



# Thunder Run

Vol. 20 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2005

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

### Grunt and Gulp

From the 61st Colonel of the Regt.

#### The Blackhorse is Trained for War

As I write you this letter, the majority of the Regiment is in the last stages of pre-deployment preparation. By the time you read these words, 1st Squadron, 2nd Squadron, and the Regimental HHT will have already deployed. Before Command Sgt. Major Pring and I become too heavily occupied with the day-to-day affairs of deployment, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what has taken place since we last spoke.

As most of you know, on November 17th 2004 the Regiment conducted a brilliant deployment ceremony during which CSM(R) Horn, the Honorary CSM of the Regiment, assisted CSM Pring and I in casing the Regimental Colors for the deployment. During the ceremony, three additional Vietnam era combat guidons were passed down to their contemporary Troops. The A Troop and HHT, 1/11

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There are other things that bring back memories of Nam; like the smell of certain types of mud or the neighbor's barbecue or smoke in a rainstorm or a stuffy humid morning in the summer.

By: *David R. (Doc) Berger, D Company (1967-1968)*

Everybody has some flashbacks from the past. Most flashbacks come from some form of traumatic happening. Of course there are those situations that aren't traumatic that seem to register in our mind because we felt really secure or protected or loved. All of us seem to understand that the reason we remember some things so well, even very trivial matters is because of some heightened awareness we had at the time. If man could fight a war half asleep, he probably wouldn't have to carry around later in his life all the emotional scars of combat. It would sort of be like sitting in a classroom half asleep and just remembering enough to pass the test. A former combat soldier could say, "I don't remember too much and I wasn't the bravest, but I passed that war." Instead of thinking back and maybe shaking and saying, "I survived that war."

It doesn't amaze me some of the trivial things we remember. I am amazed the things we forget. What really does aston-

ish me is what caused flashbacks of certain situations. My sense of smell seems to cause a lot of flashbacks especially concerning the war. If I walk by a welding shop and a certain type of metal is being welded, I immediately become tense and sometimes almost shaking. It takes a minute to realize that the smell reminds me of a rocket burning through an army tank. There are other things that bring back memories of Nam; like the smell of certain types of mud or the neighbor's barbecue or smoke in a rainstorm or a stuffy humid morning in the summer. Sometimes it's the vision that sets the mind to searching, like a flash of light or something moving in the dark shadows at night. Other times the feel of a ribbed piece of plastic reminds me of the feel of my machine gun.

I have lately been experiencing a flashback, which I laugh about, and what causes it is the dumbest thing. It concerns a guy from Chicago that I will call Kates. He was about five feet nine inches tall,

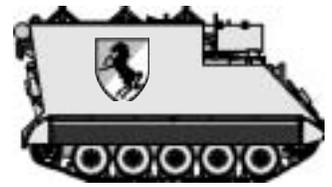
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**2005**





Chuck Schmidt, President  
11th ACVVC

I have just finished my first year as President of the 11th ACVVC and continue to be humbled at the opportunity to serve this great organization of volunteers and fellow Cavalry Troopers.

We set four major goals for last year and they were:

First, to increase our membership; Second, to increase attendance at reunions; Third, to improve the scholarship program; and, Fourth, to establish closer ties to the Active Duty Regiment. I am pleased to report progress on each of these endeavors.

Through the extraordinary efforts of our Membership Chairman, Allen Hathaway, we contacted most former members whose membership had lapsed, and many elected to rejoin. We continue to locate former Troopers who have never heard of the 11th ACVVC, and a number of those have also joined our ranks. In total, our active membership rolls increased from 4,267 to 4,589. Attendance at the Daytona, FL, reunion was 940, up from 617 the previous year in Eugene, OR. Preliminary figures for the 2005 reunion in Colorado Springs, CO show that we should easily top last year's attendance. Through determined fund raising efforts and exceptionally generous Troopers, last year's scholarship program set records and we were able to award twenty-two \$3,000 Scholarships, \$66,000 total assistance, to our deserving children. Finally, we have made a determined effort to connect more closely to our Active Duty Regiment and have had a significant presence at the Change-of-Command ceremony in June as well as at the Guidon Exchange ceremonies this fall, the last of which was conducted during the Regimental Deployment ceremony on the 17th of November. During these exchanges, some of the Troop guidons that we carried in Vietnam and Cambodia were given to selected Troops to carry during their tours in Iraq, thereby forming a bond to continue the traditions and legacy of

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excellence and valor in combat that we established so many years ago in the steamy jungles 'Nam. We will be setting new goals for 2005 during the mid-year meetings of the Officers and Directors this month.

As I mentioned and most of you know by now, the Regiment has deployed to Iraq marking the first large scale commitment to a combat zone of our unit since returning from the Vietnam War over 30 years ago. Although most of the Regiment will be deployed to Iraq, the individual Squadrons will be attached to other US Divisional size units, and will not be under the Command and Control of the Regimental HQ which will be forming the core of a Divisional level Command and Control HQ controlling other units. Our Troopers are programmed to be assigned to some of the most active and dangerous areas of the conflict, and our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they fight for our freedoms. We hope for their safe return, and wish them "God Speed"! As the units settle into their areas of operations, we will attempt to keep you informed through this newsletter and our web site, [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com), of their activities, how to contact them, and how you can contribute to their support via "care packages" and other means.

The next major activity will be our twentieth anniversary reunion August 4 - 7, 2005 in Colorado Springs, CO. A registration form is printed in this issue of Thunder Run, and you can also register on line at our web site. An added feature this year is the option to use a Visa or MasterCard to register, purchase items from Quartermaster, renew your membership, or to make a tax-deductible donation. To ease the burden on those traveling with children or grandchildren, we are offering reduced registration rates for children 12 and under. If your children are not going to attend any of the functions at the

reunion hotel, there is no reason for them to register. We expect a large turnout for the XX Reunion, so I urge you to register early and to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible to ensure that you will be able to stay at the site. We are always trying to improve the seating situation at the banquet, and so we have established a "First Registered, First In" policy for banquet seating. If we exceed the capacity of 1,200 in the main ballroom, those registering later will be assigned to the overflow room, which will be connected via closed circuit TV to the main banquet room. Plan now to make Colorado Springs and the State of Colorado your prime vacation destination this year. The weather should be great (Average Hi is 85 in August, with very low humidity), and there are a lot of things to do and places to go in Colorado Springs and the surrounding area. The negotiated rate at the reunion hotel is good for three days prior and up to three days following the reunion. One word of caution---the elevation in Colorado Springs is over 6,000 ft. and if you venture into the surrounding mountains you will experience elevations well over 9,000 ft. (Pikes Peak, America's Mountain, is over 14,000 ft.). So, take it easy the first few days, and drink a lot of water!

An agenda for the reunion will be published in the next issue of Thunder Run, and posted on the web site when finalized. The format will be generally the same as for previous reunions with the golf tournament on Thursday, the Veterans Seminar on Friday followed by the "Bunker Party". On Saturday morning, we will have our annual business meeting during which elections will be conducted (see related article in this issue), and the site for the 2007 reunion will be selected (2006 will be in Kansas City, MO). Saturday afternoon we will have a Memorial Ceremony at one

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



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of the few 11th Cavalry monuments in the country and Saturday evening will be the gala banquet followed by a dance. Sunday morning is devoted to a chapel service and farewells. Don't delay---**Make your hotel reservations now and complete the reunion registration form**

Finally, I would like to address membership in the 11th ACVVC. Once a year we provide this issue of *Thunder Run* to all located Troopers who served with us in Vietnam and Cambodia as well as our members of the 11th ACVVC. If you are a member, you receive three more quarterly

issues of this newsletter as well as information relating to reunions, our annual calendar, and full access to our web site. If this is the only issue you receive, you are not a member. Perhaps you remember joining the "Blackhorse Association" as a life member years ago. That organization is separate from the 11th ACVVC, and to get the benefits of membership in this "Band of Brothers" you need to join. A membership application is printed in this newsletter, or you can join via the Internet at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com). And lastly, I urge everyone, member or not to go to the

web site and "click" on Master Roster to update our database. Many addresses and other data are woefully outdated, and it is difficult for our Membership Committee and our Funeral/Honor Guard Committee to locate Troopers to notify them of deaths of fellow Troopers and to have an accurate address for our mailing of this newsletter, the calendar, raffle tickets and other information.

See you all in Colorado Springs in August!

ALLONS



## Editor's Corner

C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

Welcome to your expanded First Quarter 2005 newsletter.

For this issue we have increased the size of *Thunder Run* by 50% to 24 pages to try to get all the information into it that you need. This issue will not only go to the 4,589 members of the 11th ACVVC but to another 10,000 or so Blackhorse Troopers from the Vietnam years who do not belong to the organization. We are happy to try to reach those brothers who for whatever reason do not belong to the 11th ACVVC, not only to keep in touch but also to encourage them to rejoin us. Somewhere there is a brother who served with you who would love to see you again. The officers, directors and volunteer staff have made great efforts to make this issue special and we hope you enjoy it.

This twentieth reunion looks like it is going to be a good one. Both Dave Tessier and Chuck Schmidt are working hard to make it a success, and I know it will be.

This issue has the information you will need on the reunion that will be held this year in Colorado Springs. I have never been there but am looking forward to it because of the wealth of things to do and see. The weather there in August sounds great to me, highs in the low eighties and lows in the fifties are unheard of in Tennessee in August, and that should be a great break. For me the most important reason to go is that a couple of guys I served with are planning to be there, and seeing them is what reunions are about. Look at get-

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ting your reunion registration, hotel reservations, airline reservations and the like done early so you don't get caught short.

We have included information on the 11th ACVVC scholarship program, the officer elections to be held this year, and other things that we hope will interest you. We have always been proud of the articles written by members and the ones included in this issue are no exception. There is a wealth of talent in the membership of our organization. Please note the information on the active Regiment's deployment to Iraq. We have a letter to us veterans from the current Regimental Commander in addition to information on the Troop-to-Troop program. Many years ago, a lot of Vietnam Veterans made a promise to ourselves – that our generation of veterans would never fail a future generation of veterans. The time has come for that promise to be kept. Not everyone can help, but do what you can. They are no different than we were. As they say . . . "All gave some and some gave all."

*ALLONS!!*

### LETTER from page 1

guidons were provided by John Poindexter and the G Troop guidon was provided by Doug Sallenbach; both gentlemen were former commander of the respective troops. Later that day we also dedicated the Regimental Horse Stables to the late COL(R) John S. Wood Jr., who was an avid supporter of the Regiment during its tenure at Fort Irwin, especially the Horse Detachment. We also conducted the Grand opening of the Family and Soldier Wellness Center and a ceremonial Barbeque for deploying Soldiers and their families. We thank each and every one of you who took part in the festivities.

The units within the Regiment scheduled to deploy spent most the last several months conducting extensive training. 1st Squadron conducted their culmination Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX) as a member of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division in late October and early November; the two units will be serving together in Iraq. 2nd Squadron also conducted its MRX in late November and early December with the 155th Separate Brigade of the Mississippi Army National Guard; both units deployed this past weekend. The training was a complete success and a very necessary tool to gauge the Squadrons' deployment readiness. The Soldiers enjoyed the training and found it practical to the mission at hand.

As we train and organize for our part in this War on Terror, know that our thoughts are with you and that we all appreciate each of the parts you played in the wars before this one. We thank each of you for your patriotism, valor, and support.

ALLONS!

*Peter C. Bayer, Jr.  
61st Colonel of the Regiment*

### WANTED A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

We are in need of Reunion sites for 2007 and beyond. The site for 2007 will be voted on at our 2005 Reunion in Colorado Springs. Anyone interested in taking on the local chairmanship of a reunion should be working on a proposal now. Reunion Proposal The Reunion Proposal Form can be copied off the 11th ACVVC Website ([www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)) or by contacting Steve Page: [stephen.r.page@verizon.net](mailto:stephen.r.page@verizon.net), or by mail: Steve Page 5400 Little River Neck Road, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 Tel (843)-280-4506.

Thank you

*Steve Page Reunion Committee Chairman*

## Reunion XXI Kansas City 2006

Reunion 2006 Kansas City, MO, Sept 21 thru 24, 2006. At The Hyatt Regency Crown Center. Room rates will be \$89.00 pp s/o-d/o. More information to follow.

*Steve Page Local Chairman*

# 11th ACR KIA Research and Verification Project

By Allen Hathaway,  
KIA Issues Chairman

This newsletter is being mailed to all 16,000 Blackhorse troopers on our master roster. Portions of this article were printed in the 4th Qtr 2004 Thunder Run. For the benefit of all, the article has been updated and is being reprinted in this issue.

In May 2003, the 11th ACVVC formed the Memorial Restoration Committee (see "11th ACR Memorial Restoration" - page 1, 4th Qtr 2003 Thunder Run). The committee had three primary objectives:

- Consider options on how to restore and preserve the 11th ACR Vietnam memorial at Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Research and verify each name on the memorial to determine specific troop, company, or battery
- Consider using a portable/traveling monument at our reunions

One of the first steps of this verification project was to begin researching the names listed on the memorial to ensure that all information was correct. This included accurate spelling of each name, correct casualty date and verification of assignment to the 11th ACR.

The four plaques on monument at Fort Knox list 716 names. These names were taken directly from The Adjutant General's Central Casualty File (TAGCEN). The TAGCEN file lists all US Army casualties along with the "major organization" of their assignment. This is typically division, separate brigade or, in our case, separate regiment. TAGCEN does not list specific units such as troop, company, battery, etc.

In 1996, 52 names were added on a separate plaque near the memorial bringing the total to 768. The 52 names included men who were actually assigned to the 11th ACR when they were killed and erroneously listed in the TAGCEN file with other units (i.e., "major organization"). The 52 names also included troopers who were killed after leaving the regiment and while assigned to other units. This included second tours or reassignments when the squadrons stood down in 1971 and 1972. Many of these names appear on other memorials or memorial web pages.

A number of resources have been used to verify the names on the memorial including various official government documents at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD; Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, TX; the Nixon Project files in College Park, MD, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in Saint Louis, MO; the Department of Defense Combined Area Casualty File (CACF); and The Adjutant General's Central Casualty File (TAGCEN). We have also relied on information supplied by family members as well as personal accounts from many of our members who served with these men.

Another key resource is Richard Coffelt, a retired lawyer and Korean War veteran. Richard, along with volunteers and Vietnam veterans David Argabright, Richard Arnold, Ken Davis, and Bruce Swander have been researching all 58,000+ casualties of the Vietnam War. Their extensive knowledge and endless resources have helped identify and verify unit information down to the company level for nearly all 58,000+ Vietnam casualties.

Our research project is nearly complete. Over the course of this project, we have discovered some errors in unit identification. Unfortunately, a handful of men on our list have been positively identified as assigned to other units when they were killed. Most were assigned to either the 11th Light Infantry Brigade (11th LIB) or the 1st Cavalry, Americal Division. This is apparently the result of errors in classifying "major organization". After discovering this new information, we decided to expand our research beyond the 768 to include all 38,000+ US Army casualties. This ensured the best possible research and verification. In doing so, we have positively identified seven additional 11th ACR troopers.

We owe it to all casualties that their unit be correctly identified. It is also extremely important that we be accurate and historically correct. As a result, there have been some changes made to our KIA list and to the overall number. Those changes will be reflected on our website,

the 2005 11th ACVVC calendar which was mailed to members in December and eventually to the monument at Fort Knox. The changes will include:

1. Addition of seven new names
2. Identification and separate grouping all former Blackhorse troopers who were assigned to other units when they were killed
3. Removal of names where it has been determined the individual was not assigned to the 11th ACR when they were killed and had never served with the 11th ACR

In November 2004, we added five new names to our honor roll.

1. SP4 Wayne Dabney McRay, C Troop, 1/11 ACR, Feb 14, 1970
2. SGT Jack William Messer, C Troop, 1/11 ACR, Mar 12, 1970
3. CPL John Lee Smith, A Troop, 1/11 ACR, Apr 1, 1970
4. SGT Bruce Donald Stephenson, How Battery, 2/11 ACR, Apr 24, 1971 (FO with G Troop, 2/11 ACR)
5. SP4 Michael James Whalen, E Troop, 2/11 ACR, Apr 16, 1971

In January 2005, we are adding two additional names to our honor roll.

1. SP4 Donnie Biarum, A Troop, 1/11 ACR, Dec 26, 1969 from wounds received on May 19, 1968
2. SGT Larry Dennis Callaghan, G Troop, 2/11 ACR, Oct 24, 2001 from wounds received on Jul 21, 1968

Although we are nearing the end of this research phase, there are approximately 40 of our Blackhorse troopers that need positive troop identification. In most cases, we have multiple documents that indicate conflicting information for troop assignment. We've listed their names in a separate article in this issue and ask our readers to help identify the correct unit. We are confident however that all Blackhorse troopers are accounted for.

We'll also be making enhancements to our website honor roll in the near future. We'll add a list of names by casualty date with specific unit and the "date of incident or wound".

Continued on page 19

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## MEMORIES *from page 1*

weighed about two hundred and twenty-five pounds, and was very strong. He didn't worry about dirt or grease; after all, he was a tanker. I was five foot eight inches tall and weighed about two hundred pounds. When I would wrestle with Kates neither of us could win. He was a lot stronger than I was but I was a lot faster. I was a medic and I rode his tank for quite a time. We became good friends. Kates always called me a stupid medic. He maintained medics were to save people not get them killed. He maintained I was always trying to get him killed. The problem was a communication problem. Kates was from the city, had army tank training and didn't say too much, just grunted a lot.

I on the other hand, was from the country, had no training in army tanks, two-way radios or machine guns, and needed someone to be very explanatory when working with me. I had no problem shooting a machine gun or driving a tank. I had grown up around guns and driving a tank was just like driving an over grown farm tractor. Being a medic, I never got to really drive anyway. Everything else took time to learn. In combat or combat situations, you not only have to know your job but you have to be a mind reading team to really function properly. Even though Kates and I became very good friends and functioned reasonably well together we never became that fluid moving mind reading team we needed to be. We just didn't think the same way. Although there were many happenings that took place between Kates and myself, there are three that I cannot forget.

The first was when I began working with him. We were loading the tank with main gun ammo. Those ninety-millimeter rounds were long and heavy. I would stick one end of the round down the loaders hatch while hanging on to the base of the round. Kates was placing the rounds in the storage spaces. Kates would always grunt when he wanted me to let go. The problem was he grunted all the time while working. I was always slow to release the round because I never knew which grunt meant to let go. After one of our little heated discussions, I got Kates to grunt real loud when he wanted me to release the round. That worked real good until I was holding a high explosive round which had a point-

**We used to sit on a tank and sip a cold beverage when we could. That no longer happened. Kates would look at the can he was drinking and say, "I almost lost my life because of this beer or coke and a stupid medic."**

ed end. I heard this real loud grunt and I let go. I can remember hearing a loud ker-thump and I looked down inside. There was Kates on the floor of the tank looking like a fish that had been out of the water for about an hour. The main gun round was on top of him. I got down inside the loaders hatch and revived him. The main gun round had landed on top of his head and required shaving part of his head and eight stitches. Kates wouldn't let me do any of the suturing because his medic was trying to kill him.

The next time was later on when I was on a tank with Kates. We had busted jungle and run roads all day. By the time we made it to the camping area, it was late at night and everybody was completely worn out. When everybody got all the necessary stuff done and had gotten supper we all went to sleep, except the person pulling guard duty. I somehow always did my best guard duty late at night, which everybody else hated. A couple of hours sleep (unless I was totally exhausted) I could pull a couple hours of good guard duty atop a tank. I guess I am basically a night person.

At about 3:00 am, the fuel truck made it to our tank. I proceeded to fuel the tank up. The fuel truck pulled up on the right side of the tank. In order to fill the tank with fuel I had to turn the turret and main gun sideways to the right to get to the fuel cap. I checked my personnel. I had a man sleeping on the back deck that was clear for turning the turret. I had a man sleeping on top of the loaders hatch, and Kates down inside the tank sleeping under the main gun. I proceeded to turn the turret and main gun to the right to clear the fuel cap. I raised the main gun to clear the cab of the fuel truck.

I was checking on Kates. I had an inch to go to clear the truck cab and I had a good two inches before the other end of the main gun would touch Kates. I cleared the cab and was just ready to grab the fuel hose to fill the tank. At that point there was a very loud shrill scream that woke everybody up. All were grabbing guns making

ready to fight a war. It seems Kates had decided to turn on his side to sleep and was pinned in place. (You have got to understand one of a tanker's worst fears or nightmares is to be pinned or trapped in a burning tank). I moved the main gun and turret and Kates got out from under the main gun. When he came up out of the tank he looked like a bear that got hit by a Mack truck and sent sprawling. He was shook so bad I thought the very essence of life, that little pilot light that keeps life burning had almost been snuffed out. After a few unpleasantities and some mutterings such as "Stupid medic is trying to kill me," Kates watched me fuel up the tank and went back down inside to go to sleep. (I don't think he ever slept directly under the main gun again).

The third time was when we were on guard duty with the tanks near Bein Hoa airport. It was easy duty and we had a chance to go to a PX and buy goodies, mainly beer and coke. Just about anything tastes better than the heavy chlorinated water even when that anything is warm or hot. Kates and I had gone to the PX and each of us was carrying four cases of beer and coke back to the tank. We had already walked about two miles when we could see our tank directly across from us about a quarter of a mile away. The only thing that separated us was a string of concertina wire, three rolls wide and two rolls high. To go around the wire and get to the tank we would have to walk about two more miles. It was at this point that I suggested that we crawl through the wire. Kates retorted that we couldn't crawl through the wire with all the coke and beer. I answered back sure we could, all we had to do was shove the coke and beer ahead of us.

The suggestion sounded pretty good to Kates at that point so checking that there were no grenades or booby traps we started shoving those liquid goodies through the wire. We were a little more than half way through the wire when Kates said he thought that the area was mined a few days ago. I scoffed at the thought. We argued for

a minute. Then looking to my left I happened to see a sign with a skull and crossbones hanging on the wire about two hundred feet away.

The more we talked and thought about it the worse the situation got. I suggested that since we were more than half way through we stretch our arms out full length shoving the coke and beer while flat on our stomachs. That way if we hit a mine it would just blow up the coke and beer. I can remember hearing Kates answer saying "What a way to die, getting killed by a can of beer." I proceeded on ahead shoving my liquid goodies at arms length. I made it through the wire, piled my canned drinks up, and sat down on top of the pile. It was agonizing to watch a friend struggle through the wire knowing my friend could hit an anti-personnel mine. Its one thing to take a chance yourself but another to have to watch a friend deal with life and death. I offered to help but Kates refused saying, "I don't want any help from a stupid medic - you have helped enough already." Kates made it through the wire unharmed. Kates picked up his goodies and I picked up mine. Kates then said with a slight sarcastic smile "Get behind me you unsafe stupid medic." I don't know whether he was putting me in the same class as Satan as in the Bible "Get behind me Satan", but I do know his nerves were shaken again.

We used to sit on a tank and sip a cold beverage when we could. That no longer happened. Kates would look at the can he was drinking and say, "I almost lost my life because of this beer or coke and a stupid medic." With that, he would grunt and slosh down as much as he could when the can would touch his lips. I somehow picked up the same habit. I would look at the can, grunt and guzzle as much as I could. The only time I could sip was when I had an open top container. I still catch myself doing a little grunt at times and have to hold myself down to keep from guzzling. I would think of Kates at these times. What really makes my mind flash back though are the ice tea commercials, "It ain't hip to sip", and "This is no sippin' tea." My mind immediately goes back to Nam and Kates and myself. Then I wonder about the person that wrote these commercials. I wonder, do you suppose this person had a traumatic experience with a beverage in Vietnam?

# Scholarship Fundraiser

**Through this program and the other two fundraising projects we have been able to assist over 120 attend college and have provided over \$300,000 in awards.**

## ■ 11th ACVVC 2005 Calendar

Troopers of the 11th ACVVC are once more showing tremendous support of our successful scholarship program. The first of our three fundraisers for 2005, the annual calendar, was mailed to all members the second week of December and the response has been overwhelmingly generous. The support just blows your socks off!! The goal this year is \$25,000 from this leg of the operation, and as of the end of the third week of January just over 800 have contributed almost \$20,000---a new record for this early in the program. Last year at this time, we had received less than \$17,000, and ended up with a total of just over \$23,000. As a side note, we mailed about 4,800 calendars requesting donations to help Troopers' children attend college, so there are some 4,000 who still have the opportunity to remove the envelope and make a tax-deductible contribution in support of the program.

We are not selling calendars, but are simply using them as vehicle to solicit donations to provide as many \$3,000 scholarships to eligible members and their children as possible. The calendar you received is yours to keep whether you choose to donate to the Scholarship Fund or not. Enjoy the photos and the historic notes. Through this program and the other two fundraising projects we have been able to assist over 120 attend college and have provided over \$300,000 in awards. See additional articles in this issue of "Thunder Run" for more information. I thank every Trooper who has taken the time to mail in his response and I know that whether your contribution was for \$10 or \$100 you made a concerted effort to make the program a success. For some, helping out means giving up from limited funds, and for that reason, the smaller con-

tributions are just as valued as the larger ones. So I thank you all on behalf of the 11th ACVVC---without you, we would not be able to provide this valuable service. The opportunity to donate for the calendar program is still open; in fact last year we received the last contribution envelope in November! It's never too late to do a good thing.

The next two legs of the Scholarship Fund are the Annual Raffle and the Silent Auction. The raffle tickets will be mailed to members about the end of April and the winning tickets will be drawn during the banquet at the XX Annual Reunion in Colorado Springs. Last year the top prize was \$750, and we hope to raise that amount again this year. The Silent Auction will also be held during the reunion and donations of items are being accepted now. Items unique to the 11th Cavalry are always hot items, and if you own a business, donations of "In-Kind" items or services are welcome. No "White Elephants" please.

The calendar program is personally rewarding to me. I read all your notes, and appreciate any suggestions and corrections you submit. The goal is to have a quality, accurate product that you all can enjoy. I thank all who submitted photos both via "snail mail" and e-mail. I held on to photos I received last year to see if they could be used for the 2005 edition. Those of you who requested return of submitted photos, should be getting them back soon. We will be looking for a fresh group of pictures for the 2006 edition, and you can send them in any time to the address on the last page of the calendar.

Once more---Thank you for your kind and generous support!

*ALLONS!  
Chuck Schmidt  
11th ACVVC Calendar,  
Scholarship Committee*

**Submit your photos to "Thunder Run!" Originals are best. Remember, if you submit digital pics, be sure the resolution is at least 300dpi. The 72dpi resolution for web use is not good enough for the printed page.**

# Another Action I Remember

By Wes Slimmer,  
HOW 1/11, 1967-1968

To the best of my memory, here is another time I remember and is what turned out to be just prior to TET of 68.

We were informed to be on alert because we were entering what I was told was the Iron Triangle. Indeed it was obvious after just a few minutes into the area that the B-52s had been very active; there were craters in that open area large enough to hold at least two of our tracks and possibly three. As we made our way around the craters and toward the impending tree line I noticed a very large torpedo shaped aircraft fuel tank lying in the

**It was an amazing sight to see him standing on his feet, (foot) and you could tell that he was so pale because of all the blood he had lost. But he stood in front of his interrogators with his hands together as if praying for help.**

trees just at the tree line. Obviously, the tank had been jettisoned by a plane and it had rolled into the tree barrier that we were about to penetrate.

As usual, I couldn't see the head of the convoy since our I-How maintenance vehicle was always toward the rear of the column, in case of any vehicle dropouts.

Not long after entering the trees, a fire-fight ensued; both green and red tracers were flying everywhere. What struck me at that

time was that a lot of the red tracers were coming out from the area that we were shooting into. The U.S. and friendly forces used red tracers and the opposing forces used green tracers, however many times the enemy used captured American weapons, so I just put it aside.

The firefight lasted for about 15 minutes and I saw less and less green tracers, but the red continued to come as fast as when the fight began. Word then came to cease-fire and although we never had really stopped moving, the column picked up speed and continued on.

When we reached our destination where we were to set up our Fire Support Base, word had been spread that we had really been firing at ourselves, due to the fact that the column had made a horseshoe turn and was doubling back, but farther away and out of site of the rear portion of the convoy, and that fact was taken advantage of by the local trouble makers.

As usual, we set up – nothing of note happened until the next day when a Viet Cong soldier showed up in camp. The guy was the whitest white I think I had ever seen on a human, and his foot had been almost blown off. He had been in the group that initially assaulted us and began the cross fire, and he had been wounded and had come to us because of his desperate need for medical care. It was an amazing sight to see him standing on his feet, (foot) and you could tell that he was so pale because of all the blood he had lost. But he stood in front of his interrogators with his hands together as if praying for help. Shortly he was put on a stretcher and given plasma while he waited for the dust off chopper.

Again, everything was calm and quiet; the guns hadn't fired a shot, they didn't, because they couldn't – we were among the trees, there was no way to shoot around or over them.

The C.O. called me into his tent, and informed me that new M-16s would be delivered first thing in the morning and because I was in charge of all the weapons for the battery, it was my job to distribute and

## Unidentified Troop Assignments of Our KIA

This issue of *Thunder Run* is being mailed to all 16,000 Troopers on our mailing list. We have done a great deal of research to determine the specific units for our KIA's. In some cases however there is conflicting unit information. We need your help in identifying the correct unit for the following KIA's. If you recognize anyone on this list, please contact: Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr, Manassas, VA 20112; 703-791-6610; 11thcav1966@comcast.net A complete list of our KIA's can be view at our website: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)

RANK	NAME	HOME OF RECORD	DATE	SQDN
PFC	Anderson, Melvin Wallace	Little Fork, MN	12/01/1966	2/11
SP4	Bachert, Richard Charles	Davisburg, MI	12/21/1968	2/11
SP4	Bennett, George Rogers	Fitzgerald, GA	04/26/1968	2/11
PVT	Brown, William Arthur	Detroit, MI	03/21/1967	
SP4	Cann, Douglas Allen	Carlisle, MA	07/02/1968	2/11
PFC	Cigar, Freddie Joe	San Pedro, CA	05/05/1968	2/11
SSG	Claycomb, Clarence J	Altoona, PA	01/13/1968	1/11
PVT	Cleaver, Francis Craig	New Castle, PA	05/29/1967	3/11
SSG	Cooper, Roy Eldon	El Monte, CA	07/30/1968	
PFC	Crane, John La Verne	Flint, MI	10/27/1968	3/11
SP4	Cunningham, David Carson	Fall River Mills, CA	03/24/1967	2/11
SP4	Gagliardi, Gregory	New York, NY	09/07/1967	2/11
SP4	Gidvilas, Michael	Granby, CT	09/07/1967	1/11
PFC	Hauschildt, Charles Lee	Red Wing, MN	12/08/1967	2/11
SGT	Hawkins, Kenneth Jerome	Pensacola, FL	06/11/1968	2/11
SSG	Hayes, Johnny Vance	Birmingham, AL	09/26/1967	1/11
PFC	Hodgson, Douglas Ralph	Des Moines, IA	05/06/1967	
SSG	Howard, Robert Clarence	Beaver Falls, PA	11/04/1967	2/11
SP4	Jourdan-Font, Jorge Luis	Rio Piedras, PR	11/27/1970	
SSG	Lafon, Val Lyndon	Ogden, UT	01/11/1969	1/11
PFC	Lawson, James Garfield	Roanoke, VA	09/10/1967	3/11
PFC	Martin, John JR	Philadelphia, PA	01/06/1968	2/11
PSGT	Medley, Homer Landus	Chattanooga, TN	05/16/1968	2/11
SSG	Ortiz, John	Chicago, IL	01/17/1968	2/11
SSG	Pilson, Thomas Victor	Waynesboro, PA	02/26/1969	2/11
SP4	Quintero, Jose Hernandez	Santa Fe Springs, CA	04/17/1967	2/11
SGT	Sayers, Paul Frederick	Tazewell, VA	04/14/1970	
SSG	Smith, Albert Heugh	Kelso, WA	01/16/1967	2/11
SP4	Stahl, Edward Arnold	Westphalia, KS	05/25/1967	2/11
PVT	Thomas, Earl William JR	Houston, TX	12/21/1968	2/11
SP5	Tice, Jimmie Ray	Dallas, TX	02/26/1969	2/11
SP5	Wright, Grover C JR	Doran, VA	04/18/1968	

assign serial numbers to the troops for the new M-16-A2s and collect and record the serial numbers for the old M-16-A1s.

Next day, a chopper came in with a very large box on a pallet hanging from the underside, and it was directed to be set right in front of where the mess had set up, and I began, with the help of some of the guys. The day went on, and I unboxed the new weapons for the troops, and then re-boxed the old, back into the bigger box on the pallet.

I finished right at 1:15 in the afternoon, I remember it very clearly because I had just missed lunch by 15 minutes. I handed the list to the C.O. and went to open a box of "C"s when the order was sent down to load up; we had 15 minutes to get on the road — and we did.

We traveled all the rest of the day, and then into the night. Every town or turn off we came to had Military Police waving us through and clearing the road — we were at full speed most of the time, and I don't remember stopping at all. We traveled into the night with our lights on, which was very odd; we never used our lights at night, but all I could see up the road was red streaks, the tracks on the road were red hot, and I could see every move the vehicles in the front of the column made by watching the streaks.

Eventually we began to slow and entered a more populated area with huge overhead lights in the fields. It was just the guns now, the ACAVs had moved on. I saw men in fox-holes everywhere, most in brand new shiny fatigues. They turned and watched us as we went by and they waved, we waved back. We didn't know what was happening, we were just told to pull into the parking lot of the building with the designation on the front — MACV. Checking my watch, it read a little after 10:00 PM.

My information was that we had gone into the Iron Triangle, where we started at about 1:00 PM, and pulled into MACV at around 10:00 PM that was 9 hours and the Iron Triangle was only about 20 or so miles north of Saigon, and not a lot of villages between the two. We had gone through many villages and took 9 hours; we really had to have been around the Cambodian border somewhere. I don't know, but remember, as a mechanic, I just was there to keep the guns firing, what did I need a map for?

At any rate, this was TET 1968 and we were there to protect someones butt.

# TROOP TO TROOP

## As the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Deploys to Iraq

As we are writing this, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's deployment to Iraq is nearing completion. The active regiment believes that they have much to learn from the Vietnam Era troopers and most of us veteran troopers want to do what ever we can to support our regiment. To that end, the 11th ACVVC is joining with the active regiment to set up a mechanism to help those who want to support our troops. Each active Troop (Company, Battery etc.) will have a person serve as the specific point of contact between themselves and the veteran troops. By the same token, each Vietnam Era Troop (Company, Battery etc.) will have a volunteer to serve as the specific point of contact between the veterans and the active troops. {That is to say, A Troop will work with A Troop, B Troop with B Troop etc.} The

Points of Contact for the Active Regiment are listed below. The idea is to have a mechanism to facilitate communications between the two groups, so that whatever help we provide will reach the right place and in a timely fashion. The support may be in the form of letters, cards, supplies or just moral support. A lot will depend on what they need and what we can provide. If you want to volunteer to be the point of contact for your troop, company, battery or support organization please contact

Gene Johnson  
3335 Casey Drive #101  
Las Vegas, NV 89120  
(702) 456-3218  
gene677@aol.com

With your support, we can make sure our troopers have the kind of support - both moral and material - that we did not.

### 11TH ACR IN-THEATER REPS FOR THE 11TH ACVVC

UNIT	RANK	FIRST	LAST	EMAIL
HHT, 11th ACR	SPC	Angelic	DeJager	Drewbmoore@hotmail.com
HHT, 1-11th ACR	1SG	Brian	Vogl	brian.vogl@us.army.mil
A Troop	1SG	Wilfred	Urioste	wilfred.urioste@us.army.mil
B Troop	SSG	Scanlan	James	james.m.scanlan@us.army.mil
	SSG	Kennedy	Kyle	kyle.d.kennedy@us.army.mil
	SGT	Gonzales	Joshua	joshua.albert.gonzalez@us.army.mil
	SGT	Do	Nghia	nghia.chan.du@us.army.mil
C Troop	SGT	Skaja	Tony	tony.skaja@us.army.mil
	SPC	Ferren	Joseph	joseph.ferren@us.army.mil
	1SG	Glindemann	Keith	keith.glindemann@us.army.mil
D Company	1SG	Credito	Ronilo	ronilo.credito@us.army.mil
	SGT	Gentle	Elston	elston.gentle@us.army.mil
HHT, 2-11th ACR	1LT	Juan	Renaud	lightfighter.renaud@us.army.mil
E Troop	1LT	John	Pelikan	john.pelikan@us.army.mil
F Troop	1LT	Christopher	Moro	val.moro@us.army.mil
G Troop	1LT	Kevin	Tobias	kevin.tobias@us.army.mil
H Company	1LT	Michael	Miller	Michael.k.miller@us.army.mil

**Blackhorse Warmth:** Leo Frizzell, Jr.'s (HHT, Regiment 1969 – 1971) wife Sally made this afghan as a tribute to Leo's service.



## 2005 CALENDAR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

The 11thACVVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge these generous donations to the Scholarship Fund in support of the 2005 Calendar Fundraiser. Donations received through January, 22, 2005 are listed. We will publish donations received after that date in a later issue. On entries marked with "???" we could not read the signature on the MasterCard or Visa slip. If you made a donation for \$100 or \$50 via MC or Visa and it is not acknowledged, please let us know so we can recognize you in a future edition. Entries marked with \*\* we have lost the last names and will publish them again if notified.

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Thank you, to the following people who made donations to the 11th ACVVC through the offices of the Vice President and Treasurer of our organization. Gifts were to the General Fund unless otherwise indicated.

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##### Donations of \$500 or more

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## Show Your Pride



Clockwise from top left: John R. Van Nus (D Co., 1/11, '68-'69) Georgia; Tim Kerns, D Co., 1/11, '68-69) Florida; Verrel Clements (E Troop, 2/11, '69 - '70) Campbellsville, Kentucky; Ron Krueger (HHT, 1/11, '66 - '67) Davis, California.

# Tattooed For Life

By: Jeffrey Lopez,  
HOW, 3/11, 1966 – 1967

Definition from Webster's: Tattoo (Tattoo') V.T. To prick colored designs, initials etc. into skin with indelible inks.

If this definition is about colors and designs, into skin that will never leave, what to do about life's memories that cannot be removed?

I do not have colored designs or initials, but I do have memories that cannot be removed.

The colors are in my mind, greens, earths red, sunsets, with yellow and oranges. The color of many suns burned into a young mind. Sounds of man made horror inflicted from other humans. Fright that would stiffen the most hardened heart. Young minds seeking questions to be answered by the elders.

What is this war of mine, do I go with malice in my heart, is there a true answer in the end?

Wild white explosions making the daylight come to the blackened green jungle. Shadows that move without touch or feeling.

Are reactions in tune with moments, will this moment ever stop to a pace to soften me back to reality, will there be a tomorrow for us!

Lives will be changed forever, families waiting for letters, "Is he alive, and how is he?"

A war is a war, just as death is final. Each day is different, but just the same as before.

Let's go get drunk, who cares, it's my life!

Let me go home, to my familiar surroundings, to faces and voices I know.

I have been alone in my mind for many years. Past sounds and images from a distant country. What do the minds of my fellow friends remember?

Does the sound of a helicopter over heard make them look up, it makes me look up to the blue sky and remember when I was young.

I believe I have been tattooed for life, "without ink"! The designs will never leave.

## Silent Auction

Please send all Silent Auction items to:  
Charles L. Schmidt  
15110 Jessie Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

# 2005 11th ACVVC ELECTIONS

By: Frank R. Cambria, Secretary

I would like to review the Officers and Board of Directors election procedures required by our association's Bylaws.

◆ Every "odd numbered year" the **President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary** shall be elected biennially at the annual meeting to serve a *two-year term* starting on January 1 of the following year and terminating at midnight, December 31 of the next year. 2005 is an odd numbered year.

◆ One **Director** will be elected annually to a *three-year* term.

◆ In the event of a vacancy in any office, or inability or refusal to serve, the office shall be filled "pro tem" by a majority vote of the remaining Officers. Typically, this person would serve the balance of the vacant unfinished term.

◆ Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the dues-paid members in attendance at the business meeting.

◆ An Officer may succeed himself no more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of the incumbent Treasurer and

Secretary who may run for re-election to those offices without term limitation. This exception for the Treasurer and Secretary is to facilitate continuity of key administrative functions and the coordination of the Board of Directors and its numerous committees.

We will hold elections at the 2005 General Meeting for each of the positions above, which expire on 12/31/05. All of the above Officers & Directors qualify to run for another term in their current position at the 2005 election should they accept another nominated.

All nominations for Officers of the 11th ACVVC at the 2005 election should be emailed to the Secretary (me) at [Captain.Frank@covad.net](mailto:Captain.Frank@covad.net) to be placed on a preliminary ballot. Nominations may also be made in person from the floor at the meeting. Any nominee not in attendance at the business meeting must have previously submitted to the Secretary a letter of acceptance of nomination as candidate for the office to which he is nominated. Most importantly, *all candidates for office must be dues-paid Life members.*

The current terms being served are as follows:

President, Chuck Schmidt .....	1/1/04 to 12/31/05
Vice President Gene Johnson .....	1/1/04 to 12/31/05
Secretary Frank R. Cambria .....	1/1/04 to 12/31/05
Treasurer Ollie Pickral .....	1/1/04 to 12/31/05
Director Pro Tem Bob Moreno .....	1/28/04 to 12/31/05
Director Allen Hathaway .....	1/1/04 to 12/31/06
Director Jim Holt .....	1/1/05 to 12/31/07

## MOVING?

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



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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Have You Moved?

### ■ Changed Phone Numbers or E-Mail Addresses?

By Allen Hathaway,  
Membership Chairman

This issue of the newsletter is being mailed to over 16,000 people. We want to ensure that we maintain the most up to date information on all 16,000 people on our master roster including correct mailing addresses, telephone numbers and even e-mail addresses.

In 2004, the 11th ACVVC received nearly 2,500 address changes. This represents 15% of the addresses in our database. Every quarter we receive many returns from the post office for people who move and forget to notify us of their new address. At the cost of .70 cents per return, this creates an unnecessary additional expense for the 11th ACVVC and it also delays the delivery of your newsletter.

We want to ensure that everyone receives their copy of the newsletter in a timely and cost-effective manner. You can help us deliver it on time by notifying us if you move.

If you move, please remember to fill out a change of address form at your local post office then notify us of your new address using the change of address form printed in this newsletter. Please also include your new telephone number and e-mail address. We value you as fellow Blackhorse troopers and we don't want to *lose you*. So please help us, and yourself, by notifying us if you move.

New area codes are being added every month and many of us now use cell phones as our primary means of phone service. Many of the telephone numbers on our master roster are out of date. A conservative estimate is that 50-60 percent of the telephone numbers on our master roster are incorrect.

We are asking everyone who receives a copy of this newsletter to update their telephone number for our master roster. You can do this by using the handy change of address form printed in this newsletter. If you have access to the Internet, you can also submit your new address, telephone number or e-mail address by visiting our website at: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com). At the main menu, select "Master Roster", then select "Update Master Roster". This is a quick and convenient way to have your information updated and ensures we have the most up-to-date information.

## Looting In Snoul

By: Larry Doyle  
H Company, G Troop,  
37th MED, 2/11, (1970-71)

A lot of information is available on the Blackhorse's role in the battle of Snoul, Cambodia. Heroic officers are wounded; coordinated attacks with F-4s, tanks, gunships, etc. are well documented. But the looting of the city, though exaggerated, is the salient story, sadly. Well, I'm a veteran of Snoul and I know something the documentary makers and learned authors don't know:

The road to Snoul, Cambodia is arduous for H-Company. It takes all day to get there, traversing mountains, running at close to top speed at times. I'm the medic, stuck on the back rack with legs dangling, sitting on spare flak jackets to cushion the corners of spare ammo cans and spare M-16s, not too bad though. We are told that Snoul is an R & R center for the North Vietnamese Regulars whom we have been fighting, so the anxiety coupled with the road trip are adding to our weariness. As we approach the city, we see a couple running away to our right and down in a holler, as we say back in Arkansas. A man and a woman—the man curiously dressed in a white shirt and slacks, atypical for the venue, to say the least—holding hands and running like jackrabbits. I remember noting that the girl is very pretty. I'm thinking that this is an enemy troop and his prostitute, who hear the thunder of tanks rolling and decide to didi. With a company of tanks above them they are easy targets. Where we come from, the jungle, the standing order is, "shoot anything that moves." No one fires.

The line troops, F and G, are already there when we arrive at Snoul and are preparing to enter the city. We, H Company, stop, facing the airstrip with the city to our port side, and dismount to stretch after the trip, not knowing what our orders would be, hopefully to rest. On the ground for less than one minute, we hear G Troop begin a firefight to our front across the airstrip in the rubber. Bullets begin skipping past us through the dirt prompting us to stand to the rear of the tanks for cover. At that moment F Troop engages as they enter Snoul to our left.

**It's curious that looting is the major complaint after two F-4s, a tank company, and a platoon of armored personnel carriers wreak havoc.**

Suddenly rounds begin skipping past us from the port leaving us no place to hide in the crossfire. Our ancient, loveable-but-gruff, platoon leader, Sgt. Homer King, gives the command to mount up after a rest of less than two minutes. We head to the city to react to F Troop but stop short to wait for and watch an air strike before entering. My tank is parked on the road adjacent to Snoul, gun tube facing straight down it. As the strike begins, NVA—I assume, though they are in the casual white-shirt-and-slacks attire, so popular with the vacationing troops, and carrying AK-47s—begin running out of the city directly in front of my tank in groups of three, four, five and more. Pushing and shoving, dropping weapons, knocking each other down and running over their comrades, they put on quite a show.

Now, I'm a conscientious objector with tainted virginity but that's another story, literally, described in the narrative, Lesson Learned, from the History Book for sale in the Quartermaster section in the back of this publication and can be yours for the low price of twenty-five dollars. I digress. I realize I could kill several of these troops and actually try to alert Sgt. King who is too busy getting orders to be distracted by the likes of me. By the time I get his attention the exodus is over.

After the F-4s sweep over, H-Company and F Troop sweep through. It's curious that looting is the major complaint after two F-4s, a tank company, and a platoon of armored personnel carriers wreak havoc. We shoot through doors and windows, anything that could have someone behind it. Dogs and chickens are spared, I remember, a school as well. Then we come to a bar with the façade blown off exposing the innards. By the time we

arrive we see troops carrying cases of soda out. Someone says that some beer and wine are already snatched. The entire front wall is missing from the building and what does the media complain about? Looted soda. That's about the extent of the looting with one exception.

There on the ground lies a beautiful, baby blue scooter that is remarkably unscathed. We ask Sgt. King for permission to take it. He says that they will probably just run RPGs with it anyway, so it is lashed to the back deck of one of the tanks. Of course this is done in full view of reporters who later tell on us.

A couple of weeks pass finding us several clicks from Snoul when we get a mission. Sgt. King is obviously peeved as he yells, "mount up." We are to return the scooter to exactly the same place from where it was taken. Just one platoon is to go. We are being punished. The scooter incident, it seems, has been reported back home in the news, subsequently, this mission comes from Washington.

The emotion du jour is anger bordering on rage. How dare they send one platoon of tanks back to Snoul endangering everyone over the likes of a motor scooter? Tom Park, my driver, and I lash the scooter on the back deck and we start moving toward Snoul. Our tank commander, Sgt. King, is church-keying cans of Schlitz and cussing as we motor toward Snoul. Speeding through a small village on a route that is new to us, we see it is just grass huts lining the road for about a quarter klick, mostly on the right side. Suddenly, the white-shirted, slack-clad, suspicious, young men begin coming out of the huts with arms around young pretty girls. The troops are smiling and giving us the peace sign from a distance of just about 5 meters. I'm thinking that these are the armed, vacationing jackrabbits that ran away from Snoul and just changed venues, a downgrade for sure, but these girls are pretty and make up for the lack of dry-wall.

This pushes the curmudgeonly King over the edge. He does something that I don't think he could do again in a million years: Traveling at about twenty mph, King sees one of the NVA in civilian attire, arm around prostitute, up ahead on the right. While traveling near top speed he simultaneously turns the turret, point-

ing the main-gun tube right in the face of an enemy troop, holding it there at a distance of two feet as we motor by at full speed in a maneuver that would give any teenage video-game enthusiast joystick envy.

This is a mood changer, on both sides. I see the facial expression of the troop go from a cocky smile to the fear-of-death. This prompts the vacationers to do what they do best during the Cambodian Incursion, run like jackrabbits. The vill' clears. We, on other hand, began laughing hysterically though we remain cautious and vigilant; we are not out of the woods yet.

When we get to Snoul we come out of the rubber plantation where G Troop's firefight had occurred and pull onto the grass airstrip where Sgt. King gives the "halt" command. He looks over toward the city pensively.

"Throw it off right here," he commands.

From the back deck I unleash the pristine scooter and kick it off onto the airstrip. Tom comes out of the tank and drags the bike right behind the right track and returns to the driver's seat. With me still dismounted he puts the tank in reverse and backs over the scooter, stops, and does the twist right on top of it. Back and forth, right and left he squashes the damned thing. After we move off, every tank in the platoon repeats the ceremonial dance. I look at what's left of the scooter after five or six tanks have reduced it to ore; I look at Snoul; I look at the other tankers. I lie back on my nest of a seat and say to myself, "I love this place."

After returning to the base, avoiding the village this time, Sgt. King, full of Shlitz, stumbles into the headquarters, salutes and announces, "Mission accomplished." And everyone is happy.

I speak to Sgt. King on the telephone in 1994. He has laryngeal cancer and speaks using one of those voice facilitators resembling a personal vibrator that's held below the mouth producing a metallic, monotone sound that's typically hard to understand. He says, quite clearly, "they couldn't kill me in Vietnam and they can't kill me now." I hear from his wife later that he passes shortly after that conversation in '94.

## New Alaska License Plate



The State of Alaska has recently approved a new license plate featuring the 11th ACR shoulder insignia. To our knowledge, this is the first state to feature the Blackhorse insignia.

This may be the ultimate in our "license plate challenge".

Leading the effort for the new license plate was Paul Renschen (A Troop, 1/11, 1968). Paul moved back to Alaska from Italy in mid 2004. While he was registering his vehicles he noticed a few military unit license plates were available, but none for the 11th ACR. He set out to change this.

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**The officers supported the idea and agreed that it was appropriate that those Blackhorse troopers who live in Alaska pay the setup fee.**

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Paul first contacted the DMV to find out the requirements for adding a new unit license plate. The requirements for Alaska were fairly simple, an initial setup fee. He then contacted the officers of the

11th ACVVC with the idea. The officers supported the idea and agreed that it was appropriate that those Blackhorse troopers who live in Alaska pay the setup fee. The officers further agreed the organization would contact all Alaska Blackhorse troopers about this opportunity. Paul would act as the point of contact and coordinator.

In August 2004, a mailing was made to all Alaska Blackhorse troopers. By November, enough troopers had pledged to share the cost of the setup fee. In mid December the setup fee was paid to the Alaska DMV. We are currently waiting on a proof of the new license plate, then it will be available.

If you would like more information on the new license plate and have a vehicle registered in the State of Alaska please contact Paul Renschen at: paulneva@alaska.com.

# Are You A Member?

If the words: **FREE COPY** or **EXPIRED** are printed on the first line, you need to either join or renew your membership!

By Allen Hathaway,  
Membership Chairman

If you are one of the few who hasn't yet become a member, or if your membership has expired, this is a good time to take a minute and become a member or renew your membership.

We conducted a membership drive in 2004. We contacted nearly 1,600 members whose membership had expired and encouraged them to renew their membership. The response was good, but there are still some who have not renewed.

There is still a bit of confusion about membership in this organization, 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) and the Blackhorse Association (BHA). They are two separate organizations, each with their own charter, by-laws, officers and membership fees. Many of us are members of and support both organizations. Some of the people we have contacted for membership renewal have written back and furnished a copy their LIFE membership card only to discover it is not from the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

If you are not sure of your membership status in the 11th ACVVC, take a second and check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter. If the words: **FREE COPY** or **EXPIRED** are printed on the first line, you need to either join or renew your membership! Expired members will also have their membership number printed on the same line.

To join or renew your membership just fill out and mail the membership form on the back page of this newsletter. Make sure you give your full name, address, service number, unit(s) and dates in country (month/year). This will help us match you with others that served in the same unit. We also encourage you to sign the release line at the bottom of the form. This gives us permission to give your address and/or telephone number to other troopers who may be looking for you. Your name, address, etc are NOT sold or given out to vendors or anyone other than Blackhorse troopers.

If you have access to the Internet, you can also join by visiting our website [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com). From the main menu, choose "Membership Application".

Membership dues are only \$15 per year, or \$100 for a LIFE membership. We also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards for all transactions.

Your membership dues provide you with this quarterly newsletter Thunder Run. The newsletter keeps you informed of your organization, its members, and the activities of the 11th Cavalry, both past and present. We pride ourselves on our continued commitment to bring the news to our members through this newsletter, which has been printed and mailed *every quarter for the past 19 years*. That's commitment, reliability, stability.

When you become a member or renew your membership, you will receive your new membership card. All members are assigned a membership number that appears on their membership card. LIFE members receive a plastic membership card with their name and membership number embossed.

## Life Membership Payment Plan

The number of LIFE membership has increased rapidly over the past years. Over two-thirds of our members are LIFE members. This increase is due in part to our LIFE Membership Payment Plan.

The plan was designed to allow an individual to join as a LIFE member and divide the \$100 membership fee into four (4) equal payments. This is how it works:

■ When you join or renew your membership, make an initial payment of \$25. This will immediately enroll you as a LIFE member.

■ After the initial payment, the remaining balance of \$75 is paid in three (3) installments of \$25 each at three (3) month intervals. We will even mail a reminder during the months when a payment is due.

Since beginning this plan, we have had scores of members join or renew using this plan. It's simple, easy, and a LIFE Membership shows a real commitment to this organization. So, consider using the LIFE Membership Payment Plan when you join or renew.

## A SOLDIER MAN

By Johnny Manuel Amador, HHT, Scouts, 1969 – 1970

Take a man, make him a soldier  
place him alone 12,000 miles from home,  
Empty his heart of all but the blood,  
make him live in sweat and mud.  
This is the life we soldiers must live,  
yet our souls to the devil we'll never give.

And you peace boys back home don't have a care,  
for you don't know what it's like over here,  
you have a ball without really trying,  
while over here men are dying.

You burn your draft cards and march at dawn,  
you put your protest signs on the White House lawn.  
You want to ban the deadly bomb,  
you say there is no war in "Vietnam."  
You use your drugs and have your fun,  
yet always refusing to lift a gun.  
You say there's nothing in it for you,  
yet us soldiers are suppose to die for you.

I'll hate you till the day I die,  
when especially my buddies cry.  
I see his arm a bloody shred  
and I hear the medic say,  
"this G.I., he's dead."  
It's quite a price he had to pay,  
not to live another day.  
He had the guts to fight and die,  
but tell me protesters what did he buy?  
He bought your life by losing his,  
but what do you care what a soldier gives.



# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Each year as I sit down to start the first year's column for the Women's Corner, I am never sure just what to talk about.

I mean, do I reminisce about the year past, talk about the hopes and dreams for the year just starting. Or what about all those resolutions we have made and probably broken already. What do I talk about?

As I sat down tonight to start this, I couldn't help but think about some of the things that happened in my life in 2004. I guess the thing, and people, that affected me the most, was the night at the hotel I work in, when we were full of young men and women who were leaving for the war. It was certainly a night I will never forget as long as I live. Thankfully, most of them will be home soon and I have received an invitation from one of the moms to be here for their homecoming. Although I have not been given a date yet as to when that will happen, I do look forward to it with great excitement. I have talked to some of the family members via phone and e-mail while they have been gone. It sure makes them seem like part of my extended family. Of course as much as I like all of them and am thankful for what they are doing for us, I can't help but give thanks that neither one of my sons were called up. I suppose that sounds a bit selfish, doesn't it.

I also find myself thinking about all the wonderful friends I have made in the 11th ACVVC organization. Friends I am proud of and friends that I know will be there when and if I ever need them. Friends that I know I'll see year after year.

2004 also brought about a year of new beginnings. The women's group has begun to take on a new life. The ladies are all in agreement that we need to unite into a group that will help the 11th ACVVC grow. In order to support not only the men, it was determined that the ladies also at times need some "extra" TLC and support. We set up a support system and I am pleased to say we have only had to use it once. I think it worked okay, I didn't hear otherwise. But as a group in whole, we have a lot to do yet. We tried to put together a web site but for whatever reason it just doesn't want to work. This is something that will be discussed at this year's meeting. Perhaps we have a web mistress in our group.

I am also looking for someone who would be willing to take notes during the women's meeting and perhaps type them up for me. It will need to be someone who will be able to bring a laptop with them to the reunion, as I have an after action report and a newsletter article due as soon as I return home and having the notes in front of me would be very helpful. This person may also be called upon during the year to help with other things like the address book, a mid year newsletter and possible other things. I think it would be best if it were not someone who is one of the region contacts, as I would like to get a lot more ladies involved. Does that make sense?

I had hopes of putting together an 11th ACVVC

Cookbook, but the response hasn't been too good. As of today, only four people beside myself have submitted anything. Of course, it's not too late to do so. If I don't get enough for the book this year, then we will simply have some recipe forms available at the reunion in Colorado Springs. Then we can hopefully aim for 2006.

Of course, as we look forward to Colorado Springs, I have to put out the request for help with the registration desk. If you would like to help just let me know what day and what times you would be available. We will also need some help putting together some of the welcome packets on Wednesday night. Bob and I are going to try to have most of them ready before we get there but I'm sure there will still be a few to do.

This year's 11th ACVVC Woman's Award winner has been decided and I am very proud to know her. She is very, very deserving of the award. I think when you see who it is you will agree with me.

Well ladies, I am at work and really must get back to some of the work that I have here to do. As always you can reach me at home at 608-372-5892 (you will get the answering machine), e-mail: [Moreno@Tomah.com](mailto:Moreno@Tomah.com) subject: Blackhorse Ladies, a message can be left here at work for me 608-372-4100 or by fax 6058-372-4200. Until I see you all in Colorado Springs, I wish you all a Happy New Year. You are all in my thoughts and prayers everyday.

God Bless and lots of love to you all

*Barb*

## **!BORDER LEGION TROOPERS!**

### **JOINT 11TH ACR (ALLONS)/14TH ACR (SUIVEZ MOI) BORDER LEGION REUNION PLANNED JUNE 1-5 2005**

For our members who served in the Border Legion as well as in Vietnam and Cambodia, information is being provided on a reunion currently being planned to be held in Fulda, Germany the first week in June 2005. The events schedule is in the planning stages, but will include activities in Bad Hersfeld and Bad Kissingen for Troopers who served in the 3rd or 2nd Squadrons respectively. Fulda will be the center of the gathering and will include Fest Tent; Local tours as well as tours of former East Germany landmarks; OP ALPHA Ceremonies; Memorial Services; Banquet; etc. More information will follow as it is made available.

More information may be found at the following websites:

**[www.blackhorse.com](http://www.blackhorse.com) or [www.14cav.org](http://www.14cav.org)**

Points of contact, if interested:

Frank Varljen  
6508 Shamrock Road  
Manassas, VA 20112  
<[f.varljen@verizon.net](mailto:f.varljen@verizon.net)>  
Tele: (703) 791-6218

or  
Don Snedeker  
2221 Tulip Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
<[snedekerd@saic.com](mailto:snedekerd@saic.com)>  
Tele: (703) 241-0794



## Smells

When you got off the airliner at Tan Son Nhut what hit you first? Was it the awful sticky heat? OK. I can understand that. But it's not what I'm after. What about being scared? OK. Or "What's that sound? Is it incoming?" Probably not, that would come later. Well then, "what are you after, chaplain?" you say. What I'm looking for is the smells! I agree that a lot of things hit you when you first got into country. One of the most memorable was the smells. The smells of Viet Nam could be pretty strange, almost overpowering. Even today, some smells can bring back memories and maybe even flashbacks. Many of those memories are good; some even fun to remember and tell stories about. I hope you'll consider that.

Do you remember nuoc mam? (The spelling is correct, by the way. I looked it up). I'm sure you remember what nuoc mam was. It was fish sauce. It smelled so bad to our western noses that most troopers I knew wouldn't try it on a bet. Some of our helicopter pilots called it nuke-puke. That was a descriptive name, wasn't it? As I understand it, nuke puke was made by putting fish in a burlap bag then putting some brine on it. Alternating layers of fish and brine were added until the bag was full. Then it was hung up to do it's thing. As the fish was "processed" by the brine, the "juice" seeped through the bag and was collected as fish sauce, nuoc mam. It was sort of Vietnamese ketchup except it wasn't tomato - it was fish. It didn't go over so well with the troopers I knew. I don't recall any of our guys liking it, even though some might have and just wouldn't admit it. Would you?

A smell you'll remember which I know you didn't like was one you might have been ordered to help make happen. After all, the smell was sort of natural which you will see when you remember, like right now. The smell was from smoke. "What's the big deal about smoke," you say? Smoke usually wasn't a big deal except this smoke came from where everyone had to visit from time to time. That, as you recall, was the biff, the can, the john (small J), the sh—ter. Some in the

**There were some smells out in the bush that weren't too important in the rear. They might not mean much here in the States, but they meant your life and health in the jungle.**

rear (you know where I mean) were enclosed, like an outhouse. Some were in the open, a board with a hole laid across a fifty-five gallon drum cut in half. (I'm keeping this clean because it's a family read - you fill in the details). "They're supposed to smell," chaplain. "Of course, trooper." What I'm talking about is the smoke from the defecament (a word I just made up to replace s—t, the more common word), which was burned after it was mixed with diesel. You were probably on the s—t burning detail once in a while and know what I'm talking about. Sorry if you were trying to forget. Most guys laughed it off after it was burnt, not while it was burning. Naturally, you walked way around the smoke when the stuff was burning. You were in real trouble if your tent, track, or whatever was downwind in the smoke. I think you'll agree it's pretty funny to look back on. "Just don't think you can make me do it again." No problem.

There were some smells out in the bush that weren't too important in the rear. They might not mean much here in the States, but they meant your life and health in the jungle. One of these was BO. That's right, body odor. With the cavalry we were well off because we carried five-gallon water cans and could take a nice, warm shower in the evening, all things being equal (which we talked about someplace else). The poor grunts couldn't stay as clean as us because they couldn't carry much water humping the boonies all day and half the night. So BO could be a problem. What's the big deal? The big deal was that the Guys-Who-Were-Trying-To-Make-You-Dead had a great sense of smell. Some of our guys did too. I didn't. I just didn't like to be around BO. For others, if you had a keen sense of smell, when you were out on an ambush or guarding an active NVA trail and you smelled BO with a nuoc mam tint, it meant that the Guys-

Who-Were-Trying-To-Make-You-Dead were within BO smelling distance and you could arrange for them to be at a severe disadvantage. When that worked the other way around with VC and NVA good noses it was much to our own consternation and disadvantage. So you get my point about smells. The point about smoke was pretty funny. The point about BO was not so funny.

Do you remember those pungent French cigarettes? If you were out in no-mans-land and smelled French cigarette smoke, guess what? Charlie was near and you know what that meant! It meant something bad was about to happen, preferably with Charlie getting and you giving.

Other smoke made smells too. Like Lambrettas which we mentioned long time ago. Those Italian motor scooters had a couple of benches in the back with a cover overhead to keep the sun and rain off whoever was riding. Their exhaust stunk up the whole road. Remember the deuce-and-a-half trucks that poured exhaust like an old locomotive pulling a train uphill? The ARVNs had them and we did too, mostly in the rear or in convoys. They poured exhaust sideways (five ton trucks pointed exhaust up - no problem). You didn't want a deuce-and-a-half to pass you if you were in an open jeep or just walking along. You could get gassed (pun intended). Out in the bush exhaust counted too. Have you ever been behind an M88 tank retriever when it fired up? It chucked a huge exhaust cloud out the rear grill. The roar was huge too, but it was the exhaust that smelled and gassed you. ACavs spewed their share of exhaust too. Being diesel made it smelly, but I never knew of anyone who thought much of it. What our guys thought much of was that ACavs, like all M113s, shot their exhaust several feet into the air so the smell wasn't a problem - the problem was when

you'd be going along a trail the exhaust going into the air made you easy for Charlie to spot from a distance. That was in addition to the noise and the dirt cloud (just a thought).

I'm sure you'll remember other smells from the Nam. Some of them aren't beneficial to talk about so we won't. Many memories are of good smells, like food or opening a care package from home. Some of these "smelly memories" are fun to talk about. So talk about them.

I'll close off with a word from the Bible about fragrance which is smell, speaking figuratively, that is pleasing to God. That's a good thing to know about and to put into practice. Here is a direct quote: "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2). The other verses in the context are important too but I don't have time to talk about them now. I'll take it kindly if you'll get a Bible and look them up for yourself. You'll be glad you did.

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627  
Livingston, Texas 77399  
LEHaworth@aol.com

## KIA RESEARCH from page 5

Approximately 100 of our troopers are interred in national cemeteries across the US. You can view the list by visiting our website at: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com). Select "KIA Roster" from the main menu, then select "11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Honor Roll National Cemeteries". It's an honorable thing to visit them and pay your respects. We'll expand the list to include all cemeteries, approximately 550 at this time.

We're also looking for photographs of our honored troopers. We have nearly 130 photographs posted on the individuals' memorial page. If you have a photograph that is suitable for display on the memorial webpage, please contact any officer, board member or website staff member.

The monument restoration committee will continue to pursue the three main objectives and report the progress to our members.



# Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*.

NAME	UNIT	DATES
Mario Colombo		
Thomas L. Davis	398th Trans	1971
James F. Day	Air Cav Troop	1966 - 1967
Pete Evans	L Troop, 3/11	1968 - 1969
Albert Fariello	541 st. MID	1967 - 1968
Walter D. Fisher	E Troop, 2/11	1967 - 1968
Richard Glaspell		
Wilton Helveston	HHT, 2/11	1967 -1968
George G. Hitchcock	E Troop, 2/11	1967 -1968
Daniel S. Hora	E Troop, 2/11	1966 -1967
Alfonso V. Jacquez	HOW Battery, 3/11	1968 -1969
Teddy Knight	F Troop, 2/11	1967
Edward Marquis	HHT, and B Troop, 1/11	1970
Gary W. Martin	M Company, 3/11	1966 - 1967
William P. Mathews	G Troop, 2/11	1968 - 1969
Robert P. Reimer	A Troop, 1/11	1967 -1968
Michael C. Sena	E Troop, 2/11	1967 -1968
Ronald L. Strain	HHT, 2/11	1967 - 1968
John Terletter	E Troop, 2/11	1966 - 1968
Fredrick Wilson	HOW Battery, 3/11	1969

## Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From James D Marvin, anyone having a copy of the *Thunder Run* issue (About 1991) marking the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the 11th ACR in Vietnam and talking about the use of Agent Orange in clearing operations, please contact Jim at [JDM47NY@Yahoo.com](mailto:JDM47NY@Yahoo.com) He needs a copy to help with a VA claim.

### M-113 ARMORED CAVALRY ASSAULT VEHICLE (ACAV)

**Precision-engineered, exceptionally well-detailed die-cast metal scale 1:43 model ACAV. (made by Corgi) For the adult collector. (not a toy).**

**VERY LIMITED ISSUE**



Each piece contains a numbered, limited edition certificate, and a booklet with the specifications of the vehicle and a true story relating to the actual vehicle from which the model was designed. Based on actual photographs and personal accounts, this ACAV is an exact reproduction of an actual mud-spat-

tered ACAV used in Vietnam as part of the famous Blackhorse Regiment  
Price \$42.50 plus \$7.50 shipping and handling. Very limited quantities, we may not be able to restock. Sold on a first come first served basis. Order using the Quartermaster order form in this issue.

# THE 11th ACVVC 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

## COLORADO SPRINGS, CO ♦ ♦ ♦ 4 - 7 AUGUST 2005

### SHERATON COLORADO SPRINGS HOTEL Newly Renovated \$8M Upgrade

#### Reasonable rates:

\$89/NIGHT (Honored 3 days prior and 3 days after Reunion dates)

Make your reservations now-limited availability!

1-(800) 981-4012 or 1-(719) 576-5900 (direct to hotel)

(Must Mention 11th Armored Cavalry Reunion)

www.sheraton.com/coloradosprings

#### Free Parking in large hotel lots!

#### Free Colorado Springs (COS) Airport Shuttle to Hotel!

(Or fly to Denver (DIA) and rent a car-1 1/2hr Drive to Hotel)

If you fly into Colorado Springs or Denver by United Air Lines, the DISCOUNT CODE is 531 CE and is good from July 31 to August 10, 2005

You'll find an abundance of unique cultural and recreational opportunities awaiting you in Colorado Springs. Enjoy breathtaking views of Pikes Peak, our most prominent landmark, or go to the top of this 14,410 ft Mountain. You can also visit the magnificent Garden of the Gods Park with its red sandstone formations or visit the Air Force Academy Colorado's most visited man made attraction. Many other attractions await you, as well as a

myriad of shopping and dining opportunities in our downtown area.

Plan an extended vacation in one of the prime destination vacation spots in the USA.

- ♦ Great weather! - August average hi 81\*- lo 55\*
- ♦ Pikes Peak (America's Mountain) (Cog Railroad To Top)
- ♦ Garden Of The Gods
- ♦ Royal Gorge (World's Highest Suspension Bridge)
- ♦ US Air Force Academy
- ♦ Fort Carson
- ♦ US Olympic Hq And Training Center
- ♦ US Figure Skating Hall Of Fame
- ♦ Cripple Creek (Old Mining Town, Limited Stakes Gaming)
- ♦ North Pole Santa's Workshop
- ♦ Seven Falls
- ♦ Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- ♦ Cave Of The Winds
- ♦ Ghost Town
- ♦ Manitou Cliff Dwellings
- ♦ And Many, Many More!!!!

## THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, August 4, 2005

Fort Carson Golf Club  
Building 7800 Titus Blvd  
Fort Carson, CO 80913  
Phone 1-719-526-4122

#### Brand new club facilities!

\$55 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$55 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by July 15, 2005 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women.

**Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!**

### 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks To: **Joe Cooper, Golf Tournament Director,**  
**9289 Parkside Drawe, Woodbury, MN 55125**

Call 651-578-2857 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by July 15, 2004. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of Colorado's best facilities. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars, 3) Soft spike only facility.

All **Colorado Blackhorse Troopers** if you cant make it for the whole three days or the Reunion come and join your Blackhorse Brothers in a day of golf you may meet a old friend you have not seen in 33 years. Hope to see you there.

**REGISTRATION FORM**



**COLORADO SPRINGS REUNION XX**

**Thursday, August 4 thru Sunday, August 7, 2005**



Registration fees are \$65.00 per Adult, \$50.00 for children 12 and under, and \$30.00 for children 12 and under who do not attend the Saturday night banquet (option not available if over 12 years old). This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled program events including Thursday and Friday Bunker Parties and Saturday Banquet dinner.

Banquet seating in the main ballroom will be on a "First Registered, First In" basis and those later registrants may have to go to an "Overflow Room" if one is needed (A closed circuit TV system would service the "overflow" room to insure all can view banquet events). After July 24 and at the door, the registration fee will be an additional \$10.00 to all above prices (only if space is available).

Please Print All Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country \_\_\_\_\_  
list only **one** Troop/Company (ie 1966-1967 or I Trp, '70-'71)

*(This will be your seating assignment for the Saturday night banquet dinner)*

**Attendees**

List first and last name for each person and, if 12 or under, whether child will attend the Sat banquet: Yes or No

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee):  Chicken  Beef Special dietary needs:  Yes  No

Wheelchair requirements:  Yes  No Is this your first reunion  Yes  No

Send check/money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to: 11 ACVVC REUNION XX, or complete information below for Visa or MasterCard.

Also if you would like to take a trip to Cripple Creek, an old mining and gambling town, please check here . We need this # for busses on Friday. The busses should be free of charge, but there might be a \$5 or \$10 fee that you will get back when you arrive in Cripple Creek.

Visa  MasterCard (Check one) Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature ( Required) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**  
**11 ACVVC Reunion XX**  
**c/o Ollie Pickral**  
**15341 General Puller Hwy**  
**Deltaville, VA 23043**



# Journey to Fiddler's Green

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



## From the Quartermaster...

Rodney H. George

Greetings to all. By now all the presents have been opened, the New Year's Toasts made and we are starting out on a brand new year! for some of us this is the thirty-ninth year since we rode the Blackhorse in Vietnam and for some it is the thirty-third. What is important is that we all share an intensley personal event that shaped us psychologically and in some cases physically. This commonality of experience is what welds the 11th ACVVC into one of the largest and most tightly-knit military reunion groups in the world today. When the little squabbles that occur in any group come up, try to remember the larger picture and treat your fellow members with the respect that you and they are all entitled to.

We are in an ever more costly world and some of our products may see price increases in the near future. No price will be increased unless we are no longer able to offer it at the current rate without maintaining our minimal profits that go to the Scholarship & General Fund of the 11th ACVVC.

Last year our Gross sales were \$60,199.50 our cost of goods was \$38,931.30 leaving us a profit for the year of \$21,268.20 that was added to the 11th ACVVC Treasury. Currently I have \$49,725.29 of inventory available for purchase. The bulk of this figure is still the history book "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" with 500 copies still available. This book will not be reprinted and when that 500 are gone no more will be available. Now would be a good time to order copies for children or grandchildren.

Our QM store will probably see some changes in items that are available. Updates to follow.

Allons

### Newsletter Deadlines

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

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

**Darl Arrant**, who served with How Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 30, 2000. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gilmer, TX.

**Floyd H. Austin**, who served with the scout section of HHT Regiment (1967-1968), passed away on October 15, 2001. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oriental, NC.

**Larry L. Austin**, who served with E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 25, 2003. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hattiesburg, MS.

**Jose A. Beltran-Garcia**, who served with How Battery, 3/11 and L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 19, 1999. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palm Bay, FL.

**Robert L. (Buddy) Blankenship**, who served with L Troop, 3/11 (1968 - 1969), passed away on October 23, 2003. Buddy was 55 years old.

**George E. Bresbee**, who served with the 919th Engineer Company in 1970, passed away on July 4, 1998. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Ronald W. Brickner**, who served with C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 21, 2002. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wallbridge, OH.

**William P. Bridewell**, who served with L Troop, 3/11 (1970 - 1971), passed away on January 17, 2003.

**Paul W. Burke**, who served with HHT Regiment (1967-1968), passed away on December 30, 1999. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lowell, MA.

**Ronald E. Chamberlain**, who served with HHT, 3/11 (S-4 Shop) in 1969 - 1970, passed away on September 14, 2004. Ronald was 57 years old, lived in Lomita, California and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**James B. Charlebois**, who served with HOW Battery, 1/11 (1969 - 1970), passed away on April 18, 2004. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and a resident of MN.

**Mario A. Dea**, who served with D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 25, 1998. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Kenneth W. Fullen Jr**, who served How Battery, 3/11 (1969) passed away on June 11, 1998. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tyler, TX.

**Ronald E. Gessner**, platoon sergeant with E Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on August 22, 2003. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Youngstown, OH.

**Jerome A. Koss**, who served with Air Cav Troop (1969-1970), passed away on January 4, 2002. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Clair Shores, MI.

**Thomas J. Kutz**, who served with HHT, 2/11 (1965-1967) passed away on February 24, 1995. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shamokin, PA.

**Hubert L. (Harry) McAlister**, who served with HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away June 8, 2002. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Macomb, MI.

**Claude T. Miller**, who served with H Company, 2/11 (1969) passed away December 27, 2003. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nunnely, TN.

**Robert D. Montesi**, who served with I Troop, 3/11 (1968 - 1969) passed away on June 2, 2003. Jim, a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC was 52 years old and lived in Santa Clara, CA.

**William C. "Pop" Reeves**, who served with 37th Med Company (1967-1968), passed away January 13, 2002. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX.

**Frank Samoray**, who served with HHT Regt (1967-1968), passed away October 11, 1997. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dunwoody, GA.

**Jon M. Strength**, who served with I Troop, 3/11 (1969) passed away June 2, 2001. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spokane, WA.

**Robert C. Tinsley**, who served with E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away June 29, 1996. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hampton, VA.

**Samuel P. Tricoli**, who served with How Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away September 25, 2001. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC, a retired First Sergeant and ordained minister. He resided in Youngstown, OH.

**MSGT Benjamin F. Waiters**, (US Army, Retired) who served with HHT, Regiment (1966 - 1967), passes away on August 23, 2003. MSG Waiters was from Louisville, KY and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**James L. Worthington**, who served with I Troop, 3/11 (1968 - 1969), passed away on December 21, 2004. He was a resident of Orlando, Florida and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC. A Registered Nurse, he was Director of Staff Development for a health care facility.



# Quartermaster

## ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	C	10.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. ....	B	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5 " Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" .....	C	25.00		_____	_____
Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Lary Haworth, Chaplain .....	C	11.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued .....	B	4.00		_____	_____
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed abers, together then, together again .....	B	10.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia .....	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	C	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	C	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc" .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Quan Loi" .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "100 Year Aniversary of 11th Cav" .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
Reunion pin ( <b>circle choice</b> ), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Eugene, Daytona .....	A	1.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia .....	B	70.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21) .....	C	35.00		_____	_____
M-113 ACAV, 1/43 Scale Model .....	C	42.50		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face ( <b>specify size</b> ) .....	A	275.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tatoo .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Video (based on book) ( <b>specify format</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD .....	A	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	B	16.00		_____	_____
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one) .....	B	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left) .....	B	75.00		_____	_____
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one) .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
<b>Subtotal</b>					_____

Note: all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL  
Specify size and color preference of item requested.

Shipping and Handling \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$5.00 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order); C items = \$7.50

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 06/30/05. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Nine Mile Road, Huson, MT 59846.**

**11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA**

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATES: FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_  
(Troop, Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)

SER NO RANK (during tour) \_\_\_\_\_ SSN NO \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

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

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 15341 General Puller Hwy, Deltaville, VA 23043**.

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



**Thunder Run**  
**11th ACVVC**  
**P O Box 717**  
**Soddy Daisy, TN 37384**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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