



Thunder Run

Vol. 26 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2011

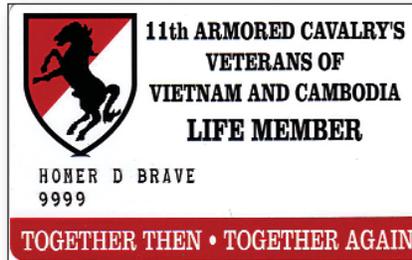
The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

Are You A Member?

This issue of *Thunder Run* is being mailed to over 16,000 Blackhorse troopers on our mailing list, including members, lapsed memberships and those who have not yet joined.

If you haven’t yet become a member of the 11th ACVVC, or if your membership has expired, this is a good time to take a minute and become a member or renew your membership.

If you are not sure of your membership status in the 11th ACVVC, take a second and check the mailing label on the back page of this newsletter. Look for these words: **FREE COPY** or



EXPIRED

If the words “**FREE COPY**” are printed on the first line of the label, take this opportunity to join and become a

Please turn to **MEMBER** on page 9

Rockets

By Mark S. Crist
Air Cavalry Troop 68-69

During two tours in Vietnam between 1968 and 1972 one ever present reminder there was a war on, regardless where one was or what they did, was the 122mm rocket. My experience was, this wasn’t a precision weapon, and consequently I never went through a rocket attack during my time with I Troop out in the field. It was more a siege weapon that was indiscriminately fired in from points unknown. As such, it was not unlike our own artillery which occasionally fired H and I, or harassment and interdiction. It kept our enemy on its toes and pure luck if it hit anything. Now that I think of it, the explosions from that “Duster” on AP one night were getting closer and closer to our position.

During “my” time in country it was more likely some rockets made it down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, were cached in Cambodia, and eventually were hauled on someone’s back a few at a time into various areas of the 3rd Corps. They were leaned on a log or some other stand and fired into what would be considered rear areas like air bases, base camps, or logistical storage areas like Long Binh. At that, it might just

Please turn to **ROCKETS** on page 4

We will not forget....



Blackhorse wreath placed at the apex of the Vietnam Wall on Veterans’ Day 2010

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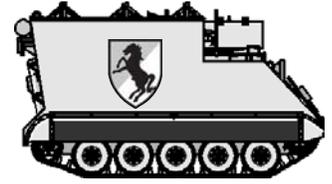




Allen Hathaway,
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



The 2011 Scholarship Fund raising effort kicked off in December with the mailing of the annual 11th ACVVC calendar to all members.

This is the 16th year for the ever popular calendar.

Our Scholarship Fund is self sufficient and relies solely on donations to continue. All scholarship awards as well as all printing and mailing costs associated with the calendar are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. We ask that you make the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can. Names of donors are listed in this issue. Your donation will ensure we can continue to mail you a calendar each year and also support the Scholarship Program.

Planning is under way for the 26th annual reunion in St. Louis on August 17-21. This is our first reunion in St. Louis and we look forward to visiting the "Gateway to the West". The Millennium Hotel is located a short distance from the famous Gateway Arch and Mississippi River. Many of the rooms have a view of the Arch and Mississippi.

Over 1,250 attended the reunion in Washington, DC, in 2010 including 42 Gold Star family members. Nearly 90 troopers attended their first reunion. Nearly ever year we hear comments from the "first timers" like "I don't know why I put it off so long. I'll be back next year."

We expect another large turnout this year so start making your plans. This is an excellent opportunity for a vacation. There are many sights and activities in St. Louis to enjoy during your stay. You can help make this another successful reunion by keeping a few things in mind:

- mail your registration early and avoid the late registration fee. Note: the hotel must have the meal count by Aug 16, so it is important to register early.

- reserve your hotel room early. You may cancel up to 72 hours prior to check-in.

- contact old friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to

We continue our effort to locate and account for Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam. If you are not yet a member or your membership has lapsed, take this time to join...

attend. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend.

- come prepared to enjoy yourself!

It's been customary for the president to give a brief report on the state of the organization in this first issue of the year. I am pleased to once again report that the overall state of the 11th ACVVC is excellent. We continue to grow and thrive in many areas.

Our treasury is solvent. The investments made over the years are guaranteed and safe investments. The investments were made to ensure we will continue to have operating funds for the future of this organization. Currently we rely on two main sources of operating income: membership dues and quartermaster sales. There may be a time in the future when we need to draw on these investments if membership or quartermaster sales decline. We ask that you continue to support both of these areas.

We continue our effort to locate and account for Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam. If you are not yet a member or your membership has lapsed, take this time to join and become a member or renew your membership. Also, the quartermaster offers a variety of "insignia products" to show your colors. You can see the entire line of products and order form in this issue and on our website.

Our other funds such as Reunion, Scholarship and Memorial are doing well and in an excellent state. Each of these funds is self sufficient and relies on the support of our members to continue.

The quarterly newsletter *Thunder Run* continues to bring news and information to our members with a variety of articles, many of which are submitted by our members. Our website continues to be a source of information for our members and visitors. Our reunions continue to be successful and are well attended.

The success of this organization is due in part to the group of reliable and dedicated members who volunteer their time every day to help their fellow Blackhorse veterans. The most important factor however is the support from our members. Your support throughout the years has helped this organization continue to grow and succeed in every area. Once again I'll say that this support is a result of the pride we all have from serving in the best unit in the United States Army!

In closing I ask that you continue keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. When you see someone in uniform take a minute and offer your hand to thank them for their selfless service. These young men and women contribute daily to the security of our great country. We thank them. ALLONS! - It's good to be "Together Again".

Volunteer Needed

Website update manager needed to help with updates to The 11thcavnam.com website. Experience as a Webmaster a plus but not necessary. The task will be simple things like updating the Absent comrades since Vietnam etc.

Please contact Otis, carey@kysales.com
1-270-828-2512



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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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ST LOUIS WELCOMES

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

26th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION AUGUST 17-21, 2011

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tions early.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY
JULY 27, 2011.

ROCKETS from page 1

be one rocket.

That's all it took to interrupt everyone's schedule and send them to their respective bunkers until some "all clear" was announced.

My first experience with rockets came fairly late. In fact, I'd just returned from a 30 day extension leave Stateside. John Godek and I were on the same flight coming over from Fort Dix/McGuire AFB in New Jersey. I'd worked with John in Air Cav's maintenance when I first went over. We couldn't get a hold of anybody at Alpha Pad so we decided to hitch-hike. Boy, was that the wrong thing to do on a hot day in Vietnam wearing greens.

When we got to Alpha Pad one of the first things we heard from 1st Sgt Ryan was the fact Bien Hoa AFB, which was just west of there as I remember, had been getting rockets in every morning. Sure enough, the next morning I was lying in my bunk and heard some yelling outside. I went outside and saw some guys standing around, "rockets again man!" No sooner was that said when a distinct "whooshing" sound went by overhead. A bit later a cloud of smoke could be seen rising up over at the Air Base followed by the report of an explosion. This went on for about a half hour. In all, about 8 rockets went over. It was the same thing the next morning. We'd all stand out there listening and watching until we'd hear the siren go off over there announcing the all clear. Somebody made the comment, "ah, they never hit anything!"

The next morning was a tad different. Several rockets went over as they had, but

all of a sudden there came an enormous explosion nobody was expecting just outside the wire east of Alpha Pad. It was A and E as we hit the deck. The first thought was we're next, but it may have been a short round or Chuck tripped over the log. A few more rounds went over heading for Bien Hoa. The next morning it was all over, no more rockets.

After a few days at Alpha Pad I was sent back to Blackhorse where Air Cav Maintenance was still located. Our base camp was soon to be turned over to the ARVN. I don't know what the Plan was, but all us Air Cav mechanics were transferred to the 398th Trans Detachment and sent to the new facility at Redcatcher, base camp of the 198th Infantry Brigade next door to Long Binh. It was business as usual there for a few months repairing the Regiment's aircraft. I was on the night crew working 6 to 6. It was easy to get more complacent in the rear versus the boonies where I'd gotten a better appreciation for "wired tight" during a stint with I Troop.

There we were... in the chow hall one morning after a night of bending wrenches on a Huey, which we'd been doing regularly those few months. I don't remember the details. More than likely we were half asleep talking about something. We didn't pay attention to the first WHOOMP, maybe the second. It wasn't until somebody came running in yelling "rockets" that got our attention. Half of the guys in there that morning got under the tables, the other half, including me, just sat there eating. I heard it one more time, "ah, they never hit anything!" Six of

Show Your Pride



Skip Palmer (E Trp. 69-70) shows pride with his Kansas Blackhorse plate on his Crossfire.

One Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle To The Rescue

By Leo Deege, HOW 3/11 (65-67)

them came in that morning, as would six every morning for the next week or so precisely at 6:30. One could set their watch by them. Expecting them to fly in yet again we heard a B-52 strike in the distance and no more rockets. Was it aimed at those shooting these things in? I somehow doubt it unless the same crew was sending them elsewhere at the same time, but who knows.

I want to say one rocket did hit the helicopter hot refuel point at Redcatcher, but just don't remember it that clearly now. I'd think I'd remember that. A fellow 398th mechanic recently told me a large piece of shrapnel was removed from the rotor blade of one of our Hueys. Again, I don't remember that.

In 1971 I returned to Vietnam for a 2nd tour. I was now a Huey crew chief with the 1st Aviation Brigade. I eventually found myself on the crew for the 3rd Corps, or as it was known then, the 3rd Regional Assistance Command, MG James Hollingsworth Commander. Prior to the Easter Offensive in 1972 we flew up to Tay Ninh West for a couple of weeks as the General met with what was left of U.S. forces and the ARVN. We'd arrive early in the morning and usually head back around 4:30 in the afternoon. At any given time there were about 40 or 50 helicopters lining the PSP runway all day long. Usually around 4 everybody would start cranking up and leaving. A little after 4 the rockets would start coming in. Once again, they landed well away from the runway most of the time, but always wondered why they chose that time to start shooting them. A few did land near the chow hall up there, but lunch was long over, not to mention all the brass that was in residence during the day was leaving or had left.

Looking back on it now I do consider myself lucky I guess. I didn't know when the rockets were landing at Redcatcher that a former Platoon Leader with I Troop was KIA from a rocket in the An Loc/Quan Loi area. After the war I'd read a number of 122mm rockets indeed found their marks, one resulting in 30 KIA when it made a direct hit on a bunker some guys from the 101st were in during an attack. Maybe it's a whole new dimension to "the rockets red glare" I never considered.

"Three, this is Niner-six over."

"This is Three."

"I am proceeding to intended location, over."

"Roger, stay on this frequency, out."

As the 3rd Squadron's Battery Commander (Niner-six) I had thus notified the Operations Officer (Three) that I was on my way to scout out a location for that evening's move. It was the spring of 1967 and we had spent about a week searching the jungles for a North Vietnamese Regiment. Because I had seen the new location before and it seemed secure, I thought a quick trip there would accomplish my mission. My jeep driver and I climbed on board an empty M113 Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle (ACAV) and I asked the ACAV driver to crank her up. Armed with two machine guns and behind thick steel shields feeling pretty good about the break in routine we set off on our way.

After about half an hour or so, we found a little stream that needed to be crossed. As we descended at a 45 degree angle, we were startled by a loud explosion near our front left track. Instinctively I told the ACAV driver to back up and get out of there. He immediately put the track in reverse and we

skittered on back up the incline, and into the tree line of a deserted rubber plantation. We then noticed about ten to fifteen camouflaged men armed with small arms and rocket launchers jumping up out of the grass and moving towards our right front. I pointed my machine gun towards them and pulled the trigger. One round fired off. The machine gun had not been cleaned and I could only muster one round at a time! I needed both hands to chamber each round and fired at the rate of one round every two seconds. (I thought; wait till I get my hands on the officer responsible for this ACAV). My jeep driver behind with the M-60 noticed that I had fired a round and he then politely asked if he too could fire. I replied, **"Expletive deleted, YES, FIRE AT WILL!!!"**

While thus backing away and firing at where we thought they had gone to, I scrambled the operations officer on the radio:

"Three, this is Niner-six, we are receiving fire, over."

"Roger Niner-six, hang tight, I'll send reinforcements, stay on this frequency, out!"

After a few minutes I noticed another ACAV coming down the road. I wondered why only one ACAV, but in the Army we

Continued on page 6

Show Your Pride



Tom McRoberts, (How 2/11, 1970) displays a great deal of military (including Blackhorse) pride with the symbols on his Escalade truck.

RESCUE from page 5

say: "We are not to question why, we are just to do and die." Never mind, I thought and flagged the approaching ACAV down. I quickly told the ACAV Commander (a buck sergeant, I think) to follow me but at my left flank. Noticing the captain bars on my helmet, the Commander did as he was told. As we proceeded forward, we opened up with all the machine guns, and went in hot pursuit. I remember feeling high from the adrenalin (like playing in an important sports match) and anxious to find the enemy. We then heard a chopper overhead and a rasping voice over the radio:

"What the 'blank, blank.....' are you doing???"

"Going after them with the reinforcement-over."

"Negative, your reinforcements are still behind you!"

"Roger, have them join us when they get here!!!"

However, as so often happened in Vietnam, the enemy after an unsuccessful ambush had left in a hurry and we were unable to find them again. We stopped only to lob a few grenades into some bunkers where they might have fled to, but then went back towards the rubber plantation. Lo and behold here came the reinforcements about a platoon of ACAV's coming to join us. That left me with a question about that ACAV that had so gallantly accompanied me in the chase:

"How did you happen to get here?"

"Well, we were on our way to the Squadron to deliver some mail and then you directed us to follow you. But I must say we did not really know what was going on until you started opening up with that machine gun."

Later back in Squadron headquarters, the "Three" greeted me with a caustic comment of "Here comes Wild Bill...were you tired of sitting in your track today?" He then told me that we had probably run into a North Vietnamese regular ranger unit. The Squadron's intelligence officer had had no prior fix on this unit. Now the location could be plotted on our battle maps.

Ever since that time, my respect for mail carriers has been high. I never forget to tip them at Christmas.



Jim Griffiths, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

I stand ready to begin training my successor ASAP and if you would desire to become Editor please let President Allen Hathaway or me know...

Recently I had the occasion to be visiting a living facility for the elderly and retired. While there I wandered down into a well equipped exercise facility where an 83 year old man was walking on a treadmill. He was very outgoing, extremely lucent, and coherent. I sensed he was a veteran and was anxious to discuss his military days. I obliged him and began a pleasant conversation with him. He had been in artillery and could rattle off his particular artillery unit designation and I finally got out of him that he was part of the 2nd Infantry Division during the Korean War.

As our conversation continued I asked him if he had kept in touch and had ever reunited with his buddies in his outfit. He told me no and I detected a wistful sense of sadness engulfing him. He related to me that he always looked in VFW Magazine with the hope there would be something in there that would give him a clue for a connection to his old artillery battery. I told him maybe he could get online to post his outfit or maybe some names of his buddies on the 2nd Infantry's website. At that point he sadly told me that he can hardly remember any of his buddies names anymore.

My guess is that this is a sad scenario

playing out every day for millions of veterans throughout our nation. Busy lives, the lack of desire in earlier years, or the means available to keep in touch or reunite with old military buddies has framed a future whereby a renewed interest and desire in later years to revisit the deep friendships formed and harrowing experiences shared has been thwarted. Time waits for no one.

I contrast this with the opportunity we have had with the 11th ACVVC. Most likely there are very few Troopers from the 11th ACR that we have not contacted and extended our hand of recognition to you for your service and the opportunity to share the camaraderie of our group and your old buddies. This issue of *Thunder Run* is sent to approximately 10,000 non members as we do once a year. We will not forget you or your service with our Regiment and will continue to keep in contact with you unless you expressly tell us not to keep in contact. We will always be there for you!

This issue of *Thunder Run* has all the usual items from our regular contributors. It also contains the important 11th ACVVC scholarship application and update as well as registration forms for and a great deal of information about the upcoming reunion in St. Louis. Added to that there are some great Show Pride pictures and some interesting items submitted by individual members.

As I mentioned last issue, the dictates of my schedule necessitate that I terminate my position as Editor of *Thunder Run*. My plans are to make the 3rd Quarter, 2011 issue as my last as editor. I stand ready to begin training my successor ASAP and if you would desire to become Editor please let President Allen Hathaway or me know and we can get the process rolling.

Enjoy your Thunder Run!

2011 Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter 2011.....Jan 15

Second Quarter 2011.....Mar 25

Third Quarter 2011.....Jun 25

Fourth Quarter 2011.....Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106. Email: JGriff11@aol.com.



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Well, we have a few short months until we once again gather for a weekend of fun, laughter, stories and adventure. I can hardly wait. I look forward to this every year.

Of course the few weeks before can be a little stressful around our house, making sure everything is done and that you all will have everything needed for an enjoyable weekend. But the result is always exciting and fun. And from what I have already seen and heard, it sounds and looks as if it again will be a great one.

We are planning to have our meeting this year aboard one of the old fashioned paddlewheel boats that they have in St. Louis. Of course this will be open to all ladies who are attending the reunion but I do need to know just how many of you ladies would like to do this.

We have two choices of cruises. The first would simply be an hour to an hour and a half. On this trip we would be sharing the boat with other visitors to the St. Louis area. Still, I'm sure we would be able to find a corner that we could use to hold a short meeting.

The second choice that we have, would allow us to have the boat to ourselves and we would also enjoy a buffet brunch. This trip would last about two to two and a half hours.

If we choose the first choice there will be a snack shop aboard that you would be able to purchase things like hot dogs and soft drinks. If we choose the second choice we must guarantee the company at least 90 people will be attending. I know that seems like a lot of people for one small group but we have been known to have as many as 75-85 ladies at one of our meetings. So I do think it would be possible to do. Of course I know some of you ladies do not come to get together normally, but we would certainly love it if you would join us for this one. If you have children with you, well that's okay too. Just be aware that you will be responsible for their behavior while on board. So the choice lies with you, #1 or #2.

I don't have the exact cost of these trips yet, but they should be somewhere in the

We are planning to have our meeting this year aboard one of the old fashioned paddlewheel boats that they have in St. Louis. Of course this will be open to all ladies who are attending the reunion but I do need to know just how many of you ladies would like to do this.

neighborhood of \$25 for the first and \$30-40 for the brunch cruise or maybe even less. I will post the exact cost as well as some kind of form for you to mail to me to register in the women's section of the Blackhorse web site as soon as I know which you all are interested in. So ladies please e-mail me ASAP and let me know which you think we should do. I must know before the 3rd of April so I can make the reservation when Bob and I go to St. Louis the middle of the month. My e-mail address can be found at the bottom of this article. If I don't hear from very many of you then I will make the decision to take the first choice. So far I have four people who want the second choice (brunch) and none for the first. No matter which you choose, once you do, you will be committed to pay for it. We will NOT take anyone who just shows up. We are keeping a list and only those who pre-register will be able to go. So don't get left out.

Our Angel Boxes are going rather slowly. As you recall at our meeting in DC, we as a group decided to undertake this project. I have posted a list of items we are looking for on the website. It can be found on page 2 of the women's corner but I will post it again just in case you can't find it. We don't expect you to send "everything" on the list but if you could send just a couple of the items it would be great. Above all we follow through with this project.

All items can be sent to either Cookie Avila at 1013 e. Tennessee Court Fairfield, California 94553 or to Sarah Belcher at 949 Old Cutler Rd., Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454. I know I have a box that needs to be mailed out to one of them next week.

Obtaining these items can be done in many ways. The way I had help with mine was when we had our company Christmas

party. Everyone in attendance was asked to bring something for our Angel Box instead of bringing a gift to exchange. I was amazed at what all we got. And it was the largest party they had, had in years. All we ask is that you DO NOT go to any military post or active duty units to do this. They all have their own projects going on. Also this is not just limited to our ladies group. We would love to see everyone in the 11th ACVVC organization help out. I think this is a very worthwhile project and it is just one small way of saying Thank You to those who are giving of themselves for our freedom.

Our newest cookbook is about ready to go to press. But you still have a few weeks to get your favorite recipe in. Kathy Tandberg has written an article concerning this and hopefully it is in this edition of the *Thunder Run*. If you don't see it, just email me for more information.

We still have a few water bottles available for \$5 each and pen/flashlight combinations that are now available for \$3. You can order these through me just by letting me know what you want. Shipping charges for these items will be: \$3 each for the water bottle and \$1.50 each for the combos. If you choose to get both, the shipping will be a straight \$3 for the set.

Well gang I guess that's it for this time. I hope you will take the time to support us in all that we are attempting to do. And above all let me know which boat trip is of interest to you.

It is through your support and encouragement of the Blackhorse organization that we continue to exist. And for that we thank you and look forward to a lifetime of fun and support together. I hope to hear from all of you soon.

Go Blackhorse!!!

Barb Moreno
11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator
puppytoes8@gmail.com



From the 64th Colonel of the Regiment

Greetings and a Happy New Year from the High Mojave Desert here in Southern California. As we kick off another exciting year training our Nation's Army, I'd like to talk to you about all the hard work your Blackhorse Troopers have put forth in these last few months to close out 2010.

Last October, your Blackhorse Troopers were extremely busy as we welcomed our fellow Cavalry brothers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division. The Troopers in your Regiment put them through their paces as they prepared to deploy to Iraq. That unit would also be the last formal rotational training unit of 2010. With all the time and personnel requirements of a rotation, it's amazing how they were still able to accomplish their other missions.

At the beginning of October, our Regimental Horse Detachment participated in the National Cavalry Competition at the

historic Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas. The Detachment performed remarkably well. Two of our Troopers earned First and Second Place in the Authenticity Category for the Spanish-American War era. We also had Troopers place third in the mounted saber and mounted pistol drills. It was a great event and a great way for our riders to enhance their craft and to trade stories with other horse detachments. They were even given the opportunity to meet with a great Cavalry hero, Col. Edwin Ramsey who led the last Cavalry charge in U.S. Army history.

Also in October, our Troopers' spouses participated in the Spouses' Spur Ride. The object of the Spur Ride was to bring the spouses closer together with their Soldiers by giving them have a little taste of what their Troopers do when they are away from home. We had more than 100 wives and husbands participate in the event. Though not as tough as the Trooper's Spur Ride, the spouses' ver-

sion was no cake walk either. The challenges we threw at them ran the whole gamut from simple weapons familiarization to grenade-throwing and even room-clearing operations. The event was a monumental success and we are looking forward to holding another event possibly in the spring.

In November, we were paid a visit by Gen. James Thurman, the U.S. Army Forces Command commanding general. He toured the training area and watched a few exercises between the Blackhorse professional insurgents and the 3/1 Cav. Soldiers. The general also awarded First Place in the Active Army Field Kitchen category of the FORSCOM-level Phillip A. Connelly Cup Competition. It was a proud moment for our young Food Service Specialists. In December, Department of the Army judges came to Fort Irwin to conduct the DA-level

Tony Aguto



The Regimental Mounted Color Guard leads 300 Blackhorse Troopers on the 14th annual Veterans Home March in Barstow, CA

judging of the competition. Our Soldiers performed great and came away with the DA-level award as well.

As we neared the end of the year, we had one final rotation. This final rotation was different from the typical rotations. This time, we were our own rotational unit and our own opposing force. We conducted a rehearsal and certification of Hybrid Threat Operations (HTO). As I mentioned in my previous letter, HTO combines counterinsurgency (COIN) operations with conventional land-force maneuvers. Since the start of the Global War on Terror, the Blackhorse has had to train rotational units on COIN tactics and Military Operations in Urban Terrain. Hybrid Threat allows us to continue to train rotational training units in those facets as well as employ traditional vehicle maneuvers. As the landscape of war changes, the Blackhorse must always stay one step ahead and provide the toughest and most realistic training possible.

During HTO, we pulled our armored fleet and other enabling forces into the field to conduct large-scale vehicle battles that beckoned to the OPFOR days of old. It was a sight to behold to see companies of main battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles rolling through the desert sands once again. For our younger Troopers, this gave them the chance to train on their primary weapons and vehicle systems that they might not get a chance to regularly. For our junior company commanders, it was a chance for them to lead and command their tracked vehicles in

a viable environment and employ real-world tactics. In the coming year, we will see more rotational units conduct HTO and the Blackhorse will be ready to give them hell.

Finally, after block leave, we made our 14th annual Veterans Home March in Barstow. In early January, Command Sgt. Maj. Wilcox and I, along with 300 Blackhorse Troopers, marched to the home and had lunch with the Veterans living there. The Veterans shared their stories with the younger Soldiers. More importantly, with help from the High Desert Chapter of the AUSA, we were able raise more than \$1,500 for the Home's Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund. Next year, we will plan for a two-day march starting at Fort Irwin and ending at the Home.

The march was a great way to kick off 2011. Right now we are gearing up for our first rotation of the year. This month we will be hosting the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. The change of climate will not be the only challenge they will be facing. Your Blackhorse Troopers are recharged and ready to continue training America's Army.

As always I openly invite any of you Blackhorse Veterans to come and visit us. If you are in the area and would like to visit, we will be more than happy to spend some time with you.

Blackhorse!

MEMBER from page 1

member. If the words "EXPIRED" are printed, this is a good time to renew your membership. Expired members will also have their membership number printed on the same line.

To join or renew your membership in the 11th ACVVC just fill out and mail the membership form printed in 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.

Membership dues are only \$15 per year, or \$100 for a LIFE membership. Over 90 percent of our members are LIFE members. We also offer an easy and convenient LIFE payment plan which divides the \$100 membership dues into four payments of \$25 each. 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.

Thunder Run has been printed and mailed every three months for the past 25 years. This shows our reliability and commitment to our members.

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. All new members will be listed in the "Welcome New Members" section of Thunder Run. Show your support and join today!

Incoming...

Information provided by and for our Troopers

From Adrian Vaaler.....The 2011 Eugene Blackhorse Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 18 from 11am-5pm. It will take place at 2610 Baker Blvd, Eugene, OR, home of Adrian Vaaler. FMI, phone 541-344-2113 or email to 11thsecretary@gmail.com. RSVP if possible.

From Donald Johnson..... (HHT, 2/11 (68-69)I am coordinating a special 11th Cavalry Veterans tour to Vietnam. The tour, tailored for Blackhorse Vets, is scheduled for April 5 - 13, 2011. Don has made several visits to Vietnam through the years with the tour company MilSpec Tours, Inc. If interested in this special tour, contact Donald Johnson at (281) 452-2324 or by mail at 826 Kilpatrick St., Channelview, TX 77530. Details and registration may be found at www.gomilspec.com by clicking the Asian Tour link.

(DISCLAIMER- The 11th ACVVC is not connected in any way with this or any other tour venture. This announcement is provided as a courtesy to members of this organization.)

From Friends of Donnie Colwell.....Donnie Colwell (A Troop, 69-70) accidentally fell and damaged his spine several months ago. For a time he was unable to move, but since he has advanced to the point where he can control parts of his upper body and converse on the phone. Without assistance his mobility is very limited and, as might be imagined, this has been a devastating experience for him and his family. He is available for short telephone calls from troopers in the 11th ACVVC. Donnie's number is (814) 648-1276 (mobile).

REGISTRATION FORM



**26th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
St. Louis, MO
Wednesday, 17 August thru Sunday, 21 August 2011**



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT
Millennium Hotel St. Louis, 200 S 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102
800-325-7353 314-241-9500**

Registration fee is \$95.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.

Please register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations postmarked after July 21, 2011

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Telephone No: _____

Unit Assignment _____ Years in Country _____
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

Attendees

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Registration Fee Total	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken _____ Beef _____ Veggie _____

Special Dietary Needs: Yes No (Please indicate needs) _____

Is this your first reunion? Yes No Wheelchair or special needs seating Yes No

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

Visa MasterCard Card No _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

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

When I sat down to work on this, I had to really stop and think about what I wanted to say. It almost seems as if every time an article is due I go thru the same thing. What to say or how to say it in a way that I haven't before. Well here goes.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the website will have the new registration form available on it. If it doesn't then it will be soon. No matter, I just want to go over the procedure for those of you that are planning on attending your first reunion.

The most important thing for you to do is PRINT CLEARLY or even better yet use one of those little name tag stickers that you receive in the mail by what seems to be the truckload. Why you ask? It makes for a lot fewer mistakes on our part. Barb sometimes gets a little frazzled when she can't read your handwriting.

Next, when it asks for your unit, be sure to list only one unit. Such as G Trp. 68-69. Now if you were with more than one during your tour with us in Vietnam, choose the one with whom you wish to sit with during the banquet.

The next thing to pay attention to is the section in which you list all who are attending. Please be sure to list everyone who will be attending with you. This too is very important as we need to have a complete count of all those present.

Now, let's talk about what you want to eat. Your choices are: BEEF, CHICKEN OR VEGETARIAN. No prime rib, lobster or anything else. We need to know how many of each you are ordering. You should be ordering one meal for each person that is registering. So if there are eight of you being registered then you should have eight meals marked. We are sorry but there are no special children's meals available. If you mark that someone in your group has a special dietary need, then I will be calling you so we can be sure to mark their meal ticket so the wait staff will know who gets that one.

Okay, remember when I said it was important to put down your primary unit? There are a couple of reasons for this. The first of course is so that you will be seated with your buddies. The next is so that we know how many chairs and tables are needed for your unit. I know from personal experience how frustrating it is when you can't find a seat with your own unit. Along those lines, I would like to say to please be courteous of all other attendees and sit with your own unit. If you belong to, let's say, F Troop, and you decide you would like to sit with some friends you only see once a year but they are in say M company, so you just go ahead and do it. That means that someone else doesn't have a seat with their correct unit. So please let's be kind and sit where we are supposed to. Also remember that at time some units will have an odd number of people and therefore it will be necessary to join two units at one table.

As I said, you send your registration to Ollie Pickral. He then sends it on to me. This does take a while as he is in Virginia and I am in Wisconsin and he doesn't do a mailing everyday but usually once a week. So watch your cut off date and have patience when waiting to see your name on the web site.

The cut off date is very important also as we need to give the hotel a count of meals on the Wednesday of reunion week. Once that goes in we cannot make any changes to meal choices or to how many we need. So even if you aren't sure yet if you're going, send it in anyway. It's easier to ask and hopefully receive a refund than to get left out. We would like to avoid any walk ins this year, so remember if you don't pre-register and you just show up, then you will probably not be able to eat and like last year, because of fire regulations, we were not even allowed to let you into the banquet hall for the program. So register!!!

Also be sure you make your hotel reservations early. The hotel already has quite a few of our block of rooms

booked and think it is going to fill to capacity quite quickly. No one likes to have to be at a different hotel when all the action is at the hotel that is listed as the host reunion hotel.

Well I'll save any thing else for the next time. Just get those registrations in early and be sure to make your hotel reservation now! And by all means call me (and leave a message if I'm not home) if you have any questions.

ALLONS

Bob Moreno

G Troop 2/11 68-69

11th ACVVC Board of Directors

E-mail: gtroopbob@gmail.com

11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

Reunion Attendance

Year	Location	Attendance
1986	Arlington, TX	175
1987	Washington, DC	280
1988	Louisville, KY	367
1989	Minneapolis, MN	399
1990	Sacramento, CA	465
1991	Philadelphia, PA	496
1992	San Antonio, TX	970
1993	Indianapolis, IN	988
1994	Colorado Spgs, CO	847
1995	Appleton, WI	703
1996	Louisville, KY	2,026
1997	Las Vegas, NV	1,385
1998	New Orleans, LA	1,011
1999	San Diego, CA	1,025
2000	Buffalo, NY	975
2001	Washington, DC	1,380
2002	Nashville, TN	1,287
2003	Eugene, OR	617
2004	Daytona Beach, FL	940
2005	Colorado Spgs, CO	938
2006	Kansas City, MO	950
2007	Louisville, KY	1,630
2008	Chicago, IL	1,100
2009	Santa Clara, CA	650
2010	Washington, DC	1,252
2011	St. Louis, MO	
2012	Orlando, FL	

2011 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By Allen Hathaway

The 2011 11th ACVVC Calendar was mailed to all members in mid December. The calendar once again features 12 new photos submitted by you! The calendar also contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam.

The calendar is one of three fund raising projects that helps support our Scholarship Program. We once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a separate, self sufficient fund that depends solely on your donations. All scholarships as well as all printing and mailing costs associated with the annual calendar are paid directly from donations made to the scholarship fund. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during that year. Without your support the program would not be viable.

Your continued support ensures the calendar can be produced each year. We ask that you help support the calendar and Scholarship Program with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of the 11th ACVVC members begin or continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

In 2010 we set a goal of \$39,000 in donations in support of the Calendar Fundraising project. Through your generous contributions we exceeded that goal with \$40,983 in donations. In 2010 our combined fund raising activities throughout the year allowed us to award 24 scholarships totaling \$74,000.

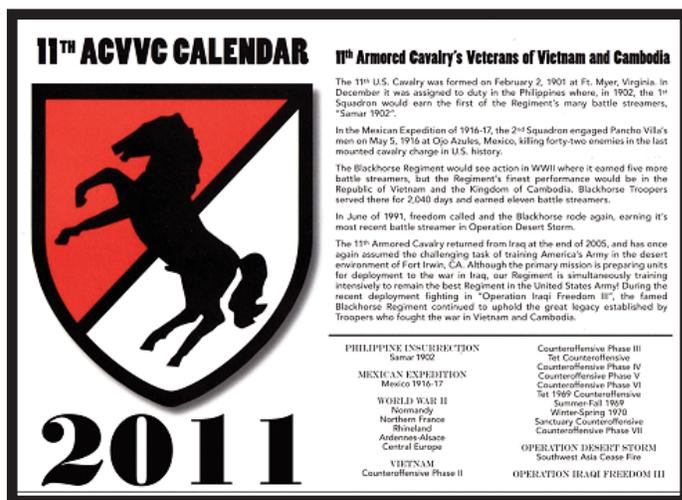
For 2011 we have two goals. Our first goal is to once again collect \$39,000 in donations. We will need your help in attaining this unprecedented level. Many of you have generously donated \$100 to \$500 for this cause. We ask that you continue your ardent support and to add more to your rolls.

The second goal is to increase the percentage of members making

calendar donations. Over the past few years we have slowly increased the number of members making donations from 20 to 22 percent. We want to increase the number of members making donations. If half of our members participate, we could award scholarships to all qualifying applicants. To help meet this goal and to ensure that you continue to receive a calendar every year we are asking that you please make a donation.

The annual calendar is one of three annual fund raising projects. We also conduct our annual raffle prior to the reunion at which the winning tickets are drawn, and the Silent Auction of donated items at the reunion. Each of these activities has also flourished over the years thanks to the support of our members.

A limited number of extra calendars are available while supplies last. Instructions on how to order extras are included with the calendar. Please use the convenient envelope enclosed with the calendar to return your donation. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount. Thank you in advance for your generous support!



Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		541st MID		C TROOP, 1/11		Pippins, James L 72-72	
Vaughan, Patrick J	69-70	Canale, Eugene A	69-70	Champagne, Roger P	67-68	I TROOP, 3/11	
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		919th ENGR CO		Kern, Hans P	66-67	Harrington, Gordon 67-68	
Greemon, Tony B	69-69	Opal, Robert J	69-70	HHT, 2/11		K TROOP, 3/11	
37th MEDICAL CO		HHT, 1/11		Cass, Gary L	68-69	Babcock, Robert C 70-70	
Pearlman, Earl H	67-68	Farris, Richard A	69-70	G TROOP, 2/11		L TROOP, 3/11	
398th TRANS DET		A TROOP, 1/11		Bloemker, Garland K	67-67	Mitchell, Paul 67-68	
Petersen, Richard	68-69	Pion, William G	66-67	Shattuck, Lawrence G	69-70	HOW BTRY, 3/11	
409th RR DET		Reece, Umon T	66-67	Stephens, Vincent H	69-69	Babcock, Robert C 70-70	
Gordon, Ralph W	67-68			HOW BTRY, 2/11			
				Mclellan, Donald H	69-70		



Highways, Roads, and Trails

Mixing highways, roads, and trails in the same article makes sense. They have a lot in common. You'll recollect that in it was often challenging to make some of them out on the maps. Reflect for a minute. What comes to mind when you think about trails over there? You probably visualize mud bog paths across rice paddies during the monsoons and deep dust ruts through the jungle in the dry season. Some things aren't earth-shattering important, but they're memorable anyway, because they were part of how we lived in Viet Nam.

Think about our mission when we were ordered to open QL14 from Loc Ninh to Bo Duc and Bu Dop. QL14 was an old French highway built along the Cambodian border. It didn't look like a highway. It looked like a wide trail through the jungle with some pieces of old pavement tossed in. You were there, so you know what had happened was that in the old days before the Japanese invaded in WWII, it had been a two lane paved highway built by the French when they were the colonizers. Sometime after the French left, the commies from North Vietnam mined the highway. I'm sure Ho Chi Minh told them to do it. So there were beaucoup mines which no one took out because there was a war, thereby making it impossible to remove the mines or maintain the road. So the jungle took over. Then along came Americans, us, the Blackhorse Cavalry, some infantry, and some plows. We opened the highway so the Vietnamese people could use it again. It went from looking like a trail to looking like a road. It still needed a lot of work to bring it up to par. But it had become an open road. That was QL14.

We've talked before about Thunder Run, which was QL13. It was the highway we ran back and forth on because it was the main road from to the Cambodian border area where we could fight the war. We preferred to fight the war there rather than around Saigon. The bad guys preferred to fight around Saigon.

I used to go to and Long Binh to visit our casualties in the hospitals. There we drove on an actual four lane, paved highway. I should say, my enlisted assistant

drove the jeep and I rode. Driving was his job. Riding was my job until we got to the hospital. Then visiting the troops was my job, which I liked. I guess we were on Highway 1. It was the only paved four lane highway I ever saw in Viet Nam. I'm told it's still there, only better now.

People have told me that Highway 1 was the main highway in Vietnam. I think it ran from in the south to wherever in the north. It probably went into North Vietnam. I don't know, not having been there. I did ride along Highway 1 a time or two. That was in another jeep, which I borrowed from the regimental chaplain under the same conditions I described a minute ago. That part of Highway 1 went from Long Binh to Blackhorse base camp at Xuan Loc. That section of the highway was two lanes and paved. You realize that what we called a highway over there wasn't always up to our standards here. That was probably because of mines, of which they had mucho, and bucks/\$, which they didn't.

The east-west road through War Zone C paralleled the Cambodian border from the Fish Hook to the Parrot's Beak. It was called a highway on the map, as I recall. We were on it and it wasn't what we would call a highway. It was a dirt road, well traveled. Am I wrong? I think you who were there will agree. It was as wide as a two lane country road, but it wasn't paved and never had been. It was loose, deep, fine, powdery, packed dirt. I don't mean dust. Dirt. Check what I used to say about eating dirt if you don't know what I mean. I'm not com-

plaining. I'm just making the point that there's a difference between highways, roads, trails, and even paths. Just because a map called something a highway didn't mean it was really a highway. But, hey, it's their country. So we called it a highway and made everybody happy.

I'm not talking much about trail stories because we used helicopters where I did my first tour. My second tour with armored cav we didn't use the narrow trails like the ground-pounders did. When we used trails our tanks and ACAV's quickly turned them into roads anyway. You know how it was with tanks.

The first highway in I had any experience with was the highway going north-south in the Mekong Delta. It was an honest highway, by their standards. I think it started in Saigon. It came down from Can Tho to Soc Trang where we were and kept going to Bac Lieu and maybe even to Ca Mau. Ours was the southernmost American installation in all of . It was a little airfield built by the Japanese in WWII. I told you about this before. I don't remember the number of the highway and I don't have a map to check, maybe it was Highway 35. We couldn't use it anyway, because the VC kept it mined. So I never rode on it. We went everywhere by air except we could drive jeeps into town near the airfield. Only convoys could drive on the highway. I believe they had minesweepers, which we didn't. At least I hope they did. They were American soldiers too and they were haul-

Continued on page 23

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.



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

Meet Our 2010 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2010 Scholarship Winners. The last issue contained brief statements from 9 of our 2010 Scholarship Winners. Statements from the remaining winners are below.



**Arlen Graham, son of James Graham,
G Trp., 68-70**

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship is the pinnacle in the efforts I put forth in order to go to and succeed in college. The money validates the hours spent sifting through and applying to the colleges I thought would be right for me. Having the ability to be (relatively) financially independent, due to the scholarship in combination with two others I receive, allows me to put one hundred percent of my self toward my work and eventual undergraduate research. I am studying biochemistry and chemistry and plan to use the knowledge I will gain at Florida State University as the launching pad for a career that will hopefully revolutionize the chemical industry and the means we take to sustain our planet while also creating the profound change in society that I have always dreamt of making. The fact that my goals are being furthered by the brave soldiers and people I met at the Cav reunions as a child only makes it more important to me. Thank you.

Scholarship dedicated to SP5 Billy Hunter; L Trp., KIA 09/01/70



**Candace Marin, daughter of Henry Marin,
L Troop., 67-68**

There aren't enough words to express my gratitude or convey my pride at the gift you have presented me with and the honor you have blessed me with. I am very thankful to the 11th ACVVC, to the men who served our country and serve our country still, and, lastly, for my father: Henry Marin. I am indebted to Rene Reynoso, in whose memory my scholarship is dedicated to. I salute my respect to him, as well as all veterans, for the lush country I am privileged with living in, from their sacrifice.

My father has taught me many valuable lessons throughout my life. But in this case particularly, he has shown me the high character of the men in this country and in your admirable cavalry: the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia! I thank you for the opportunities you have presented me with this scholarship and with your consideration of me. This will further my life –my education– and is one of the many beginning steps on my road to prosperity. I will never forget the generosity of this organization; nor will I lose sight of the greatness of my brothers of this country, the veterans of our past.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Rene Reynoso; LTrp., KIA 01/12/67



**Scott Skrabal, Son of Edward Skrabal,
HHT Regt., 68-69**

I can't begin to express how thankful I am for being blessed with the opportunity to uphold an 11ACVVC Scholarship. A few months back, my family and I were unsure about how to pay for the trivial expenses of college. It looked like I would have to get an extra job. Yet because of the scholarship money, I can emphasize more time on my studies and not add in a job to an already busy schedule.

I am studying Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations. The University I attend strongly believes in service to others and I have decided to join a very prestigious service organization on campus. I would not be able to afford the time to service projects if I had to seek employment for college expenses. It is really nice to know an organization like the 11th Armored Cavalry is so dedicated to the value of education. I can't wait to see how my year pans out, and it's already less stressful without having to worry about too many expenses my first year of college. I'd like to thank everyone who made this scholarship possible and alleviated the stress off of my parents and myself.

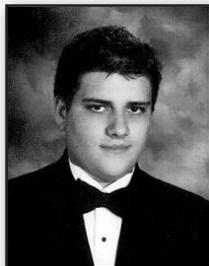
Scholarship dedicated to Lt. Carl Shirley; 919 Eng., KIA 07/22/69



**Denisha Teague, Daughter of Dennis
Teague, A Trp., 67-68**

What a wonderful surprise to open my e-mail and find that I received the 11th ACVVC Scholarship. It will give me the opportunity to continue my education and further my goal of becoming a psychologist. I sincerely appreciate the generosity of the 11th ACVVC. My father thanks you as well.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Barry L. Moyer; K Trp., KIA 03/02/68



**Warren R. Turner, son of Lawrence Klein,
How Btry., 2/11, 66-67**

I would like to thank the organization on behalf of my acceptance for the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. Your decision for me to receive such an award will not be taken for granted. I will try my best to use such an honor for my advancement and usage of my future education and ultimately my life's road ahead.

It is an honor to receive such an award from the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Men and women that have served for the protection of our great nation, and other nations as well will never be forgotten. Their dedication and strong courage will be honorably reflected by present and future generations.

**A complete list of recipientss of the 2010 11th
ACVVC Scholarships is presented on page 17.**

Likewise, this scholarship will help me in becoming, a dedicated student that will work hard in the production of films. Those films will (I hope) bring awareness of the past and reflect on the despairs that came with building such a great nation.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Donald Waters Jr.; D Co., KIA 05/22/67



Emily Ann Williams, daughter of Terry J. Williams, F Trp., 68-69

To begin, I would like to say how much I appreciate the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. The honor of receiving such a scholarship is in itself, a privilege which I am truly grateful for.

I wanted to let you know what this scholarship means to me: Having received such an honorable scholarship means more than money. It shows the strong bond and integrity of soldiers who served and risked their lives. It is a privilege to receive and I am humbled by it. This scholarship will make a substantial difference in the financial aspect of my educational goals. It will allow me to move more easily towards my future. I continue to feel proud to be an American and grateful to all our soldiers. I thank God for my father and men like him. Without all of you, the freedom we take for granted would not exist. It is a true honor to receive this scholarship

Please know that my family appreciates your generosity and continued support. There aren't enough words to express my gratitude. My cup runneth over.

Scholarship dedicated to SSG John Bell; M Co., KIA 06/17/70



Aaron H. Wood, son of Larry Locke, B Trp., 68-69

Dear 11th ACVVC:

I honestly cannot put into words how much your help with my education means. I would like to thank all of you who served to protect our freedom and way of life. It really amazes me, that even when times are hard, how we

as Americans and Family stand together. Your decision to award me this scholarship has enabled me to continue on the path of bettering myself and my family's well being. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Scholarship dedicated to SSG Vitelio Vela; I Trp., KIA 02/14/68



Amy Kate Woodward, daughter of Richard Russell Jr., K Trp., 1969

I am honored to be one of the recipients of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship award. Thanks to your generous support, I will be entering my last year of Dental Hygiene School with less financial stress and will be

able to spend more of my time and energy on the academic and clinical portion of the program. Growing up in a family where I was

taught the significance of a dollar early on has really made me realize the value of a college education and I appreciate your support more than you'll ever know. Thank you so much for this award and assistance in pursuing my educational goals.

Scholarship dedicated to CPT Ken Shannon; HHT 1/11, KIA 02/18/68

Michelle Tisdell, daughter of Steve Page, B Trp., 66-67 (no photo available)

I would like to thank the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for the very generous scholarship. Your support is helping me to fulfill my dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. I have great support from family and friends. They encouraged me to take a leap of faith and return to college after twenty years. With returning to school, I am able to be a role model for my own children, showing them the importance of education at any age. This scholarship will lessen the financial burden on my family and allow me to pursue my goals. I am making sacrifices in my personal life to make this journey, but this sacrifice is nothing compared to the sacrifice made by Trooper Gary Reed, to whom this scholarship is dedicated. Thank you again!

Scholarship dedicated to SP 4 Gary Reed; K Trp., KIA 07/14/69

My Dad

By Anna Marie Taylor

**My Dad's a veteran of war,
He's one of the best for sure.
His life was a battle to help us be free,
He rode in helicopters across the sea,
Fought for us through his fears,
While family at home shed tears,
Not knowing if he was alright,
Just knowing he was there to fight.
Years, months, days, and hours awake,
My Dad's a soldier, he's not a fake.
He's a hero to alot of others,
He saved soldiers to send home to Mothers.
Friends died which made him sad,
But He came back to be the greatest Dad
He represents a trustworthy man,
A soldier, a warrior, and I am his biggest fan.**

Submitted by James "Doc" Taylor, F Trp. 68

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman



The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 268 scholarships totaling \$779,000 to children of our members and KIA's. Every scholarship dollar paid was donated by YOU,

the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans!! You will find a usable copy of the *2011 Scholarship Application* in this issue of *Thunder Run* and also on our website.

Our recently updated Scholarship Guide for 2011 provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the 2011 Guide and 2011 Application at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html.

Effective in 2008, each recipient's Scholarship Award will be dedicated to honor a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed In Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIA's to be honored each year will be selected on an impartial and random basis. An attractive certificate suitable for framing containing information about the trooper in whose honor their scholarship is dedicated is sent to each recipient.

In addition, one recipient will be selected to receive a special *Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship* award in honor of former 11ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt for his leadership and devotion to the 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Troopers of the Vietnam War. Chuck died on Veterans Day 2007 as a result Agent Orange-related cancer shortly after being elected to his third term as President. Chuck's widow, Mrs. Bonnie Schmidt, will select the recipient of this award from the applicants. The recipient will also receive an additional scholarship award paid by Chuck's estate.

Scholarship Judges are asked to rate each applicant on a 30-point system. **The point total for a perfect score is 30.**

1. Up to **7 points** may be awarded for

Application completion, legibility, and following the instructions on the form and in the Guide

2. Up to **8 points** may be awarded for Grades of the Applicants' most recent two years of education (high school or college)

3. Up to **15 points** may be awarded for the narrative response to the questions in item #11 of the 11ACVVC Scholarship Application.

4. Each applicant will be judged independently by each Judge. Currently we have five participating independent Judges.

5. The Judge's scores are averaged to obtain a final score for each applicant.

6. The 11ACVVC Board of Directors will determine the number of Scholarship awards to be granted in any given year

based on the available donated funds and the dollar amount determined for each scholarship award. The Scholarship Committee will then apply that number to the list of applicants in descending score order to determine who will receive the Awards.

We received 24 applications from eligible children in 2010 and the scholarship committee continues to be amazed at how many of our Trooper members still have college age children.

Grandchildren of members are not currently eligible. The criterion to include Grandchildren as eligible for scholarships is reviewed annually.

Please inform your eligible children that applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2011. E mail me at DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net if you have questions.

Scholarship Winners 2010

Brianna Adams	daughter	of	Bobby Adams	37th Med	68-69
Jennifer Avros	daughter	of	Philip Mendelson	37th Med	69-70
Wendy Bohl	daughter	of	Leslie Hines III	E Trp.	KIIA 1968
Camille Chavez	daughter	of	Larry Chavez	919th Eng.	68-70
Briana Colameco	daughter	of	Arthur Colameco	HHT Regt.	68-69
Aaron Cook	son	of	Edward Cook	ARP/Air Cav	69-70
Catherine Cook	daughter	of	Rodger Cook	919th Eng.	69-70
Israel De La Cruz	son	of	Conrado De La Cruz	HHT Regt.	68-70
Arlen Graham	son	of	James Graham	G Trp.	68-70
Kristina Graham	daughter	of	Richard T. Graham	A Trp.	67-68
Jennifer Hormell	daughter	of	James Hormell	HHT 3/11	67-68
Candice Marin	daughter	of	Henry Marin	HHT 3/11	67-68
Matt McKelvey	son	of	Jack McKelvey	L Trp.	70-71
Tuyen Nguyen	daughter	of	Lyle Hughbanks	L Trp.	69-70
Jessie Scoggins	daughter	of	Robert Scoggins	C Trp.	66-67
Emily Severeid	daughter	of	Ralph Severeid	409 RR	67-69
Scott Skrabal	son	of	Edward Skrabal	HHT Regt.	68-69
Denisha Teague	daughter	of	Dennis Teague	A Trp.	67-68
Michelle Tisdell	daughter	of	Steve Page	B Trp.	66-67
Warren Turner III	son	of	Lawrence Klein	HOW 2/11	66-67
Jessica Watkins	daughter	of	David Watkins	Air Cav Trp.	71-71
Emily Williams	daughter	of	Terry Williams	F Trp.	68-69
Aaron Wood	son	of	Larry Locke	B Trp.	68-69
Amy Kate Woodward	daughter	of	Richard Russell Jr.	K Trp.	69-69

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 3rd Quarter 2010 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49		
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Gold Level	Keith Kweder Mike Moynihan Brent & Julie Speier					
Calendar - Scholarship						
Platinum Level	Edward Buening John Casterman David Coover Steve Dennis Douglas Huddle William Hummers Resources, Inc. Newpark Michael Simpson David York					
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Randy	Bodo	James	Clanton	Michael	Dignard	Martin	Franklin	Benjamin	Harmon	Gary	Jacobs
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Robert	Bond	Robert	Clark	James	Dittmer	B.E.	Freeman	Robert	Hass	James	Johnson
John	Borror	Glenn	Clark	Charles	Dolen	Harold	Fremd	Grady	Hassell	Steve	Johnson
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Jerry	Bromley	Thomas	Consolo	Michael	Eager	Ken	Geesey	Johnny	Henson	William	Knowlton
Edward	Brooks	James	Cooke	Larry	Easter	Walter	Gensemer	Walter	Herlinsky	Fred	Kontzelmann
Charles	Brooks	Jacke	Cooper	Roger	Eitel	Terry	Gerhardt	Paul	Herman	Christopher	Kopecky
Danny	Brown	Richard	Corbett	Frank	Ekert	Richard	Gharing	Roberto	Herrera	Kenneth	Koppenal
Richard	Bruglia	John	Corey	David	Ekhohm	William	Gietzen	Robert	Heuston	James	Kowalski
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Michael	Buehre	A.C.	Cotton	William	Emanuel	Paul	Gissible	John	Hill	David	Krzyzan
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Bradley	Burch	Ralph	Cox	Steven	Erato	James	Glenn	Ladislao	Hinojosa	Norman	Kulpa
Van	Burch	James	Crabtree	Vaughn	Esper	Lonnie	Gobbs	Ray	Hinson	Donald	Kunego
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Joseph	Burke	Michael	Cricco	Erasmus	Estringel	Dalton	Gordon	Ronald	Hjort	John	Kuntzman
James	Burney	Anthony	Crudele	Denver	Evans	Paul	Gorley	John	Hoeffler	Paul	Kwiecinski
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Danny	Caswell	Curt	Day	Paul	Fisher	J.	Guerena	Robert	Hoyt	Larry	Lee
Michael	Cavanagh	Faustino	De La Rosa	William	Fitzgerald	John	Gumpf	Dale	Hruby	Edward	Legnon
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David	Ludwig	Joseph	Moliero	Michael	Pisciotta	Robert	Sandlin	Bruce	Sweningson	George	Watts
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James	Lynch	Robert	Monprode	Murray	Pledger	Robert	Savicki	Lauren	Tandberg	Henry	Weege
Michael	Lynch	Harry	Montague	Clifton	Plisch	David	Saxby	Melvin	Tanney	Ben	Weeks
Howard	Lytle	Fred	Montgomery	John	Plummer	Michael	Schaefer	Raymond	Tarr	Dennis	Welch
John	MacDonald	D.C.	Moodie	Richard	Points	Donni	Schaunaman	J.Y.	Tate	William	Weller
Kurt	Mackley	Harry	Moody	Duane	Poland	Wayne	Schmitt	Johnnie	Tatum	John	Wells
Bill	Madej	William	Moore	Nicholas	Posak	Robert	Schneiter	James	Taylor	Floyd	Welton
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John	Magnarelli	Dennis	Morgan	Charles	Price	Lane	Schultz	Paul	Tebo	Darrel	Wentz
Ray	Majewski	Douglas	Moriarity	Noel	Pritzl	Robert	Schumacher	Billy	Temple	Frank	Werker
Walker	Malone	Damion	Moring	Michael	Pullium	Steven	Scott	Thomas	Templer	Edward	Wertz
Jackie	Maples	Duane	Morris	George	Purifoy	Gary	Scott	Gary	Terry	James	Wesley
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Dave	Marmet	Charles	Morrison	William	Pyke	Gary	Self	Darold	Thoemke	Bobby	West
Donnie	Marquez	Jack	Morrison	Phillip	Quiban	Arthur	Sevelius	Arthur	Thomas	Victor	Westerberg
Byron	Marsh	Matthew	Morrissey	Richard	Quick	Raymond	Shakow	Allen	Thomas	John	Westphal
Robert	Marshall	Dave	Moughmer	Richard	Quinn	Terry	Sharpe	Trenton	Thompson	Thomas	Wheelock
Richard	Martinez	Robert	Mowery	Paul	Radzwillas	John	Shelburne	Davy	Thompson	Robert	White
Daniel	Martinez	Daniel	Mulcahey	Michael	Rafferty	Dennis	Sheldon	David	Thompson	Roger	White
Jon	Masley	Kenneth	Mullen	William	Ralston	R.L.	Shelley	Earl	Thompson	James	White
Roger	Mason	Don	Murphy	Samuel	Ramnytz	Mary	Shepler	Limmie	Thompson	Ernest	Whitener
Glen	Massingale	O.W.	Mustain	Steven	Ramsey	John	Shore	Ernest	Tietz	Charles	Whorton
Milton	Matthews	John	Mutter	Diego	Randazzo	Scott	Sibbald	Michael	Tighe	Frederick	Wiese
James	Matthews	Gary	Myers	Jesse	Raspberry	Edward	Sieminski	Gary	Timmerman	Timothy	Wiese
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Stewart	McGregor	James	Oltmans	Dwight	Riley	Thomas	Smith	Dennis	Van Alstine	Joseph	Witek
James	McIntosh	James	Ondulick	Howard	Rinne	Nick	Soehnlén	Kirk	Vanderbogart	Marvin	Witt
Clarence	McKillip	John	O'Neil	Jim	Ritter	David	Solid	Travis	Vaughan	Theodore	Wolas
Glenn	McLendon	Terry	Opp	Joe	Roberts	Roger	Sonnenberg	Bobby	Vaughn	Okey	Wolfe
Thomas	McNeal	David	Ostrom	Larry	Roberts	Thomas	Spahr	Jose	Vela	William	Wolfenden
Willie	McNew	Sven	Ottesen	Robert	Robotham	David	Spaulding	Richard	Velie	Leon	Woodruff
Gerald	McRoberts	William	Owens	Emil	Roethlisberger	Reggie	Spear	John	Venhoff	Roddy	Woodson
Joseph	McSwiggan	David	Pace	James	Rogers	Jim	Spitze	Russell	Verbeke	Jerry	Woolverton
Thomas	Medbery	David	Palmer	Ralph	Roles	Paul	Spivey	Robert	Vest	Kenneth	Worthey
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ST LOUIS MISSOURI, 2011

By Steve Page, Reunion Committee Chairman

This will be the first article highlighting The City of St Louis. The city is known as an urban melting pot. There are many places of interest near The Millennium, our host hotel. The famous Gateway Arch is located on the banks of the Mississippi River just a short walk from the hotel. Nearby Laclede's Landing offers more shops, restaurants, sidewalk cafes and carriage rides. Cruise the Mississippi aboard the Tom Sawyer or Becky Thatcher riverboats, then grab lunch or dinner aboard the Robert E. Lee. If you're feeling lucky then try your luck one of the gaming boats at the foot of Laclede's Landing.

You can visit the world's largest brewer and take a free tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, which includes stops at the Brew House, Budweiser Clydesdales' stables, the lager cellar, packaging plant, and the A-B gift shop.

The Loop, a six block area near the Forest Park section of St. Louis, offers many activities including restaurant's, shopping, arts and entertainment. This ever changing neighborhood is the home of unique one of kind stores and over forty ethnic and American restaurants. Among the internationally known spots are the retro Pin-Up-Bowl, The Pageant concert night club and The Tivoli Theater. Blueberry Hill of Chuck Berry fame is also located in this area. The six block area of The Loop is home to 48 restaurants, 25 clothing stores, 26 specialty/gift shops, 10 galleries, 10 live music clubs, movies, bowling and The St.

Show Your Pride



Tom Thornburg (F Trp., 67 and Air Cav Trp., 68) shows his pride with the Blackhorse symbol displayed on this Hummer.

You can visit the world's largest brewer and take a free tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, which includes stops at the Brew House, Budweiser Clydesdales' stables, the lager cellar, packaging plant, and the A-B gift shop.

Louis Walk of Fame.

The Loop got its name a century ago when street cars traveled from down town and looped around to head back. The last street car ran in 1966. There are currently plans to bring back the fixed rail vintage street cars.

St. Louis' light rail system has convenient stations throughout the downtown area, including one right at the edge of Laclede's Landing. MetroLink provides easy access

to Busch Stadium, Union Station, Forest Park and Lambert International Airport.

The 2011 Reunion in St Louis is shaping up to be another first class event. There is plenty to do and see in St Louis. As of mid January, 80 percent of the initial hotel room block has been reserved. Please make your plans early. Take a vacation planned around the reunion. The reunion registration form, along with hotel reservation information are in this issue of *Thunder Run*.

Reunion Assistance Fund

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

1. A room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
2. Funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare.
3. Registration fees.
4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer includes the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund as a separate reporting

item on the quarterly financial report.

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

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, *and*
2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA.

You can find the complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund on the website www.11thcavnam.com.



Fiddler's Green

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

Ferrell D. Arnold, Air Cavalry Troop (1971-1972) passed away on June 25, 2006. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Ronald B. Betz, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 21, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Galt, CA. He was laid to rest in Cherokee Memorial Park, Lodi, CA.

Danny Christian, E Troop, 2/11 (1969) passed away on July 15, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Martinsburg, MO. He was laid to rest in Wellsville Cemetery, Wellsville, MO.

Luper B. Cole, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 17, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kingwood, TX. He was laid to rest in Garden Of Memories, Florence, MS.

James A. Cordova, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 passed away on December 7, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marysville, CA.

Robert M. Crowley, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 10, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in West Warwick, RI. He was laid to rest in the Rhode Island Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, RI.

John B. Dobraniecki, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1967) passed away on September 26, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reading, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Carl J. Emery, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 31, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lafe, AR. Carl also served with the 25th Infantry Division where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

James R. Engler, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 11, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in La Crosse, WI.

Earl W. Fleming, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 17, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Woodbury, NJ.

Joseph E. Gillis, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 24, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vero Beach, FL.

Russell G. Hall, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 2, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Des Moines, IA.

Johnny L. Hart, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 28, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cochise, AZ. He was laid to rest in Westlawn Cemetery, Willcox, AZ.

Arthur W. Hawthorne, HHT Regiment (1964-1967) passed away on December 5, 2010. Longview, TX. Arthur served as the 11th ACR regimental sergeant major in Germany, US and Vietnam. Prior to being selected for this position he was first sergeant of I Troop, 3/11.

Robert A. Joachim, HHT, 2/11 ACR (1970-1971), passed away on January 16, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Faribault, MN. He was laid to rest in Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault, MN.

Danny M. Jordan, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 1, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rantoul, IL.

Nicholas Jube, 398th Transportation Detachment (1970-1972) passed away on September 2, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waveland, MS.

Dennis M. Kaylor, E Troop, 2/11 (1969) passed away on November 13, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harrisburg, PA.

Stanley G. Kozlowski, HHT, 2/11 (1968) passed away on October 22, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Manchester, CT. He was laid to rest in St Bridget Cemetery, Manchester, CT.

Leroy G. Lampkin, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 25, 2005. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Charleston, SC.

Sam W. Mays, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 14, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulsa, OK. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Danny C. O'Daniel, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 25, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Romeo, CO.

Ralph D. Roles, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 31, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Woodbridge, VA. He was laid to rest in Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA.

Dewey W. Rowe, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1970) passed away on December 6, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oceanside, CA.

Donald J. Schultz, K Troop, 3/11 (1969) passed away on October 26, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chicago, IL. He was laid to rest in Irving Park Cemetery, Chicago, IL.

Robert M. Scoggins, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 6, 2005. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gaffney, SC. He was laid to rest in Fredrick Memorial Gardens, Gaffney, SC.

Larry L. Steinka, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 23, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Prescott, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.

William L. Stone, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 12, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hagerstown, MD. He was laid to rest in Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery, Flintstone, MD.

Darold E. Thoenke, D Company, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 8, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spokane, WA.

Raymond L. Wright, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 27, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

Albert G. Ybanez, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 8, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

John J. Yeomans, 7th Army Postal Unit (1969-1970) passed away on September 10, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bakersfield, CA.

Arnold J. Zirkle, L Troop, 3/11 and HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on November 12, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Buckhannon, WV. He was laid to rest in American Legion Little Arlington Cemetery, Elkins, WV.

You might want to make copies of these dog tags, place one on your refrigerator and extra dog tags on your adult children's refrigerators



CHAPLAIN (continued from page 13)

ing supplies and such around the Delta.

You troopers who were stationed up north have highway, road, and trail stories too. I hope you'll tell them to someone. I mean the good stories stashed in your memories like I'm telling here. There are plenty of bad stories, but they're for another time.

What with being a chaplain, I'll mention one more road. Actually, it's the most important. It's nicknamed the Roman Road and it's in the Bible. The Bible doesn't call it the Roman Road. People do because it's in the New Testament book of Romans and

tells how to get from where you are now in this life to heaven in the life to come, like after you come to the end of your life's trail and start eternity with God. That is, unless you go the Roman Road other way which I don't like to think about. So here's the map of the : "... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NIV). / "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (6:23). / "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (5:8). / "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God

raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (10:9-10). This road is clear and open.

We rode those highways, roads, and trails. Sometimes they were clear and open and sometimes they weren't. But they always went somewhere, hopefully where we needed to go. The goes where we need to go. I'm on it. Are you?

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

*Chaplain Larry Haworth
6508 Bannocks Drive*

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email: 11thcav1966@comcast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

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

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

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

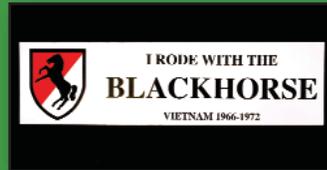
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#12 Lighter, \$18.00



#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50

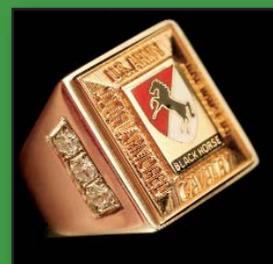


#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



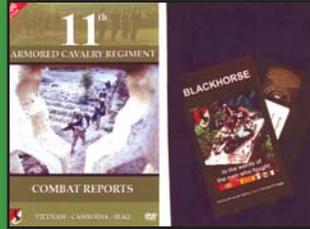
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



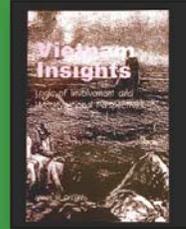
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



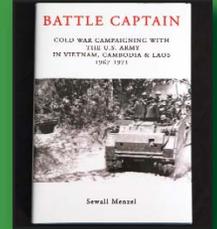
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



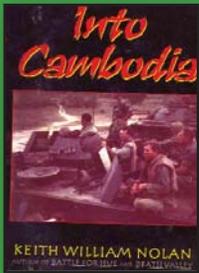
#29 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



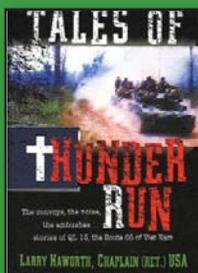
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



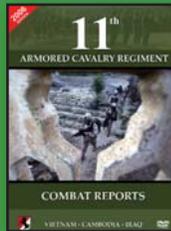
#31 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



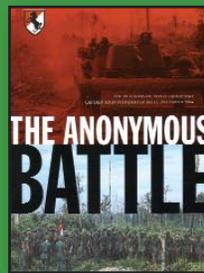
#32 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



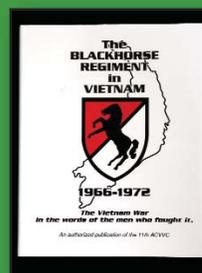
#33 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#35 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#36 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#37 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen-\$20.00



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39a/b T-Shirt, green/gray \$18.00



#40a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



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



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$30.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972 (January 2011)

• From Department of the Army General Orders 60, award of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry to the Blackhorse Regiment (including assigned and attached units) for the period from 7 September 1966 to 10 August 1968: "The 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT performed as one of the finest and bravest fighting units among the United States Forces in Vietnam... The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, despite many casualties, overcame a determined enemy and hazardous terrain in accomplishing their mission. Operations Atlanta...Cedar Falls...Valdosta...Toan Thang and Quyet Thang...Emporia...Santa Fe... Adairsville...and the cordon-and-search operation at Chanh Luu village were all met with strong enemy resistance. In addition, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment participated energetically in the civic action program. Contributing wholeheartedly of time, energy, and resources, personnel of the Regiment helped immeasurably in reducing hunger, disease, and illness among the civil population within the area of operation and were outstandingly effective in the construction and agricultural aspects of the aid program. Throughout these engagements the Regiment demonstrated a degree of tactical finesse that was truly superb and resulted in a shattering of the enemy forces in each of the battles."

• A different kind of combined arms operation. On 30 July 1968, members of the Regimental Chemical Section flew an airborne personnel detection mission over a suspected enemy base camp area using the E-63 "People Sniffer." In the areas where the sniffer sniffed people, CS riot control agent bomblets were dropped from a follow-on UH-1H Huey. Then, fifteen minutes later – just about the time when the bad guys were hacking and crying (remember the gas chamber exercise in basic training?) – artillery was called in on the same area. An unusual – but effective – interpretation to "piling-on."

• The Regiment had a special relationship with the small villages near the Blackhorse Base Camp. In mid-1969, the village of Tan Binh witnessed the opening of a new school to replace the one destroyed by the Viet Cong seven years earlier. Although the villagers

themselves provided all of the labor, many of the building materials were provided by the 11th Cavalry through the Civic Action Program. Over 400 Vietnamese students enrolled in the new school when it opened. About the same time, Blackhorse Troopers donated over \$300 through the Consolidated Chaplains Fund to purchase school supplies for the village of Ben Co.

• From the March 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper under the headline 35 Won't Quit: "Chile Choker, the demo [demolitions] track of F Troop's third Platoon, is still running on its original engine after a year of rugged, constant use. 'This track has been running so constantly that we haven't even had time to install the splash plate or belly armor,' said TC [track commander] Sergeant James Frank. According to Chile Choker's crew everyone in the troop wants to get on the track because it runs so steadily and is naturally 'the best track in the troop.' Private First Class Woody Grandit, line mechanic on the crew, points out that '35' has only one major malfunction on its record and that was an electrical failure a few months ago. The track had to be 'slaved' [jump started by another track] each morning, but it kept running. Grandit is quick to point out that the mechanics at Quan Loi couldn't solve the problem and he and the crew 'fixed it ourselves out in the field.' Chile Choker's crew jealously guards its car and insists that there is a plan in the works to move them to lead track on road runs hoping that 'they'll be able to replace this antique.'"

• From the time the Regiment returned from Cambodia until the end of 1970, Blackhorse Troopers experienced relatively infrequent contact with enemy forces, and when contact was made it was with small numbers of VC and NVA soldiers. Certainly, the effectiveness of the incursion into Cambodia put a crimp in enemy activities, requiring massive resupply from the North which took both time and lots of manpower. However, a document captured in November 1970 also sheds some light on why the enemy avoided contact. Written by a high-ranking member of the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) – the headquarters controlling all VC and NVA military forces

in South Vietnam – the document stated: "All attacks on ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam]/Allied forces will cease immediately. The planned Winter Campaign has been cancelled. All units will divide into small size units and locate so as to avoid all ARVN and US ground operations and contacts... This order will be in effect until the withdrawal of the majority of US troops." About the same time, the Second Squadron S-2, Captain Frank Cambria, was reporting that there had been a significant increase in mining activity during the first half of December. "There were six mines detonated during this period and a total of three mines found as compared to none detonated or found during the period 16 Nov-30 Nov 1970."

• From the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Redeployment After Action Report, dated 5 March 1971: "The Regiment faced the task of turning in over 44,000 items of equipment, including 900 plus wheeled and track vehicles. The actual turn-in of this equipment was the smoothest portion of the overall redeployment operation."

The Either Zone

Steve Johnson (409th RRD 1967)

**The wall has no panel,
no names carved in stone,
for the POW's and MIA's
lost in the Either Zone.**

**2200 men forgotten
and left all alone,
to Recon forever
in the Either Zone.**

**A government that does not care,
and no words that can atone,
for Troopers left behind
in the Either Zone.**

**Brothers, sons and fathers,
never to come home.
Left to patrol forever
in the Either Zone.**



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1st QTR 2011

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	Lighter, brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	18.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	7.50	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	B	45.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	280.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Video combo: "Combat Reports" (DVD) & Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam (VHS)	C	40.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Keith Nolan	C	23.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> green <input type="checkbox"/> gray	B	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim Shirt, Mens	B	30.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	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	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal						_____
Shipping and Handling						_____
Total						_____

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

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$6.25; C items = \$10.50
(items totaling over \$75.00 = \$14.20 cost of shipping)

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

*** If paying by check, please write your drivers license number on the check.**

*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 \$13.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

*** Required info to process your order**



11ACVVC
13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSONVILLE, FL
PERMIT NO. 3



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to All BLACKHORSE Troopers!!

Jan and I hope that everybody had a Merry Christmas and a happy beginning to the New Year.

As we start the New Year we have changed a few things in our "Store." First, with the approval of the Board of Directors and our Treasurer, we have gone to electronic check deposit. As many of you may have noticed, this has reduced the time that it takes to process your order from at least 6 weeks to approximately 3 weeks to get your order out to you. With the new system we ask that you **please include your driver's license number on your checks** and as always include your phone number on the order form in the proper place so we can call if the need arises.

Secondly we've changed our T-shirt selection. Many have asked why not, so we have made the change. The new T-shirts are

green and gray with black banded sleeves and neckline. They also have the POW/MIA logo on the left sleeve.

Again we ask you to use the latest order form in the back of your *Thunder Run* for your purchases. Prices do change from time to time. We try to keep this from happening too often, but it does. So again check for updated prices.

Our thanks go out to our many volunteers who have helped us so often at our Reunions as well as those at Thunder Run and the website that keep it all working so smoothly. Thanks again!

This year our Reunion will be held in Aug. 17-20, 2011. Be sure to come by and say hi. If you have any free time come in and help out, all volunteers are welcome and needed.

Allons, Jerry

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Past reunion golf shirts: Chicago 2008 in size X large only and Louisville 2007 in X large and XX large, \$15.00.



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon Men only \$30.00