



Thunder Run

Vol 39-No. 2

"Together Then - Together Again"

2nd Edition, 2025

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

SB 59 Naming the SSGT Arthur J Rambo Memorial Bridge Passes

(Editor's note: The Kootenay (aka "Kootenai") River runs through the northern end of Libby, Montana. The road crossing the Kootenay is Montana State Highway 37. It begins in Libby and follows the Kootenay 67 miles north-east, almost to the Canadian border. The bridge traversing the river is pictured below. At the 11th ACVVC Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska last summer, hundreds of combat veterans of the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment signed letters urging the Montana State Legislature to pass SB- 59. This is Part 1 of the story – read on.)

January 16, 2025 was a crisp sunny morning in Helena, Montana, as supporters gathered in the Governor's Reception Room for the ceremonial signing of SB 59.

The bill was introduced and was one of the first orders of business heard on January 6th, opening day of the 69th Legislative session. After historic record-breaking action, the bill was approved in the Senate in 3 days by unanimous votes in the Education & Cultural Affairs committee meeting and all three readings of the bill in the Senate 50-0.

Thursday, January 8, SB59 was moved over to the House to again be heard and voted on. in the House of Representative, a body of 100.

SB 59 is now law which states that the bridge on Hwy. 37 spanning the Kootenai River on the north edge of Libby, Montana be named in honor of a fallen Libby soldier who died in Vietnam just weeks short of his 24th birthday. He served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (The Legendary Blackhorse Regiment) near the Cambodian border. He was the Section Chief of an M-109 Self Propelled Howitzer. For the bravery he displayed in the firefight on Thanksgiving Day 1969, he was awarded the Silver Star posthumously. The Silver Star is the third highest medal awarded in the military.

He left behind a wife and two infant daughters. As witnessed in the Committee hearings, his family and friends still feel the loss of this remarkable young man. He was eligible for two deferments, but when his misguided draft notice arrived, he chose to admirably serve his country. He told his wife Helen "serving your country is the price you pay for living here". He felt that "if he didn't go, someone else would have to go in his place". He promised his wife that he wouldn't be a hero, he'd come home. The Silver Star represents a different story. He came home in a flag draped coffin escorted by his college roommate and best friend. His mom stated in a documentary filmed 20 years later "Heroes don't always come home".

The Staff Sergeant Arthur J Rambo Memorial Bridge will be a testament



of Arthur's service and duty to his country, but it will also be a reminder to remember and honor ALL Vietnam soldiers. Art's family and friends hope this will be healing for those who lost loved ones and those who came home to an ungrateful nation.

Senator Mike Cuffe of Eureka is to be commended for the outstanding job he did presenting this bill and orchestrating the stages it took to pass through both houses of the Legislature so smoothly in such record time. His counterpart Representative Neal Duram, also of Eureka, performed his vital role presenting and moving SB 59 through the House of Representatives, culminating in the Governor stating that he felt honored to sign the bill - the first bill to be presented and passed this Legislative session.

Plans are now being formulated to create two plaques by the Department of Transportation. The plaque will be mounted on each end of the bridge. There will be a formal dedication celebration at a later appropriate date.

Citizens wishing to view the actions taken on this bill or any proceedings can go online at https://bills.legmt.gov/#/laws/bill/2/LC0193?open_tab=sum and <https://bills.legmt.gov/>.

This bill originated through a conversation between Libby High School alumnus Mark Fennessy (1965) and Libby VFW Harper Erdman Post 1548 Vice Commander Keith Kidwell earlier this year.

(The 11th ACVVC extends thanks to the siblings of SSGT Arthur J. Rambo, Patty, Kathy and Dan, for their pursuit of this honor and for providing us with input.)



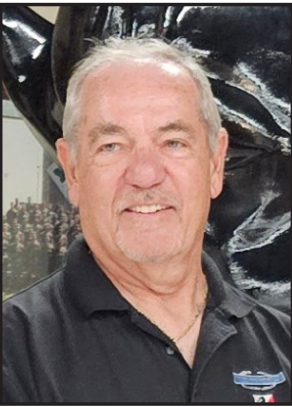


11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)

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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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Good things are still happening within the 11thACVVC, I will continue to share these with you in this edition of our newsletter.

Thunder Run recently went from 4 editions to 3 per year to keep it at the 28-32 pages that is optimal for a single issue. We are not getting the volume of articles and photos from the membership we have had in the past. This is not because there is a lack of interest, just that there are fewer of us to contribute. There is a cost savings

of printing and mailing in 1 less edition but the rising cost of both will soon negate that savings. We have a lot of interest in our newsletter, I get a lot of positive comments from many of our members about the quality and information that goes into each article, and many from nonmembers who get the opportunity to read one.Keep sending in your stories, they are the most accurate and meaningful accounting of our history in Vietnam.

Following that theme, if you were in Vietnam with the 11th ACR in the 1968,1969-,1970- and 1971-time frame you most likely read the Blackhorse newspaper that was printed in Vietnam and recounted the activities of the Regiment in real time as it made history. I have a clipping from the newsletter of one of our battles in my Nam photo album. I take that album out occasionally to share with friends and fellow Troopers just to verify to myself that what I remember is real. I recently learned that there has been an ongoing effort involving many Troopers to collect copies of all these editions and centralize them in one place. That has been done and is being posted on our web site, www.11thcavnam.com and Facebook. It is as one Trooper wrote, "goosebump stuff." Make sure you check it out and get your own goosebumps.

For several years the Regiment at Ft. Irwin has been seeking a way to build an 11th Armored Cavalry memorial on post. It is to be for the soldiers that currently serve with the Blackhorse or have been Blackhorse Troopers so they can learn and appreciate the accomplishments and importance of the 11thACR throughout its history and why there is so

much pride in being a member of the Regiment. That effort is finally beginning to develop into a plan that will meet the Regiments' vision. The committee to make this happen is headed up by the Blackhorse Association with support from the Regiment and the 11thACVVC. We have agreed to work together on this project and have had several zoom calls and emails to work out the details of design, construction, and funding of the memorial. Plans have not been finalized but we do have a basic design for the construction and content of the various plaques. (See the proposed rendering elsewhere in this issue.) We have agreed to work together on making this happen. We are planning to have details ready for presentation to our members at the annual membership meeting in Tulsa, the 40th 11thACVVC reunion.

We are adding to our reunion schedule a time slot to visit and clean grave sites of local 11th Cav KIA" s. This is open to all Troopers to participate and a very worthwhile gesture of not forgetting our lost comrades in Vietnam. It is also an opportunity to give the welcome home they never received. Those names and Troop they served in will be available for those who want to take part in this very solemn tribute. This is being organized by Chaplain Bill, see the reunion schedule for times and room to meet and organize the grave site visits. We enjoy the time we spend together at our reunions, and this is one way to include them in our celebrations.

I want to highlight a recent ceremony held in Columbus, GA. The Order of Saint Geroge Medallion is the top award given to members of the Army's mounted force by the United States Armor Association of the United States Army. This prestigious award was presented to the 11th Armored Cavalry's long time historian Don Snedeker. Don is a regular contributor to our Thunder Run, author of many books about the exploits of the 11th Cav and welcome guest to many of our reunions. Congratulations to Don and to Allen Hathaway who has previously received this award. I am fortunate to be a friend and brother to both.

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

Allons,
Frank



NOTICE! NEW DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THUNDER RUN!

At our 39th annual reunion in Omaha, Nebraska, the motion was made and passed to:
"Reduce the number of issues to three per year."

New Deadlines- Due dates to submit articles for Thunder Run

1st ThirdFebruary 1

2nd ThirdJune 1

3rd ThirdOctober 1

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

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

It has been an eventful and rewarding year commanding the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and I continue to be humbled leading the finest Troopers in the Army! From operating as the measuring stick that the US Army uses to validate its armored forces, to competing in US Army and international competitions, to our Horse detachment being featured in the Rose Parade and winning Nationals again, Blackhorse continues to uphold the traditions of excellence that is in its DNA. As we get ready to go on a well-deserved block leave period in June, we look back on all the things we have accomplished to prepare the Army to fight and win the first and last fight.

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 additions 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



From the Editor's Desk

Thunder Run - In recent editions of Thunder Run you have read about the need for stories from you, our members...all combat veterans of the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment. As we continue to age, our memories fade and there is certainly less time left on the play clock! Please use that remaining time to commit some of your memories to the handy laptop computer that I'm sure you all have, love and understand completely!

All submissions should be written in MS Word and by email as an attachment. Hand-written articles may never make it to print as I often have a difficult time reading what may be sketchy penmanship. Even if I can interpret your input, it then has to be transcribed by hand (typed by me) into Word before it can be submitted to the printer.

Our membership base continues to decrease and will continue to do so as we pass on to Fiddler's Green. This also means reduced input for Thunder Run. Without sufficient material to fill thirty-two (32) pages in four issues per year, we had to make a choice between the lesser of multiple undesirable choices. We can reduce the number of pages and/or reduce the frequency from a quarterly to a triannual publication. So, I have had to republish articles from past issues, enlarge type fonts, create additional empty space, etc., in order to fill 32 pages.

At our 39th annual reunion in Omaha, Nebraska, there were many topics discussed at the Business Meeting and this was one that affects every member of the 11th ACVVC. Reducing the number of pages from 32 to 28 results in 16 fewer pages annually but provides no significant printing and mailing savings. Reducing the frequency to every four months, down from every three will save some money and keep the page count at 32. After a detailed explanation of the situation, the following motion was made and passed at the 39th reunion in Omaha:

Please turn to "From the Editor's Desk" on page 7

2025 ELECTIONS

By Greg Mason, Secretary

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday morning, September 6th, during the 2025 Reunion. The three positions are Vice President, Treasurer and one Director.

The Vice President and Treasurer will serve two-year terms beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027. The Director will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and participate in Board Meetings held during their elected term that are generally held by conference call.

The elected candidates must be able to communicate by e-mail with the other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters. Each candidate must be highly organized and be able to commit time and energy to a specific project or committee as directed by the President. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Word and Excel are required in order to prepare reports and other documents required of all positions.

The position of Vice President serves as the President's right hand man. In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. Sound leadership skills are fundamental to the position.

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund, the organization's investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

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

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or submitted from the floor at the General Membership meeting. Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.

Oklahoma KIA's – Graves Location



Part of Operation Embrace is, and has been, an opportunity to locate the grave sites of our KIA's; of those men who died in Vietnam and their remains. Some are buried in national cemeteries, others in memorial gardens or private cemeteries all across the USA. Once located we honor their memory, often with a visit...and stand over their grave marker to offer a solemn and, I'd like to think, a prayerful salute. Allen Hathaway and Pete Walter, over the years as coordinators of Operation Embrace and the Funeral Honor Guard and have compiled a list of where our fallen comrades are buried, and each year as we travel to our reunions, in various places in the contiguous states, we make an effort to go to those sites and offer our respects. Last year at Omaha, a goodly number of our attendees accompanied President Frank Church, Operation Embrace Chairman Allen Hathaway and the Chaplain to the grave site of Specialist Lane Carlston Johnson to honor his sacrifice.

During that visitation and on other visitations in previous years, an effort had to be made to clean or repair; yes, even locate the actual grave. Those trips, though tedious and often in a hot southern sun, were extremely rewarding to the Blackhorse veterans who accompanied the party.

This coming September in Tulsa, four graves have been located within a short drive of our reunion hotel, at least one of which we will make an effort to visit - and if need requires, clean or repair the headstone.

We expect to make that trip on Friday afternoon, September 5. Once at the reunion, a more definitive locations of the sites will be made, and we hope to visit at least one those locations, possibly more. Should you wish to join us, please gather at 1300 hours on Friday at the entrance to the Promenade Ballroom.

Chaplain Bill

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

Frank Church

GOLD LEVEL

Carmen & Linda Iacovone

IMO Capt. Michael F. Joggard

SILVER LEVEL

Dennis Maxwell

IMO David R. Derk

Scholarship Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

Douglas Byrne

IMO Christa Byrne

GOLD LEVEL

Angel George

Gordon Arabian

Waverly Cartwright

G.L. Gunderman

Janine L'Etoile

IMO Roger A L'Etoile

Thomas McGee

William O'Fries

Robert Pisciotta

IHO Michael J. Pisciotta

Mark Prendergast

R.R. McCormick

Foundation

Matching Gift

Jim Southerland

Raymond Rudolph

Billy Joe Sams

Dennis Sheldon

Peter Walter

IMO Don Bridge

BRONZE LEVEL

Walker & Kathy Malone

IMO Michael J. Pisciotta

Joseph Piccirilli

Calendar Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

Paul Kelliher

GOLD LEVEL

Arlando Avila

James Beavers

Arthur Boesz

Charles Bosko

J.S. Bowen

Alfred Bowen

James Brown

Kenneth Brown

Edward Buening

Dennis Cederquist

Stephen Chipman

Gary Dalegowski

Robert De Long

Leslie Ernst

Kay Fisher

Walter Flick

Roland Foster

Ronnie Glawson

Babe Halstead

John Hartnett

Stephen Henson

Robert Hurt

Gene Johnson

Patrick Kelliher

Diana Knight

In Honor of Donald Kern

William Kerrins

Edward King

Robert Klink

Dennis Knieriem

Reginald Krikovich

Thomas Lawler

Wayne LeBail

Peter Lindblad

Daniel May

John McCarthy

Paul Myers

William Nash

Bryant Nelson

Keith Nuckols

Norman Nuzzi

Robert O'Neal

Albert Pollard

Theodore Postula

George Pytlak

Robert Rawson

Wayne Rigsbee

Johnnie Rowe

Luis Ruiz

W. Arthur Russell

Donald Sartor

Ronald Sieja

Woodrow Sink

Walter Slomieski

Stewart Spiegel

Elliott Tepper

James Tomchick

Mark Tomsheck

Danny Vancel

Raymond Vicario

Daniel Walker

Peter Walter

Larry Wheatley

Thomas Wheelock

John Whitten

David Wieland

SILVER LEVEL

Arthur Aguilar

Julius Austin

Thomas Brody

Ronald Brundage

Arlie Carrier

Charles Cressman

James Davis

Jennifer Earl

Carmine Esposito

Walter Femovich

Dale Garloch

Kenneth Garren

Wilbur Gathe

Dennis Green

Verie Hennings

Charles Hester

John Hrom

Markie Kennedy

Eugene Lee

Kenneth Lundy

Ricki Martens

Chuck Munson

Kenneth Murphy

Mark Neukom

Richard Orridge

Frank Phillips

Ollie Pickral

Russell Smith

Thomas Walkner

Alice Wathen

Warren Werner

Barry Wooldridge

BRONZE LEVEL

Gordon Arabian

John Atkinson

John Balas

John Barrington

Carl Bartley

Dennis Bergeson

Wallace Blunt

David Bowen

Steven J Brown

David Busch

Lloyd Byrne

Ronald Caldwell

John Carabetta

Stanley Carter

Ronald Colson

Steven Crabill

Gary Davis

Edmond Dougherty

Dennis Dowdican

Everett Doxtator

Denver Evans

Michael Figueroa

Mel Firchau

Roland Gambol

Larry Geddings

John Grabenhorst

John Grunloh

Robert Hagood

Ellwood Hansen

Carl Herron

Theodore Hnatusko

Berke Hooton

Thomas Jewell

Candace Joel

Charles Joiner

Tommy Keirns

Ronald Kiehl

Joseph Kura

Larry Lauck

John Lestock

Richard Maker

Jerry McBryde

Donald Middleton

George Miller

Robert Miner

Robert Monprode

Patrick Mullin

Bobby Neal

Kenneth Newton

Joseph Owens

George Payne

Jose Reyes

Robert Rhyner

Elwood Robertson

Richard Roseman

Michael Schaefer

Harry Schoephoerster

Dale Shimel

Robert Simsa

Robert Sipes

James Sprueil

James Stampley

Kenneth Stottsberry

Sloko Terlecky

Glenn Tetreault

Mark Titschinger

Hubert Wehrle

Steven Wherley

Russell White

Curtis Wright

Tim Yeider

Robert Zepf

Winn Zimmerman

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!



Membership is Our Strength

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





From the Editor's Desk ...cont from page 3

Motion 2024-0907C ***“Thunder Run Reduce the number of issues to three per year”***. The motion passed. As the frequency of publication has been reduced, the deadline dates for submissions have changed also. Please note the new dates: ***1st Issue... February 1; 2nd Issue...June 1; 3rd Third Issue...October 1***. Submissions received after these dates will not be published until the next issue. As always, photos showing your “Blackhorse Pride” are always needed and welcomed!

If you have ideas as to how we can improve Thunder Run, or complaints (yeah, I’ll listen...for a little while) please write, email or call. Thunder Run is your publication!

11th ACVVC Calendar- All dues paid members of the 11th ACVVC receive the annual calendar featuring 14 full-color photos submitted by our members and families depicting a variety of scenes of “everyday life” of Blackhorse troopers in Vietnam and of our present-day 11th ACR Memorial and active-duty Regiment. The annual calendar is one of our projects that raise funds for our Scholarship Program. The calendar is yours to keep whether you donate or not. We do ask for your support with a tax-deductible donation that you make to assist the children and grandchildren of our members to begin or continue their post-secondary education. You have read this many times over the years and we have been very fortunate that our members have been very generous in donating to this project, so much so that we have been able to award **\$2,616,500** to children and grandchildren of our members. Doc Rafferty has additional info on the Scholarship Fund elsewhere in this issue. My role is assembling the photos you submit and having Mike McFarland (McFarland Art Studio) enhance the 55 – 60-year-old images. I always need new (old) photos from your time in Vietnam and Cambodia. The best submissions for reproduction are 35mm slides. Prints from 35mm cameras are next in quality. Very rarely, an image taken with an Instamatic may be repro-quality, but 35mm is the best way to go. If you have the capability to scan your slides or prints at 300 dpi, please do so and submit them as attachments to an email.

11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard – This is another of our many projects to honor our members and provide some comfort to their families when to march to Fiddler’s Green. We will post the obituary of the deceased Trooper online and in Thunder Run and their names are read aloud at our annual Memorial Service held during our reunion. Chaplain Bill writes condolence letters to the family. Sheryl Myers from the Blackhorse Women’s Group has a staff of volunteers who hand-knit prayer shawls for the widow. Vice President Allen Hathaway works tirelessly scouring newspapers and online sources to find any obituary of a Blackhorse Trooper. If we receive the obituary prior to the services, I will do my best to contact Troopers living within a 1-hour drive and ask them to attend the services. Many of you have already made these visits and know how much it means to the family. Please tell your family and friends about this program so they can contact me or any other Officer of the 11th ACVVC. It is our last chance to remember and honor our Blackhorse brothers who served under fire so many years ago...

Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing – I am saddened to report on what I have known was inevitable. After hosting these outings over the past four decades in Texas (3X), Indiana (3X), Colorado (2X), Wisconsin, Kentucky (2X), Nevada (3X), California, New York, Virginia, Tennessee, Oregon, Florida (3X), Missouri (2X), Illinois, Georgia, Michigan (2X) and Alabama. In those years when I was incapable of running the outing, my close friend Joe Coopet did so for me with great success. A former PGA pro at Panther Valley Golf Club in Hackettstown, New Jersey, Joe had played all over the world and settled in Woodbury, a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota with his wife Jaci, another golf addict. Joe was easy to spot in a crowd at 6’7”. I was as close to Joe as anyone I know in the 11th ACVVC. He and Jaci visited me here in NJ and I traveled with them throughout the US. He went into the hospital for a knee replacement in early December 2024 and suffered a cardiac episode that took his life. I am shattered by this loss...the past two years have been very rough on the ranks of our members. Many of my closest friends have passed and a lot of them were golfers. Last year’s outing in Omaha had 14 golfers. In 1996 at Henderson Golf Club, Fort Knox, KY we had 144. Due to the reduced numbers, my own mobility problems, and the loss of my second-in-command, we will no longer be hosting the outing, which was originally named for fellow Blackhorse Trooper and golfer Marty Ognibene who passed away September 24, 1991. Allen Hathaway, Frank Gowrie, John Godek, Jim Theriault and I were his pallbearers.

So, Marty, Frank, Joe, Don, Bill, Paul, Joe D, Vince, Tom, PVT Stanley, Linda and Jaci...may you all rest in peace. I’ll see you again with putter in hand on the green...Fiddler’s Green, that is.

Pete Walter

A Troop of monkeys...Rick, Francis, Joe, Ed, Doc, Salem & Johnny

DEDICATION DATE SET FOR RAMBO BRIDGE (PART 2)

April 18, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Patty Rambo, (406) 293-4306

Dedication of the Staff Sergeant Arthur J Rambo Memorial Bridge

LIBBY, Mont. - On January 16, 2025, the first bill of the 69th session of the Montana Legislature, Senate Bill 59, was signed into law by Governor Gianforte in the State Capitol Building in Helena, Montana. Senate Bill 59 was introduced by Senator Mike Cuffe, the representative of Lincoln County.

Senate Bill 59 declared, and was made into law, that the bridge spanning the Kootenai River on Highway 37 in Libby be named and dedicated to honor Staff Sergeant Arthur J Rambo, a Libby native who was killed in Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day 1969. Staff Sergeant Rambo was returned home and buried the day before his 25th birthday.

Staff Sergeant Rambo was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Vietnamese Presidential Citation for his actions in the mortar attack that his unit came under that day. Besides his immediate family, extended family and many friends, he left behind his wife Helen Ryan Rambo and his two daughters Kerry and Amy, both under the age of two when their father was killed in action.

The bridge will be formally dedicated during a ceremony that is being held on Sunday, May 25th, at 1:00 p.m., the day before Memorial Day. It will take place in Libby, Montana at Riverfront Park. The Memorial plaque will be installed in view of the bridge.

The public, near and far, is invited to join in for the dedication ceremony. The Rambo family extends a special invitation to the students who have been awarded the Arthur J Rambo Memorial Scholarship over the past 56 years.

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.**

Libby bridge officially named after fallen Vietnam soldier

Rambo Bridge Dedication – Part 3

(Editor's note: The following text is from a news broadcast by 8KPAX, Missoula, Montana. The broadcast can be viewed on the following link: <https://www.kpax.com/news/western-montana-news/libby-bridge-officially-named-after-fallen-vietnam-soldier>)



Friends and family of Arthur Rambo spoke at the ceremony alongside the banks of the Kootenai River, highlighting the character that defined him.

LIBBY — Gov. Greg Gianforte signed Senate Bill 59 into law on Jan. 16, naming a bridge that crosses the Kootenai River in Libby after a fallen Vietnam soldier.

That bridge was officially named and dedicated to honor Libby native Staff Sergeant Arthur Rambo on Sunday, May 25.

“Extremely great honor to be here and help the family, once you’re a black horse, you’re our family no matter what,” said Vietnam War veteran Mark Van Atta.

Van Atta — who served with Arthur Rambo in Vietnam as part of the 11th Armored Cavalry — was with Arthur the day he died on Nov. 26, 1969.

“Third Holster, third squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry, we were on a mission called the Texas Traveler.”

Van Atta and other members of the 11th Armored Cavalry traveled from all across the country to honor Arthur in his hometown of Libby.

“Every day, he’s in my thoughts every day, it’s something that will always be there,” said Van Atta.

Friends and family of Arthur spoke at the ceremony alongside the banks of the Kootenai River, highlighting the character that defined him.

“His wife asked that Arthur not be made a hero, that he be remembered for the man he was, which was a caring, warm, dedicated, smart husband, father, son and a brother and a friend,” said Arthur’s younger sister Patty Rambo.

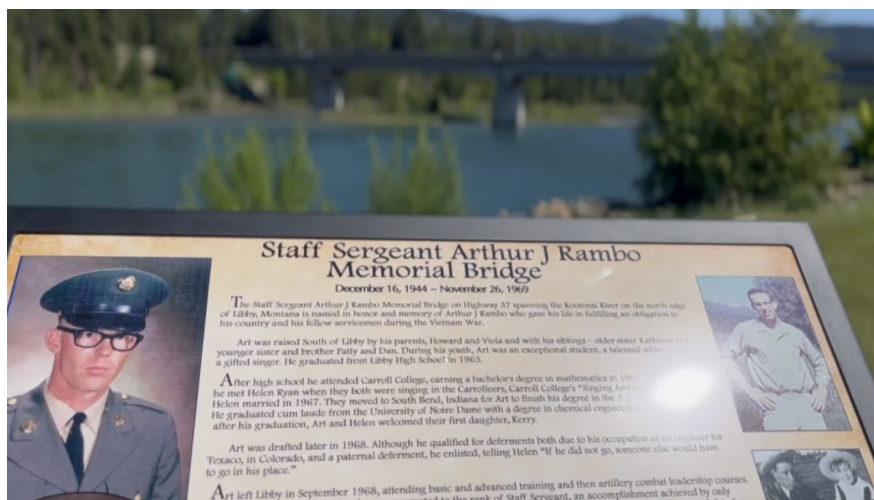
Friends and family of Arthur spoke at the ceremony alongside the banks of the Kootenai River, highlighting the character that defined him.

“His wife asked that Arthur not be made a hero, that he be remembered for the man he was, which was a caring, warm, dedicated, smart husband, father, son and a brother and a friend,” said Arthur’s younger sister Patty Rambo.

Patty said the bridge dedication makes sure Arthur’s legacy is always remembered.

“I mean, I can be anywhere in the country, and they hear my name, and they go ‘oh did you know Arthur’ and I go ‘yeah he’s my brother,’ so that’s the impact that he left.”

She said a piece of Arthur is always with her in their hometown of Libby.



“It’s going to be hard for me to drive over that bridge, but it brings up good memories, so that’s important.”



11th ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

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



I received a total of 103 scholarship applications this year. All the applicants are grandchildren of our membership. There are 62 female applicants and 41 male applicants. As in past years, most of the applicants are high school seniors.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors are pleased to be able to award 45 scholarships for a total of \$137,000 this year. Since the establishment of our scholarship program in 1996, counting the scholarships we will award this year, we have issued 832 scholarships totaling \$2,616,500! This is a tremendous accomplishment for an organization of our size and is only possible because of the generosity of hundreds of our members who support the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers every year.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive a \$3000 award except for the winner of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship who will receive \$5000. The winner of this scholarship will be chosen by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow.

All the applicants will have been notified that they have or have not qualified for a scholarship by June 30th. The determining factor for evaluating applicants is their unweighted Grade Point Average for their most recent two years of education. Additionally, Bonnie Schmidt will evaluate the extra-curricular and volunteer activities of applicants to determine the winner of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship.

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2025

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Committee Chairman

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. From 1996 through 2024, the 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 787 scholarships totaling \$2,479,500 to children and grandchildren of our members! This year we will award more scholarships to deserving applicants (number of scholarships yet to be decided). This is an incredible accomplishment, due solely to the generosity of our membership.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2025 raffle. The drawing will be held on Saturday, September 6th, during the 40th annual reunion in Tulsa, Oklahoma. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

FIVE \$500 PRIZES

Raffle tickets were mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May. Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program. **Any checks received that are not accompanied by tickets will be recognized as donations.**

THE COBWEBS OF OUR MINDS

I think often of our days in the sun --
And dirt and mud, rain and monsoons,
Even sparse spates of tremulous chill.

We all had one overriding
mission then,
As provided by all manner
of authority . . .

But underlying that were our
own images:

Thoughts, thousands of them,
relentless in their assault.

Warmth. Rest. Security.

Love waiting somewhere.

Struggling already to deal with the
barrage of incoming cares,

Exacerbated by the chaos
and pressures of war,

the mind eventually becomes either

Stronger, or gets bent into
misshapen pieces.

Some of us succeeded in this battle
for our own sanity,

Giving precious substance
to our Deros dreams.

Some, though, failed --

floating goalless, aimless, unhappy,

Wounded by their burden --

sad remnants of the collateral of war.

John Berry -- 05/04/2025

541st MID, 1966 - 1967



WISCONSIN 11th ACR VETERANS BREAKFAST

Hello to all!

We had our spring coffee hour this AM of Wis Troopers of the 11th ACCVC held at Paul's Neighborhood Bar with 28 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was Captain Alex "Slushy" Abbott of the 115th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard- who flees the new F35 fighter jet. When the Squadron changed from the F16's to the new F35's - they started with 2 and are now up to 20 planes. Their air space practice is from Madison to Eau Claire to Milwaukee. If they are needed for an emergency - such as needed in Chicago- once airborne - they can be in Chicago in 10 minutes - after kicking the plane into Mach 1 (that's about 12 miles a minute). Captain Abbott took questions from the group and a special thank you from one of the troopers grandson- who was on the first trip to the air base to see the F16's- he wanted to thank Capt. Abbott for the jalapeño popcorn that was offered during the briefing of the F16. Troopers got there early today to exchange stories and stayed late to exchange more stories. We had two new troopers -- their first time to the Coffee Hour - we thank them for making the trip in.

Some of the towns that troopers came in from- Watertown, Pewaukee, Monroe, Mauston, Waterford, Hudson, Tomah and Richland Center

Our next Fall Coffee Hour is on October 16th- Paul's Neighborhood Bar, 2401 Parmenter Street, Middleton, WI 53562. We start between 8:00- and 8:30am

Allons.

Lee Nelson, HHT 1/11 68-69



Front Row, L to R: Jim Swenson, Richard Kern, Dennis Emery, Hank Simon, Tom Cullerton, Tom Walkner.

Left end by himself- Bob Moreno

Back Row, L to R: Ken Alt, Leonard Frye (Visitor) Lee Nelson, Jim Buechner, Bruce Canny, Skip Krebs, Will Strycker, Paul Schutte, Tom Markovski, Allen Andreasen, George Sutton

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Part II

SGT Richard Tuten (D Company, 1/11 67-68 and C Troop, 1/11, 69, killed in action), compared to these seasoned NCOs, a relative rookie. He was only 23 years old when he went to war with the Blackhorse in 1967. But he had learned his trade from some of those two-war vets and he learned it well. One of the most important lessons he had learned in his short Army career was a responsibility to pass on those elements of tradecraft to the even younger Troopers Uncle Sam and Bengal 6 entrusted to him. Nineteen-year old James Mullican (D Company, 1/11, 68-69) was one of those Troopers.

Although not physically imposing in his five-foot-nothing frame, Trooper Mullican immediately recognized that his new TC could teach him how to survive his tour in Vietnam. "'Mack,' he said, 'this shit is real, if you want to go home, listen to me and listen good'". SGT Tuten taught Jim Mullican discipline, the value of family, the importance of duty to country, the honor of wearing a Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), and the need to take his job seriously. Among the most essential life-saving lessons he taught his two side gunners was how to handle an M-60 machine gun. "He taught me how to shoot an M-60 [machine gun] effectively from the roadsides to long shots or trimming grass, searching for VC. He taught me to be a machine gunner, not a shooter, for shooters were in the infantry and we are in the CAV."

SGT Richard Tuten, along with the rest of his D-49 ACAV crew, was wounded in an ambush on 13 May 1968. After recovering from his wounds at Walter Reed, SGT Tuten volunteered to return to the Blackhorse. Assigned to Charlie Troop on this second tour, he was killed in action on 14 April 1969, just 17 days after he got back in country.

New York-born Robert Meeker (L Troop, 3/11, 68-69) joined the Blackhorse on 7 September 1968, two years to the day after the Regiment arrived in Vietnam. A graduate of Fort Benning's Non-Commissioned Officer Corps (CCOC) Class 25-68 (frequently referred to as 'Shake 'n' Bake school) the previous June, he was assigned as a scout section leader in Lima Troop. Rumors of peace filled the pages of the Stars & Stripes, but the Bandit Troopers remained focused on their combat missions – finding the enemy around Blackhorse Base Camp and Fire Support Base (FSB) Bandit Hill, while working with and training the soldiers of the 18th South Vietnamese Infantry Division. In the span of the six months that SSG Meeker was with the Blackhorse, he earned two Silver Stars. In February, Lima Troop moved with the rest of 3/11 to FSB Holiday Inn to work with the 1st (US) Infantry Division and the 5th South Vietnamese Infantry Division. SSG Meeker and his platoon were on a routine reconnaissance on 18 February 1969 when "suddenly the armored column was raked by automatic weapons and antitank grenade fire." His Silver Star citation continues.

In the initial burst of fire, Sergeant Meeker's vehicle sustained a direct hit from a rocket propelled grenade round, knocking him from the vehicle and severely wounding him. Although wounded

and dazed, he remounted his vehicle and began directing accurate and deadly machinegun fire upon the hostile elements. While engaging the enemy forces from his vehicle, he was again hit by enemy small arms fire ... Suddenly his vehicle received another direct hit from an enemy rocket propelled grenade round, wounding his entire crew and causing the vehicle to erupt into flames. Yet, he continued to shower the enemy positions with machinegun fire, pinning the hostile elements down long enough to allow the evacuation of his wounded comrades. For a third time his vehicle was hit by a rocket propelled grenade round, again knocking him to the ground. In spite of his severe wounds, he refused medical attention until his wounded comrades had been attended to.

No junior leadership positions in the 11th Cav were more demanding than those in the Aero Rifle Platoon in Air Cav Troop. The ARPs made contact with a higher degree of frequency and intensity than any other platoon in the Regiment. For the most part, their contacts were 'up close and personal'. As a result, the NCOs had to be not only good leaders who could show rather than just tell, they also had to be personally fearless. Major (MAJ) John 'Doc' Bahnsen (Air Cav Troop and 1/11 Commander, 68-69), who knew something about leadership and personal bravery, made this observation.

The ARP had trouble retaining any senior NCO leaders for long periods of time primarily because of the nature of their job. E-7s and E-6s came and went as they were wounded in action and evacuated. It was not unusual to have an E-4 as the Platoon Sergeant of the ARPs for long periods of time. Often these leaders were the so called 'shake and bake' NCOs with less than two years service. To a man these young soldiers were superb ARP leaders, as their aggressiveness made up for what they lacked in experience.

SGT Frank Gowrie (919th Engineer Company, 66-67 and Air Cav Troop, 67-68, Jack Quilter Award 1991) was one of those young Troopers who had responsibility thrust upon him. After returning from an overnight Long Range Recon Platoon (LRRP) ambush mission in mid-January 1968, the platoon sergeant said that even though they had not made contact, he had a feeling that 'something' was in the area. His feeling was not supported by any hard intelligence, so the debriefing of the LRRP team didn't go so well. Four members of the team believed strongly enough that there was something out there that they decided to go back into the area in daylight.

There was, indeed, something out there – an occupied regimental base camp. The only protection Frank and the other three LRRPs could find once they realized they had stumbled into such a formidable 'something' was a slit trench. The NVA had obviously been in the camp for some time, as the trench was about three-quarters full of, well, enemy excrement. Grenades quickly followed the four LRRPs into the trench, and in short order all were wounded. The platoon sergeant was hurt the worst, with a sucking chest wound. That put SGT Kaz Kazarian (Air Cav Troop, 66-68)

in charge. After being caught in the middle of a crossfire, 1/11 Troopers linked up with the LRRPs and overran the base camp perimeter. Being good infantrymen, the three who still could, filled their fatigue pockets with grenades and started clearing bunkers; Frank recalls that he had so many grenades “my pants were falling down.” In the process of clearing the bunkers, SGT Kazarian had his right arm blown off at the elbow – making SGT Frank Gowrie the new platoon sergeant. Three decades later, he recalled: “My platoon consisted of 18 men. I was going to lose more. I went to bed that night a scared 20 year old with a lot of weight on my shoulders.” Although still a buck sergeant, he had been in country just about a year and a half; he filled the position admirably.

It was, perhaps, inevitable that some friction arose between the senior NCOs who had earned their stripes in the school of hard knocks and those who earned them in the schoolhouse. A staff sergeant, depending on years in service, was paid the same, regardless of how he earned his stripes. Jealousy, contempt, and hurt pride permeated the relationship between the ‘lifer’ NCOs and the shake ‘n’ bakes. The younger sergeants were closer in age and mentality to the draftees and enlistees they were leading than the veteran NCOs, so an ‘us-vs.-them’ atmosphere sometimes developed. In at least one case, this led to a humorous (for the perpetrators, at least) situation.

After many hard weeks in the jungles of northern War Zone C and D and along Thunder Road, Kilo Troop finally earned a short standdown inside the Lai Khe base camp. Showers, mess halls, and clubs with beer were all available and the dust, stress, and anxiety were quickly washed away or down. After three or four days of such high living, men began to think like boys again. With perhaps too much time – and beer – on/in their hands, three of Kilo Troop’s youngest NCOs decided they would get even with the ‘lifers’ for real and/or perceived injustices. The senior NCOs, most raised in the ‘old’ Army, gathered nightly inside a tent to drink, play poker, and complain about the ‘new’ Army.

The three shake ‘n’ bake NCOs – two staff sergeants and one buck sergeant – designed a fool-proof plan. First, they tied commo wire at ankle-height between the trees outside the hooch. Then they crept up unseen in the dark Vietnamese night. When the senior sergeants had consumed sufficient amounts of alcohol, they tossed tear gas grenades inside the tent. Imagine, if you will, the Keystone Cops trying to get out of the station house as it rapidly fills with noxious gasses.

Only to trip over the aforementioned commo wire footfalls. Only to have more CS gas canisters tossed in their direction as they lay in an incapacitated heap. SGT Ross Yosnow (K Troop, 3/11, 69-70) remembers: “Meanwhile, the three of us were running and laughing as fast as we could, away from the scene of the crime. The next day the lifers were all talking about killing the guys who did it, but they never found out it was us.”

Who said these young NCOs hadn’t learned anything in instant NCO school? It was the perfect military operation, with accurate intelligence gathering, detailed planning, perfect timing, fiendish field-expedient obstacles, appropriate use of task-specific munitions, and successful escape and evasion. Congratulations candidate, you are now an NCO in the United States Cavalry.

In his keynote remarks at the second 11th ACVVC Reunion in Washington, DC in 1987, the General (Retired) Donn Starry, the

41st Colonel remembered one of the Blackhorse NCOs, Fox Troop’s Top Sergeant, Willie Johnson (F Troop, 2/11, 69-70). 1SGT Johnson was killed in action on 5 March 1970.

Night has fallen along the Cambodian border. The troop has laagered to resupply and dig into a night defensive position. Despite a few contacts during the day, there’s been no heavy fighting. The early evening clouds, which brought a brief thunderstorm, move aside, and the moon makes strange shadows that seem to move now and then as watching gunners set up fields of fire. Claymores are wired in to protect the perimeter and the troop hunkers down for the night—as it has done for more than fourteen hundred nights before. Then there’s a sudden whoosh of incoming rockets, a whump whump of incoming mortar rounds, the hiss of fragments overhead, and salvo after salvo of RPG rounds land in and among the Sheridans and ACAVs. The troop opens fire on the moving shadows 800 meters away. Out of a nearby tree line, several RPG teams work in and out of the fallen timber and bomb craters to get close enough for better shots against the vehicles. Friendly artillery and mortar fire begins to fall on the moving shadows. The troop commander moves his artillery back and forth in the area where he can see flashes from RPGs and machineguns. Watching for the right moment, he lets go a Claymore ambush against the maneuvering RPG teams, then brings down machinegun and mortar fire on fleeing remnants as the enemy breaks and runs for cover. The first sergeant, seeing a nearby ACAV hit by an RPG, rolls out of the back of the command track, grabs medics and fire-fighting equipment, and runs to help the disabled vehicle and its crew. The troop commander shouts at him to keep down and keep control. He does. Incoming fire dies down; no more rocket and mortar incoming, a sharp high-pitched zip from an AK here and there. The shadows move quickly toward jungle cover. The Sheridan gunner has the tail-end RPG team in his sights and is about to let go when the RPG team turns and lets go one last round to end the fight. That last random round, unaimed, screams into the perimeter and hits the first sergeant as he moves quickly from track to track to redistribute ammo and help with the wounded. He falls. Just the day before, I had landed where the first sergeant was directing a recovery operation to ask if he needed help. We talked a little. I said, ‘You’re pretty exposed out here.’ He said, ‘Colonel, I know they are watching us from that tree line over there. So, I’ve got to get this track unstuck before they can get set up and bring the RPGs around. The troops are a little spooky, so the old first sergeant is here to keep them working instead of worrying.’ When they awakened me in the night to tell me he’d been killed, I cried. I was and am a better soldier because of him and dozens like him. Out of heroism grows faith in the worth of heroism. Out of shared danger grows faith in the little bit of heroism that’s in each of us, and in our ability to summon it up when it’s needed.”

Top Johnson’s son, Donald, was the recipient of the Blackhorse Association scholarship for 1989. He used the money to complete his studies at the University of South Carolina – a Gamecock, just like his dad. Top didn’t know that he was about to be a father again – his daughter was born after he died. Twenty-three years later, Willie Mae – named in honor of her father – was also awarded a \$6,000 scholarship from the association.

Colonel George Patton (RCO, 68-69, 39th Colonel of the Regiment) wrote: “Nothing could stop them [Blackhorse NCOs]. Nothing did.”

Marines Celebrate 250th Anniversary

Tun Tavern. A place held in high esteem, much like our Fiddler's Green. But for the United States Marine Corps, that's where it all started. For the U. S. Cavalry, that's where we all end... or never end.

250 years ago, on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in a Philadelphia alley, the first marines were recruited by Captain Samuel Nichols who had been commissioned by the 2nd Continental Congress to organize two battalions of sharpshooters for Continental Navy vessels. We (as a Country) hadn't officially declared war as a nation; we weren't yet a nation. The Continental Congress was trying to get its act together. On the 14th of June, Congress voted to establish an Army and appointed George Washington as Commander in Chief; also, 250 years ago. He was sent to Massachusetts to form an Army around the patriots who fired the first shots at Lexington and Concord in April 1775. But as he was organizing our Army at Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston, the first Marines made their "mark" on a roll and were assigned to ships along the Delaware River and so, come this 10th of November, there will be a gang of Marines gathered at 19 Second Street in Philadelphia to celebrate.

Actually, this Blackhorse Trooper knew and remembers only 4 Marines – men I cherish with great affection. I'm sure most of you know a lot more. I salute them all on their anniversary, and we did all Army veterans on our own anniversary on June 14, 2025. The four that I remember were outstanding men, good friends, and colossal giants. One, I eulogized at Quantico National Cemetery in 2023: Bruce Doran, an ever-dear friend and bon homme companion, as well as his fellow Ebensburg, Pennsylvania classmate, Ken Fagan. Both joined the Corps in 1965, right after high school and both returned as decorated veterans of Vietnam. Ken came home to serve with the Washington (DC) police department and performed heroic rescue duty in the Potomac River after the Air Florida crash on the 14th Street bridge in 1981. I was privileged to serve as their mentor and teacher during their high school years. A third Marine was actually my mentor and "ideal", if not an idol during my own classical and religious formation; Father Louis McIntyre, World War II veteran of the Pacific theatre and probably the biggest and toughest man I ever knew. His remains are planted in the cemetery on the campus of St. Francis University and I believe he rests comfortably in the arms of our Merciful Father in Heaven. But my fourth Marine, William "Buck" Buchanan, was the one who introduced me to the 11th Armored Cavalry, the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment.

Buck Buchanan was the Colonel of the Regiment, not the Blackhorse Regiment: the 194th Armored Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky, my first year in the military. In truth, he never served with the Blackhorse in Vietnam, though he had 3 tours in country. He did command a Brigade filled with returning Blackhorse troopers and a number of outstanding officers wearing that patch on their left sleeve.

Colonel William Jack Buchanan served 3 years in the Marines during World War II, fighting in the Pacific theatre that included Guadalcanal. After the war he enrolled in VMI, graduating in 1950 as First Captain of the Cadet Corps and was commissioned in the U.S. Army. He actually was to end his 27-year Army career as Commandant of Cadets and Professor of Military Science at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1977. He died in 2002. To quote from the Joint Resolution (#528) of the Virginia House of Delegates: "Whereas, William Buchanan compiled an outstanding military career, ..., including three tours in Vietnam where he commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division; and ... earned 13 awards for meritorious service and four for valor, including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star with "V" and two Oak Leaf clusters ... the general assembly note the loss of a brave and dedicated American and a distinguished Virginian."

There was much more in that citation including his service at VMI and as commander of the 194th Armored Brigade at Fort Knox. But I knew him as not only a decisive and gallant leader of men, but as a good friend. I think he valued my duties as well, as he recommended repeatedly that I be commissioned in the Regular Army and that "...this officer's future assignments should be with combat arms units." I can't think of a better endorsement.

So, as we approach our own reunion in September... I can't help but honor the Marine who told General Patton, that the best place for me to be in Vietnam was in the 11th ACR. He established for me a pipeline of friendship with warriors who have so enriched my life ever since ... as did those brave Marines who died on islands in the Pacific with strange names, or who froze their toes off at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea and for those who left their own blood on the soil of Vietnam. They were our brothers too, in arms, in combat, and forever as great friends.

Chaplain Bill



194th Armored Brigade



United States
Marine Corps

State of the Reunion

Since the last Thunder run was issued, we have had a mostly smooth registration process. The one detail that has caused the most problem is our Troopers not using the correct code to identify reservations for our group. The code to use for this year is 11thACVVC. We will standardize this code from year to year to minimize that problem. Not much has changed since the last issue so I am repeating the info for this year's registration. As of this writing we are about half way to our projected attendance numbers. If you have not registered or made hotel reservations please do so soon. It will make planning much easier.

Tulsa Oklahoma is the destination for our 2025 reunion. The first thing you need to know is the phone number for Hyatt Regency Tulsa is different from the numbers previously published, they are call centers and may not have accurate information. The number in the 4th quarter 2024 Thunder Run and the 2025 calendar are not for room reservations. The correct number is **918-234-1234**. The registration form in this edition of Thunder Run has been updated. Please use only this number. This is the details for reservations:

September 2, 2025-September 7, 2025
Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 E. Second St. Tulsa, OK 74103
Reservations by phone: 918-234-1234

On-line: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/TULRT/G-ACVV>
Scooter Rental: T-Town Mobility 918-600-2112 On -Line: stephanie@ttownmobility.com

For general information: pets are allowed up to 50 lbs. There is no dedicated shuttle service from the airport other than general service to downtown. We get a 20% discount at the Daily Grill located in the hotel but you will need to tell the staff that you are with the 11th ACVVC to get the discount, they will not automatically apply it. Self-parking is \$10 per night. Wi-Fi is complimentary. All functions will be in the hotel, no sky walks, and they accept cash. The 71st Regimental Commander of the 11th ACR COL Kevin Black from Ft. Irwin has accepted our invitation to be guest speaker and hopefully will bring along a color guard. I will continue with any needed updates in future Thunder Run editions.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Tulsa.
Frank

2025 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts that are mailed in, will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store at the 2025 reunion in Tulsa, OK
Orders must be received by August 1st, 2025

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____



Shirt Info: Charcoal or Red with reunion logo embroidered on **left** chest. Name, troop, year on **right**

Adult Sizes: M, L, XL - \$32.00each / 2XL, 3XL - \$34.00 each

Shipping: If you can't attend reunion, add \$9.00 shipping and shirt will be mailed to you.

Price includes up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)

Shirt Size: _____	Line 1: _____
Color Grey: _____	Line 2: _____
Color Red: _____	Line 3: _____

Card No. _____ CVC Code _____ Exp. Date _____ Zip Code _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks or money orders payable to **11th ACVVC, Finish Line Awards**

Mail form to **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, C/O Barbara Brown, PO Box 475, Wellington, CO 80549**

REUNION REGISTRATION - THUNDER RUN, JUNE 2025

Before I get to the good stuff, I want to thank all of you who have sent in your registration and booked your hotel. The sooner you get your registration in; the sooner I can get your name tags done and post you and your guests names to the web site list. To get to that list on your computer type in "11thcavnam.com". When that page comes up scroll down until you get to the blue box. In this box look for "Reunion Information" and click on it. This brings you to the welcome home page. Now scroll down until you get to another blue box. In this box, find "See Who's Registered" and click on it. This brings up the list of everyone that is registered for this year's reunion. I update this list as soon as I get at least 10 registrations in hand. So, the sooner I get your registration, the sooner I can post it on this list. The list is set up by units. This way you can see who is coming from your unit and you can make plans to meet up. Now don't forget to bring all the photos that you have to share with everyone at the bunker. Like I said, this list gets updated right up until I head out to the reunion.

I always wear my Blackhorse hat wherever I go and a reunion shirt all the time and if its cold or chilly I have my Blackhorse jacket on. Well, since the last Thunder Run came out, I have had three people yell out "Blackhorse!". One was at Walmart, and he was a son of a Blackhorse trooper who had passed six years ago. He said that his Dad was proud to have served with the Blackhorse. Then I was at an antique store when this lady said "Blackhorse!", then she said "Allons!". Well, that made me turn my head and look. Sure, as heck she was with the Blackhorse at Fort Irwin, and she had served overseas with them. I am looking forward to meeting her again to discuss her service in the Army. I also talked to the son of a trooper at the gas station briefly. I now carry a note pad and my Blackhorse business card to give out just to stay connected.

Now for the good stuff for all of you who have not sent in your registration forms. First, please print all your information or use one of those address labels that you get in the mail. Place it on the registration form. If you have guests (anyone other than you) and they don't live in the same city or state that you do, please put their city and state next to their name on the registration form. When I put their name tags together, I will include their city and state on to their name tags.

If this is your first 11th ACVVC Reunion, located on the bottom of your registration form is an area to indicate so. Please mark where it asks "Is this your first reunion? ✓ Yes

If you have guests and it's their first time to our reunion please put a "1st timer" next to their name. This will help me keep good records as to how many 1st timers are attending this reunion.

I want to thank all of you who support all the programs that we have for our organization. Thanks to all of you who send photos and articles for Thunder Run and the Calendar to Pete Walter who puts these two publications together. As always this is a year-round job for him and his helpers. He never has enough photos or articles so keep them coming. Pete is also on the Board as a Director.

To all who donate money to the scholarship program either by donating cash or donating items for the silent auction or sending in your raffle tickets, a great big thank you from us on the Board of Directors and to all the people who have received a scholarship.

Thanks to all Gregory Mason and his crew of volunteers who operate the Silent Auction. They spend most of their time at the reunion receiving items and recording them and prep them for the auction. Gregory is on the Board as our Secretary.

All the funds that are raised for the scholarship program go to the scholarship account. The total amount determines how many scholarships we can award. The more funds we have the more scholarships we can award. This is also an all-year task. Thanks to Mike Rafferty, the Scholarship Chairman who is also on the Board of Directors.

I want to thank all of you who call me for information and help. If you have any questions, or just want to talk Blackhorse please call, or e-mail me anytime day or night; being retired I stay up late. You can call me at home 608-372-5892 or cell 608-387-3346. If I don't answer please leave a message and I will get back to you. My e-mail is gtroopbob@gmail.com .

So, from the Moreno family until the next Thunder Run, stay safe, God bless and see you at Tulsa in September for our reunion.

'ALLONS'

ROBERTO 'BOB' MORENO

G TROOP 2/11TH 12/68-12/69

11TH ACVVC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REUNION REGISTRATION



**11th ACVVC
40th Reunion Schedule
Tulsa, Oklahoma
September 2,-7, 2025**



Tuesday, Sept. 2, 3:00 PM

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

Storage - Diplomat/Executive

Wednesday, Sept 3

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

Oklahoma Ballroom
Weather Center
Tulsa Ballroom
Executive Office
Weather Center

Thursday, Sept. 4

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

Oklahoma Ballroom
Weather Center
Tulsa Ballroom
Weather Center

Friday, Sept. 5

9:00am-2:00pm
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
10:00am-12:00am
1:00 pm - 1:30pm
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
6:30 pm-8:30 pm
8:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Blackhorse Womens Tour and Lunch
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

TBA
Oklahoma Ballroom
Promenade Ballroom B
Promenade B
Weather Center
Weather Center
Tulsa Ballroom
Promenade Ballroom A
Promenade Ballroom A

Saturday, Sept. 6

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
9:00am-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 Womens Group
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)

Promenade C/D
PromenadeBallroom B
Oklahoma Ballroom
Promenade Ballroom C/D
Oklahoma Ballroom
Weather Center
Tulsa Ballroom

Tulsa Ballroom
Tulsa Ballroom Foyer

Sunday, Sept. 7

10:00 am - 11:00 am
All Day

Worship Service
Farewells and Safe Travels

Promenade Ballroom B
No space Required

Veteran Service Officer Information

Daily, I will receive five to six calls from veterans inquiring why his/her claim is taking so very long to process. Yes, claims are taking longer to process. I'll attempt to provide a few reasons why.

The VA several years ago, just before Covid hit, decided to institute a "specialized" system where all VA Regional Offices would be designated to process claims according to type of claim (additional info to follow), and the stage of the claim.

The life of a claim can be broken down as receipt, development, rating, review and adjudication.

Receipt: Whether a claim is submitted to the VA by the veteran directly or by a VSO (like me), the claim is uploaded to the VA via computer and is received at a VA intake center. For the region east of the Mississippi, the intake center is in Janesville, Wisconsin. It is here that the claim will be sent to a VA Regional Office for development. VA correspondence is sent to the veteran from here that the claim has been received.

Development: This is where a VA person reviews the claim, requests a veteran's military records (medical and personnel), review evidence submitted by the veteran (private medical records. If additional information/evidence is required, this VA individual will send the veteran correspondence requesting the specific info. NOTE: the VA will wait up to six weeks to receive the requested information. IF the information is not received, another letter will be sent and an additional six weeks' waiting period will be in effect. THIS IS TWELVE WEEKS - THREE MONTHS, that the claim has sat idle. I always advise veterans, open all mail from the VA and respond quickly. It is the veteran's claim and the veteran's responsibility to answer. Once all required evidence is gathered, the claim is ready for VA examinations. The claim is then transferred to another regional office for this. Once all exams are completed and returned, the claim is then transferred to ratings.

Ratings: This is where a rating specialist will review the examinations to ensure that the required medical questions have been addressed and a medical opinion for a diagnosis and opinion that the medical condition is indeed related to the in-service period of the veteran. Once a rating is rendered, the rating is transferred to a quality review team.

Quality review: Here a VA review specialist ensures that all the above has been addressed and is ready for the proper percentages of a rating are appropriate. Once all have been addressed, the claim is sent to the adjudicators for release of any monetary awards.

Adjudicators: Here the monetary award(s) are distributed to the veteran's financial institution. ANOTHER NOTE: If the veteran did not include his/her bank information, another letter will go the veteran requesting same. And yes, the VA will wait for that response.

Okay, all the above is essentially a summary of a claim process. There are many variables along the way which can delay a claim. Some of the problems are on the VA to be sure, yet some are on the veteran as well. These processes I have observed for the past thirteen years,

VA problems: When the VA decided to "broker" these claims, VSO's have no idea where the claim truly is along the development - from Janesville, it may be sent to New York for development, Seattle for exams, Tallahassee for ratings, Denver for monetary disbursements. Further, all pension/survivors' claims go to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and all MST claims go to Puerto Rico. During the "Old Days" I could go upstairs at the Chicago Regional Office and talk with a VA rater or coach to solve a problem or hurry it along. Those days are gone. Anyway, this is part of the problem.

Vet problems. Vets may miss important medical evidence, not be specific as to their medical condition, not provide private medical records, NOT respond to VA correspondence, not attend a scheduled VA compensation exam, not complete the claim form accurately. Not returning my calls or worse, not following my advice.

Add to this the VA is receiving historic claim submissions! Why? Good question.

So, again, this is very basic, I trust this does shed some light. As always, my best advice remains to seek the assistance of a VA accredited Veteran Service Officer. Further, I may be able to shed light for any member of the 11th ACVVC. Understand it may take a day or two, but I will reply. NOTE: If you call, make sure you tell me you are a member and please leave your contact info. I always tell Nam vets; I'll go extra for us.

Allons
Chuck Bosko
708-205-3541 cell
312-980-4512 office
chuckbosko@att.net

Almost forgot to submit information many Black Horse vets may find interesting AND useful. VA has recently provided a "Pre-Need Determination" application for burial in a VA National Cemetery. Please remember, Arlington is a National Cemetery, not own or managed by the VA. Further, Most States, to my knowledge, have veteran cemeteries. To continue. Included within this edition of Thunder Run is the VA form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need and VA form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. Yes, many pages accompany these forms, but the instructions are important, and the information should address any questions or concerns that may arise. Besides, these are government forms!

The Veterans Administration operates 156 national cemeteries and manages 35 soldiers' lots and monument sites.

Further, As I have mentioned in previous columns, you must have a copy of your DD 214 for each application.

Allons,
Chuck Bosko

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	<h2 style="margin: 0;">APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY</h2>
NOTE: Please read information on reverse before completing this form. If additional space is required, attach a separate sheet of paper.	Submit Application and Supporting Documentation to VA by: Mail: to NCA Intake Center, P.O. Box 5237, Janesville, WI 53547; or Fax: to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (855) 840-8299
IMPORTANT: <u>Pre-Need</u> means before death. Only complete this form if you are applying for a Pre-Need determination of eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. <u>Time of Need</u> means time of death. DO NOT complete this form if the individual is already deceased; instead, contact a local funeral home or the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117 to expedite processing.	
REQUIRED ITEMS: YOU MUST COMPLETE THOSE ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH AN ASTERISK ()	
SECTION I - VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER <i>(Claim for eligibility for burial are based upon the Veterans/Servicemember's military service)</i>	
*1. VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER NAME <i>(Include Suffix) (Last, First, Middle Name or Initial)</i>	3. MAILING ADDRESS <i>(Street, City, State, and ZIP Code, P.O. Box, Rural Routes, etc.)</i>
*2. NAME USED DURING MILITARY SERVICE <i>(Include Suffix) (If different than Item 1) (Last, First, Middle Name)</i>	*4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 5. MILITARY SERVICE NUMBER <i>(If different from SSN)</i> 6. VA CLAIM NUMBER <i>(If known)</i>
*7. SEX <i>(Optional. Information will be used for statistical purposes only)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> MALE	
*8. RACE OR ETHNICITY <i>(Select one or more) (Information will be used for statistical purposes only)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN OR ASIAN AMERICAN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN <input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC OR LATINO <input type="checkbox"/> NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO <input type="checkbox"/> NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE	
9. DATE OF BIRTH <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	10. PLACE OF BIRTH <i>(City, State or Territory)</i>
*11. IS VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER DECEASED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	
12. DATE OF DEATH <i>(If applicable) (MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	
*13. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> SEPARATED <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED	
*14. MILITARY STATUS USED TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION <i>(Check all that apply)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> A. VETERAN <input type="checkbox"/> B. RETIRED ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> C. DIED ON ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> D. RETIRED RESERVE <input type="checkbox"/> E. RETIRED NATIONAL GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> F. DEATH RELATED TO INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING <input type="checkbox"/> G. OTHER <i>(See instructions)</i>	
MILITARY SERVICE DATA	
*15. BRANCH OF SERVICE	16. DATE OF ENTRY <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>
17. DATE OF DISCHARGE <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	18. DISCHARGE - CHARACTER OF SERVICE <i>(See instructions)</i>
19. HIGHEST RANK ATTAINED <i>(No pay grades)</i>	20. STATE <i>(Abbrev.) (National Guard Service Only)</i>
21. IS THERE ANYONE CURRENTLY BURIED IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY UNDER THIS VETERAN'S/SERVICEMEMBER'S ELIGIBILITY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <i>(Complete Item 22)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>(Skip Item 22)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <i>(Skip Item 22)</i>	
22. NAME OF DECEDENT(S) AND VA NATIONAL CEMETERY WHERE BURIED	23. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED <i>(See instructions for information on recommended documentation.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
SECTION II - CLAIMANT INFORMATION <i>(Information about the individual for whom determination for eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery is requested)</i>	
*24. CLAIMANT <i>(See instructions) (***Each Claimant requires a separate VA Form 40-10007)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> (Name) Last First Middle </div> WHO IS <i>(Check one)</i>: <input type="checkbox"/> A. THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER NAMED IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> B. THE SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> C. AN UNMARRIED ADULT CHILD OF THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER IN ITEM 1 <i>(Additional documentation required. Please read instructions on reverse carefully if selecting 24C.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> D. OTHER <i>(Please specify)</i>	*25. CLAIMANT'S MAILING ADDRESS <i>(Street, City, State, and ZIP Code, P.O. Box, Rural Routes, etc.) (If different from Item 3)</i>
26. CLAIMANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER <i>(Include Area Code)</i>	*27. CLAIMANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <i>(If different from Item 4)</i>
*28. CLAIMANT'S DATE OF BIRTH <i>(If different from Item 9) (MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	*29. CLAIMANT'S MAIDEN NAME <i>(If applicable)</i>
30. DESIRED VA NATIONAL OR STATE/TRIBAL CEMETERY <i>(Optional - See instructions)</i>	
31. EMAIL ADDRESS	

Vietnam Veterans Beware!

The Enemy may still be Lurking and Ready to Attack!



My dear husband, Gene Lickteig, was very proud to be a Veteran. He talked openly of his time in Vietnam and was always grateful he returned home unscathed. He knew many didn't survive, and others struggled with injuries or PTSD; but he always thought, if he kept talking about what he went through, he would be okay. He had a positive attitude, never "sweating the small stuff" after his homecoming; after all, from his viewpoint, "he wasn't sleeping in a foxhole with red ants biting him", and "no one was shooting at him!"

What my husband didn't know is that there was still an enemy lurking inside his body that would take his life at 74 years of age, 50 years after leaving Vietnam. He died in December 2023 from Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma, also known as Bile Duct Cancer.

After seeking a Specialist at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, we learned through biometrics my husband's cancer cell type was "acquired" and not genetic. He had been very healthy and physically active prior to this diagnosis that came on suddenly in June 2021. He had no family history of this cancer. He did not drink alcohol, except for an occasional beer or

margarita, and was not a smoker. The only pre-disposing diagnosis was Type 2 Diabetes identified in 2014, which, according to the VA, was attributed to Agent Orange.



Looking back, there were minor symptoms that leave me, his widow, asking, "If Only?" and "What If?" This is why I want to tell our story to other Vietnam Veterans, my husband's brothers-in-arms, in the hope of helping someone else, before it is too late for them.

Occasionally one or more of these 3 Liver Enzymes would be elevated in my husband's routine blood work during his diabetic check-ups every 6 months:

1. ALP (alkaline phosphatase)
2. AST (aspartate aminotransferase)
3. ALT (alanine aminotransferase)

There were other early indications my husband experienced, such as indigestion, stomach distention, and constipation. At times, he appeared to be 7-8 months pregnant. Little did we know, this cancer was slowly growing out of his Bile Ducts, which are small tube-like structures carrying bile from the liver to the small intestine aiding in digestion. This blockage was starting to affect his gastrointestinal system, causing these signs and symptoms that were thought to be of little importance.

My husband's young, (and maybe inexperienced) primary care physician disregarded the intermittent high liver enzyme levels and indigestion as not overly concerning. She would often comment on 'keeping an eye on things' for future follow-ups, as she continued

her never-ending diabetic lectures on diet and exercise. (If she was paying attention, maybe this young doctor had heard of the Vietnam War in her History class; however, she obviously had no knowledge of the high-risk a Vietnam Veteran carries with this cancer!)

Unfortunately, at that time, neither did we.

By the time my husband's cancer was found, it was nearly 7 years from when his initial symptoms began. He was extremely sick, jaundiced and hospitalized. His digestive system was blocked by the cancer mass causing his bilirubin and liver enzymes to rise to dangerous levels. All of this came on very quickly. An external Bile Drain was surgically placed into his abdomen to bypass the tumor and clear the blockage. This intervention did help, and along with chemotherapy, bought us 2 more precious years together, until infection ultimately took his life. He did not escape the war after all.

Once we connected with the Cholangiocarcinoma Specialist, things started coming together, and we clearly saw my husband's health situation was a classic example of this cancer. This Physician told us Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma is very common in people living in Southeast Asia where there is a high prevalence of liver flukes. These parasites are ingested, causing stomach infection with diarrhea symptoms that may last a few days, before improving; however, the liver flukes remain, setting up their perfect habitat inside the bile ducts, living and reproducing until they die off and are excreted from the body. In the meantime, they have "wreaked havoc" with the epithelial lining of the bile ducts, thus causing an abnormal cell dysfunction that slowly grows into cancer cells. The human body reacts to these organisms, by trying to wall them off, leading to swelling, inflammation and scarring, adding to the

defective cells. The Specialist told us he sees many Vietnam Veterans with this specific cancer, which often shows up years later, as it is silent and slow growing; and by the time it is found, it is often too late for treatment.

The medical field lists the following diagnoses that are usually precursors to Cholangiocarcinoma:

1. Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis
2. Chronic Ulcerative Colitis
3. Hepatitis B or C
4. Liver Cirrhosis
5. Diabetes
6. Liver Fluke Exposure

There are 3 types of Cholangiocarcinoma, depending on the cancer location within the bile ducts: 1.) Intrahepatic, 2.) Perihilar, and 3.) Distal. Intrahepatic refers to the cancer cells originating from inside the ducts within the liver and is commonly the site of liver fluke damage.

Literature often states liver flukes only come from eating raw fish; however, other research indicates the parasite can be found in drinking water or unclean produce, such as fruit or lettuce, or may come from cross-contamination in unsanitary kitchens or use of dirty utensils and silverware.

The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation is an excellent resource for this cancer. My husband and I received invaluable

assistance from this Group. Since Veterans are at such a high-risk for cancers, they have included specific material for the Vietnam Era, Gulf War Era, and Post 9/11. I highly recommend searching their website: Cholangiocarcinoma.org, - Newly Connected, - Veterans Project. There you will find a wealth of information for Veterans, including links and references to the VA, as well as how to file and appeal claims. Their site explains cholangiocarcinoma in detail, provides teaching and support groups, including help, such as providing maps to search your location for Specialists.

As Veterans and families, we need to continue bringing awareness of Cholangiocarcinoma to the VA. My husband's cancer claim has been denied twice, even though the VA does acknowledge liver flukes as a key risk factor for this cancer. The argument sets up that the Veteran didn't report symptoms while in the Service or within a year of Discharge, therefore Service Connection is denied, and it is not listed as a Presumptive condition. Currently there are stool tests for liver fluke infection, however the results may be negative and not be reliable many years later. Seriously, I cannot believe a young 20-year-old man reporting his stomachache and diarrhea at the time of a liver fluke infection, and who would ever dream of this cancer outcome?! Another roadblock with the VA can be related to the primary site of the cancer. If the cancer

is found in advance stages, it may be difficult to identify origination in the bile ducts. Also, some Veterans have no idea their cancer may be a result of their military time spent in Vietnam, and do not report it as such. It is my understanding there have been attempts at Legislation by Chuck Schumer, Lee Zeldin, and others requiring the VA to cover this cancer, but I am not aware of where this currently stands.

There is a Veterans Administration Central Cancer Registry (VACCR) for Cholangiocarcinoma. The Veteran's information is entered and stored by the cancer registry staff at the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center. There is no direct application process, and the medical information is added to a central repository for cancer-related data across all VA Medical Centers to be used for research and improve Veteran cancer care. I am uncertain of the total number of Veterans reporting Bile Duct Cancer, however, feel it is extremely important to notify the VA in great hopes of their recognition and coverage of this cancer, especially as numbers can only be climbing as Veterans age.

Statistics indicate there are approximately 10,000 new Cholangiocarcinoma cases reported each year in the United States, this includes a younger population with causes unrelated to liver flukes. Many people have never heard of this cancer, so there is an immense need to raise attention. As patients, we need to be our own advocates and make sure our physicians are knowledgeable of the risks and additional burden Veterans possess, unlike the general population. Early diagnosis is important. Don't ignore minor ailments. Treatments are available if the cancer has not metastasized.

Hopefully, with sharing this health information, Vietnam Veterans and their families can band together to warn others of this horrible enemy.

Vicki D. Lickteig, RN

And now my husband is "Welcomed Home" with his Lord and Savior in Heaven.

<https://www.statnews.com/2016/11/11/vietnam-veterans-rare-cancer/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/va-study-shows-parasite-from-vietnam-may-be-killing-vets>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/infectious-diseases/cholangiocarcinoma.asp>





Blackhorse Women's Group News

Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 2nd Edition 2025

Dear Ladies of the Blackhorse,

Our 40th Annual 11thACVVC Reunion is just a few months away and this will be the last issue of the Thunder Run before the reunion. This note will bring you up-to-date on the activities we have planned for the Blackhorse Women's Group in Tulsa. We will also keep you informed of any updates or changes through our webpage on the 11thcavnam.com website, so please check it often.

"Tour of Tulsa", is planned for Friday of reunion week, Sept 5th. This will be a motor coach tour with tour guides. We will board at 8:30 am for a 9:00am departure. The coach will be equipped with a restroom, air conditioning, sound system, and can store wheelchairs underneath. During the 3-hour tour, we will be exiting the bus twice. Once for a group photo and second for a tour of a building steeped in Tulsa history. Our tour will end about noon, when we stop for lunch at Tally's Cafe on Route 66! Tally's Cafe has an extensive menu and can prepare a meal that serves every dietary need. Check out their menu at Tally's Cafe.com. (PLEASE NOTE: Your registration fee is for the tour only. Lunch cost is not included.) At 1:45 pm our coach will take us back to the hotel, arriving at 2:00pm.

Fundraising Table- Proceeds from our sales are donated to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund. We will have "Tulsa Reunion Lanyards" and one special item available for purchase. Please volunteer to have FUN at the table for a 2-hr block of time. Bring along a friend! Please call me with your choice of time, so I can add you to the roster. Hours of operation: Wed-2pm -4:30pm; Thurs- 9:00am-5pm and Friday (if needed) 3pm-5pm.

Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting- Saturday @ 9:30am. Our meeting, held while our Troopers are attending their business meeting, is open to all our Blackhorse ladies and reunion guests. We will review our budget and project activity in the last year and announce our Blackhorse Woman of the Year for 2025. We have also invited two special guests, with military ties, to speak of their life experiences.

We are really looking forward to being with you in Tulsa ❤️ ❤️

Questions?

Sheryl - 571-721-9189

Marguerite - 320-212-1068

Blackhorse Women's Group

"Touring Tulsa"

Friday, Sept 5th - 8:30am - 2:00pm

**Tour Cost per person -\$35.00 Includes Transportation & Tour Guide
(Does not include cost of Lunch)**

Registration open to all in our 11th ACVVC Family

This form & payment must be received by August 10th

(We are limited to 54 registrations - determined by postmark on envelope)

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Make check or Money Order payable to: **Blackhorse Women's Group**
(sorry no credit cards)

Please mail this form & payment to:

**Sheryl Myers
19155 Royal Troon Dr.
Monument, CO 80132**

* If you must cancel your reservation, please notify Sheryl by August 10th. Cancellations received after that date will be considered a donation to the Blackhorse Women's Group.



Chaplain's Corner

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

“Veterans don’t ask much for their service, but we hope to be remembered.”

Earlier this year, I received an uplifting letter from a fellow Blackhorse Trooper. In that letter from Roger Boyce, it outlined some of the volunteer service he performs to honor his brother warriors of the 11th Cavalry. The quote above was part of the address Roger, a Vietnam veteran of the 2nd Squadron presented to the student body at the high school in Park Rapids, Minnesota on Veterans Day, 2024.

Roger Boyce (HOW 2, 71/72) recalls his final days in Vietnam and 53 years later, writes this note to his chaplain. “You last prayed over me 53 years ago at Fiddlers Green [Firebase]. You asked God to watch over our lives as we leave Vietnam and return to the families and the life we left behind. Chaplain, you should know that for me at least and, like the Legend of Fiddler’s Green where the Fiddler never stops playing, God never stopped filling my life with blessings of all kinds. Like the hymn, Count Your Blessings, I can name them all, one by one”.

Not only did he give this high school assembly an inspiring address, Roger participates in numerous other veteran programs in the Minnesota area: USO tributes and sponsored events, VFW military salutes and honor guards, civic action and social events parades honoring our troops – an especially at recognition ceremonies that honor those who left their blood behind on foreign lands.

In his speech to the students of Sebeka High School, which group he addresses as “The future of America,” he continues: “We are here today to recognize Veterans Day, a day set aside to thank and remember all men and women that put on their uniforms, set aside their lives to protect our freedom, our flag, and the Torch of Liberty.”

Continuing he related the story of Calvin Leon Graham who enlisted in the US Navy at the age of 12. A lad who served our nation in World War II and participated in the battles of Santa Cruz, Guadalcanal and then into the Korean War, before the Department of Defense learned that he had forged his mother’s name and signed up. In that 10-year period, he had been awarded a Bronze Star with “V”, a Purple Heart and World War II and Korean War campaign medals. Roger then reminded the students that like Calvin and the young shepherd boy (David) who became a king, each of you have a great power to do great things.

When Roger asked for a show of hands as to his question: “How many of you young people have ever been lost?” He wasn’t surprised that so many hands were raised. So, he followed with this story:

“Well, I got lost once. Not at the county fair, no...lost in the jungles of Vietnam. Even in the day time, the jungle can be so thick that it can be very dark.

We were out patrolling as we often did and I’m not exactly sure how it happened, but suddenly I found myself alone. Not lost at the mall or county fair, but halfway around the world lost ... and alone. Now I knew how to read a compass, but which way did my patrol go? I walked for some time but soon got tired and sat down on a log. I thought maybe a little talk with God might be in order. In that troubled prayer, I asked Him to show me the way back to my base camp. I remember the promise that if I make it back to my patrol that for the rest of my days, I would try my

very best to always do the right thing, even when no one was watching.

With that short prayer I got off the log and walked just over the next ridge and I saw our flag. It was flying in the wind on top of a radio antenna of one of our tanks. I felt the way you might have felt when you saw your parents after you were lost. That flag was like seeing the familiar face of your parents and the answer to a short prayer. You remember that feeling.

Roger, continuing his smooth and heartfelt presentation he said: “The point I am trying to make today, is that to a veteran this flag means a great deal. We trained under the flag, we fought under the flag, and we will be buried under this flag.

There are those today that will dishonor this grand old flag and disrespect the veterans that served to protect it. As I said you students here are Americas future, and I think that you will find the courage to do the right things even when no one is watching.

This is the part where most speakers might say thank you and may God bless America. Well, that’s true enough, but I say God has blessed America. May he continue to bless America.

You see, Veterans don’t ask much for their service, but we do hope to be remembered.”

I served with Roger in Vietnam in late 1971 and early 1972, and especially recall our last several days at Firebase Fiddler’s Green, Roger reminded me of that at our last reunion, 53 years later and he carries on representing all of us through his voluntary service, so often still wearing his dress uniform that proudly displays that red, white and black insignia of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Thank you, Roger, you are still doing the right thing – right!

*Chaplain
Bill*



The Heartland Detachment of the Marine Corps League gathers on Oct. Schultz. Back row: Scott Windrum, Roger Boyce, Raymond Primus, Dav Allen and Darrel Hansch.



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
Adams, Roy W.	H Company 2/11, 11/70-2/71	August 20, 2024	Leesville, LA
Adams, Woodrow W.	F Troop 2/11, 8/69-7/70	April 27, 2025	Monroe, LA
Alb, Robert F.	398th Trans Det, 7/69-8/70	March 15, 2024	Hammond, IN
Ball, Alvin C.	37th Med Co & G Trp 2/11, 4/69-8/69	June 9, 2023	Prescott, AZ
Barnes, Paul R.	L Troop 3/11, 1/68-1/69	September 16, 2024	Wheeler, MS
Berger, David R.	D Co 1/11 & HHT 1/11, 8/67-8/68	April 16, 2025	Washington, WV
Berghanel, George H.	B Troop 1/11, 9/68-8/69	July 12, 2024	Winter Springs, FL
Berndt, Loren L.	C Troop 1/11, 8/66-5/67	February 15, 2025	Harrisburg, SD
Binkerd, Alan C.	H Company 2/11, 7/67-7/68	March 4, 2025	Fort Myers, FL
Bird, David O.	M Co 3/11 & HHT 3/11, 4/69-2/70	July 7, 2024	Newmarket, NH
Brown, Billy R.	124th CS Maint Det, 6/71-3/72	November 29, 2024	Ozark, AL
Bynum, Ronald H.	HHT, 1/11, 7/67-7/68 & 1/70-12/70	April 28, 2018	Gurley, AL
Carter, Lawrence G.	HHT, 1/11, 5/66-1/68	June 10, 2022	Mount Vernon, AR
Chandler, William M.	K Troop 3/11, 8/66-1/67	February 27, 2022	Palm Bay, FL
Charron, Robert A.	HHT, 1/11, 3/69-3/70	October 30, 2023	Norwich, CT
Chesemore, James P.	C Troop 1/11, 9/67-9/68	March 30, 2025	Brooklyn Park, MN
Collins, Dean A.	HHT, 2/11, 9/71-3/72	February 12, 2025	Burnsville, MN
Crowe, Jesse T.	C Troop 1/11, 6/69-6/70	October 1, 2022	Louisville, KY
Cunningham, Robert M.	D Company 1/11, 4/68-4/69	October 4, 2020	Honolulu, HI
Edwards, Gary W.	HHT, 3/11, 6/68-3/69	December 6, 2024	Cool Ridge, WV
Ellison, Teddy L.	M Company 3/11, 5/68-5/69	July 19, 2023	Tampa, FL
England, Robert C.	E Troop 2/11, 1/69-12/69	August 17, 2024	Huntington, IN
Figgs, Albert J.	HHT, 3/11, 10/65-8/67	January 12, 2020	El Paso, TX
Fink, Eugene R.	HHT, 2/11, 8/66-10/67	January 15, 2025	Northlake, IL
Florio, Richard .	D Company 1/11, 8/66-8/67	August 6, 2024	Naples, FL
Foley, Robert D.	541st MI Det & HHT REGT , 1/69-12/69	February 24, 2025	Hoover, AL
Fullen, Lester M.	HHT, 3/11 & AIR CAV TRP, 7/70-7/71	January 22, 2024	Orlando, FL
Garcia, Johnny M.	HHT, 3/11 & I TRP 3/11, 6/69-5/70	September 12, 2024	Lamesa, TX
Gavin, Victor C.	919th Engineer Co, 1/70-8/70	June 27, 2023	Warfordsburg, PA
Geyer, Walter M.	F Troop 2/11, 1/70-12/70	August 15, 2023	Mill Hall, PA
Gietzen, William E.	A Troop 1/11, 12/69-11/70	April 9, 2021	Oxford, MS
Goodwater, Howard L.	B Troop 1/11, 6/70-5/71	May 25, 2024	Spokane Valley, WA
Graham, Don A.	HHT REGT, 1/68-12/69	October 7, 2022	Canyon Country, CA
Greenslit, Raymond I.	D Company 1/11, 2/70-2/71	January 4, 2025	Jefferson City, MO
Grill, Charlie	F Troop 2/11, 7/67-6/68	December 19, 2017	Chico, TX
Hain, James R.	HHT REGT, 8/66-7/67	March 11, 2025	The Villages, FL
Hall, George M.	409th RR Det, 5/66-8/67	September 23, 2024	Moss Point, MS
Heffley, David G.	919th Engineer Co, 1/68-12/68	September 13, 2024	Corunna, IN
Helton, Thomas A.	K Troop 3/11, 8/66-1/67	November 24, 2019	Elberton, GA
Herman, Stephen M.	H Company 2/11, 7/69-7/70	February 25, 2025	Savannah, GA
Higgins, Erick T.	K Troop 3/11, 6/68-6/69	January 3, 2025	Hemet, CA
Hildebrand, L C Abraham	37th Medical Company, 8/66-8/67	January 12, 2025	Philadelphia, PA
Holland, George M.	551ST Maint Co, 5/67-5/68	June 27, 2024	North Port, FL
Homer, Byron N.	HHT REGT, 6/70-6/71	January 23, 2025	Ganado, AZ
Howard, Henry	541st MI Det & M CO 3/11, 9/69-8/70	March 6, 2025	Woodlawn, TN
Hurlbut, Michael E.	E Troop 2/11, 10/67-10/68	February 21, 2023	Bovey, MN
Hyatt, Jefferson D.	K Troop 3/11, 8/66-8/67	July 29, 2023	Hamlet, NC

Name	Unit / Dates	Fiddler's Green	Home Town
Ignacio, Rudy	B Troop 1/11, 12/68-11/69	February 12, 2025	Lakewood, WA
Jaggard, Michael F.	I Troop 3/11, 1/68-1/69	March 14, 2025	Arlington, VA
Jones, Nobleton B.	L Troop 3/11, 6/69-6/70	November 19, 2024	Houston, TX
Jordon, James V.	919th Engineer Co, 10/66-10/67	October 21, 2024	Lake Lynn, PA
Kerr, John A.	Air Cav Trp & HHT 2/11, 8/66-1/67	March 24, 2025	Kenton, OH
Kinney, John E.	E Troop 2/11, 9/68-9/69	March 14, 2025	Vinton, OH
Kloewer, Leo A.	HHT, 2/11, 5/68-5/69	February 25, 2025	York, NE
Laird, Linn P.	HHT, 1/11, 3/67-3/68	March 24, 2024	Fenton, MO
Large, Randolph M.	HHT, 3/11, 5/69-4/70	August 7, 2019	Bandy, VA
L'Etoile, Roger A.	F Troop 2/11, 8/66-8/67	February 19, 2025	North Smithfield, RI
Lindner, Charles E.	HHT, 2/11, 1/71-3/72	January 2, 2025	Columbus, OH
Looyenga, Hans	Air Cavalry Troop, 7/67-7/68	May 9, 2025	San Dimas, CA
Loveday, Gerald E.	B Troop 1/11, 9/66-8/67	May 17, 2024	Newark, OH
Mabrey, William E.	B Troop 1/11, 8/66-8/67	June 29, 2024	Barnhart, MO
Mantei, Kenneth J.	F Troop 2/11, 1/70-12/70	June 23, 2024	Glyndon, MN
Marlatt, Charles O.	E Troop 2/11, 7/71-3/72	April 25, 2024	Canisteo, NY
Martin, Stephen R.	HHT, 2/11, 4/70-4/71	June 5, 2024	Monroe, NC
Mason, Harold G.	27th Engineer Bn, 8/66-11/66	November 9, 2024	Clarksville, TN
Mayer, Jeffrey G.	398th Trans Det, 4/71-2/72	May 23, 2024	Saint Francis, WI
McClellan, Billy E.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 12/67-1/69	November 30, 2022	Fort Smith, AR
McDonald, David N.	409th RR Det, 5/66-1/67	January 2, 2024	Lanesville, IN
Mcintosh, James A.	I Troop 3/11, 6/67-6/68	February 9, 2025	Saint Joseph, MO
Mcintosh, Raymond G.	I Troop 3/11, 5/67-5/70	January 18, 2025	Morganville, NJ
Microberts, Gerald D.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 8/69-7/70	July 11, 2021	Ogdensburg, NY
Mokry, Robert C.	B Troop 1/11, 4/68-5/69	April 6, 2023	Franklin, OH
Moore, Clarence L.	398th Trans Det, 1/71-12/71	August 9, 2024	London, AR
Moore, Johnny A.	F Troop 2/11, 4/69-3/70	December 30, 2024	Glendale, AZ
Murphy, Kevin A.	M Company 3/11, 9/70-9/71	January 26, 2025	Salem, OR
Myotte, Stephen J.	G Troop 2/11, 1/70-12/70	April 5, 2022	Watervliet, MI
O'Brien, Robert J.	M Company 3/11, 8/68-8/69	January 3, 2025	Manasquan, NJ
Ottesen, Sven M.	I Troop 3/11, 1/69-1/70	April 30, 2025	Teton, ID
Parker, Roger L.	I Troop 3/11, 10/70-11/71	August 20, 2023	Belmont, MI
Perez-Colon, Carlos R.	HHT, 1/11, 1/68-12/68	January 1, 2025	Webster, TX
Pisciotta, Michael J.	HHT, 1/11, 12/68-12/69	March 22, 2025	Arnold, MO
Pitt, Michael A.	I Trp 3/11 & L TRP 3/11, 1/70-1/71	March 6, 2025	Williamsport, OH
Poland, Duane E.	I Troop 3/11, 7/68-7/69	February 24, 2025	Manchester, MI
Rainey, Edward H.	E Troop 2/11, 12/67-12/68	September 26, 2021	Chesapeake, VA
Randell, William D.	D Company 1/11, 8/67-8/68	December 20, 2022	Aurora, CO
Reese, David L.	H Co 2/11 & E TRP 2/11, 7/70-7/71	May 7, 2024	Arnold, MD
Reynolds, Richard E.	C Troop 1/11, 1/68-1/69	October 24, 2021	Elwood, IN
Roberts, Jan R.	B Troop 1/11, 7/67-7/68	May 2, 2024	Harvest, AL
Russell, John L.	HHT, 2/11, 9/71-3/72	May 27, 2024	Orwigsburg, PA
Seese, Harry J.	HHT, 1/11, 11/68-11/69	February 14, 2025	Johnstown, PA
Shambarger, Bob E.	HHT, 2/11, 7/66-6/67	November 17, 2017	Springdale, AR
Sharpe, Terry L.	HHT, 3/11, 2/70-2/71	March 15, 2024	Rochelle, GA
Shinault, Angus N.	Air Cavalry Troop, 10/68-10/69	April 4, 2025	Glen Allen, VA
Staton, Marshall L.	G Troop 2/11, 2/70-3/72	February 21, 2025	Fitzgerald, GA
Steege, Gregory L.	A Troop 1/11, 8/69-7/70	September 4, 2024	Denver, IA
Stephens, James O.	F Troop 2/11, 2/70-2/71	November 23, 2024	Watertown, TN
Sternberg, Victor W.	HHT, 3/11, 1/70-12/70	February 3, 2025	Brooksville, FL
Stuppy, Edward J.	17th PI Det, 8/69-7/70	August 8, 2024	Sayner, WI
Vest, Albert W.	919th Engineer Co, 12/68-12/69	December 6, 2024	McDonough, GA
Vigus, Max E.	HHT REGT, 8/68-8/69	October 7, 2024	Cedar Hill, TX
Villa, Justus A.	Howitzer Btry 2/11, 4/66-1/67	September 14, 2023	Washington, DC
Ward, George D.	L Troop 3/11, 10/68-8/69	July 24, 2018	Wayland, NY
Webb, Dempsey L.	C Troop 1/11, 2/70-2/71	May 10, 2025	Pipestem, WV
Wesley, James A.	G Troop 2/11, 7/68-8/69	May 16, 2023	Barnesville, OH

2025 Summary of Motions

Motion 2025-0107 Secretary's Minutes | Motion 2025-0130 Bylaws | Motion 2025-0205 Scholarship Transfer Amount

Motion 2025-0107A Secretary's Minutes | Motion 2025-0228B 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial at Fort Irwin

Motion 2025-0408 *Request for Support* E6 and below tickets to the Ball. | Motion 2025-0520 Secretary's Minutes

Motion 2025-0602 Fort Benning Bronze Plaque

1. The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Allen Hathaway.

Motion 010725 Secretary's Minutes

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting September 4, 2024.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

2. Ollie Pickral made the following motion and seconded by Mike Rafferty.

Motion 013025 Bylaws

We hire Mr. Rosenthal to review our Bylaws and suggest updates for a fee not to exceed \$750.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

3. The following motion was made by Mike Rafferty and seconded by Pete Walter.

Motion 2025-0305 Scholarship Transfer Amount

\$15,000 will be transferred each year until 2029 from the General Business Account to the Scholarship Account effective May 1, 2025

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

4. The following motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Mike Rafferty.

Motion 2025-02-28A Secretary's Minutes

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held January 7, 2025.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed	

5. The following motion was made by Allen Hathaway and seconded by Frank Church.

Motion 2025-0228B: 11 Armored Cavalry Memorial at Fort Irwin:

The 11th ACVVC will partner with the BHA to explore the possibility of building a memorial at the 11th Armored Cavalry Wickam Park at Fort Irwin.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yes	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	No	The motion passed	

6. The following motion was made by Allen Hathaway and seconded by Greg Mason.
Motion 2025-0408 *Request for Support* E6 and below tickets to the Ball.
The 11th ACVVC will allocate \$3,000 for the purpose of subsidizing tickets for active duty E6 and below of the 11th ACR to attend the Blackhorse Ball on July 12, 2025.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yes	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	No	The motion passed	

7. The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Allen Hathaway.
Motion 2025-05-20A Secretary's Minutes
Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held February 28, 2025.rooms received). This is an ongoing business expense, reimbursing after each reunion. Funds to be paid from the General Business Account.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yes	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed	

8. Allen Hathaway made the following motion and Greg Mason seconded the motion:
2025-0602 Fort Benning Bronze Plaque
The 11th ACVVC will pay Columbus Monument Company \$2,800 to remove, refinish and reinstall one bronze plaque on the monument at Fort Benning.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yes	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed	



Jerry & Jan Beamon (K Troop, 69-70) of Bullard, TX, host the East Texas Roundup annually.

**Pictured above at this year's gathering are from left to right:
 Steve & Patsy Dixon, Lynn Chapman, Eddie & Nancy Patterson, Don & Marsha Hebert,
 Jerry & Jan & Jada Beamon, James & Edith Matthews, Ron & Nancy Dixon.**

REGISTRATION FORM



40th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

September 2, 2025-September 7, 2025

Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 E. Second St. Tulsa, OK 74103

Reservations by phone: 918-560-2219 use code ACVV

On-line: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/TULRT/G-ACVV>

Scooter Rental: T-Town Mobility 918-600-2112

On -Line: stephanie@ttownmobility.com

Registration fee is \$130 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 21, 2025. All hotel reservations must be made by August 4, 2025. 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 21, 2025.

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: _____

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

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Please enter Security Code/CVC# here ____

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:

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



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" \$10.00



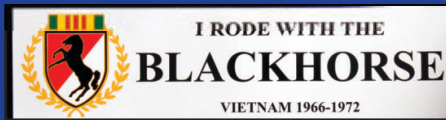
#28 Blackhorse Logo
Sticker 2" X 2.5" with
adhesive on back" \$2.00



#55 4" Vietnam
Cambodia Patch
\$5.00



#35 Allons
Decal \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$6.50



#4 Window
Sticker \$3.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch
Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR
Regimental Crest
\$7.00



#52 Blackhorse
Pendant
\$12.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin
\$5.00



#20 Vietnam
Blackhorse Pin,
Wreath \$5.00



#54 Flag Pin
\$6.50



#12 "The Beast" Blackhorse Knife
- It is a multi-purpose tool.
\$22.00



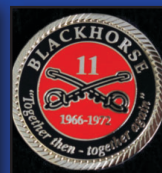
#30 Laser Engraved
Rescue Knife, 4.5 inch
\$22.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#57 4" Stadium
Blanket (Gray or Red)
\$22.00



#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



#32 Large Active
Duffel
\$34.00



#15 Leatherette
Coaster 4" Rawhide
Coaster \$4.00



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



#38a



#38b



#48 Sportsman Hat \$18.00



#6 Knit Cap \$18.00



#23 White 11th ACR Vietnam cap \$18.00



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$18.00



#58 Distressed Military Cap \$18.50



#47 11th Cavalry Cap \$18.50



#43 Outdoor Wide Brim Hat \$25.00



#9 Trucker Cap Black and Charcoal \$18.00



#31 Tactical Multicam Cap - Camo \$20.00



#16 Eddie Bauer Hooded Soft Shell Jacket \$94.00



#33 Heavy Blend hooded sweatshirt \$28.00



#49 Dry Zone Grid Polo \$30.00



#27 Eddie Bauer Polo \$32.00



#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 \$52.00



#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

ORDER FORM | 2nd Edition 2025

ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Allons Patch	5.00			
2.	11th Armored Cavalry Patch	5.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With the Blackhorse" w/ full color BH insignia	3.00			
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.	"The Beast" Blackhorse Knife.....	22.00			
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			
23.	White 11th ACR Vietnam Cap	18.00			
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			
30.	Laser Engraved Rescue Knife, 4.5 inch.....	22.00			
31.	Tactical Multicam Cap - Camo	20.00			
32.	Lg. Active Duffel	34.00			
33.	Heavy Blend Hooded Sweatshirt	28.00			
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 <input type="checkbox"/> 38a <input type="checkbox"/> 38b <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> S/M <input type="checkbox"/> 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.....	53.00			
54.	Flag pin.....	6.50			
55.	4" Vietnam Cambodia Patch.....	5.00			
56.	Leatherette Koozie (Black or Red).....	7.00			
57.	Stadium Blanket (Grey or Red).....	22.00			
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**



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Memorial Day, 2025 at The Wall



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Posted www.11thcavnam.com Obituaries

