



The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Allen Hathaway, 11th ACVVC **'President Emeritus,' Honored** at Armor Ball



Allen displays the text of his award

ay 3, 2019 - The spectacular River Mill Event Center in Columbus, Georgia was the host venue for the annual United States Armor & Cavalry Association Conference and Ball. During the conference, Allen Dale Hathaway (11th ACVVC President Emeritus) of Manassas, Virginia was honored with the "Noble Patron of Armor" Award.

Allen's comments follow.

"I enjoyed the event. I am honored and quite humbled that I was considered for

this award. I feel this award belongs to all of us for the work we have done for the 11th ACVVC since 1986. It's also a statement that recognizes the ACVVC as a strong, legitimate veterans organization. (We knew that of course!) I'm so proud of what we have accomplished over the years.

The individual photos of each of the recipients of the Order of St George Gold Medallion and Nobel Patron of Armor Gold Medallion are hung in the lobby of

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State of the Reunion

Las Vegas, NV. August 21-25, 2019

Dlans for the 34th annual reunion of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia in Las Vegas, Nevada are being finalized. The reunion registrations are on a pace that is consistent with past annual trends (slow at this point). Our hotel room registration commitments at the Westgate are at 112% of guaranteed numbers, but they are still taking reservations for now. Hotel registration cutoff is August 5th. They can be cancelled 3 days prior to your arrival. I need to stress the importance of making registrations as soon as possible for the reunion and prior to the cutoff date of July 24th. This is also the cutoff date for the Ft Irwin trip.

I need to know if you are going to Ft. Irwin and plan on taking a scooter or wheel-This information is essential to chair. reserving the required amount of handicap capable busses. If you are mobile enough not to need wheeled assistance for the trip please leave your scooter or wheel chair at the hotel. If they are collapsible, they can be stored in the luggage compartment of the bus. If they are required for mobility and do not collapse handicap accessible busses are being chartered. But I need to know how many devices will be going to Ft. Irwin. Please send me an email at fchurch4@aol.com or call me at 386-365-0487 and leave a message with your name and type of equipment you have (scooter, wheelchair, collapsible or not and if you need to ride it onto the bus). I must have a count of each of these items no later than July 24th. This is important in order to make the trip comfortable, safe and as cost effective as possible for everyone.

This need for wheelchairs/scooters will also impact banquet seating, and again, if you do not absolutely need a mobility device

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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060-3721.

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Greetings! I hope this issue of "Thunder Run" finds you all happy and healthy, though I'm sure many of you are already tired of the sweltering summer heat and humidity!

In this issue you will find everything you need to register for the 2019 reunion in Las Vegas – hopefully it will reach those procrastinating Troopers before the July 24 cut-off date. All contributors to this issue were urged to submit their input earlier than usual in order to get this issue out quicker. We expect another crowd of over 1,000 to attend our 34th annual reunion this year. I hope to see you there!

Also in this issue you will find a large amount of information about VA benefits and a check list of things all Troopers should do prior to their PCS to Fiddler's Green. Not a pleasant topic to be sure, but one I felt needed to be addressed due to the volume of e-mail and phone calls I receive from children and widows of our deceased Troopers. The single most important document family members will need at the time of their loved ones death is the veterans DD Form 214, (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty). It is imperative that the family have the veterans DD-214 in their possession in order to make any arrangements for burial in a National Cemetery and/or Military Honors if the veteran will be buried in a private cemetery. Please read all this information and be sure to share it with your family.

On Memorial Day (observed), May 27, we held our annual Blackhorse Wreath-Laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Among our many Troopers were Ernest Peterson (HOW BAT, 3/11 ACR, 1966-67, Washington, D.C.) and Brad Kennedy (HOW BAT, 3/11 ACR, 1966-67, Flanders, NJ). Ernest and Brad served together in Vietnam and they were featured during the 30th Anniversary broadcast of the National Memorial Day Concert. I urge you to view their interview at: https://www. youtube.com/watch?v=GouMZKEpFEw &feature=youtu.be

HELP WANTED: How long has it been since you looked at a "Help Wanted"

ad? Well, here it is!

I'm looking for an Assistant to help edit our award-winning news magazine "Thunder Run." If you have experience as an author, editor, publisher, or are proficient in using Photoshop or other photo or publishing aps, you can help the 11th ACVVC by lending your talents to Thunder Run. Additionally I can use some help with our annual calendar. As always, I need your quality photos or slides to publish in the calendar. And again, if you have experience using Photoshop or other photo aps, please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

The U.S. Armor & Cavalry Association held its annual Armor Conference Ball on May 3 at the River Mill Event Center in Columbus. Georgia. Allen Hathaway, President Emeritus was honored by the Armor & Cavalry Association with the "Noble Patron of Armor" award. Read all about it in our front page story.

See ya in Vegas!

Pete Walter

By Pete Walter

Vietnam War Facts, Stats & Myths

Information presented by SFC (Ret) David Hack. Hack volunteered for service in Vietnam in 1968, joining the 1st Infantry Division. He served as a sergeant with the Big Red One in Lai Khe, Vietnam. Hack received the Purple Heart for major combat injuries, and spent the rest of his military career as a recruiter for the US Army in Akron, Ohio.

Totals

• 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

• 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam.

• 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

Of Those Lost

• The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1961. He was with the 509th

Radio Research Station. The Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

• 58,148 were killed in Vietnam, 75,000 severely disabled, 23,214 were 100% disabled, 5,283 lost limbs and 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.

• Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21 years old.

• 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.

• Of those killed, 17,539 were married.

• The average age of the men killed: 23.1 years.

Veteran Successes

• Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.

• Vietnam Veterans have a lower unem-

ployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.

• Vietnam Veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.

• 87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.

• There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study).•

• Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison – only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.

• 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

• 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.

• 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are

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REUNION from page 1

at the banquet please do not ride one to your table. Space at the banquet is limited. On another note, if you want to save a seat for your buddies or family please place a napkin over the seat back. Do not tilt the chairs onto the table. This is a safety issue for other guests and a violation of fire codes.

My past articles contained a lot of info I hope was helpful in planning and making the reunion enjoyable and maybe alleviate a few of the headaches of travel. This article isn't meant to be "preachy" or add restrictions. It is an attempt to gain and provide information that will add to a great experience and another memorable reunion. It takes all of us to make that happen.

I am genuinely looking forward to seeing each and every one of you in Las Vegas! *Frank Church, 11th ACVVC Reunion Chairman/Vice President*

CEREMONY from page 1

Patton Hall, the headquarters of the Armor School. I recognized many 11th Cav people.

Also in Patton Hall is a classroom dedicated to the 11th Cavalry. On the walls are various displays and memorabilia which trace the history of the Regiment since 1901. Don Snedeker (11th ACVVC Historian) arranged most of the items."

I think we can all agree that there is no one more deserving of this award than Allen.

Congratulations!



Allen Hathaway being Knighted by Terry Tucker, MGen, USA, (Ret)

VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations

December 8, 2016

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery.

"MyVA is about looking at VA from the Veterans' perspective, and then doing everything we can to make the Veteran Experience effective and seamless," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "This new program reaffirms our commitment to providing a lifetime of benefits and services for Veterans and their families."

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to ...upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery.

Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

VA will review applications and provide written notice of its determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand and maintain 105 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans buried in private or other cemeteries, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2016, VA honored more than 345,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

EAST TEXAS ROUNDUP

group of East Texas 11th ACVVC Troopers, headed by Wayne Jacobitz, D Co., of Mount Vernon, Tex., began the process of developing an idea in 2012 of a mini-reunion here in East Texas for those men and families who wished to re-establish and maintain contact with one another.

The objective was to have a gathering to celebrate the union of the 11th Armed Cavalry Regt. for its time served in Southeast Asia in 1966 to 1972. The purpose was for these people to share their experiences and support for one another in a casual environment with fun in the sun, sport fishing and the enjoyment of good food for a day.

The first of these events occurred in the spring of 2012 and have continued and expanded ever since. Lynn Chapman, A Trp, of Hemphill, Tex., has been the fisherman of the group and has provided the main course for years. The name of the event (East Texas Roundup) was provided by Jerry and Jan Beamon, K Trp. They have been the force behind the gathering following the passing of Wayne Jacobitz in 2013, and the pledge made to him before his death to continue and expand the Roundup.

The Roundup has been in a State Park where camping and fishing is available to those who wish to participate. For those who are less inclined, the time spent enjoying one another's company cannot be measured. The event has grown over the years to the point that it is no longer a one day activity but a two to three day campout with various activities for attendees.

The first year the event was held at the Rusk State Park, near Rusk, Tex. The success of the first of these mini-reunions has allowed the continuation and growth of the Roundup. In 2018 the Roundup was moved to Tyler State Park where camp sites and cabins are available for those with a need. The official opening is with the Fish Fry on Friday night, and Saturday is devoted to enjoying lunch. The Troopers that have gathered re-establish relations and make new friends with those who served in Vietnam and Cambodia during the period the 11th ACR was deployed in that conflict. The ladies have not been left out as a special trip to the well-known flea market in Canton,



The event hosted in excess of thirty for the Fish Fry as well as for the Saturday Luncheon. The group occupied eighteen camp sites, four cabins and additional rooms on site, as well as motel rooms in nearby towns.

Tex., has developed.

The 2019 Roundup was a great success with a host of troopers participating. Men and wives came from East Texas, but also from the Dallas-Ft Worth area including the Poor Richard's Café Breakfast Group, as well as from Arkansas, Louisiana and Kansas. The Roundup has grown over the years to the point that in 2019, the event hosted in excess of thirty for the Fish Fry as well as for the Saturday Luncheon. The group occupied eighteen camp sites, four cabins and additional rooms on site, as well as motel rooms in nearby towns. The ladies again enjoyed another shopping trip to Canton, and some of the guys fished on nearby lakes. The planning crew included Terry and Marsha Alton, I Trp, (luncheon) and David and Phyllis Ballard, G Trp, (food preparation and frying of fish). In addition, other ladies provided food and desserts. Jan

and Jerry Beamon. Quartermaster, 11th ACVVC, continue to be the force behind the East Texas Roundup and in performing the necessary coordination to execute the event. The door is open to those who wish to attend and participate in the Roundup.

It has become a calendar event in May of each year in Texas by the local 11th ACVVC members. Encouragement is provided to those Troopers just learning about the Roundup so they can plan to attend in future years. We say, "ALLONS" to our Brothers of the 11th ACVVC—join us for "Fun in the Sun" here in Texas. All are welcome. In 2020 the Roundup will be held at a new location, Antique Capital RV Park, Gladewater, Tex. Check out the dates in the Thunder Run in the first quarter of 2020. The planned dates are April 29 to May 1. Begin your planning accordingly.

Newsletter Deadlines Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run* 1st Quarter Jan 1 2nd Quarter Apr 1 3rd Quarter Jul 1 4th Quarter Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060-3721; email *basepiece70@verizon.net*.

'Welcome Home!'

This is a greeting often used among Vietnam veterans.

We always begin with this greeting at our gatherings at the Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The greeting has many very deep meanings. It began because many veterans never received a proper welcome home, so veterans began welcoming each other home.

The greeting truly means "welcome home" both physically and mentally. It means "Thanks for your service. I understand what you endured and the sacrifices you and your family made while serving our country".

The greeting is always accompanied with a firm handshake and sometimes a bear hug and pat on the back. My wife and I were with some family friends recently. The father of our friend was also with the group. In the conversation, he asked what I did in my retirement. I replied that I was heavily involved in our organization of Army veterans who served in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He replied that he served in the Korean War with the 70th Tank Battalion. I immediately shook his hand, looked him straight in the eve and said, "Welcome home!". I could tell by the expression on his face and the look in his eyes that he was moved. He was of a different generation, a different war, and he may have never been greeted in that manner, but he knew exactly what it meant. The greeting opened an entirely new conversation as we began to compare notes. He trained at Fort Knox. We joked that we may have used some of the same WW II barracks, motor pools or tank ranges. We joked about the "cruise" across the Pacific.

I write about this because the greeting created an immediate connection between two strangers. His family may not have known much about his service or even understood anything about his experiences. He may never have had the opportunity to talk about his service. I know he left that day feeling proud of his service and so did I. Our reunions are similar to the conversation described here. The reunions are an opportunity to meet others who have the same experience only with a much deeper connection, we all served in

Get ready for another great reunion! Bring your photos, scrap books and other memorabilia and be prepared to have a good time.

the same unit, the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment! We all know Xuan Loc, Quan Loi, 90th Replacement, Bien Hoa, sand bags and much more. We talk about the people we knew and many of the good times we had that kept us all together and sane.

Over the years I've talked with many of the ladies who attend our reunions. Many say their husbands never talked about Vietnam until they began attending the reunions. Some were reluctant to attend but after much encouragement they finally gave in and took that first step and signed up. No doubt, that is a big step! I've also talked to many veterans after they attended their first reunion. Almost to the man there is relief; relief that there are others out there who appreciate and understand. There's renewed pride in their service. There's also regret; regret that they waited so long to attend a reunion! So, if you haven't attended a reunion why are you waiting?

Our next reunion in Las Vegas is just around the corner. Bob and Barb Moreno have been busy processing all the reunion registrations. By all indications we expect 1,000 or more again this year. Over 30 troopers are registered to attend their first reunion with more expected. You can check our website for a list of all those who have already registered. We still have many more to register by the July 24 deadline. Our quartermaster, Jerry Beamon, is stocking up on insignia products to offer at the reunion so be sure to visit the QM store.

Be sure to mail your raffle tickets well before the reunion. This year we are offering prizes of \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and eleven \$100 for a total of \$2,500 in prizes. All proceeds from the 2019 raffle will benefit the Scholarship Fund. The drawing will be held on August 24, 2019 during the reunion. We're also looking for items for the Silent Auction. The auction is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. We welcome any item for the silent auction. Insignia items are always popular. Please see the Silent Auction Donation Form in this issue and on our website.

Get ready for another great reunion! Bring your photos, scrap books and other memorabilia and be prepared to have a good time.

In closing, continue to support those who wear the uniform. These young men and women and their families serve and sacrifice every day for the freedoms we enjoy. Reach out, shake their hand, and thank them for their service.

Welcome Home, it's good to be "Together Again".

Allen D. Hathaway

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of <i>Thunder Run</i> without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Email <i>11thcav1966@Comcast.net</i>	
Name:	
Old Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
New Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
Phone	_Effective Date:
Email:	

Do You Have A Seasonal Address? Are you Moving?

By Allen Hathaway, Membership

With each mailing of *Thunder Run* we receive 25-30 copies returned by the post office marked "Not Deliverable as Addressed" or "Moved, No Forwarding Address". We pay a fee for these returns but more importantly **we've lost track of a member**! Please help us deliver your mail!

Do you have a seasonal address? Quite a few of our members have seasonal addresses. They live in the north during the Summer and south or southwest in the Winter. If you have a seasonal address, please take a few minutes and notify us of both your summer and winter addresses, along with months at each address, phone number and e-mail address. We'll arrange to continue to deliver your *Thunder Run magazine* wherever you are!

Thunder Run is mailed as nonprofit standard postage versus first class postage. The post office does not forward *Thunder Run* mailed at the standard postage rate for seasonal addresses. Instead, *Thunder Run* is returned to us marked "Not Deliverable as Addressed" and we pay a fee. When we receive these notices we may have lost track of the member.

<u>Are you moving?</u> Please remember to file a change of address form with your local post office or online at www.usps.com. This will ensure that your mail is forwarded to your new address. Then, remember to notify us! Use the change of address form in each *Thunder Run* and complete all information including phone number and e-mail address. These last two pieces of information are just as important as your new address. You can also submit your change of address through our website. It's a simple process and it helps us keep our records up-to-date.

Is Phone Number and E-mail address Up To Date? We value our members and we don't like to lose any of them. We go the extra length by following up with a phone call or e-mail for any Thunder Run magazine that is returned IF a phone number or e-mail address is available in our records. Help us to keep our files up-to-date so we can continue to deliver your copy of *Thunder Run* to the correct address.

More VSO 'Stuff'

Chuck Bosko F Trp 69-70

VA "proposes to reduce your current rating percentage"

For the average veteran receiving disability compensation - this phrase on VA stationery sends shivers through the veins. However, VA is only "proposing" to reduce and steps to retain a current rating or ensure a higher rating than proposed can be initiated.

First and foremost- if the vet has competent representation (a Veteran Service Officer, aka "VSO"), involve that individual. If the vet does not have a SO, seek the assistance of one. Within the VA correspondence, a statement indicating a recent review of a vet's medical records indicate an "improvement" in the vet's medical condition. Hence, a proposal to reduce a current rating to a certain percentage. Further, a time frame, usually sixty days, will be afforded for the vet to provide medical evidence to either retain the current rating at the very least, or support a higher rating than that proposed.

Remember- many original rating decisions often include the phrase "...since this condition may improve with time, therefore a future exam and or review of your condition will be scheduled in the future". Hence, VA correspondence should never be unexpected. Anyway- back to protecting a higher rating. Continuing with my approach-

Let's be honest here. Some medical conditions do improve and to continue at ratings that are originally rather high, i.e.100% will not be forever. However, those same conditions may be medically warranted for ratings higher than what VA proposes.

PLeas turn to **VSO** on page 12

Historic Dates

100 years ago - The Treaty of Versailles, the most important of the peace treaties of World War I officially ending the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers was signed on June 28, 1919 in Versailles. It was exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which had directly led to the war.

75 Years Ago - The GI Bill, on June 22, the Service Members Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill, will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The first-ever GI Bill was signed into law on June 22, 1944. Since then, the GI Bill has been a critical tool for veterans during their transition to civilian life. The bill has provided veterans and their families education benefits, financial assistance, and home loan guarantees that have led to the expansion of the American middle class and economic growth and opportunity. Recently, the VFW-supported Forever GI Bill expanded this incredible benefit so future service members will be able to use their education benefits throughout their lives. Learn more about the Forever GI Bill at: https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/foreverg ibill.asp

50 Years Ago - Man Walks On The Moon! On July 21, 1969 at 02:56, UTC (22:56 EDT), Neil Armstrong placed his left foot on the surface of the moon, the first human to do so. A veteran of the Korean War with 78 combat missions, Armstrong was a civilian at the time of the moon landing, after resigning his commission on Oct. 21, 1960.

25 Years ago - The space shuttle "Columbia" blasts off on July 8 on a twoweek mission. Kim II Suna, the communist dictator of North Korea since 1948, dies of a heart attack at the age of 82. On July 24, Cutters assigned to Operation Able Manner, which commenced under Bill Clinton's Presidential order on 15 January 1994, rescued 3,247 Haitian migrants from 70 grossly overloaded sailboats in the Windward Passage. They rescued a total of 15.955 during the month of July. 1994. On July 31, the first U.S. troops landed in the Rwandan capital of Kigali to secure the airport for an expanded international aid effort.

Blackhorse Trooper, Judge David Szumowski Authors Uplifting Book on His Career and Accomplishments

Posted: Friday, April 19, 2019, Updated:, Fri Apr 19, 2019 by David Axelson

Everyone can benefit from reading an uplifting book on occasion. Coronado resident and retired Superior Court Judge David Szumowski has authored a book that fits that description entitled "Reach for More: A Journey from Loss to Love and Fulfillment." The book recounts his life and the challenges he faced on his way to a private law career, 12 years as a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney and 18 years on the bench.

The native of Gloversville, New York, is a 1967 graduate of the University of Richmond with a BA in Political Science and History. He was a member of the Army ROTC Corps and after graduation was inducted into the Army. In January 1968 the newly commissioned Second Lieutenant reported to Fort Knox, Kentucky for Armor Basic training. By March 20, 1969, Lt. Szumowski was serving as a Platoon Leader in M Company, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment) in heavy combat near Dau Tieng, Republic of Vietnam, when his tank was hit by rocket propelled grenades. The explosion blew up his tank and shrapnel severely injured him, causing him to lose his vision. For his heroism, with the battle described in his book, Szumowski earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

All of the accomplishments listed in the opening paragraph of this column, plus his graduation from the University of Denver Law School in 1973, came after he lost his sight.

Three years ago, when Szumowski retired from the Superior Court, we collaborated on an article about his career. Although I was familiar with the broad outline of his life before reading his book, there were several interesting details that made reading the book enjoyable.

When asked why he wrote his book,



Judge David Szumowski has authored a new book entitled "Reach for More: A Journey from Loss to Love and Fulfillment." Szumowski, who lost his sight during a tank battle in the Vietnam War, is shown with his wife Janice Szumowski and guide dog Speedwell, during his 70th birthday celebration. Photo Supplied by the Szumowski Family

Szumowski said, "It was something I thought about doing as a goal after I retired. I wrote it in the Fall of 2016, a little bit each day. I started the book with my injury in Vietnam. It's not a war story, but instead it's about what happened afterwards. I talked about my early life, college, about the Army and law school. It probably took three months to write the first draft and then I set it aside. Judge Tony Maino told me, 'You have a great story and you need to write this.' Then I went through the rough draft and took the redundancies out. Jennie McKee, who is a former secretary of mine helped me and she knows Microsoft Word better than I do. Then I went back and cleaned it up and different people from different parts of my life read it and made factual corrections. Then we put it all together. From beginning to end it was about a fourmonth period, but I didn't sit there all day long and work. It was a couple of hours a day, here and there. And then I had to think about getting it into print.

"I had a fraternity brother Wayne Dementi who had a connection. I told him I wrote the book not to make money but to tell a story. I wanted to do it so disabled people might find it inspiring. I felt if I wrote the book successfully, it would send a good message to anyone with selfdoubt or to people with disabilities who might get a lift from this. I had some struggles and I wasn't sure how things would turn out. I never dreamed my life would turn out as well as it did. I got lucky along the way and I'm very grateful for all of that."

Since it's Szumowski's life and not mine, I can't argue the amount of luck he garnered during his life, but I do know from two long conversations and a reading of "Reach for More," there was also a lot of hard work on his part to reach the level of success he attained.

Nor does Szumowski sugarcoat his personal issues and challenges. He said regarding the hardest part of the book for him to write, "I think it was about the lost years. I had to write about that time if I was going to be honest about everything. I talked about not having good direction, abusing alcohol a little bit, more than a little, and about suffering from PTSD without knowing what was going on. I could have saved myself a lot of angst if I realized there was help out there. After law school, there was no cocoon to hide in. I had friends, was in a good living situation and financially okay, but I didn't have a good feel for where it was going to go. Society isn't much more enlightened than it was 50 years ago about hiring the disabled into meaningful jobs. I did go into a tailspin and it wasn't until I hit the

bottom of the barrel that I knew there was no way to go but up. My Dad died and he never saw me accomplish anything. I don't know if PTSD counseling was all that prevalent in the 1970's. I felt like I was okay and moving in the right direction. Plus, I'm Polish and I don't talk about my feelings very much."

Toward the end of his time in Denver, he decided to start over and relocate to San Diego. With those plans already made, he met Janice Bonial and another important part of the book is about their relationship. Janice Szumowski probably deserves a book of her own and she was a Navy Systems Analyst for 10 years at NAS North Island. The couple has now been married for 34 years, but let's say the relationship wasn't without some bumps in the road.

Although there are serious issues throughout the book, Szumowski works some humor into the tome. His responsibilities on the bench included bail reviews, extraditions, arraignments, and probation revocations and modifications. One day a detainee appeared in his court and told Szumowski that he was from Planet Monkey and had Inter-Galactic Immunity from Szumowski's rulings. It may have been at that moment that Szumowski decided he needed to write his book.

As you work your way through the book, another recurring theme is the importance of guide dogs to Szumowski's way of life. In the 49 years since his traumatic injury in Vietnam, he has had just six guide dogs. The breeds include three male shepherds, one female black lab, a male yellow lab and his current dog Speedwell, а Golden Retriever. Szumowski said, "Speedwell will be eight in July and I have never heard him bark except if he is having doggie dreams at night. Nothing phases him, either other dogs or ducks on Glorietta by the golf course. We own parrots, who live upstairs, and he avoids the birds. He is a shadow and anywhere I go, he is right there. He will whine and cry if he isn't outside with me. He tolerates the fact that I play golf once or twice a week and he'll jump all over me when I come in the door. You can get eight or nine years out of a working dog, then they get weary of the stress you put them under. But there is no stress in Coronado, and Orange Avenue is the only problem area. If I'm walking on Pomona Avenue, cars will stop for me. I've been fortunate with my dogs and I may have one more dog left in me, if I keep going out and moving."

Remarkably, during his 18-year tenure on the bench, Szumowski ran unopposed in every election until he retired. "I think people respected how I handled myself as a District Attorney and I was a square shooter with them. I tried cases fairly and when I was on the bench, I treated them with respect and not arrogance. Running against a judge with a disability and with my military background would have been a tough obstacle. Since I received a lot of positive publicity when I was hired as both a DA and a judge, it would have been a bit of a mountain to climb. Why knock me off if I was doing a good job? Running unopposed saved me a lot of money. Now with a judge's salary over \$200,000 a year, there might have been more challengers."

There is also a strong spiritual element in "Reach for More," which Szumowski explained. "I went through a rough period after being injured and I was angry with God. I took a little vacation from God. But over time, it dawned on me that everything happens for a reason, there is a plan and it takes a while for some of us to figure out what the plan is. After I met Janice and we got back together, we were doing things more traditionally with church, though I wasn't being fair with my assessment of where God was in my life. I realized that after Father Edward Harrison from Christ Episcopal Church challenged me to talk about myself to a church forum. When I looked back over my life, I realized God was with me all the time, giving me challenges he knew I could handle if I put forth the effort. And that's when I came back to religion."

Szumowski self-published "Reach for More: A Journey from Loss to Love and Fulfillment," and it is available at Bay Books, through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

As we concluded our interview, Szumowski said, "I have had a lot of opportunity and support from my family and friends. I consider myself a success."

RESTORATION OF HOPE

I was one of a 17 member Mission team that took a trip to Lake Charles, Louisiana. We were all from Minnesota but from 2 different cities (Willmar & Eden Prairie) and 2 different churches (Presbyterian & United Methodist). The 17 of us from Minnesota were answering a mission call to work in homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 & to Restore Hope for families still affected. If you remember, this hurricane hit right before the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse Reunion in Orlando, Fl. was hit by Hurricane Irma.

From Minnesota, it took us 2 days to travel to our base camp in Lake Charles. Louisiana. The 17 of us were divided between 5 occupied homes needing a lot of repair. We replaced ceilings, put in doors, vanities, cupboards, flooring, transitions, did painting, taping, mudding, spraying and texturing. In a week we finished 3 of the 5 homes that were assigned to us - even being delayed by 8-10" of torrential rains on Thursday which caused more flooding in the areas we were working. The homes that weren't finished would be finished by another mission group. To complete a project of restoring a home for a family is such a fulfilling feeling, not only for the family but, for us as the workers. We shared our Love with each family we helped.

Our base camp was at St. Luke's-Simpson United Methodist Church in Lake Charles, La. We brought our own beds (blow-up mattresses or cots) & bedding, made our own meals at the church, enjoyed devotions, recapping the days events, singing and playing games together. We made new friends and got to know old friends better.

Full of gratitude, our mission team left Louisiana for Minnesota early Saturday morning making it to Joplin, Mo. where we stayed on our way down. We all enjoyed the beauty of each state (6) that we passed through but none was more beautiful than Home Sweet Home with our loved ones waiting for us to arrive on Sunday evening.

It's an experience like no other. A mission trip Restores people with "Hope, Gratitude, & Love". I would recommend it for anyone!

Marguerite Austin, Blackhorse Women's Group (Dale Austin, K Troop)

Chaplain Blandin Karabinos, HHT 2/11 ACR 71-72



A Grateful American

It started maybe 10 years ago, my admiration of Gary Sinise. As the years rolled by, that admiration turned to astonishment. And then recently I read his book: Grateful American and my admiration, my astonishment has turned to gratitude and love.

Who is Gary Sinise? A lot of people don't know. In short he is "Lieutenant Dan."

By 2003, he had earned an Emmy Award, a Golden Globe Award and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was best known for his movie roles in Forrest Gump, Apollo 13, Ransom, Truman, George Wallace, Of Mice and Men and The Green Mile. His TV series: CSI: NY and Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders were always among the most watched. Yet, still he wasn't a hot commodity nor a household name and unlike Tiger, Michael, LeBron or Ben ... his first name Gary, would not instantly call his face to mind.

So when he called the USO tour office in April of 2003 and left a message: "Hi, I'm Gary Sinise, and I'd like to go on a USO tour." No one called him back. After a few weeks, he sent a FAX: "Hi. I'm Gary Sinise, and I'd like to go on a USO tour to support the troops. Please get back to me." Still, no response.

Again, in May, he called and left a third message and then added: "Oh by the way, I'm the guy who played Lieutenant Dan in Forrest Gump." Guess what? A representative from the USO returned his call the next day.

Even when he was sent on his first trip to the Persian Gulf region in a desolate US military post far from stateside, he was kind of overlooked. The USO's on-site producer, not familiar with Gary Sinise the actor, sent him out last and by himself, after the rollicking musicians and pretty girls. Who is he anyhow and what excitement can he bring? When Gary walked from behind the curtain the troops when wild. "Hey Lieutenant Dan, you got legs!"

Since then he hasn't stopped touring and visiting the troops all around the world. He hasn't hesitated for a moment in his efforts to support our troops, our wounded warriors, their families and children and veterans of all our wars. The Gary Sinise Foundation serves and honors America's defenders and the Lt. Dan Band has entertained more than a half million troops around the world.

Lt. Dan had somehow become more than a character in a movie. To the veterans of our era and since, he has become a symbol of our country's collective awareness of all our injured veterans, especially the Vietnam veteran.

Read the book, you'll end by loving him too.

Now harken back to your days in the fields of Vietnam, near the Christmas holidays when you heard the flap-flap of a rotor blade and a USO group dropped into your laager or fire base or base camp. It was a special moment of relief and excitement. Not all of us experienced the thrill, but we all know that it happened; that someone in America cared. Getting off the Huey was usually Lt. Dan had somehow become more than a character in a movie. To the veterans of our era and since, he has become a symbol of our country's collective awareness of all our injured veterans, especially the Vietnam veteran.

a beautiful Hollywood star or a baseball slugger, a TV comedian; maybe even, Bob Hope. Memorable moments and a short shot of adrenaline. We even forgot about the heat, the mud, the dirt and diesel smells, the griminess of our jungle fatigues. "Holy Mackerel, Andy," what a day!

I recall Vida Blue (Oakland) and Paul Schaal (Kansas City) and another jock, but instead of a "Powder Puff," we only got a major league umpire: Nick Colosi. Kind of the second string, as Bob Hope and his troupe were at a bigger and more secure venue at Long Binh.

The ballplayers were happy to stand around the command track and sign autographs and shake hands and ask "where are you from soldier." They probably heard that line from clips of General Eisenhower meeting his troops on the eve of D-Day. But not umpire Nick Colosi, he was a veteran of WW II who had landed at Anzio and fought his way past Monte Cassino to march into Rome. His story was like so many other Army Infantrymen profiled in the movie, A Walk in the Sun. Nick had been there and he was comfortable walking the perimeter, visiting the tracks and bantering with the Blackhorse troopers. His bond with combat veterans was instantaneous and his immediate acceptance was one of the greatest morale boosts I witnessed in Vietnam.

He especially lingered at one tank and with Sgt. Mike Aguilar, I can't recall what troop. They really hit it off. I too had some commonality with him as he was a close friend of Augie Donatelli, the legendary Major League umpire who organized the Umpire's Union to the chagrin of the Baseball Commissioner. Augie was also a WW II veteran, shot down over Germany and a Prisoner Of War for several months before he escaped into Poland. I knew Augie, since I taught a few of his children in high school in the mid-1960's. As for Nick Colosi, he and Mike Aguilar and soon, a host of other troopers gathered around Sgt. Mike's tank. They were excitedly engaged with the WW II veteran of the 5th Army. The stories swirled back and forth, as descriptions of the warm sun of Italy were matched by the disdain of the sweltering jungle of Vietnam.

"You guys had it easy, I had to walk" said Nick Colosi. "But you didn't have to worry about red ants falling down the back of your neck," answered the crew. I doubt I heard more happier laughter in the field, than I did that day.



Sgt. Mike Agular

But soon the blades started rotating again and Nick had to leave. And I will not forget seeing Mike Aguilar going into his hatch and coming out with a Silver Star that he pinned on Umpire Nick Colosi's fatigues. Now it was Nick's turn to tear-up ... in humble and great appreciation. We all back-slapped

and waved good-bye as they walked away; now better men that very day. Mutual respect could not be defined any clearer.

Mike didn't live out the war. He transferred to the 12th Cavalry after we stood down and died in the tragic Chinook crash of May 10, 1972, with thirty-two other 12th and 8th Cav troopers. I think he was on his second or even third tour. His name with the other troopers and the five-man crew from the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion are listed in alphabetical order on panel 1W of the Wall. I think this is the only place where you'll find such a long alpha-listing. I happened to be in the air and near the crash site, being ferried from Long Than North to Baria by a 229th chopper and we put down immediately.

I couldn't get closer than 100 feet from the burning aircraft

Let Us Never Forget

By Allen Hathaway

This is a story about Larry Cofty and his experience visiting the final resting place of two of our fallen troopers.

Larry served in E Troop, 2/11, 1967-1968 and lives in Buna, Texas. Each of us has a different way to remember and pay respect to those we lost in Vietnam. Some touch the name on a monument, others look at old photos and remember better days, and others keep in contact with family members. Many, like Larry Cofty, take the opportunity to visit the gravesites of our fallen troopers leaving flags, flowers, mementoes or prayers. This is a story of Larry's unique experience when he visited the final resting place of two of our KIA's.

Larry's first experience was at Paradise Cemetery in Houston, Texas. He was there to pay respects to Earl William Thomas who was killed in action on December 21, 1968 while serving with H Company, 2/11 ACR.

Paradise Cemetery is large, but laid out well, and is also well maintained. Larry had the location for Earl's grave, and with the help of a map and directions from the office, made his way to Earl's grave site. When he arrived at the location he couldn't find any sign of Earl's grave. Records showed there should be a flat granite marker at this location provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Larry searched the surrounding area but no marker was found. Larry double checked the location with the cemetery office and explained that he couldn't find the marker. One of the groundskeepers accompanied Larry back, to locate Earl's gravesite. and not knowing how many or who was inside, could only offer a prayer and blessing to those noble warriors. It was only after my return to Bien Hoa that I read the manifest and learned of Sergeant Mike's death. The downing and burning of that Chinook was the most horrible scene I witnessed in the Nam.

Returning to CONUS in October, I happened to be visiting the Donatelli family in Florida, during the off-season and Augie called Nick Colosi for me. I told Nick about the tragedy and he, too, was heart-broken. But that memory of Mike and Nick joshing with each other around Christmas time in 1971 is one that I will not ever forget. Not a nightmare, a fond memory of two warriors from two of America's different wars.

I have heard too much muck and fear-filled rhetoric from people with angry eyes about how bad our country is or has handled social or civic or migrant or economic or foreign relations. They would rather tear down than build up. I'd rather remember how greatly we have responded to make this nation and the world a better place all throughout our near 250 years - a nation of mixed cultures, mixed races, mixed religions, united by a common Constitutional document and defended by rugged individuals and patriotic citizens, who have been willing through all those generations to lay their lives on the line as our defenders.

As Gary Sinise closed out his book, so I close out this note with his words: "While we can never do enough for our defenders and their loved ones, we can always do a little bit more."

They probed the specific location but no marker was found. It just wasn't right that Earl Thomas didn't have a marker. Larry wasn't satisfied to leave it at that. He contacted a local Veterans Service Officer for advice and assistance. The VSO explained that the Department of Veterans Affairs would replace the marker with the proper documentation. As of this writing, an application has been filed for a replacement marker for Earl William Thomas.

Larry's second experience was at Providence Memorial Park in Kenner, Louisiana. Records show that Ronnie Louis Pounds, who was killed on September 28, 1968 while serving with F Troop, 2/11 ACR, is buried there. Larry contacted the cemetery for the exact location of the gravesite thinking he may possibly visit sometime in the future. The cemetery confirmed that Ronnie Pounds was buried there, but would not give the location, citing an outstanding balance due and non-payment of fees.

Once again Larry was bothered that a service member who was killed in action was in an unmarked or unidentified grave. Larry, along with his wife Dee, wrote a letter to the Louisiana Cemetery Board explaining the situation and asked for assistance in trying correcting this situation. The board in turn contacted the cemetery which agreed to forgive the outstanding balance due and gave Larry the exact location for Ronnie Louis Pounds.

We owe our thanks to Larry Cofty and his wife Dee for their persistence in righting these wrongs. There is great comfort in knowing that Earl William Thomas and Ronnie Louis Pounds will never be forgotten.

11th ACVVC's 34th Annual Reunion, Westgate Resort & Casino

Hello to all, I hope this finds you all in the best of health. As we draw closer to our reunion everyone is working hard and putting in long hours to make sure that everything is in place. With that being said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who in any way is helping to make this year's reunion a great success.

I have noticed that some of you have not updated your information on the Master List on the Blackhorse Website, please take a few minutes to do so. We use this list to mail you your Thunder Run and Blackhorse Calendar. You may call me or any staff member if you need help in doing this.

We are pleased that so many of you are using address labels on your registration forms this year. You have no idea how much time it saves us when we know exactly how to spell your name and the city that you are living in. Some of the handwriting is hard to read so please use those address labels. Remember that we can only put so much on your nametag. So, if we abbreviate something or leave off your nickname don't be offended. We try very hard to put everything that you request on your name tag. My priority is to keep everybody's name big enough so that everyone can read it.

Before mailing or emailing your registration form please be sure to look it over carefully. Where it asks for years in country, it means what year or years you were there (example 68-69) or if you left before the year ended then (68-68). You will also see that it asks for a meal choice. Be sure that you check one meal for each person who is attending. The choices are Beef Dinner, Chicken Dinner, Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate. With your Beef Dinner or Chicken Dinner, we usually get potatoes and a cooked Veggie of the chef's choice. We must give the count and pre-order each meal and pay before the reunion so we can not make any changes at the last minute. For those of you with any special dietary needs and have indicated it on your reg-

It is very important that you and your guest sit with the Unit that is printed on your name tag. All the tables and chairs are set up from the count that you all gave us, that being the Unit that you served with in Viet Nam. If your name tag shows that you were with F Troop, or a guest of F Troop then that's the table you and your guest should be sitting at. If we find that someone from another Unit is occupying the wrong seats, they will be asked to move to the proper Unit seats. This is only fair to those in each Unit. All tables will have a flag which will indicate what Unit will be sitting there. There may be some Units that may be sharing a table with another Unit. That's because some Units only have two people attending.

Your registration form should have been post marked before the 24th of July. If you have registered and can't make the reunion you need to contact us before the cutoff date for a refund as we cannot do carryover for the next reunion. The cutoff date is August, the 12th. You need to call or email Ollie Pickral (804-435-3658,11cavalry@verizon.net) or Bob Moreno (608-387-3346, gtroopbob@gmail.com) before the 12th of August for a refund. Refunds will be

made after the reunion.

Please take time to read all the great items we have on the Blackhorse Website. You could take a whole day just to read all the information that has been posted for you. Take time to look over this year's list as to who is coming to the reunion. I have broken it down by Unit then by City, this way I can keep the Trooper and his Guest together on the list. If you see something misspelled, out of place or not correct on the list, please contact me and I will correct it. This list of who is attending the Las Vegas Reunion will stay on the Website until we begin a new list for our next Reunion.

There are still a lot of "1st Timers" coming to the reunion so please take time to welcome them home and make them feel welcome (this is very important).

It's time to drag out the photos and prepare for a week of fun, friendship and memories. So, I will see you all in Las Vegas. You do know what they say about Las Vegas, don't you? Until then, ALLONS Robert (Bob) Moreno (cell ph.# 608-387-3346) G troop 2/11th 68-69(gtroopbob@gmail.com) 11th ACVVC Board of Directors Registration Chairman

VSO from page 7

I will refer to an original rating seeking the phrase, "a rating of ** % is not warranted unless these criteria are present". Essentially, the VA is informing a veteran what is required to receive a certain percentage. I advise the veteran to share that information with his/her attending physician and IF the physician renders an opinion supporting those conditions – or higher- then the vet should request the physician to complete a DBQ* (disability benefits questionnaire). Once completed, I will prepare a Statement in Support of a Claim including the VA correspondence, the original rating decision to include criteria for a higher rating, the completed DBQ and my contention to support either the veteran's current rating at the very least, or a rating higher than the proposed rating per the appropriate rating code in the VA 's appropriate CFR .

So - those proposed letters are not to be feared, only addressed with appropriate medical evidence and the assistance of a trusted Veteran Service Officer.

Allons, airborne and welcome home Chuck Bosko (*VA has various DBQ's for many medical conditions)

THE 28TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Friday, August 23, 2019, Wildhorse Golf Club, 2100 W Warm Springs Rd, Henderson, NV 89014, 702-434-9000

In 2019 we will once again visit Las Vegas. Nevada for the third time and will revisit Wildhorse Golf Club in Henderson, consistently rated as one of the top public courses in Southern Nevada. Wildhorse Golf Club is a great venue for golfers of all abilities. Originally built in 1959, the course was redesigned in 2004 by architects Brian Curley & Lee Schmidt, featuring several holes guarded by shimmering lakes. The championship, par 70 layout is a local's favorite, and a former stop on the PGA tour. Wildhorse Golf Club offers an eniovable round of golf at an affordable price. The par 4, 9th hole measuring 398 yards was named the toughest hole in the Las Vegas area by the staff at Vegas Golfer Magazine. Placement off the tee is a premium. Too short, and golfers face a long-iron or wood second shot into a green that is fronted by a second lake. Too long, and water comes into play behind the green, leaving the only bailout to the right. One of the finest, as well as toughest golf holes in Southern Nevada, this one has golfers coming back for more

Your \$100 entry fee includes round-trip transportation to/from Wildhorse Golf Club/Westgate Resort & Casino, greens fees, cart with GPS yardage system, post-event luncheon and prizes!

Name

E-mail

28TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Average Score

Average Score

Average Score

Home Phone

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Joseph Coopet). Form must be postmarked group for whom you are pay-

and women. Dress code: no denim,

Mail Checks To: Joe Coopet, 9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125-7507 Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of you registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and

2019 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name	ved by July 24, 2019.	11TH ACVVC
		REUNION XXXIV 2019
Citv	State Zip	
	E-mail	
Shipping: If you can't	XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each. Shirt size: attend the reunion, you can still order the shirt. Add \$7 for shipping a Prices include up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalize PLEASE PRINT Line 1:	ed embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)
MasterCard	Line 2:	
	Line 3:	
	Line 3:CVC Code Exp. Dat	
Card No		ie

by Aug 9, 2019 to guarantee your Address entry! You don't need a foursome City State Zip to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and you'll Name Average Score be paired with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the Name Name ing. This outing is open to men

shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

prizes following colf. Rental clubs are available at \$35 per set (call the course directly to reserve). Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"



11th ACVVC 34th Annual Reunion Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino August 20 – August 25, 2019



Day, Date, Time	Event	Location		
Tuesday, August 20				
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3		
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk		
Wednesday, August 21				
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk		
9:00 am -	BOD Meeting	Boardroom		
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3		
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Ballroom Registration Area		
2:00 pm - Midnight	Bunker open	Pavilion 1-8		
Thursday, August 22,				
6:45 - 7:00 am	Ft Irwin Trip (depart Westgate)	Bus loading Area (follow signage)		
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk		
•	Quarter Master Store Closed			
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Ballroom Registration Area		
2:00 pm – Midnight	Bunker open	Pavilion 1-8		
7:00 pm	Ft Irwin Trip (return to Westgate)	Bus Loading Area		
Friday, August 23				
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	28 th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing	Wildhorse Golf Club		
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Ballroom Registration Area		
2:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk		
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3		
2:00 pm – Midnight	Bunker open	Pavilion 1-8		
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Silent Auction Sell Off	Pavilion 11		
9:00 pm – 10: pm	Pay/Pick up Silent Auction Items	Pavilion 11		
Saturday, August 24				
8:30 am	Raffle Drawing	Pavilion 9-11		
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting	Pavilion 9-11		
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Women's Group Meeting	Conference Rooms 4-6		
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Memorial Service	Pavilion 9-11		
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3		
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration Open for late arrivals	Ballroom Registration Desk		
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm	Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	Ballroom Foyer (Rooms D-G)		
· ·	(Banquet Room doors open at 6:00 pm sharp)			
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Banquet, Program, Presentation and Salute	Ballrooms A, C, C		
10:00 pm – Midnight	Dancing to DJ	Ballroom Foyer		
Sunday, August 25				
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Non-denominational Worship Service	Pavilion 9-11		
All Day	Farewell and Safe Travels			

REGISTRATION FORM	
34th Annual 11th ACVVC Re Las Vegas, Nevada August 21 - 25, 2019 Westgate Resort & Casino 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada Reservations: 1-800-635-7711	
Registration fee is \$100 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the W Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner. All registrations must be received by Wednesday, JULY 24, 2019. Any reg returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cance later than Friday, August 12, 2019. <u>PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATIO</u> (print clearly or use mailing label)	istration received after this da llation is received by the Treas
NameTelephone No:	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
E-Mail Address	
Unit Assignment Dates in Country (Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is your banquet seating.)	(Example: 1966-1967)
KIA Relative?	
Relationship to KIA: Unit:	
ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)	
	\$
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Please accept my donation to help an active duty Trooper attend the reun	ion \$
Total Registration Fee	\$
Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) ChickenBee	fVeggieFruit
Is this your first reunion? The Yes I No Wheelchair or special needs	seating? 🗆 Yes 🛛 No
□ Visa □ MasterCard	
Card No	Exp. Date
Signature (Required for credit card)	
Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration 11th ACVVC C/O OLLIE PICKRAL 571 DITCHLEY RD KILMARNOCK, VA 22482	torm along with payment to:

FACTS from page 3

glad they served.

• 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.

Many Still Missing

• As of April 14, 2017, there are 1,611 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War across Vietnam (1,258), Laos(297), Cambodia(49), and China(7).

Vietnam Combat Area Casualty File

• The Statistics in the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF 11/93) show an average age of death much higher than that of news reports.

• The average age of the 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action).

	Deaths	Average Age
• Enlisted:	50,274	22.37 years
• Officers:	6,598	28.43 years
• Warrants:	1,276	24.73 years
• E1	525	20.34 years
• 11B MOS:	18,465	22.55 years
• Totals:	58,148	23.11 years

Common and Incorrect Vietnam War Myths

Myth: Common belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

Fact: Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year

post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war."

Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better.

Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

Myth: The United States lost the war in Vietnam.

Fact: The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance. General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike (a professor at the University of California, Berkeley), a major military defeat for the VC and NVA.

Myth: The common belief is that the

domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries whot won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

Myth: The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

Fact: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour.

As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords or 1962 would secure the border).

Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972 (shown a million times on American television) was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. News media have reported tha an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc. Those are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General

of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

Census Stats and "I Served in Vietnam" Wanabees

• 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).

• During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served was: 9,492,958.

As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day. During this Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027. By this census, FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE VIETNAM VETS ARE NOT. This makes calculations of those alive, even in 2017, difficult to maintain.

The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this errored index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).

Isolated atrocities committed by American Soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - Nixon Presidential Papers.

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:

Platinum Level \$500+

Bronze Level

Gold Level \$100-\$499

Bronze Level \$1-\$49

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

General Fund Gold Level

Baker, Marvin Cranford, William Dussault, Raymond Hughes, Joseph Lichon, Joseph Waldroop, Clinton Weaver, Joyce

Silver Level

Ashmore, William Bowen, Alfred Fowler, David Gordon, David Ivey, Walker Longhouser, John Pankey, Alfred Pool, J.C. Scott, Larry Williams , Harry Williamson, Jerry Austin, Bill Brazeau, Jim

Corriveau, Jan Corriveau, David Darrin, Roy Jankel, Ken Lantzy, Darrell Mason, Gregory Moushegian, Ricki In Memory of Stephen Moushegian Rahm, Mark Ross, Ivan Scholz, Clayton Taylor, Richard Sanders, Harold Willey, Joseph

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Gochenour, Samuel Hall. Douglas Havwood, Douglas Hinkey, Elwood Hinz, Reinhold Imeidopf, Robert Kapphahn, John Kennedy, Markie Leeson, William Lyle, Ross Norri, Michael Orozco, Joseph Pelton, Andrew Proctor, Jay Six, Robert Stephenson, Ronald Tranas, Donald Trevino, Reynaldo Van Horn. David Velpers, Larry White, Russell Wilson, Mark Yell, Horace



<u>Fiddler's Green</u>

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

- Willie Allen, 37th Medical Company (1968-1969) passed away on February 10, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Baltimore, MD. He was laid to rest in Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery, Owings Mills, MD.
- Philip R. Anderson, 7th Army Postal Unit (1968-1969) passed away on March 4, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hillsboro, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.
- **Thomas W. Arbaugh**, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 25, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hiawassee, GA.
- James E. Bagwell, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 31, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lawton, OK. He was laid to rest in Fort Sill Post Cemetery, Fort Sill, OK.
- Robert C. Berkshire, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 19, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Baltimore, MD.
- Norman A. Blowers, 175th Radio Research Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on January 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tukwila, WA. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery Of The Pacific, Honolulu, HI.
- **Bobbie R. Boaldin**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1967) passed away on November 17, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Honolulu, HI. He was laid to rest in Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe, HI.
- Wilfred L. Bolduc, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 15, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Litchfield, ME. He was laid to rest in Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Augusta, ME.
- William Y. Bridges, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) passed away on March 12, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Newport News, VA. He was laid to rest in Hampton Memorial Gardens, Hampton, VA.
- Richard L. Bumgarner, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 9, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seagrove, NC.
- **Jerry A. Burns**, C Troop, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on December 20, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oak Harbor, WA.
- **Joseph M. Burton**, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on May 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Erie, PA. He was laid to rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Millcreek Township, PA.
- **Clifford M. Campbell**, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 20, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mckenna, WA. He was laid to rest in Fir Lane Memorial Park, Spanaway, WA.
- Jack Case, 551st Maintenance Company (1968-1972) passed away on April 23, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Yakima, WA. He was laid to rest in West Hills Memorial Park, Yakima, WA.
- **David R. Chermack**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1970) passed away on June 17, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kent, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.
- **Bruce M. Christie**, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on March 21, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Litchfield, MN. He was laid to rest in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls, MN.
- Joseph R. Clark, F Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on March 15, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK. He was laid to rest in Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, OK.

- Maxie L. Coody, 398th Transportation Detachment (1970-1971) passed away on April 3, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Joaquin, TX. He was laid to rest in Oaklawn Memorial Park, Center, TX.
- Maxie M. Crain, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on March 9, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hodgenville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.
- Wayne J. Delfosse, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 22, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Green Bay, WI.
- Peter R. D'Engenis, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 8, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hurricane, UT. He was laid to rest in Gate Of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, MD.
- James P. Durre, HHT Regiment (1967-1968) passed away on December 11, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Paulding, OH.
- Kenneth D. Dye, 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on December 28, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Holiday, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.
- James D. Fann, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 22, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fayetteville, NC. He was laid to rest in Piney Greenbaptist Church Cemetery, Salemburg, NC.
- Richard J. Felt, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 8, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Killeen, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.
- Jackie C. French, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 18, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Teague, TX. He was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery, Teague, TX.
- **Dennis J. Gallegos**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 17, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Farmington, NM.
- Robert L. Gambert, HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on March 10, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carlisle, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.
- Mark A. Gernhardt, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on May 8, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulsa, OK.
- Reginald R. Greaves, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 2, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Copperas Cove, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.
- Casimir J. Hajkowski, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 30, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chicago, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.
- Arthur J. Halliday, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 6, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Humble, TX.
- William W. Hancock, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 3, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Noblesville, IN. He was laid to rest in Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, IN.
- Richard A. Helfrich, F Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on April 28, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Flat Rock, MI. He was laid to rest in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.
- **Glennis "Glen" R. Hendrickson**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 11, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK.

- Sherwood L. Jackson, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on October 21, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Trappe, MD. He was laid to rest in Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, Hurlock, MD.
- **Oscar L. Jelks**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 22, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Houston, TX. He was laid to rest in Houston National Cemetery, Houston, TX.
- Leon Jenkins, HHT Regiment (1967-1968) passed away on July 3, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in East Saint Louis, IL. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.
- **Donn B. Kemp**, 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on September 30, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Candor, NY.
- Phillip D. Kendall, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 2, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lampe, MO. He was laid to rest in Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Springfield, MO.
- **George Kiss**, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on June 18, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Salem, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.
- John E. Knapp, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on May 26, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in York, PA. He was laid to rest in Susquehanna Memorial Gardens, York, PA.
- Albert P. Krueger, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on April 17, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palm City, FL. He was laid to rest in Fernhill Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum, Stuart, FL.
- Raymond L. Larson, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 9, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Milwaukee, WI. He was laid to rest in Highland Memorial Park, New Berlin, WI.
- John D. Livengood, 551st Maintenance Company (1966-1967) passed away on March 21, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Berlin, PA.
- Dale O. Mack, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1970) passed away on September 9, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Ulm, MN.
- Matt D. Mcknight, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) and B Troop, 1/11 (1968) passed away on May 6, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Murfreesboro, TN. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Murfreesboro, TN.
- Benjie L. Meek, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 15, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sedalia, MO.
- Harry E. Mitchell, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 10, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Savannah, GA. He was laid to rest in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens, Savannah, GA.

- Ernest L. Moles, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1972) passed away on February 20, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in South San Francisco, CA.
- Harry W. Moody, 7th Army Postal Unit (1966-1967) passed away on May 3, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ball Ground, GA. He was laid to rest in Mount Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery, Mableton, GA.
- Winthrop E. Nall, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 21, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vestavia Hills, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.
- Ronald G. Nethkin, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 26, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in La Grange, NC. He was laid to rest in Hughes Family Cemetery, Mount Olive, NC.
- Jeffrey L. Nichols, M Company, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 5, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Orange, CA.
- Joseph M. Paceley, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on April 29, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rockport, IN. He was laid to rest in James Parker Cemetery, Hatfield, IN.
- Kenneth R. Picciano, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1968) passed away on May 24, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in East Haven, CT.
- Ralph P. Picou, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lafayette, LA. He was laid to rest in Saint Alphonsus Cemetery, Maurice, LA.
- Kenneth G. Radford, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on June 17, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Smithfield, NC. He was laid to rest in Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Goldsboro, NC.
- William R. Rehm, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on October 13, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Weare, NH. He was laid to rest in Johnson Cemetery, Weare, NH.
- Billy G. Rhea, 37th Medical Company (1970-1971) passed away on October 2, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cheyenne, OK. He was laid to rest in Red Hill Cemetery, Hammon, OK.
- Nelson C. Rodriguez, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 3, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mulberry, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.
- John M. Sandor, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on November 4, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kalispell, MT. He will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

- Gary D. Stanley, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 25, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarksville, TN. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery-West, Hopkinsville, KY.
- Tommy C. Stines, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 11, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coweta, OK. He was laid to rest in Floral Haven Cemetery, Broken Arrow, OK.
- David W. Stoy, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1968) passed away on October 15, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Naples, FL. He was laid to rest in Palm Royale Cemetery, Naples, FL.
- Harry E. Swope, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on April 10, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Delaware, OH. He was laid to rest in Marlborough Cemetery, Delaward, OH.
- Eddie J. Tabor, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 15, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thibodaux, LA.
- Billy J. Temple, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 11, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Summit, MS. He was laid to rest in Hollywood Cemetery, Mccomb, MS.
- Farrell G. Tharp, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 13, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Big Sandy, TX. He was laid to rest in Gladewater Memorial Park, Gladewater, TX.
- Norman E. Tyson, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 6, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lancaster, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.
- Bruce R. Van Etten, 185th Maintenance Detachment (1970-1972) passed away on April 3, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cullowhee, NC.
- Daniel L. Vannatta, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Honesdale, PA.
- Jose M. Vela, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1969) passed away on November 7, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saginaw, MI. He was laid to rest in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Saginaw, MI.
- **Carmen J. Vescio**, 595th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on June 7, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fulton, NY.
- Don B. Witcher, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1969) passed away on November 5, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Whitleyville, TN. He was laid to rest in Willette Cemetery, Red Boiling Springs, TN.

2019 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

The 2018 Silent Auction raised \$10,351 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 240 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many handcrafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows (Please note changes to the hours):

1) Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 34th Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2) We will have a collection site setup in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from **1pm to**

5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

3) You can ship items to Arthur Ehrenberg, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

4) The auction will be from 6pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.

5) Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.

6) If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

7) We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregrmason311@gmail.com or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your email as I receive them.

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

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

	11th ACVVC Silent Auction
	Donated Items Information Form
Please provide the following informat Please print clearly.	ion with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.
Description of item donated:	
Name of Donor:	
Address of Donor:	
	Value of Item Donated \$
I wish to remain anonymous (check	box) 🗖
Mail silent auction items to: 11th A	CVVC, C/O Arthur Ehrenberg, 1620 Plata Pico Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128-7370
	mharahin ia Our Strangth
	embership is Our Strength It's not the price you pay to belong,
	s the price you paid to become eligible to join

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Funeral Planning Tips for Veterans

(Editor's note: Rev. Peter Hook is a personal friend who has granted permission to reprint this article. It has been edited to remove state-specific info. Rev. Hook has served as a Chaplain at the Post, District, State and National levels in the VFW. He served in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam as an Infantry Platoon Leader, 1st Lt in 1968-69. In addition to the NDSM, VCM, VSM he is a recipient of two Air Medals and the Bronze Star.)

By Rev. Peter Hook, VFW National Chaplain, 2016-17

Making decisions surrounding arrangements for the funeral of a veteran who has made no preparation can add stress and confusion on top of sorrow for family members. Changing customs, increased expenses, lack of familiarity with laws and options, and trying to locate the deceased veteran's DD 214 can make arranging and planning a funeral an overwhelming experience. Therefore, please get your important documents organized, make your wishes known, and help your families to make wise decisions when that time arrives.

I recently received a call from the daughter of a VFW Life Member whom I had befriended, informing me that her father had passed away. Our common interest, besides being veterans, was Classic Country Music. Bill was a radio DJ, and I was a regular listener to his weekly program. While we only met in person two times, every once in a while I sent a note thanking him for the program. And, from time to time, he would send greetings to me over the air. I was surprised to learn of his passing. I was even more surprised when she said the family found a note amongst his papers requesting that I officiate at his funeral. Bill was organized. He had all his important papers in a file folder and on top, written on the back of an envelope, was the note to call me. He made the planning of his funeral less stressful for his family. Unfortunately, that is not always the case.

Preparing ahead of time for key decisions relieves the stress of making choices at a time of deep sorrow, ensures that your desires are carried out, and can save money. Here is some information which may be helpful to you:

• Military Funeral Honors:

Upon the family's request, the law requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, which includes the folding and presentation of the U.S. flag, and the playing of "Taps" at no cost. The Dept. of Defense is responsible for providing military funeral honors, and the request should be made by the family through the funeral director.

• Burial in a Private Cemetery:

The VA suggests that if burial will be in a private cemetery and a government headstone or marker will be requested for the veteran's grave, that the family apply for one in advance so that the application can be placed with the veterans military discharge papers for use at the time of need. The VA furnishes, upon request, at no charge, a government headstone or marker for graves of any deceased eligible veterans in cemeteries worldwide.

• Burial in a National Cemetery:

Grave sites in VA national cemeteries cannot be reserved in

advance. Families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options and collecting the veteran's military information, including discharge papers (DD 214). The following is very important to pass on to your family if you desire to be buried in a national cemetery with military honors.

During the meeting with the funeral director, the deceased veteran's family must tell the funeral director that the deceased was a veteran, who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and present the director with a copy of the DD 214.

If your wishes are to be buried in a veteran's cemetery with military honors, the family must make that known to the funeral director. Military Honors are not provided by the national cemeteries. Honors must be arranged in advance by the family and the funeral director.

The funeral director will then contact the VA and make arrangements for burial in a national cemetery. If the funeral director is not sure of the procedure, detailed information can be found on the National Funeral Directors Association website.

The funeral director must indicate to the VA that the family has requested Military Honors.

The VA will make all the arrangements for internment, and together with the funeral director, schedule a date and time. It is suggested, but not necessary, that when the family is notified of the schedule, they contact the cemetery administration to ensure that military honors have been scheduled.

Taking time to get your important papers organized, to write your desires, and to give guidance helps your family know what to do and sure makes things less difficult for your loved ones. It also gives the family a great sense of relief knowing they carried out your desires.

Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy

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

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

The cutoff date for the 34th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion in Las Vegas, NV will be July 24, 2019. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to the sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

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

11th ACR Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Staff Sergeant the Year

SSG Ramin Ott was born June 22, 1989 in Pagopago, American Samoa. Son of John and Tausaili Ott. He has been happily married for 8 years and is blessed with four daughters.

He attended and Ramin Shahin Ott, graduated from Tafuna Blackhorse NCO of High School in June 2004, and he traveled the Pacific islands as part of the American

Samoa National Soccer Team before deciding to join the U.S. Army out of Mesa, AZ in January 2010. SSG Ott started basic training in January 2010 at Fort

Knox, Kentucky and advanced individual training as a light wheeled mechanic (91B) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

After entry level training, he was assigned to Echo Company, 3/2 GSAB at Camp Humphreys, South Korea in July 2010. After a year in Camp Humphreys, he was assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne Division, where he served as a wheeled vehicle mechanic for Echo Company, 5th Battalion 101st Aviation Brigade, to include a tour to Bagram, Afghanistan for 7 months. SSG Ott also graduated from the Sabalauski Air Assault School, completed the Warriors Leaders Course and was promoted to sergeant by the end of his time in Fort Campbell.

In October 2014, he was assigned to

HHB, Division Artillery, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he helped stand up the battery motor pool and arms room. SSG Ott took the initiative to write not only the scheduled service SOP for the motor pool but the SOP for the unit arms room as well. Prior to reporting to Fort Irwin, SSG Ott completed the Advanced Leaders Course. He is section sergeant for the Automotive Section in Maintenance Troop and serves as the Troop's Master Driver and UPL.

One of his short-term goals is to be a unit motor sergeant. SSG Ott's goals are to successfully complete his Army career, retire as Senior NCO, and make leaders along the way!

(Reprinted from the Blackhorse Association)

Three Oaths

This is the Oath for Enlisted soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers:

I, _____, do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God." (Title 10, U.S. Code: Act of 5 May 1960 replacing the wordig first adopted in 1789, with amendment effective 5 October 1962).

This is the Oath for Officers:

I, , do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God. (Title 5 U.S. Code 3331, an individual, except the President, elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services). (Title 5 U.S. Code 3331, an individual, except the President, elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services).

This is the Oath of Allegiance for Naturalized Citizens of the United States of America:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, to whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same: that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law: that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law: that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law: and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE



I received a total of 148 scholarship applications by the May 15th deadline this year! 145 of the applicants were grandchildren of our members and 3 were children of members. We had 99 female applicants and 49 males who applied. Most of the applicants were high school seniors.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors are pleased to be able to award 50 scholarships for a total of \$152,000 this year! We can do this because of the generosity of hundreds of our members who support the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers every year. except for the winner of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship who will re

All of the applicants will be notified of whether or not they qualified for a scholarship

Mike "Doc" Rafferty

by the end of June. The determining factors for scoring applicants were Grade Point Average for their most recent two years of education and how involved they were in extra-curricular and volunteer activities.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive a \$3000 award

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2019

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty,

Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for the children and grandchildren of life members, deceased life members, and our KIAs. If you have a grandchild or child who is planning on attending a university, community college or trade school, please encourage them to apply for an 11th ACVVC scholarship. Please advise them to look at the scholarship guide and application on our website (www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.htm) or contact me for more information or if they have questions.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2019 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, August 24th during the 34th annual reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

1st place (\$500) 2nd place (\$400) 3rd place (\$300) 4th place (\$200)

Allons.

...and eleven \$100 prizes.

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

Welcome Home Brother!

Robert Jacobs

Thunder Run

irst, allow me to introduce myself and then tell you about the reason I am contacting you. I am a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and a Vietnam vet (1st Cav December 69-70). Our national organization has a Vietnam Veterans Committee of which I am currently the chairman (I am also a life member of VVA). The JWV Vietnam Veterans Committee has an ongoing project to collect the military stories of Jewish military personnel who served during the Vietnam Era (1959-1975) regardless of whether they were in Nam or wherever Uncle Sam sent them. We have plans to publish the stories on disc with all profits going to JWV's museum at our national HQ in Washington, D.C. The official name of the museum is the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We have advertised in the 1st Cav Saber and received a number of stories contributed. I recently spoke with Dara Wydler (Executive Director, 1st Cav Division Assoc.) about reaching out to other major military units that were in Nam, and she provided me with your organizations name and e-mail address.

Here is what I am requesting. Please put a notice in your organization's publication, soliciting the following:

1. Military story of Jewish personnel (1959-1975).

2. Make it $1 \ensuremath{^{1\!/}_{\!\!2}}$ -2 pages discussing whatever you feel comfortable writing about.

3. Include, if possible, a "then" photo and a "now" photo.

4. Be assured that nobody is going to make any personal profit. Once your story is on the disc (we are getting ready to start a second disc), all profits will go to our museum.

5. Your story and photos may be e-mailed to me at: conrail-bob2003@yahoo.com

6. If you have any questions, feel free to call me (Bob Jacobs) at $732\mathchar`-691\mathchar`-6139$



Military Quotes

"The soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."

.....George S. Patton Jr.

"The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

.....Colin Powell

"It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier with discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a selfconfidence born of demonstrated ability."

Fort Irwin Policy for POV Entry

We have been asked if individuals can enter Ft. Irwin in POVs (Privately Owned Vehicles) during our scheduled bus trip to Ft. Irwin, Thursday, August 22, 2019.

Individuals with current, valid DOD ID will be permitted to enter Ft. Irwin in a POV, but cannot be guaranteed they will be able to follow, accompany or park in the same areas as the chartered busses.

Additionally, any individual in a POV entering Ft. Irwin will not be able to participate in the planned luncheon at the dining facility.

Individuals who wish to travel to Ft. Irwin with the 11th ACVVC bus trip must board the outbound busses at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and board for the return trip at Ft. Irwin.

Please see the 1st qtr issue of "Thunder Run" for details, which we will also post on the 11th ACVVC website.

While Ft. Irwin's Military Police will not deny access to those with valid DOD ID, I strongly discourage any 11th ACVVC members from driving to Ft. Irwin.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pete Walter at: basepiece70@verizon.net Respectfully,

......George S. Patton Jr. Pete Walter, President, 11th ACVVC

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			
(Troop,Sqdn)		(Mo/Yr)	(Mo/Yr)
SER NO RANK (during tour)	SSN NO		
OTHER INFORMATION			
TYPE MEMBERSHIP: 🗍 NEW	_		ER
🗍 ANNUAL (\$15)	 LIFE (\$100)		
🗍 LIFE Plan (\$25 en	closed, plus 3 payme	nts of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 mo	nths)
IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DE	EDUCTIBLE CONTR	BUTION FOR \$	
I authorize the release of my address/phone		•	the 11th ACR
(Sign)			
□ Visa □ Mastercard Card #		Exp. Date	
Signature			
Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickra	I, 571 Ditchley Rd.	, Kilmarnock, VA 22482	<u>)</u>

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11th ACVVC Reunion Trip to Fort Irwin Thursday, August 22, 2019 from 6:45AM to 7:00PM

The 11th ACVVC has contracted with Arrow Stage Lines of Las Vegas to provide transportation to and from Fort Irwin in conjunction with our 34th annual reunion. Price includes R/T transportation on a luxury, air-conditioned motor-coach w/ restroom, water and lunch at Fort Irwin. Form must be received by July 24!

6:45AM - Pick up at Westgate Resort & Casino, 30	00 Paradise Road, Las Vegas,	NV
7:15AM – Depart Westgate for Fort Irwin 10:00AM – ETA Fort Irwin		
4:00PM – ETD Fort Irwin		
7:00PM – ETA Westgate Resort & Casino		
Please provide the following information with you	r reservation: (please print)	
Name	Telephone	
Address		·····
City/State/ZIP		
Number of riders:	X \$40 per person =	TOTAL \$
□ VISA □ MASTERCARD Card No:		
Expiration Date:	CSC Coc	le:
Signature (required for credit card):		
If paying by check, make checks payable to: 11 th A	ACVVC	
Mail this completed form to: Ollie Pickral		
571 Ditchley Road		
Kilmarnock, VA 224	82	
We have been asked if individuals can enter Ft. Irv	vin in POVs (Privately Owned	Vehicles) during our scheduled
bus trip to Ft. Irwin, Thursday, August 22, 2019. Ir enter Ft. Irwin in a POV, but cannot be guaranteed		•
areas as the chartered busses. Additionally, any ir	ndividual in a POV entering Ft	. Irwin will not be able to
participate in the planned luncheon at the dining f	acility. Any POV entering For	rt Irwin is subject to search.
Individuals who wish to travel to Ft. Irwin with the	•	
Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and board	for the return trip at Ft. Irwin	1.

While Ft. Irwin's Military Police will not deny access to those with valid DOD ID, I strongly discourage any 11th ACVVC members from driving to Ft. Irwin.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pete Walter at: basepiece70@verizon.net

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Impressions of Vietnam:

• Most Troopers were struck by the smells of Vietnam – the unique combination of rotting jungle vegetation, human waste, and nuoc mam. To Charlie Troop's Byron Skinner, who grew up in San Diego, Vietnam "smelled like Tijuana in the 1950's." Fox Troop's Cary McMasters recalls: "The sights were different and the odor of the country was awful. My duffel bag still smells that way."

• Air Cav Troop's Chip Troiano remembers getting to Blackhorse Base Camp late at night after his days' long airplane ride across the Pacific in late 1966. "By that time we were pretty exhausted, so we laid out our bed rolls and slept. I have a photo of the first morning in Co. [company] area, and it looks pretty dismal just the 1 tent. For the following weeks we set up Co. area and we sandbagged, and we sandbagged in the heat and in the rain, I have a great photo of 4 of us in ponchos filling sandbags with mud. And that was Blackhorse Base camp."

• Second Squadron's Charles Abbey "observed what appeared to be a large crumpled parachute cradled in the branches of one of the large shrubby things" at the new Blackhorse Base Camp. "Our driver – courageous and aggressive Blackhorse trooper that he was – made no effort to slow down before crashing into the cradling branches of this large shrub. Just at that crucial moment, stark realization alerted the entire crew to the true nature of this thing. Indeed, it was a gigantic tropical wasp's nest." The Troopers demonstrated "high performance aeronautical skills, latent in each man ... Track records were set as we bailed-out in terror" – much to the amusement of the by-standers. Once the wasps had shown their displeasure and returned to their nest, the Zippo flame track was brought into action; a quick burst eliminated "about a million" enemy combatants.

• 3rd Squadron chaplain Dan Swiatek recalls that the rice paddies in the wet season of 1968 had a smell of their own, even before planting and fertilizing. Generations of rice harvests had permeated the soil. "I have no problem with manure, but the smell was unbelievable."

• Charlie Troop's Paul Baerman, who arrived in Vietnam in the early summer of 1969, summed up his first impression of this place called Vietnam. "I had travelled the United States and Europe as an Army brat but this environment was totally different: smaller people, pungent odors of fish and strange vegetables, a different kind of bustle, and vibrant colors everywhere ... The terrain was like nothing I had seen before, lush and green but interspersed with bomb craters, defoliated areas, and napalm burns."

• Donn Starry was invited to speak at West Springfield High School in Virginia. Just back from his first tour in Vietnam, he told the high school students about his own impressions of that country: "[T]he weather and terrain in which we must fight the enemy are some of the most difficult in the world. Roads are poorly developed or nonexistent. Dense jungle, mountainous areas, swamps, and rice paddies hinder movement by both vehicles and foot. The heat and high humidity are depressing and require careful maintenance of weapons and equipment. Insects and a high incidence of disease cause physical discomfort and, on top of all this, it rains six months straight out of each year."

• For native Texan Gary Jay, the area east of Blackhorse Base Camp reminded him of Abilene. In a letter home written shortly after he was assigned to Golf Troop in late 1970, he wrote: "'A friend of mine, an A&M graduate, asked how I seemed so cheerful in spite of the fact there is a war going on. I replied that one of the reasons is that the sector of the country we are in has vegetation which looks like the mesquites back in west Texas. Besides, the South China Sea looks like the Gulf of Mexico ... I know this is a little far out, but when you're in this country, every little thing helps."

• The double and triple canopy jungle south and west of An Loc was especially difficult and had an adverse impact on military operations. In an after-action report for Operation Montana Raider (April – May 1969), the 155mm shells from the Blackhorse Howitzer Batteries' were described as "marginally effective. When using delay fuze, the results were adequate but not overwhelming. 105-mm Howitzers could not do damage underground ... [It was] impossible to fully utilize the FO (forward observer) on the ground. He could not see or direct artillery fire through the dense jungle terrain."

• A few days before the start of Operation Cedar Falls in January 1967, Leo Deege (Howitzer Battery, 3/11), flew over the Iron Triangle. He recalls what he saw. "I remember looking at those dense jungles and wondering about how people were actually living underneath those canopies. It seemed very wild and hostile to me."

• What Golf Troopers found when they returned to the Ho Bo Woods in 1971 were so many bomb craters (largely invisible to the crews of armored vehicles once the jungle had grown back up around the rim) that no less than three ACAVs and Sheridans were literally 'swallowed up' when they drove into these massive holes in the earth in the middle of a huge firefight. Sheridan commander Leonardo Hinojosa's vehicle was one of them, and the citation for his Army Commendation Medal for Valor for the contact on 17 April describes what happened: "While moving and placing maximum firepower on enemy positions, the vehicle fell into a bomb crater and was temporarily out of action. Staff Sergeant Hinojosa quickly jumped clear of enemy small arms fire and hooked his tank to a tow cable to be pulled back into action".

• Sign erected by 1st Squadron sometime in 1969: "Welcome to War Zone C, Home of 1/11 ACR. No Hunting Permit

Required."

• In Hau Nghia Province, where 3rd Squadron operated during March and April 1968, the dust became like fine powder snow blanketing man and machine alike. Neal Creighton concluded that the dust was at least partially responsible for the high number of ACAV engine failures during this period (due to dust-clogged air filters). It got into your hair, your eyes, your nose, your mouth, your pores; it gave your skin a semipermanent tint of red or white, regardless of your race, for months after you returned to The World. As one unnamed Blackhorse Trooper was quoted as saying: "Now I know how Pigpen in Charlie Brown feels".

• Less than two months later, with daily rainfall reaching up to three inches a day, the paddies of Hau Nghia Province became virtually impassable – even for ACAVs. Water stood up to a foot deep in the rainy season. During an assault



From the Quartermaster...

against a dug-in VC battalion, 1st Squadron's Bravo Troop had four vehicles "mired in the deep rice paddy mud", where they became stationary targets for RPG gunners. Four Troopers were killed and nine wounded before 'long-range' (200-plus meters as compared to the normal 50 meters or less) covering fire from Delta Company's tanks allowed the vehicles and casualties to be recovered.

• Delta Company's Steve Linthwaite, remembers a time in 1969 "watching my 50 ton tank run into a stand of bamboo and be stopped dead in its tracks ..."

• Danny Leal was a radio operator/M-60 machine gunner on the Lima Troop commander's track. He was killed in the 21 July 1967 ambush. In a letter written home prior to his death, he summed up what many Blackhorse Troopers thought about the jungle: "If you like being in the jungle getting sniper fire and eating C rations, you might like Vietnam."

Jerry Beamon

HELLO TROOPERS

3rd Quarter 2019

Well it's that time of the year, our 34th Annual Reunion is just around the corner. Are you registered yet?? If not. you need to, and make your reservations at the Westgate Resort as soon as possible. It is filling up fast so let's get it done and not wait until the last minute.

The trip out to Fort Irwin is in the process of being filled up as well. We are looking forward to the trip to see what our Regiment has in store for us.

Hey Fellas if you have ordered a Reunion Shirt you can pick it up in the Quartermaster Store when we are open. And should you become unable to attend, just let us know.

AND again, as usual I am asking you **please** fill out the bottom of the order form. We have a lot of guys who forget to do this and we have a hard time getting your package out to you. Please help us out.

So with that, we want to let you know we had a great time at the East Texas Round Up at Tyler State Park. We had several new visitors who came in. We had a little trouble with our camping spaces from the Parks Dept., so, our Ladies on their excursion out to Canton Trade Days came up with an excursion to Gladewater Antique Mall and there they found a place where all our needs were met. The New location for next year's Round Up will be at Antique Capital RV Park in Gladewater TX. For more information contact Jan Beamon at 903-780-5621; this is her cell phone number. Please leave a voice mail or an e-mail at: janwowwe@gmail.com She has reserved at least fifteen spots for RV and Campers. Again, give her a call for more information. And if you are not a camper she has secured a hotel about two minutes away for a reasonable rate. More information will be in the next Thunder Run. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Vegas! Please come visit with us in the Quartermaster Store!

And lastly again we are asking for volunteers, so if you have any spare time on your hands please come and help us, out we would appreciate it. Please check the schedule for our times to be open.

ALLONS!

Jerry Beamon



Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
A TROOP, 1/11		B TROOP, 1/11		HHT, 2/11		H COMPANY, 2/1	1
Barrientez, Joe L	66-67	Fambrough, Joel	69-70	Daniel, Ronnie L	70-71	Barnhart, Jacob D Jr	68-69
						MACV TEAM 87(ATTA	CHED)
						Butters, Roy F	67-69

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





#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00





#2 Key Ring Embroidewred \$6.00





#4 Window Sticker \$3.00





Ith ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00

#15 Attache Case \$30.00

#20 Vietnam

Wreath \$5.00

Blackhorse Pin,



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00





#9 Cavalry Hat, Black or Brown \$225.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$13.00



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



#26 Large Magnetic Patch (8" x 7 3/4") \$7.00



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



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

#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#12 Key Ring (metal) \$8.00



#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00

















#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00





F YOU DON'T BELONG HERE, LEAVE!

DEADLY FORCE IS

AUTHORIZED

#34b

#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



U.S. ARMY 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REG. "BLACK HORSE REGIMENT" FREEDOM ISN'T FREE! I VOLUNTEERED, AND I WOULD DO IT AGAIN! PROUDLY SERVED

#34a

#34 Signs \$25.00



#27 Book, ""Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00



#28 Video (DVD) **Combat Reports \$30.00**



MICHAEL MARCH

#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00 PATTONS CW2 JACK STODDARD, USA RET

#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$16.00





Thunder Run" by **Chaplain Larry** Haworth \$11.00



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



#38a



#38b



#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#38d



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Light Gray & Green \$20.00



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





#41 Light (A) or Dark (B) Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00





#42 Blackhorse Jacket (lined), 100% Nylon \$95.00





#36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, \$28.00





<u>Blackhorse Women's News</u>

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Dear Ladies,

The 11th AVCCV Reunion in Las Vegas is just 2 months away and the Blackhorse Women's Group will be meeting on Saturday of "reunion week", at 9:00am. Our Troopers will be attending their Annual Membership Meeting at that hour, so please come and be a part of our endeavor to support the 11th ACVVC Family. We will be having a short business meeting followed by a program that we hope will be informative as well as entertaining for all. We have invited a fellow Blackhorse trooper who served as a Medic, attending to our troopers' medical needs, and has authored a book about his experiences, to speak at our meeting, and if all goes as expected we may have an additional guest.

The Blackhorse Women's Group is lead by a committee of volunteers and supported by those of you who give a little of your time during the reunions to come to our meetings, participate in our projects, and sign up to work our fund raiser table in the Quartermaster Store. If you would like to volunteer for a time slot at the fundraiser table please email Kathy Tandberg, *kathyz.tandberg@ yahoo .com* or myself, *sheryl.e.myers @gmail. com.*

Speaking of volunteering, here are a few messages from the ladies that lead our group:

· Greetings, I'm Lajaunda Williams from Nederland, Texas, and I'm your Cocoordinator this year. My husband is Harry Williams, L Troop, '60-'70. We are very, very, lucky to have been "found" by Gary & Sheryl Myers in 2015 and to attend our first reunion that same year. I regret all those years we missed, but look forward to the many years to come. I have met several of you over the past 4 years, and one thing is very obvious, we have an amazing group of Blackhorse Ladies. You and your troopers, have become a part of my and Harry's life. "Through Unity of Purpose, there is no limit to what we can achieve", and without "YOU" there is no "WE". So please be sure to join us on Saturday morning as we support our Blackhorse Family . Along with Marguerite, I am really looking forward to meeting you at the Welcome Table. • Hi Ladies, I'm Marguerite Austin from Wilmar/Pequot Lakes, Minnesota. My Blackhorse husband is Dale Austin, of K Troop. I've been a part of the Women's Group since 2013. I serve as the Treasurer of the Women's Group and also keep our Address Book up-to-date. The Treasurer's responsibility is to manage our Financial Records, (deposits, pay out expenses, and donations received). Our Group also has our "books" audited every other year by Zilda Ritchie. Looking forward to meeting you at the Welcome Table on Saturday morning.

 Ladies, I am Renee Majors, Secretary of the Blackhorse Women's group. Previously, I helped out as Co-cordinator with Kathy Tandberg. My husband is Bruce Majors from C Troop and we live in Bedford, Indiana. We received an invitation to attend the 1st 11th ACVVC reunion in 1986, but my husband didn't know what to expect, but we did attend the 2nd reunion in 1987 in Washington, DC. Since then we have attended almost all of the yearly reunions. As Secretary, the minutes I record will be incorporated into the Thunder Run Women's Message that follows each reunion, so those who couldn't make it to the reunion will be in the know. Hope you can join us in Las Vegas !!

· Well ladies, it is almost time to meet once again at our big Blackhorse Family reunion, this year in Las Vegas. I'm Jan Beamon and besides volunteering with the Women's Group, my husband, Jerry Beamon, K Troop, '69-'70 and I will be found at the Quartermaster Store. The Women's Group will once again have a fundraiser table at the Quartermaster Store, selling those sought after Lanyards, along with a second great item. These fundraisers help to support several different projects of the Women's Group. Wishing safe travels for each and every family and looking forward to seeing everyone soon. If you have any questions, call or email me any time. Jan 903-780-5621 _ or

janwowwe@gmail.com .

• Hi, this is Cherry Platt, the Women's Group Prayer Shawl Chairman. I am the widow of Fred Platt, L Troop, '66-67. We started the Prayer Shawl Project in 2011 to comfort the spouses of the troopers lost since that date. Our volunteers join with me to send out beautiful shawls, along with an attached crocheted angel, bookmark with a prayer, and a sympathy card. This project would not be possible without the help of all the talented women of the Blackhorse. Thank You so much.

Since the project's beginning, we have sent out 454 shawls. See you soon.

• Hi, this is Kathy Tandberg and I am Fundraiser Chair this year. My husband is Lauren Tandberg, of C Troop, '69-'70. Our Fund Raisers this year are 1) our very popular site specific lanyards and 2) a fabric "Blackhorse" shopping bag, similar to those found at grocery stores. We need volunteers to work our "fundraising table" at the Quartermaster Store. Please let me know if you want to be on the list of volunteers and what day and time slot you would like. We will confirm with you just prior to the reunion. You can email me at kathyz.tandberg@yahoo.com

• Hi Ladies, This is Cathi Bower and I help keep the Women's Facebook page up and running. Anyone can "post" on our Facebook page or you can just view the page's latest entries by typing this into your browser: Blackhorse (11thACVVC) Women. Try it out and see what our Blackhorse Family is sharing. See you at the Women's meeting !!

Before I close, be sure to read Marguerite's article "Restoration of Hope", about her unique experience at volunteering, in this issue of the *Thunder Run*.

Have a great summer and I'm really looking forward to seeing you all in Vegas. Sheryl Myers, sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com 571-721-9189 (c)



<u>Quartermaster</u>

ORDER FORM • 2nd Qtr 2019

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Hans Na Deschool Description	A	0:	01	• T -+-1
Item No. Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1. Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia				
2. Key ring, 1. 5 " Embroidered square w/full color Blackhorse insignia				
3. Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia				
4. Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon				
5. Hoodie Sweat Shirt	30.00			
7. Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	5.00			
8. Mouse Pads	12.00			
9. Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in priceround or oval head shape)				
10. Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle				
11. Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia				
12. Key Ring (metal)				
13. License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11				
14. License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white				
15. Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib				
16. Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib				
17. Blackhorse Pin				
18. 11th ACR Regimental Crest				
19. Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers				
20. Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath				
21. Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4")	5.00			
22. Overnight Bag	25.00			
23. Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00			
25. Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26. Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4")				
27. Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabill				
28. Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)				
29. Ladies Necklace				
30. Car Flag				
31. Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh				
32. Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker				
33. Book, "Patton's Boys," by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook				
34. Signs 'Veteran' 🗖 (34a), 'Deadly Force' 🗖 (34b)				
35. Book, "Warrier," by Leo Deege				
36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. Size: \Box M \Box L \Box XL \Box 2XL \Box 3XL				
37. Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth				
38 . Hat, Poplin adjustable □ 38a, □ 38b, □ 38c, □ 38d				
39. Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: 🗖 Light Gray 🗖 Green				
40. Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: 🗖 Black (A) 🗍 Red (B) 🗍 White (C)	35.00			
🛛 41. Denim shirt (men's) 🗖 Light (A) 🗖 Dark (B) 📖	35.00			
42. Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front let	ft 95.00			
43. Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon				
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Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL		Sub	lotai	
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B) $\$7 \ 00 - \$23.00 = \$8.00$ D) $\$61.00$ and over = $\$18.00$ Shipping $\$25.00$				
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*City/State/Zip				
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Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders sh				
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quarte	rmaster, c/o Jerry	Beamon, 1	5926 Ced	ar Bay Dr.,
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<u>* Required info to process your order</u>				



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