“Over 1,300 attend a packed house”

11 ACVVC Nashville Reunion “Bursts at the Seams”

by John Sorich, Vice President

There were so many positive things happening in Nashville that it was hard to keep track of. First of all, there were the numbers. We were expecting about a thousand people to attend. We had somewhere over 1,300 attendees for dinner on Saturday night. Many of our troopers attending had never been to a reunion! A special effort was made to make all newcomers welcome. We had many who just walked in. We did our best to accommodate them all. The logistics of us saying “yes” to everyone who were halted on Friday by the banquet manager of the hotel who informed us “You are maxed out, and we have no more plates, tables or silverware.” We still continued to say “yes” to our guests. We did have to inform them that there was no more room to serve them dinner but they were welcomed to join us anyway. To my knowledge, no one was left out because they could not be served a dinner.

On Thursday, we had a fun time at the Marty Ognibine Memorial Golf Tournament. My hat goes off to John Stanley & Pete Walter who managed and organized this event. Neither John nor Pete lived in the area. Next year, we will have a new volunteer, Joe Coopet, to help. Joe has a wealth of golf knowledge and will be an asset to the golf team.

Events on Friday included a Veterans Seminar in which a person from the Veterans Administration conducted a 2hour seminar. This was the first of its kind. We plan on continuing this seminar to help our members. Subjects that were discussed were: PTSD, Agent Orange & other things that effect our trooper’s welfare. I heard nothing but positive comments after the meeting was over. Later...the banquet manager of the hotel who informed us “You are maxed out, and we have no more plates, tables or silverware.”

Please turn to REUNION on page 4

“The Blackhorse in Vietnam”

The Documentary VHS/DVD by Otis Carey, Liaison to Blackhorse Productions, Inc.

Title: Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam in the words of the men who fought there.

You have a copy of our book and now it’s available in VHS or DVD format. Produced in Hollywood, California with the assistance of Otis Carey of F'Troop. Run time is almost 2 hours and the VHS/DVD is packaged in a nice Blackhorse cover.

This project is our opportunity to tell the truth, about the valor, courage, and sacrifice of Blackhorse troopers in Vietnam and the glorious history of the Regiment. We deserve to be remembered and our story told.

The documentary contains excerpts from over 30 interviews of Blackhorse Troopers such as Homer Pittman, Monty Montelongo, LTC. Harold Fritz and others. It contains never before seen combat footage, and audiotapes from the Blackhorse in Vietnam.

Please turn to DOCUMENTARY on page 8

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www.11thCavNam.com
I’m still sitting around moping about missing our last reunion. This is the first of seventeen reunions that I have missed. I did however, get up to date reports from the various Officers and Directors throughout the weekend. The majority of reports were very positive with the understanding that we need to do a better job of the seating problem at the Saturday night banquet. Be assured that we are working the problem and hope we can solve the seating arrangements from here on out. Steve Page was our Reunion Chairman. He did a magnificent job of organizing and conducting a superb reunion. Steve was a recipient of our Outstanding Trooper Award as was Chaplain Larry Haworth, Craig Thomson, Rodney George, and Matt McKnight. We also awarded the very first Women’s Award to Barb Moreno. She was shocked to say the least, as we had tricked her into believing that next year would be the first award to our great women in our lives. Many thanks for the service you all do for our organization!

At this year’s reunion, our Vice President, John Sorich filled in for me. He did a magnificent job of organizing and conducting a superb reunion. Steve was a recipient of our Outstanding Trooper Award as was Chaplain Larry Haworth, Craig Thomson, Rodney George, and Matt McKnight. We also awarded the very first Women’s Award to Barb Moreno. She was shocked to say the least, as we had tricked her into believing that next year would be the first award to our great women in our lives. Many thanks for the service you all do for our organization!

Now that reunion XVII is over, we set our sights to our next reunion in Eugene, Oregon, July 31st, 2003 through August 3rd, 2003...

I am happy to announce our new editor of Thunder Run, Trooper Bill Gregory, has agreed to lead our fine newsletter into the future with it continuing to be a quality newsletter. Many thanks go to Bill for volunteering for this “punishment.” Bill served with H CO, 2nd Sqdn. 69-70 and HHT 2nd Sqdn. 1970. Thanks Bill! We all look forward to our future issues.

Now that reunion XVII is over, we set our sights to our next reunion in Eugene, Oregon, July 31st, 2003 through August 3rd, 2003 at the Hilton Eugene & Conference Center. Rooms are limited. So, call for yours now at: 1-800-937-6660. We are certain we will require overflow hotels so stay at the host hotel by making your reservations now (you can always cancel without penalty prior to the reunion date).

It’s Time for the 12th Annual Blackhorse Picnic

Ron and Janet Krueger are your hosts again!

Everyone is invited and welcome at the 12th Annual Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ in Northern California. The date is Saturday, October 5, 2002, from 1100 am??? at Slidehill Park in Davis, California. Bring something to BBQ and something to share such as salad, dessert or other munchies, as well as your beverage of choice.

Here are the directions: Take I80 to Davis Calif. Take the Mace Blvd exit off I80. Proceed North around the bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd). Take Covell Blvd. to Monarch Lane. Turn Left, then the 1st right on Temple. The park is one block ahead on the left. Watch for balloons and signs along the way. RSVP: Ron Krueger at 530-758-0351 or email at: ronkrue@hotmail.com.

Alons, Ron and Janet

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, Warren Swinford, 2300 W 400 S., Clayton, IN 46118.

Name: _______________________________________________________

Old Address: __________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ____ Zip: __________

New Address: __________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ____ Zip: __________

Phone ___________________ Effective Date: ___________________
There are some very special people who helped make this reunion a big success.

Matt also took on other tasks and his coordination was a tremendous help. John Sorich ran the Silent Auction with his diligent work and attention to detail. The auction was a great success in collecting over $6,000 that will benefit our children with two scholarships. Again, thanks to the Moreno’s and others who assisted John. A big thanks goes out to Chuck Schmidt and Rick O’Dell for putting on the Veteran Seminar that was very well attended and full of helpful information. These seminars will be added to our future reunions.

A special thanks goes out to Rod and Elida George who, over the last couple of years, have sold just about everything they bring to the reunion. Sales were well over the $30,000 range.

To all the people we spoke with, thank you for your suggestions and ideas as we appreciate your input.

To those “First Timers”, we hope you had a great time and will try to make many more reunions.

To the members and guests who come every year, without your support, these reunions would never happen.

To the families of our KIA’S, welcome to our family. We wish that your attending a reunion could have been under different circumstances.

To the hotel staff of the Sheraton Hotel, you did a yeoman’s job to help make this reunion a great success.

To my wife Lee, who encouraged and supported me in this immense task, you are fantastic!
on that evening, we had our Bunker Party/Silent Auction. For me, this is the highlight of my reunion—sitting around, looking at pictures, catching up with friends, having some snacks and beer, and meeting new troopers. This is what the “Bunker” was intended for. It is true to its name. Everyone had a good time even up to midnight, which is way past my bedtime. Thank God, this only lasts for a few days!

Saturday was a day packed with events. At 8:00 in the morning, we boarded comfortable coach buses for the ride to downtown Nashville. The Tennessee Army National Guard Band made the Memorial site more memorable in that they extended their greetings to us. The band was a lovely addition to our service. Our Chaplain, Larry Haworth did his usual outstanding job, focusing the attention of our group’s service. The speaker was a retired General who worked in the area of Veterans Affairs and who had served two tours in Viet Nam. There were 3 horses, one riderless horse, bagpipes, a 21 gun salute, the band and then Adrian playing taps. We honored the memory of our fallen Brothers and their families. It was very moving as Larry guided us through it all. Larry, thank you so much for always being there for us!

At two in the afternoon, we had our Membership meeting. At the same time we were in our Membership meeting, our women conducted their meeting. Both meetings went very well; both ended at 4:00.

Festivities for our dinner started at 6:00. The Army band that played for our Memorial service was in the banquet hall as possible, but there were so many people. We will work on this problem to make things better in the future. Please understand, we do our best to provide seating for all. To be helpful in this endeavor, remember to register early. None of our membership wants to turn our brothers away. On the other hand, it is not possible to treat all walk ins as if they have registered early. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

The Banquet Program was like the rest of the weekend—very positive! Col. Joe Moore, the current Commander of the 11th ACR, spoke to us about our legacy we have given to the Blackhorse from our service in Vietnam and Cambodia. We are the heroes that the young active duty men look up to. He inspired us. We cannot deny the single thread that binds us all as Blackhorse Troopers. Our evening guest speaker was Gen. Wallace Nutting who was the Commanding Officer of our Regiment in Vietnam in 1970. He had a long, distinguished career and retired as a four star General. I was impressed with General Nutting’s words. He is a man to be respected and I thank you, Sir.

During dinner, there was some great film footage that was mixed with slides to entertain us. The footage was of the 11th “horse” Cavalry and dated back to the 1930’s. This footage had never been seen until now. This new version of “The Blackhorse Salute” met with great approval! It has been made easier to understand with new subtitles and new video effects. This combined with the producers from Hollywood, who were busy making The Blackhorse Movie, the producers showed the audience close to 4 minutes of what they have done so far. It was impressive!

Sunday, I rode the bus to the airport after Nam, but it has still been almost 20 years since that time.
The following KIA troopers of the 11 ACR do not have their Troop assignment. Please inform 11 ACRVVC if you know what Troop they served with.

PFC Dennis Springsteen 10/12/66 3/11
PFC Jimmy Williams 10/25/66 2/11
PFC Melvin Anderson 12/1/66 2/11
SP4 Frank Reynolds 3/4/66 2/11
SP4 Hugh Best 3/14/67 1/11
SP4 James Ruffin 3/19/67 3/11
SP4 Jose Quintero 4/17/67 2/11
SP4 Dale Bolte 5/19/67 1/11
SP4 Donald Walters 5/22/67 2/11
SP4 Edward Stahl 5/25/67 2/11
SP4 Collins Francis 6/5/67 2/11
SP4 Mike Page 6/6/67 2/11
SP4 John Campa 7/21/67 3/11
SP4 Frank Cruz 7/27/67 1/11
SP4 Earl Long 8/15/67 1/11
1st Lt. Clarence Roussell 9/5/67
SP4 David Isom 2/23/68 1/11
SP4 Melvin Wangeshik 2/19/68 1/11
SP4 Charles Hamner 7/31/68 2/11
WO Douglas Collins 8/21/68

PFC Frank Hamilton 8/21/68
PFC Donald Hammond 1/23/70
SP4 Donald Rice 1/23/70
CPL Jesse Fray 2/25/70
SP4 Thomas Lovley 3/27/70
SGT Robert Smith 3/10/70
SP4 William Moorhouse 3/12/70
SP4 George Patterson 4/1/77
SFC Mance Brown 4/3/70
SGT Robert Thompson 4/8/70
SP5 Craig Van Akin 4/8/70
CPL Raymond Williams 4/9/70

ACVVC if you know what Troop they served with.

PFC Earnest Thorson 4/26/70 2/11
SFC David Dash 5/2/70
SP4 Dionisio Carraziles 5/6/70
PFC Paduia Ledesma 5/6/70
SP4 Larry Morgan 5/8/70
CPT Ronald Durham 5/9/70
SP4 Wiley Hooks 5/9/70
SP4 James Russ 5/23/70
SFG Thomas Healy 6/8/70
PFC Thomas Cassus 6/20/70
SFC Merrill Holt 6/20/70
PFC Thomas Griffin 6/20/70
SP4 Burder Athey 6/21/70
SP5 Buford Spencer 6/21/70
SP5 Michael Dasisman 6/24/70
SP5 Greg Stevenson 7/24/70
SP4 Joe Fulgham 8/2/70
PVT Joseph Marcantoni 8/10/70 2/11
PFC Robert Rother 8/23/70
SGT William Wilhelm 9/6/70
SP4 Kenneth Hendrix 10/26/70
SGT Donnie Cunningham 11/18/70
SP4 Jorge Jurdan Font 11/27/70
SGT Carver Vaughn 12/27/70
PFC Roy Chaney 12/31/70
SGT Alfredo Salazar 12/31/70
SGT Dennis Webster 1 2/31/70
SP5 Raymond Enever 1 8/71
1st Lt James Carwright 1 8/71
SP4 Loren Lebeau 2 1/71
CW2 Joseph Brown 2 1/71
SGT Willis Andrews 4/17/71
SP5 George Orr 4/17/71
SP4 Gary Reynolds 4/17/71
SP4 Fidencio Flores 4/23/71
SP4 Hilbert Teeter 4/24/71
PFC Herbert Barnes 5/19/71
PFC Mickey Lane 5/19/71
SGT James Conley 11/07/71
SP5 Albert Robalin 12/28/71
CPT William Clark 2/23/72
CPT Joseph Harris 4/8/72
SFG Mike Aguilar 5/10/72

by John Sorich, VP 11 ACVVC

Many thanks to all our contributors to our coveted scholarship program. Because of your generosity, we are able to award sixteen (16) $3,000.00 each scholarships for 2002 and 2003.

Congratulations to all our recipients! We hope that in a small way, we are able to help further your education.

Robert Thomas Griffin II Parents, Robert & Valerie, Western Washington U HQ 2nd Sqdn Bellingham, WA.
Rebekah Diane Caldwell Parents, Ronald & Loretta, Southwest Baptist U Bolivar, Mo.
Jena M. Henry Parents, Philip & Kim, Pacific U Forest Grove, Or.
Crystal Dawn Saxby Parents, Ronald & Loretta, U of Maine DCo.
Amy Bee Murphy Parents, Thomas & Robin, Farmington, Me.
Marie Frances Mulcahey Parents, Michael & Margaret, College of Charlestown 2/11HHT Charlestown, S.C.
Amber Lee Ashley Parents, Roger & Mariane, La Crosse, Wi. U W La Crosse San Diego, Ca.

La Crosse, Wi. Parents, James & Marilyn, Casen James Griffiths F Troop Carthage College Michigan Krista Marie Olson Parents, John & Patricia, U of Minn. Duluth U 1st Sqdn Duluth, Mn.
Katrinka Jack Parents, Fred & Kathy, Augsburg College, HHT 3/11 Minneapolis, Mn.
Todd Andrew Gilbert Parents, Robert & Ellen, Tuffs U HHT 2/11 Medford, Ma.
Brynne Louise Craig Parents, Michael & Ellie, Bethany College F Troop Lindsborg, Ks.

Congratulations to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship recipients. All of us, who have worked hard to provide you with this Scholarship, wish you the best!

ALLONS !!

Committee Selects Sixteen For Scholarships

by John Sorich, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee

I have just returned from our convention in Nashville and want to thank all that were present. I had a wonderful time. I was kept very busy with Ollie Pickral, our President not in attendance. He and his wife Debbie were attending his daughter’s graduation ceremony at Stephen F. Austin State Univ. My best wishes to April, who now has a college degree.

I have the following to report about the Scholarship Committee. The 2002-2003 Scholarship is almost in the record books. Through the efforts of all, we were very successful. Including the Calendar, Raffle and contributions to the Silent Auction, the total for these events was $ 45,708.70. Of this amount, there was over $ 7,100.00 in expenses for printing, mailing and raffle awards. We gave sixteen scholarships to a field of twenty-seven qualified applicants. The total of the scholarships will be $ 48,000.00.

The following are the names of the winners in our Scholarship Raffle:

1st. Place ($500) – Dennis Van Alstine – E Troop; 2nd. Place ($300) – Sandy Shenal (we don’t have her phone or address – HELP if you know her); 3rd Place ($100) – Tom Hoefstaedter – 37th Med.; 4th Place – Dick Sack – K Troop.

Many thanks to all for the donations!!

To the many that gave, you can be very proud of this fact. After expenses, it looks like we once again have managed to make enough money to make this program self sustaining. Last year, the Board of Directors voted to use interest monies from our CD’s to ensure we would be able to maintain a level of at least 10 scholarships per year. It looks like using the interest money might not be necessary.

We are soon approaching my last season as Vice President and Chairman of our Scholarship program. I have worked as diligently as I could, but the real effort in this event belongs to you, our members.

See the names of the recipients in this issue of our newsletter. Look also for the list of contributors. The list may not be perfect, as much as I try to honor all that have sent us their dollars for this cause I am not perfect. I ask you to forgive me if you have made a contribution and somehow I have not got your name on the list. Never hesitate to remind me if this occurs.

Now I will be turning my mind and efforts to the Calendar for 2003. Send me your photos as they must be originals. They will be returned to you after the printer completes the calendar. Please supply names, dates, places, and a caption for each photo you submit. This will make for a great calendar.

Thank you each for all you do for our excellent scholarship program!

ALLONS
Guide to the 11 ACVVC Scholarship Program

By John Sorich, 11 ACVVC Vice President and Scholarship Chairman, July 10, 2002

The 11ACVVC has a superb Scholarship Program designed for all members in good standing. The 11ACVVC will grant Scholarships to our Troopers’ children, their stepchildren, and any children whose legal guardianship is accomplished by one of our Troopers, and to the Troopers themselves if qualified.

I would like to outline the procedures of the Scholarship Program so all members may understand them. This outline may also be used as a guide for the next 11ACVVC Scholarship Chairman. I am the third Scholarship Chairman. Preceding me were Ben Hotchkiss and after him, Bill Lewellen. I have talked with them in the past and expressed to them that as our organization continues, we need to update our policies and keep the Scholarship as a viable benefit for our membership.

The History

According to information gathered, it is believed that the 11thACVVC started collecting money at the 1989 Reunion in Minneapolis for the purpose of a Scholarship fund from the 11ACVVC members. We collected about $1,000 and turned the money over to Bill Squires. Bill Squires distributed the Scholarship donations through the Blackhorse Association.

A motion was made and passed at the 1996 11ACVVC reunion for us to have our own Scholarship Program, separate from the Blackhorse Association’s. Since that time, the 11thACVVC has awarded 46 scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each. Two years ago, after much discussion, the Scholarship award was increased to $3,000. This was done primarily because the cost of a college education has increased substantially since the start of the program. In fact, the national average for a college education is approximately $21,000 annually.

We awarded a $3,000 scholarship to 13 students in 2001. I am pleased to report that because of the efforts of many, we will be able to have 16 awards of $3,000 each this year (2002). Last year, your Board of Directors voted to use the monies that have been generated by the interest from the association’s Certificates of Deposit for the Scholarship Program. This will allow us to maintain the level of awards at a consistent level. The fund raising we participate in each year, including calendar sales, the raffle, and the silent auction are very important. Your support is what makes this program work.

The Criteria for Qualification

Any candidate who wishes to apply for a Scholarship must be the child of a current, paid-up member (or be the member himself) of the 11ACVVC. Applications will be accepted from students whose membership has lapsed by sending in one year’s membership fee. We grant Scholarships to our Troopers, their children, their stepchildren and any children whose legal guardianship is accomplished by one of our Troopers.

The Applicant

The applicant must fill the Scholarship Form completely. The Scholarship Application must be in the hands of the Scholarship Chairman by the deadline, May 15 of each year. If an applicant sends in the application and it is not filled out completely, the applicant will NOT be considered as a candidate. The application is available on our website at: www.11thCavNam.com. It may also be obtained by request from the Scholarship Chairman.

Judging the Applicant

Prior to the 2001 Scholarship season, applicants were judged in three categories:

Grades

Essay

Financial need

To determine financial need required the scholarship committee to make a financial needs judgement or decision with very limited personal financial information available. Furthermore, divorces, varied costs of living, and salaries in different areas of the country made it almost impossible to have one standard to apply to all members. Some applicants felt rule III was often prejudicial against certain members. It was deemed unfair to some student applicants and also prevented many otherwise eligible students from applying. It was decided that the intent and spirit of the 11ACVVC Scholarship Program was to benefit the children of all members and members themselves if qualified. After a long discussion that took place over several months, the third consideration of financial need was removed from the criteria, leaving the first and second judging categories the sole points of worthiness.

The Scholarship Chairman selects the Judges. The Judges are usually selected from the community where the Scholarship Chairman resides. The main goal in selecting Judges is that they must be impartial, educated and have a good idea of what it takes to succeed in college. The judges are asked to rate each candidate on a point system. The point total for a perfect score would be 20. Ten points coming from item number I and ten points coming from item number II. The total of the judges’ scores are added up and in descending order the judging is completed. Only the applicants who are awarded the 11ACVVC Scholarship are notified. This is done in writing and is mailed to them by the end of June.

The Scholarship Chairman may be obligated to offer a priority to Children of those Killed In Action, those who Died of Wounds, and those Disabled members. These are the only criteria that takes precedence over judged items I & II.

Summary

This may be the first time our organization has formally stated the events and procedures that constitute the Scholarship Program. The Program is intended to benefit all the qualified people associated within our membership. We will continue to have the 11thACVVC Scholarship Program as long as our membership is interested in supporting the Program. Further, this report will serve as a guideline for future Scholarship Committees to provide continuity in the administration and execution of the Scholarship Program. It is important that this information is available to all members for their consideration and to help them fully understand how our Scholarship Program works.

A total of 87 applicants have been awarded our Scholarship since it started in 1996. I want to thank the thousands of Trooper’s, their supportive families, loved ones and all who have contributed so generously over the years to make this program the success. All of us together, contributing what we can, have helped make this program one for which we all can be proud...... ALLONS!!
Well dear friends, once again it is time to sit back and think about the past couple of weeks. Friends meeting friends from their past, making new friends, looking at pictures which showed the guys when they were young and in some cases thin and had hair. Yes, reunion 2002 is now in our past and we turn our thoughts to the next one in Eugene, Oregon.

I want to congratulate Steve Page on a job “well done”. Having worked with Steve this year I have learned what a super guy he is. I look forward to helping out again next year.

If you missed the ladies meeting, then you missed a good one. We had “80” ladies present. This is the most that I can remember since I first started coming to reunions in San Antonio.

Our meeting was started with a fun and informative get acquainted game. Each woman was paired with someone they didn’t know and given 2 minutes to learn everything they could about each other. It was really funny to learn that we had so many long lost ‘identical’ twins, born of different mothers. It was really funny and fun and many of you left the meeting with a new friend. I hope you will all stay in touch with each other and with me. Your address books will be in the mail soon.

Our guest speaker this year was Rick O’Dell. Rick is one of our own Blackhorse Troopers and is very knowledgeable in the field of Agent Orange. He presented a very informative program and answered a lot of questions. I learned things that I had no idea were possibly related to having been exposed to Agent Orange. I for one am now going to be insistent that Bob receive his VA exam.

If you missed the ladies meeting, then you missed a good one. We had “80” ladies present. This is the most that I can remember...

Rick, a very BIG thank you from me and from all the ladies in attendance. And we look forward to having you join us again in a couple of years.

My award – this came as a huge surprise to me. Ollie Pickral and I had discussed the possibility of a ladies award about a year ago. It was decided that this award would not take effect until 2003 and therefore giving me time to think about the requirements necessary for this award. The only thing I am sorry about is the fact that Bob (my husband) was out of the room at the time of the presentation and so therefore we have no pictures or even know what was said.

I thank all of you who make my job easier by being a sounding board or a shoulder to lean on. I truly enjoy doing this and look forward to the planning each year.

Well girls we just got back from Nashville this morning about 3 am so I think I’ll sign off for now.

Until next time may each of you be happy and healthy. And don’t forget to let me know your address so I can stay in touch with you soon.

Yours in friendship and love,
Barb Moreno

DOCUMENTARY from page 1

The documentary highlights the valor of all Blackhorse Troopers, and represents our history with honor, and dignity in a film the whole family can view. Our story will be told long after we are resting in Fiddlers Green.

We have preordered only 1000 Copies, so place your order soon so your copy will be delivered in time for Christmas. The documentary can be ordered from the Quartermaster Store Order Form in DVD or Video VHS $27 + $4 S&H. ... ALLONS
file your NOD, but you must disagree with their initial decision before the de novo review becomes available.

If you do not request a de novo review, you have 60 days from the time the VA mails you the notice to decide whether to accept same. If you turn it down, or do not reply within 60 days, the 60 days will not be extended and the VA will follow the old rules.

Note: If you want a de novo review, you must tell them in writing within 60 days of the day the VA mailed the notice to you.

A de novo review gives you some new opportunities.

First, the VA appoints a new adjudicator – an adjudication officer, a veterans service center manager or a decision review officer – to look at all the evidence in your claim. Anyone who worked on your earlier decision is not eligible to be a de novo reviewer.

The new adjudicator is told to give no deference to your earlier decision; it must be a completely fresh look.

The adjudicator can develop your claim by obtaining new evidence or by holding an informal conference with you.

The adjudicator may revise the decision, but the revision must be to your advantage.

Finally, de novo review does not limit your appeal rights. If the de novo decision does not grant the benefits you believe you are due, you can still appeal to the board.

The de novo review seems a step in the right direction. This is a fresh look at your claim before you go to the board and another opportunity for the VA to approve your claim at the local level. If the de novo adjudicators are well-trained and know their VA law, veterans should get their claims processed more quickly.

There is always a catch, however. If the de novo reviewers don’t live up the promise of this new procedure, are not truly open-minded or apply the “clear and unmistakable error” rule too vigorously, it could just cause more delay and create more problems.

I hope the new process works, but the proof is in the pudding.

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**Lane W. Lauckhart** passed away from his battle with cancer on March 20, 2002. Lane was a Staff Sgt. from A Troop, 1st Sqdn. and was in country from 1966 through 1969. Lane was a Life member of 11 ACVVC.

**John R Carpenter** passed away on February 23, 2002. John (Superman) was with E Troop, 2nd Sqdn. in 1967-68.

**Charles A. Christopher** passed away on April 15, 1998 from throat cancer related to agent orange. Charles served with L Troop, 3rd Sqdn. in 1969.

**Theodore Hartman** passed away April 11, 2000. He was 53 and died suddenly. Ted served with the 919th Combat Engineers from 1966–1968 (2 tours with the 11th Cav).


**Andrew J. Dougherty** passed away on July 15, 1997. Andrew was attached to the 11th Cav while in Vietnam and was a pilot for the US Air Force.

**James R Lawler** passed away on May 10, 2002. James served with HH Troop, Regiment in 1969 and was a Life member of 11 ACVVC.

**James L. Steele** passed away on April 17, 2002. James served with Air Cav Troop, Regiment in 1970.

**Walt Rozier** passed away on October 31, 1999. Walt served with the Regiment in 71-72 (unit assignment unknown). He reportedly died of ailments caused by Agent Orange.

**Homer Pittman** passed away on June 25, 2002 of complications following cancer surgery. Homer was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for heroism in the worst bloody battle the 11th ACR experienced in May of 1967. Homer was the recipient of the 11th ACVVC’s Jack Quilter Award for 2000. He was a Life member of 11 ACVVC, serving with K Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1966-67.

**Gerald (Jerry) Steingass** passed away Oct 10 2001 of an Oligiocoma brain tumor. He served with the 919th Engineers. Dates in country are unknown.


**Raymond J. Matus** 62, died on June 23, 2002, in his home. Raymond was a Life member of 11 ACVVC and served with the 541st MID as a Warrant Officer.

**Donald Bowman** died on July 23, 2002 after a long battle with cancer. Don was an early 11 ACVVC life member and came to every reunion until his cancer prevented him. Don served with G Troop, 2nd Platoon; 2nd Sqdn. from 69-70. Don was 100% disabled from Agent Orange.

**Gerald Steingass, 53,** died October 10, 2001 from a cancerous brain tumor. It is unknown what Troop Gerald served under.

**Marvin L. Hatfield, 69,** died November 18, 2001. It is unknown what Troop Marvin served under.

**Timothy Smedley, died on December 30, 2001. Tim served with L Troop, 3rd Sqdn. in 1969.**

**James L. Steele, 49,** died on April 20, 2000. James served with Air Cav Troop, Provisional Sqdn. in 1969-70.

**Alfred L. Smith Jr., 56,** died May 29, 2002. Alfred was a Life member of 11 ACVVC and served with HHTroop, Regiment in 70-71.

**James O. Ogle, 56,** died on June 18, 2002. Jim was a Life member of 11 ACVVC and served with L Troop, 3rd Sqdn. in 1967-68. He died fighting cancer.

**Charles Bazell, 58,** died Janauary 14, 2002. “Red” served with 2nd Plt, L Troop, 3rd Sqdn. in 66-67. His family believed the cancer he had was related to exposure to agent orange.
I don't know how you feel, but, except for the shooting part and missing my family and home, for me the lifestyle wasn't so bad.

There are plenty more too, too many to list. But you know what I'm saying you have plenty of your own. These are all bad words and thoughts. Right? You know what I mean? Yes, you do. No one's kidding here. You have boucoup (boocoo, so who can spell in French?) words and thoughts about Viet Nam. However, let's change gears here. Let's look at the flip side of the coin. Let's check another angle on that word "Viet Nam."

Let's go on to this flip side of the coin I just mentioned. All the bad words and thoughts listed above are about the Viet Nam war. Just for the heck (I avoid saying hell because I'm going the other way) of it, let's think about Viet Nam without the war part. "You're nuts," you say to me? That may be true, but I'm from California and whether I'm a nut is beside the point. "You don't know what you're talking about, you say?" Well, I was there and I got shot at standing up, laying down, in the air, on tanks, and so forth, too. But that's the war part. Now, let's talk about experience aside from the war part.

We've talked a couple of times about handles. You know, the nicknames guys gave each other that seemed to fit their personality or the situation. You remember that sometimes you knew your buddy by his handle and never did get to know his real name. It wasn't important then. Of course, when you tried to look him up later you had a hard time because you didn't know his real name, his handle wasn't in the phone book and no one else knew who you were talking about. The point is, in Viet Nam there were a few buddies that you went through hell (I'll use the word here because it fits) and high water with and you got tighter than with a blood brother. You'd sit around at night talking about very personal things. You covered each other's youknowwhat when the stuff was flying. You took care of each other. You missed your buddy deeply when he PCSed and went home. See what I mean? This was a powerful and wonderful experience. Many, maybe most, of us will never have that profound bonding with a brother again. Only in the extremes of Viet Nam or somewhere similar could this happen.

Moving on to something lighter but also good, I wrote about Medcaps a few months ago. I haven't told you about orphanages because I helped with them during my first tour and this is about my second tour mostly. Anyway, the point is that the vast majority of American soldiers truly care about people, especially kids. We went out on medcaps, which was taking medical care to people in remote parts of the jungle along the Cambodian border, because that's where we operated. Our medics (handle of Doc) treated a lot of people who needed help. The rest of us went along to help pull security or just to be friendly with the people. I've been around hundreds of troopers who went out on medcaps (or supported orphanages) because they wanted to. I can safely say that most, maybe all, actually enjoyed doing it. This was definitely a "good" part of our Viet Nam experience. It's a good memory. It's a positive response when someone plays the word association game that I started this article with. The good words probably don't come to mind as quickly as the bad words, but they're there and they're important.

I don't know how you feel, but, except for the shooting part and missing my family and home, for me the lifestyle wasn't so bad. First tour I was with helicopters and bird dogs in the Mekong Delta. I got in a lot of hours flying around in helicopters, bird dog spotter planes, and Otters. Second tour I was with Cav (the real cav) and rode around on ACavs, tanks, selfpropelled howitzers, more helicopters and so on. This was actually fun. I enjoyed it a whole lot. Where else could you go and get such rides and experiences (remember, now, I'm talking about except for the war part.) Speaking of tanks, I remember when we went into Cambodia (legally). We went...
in through the Fish Hook. We went into the rubber plantations around Snoul. It was a remarkable experience because the plantations were fresh and green. The plantation homes were whole. None had been bombed or rocketed yet. Not yet, I said. That would change (but that’s the war part again). Except for the war part, like I said, this was a good experience. It was even a fun experience. The French plantation owners were already gone and the Cambodian manager was on his way outta there. He was flying out in a small plane from the grass airstrip. As he was leaving he told our troopers they could have anything and everything because what they didn’t take the NVA would come and take anyway. Remember those old, ugly Citroens? They had to have been one of the ugliest and cheapest cars ever made. We sure couldn’t use them and we weren’t going to let the NVA have them. So guess what our tankers had a field day. They took those ugly Citroens out on the grass airstrip and had a demolition derby with them. No kidding! What fun! What a great time! Where else could you do such a thing? Nowhere. That’s where.

Being a chaplain, some of my memories are about having church in the jungle. The Catholic priest from another squadron and I would get on the helicopter, which the regimental chaplain got from the commander. He’d take us all around to have services. The Catholic would take the Catholics (logical enough) and I’d take the Protestants (still logical). When he was gone I’d take everybody and when I was gone he’d do the same. Everybody, that is, who went to the services. I’ll have to say, that participation sure was a lot better out in the jungle than in the rear. That shouldn’t be hard to figure. Anyway, even when it rained we’d have services. I still have the Bible I used in those days. It’s got splotches all over from the rain. I didn’t mind a bit. It was even sort of fun. For sure, it’s a good memory. I’m glad I did it.

Well, there’s a lot to talk about and I’m about out of space, but you can ponder your own good stories from your time in the Nam. Spend some time and energy thinking about buddies and experiences except for the war part. When you do, I hope and trust that you’ll think about the Lord too. He was there. He did bring you through. And it wasn’t all bad by any stretch. I hope you’ll recognize that God does love you and cares about you deeply. He has his own call signs and handles, as you may remember from a different article. One of these is “God is Love.” That comes from the Holy Bible, which is my authority for talking about God. It’s in I John 4:810. The rest of the section is important so I’ll tell you here what it is and hope you’ll read it. If you’ve gone to sleep, you can read it later. Don’t forget. Here it is: “Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”

To end this article, I’ll just say that I recognize war is hell and Viet Nam was no exception. Same for Desert Storm, Afghanistan, Korea, WWII and the rest. But along with the war part many good things did happen. Even great things happened. I hope you’ll think about the good things that happened to you. Even in the Nam. God bless you. God loves you. So do I

Chaplain Larry Haworth
LEHaworth@aol.com

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of The Wall

The Officers and Directors passed a motion to sponsor a hotel suite in Washington DC to mark the 20th Anniversary of The Wall. Blackhorse troopers are encouraged to attend the ceremonies and enjoy the camaraderie, food and beverage of the “mini-Bunker.”

Where: Washington Marriott. Rooms are $129.00 per night.
Call (202) 872-1500 – Mention the VVMF when making reservations.
When: November 9-10, 2002

Military Discharge
Key to Obtaining Veteran’s Benefits

Reprinted from Stars and Stripes

A veteran’s military discharge document is the key that opens the door to securing veteran benefits and services; but too often, it is a vital document misplaced or lost, leaving the veteran and family members locked out from receiving help and entitlements they need and deserve.

If you are a veteran, you should have a copy of your discharge or have it on file at your hometown county clerk’s office. You should make sure your spouse or other family members know where to find it. Veterans who don’t know where their discharge is, or have lost it, should act now to replace it, rather than wait until it is needed, which can then be too late.

Medical, economic and social benefits for veterans are tied to documenting the individual’s military service, and the best means of proving one’s active duty is a copy of his or her discharge, often referred to as a DD-214.

Not having the discharge readily available can delay receipt of benefits, which can be costly to veterans and their families applying for monthly compensation or pension benefits, health care, education assistance, tax exemption and a variety of other benefits.

Veteran’s discharges and other records are stored at the national personnel records center in St. Louis, MO. A request for an individual discharge can take months to obtain, a delay that can be frustrating and painful if the document is needed immediately. It is particularly upsetting for veterans survivors, who may have little information about their loved one’s military service, but need the discharge to obtain benefits or to comply with the veteran’s burial wishes, such as interment in a national cemetery. Without proof of military service, the national cemetery cannot accept the veteran’s remains.

Veterans who cannot locate their discharges should contact their nearest division of veterans affairs office or county veterans service agency for assistance in obtaining a copy of the document.
Donations to 11thACVVC Scholarship Fund – ($23,336)

The following troopers have made donations to our Scholarship Fund: (donations are tax deductable)

Al & J. Langsell
Al Hodmez
Cindy & RM. Hoover
Thomas L. Hooper
Kibby & Margaret Horn
Monroe Howard
Hazel & Jerry Howerton
Donnie & Diana Hudgins
Les & William Huettman
Warran Huff
Randall Hughes
Robert & Lois Hurt
David Husing
Leney & J. Oar huster
Bob Hyatt
Paul Icovi
ti
Lynn Kille II
Benjamin Harman III
Dennis Roy J. aboca
Fred J. ack
Betty & Lee J. jackson
Gerald & Susan J. aebseen
Theodore J. affe
Al & J. Jean J. ankiewski
Roger J. anke
Steve J. armacco
Louis G. aive
Duae J. aoraskii
Frederick J. enkis
Richard J. ensen
Gary J. hohston
J. James & Francis J. johnson
Donald W. J. johnson
Margaret J. johnson
William J. johnson
Wayne & Darlene J. Jones
Harold J. jones
J. ohnny J. jones
Nobetlon J. jones
J. ohn J. jordan
Paul J. oseph
Clair N. P. ornament
J. Clifford J. macdonald J. r.
J. ohn J. McCarthy J. r.
J. oseph J. McKibbin
Harry Moody J. r.
Wm. Montgomery J. r.
Mr. & Mrs. Bill J. ewell J. r.
Harold Basler J. r.
Ven E. Bush J. r.
Robert T. Ereme J. r.
Carlos Gregory J. r.
Glenn Ryburn J. r.
Walter Stoenijski J. r.
Chas. L. J. onson J. r.
J. James J. Williams J. r.
William J. houchins J. r.
Chas Lockin J. r.
J. oseph J. eckin
Robert T. ereme J. r.
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Specify size and color preference of item requested.

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Shipping Costs: A items = $4.00; B items = $6.00 (max shipping is $6.00 per order)

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Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________________________________________________

☐ Check i/f address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is $6.00. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to “11th ACVC.” Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 12-0102. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: 11th ACVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Ninemile Road, Huson, MT 59846.
Greetings to all! Wow!! What can I say about the Nashville Reunion? If you were there, you know how great it was! If you weren’t — You have to get to Eugene next year! Steve Page did an excellent job of organizing the event. It should stand out as one of the milestones in our history.

I would like to say a special thank you to my wife Elida for her many hours of selfless work on behalf of all the troopers. She has sore feet but a soaring heart after our 22 hours in the quartermaster store over the weekend. I would also like to thank Tom Reese for his help. A finer gentleman and good assistant cannot be found in the Cav. Also a big thank you to Ron Krueger for helping out so we could take a meal break.

A big thank you goes to all you troopers also. Our sales at the reunion set an all-time record of $29,988 that we were able to add to the coffers of the 11th ACVVC to defray some of the expenses of the reunion. As long as we are discussing finances and I was unable to attend the business meeting in order to keep the store open, I will give a brief rundown of fiscal year July 2001 through June of 2002. Sales were $54,052 with a cost-of-goods of $31,228. This leaves a net profit for the organization of $22,824.

New item!!!! As you may have heard the 11th ACVVC is working on a video based on our book “The Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam”. I have received notification from the board that this product will be available in December (just in time for Christmas shopping) in both a VHS and DVD format. Watch for notification and prices to be announced. Yes, I will take early orders to ensure prompt delivery. As soon as you see the announcement, you may preorder from the QM store. Delivery date to us should be the first week of December.

I would like to close with a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Directors for presenting me with the Outstanding Trooper Award for 2002. I had no idea it was coming! I was amazed and grateful when I heard Gene announce it at the Banquet on Saturday night. I want you all to know that I hold this award from our esteemed organization, to be the pinnacle of achievement! I offer you all my deepest and sincerest thank you.

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**Trooper Assistance Fund**

**History:** In 1989, the Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC agreed there was a need for monies to assist our troopers in getting to a reunion. Prior to this date, the organization got many calls for assistance directly from the trooper needing assistance or a buddy of a trooper hoping to get his buddy to the reunion. It was decided then that during the meeting of its members, a “passing of the hat” would take place and with those funds, we could assist in getting some troopers who might otherwise not attend because of monetary limitations.

**Purpose Statement:** The purpose of the Trooper Assistance Fund is to assist troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the kingdom of Cambodia, attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Qualified candidates will be given one and perhaps more than one of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required: 1) a room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend; 2) funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare; 3) registration fees; 4) meals.

**Maintenance of Funds:** Funds collected through direct donations or the “passing of the hat” at the annual membership meeting shall be maintained and accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall include the Trooper Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report. The Treasurer shall dispense funds from this account as directed by the Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC.

**Rules of Acceptance:** To be accepted for consideration for assistance, the trooper may be required to: show proof that he is or was a member of 11 ACVVC or eligibility that he is qualified to become a member; describe his monetary situation, ie….job, salary, family, etc. Troopers will only be allowed to accept this assistance one time. Exceptions to the one time only use of the Trooper Assistance Fund will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and will require a unanimous vote of the Officers and Directors available for voting. Exceptions will rarely be granted and will never be allowed in consecutive years. (The Secretary will maintain a listing of those who have been assisted and will pass on to successive Secretary(s). The President will also maintain a copy). The trooper requesting assistance must do so in writing to the Secretary or the President and must also provide evidence of service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC will vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a trooper, by a majority of those Officers and Directors. The Officers and Directors shall not divulge the names of those assisted troopers to anyone other than another current Officer and/or Director.

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**Show Your Pride**

Carroll Hipps (HHT 2/11 ’69–’70) shows his pride on his 2001 Electra Glide Ultra Classic Harley Davidson. Carroll cruises the North Carolina area. Photo by C. Hipps.
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 11th 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.

NAME ____________________________________________________________
PHONE ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP ______________________________________________________________________________________

UNIT __________________________________________DATES: FROM ________________TO ____________________
(Troop,Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)
SER NO RANK (during tour)_________________________ SSN NO ________________________________

OTHER INFORMATION ________________________________________________________________________________

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  ■ NEW  ■ RENEWAL  MEMBERSHIP NUMBER______________________
■ ANNUAL ($15)  ■ LIFE ($100)
■ LIFE Plan ($25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of $25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR $__________________________

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR
(Sign) ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: 11th ACVVC Membership, Bill Holford, 8515 Shoal Creek Blvd., Apt. #108, Austin, TX 78757-7548.

✯ ✯ ✯ Membership is Our Strength ✯✯✯
It’s not the price you pay to belong,
It’s the price you paid to become eligible to join

Thunder Run
11th ACVVC
720 Ashbrook Drive
Hixson, TN 37343-1285

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