



The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

2017 ACVVC Officer Election

By Greg Mason Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting held Saturday morning, September 9th, during the 2017 Reunion. The three positions are Vice President, Treasurer and one Director.

The three positions are Vice President, Treasurer and one Director. TheVicePresidentandTreasurer will servetwo-year terms. TheDirector will serve athree-year term. AlltermswillbeginJanuary 1, 2018.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their elected term.

The elected candidates must be able to communicate by e-mail with the other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters. Each candidate must be highly organized and be able to commit time and energy to a specific project or committee as directed by the President. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Word and Excel are required in order to prepare reports and other documents required of all positions.

The position of Vice President serves as the President's right hand man. In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. Sound leadership skills are fun-

Please turn to **ELECTION** on page 5

Suoi-Cat Darkest Day for Blackhorse

...K Troop 1st Platoon was providing security for an element of the 595th Engineer Company working at the Gia Ray rock quarry, near Suoi-Cat, South Vietnam.

By Robert "Bob" Kickenweitz

The 21st of May 1967 was a beautiful sunny Sunday morning, the kind of a day you were happy to be alive. I got up, put on a clean set of fatigues and went to breakfast at the mess hall. Leaving the mess hall, I noticed steam coming up from our tent as the dew from the night before was evaporating into little clouds from the heat of the sun. Yes, just what we needed in South Vietnam, a little more humidity!

After breakfast, I walked up to our chapel, about one block from my tent, for Sunday Mass. Our chapel was located on the southwest corner of an intersection, with the 7th Surgical Hospital on the northwest corner, and across the street, diagonally from chapel. On the northeast corner was the 37th Medical Company, and on the southeast corner was Regimental Headquarters.

For the longest time, Father Egan, our Chaplain, would say Mass in an open field, but now we had our own chapel. Made from a maintenance tent, it had a center aisle with benches on both sides. At the altar's base there were two railings: one from each side

Please turn to Suoi-Cat on page 4

Happy Birthday!



On February 2, 2017, the 11th Cavalry celebrated it's 116 birthday! Blackhorse troopers at Fort Irwin gathered on the parade field and sang Happy Birthday then fell into formation and sang the Regimental Song.







From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Allen Hathaway President Plans are being finalized for the 32nd annual reunion in Orlando, Florida, on September 6-10, 2017.

Reunions are a great place to renew old friendships and to make new friends. Once again this promises to be an outstanding reunion and an opportunity to be with others who served with the Blackhorse Regiment.

The Rosen Centre Hotel is a beautiful hotel located near many of the popular attractions in the Orlando area. Many of those attending have planned to arrive a few days early in order to combine the reunion with a visit to some of the Central Florida attractions.

We expect another large turn-out for this reunion, estimated now at 1,100 or more. Approximately 90% of the 600 room block has been filled. The hotel will continue to take reservations beyond the 600 room block as long as rooms are available BUT you should reserve your room as soon as possible.

The fundraising activities for our Scholarship Program are strong again for 2017. The first of three fundraisers was our annual calendar mailed last December. The next two activities are the annual raffle and silent auction. Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in May. We're offering some great prizes again this year so be sure to return your tickets prior to the reunion.

Start thinking of items for the silent auction. The auction is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. We have many talented people in the organization and they always come through for the silent auction. Please see the separate article in this issue.

On February 2, 2017, the 11th Cavalry celebrated it's 116 birthday! Blackhorse troopers at Fort Irwin formed up and sang Happy Birthday followed by the Regimental Song. Meanwhile at Arlington National Cemetery, Blackhorse veterans laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our regiment has a long and distinguished history, and each of you helped write that history. We expect another large turn-out for this reunion, estimated now at 1,100 or more. Approximately 90% of the 600 room block has been filled...you should reserve your room as soon as possible.

We had several new members join following the "Are You A Member" article in our February 2017 issue of *Thunder Run*. Some had been on our mailing list for 25 years or more. Welcome Home!

We also helped several members reconnect with old friends. The most difficult part of helping is to remember the full and complete names of those friends. Many had nicknames, others only known by last name. There are several hundred rosters on our website that can be used as references. If you are looking for someone, go to the website and find a roster for your unit and time frame. Search through the names to see if you recognize anyone. You can also post a note on both of our website bulletin boards. Give as much information as you remember. We encourage everyone to read the bulletin boards frequently. Also, feel free to contact me or any board members and we will try to put you in contact and old friend.

Thunder Run, Pete Walter, our vice president, will become the new Thunder Run editor.

We are always looking for YOUR stories to publish in *Thunder Run*. I've heard many interesting stories over the years, we just need to get them written down and submitted! Humorous stories are always popular. Sent your articles to Pete Walter, contact information on page 3.

Stay up-to-date on all activities of our organization by checking our website and Facebook page.

We invite all Blackhorse troopers, family and friends to honor our fallen comrades on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, as we lay our Blackhorse wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on that day. If you're not able to attend, take a moment wherever you may be and remember our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Their memory will live forever. ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".

Beginning with the August issue of

Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to document and standardize the 11th ACVVC reunion registration cutoff dates.

Effective with the 2017 reunion, and all future reunions, the cutoff date for registration will be twenty-eight (28) days prior of the first Wednesday of the reunion.

The cutoff date for Orlando will be August 9, 2017. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

Cancellations and Refunds: Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer at least five (5) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112-7800.

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Suoi-Cat from page 1

I have been able to handle my PTSD for the most part over the years and I have found that writing these short stories has helped enormously.

of the tent but open at the center aisle, each with a white cross on it. On the base itself was the altar with a cross and some candles on it, behind the altar was a large white cross on the rear wall.

During the mass, all hell started to break loose! We had one dust-off after another coming in with dead and wounded. We were half way through the mass when the word came for Father Egan to come right over to the hospital. So he and Tony Graziano, his assistant, ran across the dusty road to the hospital. After 50 years, Tony remembers: "It probably was the worst day of my time in Vietnam. They were bringing in bodies, some so severely wounded and missing limbs that you could barely recognize the person.

There was blood all over." I stayed at the chapel for awhile and prayed for the wounded men on the dust-off coming in from the carnage that they had been through. At 0850 hrs some 19 miles from Blackhorse base camp, K Troop 1st Platoon was providing security for an element of the 595th Engineer Company working at the Gia Ray rock quarry, near Suoi-Cat, South Vietnam. Their convoy was ambushed by a reinforced battalion of the 274th VC Regiment, some of the enemy was wearing South Vietnam Army uniforms, while others wore mixed black pajama and fatigue uniforms. Due to the loss of communication, Captain Hoffman, Commander of K Troop, after some 15 to 20 minutes, committed the balance of his two other platoons as a relief force.

At about the same time, Air Cav Troop with helicopter gunships arrived on the scene, and three howitzer batteries were responding along with six USAF air strikes one hour after the ambush started. What started out as a beautiful sunny day for me was hell for my brother Blackhorse Troopers, and in some cases their last day alive. All of

<u>Remembering the Fallen...</u>



Blackhorse veterans laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery to mark the 116th birthday of the 11th Cavalry.

1st platoon vehicles were damaged or destroyed. Of the original 41 men, only the platoon sergeant was not a casualty. 16 Blackhorse Troopers were killed that day and 26 wounded. The enemy lost 30 men.

Unfortunately the story doesn't end there. Back in the early 80's on a Saturday that happened to be Memorial Day weekend, I was cutting my lawn and Suoi-Cat popped into my mind out of a clear blue sky. I couldn't get it out, I stopped the mower and sat down on the side steps to our patio and started to cry. I couldn't stop, I just couldn't. My wife Patti saw me, came out of the house and asked, "What's wrong?" I tried to tell her the story that I had locked away many years ago. At the time I never talked about Vietnam. She sat down beside me with her arm over my shoulder. Our daughter Kristine and son Marc came to the door and Kristine asked, "Is Daddy okay, Mommy?" "Dad is okay, he just remembered something very sad. Go back in the house and watch some TV" she said. I don't think Patti or I had any knowledge of PTSD at the time. She stayed there with me until I could compose myself and get back to the lawn.

This woman is the most understanding and compassionate person I have ever met in my life, I'm so blessed to have her for my wife! It is said that time heals all wounds, I'm not so sure if that is correct in all cases. Like Tony, Suoi-Cat affected me more than when I personally came under fire. I think in my case, I was so scared and the adrenaline was pumping so hard that afterward I just felt very cold. So cold in fact that my teeth started to chatter and I felt like I was going to freeze to death. But in the case of Suoi-Cat I was an observer of somebody else's pain, much more than any pain that I ever felt. I have been able to handle my PTSD for the most part over the years and I have found that writing these short stories has helped enormously. I will always hold a special place in my heart for those brothers I loss that day at Suoi-Cat.

An American Lady

By Jim "Doc" Felker, A Troop, 1/11 ACR, 1968

My daughter, Stacey, has attended four Blackhorse Reunions but regrettably couldn't attend the 31st reunion in San Antonio. I regret this because she didn't hear the testimony by Van Marosek about her experience as a 9 year old child in Saigon in 1975.

Van told of her mother that worked for the U.S. Military and how her mother was offered a flight to the U.S. but was told that her 18 immediate and extended family members would have to stay. She rejected the offer and chose to stay knowing it would mean certain death from the communist after their take over of Viet Nam. Later she was granted her request and the entire 19 family members would be able to leave Viet Nam for America.

Van said she remembered the days they waited at the airport with little or no food and water for their time to board transports. Finally their time came and as this little terrified 9 year

ELECTION from page 1

damental to the position.

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund, the organization's investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

The Directors are expected to commit themselves to a specific area of interest within the 11th ACVVC or as directed by the President.

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or submitted from the floor at the General Membership meeting. Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC. old girl was boarding the C-130 transport she could hear artillery and small arms fire in the distance, Hannibal was literarily "At the Gate".

They first traveled to Wake Island and then on to the United States. Once in the states no one sponsor could be found for the 19 family members so they were split up and went to different states. Van and her mother found a sponsor in Ohio and settled there where she began learning English and attending school. As a child she was forced to endure the prejudices by being called names such as chink or slant eyes. One day a youngster that had watched Bruce Lee movies ask her if she knew kung fu . She locked her eyes with his and with a poker bluff said "You want to find out!!?" The word spread and after this incident the name calling dissipated and finally stopped completely. I too was called names when I came from Viet Nam and once had feces thrown at me then called a baby killer. Strange I thought, I went to Viet Nam as a medic. My mission was to save lives not take lives.

A Look Back

By Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

This article will give you some insight on how your registration fee is used.

Over the past 15 years we have held each reunion in a different city. The combined attendance for this time frame is 17,185 for an average of 1,146 per reunion. We have also consumed 17,185 dinners with 70% of them being beef. During these 15 years our attendees have been able to drink 309 kegs of beer. Each keg holds about 7 cases. As it turns out, the numbers indicate that every attendee consumes 35 ounces of that golden brew. I happen to know that a lot of those present do not drink beer. It appears that some of you are having a really good time. This is why we all attend, to have a good time. Our average registration fees are a very affordable \$78.00.

The dinner cost an average of \$60.00.

For many years I, as well as my brothers, hid from the fact we were Viet Nam Vets. A couple of years ago I was wearing my Blackhorse cap and a young lady said, "Thank you for your service". It didn't resonate and still to this day doesn't resonate. For me it was a day late and a dollar short because my peers and countrymen had created a void in my soul. Van finished her testimony by saying "Thank you for your service and welcome home." Van was someone that knew that the vast majority of U.S. servicemen that served in Viet Nam went there to liberate and help the people not to plunder and murder. She had been there, had been rescued and she knew us and when she said "Thank you for your service and welcome home" the void in my soul filled with emotion because Van knew us and I knew it was from her heart and soul and what she said had touched mine. It was then that I knew I was in the presence of a genuine Patriotic American Lady.

You all do well with soft drinks with the average of four and one half 12 oz. cups per registrant. Over the 15 years we have spent over \$89,000.00 on audio visual for the reunions. DJ's and enter-tainment account for about \$11,000.00.

Other miscellaneous costs are food in the bunker, lunch (Columbus GA), water for bus tours and food vouchers. This cost comes in at \$107,900.00. We have also paid over \$50,000.00 for transportation in Las Vegas, Columbus, GA and San Antonio.

As you can see the cost to put on a reunion is high. The good part is that we have never had a registration fee above \$100.00. I think we offer a lot for this fee. It is the intent of the Reunion Committee and Directors to do our very best to keep it this way. Reunion planning has been a challenge and a great learning experience. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

We Need Your Photos

By Pete Walter, Vice President

This calendar shows your service, your history...please help me continue to make it a great production that we can all be proud of!

A comment and request on the future of our calendar is in order. It is imperative that you the members of the 11th ACVVC continue to search through your old photos and submit the best quality photos you can find to be considered for inclusion in future issues.

We transitioned to the full-color version three years ago and to continue to publish a full color calendar we need a large pool of high quality color photographs. The best photos for reproduction purposes are high quality 35mm prints or slides showing groups of Troopers performing everyday combat missions and chores along with images of the landscape, hamlets and indigenous Vietnamese.

If you have the capability of electronically scanning photos at a resolution of 300 or 600 dpi, you can send them to me as attachments to an e-mail. This is the easiest, cheapest, safest and quickest way to submit images. Additionally, I will have a high-resolution flatbed scanner at our 32nd Annual Reunion (September 6 – 10, 2017) this summer in Orlando, Florida. If you bring your photos I will scan them and return them to you in minutes.

If you choose to mail your images, please send copies and retain your original. Information describing the subject matter, identity of Troopers, date, location, etc., is appreciated. This calendar shows your service, your history...please help me continue to make it a great production that we can all be proud of!

10 Lame 'Reasons' For Not Attending A Reunion

10. "It's too far to go."

Some people come to our reunions every year regardless of where it's held. East coast, west coast or mid-west, it doesn't matter the location. Sadly, some people don't attend the reunion even when they're held in their own city!

9. "It costs too much."

The organization makes no money from the registration fees. We have tried to maintain a reasonable registration fee of less than \$100 every year. We also offer financial assistance for any member who wishes to attend. People who have come to past reunions agree it's worth it. Many say they'll come back, no matter what it costs.

8. "I'm not sure my schedule will allow me to come."

Unless you're absolutely positive there's no way you will be able to come, register (before August 9, 2017). Once you make that commitment to come, it's amazing how the rest of your life can be arranged to make it possible.

7. "I can't be there for the whole thing."

Why not? (See reason # 8.) If this is really a problem, don't make the excuse not to come at all. The events covered by the registration fee run from Wednesday thru Saturday evening. Attend anyway. Everyone who has been there for only part of a reunion has wished they were there for the whole thing.

6. "There's nothing to see or do in that city."

Not true. Orlando, San Antonio and Las Vegas are a few of the recent reunion sites. There's plenty to do in each of those cities. The reunion location is selected partly based on activities. The main attraction of the reunions is the people.

5. "I don't want to come without my spouse / significant other, and I don't think they will have fun."

If our past experience is any guide, this is a non-issue. Most spouses and significant others quickly get acquainted with others and have a great time.

4. "I know what high school reunions are like, it's just a bunch of boring people standing around talking about their jobs, their marriages, their kids, etc."

Yes, that's the stereotype of what many high school reunions are like. Our reunions aren't like that at all. There's something very special about having served proudly with others in the same unit that makes our reunions different. It doesn't take long to realize the special bond we have. It's like getting in touch with your roots, or coming back home. There's nothing else like it.

3. "I won't know anyone there. Or they won't remember me."

Contact old friends before the reunion and plan to meet. Actually, it really doesn't matter. Many "first timers" and old timers who have been to several reunions have made more new friends at the reunions. It's really about the common experience we all shared.

2. "The people I know won't be attending."

Come anyway, you'll add to your list of people you'll want to see next time. Who knows, you might meet someone from your own hometown. If there are some people you want to see, make the effort to contact them well before the reunion and plan to meet. We'll help you try to find them if possible.

1. "I'll go next year."

If you continue to put it off until next year, you'll never attend.

The plain truth is: We want to see you! If you attend, you will be talking about the reunion for weeks and months after the event is over. Begin making your plans now. We want to see you there!



From the 67th Colonel of the Regiment

reetings to the Troopers of the Best JDamn Regiment. Not unusual, but our Regiment has been extremely busy over the past several months.

We recently celebrated the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War with hundreds of veterans here at Fort Irwin and the surrounding communities. The event included a motorcycle and car show as well as a luncheon where Blackhorse Troopers visited with veterans talking about their experiences serving our country. It was a very enlightening event for our young Troopers, getting the chance to hear the stories of those that preceded them in the Regiment. We do this event every year, so if you haven't come out previously, the offer is always open.

The Regiment is preparing for Rotation 17-05, as the National Training Center hosts 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan. As

always, our Troopers will continue to demonstrate why they are the most feared opposition force in the world, in addition to showing our expertise in the art of maneuver warfare.

Our Troopers continue to expand their proficiency in all aspects of warfighting as Assassin and Easy Troops each conducted Air Assault missions in the training area. These training exercises provide key developmental milestones, and they also enhance the ability of the Regiment to project combat power upon the enemy in a more robust fashion. This is all leading to bringing back Task Force Angel, which is similar to the mission that the Squadrons and the Aero Rifle Platoons so valiantly executed in Vietnam. PILE ON!

It is training such as this that continues to set the Blackhorse Regiment apart as we increase the lethality of our troopers, which in turn enhances the

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for Thunder Run

1st Quarter	Jan 15
2nd Quarter	
3rd Quarter	
4th Quarter	

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112-7800; email 11thcav1966@comcast.net.

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of Thunder Run without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112. Email 11thcav1966@Comcast.net



Name:	
Old Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
New Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
Phone	Effective Date:
Email:	

COL Joseph D. Clark

rotational unit expe-



visit to the NTC. It also makes the Army better by infusing this talent back into the force as Troopers depart the Regiment.

I cannot express the level of pride I have in each Trooper, Troop and Company, and Squadron as they repeatedly impress me by their "can-do" attitude and excitement for the next challenge.

As we move into the hotter time of the year, there will be plenty to challenge each Trooper with the weather, our OPTEMPO, and the drive to continually improve our foxhole.

I thank each of you for your service to the Regiment and your continued support of our Nation. We are the Blackhorse Troopers, the finest in the land!

For more information on the Blackhorse Regiment, please visit and like our Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/11th-Armored-Cavalry-Regiment-Blackhorse-158715460811763/ ALLONS!

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th **Armored Cavalry's Veterans** of Vietnam and Cambodia to:

Allen Hathaway 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610 11thcav1966@comcast.net for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2017

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman

 $R^{\rm affle \ tickets \ will \ be \ mailed \ to \ all \ 11th \ ACVVC \ members \ in May. The annual raffle is one of three fundraising project that benefit the Scholarship Program.$

The proceeds from this year's raffle will once again go towards providing scholarships for our children. The 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 390 scholarships totaling \$1,264,000 to children of our membership since 1996.

All children (natural, adopted or step children) of our members who are planning on attending a university, community college or trade school are eligible to apply. There is no age limit and students do not need to be pursuing a degree. For more information please look at the scholarship guide on our website *www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.htm* You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2017 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 9th during the 32nd annual reunion in Orlando, Florida. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

1st	place	(\$500)
2nd	place	(\$400)
3rd	place	(\$300)
4th	place	(\$200)
and	eleven	\$100 prizes.

Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

The World of Avatar at Disney's Animal Kingdom

Register Now for the 2017 ACVVC Reunion in Orlando, Florida!



2017 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be Orders must be received by	available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2017 reunion in Orlando.
Name	BLACANVESE
Address	
City	State Zip terter the track of the second se
Phone	E-mail 32ND ANNUAL REUNION
Adult Sizes: M, L, XL - \$42	n logo embroidered on left brest. .00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)
Shirt Size: Visa MasterCard	PLEASE PRINT Line 1: Line 2: Line 3:
Card No	CVC Code Exp. Date
Signature (Required for cred	it card)
-	rs payable to 11th ACVVC. If paying by check, write your drivers license on the check. Iartermaster, C/O Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.





Attend the Orlando women's meeting to socialize and be creative

I, for one, can't believe it's already April! That puts us five months from the 32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion at Orlando, Florida, scheduled for September 6-10.

In the last Thunder Run, I announced we were in the pricing stage of a special Friday event for our women. In this issue I need to announce that those plans have had to be canceled due cost. You know what they say, location, location, location.

Unfortunately location, Orlando, which has many wonderful vacation things to do, isn't going to work for a Friday women's event as we hoped. We always like to bring you a good value for your money like the men's organization does each year, but it isn't going to work for us this year.

With so many great things to do in the area I know you will find something else great out of the many options available to do Friday with family and friends.

Our women's board has discussed it and since we had already planned to enhance our usual Saturday morning annual meeting, we're going to make sure it's better than ever!

Saturday Morning Meeting Plans, 9 a.m. Our Saturday morning meeting plans include a shortened business meeting and then we're moving on to something fun.

Cherry Platt, board member, has volunteered to teach us how to make amazing red, black and silver beaded Blackhorse bracelets!

Cherry assures us these bracelets are easy to make, taking about a half-hour or so. We'll be working on them together as a group so we can help one another out and enjoy time getting to know each other better.

Cherry has already purchased beads and supplies to make kits for 150 people. If you are a beader, think about joining us and helping those who have never beaded before. I'm sure Cherry would appreciate the extra helpers. You can let her know at Saturday's meeting if you are willing.

But here's what I need from you because this is our only women's special event at Orlando:

If you know of the loss of a Blackhorse woman who has passed since January 2015, whether she attended our meetings or not, we ask that you notify us.

Thunder Run

Preregistration is not needed to attend our meeting or participate in making a bracelet. However, just in case we have more people come than we have bracelet kits, would you do me a favor? Please send me your name and names of participating family if you are planning to join our meeting?

If you would send me an email, or mail a note to me or call me, it will be a great help and I can make sure Cherry has more than enough kits so everyone leaves with a bracelet. What I need are your names with Troop info. I have a new address now so here it is:

> Kathy Tandberg 3818 Lone Peak Drive Bismarck, ND 58503 Phone: 701-870-6868 Email: kathyz.tandberg@yahoo.com

Facebook: We have now added a note on our Facebook Women's page about troopers who pass on to Fiddlers Green. The Women's Facebook page can be found under "Blackhorse (11thACVVC) Women". If you haven't already, please go to our page and "LIKE" us.

Volunteers: We always need volunteers. Sometimes a few, sometimes many and we are calling upon volunteers to take shifts at our fundraising table, both at Orlando in 2017 and in Michigan in 2018. Shifts are not long and the more we can get to take a turn, the more everyone can enjoy the reunion. Please let me know if you would like to be placed on our volunteer list.

Blackhorse Women Losses: Sometimes it takes the unexpected to remind us of life and all we hold dear. We have begun to recognize the loss of Blackhorse Women as Sarah's Angels, in honor of one of our faithful volunteers.

If you know of the loss of a Blackhorse woman who has passed since January 2015, whether she attended our meetings or not, we ask that you notify us. Please contact me (above) or Prayer Chair Jan Beamon with information of a loss. Jan will need her name, husband's name and troop, date of death, and address.

All losses need to be verified so if you have a link to an obituary (or one that can be emailed) that would also be appreciated. Contact Jan by email at *janwowwe@gmail.com* or by phone at 903-780-5621. Or you can contact me or any other Women's Group Board member.

Contact information for Women's Board Members can be found on the men's website at *http: www.11thcavnam.com* and then go to the area marked "Messages" in the middle of the home page. Click the "Messages" link. That will take you to the next page where you can click on Blackhorse Women's News, then click on Women's Board Members for contact information.

Catch you next time.





Having Fun

et's start this conversation with a true story that was sort of controversial when it happened and is a lot more controversial now. This is about guns. Yep, guns. When I was a mere boy in the late 1940s, my dad took my brother and me out and bought us each a toy. I forget what my toy was, but my brother got a new toy cowboy sixshooter. Yep, a toy gun. It was a silver cap pistol. If you're old enough, you'll know what a cap pistol was. If you're not that old, ask your grandpa. Anyway, as we walked out of the store a lady we'd never laid eyes on before, spotted us on the sidewalk. She came over and kindly told us that guns were very dangerous and little boys like us shouldn't have guns, not even a toy gun. Don't worry, we just walked on and minded our own business. So that establishes that guns, even then, were sometimes controversial. Later, especially during the Viet Nam War years, having guns became very controversial and they still are, at least with politics. "What's the point of my story?" you are probably wondering. Nothing earth shattering. I just thought I'd tell it because toy cap pistols were great fun for little boys like real guns are great fun for grown men, when used properly, of course. Since fun is the topic of our discussion here, I thought I'd open with this little story about having fun.

As you may (or may not) know, my first tour in Viet Nam was with helicopters at Soc Trang in the Mekong Delta. One day, the leader of one of our gun ship platoons invited me to come along on a flight to test a gun ship (heavily armed Huey helicopter). It had been in for maintenance. I could come along and ride in the Peter Pilot (co-pilot) seat and have a good time. We flew up over a no-man zone where we could test the guns without doing any shooting except to test the equipment. (Noman zone meant no enemy expected there that day). Captain K had instructed me how to fly the helicopter and I was doing OK. Now he says he'll show One of my best having fun stories in Viet Nam is "Mad Minutes." Mad Minutes involved a whopping lot of "expending" ammunition. Mad Minutes happened at any unpredictable time during the dark of night,...

me how to shoot the grenade launcher that spit grenades (like hand grenades) out the nose of the gun ship (like "bloop bloop bloop"). I did quite well, I'll have to say. "Why are you telling me this story?," you ask. I reply, "because flying that helicopter was huge fun for me that day, we weren't doing war at the time, just maintenance, and where else could you do such a thing and have fun?" There's a sequel to this story, but we'll save it for another time.

One of my best having fun stories in Viet Nam is "Mad Minutes." Mad Minutes involved a whopping lot of "expending" ammunition. Mad Minutes happened at any unpredictable time during the dark of night, when the commander would give the order and a lot of guns, maybe all or maybe just a lot, on the whole perimeter, would open up and shoot like mad into the jungle for a couple of minutes. We didn't know of any enemy out there. Hitting a target wasn't the main purpose of Mad Minutes. The purpose was that, if there was any enemy(s) out there, he would be completely surprised, scared out of his wits to come near us and be real confused. Mad Minutes kept the enemy way off guard which gave us a nice advantage. They also gave our troopers an advantage of security, the noise being so horrific and bullets flying into the dark jungle where the enemy could be lurking. Also, they were a lot of fun for our guys. Mad minutes were better, louder, and more spectacular than Fourth of July fireworks at home! Our main guns and machine guns put out a lot of fire power when turned loose all at once! That was having real fun!

Here's another having fun story. Bear with me if you've heard it before (you probably haven't). It's about destruction derbies. You can imagine, if you haven't experienced one, what exhilarating fun it is to drive around in a cleared area of a rubber plantation and smash into other vehicles just for fun. In Cambodia there was a French rubber plantation that had recently been abandoned because the war was fast coming their way. When the plantation manager flew out of the area, he said our troops should take whatever they wanted because the VC/NVA would take it anyway. Troops took the plantation's black French Citroen sedans over to the grass air strip and made like the old days of destruction derbies back home: 45 ton tanks vs. little Citroen cars bashing and mashing. Were they having fun? What do you think?

More fun was had at our rear area at Di An. We spent time there before the regiment moved to the bush for good. I learned of a way our troopers had fun: We shared space with another cav outfit. It might have been 1st Air Cavalry. Regardless, there was an enlisted club at the other end of the base in infantry territory. You can imagine the "discussions" that took place in the bar. I remember a prime subject was "who was the real Cav." Since the 1st Cavalry Division was really airmobile, our guys "discussed" their opinion and the others "discussed" theirs. Of course, fights broke out over heated opinions and everyone had a real fun time.

Another pleasant time I would call fun was just sitting around in the evening when all was quiet. Guards were posted and all were alert for obvious reasons. But relaxation could be had. Armored Cav often carried some comfort items like five gallon water cans, cases of C Rations, even folding chairs bought from mama-sans in the villages. They could carry a few cases of soda and beer. No one could drink much, but even a little was fine, even Carling Black Label beer or Fresca soda, which was barely drinkable. Sometimes we operated with infantry in the field. Then our troopers would share with the foot-sore grunts. Evenings like this made for a lot of bonding, sharing personal stories, and life-long memories. That was fun too.

We're about at the end of my article so I'll close off. Maybe we can get together and talk about fun in Viet Nam some more. Meanwhile, be thinking for yourself about good, pleasant

Finding Your Friend

By Gale Charles, Medic, C Troop, July 1967-February 1968

"Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, all you have to do is call. I'll be there. Don't you know you've got a friend." goes the familiar lyrics from a popular song.

A sybe you have been looking for a friend you knew in school or someone you met by a chance encounter many years ago. To some of us it may have been meeting that person in the service but lost track of him or even forgot his name! It doesn't matter. He was your friend and you have memories of that person, yet can't remember his name. Too many years have passed and your mind is not as sharp as it used to be. There is a void there, yet you still can put the puzzle back together and remember friends names.

When I arrived in country in July 1967 at the 90th Replacement Depot in Long Binh, South Vietnam, I knew no troopers. I got orders to deploy to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. I didn't know their location. They could have been in the northern region of Vietnam. I didn't really care.

Hours later I received my new orders to report to HHT, 1/11 Cavalry

Thunder Run

things from your time in Viet Nam. Remember the fun things.

Here's our final thought. It's from Psalm 146:5-10: "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them — the Lord who remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow.... The Lord reigns forever, your God for all generations. Praise the Lord."

Looking back after so many years, It's helpful and healing to remember fun, pleasant times. Through it all, I believe the Lord looked over each of us, you and me included. Through the good times and the bad, the tough and the easy, the fun and the miserable, always keep your balance intact: when you remember the hard war things, always remember the pleasant, positive, and the fun things too.

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.

He said, "when you get home give me a call." I shook his hand and put the paper in my shirt pocket for safe keeping. I told him I would stay in touch. I never saw this guy again. I lost his name and address. End of story. Perhaps someone reading this article knows this person from their tour.

Regiment. I met one other guy from Alaska who was being assigned to the 11th Cav also. We would become best of friends. One of the few I trusted.

Upon arrival at Xuan Loc (Blackhorse Base Camp), I was instructed to report to the personnel center at HHT, 1/11, for processing records and further orientation. It seemed like and eternity before some personnel guy came to assist me. I noticed he had Army issue glasses as he wandered over to me.

With a puzzled look on his face he the told me "I see you are from Richland, Washington. I'm from Kennewick, Washington." It was about 8 miles from my hometown! I can't remember much of what else he said, just "be careful and I'll see you again."

About 5 months before my tour ended in February, I received orders transferring me to Bearcat with the 9th Infantry Division. I returned to personnel in February for the final time. The same guy met me the inside HHT, 1/11 personnel building.

He talked with me a little longer this time. A few minutes before I left he wrote something down for me. The paper had his name and address on it. He put a finger up to his lips in a quiet way. He said to not say anything about any of this. He said, "when you get home give me a call." I shook his hand and put the paper in my shirt pocket for safe keeping. I told him I would stay in touch. I never saw this guy again. I lost his name and address. End of story.

Perhaps someone reading this article knows this person from their tour. This man wore glasses, average height, medium build and dark brown hair. He graduated from Kennewick High School in 1965, I think.

Just remember you've got a friend. Help me find my friend once again. Walk easy my brothers. Take care. I can be reached at: 509-375-0237, 42 Mercury Dr, Richland, WA 99354.

11[™] ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:

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Calendar Fund

Gold Level

Barber, John

Bock. Daniel

Gold Level \$100-\$499

Bronze Level \$1-\$49

Members donations are used for the sole purpose for which they are intended. Whether it be for Scholarship, Reunion Assistance, Memorial or the General Fund, member donations are used to support that specific fund.

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Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



Orlando 2017

By Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

Are we ready for summer? In just five short months we will again convene in Orlando, Florida, the playground of central Florida. There are many new venues to help entertain you. New at Universal Studios is Volcano Bay, a 53 acre ultramodern water park that will open in the spring of 2017. More new attractions include Pandora, The world of Avatar at Disney's Animal Kingdom, and Miss Fortune Falls at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, Kraken Rollercoaster and Electric Ocean at Sea World are also new. Lego Ninjago World is located at LEGOLAND Florida. For you carting enthusiasts there is the Andretti Indoor Carting and Games. These are only a fraction of the things to do while in Orlando.

The time has come for your registration form to be filled out and mailed to ensure a place at the reunion. Please remember that the deadline will be enforced. Plan now, mail the registration. We do not want you to miss the deadline, but the choice is yours. Hotel reservations must also be made. Please don't disappoint your friends and miss the deadline.

All registrations must be made by Wednesday, <u>AUGUST 9</u>, <u>2017</u>. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, September 2, 2017.

AT THE WALL

By Anthony H. (Tony) Boyd 398th Transportation Det Aug 1970-Nov 1971

As I stood there gazing at the Vietnam Wall Down on my knees I started to fall A tear in my eye and a heart full of pain As I run my fingers over each and every name Some were acquaintances, others a best friend All gave their life for our country to defend Never to come home to their mom or dad Who reminisce about the good times they had Or a wife or a husband and a child or two All of them thinking this can't be true But as the casket came home draped in a flag and each received their loved ones dog tag As they stand there that day with a heart full of despair We need to stand with them to let them know we care.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29, 2017 - East Texas Roundup. Tyler State Park on F M 14, north of Tyler, TX. The Tyler State Park has nice camping for RV's and cabins that will hold up to 6 people. The dining hall is enclosed with heat and air condition and will hold up to 96 people. Make plans to come on out for a good time and some good food prepared by our ladies. Come early and camp out with us. Please contact Jan Beamon at 903-780-5621 or jerrylbea@aol.com if you plan to attend.

May 29, 2017, 10 am - Memorial Day (observed). Wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, DC. All Blackhorse troopers, family and friends are invited to attend. Plan to meet at the flagpole.

.....

May 29, 2017, 10 am - Poor Richard's Cafe, 2442 K Ave, Plano, TX 75074. All Blackhorse troopers, wives and friends in the Plano area are invited to attend the semi-annual, no-host Blackhorse Breakfast at Poor Richard's Cafe. There is always a large crowd so plan on arriving early. A special "SOS" menu item will be available that day as is typical on military holidays. In the past, Poor

Richard's and the Blue Star Mother's have conducted a ceremony honoring those in the military that have been lost. Please contact Jay Reese at 972-690-4386 or jayree7282@aol.com if you plan to attend so adequate table space can be reserved for the group.

October 17, 2017 - 27th Annual Northern California Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ. 11:00 am til ???. Slidehill Park, 2850 Temple Drive, Davis, CA 95618. Everyone is welcome to join us for a casual picnic in the park. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice. *Directions*: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left. — OR —

I-5 to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection - Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go 1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left. RSVP: Ron Krueger: 530-758-0351/cell 530-304-4249 *ronkrue@hotmail.com*.

2017 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

The 2016 Silent Auction raised \$10,020 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 193 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process continues to be as follows:

- 1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 32th Annual Reunion in Orlando, FL. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cav related or not.
- 2. We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Thursday from 2pm to 6pm, and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.
- **3.** You can ship items to Greg Mason, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.
- 4. The auction will be from 7pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.
- 5. Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.
- 6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bidder at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.
- 7. We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregrmason@aol.com or 813-754-2980. I will respond to your email as I receive them. If you do not get a response, it is probably because AOL has a habit of putting stuff in their "junk" folder so feel free to follow-up with a phone call.

Our reason for requiring items to be picked up and paid for the evening of the auction is because of the difficulties we have had in prior years getting all the items delivered and paid for. We appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando and thanks in advance to all the donors!

11th ACV	/C Silent Auction	
Donated Items Information Form		
Please provide the following information with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below. Please print clearly.		
Description of item donated:		
Name of Donor:		
Address of Donor:		
Phone # of Donor:	Value of Item Donated \$	
I wish to remain anonymous (check box) \square		
Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Greg Mason, 4636 West Knights Griffin Road, Plant City, FL 33565		

14

Reunion Registration

By Roberto "Bob" Moreno, Board Member, G Troop

ey everyone, do you realize that our reunion in Orlando, Florida is just slightly five months away?

To date slightly over 200 folks have sent in their registrations. Where's yours? Hotel reservations are far ahead of reunion registrations. The sooner you get it in, the easier it is on all of us. Please REGISTER. All registrations must be received by Wednesday, August 9, 2017. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Remember, if you pre-register and then find out that you cannot attend, you can always cancel and request (by September 1, 2017) to have your fees refunded to you.

The registrations that have come in so far, have been quite complete. I have only had to make one call so far, and that was because they had forgotten to list when they were in Vietnam. So, before you send yours in give it a quick going over to be sure you have all the requested information on it. That would include your name (as you want your name tag to read), Unit (only one, this is the Unit you and your guest will sit with at the banquet), when you were with that Unit, where you currently live, attendees name and what you and your guest would like to eat at the banquet.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call me. Since I retired I have become somewhat a night owl, so calling at midnight is really no problem for me. I'm usually up until about 3:00 am (0300 hr.). Of course I sleep in until about noon.

Is this your first reunion? We have been getting about 50-80 first timers for the past five years. Be sure to let us know by marking the registration form where it asks, "Is this your first reunion?". It is very important that we know for our records. Our goal is to locate as many, if not all, of those who proudly served with the Blackhorse.

If you are one of our Star Families, please be sure to tell us the name of the

member who passed (Blackhorse trooper), what Unit he was with, when he passed, and what relation you and your guest are to him. Your name tag will be slightly different from the other troopers and guest so that everyone will know that you are a 'Special' guest and can thank you for letting us honor your trooper.

Once again there will be several color nametags. The Board of Directors will have orange tags. Troopers and guest will be wearing white tags. First timers will have yellow so we all can see them and welcome them home and to their first reunion. If you have any problems or questions during the reunion either locate me at the registration table or seek out one of the board of directors. istration table, please let us know and we will get you to work. We would like to get as many people trained at registration as we can because you never know when we won't be able to make one of the reunions.

A quick note, if you got the 2017 calendar in the mail, use the envelope that came with it and send a quick note to Ollie. "SUPPORT"

Well, I hope to see all of you in Orlando in September. If you need me before then don't be afraid to call.

My phone number is 608-372-5892 (if you get our answering machine please leave a message as it makes a terrible sound if you don't), or call my cell number: 608-397-3346. You can email me at gtroopbob@gmail. com

Allons

If you would like to help at the reg-

Reunion Assistance Fund

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members of our troopers killed in action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A hotel room for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.

- 2. Transportation funds for fuel for auto, airfare tickets or bus or train.
- 3. Registration fee.

4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations by our members and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is a separate account and published in the 11 ACVVC financial reports.

To be considered for financial assistance from the fund to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows) making the request must...

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, and

2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation. In addition, the Trooper may be required to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA. **Requests must be submitted no later than to July 15, 2017.**

A complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund can be found on our website at: *www.11thcavnam.com*

REGISTRATION FORM



32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion Orlando, Florida September 6-10, 2017 Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 Rosen Centre Hotel 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

Reservations: 1-800-204-7234



Registration fee is **\$95.00** per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner. All registrations must be received by Wednesday, <u>AUGUST 9, 2017</u>. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, September 1, 2017.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION (print clearly or use mailing label)

Name	Telephone No:		
Address			
City/State/Zip			
E-Mail Address			
Unit Assignment Dates in Country (Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is your banquet seating.) (Example: 19		1966-1967)	
KIA Relative?			
Relationship to KIA:	Unit:		
ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSE	LF (please print)		
	125046 4306 60	\$	
		\$	
Total Registration Fee		\$	
Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for	each selection) Chicken	Beef	Veggie
Is this your first reunion? 🗖 Yes 🛛 No	Wheelchair or special ne	eeds seating?	🗆 Yes 🗖 No
□ Visa □ MasterCard			
Card No	·	Ех	p. Date
Signature (Required for credit card)			

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:

11th ACVVC C/O OLLIE PICKRAL 571 DITCHLEY RD KILMARNOCK, VA 22482

32nd ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2017

The Rosen Centre Hotel 9840 International Drive Orlando, Florida 32819

RESERVATIONS: 8 ROOM RATE: \$

800-204-7234 \$99.00 SINGLE - DOUBLE \$20.00 each additional person



- Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability.
- Complementary self parking.
- Complementary guest room internet.
- Complementary scheduled shuttles to Universal, Wet n Wild and Sea World Parks.
- Please make hotel reservations early.

Register online using the link on our website: www.11thcavnam.com/

Hotel Reservations Must Be Made No Later Than August 27, 2017

THE 26TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, September 7, 2017; Shingle Creek Golf Club, 9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando Florida 32819

This year we will once again play at the spectacular Shingle Creek Golf Club! Those who played in our 2012 MOMGO at Shingle Creek can tell you how much they enjoyed it. golforlandoflorida.com named Shingle Creek the Best Golf Course in Orlando, "Shingle Creek has it all...course design, tournament quality conditions, first class service and a perfect location." Entry fee includes greens fees, cart, range balls, locker room usage, one bottle of water, Italian lunch buffet and prizes!

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$95 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter). Form and fee must be postmarked by Aug 7, 2017 to guarantee your entry! You do not need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of you registration in the mail.

All entries must be prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Rental clubs are available at \$56 per set (includes tax and two sleeves of balls). Each golfer is responsible for getting to/from the golf course. All golfers who will be driving should offer rides to their fellow golfers. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

26TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE	MEMORIAL	GOLF TOURNAMENT
Name		Average Score
Address		Home Phone
City	State	Zip
Name		Average Score
Name		Average Score
Name		Average Score
Mail Checks To: Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westhampton, NJ 08060-3751		



32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive Orlando, Florida 32819 September 6-10, 2017 Schedule of Events



Wednesday, September 6

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration Open
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Silent Auction donations accepted
2:00 pm - 12:00 am	Bunker Open (hospitality ballroom)

Thursday, September 7

6:00 am -	26th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf
	Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration Open
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Silent Auction donations accepted
2:00 pm - 12:00 am	Bunker Open

Friday, September 8

10.00 pm Noon	Vatavana Caminau (anamad ta all attendese)
10:00 am - Noon	Veterans Seminar (opened to all attendees)
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Silent Auction donations accepted
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration Open
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm -12:00 am	Bunker Open
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Silent Auction

Saturday, September 9

Sunday, September 10

10:00 am - 11:00 am	Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
All Day	Farewells and Departures

11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11ACVVC) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION [revised January 1, 2017]

Please print the latest **Scholarship Guide** at <u>www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html</u>

Scholarship Chairman Michael "Doc" Rafferty

[1] Applicant's Full Name:		Date of Birth:	
[2] Applicant's Social Security Number:	E-Mail Address		
Address:		Apartment/Unit #	
City:	State: Zip Code:	Telephone Number:	
[3] Applicant's Qualifying Status: (Check Only	One): □ Child of Deceased 11ACR □Child of a Current 11ACVV		
➡ [4] <u>Applicant's SPONSOR 11th Cav Veteran</u>			
[5] <u>Sponsor's 11th Cav Unit</u> in Vietnam:	Dates in Vietnam	11 th ACVVC Membership #	<u>+</u>
➡ [6] <u>Name and Address of College or Trade</u> Name:			ıram?
Address:			
City: Have You Made Application? D Yes.	State:Zip:	Phone:	
[7] <u>Standard Test Score For Your State:</u> ACT _			
[8] Estimated Expenses for the School Year: T Books & Supplies \$; Room & Board \$; ; Total Exp. \$	
⇒[9] Schools and Colleges Attended: (10th Gramma)		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Name City, State	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Name City, State	Dates From / To
➡ [10] You <u>must</u> attach a copy of your grade tra	necrinte from your last two years	of education in High School or College	
 → [10] Four must attach a copy of your grade that → [11] On one typed sheet of paper with your Mathematical sheet of pa			
1. State the Field of Study That You Pla		ship	
 Tell Us Why You Would Be a Worthy Note: Concentrate on why you should 		snip. ship. Focus on <u>your</u> qualifications and not you	ır father's military experienc
applicable, also describe your particip			
I, the undersigned, give my permission for a copy I understand that the selection process may involve			ication.
		adis that are in the community at large.	
[13] Signature of Applicant	Printed Name	Date	
[14] f Signature of Sponsor Veteran or G	uardian Printed Name	Date	
➡ [15] <u>Please Mail Your Completed Applicat</u> Michael "Deel"		d [11] above to the Scholarship Committe	<u>e Chairman:</u>
Michael "Doc' 11ACVVC Sch	olarship Chairman		
5837 Habaner	o Drive ● Las Cruces, NM 880		
•		e 915-792-2804 or 575-915-2921	
➡ QUESTIOI	NS? <u>Email</u> is Doc Rafferty's <u>P</u>	<u>REFERRED</u> method of communication	
	Application Dead	line is May 17th	
	reprication Deau	une is may 15th	



<u>Fiddler's Green</u>

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

- Steve W. Abney, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 7, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Franklin, KY. He was laid to rest in Sulphur Springs Cemetery, Franklin, KY.
- Lawrence E. Atwell, HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on January 10, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bluefield, WV. He was laid to rest in Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, VA.
- Odell Barnes, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 30, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lorain, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH.
- Scott K. Brackeen, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1969) passed away on February 1, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Booneville, MS.
- Barney B. Brauker, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tekonsha, MI. He was laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Union City, MI.
- Charles F. Brooks, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belton, SC. He was laid to rest in Neals Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Anderson, SC.
- James E. Clifford, D Company, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 24, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coos Bay, OR. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- Gerard F. Cusick, HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on March 31, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rochester, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA.
- Timothy J. Desiderio, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 10, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fair Oaks, CA. He was laid to rest in Battle Mountain City Cemetery, Battle Mountain, NV.
- David L. Dewitt, M Company, 3/11 (1970-1970) and I Troop, 3/11 (1970) passed away on February 13, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Springfield, OR.

- Ronald E. Dion, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 7, 2016. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hart, MI. He was laid to rest in Mears Cemetery, Mears, MI.
- John R. Dunston, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 27, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Raleigh, NC. He was laid to rest in Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Goldsboro, NC.
- Thomas A. Edwards, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 8, 2016. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nettleton, MS. He was laid to rest in Liberty Cemetery, Nettleton, MS.
- Patrick E. Garmon, Howitzery Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 22, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gadsden, AL. He was laid to rest in Cherokee Memory Gardens, Centre, AL.
- Robert E. Gumbert, 919th Engineer Company (1971-1972) passed away on November 13, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Georgetown, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery - Northeast, Argillite, KY.
- Edward L. Hable, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1967) passed away on November 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, VA.
- Arleigh R. Hamm, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 9, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clio, MI. He was laid to rest in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi, MI.
- Luis Hernandez, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 20, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saginaw, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.
- Dennis G. Hoffman, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 18, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Berrysburg, PA. He was laid to rest in Herndon Cemetery, Herndon, PA.
- Charles J. Houthoofd, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1968) and HHT, 1/11 (1968) passed away on November 8, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corpus Christi, TX.
- Jose C. Juarez, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 17, 2016. He was

a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairview, TN. He was laid to rest in Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, Nashville, TN.

- Hans G. Juengling, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on June 8, 2016. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Pierce, FL.
- Freddy J. Kaywood, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 18, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kingsport, TN. He was laid to rest in East Tennessee Cemetery, Blountville, TN.
- **Douglas E. Kuehn**, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 31, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Schertz, TX. He was laid to rest in FT. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.
- Larry Langowski, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) passed away on January 19, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chicago, IL. He was laid to rest in ST. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, Niles, IL.
- Kenneth W. Lewis, I Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 31, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kings Mountain, NC. He was laid to rest in Ebenezer Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, NC.
- **Gordon S. Livingston**, HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on March 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, MD. He was laid to rest in Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery, Columbia, MD.
- **Robert J. Maki**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1969) passed away on September 25, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Itasca, IL.
- Dennis L. McGrew, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) and HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on July 13, 2016. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colton, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.
- Thomas P. McKenna, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 28, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Loch Arbour, NJ.
- Thomas L. McNeal, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 14, 2017.

20

He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lisbon, OH. He was laid to rest in Lisbon Cemetery, Lisbon, OH.

- Paul A. Moats, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 1, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in South Pittsburg, TN.
- Ricky D. Moore, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 15, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Maiden, NC. He was laid to rest in Center View Baptist Church, Maiden, NC.
- Kenneth L. Nance, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 27, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Augustine, TX. He was laid to rest in Antioch Cemetery, San Augustine, TX.
- Ronnie W. Neuman, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on February 9, 2016. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morrisville, PA. He was laid to rest in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.
- Willie L. Nunley, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 6, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Memphis, TN. He was laid to rest in West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Memphis, TN.
- **Robert G. Payne**, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1970) passed away on October 27, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belleville, IL. He was laid to rest in Jefferson B arracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.
- John D. Petraitis, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 8, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Castle Rock, WA. He was laid to rest in Longview Memorial Park, Longview, WA.
- James W. Pickett, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 19, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Muskogee, OK. He was laid to rest in FT. Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, OK.
- Jerry L. Poore, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) and F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 15, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bassett, VA. He was laid to rest in Henry Memorial Park, Bassett, VA.
- Donald R. Quandt, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1970) passed away on December 15, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Madison, WI. He was laid to rest in ST John Cemetery, Woodland, WI.
- Dwight D. Reeh, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 21, 2017. He

was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Braunfels, TX. He was laid to rest in Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park, New Braunfels, TX.

- Curtis S. Riley, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 7, 2016. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hillsborough, NC. He was laid to rest in Gospel Baptist Church Cemetery, Hillsborough, NC. He is also a veteran of the Korean War.
- Stuart Rubinstein, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hicksville, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.
- Ronald B. Schmidt, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) and M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 28, 2017. He was member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Savannah, GA.
- Keith L. Skidmore, M Company, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 9, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nokesville, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- Charles W. Spence, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on October 15, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Alvin, TX. He was laid to rest in Grapeland City Cemetery, Grapeland, TX.
- Daniel G. Stephan, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 5, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nashua, NH. He was laid to rest in New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, NH.
- James C. Sullivan, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 11, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shasta Lake, CA.
- Harland E. Thayer, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 31, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rochester, NY. He was laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery, Henrietta, NY.
- **Charles D. Venditti**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 23, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in The Villages, FL. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.
- **Paul A. Wagner,** HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on May 21, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cumming, GA.
- Wayne O. Waltman, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 28, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the

11th ACVVC and resided in Oxford, PA.

- Kenneth E. Walker, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) and Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 17, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Millstadt, IL. He was laid to rest in Jefferson B arracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.
- Daniel L. Weasenforth, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 27, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairmont, WV. He was laid to rest in West Virginia National Cemetery, Grafton, WV.
- Thomas J. Williamson, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) and HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 31, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Milan, IN. He was laid to rest in New Craven Cemetery, Milan, IN.
- James E. Wildermuth, Howitzery Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Perry, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.
- **Danny Wilkerson**, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 8, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairfield, OH. He was laid to rest in Crown Hill Memorial Park, Pleasant Run, OH.
- Leon D. Williamson, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1969) passed away on March 9, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Abilene, KS. He was laid to rest in Fort Sill National Cemetery, Fort Sill, OK.
- Bennie Wright, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1970) and Air Cavalry Troop (1970) passed away on January 15, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bronx, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.
- Joseph M. Yezierski, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on March 28, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oakville, CT.
- Earl D. Zerbach, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1970) and G Troop, 2/11 (1970) passed away on May 28, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pineville, NC. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- **Carl E. Ziesmer**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 5, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Plainfield, IL. He was laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Park I, Joliet, IL. He is also a veteran of the Korean War.

21

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

Operation Long Reach II

In November 1969, Second Squadron was given the mission of clearing the Bu Dop Road – a stretch of overgrown highway running from Loc Ninh to the district capital of Bo Duc. Officially known as Highway 14A, the road had been built by the French in the early 20th Century. It ran for almost 20 kilometers, mostly parallel to and not far from the Cambodian border. The road had not been used for years – and the local VC and NVA liked it that way. Thick jungle vegetation grew right up to the edge of what little pavement was left. Huge hardwood trees – including priceless teak trees – were packed densely on both sides of the road. Within the first four days of the clearing operation in November on Operation Long Reach I, Second Squadron had almost a dozen vehicles hit mines – with little progress to show for it. The Commanding General of the 1st Cav Division called the operation off, telling Blackhorse 6 to come up with a better plan.

On 4 December 1969, Second Squadron, this time reinforced with infantrymen from Bravo and Delta Companies, 2/12 Cavalry, the 30 Rome Plows of the 984th Engineer Company (Land Clearing), and two platoons (1st and 4th) and the headquarters of the 919th Engineers, began to move along Highway 14A for a second time. The starting point was FSB Joel, which had been established during the initial Long Reach operation the previous month.

As they made progress up the road, Red Devil engineers established FSB Eunice about halfway to their final objective. It was really nothing more than a wide spot in the road. The 919th's Rick Confer used his bulldozer to clear fields of fire for the combat vehicles. He recalls:

After I built the NDP [night defensive position] (which we set up with the road to Bo Duc running right through the middle I think because of heavy jungle to the sides), for about 2 weeks I was pushing back the growth that had taken over the road going north towards the village. I parked in the same spot every night. One morning I started the dozer, dropped it into gear and found out that I had been parking on this mine for all that time – it blew sending shrapnel into 4 other guys...

ACAVs carrying Blackhorse Troopers and 919th Red Devils cleared the road of mines and obstacles. The Rome Plows, secured by the 'Always Ready' Skytroopers, attacked the jungle on both sides of the highway, clearing away the vegetation in a 400-meter wide swath. As the Rome Plows completed a section of road and moved closer to Bu Dop, Second Squadron's Zippo tracks, secured by a recon platoon, burned the huge piles of debris. The mission was to clear over 6,000 acres of double-canopy jungle; it was accomplished in under a month.

Colonel Donn Starry was the Regimental Commander at the time. He said later: "I make furniture. And I had to sit there and cry and watch the teak trees fall as the Rome Plows pushed them over and started a fire. My God, a fortune of teak wood going up in flames."

The commander of the Rome Plows, CPT Dick Burlingame, said this was the most difficult mission his engineers had ever had. "'We have never faced such dense vegetation before and the jungle created some new problems for us. Many of the Rome Plows tumbled into



4th Platoon, 919th Engineers, Bo Duc, November 1969. (Photo courtesy of Richard Perea)

bomb craters which were concealed by the undergrowth.""

A typical day started out shortly after daylight, with Second Squadron Aviation Section and Air Cav Troop helicopters reconning ahead of the ground elements. Hotel Company tanks, accompanied by engineer sweep teams, departed the fire base and drove east along Highway14A looking for mines, obstacles, and ambushes. Twentyfive to thirty Rome Plows from the 984th Engineer Company, christened 'Mine Blower', 'Christ It Ain't Easy', and the like, came next, accompanied by ACAVs (Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles) and Sheridans from Echo and Golf Troops. The dismounted airmobile infantrymen moved through the jungle parallel to the highway on both flanks. They repeatedly ran into small enemy elements who were desperately trying to hinder the progress of the land-clearing operation.

Fred Franks, the Battle Squadron S-3 who planned the operation, has high praise for the 1st Cav Grunts who slogged through the jungle on both sides of the road. "That's why we had so little contact," he says. After a few days of only small skirmishes, the 1st Cav called and said: "We think you're wasting combat power.' I said: 'The reason we're not having any contact is because your two companies are here. Leave 'em here.' They pulled them out, and we started having RPG and sniper fire from the treeline almost immediately after they left. And they sent them back again... They were terrific infantry... Those two units really deserve a lot of credit for our success on Highway 14."

Follow-on: Red Devil engineers made expedient repairs to bridges, culverts, and the road surface itself. Initially, the bulk of Hotel Company's tanks remained inside FSB Deb as a ready reaction force should a firefight with enemy forces develop. Second Squadron's Howitzer Battery fired almost constantly, their suppressive fires intended to hold down enemy mining of the highway. Halfway through the operation, everyone shifted to FSB Eunice, cutting down the daily commute time for the plows.

The work was tough, dangerous, and sometimes exasperating. As noted in an after action report, there "were no impressive lists of enemy killed or captured". But the 21-day operation was nonetheless

exceptionally successful. For the first time, Highway 14A could be used as a land bridge to the Bu Dop Special Forces Camp and the ARVN garrison at the Bo Duc District Headquarters. Perhaps more importantly, Serges Jungle Highway – a major enemy infiltration route out of Cambodia – was now exposed to aerial and ground reconnaissance and interdiction. No longer could the enemy cross the area with impunity.

Progress was slow, but measured. The enemy (probably elements of the 50th Rear Service Group), after their success in blocking Long Reach I, appeared unprepared for the methodical approach by the combined arms team now moving slowly but surely up Highway 14A. Finding mines, however, was almost a daily occurrence for the engineers of the 919th; they uncovered a total of 46 during the threeweek operation. But there were no ambushes or attacks against the forces clearing the road.

The impact of clearing Highway 14A between Loc Ninh and Bu Dop was immediate. Dick Burlingame still remembers. "We cleared that road and celebrated with a huge Christmas dinner on the outskirts of town in our NDP while the town's people returned to their homes after being displaced for several years. It was an inspiring sight to see them stream down that open road in all kinds of transportation."

Burlingame also has high praise for the Blackhorse Troopers who secured his Rome Plows.

It wasn't the equipment, although those Sheridans were amaz-

ing. From the top down, they [Blackhorse Troopers] were professional and team oriented. Their focus was on the best way to complete the mission while securing the troops. They weren't 'photo-op' commandos like we had experienced before. They recognized the same commitment in us, so we both rose to the level where the total package was greater than the sum of its parts.

The defenders of Bu Dop and Bo Duc were pretty happy, too. On 30 December, Blackhorse ACAVs, Sheridans, and tanks accompanied trucks from the 9th (ARVN) Infantry Regiment as the first convoy in almost two years made its way from Loc Ninh to Bu Dop. Critical supplies could now be brought in by ground convoy, rather than only by air. With large-scale troop reductions ongoing and pressure to reduce the cost of the war, this was a significant development at the far reaches of Phuoc Long Province. Not inconsequentially, Serges Jungle Highway had been interdicted. Ground and aerial reconnaissance could now see the NVA as they attempted to bring supplies and reinforcements south out of Cambodia.

But the efforts of the armored cavalry-infantry-engineer team to open this road would not be fully appreciated until six months later, when massive amounts of captured enemy supplies, weapons, and munitions had to be backhauled out of Cambodia – through Bu Dop, along QL14A, and then onto Thunder Road towards Long Binh. This was the lasting legacy of Operations Long Reach I and II.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the I Ith Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

PHONE	
DATES: FROM	ТО
(Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)	
SSN NO	_
_	ER
LIFE (\$100)	
losed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 mo	onths)
DUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$	
number to other Troopers who served wit	h the 11th ACR
• · · ·	
	DATES: FROM (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr) SSN NO

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia **QM** Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#21 Small **Magnetic Patch** (5"x4 3/4") \$5.00



#2 Key Ring \$5.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00

I RODE WITH THE BLACKHORSE VIETNAM 1966-1972

#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00

Embroidered \$20.00



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$8.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag,



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$12.00





#12 30th Reunion **Challange Coin** \$15.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00

24



#18 11th ACR **Regimental Crest** \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



Magnetic Patch (8"

x 7 3/4") \$7.00

#26 Large



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#22 Gear Bag, camaflage \$45.00



#34 Signs \$25.00

#38b



#34a

6

#38c

#38a



#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#37 Book, "Tales of

Thunder Run" by

Chaplain Larry

Haworth \$11.00

#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00

#8 Mouse Pad

\$12.00

#34b

#39 a/b T-Shirt, Dark Gray & Sand \$20.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00







#36. Henley Sport Shirt w/ BH patch and RVN ribbon red in color, \$28.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Gray \$35.00



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



VIETNAM-CAM

#38d



#43 Windbreaker, black w/snap front & BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, \$35.00



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#35 Book, "Warrior"

\$15.00

#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



25

#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



<u>From the Quartermaster...</u>

Hello Fellow Blackhorse Troopers and trooper wives.

Unfortunately, I have some bad news to share. For a long time we here have tried to keep prices low and affordable, but it has come to our attention that prices have gone up so we are having to pass this increase on to you our customers.

Please look closely at your order form when filling it out. The price increase only covers a few items at this time.

Again, PLEASE use the new PRICE LIST when ordering. If you use an old price list it is going to be difficult to fill. Please remember to put your phone number on your order form in case we need to contact about your order. Also, please remember to fill out the bottom of the order form with your name and mailing address.

Our 32nd annual reunion in Orlando will be here before we know it. Once again we are asking for volunteers for the Quartermaster Store. Also, please make your reservation at the hotel as soon as possible. We are looking for another great turn out this year as well.

We will also be offering the REUNION golf shirt again this year. They can be ordered by mail using the order form in this issue. The order form is also on our website under "Reunion Information." We can mail your shirt to you before the reunion or you can pick it up when you arrive.

Looking forward to everyone in Orlando September 6 - 10.



<u>Velcome Aboard!</u>

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*. Are you looking for an old friend? Please contact any Officer or Board Member listed on page 3 for help.

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		HHT, 1/11		HHT, 2/11		HHT, 3/11	
Cordell, Clinton S	67-68	Daly, Thomas	68-68	Edward Deneale	70-71	Dean, Ronald L	67-68
Hunter, Fred E	68-68	Fountain, William A	68-70	Longuet, Gregory A	68-69	Eargle, Gary M	68-69
Westerberg, Larry L	67-68	Gilmore, Gary B	66-67	E TROOP, 2/11		I TROOP, 3/11	
AIR CAVALRY TRO	OP	A TROOP, 1/11		Lewis Blake	66-67	Edward Deneale	70-71
Lyle, Jay O	69-70	Illner, Eric A	69-70	F TROOP, 2/11		Raymond Lee Gross	68-69
17th PUBLIC INFORMAT	ION DET	Oberding, Jim D	67-68	Charles Cressman	66-67	K TROOP, 3/11	
Roche, Michael	70-71	B TROOP, 1/11		H COMPANY, 2/1	1	Bostwick, Dennis C	68-70
551st MAINTENANCE CO	OMPANY	Gilmore, Gary B	66-67	Decker, Joseph P	67-68	Delwin Delikat	68-70
McLaughlin, Dave	68-69	C TROOP, 1/11		HOWITZER BATTERY,	2/11	Farlow, Gary M	68-68
919th ENGINEER COM	IPANY	Noel, James R	70-70	Adamonis, James S	68-69	M COMPANY, 3/1	1
Raymond Cornwell	68-69	Tinsley, Albert E	69-70			Patrick R. Santone	66-67
						Szumowski, David M	69-69

'Find an Old Friend'

By Bob Kickenweitz, Website Manager

Many of you troopers believe that when you registered with the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and placed on our "Master Roster" that you were automatically placed in "Find an Old Friend," NOT TRUE. A lot of you when filling out the registration form did not enter an e-mail address. Why, because at that time you didn't have one, and you cannot be entered in "Find an Old Friend" without an e-mail address. The whole file is based on your buddy finding your name on the file and sending you an e-mail. So, if you still don't have an e-mail address, send us your wife's e-mail address, or one of your kid's e-mails address. Go to our web site: www.11thcavnam.com then go down the page till you see the matrix and look for "Find an Old Friend" in the left hand column and click it. Then again in the left hand column look for "Find an Old Friend Update" and click it. Fill in the data and click Submit Comments.

REMEMBER IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS INCORRECT, HOW ARE YOUR BUDDIES GOING TO FIND YOU?



<u>Quartermaster</u>

ORDER FORM •2nd Qtr 2017

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No. Product Description S Antl Size Oty S Total 2. Key rint, 5.* Finbodity space will color Blockbars insigna 5.00					
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3. Burger State: "Inde With The Blackbors" will clock BH insigna	1. Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	15.00			-
4. Winder Schler, full color BH length and Vehram service (bloch 5. Beckhores Schler, full color BH ength and Vehram service (bloch 5. Mone Polds 5. Centry Hall (Borw in color, rope and pin included in price-round or out head shape)	2. Key ring, 1. 5 " Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	5.00			
4. Winder Schler, full color BH length and Vehram service (bloch 5. Beckhores Schler, full color BH ength and Vehram service (bloch 5. Mone Polds 5. Centry Hall (Borw in color, rope and pin included in price-round or out head shape)	3. Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	3.00			
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38. Hat, Poplin adjustable [] 38a, _] 38b, _] 38c, _] 38d,					
39. Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: Dark Gray Sand 20.00					
40. Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: Red Dark Gray White 35.00 35.00 41. Denim shirt (men's) 35.00 35.00 35.00 35.00 42. Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left 95.00 95.00 43. Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon 95.00 95.00 95.00 44. OTHER: Sale Items, Etc. 50.00 95.00 95.00 Shipping costs: (Includes multiple Items) Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items) Note: unless of \$5.00 \$15.00 \$15.00 \$50.00 \$15.00 \$50.00 \$15.00 \$15.00 \$50.00 \$15.00					
41. Denim shirt (men's)					
42. Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6° back), and ACWC front left	🛛 40. Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: 🗖 Red 🗖 Dark Gray 🗖 White	35.00			
43. Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon 35.00 35.00 44. OTHER: Sale Items, Etc. Subtotal Shipping and Handling Total Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL Shipping and Handling Specify size and color preference of item requested. Total Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items) Total A) \$4.00 \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$15.00 \$59.00 = \$12.50 B) \$6 00 \$15.00 = \$6.75 D) \$60.00 and over = \$17.15 Visa Mastercard Card # Signature Exp. Date * If paying by check, please write your drivers license number on the check. * Name Phone * Address Email * City/State/Zip Check if address change Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$17.15. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 11th ACVVC. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. ALL PRICES SUBJECT 10 CHANGE. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com	41. Denim shirt (men's)	35.00			
44. OTHER: Sale items, Etc. Subtotal Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL Shipping and Handling Specify size and color preference of item requested. Total Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items) Total A) \$4.00 - \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$15.00 - \$59.00 = \$12.50 Exp. Date B) \$6 00 - \$15.00 = \$6.75 D) \$60.00 and over = \$17.15 Exp. Date Visa Characterized Card # Exp. Date signature	42. Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00			
Subtotal	43. Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00			
Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL Shipping and Handling	44. OTHER: Sale Items, Etc				
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Together Then.....Together Again



July 1969. The crew of L16, Cpt Gary Myers, Sp4 Bobby Bates, Sp4 Roland Baird, Sgt John Aducci, Sp4 Kenny Webb



October 2016, 47 years later, Johnsonville, TN. The crew of L16 together again to honor John Aducci, KIA Nov 24, 1969.

THIS ISSUE

DEPARTMENTS

From the Command Track 2	2
Editor's Corner	5
From the 67th Colonel of the Regiment7	7
Blackhorse Women's News9)
Chaplain's Corner10)
11th ACVVC Donations12)
Calendar of Upcoming Events13	3
Fiddler's Green 20)
Blackhorse Hoofbeats22)
Membership Application23	3
QM Store24	
From the Quartermaster	ò
Welcome Aboard	5
Quartermaster Order Form27	7

NEWS & NOTES

2017 ACVVC Officer Election	1
Darkest Day for Blackhorse	1
An American Lady	5
A Look Back	5
We Need Your Photos	6
10 Lame 'Reasons' For Not Attending A Reunion	6
11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program	8
Finding Your Friend	11
Orlando 2017	13
At The Wall	13
The 2016 Silent Auction	14
Reunion Registration	15
32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion: Registration	16
The 26th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing	17
32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion: Schedule of Events	18
Scholarship Application	19
Find an Old Friend'	26

