



Thunder Run

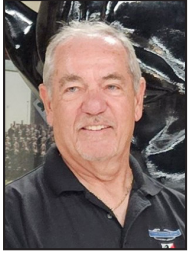
Vol 39-No. 3

"Together Then - Together Again"

3rd Edition, 2025

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

President's Message Frank Church



When we returned from Vietnam, we were not welcomed by the major veterans' organizations, as a result the Vietnam Veterans of America was established. For much the same reason the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia was formed. We were proud of our service in answering our countries call but stayed silent for many years. Our bond to each other as brothers of battle was strong and

we united with our own.

The sting of rejection is still felt but we have put that behind us. We are now accepted and sought after to fill the ranks of all veterans' organizations. We were also estranged from the already established 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Blackhorse Association. But in recent years we have partnered with the Blackhorse Association on many projects and they were all successful. Our greatest success is our memorial in Columbus, Georgia. It is a tribute to all who served with the Blackhorse and to those who died in defending the freedom of peoples from all around the world.

A few years ago, the active-duty Regimental Commander sought to build a memorial that not only honored our storied past from the Philippines to Southwest Asia but to include the Blackhorse Troopers of today and tomorrow and the contributions they will undoubtedly add to the Blackhorse legend, to share the history and the give them a sense of continued pride to be part of the 11th Armored Cavalry legacy.

The new memorial will also serve to bring together the current Regiment, the Blackhorse Association and the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia with a common goal. It will be the bridge to a better understanding of the role the three organizations and the uniqueness of each.

The role of the Regiment is to train our military in the art of modern war fare. The Blackhorse Association is focused on members of the cold war era and veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Both are serving critical functions.

Please turn to "President's Message" on page 3

2025 Election Results Greg Mason, Secretary

The results of the elections held at the Membership Meeting on September 6, 2025 at the Tulsa, Oklahoma reunion are as follows:

Elected for a 2-year term as Vice President beginning January 1, 2026 - Allen Hathaway. Elected

Treasurer for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2026 - Ollie Pickral.

Elected for a Director three-year term beginning January 1, 2026 - Michael Rafferty.

Bridge dedication to honor veteran, WCAS graduate

By Allison Olimb of the Press

Editor's note: The 11th ACVVC thanks Allison Olimb, Editor in Chief of the Walsh County Press for her generosity and help in providing us with text and photos of this event.

Republished with permission from the Walsh County Press, Park River, ND.

PARK RIVER, N.D. — A dedication ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, July 11, for a bridge named in honor of Spc. 4 Richard W. Orsund, a Walsh County native who gave his life while serving in Vietnam.

Rep. Karen Anderson, R-Grafton, who carried the bridge naming bill through the Legislature, will open the event. She will be followed by Park River American Legion Commander Happy Seeba, members of Orsund's family and friends, and Pastor Terry Evenson — a former classmate — who will share a few words. The Park River Legion honor guard will assist with the unveiling of the sign.

Orsund, a graduate of Park River's Walsh County Agricultural School Class of 1965, was 20 years old when he died in Binh Duong, South Vietnam, on March 27, 1968, from wounds sustained during a night perimeter defense operation with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, also known as the Blackhorse Regiment.

According to testimony from his sister Shirley Van Camp, Orsund was "the all-American boy" — well-liked and respected by both peers and adults. He was student body president, played football and ran track, and worked part time at the local drug store while still finding time to run each morning before school. He mowed the church and cemetery lawn, attended Sunday services regularly, and often made sure his grandmother got to her own church as well. He never minded having his younger sister tag along to school events, and he once wrote a heartfelt letter to his parents thanking them for their love and guidance — just months before he deployed to Vietnam.

"He went away a young man, full of dreams," she wrote. "And that is the way he remains in my mind." Van Camp told legislators that although her children never got the chance to meet their uncle, "from what our family has been told, he was well respected by his fellow soldiers and served his country bravely."

Although Anderson never met Orsund, she said she was amazed by how many people connected to him helped bring his memory and legacy to life.

His community never forgot him — and decades later, his service has been formally recognized at the state level.

After one year of college, Orsund enlisted in the Army, anticipating that he would be drafted. His service was marked by valor: He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, Purple Heart and several campaign medals. He held the rank of specialist 4 and served as an armor reconnaissance specialist in F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. His unit earned distinctions including

Please turn to "Bridge Dedication" on page 5





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

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

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President's Message

Frank Church

The purpose of the 11th ACVVC is to reunite all those that served in Vietnam and remember those that did not return, to meet annually to reaffirm our bonds and enjoy the uniqueness we have, to be who we chose to be individually and as an organization in being a major contributor to the Blackhorse legend, and to celebrate being brothers of battle under the 11th Armored Cavalry guidon.

We will continue to partner with the Blackhorse Association in endeavors that support the active-duty Regiment and is mutually beneficial.

The 11th ACVVC held it's 40th annual reunion in Tulsa Oklahoma early September of this year. It was very successful. We had just under 600 troopers, families, and guests. The hotel was the right size for us and easy to negotiate, the staff was one of the most professional and courteous of any hotel we have previously visited. It was, in my opinion, one of the better reunions we have held. Tulsa is worthy of a repeat visit in the future. Every Trooper I spoke with was very satisfied with the reunion and very complimentary of the entire week of events. I am very grateful to all of those who made it so successful.

The 71st Regimental Commander, Col. Kevin Black, Regimental Command Sergeant Major David Shipman, and the color guard from Ft. Irwin joined us as our special guests. The color guard ceremony of posting and retrieving the colors was done in strict military style and the highlight of the evening. I had the good fortune to spend a few minutes with them during their practice, the banter and joking of young soldiers reminded me of when we were young soldiers that engaged each other in the same manner. I had a very good time laughing with them. Many thanks to the regiment for breaking away from their primary mission to make this reunion even more special and successful.

We will be meeting again in early September of 2026 in Orlando Florida for a third time. It has always been a great place to unite for a good time together. (The thought of hurricanes will not stop us.) See the State of the Reunion article in this TR edition for details.

***"We were, we are, and always
will be Blackhorse troopers"***



Allons, Frank

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

RANK (during tour) _____ EMAIL _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____
☐ 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) _____

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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

Message from COL Kevin T. Black, 71st Colonel of the Blackhorse

To the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia,

Greeting and ALLONS from the 71st Colonel of the "Best Damn Regiment!" It has been my pleasure to lead this Regiment as I start on the final year of my command. The focus for this last year remains on building lethality in the Blackhorse and using that lethality to sharpen the Army's armored brigade combat teams. We fought and won against seven brigade combat teams ensuring their worst day was here in the Mojave Desert! The Regiment also took a lead role in Project Convergence, the Army's premier emerging technology experiment. This was the first year that we were given complimentary tech to test and we were able to provide invaluable feedback that will improve the tech and help get into Soldier's hands faster. We are committed to improving the Army and to do that we need to have the right tools, and we must find new ways to challenge the ever-increasing lethality of our armored forces.

Most importantly, we are leading the Army Transformation Initiative by changing how we fight to better represents the operational environment that is being employed in the Ukraine conflict and studied by all our adversaries. We are creating a "dead zone" that replicates the area where you will not be able to talk, use GPS, be under constant surveillance and massive lethal strikes from drones and artillery. This is also coupled with changes we made to our reconnaissance and security operations. Using Killer Troop, of Warhorse fame, with RHHT we have formed Centaur Recon Bn that

is able to provide multi domain reconnaissance/security operations, fight for information and provide protection to the main body in keeping with our Armored cavalry traditions. This is achieved by Centaur's focus on the employment of reconnaissance and lethal drones, electronic warfare, deception operations and the cunning inherent in every Blackhorse Trooper so units can refine their tactics here and dominate the enemy when called on.

The Regiment was one of three US teams invited to compete in the Australian Army Armoured Corp's M1 Abrams tank competition, the Coral Balmoral Cup. Although 11th ACR did not place first they did better than Australian and US units with way more time to train, access to more resources and most importantly they represented the Regiment with honor. In addition, the Regiment competed in the US Army Best Mortar, Best Sniper, The Lacerda Cup (combatives), Gainey Cup (Scout squad), and Best Sapper competitions. When the best in the Army assemble Blackhorse will always be represented!

This year the Regiment has led the way from training brigades in the Mojave Desert to competing with the best the Army has to offer. I love this Regiment, and I am excited continue to lead these elite Troopers in making the Army better. Hopefully I will see you all at the Blackhorse Reunion 12 July 2025 at Southpointe, Las Vegas, Nevada and sharing our love for the "Best Damn Regiment" in the Army!

Kevin T. Black
71st Colonel
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

Check or Credit Card?? *(We hear this a lot)* By Ollie Pickral, Treasurer

Old folks like us have shifted the way we use to purchase things and pay bills in past years. We carried change in a jeans pockets and dollars in our billfold. This day and time, we rarely pay for items using cash except for maybe fast food and small dollar purchases. We now use auto pay, use debit or credit cards and checks with our bank.

In our modern financial world, most of us rely on plastic to pay for most items. Some businesses prefer customers use credit cards as they get "their" money instantly. The credit card companies charge a percentage of the purchase price to make the transfer from your account to ours. In most places, that fee is built into the cost of the items being bought.

The 11th ACVVC accepts checks and debit/credit cards for items we receive for donations to the Business, Scholarship and Memorial accounts. We also accept the same for payments for registering for our annual reunions.

We don't escape the fees of the credit card processors and pay just like other businesses must pay. We use a company called Square and they charge us a fee of 3.5% + .15 cents every time a credit card is used.

An example would be if you make a donation of \$100.00, once processed through Square and placed in our account we receive \$96.35. If reunion registration is paid by credit or debit card, \$140.00 per person, we get \$134.95. If we have 600 people in attendance, about a fourth of our intake could be by using a card. That can be a significant amount that doesn't get into the Reunion account.

So, we would prefer you to use a check or money order. By doing so, we receive the full amount of your intended donation and/or registration fees that will save us money and provide more funds for our services.

If using a debit or credit card, please remember to give the name on the card, sixteen-digit number, four-digit expiration date, the security code and assure we have your five-digit area code. These are all required to process your card.

Dust off that old checkbook and send us a check if possible as I don't mind going to our bank and making the deposits. It's just a few miles away and gives me a chance to see what the active world is doing in my small town.

BRIDGE DEDICATION

Continued from cover story



Unveiling of the sign honoring Sp. 4 Richard W. Orsund



Feature story in Walsh County Press, Park River, North Dakota

the Valorous Unit Award and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm.

At his funeral, the church and basement overflowed with mourners, many of whom stood outside in silence to pay their respects.

The dedication comes through House Bill 1090, which was passed unanimously by the 69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly — 91-0 in the House and 47-0 in the Senate — reflecting bipartisan recognition of Orsund's service and sacrifice.

Anderson said she was honored to carry two related bills honoring local Vietnam veterans — one naming the bridge in Park River for Orsund, and another recognizing Spc. 4 David John LaTraille in Grafton.

The bill directing the LaTraille honor — House Bill 1091 — directs the North Dakota Department of Transportation to designate the bridge on U.S. Highway 81 in Grafton, between the junctions of Park Street and Cashel Street, as the Specialist 4 David LaTraille Vietnam Bridge.

The dedication ceremony for the LaTraille bridge was held June 27 in Grafton.

Although the two soldiers attended different high schools — Orsund in Park River and LaTraille in Grafton — both were members of the Class of 1965. They deployed to Vietnam around the same time and died within weeks of each other.

"As many years ago as Walsh County was mourning these deaths," Anderson said, "now we're honoring and celebrating their lives for what they did for us here."

(The 11th ACVVC sends our thanks to Rep. Karen A. Anderson, District 19, Grafton, ND for her support of HB 1090 and her help in providing photos and input for this story.)



Richard's siblings and Rep. Anderson



Friends and neighbors of Richard Orsund

ADDENDUM



Richard Wayne Orsund was born July 19, 1947. He was a resident of Grafton, North Dakota when he enlisted in the United States Army January 17, 1967. He was assigned to F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist, his tour beginning on June 17, 1967. He was killed in action March 27, 1968 when his night defensive position engaged a hostile force near Lai Khe, Vietnam.

Richard was a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Valorous Unit Award and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm device. He rests in peace in South Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Grafton, North Dakota.

SPECIALIST FOUR RICHARD WAYNE ORSUND 26 MARCH 1968 - 27 MARCH 1968 F TROOP, 2nd SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

Specialist Four Orsund distinguished himself by valorous actions during the period 26 March 1968 to 27 March 1968, while serving as a Track Commander with F Troop, 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, as his unit was conducting a reconnaissance in force operation near Lai Khe, Vietnam. When his patrol came under heavy automatic and semiautomatic weapons fire, Specialist Orsund immediately provided intense suppressive fire from his cupola mounted machine gun. On this occasion, the highly accurate and lethal fire provided by Specialist Orsund accounted for five enemy dead. When night fell, Specialist Orsund moved his vehicle to the perimeter and organized the defense of his sector. In the early morning hours of the following day an insurgent force staged an attack on his unit and Specialist Orsund was mortally wounded while courageously defending his sector of the perimeter. Specialist Orsund's personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Headquarters, 9th Infantry Division General Orders No. 3243 (3 May 1968)



11th ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

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



In 2026, scholarship applicants will again be divided into two categories: applicants who plan to enroll or are enrolled in colleges and universities; and applicants who plan to enroll or are enrolled in a trade school or a community college vocational program. The same percentage of scholarships will be given to each group of students. Both groups of students use the same application which can be found in this issue of Thunder Run or on our website (www.11thcavnam.com). This application form should be used by all applicants applying for scholarships in 2026.

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded **833 scholarships totaling \$2,619,500** to the children and grandchildren of our membership since its inception in 1996! Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving scholarship winners was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans! Our Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and history of the program. You can find the Guide on our website. **If you have a child or grandchild who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school fall semester, 2026, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship (application deadline 05/15/2026).**

Each recipient's Scholarship Award will be dedicated in honor of a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIAs honored each year are selected on an impartial and random basis. An attractive certificate suitable for framing and containing information about the trooper in whose honor their scholarship is dedicated will be sent to each recipient. In addition, each year, one recipient is selected to receive a special Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award in honor of former 11th ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt for his leadership and devotion to the 11th ACVVC.

A Scholarship applicant must fall into one of the following categories:

1. **A child or grandchild of an 11th Armored Cavalry Trooper who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia.**
2. **A child or grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11th ACVVC.**
3. **A child or grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC in good standing.**
4. **"Child"** is defined as a natural born, adopted or stepchild.
5. **"Grandchild"** is defined as a natural born, adopted or step-grandchild.

Additional Criteria

1. The applicant who plans to attend or is attending a 4-year college degree program must have maintained a **minimum Unweighted Grade Point Average of 3.5** during the last two years of high school (or college if applicable).
2. The applicant who plans to attend or is attending a trade school or community college vocational program must have maintained a **3.0 minimum Unweighted Grade Point average** during the last two years of high school.
3. The applicant must be a high school graduate by fall semester 2026.
4. Graduate and doctoral level students **are not eligible**.

2026 scholarship winners will receive an award of **\$3000**. The Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award winner will receive **\$5000**. All scholarship awards are sent directly to the school the recipient is attending. Please contact me if you have questions.

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS!

Editors note: The email and photo below were sent to Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman.

Hi Doc!

I am sending this picture of the happiness you and the board brought to my granddaughter who received one of the 11acvvc scholarship. I want you and the board members to know how much it means to me to be a member of such a great group of people that make this all possible.

Thanks again,
Bill R Brawn, G38 Gunner, Loader, TC



Meet our 2025 Scholarship Winners

RECIPIENT	SPONSOR	UNIT	KIA DEDICATION
ISABEL BARTLETT	Charles Nute	37TH MED	Leroy Floyd Schyska
Logan Beaver	Charles Mote	HHT 3/11	George Elmer Cannon
Emily Berger	David Berger	409TH RRD	Meril Holt
Chance Bonfanti	Charles Bonfanti	37TH MED	Garland Gene Haley
Micah Caldwell	Ronald Caldwell	D CO.	George Francis Long
Carly Carlson	Raymond Szymanski	H CO.	Ray Ellsworth Johnson
Gavin Carr	George Watkins	HHT 2/11	Gerald Alan Collis
Kade Contreras	Rudy Contreras	A TROOP	James Darrell Waddell
Mary Dykema	Don Larson	A TROOP	Roger Paul McDaniel
Kelliann Fariello	Albert Fariello	541ST MID	Robert James Barry
Matthew Fooks	Lane Schultz	HHT 3/11	Charles Schmidt Award
Joshua Freeman	David Dalton	HHT 2/11	Jorge Luis Jourdan-Font
Maxwell Gillen	Peter Wallace	B TROOP	George Rogers Bennett
Lara Gunderman	George Gunderman	C TROOP	Robin Richard Annis
Preston Helm	Thomas Helm	I TROOP	Augusto C. Padua-Ledesma
Elizabeth Henkels	Jay Schkloven	HHT 2/11	Donald Henry Majkowski
Laura Hrom	John Hrom Jr.	HHT 2/11	Cyril Edward Stirnkorb
Elizabeth Kendrick	Paul Kendrick	B TROOP	Daniel Michael Leahy
Grace Kendrick	Paul Kendrick	B TROOP	Francis Craig Cleaver
Lilliana Kenyon	Frederick Kenyon	HHT REGT.	Randall John Gustafson
Jordan Kouma	Russell Hiatt	A TROOP	Gerald Reid Carr
Autumn Lemke	Dennis Sheldon	HOW BTRY 1/11	John Joseph Adduci
Stokely Lewis	Terry Kaul	HOW BTRY 2/11	Orland Thomas Lloyd
Kyleigh Lewis	Jerry Medford	G TROOP	Craig Alden Van Akin
Nathan Lindberg	Darwin Drain	37TH MED	Larry Bruce Barfield
Hailey Maher	Robert Maher	398TH TRANS.	Terrance Edward Ledden
Hannah McCarthy	Joseph McCarthy	HOW BTRY 2/11	Jesse Clifford Frey
Paige Melody	Robert Stuedemann	K TROOP	Robert Charles McAndrew
Makayla Milne	Bill Brawn	G TROOP	Larry Hugh Jones
Wyatt Moore	Keith Weeks	I TROOP	Charlie Bernard Ingram Jr
Rebekah Moreno	Roberto Moreno	G TROOP	Gregory Gagliardi
Leah Morgan	Robert Hersey	K TROOP	Miles Joseph McLoughlin
Ashley Newman	Gary Newman	HOW BTRY 3/11	Gerard Vincent Palma
Adrianna Pizzuta	Walter Slomienski	HHT REGT	Larry Kenneth Leimbach
Caleb Powers	George Ramey	HOW BTRY 2/11	Eugene Green
Meghan Rymel	Dannie Arnold	HOW BTRY 3/11	Steven Wayne Wilson
Ava Satterthwaite	Jerrell Whitten	K TROOP	Alf Edward Eriksen
Hannah Schubert	Jacky Schubert	K TROOP	James Alex Lubas
Isabelle Sherman	James Cobb	E TROOP	Norman Radean Bettis
Joseph Switek	Joseph Switek	B TROOP	Joe Hugh Fulgham
Gregory Turner	Gregory Longuet	D CO.	Jack Wade Scarborough Jr
Lilly Vicario	Raymond Vicario	D CO.	James Allan Petrie
Anna Walker	Thomas Kieffer	HHT 3/11	Raymond D. Crowder Jr
Seth Witherspoon	Joel Brewer	M CO.	Harold Eugene Stiger
Tory Wollersheim	James Riter	B TROOP	Paul McGaughey Jr
Caroline Young	John Welch	G TROOP	Raymond Clyde Holt

Another Successful Year for Our Raffle

The 2025 Raffle project ended at the Tulsa reunion with the pulling of the tickets from the rotating cage. Five tickets were drawn for the winnings of \$500.00 each. This year's winners are: Tom E. Smith - HHT 3/11, Gregory Cook - B Trp. 1/11, Kenneth Alt - HOW 3/11, Peg & Wm. Sale - C Trp. 1/11 and Ronne Walker - HOW 2/11. Congratulations to them all. Tom E Smith donated \$100 of his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund.

This year's sales exceeded the 2024 project by \$8,154 whereby \$52,040 was collected. This year's total was \$60,194. Thanks to you all for participating which will allow 20 scholarships to be given to our grandchildren of 11th ACVVC.

Many thanks to Mike (Doc) Rafferty for all the work done to lead this project to be so successful.





**11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia
Scholarship Application (effective September 16, 2025)**

Please review Scholarship Guide at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html

Application Deadline May 15th, 2026



**IMPORTANT: A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED AN 11TH ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN.
Students working on advanced degrees (master's, doctoral) are not eligible to apply.**

Applicant's full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applicant's social security number: _____ E mail address: _____

Street address: _____ Apt./Unit # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone #: _____

Applicant's Status: ☐ **Child** ☐ **Grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC.**
☐ **Child** ☐ **Grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11th ACVVC.**
☐ **Child** ☐ **Grandchild of an 11th ACR veteran who was killed in action in Vietnam or
Cambodia.**

Your Sponsor (11th Cav Veteran): Full name: _____ E mail: _____

Sponsor's 11th Cav unit in Vietnam: _____ Dates in Vietnam _____

Name and Address of College or Trade School you plan to attend: What is your major? _____
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Schools and Colleges Attended (10th Grade to Present)

Name	City, State	Dates (From/To)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

You must attach a copy of your grade transcripts from your last 2 yrs. of High School or College.

Requirements: at least a 3.5 unweighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degree. At least a 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average for trade or vocational school applicants.

Briefly tell us about your extra-curricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email address on a separate sheet of paper.

I, the undersigned verify the answers given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give my permission for a copy of my high school/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application.

Signature of Applicant **Printed Name** **Date**

Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardian **Printed Name** **Date**

Please send your completed application and grade transcripts to:

Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, PO Box 13188, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88013

Email: platoonmedic36@gmail.com

JUNGLE WAR

*When heading in to face a war
how can we really know?
Just what reaction one will have
when faced with hostile foes?
As training moves along its path
I cannot help but think,
what else is there for me to learn
that I may never shrink
from leadership, or any task
so men that follow me,
can trust that we will do our best
to waste the enemy.
With months at training now behind
yet still I've never seen,
someone intent on killing me
and those on whom I'll lean.
The mission is before us now,
though intel may be vague,
with jungle foliage hiding them,
the enemy is well laid.
The point man leads the way ahead,
dense jungle at his front,
impossible to see before
the fighters we'll confront.
Then suddenly they open-up,
incoming takes him down,
the point man now is fatally hit
from firing all around.
We cannot see from where it comes,
the jungle hides them well,
returning our fire aimlessly
it's like a living hell.
My friend beside me takes a hit,
he lays there still and dead,
my thinking flashes to a thought
why him, not me instead.
Incoming mortars shake the ground
flinging bodies in the air,
it's clear we're in a killing zone
their ambush laid us bare.
We cannot stay we must move on
against the wall of fire,
a frontal assault to close with them
or else we'll all expire.
As luck would have a Red Team's near
responding to our call,
we mark our front with colored smoke
both gunships fire their all.
The enemy breaks; withdraws from us,
a dust-offs in the sky,
with hope, some injured may survive
when surgical aids applied.
Reflecting on these moments' past
how luck plays such a role,
in who will live and who will die,
what injuries take their toll.
Recalling of those combat days
will never leave our minds,
forever changing who we are
when memories, thoughts entwine.*

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The Gift That Keeps on Giving – Service in Vietnam

Polycythemia Vera (a type of blood cancer)

This disease is very rare and is very slow in materializing. Per Mayo Clinic normally it takes around 50 years after first development to appear.

The symptoms are headaches, dizziness, tiredness, blurred vision, numbness, coldness, tingling and weakness of the extremities, bloating of the stomach, enlarged spleen, and in rare cases itchiness, unusual bleeding of nose and gums, shortness of breath and trouble breathing when laying down. The disease causes the bone marrow to make too many red blood cells that thicken the blood slowing the flow. This causes serious problems such as blood clots, extremely high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol which leads to strokes and heart attacks. Polycythemia Vera doesn't have a cure but is treatable. Usually, this disease is discovered through routine blood work. Treatments are either Phlebotomy or medication.

Like most of the Vietnam Vets when I went to the VA in 1972. I wasn't treated well and didn't use them. I used a Primary Care Provider (PCP) for my medical care. I went to the VA in 2011 to see if they changed, and again in 2018. My blood work was normal each time but in reviewing the tests, my red blood, white blood cell, and platelets were rising. Late in 2020 due to not being able to have a doctor visit with my PCP, I went back to the VA (which did a 180-degree turnaround) for a physical and blood work. After returning home, I received a phone call from the VA informing me to come back to the hospital to see an oncology specialist. The Oncologist informed me that my red, white cells and platelets were in the extreme high range, and I needed to have a bone marrow biopsy to determine what type of cancer I had. This turned out to be Polycythemia Vera. My first session to have the Phlebotomy (which goal was to remove a pint of blood) my blood pressure was 218/110 and they could only remove 300 CC of blood due to clotting of the needles. My second session was a little better, 400cc. and 187/? I had twelve Phlebotomy sessions before being prescribed the medicine Hydroxyurea due to my fear of needles. (BTW, I'm no longer afraid of needles!) I still have monthly visits to check my blood work in case my medicine needs to be adjusted.

I've been denied three times by the VA for this condition. The reason given for the denial is that I cannot prove it is service connected. I would like to hear from anyone who has this condition. My email is: attavan@msn.com

Mark Van Atta
3rd How 12/68 - 12/69

BLACKHORSE MINI REUNION

Tom and Terri Morrison will host a Blackhorse get-together on
Saturday, March 28, 2026, 1–5 pm at
5121 W. Creedance Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85310

We will order pizza for lunch, and BYOB.
Please RSVP as it will help us with the planning.

Thanks, and please join us!



Ron Krueger
ronkrue@hotmail.com
530-304-4249



2026 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason And Mike Rafferty

The 2025 Silent Auction raised \$6,955 for the **11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund** with 152 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted 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 41st Annual Reunion in Orlando, Florida. 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 set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on **Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 9am to Noon.**
3. **You can ship items to Joseph Gehring, 2665 Day Lily Run, The Villages, FL 32162 after April 1,** 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 **2pm to 4pm on Friday Afternoon** with the bidding ending precisely at 4pm. Those in wheelchairs or motorized chairs may be allowed in at 1:45 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 4pm and 4:30pm after the bidding is closed.
6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 4:30pm or auctioned off at 4:45pm Friday afternoon. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.
7. We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work at the collection site and on 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 gregmason311@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 Orlando and thanks in advance to all the donors!



11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Description of Item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

Phone number of Donor: _____

Value of Item Donated \$ _____ I wish to remain Anonymous (Check here) ____

Mail Silent Auction Items After April 1 to:

**11th ACVVC
C/O Joseph Gehring
2665 Day Lily Run
The Villages, FL 32162**

2026 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason And Mike Rafferty

Thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction and a special thanks to all those who donated items. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 152 items were auctioned this year generating \$6,925 in gross receipts for the Scholarship Fund. This amount is equivalent to 2 scholarships at \$3,000 each. Since 1996 the Silent Auctions have raised approximately \$168,000. Many of the items donated had a military or 11th Cavalry theme, which are always popular. We also had a number of hand-crafted items and to those who made these items a very special thanks as some of them were ones that had the highest bids. We hope you will continue to make and donate these items.

A special thanks to Paul and Teresa Gissible, Ron and Janet Krueger, Terry and Tom Morrison, Joe Gehring, Sara Evens, Ernie Enloe and Dave and Connie Mathis for help in collecting, organizing, tagging items, setting up and monitoring the Silent Auction. Thanks to George Bostik for receiving donations mailed to him prior to the reunion. Thanks to Bob Moreno and his staff for receiving items in our absence. All of these folks helped make the auction a success.

The following is the list of donors for our Silent Auction, many who donated more than one item. Start thinking of items that may be donated for next year's reunion!

Anonymous (13 items)	Bill Karabinos (1 item)
Joel Bocanegra (1 item)	Frederick Kenyon (4 items)
Roger Boyce (2 items)	Ron Krueger (6 items)
Morris Boyett (3 items)	Robert Maley (6 items)
Barb Brown (2 items)	Walker Malone (1 item)
Ervin Brune (7 items)	Greg Mason (4 items)
Roderick Castle (1 item)	Wayne Mollhoff (13 items)
John Corey (3 items)	The Moreno Family (18 items)
John Crossno (1 item)	Terri and Tom Morrison (2 items)
Phil Danese (4 items)	Kenneth Nelson (2 items)
Mike Derusha (2 items)	Constance Pisciotta (2 items)
Bill England (1 item)	Mike Rafferty (3 items)
Madison England (1 item)	Marla Reynolds (2 items)
Jim Foreman (4 items)	Jami Ritter (4 items)
Paul Gissible (4 items)	Joe Rooney (3 items)
Thomas Godfrey (1 item)	Carl Schisler (1 item)
Dennis Gourm (5 items)	James Smith (2 items)
Floyd Green (1 item)	Donald Snedeker (2 items)
George & Betty Hamm (11 items)	Mark Van Atta (2 items)
Cassandra Hendirx (2 items)	Kimberlie Whetstone (Gerlach) (1 item)
Jodi Henry (2 items)	Eddie Wood (1 item)
Roger Justison (1 item)	

Veterans Day Wreath Laying at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (The Wall)

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Veterans Day wreath laying at the Wall.

When: 10:00 AM, Tuesday, November 11, 2025. Please be there by 9:45 AM.

Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

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

What: We will initially gather by 10:00 AM near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of The Wall.

Look for the Blackhorse Patch wreath that will be there by 09:45.

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

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Fort Defiance: There has been a Fort Defiance during many periods of American military history. Well before the Revolutionary War, English colonists built perhaps the first Fort Defiance in our history as they pushed westward from the coast into the as-yet unnamed Shenandoah Valley. General 'Mad Anthony' Wayne had a Fort Defiance built to protect his soldiers against the Native Americans in what would become Ohio (between Toledo and Detroit) in the late 18th Century. It was one of the western-most forts at the time it was built. Ten years before the Civil War began, another Fort Defiance was constructed in the Arizona Territory to establish a military presence among the Navajo Tribe. During the Civil War, slaves and black Freedmen built a fourth Fort Defiance for the Confederate Army near Clarksville, TN. Each of these forts had one thing in common – they were built in an area that was under constant threat of attack, with the name conveying the spirit of the defenders against all comers.

Vietnam, too, had its Fort Defiance. This Fort Defiance was built by the 919th Engineer Company on top of Hill 95. It was occupied by 2nd Squadron in March 1970. Like its predecessors, Fire Support Base (FSB) Fort Defiance was built in a place designed to irritate the enemy the most. It was in War Zone C, about 8 kilometers south of the Cambodian border and midway between Ka Tum and Ton Le Cham. As H Company 2nd Platoon Leader Bill Gregory recalled: "War Zone C out into Tay Ninh Province ... was to us something from the movies, was Indian country. There was nobody out there except us and the bad guys ... [W]e were right in the middle of their territory and we were daring them to mess with us, and they did."

Like all of its precedents (except the one in Arizona), this Fort Defiance was built in the midst of an old forest; but the one in War Zone C was the only one that had jungle undergrowth mixed in with the trees that grew a hundred feet tall or so. The Red Devils of the 4th Platoon, 919th had to clear away some of the taller, as well as many shorter (30-40 feet tall) trees and bamboo, while Eagle Horse Squadron tracks crushed down the scrub brush and the carpet of foot-tall elephant grass. A 6-foot red clay berm surrounded the 150-meter circular FSB, with a string of concertina wire outside that. Claymores, trip flares, and a couple barrels of foogas [jellied gasoline] rounded out the perimeter defenses. Upon completion, the defenders inside Fort Defiance had fields of fire out to about 40 meters before the jungle blocked lines of sight. A landing pad for the daily resupply Chinook helicopters was cleared on the northwestern edge, just outside the berm.

The engineers also built a second berm, dividing Fort Defiance into a northern and a southern half. Howitzer Battery (minus two guns) and the Squadron tactical operations center (TOC) set up inside the southern half, while the aid station, commo and maintenance sections set up in the northern half. All of these were dug in, thanks to the 919th Engineers. Hotel Company tanks and 2/11 Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) armored cavalry assault vehicles (ACAVs), as well as four M-42 Dusters and two Zippo tracks (flame-throwers), were spaced evenly around the outer perimeter; the perimeter berm was high enough for all vehicles to be in hull defilade. (A vehicle is in hull defilade when the hull is protected by a dirt berm or revetment, and the weapons can still fire over the earthworks; a vehicle in hull defilade presents a much smaller target for enemy gunners to try and hit.)

Fort Defiance was also home to a two-gun 8-inch section from the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, located next to 2nd-HOW in the southern half of the FSB. First Lieutenant Ralph Porter was assigned to the

fire direction center (FDC) for Alpha Battery, 6/27th and remembers Fort Defiance: "Morale was high, even though we were being shot at regularly by snipers, mortars, RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades], and even an occasional rocket from the surrounding triple canopy jungle. I remember that on one side of the perimeter there was a slight rise to a small ridgeline that afforded protection to these harassment operations that were designed to figure out our defensive strategy and posture."

The battle for FSB Fort Defiance began about a month before the actual attack. During March, the enemy made several attacks against 1st and 3rd Squadron elements. These attacks started out relatively minor in size and duration but grew over the month until 1/11 and 3/11 engaged sizeable North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces during the last week of March. Regimental intelligence personnel concluded that these attacks were designed to force the Regiment to recall 2nd Squadron from its ongoing interdiction of the enemy's Saigon-Michelin resupply and infiltration corridor in eastern War Zone C. On 4 April, the 541st Military Intelligence (MI) Detachment noted that the main force units were avoiding contact. "However, there are signs of battlefield preparation in the 11th ACR TAOR [Tactical Area of Responsibility] with possible targets being FSB DEFIANCE and/or Troop NDPs [night defensive positions]."

Securing Rome Plows from the 984th Land Clearing Company, 2nd Squadron was having considerable success in opening large swaths of the Mustang Trail to aerial surveillance and ground interdiction. The recon troops, supported by Air Cav Troop aero scouts, worked in their separate areas of operation, each about 10-15 kilometers wide. Their mission was to screen the trail networks, looking for signs of enemy movement to the south. Troopers deployed a series of automatic ambushes on a nightly basis, inflicting casualties and instilling fear in the NVA porters and couriers on the trails. First Squadron was accomplishing a similar mission in the western sector of northern War Zone C. Further to the south, two brigades of the 1st Cavalry Division were prepared to take on anything that had made its way through the 11th ACR screen. Captured documents from the enemy's 50th Rear Service Group told of the considerable difficulties they were having in keeping their forward-deployed forces supplied. Communist leaders could not allow this intrusion to continue, so they directed the 7th (NVA) Division to correct the situation. The commander of the 7th (NVA) Division decided that the indirect approach (RPG teams, hit-and-run ambushes, and mines) was not working, so he began to marshal his forces for a direct assault against Fort Defiance. He stealthily moved a reinforced battalion of the 165th Regiment along the eastern edge of the 2/11 sector, then hooked west and north to approach the FSB from an unexpected direction.

On 1 April, Air Cav scouts sighted 30 to 40 enemy personnel moving south along the Mustang Trail. The aero-scouts also uncovered five new trails in the same vicinity, all of which showed signs of recent use. Between April 2nd and 8th, 2/11 Troopers made daily contact with small elements from both regiments of the 7th (NVA) Division and 50th Rear Service Group; in all cases, the enemy quickly broke contact and evaded deeper into the jungle. All three recon troops (E, F, and G) and H Company, as well as the 4th Platoon, 919th Engineers, repeatedly found mines and freshly-dug bunkers along Highway 246 (that runs east-west from Ton Le Cham to Ka Tum) and local route 13 (that runs northeast to southwest from the Minh Thanh Rubber Plantation to Tay Ninh City). On two occasions, they found commo wire stretched across the road,

a sure sign that a larger-sized force was in the area and establishing a base camp, probably in preparation for an attack. Documents found on the body of an NVA soldier killed on 4 April identified the C-21 Sapper-Recon Company of the 165th (NVA) Regiment. This enemy soldier was probably part of the recon party planning the attack on Fort Defiance – a fact not missed by the Squadron Intelligence Staff and the 541st MI Detachment.

The final contact with the gathering enemy force before the assault on Fort Defiance itself occurred on 8 April when Chief Warrant Officer 2 Johnny Mallette, piloting an OH-6A with the Squadron Operations Officer (Major Fred Franks) and his crew chief-scout observer aboard, spotted a trail with signs of fresh use. Taking his light observation helicopter (LOH) down to tree-top level, Chief Mallette followed the trail until he saw a group of NVA who appeared to be preparing an ambush position. Almost immediately, the NVA saw the helicopter and took it under small arms and machine gun fire, hitting the aircraft and causing a rapid loss of oil pressure.

Echo Troop, less than a kilometer away, moved to the sound of the guns. According to his Distinguished Flying Cross citation, CW2 Mallette, although wounded, with “calm deliberation ... flew phasing patterns to extricate his craft from the enemy ground fire. While still under intense enemy fire and with his leg bleeding profusely, he maneuvered his helicopter to a point behind Troop E and carefully landed without further damaging the craft or injuring the two occupants aboard.” The enemy force, recognizing they had lost the element of surprise, fled into the jungle, ambush mission unaccomplished.

One additional piece of intelligence information provided an indicator of the enemy’s intentions. In the days leading up to 9 April, there was a dramatic increase in the occurrences of ground-to-air fire against Blackhorse helicopters in the vicinity of Fort Defiance. These attacks posed a significant risk to the aviators, as the enemy riflemen had been issued new armor-piercing ammo for their AK-47s. The Regimental intelligence assessment concluded that this increase was not coincidental, but by design: “[T]he increase occurred at the time when the enemy was preparing his battlefield for his attack on Ft Defiance. Therefore, it is felt that the enemy planned this increase and in part used these firings to cover other activities by diverting attention.”

It didn’t work.

The series of contacts with NVA units, all within a radius of about 3 kilometers around Fort Defiance – and several as close as a couple hundred meters – made the enemy’s intentions clear. An attack on the FSB was imminent.

The Troopers didn’t have to wait long. The attack came just after midnight on 9 April. Mortar rounds and rockets rained down inside and outside the perimeter – between 70 and 100 or so 60mm, 82mm, 107mm, 120mm, and 122mm rounds struck in less than 15 minutes. RPGs, caliber .51 machine gun, and AK-47 rifle fire accompanied the barrage of indirect fire. The Commander of the 7th (NVA) Division had assembled a potent force to take on the Blackhorse. The 165th Regiment was reinforced with two sapper companies, an artillery battalion, a mortar company, and an anti-aircraft company.

Inside the perimeter, Hotel Company’s 1st Sergeant, Paul Curran, was earning a Silver Star. Neither the company commander nor the executive officer were at Fort Defiance that night, so the company’s Top Soldier recognized that his leadership and experience would be needed. With incoming rounds impacting all around him, he headed for one of his tanks that was in danger of being destroyed by a fire that started when an RPG struck a barrel of oil. While a medic tended to two wounded crewmen, Top Curran tried to beat the flames out with his flak jacket. When he realized that was not going to happen,

he shoveled dirt onto the fire until it was extinguished. Throughout the remainder of the fight, he went from vehicle to vehicle in full sight of the enemy, encouraging the crews, ensuring the wounded were taken care of, and resupplying and redistributing ammo among the tanks. This latter task was especially important, as the crews were using mostly high-explosive HE rounds instead of canister. The Company’s master load plan called for more canister rounds than HE on board the M-48s (appropriate considering the nature of the ‘normal’ threat). Because the enemy gunners did not leave their positions inside the jungle, H Company track commanders (TCs) and loaders were using the high explosive rounds to penetrate the thick vegetation. The First Sergeant had to make sure the crews had enough HE during the fight.

One of the medics who was working the perimeter with Top Curran was Bill Montgomery. When the incoming rounds began to impact inside Fort Defiance, Specialist 4 Montgomery headed for the perimeter. He saw Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Grail Brookshire’s command track ACAV, take an RPG and catch on fire. Disregarding the continuing barrage of mortars and rockets, as well as the flames on the track, the medic knew his duty. His Silver Star citation explains what he did next.

“Specialist Montgomery ran through the fragment torn base and began to administer aid to the wounded crew members. Despite the painful burns, Specialist Montgomery carried the injured soldiers to the aid station. He then returned to the perimeter to insure all wounded personnel had been taken care of.” When the medevac helicopters arrived, he went with the section of Hotel Company tanks to the landing pad. Just before the choppers landed, the enemy let loose another barrage of mortars and rockets. “Specialist Montgomery instructed the wounded to take cover but remained exposed to the enemy rounds to direct the helicopters away from the area.” Only after all the wounded had been cared for did Bill Montgomery allow another medic to take care of his own severe burns.

Things were especially hot and heavy in the Howitzer Battery area of the FSB. Within minutes of the first rounds impacting at Fort Defiance, the four howitzers were in action. The deadlined (non-operational for maintenance reasons) Number 6 gun provided illumination (because there was no engine in the vehicle, all traversing, elevating, and loading had to be done by hand), while the other three howitzers fired counter-battery missions. An incoming RPG hit the Number 6 piece, blowing off the entire caliber .50 mount. The Number 5 piece was hit twice, first by an RPG that penetrated the engine compartment and started a fire, and a second time by an 82mm mortar that struck the ammo bunker next to the howitzer. Two layers of sandbags and an Air Force pallet did their job by absorbing the blast and the ammunition didn’t explode. Another 82mm mortar struck the berm next to the Number 4 piece, starting a fire in one of the powder bags. The crew quickly put the fire out before it caused any further damage. Altogether, almost 40 mortar, rocket, and RPG 2 rounds impacted in the Battery area.

The attack on Fort Defiance was over in under an hour, although the enemy’s Z-22 Artillery Battalion fired another 50 or so mortar rounds and rockets against the FSB after daybreak. The better part of a reinforced NVA regiment was in position for an assault on the base, but no ground attack came – probably because of the heavy volume of machine gun, 90mm main gun, and artillery fire that was coming their way, as well as the obvious lack of catastrophic destruction inside the berm.

Bill Gregory probably spoke for many of the 2/11 Troopers inside the berm that night: “I’d say we probably won that fight because we, we inflicted quite a bit of damage on them. But it was, it was kind of scary there for a while. Because, you know ... when you’re in a fire fight for that long a period of time you begin to wonder, we’re doing great now but can we keep this up? ... We just put out as much firepower as we could and we were able to keep them from getting inside.”

Remember the Fallen, Celebrate the Regiment

Allen Hathaway, Vice President



The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) and the Blackhorse Association (BHA) are uniting their efforts - at the request of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (11th ACR) leadership - to create a permanent monument at Fort Irwin, located in the high desert of California.

Since October 1994, the Regiment has been stationed at Fort Irwin, serving as the Army's dedicated Opposing Force at the National Training Center. Their realistic and evolving portrayal of a formidable adversary helps prepare U.S. forces for modern battlefield challenges. In addition to this vital mission, the Regiment has also deployed overseas, including sending a training team to Afghanistan and deploying in full to Iraq in 2005 - demonstrating their adaptability and unwavering service to the Nation.

Ground Breaking

This summer the 11th ACVVC and the BHA launched a campaign to create a memorial to honor all the fallen of the Regiment since it was activated in 1901. The monument will serve as a lasting tribute at Fort Irwin, where current and future Troopers continue to uphold the proud traditions of the Blackhorse Regiment.

In early July a groundbreaking ceremony for the memorial was held at Fort Irwin. The proposed location of the memorial is the CPL Jerry Wayne Wickam Park, located in the heart of the Regimental complex. Those participating in the groundbreaking were BG Brandon Anderson-CG NTC, CSM Carvet Tate-CSM NTC, Peter Bayer-BHA President, COL Kevin T. Black-11th ACR RCO, CSM David Shipman-11th ACR CSM, Frank Church-11th ACVVC President.

Fundraising for the monument will include opportunities for direct donations and the sale of memorial bricks. More information on how you can help fund the memorial will be forthcoming in Thunder Run and on our Facebook page.



Proposed Memorial Design

We encourage all who share our pride in the Regiment's history and sacrifice to join us in bringing this vision to life.

Veteran Service Officer Information

Some of the more interesting conversations I have with fellow readers of Thunder Run focus on VA Health Care. Of the most interesting is – why haven't they applied for this benefit? Really? 2025, and some guys haven't applied by now? Okay, perhaps years ago vets attempted and were denied. Reasons for denial may be because income was too high, or a veteran was not service connected for a medical condition incurred while on active duty. However, once an individual retires, annual income most likely decreases and with that fact one's eligibility changes.

I believe all eligible veterans ought to be in the VA Health Care system. I am. I registered at two VA hospitals, Edward Hines and Jesse Brown. I receive excellent care at both, and yes, I still have private doctors. VA Health Care providers encourage an individual to seek the best care no matter which institution provides that care. Most interesting, having your prescriptions filled by VA Health Care is truly a great benefit. Keep in mind, your VA Doctor must do the ordering.

To learn more about this benefit, visit [VA.GOV](https://www.va.gov), Eligibility for VA Health Care. There is plenty of information there to get the reader started.

In future issues of Thunder Run, I will include VA information about applying and VA Form 10-10EZ, application for health benefits.

If you are not enrolled for VA Health Care, do consider this benefit.

Allons!

Chuck Bosko, F Trp, 2/11 ACR, '69-'70
chuckbosko@att.net | 708-205-3541

State of the Reunion-Orlando, Florida – 2026

Orlando Fl. is the location of the 11thACVVC's 41st annual reunion. The official dates are August 31, to September 7th, 2026. There are many things to do in the Orlando area and room the rates are good 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion for those who chose to include the families for an extended stay. It will be at the Rosen Center Hotel 9840 International Drive Orlando, Fl. There are 3 Rosen hotels in the area so make sure you reserve rooms at the Rosen Center Hotel.

Room rates are \$135 per night plus taxes. The hotel has a family plan, no charge for anyone under 17 using existing bedding. Make your reservations by calling 1-800-204-7234 or 407-996-9842. Online at <http://www.rosencenter.com>. Be sure to tell the agent that you are reserving rooms under the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Reservations must be made no later than 5:00 pm Monday, August 10. Parking is discounted 50% from the current rate of \$29. The hotel does not provide a free shuttle service from or to the airport.

As part of our contract, we get a 15% discount at Everglades, Café Gauguin, Harry's Poolside Bar & grill, 98Forty Tapas & Tequila, and the Banshoo Sushi bar.

Scooter rentals can be made with Scooter King for \$33 per day phone number 407-504-7769. Scoot Around for \$45 per day, online reservation only Google "Scoot Around". Both deliver to the hotel.

The reunion registration fee is \$140 per person. All reservations must be made by August 12th, 2026. Any reservation canceled after August 24 will not be refunded. That money has already been committed to the hotel.

If you have difficulty attending reunions at the annual locations, there are several mini reunions held at different locations:

Arizona- Hosted by Tom and Terri Morrison in Glendale.

Contact Ron Krueger at 1-530-304-4249, email- ronkrue@hotmail.com

Wisconsin/Minnesota- Lee Nelson. Leenelson1926@gmail.com

Air Cav troop- Contact Mike Donte- 270-351-1141

Texas- Contact Jerry Beamon- JerryLBea@aol.com

Any changes or updates will be made as they are required. Looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. ~Frank

Comments by the Reunion Registration Chairman

Roberto "Bob" Moreno, G Trp, 68-69

Thank you to all who attended this year's reunion. Had all registered individuals attended, the reunion would have hosted a total of 619 family members. The upcoming reunion is scheduled to take place in Orlando, and I predict a significantly larger attendance. We look forward to seeing you all at our next reunion.

During our reunion, my son Robert, my brother Juan, and his wife Alice expressed their appreciation for the quality time we spent together. They enjoy hearing all the stories that everyone shares with us. We wish to express our genuine gratitude to all individuals who got extra raffle tickets at the registration desk. Congratulations to the five winners.

There are a few things that I would like to cover. First, please promptly make your hotel reservation and send your registration form for the reunion at your earliest convenience. This gives me time to make up everyone's name tags. It is recommended to inform us as soon as possible if you or anyone in your group is unable to attend. To receive a full refund, please ensure that your cancellation is submitted by August 24, 2026. Don't wait until the last minute. When you send us your registration form, please be sure to look it over carefully. When asked for the year you were in the country, please indicate the period you were in Vietnam (for example, 1966–1967 or 1968–1970). Please indicate one specific range of years during which you were present.

Secondly, please do not trim the registration form, as the entire form is needed for filing purposes. If you have address labels available, please affix one to the registration form; this will help me in ensuring correct spelling. Upon submission of your registration form to Ollie, the only information I receive from him is your registration form. He doesn't send

your envelopes to me. (Cost effective.) The most efficient and expedient method of registration for the reunion is through the online platform, where your submission can be processed on the same day it is entered. If you send it to Ollie by mail, I will receive it at a minimum of seven days after he dispatches it to me.

Third, if you have guests coming and if they live in a city or state that is different than yours, place their city/state next to their name on the registration form. I will include their city and state on their name tags. Please indicate whether this will be their first time participating in our reunion.

Fourth, if you are a Star family member or a Next of Kin family member and will be accompanied by guests, please write down each guest's relationship to the Blackhorse trooper. Examples include widow, son, brother, daughter, niece, uncle, grandson, granddaughter, brother-in-law, or friend, I need this to complete their name tags. Additionally, I would like to confirm whether this will be their first time taking part in our reunion.

Fifth, keep those silent auction items coming. Individuals are welcome to contribute any number of items to the silent auction. All funds collected are allocated to the scholarship account to support our children and grandchildren. Upon arrival at the reunion, please deliver your items to either the silent auction table or the registration desk.

Kindly ensure that name tags are visible and worn at all times. Your name tag indicates that your registration is complete, and you are permitted to consume the beverages provided at the bunker. This also indicates that you have an assigned seat at the dinner banquet. Kindly verify that you, along with the individuals seated to your left and right, are at the appropriate table. The unit flag displayed on your table should correspond to the unit indicated on your name tag.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who dedicated their time and effort toward making this reunion a successful event.



**11th ACVVC
41st Reunion Schedule
Orlando Florida
September 1 - 6, 2026**



Tuesday, Sept. 1- 3:00 PM

**Rooms available for set up
No Reunion Functions**

Storage -Salon 19

Wednesday, Sept 2

10:00 am - 5:00 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Quartermaster Store open
Registration
Bunker
BOD meeting
Silent Auction Items Accepted

Salon 15/16
Salon 22
Excutive Ballroom
Suite
Salon 22

Thursday, Sept. 3

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Quartermaster Store Open
Registration
Bunker Open
Silent Auction items accepted

Salon 15/16
Salon 22
Excutive Ballroom
Salon 22

Friday, Sept. 4

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
10:00am-12:00am
1:00 pm - 1:30pm
9:00 am - 12:00 am
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
2:00 pm- 4:00 pm
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
4:35: pm

Quartermaster Store Open
Veterans Seminar
Operation Embrace KIA Grave Visitation
Silent Auction Items Accepted
Registration Open
Bunker Open
Silent Auction Sell Off
Silent Auction Pay/Pick Up
Resale of items not picked up

Salon 22
Signature 1
TBA
Salon15/16
Salon 15/16
Executive Ballroom
Salon 17/18
Salon 17/18
Salon 17/18

Saturday, Sept. 5

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
9:30am-12:00pm
9:00 am -1:30 pm
1:30 pm- 3:00pm
3:00pm -5:00pm
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
5:45-6:45
6:00
7:00pm 10:pm
10:00pm-1:00pm

Annual Membership Meeting
Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting
Quartermaster Open
Memorial Service
Quartermaster Open
Registration Open for Late Arrivals
Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
Banquet room Doors Open
Banquet, Presentations and Salute
Dancing (DJ)

Executive I Ballroom
Signature 1
Salon 22
Executive 1 Ballroom
Salon 22
Salon 15/16
Executive Ballroom Foyer

Executive Ballroom
Executive Ballroom Foyer

Sunday, Sept. 6

10:00 am - 11:00 am
All Day

Worship Service
Farewells and Safe Travels

Signature 1
No space Required

REGISTRATION FORM



41st Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

August 31, 2026-September 6, 2026

Rosen Center Hotel, 9840 International Dr. Orlando FL. 32819

Reservations by phone: 407-996-9842- use code

11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

On-line- <http://www.rosencenter.com>

Scooter Rental- Scooter King, 407-504-7769



Registration fee is **\$140 check / \$144 credit card** per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by August 12, 2026. All hotel reservations must be made by August 10, 2026. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than August 24, 2026.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Unit Assignment _____ Dates in Country _____

(Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is your banquet seating.) (Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative? ☐ Yes, Name of KIA: _____

Next of Kin? ☐ Yes, Name of NOK: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

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

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken____Beef____Veggie____

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

Credit Card Information: Security Code/CVC# _____ Exp. Date _____

Card No; _____

Zip Code (Required) _____ Signature (Required) _____

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

Christmas Spirit 1966

By Robert "Bob" Kickenweitz

Sometime in mid-December 1966, we were in our tent at Blackhorse base camp reading or writing letters home when we heard this crazy sound like ripping material. One of the guys said "look at this." We all ran over to the tent flap. It was about nine-thirty in the evening, we all looked up into the black sky, but saw nothing. "What are we looking for" one guys asked. "Just wait a minute" he said. Then all of a sudden, high in the sky, it looked like a flamethrower opened up and rained down fire to the earth with that ripping sound. It was a C-47, cargo plane, nicknamed "Spooky or Puff the Magic Dragon." It was circling on the western side of our base camp. The C-47 was fitted with three General Electric rotary-barreled Gatling M-134 machine guns mounted on the left side of the plane and fired through three cargo doors. Each gun could fire at a rate of six thousand rounds a minute and cover every square inch of a football field. Every fifth round was a tracer round and because of the rate of fire, it looked like one full stream of red flames coming down. The pilot would trip the left wing down towards the earth and look out his left side window to aim the Gatling guns.



C-47, "Puff the Magic Dragon" (aerial view and ground view)

Not sure why they were firing in to the western jungle side of our base camp, although Hanoi Hannah, (she was the Vietnam version of Tokyo Rose from World War II infamy) was saying that the Vietcong, (you remember the guys in the black pajamas) would be having Christmas Dinner in the base camp of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. "I don't remember anybody inviting them."

Then about two or three days before Christmas 1966, we were again in our tent reading or writing letters home when all of a sudden a 155 howitzer opened up with a fire mission. Scared the hell out of me, the only good thing about it was I knew that "boom-shooo" was out-going. We had no knowledge they moved some guns from a FSB in Xuan Loc to base camp. This would be my first Christmas away from home, family and friends. I can remember that after dinner on Christmas Eve I went and took a shower, put on a clean uniform and sat down to listen to

Armed Forces Radio and to write some letters to my family back home. At about ten in the evening, I got up to go over to the service for Christmas Mass. Our Chaplain,



Father Egan and his assistant Tony Graziano did a superb job in preparing an open field into a beautiful place to serve midnight Mass. They started by taking some beer and soda pallets to construct a floor for our altar, then nailed some plywood on top of the pallets to finish the floor. For the rear walls of the altar, they nailed four by eight sheets of plywood to the floor, then lifting the plywood seven to eight feet high into the air to create the rear walls of the altar. Blue spotlights were used to wash light across the back walls of the altar. A podium with a white cross on the front of it was in the center of the altar. Off the altar to the left was a confessional with a long line of soldiers and some nurses. The lines were always long at the confessional; everybody always took the opportunity when it presented itself, to go to confession. While more soldiers were filling in the bare spots in the field the Chaplains assistant was playing Christmas Carols on an organ. For some reason while I was sitting on the ground singing with the others around me, I decided to lie back on the ground. I don't know if it was that we were so far from any big city lights which block your view, or that I was missing my family and friends, or if God was telling me in his own way that things were not that bad. Looking up into the night sky I saw the most beautiful sight I have ever seen in my life, on the ceiling of our open-air church was the same scene the shepherds must have seen two thousand years before, the only thing missing was the star of Bethlehem. The grandeur of the Milky Way in that black sky was breathtaking, with star after star. Every Christmas Eve when my family and I go to Mass, inevitably sometime during the service I drift back to that Christmas Eve many years ago and so far away and I'm filled with a joy only that Christmas could deliver.

By the way, the Vietcong didn't show up for dinner.



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



Remembering Our Fallen Brothers...

(Editors Note: This article is combined input from Chp. Bill Karabinos and VP Allen Hathaway)

Friday afternoon at the Tulsa Reunion (9/5/2025), a few Blackhorse veterans gathered in the hotel lobby to leave on a mission. A mission to find, clean and re-consecrate the grave of one of our brothers killed in action (KIA) in Vietnam. The mission has recently become one of the unique ways we honor our fallen at our annual reunions. This Operation Embrace was kick-started as a "personal thing" by President Emeritus Allen Hathaway, who also handles, with precision and loving care, KIA issues for the veterans of the 11th ACR of Vietnam and Cambodia.

A few years back, the chaplain joined Allen to visit a KIA grave in Birmingham, only to discover a neglected cemetery, overgrown with weeds surrounding dead trees that looked like a Hollywood version of Boot Hill. Searching through the pot-holed gravel driveways in a hopeless cause, a monument company was discovered on the other side of a rusted cycle fence. Fortunately, the people at the company's office had a plot of the graves and a willingness to help locate the grave of our KIA who was buried in that cemetery. Following the two veterans back to the cemetery with weed-whackers in hand, they cleared a 100 square foot area, to no avail. Reexamining the plot map, they then moved to a different location and were able to locate the headstone. That stone had sunk deep into the soggy turf, but it was pulled up by Allen and the Chaplain, cleaned and repositioned in its proper place. After cleaning the stone, and praying over the grave, it was comforting to know that at least this veteran trooper, was honored – yet 50 years from the time of his death, by his brothers.

Since then, the graves located have not been in such deplorable conditions, and yet, they still have been hard to find. Once found, they are cleaned and shined a little; the grass is trimmed around the headstone, a moment of silent reflection is observed and after a few short prayers, a memento of our visit is left behind, and a solemn salute is offered in the best tradition of the soldiers of the United States Armed Forces.

In Tulsa, a reunion pin was placed on the stone and an 11th Cav calling card left in the flower urn. If nothing else, we will leave two dimes and a penny, sort of a 21-gun salute, the highest honor the nation can pay its honored dead.

Above, it was noted that Allen Hathaway, Director of Operation Embrace, mentioned that these visits are a "personal thing." So much so, that for him, and usually accompanied by his illustrious wife, Pam, 191 graves of our fallen have been visited. Allen and Pam, actually visited, cleaned and brushed 10 sites in the state of Oklahoma. In Oklahoma cemeteries, the 11th Cav has 14 grave sites in 14 different locations, only four of which are within 25 miles of Tulsa. The others are scattered across the state, so much that Pam and Allen visited 10 graves positioned from 25 to a hundred miles apart. Why, such a passion? As Allen humbly notes: "I... we have so many things to be thankful for. The lives of those 740 KIA's were cut short. Most were 18/21 years old when they died. I thank them every day for their sacrifice and that of their family."

So, this year, Allen was joined by 5 other troopers: Bill Hadfield (B Trp), Robert Jensen (K Trp), Bob Malewski (HHT 1), Eric Spanier (L Trp) and Chaplain Bill to pay respects to Chester Roy Reese, SP5 of C Troop, who was killed in action on September 5, 1970. This was the 55th anniversary of his death. Chester was laid to rest in the Woodlawn Park Cemetery, a well-cared for municipal cemetery but 10 miles from Tulsa and the reunion hotel, in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. It took all of us about 10 minutes to search the large plot until we found the headstone, satisfied that it was well cared for and respected.

As we gathered to reflect and say a prayer, it seemed that a certain warm indefinable current passed between us, the veterans who with heads cast down silently struck hands and passed our own thoughts to that lad who had traveled 55 years ago that day to Fiddler's Green.

Note: The graves visited to date, along with their picture are posted at the following link:

https://11thcavnam.com/womenscorner/KIA_A_L.htm



On Friday afternoon of the 2025 reunion, Chaplain Bill along with 4 other troopers visited the grave site of Chester Roy Reese who died on Sep. 5, 1970, while serving with C Troop, 1/11 ACR. The visit was 55 years to the day of when he passed away. Chester is laid to rest in Woodland Memorial Park Cemetery in Sand Springs, OK, located about 10 miles from the reunion hotel in Tulsa.

During our visit we cleaned his marker and Chaplain Bill said a prayer over his grave. A small reunion pin was left at his grave. Those

attending in addition to Chaplain Bill were Robert (Bob) Malewski (HHT 1/11), Robert Jensen (K Trp 3/11), William (Bill) Hadfield Jr (B Trp 1/11), Eric Spanier (L Trp 311) and Allen Hathaway (HHT Regt).

Specialist 5 Chester Roy Reese served in C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He died of wounds received when a mine detonated while he was commanding a Sheridan. He was transferred to United States Army Hospital Camp Zama, Japan, where he died on 5 Sep 1970 as a result of wounds received on 23 Aug 1970.



Chester was a recipient of Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Earlier in the week, we visited 10 other cemeteries in Oklahoma to pay our respects to our fallen.

ROBERT KNAPP HENDERSON JR, A Trp 1/11, KIA 19 Jun 1970, Oklahoma City, OK

LARRY GENE MORGAN, HHT 11TH ACR, KIA 8 May 1970, Norman, OK

BILLY GENE RODGERS, K Trp 3/11, KIA 21 Jul 1967, Chickasha, OK

MARVIN L NOE, I Trp 3/11, KIA 9 May 1969, Fort Sill, OK

DOUGLAS WAYNE HILL, HHT 3/11, KIA 21 Jul 1967, Lawton, OK

HERBERT SPENCER BARNES, F Trp 2/11, KIA 19 May 1971, Bixby, OK

DONALD LEE RANKINS, L Trp 3/11, KIA 12 Jun 1968, Wagoner, OK

GARY JOHN DASHER, A Trp 1/11, KIA 13 Apr 1969, Skiatook, OK

VIRGIL CARLYLE COMBS, L Trp 3/11, KIA 18 Feb 1969, Dewey, OK

Billy Rodgers and Douglas Hill were killed on the same day, 21 July 1967, in the same incident.

In the past few years we have tried to visit the cemeteries of our KIA's, some of which are near our reunions. The visits are part of a project to visit and pay our respects to our fallen. With the 10 during the reunion, we have visited a total of 191 of our fallen.

Photos will be added to the site in the next few weeks.

Allen

Continued on Pg. 20



Remembering Our Fallen Brothers... *Continued from Pg. 19*

L to R:

Bill Hadfield, B Trp, 69-70, Kirkwood, NJ; VP Allen Hathaway, Regt HHT, 66-67, Manassas, VA, Chp. Bill Karabinos, HHT, 2/11, 71-72, Toano, VA; Bob Jensen, K Trp, 3/11, 68-69, Minneapolis, MN; Bob Malewski, HHT, 1/1, 69, Wrightstown, WI

HE COULD HEAL NO WOUNDS, BUT . . . Phil 2:3-4 Ty Dodge, 3rd Platoon, I Troop, tdodge36@gmail.com

Having been hit by two RPGs when FSB Buttons was overrun by a large NVA force, I lay in a hospital with most of my right thigh and three inches of my femur gone. Tubes protruded from here and there, and shrapnel covered my body. And, while I wasn't looking forward to eight months in traction, a more immediate irritation was the full body cast—my “shipping container”—that encased me from chest to toe.

After a couple of weeks of lying on my back like a stranded turtle, my attitude simply checked out on me and I became a huge pain in the neck to the hospital staff around me. Oh, I could see they were taking care of guys in a lot worse shape than I was in, but they weren't paying attention to me, and I didn't think that was fair. Life's not fair, is it? I had what my wife, Florence, would call a DRA. That'd be a Dirty Rotten Attitude.

Lying there one day in my stranded-turtle, DRA, grand funk I noticed a guy come through the door at the end of our ward. His head was completely wrapped with bandages—you couldn't see any part of his head or his face. He was shuffling along, sort of navigating by Braille. Every now and then he'd stop by a bed and say something, then move on to the next.

I watched him with self-pity in my heart. At least that guy could get out of bed! You see, I had a DRA.

Eventually he arrived at my bed. Ran into it, actually. When he did, his hand brushed my cast and he tapped on it. Then he leaned over and in a low, muffled-gruffly voice said, “Man, what happened to you? They got you wrapped in concrete. You gonna be OK? You gonna get to go home any time soon?”

About that time the guy in the bed next to mine leaned over. “Don't need to answer him,” he said.

“Why not?” I asked.

“Can't hear. Lost his hearing and most of his face to a mortar round.”

I looked back at the man standing by my bed, and as I did he thumped my cast one more time, then leaned over and in that low, gruffly voice said, “Hang tough, Dude. I'm prayin' for ya.” Then he shuffled away.

I watched him till tears clouded my vision. You see, that guy was praying for me!

At that particular moment it wasn't so much my body that needed the cure, as my DRA—and on that morning, a faceless young trooper healed it.

I don't have any idea who he was, but I've thought about him over the years. Each time I do I'm reminded of a verse from Philipians: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, But also to the interests of others.

Isn't that what he was doing? In the midst of his own troubles, he was looking out for the interests of others.

That's just like our military personnel. Our service men and women are just ordinary people who, at great personal risk, are looking out for your interests and mine.

That is the essence of what serving in the military is all about.



11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels: Platinum Level \$500+ 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.

General Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

Daryl Gushee
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GOLD LEVEL

William McKelvey
Earl Moore

Memorial Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

Blackhouse Association

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IMO Donald L. Jacobson
Ervin Brune
Clayton Hoak
IMO Larry E. Worley
Diana Thomas
IMO Stephen A. Thomas

OAKLAND TO BIEN HOA! By Mike "Doc" Rafferty

After completing basic training and a ten-week medical training course in November of 1969 at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, I flew back home to Lansing, Michigan for a short leave. I had received my orders for Vietnam, and it was a hard time for me because I only had a few days to say goodbye to my family and my girlfriend. Thanksgiving was a somber occasion that year and it was almost a relief to board the flight to Oakland on December 2nd.

The next morning, I reported to the Oakland Army Base. I was sent to a large holding area and told to sit on a section of bleachers with several other guys. Here we sat and waited for six hours! Finally, we started the processing activities. This consisted of standing in long lines as we passed through several stations to pick up our jungle uniforms and boots. I only had a few seconds to try on the boots which were thrown at me by a bored G.I., and I was unsure if they fit properly. While I was standing in line at one of the stations, a Sergeant came up to several of us and "nabbed" us for a work detail. By this time, it was 11pm and I didn't know how many more stations I needed to go through before I finished processing.

The Sergeant led us to a large room containing twenty huge bins filled to overflowing with G.I. clothing and equipment. Some of the bins held boots while others were piled high with field jackets or hats. I climbed into one of the bins and started stuffing field jackets into large burlap bags. For the next three hours I packed field jackets into countless bags. It was a disheartening task because as soon as I made a little progress in lowering the level of my pile, a new load of jackets appeared and were dumped into my bin! Finally, at 2:30 am we were released from this work detail. The sergeant disappeared and I imagine he went looking for a fresh set of "volunteers."

I reentered the processing lines and reached the final station around 4am. I had accumulated a duffle bag full of clothes and equipment, and I was dead tired. I put my duffle bag on the concrete floor and lay down with my head on it. Immediately I fell asleep. When I woke up an hour later, I managed to get on a shuttle bus to the barracks which I reached around 6am. I threw myself down on an empty bunk and fell asleep only to be roused a half hour later by the barracks Sergeant telling us to fall in for the first formation of the day!

On December 5th, my name was called during a formation, and I was transferred to a holding barracks. I found out that I would be boarding a plane bound for the Republic of South Vietnam the next day. I had time to make two very difficult phone calls. As we all remember, in 1969, the only sure form of communication between soldiers in Vietnam and their loved ones in the States was by mail. I

knew I would not likely be able to speak with my parents or my girlfriend for a year. Obviously, I would never speak to them again if I were killed! It was difficult to sound confident about the future as I made these calls, but I did the best I could. In a way, I think it was better we could only communicate by mail after we arrived in Nam. I know this sounds strange but I'm glad cell phones hadn't been invented yet. If we had had cell phones in Vietnam, the knowledge that each conversation with a loved one could be the last time I would hear their voice, would have been too much for me to bear.

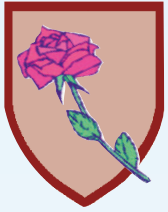
We boarded a Saturn Airlines jet on the evening of the 6th. The stewardesses were quite attractive and most of them seemed to have European accents. Some of the guys were a little rowdy at first but the girls took it all in stride. I'm sure they were used to it.

We landed in Honolulu at 2:00 am California time. We were allowed a brief break at the airport and then we took off and landed on Wake Island several hours later. It was pitch dark when our plane rolled to a stop and the wind was blowing hard. The air smelled of ocean.

Our last stop was Clark Airfield in the Philippines. The weather was hot and muggy, but our plane was not on the ground long. As we started the final leg of the journey to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, the conversations on the plane became quieter and more restrained. As we approached the Bien Hoa airstrip, I took photos of the broad, snake-like Saigon River as it made its way through the countryside below us. Several thoughts crossed my mind as we touched down and taxied to a stop on the runway: "We are finally here but what will happen to us? How many of our group will survive and return to this airstrip in one year for the journey home? What unit will I be assigned to?"

We got off the plane and made a ragged formation on the hot dusty runway. After claiming our duffle bags in the crude airport terminal, we piled into several buses and drove through the town of Bien Hoa. I noticed the narrow streets littered with trash and piles of rusted junk. The homes were tumble-down shacks fronted by postage-stamp sized yards and surrounded by barbed wire fences. Most of the people we observed were women, elderly men, or children. Some of the civilians waved to us in a friendly manner but others were obviously not glad to see us. One woman stood in front of her house waving her fist at us and shouting "F--- you G.I.!" Not appreciating this type of welcome from a Vietnamese civilian, most of our group yelled back obscenities that equaled and exceeded her statement!

As we proceeded through the town and onto the U.S. military base, an ominous feeling came over me. What kind of country and what kind of war have we been sent to? I would not have to wait long to find out the answers to these questions!



Blackhorse Women's Group News

Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 3rd Edition 2025

Dear Ladies of the Blackhorse,

Wishing you all a beautiful Autumn/Fall season. We are already looking forward to seeing you all in Orlando, Florida in 2026. Reunion details will be posted in this issue of the Thunder Run.

The purpose of the Blackhorse Women's Group is to support our Troopers, their spouses and families through a few special projects. A special thank you to those who participate in any of these projects and also attend our Saturday Morning Meetings!

"2025 in Tulsa"

Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting - Saturday morning in Tulsa, while our troopers were in their business meeting, we had a short business meeting followed by a "Crafting Party". Our ladies and a few family members created beautiful bead bracelets, featuring a red rose bead or two in recognition of our BWG logo. Several bracelets were made to include in future Prayer Shawl gifts.

Kathy Malone, was awarded the 11th ACVVC/ Blackhorse Women's Group 2025 "Woman of the Year" award, for serving as our Blackhorse Women's Group Board Secretary for the last 4 years. Thank You Kathy!

"Touring Tulsa" - Friday morning, 54 of our Ladies, Troopers & family members boarded a bus for a tour of Tulsa !! Our guide, Kelly Gibson of Tours of Tulsa, shared her knowledge and love of Tulsa in her 3 hour history lesson of Tulsa's beginnings; tragedies; oil industry; Route 66 history; and it's "art deco label". Fantastic tour!!! We ended our tour at the historic Tally's Cafe on Route 66. Their famous Milk Shake was a delicious appetizer!!

Fundraising Table at Tulsa- Our sales of Tulsa lanyards and Memorial Pins, plus donations received, will allow us to make a generous donation to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund. Thank You to our table volunteers.

Cherry's Prayer Shawl Project - In the last year, 75 Prayer Shawls were sent out to a spouse or family of a Trooper who has passed. A few were sent to a Trooper whose spouse had passed. Your generous donations to the postage costs have made this possible. Four dedicated Blackhorse Ladies are crocheting or knitting beautiful shawls as they are needed. Thank You to the anonymous Blackhorse Lady who donated a beautiful shawl during our Saturday morning meeting. If you would like to donate a crocheted or knitted shawl or a lap shawl, please mail to Sheryl Myers 19155 Royal Troon Dr. Monument, CO 80132.

Sarah's Angels Remembrance Project - When we are notified of the passing of one of our Blackhorse Ladies, we enter her name into our Sarah's Angels Honor Roll Journal. The following ladies were honored recently.

Lisa Jo Kitchen (Trooper-Gary Kitchen- L Trp, 66-67)

Betty J. Forbes (Trooper Micheal Forbes-A Trp, 69-70)

Barbara Pritchard (Trooper Dennis Pritchard - L Trp, 70-71)

Ingrid Strange (Trooper Gerald Strange HHT, 3/11th 69-70)

Karen Derepkowski (Trooper Arthur J. Derepkowski - F Trp & H Company, 2/11th 70-71)

Remembering our KIA's - In October of each year, your Blackhorse Women's Group sends a donation to Wreaths Across America for 21 wreaths in honor of the 21 KIA 11th ACR Troopers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. If you have honored an 11th ACR Trooper in your state or during your travels, who was KIA, please send a picture of his memorial marker to me or to Allen Hathaway. We will see that it is added to our "Remembering 11th ACR KIA's Scrapbook, which is posted on the Blackhorse Women's Group website at: 11thcavnam.com

See you in Orlando!!



Disturbing

Recording and recognizing the names of the 740 former Blackhorse Troopers of Vietnam and Cambodia that we honored at our reunion; whose death we only learned of this past year, disturbed me. Especially one of the last to pass with tickets to Tulsa in his pocket, my dear friend and fellow trooper; indeed, my body guard in the Nam - the irrepressible John Hrom. John had been my dear friend ever since, for 54 years now. His death startled and disturbed me.

That personal disturbance at our reunion, where we were able to only read 330 of those names due to time restraints, was mitigated and consoled by the fraternity, the outpouring of strength and love for our Blackhorse veterans and their families, by our own loving community. So much so that I looked instead at my personal disturbance as a hopeful thought; an opportunity to expand in an unselfish way, our care for one another. We did honor the other 410 names by printing them on the honor rolls and placing a page to honor each one, in our five Bunker books.

Sir Francis Drake, Privateer, Navigator and principal depositor of Spanish gold to the "Bank of England," actually wrote a prayerful and startling poem-prayer in the 16th century. It reads ...

*Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.*

*We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.*

And so, our disturbance should point to hope. A hope that at our Tulsa reunion was caressed by our Blackhorse brothers and sisters who we

were able to see again, and by new faces, new friends that we made, new smiles that we witnessed from our regulars and 'first timers' at our reunion.

It is quite enlightening when you think of it; we talk more about our friends, and the friends that we knew at those gatherings, than about the aches and pains we suffer or the woes of the world around us. We enjoy our friends, and we are careful not to offend them: we want to keep them close. Besides keeping them close, we enjoy adding new friends to our memory bank. We enjoy seeing that bank account grow and we grieve when it dwindles.

If we can joyously count a good number of friends, we are comfortable. If we only have a few, or none at all ... we are disturbed. I always relish the wisdom of my friends who years ago, in my youth, taught me that simple maxim: if you want to have a friend, you have to be a friend. Stay in touch, make a call, send a note or a text. Send a card – or flowers, or a picture.

Yes, again I'll say: if you want to have a friend, you have to be a friend. We are consoled by their support and courage; the love of a friend is our only hope of finding bliss – of being undisturbed. In that love, flowing to and from our friend, we find the courage, we find hope - we find happiness.

For a great many of you, probably all of you who have attended a reunion, just think of that feeling of happiness you experienced when you entered the Bob Moreno registration room at our reunions. That greeting – present year after year, always punctuated with smiles in a chamber of "jollification" - ever and excitingly welcomes you home.

Chaplain Bill



Ed and Denise Brown (A Trp, 67/68) light the candle
at the Missing Man Table,
Tulsa Reunion Banquet. (Photo: Jennifer Quinn)



Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report that the following troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

There is an unusually high number of names listed in this issue. Recently, a review of our Master Roster was done to determine the members' status. While we ask to be notified if a member passes away, that is not always the case. Using several reliable resources, these LIFE members were found to have passed away. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

Name	Unit / Dates	Fiddler's Green	Home Town
Aldridge, James C.	919th Engineer Co, 68-69	June 4, 2024	Lakeland, FL
Andrews, Patrick G.	D Company 1/11, 66-67	September 10, 2025	Catskill, NY
Barber, John J.	L Troop 3/11, 69-69	October 10, 2024	Milwaukee, WI
Barton, Eugene J.	E Troop 2/11, 67-67	February 6, 2024	Cameron, NC
Batson, Robert I.	HHT 3/11, 68-70	April 28, 2025	Live Oak, TX
Bell, Garland O.	919th Engineer Co, 68-69	May 22, 2024	Godley, TX
Birmingham, Hal D.	HHT Regt, 67-68	July 13, 2025	Otisville, MI
Black, Phillip T.	G Troop 2/11, 70-71	January 15, 2024	Toledo, OH
Bledsaw, Raymond M.	HHT 2/11, 68-69	October 8, 2024	Stigler, OK
Bolding, Paul J.	HHT 3/11, 69-70	March 9, 2024	Saco, ME
Bonds, Larry J.	H Company 2/11, 67-68	April 2, 2025	East Peoria, IL
Bradley, Otis	919th Engineer Co, 69-169	May 17, 2024	Pontiac, MI
Brown, James O.	I Troop 3/11, 67-68	February 15, 2025	Arlington, TX
Bruen, Arthur L.	Air Cavalry Troop, 68-68	March 17, 2025	Lenox, MI
Cano, Pedro F.	C Troop 1/11, 69-70	February 6, 2024	Parlier, CA
Cardwell, Richard J.	Air Cavalry Troop, 68-69	March 31, 2024	San Antonio, TX
Chachere, David	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 70-71	October 23, 2024	Houston, TX
Chavez, Daniel A.	HHT 2/11, 66-67	May 31, 2025	Bakersfield, CA
Clark, Floyd H.	A Troop 1/11, 69-70	July 21, 2025	Harrisonburg, VA
Coleman, James C.	HHT 2/11, 67-68	May 1, 2024	Graham, WA
Cook, William A.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 66-67	November 9, 2024	Port Angeles, WA
Cousins, Wilburn	HHT 2/11, 68-68	May 13, 2025	Poplarville, MS
Curry, Charles D.	HHT 1/11, 69-71	November 12, 2024	Sanderson, TX
Davila, Marcos S.	A Troop 1/11, 67-69	October 10, 2024	San Antonio, TX
Day, William J.	F Troop 2/11, 69-70	December 9, 2024	Brownstown, IN
Dees, Glenn E.	E Troop 2/11, 71-72	February 21, 2024	Crestview Hills, KY
Doyle, James A.	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 69-70	October 24, 2024	Middleburg, FL
Drake, Daniel L.	409th Radio Res. Det, 69-70	March 21, 2025	Butler, KY
Dunbar, Donald W.	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 68-69	August 1, 2025	International Falls, MN
Ergish, Walter J.	I Troop 3/11, 67-67	February 27, 2025	Norridge, IL
Euge, Robert K.	A Troop 1/11, 70-70	November 16, 2024	Columbia, IL
Fields, Clifford L.	D Company 1/11, 67-68	May 20, 2024	Springfield, VA
Finch, William J.	HHT 1/11, 68-68	March 12, 2024	Evansville, IN
Fladd, Frederick H.	HHT 2/11, 66-67	April 24, 2024	Whitestown, IN
Fortenberry, Billy R.	HHT Regt, 68-69	January 11, 2024	Tylertown, MS
Gauthier, Richard P.	K Troop 3/11, 70-71	February 7, 2024	Crofton, KY
Gilbert, Eddie L.	HHT Regt, 67-69	February 21, 2025	Swansea, IL
Gorland, Ronald K.	L Troop 3/11, 68-68	April 2, 2025	Peachtree City, GA
Goudard, Frank P.	919th Engineer Co, 68-69	December 22, 2024	Clarksville, TN
Graham, Danny W.	E Troop 2/11, 70-71	December 4, 2024	Lake Park, GA
Griggs, Roy E.	G Troop 2/11, 70-71	January 27, 2025	Broken Arrow, OK
Grimme, John F.	HHT 1/11, 69-69	May 22, 2025	Killeen, TX
Griner, Wayne C.	27th Engineer Bn, 67-68	February 28, 2024	Cross City, FL
Grossman, Robert F.	HHT 1/11, 68-69	January 27, 2025	Raleigh, NC
Guill, Andrew J.	G Troop 2/11, 66-67	May 14, 2024	Angleton, TX
Gulley, Gerald	HHT Regt, 66-68	2025	Torrance, CA
Guy, Michael E.	E Troop 2/11, 71-72	March 24, 2024	Dayton, OH
Haas, Leroy A.	HHT 1/11, 70-70	May 27, 2024	Fremont, MI

Name	Unit / Dates	Fiddler's Green	Home Town
Hackney, Thomas J.	398th Trans. Det, 69-70	April 4, 2024	Paeonian Springs, VA
Handlon, James S.	G Troop 2/11, 71-72	April 15, 2024	Biloxi, MS
Harris, Michael J.	G Troop 2/11, 71-72	December 15, 2024	Danville, VA
Hemner, Eugene F.	I Troop 3/11, 69-69	August 9, 2024	Stillwater, MN
Hendrickson, John L.	E Troop 2/11, 66-67	February 29, 2024	Early, IA
Hess, Dock C.	L Troop 3/11, 66-67	October 30, 2024	Bristol, VA
Heuston, Robert C.	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 67-68	February 19, 2025	Edgewater, NJ
Hollingsworth, Roger E.	919th Engineer Co, 68-69	January 21, 2025	El Centro, CA
Holze, Lynn F.	G Troop 2/11, 70-71	November 10, 2024	Rockford, IL
Horan, Dennis P.	G Troop 2/11, 68-69	August 2, 2024	Saint Germain, WI
Hrom, John S.	HHT 2/11, 71-72	August 31, 2025	Madison, MS
Hudson, Roy D.	HHT 3/11, 68-69	October 27, 2024	El Paso, TX
Hutchins, George A.	K Troop 3/11, 69-70	June 20, 2025	Barre, VT
Jacobson, Donald L.	HHT 3/11, 69-70	July 25, 2025	Jefferson City, MO
Jankowski, Albin L.	HHT 1/11, 67-68	June 3, 2024	Titusville, FL
Johnson, Gary M.	B Troop 1/11, 66-67	November 21, 2024	Roseville, CA
Johnson, James T.	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 68-69	May 11, 2025	Burlington, NC
Jolly, John P.	HHT Regt, 70-71	September 24, 2024	Corning, CA
Kays, Danny L.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 69-70	April 5, 2024	Independence, MO
Kennedy, Darrell R.	D Company 1/11, 69-70	March 1, 2025	Plattsburg, MO
Kersis, Bruce M.	HHT 1/11, 70-71	October 24, 2024	Kingman, AZ
Knauer, William H.	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 67-68	April 14, 2024	North Myrtle Beach, SC
Kotzer, James	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 69-71	July 31, 2025	Sartell, MN
Lamgo, Floyd L.	D Company 1/11, 71-72	May 28, 2024	North Platte, NE
Lamirault, Derek T.	G Troop 2/11, 71-72	December 5, 2024	Anaheim, CA
Landreth, Harrell L.	D Company 1/11, 68-68	April 1, 2025	Billings, MT
Larson, Don L.	A Troop 1/11, 67-69	March 17, 2025	Campbell Twp, ND
Legel, Raymond L.	551st Maintenance Co, 67-68	July 26, 2025	Waverly, IA
Licktieg, Eugene G.	M Company 3/11, 69-70	December 21, 2023	Urbandale, IA
Lyons, James T.	HHT Regt, 66-67	May 31, 2025	Springfield, VA
Maganzini, John B.	HHT Regt, 68-69	November 10, 2024	Boston, MA
Mahan, Clarence E.	L Troop 3/11, 69-69	February 25, 2025	Covington, KY
Maraglio, Richard C.	HHT 1/11, 68-69	January 18, 2025	Lake Katrine, NY
Marino, Frank	919th Engineer Co, 67-69	March 8, 2024	Marina, CA
Marquis, Edward M.	B Troop 1/11, 70-70	August 4, 2025	Roswell, NM
Marshall, Robert C.	B Troop 1/11, 69-69	March 13, 2024	Boulder, CO
Maxwell, Eugene	HHT 1/11, 67-68	January 29, 2025	Bridgeport, CT
Mccullough, Leroy	F Troop 2/11, 69-70	January 15, 2024	Fayetteville, NC
Mcdaniel, John M.	409th Radio Res. Det., 68-69	February 6, 2024	Drexel, NC
Mckinney, Boyce D.	HHT 2/11, 71-72	July 4, 2024	Boston, KY
Mcmillion, David	HHT 3/11, 68-69	April 25, 2025	Crowley, TX
Mcqueen, Richard	F Troop 2/11, 66-67	September 6, 2025	White Lake, SD
Mcwain, James T.	HHT Regt, 67-67	September 3, 2025	Trumbull, CT
Mickells, Joseph M.	F Troop 2/11, 71-72	January 13, 2025	Lavista, NE
Milam, Roger D.	HHT 1/11, 65-67	January 18, 2024	Romance, WV
Miller, Carl E.	HHT Regt, 70-71	July 21, 2024	Lock Haven, PA
Miller, David E.	L Troop 3/11, 69-70	2024	Tucson, AZ
Moore, Sampson	I Troop 3/11, 69-70	September 3, 2024	Poteau, OK
Morehouse, Bradley D.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 70-71	January 30, 2025	North Creek, NY
Mozingo, Robert L.	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 66-67	November 7, 2024	Yakima, WA
Nealis, Mark C.	F Troop 2/11, 71-72	July 25, 2025	Laurinburg, NC
Nelson, Thomas L.	HHT 1/11, 68-69	July 31, 2024	Cornelius, OR
Noyes, Peter M.	Air Cavalry Troop, 68-69	May 7, 2024	Wapakoneta, OH
Ochman, Ronald J.	919th Engineer Co, 70-71	May 13, 2025	Jensen Beach, FL
Ollinger, Kenneth E.	H Company 2/11, 68-69	November 7, 2024	Milwaukee, WI
Owens, William B.	C Troop 1/11, 70-71	February 2, 2024	Wetumpka, AL
Parrott, Eron K.	HHT Regt, 69-70	June 11, 2024	Monroe, TN
Patch, George E.	C Troop 1/11, 69-70	December 15, 2024	Trinity, FL
Poe, James F.	HHT 1/11, 68-69	June 6, 2024	Porterville, CA

Name	Unit / Dates	Fiddler's Green	Home Town
Prescott, Harry B.	Air Cavalry Troop, 70-71	September 6, 2024	Philadelphia, PA
Prokopiak, Adam	37th Medical Co, 69-71	March 31, 2024	Billings, MT
Quidachay, Francis M.	HHT 2/11, 70-71	January 31, 2025	Colorado Springs, CO
Radabaugh, David C.	HHT Regt, 69-71	May 12, 2025	Rose City, MI
Ray, Kenneth E.	F Troop 2/11, 70-70	June 1, 2025	Fayetteville, NC
Redeemer, George W.	E Troop 2/11, 71-71	June 10, 2025	Saginaw, MI
Reininger, Thomas M.	37th Medical Co, 67-68	February 15, 2024	Tucson, AZ
Richardson, John M.	L Troop 3/11, 68-69	March 22, 2025	Charleston, WV
Richey, Dennis R.	A Troop 1/11, 68-69	January 8, 2025	Cincinnati, OH
Riley, Dwight	HHT Regt, 69-70	May 8, 2025	Milam, TX
Romano, Dominic	HHT 2/11, 70-70	October 2, 2024	Powell, OH
Scali, Salvatore T.	I Troop 3/11, 68-69	March 13, 2025	Merrimack, NH
Schneeman, Frederick R.	37th Medical Co, 66-67	June 12, 2025	Harrisburg, PA
Schultz, David R.	F Troop 2/11, 67-68	April 13, 2025	Killeen, TX
Scott, Donald L.	HHT Regt, 68-69	October 10, 2024	Independence, IA
Selner, Arland	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 70-71	May 25, 2025	Middletown, CT
Shultz, Sammy L.	K Troop 3/11, 70-71	June 5, 2025	Sevierville, TN
Simms, Mack M.	A Troop 1/11, 68-68	January 28, 2025	Rocky Mount, NC
Small, Cedell C.	G Troop 2/11, 68-69	March 12, 2025	Saint Louis, MO
Soule, Robert M.	HHT 2/11, 71-72	September 1, 2024	Plum Branch, SC
Spear, Reggie B.	H Company 2/11, 69-70	June 3, 2025	Tompkinsville, KY
Stanford, Charles D.	B Troop 1/11, 66-66	May 5, 2025	Pulaski, TN
Stoll, Ned C.	HHT Regt, 70-71	May 15, 2024	Colorado Springs, CO
Stoneking, Larry S.	595th Engineer Co, 67-68	April 19, 2025	Gassville, AR
Sumlar, Gary	H Company 2/11, 70-71	March 14, 2025	Columbia, AL
Sutherland, Harland J.	L Troop 3/11, 67-68	August 31, 2025	Soddy Daisy, TN
Tenik, Joseph N.	HHT Regt, 69-70	June 10, 2024	Broadview Heights, OH
Thomas, Stephen A.	B Troop 1/11, 68-68	June 24, 2025	Freeland, MI
Thompson, Harold N.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 71-72	April 27, 2025	Springfield, PA
Thowe, Vernon W.	M Company 3/11, 66-67	January 23, 2024	Saint Marys, KS
Todd, Charles R.	HHT Regt, 68-69	January 19, 2025	El Dorado Hills, CA
Tom, Bernard R.	HHT Regt, 70-71	May 6, 2024	Poulsbo, WA
Tootle, Jimmie L.	B Troop 1/11, 68-68	March 4, 2024	Neenah, WI
Torpen, Leonard K.	I Troop 3/11, 68-69	March 31, 2025	Spearfish, SD
Tovar, Mark A.	F Troop 2/11, 70-71	March 15, 2024	Tucson, AZ
Trisler, Jack L.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 69-70	July 10, 2024	Waynesboro, MS
Vargas, George R.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 67-68	October 6, 2024	Hanford, CA
Vientos, Guillermo G.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 69-70	November 8, 2024	Manhattan, KS
Villasenor, Felix J.	E Troop 2/11, 67-68	January 7, 2024	Alta Loma, CA
Waddell, Darrell	Howitzer Btry 3/11, 66-67	September 9, 2024	Portage, IN
Wagner, John J.	A Troop 1/11, 65-67	April 25, 2025	Northampton, PA
Ward, James R.	K Troop 3/11, 66-67	December 30, 2024	Saint Cloud, FL
Washington, Benjamin F.	G Troop 2/11, 71-72	November 19, 2024	Southaven, MS
Waters, Theodore A.	G Troop 2/11, 67-68	December 9, 2024	Enterprise, AL
Welch, Dennis E.	C Troop 1/11, 68-68	July 29, 2024	Colorado Springs, CO
Welton, Floyd P.	HHT 3/11, 69-70	March 25, 2025	Roanoke, VA
West, Ralph A.	A Troop 1/11, 70-71	March 25, 2025	Garden City, KS
Wigton, Charles I.	E Troop 2/11, 68-69	March 7, 2025	Redding, CA
Williams, Charlie F.	F Troop 2/11, 71-72	June 4, 2025	Wartburg, TN
Williamson, John K.	D Company 1/11, 67-68	July 8, 2024	Moraga, CA
Woodruff, George H.	409th Radio Res. Det., 68-68	March 18, 2025	Teague, TX
Woodson, Roddy M.	541st Military Intel Det, 66-67	February 6, 2025	Sachse, TX
Worley, Larry E.	C Troop 1/11, 68-69	August 1, 2025	Poland Spring, ME
Wray, Gerald G.	A Troop 1/11, 68-69	April 3, 2025	Brownsville, TX
Wren, Carl W.	HHT 3/11, 69-70	December 4, 2024	Inman, SC

40th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Tulsa, Oklahoma



40th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Tulsa, Oklahoma



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



#1 Allons Patch -
3" x 2" inches
\$5.00



#2 11th Armored Cavalry Patch
3" x 2" \$5.00



#10 Small Blackhorse Magnet
\$6.00

#26 Large Blackhorse Magnet
7 X 8 1/2" \$12.00



#28 Blackhorse Logo
Sticker 2" X 2.5" with
adhesive on back" \$2.00



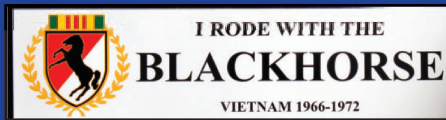
#55 4" Vietnam
Cambodia Patch
\$5.00



#4 Window
Sticker \$3.00



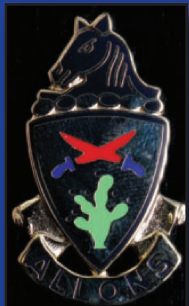
#35 Allons
Decal \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$6.50



#18 11th ACR
Regimental Crest
\$7.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin
\$5.00



#20 Vietnam
Blackhorse Pin,
Wreath \$5.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch
Colored \$5.00

#52 Blackhorse
Pendant
\$12.00



#54 Flag Pin
\$6.50



#32 Coffee Mug
\$10.00



#30 Laser Engraved
Rescue Knife, 4.5 inch
\$22.00



#22 Shotgun
shot glass
\$4.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#57 Travel Blanket
\$26.00

#29 Travel Mug
\$20.00



#14 License Plate Frame,
Black w/white letters \$5.00

#46 Blackhorse
Saber \$89.00



#8 Metal Crest on
Leather Key Tag
\$8.00



#56 Leatherette
Koozie
(Black or Red)
\$7.00



#12 Vinage Blackhorse Coin
\$10.00



#15 Leatherette
Coaster 4" Rawhide
Coaster \$4.00

The Quartermaster Store is now on line at: 11thcavnam.com



#38a
#38 Poplin Hats
\$18.00



#38d



#48 Sportsman
Hat \$18.00



#6 Knit Cap
\$18.00



#43 Outdoor Wide
Brim Hat \$25.00



#31 Tactical
Multicam Cap - Camo
\$20.00



#58 Distressed
Military Cap
\$18.50



#47 11th Cavalry
Cap \$18.50



#9 Trucker Cap
Black and
Charcoal
\$18.00

#34 Full Zip
Sweat Shirt
\$30.00



#23 Eddie Bauer
Flannel Shirt
\$49.00



#49 Dry Zone Grid
Polo \$30.00



#27 Eddie Bauer
Polo \$32.00



#16 Eddie Bauer
Hooded Soft Shell
Jacket \$94.00



#33 Heavy Blend
hooded sweatshirt
\$28.00



#21 Port
Authority
Soft Shell
Jacket
\$52.00



#24 Blackhorse
Fleece Vest
\$29.00



#36 Black Cotton
T-Shirt S-M-L-XL- \$20.00
2XL- \$22.00 3XL- \$23.00



#37 Gray Cotton
T-Shirt S-M-L-XL- \$20.00
2XL- \$22.00 3XL- \$23.00



#51 Lightweight
Wind Jacket
\$34.00



#50 Ladies
Jersey
Knit Cardigan
\$40.00



#53 Woodland
Shirt Jacket
\$54.00



#39-#40 T-shirt, Light Gray and Green
Gildan ultra cotton with full color insignia
\$20.00



#5 Hoodie
Sweat Shirt \$30.00



#41 & 42 Dark
Denim Shirt
Available in
Long and
Short Sleeve





Quartermaster

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4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00			
5.	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt	30.00			
6.	Knit Cap - Black and Grey	18.00			
7.	Full Color Shoulder Patch	5.00			
8.	Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag	8.00			
9.	Trucker Cap Black and Charcoal	18.00			
10.	Small Blackhorse Magnet	6.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
12.	Vintage Blackhorse Coin 1966-1972.....	10.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11.....	9.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	5.00			
15.	Leatherette Coaster - 4".....	4.00			
16.	Eddie Bauer Hooded Soft Shell Jacket	94.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin.....	5.00			
18.	Allons Unit Crest	7.00			
19.	Blackhorse Regimental Pin - 11 over cross sabers.....	6.50			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin - With Vietnam Wreath	5.00			
21.	Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket	52.00			
22.	Shotgun Shot Glass	4.00			
23.	Eddie Bauer Flannel Shirt	49.00			
24.	Blackhorse Fleece Vest.....	29.00			
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26.	Large Blackhorse Magnet (7" x 8.5")	12.00			
27.	Eddie Bauer Polo	32.00			
28.	Blackhorse Logo Sticker - 2" X 2.5" with adhesive on back	2.00			
29.	Travel Mug	20.00			
30.	Laser Engraved Rescue Knife, 4.5 inch.....	22.00			
31.	Tactical Multicam Cap - Camo	20.00			
32.	Coffee Mug	10.00			
33.	Heavy Blend Hooded Sweatshirt	28.00			
34.	Full Zip Sweatshirt	30.00			
35.	Allons Decal	3.00			
36.	Black Cotton T-shirt.....S-XL- 20.00 2XL- 22.00 3XL- 23.00				
37.	Grey Cotton T-shirt.....S-XL- 20.00 2XL- 22.00 3XL- 23.00				
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable ☐ 38a ☐ 38d	18.00			
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GREEN.....	20.00			
40.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GRAY.....	20.00			
41.	Dark denim shirt - men's short sleeve.....	35.00			
42.	Dark denim shirt- men's long sleeve.....	35.00			
43.	Outdoor Wide Brim Hat ☐ S/M ☐ L/XL.....	25.00			
46.	Blackhorse Saber.....	89.00			
47.	11th Cavalry Cap	18.50			
48.	Sportsman Hat (S/M or L/XL)	18.00			
49.	Dry Zone Grid Polo	30.00			
50.	Ladies Jersey Knit Cardigan	40.00			
51.	Lightweight Wind Jacket	34.00			
52.	Blackhorse Pendant	12.00			
53.	Woodland Shirt Jacket.....	54.00			
54.	Flag pin.....	6.50			
55.	4" Vietnam Cambodia Patch.....	5.00			
56.	Leatherette Koozie (Black or Red).....	7.00			
57.	Travel Blanket	26.00			
58.	Distressed Military Cap.....	18.50			

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

Shipping and Handling
Total

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

A) \$3.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$10.00 — \$35.00 = \$15.00 Gear Bag Only = \$25.00
B) \$6.00 — \$10.00 = \$9.00 D) \$36.00 and up = \$20.00 Gear Bags with other items = \$28.00

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVC Code _____

Signature _____

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

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*City/State/Zip _____

☐ Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **Finish Line Awards**.
ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC QM, c/o Finish Line Awards, P.O. Box 475, Wellington, CO 80549**

* Required info to process your order



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

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Oil painting of a 155 mm SP Howitzer crew atop their track on a road march during a heavy monsoon downpour. Bryant Nelson, How Bat, 1/11 ACR, '69 – '70), Murietta, CA.

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