



Thunder Run

Vol. 18 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2003

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

My First Reunion

By Gary Thain, K Troop, 1970 - 71

Thirty-two years ago I boarded a Pan Am jet at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam, destination “the world.”

“The world” was a common term used by Vietnam soldiers in reference to home, the United States. Dressed in U.S. Army-issued dress khakis complete with medals, ribbons and unit patches sewn on each shoulder, I had fulfilled a promise I made to my family: I was returning home, alive and in one piece. In the storage unit of that plane was my duffel bag stuffed with military fatigues, personal clothing items and a photo album held together by a very long, black shoestring.

I left behind an ugly war and a brotherhood of the best friends I’ve ever known. War buddies leave when their tour of duty is over, some before and after your tour is over. A handful of my buddies were not as lucky as I, for they returned home in coffins. During that plane ride home, I began contemplating about those friends. Would I ever see any of those guys again? Dean “Deano” Elliston, Kim “Touche” Mitchell, Steve McPherson and others whose names are fogged over somewhere in my brain cells. And what about the ones I left behind? Would they survive?

My welcome home at the Seattle airport

left a lot to be desired. Things didn’t improve much when I arrived at my home town in Bozeman, Mont. Friends and family didn’t understand what I had gone through.

So, like a million other Vietnam vets I tried to forget the past. Nobody cared anyway so why bother. “Zip it shut Gary,” I told myself.

All those memories, good, bad and ugly, were stored away. The only physical memento that survived the war and has been with me through all my journeys was that photo album.

About six years ago, I discovered the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Web site, and shortly after became a life member in hopes of making connections with one of my old buddies. Nothing happened until about two years ago when I got an address and phone number for an Elliston in Colorado. That’s where Deano was from. Man, I couldn’t wait to make that phone call.

The person on the other end of the phone line was Deano’s mom. She remembered her son talking about me, but sadly informed me that Dean had died 10 years ago of a blood disorder. Shell shocked, I expressed my condolences and told her how happy I was to

Please turn to **FIRST REUNION** on page 5

Reunion XVIII, Eugene, OR

Thanks for the Memories

By: Steve Page, Reunion Committee Chair and Reunion Chair 2004.

This year’s reunion was another excellent event. Thanks to our Chairman Adrian Vaaler and all those who assisted in making this Reunion possible. The 617 attendees were ready to have fun when they arrived and I think all carried out that mission very well. We consumed 22 tanks of soda, 13 full kegs of beer, enough cheese and vegetables for 900, and 75 doz. Finger sandwiches, 50 doz. Buffalo wings, 30 doz. Swedish meatballs, 50 doz. Spring rolls and last but not least 30 doz. little weenies in sauce. All this was served Friday Night in the bunker. We also drank 45 gallons of coffee and tea and polished off 60 dozen bagels and muffins at the various meetings on Saturday. At the banquet 617 dinners were served. Although I do not have a final number, Our Quartermaster Store had a great weekend and sales were very good. The People of Eugene made us feel welcome and the restaurants and brew pubs made us all feel wanted. Many questions were asked about the 11ACR and

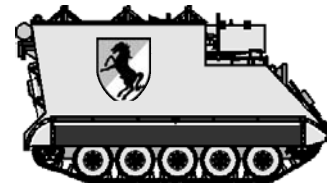
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2003

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Ollie Pickral, President
11th ACVVC

We are all back from attending the 18th reunion of the 11 ACVVC. Eugene Oregon was such a beautiful city, surrounded by hills then mountains beyond that. Deb and I had the opportunity to do some sight seeing and water rafting after the reunion.

Over 600+ troopers, wives and other family members attended. The crowd was smaller than previous reunions, but the brotherhood and camaraderie weren't. Many attending troopers were at their first reunion and many stated that they had a wonderful time and would attend our upcoming reunion in Daytona Beach next August.

Kudos goes out to our Reunion Site Chairman, Adrian Vaaler. What a great job he did. The whole reunion went off without a hitch. The hotel was the perfect size for this reunion and their staff did a great job. Reunion Chairman, Steve Page also did a great job. Steve will be the Reunion Site Chair for our next reunion in Daytona Beach, FL. Those wanting to assist for that reunion can contact Steve (see page 3).

At our annual Business meeting, our attending members voted for our next

By vote from the members present at the business meeting, the 11 ACVVC will host its 20th reunion in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Officers and Directors. Starting January 1, 2004, Chuck Schmidt (I Troop) will be your new President. Our new Vice President will be Gene Johnson (E Troop/LLRP). Frank Cambria (G Troop) was elected our Secretary again and I (K Troop) will be the next Treasurer. Allen Hathaway (HHT Regt) was elected as Director. Mike Forbes' Director position did not expire so he will be with us for another year. The Officers and Directors will appoint a trooper to fill the Director position vacated by Chuck Schmidt, in accordance with our by-laws. These names are not strangers to 11 ACVVC. All have served in other Officer/Director positions for 11 ACVVC in the past and are very familiar with the organization. Please thank these troopers when you see them again as they all work hard for you all year. They are why we are one of the top veteran unit organizations in the country.

Awards!! Yes, we gave out a bunch of awards at the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner. 11 ACVVC presented a \$300 savings bond to the Soldier of the Year and the NCO of the Year of the active duty 11th Cav. Women's coordinator Barb Moreno presented the Women's Award to Elida

George. Special Achievement awards were given to Otis Carey, Warren Swinford, Bill Madej, Jr., Rod George, and John Sorich. The Trooper of the Year Award was presented to Bill Gregory for his exceptional job as editor of *Thunder Run*.

By vote from the members present at the business meeting, the 11 ACVVC will host its 20th reunion in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Reunion Site Chairmen are Dave Tessier and Chuck Schmidt. This will be our second visit to Colorado Springs and the second hosted by Dave Tessier. As you'll recall, this was one of our best reunions. Dave has assured our legacy at the Wall of Remembrance, site of our memorial service. There are plaques of our Medal of Honor recipients and an M-60 tank with 11th Cav markings that Dave was responsible for getting to the site.

One last important item...Many thanks to John Sorich, our VP who managed our Scholarship program. This year, twenty (20) of our trooper's sons and daughters will be awarded scholarships. Each will receive a \$3000.00 scholarship to assist them in getting a higher education. Of the last four years, John was responsible for raising over \$150,000 for our kids. We will sorely miss his hard work and his great work as our Vice President. John is stepping down so he can get back with his A Troop buddies.....our loss, their gain.

Until Next Time,

ALLONS

Comments on the 18th Reunion, Eugene, OR

By: Adrian Vaaler, HHT Regiment, 1969-70, Eugene Reunion Chair

First, I want to thank Steve Page, Ollie Pickral, and Gene Johnson for helping me with all the reunion details. Without their positive and continuing support it would have been a harder process to make the event happen. I enjoyed being able to help put Eugene on the reunion map. The officers and Board of Directors gave me appropriate comments and suggestions that were helpful.

I thank all the members who provided comments about Eugene and its citizens

who supported us as we walked around town and visited the various local establishments. I do hope everybody had a great time.

It gives me great pleasure that we had a reunion in the northwest and were able to reach out to our members who hadn't been able to attend other reunions. That was one purpose of having it here and it's a purpose that all reunion sites have. I'm tired after all the work and grateful I can take a break to recover from the excitement of our brothers gathering once again to remember our service.

All the volunteers made a big difference to help smooth the rough spots. Barb and Bob Moreno did a great job with registration, including their volunteer staff. Three local people were of great help to me. Betty Schmitt helped with envelope stuffing, Arnold Christensen was the van driver, and Al Murphy greeted arriving passengers at the Eugene airport. I thank them for their help.

Again, thank you to all who were able to come and enjoy Eugene and Oregon.

Allons,

Adrian

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



Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080-3409. Telephone (972) 235-6542; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@isc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

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. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory Jr, 720 Ashbrook Dr., Hixson, TN 37343-1285 <Battle46A@comcast.net>

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LOOKING AHEAD TO REUNION 2004 DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

Dates:	August 6,7 and 8, 2004.
Hotel:	Adams Mark 100 North Atlantic Ave Daytona Beach, Fl. 32118
Room Rates:	\$119.00 per night S/O- D/O Room rates are good for 3 days prior and 3 day after event
Reservations:	Direct to Hotel 1-(386) 254-8200 Central Booking 1 (800) 444 ADAM (2326)
	ADA Rooms are available to our group
Parking Self Park:	Free
Indoor Garage:	\$6.00
Valet Park:	\$10.00
More information is scheduled to be published in the next issue of <i>Thunder Run</i> .	
Steve Page, Reunion chairman	

Show Your Pride



Double plated? As he moves around Sandy Hook, CT, Jack Burns (How Battery, 1/11, 1966 – 67) shows his pride twice; with "11 - CAV" plates on both his Saturn and Ford Pickup Truck. Both are Connecticut plates, the truck has "combination" plates while the car has passenger car plates.



Editor's Corner

C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

I know that most of you did not go to this year's reunion in Eugene, Oregon, so I hope that you will be patient with those of us who did, when one of us tells you, one more time – what a great reunion it was! Eugene was my sixth reunion, my first having been Indianapolis in 1993. I thought back then that I probably would never attend another, but then Louisville came along in 1996, and my former CO (and dear friend), Miles Sisson was going to be there. I could not miss seeing him again, plus the Army was really putting on a show for us at Fort Knox. That really was some red carpet treatment they rolled out for us. After Louisville, I attended the reunions in New Orleans, Washington, Nashville, and now Eugene. At these reunions I found Dave Tessier, who had been my Platoon Sergeant, and Gary Sumlar one of our top mechanics, who kept us running on our field trips to Cambodia. In DC, Lynn Hyland one of First Platoons top TC's was there; and this year Gary Williams (who was my counterpart in 3rd Platoon in 1970) attended his first reunion. It was great to see them again, and to catch up on what they have been doing as well as relive memories. None of us can make it every year, after all life is busy. I cannot go every year, but I am glad I went back again after 1993, or I would never have seen most of these guys again. You see, I am still hoping to see some guys I haven't seen yet, like Jerry Bromley or Steve Grodeman, or any of the guys I was so close to then and now. If Eugene was your first reunion, or if you have not been to a reunion yet, make all of them you can. The odds are that someone is hoping to see you again, not to mention the wonderful new friends you will make from among guys who were with the Blackhorse at a time different from yours.

This issue of your newsletter has news of the Eugene Reunion, and the first information about the Daytona Beach Reunion. We have a new slate of officers starting in January, so check President Ollie Pickral's "Command Track" column. Chaplain Larry Haworth has another inspiring and entertaining column, and our Secretary, Frank Cambria gives us some good information

I want to take this opportunity to thank the 11th ACVVC for giving me the "Blackhorse Trooper of The Year Award" for 2003. I was humbled by this great honor and thank you and your organization for it.

on decorations (medals) in his article. We also have excellent articles from Barb Moreno, Rod George, John Sorich; and Steve Page gives us some interesting information about the "damage" we did in Eugene. There are also some good "Show Your Pride" pictures. We have humorous articles from Chaplain Karabinos and Charles Abbey, and a very heartfelt article from Gary Thain.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the 11th ACVVC for giving me the "Blackhorse Trooper of The Year Award" for 2003. I was humbled by this great honor and thank you and your organization for it. I do hope you enjoy this issue of *Thunder Run*; let us know how we can do better. We will be back in November for the final issue of 2003. Keep your track tension right and swab out the bore every now and then.

ALLONS!!

Raffle Winners 2003

\$ 500.00 Winner

M. Weynand, Neosho, WI

\$ 300.00 Winner

Kami-Kay Sabo, Topeka, KS

\$ 100.00 Winner

Mike Gunn, Arabi, LA

\$ 100.00 Winner

D. Reid, (No available address)

Thank you for your support of our Scholarship. We are still taking contributions from the raffle & will place all tickets in the 2004 Raffle. Step up and be counted.

Send contributions to:

11thACVVC Scholarship
John Sorich
5037 France Ave So.,
Minneapolis, Mn. 55410.
Thanks to all !!

A Second Set of our KIA's Medals Recovered

By: Ollie Pickral, President

Frank Hammon served with G Troop, 2nd Squadron. On January 23, 1970, Frank was killed along with another G trooper, Donald Rice while on an operation with the 11th U.S. Cavalry.

Frank's medals were found on an eBay auction; just like the 1st set of medals we recovered in 2001 of another one of our KIA's. The seller was notified, as was the one bidder at the time. Each was asked to remove the medals from the auction, and to retract their bidding. Neither agreed so we began to contemplate outbidding any current and future bids. The price of the medals was over \$150.00 and as the time neared for the deadline, more bids poured in. One of our troopers, Jim Trier contacted me and said that if we wanted to win the bid, he could use his software that assures a winner each time. By the time it got within minutes of the deadline, the bidding was exceeding over \$400.00 with at least five bidders going after the medals. Jim was right, he won the bid, but at a price of \$456.00. I put the message out over our website that an attempt to exploit one of our killed in action was taking place on eBay. That's all it took...donations from Blackhorse troopers poured in. Troopers who never knew Frank in Vietnam but were determined to stop the exploitation of one of our heroes sent in checks over the next two weeks. Because of the following troopers, we were able to recoup Frank's medals. Hopefully we will have the medals displayed at the 11th Cav museum at Fort Irwin, California.

Please thank these troopers: Jim Trier; Pete Echon; Jack Stoddard; CSM Don Horn; Jim Johnson; Merritt Durr; Chuck Schmidt; Jim Terpak; Gene Chaney; Joe Gehring, John Effinger; Jerry Williamson; Max Torno; Frank Church, Bill Holford, Ollie Pickral.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your contributions. It never ceases to amaze me that we can always count on our Blackhorse brothers!!

ALLONS

MEMORIES from page 1

the people who asked went away with a better understanding about who and what we are. Many people on the street and in the hotel thanked us for our service what a great feeling that gives you. The Hotel Staff wanted me to thank all of you for letting them interact with us and become part of the celebration, our Blackhorse T-shirts and Reunion Pins will be seen all over Eugene long after we are home and back in our routines You all made a very good impression on the young people who served us so well. You voted to make the Reunion dates more flexible this one thing will help us to keep costs where every one can afford to attend. Passing the hat at the membership meeting also proved what a very generous group of people we have the collection was over the top.

Many of us are asking where the week-

end went. We hope you enjoyed our little party. It is time to mention the people that made this event a success. I think that the Ladies who are in the lives of our members should be first on the list. Your love support and caring has been greatly appreciated through the years. You make the reunions special. All our fellow troopers who travel to these events to be together with their friends and put smiles on their faces; what a brotherhood! Remember you are the reunion, without your attendance this would not happen. We welcome all the first timers and their families and hope to see you at many more reunions.

A special thanks to our local reunion chairman *Addrian Vaaler* his planning and hard work made this a great event. *Marcia Skinner* who adds so much to our Memorial

Service and banquet program with her wonderful singing. *Bill Madaj Sr. and Jr.* for the Blackhorse Salute a truly talented young man. *Bob and Barb Moreno* the official greeters of the reunion, their cheerfulness and helpfulness at the registration desk set the tone for the whole weekend, these are two truly gifted people who make the registration process flow like silk. And no, there was no vinegar served at the banquet. The Moreno's will now be taking care of all aspects of this gigantic task God bless them. Our *Chaplain Larry Haworth* who always does a wonderful job. Our Master of Ceremonies, *Gene Johnson* for the Banquet Program and keeping track of all the registration forms as well as web site entries – a job well done. Our Quartermaster *Rod and Elida George* their tireless efforts will never be forgotten, they have the best products of any group. *Chuck and Cathy Bower* who personalized just about any thing we wanted. Nice shorts Cathy you both do beautiful work. *Jim Murray* who coordinated our printing. All the members who offered their assistance and encouragement thank you. The Web Site staff along with *Eric Newton* you guys do great work all information was posted in a very timely manner thanks. A special thanks goes out to the members who presented proposals for future reunion sites *Jim Eriser*; Long Beach, *Ted Julian* for Phoenix, *Chuck Schmidt* and *Dave Tessier* for Colorado Springs. Thank you all for the effort involved in getting these bids. Our van driver who was always there when we needed him

To the Officers and Board of Directors for their input and expertise. Our Guest speakers *General Sunnell* for the banquet and *General Burns* at the memorial service we greatly appreciate you being with us. *CSM Steve Flood* for representing our fellow active duty troopers from Ft Irwin we pray for their safety. *General Guy Swan* who has attended many Reunions we wish him all the very best.

It is now time to start thinking about Daytona Beach 2004 planned activities and tours will be held to a minimum so there will be plenty of free time to enjoy the beach and the Daytona Beach area. Adams Mark Hotel information is posted on the Web Site and will be in the next issue of *Thunder Run*.

Thank you all for attending.

FIRST REUNION from page 1

have talked to her about Dean. I said goodbye and hung up the phone. Forget about it Gary, move on.

The 11th Armored Cav holds a reunion for its members once a year in various locations throughout the country. I had been thinking about going for a long time but I always seemed to talk myself out of making a commitment. I came up with excuses: It's too far away, and if I go, I probably won't know anyone and it will just be a very boring event. But this year, I couldn't come up with a good enough excuse for not going because the reunion was at the Eugene Hilton Hotel in Eugene July 31-Aug 3.

I told my wife that I had to do this, and I wanted her to join me. She agreed to go. We both were apprehensive, believing we probably wouldn't know anyone there. I reassured her that we would just stay for part of it, have a few drinks with strangers and then go find something else to do.

Friday night at the reunion my wife and I sat down at a table with a bunch of strangers. We started talking, and I mentioned that I had a photo album in my car. They all told me "Bring it in, we'd love to look at it."

I kneeled between a couple of vets as they began flipping through the pages, and I tried to remember the names that went with the faces. We were getting close to the back of the book, a page was flipped, and someone standing behind me reached over my shoulder,

put his finger on a face and said, "That's me."

"What!" I shouted.

Jumping up from my kneeling position, I looked at his nametag. It was Andrew "Andy" Caines from eastern Kentucky. The two of us rode on the same track together 32 years ago. He was the driver, I was the left gunner. "What a moment. What a miracle," I thought as the two of us embraced. I never imagined this could happen to me. I must be dreaming. But it was Andy, in the flesh. Gray hair had replaced his once blond look, but he still had that great smile to go along with his fabulous southern accent.

Needless to say Andy and I, along with our wives, spend the rest of the weekend together. We exchanged addresses, phone numbers and e-mail and starting forming plans of meeting again next year.

When it came time to go our separate ways on Saturday night, Andy and I gave each other a big hug and said three words to each other, three words that carry so much meaning and are without doubt the most powerful words for the Vietnam vet. "Welcome home bro!"

Gary Thain is the chief photographer for the Herald and News in Klamath Falls, Ore. He served with K Troop 3/11 from 1970-71. He is still looking for Kim Mitchell, Steve McPherson and all the other fellow troopers who might have served with him during that time.



I would like to offer my most humble thanks to the 11th ACVVC membership for entrusting me to another term as Secretary of this fine organization. It is with much personal pleasure that I continue to serve my fellow Blackhorse combat veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Also I am proud that my daughters have volunteered to assist at many 11th Cav reunions and other veteran's functions during the past 12 years.

In answer several increasingly common questions from our membership, I submit the following.

Wearing Medals on Civilian Clothing

Honorably discharged and retired Armed Forces members may wear miniature medals on civilian suits at appropriate occasions. Tradition, patriotism, ceremonies and social occasions call for and even *encourage* the wearing of miniature military medals on "appropriate" civilian attire such as a tuxedo, civilian suit or blazer at veteran's functions, formal occasions of ceremony including funerals and weddings, and social functions of a military nature. *Attending an 11th ACVVC banquet is certainly an appropriate occasion*, as are attending a ceremony for Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other patriotic events. Medals should be worn and displayed in the proper order of precedence and style to reflect credit and respect upon the individual and his service. It is not considered appropriate to wear skill or qualification badges on civilian attire.

Miniature medals and decorations are worn over the left breast pocket of your suit or blazer. The holding bar of the bottom row of medals should be parallel to the ground immediately above the pocket. In the case of a tuxedo, the miniature medals may be worn on the left lapel if it is wide enough.

Veterans Wearing of the Uniform

Honorably *discharged "wartime"* veterans (which includes all members of the 11th ACVVC) may wear the Class A uniform *authorized at the time of their service* at military funerals, memorial services, patriotic parades on national holidays, any occasion authorized by law, and military parades in which active or reserve units are participating. The 11th ACVVC banquet and memorial

service would qualify. No unit patch may be worn on the left shoulder. The Blackhorse patch should be worn on the right shoulder. *NOTE: Discharged "non-wartime" service personnel are not authorized to wear the uniform after separation.*

All *retired* Armed Forces personnel may wear *either their uniform prescribed at date of retirement or any of the current active duty authorized uniforms*. The uniform may be worn at military ceremonies, funerals, weddings, memorial services, patriotic parades on national holidays, military parades educational institutions when engaged in giving military instruction, and social or other functions when the invitation was influenced by the member's earlier active service. Do not mix uniform items.

In all cases, wearing of the military uniform requires high grooming standards and proper decorum to reflect the highest respect to the USA and credit upon the individual and his/her service. If you can not fit into your old uniform, you may purchase a new one (which is what I did when mine became "smaller" with age).

Commemorative Medals for Which You Are Entitled

Commemorative medals recognize and honor our veterans. Most commemorative medals are not authorized on official military uniforms, *but may be worn on civilian and organizational clothing*. These attractive bronze medals are displayed after all other military medals, and will enhance any display. The medals and miniatures are produced by the U.S. Mint and commercial manufacturers for purchase. They are not "issued" by the Government. For more information, call the U.S. Mint at 800-872-6468 and Medals of America at 800-308-0849. Some of the Commemorative Medals 11th ACVVC members qualify for include:

- Vietnam Veterans National Medal (1960-1975)
- Combat Service Commemorative Medal
- Cold War Victory Commemorative Medal (1945-1991)
- Overseas Service Commemorative Medal
- U.S. Army Service Commemorative Medal

After 5-1/2 years active duty, Frank R. Cambria was medically retired as a captain because of combat wounds. He is one of few veterans with Purple Hearts earned in both Vietnam (March 1970) and Cambodia (May 1970). His email address is Captain.Frank@verizon.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, Warren Swinford, 2300 W 400 S., Clayton, IN 46118.**



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

YELLOW DOGS

What ever happened to The Ancient Order of the Yellow Dog?

By: Blandin W. Karabinos
(HHT, 2/11, 71 – 72)

I knew of the “Yellow Dogs,” they were legend. Though not an official military order, word was about of its existence and to be part of that exclusive club was truly an honor. I knew that a number of the senior non-commissioned officers and even a few of the officers were “Yellow Dogs.”

Maybe I am not supposed to reveal knowledge of its existence, but then again I left Vietnam with a card that announced to all the World that I was an honest-to-goodness lifetime member. That card was signed by the legendary Sergeant Jordan, 2nd. Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in February 1972, at Phu Loi, in the Republic of South Vietnam.

A few months later, the 11th ACR was de-activated and the colors returned to Fort Lewis. Those troopers with less than six months in country were reassigned to other outfits and the rest were sent home. I never saw Sergeant Jordan after that (wish I could remember his first name), nor did I ever encounter another “Yellow Dog.”

Was that indeed a real secret society? Did it ever exist, and does it still exist? Or was this all a figment of my imagination or a great practical joke pulled off by a crusty group of First Sergeants? I am not really sure. What I do know is how pleased I was when I was invited to be part of that fraternity. And I am still proud to be called a “Yellow Dog.”

I arrived in Vietnam in October 1971, passing more guys going home than coming over . . . our involvement in the war was winding down. Nonetheless, we still had troops in the field and there was still a daily casualty list published. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was still fighting there.

Shortly before I left Fort Knox, General George Patton, III, then Armor School Commandant, asked what unit I

would like to serve with in Vietnam. Not being a real dummy, I replied: “The Blackhorse, Sir.” It was obvious to all of us at Knox, that the general wore that red, white and black patch with pride. That response made him smile, shake my hand and wish me “Good luck and God speed.” When I arrived in country (Bien Hoa Air Base) a ride was waiting to take me to the 11th at Phu Loi. I grabbed my duffel bag and mess kit and was on a chopper as dawn was breaking and got my first glimpse of Vietnam from the air. Well, four months later, and after logging almost a hundred hours in the air and at least another thousand riding through jungles, around termite mounds in grasslands and across dirt highways in MR3, I no longer looked like a “newbee” with clean green, olive-drab fatigues and shiny black boots. The fatigues had been monsoon washed and sun bleached and the boots were so stained by the mud of FSB Andrews and diesel fuel that I resembled a veteran trooper.

Late one Friday, as I got off a Huey at the pad in Phu Loi with a number of NCOs Sgt. Jordan and (I believe) Sgt. Ulloa informed me that I had been approved by secret ballot and was invited to join The Ancient Order of Yellow Dogs. You couldn’t imagine my elation. For a Chaplain in the field, it was almost the equivalent of being awarded a Combat Infantryman’s Badge. It meant that I was accepted, not only by the troops, but by the guys who really counted, the professional soldiers – the non-coms, who really run the regiment.

I knew of the “Yellow Dogs,” they

were legend. Though not an official military order, word was about of its existence and to be part of that exclusive club was truly an honor. I knew that a number of the senior non-commissioned officers and even a few of the officers were “Yellow Dogs.” I was sure our XO, Major Foley was a member, and so was Doc Cifelli, our surgeon. Those guys belonged, they had won their spurs, were combat proven veterans. But I was the new kid on the block, not really a kid, I was already 35 when I arrived in country, but only in my second year as an Army Chaplain and only my fourth month in Vietnam.

During those months I had moved from Troop (E, F, &G) to Troop and from fire bases to Phu Loi and Chu Chi. I tried to make the acquaintance of all the troopers, both on the ground and in the air. During my visits, I stayed with guys on line, even taking my turn on night watch when a crew was short a man or two. I played Pinochle with the NCOs, shared an eating space with troops in the shade of an ACAV or with our feet in the muddy waters of Andrews, learned to change torsion bars under the belly of those ugly green machines, and played basketball with the guys behind the Mess hall at the West end of Phu Loi. I learned to respect and love those guys in the field and it was an honor to serve with them.

But what amazed and amused me the most was the camaraderie of the NCOs; they had a familiarity with each other that made you think that they had lived their whole lives in this place and with each other, and little seemed to phase them . . . not the heat, rain, mud or dust of the country, nor even the frequent rocket attacks on the perimeters. Then too, they were practical jokers and maybe this secret society was only another of their practical jokes.

A few days later (February, 1972) I made my way to the secret meeting place hopeful that I would be able to endure the rigors of initiation into that Ancient Order. We met in an abandoned section of Phu Loi, I was to tell no one of where I was going and I can’t detail the initiation rite as I was pledged to lifelong secrecy. That night, I was inducted together with a young lieutenant – whose name I won’t reveal. . . not because of secrecy, but because I forgot. At 65, that “old-timers’

Continued on page 11

MORE SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

Thank You! To all who contributed to the scholarship. There were 945 donations to the calendar and there were 949 from the raffle, totaling \$43,789.00! Thank you for your support, and a special thank you for the memorial gifts listed at the end of the article!

John Sorich, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman

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11th ACVVC Awards Record Number of Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee, ably led by John Sorich, the Vice President of the 11th ACVVC, has announced the award of the scholarships for the 2003 – 2004 academic year. John said, "Your efforts & donations to our Scholarship has caused us to allow a new record of 20 Scholarships. Congratulations to the students who were selected. We wish you our very best in you achieving your goals. I would also like to share a word of encouragement to those who applied for a scholarship and did not get on this list. Keep trying! Keep applying! There are some recipients on the list that have applied more than once." Congratulations to the scholarship precipitants and their justly proud parents from the 11th ACVVC!

Nicholas Soehnen	Frank Varljen
David and Mary Soxby	Victor Vela
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Anthony Stanfa	Robert Wagg Jr.
James Stanish	Gene Waldron
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Garland Stewart	Robert Wallace
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MEMORIAL GIFTS

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Andrew Trobanco	In Memory of BG JAMES H. LEACH by Michael and Annabelle Medico
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Anthony Valdez	
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Name	Parents	Unit	School
Tami Jo Andrzejewski	Roger & Joyce	HHT, Regt	Michigan State University
Thomas J. Angell	John & Rhonda	F Troop	University Of Rhode Island
Matthew David Blose	Michael & Connie	HHT, 2/11	University Of Okla., Norman
Antonio Salvatore Buono	Robert & Sharon	A Troop	Indiana University at Bloomington
William Daniel Bergen	John & Marlene	D Company	Kendal College of Design, Ferris State University
Nannett Bailey Frizzell	John & Jean Bailey	A Troop	Paducah C.C
Jonathan Allen Dean	Marvin & Ruth Ann	E Troop	Harding University
Bert Patrick Dennis	Steve & Nancy	How Battery, 2/11	Angelo State University
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Julie Ann Speier	Allen & Pam Hathaway	HHT, Regiment	Shenandoah University

Unidentified Troop Assignments of our KIA

Dear Troopers and Friends,

Thanks to your efforts, we have made significant progress in identifying the troop assignments of our brother KIA troopers. Over the last four issues of Thunder Run, of the 173 names on the list, we have placed all but the 19 listed below. Please see if you can help us find the troop assignments of these fallen brothers so our records can be updated. Email info to: johnnydiamond@mind-spring.com or mail to: John Sorich, 5037 France Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55410

PFC. Melvin Wallace Anderson,	12-1-66	Little Fork, MN	SP4. Theodore Mazon,	3-18-68	Sacramento, CA
PFC. Donald Edward Walters,	5-22-67	Des Plaines, IL	SP5. Danny Kaye Rich,	5-6-68	Roseville, CA
SP4. Edward Arnold Stahl,	5-25-67	Westphalia, KS	CPL. Kenneth Wayne Floyd,	5-7-68	Raeford, NC
1LT. Garland D. Whitmore,	9-5-67	Harrisonburg, VA	WO. Douglas Woodrow Collins,	8-21-68	Cusseta, GA
SSG. Robert Clarence Howard,	11-4-67	Beaver Falls, PA	SFC. Robert Arthur Gregory,	9-19-68	Northville, MI
PFC. Bruce Westley Dudley, Jr.	1-23-68	Cayce, SC	PFC. Nolan Daryl Byrd,	12-03-68	Hagerstown, MD
SP5. Julius William Morris Jr.	1-25-68	Houston, TX	SSG. Charles M. Russell III,	11-24-69	Pembroke, GA
PFC. Donald Reece Irby,	3-9-68	New York, NY	SSG. Orland Thomas Lloyd,	4-7-70	Augusta, GA
PFC. Santiago Torres Jr.	3-9-68	Houston, TX	SP5. Albert Simon Robalin,	12-28-71	San Antonio, TX
SGT. Richard Elsworth Vincent,	3-9-68	Danville, WV			



Remember your map reading class in basic or AIT? I sure do. Remember the E & E course? How could you forget? The NCOs gave you a map, told you the boundaries, took you out in the pitch black of night and told you to find your way home. They also told you there was enemy out there in those woods who was out to get you and kill you. Maybe they wouldn't actually kill your body, but they sure would make you sorry you got caught. So you took out your trusty map, tried to remember everything the Sarge had tried to teach you and then you headed into the bush. Maybe you made it and maybe you didn't. But wherever you got to, it was the map that showed you the way. Even if you got caught, if you knew your map reading, at least you knew where you got caught. So? Just nice to know where you are when you're miserable.

Over in the Nam is where the rubber hit the road. Your skin and your life could depend on knowing where you were. If you didn't know where you were I guarantee Charlie sure knew where you were. Know what I mean? (You know what I mean). Like the time up by Bu Dop and Bo Duc at the end of QL14 when map reading sure was crucial. And I mean crucial as in very important. There was whole lot of jungle between those little vills and the Cambodian border. One fine day a big gaggle of the bad guys came charging across the border, through the bush (jungle) and into our AO. Well, our side just happened to have a helicopter gunship team checking them out, as in shooting, spotting and such. Unfortunately for our side, they were able to shoot down the Cobra gunship. Naturally, it hit the ground in their AO, which had been our AO. That's when our side got real, real good at map reading. Then, number one, the other helicopter heroically went down and rescued the downed chopper crew. Number two; they knew exactly on the map where they were and exactly where the bad guys were. Number three; they brought skunion down upon their heads in the form of air strikes, gunship runs, which I think were Blue Max, and artillery. Then our guys went in on the ground and cleaned it up. I think the

Over in the Nam is where the rubber hit the road. Your skin and your life could depend on knowing where you were.

regimental commander said the score was us 0; them 250 give or take a few (going for low score.) Good thing our guys took map reading seriously. Right? Disclaimer: this story is accurate as best as I remember it after 32+ years.

Remember grid coordinates? Here's a grid coordinate story: One the day I was out with one of the recon troops. Miles Sisson was the platoon leader. We were on line in the rubber and supposed to do a recon by fire into the bush. So far, so good. The ARVN artillery with an American adviser had the mission of firing support to soften up for us what was expected to be a hot area. So, here we are, on line and ready to proceed. The ARVN artillery began their prep. First rounds land OK just into the bush from where we were. Fine. Then the next rounds landed a bit closer to us. Not supposed to. Then more rounds landed a little closer yet. We got jittery. LT calls to the American adviser that rounds are coming our way. Adviser responds, "Roger." Next rounds land even closer. LT calls artillery again reminding them that we are where we are. "Roger." Next round lands almost on top of us. LT calls back again, "Shut it down." "Roger, shut down." Another round lands so close the shrapnel is bouncing off our ACavs. Naturally, by this time we are inside and battened down. Fortunately, that was the last round. We then proceeded with our mission to recon by fire into the bush. Got no return fire. Cong had probably dee-dee-maued out of there. I would have if I was them. Later we learned that the ARVN artillery knew map reading real well. They knew exactly where they were firing. But they had a fire mission into that grid and they weren't going to quit until their mission was feenee (finished in pidgin Vietnamese), no matter what. So much for knowing the map. At least, we knew where we were and what we were doing. Same for the ARVN artillery. Problem resolved later, I think.

Map reading stories could go on for a

long time. But you get the point. No matter what, it pays to know where you are and how to get where you're going. Also, where you've been. Not just in map reading, either. Same lesson applies to life. A wise guy once said, "In life if you aim at nothing, that's just what you'll hit." I don't know who said it, but he was wise, definitely.

This reminds me of the Roman Road in the Bible. It comes from the New Testament book of Romans. Like a map, the Roman Road tells how to get to Heaven from wherever you are in life. If you'd like to check it out here are the verses: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:13, 10:9, 12:1-2. What it boils down to is that God is the Authority on how to get places in life. Like the Golden Rule, for example. If we treat others the same way we want to be treated, it's a whole lot more likely that we'll be happy with our life than if we mess over other people and expect to have a satisfying life. Or if we're generous with our time and our things, then we'll be far happier than if we just stick close to the chest and only look out for numero uno. Comprendre? Then there's the big one. It's the one that covers it all. In the words of Jesus: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.... Love your neighbor as yourself." This takes care of your whole life, if you think about it. Even if you don't think about it.

What it comes down to is this: For getting where we need to go from where we are, it pays to know map reading. Right? Right. That's how we know where we are, where we've been and where we're going. Not that we made the way because we didn't. But we learned the map. We learned the way from someone with authority. Same with life. Life was made by God. He's the authority for how to get where we need to go in life. So I'd say it's the wise person who learns and follows the map book of life.

Right now I'm in east Texas in my motor home. From here I'll head west to Arizona and California. Later I'll head to Oregon, Florida or wherever I figure to go. I won't hitch the car up to our motor home and just start driving. I'll get out the map, see how to get to I-10 and head west. It works. Without that good ole map, where would I wind up? Who knows? Am I glad I can read a map? You betcha. In more ways than one.

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.
Chaplain Larry Haworth
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627
Livingston, TX 77399
LEHaworth@aol.com

YELLOW DOG from page 7

disease" may be catching up with me.

That was the only meeting of the "Yellow Dogs" that I attended. We were closing down Phu Loi. The colors and the Commanding Officer (Colonel William Stokes) left for Saigon and only a few of us were left behind to clear the remnants of the 11th ACR from Post. Sgt. Jordan was one of those men. He organized the road march, and our column of tanks, HOGs, ACAVs, trucks and jeeps rode down the highway from Phu Loi to Long Bien. There we found transportation for the remaining troopers, some to other units; others, flights home. Finally after signing over the last of the equipment and getting in trouble with the brass at MACV (that's another story). I said good-bye to my brother Yellow Dog and headed for Bien Hoa, where I was to serve a Chaplain for the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, the "Blue Max," for the next six months.

I don't know what became of Sgt. Jordan. When I left Vietnam, I went to Fort McPherson in Atlanta, then FORSCOM headquarters, where I finished out my short military career. Jordan, as his MOS would suggest, probably went to a location that smelled of diesel fuel and that reverberated with the clank-clank of treads across the countryside . . . or the curses of troopers changing torsion bars. But as for the "Yellow Dogs," I never met another one again and despite what Sergeant Jordan told me, my Yellow Dog membership card did not get me a free drink in the Officers' Club.

Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From **Ron and Janet Krueger** (HHT, 1/11 1966-67):

*Come Join Us ! Everybody Welcome!
The 13th Annual Northern California
11ACR Potluck/BBQ
Saturday, October 4, 2003, 1100 - ???.
Slidehill Park. Davis, CA.*

Bring something to BBQ, and something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice.

Directions: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit off I-80. Proceed north around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) to Monarch Lane. Turn Left, then 1st right on Temple. Slidehill Park is one block ahead on the left. Watch for the balloons and signs.

I-5 to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approximately 8 mi. 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. Slidehill Park is 1 block ahead on left.

Looking forward to seeing everyone,
RSVP: Ron Krueger 530-758-0351,
ronkrue@hotmail.com Allons, Ron and Janet

♦♦

From **John Corey** (E Troop, 2/11, 69-70). The 11th ACR was well represented on the front page of the Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin) on Thursday May 29, 2003. John attended the annual Memorial Day observance held at the Rivera Ball Room front lawn. When all veterans were called forward for a group picture, standing tall, front and center was John in his full color 11th ACVVC tee shirt.

♦♦

From **Tom Litney** (541st MID - Attached to 2/11). Everyone knows the old adage; the only thing more accurate than enemy fire is friendly fire. Now it looks like I was hit. I was recently diagnosed with cancer. The doctor thinks that it is related to Agent Orange exposure. The tumor is large and I'm going to lose significant internal body parts soon. It is also malignant, so I'm sure we all know what that means. I was reading the

newsletter and noticed how many troopers have lost the battle with cancer. I know many of us were exposed to Agent Orange. My cancer is large and completely asymptomatic. The doctor said I was very lucky it was discovered at all. It was serendipitously found during a procedure to detect kidney stones. Usually by the time that symptoms for this kind of cancer appear, it is too late. You only have time to get your affairs in order. I can't help thinking of you, my brothers, who have been exposed as I was and are feeling great. I am feeling great (at least at the moment, LOL). I don't know how it could be accomplished but I wish you could all get lower body CT Scans. Just giving one of you the chance to fight for life would be worth the money, as far as I'm concerned. I'm in a fight now, but we have been there before haven't we? And the cav isn't use to losing! Someone asked me if I was angry with my country. I said, hell no. They did what they thought was best at the time. And everyone knows how accurate friendly fire is. Even if you are feeling great talk to your doctor. You also may have been hit. Allons.

Show Your Pride



Gary Marth (1 Troop, 3/11, 1969 - 71) displays his loyalty, as he travels the roads around his Tampa, FL home. Gary leaves no doubt that the driver of his Mirage loves the Cav. The Blackhorse may be such an improvement over the orange that everybody in Florida will want one!

Combat Fires I Have Attended

By: Charles W. Abbey*

We piled off the USNS Upsher; glad to be ashore after nearly a month at sea. Glad to smell the smells of land the rich, dusky smells of the mud, vegetation and wood smoke of South Vietnam. This was exciting stuff! We were ready for combat! Mill around, mill! Wait for the airlift to Bien Hoa. Wait again for the busses with the wire windows. Wait some more. Finally off we went, across the Vietnamese landscape. Very quiet! Very pastoral. Very agricultural. "Where is the war?" Our hearts began to slow. Weapons on safe. This was ok - not so bad. We bumped along in our bus and MP jeep convoy over some dusty roads and across a long, guarded concrete bridge. We passed the 90th Replacement Depot and several large tent cities.

Abruptly, we were there at last! Long Binh! Thin, regularly spaced wisps of black smoke wafted into the sky, welcoming us. "What is that, once smelled, never forgotten, disgusting odor?" Guard towers looked forlornly over a downward sloping field of many acres, sporting newly roughed-out roads and new GP canvas in regular rows. Home! As days passed, we settled in. The Mess Hall food was great! The water was good too. And once every week we took our big, orange pill. The medics had given the residents of my tent a giant-sized bottle of the orange pills - possibly 500 tablets. I supposed that this was a gesture of kindness so that we would not have to fumble with the medicine in the chow line.

Our routine in those early weeks permitted the playing of cards during our free evenings. Soon enough the orange tablets, along with the white salt tablets, became sort of a counting mechanism for cards - poker chips, if you please. We were a bunch of bored men, impatient for the Regiment's orders to move-out. Things had been real quiet - the poker chips were getting dirty. And then, early one night - KA-WHAM, WHUMP! !! The biggest bang I had ever heard! A round of something must have landed just outside our tent flap. I recall sixteen men, frozen-in-place for a tenth of a second, then individ-

ually diving for cover, any cover! In the next tenth of a second the same sixteen men grabbed weapons and steel pots and fell outside to man the defense.

To our amazement, we were greeted by a tower of fire in the night sky a mile to the northeast. Flashes of fire and boiling smoke billowed and climbed to what we guessed to be three thousand feet. The ammo dump had exploded! Some well meaning, action oriented soul shouted, "Grab some fire extinguishers!" We all laughed. "And do what?" We called back. As we watched the towering cloud it reached its peak and began to subside. Fewer flashes showed from the cloud, but it glowed in a hypnotic way and was still clearly visible for a quarter of an hour. Fires and explosions at ground zero flared brightly into the night. Unexplained clatters and thumps were heard in the darkness, but were ignored in the excitement as we watched the flames. Since we were well out of the action, we slowly returned to the tent. The poker chips were scattered and useless. We retired for the night.

In the morning we discovered what had clattered and thumped the night before. Shell fragments and unexploded ordnance littered the area! Some fragments were as big as typewriters; some shell whole, some broken. Luckily for our area of the cantonment, none of this junk had hit anyone. Fires still smoldered and popped and smoke rose from the dump. This war was going to be exciting!

Little did we know . . .

**Charles Abbey served with the Regiment as Aviation Section Leader, 2/11 (Battle 17), from 1966 to 1967. Then as Air Cavalry Troop Commander (Thunder Horse 6) from 1969 to 1970, he finished his tour in 1970 as the Regimental Aviation Staff Officer. Charles is a frequent contributor to Thunder Run.*

Newsletter Deadlines

The following are the due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15
Third Quarter.....Aug 15
Fourth Quarter.....Oct 15



From the Quartermaster...

Rodney H. George

Greetings to all. Well, we have survived another reunion. This one was in Eugene, Oregon, which was close enough to load the truck with all I could bring and drive there. We had a busy and productive time. The attendance was about half of last years reunion but the attendees were good spenders. We ended up selling \$26,639.00 worth of merchandise! In fact we had people coming in to buy things as we packed up Sunday to come home. A little box searching and we handled all their last minute requests.

Once again I have several people to thank for their selfless donation of time to work at the QM store. My deepest gratitude goes out to Marlene Julian, Debbi Pickral, Janet Krueger and of course my wife Elida George. Elida would like to express her thanks for the 2003 Women's Award for exceptional service. I wish I had a picture of her face when the award was announced Saturday night at the banquet! She was truly surprised. Also I would like to add my own thanks to the organization for the 2003 Outstanding Trooper Award that I received. I was also quite surprised and deeply grateful.

We are going to continue to carry the new Women's Sleeveless shirts that debuted at the Reunion. They are on the new QM order form and are available in white and butter yellow. For all of you who missed the reunion you can share in the event by purchasing the very good looking Eugene Reunion golf shirts in Red & White choices. They are \$25.00 each and have a pocket!

My last item is a big thank you to our own L Trooper Chuck Bower and his wife Cathi for bringing their very impressive embroidery machine to Eugene and personalizing the reunion shirts that were purchased there. They added an extra dimension that we have been unable to provide up until now.

In closing I would like to remind you that Christmas is not that far away and the earlier you order the jackets, books, documentaries and shirts that you want, the better chance you will have that they will arrive in time for Santa!!!!!!



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Here we are again, another reunion behind us. The Eugene reunion can easily be summed up in one word. WOW!!!

As our plane landed in San Jose and we hurried to find our luggage and then rent a car, I wondered what this trip and reunion would be like. How many 'old' timers would be there and how many new folks would we meet? So many thoughts were running thru my head.

Before arriving in Eugene, Bob and I explored some of the coastline of Northern California and Oregon. We drove thru the mountains and marveled at the beauty and height of the trees. The smell of the clean, crisp air mingled with the pine, helped to ease the stress of our everyday busy lives and made us both more appreciative of our country and those who have in both the past and present laid their lives on the line to preserve our freedom.

After driving thru the beautiful trees we soon came upon the ocean. One of my favorite places in the world. Having spent most of my childhood on the Jersey shore, it felt a lot like going home. We stopped several times to walk along the beach (to cool to swim) or just sit and stare off into the horizon.

This was very emotional for me at times as I could see in my mind my youth and the times I spent at the beach with my dad. But it also brought me a feeling of peace.

The lighthouses were often very eerie looking because we often got to them before the sun had burned off the fog. A few of them really looked like they had just appeared out of the pages of a Stephen King book. Arriving in Eugene we were surprised at how green things were.

Of course even though we got there early, there were already a lot of Blackhorse folks milling about. We got busy and started setting up the registration area. It was wonderful to renew old friendships and surprising to see that there were so many new folks that were there for their very first reunion.

We tried something new this year. We gave out special pins for all the first time men and ladies. In fact we had so many first timers that we ran out of the pins. We had

We gave out special pins for all the first time men and ladies. In fact we had so many first timers that we ran out of the pins.

only brought 50 of the number 1's for the guys and 50 of the rose for the ladies. So if you did not receive one I truly apologize. We never dreamed that we would have that many first timers. I think registration as a whole went very smoothly and we didn't seem to have too many complaints. Of course we hope next year will go even better. Bob and I are toying with some different formats for the registration process for next year.

The ladies meeting was again a huge success. Forty five women joined together for some laughs as we played a game in which we got to know each other and find out just how much we each really knew about our 50 states. Congratulations to the four ladies who won prizes for their smartness or not so smartness.

After enjoying our fun we turned to more serious matters as Rick O'Dell once again joined us to talk about the VA and PTSD and other things that many of us had questions about.

Thanks Rick, as usual you did a great job. We usually present our guest speaker with a sun catcher of a red rose, which is our adopted emblem, but since this was the second year that Rick joined us, I knew that he already had one from talking to us in Nashville. So, all year I thought about what our thank you gift should be. I kept remembering what he had told us last year about his first reunion. And how it consisted of a bunch of the guys at a hotel in Texas with a bathtub full of beer. So when I saw a miniature old-fashioned bathtub in a gift shop I knew I had to get it and adding a bottle of beer to it I had the perfect thank you gift. Rick, I'm sure by now the beer bottle is empty but maybe you can use the tub to hold paperclips or something on your desk. Whatever you choose to do with it I hope you enjoy it and will remember us ladies. We really do enjoy your talks with us.

The banquet this year was wonderful. The meals were delicious and we didn't have to many seating problems.

We were able to really surprise Elida George with this years Women's Award. She was chosen because of all the support she gives to not only the organization and to her husband but to those who come to the reunions. Without her, the Quarter Master store would not be such a fun to visit and part with our money. Elida, thank you for everything you do and yes, you really did deserve the award. Now, she and I will put our heads together to determine who will be the recipient next year. Who knows it could be you!

All to soon it was time to once again say goodbye for another year. I hope all of you who were here this year and all of those who were not, will be able to join us in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Following Eugene, Bob and I set our sights on Reno. What a city. Almost as many lights as Vegas. We spent a couple of days at Circus Circus. While we didn't spend all our time in the casino we did have fun and came away having broke even. While in Reno we noticed a lot of older cars. It turned out that we were there the same time as they were having Summer Nights. It was totally amazing to see some of the cars that we remembered from our youth. How is it that they are old? We aren't.

After Reno our next stop was in Lake Tahoe. But not for long. We only stopped to eat lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe. We had our sights set on Yosemite National Park.

The rock formations and the trees are so awe inspiring that it takes your breath away. They were doing a clean up and controlled burning while we were there. It was amazing to watch these firefighters as they so carefully watched the small fires and worked to keep them from turning into uncontrollable big fires.

All to soon it was time to head back to Wisconsin and our once again busy lives. Tomorrow it's back to work for both of us; we also have to start packing up the house to move into our new home. So dear friends until next time I'll say good-bye and again thank you all for your help and support to not only the ladies, and the ladies group meeting, but to all our heroes who make up the 11thACVVC.

Barb Moreno (Moreno@Tomah.com)



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia.	B	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued	B	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse 100 year memorial coin, 1.75" crossed sabers/BH insignia new	B	12.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	C	20.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, white, 12x12x6 w/full color BH insignia new	B	20.00		_____	_____
Barbeque Apron, white, 24x30 w/full color BH insignia new	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Quan Loi"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00		_____	_____
Reunion pin (indicate choice), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Buffalo, Eugene.....	A	1.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	70.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21).....	C	35.00		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	275.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tatoo	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD	A	30.00		_____	_____
Note: all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL Specify size and color preference of item requested.					
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	16.00		_____	_____
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White A	B	20.00		_____	_____
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	B	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	B	75.00		_____	_____
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	B	20.00		_____	_____
Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$5.00 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order); C items = \$7.50		Subtotal		_____	_____
		Shipping and Handling		_____	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address change					
Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. Prices effective from 7/01/03 to 12/31/03. Previous price lists invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Nine Mile Road, Huson, MT 59846.					



Journey to Fiddler's Green

We're sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our deep-felt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Charles D. Bartling who served with HHT, Regiment, (1970) passed away in 2003 from the complications of hemochromatosis, a rare blood disorder. He was 54 years old, and an employee at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Donald R. Bevins who served with L Troop (Jan - Dec '67) passed away earlier this year. Don resided in Glendale, Arizona, and was a Life Member of the 11 ACVVC.

Samuel Bruce "Sammy" Bryant who served with HHT, 3/11 (1966 - 67) passed away on May 17, 2003 at the VA Hospital in Decatur, Georgia. Sammy, age 57, was a self-employed carpenter near his home in Royston, Georgia.

Judson L. "Jake" Bush, Jr. who served with HHT, 2/11 (1966 - 67) passed away on June 6, 1998 at the age of 57. Jake was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Kenneth D. Campbell who served with M Company, 3/11 ACR (1970) passed away from injuries received in an airplane crash in Michigan on March 10, 2003.

Joseph N. Cardinelli who served with L Troop (Dec. '69 - Feb. '71) passed away. Joe was an active member of the 11th ACVVC.

Richard S. Conte, Sr. who served with the 3rd Platoon, B Troop (1968 - 69) passed away in 2003. Active in Veteran's organizations, Richard was an electrical communications specialist who worked for Saratoga Harness Racing for 23 years near his Queensbury, Connecticut home. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Dallas Leroy Dixon who served with HHT, Regiment (1966 - 67) passed away on April 24, 2003. Dallas was 57 years old and an

active member of Veteran's organizations. He was a retired helicopter mechanic who lived in New Iberia, Louisiana, and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

William G. Duncan who served with H Company (1971) passed away from cancer. William was retired from the Army and was active in several Veterans' Organizations. He was a member of the 11 ACVVC.

Terry L. Ervin who served with E Troop (1968 - 69) passed away on February 9, 2001 at the age of 53. Active in veteran's organizations, Terry once played football at Ohio State under Coach Woody Hayes. He was a construction superintendent and a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Lonnie Preston Graves, whose troop and service dates are unknown, passed away on November 18, 2002. Lonnie was 57 years old and resided in Morgan County, Tennessee.

Roger Alan Hale who served with HHT, Regiment (1968 - 69) passed away on March 24, 2003. Roger was 56 and suffered a heart attack while in DC for the Memorial Day Thunder Run. Roger was a trucker by profession and was helping a biker push his Harley up a hill when struck. Roger was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and an active, industrious worker for his fellow troopers.

Mark M. Haller who served with HHT, 2/11 (1971) passed away at his Lutherville, Maryland home. He founded a successful landscape design firm, and had been a teacher. Mark donated enormous amounts of his time tutoring dyslexic adults and youth.

Edward F. Hand who served with G Troop (Aug '70 - Jan '71) and D Company (Jan - Feb '71) passed away in 1998.

Terry W. Heminger who served with K Troop (1967 - 68) passed away, Terry lived in South Dakota.

Cloyd H. "Rusty" Kyle, Jr., whose unit and dates of service are unknown, passed away on January 6, 2003. Rusty was 55 years old and active in civic and veteran's organizations, serving as a coach for youth sports programs.

George C. Markus who served with 2nd Platoon, K Troop (1966 - 67) passed away on May 25, 2002.

Donald Schissler who served with HHT, Regiment (1967) passed away on March 4, 2003, after a two-year battle with cancer. Don was 61 years old and had been a Contractor for 30 years.

David Sheets, whose troop and service dates are unknown, passed away on June 8, 2003, after having heroically lived with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) for over 20 years. David had worked as a salesman before being struck by the disease.

Charles Richard Starr who served with F Troop (July - Dec '67) and D Company (July '67 - Jan. '68) passed away.

Martin A. Tori who served with D Company (1967 - 68) passed away in 2003. Martin commanded D Company, 1/11 during his tour. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

John W. Tornabene, Jr. who served with A Troop (Jan - June '68) died from cancer on April 23, 2003 at the age of 57. John was a resident of Forest Hill, Maryland and a life member of the 11th ACVVC.

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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)

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☆☆☆ **Membership is Our Strength** ☆☆☆
It's not the price you pay to belong,
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