our chapter might obtain a non-flyable helicopter from the Vietnam era, suitable for trailer display and use as a parade float, please contact our vice president, Jim Martinson, phone (210) 422-0035 or E-mail jamesmartinson@rocketmail.com. *Submitted by Chuck Oualline.*

*Bob Dillon, President*

## CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

We are still looking for potential members. Any aviators who flew in Southeast Asia during the period 1962-1975 are eligible to join. If you live in the Syracuse area and would like to join a great group of guys call me at (607) 263-2551.

*Tom McMillen, President*

## FORT RUCKER CHAPTER

We had a great Christmas Party at Bill Stahl's house on 10 December. I attended the Indian Pow Wow in Daleville. Lots of interest was shown in the Chapter, but none of the people were eligible for membership.

*Roscoe Souders, President*

## GEORGIA CHAPTER

Our principal activity continues to be the bi-monthly breakfast meeting - the men who participate really enjoy the opportunity to get together with other combat helicopter pilots, swap war stories, discuss VA-related information and maintain those bonds that were forged so long ago. Our education program where we educate local people and groups about the Vietnam War is very active. I gave a presentation to a group of retired veterans (all of whom were Vietnam Vets) they really enjoyed seeing the war through a helicopter pilots eyes.

We will be holding officer elections at the upcoming November, 19 meeting. The results will be in the next issue.

If there are former Vietnam Helicopter Pilots in the Atlanta area who would like to join our group please see our web site at: [www.ga-vhpa.org](http://www.ga-vhpa.org) or contact me at: [bell0845@bellsouth.net](mailto:bell0845@bellsouth.net) or via telephone at (770) 548-7991. *Submitted by Skip Bell*

*Bill McRae, President*

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

We are a newly formed Chapter and are actively recruiting new members. If you are an aviator and flew in Southeast Asia between 1962 and 1975 you are eligible for membership. Please contact me at: [hospitalhopper@yahoo.com](mailto:hospitalhopper@yahoo.com) or phone me at (517) 627-4580.

*Charley Martin, President*

## MINNESOTA CHAPTER

The Chapter is looking for qualified members to join our group. All aviators who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War are welcome to join. If you are interested please call me at (651) 592-2598 or e-mail me at: [raywilson19@msn.com](mailto:raywilson19@msn.com).

*Ray Wilson, President*

## MONTANA CHAPTER

Our next Chapter meeting will probably be in June, 2012. Please call Todd Brandoff at (406) 459-6675 for details and directions. We are still recruiting potential members from the area.

*Todd Brandoff, President.*

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Our Chapter meets the first Monday of each month at Joe's American Bar and Grill, 985 Providence Hwy, Dedham, MA in the bar/dining area. This is located just off Rt. 128/195. Call for details on the midwinter business meeting probably in February.

*Bill Williams, President*

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be held at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial, Exit 114 Garden State Parkway on 21 January 2012. Please call (972) 740-5582 for information.

*Pete Purnell, President*

## NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER

NAVHPA participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Huntsville, AL. For those of us who participated it was a very moving experience. We had one beautiful 1955 Chevy 2 ton truck pulling the trailer for all the folks to ride on and a pickup truck pulling the UH-1C Huey that we are restoring to display condition both inside and out. People worked up to the day before the parade to get the Huey trailer roadworthy. The effort was well worth it by the crowd's reaction. We want to thank the wives, kids, grandkids, family and friends for supporting us during the parade preparation and participation. The new Madison County Veterans Memorial opening ceremony was conducted this day. There were many fund raising projects to make this memorial possible. One project was to sell engraved bricks. The NAVHPA approved a decision to purchase a brick for all members of the club who passed away. The first one is to begin with Richard C. Brunell, Jr. He was included in the TAPS section of the AVIATOR Nov/Dec edition. We welcome our new members, Doug Madigan, Rich Hartselle and Gene Peay. This makes a grand total of 35. We have several more potential members and hope to report this in the next issue.

*Jim White, President*

## NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

The Chapter participated in the nine-day Heroes Homecoming to Honor Vietnam Veterans celebration in Fayetteville, North Carolina. We had four helicopters both on display and in the Veterans Day Parade itself.

Bob Inglis and Brock Nicholson had the UH-1H in Virginia for display and another parade. Lynn Stevens displayed the OH-6 on 13 November at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Concord, NC, for a special Vietnam church service. On the 15th he had a display at the Concord Lions Club program for all Veterans. On Monday the 14th, Terry Lanier displayed the OH-58 at the Golden Corral in Lumberton, NC for their on-going effort to Honor the Veterans. On the 17th, Brock Nicholson displayed our UH-1H in support of the (Kangaroo Express/The Pantry's) USO and Wounded Warrior Program.

In December we will have a helicopter on display supporting Toys For Tots donations in Raleigh, NC.

*J. D. Lawson, President*

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

We had a good turnout for the first parade we have been in since last year. Our C model has been repainted and is sitting on a nice new 5th wheel trailer pulled by our pickup. Our first showing of the Huey in its new clothes was at the Sacramento "Vettes for Vets" event that showcases Corvettes old and new to benefit local veteran's organizations. A week later, in the first West Sacramento Veterans Day Parade, the Huey was followed by the MOC and a Western Truck School semi-truck sporting a "We Train the National Guard" trailer. The Huey's next event will be in Old Town Sacramento at the California State Military Museum, 1119 Second St. to mark California Museum Day, 4 February 2012. While at the museum we'll have a short business meeting to discuss events for 2012.

Our Annual Christmas Party was held at the Big Blue Frog in Fairfield, CA and we had a good turnout again this year.

*Ken Fritz, President*

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

The SoCal Chapter had our quarterly meeting at Fiddlers Green Pub, Los Alamitos Army Airfield. After the meeting several of us became the cleaning crews for the AH-1 which is on display next to the Pub. The tired detailers finished the day telling stories, having lunch and senior beverages.

The following week on October 23, we had a display at the 10th Annual Wings Wheels and Rotors Expo at Los Alamitos Army Airfield. The Expo was led by VHPA Life Member Tom Lasser. CW5 John Harris, also a Life Member, flew in 1 of the last 3 UH-1's from Ft. Irwin, CA. Over 30,000 attended the Expo. The Expo

# VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

later presented the MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) with a check for \$22,000. We were very fortunate and proud to be part of the Expo and have the Huey next to our booth.

The last 3 UH-1's will be retired on December 15th. A retirement ceremony is pending for December 13th at Barstow Dagett Airport at 1 PM.

On November 12 we brought our banner to Salute Vietnam Veterans at the Western Museum of Flight at Torrance Airport. It's a good feeling that there are groups that support the Vietnam Veteran. Sven Akesson, President

## WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

Even though the actual Veterans Day isn't for another couple of days, I am sending this wish that you all have just the kind of celebration that you deserve. You earned far more than you were given many years ago, so I'm hoping that this one is at least joyous for you. The Chapter made us look good this past Saturday when 25 of us formed up on Main Street in Auburn, WA for the Annual Veterans Day Parade. A pancake ham and egg breakfast preceded the gathering on Main. Being #76 in the long line of parade units enabled us to watch almost half of the parade line as they marched past us enroute to the reviewing stands. When we did get going it seemed like our group was well recognized and appreciated by all those lining the street. Once again the guys had a great time responding to the people and also giving their service thanks to the other veterans that were in the crowd. Many thanks to Pat Staeheli for doing the planning and execution again this year. Another special thanks goes to our Olympia member Dave Saunders for doing such a stellar job moving the Huey from Olympia to Auburn and back again. As usual, they did it the right way by pre-driving the route before they were to be used. Great job guys, Thank You. One more thing: the weather was spectacular this year so we were blessed with the unusual.

The next meeting will be coming in late January or early February depending on what I hear from the membership. I will do my best to schedule this meeting according to your wishes. If you don't or don't have any limitations, do nothing, but if do have date limitations, please drop me an e-mail at [mhansen@king5.com](mailto:mhansen@king5.com) and I will consider all that respond. The meeting will again be at Famous Dave's down in Tacoma, where we will sit down, have a meeting, elect new officers and then have a great meal. If you'd like to run for office, please let any of the officers know your desires by mail or by e-mail. Remember, all e-mail addresses are located on our website at: [vhpaw.org](http://vhpaw.org). Notice for that meeting will be announced there. Finally, we now have new hats and patches that sport our new chapter logo. Very soon we will be adding pins and window stickers to the offering. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mark Hansen, President

## SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER

The South Missouri Chapter of VHPA held its fourth quarterly meeting at the Keeter Center, on the campus of the College of the Ozarks. The meeting, held on November 5th, was well attended by members and their wives, and provided an excellent kick-off to an entire week of veterans' activities, hosted by the city of Branson. Ralph McClurg, chapter member, a guardian for the Ozarks Honor Flight Program made an excellent presentation, we hope to carry the full story of the mission in the next Aviator.

Our next meeting will be held at Wings of Hope on March 3, 2012. Wings of Hope have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their amazing humanitarian efforts around the world, and are located at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, in St. Louis, Missouri. Be sure to check our website, [vhpasmo.org](http://vhpasmo.org) for more information regarding this meeting and all other chapter activities.

Russ Emory, President

## VHPA OF FLORIDA CHAPTER – Vietnam Memorial dedicated on Veteran's Day, 11 November 2011, in Tampa, Florida.

The Florida Chapter (VHPAF) played a key role in the five years that it took to plan, raise funds and construct the long-awaited Vietnam Memorial in Tampa. Our Memorial is part of Hillsborough County's Veterans' Park that will eventually have a memorial site for each war that involved American troops.

The black granite Vietnam Memorial was dedicated with hundreds in attendance, unveiled were the names of the 155 individuals from Hillsborough County killed in Vietnam. Their wives, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and friends were there and many tears were shed. This monument will secure their memory and will also be a place that we all can visit and remember our friends that "gave it all". It's also a place where we can stand between two Vietnam Vets, a Huey and a Cobra, and feel good about what we did during our tours.

VHPAF has always revered our static display helicopters, but to see them mounted in simulated flight gave our many members that day a warm and proud feeling. Much could be written about pains we endured to acquire each helicopter, but we'll dispense with that and tell you a little about their active duty history.

### UH-1H 68-15562

This ole Huey has a proud combat history; first in III Corps with the 188th Assault Helicopter Company, Black Widows, mainly in the skies around Dau Tieng. Then 562 traveled up to I Corps and joined the 101st Screaming Eagles; 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 101st Aviation Battalion. It returned to the States in 1971 and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division in N.Y. 68-15562 and had its last duty station in Lakeland, FL with the Florida National Guard. The VHPAF met her years ago and when the Guard went to Blackhawk, we went through all the paperwork and eventually she was ours. We put 562 on a trailer, took her to our exhibit at Sun N Fun Air Show in Lakeland each year and also to other events throughout Florida.

### AH-1 67-15722

Cobra 722 arrived in Vietnam in the fall of 1968 and was assigned to A Troop 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. The ship received battle damage in May 1969 and was sent to Corpus Christi, Texas for repair. It arrived back in country in late 1969 and was assigned to B Company, Diamond Heads, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division at



Cu Chi. In mid 1970, 15722 was assigned to A Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry located in the Delta. It returned home and was stationed at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Jim Basta spent years calling and traveling to the U.S. Army's Tank and Automotive Command for VHPAF to acquire a Viet Veteran, Cobra Attack Helicopter. And finally on 13 October 2006, we dedicated 67-15722 to the memory of Orlando, Florida native, Chief Warrant Officer James G. "Diamond Jim" Hodgskin; KIA 18 August 1969. Jim's brother, Jon, and his family attended that ceremony. Now Jon and Jim's other brother, Don, are family to VHPAF and were instrumental in arranging & financing the transportation for 722 to Tampa.

As you would expect, this Vietnam Memorial had numerous volunteers contributing time, labor and funds to this endeavor. But two come to mind as the main "Movers and Shakers", Vietnam Veteran, Bob Silmsner and VHPAF's guy, Jim Basta.

*Story and photos courtesy of Ken Mulholland, Chapter Treasurer: Gary Harrell, President*



## South Missouri Chapter



Members of the South Missouri Chapter gather at the Keeter Center for their November 5th meeting.



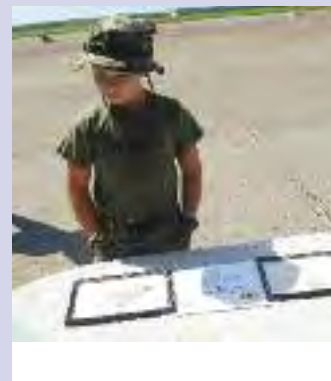
# VHPA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## North Alabama Chapter

Members of the North Alabama Chapter of the VHPA man an information/recruitment booth at this year's Courtland Alabama Airshow. A lot of our visitors were very happy to be able to look up there relatives and others in our year books. We also got several prospective members information so we can contact them soon.



Rick Davis (L), Sam Maki (M) and Jim White (R) man the North Alabama Chapter booth at the recent Courtland Alabama Airshow.



They are never too young to learn about Vietnam.

## North Carolina Chapter



Ladies of The North Carolina Chapter

The North Carolina Chapter of the VHPA participated in the nine-day Heroes Homecoming to Honor Vietnam Veterans celebration in Fayetteville, North Carolina. We had four helicopters both on display and in the Veterans Day Parade itself.

Bob Inglis and Brock Nicholson had the UH-1H in Virginia for display and another parade. Lynn Stevens displayed the OH-6 on 13 November at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Concord, NC, for a special Vietnam church service. On the 15th he had a display at the Concord Lions Club program for all Veterans. On Monday the 14th, Terry Lanier displayed the OH-58 at the Golden Corral in Lumberton, NC for their on-going effort to Honor the Veterans. On the 17th, Brock Nicholson displayed our UH-1H in support of the (Kangaroo Express/The Pantry's) USO and Wounded Warrior Program.

In December we will have a helicopter on display supporting Toys For Tots donations in Raleigh, NC.



Men of The North Carolina Chapter

## SoCal Chapter

After the SoCal Chapter Fall Quarterly meeting, members of the Chapter volunteered to wash the AH-1 Cobra located next to the Fiddlers Green Pub, Los Alamitos Army Airfield. The tired detailers finished the day telling stories, having lunch and enjoying frosty adult beverages.



During the week of October 23, the Chapter had a display at the 10th Annual Wings Wheels and Rotors Expo at Los Alamitos Army Airfield. Over 30,000 attended the Airshow where over \$22,000.00 was raised to support the MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) program at Los Alamitos.

## Alamo Chapter



Prepping the Chief for the Parade



Jim Bauer and Mike Maloy



Approaching the Review Stand



Bob Dillon, Bob Walker and Jon Osborn

Members of the Alamo Chapter participated in a Veteran's Day Parade this last November 5th. Mike Maloy and Bill Beall (both Chief Warrant Officers while in the Army) own a restored 2 1/2 ton Army truck, better known as 'The Chief'. We attached our VHPA Alamo banner, loaded up chapter members, and instantly convert the Chief into a parade float! Luckily, the parade disbanded at the Universal City American Legion post, so our exhausted members were able to quickly recover with refreshments. The three parade photos featured here show Jim (on left) and Mike, the owners of The Chief, us prepping the truck for the Parade and the view from the truck of the Parade's reviewing stand. The other photo shows Bob Dillon (L), Bob Walker (M) and Jon Osborn and was taken at our local Chapter meeting on 12 November at a Del Webb Hill Country Retreat.

## Old Dominion Chapter



### CHARTER MEMBERS OF OUR NEWLY FORMED OLD DOMINION CHAPTER OF THE VHPA.

Left to right are Lou Burger, Dennis Ryan, Ralph Jones, Harry 'Bud' Kirschbaum, J. T. Severin, Don Agren, Ken Mabe, Galen deGraff, Alan Campbell, Bill Ryan, Harry Stoddard, Mel Anderson. Member Bill Kester is not pictured.



**Editor's Note** - Several of you have noted that in the centerfold story from our last issue, the story about Member Ron Miller's longtime friendship with Bob Hope, we inadvertently published three of the supporting pictures with the incorrect captions beneath them.... Although we can never recover from that, we are repeating the messed up photos below with the correct captions in their proper place.



1986 - Autographed photo of Ron with Bob Hope, the right-hand inscription reads: To Ron, Thanks for the Memories, Bob Hope. The inscription in the top left was added many months later by Ann Margret, it reads: To Ron, God Bless, Ann Margret.



1966 - Ron at the "business end" of his B-model gunship The Grim Reaper, while flying with the 116th Assault Helicopter Company out of Phoc Vinh



Ron Miller, today (on left), pictured with Medal of Honor recipient Nick Bacon. Before his retirement, Nick was the Director of Army Operations, Department of Veteran's Affairs. Ron is proud to announce that work has started on his new movie, Perfume River, set during the 1968 Tet Offensive.



**HAI HELI-EXPO IS COMING** to the Dallas Convention Center on February 12th through the 14th, 2012. The VHPA will man a Welcome & Information Booth throughout the event and we're looking for Members who like to both set up the booth (on Saturday the 11th) and man the booth during the show. The VHPA is given the booth by the event organizers and we always like to put on a good show in return. Last, if you're attending this year's Heli-Expo, please stop by and say hello.

Mike Sheurman, VHPA Membership Chairman

Phone: 214-802-4244 MB ■ E-Mail: [msheurman@tx.rtr.com](mailto:msheurman@tx.rtr.com)

## HAI Education Courses are Coming to Texas

From Feb. 7 through 17, 2012, HAI will be offering education courses as part of HELI-EXPO 2012 at the Dallas Convention Center. There will be a Texas-sized program, with more than 25 courses offered in areas including safety, maintenance, management, and other helicopter-oriented concentrations.

Program highlights include the Military to Civilian Workshop, a free course on making the transition from a military to civilian helicopter career; and the Heli-Success Career Development Seminar, an inexpensive course targeted toward young pilots trying to break into an aviation career and for more-experienced pilots in a transition phase of their career.

The education program will also include nine new courses, ranging from Aviation Security to U.S. Tax Issues Affecting Commercial Helicopter Operators, and a competitively priced Flight Instructor Refresher Course. Check out the full list of course offerings and register online at [www.rotor.com/education](http://www.rotor.com/education).

Those looking to fulfill hours toward IA Renewal will also benefit from HAI's education program—four courses are being offered that are FAA-accepted for IA Renewal. Additionally, 30 manufacturer's technical briefings will be conducted on Sun, Feb. 12 and Mon., Feb. 13, 2012 by the predominant helicopter manufacturers.

For more information on getting your IA renewal at HELI-EXPO 2012 or HAI's education programs, contact Kristin Anderson at 703-683-4646 or at [education@rotor.com](mailto:education@rotor.com).

## RETURNING FIRE: IN THE BEGINNING....

by VHPA Life Member

Col (Ret) James W. "Pete" Booth

This book is the factual story of the development of armed helicopters in the US Army and their first employment in combat. The story is dramatically told by the courageous men who lived it—flying daily into enemy infested areas and facing murderous fire from anti-aircraft weapons.

In late 1961 the US Government deployed five unarmed Transportation Helicopter Companies (H-21 lift ships) to South Vietnam where they quickly came under fire by the Viet Cong. By October of 1962 a company of UH-1 helicopters equipped with weapons cobbled together from machine gun and 2.75 inch rockets systems left over WWII and Korea stores were deployed to protect them. Designated the Utility Tactical Transport Helicopter Company, but widely known as the UTT, they quickly became known for professionalism and the courage of its crew members. These men became the basis for all the armed helicopters deployed to Vietnam.

The UTT Company's legacy is strong and endures today, the US Army's Apache program is a direct descendent of these men. Today the US Marines and US Navy also have strong armed helicopter programs as does every major military power in the world. This is their story also.

Our Author, Col (Ret) James W. "Pete" Booth is one of a handful of officers whose vision and energy prodded a cautious Army to initiate and over time embrace the concepts of Armed Helicopters and Air Cavalry.

As a Captain and aviation instructor at the US Army Armor School (USAARMS) in 1958 he developed the doctrine for, and introduced Armed Helicopters and Air Cavalry into School instruction. He oversaw the arming of four H-34 helicopters assigned to a Fort Knox unit with

.50 caliber machine guns and 4.5 inch rockets then oversaw several major fire power demonstrations. In 1959 the Armor School put on a special demonstration for the Army's Chief of Staff, General Maxwell Taylor. Gen Taylor approved Air Cavalry as an Armor Force program that very day.

This book is the factual story of the development of armed helicopters in the US Army and their first employment in combat told by one who was there from the beginning. A true "Must Read" for all rotary-winged Aviators!

**Personalized, autographed copies are available directly from the Author ... E-Mail: [Pete-Sue@hotmail.com](mailto:Pete-Sue@hotmail.com)**

The book is also available on-line through AuthorHouse Press ([www.AuthorHouse.com](http://www.AuthorHouse.com)), the VHPA's book Store (PeerlessBookStore.com), all major on-line distributors (Amazon, Barnes and Nobels etc) or your local book store can order you a copy - reference ISBN # 978-1-4567-4522-6





### *To the men of the VHPA,*

Just thought you guys would like to know there is a helmet on display in the Khe Sanh war museum, at the site of the old combat base in Vietnam, with the name: J.Pierce scratched on the back. I couldn't be sure but it appears to be a chopper pilot's helmet. I've attached a photo I took of it.

I just thought that the previous owner, if he is still with us, would be interested to know where it ended up.

Cheers,

Tim from Australia.

E-Mail: [timmy\\_f\\_d@hotmail.com](mailto:timmy_f_d@hotmail.com)



### *Members of the VHPA,*

I have this very unique SPH-4 Flight Helmet and would love to know where it came from. Any info you men could give me as to the Pilot who owned it, or even the organization this helmet flew with, would be greatly appreciated. Wouldn't it be great if the previous owner was still alive?

I was going to sell it on E-Bay (they bring a lot right now), but something told me the right thing to do would be to first ask for your organization's help.

Roberto Rodriguez

Phone: (719) 593-7761

E-Mail: [WingRod475@aol.com](mailto:WingRod475@aol.com)

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# BOOK REVIEWS

## KONTUM:

*The Battle to Save South Vietnam* by Thomas P. McKenna, a senior American advisor during the battle, is a personal memoir and a history of the biggest and least written about battle of the Vietnam War. The NVA's well-planned assault, supported with tanks and heavy artillery, on the ARVN forces in the Central Highlands and the massive US air response far exceeded the scale, intensity, and weaponry previously encountered. McKenna's narrative of the courageous tenacity of the few American advisors and helicopter crews who stood with the ARVN forces under extreme conditions is an excellent read.

The Battle of Kontum is usually lumped together with the Easter Offensive and is not as well-known as earlier campaigns and battles involving American units covered by the media earlier during the Vietnam War. McKenna points out that of some 30,000 books about the Vietnam War few books including Stanley Karnow's widely read history, *Vietnam: A History*, few give it more than a brief mention. McKenna has written this book to ensure that future students of the Vietnam War learn about this period of the war.

McKenna provides the reader his firsthand view of the situation American advisors found themselves in while supporting and fighting alongside ARVN units confronting NVA tanks, artillery, and human wave assaults. His account fully recognizes the helicopter crews of the 361st AWC, 180th ASHC, 7/17th Cav., and 57th AHC who provided unwavering rescue and support under intense anti-aircraft fire including the

SA-7. McKenna gives great credit to the rapid deployment and courage of the 1st Combat Aerial TOW Team (Hawk's Claw) for blunting the NVA tank supported assaults.

As in all conflicts, the discussion and decisions of many "players," at all levels, ultimately affects the final outcome. McKenna's extensive research reveals the dynamics of key political and military individuals on both sides of this battle. However, as McKenna states, "One man who stood out above all others in this struggle was Mr. John Paul Vann." Vann is everywhere in this book and McKenna gives the reader an in-depth perspective of his role in the Battle of Kontum.

McKenna has done a great job of bringing us his firsthand account of the Battle of Kontum and America's pivotal role in keeping South Vietnam from being split in half and defeated in 1972. This book is compelling reading whether you were "in country" at the time or not. I highly recommend this book.

*Kontum: The Battle to Save South Vietnam* (\$39.95, 344 pages) by Thomas P. McKenna, ISBN: 978-0813133980 is available from The University Press of Kentucky, Amazon, or other book suppliers.



## MEN OF GRANITE

by William E. McGee, a member of the VHPA who served in RVN with the 73rd AVN and 117th AHC in 63-64, is an interesting collection of stories about New Hampshire's military heroes.

The book chronicles the lives and service of 49 of New Hampshire's fighting men, in all wars, from the French and Indian War with the exploits of Maj. Robert Rogers of Rogers' Rangers to

CW4 Michael Durant in Somalia. The 49 individuals include eleven Medal of Honor winners and others whose names grace our forts, bases, and Navy ships.

McGee's book is a nice read about New Hampshire's military heroes and is a reminder that the size of a state is no measure of the service and sacrifice of its citizens to our nation.

*Men of Granite: True Stories of New Hampshire's Fighting Men* (\$19.95, 264 pages) by William E. McGee ISBN: 9781931807654 is available at <http://www.menofgranite.com/> and other book suppliers.



**AMERICANS IDENTIFIED:** There are still 1,679 Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

Specialist 4 Marvin F. Phillips, U.S. Army, 114th Assault Helicopter Company, was lost on Sept. 26, 1966, when the UH-1B helicopter he was aboard crashed off the coast of South Vietnam. His remains were identified on July 29, 2011. Capt. Arnold E. Holm, Jr., and Spc. 4 Robin R. Yeakley, U.S. Army, 8th Cavalry, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade, were lost on June 11, 1972, when the helicopter they were aboard crashed in Vietnam. Their remains were identified on Feb. 7, 2011.

The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 902; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 965. Of the 1,679 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam – 1,288 (VN-472, VS-816); Laos – 326; Cambodia – 58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters – 7. Over 450 were over-water losses.

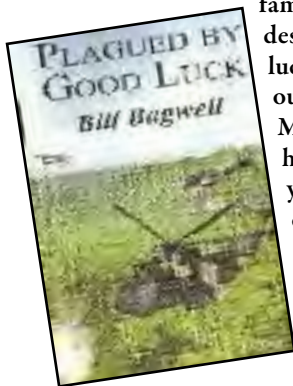


## By VHPA Life member: JOHN PENNY



### PLAGUED BY GOOD LUCK

by Col. (Ret.) William "Bill" Bagwell, is a memoir of his life, family, and service in the USAF. He describes his life as "plagued by good luck" and carries this theme throughout his story of humble beginnings in Memphis, having "the best family a human could ever hope for," and 24 years of an Air Force career which culminated with his assignment to the Air Force Space Shuttle Program at Vandenberg AFB in 1979.



His stories of flying jet fighters during the "cold war" in Japan, Korea, and stateside are often very witty accounts of cheating death. Bagwell also flew with the "1st Special Operations Squadron in 68-69 (call sign Hobo) in the unfriendly skies of Laos in the "Secret War." His narrative of flying the A-1E from Nakhon Phanom, Thailand (aka "Naked Fanny") over the Ho Chi Minh trail in support of insertion/extraction/rescue missions includes his own extractions after being shot down twice in Laos.

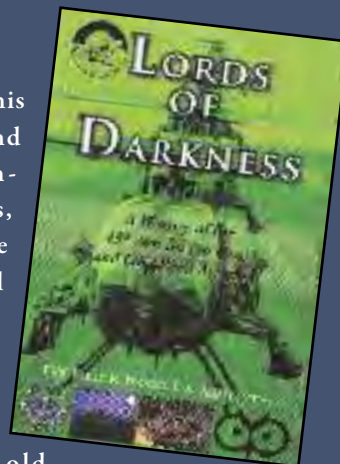
Bagwell's memoir is more than just another war story. It is an honest straight-forward view of a man's life, family, and the many challenges he faced under unusual circumstances. He very thoughtfully recounts the lives and personalities of those he met, served with, and lost along the way. I believe you will enjoy reading this book.

*Plagued by Good Luck* (\$28.75, 348 pages) by Bill Bagwell ISBN: 978-0984486922 is available from Amazon, or other book suppliers.

### LORDS OF DARKNESS

by VHPA member

Col. (Ret.) Billy R. Wood covers his service in OKARNG Aviation, and its history, including many in-depth discussions of the politics, policies, and attitudes that have shaped the role of the National Guard in the American defense structure. Wood's book reminds us that today's National Guard and the skill level of its personnel has changed from the good old boys club/weekend warriors of the past and is a critical asset in today's military operations as witnessed by its multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.



The core of Wood's book details the history and formation of a special ops aviation unit of the OKARNG which developed following the failure of the Desert One Operation to rescue the US Embassy hostages in Iran. The analysis and discussions of that failure resulted in extensive testing and development that led to the formation of the Task Force 160 "Night Stalkers." What is far less known is the top secret "mirror unit" that was formed in the OKARNG- the 45th Aviation Battalion (Special Operations), known as the "Lords of Darkness." This unit trained intensively in the special skills of a "black ops" helicopter unit from 1982 until 1994.

Wood served as the operations officer of the 45th in 1986, and has served 22 1/2 years in the active Army, plus 6 1/2 years with the National Guard. He makes a strong case in support of the reorganization of the segmented and scattered National Guard Aviation units to allow better use of their individual strengths. His book is an in-depth and unique look at the history of OKARNG Aviation, its secret unit, and the National Guard in general. I recommend this book.

*Lords of Darkness: A History of the 45th Avn BN (Sp Ops) and OKARNG Aviation* (\$31.95, 636 pages) by Col. Billy R. Wood, ISBN: 9781462027248, is available from iUniverse.com, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, KOBO.com in print and E-book, and from other book suppliers. Autographed copies available from Col. Wood at wood.brw.44@gmail.com.

#### STORY SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR THE VHPA AVIATOR FOR 2012

March/April 2012 issue (#30-02)  
COB Thursday, January 26, 2012

May/June 2012 issue (#30-03)  
COB Thursday, March 29, 2012

July/August 2012 issue (#30-04)  
COB Thursday, May 31, 2012

September/October 2012 issue (#30-05)  
COB Thursday, July 26, 2012

November/December 2012 issue (#30-06)  
COB Thursday, September 27, 2011

January/February 2013 issue (#31-01)  
COB Wednesday, November 28, 2012

For more information contact David Adams, Editor  
E-Mail: Aviator@VHPA.org (or) phone (254) 289-1947



# A Marine Huey Pilot Learns How the Army Does It

## by John Boden

In early 1967 I was leading a flight of two gun birds on a three week assignment to support six ARVN H-34s flying Search and Observe missions for the Ho Chi Minh trail out of Kham Duc. After we had been there about 10 days I went to start the bird for a morning mission and the blades wouldn't spin, my crew chief Sgt. Collum determined the starter/generator was blown. Our crew chiefs could perform magic when it came to keeping us in the air but there were no magic tricks for this problem, only a new part was going to fix it. There were missions to fly that day therefore the other bird was going to be unable to make a parts run and would be doing the missions alone, so Sgt. Collum came up with an idea.

They took the starter generators off both birds, put the good one on my bird and we started it. Then they took it back off while the engine was running, and put the bad one back on and were delighted to learn that the generator function worked fine. They then put the good one back on the other bird and got it started. While we were doing this, the SOG boys were on the radio and had made arrangements for us to go to the Pleiku, a huge Army Air Base we had heard of but had never seen, to have a new starter generator installed. They gave me the Army unit's name to ask for when I contacted the tower for landing and a bottle of scotch for the sergeant I was to deal with at the unit. Don't ask me where they came up with a bottle of scotch out there in that forsaken place but they told me to give him the scotch and he would take care of everything I needed.

I took off with Sgt. Cullum in the right seat and headed south past Kontum towards Pleiku. When we spotted Camp Holloway I couldn't believe it when I saw it, the place was huge and had more helicopters parked on it than I think the whole Marine Corps owned. Our base at Ky Ha could have fit inside of any one individual unit's area. The difference in how much it cost the government to run the Marine Corps verses the Army was strikingly obvious when I looked at this operation.

We were soon at our destination, had met our contact, delivered the goods, and were getting service like we were the long lost country cousins from the farm. The Army couldn't have been nicer and everyone was in complete awe of our bird, they had never seen a UH-1E model configuration. Things like the



hoist and the rotor brake looked very cool to them but what impressed them the most was its general condition. They had never seen bullet holes and cracks in the Plexiglas that were drilled and then knitted together with wire to keep the breaks from growing. They had never realized how well beer cans worked to patch holes in the skin, or that skids that had had a few hard landings could still be used like mine were; considered serviceable because the body of the bird was still a few inches from touching the ground. There were many details that caused a steady parade of sight-seers coming to see what the Marine corps was "forced" to work with but I think the biggest curiosity was our gun sight system. We used a spot on the windshield and a fold down rod attached above the windshield with an open circle on the end. In the circle were two wires, one vertical, and one horizontal, making the crosshairs. Line up the crosshairs and the spot on the windshield by pointing the plane at the target and let the guns and/or rockets go. It worked great for us, but they couldn't believe it.

When we left the next day, wined and dined, our bird was not the same as she was when we brought her there. I don't remember the whole list, but new rotor blades, all new Plexiglas, new skids, a reflex gun sight, wash and shine inside and out, and of course a new starter generator. We left to go back to work with many thanks passed on to all our new friends.

It was a couple of weeks before I got back to VMO-6 at Ky Ha, I was quite proud of the fix we pulled off and all the neat new parts we had acquired. When our maintenance officer, Capt. KD Waters, heard about it I thought he was going to have conniption fit. "How the hell am I going to do the paperwork for the parts you lost plus these new ones have part numbers that don't even exist in the Marine Corps," he ranted. Of course he figured out a way and I learned much, much latter from my friend and fellow pilot, Dave Ballentine that KD actually learned how to get back to Pleiku and dip into the parts source I discovered. I will always love the Army, especially when you need more gear!

*Taken from the book Klondike Playboy by John Boden. John Can be contacted through the website established for his book: <http://www.klondikeplayboy.com>*





Photos of John Conway's NVA/VC equipment display at the National WWII Museum in April of this year. John, a big supporter of the VHPA and the contributor of many of the Business Cards shown in this article also advertises his Military Memorabilia Collection in the Aviator. Feel free to contact him directly if you are interested in buying, selling or simply contributing any of your old memorabilia to a great cause.

Within the next 12 months John will be displaying his exhibits in 3 different museums. One is currently on display at the Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham Alabama, this fall the display travels to the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's memorial and in the spring the display will travel to the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock, Arkansas.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE VHPA CONTINUES TO GROW

Since the last Aviator 71 new men have joined VHPA, 57 as REGULAR MEMBERS and 14 as LIFE MEMBERS. Also, 101 of our existing REGULAR MEMBERS have converted to LIFE MEMBERSHIP. I invite everyone to take a look at this new Life Member pricing structure; it really is a good deal for all our "senior" members – not me of course.

Sherry Rogers in our HQ will soon begin tracking non-current members that did not renew their membership once it expired. As of today, that number totals almost 4775 men (the good news is that last month, it totaled 4,785 men). We want these men back in our Association! If you know one of these men, call him and suggest that he get's his "currency" renewed. Guys, let me know if I can help you with a potential member or getting a non-current back into the VHPA.\

Mike Sheuerman  
VHPA Membership Chairman  
Phone: 214-802-4244 MB  
E-Mail: msheuerman@tx.rr.com

## Dear VHPA,

The article about Gen Westmoreland in the September/October issue of the newsletter brought back memories of my flight school graduation. On 23 September 1970 Class 70-30 received our Aviator Wings at Ft. Rucker and we were honored to have Gen. Westmoreland as our classmate. I have enclosed two old photos of the event, one with me shaking his hand in the receiving line and another of the General receiving his set of wings.

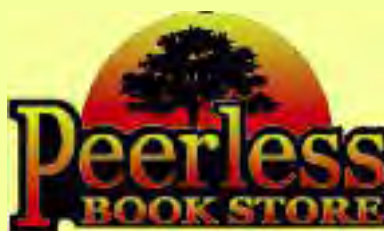
As was explained to us that night, under the guidance of CW4 Charlie Astrike, Gen. Westmoreland had finally completed 200 hours of stick time and was eligible for his own set of Aviator Wings. Evidently the General's training took a few years but the goal was eventually accomplished. And, according to Mr. Bookout's story, the General evidently logged several flights while "in country".

I say the VHPA forgets about a possible lack of "orders" and award a posthumous membership in our Association to General William C. Westmoreland. What say you?

Stan Marcieski

Dustoff97

E-Mail: smarcieski@satx.rr.com



Co-owner Susan Clotfelter Jimison, wife of VHPA Member Mike Jimison, Pink Panther 21 ~ announces the stocking of a special line of Vietnam War Military History Books at their store in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Signed copies of *Tom Marshall's Price of Exit* have arrived already. More VHPA Authors, including *Mike Sloniker, Chuck Holley, Frank Anton, John Boden* and *David Ballentine* are also on-hand. Titles include **Primer of the Helicopter War, Strength and Honor, To The Limit** and many, many more.

Susan is now working on stocking all the titles on John Penny's list of the VHPA specific books. Call with your requests, **770-650-READ (7323)**, email @ [peerlessbookstore@yahoo.com](mailto:peerlessbookstore@yahoo.com) or order through the website at [Peerlessbookstore.com](http://Peerlessbookstore.com).



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PS – I also would like to comment on the excellent article that runs next to the story about General Westmoreland. In it Mr. Garlock has a line saying "...if the LZ was hot, those of us flying Dustoff always tried to have gunship escorts". Well that would have been nice but it was not always possible. My worst moments of enemy contact seemed to come in "cold" LZ's.



# Another piece of our history shall endure to commemorate all who served ~ Charlie Model 66-15069



Former members of the 68th AHC gather to celebrate the re-dedication of 069. This story's author, Howard Smith is seen on one knee in the center of the group.



A 68th AHC Charlie-Model Gunship in flight somewhere in III Corps.



069 in a revetment in Bien Hoa, Vietnam

Ten members of the Mustang gun platoon of the 68th Assault Helicopter Company recently gathered in Nampa, Idaho at the Warhawk Air Museum for a dedication ceremony of the restoration of one of their former gunships. Select Aviation in Hamilton Montana did a complete static restoration of 069 and delivered it to the museum for display. I have NEVER seen this aircraft look so good!

UH-1C/M 66-15069 was purchased by the museum to be the centerpiece of their Viet Nam War display. The museum consists of WW2, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War aviation equipment and has approx 30,000 square feet of display space. The museum is located on the airport in Nampa, Idaho and if you are ever in the area, it is a must see location.

When I arrived at the 68th, the C/E for 069 was Pat O' Malley and the A/C was Richard "POP" Warren, Mustang 53. After Pop DEROSSED I became the A/C of this ship until it was sent to Corpus Christi for rebuild. After completing rebuild, the ship returned to Vietnam and served with the 176th AHC and the 117th AHC before returning to the states.

Regards, Howard Smith

Mustang 55, Top Tiger 15

68th AHC, Bien Hoa, Vietnam, 1969-1970

## Mission Made Just For A FNG....by Steve Bookout



It was a hot and sultry evening in July of '69 when the crews returned to the Nest from a day of defying certain death. A brand new FNG resided in hooch Double-Deuce along with some other pilots, two of whom were Otto Offereins and Bob Kelly, perhaps better known by their infamous call signs of White Pigeon & Yellow Canary. It was obvious that those two most senior ACs had been working on a mission. As the new guy

approached the hooch's red door, Mr. Offereins, humble and caring father figure that he was, laid his arm across the young pilot's shoulder. Then in a low voice, told him there was a mission planned and he was to be a principle player, but to keep it hush-hush.

This very wobbly-one wanted desperately to fit in with the old timers and prove his mettle, so he most readily accepted the offer. Wow! If Otto AND Bob, both wanted you in on their plans, why man, you were almost among the elite in the company. Why, this was probably going to his rite of passage and from now on, he'd be one of the boys!

Early the next day, our intrepid Warrant packed his AWOL bag as instructed and proceeded out the Camp Evans main gate to hitch hike down Highway 1. Destination: Camp Eagle Main Motor Pool. An ARVN deuce and a half gave him a ride to the main motor pool and dropped him off. As the truck belched smoke and rumbled away, the young man checked his watch. A little before nine. Plenty of time.

AWOL bag in hand, he sauntered through the gate as if he owned the place. Many eyes were on him as he strode past, ignoring everyone. If you were there, you'd have seen his cap was thrown back, his flight glasses on, and had a grungy OD towel thrown around his neck.

Many soldiers were watching, but no one had approached or accosted him as he neared the row of water trailers parked along the fence. This was good because he was shaking pretty well by now and thoughts of MPs and Courts Martials were racing through his head. Did I mention a queasy feeling inside?

Surely the White Pigeon and Yellow Canary wouldn't steer him wrong -- would they? He selected a 500 gallon water buffalo and climbed on top. Two Master Sergeants were eye-balling him closely as he laid his towel out and removed his nomex shirt. Seeing him sit down, apply sun tan lotion, and then lay on the towel, the two returned to work probably thinking the young man had been in country far too long.

After about 30 minutes, it was plain that nobody else was watching him....just as Otto had predicted. At 10 minutes of 10, he jumped down clutching his precious AWOL bag, removed four nylon straps, he attached them to the rings located at each corner of the trailer, crawled back on top clutching the looped ends in his hand, and laid back down. No one had seen him move! Was he crafty or what?

Minutes seemed to creep by ever so slowly and he was really getting the gitters. Soon that familiar wop-wop-wop sound was heard and unmistakably getting louder. Slightly raising his head, an unmarked UH-1D came into view about 15 feet off the ground and approaching fast.

In a flash, he was up, had the straps secured to the cargo hook, and then dropped into the filling hole on top of the water tank. With his head sticking out of the tank, he saw all pandemonium break loose down below.

People came running out of the wood work towards the Huey as it picked up speed and gained altitude with its cargo dangling below. He started laughing because he could hear them yelling, pointing, and swinging their fists as they made their exit, stage left.

The trailer started to swing and rotate, so he ducked down inside the tank and the rest of the trip became a blur. But soon the Huey arrived at the Nest and dropped the water buffalo and it's passenger off, and then disappeared into the blue, never to be seen again. So ends the tale of how Phoenix got their shower and our FNG lived happily ever after.



Cheers, Steve Bookout, Phoenix 62

Page 38 The VHPA Aviator

## **Total Knee Joint Replacement Major Depot Maintenance**

*By VHPA Member Robert L Graham*

I can do a low-level hover with just a little tingling pain  
I can preflight the skids with hardly any strain.  
A left tail slip on take off  
There is only a little RPM drop.  
My wife wants to dance all night.  
The rhythm no longer seems quite right.  
A green light from the tower  
Pull pitch, Ah, cannot rise with full power.  
Attempting to project a manly stride  
With this one to one vertical I cannot hide.  
Can no longer land on a dime  
Hop skipping down the takeoff pad all the time.

Dammit, these skid marks are all mine!!!

Bob, look at this film of your old knee  
The one on the right is the left one, no cartilage you see.  
No problem at all, is this surgeon's smooth patter.  
Well authenticated by the framed Washingtonian  
"Surgeon Pick of the Year" for that matter.  
It's routine, I've done hundreds in several ways.  
You will be walking to the bathroom in a couple of days.

Doc I don't want to sit on the pad waiting to go.  
I have no need to lift heavy cargo  
I want to light the fire  
pull pitch  
raise quickly  
At least steam low level?

OK Bob, cool it now-hover in place  
I'll brief you on what it takes.  
We cut these two bones off right here and drill  
We slip in these new replacement pieces for the fill.  
Bob, be assured the replacement parts are premium  
One is plastic, the other titanium!

In my mind I know I will not perish  
But damn, the DVD I viewed is completely garish.  
It is your call Bob; a painful future is your current fate.  
I open my eyes, take a deep breath and select a Depot Maintenance date

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Version #2 Copyright Robert L Graham November 2, 2011*



Robert L. (Bob) Graham entered active duty as a Sergeant of the Washington National Guard, graduated from Artillery and Guided Missile OCS in 1955. He completed Fixed Wing Flight training in Class 58-4 and helicopter transition Class 59-6. He was Operations Officer of the Centaurs, D Troop (Air Cavalry), 3rd Squadron, 4th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi RVN April 1968 until February, 1967. He enjoyed a brief vacation of fun (and war games) at C&GS during which he was selected to activate, train and deploy the Knights, A Battery (Aerial Artillery) of the 77th Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The Battery joined the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) at Camp Eagle RVN December 1968. At rotation time he became Assistant G-3 Air at II Field Forces. Bob retired in March 1977 as a Master Army Aviator and resides in Fairfax, Virginia, with his wife Diana. They are blessed with four children in their forties and nine grandchildren age three through twenty. He is a member of Virginia Poets Society and the Poetry Workshop of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

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## *Veteran's Day 2011: a Report from the Wall*

*by Midterm Member-At-Large, Bob Hesselbein*

If one place captures and provides the emotional focal point for we who served, it is The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located on the northwest corner of the Washington National Mall. A stone's throw from the Lincoln Memorial and one of the most-visited sites in the nation's capital, it is a very special place of polished black granite and quiet green.

Nestled within a wide scattering of trees, the 58,272 etched names of our lost colleagues and friends look silently across a small meadow onto two complementary monuments that capture the experience and emotions of our conflict, the Three Soldiers and the Women of Vietnam. Within the shadows of the oaks, sweetgums and maples, visitors frequently place roses upon the statues in gestures of both admiration and love.

Two national holidays, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, provide the opportunity for formal tribute to those who served. Ceremonies draw Vietnam veterans and their families to this place of honor. We remember; we reflect; and foremost, we give tribute to those who sacrificed all in the service of their country.

Cold sunshine and crisp breezes across the Washington Mall and Potomac River provided a chilled setting for the many who gathered at the Wall for the 2011 Veterans Day memorial ceremony. Vietnam veterans by the thousands were present and easy to identify. They came dressed in business suits, blue jeans, fatigue jackets, leather vests embroidered with symbols describing their service; some wore medals earned in combat, and others displayed their military heritage with themed baseball hats or cavalry Stetsons. Helicopter pilots were well-represented, noticeable by their well-worn flight jackets, aviator wings and displayed air medals. It felt good to be among friends, once again.

As a group they stood, bonded by the common experience of war and the desire to honor those listed on the Wall. They gathered in many ways. Some joined small reunions, or stood with family members, others searched the large audience hoping to find old buddies, some posed in quiet dignity, immersed in thought.

Under the watchful vigil of honor guards from the 1st Cavalry Division and the 82nd Airborne Division, the ceremonies began at 1:00 PM. Preceded by music that gently captured the themes and experiences of the Vietnam era, the ceremony

guest speakers discussed the importance of our service and the costs that still linger to this day.

A significant portion of each address focused on the planned Education Center at The Wall, and the importance of fundraising to build the facility. The Education Center will teach the values of our warriors and explain the experience of we who served during the Vietnam War.

The keynote speaker, famed war correspondent and author Joe Galloway, spoke movingly from the heart as he discussed the suffering, camaraderie and terror of war. He talked of brotherhood, our brotherhood, as he explained his experience under fire in the Ia Drang Valley. He talked of the Vietnam veteran's poor welcome upon returning home, of never forgetting, and his key words, "Hate the war, but love the warrior," brought a quiet tear to many in the audience.

Thoughtful comments by Colonel Sharon Bystran, USA (ret), reflected upon her tour as a combat nurse in Vietnam. She reflected on how the quiet early days of 1965 quickly turned into the bloody battles of later months, of casualties, supply shortages and the endless sound of med-evac helicopters arriving and departing. She remarked that the sounds and smells of war linger in her memories still, some 45 years after her experience of war.

With words completed, a kilted bagpiper played the comforting notes of "Amazing Grace." The conclusion of ceremonies ended with a lone bugler's playing of "Taps," and the traditional placing of the memorial wreathes at the base of the panels. Despite the cold many veterans lingered at the Wall. Some who had traveled a great distance to attend remained and stood, reluctant to leave this place of healing.

The afternoon shadows deepened into darkness, but the Wall and walkways remained illuminated by the glow of gentle, recessed lighting. The Wall, the 58,272 etched names, continued to stand vigil as Veteran's Day, 2011 came to an end.

