

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia From the President...

2023, a new year and a new role for me with the 11 Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. I was elected to the office of President during the business meeting of our reunion in Birmingham, Alabama in September of 2022. I am somewhat in awe of the responsibilities that come with this position. But I am ready to accept and confident in my abilities to perform the duties that the President must accept and manage.

I am not alone in leading this organization. I have the cumulative experience and wisdom of not only a very competent Board of directors and Officers but the support of 3 past Presidents that I know I can rely on for advice and guidance. The 11ACVVC is fortunate to have such depth of knowledge and dedication.

I want to thank the outgoing President

Reality Check

The passing of time has a way of causing us occasionally to reflect on the state of our lives. We are not young men anymore. We are not the butt kicking, bad a** well-tuned war machines we once thought we were. We are old men now. We are closer to the end of our lives than the beginning.

When we get up in the morning we look at ourselves in the mirror and not a small number of us sometimes wonder, why did I survive ? How did I survive when so many other men who were just as good a man as me (maybe better ?), just as deserving to survive and get back to the real world, men who had families and wives and children... .did not ? Why (how?) was I lucky enough to escape life altering wounds? I try not to **Frank Church**

I want to thank the outgoing President Pete Walter for his efforts in preparing me to succeed him and resolving as many lingering items as possible that take up the time of a President before I step in.

Pete Walter for his efforts in preparing me to succeed him and resolving as many lingering items as possible that take up the time of a President before I step in. Pete will still be actively engaged in the affairs of the organization continuing as the Editor of *Thunder Run* and annual calendar and as the Point man for our Honor Guard notifications.

I congratulate Steve Page in being elect-

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focus too much on these questions because I realize there is no logic to much of what happened on the battlefield. We can't go back and change anything, we can't go back to save those that were lost or were horribly wounded. The cosmic guilt we may now carry does nothing to resolve our memories.

What matters more is to perhaps consider what we have done with our lives since the war.

More than once I have looked in the mirror and asked myself, has the life I have lived honored the men who died? Hello fellow Troopers, so far this winter has started off with a BANG. I hope all are safe and trying to stay as warm as possible. We are still on track to have another great reunion in Grand Rapids.

We have been in the planning stage for some time now. Good planning makes for a good event. Our reunions have come along in the past 38 years. This success is a testament to you, the members, and your families. You have always come through with your attendance. Those who have been to Grand Rapids for the last reunion there know it is a great destination with much to do in your spare time. If you could not attend before, this is the time. You will not be disappointed. Again, I ask that you send in your registrations early. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in Grand Rapids. Until then stay healthy.

> Steve Page, Vice President Reunion Chairman

More than once I have looked in the mirror and asked myself, has the life I have lived honored the men who died? Have I deserved the life I have been allowed to continue ?

I believe we owe a debt to those whose lives were cut short. We have a responsibility to have lived the lives they could not. We owe their families to let them know their loved ones were (and continue to be) loved by us even as they loved them, and to never let our memories of them die. We owe a debt to those we left behind to make the world a better place than we thought we were fighting for. We have a responsibility to tell the truths of our war that all may understand what we (the living and the

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

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

President Reunion Chairman	Frank T. Church, (G Troop, '69-'70) 2917 N. Vista Way Payson, AZ 85541 <fchurch4@aol.com> (386) 365-0487</fchurch4@aol.com>	Membership KIA Issues/Website Mgr & Operation Embrace	Allen Hathaway (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 <11thcav1966@comcast.net> (703) 791-6610
Vice President &	Stephen R. Page, (B Trp, '66-'67) 4201 Ravenwood Drive Little River, SC 29566 <srpage1@outlook.com> (843) 249-5278</srpage1@outlook.com>		Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72) Paul Gruber (G Troop, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317
Secretary Pro tem & Silent Auction Co-Chair.	Gregory R. Mason , (HHT 3/11, '68-'69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 <gregrmason311@gmail.com> (813) 754-2980</gregrmason311@gmail.com>	Women's Group Coordinator	<pre><pgruber@polaris.net> (850) 878-8425 Sheryl Myers 19155 Royal Troon Drive Monument, CO 80132</pgruber@polaris.net></pre>
Treasurer	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 <11cavalry@verizon.net> (804) 435-3658	Veterans' Information	<pre><sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com> (571) 721-9189 Chuck Bosko (F Troop, 2/11. '69-'70) 1230 Robinhood Lane La Grange Park, IL 60526</sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com></pre>
Directors	Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman/ Silent Auction Co-Chairman (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 <platoonmedic36@gmail.com> (575) 915-2921</platoonmedic36@gmail.com>	Historian	<pre><chuckbosko@att.net> (708) 205-3541 Don Snedeker 38888 Sandpiper Circle Frankfort, DE 19945 <blackhorse7478@gmail.com> (571) 215-9610</blackhorse7478@gmail.com></chuckbosko@att.net></pre>
	Robert "Bob" Moreno, Reunion Registration (G Troop 2/11, '68-'69) 24284 Endeaver Ave, Tomah, WI 54660 <gtroopbob@gmail.com> (608) 387-3346</gtroopbob@gmail.com>	Auditing Committee/ Judge Advocate	William "Bill" Suhre, (I Troop 3/11, '68) 3230 SW 3rd Lane Cape Coral, FL 33991 <william@suhrelawfirm.com> (970) 381-0335</william@suhrelawfirm.com>
	Eric Newton, Public Affairs (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) PO. Box 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <armor11acr@aol.com></armor11acr@aol.com>	Quartermaster	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <jerrylbea@aol.com> (903) 805-0703</jerrylbea@aol.com>
Chaplain	(817) 239-3437 Blandin W. "Bill" Karabinos (HHT 2/11, '71 - '72) 7312 Little Creek Road Toano, VA 23168 blandinkarabinos@gmail.com (757) 566-8885	Facebook Manager	Robert Kickenweitz (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 <bob11acr@comcast.net> (908) 803-3455</bob11acr@comcast.net>
Funeral Honor Guard Calendar & Thunder Run Editor	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70)		

PRESIDENT from page 1

ed as Vice President and again taking on the role of Reunion Chairman. I welcome Eric Newton as a new Board of Director's member, he has been and continues to be our Public Affairs Officer and I am sure he will accept additional responsibilies as required.

It is my priority to continue the success of the 11ACVVC. A lot of work over the past 37 years has proven that we have made good decisions on the behalf of our members. We are experiencing new challenges for the future as we grow older and our numbers decrease, and there are plans in place to address them. I will share those plans and all other important items with you in future editions of the Thunder Run. Every leader has his own style, agenda, and goals but I will not deviate from the format and decisionmaking process currently in place. It has proven to be a successful formula.

I have always considered you, our members, as the most important contributors to our accomplishments. Without you we would achieve very little. You are the reason we exist, the reason we get together every year, without fail. You and the good of our organization will always be my priority.

We are one of the premier Veterans groups in existence, a relatively small group when compared to the larger Military Veterans organizations but still the envy of many. Few share the pride of having served in combat with such a storied unit as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Please read articles written by our committee chairs as they contain detailed information on the status of the work they do.

We were, are, always will be proud "Blackhorse Troopers."

Frank

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

1st Quarter.	Jan 1
2nd Quarter	Apr 1
3rd Quarter	Jul 1
4th Ouarter	Oct 1

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

REALITY from page 1

dead) sacrificed in service to our country. Many believe that our sacrifices ended the day we left Vietnam and returned to our lives in the "real world". The war (especially on television) ended for them in 1975. They don't understand that for many of us the impacts (on us) and our sacrifices continued to weigh on us every day; that still we carry the war with us every day, every night, every veteran's day, every Memorial Day, ALL THE TIME. Our service and experiences shaped and have had a profound influence on everything we have done since; not just on us personally, but on our families, friends, and perhaps even our communities too. The brothers who were our best friends then are as fresh in our minds today as they were then. No matter how well we have (or have not) done in our lives since DEROS, we all have triggers that can make the past as fresh as a new day. So, have we turned our survival into a positive impact on our world?

We didn't always like each other. We didn't always share each other's politics. We came from different states, different cities, different ethnic and religious backgrounds; we came from a time where racial differences mattered mostly everywhere except in a firefight. We did things for each other, we cared for each other in ways that would not have been possible back in the "real world". But for a short time, we shared a set of common values that bound us together in a brotherhood that reaches across more than two centuries of our Nation's history. We cared more for each other then (and still now) than we ever would have in our pre-military lives. That cannot be lost just because it's been more than 50-years since our war.

When we left country most of us went back to the way things were in a society that was torn by the war, torn by economic. political. and racial disparities. It's not enough that we band together as the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and we remember. Those we left behind did not just leave us a legacy of the past. They left us a responsibility to pick up where they left off. So, when you look in the mirror what do you see? Do you ever ask yourself, has the life I have lived honored the men who died? Have I deserved the life I have been allowed to continue? Service to our country, our communities, and our families did not end with our tour(s) in Vietnam.

K.H. Elliott, 541rst MID, 11th ACR

<u>VSO Information</u>

Revisiting the new "PACT Act"

Previously, I mentioned the addition of hypertension Monoclonal and Gammopathy as the new presumptive of exposure to agent orange. I also mentioned that these new conditions "may be "treated as Nehmer cases meaning that the effective date will be the date of a diagnosis or the date a veteran first submitted a claim for the above. I have been informed by various VA folks I work with that no- hypertension and Monoclonal will not have an earlier effective date. The date for both will be the date of the new law. Please keep this in mine if you do submit a claim for either.

I need to share a thought with my fellow Black Horse vets. I do receive calls and emails from members requesting assistance or information of various concerns. Addressing these requests is my pleasure as I have a rather special place in my heart for all Viet Nam vets, especially members of the 11th ACVVC! I have also explained that I may not return a call or email "right away" as I do have primary responsibilities to the organization I work for- the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. I review, prepare and present appeal cases before Veteran Law Judges at the Board of Veterans Appeals. Please keep this in mind for I will assist in the best possible manner.

Happy New Year and as always, Allons!

Chuck Bosko 708 205 3541 chuckbosko@att.net

11th ACVVC By Laws – Notice of Revisions

Pete Walter

The 11th ACVVC is governed by our By Laws which have been in effect since 1987. The By Laws have been revised and amended as needed over the years to reflect the growth and evolution of the organization. The last revision was made in 2015 and all revisions and amendments are made only with the approval "...at any annual

remember a letter my mother wrote to me while I was in Vietnam. In the let-Let ter she mentioned she had seen a photograph of me and two other guys in the paper. She said there were no names listed but she knew one of them was me. Fast forward to a decade or so later and my son Dave brought some books home from middle school about Vietnam. He said I could look at them if I wanted and went up to his room. Hesitantly I picked up the books one night and started to page through one looking at photographs and occasionally reading some of the captions. Eventually I turned a page and there it was. I don't remember if it even had a caption but I do remember no names or places were listed. It was in the chapter about the TET OFFENSIVE of 1968.

I arrived in Vietnam two weeks before TET began. Processing through the 90th Replacement Battalion in Long Bien took one week and we were then assigned to units around Vietnam. I was fortunate to be assigned to the 11th Armored Calvary Regiment referred to as the Blackhorse because of the distinctive shoulder patch of a rearing black stallion on red and white shield. Upon arrival at Black Horse Basecamp, Xuan Lac, South Vietnam, we went through "in country jungle training school" which took another week. Then the TET OFFENSIVE began or as I like to refer to it "my on the job training." The days, weeks and months afterwards were a blur of activity and movements. The photograph, if it was indeed of me, captured one of those moments.

The photograph was a close up focused on three soldiers in combat gear including armored vests. That seemed logical because we were required to wear our vests anytime we went outside of the main business meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been previously approved by a majority vote of the Officers."

11th ACVVC President Frank Church has requested the By Laws be revised to reflect changes in the organization since 2015, specifically inclusion of a section dealing with the formation of a "Finance

The Photograph

gate. Many infantry soldiers did not use them in the field to reduce the enormous amount of gear they had to carry. In most cases I'm sure they weren't even issued vests. Most of our gear was stowed aboard our vehicles so we carried much lighter loads when we fought "dismounted." In the photograph two of the men were crouched against some sort of wall with weapons at the ready. They had been firing over the wall and crouched down behind it to minimize exposure and or to change magazines. The third man, presumed to have been me was crouched in front of them, with weapon in hand and a concerned look on his face gazing down the road adjacent to the wall. That seemed logical because there was always the fear of being out flanked.

When I asked my wife if she could identify anyone in the photograph she immediately pointed to the trooper presumed to be me. We started dating shortly after I returned from Vietnam so my appearance hadn't changed much in that short period time.

My son recounted his recollection of the photograph decades later after I sent him an email about another veteran who addressed his difficulty speaking to his son about the war. The paragraph that follows was taken, with permission, from his email response.

I know I'm not all that old, but middle school already seems like a really distant memory. You remember that one book I had home on Vietnam for a report? I don't Committee," I have been asked to author the suggested changes based on input from the Officers and present the formal text to them for their approval prior to the annual business meeting on September 23, 2023 in Grand Rapids, Michigan where the membership will vote on the suggested amendments.

See By Laws on pages 9-11

even remember the books name nor what the report was about, but I remember vividly the photograph in it. You guys called me down to the kitchen to see a photograph and asked me "you know who that is?" It was you and a couple others in the picture. I've always meant to ask what was going on in the picture; you weren't in a M109. You were out on a street, behind some rubble with an M-16 looking down the road, which was off to the right in the picture. It was always that picture that made me want to ask...but the sense of tension in the picture made me uncertain if it would be a question you'd want to answer. I always felt like I should say something, but I guess I was just never certain if I should.

I have no memory of the moment after the photograph was taken. Maybe it was just one of those unremarkable moments, no one wounded and no one K.I.A.. Maybe we just moved on and it was just a frame out of a movie that for me lasted fifteen months. If it wasn't me in that photograph it was some other poor trooper going through the same shit storm. I hope he too returned unwounded, though P.S.T.D or Agent Orange may still take our lives. For that there will be no wall of names and there will be no Purple Hearts. Only the broken ones left behind. ©2019 Clyde B. Canny

Who proudly served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment "Blackhorse" Vietnam 1968-1969.

Completed on Veterans Day 11 November 2019, almost fifty years after "The Photograph" was taken.

Submitted by Clyde B.Canny, 2020 Zablocki V.A. Hospital Creative Arts Festival, 1st Place, Category 11. Story– Patriotic: "The Photograph"

<u>Message from COL Timothy J. Ferguson,</u>

ALLONS! Happy New Year from the Mojave Desert. The Regiment is back from a well-deserved leave period and gearing up to take the fight to the rotational units when they begin to arrive later this month and into February.



3rd Squadron, 11th ACR, Ft. Irwin, CA

Over the last few months, Blackhorse concluded its involvement with Project Convergence 22 in October and November and after a brief reprieve to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday. This was the largest experiment that the Army has conducted to date to test emerging technologies that may find their way into Troopers hands over the coming years. The Regiment supported this effort in a variety of

70th Colonel of the Blackhorse

ways and the experiment could not have been successfully executed without the help of the "Finest in the Land"! Additionally, Wickham Park is also adorned with a new 3/11 Workhorse sign that was fabricated by Troopers in the Regimental Support



Squadron using some of our new additive manufacturing capabilities.

After our break to give thanks, Troopers from across the depth and breadth of the Regiment returned to the training area in December to compete for the Expert Infantrymen, Expert Soldier, and Expert Field Medical badges. In total 34 Troopers earned their respective badges: 25 EIB and nine ESB.

The Regiment then sent Troopers all over the world to enjoy some hard-earned leave to recoup and recharge. All three Squadrons have since resumed training and are preparing for the fast-approaching return to our rotational schedule.

Leaders in the Regiment will have an opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 122nd Regimental Birthday during the first days of February and then return to gear up for the first rotation of the calendar year. Our first rotation will see the Regiment divided and shaking off the rust in a head-to-head fight against one another in support of 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters. This atypical rotation will lead immediately into a more standard rotation against the most modernized brigade in the United States Army with 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. I believe our Troopers to be up to the task to challenge the Spartan Brigade and provide valuable insight into the future structure and capabilities of our brigade combat teams.

We wish you all the best in 2023 and are eager to showcase the excellence of the Best Damn Regiment in the U.S. Army for the remainder of the year.

Allons!

SCOL Timothy J. Ferguson, 70th RCO

11th ACR Command Staff



Thunder Run

1st Quarter, 2023

2022 Summary of Motions

- 1. Motion 2022-0412A Transfer of Websites to a new server
- 2. Motion 2022-0422B Secretary's Minutes
- 3. Motion 2022-0412C Treasurer's Report
- 4. Motion 2022-0518 QM Store Software
- 5. Motion 2022-0531 2022 Scholarships
- 6. Motion 2022-0615A Secretary's Minutes
- 7. Motion 2022-0615B Treasurer's Report
- 8. Motion 2022-0615C Scholarship and Raffle Reports
- 9. Motion 2022-0615D Membership Report
- 10. Motion 2022-0615E Reunion Report
- 11. Motion 2022-0615F Quartermaster Store Report

12. Motion 2022-0615G Quartermaster and Registrar Travel Costs

- 13. Motion 2022-0714 Finance Committee Structure
- 14. Motion 2022-0816A Secretary's Minutes
- 15. Motion 2022-0816B Reunion Updates
- 16. Motion 2022-0821 Blackhorse Marathon Donation
- 17. Motion 2022-0907A Secretary's Minutes
- 18. Motion 2022-0907B Treasurer's Report
- 19. Motion 2022-0907C President's Report
- 20. Motion 2022-0910A 2021 Membership Meeting Minutes
- 21. Motion 2022-9010B Treasurer's Report
- 22. Motion 2022-0910C Membership, Memorial, Operation Embrace and Website Manager Reports
- 23. Motion 2022-0910D Scholarship and Raffle Reports
- 24. Motion 2022-0910E Registration Report
- 25. Motion 2022-0910F Silent Auction Report
- 26. Motion 2022-0910G Unopposed Candidates Election
- 27. Motion 2022-0927A General Account Funding
- 28. Motion 2022-0927B Secretary's Minutes
- 29. Motion 2022-1101 Request for Financial Assistance

*Unless otherwise indicated, the motion was passed unanimously.

1. The following motion was made by Greg Mason and seconded by Pete Walter.

Motion 2022-4012A Transfer of Websites to a new Server Transfer all our websites to Tier. Net to be completed before June 1, 2022.

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The motion passed.

2. The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Ollie Pickral.

Motion 2022-0422B Secretary's Minutes

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held January 11, 2022.

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The motion passed.

3. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Bob Moreno.

Motion 2022-0412C Treasurer's report

Accept the Treasurer's report for year to date 2022 as presented.

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The motion passed.

4. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Frank Church

Motion 2022-0518 QM Store Software

The 11th ACVVC authorizes the expenditure of \$1,220 (\$500 set-up labor charge, \$720 for 1 year service at \$60/month) to update the QM Store software.

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The motion passed.

5. Mike Rafferty made the following motion that Pete Walter seconded:

Motion 053-2022 2022 Scholarships

The 11th ACVVC will award 53 scholarships (52 \$3000 and 1 \$5000 scholarships) totaling \$161,000 in 2022.

My reasoning for the above is as follows:

• I received 102 applications this year, 99 from grandchildren and 3 from children of members.

- Scholarship account balance end of first Qtr: \$152,672
- Contribution from investment account:9,000
- Estimated net raffle income:50,000

Sub-Total =\$217,672

Less outstanding scholarship obligations:-45,000

Total estimated funds available for scholarships: \$172,672

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The motion passed.

6. Frank Church made the following Motion that was seconded by Stephen Page:

Motion 2022-06215A Secretary's Minutes

The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Stephen Paige.

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held April 12, 2022.

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The motion passed.

7. The following Motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Grank Church:

Motion 2022-0615B Treasurer's report

Accept the Treasurer's report for year to date 2022 as presented

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS The motion passed.

8. The following Motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded	2022.
by Bob Moreno:	The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS
Motion 2022-0615C Scholarship and Raffle reports	The Motion passed.
Accept the Scholarship and Raffle reports as presented.	15. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and second-
The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS	ed by Bob Moreno:
The motion passed.	Motion 2022-0816B Reunion Updates
9. The following Motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Frank Church:	Accept the Reunion report as presented.
-	The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS
Motion 2022-0615D Membership report	The Motion passed.
Accept the Membership Report as presented. The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS	16. Pete Walter made the following motion and Frank Church
The motion passed.	seconded the motion: Motion 2022-0821 Blackhorse Marathon Donation:
10. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and second-	"The 11th ACVVC will donate \$300 to the 11th Armored
ed by Bob Moreno	Cavalry Regiment to fund prizes for the Sep. 17, 2022,
Motion 2022-0615E Reunion Updates	Blackhorse Marathon BBQ contest".
Accept the Reunion report as presented.	The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS
The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS	The Motion passed.
The motion passed.	17. The following motion was made by 2022-0907 Frank
11. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and second-	Church and seconded by Bob Moreno.
ed by Bob Moreno:	Motion 2022-0907A Secretary's Minutes
Motion 2022-0615F Quartermaster Store report	Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the
Accept the Quartermaster Store report as presented	Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held August 16,
The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS	
The motion passed.	The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS
12. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and second-	The Motion passed.
ed by Bob Moreno:	18. Stephen Page made the following motion that was seconded by Mike Rafferty:
Motion 2022-0615G Quartermaster and Registrar Travel	Motion 2022-0907B Treasurers Report
Costs.	"Accept the Treasurers report as presented."
Reimburse the lodging expenses of the Quartermaster and Registrar to and from the 2022 Reunion.	The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS
The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS	The Motion passed.
The motion passed.	19. Bob Moreno made the following motion that was seconded
13. Greg Mason made the following motion that Frank Church	hu Frank Ohumahu
seconded:	Motion 2022-0907C President's Reports
Motion 2022-0714 Finance Committee Structure	"Accept the President's reports as presented."
The Finance Committee Structure as proposed by Ollie	The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS
Pickral and enclosed be adopted.	The Motion passed.
The vote was as follows:	20 The following motion was made by Jim Beckworth and sec-
Pete Walter No	onded by Mike Thomas.
Frank Church Yes	Motion 2022-0910A "2021 Membership Meeting minutes"
Ollie Pickral Yes	"Waive reading of 2021 Membership Meeting minutes and
Greg Mason Yes	approve minutes"
Mike Rafferty Yes	The motion passed. UNANIMOUS
Bob Moreno Yes	21. Jim Beckworth made the following motion that was second-
Steve Page Yes	ed by Mike Thomas:
The Motion passed.	Motion 2022-0910B Treasurers Report
14. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and second-	"Accept the Treasurers report as presented."
ed by Bob Moreno:	The motion passed. UNANIMOUS 22. Jim Beckworth made the following motion that was second-
Motion 2022-08216A Secretary's Minutes	ed by Mike Thomas:
Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the	ou by millo monuo.

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held June 15,

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Meet the Officers of the 11th ACVVC

Eric Newton, BOD Member

I arrived in Vietnam in July 1968 and was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment when George Patton was the Regimental Commander. I was eighteen years old and trained at Fort Knox as an Armor Crewman on M-48 tanks with an MOS 11E. I was assigned a secondary MOS of 11D20, Armor Reconnaissance Specialist in K-Troop with my good friend Ollie Pickral. I joined the 11th ACVVC when I first discovered it at the end of Gulf War I.

I am an active member of the Patriot Guard Riders of North Texas and The Military Order of the Purple Heart. I am also a member of the DAV and the Blackhorse Association. I have one son and three grandchildren in Colorado. As many of you know, I lost my wife, Laura in 2005 to breast cancer. She was a big supporter and a volunteer at our reunions.





Eric "now"

I presently reside in Colleyville, Texas.

My second reunion was in San Antonio. I had sent the famous weatherman, Willard Scott, a letter about our

> upcoming reunion and he announced it on national TV while holding up our Quartermaster Store Vietnam T-shirt. I was immediately appointed to be the first Public Affairs Officer for the 11th ACVVC, the position I hold today.

> For the betterment of the 11th ACVVC, I was on the forefront of the yearly cal-

endar that has been the primary fundraiser for the scholarship program and worked with the active-duty regiment PAO in creating the collectible 100th Anniversary Calendar. Much of the high revenue embroidery items in the QM store were designed and developed by me at a local business in my town. My son and I created our 11thcavnam.com website years ahead of other veterans' groups.

I have been the person in the background promoting our organization through publicity with radio and TV news doing interviews and setting up interviews with our members. It is always my job to make us look good in public and correct inaccuracies about our honorable service and sacrifice.

In 2005, I was embedded with the Blackhorse Regiment in Iraq along with Jerry Williamson. We established a lasting legacy with the next generation of Blackhorse combat veterans. Two documentary DVD's were made recording their history in combat. These videos sold out but are now available again in the QM store.

I look forward to serving as a member of the Board of Directors and continuing to look after the best interests of my fellow Blackhorse Troopers. I have a different style of leadership that isn't just based on my opinion of what I think you want. I like to hear it straight from the members. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

 When I want my men to remember something important, to really make it stick, I give it to them double dirty. It may not sound nice to some bunch of little old ladies at an afternoon tea party, but it helps my soldiers to remember. You can't run an army without profanity; and it has to be eloquent profanity. An army without profanity couldn't fight its way out of a piss-soaked paper bag. As for the types of comments I make, sometimes I just, By God, get carried away with my own eloquence.

• When there is fear of failure, there will be failure.

• To me it seems certain that the fatalistic teachings of Muhammad and the utter degradation of women is the outstanding cause for the arrested development of the Arab. He is exactly as he was around the year 700, while we have kept on developing.

......George S. Patton

BY LAWS of the 11th ACVVC

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, INC.

[Revised by Peter L. Walter, August 22, 2015] (13)

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia", also known as "11th ACVVC".

ARTICLE II: LOCATION

Section 1. Headquarters –

(a) The headquarters of the 11th ACVVC shall be in the state of Texas

(b) The headquarters of the 11th ACVVC may be redesignated as required if approved by a majority vote of the Officers.

ARTICLE III: STATUS

Section 1. The 11th ACVVC shall be incorporated in the state of Texas as a nonprofit corporation for public benefit, [Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c) (19)] Veterans' Organization.

Section 2. The 11th ACVVC shall be a nonprofit, nonsectarian, nonpolitical, nondiscriminatory, veterans organization.

ARTICLE IV: OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of the 11th ACVVC are:

(a) To improve the overall life of the men who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Vietnam War,

(b) To assist our membership whenever possible,

(c) To continue the camaraderie of the Regiment through reunions, memorial services and communication.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERS

Section 1. Types of Membership

(a) Active membership in the 11th ACVVC is offered to any veteran who served with or was attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam and/or the Kingdom of Cambodia. Dues-paid active members may attend business meetings of the 11th ACVVC, submit proposals, make motions and vote on any motion brought before the membership.

(b) Honorary membership is extended to the surviving spouse, children, siblings and parents of any person killed or missing in action in Vietnam or Cambodia while serving with or attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Honorary members will not be required to pay dues and cannot vote or hold office.

Section 2. Dues

(a) Dues will be \$15 annually or \$100 for a Lifetime membership. (1)

(b) Dues may be increased or decreased as needed by a majority vote of the Officers

(c) No increase or decrease in dues will be retroactive

Section 3. Membership Denial, Suspension and Termination

(a) Members who are delinquent in any financial transaction with the 11th ACVVC, including but not limited to the passing of bad checks to the 11th ACVVC are subject to Suspension or Termination of Membership. (2)

(b) Any member or immediate family member who submits payment to the 11th ACVVC via check or other financial instrument not backed with sufficient funds shall have his membership suspended and attendance at 11th ACVVC functions precluded after two attempts to collect such funds. (3)

(c) Upon receipt of the full delinquent payment and any outstanding bad check or related charges, the suspensions in Section 3 (b) shall be lifted. (4)
(d) If the actions described in Section 3 (a) occurs a second time, the member's membership shall be terminated for life. (5)

(e) Directors of the 11th ACVVC can deny or terminate by majority vote, an

otherwise eligible trooper, membership in the 11th ACVVC. Examples for denial could be, but are not limited to, known sexual offenders, indebtedness to the organization, or persons who have falsely represented themselves as Officers or spokespersons of the 11th ACVVC.

(f) If the terminated member is a Life Member, his membership fees will be returned to the person being refused continued membership and his card number will be reissued to a qualified member-to-be.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The Officers of the 11th ACVVC shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors.

Section 2. Duties (6)

(a) **President** – The President shall be the chief executive officer of the 11th ACVVC and shall, subject to the direction of the Officers, supervise and control all of the business affairs of the 11th ACVVC and shall see that all orders and resolutions are carried into effect. The President shall preside at all Officers and business meetings. The President shall be a member of all committees as may be needed. He shall render a condensed annual report to all Officers. He shall obey all lawful orders of the 11th ACVVC and be thoroughly familiar with the Bylaws and rules of parliamentary procedure. He shall be the Official representative of the 11th ACVVC at all functions he attends and will at all times conduct himself in a manner befitting the high office to which he has been elected.

(b) **Vice President** – In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. In the event that the President refuses or is unable to act the Vice President shall assume the office of President pro tempore until the President is formally replaced as per the Bylaws.

(c) **Secretary** – The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the minutes of the annual Officers and business meetings and provide copies to the other Officers for their approval within thirty (30) days of the adjournment of these meetings. He shall assemble an agenda for both the Officers and business meetings and provide a copy of the agenda to all Officers not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meetings. He shall read aloud the minutes of the previous meetings at each successive meeting and present the preliminary ballot of candidates at each election. He shall take roll call of the Officers and mark the absentees at all Officers and business meetings and record the name of the member who introduces a motion. In the absence of the President and Vice President the Secretary shall take the Chair, call the meeting to order and preside until the President and Vice President arrives or until a President pro tempore is elected.

(d) **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds, securities and properties of the 11th ACVVC and for the receipt and disbursement thereof. He shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the 11th ACVVC and shall deposit all moneys in the name and to the credit of the 11th ACVVC in such insured depositories as designated by the Officers. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the 11th ACVVC as needed or as ordered by a majority vote of the Officers, taking proper vouchers for all disbursements. Treasurer shall render to the Officers and membership at the annual meeting a full financial report based on the books and accounts as audited annually by a certified public accountant or auditing committee. The Treasurer will provide a quarterly financial statement to each Officer showing all receipts and disbursements made to and from all accounts of the 11th ACVVC. The Treasurer must be bonded for an account not less than the total assets of the 11th ACVVC.

(e) Directors. The Directors are expected to commit themselves to a specific area of interest within the 11th ACVVC or as directed by the President.

(f) All Officers shall have the right to vote and to debate questions the same as any other member.

(g) No Officer can be compelled to continue in office against his will. Any Officer may resign his office without the consent of the electing power or the other Officers.

(h) All Officers shall abide by the By-Laws of the 11th ACVVC and the lawful orders of the assembly. All Officers shall perform the duties of their office to the best of their knowledge and ability and will conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the high office to which they have been elected.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations

(a) Nominations for officers of the 11th ACVVC may be mailed to the Secretary who will place them on a

preliminary ballot.

(b) Nominations can also be made in person from the floor at the meeting.

(c) Any nominee not in attendance at the business meeting must have previously submitted to the Secretary a letter of acceptance of nomination as candidate for the office to which he is nominated.

Section 2. Elections

(a) The President and Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting in even numbered years to serve a two year term starting on January 1 of the following year and terminating at midnight, December 31 of the next year. The Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting in odd numbered years to serve a two year term starting on January 1 of the following year and terminating at midnight, December 31 of the next year. (13)

(b) One Director will be elected annually to a three-year term after the election in 1995 of three Directors to

one, two and three year terms.

(c) Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the dues-paid members in attendance at the business

meeting.

(d) In order to implement paragraph (a), a special election will be held on August 22, 2015 to elect the President and Secretary to a one year term beginning Jan. 1, 2016 and terminating at midnight, December 31 of 2016. (13)

Section 3. Vacancies in Office

(a) In the event of a vacancy in any office, or inability or refusal to serve, the office shall be filled pro tem by

a majority vote of the remaining Officers. (7)

Section 4. Eligibility

(a) Candidates for office must be dues-paid Life members. (8)

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Business meeting

(a) There will be a minimum of one business meeting annually open to the general membership with time,

date and location published in advance.

(b) Attendance and voting privileges at annual business meetings are restricted to dues-paid members.

(c) A quorum at the annual business meeting will consist of eight or more members other than elected $% \left({{{\bf{n}}_{\rm{s}}}} \right)$

Officers.

10

Section 2. Annual Officers meeting

(a) There will be a minimum of one meeting of the Officers annually with

time, date and location published

in advance.

(b) A quorum at the annual Officers meeting will consist of five elected Officers.

(c) Any Officer failing to attend the annual Officers meeting without prior notification of inability to attend will be immediately removed from office and the office will be declared vacant.

(d) The annual Officers meeting will be held prior to the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE IX: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Officers Meetings

- (a) Invocation
- (b) Pledge of Allegiance
- (c) Roll Call of Officers(d) Reading of Minutes
- (e) Treasurer's Report
- (f) President's Report
- (g) Committee Reports
- (h) Old Business
- (i) Unfinished Dusi
- (i) Unfinished Business
- (j) New Business
- (k) Good of the Order(l) Review of Action Points
- (m) Closing Prayer
- Section 2. Business Meetings
 - (a) Invocation
 - (b) Presentation of Colors
 - (c) Pledge of Allegiance
 - (d) Roll Call of Officers
 - (e) Reading of Minutes*
 - (f) Treasurer's Report
 - (g) Committee Reports
 - (h) Old Business
 - (i) Unfinished Business
 - (j) New Business
 - (k) Elections
 - (I) Reunion Site Selection (when required)
 - (m) Good of the Order
 - (n) Review of Reunion Schedule
 - (o) Closing Prayer

*Reading of the previous year's Business Meeting minutes may be waived by general consent. Minutes of

the Officers meeting must be read at the next business meeting immediately following the Officers Meeting.

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees (9)

(a) **Membership** – This committee shall receive and approve applications from individuals wishing to become members of the 11th ACVVC. This committee shall establish procedures to validate an applicant's eligibility.

(b) **Historical** – This committee shall be responsible for collecting historical information on the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment from the period of 1 January 1966 to 31 December 1972. This committee shall be responsible for the validation of the authenticity and cataloguing of this information.

(c) **Reunion** – This committee will plan and execute all details of the reunion for which it is responsible. The President, Treasurer and Secretary will be permanent members of this committee. The committee Chairman should be

from the city where the reunion will be held and must be a dues-paid member of the 11th ACVVC.

(d) **Public Affairs** – This committee will be responsible for promoting and publishing the views and policies of the 11th ACVVC to the public via written and verbal communication with the media.

(e) **Scholarship** (10) - This committee will develop, execute and monitor fund raising activities to support scholarships. This committee will develop the scholarship application and selections process, and insure that applications are available to eligible applicants. The committee will also establish a cutoff date for scholarship application, recruit a scholarship evaluation committee, notify scholarship winners of selection, as well as coordinate presentation of scholarships. The committee will also verify enrollment of winners and coordinate with the Treasurer to insure that scholarships are funded.

(f) **Operation Embrace** – This committee will, with the mutual consent of both parties, endeavor to unite families of our fallen brothers who gave their lives in Vietnam or Cambodia with Troopers who served with their loved one, via letter, phone, electronic correspondence or in person, and encourage these families to attend our reunions and actively participate in memorial services, dedications and other appropriately respectful events that honor our fallen brothers. (11)

Section 2. Terms of Office

(a) Members of standing committees shall serve for a period of two years terminating with the end of the term of the President who appointed them. Any committee member may be reappointed to additional terms. Any committee chairmen or member may be removed from any committee at the recommendation of the President who appointed them or at the completion of the project for which the committee was formed, whichever comes first.

Section 3. Special Committees

(a) The President may appoint special committees, formed for specific purposes within a finite time frame.

Chairmen and members of these committees will serve until the end of the term of the President who appointed them or until the completion of the project for which the committee was formed, whichever comes first.

ARTICLE XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Operating rules

(a) The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order" (newly revised) shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any annual business meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been previously approved by a majority vote of the Officers.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment must be received in writing by the Secretary of the 11th ACVVC not later than thirty days before the annual business meeting.

President
/ice-President
Treasurer
Director
Director
Director
Secretary

Record of Amendments

1. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 4 Aug. 2000 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article V, Section 2, (a), Dues]

2. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 Sept. 1998 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article V, Section 3, (a), Membership Denial, Suspension, Termination] **3.** Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 Sept. 1998 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article V, Section 3, (b), Membership Denial, Suspension, Termination)]

4. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 Sept. 1998 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

Article V, Section 3, (c), Membership Denial, Suspension, Termination] **5.** Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 Sept. 1998 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article V, Section 3, (d), Membership Denial, Suspension, Termination] **6.** Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 30 April 1999 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article VI, Section 2, Duties]

7. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 30 April 1999 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article VII, Section 3, (a), Vacancies in office]

8. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 30 April 1999 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article VII, Section 4, (a), Eligibility]

9. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 4 August 2000 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article X, Section1, Standing Committees]

10. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 September 2012 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article X, Section 1, (e), Scholarship]

11. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 September 2012 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Article X, Section 1, (f), Operation Embrace]

12. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 12 September 2012 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting.

[Bylaws of the 11th ACVVC, Revision of grammar, formatting, correction of typos, etc.]

13. Amendment approved by majority vote of the Officers on 19 August 2015 and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the following Annual Business Meeting on 22 August 2015.

[Article VII, Section 2, Elections (a), (d)]

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:

Platinum Level \$500+

Montgomery, Thomas

Gold Level \$100-\$499

Silver Level \$50-\$99

Bronze Level \$1-\$49

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

General Fund

Platinum Level

Brill, Grey In Memory of Giang Brill Diersch, Werner

Gold Level

Glenn, James Saft, Paul Skrabal, Ed Stokes, William

Bronze Level

Scholarship Fund

Platinum Level

2600, "AC, LLC" Diersch, Werner Gelsomin, James Kelliher, Paul Smith, Dale & Andrea

Gold Level

Bewer, James Cartwright, Wavely Corona. Garv Drake. Charles Epperly, Howell Glenn, James O'Dell. Dale In Memory of Rick O'Dell Rudolph, Raymond Smith, Thomas Stokes, William Thompson, James In Memory f Janet Cieslak Thompson, James In Memoryof Faustino Galviz Wheeler, Richard

Silver Level

Carroll, Patrick Conatser, Bernis & Yvonne In Memory of Michael Sakole III Gaines, James Nash, Dane Bronze Level Caldwell, Ronald Duell, Ronald

Luke, Craig Melo, Emma In Memory of Sal Melo

Assistance Fund

Platinum Level

Diersch, Werner Gold Level

Glenn. James

Memorial Fund

Gold Level

Glenn, James Koch, Thomas Obenschain, Richard

Silver Level

Ortega, Vincent

Calendar Fund Platinum Level

Bachman, William Casterman, John Coover, David Dart, Larry Drake, Charles Gaston, William Justesen, Richard Kester, Larry Wallace, Peter Ware, Ralph Watkins, Michael

Gold Level

Alsobrook, William Andersen, Kevin Anderson, Craig Argo, James Avila, Arlando Baker, Marvin Bakle, Walter Barlow, Thomas Barnes, Douglas Barrett, Donald Barrows, William Barton, Ronald Beck, John Belver, James Bench. Ronald Benitez, Joachim Binns, James Blawat, James Boehmer. Steven Bonds, Larry Borri, Steven Bosko. Charles Bricker, Warren Brooks, Timothy Brooks, Edward Brown. Ken Brown, Robert Brown. Carl Brundage, Ronald Buczkowski, John Buehler, Chris Buening, Edward Burris, Lonnie Burwick, Larry Campbell, Douglas Caporiccio, Guv Carpus, Peter Caruso. Frank Caso, Victor Cassano, Salvatore Caswell, Jonathan Cederquist, Dennis Childress, Warren Christeson, Frank Christman. David Church. Frank Cochran, Paul Cofield, Austin Cornelius, Jerry Costa, John Cousin, ITT Cox. Alan Cox, Ralph Crabbs, Richard Crandall, Ray Creal. Dennis Cressman, Charles Crissman, J. Scott Croft. Robert Cross, Roger Cumpston, Samuel Cunningham, John Cupp, Bryan

Curtis, K Lee Dais. Merlin Dalegowski, Garv Damron, Harlan Daniels, David Davenport, Allen Davis. Greg Davis. Terrv Decker, Joseph DeLong, Robert Demasi, Ralph Dickensheet, Joseph Dowding, Arthur Dumbei, Larry In Memoryof Charles Dundei - KIA Dunn, George Dunphy, Timothy Edmonds, Roy Effinger, John Eichelberger, Jerald Ellingson, Ken Emanuel, William Emory, Morris England, Billy Eriser, James Ferrill. Gradv Filbert. John Finnerty, John Fiscor, John Fisher, James Fisher, Robert Fisher, Kenneth Fordvce, Kenneth Foreman, James Frank, Donald Frank . Dale Franks. Frederick Frizzell, Leo Gadberry, Blaine Geesev. Ken Gilbert, Robert Glauner, John Gloege, Douglas Goode. David Gourm. Dennis Graham. William Graham, James Greek, Charles Green, Flovd Griffin. William Gulley, Gerald Gunderman, Larry Gustafson. Charles

Hack, Charles Hawley, Robert Heithoff. Kenneth Helm. Thomas Henicke, Aaron Herb. John Hiatt. Russell Hill. Elmer Hines. Donald Hoelker. Ewald Hogan, Sean Holt, George Horan. Dennis Howell, Monroe Hryadil, Nicholas Hudnall. Dennis Hund. Richard Iverson, James Jaggard, Michael Jankel, Ken Jordan, Phil Kathman, Michael Kauppi, Ernest Keator, Doris Kelliher. Patrick Kelly. Dennis Kelly, Richard Kenyon, Richard Kida, Gordon Kina. Georae Klein, Earl Kohler, J. Rudolph Krinock, Gregory Kyle, Frederick LaBell, Wayne Laird. Kenneth Lamb. James Lamere, Bruce Landsteiner, Paul Lebrun, Raynald Lees, Francis Lenger, Norman Lewis. James Loveday, Gary Macleod, Roger Maloney, Joseph Manthei, Sheldon Manzo, Joseph Mason, Gregory Mason, Michael Matre, Jerry Mays, Curtis McCarthy, John McDonough, John McEliece, James McGrail, John McGrath. Thomas McGregor. Stewart McKillip, Clarence McNeil. Robert McVicker, James Mever, William Miller. Carl Miller. Marsha In Memoryof Louis Miller Miller, Steve Miner, Robert Mollhoff, Wayne Monprode, Robert Morris. Richard Moses, James Muchesko, Joseph Murray, Edward Myers, Robert Nelson, Lee Newcomb, Dale Newman, Gary Nicklas, Harold Norris, Danny Norsian, Arsen Nute. Charles O'Connell, David O'Neill, Timothy Orth. David Ostrander, Gary Owens, Alden Parker. Joel Patten. Thomas Paulsen, William Pavne. Horace Pehr. Bert Pemberton, Donald Perez, Felipe Perrin. Craig Peterson, Charles Phetteplace, Duane Pierce, Leo Pimental. Frederick Poindexter, John Pool. J.C. Porter. Donald Potter, James Powers, Richard Prvor. Lee Pudelek, John Pytlak, George Radzwillas. Paul

Rafferty, Michael Rankin, Bill Rauh. Theador Rawlings, Jack Rawson, Robert Rector, David Rees, William Reid, Eric Richeson, George Robertson, Elmer Rogen, John Rowe, Johnnie Runion, Jack Ruoff, Michael Russell, W. Arthur Rusteberg, Homer Salerno, Alan Sanchez, Vincent Sartor, Donald Schehr. James Schmitt, Thomas Scholz, C.E. Schunck, James Scohy, R. Bruce Scott, Alexander Selvidge, Mark Semmelmeier, Peter Sexton, James Seyller, Phillip Sharpe, Larry Shumaker, Barry Sieja, Ronald Sigrist, Charles Skinner, Michael Sloan, Tommy Smith, Earl Snedeker, Donald Snow, Tony Solis, Francis Souza, Albert Straszewski, Gerald Stresser, Michael Sucato, Richard Suever, Robert Sugihara, Martyn Sussman, Bob Sutton, Harold Swan, Val Swartz, Larry Sweet. Max Taylor, William Tear, Raymond Terry, Hardy Timmons, Gary Tomchick, Jim Tonkovich. Dennis Tonks. Glenn Totaro, Lawrence Trammell, Horace Traner. James Trier, James Turner, John

Upton, Richard Vail, Richard Van Atta. Mark Van Burger, Bill Van Holsbeke, Leon Vanderbogart, Kirk Vigus, Max Volta, Donald Voss. Alvin Walker. Dan Waller, W.A. Washington, Ben Watkins, Charles Watts, Wayne Way, Robert Webb, Mark Wherley, Steven Whitson, Thomas Wickstrom, Eric Wierema, Ronald Williams, Ray Williams, Thomas Williamson, Gerald Willis, Janelle Wilson, Steve Wolfe, Okey Wolfe, Frederick Wood, Eddie Yeager, Michael Yochum, Thomas Zaiontz, Lee **Silver Level**

Aquilar, Arthur Aldrich, Hugo Andrews, Jerry Arble, Patrick Arft, Larry Argento, Chuck Austin, William Bachler, David Bahnsen, John Baker, Dennis Baker, Robert Baker, Stacy Bakos, Richard Ballantyne, John Barnes, William Barnes, Sharon Baronti, William Beard, C. Frederick Berry, Lawrence Billips, Eugene Birch, Jimmy Blaisdell, John Bodo, Randy Bostelman, Christopher Brockwell, Ronald Bullard, Johnie Butler, R. Frank Calton, Bobby

Cargile, Ronnie Carnal, Monika Carraturo, Anthony Celani, Patrick Chattin, Frederick Chesemore, James Cizmadia, Joseph Clack, Douglas Clark, Floyd Cofty, L.E. Collier, Kermit Colson, Darrel Comer, Joseph Commons, Joe Connolly, David Connors, Thomas Conway, Richard Corey, John Cramer, G. William Craugh. David Cribbs, Wayne Crowder, Gary Cullinan, Bernard Davis, James Davison, Donald Deege, Leonard Deglman, Michael Delve, Robert Donnelly, Edward Dorman, Darwin Dray, Randea Dunlop, James Durr, Merritt Ehrets, Steven Fedorinchik, William Fegenbush, Edward Femovich. Walter Flaig, James Fremd, Harold Frens. John Gaines, James Gann, Gary Garabedian, John Gardner, Robert Garner, Joe Gehring, Joseph Graffum. Denis Gray, Zane Green, Dennis Grice, Roger Grogg, John Guerena, Jesse Gwinn. Trov Hanson, Jeffrey Hathaway, Allen Herlihy, Matthew Herman, Paul Hertel, Herbert Hicks. L.R. Hilden. Andrew Hinkle, Weldon Holbrook, Gregory

Holland, Thomas Holloway, Larry Homer, Byron Hormell, James Hrom, John Humbert, John Janairo, Antonio Johnston, Leroy Jones, Ruben Journeay, John Kaemingk, Jay Kalick, Larry Kern, Richard Kirkpatrick, Michael Kittelson, Harold Knowlton, William Kotek, Richard Kotwica, Jeromr Krebs, Richard Lane. R.L. Lantrip, Gary Larson, Ralph Leonti, John Lestock, John Levasseur, Mark Lopez, Jeffrey Ludwig, Carroll MacDonald, Clifford MacGregor, Gary Machut, James Majewski, Raymond Malnarick, Bernard Malone, Walker Mann, Harold Manning, Wyndham Martin, Carl Massev. Kenneth Mattingly, Joseph Maurer, Benedict Maver. Jeffrev McIntosh, James McKelvey, George McSwiggan, Joseph Meier, Michael Migues, Willie Mix, Lawrence Moore, William Morgan, Dan Morin, Donald Morrow, Charles Murphy, Kenneth Nagel, John Norris. George Norton, David Olechny, Patrick Opp, Terry Ottesen, Sven Parker, Timothy Parks. John Parrington, Frederick Peckham, John Petrusko, Donald

Plisch, Clifton Powell, Alexander Powers. Daniel Qualteri, James Racine, Armand Reimer, Richard Reininger, Thomas Richards, Dennis Roberts, Joe Ryburn, Glenn Sartor, Billy Scali, Salvatore Scheumann, David Schneeman, Frederick Schultz, Lane Schulz, Dennis Scott, Larry Scott, Gary Seese, Harry Selch. William Shakow, Raymond Silvernail, Marion Simers, James Slomienski, Walter Soehnlen, Nicholas Sorich, John Spitze, Jim Staffieri, Eustacchio Stanley, John Steedley, Richard Stines, Harold Suhre, William Swonke, Robert Templer, Thomas Thayer, Paul Turner, Courtney Van Ert, William Varljen, Frank Venhoff, John Virusky, Edmund Voss, Jeffrey Walkner, Thomas Wallech, Joseph Walton, Lynne Watrous, Antoinette Werner, Warren Westerberg, Victor Williams, Lyndal Woodman, Charles Woodson, Roddy Worley, Richard Worthy, Gary Wurster, Stephen Yancy, Rodney Yost, William Zaler, Douglas **Bronze Level**

Agosti, William Alanis, Juan Alestra, Malcolm Alfieri, Henry

Allen, Raymond Allender, William Amen, Harvey Amstutz, Thomas Anderson, Harold Angeline, Frederic Angle, Rodney Anonymous Apholz, William Appleton, Gary Arana, Frederick Argo, James Armagost, Charles Armentrout, T.L. Arnold, Dannie Artuso, Michael Atkinson, John Bailey, David Baker, Nancy Baker, Edward Barnhart, Richard Barrows, Elwood Bartlett. James Basler, Harold Bassett. Robert Bathurst, J.A. Bauer, Stephen Bechard, Reginald Beck, Rudolf Behm. Ernest Beishir, Gregory Belcher, Richard Bell, Gregory Bellamy, William Belville, Harold Berenda, Joseph Birmingham, Hal Blankenship, James Bledsoe, Carlton Bockman, Wayne Bodenus, George Bonfanti, Charles Bostick, George Bostwick, Dennis Boswell, Virgil Bourdeau, Michael Bouthot, Claude Boutieller. Robert Bowen, David Bowling, Thomas Bowman, Robert Brennick, Robert Brookshire, Grail Brophy, Joseph Brown, Steven Brown. Garv Brummel, Charles Brune. Ervin Bryan, Larry Bryden, Edward Buckley, Gary Buehre, Michael

Burba, James

Burnett, Ralph Burton, Patrick Bustos, John Byers, John Byrne, Lloyd Bystrak, Paul Campbell, Craig Campbell, Jimmie Carney, Patrick Carpenter, Jess Casal, Donald Cassen, Samuel Cenicola, Philip Chapman, Lindsey Charbeneau, William Charette, Ronald Chin, Carey Chisholm, Roderick Christian, Gus Ciborowski, Dennis Cirjak, John Clark, Larry Cleveland, William Cobb, Stephen Colameco, Tom Collins, Michael Colman, Richard Colson, Ronald Connelly, Danny Cooper, Milford Cordero, Fred Corradini, Judith Cotton, Earnest Covington, Rodney Cox. Daniel Cricco, Michael Crist, Michael Crommett, Charles Cross, Michael Crouthamel, John Crowe, Jody Cunningham, Charles Cusman, David Cutright, Danny

Czerwinski, Joseph Dalton. David Daniel, Ronald Daub, Herbert Davidson, Larry Davidson, John Davis, Rick Davis, Eugene Davis, James Davis, Robert O Day, Curtis DeLallo, Joseph Denaro, Matthew Derby, Steve DeSoto, Gerald Dewit, Leray Dickinson, James Dilling, Eugene Dimeo, John Dinardo, Michael Dittmer, James Dixon. Lorenzo Doswell, Clifford Doxtator, Everett Drew, Donald Duncan, Steven Dungey, Leon Dunkle, Stephen Dunn. William DuPlantis, Patricia Dussault, Raymond Dutcher, James Edwards, Montie Egan, John Eitel. Roger Ekert, Frank Ekholm, David Emerson, William Emerson, Ron Erickson, Larry Esper, Vaughn Estep, Oakie Estringel, Lydia Evans, David

Farrant, Marcus Farrell, James Farrell, Thomas Farris, Richard Feia, Eileen Ferguson, Doyle Fields, Clifford Fields, Erving Fink, Eugene Finley, Merrill Fiorillo, Pasquale Firchau, Melvin Fish, E.G. Fisher, Paul Fitzgerald, William Flynn, Patrick Foley, Paul Fordonski, David Forrester, Larry Foster, David Foster, Gary Foulks, Michael Franken, Henry Franklin, Martin Frantz, William Freeman, Dennis Freme, Robert Frenette, Robert Freyn, Richard Fuller, Herbert Fust, Arlan Gall, Irving Garcia, Julio Garzon, Sanford Gavin. Victor Gee, Luther Gelder, Albert Gerhardt, Terry Giannini, Gerald Gibbs, Lonnie Gibbs, George Gildein. John Gilliam, Larry Gilmore, Ronald

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 BLACKHORSE WREATH-LAYING at the TOMB of the UNKNOWN SOLDIER

What: The laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.Why: The wreath will be laid at the Tomb in observance of the 122nd anniversary of the activation of the 11th Cavalry on February 2, 1901, at Fort Myer, Virginia.

When: Immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Changing of the Guard, Thursday, February 2, 2023

Where: At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Washington, D.C.

Who: All Blackhorse Troopers from all eras, family and friends.

Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Show your colors - wear something Blackhorse!

MINI-REUNION IN ARIZONA

A mini-reunion is being planned in Arizona, Wednesday, April 12, 2023, from 11am to 5pm (1100-1600) B.O.Y.B. We can order some pizza to eat.

Place: Tom and Terri Morrison's house, 5121 W. Creedance Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85310

RSVP: Ron Krueger, 530-304-4249: ronkrue@hotmail.com

Lee, Kenneth Lee, Eugene Leeson, William Lescisko, John Lessard, Gerard L'Etoile, Roger Licon, Thomas Like, David Lile, Nickolas Little, Eldred Livingood, Floyd Livingston, Donald Long, R.H. Long, John Love, Guy Luke, Craig Lyle, Roger MacDonald, John Madej, William Magnarelli, John Main, James Maiuri. John Malewski, Robert Malone, George Manley, Clyde Marchesani, Joseph Marmet, David Marguette, Kathlene Marquez, Gabriel Martin, Romeo Martinez, David Masiella, Anthony Massengale, Glen Mathias, Terry McBryde, Jerry McCollum, Christine McDole, Harry McEvoy, Stephen McFee, Thaniel McGarrity, Thomas McKenna, Willis McKenney, Thomas McMasters, Cary McWethy, Wesley

Meltsch, Eugene Mendoza, David Menefee, Douglas Merideth, Glen Merz, Robert Mettler, Larry Meyer, Keith Michaud, Randolph Michitsch, Philip Miller, George Miller, Patrick Miller, Brett Mills, Stephen Minakowski, Charles Missey, Theodore Mitchell, Joseph Moliterno, Leland Mollenkopf, James Molstad, Steven Moodie, Dennis Moore, Connie Moore. David Moore, James Morelock, Jerry Morgan, Dennis Moriarity, Douglas Morris, William Morrison, Willie Morrison, Charles Moser, Kenneth Moughmer, Dave Mowery, Robert Mullin, Patrick Mulrath, John Murphy, Jim Nelson, Jack Newlin, Ronny Nissen, Lewis Oakman, Mark Ochman, Ronald O'Connell, Vincent O'Donohue, James Ohlen, William Olivarez, Raymond

Ollinger, Kenneth O'Loughlin, Brian Olson, Gene Ornellis, William Ostermeyer, William Ottenbreit, John Padgett, Connie Pagan, Angel Page, Donald Pascual, Carl Paskett, Judith Passanisi, Paul Patterson, John Payne, William Pendergrass, Larry Pendlosky, John Pendola, Lloyd Pepe, Michael Perry, Richard Petersen, William Phillips, David Piccirilli, Joseph Pisciotta, Michael Pitt, Christopher Poe, James Portman, Ed Posak, Nicholas Potter, Fred Powell, Marvin Pritzl, Noel Proctor, Willie Pyke, William Quinn, Patricia In Memoryof Col. **Richard Quinn** Raborn, Norman Raccosta, Joseph Ramirez, Grable Ramnytz, Samuel Ramsey, Jack Ranalli, Michael Raper, Ronald Rasberry, Jesse Raseman. Kim

Reed, Jackson Reed. Ronald Reeves, James Refshauge, Charles Relyea, Mark Retzlaff, Jerry Reynolds, Marla Rhyner, Robert Richard, Alfred Rigney, Roy Ringstad, Michael Robbins, Donald Roberta, James Roberts, Larry Roest, Herman Rogers, Sammie Roman, Irving Romano, Dominic Ronne, Ralph Rooke, James Rosher, Galen Ross, Carey Rossi, Frank Rothmeyer, Larry Ruffner, John Ruocco, William Russell, Richard Russell, David Rybacki, Henry Sabol, T.A. Salchana, Richard Santos, Joseph Santos-Cruz, Tomas Sarabia, Monico Scarborough, Charles Schaefer, Adrian Schamberger, William Scheffler, Donald Schleppegrell, William Schneider, David Schneiter, Robert Schoephoerster, Harry Schumacher, Martha

Searcy, Rufus Severeid, Carol Seymour, David Share, Michael Sharpe, Terry Shehan, Walden Sherman, Garry Shire, Philip Shogan, Alexander Silverthorn, Robert Sinclair, Robert Sisco, Claud Six, Robert Smith, Kenneth Smith, Dennis Smith, James Smith, Leonard Smith, Ronald Smith, Lawrence Smith, Ronald Smith, Thomas Smith. Paul Smith, Russell Sowers, Harry Sox, Kenneth Spanier, Eric Spear, Reggie Specht, Eugene Speer, Cleve Spino, Floyd Spriggs, Steven St. Clair, Harold Stafford, Edmund Stalmah, Charles Stamey, Charles Stampley, James Stanford, David Stottsberry, Kenneth Stout, Jack Stratton, K. Kae Stuefer, William Suberla, Edmund Sullivan, David Sullivan, Roy Summers, Carl Swanson, George Sweningson, Bruce Szvmanski, Ravmond Tankovich, James Tarr. Ravmond Taylor, David Tebo, Paul Tenik, Joseph Thomson, Richard Tiedeman, David Tighe, Michael Timmerman, Gary Tips, George Titschinger, Mark Torsok, Michael Townsend, Robert Townsend, Frank Trabanco, Andrew

Trahan, Vernon Tranas, Donald Traw, Gary Traylor, Douglas Trottier, Raymond Valdez, Anthony Valdez, Frank Vanderventer, Lawrence Vitullo, Vince Wagner, Mrs. Wagner, Larry Walburn, Lowell Walls, Keith Walton, Ron Wathen, Bob Watt, Roland Watts. George Weachter, Dennis Webb, Gary Weege, Henry Wehrle, Hubert Wells, James Welton, Flovd Weltzien, James Wentz, Darrel Werker, Frank Wertz, Edward Westerman, James Weynand, Mary Whorton, Charles Wiese, Timothy Wilcox, John Williams, Ernesto Williams, Roy Williams, Terry Wills, Thomas Wilson, John Wing, Shayne Wing, Douglas Wisdom, Scott Witt, Marvin Woellner, David Wolas. Theodore Woods, Marshall Worley, Dennis Worthey, Donna Wresch, Michael Wright, Earl Wright, Ralph Wright, Stephen Yocum, Kenneth Yoder, Kenneth Young, Paul Young, Manuel Zamojda, Bronislaw Zaremba, John Zaun, James Zeman. Erwin Zillner, Robert Zimmerman, James Zmora, Jesus

VA 20112; Email 11thcav1966@Comcast.net

Old Address:

New Address:



Zip:

Schwerin, Robert

without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas,

_____State:

Zip:

Effective Date:

State:

MOVING? We want you to get your copy of Thunder Run

Name:

City:

City:

Phone

Email:

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

January 2023

2nd Squadron, 17 April 1971

Back in The World, the latest fashion rage was hot pants and boots – a welcome distraction from the seemingly constant negative news from the anti-war movement, publication of the Pentagon Papers leaked by Daniel Ellsberg, reports of increased drug use within the United States (including alarming numbers of GIs returning from Southeast Asia with heroin addiction), the death of Doors' lead singer and counter-culture icon Jim Morrison, and charges of American war crimes highlighted by the conviction of LT William Calley for the massacre at My Lai.

In Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam, no one was wearing hot pants and boots.

Even after the 25th (US) Division stood down in early 1971, the work of clearing the Ho Bo and Boi Loi Woods - long-time enemy redoubts - had to go on. The area had been previously cleared, but the secondary growth was inexorably reclaiming the land. Infiltration trails were no longer visible from the air, so the land clearing engineers were sent back in. US and South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) Rome Plow companies razed the jungle astride the Saigon corridor in big bites, day-in and dayout. However, the ARVN infantry recon company assigned to provide security had neither the mobility, nor the firepower of the Tropic Lightning units that had previously performed the mission.

It didn't take long for the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) to figure this out. Both companies began to sustain casualties in men and materiel. The 2nd Squadron Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John Ballantyne (Battle 6), recalls:

The [security] support didn't work out. The US engineer plow company was taking losses. As I recall they had lost a platoon sergeant and several NCOs, lost several of their plows. They weren't getting the security they needed. On top of that, it got so bad ... that the ARVN engineer Rome Plow company mutinied. They refused to go out, to leave the motor pool. They were getting shot up every day, and they didn't

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

want to go out and continue that mission. The situation had gotten bad!

That's when they called in the Blackhorse Cavalry.

Second Squadron moved in just north of Trang Bang and established (with the help of the 919th Engineers) Fire Support Base (FSB) Warrior at the intersection of Highway 1 and the road to Tay Ninh in mid-April 1971. In a harbinger of things to come, the column came under sniper fire almost as soon as it left the highway enroute to set up the new FSB. Two 8inch guns joined 2/11. They would be put to good use.

The Boi Loi Woods had been an enemy stronghold for as long as anyone could remember. The French tried to establish a rubber plantation there in the 1930s, but gave up due to staunch resistance by local Viet Minh. Early in the 1960s, elite South Vietnamese forces (rangers and airborne) tried several times to clear the area of querrillas, only to have their noses bloodied on each occasion. They gave up. US forces, primarily the Tropic Lightning Division, repeatedly attacked the woods with every weapon in the arsenal -Grunts, ACAVs, tanks, mortars and artillery, helicopter gunships, CS, Rome Plows, napalm, incendiary bombs, Agent Orange, and B-52s. All to no avail, as Charlie just waited a while and came back to rebuild his bunkers, tunnels, and caches. After a few months, he would then launch new attacks from the friendly confines of the Boi Loi Woods.

The plan was to use Rome Plows to cut wide swaths of the jungle vegetation away, thus denying the enemy refuge from aerial and ground observation. The NVA and residual Viet Cong (VC) in the area were not expected to just allow this to happen without a fight. These expectations were met, and even exceeded in the next 60 days.

The standard operating procedure (SOP) established by 2/11 was to have a recon troop with each of the Rome Plow companies and one on mini-standdown at FSB Warrior. Ballantyne describes how things worked on a daily basis. "I selected the areas day by day to be cleared and assigned the troops to run the

mission. Troop commanders were then in charge. We never divulged each day's mission to the ARVN commanders until early morning of each day's mission (security measure)."

As expected, the enemy didn't just fade away. The first toe-to-toe engagement came early - and was repeated often.

After spending a night together at Di An (2/11's rear area), Echo and Fox Troop moved out on 16 April to conduct an initial recon in the new area of operations. They got a taste of what was to come. Three casualties resulted from encounters with mines and booby traps, so the Troopers were especially alert the next day as they continued to gain first-hand knowl-edge of the terrain and the enemy. Entering the southern edge of the Boi Loi Woods, Captain (CPT) James Kelly's (Fox 6) Fox Troop was using an 'echelon right by platoons' formation, providing maximum firepower to both the front and to the right side, where any enemy forces might be hiding.

The platoons happened to be in numerical order – 1st, followed by 2nd, and then 3rd. Suddenly, two Vietnamese in light blue uniforms popped up and disappeared into the woods. Sergeant (SGT) Wayne Watts, the track commander (TC) of F-25, saw them. "I was looking through my binoculars and saw an NVA regular soldier standing in the center of the hedge row motioning for us to come on in. I called Lt. [Lieutenant Philip] Lee and advised that we had NVA on the left. (To this day, I can still see that NVA pith helmet and the star with the round circle on it.) We immediately traversed to the left and got on line for an assault."

Fox 6 directed the 2nd Platoon, under popular LT Lee (call sign Fox 26), to recon the area where the two individuals had disappeared, while 3rd Platoon, under LT Thomas Christian (Fox 36), provided overwatching fires.

Soon after entering the wooded area, 2nd Platoon came under an intense barrage of automatic weapons fire and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) from the 3rd Battalion, 101st (NVA) Regiment. First a Sheridan and then Lee's Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle (ACAV) were hit by RPGs, knocking both vehicles out of action. The RPG that hit his ACAV

wounded Lee - but didn't kill him.

SGT Allen Burnworth, who had transferred to Fox from Charlie Troop when 1/11 went home. was the thumper (M79 grenade launcher) gunner on the rear deck of the Sheridan (F-28) that was hit first. He says: "When the action gets heavy, you go into slow motion ... That's how it actually happens". He was pumping grenades into the bamboo when something caught his attention. "I happened to look over to the left and I saw something fly out of the shrapnel vest of Lieutenant Lee. At that point, it was slow motion ... It took a moment for me to realize that he'd just been shot and that was the bullet that came out the back." The bullet had cut across Lee's shoulder blades and severed his spinal cord.

The crew of F-28 fired over a dozen main gun rounds – 152mm canister – but then had to wait for compressed air to build back up before they could fire again. The delay proved deadly. While waiting, they were hit by an RPG. Ken Smith recalls that the RPG hit "right over the top of the driver's hatch and underneath the gun [the ideal aiming point]. I mean, this guy must have been an expert, right?" The heat from the blast welded the driver's hatch shut.

Smoke started coming up out of the turret. At least one caseless ammo round ignited and flames came out of both turret hatches. F-28 "rocked back like it had shot three rounds at one time," according to Burnworth. Platoon Sergeant (PSG) Beck came out of the turret and said in his German accent: "Get the hell out of here.' He didn't have to tell me twice, because it was on fire."

Specialist 5 (SP5) John 'Doc' Balas was everywhere that day, attending to LT Lee and the others on his ACAV, then moving to help Beck and his crew. Despite the withering enemy fire, Doc Balas saved five lives on that Boi Loi Woods battlefield on 17 April 1971.

Fox 6 moved forward to the sound of the guns, but he, too, was seriously wounded in the arm by AK47 rifle fire. Kelly's ACAV was hit by at least one RPG. Clearly, the NVA gunners had listened to their instructors and were aiming for the vehicles with two antennas, the sign of a command vehicle (Kelly's ACAV, Lee's ACAV, and Beck's Sheridan). This left Fox 36 in command; LT Christian ordered the troop to withdraw, leaving three vehicles (two ACAVs and a Sheridan) behind. By this time, it was obvious that the Troopers had found a numerically superior, well dug-in enemy force, and

Blackhorse SOP was to let the artillery and gunships pound such a position before assaulting it again. Besides, there were a number of casualties that needed to be evacuated, and there was the command arrangement to get sorted out. CPT Floyd McGough, flying the 2/11 Command & Control (C&C) helicopter, made the first of his ten landings to evacuate the most severely wounded.

The question of overall command was settled when Major (MAJ) Don Borden (the 2/11 Operations Officer) landed and took command of the troops on the ground. After evacuating the wounded. Borden led five ACAVs in a direct assault on the enemy bunkers, as the rest of Fox Troop attacked from the flank. The objective of this assault was to retrieve the damaged vehicles and recover anyone who was still alive. However, in the words of an after action report, the "enemy held its fire until the assaulting vehicles were within fifty meters of their position, then once again laid down a heavy volley of RPD [machine gun], RPG and AK47 fire. As he reached a position twenty meters short of the disabled 'Sheridan'. Mai. Borden came under intense RPG fire and his vehicle was hit. Immediately, the vehicle began to burn."

Despite the heavy fire, Fox Troopers were able to hook tow cables to the two damaged ACAVs and haul them out of the contact area. Borden switched to another ACAV and pulled everyone back to allow the artillery (air strikes were not available at the time) and gunships to work over the enemy fortifications.

Three times, the artillery and helicopter gunships blasted the target area, and three times the ACAVs and Sheridans of Fox Troop, reinforced by two platoons from Echo Troop, assaulted the NVA bunkers. Second-HOW alone fired more than 200 rounds into that small piece of Vietnamese real estate. Finally on the third assault, the two Echo Troop platoons broke through the first line of bunkers and swept across the objective. CPT Thomas Gray, Echo 6, told his two platoons to establish blocking positions on the far side of the bunkers, while Fox Troop covered a third side and helicopter gunships completed the fourth side of the box.

The enemy, now completely surrounded, fought on with RPGs and AKs, so Gray sent in dismounted teams to clear them out. Fox Troop's SGT Mike 'Chief' Aguilar was one of those in the dismounted element. His ACAV had been engaged by an NVA in a bunker, who would pop up, shoot, and drop back down when the ACAV returned fire. Aguilar grabbed some hand grenades and jumped off the track. His TC asked: "'Chief, where you going?' He said: 'I'm going to get that SOB'... Chief had no fear." Aguilar threw a grenade into the bunker, it exploded with lots of smoke. There was a female NVA soldier inside, still alive. Aguilar and the other dismounts thought she was dead. Burnworth and his thumper had joined the Troopers on the ground sweep. He says: "Chief reaches down in for what he thought was a body and she was still alive enough that she bit him. He swore and said: 'She bit me. Give me that M16 ... After 20 rounds, she didn't bite anymore."

The contact started at 1440 hours and lasted until dusk three hours later. All but one of Fox Troop's officers were casualties on 17 April; the first sergeant had to temporarily assume command of Echo Troop, as all of their officers were wounded, too. Allan Burnworth summed up the day's action. "We got our ass kicked ... We really did have our things together that day – but more so after that ... After that, our crews worked like a well-oiled machine."

Even four decades later, John Ballantyne recalls the events of 17 April, a day he describes as "the most nerve-wracking day during my tenure with the squadron." For the previous five months. 2/11 Troopers had been engaging mostly loosely organized VC units that did not stand and fight. The NVA soldiers encountered on their first day in the Boi Loi Woods were professionals. As he recalls: "We were clearly up against better organized and more determined NVA units with plenty of local VC support." It was "a learning experience for the squadron ... Prior to this contact, our mindset had been to instantly react to contact and charge in with weapons blazing ... We adjusted our tactics accordingly and made it SOP to precede any movement into contact with suitable artillery and air preparation."

There was one other lesson learned – but it was one the Squadron couldn't do anything about. The absence of Hotel Company and its 17 M48 tanks was felt during the 17 April contact, as well as in all subsequent fights. The armored staying power and bunker-busting firepower of these tanks were, according to Battle 6, "sorely missed". The Sheridan was fine, but some jobs just called for 52 tons of American steel.

September 2011

• **Birth of the Red Devils**. On 13 April 1966, the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) was activated at Fort Hood, Texas. The company was authorized 5 officers and 161 enlisted personnel. The 919th replaced the 522nd Engineering Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky, which had originally been identified as the company to accompany the Regiment to Vietnam, but was replaced "due to its Armor School support mission".

 Lessons Learned. The months following the Regiment's arrival at Vung Tau in September 1966 were a time for learning lessons. During this period, Blackhorse Troopers found that the terrain, weather, and enemy tactics were both unfamiliar and challenging. This report from Third Squadron sums up the experiences of those initial months in country: "Major problems encountered during the first day [of Operation Hickory] were difficulties in land navigation; lack of adequate road nets in the area; and impassable terrain. Some of the problems with the terrain resulted from inexperience with the area and inability to adequately judge the trafficability of the ground... Occasional thunder showers during the day added to the problems of extracting mired vehicles. The Squadron began making its own roads with bulldozers, tanks and ACAV's to increase its access to certain areas... In one case, it took three days to recover a tank which had sunk up to the turret."

• Silver Star for PSG Keator. On 20 March 1967, Second Squadron left "the dust bowl it called home" - Blackhorse Base Camp – and road marched to An Loc. There, it came under the operational control of the 2nd Brigade, 1st (US) Infantry Division for the start of Operation Junction City II. The next day, Eaglehorse Squadron attacked into War Zone C, conducting reconnaissance in force operations from a temporary fire support base hacked out of the jungle in northern Tay Ninh Province. Just two days later, Hotel Company was assigned a mission to recon an area near the fire base. The Second Squadron's Annual Historical Summary for 1967 relates what happened that day. "On 23 March, Platoon Sergeant John M. Keator led his platoon of tanks out of the newly established base on a routine reconnaissance mission. It was hot that day and the fact that the platoon had to chop and push its way through the dense jungle that characterized Tay Ninh Province didn't help the situation. As the tanks continued to thrash forward on their mission 'Charlie' watched from the hiding places he knew so well. The Viet Cong outnumbered the American force and they were confident of what was to come as they waited in silence with their recoilless rifles and automatic weapons. Sergeant Keator led his force forward unaware of the ambush that was closing about him. Exactly according to his well rehearsed plan, 'Charlie' opened up with his automatic weapons. Two antitank rounds streaked through the air and slammed into the fuel tank and engine compartment of Sergeant Keator's tank causing it to burst into flames. Sergeant Keator grabbed a portable fire extinguisher as the tank moved forward into the jaws of the ambush. The engine died and the tank was ringed in fire but its 90mm cannon miraculously was unharmed. With deadly authority the 90mm spewed forth its steel, first at the recoilless rifle and then into the thicket from which the automatic weapons fire had come. Eight enemy soldiers died. By this time

the tank was completely engulfed in flame and Sergeant Keator ordered his crew to abandon the tank while he covered their exit with suppressive fire from his caliber .50 machinegun. Once his crew had safely reached another tank, Sergeant Keator jumped from his flaming vehicle and ran to another one nearby. Resuming command, he led his gallant force in an assault which completely routed the enemy. For his exceptional courage Sergeant Keator was awarded the Silver Star."

• **The M-48 Tank.** The following quotation comes from an article in Military Review magazine from January 1969: "The tanks of the armored cavalry squadrons presently in use in Vietnam are the M48 series main battle tank. They make ideal vehicles to negotiate the rubber plantations and thick jungle during the dry season and to keep open main supply routes for military and civilian traffic the year round. Their employment in relief columns has been particularly successful... they provide the best protection available against small arms fire, mines, and recoilless rifles." PSG Keator and his crew would agree.

• **Firebug Missions**. From the 1969 Senior Officer Debriefing Report of Colonel George Patton: "This mission, effective only during the dry season, has been particularly successful in the CATCHERS MITT and SONG BE Corridor for area denial and uncovering trails. For this mission, an aircraft armed with ten cases of incendiary grenades flies from dry spot to dry spot, setting fires with incendiaries. This technique opens areas up for more detailed aerial observation and denies future concealment of enemy resupply or infiltration activities." What would Smokey the Bear say?

• **Signs of success**. The 3 October 1970 Regimental Supplemental Intelligence Summary noted that between 23 and 29 September, there were seven "separate cases involving Vietnamese civilians volunteering information to elements of the 11th ACR or other friendly forces." These included a group of children who pointed out a batch of enemy documents to Alpha Troop, a man who told Delta Company where some enemy bunkers were located, two separate farmers who told Charlie Troopers of Viet Cong activity in their area, and two women who separately told Mike Company and the 919th Engineers where mines were located. The official report concluded: "The above incidents have an obvious value in saving lives and gathering intelligence. They are also indicative of the lessening of VC control in these areas."

• Extra Guns. Lieutenant General William J. McCaffrey, Deputy Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, visited the Regiment on 8 February 1971 to discuss the ongoing preparations for redeployment back to the World. During his visit, he authorized Second Squadron to retain up to 15 percent extra machine guns and radios. According to a memorandum for record prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Schweitzer, the Deputy Regimental Commander, General McCaffrey was "'delighted' that the 2d Squadron had this equipment and was using it." He did insist that the extra weapons and radios continue to be carried on the unit property books and reported "so that parts can be requisitioned in advance in an orderly manner."

2023 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason And Mike Rafferty

The 2022 Silent Auction raised \$6,106 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 85 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many handcrafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages or firearms in the auction as many state laws prohibit it. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 38th Annual Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2. We will have a collection site setup in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm,

and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

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

4. The auction will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 8:30pm. Those in wheel chairs or motorized chairs may be allowed in at 6:15 to allow them a little time to view the items before the crowds enter if our space in the rooms is tight.

5. Winning bidders must be present, pick up their items and pay for them between 8:30pm and 9pm after the bidding is closed.

6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9pm or auctioned off at 9:15pm Friday evening. The bid form to all the donors!

will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids and thanks in advance

	11th ACVVC Silent Auction			
Donated Items Information Form				
Please provide the following information Please print clearly.	on with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.			
Description of item donated:				
Name of Donor:				
Address of Donor:				
Phone # of Donor:	Value of Item Donated \$			
I wish to remain anonymous (check b	ox)			
	11th ACVVC, C/O Fred Droski 192 Collindale Ave SW Grand Rapids, MI 49634-5817			

Reunion Registration

Bob Moreno, BOD Member, Reunion Registration Chm.

reeting, and welcome to 2023. We hope that this year brings you all good Health, many Smiles and great Joy. As the new year begins, we have already started uploading all the information that we have received from your registration form into our computers.

As always, it's never too early to register. It sure helps us when you send your registration form in early, the sooner the better. You are properly saying "What's the rush, I have lots of time to get it in the mail or do it online." Well, the sooner you get your Registration in the sooner we can get your name posted on the web site, so everyone knows that you are coming to the Reunion.

So, as soon as you see the Registration Form either in the Thunder Run or on the website fill it out and get it in the mail. You can also Register online with your credit card. If you are filling out the Registration form, please print your information clearly and use those little address labels that you get in the mail. That makes It so much easier on us when we start typing up the name tags.

If you are coming to the Reunion as a family member or a guest of a Blackhorse trooper who has passed after coming home from Vietnam, you are considered to be Next-Of-Kin, please be sure to indicate if you are related or just a friend of the family next to your name on the Registration form.

THE 31JT ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING Thursday, September 21, 2023, Saskatoon Golf Club; 9038 92nd Street SE, Alto, MI 49302

n 2023 we will again visit Grand Rapids, Michigan and for those who were not here in 2018, I can assure you we had a great reunion and a wonderful golf outing!

We will play The Saskatoon Golf Club in Alto, MI, featuring 45 holes offering the perfect combination of natural beauty and challenging play. The unique landscape blends well-groomed fairways and bent grass greens with nature's peaceful splendor and abundant wildlife. There is an island green and plenty of water hazards for an exciting round for any level of golfer. The

	tice facilities, restaurant & bar.	
range balls, greens fees cart, LD & CTP contests, 10% discount off Pro Shop merchandise, conti nental breakfast	- Name	MORIAL GOLF OUTING f you have one)
luncheon and prizes. Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Peter L	Home Phone State	Zip
Walter). Form and fee must be received by Ser 8, 2023 to guarantee your entry! You do no) Name	Average Score
need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a	Name	Average Score
golfer of equal (or worse!) talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. The outing is open to men and women. Dress code: no denim, shirts mus have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length soft spikes only!	E-mail Mail Chaola Ta: Pata Walter & Tallowood Dr. V	Average Score Vesthampton, NJ 08060
	ou will receive confirmation of you registration in t	he mail. All entries must be pre-

Call 609-261-5629 if you have guestion paid. Tee times will be at 8:30 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Each golfer is responsible for getting to/from the golf course. All golfers who will be driving should offer rides to their fellow golfers. Do not delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

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	REGISTRATION FORM			
Registration fee is \$100 per All registrations must be reco	Bunker Parties and Saturday evening ba eived by Wednesday, September 1, 2023. funds will be paid in full to our members	t. 18-24, 2023 1 1 49503 90 at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night inquet dinner. Any registration received after this date will if cancellation is received by the Treasurer <u>ATION</u>		
Name	Telephone	No:		
Unit Assignment (Example: B TRP, D CO - List or	Dates in Cou ly one unit. This is your banquet seating.)	ntry (Example: 1966-1967)		
KIA Relative? 🗆 Yes, Name	of KIA:			
Relationship to KIA:	Unit:			
ATTENDEES, INCLUDIN	NG YOURSELF (please print)	\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
Total Registration Fee		\$		
Banquet Meal Selection (Indic	ate number for each selection) Chicken	_BeefFishVeggie		
Is this your first reunion?	Yes □ No Wheelchair or special r	eeds banquet seating?		
□ 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 C/O OLLIE PICKRAL 571 DITCHLEY RD KILMARNOCK, VA 22482				

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE & IMPORTANT INFORMATION



by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman E mail address: platoonmedic36@gmail.com

We are now accepting applications for 11th ACVVC scholarships. Children and grandchildren of current life members, deceased life members, and troopers who were KIA in Vietnam or Cambodia are eligible to apply. More information about applicant eligibility requirements can be found online at www.11thcavnam.com. If you have additional questions or are not comfortable using a computer, please do not hesitate to contact me at the e mail address listed above or give me a call.

E mail address: platoonmedic36@gmail.com

Please have the applicant send the completed application and required grade transcripts to me at the following address: Mike "Doc" Rafferty

11th ACVVC PO Box 13188 Las Cruces, NM 88013



You will find the latest application in this issue of Thunder Run.

MOTIONS from page 7

Motion 2022-0910C Membership, Memorial, Operation Embrace and Website Manager Reports

"Accept the Membership, Memorial, Operation Embrace and Website Manager reports as presented."

The motion passed. UNANIMOUS

23. Jim Beckworth made the following motion that was seconded by Mike Thomas:

Motion 2022-0910D Scholarship and Raffle Reports

"Accept the Scholarship and Raffle Reports"

The motion passed. UNANIMOUS

24. Jim Beckworth made the following motion that was seconded by Mike Thomas:

Motion 2022-0910E Registration Report

"Accept the Registration Report as presented"

The motion passed. UNANIMOUS

25. Jim Beckworth made the following motion that was seconded by Mike Thomas:

Motion 2022-0910F Silent Auction Report

"Accept the Silent Auction Report as presented"

The motion passed. UNANIMOUS

26. Jim Beckworth made the following motion that was seconded by Mike Thomas:

Motion 2022-0910G Unopposed Candidates Election

"Accept an affirmative ballot for all unopposed candidates."

The motion passed. UNANIMOUS

27. Mr. Pickral made the following motion that was seconded by Bob Moreno.

Motion 2022-0927A General Account Funding

"Transfer \$100,000 from the Money Market account to the

General Fund to meet on going operating expenses."

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The Motion passed.

28. The following motion was made by Bob Moreno and seconded by Steve Page:

The deadline for applications this year is May 15th, 2023. I look for-

ward to receiving applications from your children and grandchildren.

Motion 2022-0927B Secretary's Minutes

"Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Reunion Board meeting held September 7, 2022".

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The Motion passed.

29. Pete Walter made the following motion and Frank Church seconded the motion:

Motion 2022-1101 Request for Financial Assistance

"Whereas Jerry Wickam American Legion Post #1148 in Byron, Illinois decorates veteran's graves at the Lightsville Cemetery in Leaf River, Illinois, and

Whereas CPL Jerry W. Wickam, F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th ACR was killed in action January 6, 1968 and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, and

Whereas Jerry Wickam is buried in Lightsville Cemetery, and Whereas the American Legion Post is in need of financial assistance,

I therefore move:

The 11th ACVVC will donate \$200 to American Legion Post #1148, Byron, Illinois in memory of Jerry Wickam to help defray the cost of American flags for veteran's graves in Lightsville Cemetery, Leaf River, Illinois".

The vote was as follows: UNANIMOUS

The Motion passed.



Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, it's the price you paid to become eligible to join



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	pred Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia p Application (effective September 15th, 2022) Scholarship Guide at <u>www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html</u> Application Deadline May 15 th , 2023	S
	EN AWARDED AN 11^{TH} ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY dvanced degrees (master's, doctoral) are not eligible to apply.	AGAIN.
Applicant's full name:	Date of Birth:	
Applicant's social security number:	E mail address:	
Street address:	Apt./Unit #	
City:	State Zip Code Phone #:	
Child C	Grandchild of a current life member of the 11 th ACVVC. Grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11 th ACVVC. Grandchild of an 11th ACR veteran who was killed in action in Vie	etnam or
	ıll name:E mail:	
Sponsor's 11 th Cav unit in Vietnam:	Dates in Vietnam	
Name and Address of College or Tra	ade School you plan to attend: What is your major?	
	State: Zip: Phone:	
Name 	City, State Dates (From/To)	
Requirements: at least a 3.5 unwe 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average Briefly tell us about your extra-cure	ade transcripts from your last 2 yrs. of High School or College. Eighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degre ge for trade or vocational school applicants. ricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email	
Requirements: at least a 3.5 unwe 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average Briefly tell us about your extra-curr separate sheet of paper.	ighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degre ge for trade or vocational school applicants.	address or
Requirements: at least a 3.5 unwe 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average Briefly tell us about your extra-curr separate sheet of paper. I, the undersigned verify the answer permission for a copy of my high scl	ighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degre ge for trade or vocational school applicants. ricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email rs given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge	address or . I give my on.
Requirements: at least a 3.5 unwe 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average Briefly tell us about your extra-curres separate sheet of paper. I, the undersigned verify the answer permission for a copy of my high scl Signature of Applicant Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Gurant	eighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degrege for trade or vocational school applicants. ricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email rs given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge hool/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application Printed Name Date	address or . I give my on.
Requirements: at least a 3.5 unwer 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average Briefly tell us about your extra-curr separate sheet of paper. I, the undersigned verify the answer permission for a copy of my high scl Signature of Applicant Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Gurr	eighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degrege for trade or vocational school applicants. ricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email rs given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge hool/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application Printed Name Date uardian Printed Name Uardian Printed Name Date d your completed application and grade transcripts to:	address or . I give my on.
Requirements: at least a 3.5 unwe 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average Briefly tell us about your extra-curr separate sheet of paper. I, the undersigned verify the answer permission for a copy of my high scl Signature of Applicant Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Gu Please send	eighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degrege for trade or vocational school applicants. ricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email rs given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge hool/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application Printed Name Date uardian Printed Name Date d your completed application and grade transcripts to: Date	address or . I give my on.

<u>Fiddler's Green</u>



We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names.

Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

- James Reed Arnold, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on August 21, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in London, OH. He was laid to rest in Glen Rest Memorial Estate, Reynoldsburg, OH.
- Earl Lee Barnes, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) passed away on February 24, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Portland, TN. He was laid to rest in Nashville National Cemetery, Madison, TN.
- Nelson Hilaire Brown, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on October 7, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Gratiot, MI. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- Richard Raymond Buchholz, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 6, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Denver, IA. He was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery, Denver, IA.
- John Michael Bustos, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on November 5, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Powell, WY. He was laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery, Powell, WY.
- Ernest C. Capitano, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tampa, FL.
- Jonathan H. Caswell, K Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 9, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jamestown, RI.
- Michael Kelly Church, D Company, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on May 8, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roxana, IL. He was laid to rest in Rose Lawn Memory Gardens, Bethalto, IL.
- Mark Steven Crist, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on November 6, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in La Vernia, TX. He was laid to rest in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.
- Lee Charles Fisher, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 27, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sterling, IL.
- William David Florom, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) passed away on December 24, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Collins, CO.
- Larry C. Fraliex, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 31, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bradenton, FL.
- Marvin Cleveland Greenfield, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 22, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kearneysville, WV. He was laid to rest in Rosedale Cemetery, Martinsburg, WV.
- William C. Haponski, HHT REGT (1968-1969) passed away on ETdied 12/. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in The Villages, FL. He was laid to rest in USs Military Academy Cemetery, West Point, NY.
- Frederick William Hotzman, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 28, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reading, PA. He was laid to rest in Forest Hills Memorial Park, Reiffton, PA.
- N. L. Joseph, HHT REGT (1967-1968) passed away on January 9, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Memphis, TN. He was laid to rest in West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Memphis, TN.
- **Donald Bruce LaFountaine**, HHT REGT (1969-1970) passed away on November 14, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Flower Mound, TX. He was laid to rest in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens, Greenwood, IN.
- Randolph Gregory Loeser, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 2, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cleveland, OH. He was laid to rest in Knollwood Cemetery, Mayfield Heights, OH.

- **Rex Allen Lusinger**, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on November 6, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marble Falls, TX. He was laid to rest in Marble Falls City Cemetery, Marble Falls, TX.
- Martin Ellsworth McKinley, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 23, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.
- **Don Arthur McKnight**, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 18, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Meridian, ID. He was laid to rest in Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, Boise, ID.
- Wilbert Rudolph Menix, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hewitt, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.
- David Pat Miller, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on November 24, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Joppa, MD. He was laid to rest in Holly Hill Memorial Gardens, Middle River, MD.
- Floyd Mickey Moore, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 21, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coronado, CA. He was laid to rest in Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA.
- David G. Nelson, Howitzer Battery 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 27, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tampa, FL.
- Theodore James Offutt, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on December 28, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairacres, NM.
- Thomas Edward Patten, Howitzer Battery 3/11 and Howitzer Battery 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 22, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carthage, TX. He was laid to rest in Omaha National Cemetery, Omaha, NE.
- Ralph Goodale Rosenberg, 541st Military Intelligence Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on October 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Debary, FL. He was laid to rest in Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, Mims, FL.
- Peter Karup Rosenkrands, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1971) passed away on December 28, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bloomfield, MI.
- Mark Harold Schwarm, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 16, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oakhurst, CA.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Sipes, H Company, 2/11 (1968) passes away on January 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Paoli, IN.
- Frank J. Spacek, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 12, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winchester, VA.
- Francis Paul Tullier, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 14, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jasper, TX. He was laid to rest in Little Hope Cemetery, Jasper, TX.
- Dannie L. Turner, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 30, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lakeland, FL.
- **Dewitt Wagner,** D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 28, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Leesville, LA. He was laid to rest in Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Leesville, LA
- **Rickie Lyle Walters**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 24, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tonganoxie, KS. He was laid to rest in Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, KS.



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

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Dear Ladies and Supporters, Wishing you and your families a Healthy & Happy 2023. The BWG Board and volunteers will be busy this month planning BWG activities for the 11th ACVVC Reunion in Grand Rapids, MI. For our Saturday morning meeting, our goal has always been to INFORM and ENTERTAIN. If you have an idea that would fulfill either of these goals, please let us know.

Fundraising

As you know, each year the BWG donates a portion of our Fundraising proceeds to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund. In addition to our popular sitespecific LANYARDS, we hope to add another unique item to the Fundraising Table.

We do still have Blackhorse Totes available at a reduced price. See the order form below.

Our Projects

Sarah's Angels Honor Roll - If you attended the Memorial Service at the

2022 Reunion, you may have noticed that Chaplain Karabinos now includes the reading of Blackhorse Ladies' names that have been added to Sarah's Angels Honor Roll. Please let us know when you hear of the passing of a Blackhorse Lady. will We need her Trooper's name & unit; date of her passing and copy of obituary, if available. A copy of her page in the Honor Roll Book will be given to her Trooper or family member.

WreathsAcrossAmerica–PlackhorseWomen'sGroup donated the fundsneeded to place 22 wreathsatArlingtonNationalCemetery inDecember.

This number represents the 22 11th ACR KIA Troopers buried at Arlington.

11th ACR KIA Remembrance Scrapbook - The BWG has a goal to honor all 730 11th ACR troopers killed in action in Vietnam. We need the help of all 11th ACVVC Ladies & Troopers to reach that goal. Find your state's listing of KIA's and the cemetery where each KIA is buried on the website, or I can send a copy of your state's listing if you let me know. For each KIA you honor, please place a simple memorial at his gravesite that represents the 11th ACR Blackhorse, snap a picture and send the picture by email or letter to Sheryl Myers, (see below). Once your picture is added to the scrapbook, you will be able to learn more about your KIA Trooper and his service. To the 14+ Troopers and families who participated early on to reach our goal, I hope you find comfort in knowing "your trooper" has not been forgotten. Allen & Pam Hathaway and a few other Troopers have added their 'memorial visits" from years before our project was introduced. Thank You to

all. We are well on our way to remembering and honoring all 730.

Prayer Shawl Project – When we are notified of the passing of one of our troopers, Cherry & her team of knitters and crocheters get busy and send out a beautiful prayer shawl to his spouse or family member.

Blackhorse Women's Group Website - It is now much easier to access our site on the 11th ACVVC website (11thcavnam.com). On the main page, scroll down to bottom right, and find Blackhorse Women's Group in the directory. A click will take you straight to our page. This is where you will find Board Member info, our most recent BWG News article; pictures and the 11th ACR KIA Remembrance Scrapbook.

Hoping to see you in Grand Rapids, Sheryl, Lajaunda, Marguerite, Cherry, Pat, Kathy, Renae, Jan, and Cathi.

(Contact Sheryl at sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com or 19155 Royal Troon Dr., Monument, CO 80132)

	Blackhorse Women's Group	Offers Tote Bags For Sale!			
\wedge	Blackhorse Women's	Group Fundraiser!!			
1	These two-colored black and red heavy of plus shipping.*	duty totes are offered for \$10 each			
	All proceeds raised benefit the women's group Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects and our group donation to the 11th ACCV Scholarship Fund.				
	Please complete the order form b Marguerite Austin 34578 Kimble Sho				
Name					
Street	City	State Zip			
Email		Phone			
Number of I	bagsX \$10 each = \$				
	Shipping* \$				
	Total \$				
*Shipping: \$	7.50 for 1-3 bags; \$15 for 4 or more bags.				
	Thank you for supporting the l	Rackhorse Women's Group!			

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Resolute

In August of 1971, "Take Me Home, Country Roads" was a certified gold record. Billy Danoff and John Denver's song accompanied me across the Pacific and when I landed in Vietnam, it was playing on the Bien Hoa Air Force Base loud speaker as we had hunkered down in the bunker shortly after we got off the plane. When I arrived at Phu Loi later that morning to join the 2nd Squadron, the song was playing on LT Dave Kennedy's radio as he signed me in. "West Virginia, almost heaven, Country roads, the place where I belong" - those lyrics followed me to the Firebase and then to E, F and G Troop. I heard it in Cu Chi. I heard it on top of the Nui Ba Den mountain while we waited-out a rocket barrage: "West Virginia, mountain mama, take me home, country roads." I heard it in Phu Lo, Long Binh, Plantation, Long Than North, Ben Cat, and even in Saigon. And, of course it was playing at Fiddlers' Green, as the last Troop of the 2nd Squadron left the firebase and road-marched back to Phu Loi. That was a little over 50 Years ago.

I am not from West Virginia, though I often drove through the Panhandle and once run in an Invitational Track meet there in 1955. That meet was held on an island in the middle of the Ohio River, in the city of Wheeling. My first cigars came from that city; they were Marsh Wheeling stogies and I carried them to Vietnam. John Denver had never stopped in the "almost heavenly" state before he first sang the song in Georgetown in December of 1970. The songwriter, Billy Danoff, had never been to West "By-God" Virginia, when he wrote the song while driving through Maryland. But Maryland didn't rhyme or fit with the other lyrics, so he tried West Virginia; and it became a West Virginia state song. All of a sudden, every lad in the Nam, every Vietnamese torch singer, adopted that state song.

It was a life saver. Along with a malaria pill and a flak-jacket, we needed a dose of that melody every day. Few words of comfort or encouragement give hope to the homesick, or provide a goal for those counting down on their fingers and toes. Coming home to West Virginia, walking along dusty roads, crossing the Shenandoah River and climbing mountain "Mama" - even drinking moonshine, brought a tear drop to our eyes and inspired us.

We sang it more than 99 times on our way home from Vietnam, it was playing when the plane touched down in Guam, and the melody even followed the forlorn announcement that our flight would be diverted to Oakland. The bedraggled hippies, flower children and druggies were protesting at the "Fran-san-cisco" airport and some [limp-wristed authority figure] thought they were more dangerous than the Viet Cong. As for the airport, that's not a misspelling; that's the way a number of returning veterans were pronouncing it after emptying a few glass bottles of Kentucky's finest making the rounds on the charter flight home.

Fifty years ago. That song played on my arrival in Vietnam

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

and was playing when I came home. Would it have been as great a hit record, had there not been a Vietnam War? It may have been a war protest song, but it was also an uplifting anthem for all the lads and lasses who served their year ... or more, so far away from the Blue Ridge mountains.

Country roads still takes me home, to the land where I belong. West Virginia is still today, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. It is still called "almost heaven," and though I still don't live there, nor visit often, I admire the folks who persevere and have a resolute love of country.

Now 50 years later, I still see, and read and hear about Vietnam veterans and often with the adjective "resolute" plugged-in. I read a lot of obituaries these days, death notices about men who garnered Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Combat Medic Badges and Air Medals for their service in Vietnam and some, for Korea as well. Those obituaries are forwarded to me usually by Pete Walter our past 11th ACVVC President or Allen Hathaway, Chairman of Operations Embrace as well as other Officers of the Board of Directors. I also get notices from Sheryl Myers of our Women's Group, and even from our troopers: many of you.

We contact the surviving spouse, or family members of each of fallen brother to express our condolences. Their families really appreciate the fact, that their loved ones, their veteran, is not forgotten. We print their names in the Fiddler's Green section of our newsletter and announce their name at our Annual Reunion Memorial Service. All important to their families ... a gravitas meaning for our veterans' organization. In almost all those obituaries or death notices, we find that, not only were our Vietnam brothers stalwart warriors, but also "resolute" in their contributions to their communities, their families, their churches and their country, once they returned home. I am so amazed at how unselfishly so many of them have given of their time, how deep was their devotion, how extensive was their touch, how resolute was their service to their fellow Americans.

Again and again, I read of superb accomplishments, of outstanding public service, of new vistas created in education, health, law enforcement, science and the arts, that some of our guys spearheaded in their resolution to provide for their families and to better the lives of their fellow-citizens. Once they returned from Vietnam, they continued to serve as resolutely as they did while with the 11th Cavalry Regiment.

"Resolute" is not just the name of the President's desk in the Oval Office, it is a characteristic developed under stress, sometimes failure, but mostly resolve - a character flaw that is positive. And, we take it for granted; we seldom hear of it until we read an obituary.

But once we read those obituaries, all of a sudden, we are proud that we knew that guy, and even served with him. We are proud to have worn the same uniform, the same shoulder patch. We pray that we too will be remembered for that character flaw, of being resolute.

How resolute are we, or have we been? How can we answer that question? I read the answer this past month in a response from the wife of a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran who had recently passed. It may not have been original as it is a definition that we may have read before. But as a Vietnam veteran's surviving spouse, Patty Grodis Steberger, wrote: "A Veteran – whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve – is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for an amount of up to, and including his life. That is an honor, that is being resolute, and there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact."

Do not fail to let us know of the death of one of our 11th Cav family members, contact any one of the Board of Directors. Go to the wake or funeral service if you are in the area. Let their family know he was one of us; our brother, even if he had that character flaw of being - resolute. He was a Blackhorse Trooper.

Lyrics for Country Roads

Almost heaven, West Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River Life is old there, older than the trees Younger than the mountains, growin ' like a breeze Country roads, take me home To the place I belong West Virginia, mountain mama Take me home, country roads All my memories gather 'round her Miner's lady, stranger to blue water Dark and dusty, painted on the sky Misty taste of moonshine, teardrop in my eye Country roads, take me home To the place I belong West Virginia, mountain mama Take me home, country roads I hear her voice in the mornin' hour, she calls me The radio reminds me of my home far away Drivin' down the road, I get a feelin' That I should've been home yesterday, yesterday Country roads, take me home To the place I belong West Virginia, mountain mama Take me home, country roads Country roads, take me home To the place I belong West Virginia, mountain mama Take me home, country roads Take me home, (down) country roads Take me home, (down) country roads Source: Lyric Find Songwriters: Bill Danoff / John Denver / Taffy Nivert Danoff

The Night the Sarge Came Home

The night the sarge came home the family was asleep. It was a cold March night and there was snow on the ground. As he sat down the cold of the concrete stoop quickly penetrated his body. He needed to sit and try to decompress before knocking on the door as he no longer had a key. Would he immediately be turned away because he still wore the mustac he he sprouted in Vietnam? He was told to shave it off or "don't bother coming home."

Troops from stateside quickly grew mustaches to distinguish themselves from the "FNG's" (expletive deleted New Guys). The noise of the cab fishtailing up the hill momentarily distracted him. Was the driver still angry? He had been given a large tip but he still seemed angry. Was it because it wasn't a longer fare to downtown Milwaukee? Or was it the uniform?

The uniforms were not well received on the flight from California to Chicago. There were four other soldiers in uniform, judging from the single ribbon on their uniforms, they were flying home on leave from boot camp. Their next flight would most likely be in the other direction.



Sometime after the first drinks were served some loud mouthed civilian started to harass them. According to the U.C.M.J. (Uniform Code of Military Justice), the ranking officer or non-commissioned officer was the responsible party in a situation like this. The sarge quietly finished his drink, stood up, walked down the aisle, politely requested that the civilian sit down, leave the men alone and as a gesture of good will, offered to buy the civilian a drink for his cooperation.

The civilian became even more belligerent and demanded to know what the sarge was going to do about it. The sarge thought a moment, took another step closer, bringing them nose to nose, and said "I'll give you a choice." The civilian said "And what's that (expletive deleted)?" The sarge replied "Whether the captain should radio ahead for an ambulance or the coroner." Like most bullies when confronted, the civilian turned white as a sheet and returned sheepishly to his seat.

The sarge ordered a drink for the civilian, the rest of the men and himself. When the stewardess served the sarge his drink she told him "There will be no charges for the rest of the flight per the captains orders."

The flight to Milwaukee was late but uneventful. The cold seemed to be getting worse. The sarge gazed at the horizon. There were no distant artillery flashes, no illumination rounds lighting the night, no streams of red or green tracer fire, no outgoing artillery rounds, only the quiet and the cold.

He stood, turned slowly and knocked on the door.

©2018 Clyde B. Canny who proudly served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment "Blackhorse" Vietnam 1968-1969

First Place 2018 Zablocki V.A. Hospital Creative Arts Festival. Category 11. Personal Experience – Patriotic: "The Night

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



#2 Key Ring \$6.00





#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00

#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#9 CIB car magnet, 3"x4" \$6.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin <u>\$5.0</u>0



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



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



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00

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





#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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







#35 See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00

#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#44 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 5" x 4.5" \$10.00



#45 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00







#38a



#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#38d



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



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



<u>From the Quartermaster...</u>

Jerry Beamon

Hello Fellow Blackhorse Troopers,

Jan and I hoped everyone had a Very Merry Christmas. And a Happy New Year to start off.

As you might have notice there has been a few changes made to your quartermaster store. Sorry, but some changes have to be made sometimes, and we are coming to a place where changes are going to happen. And I think all will be better for our troopers.

It will not be long before we will be at our next reunion in Grand Rapids, MI. It's just nine months away, nine short months away so please take time to make your reservation now. You can always cancel ahead of time if something comes up and you are not able to attend.

Let's all take the time to welcome our new President Mr. Frank Church, who has taken the reigns from Pete Walter. The last four years Mr. Pete has done a great job as President of the 11th ACVVC and is going to continue as the Editor of the Thunder Run and keep our calendar the best it is.

Just a few reminders of coming events this year. In May right after Mother's Day the EAST TEXAS ROUND UP will

be in Gladewater Tx, again May 17th - 21st. It is open to for all to come and have Lunch with us. Just let us know you are coming at phone number 903-780-5621. Also, Memorial Day again we will be at Poor Richards Café in Plano Tx. If you live in the Dallas – Ft. Worth area, make plans to come and have lunch with us.

Also, it has been decided that some of you guys do not want to fill out the bottom of the ORDER FORM, we are going to return your back to you. We do not keep a record of everyone's clothes, hats, and other items as well, like phone numbers, addresses things what makes it possible to fill your order and mail it out to you. We simply cannot operate on what ifs. So please take the time to check out your order form before you mail it to us.

Sizes, phone numbers, and return address - it does go a long way, so PLEASE help us out.

ALLONS

Jerry

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: FF	ОМ	ГО		
(Troop,Sqdn)		(Mo/Yr)	(Mo/Yr)		
SER NO RANK (during tour)	SSN NO _				
OTHER INFORMATION					
TYPE MEMBERSHIP: 🔲 NEW	RENEWAL	MEMBERSHIP NUMBE	R		
🗍 ANNUAL (\$15)	🗍 LIFE (\$50)				
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)					
Uisa D Mastercard Card #		Exp. Date			
Signature					
Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickra	l, 571 Ditchley Rd.,	Kilmarnock, VA 22482.			

30



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM •1st Qtr 2023

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No. Product Description			\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
2. Key ring, Plastic			. 6.00		•	
3. Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insig	gnia		. 3.00			
4. Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon						
5. Hoodie Sweat Shirt			. 30.00			
7. Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored			. 5.00			
9. CIB car magnet, 3"x4"			. 6.00			
10. Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle			. 25.00			
11. Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia			. 60.00			
13. License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed saber	s & 11		. 9.00			
14. License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry	in white		. 13.00			
16. Tote Bag, red & black, 14xl1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN ril	b		. 22.00			
17. Blackhorse Pin			. 5.00			
18. 11th ACR Regimental Crest			. 5.00			
19. Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers						
20. Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath						
21. Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4")						
25. Blackhorse Coin						
26. Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4")						
27. Golden Boot Spurs						
31. Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs						
33. Book, "Blackhorse Tales"						
35.See-through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13"						
38 . Hat, Poplin adjustable □ 38a, □ 38b, □ 38c						
39. Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insigni	a. Specify color: 🗖 Light G	ray 🗖 Gi	reen	20.	00	
41. Dark Denim shirt (men's))						
44. See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 5" x 4.5"						
45. See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13"						
······································				 C.uk	ntotal	
			Chinning	and Handlii		
			Total	allu Hallulli	iy	
Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size 3XL. Specify size and color preference of item requested.	medium through size		10121			
Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)						
A) \$3.00 - \$5.00 = \$3.00 B) \$6.00 - \$10.00 = \$9.00 C) \$10.00 - \$35.00 = \$15.00 D) \$36.00 and up = \$20.00	Gear Bag Only $=$ \$ Gear Bags with othe	25 00 er items =	= \$28.00			
Visa Mastercard Card #		Exp.	Date	C	VC Coc	le
Signature						
* If paying by check, please write your drivers lice	ense 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 orde PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE . Previous price lists are invalid. Mail Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com * Required info to process your order						







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

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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