



# Thunder Run

Vol. 21 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2006

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

### We Were Not “Allowed” to Win the War in Vietnam

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary, 11th ACVVC

The Second IndoChina War - the fall of Saigon and the conquest of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos by the communist invaders from North Vietnam – ended nearly 31 years ago. The North Vietnamese communists defeated RVN (Republic of South Vietnam) two years after the last U.S.A. and ROK (Republic of Korea) combat

forces departed South Vietnam in March 1973. To be clear, American forces did not lose the war in Vietnam. South Vietnam fell after its U.S. and Allied support was withdrawn.

The U.S.A. forces lost some firefights with the communist Vietnamese, but it won nearly every battle, and virtually every campaign. So why wasn't the war won before the USA withdrew the last of

Please turn to **VIETNAM** on page 4

### Welcome Home!



CA Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Keynote Speaker at the parade ceremony, congratulates CSM Pring and the Regiment for a job well done in fighting for their country in support of the War on Terror. Story on page 6.

### Iraq or Bust

By 1LT Joseph Linhart, Echo Troop Fire Support Officer

In 1968, Jerry Williamson and Eric Newton deployed to Vietnam for a one year tour. Their mission—wage a protracted war against a guerrilla element bent on destroying a fledging democracy. Operating in around the III Corps area near Saigon, both men were vehicle commanders.

**During their seven day stay, Williamson and Newton were allowed unprecedented access to Task Force 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.**

Williamson served as a Specialist-5, or “Spec 5,” in Delta Company, 1-11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Newton was a Sergeant in Kilo Troop, 3-11. Williamson went on to pursue several careers as a policeman, private investigator, and a therapist. He is now retired.

Newton became a contractor, a job he still holds today.

Both men served in Vietnam with distinction in the same job in sister battalions, but both men never met, not until about a month ago. A meeting that never took place in one foreign land finally became actualized in another, where a

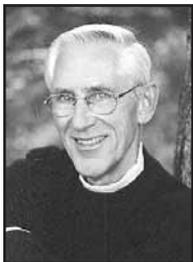
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Chuck Schmidt,  
President, 11th ACVVC

The Officers and Directors of the 11th ACVVC will have conducted their Mid-year Annual Board meetings by the time this issue of *Thunder Run* arrives at your home. The agenda for the two and a half days of marathon sessions is full of items that are important to the organization. Preparation for the Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri; the future direction of the Scholarship Program; the use and update of items on the 11th ACVVC Web Site; interface with the Blackhorse Association (BHA) and the active Regiment; Membership issues; restoration, update, and rededication of our memorial at Fort Knox, Kentucky; construction of a portable memorial that could be used annually at reunion sites; and many more miscellaneous topics will tax our collective energies. All these and other topics are important to the continued progress of the 11th ACVVC to serve the needs of the membership. As always, we welcome your input and will review the results of our deliberations in the next issue of the *Thunder Run* and again at the General Membership Business Meeting at the reunion in Kansas City.

Speaking of the 2006 Reunion, all members are again reminded that for the first time in about eighteen years, the dates of the annual gathering have been moved from late July/early August to late September. Mark your calendars for 21-24 September 2006! Now is the time to plan your vacation to coincide with the reunion dates. Registration forms and hotel information are contained elsewhere in this publication. The membership voted to try this change of dates for the next two years to see if it works better for our purpose of getting maximum attendance. A major driving force for the experimental change is that we can negotiate much, much better hotel rates for everything from room prices to the cost of food and beverages in the "Bunker" and the Banquet on Saturday night. We need your thoughts on this and although we are locked in for September again in Louisville, Kentucky in 2007,

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**Honor our fallen comrades on Memorial Day. Look on the web site as the date approaches for the time and place the 11th ACVVC contingent will meet at the Wall in Washington, D.C.**

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beyond that we can adjust if this is not working well. Remember, in addition to registering and reserving rooms at the hotel, you must register with the 11th ACVVC to attend the reunion.

Every year at the end of the General Membership Business Meeting we "pass the hat" to collect money to support the Trooper Reunion Assistance Program. Through this program we attempt to help our "Brothers" who may need financial or other assistance to attend a reunion. The intent is a "one time" assist for Troopers who have never been able to attend to go to their first reunion. Although we have made some exceptions, we attempt to limit the use of these funds so generously given by the members at the reunion site to first time attendees. For the upcoming reunion in Kansas City, we already have requests to help out two of our fellow Troopers and have funds to assist more if needed. So, if you are aware of one of our Brothers who would like to come, let us know. In most cases, the Trooper himself is reluctant to come forward, and most are helped by request or recommendation of a "Buddy". The goal is to ensure that every one of our Comrades in Arms from our shared experience in Vietnam and Cambodia has an opportunity to experience at least one of our outstanding, cathartic, unique reunions. A lot of healing and renewal takes place at these events and all should be offered a chance to participate.

The "Welcome Home" party at Fort Irwin was quite an experience. It offered us Vietnam era Veterans an opportunity to show the young Troopers of today how soldiers should be treated upon return from a war. We are grateful that Fort Irwin and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment invited us to participate in the festivities. In addition to being able to thank today's Troopers for their selfless service, we too benefited from their appreciation for our service some forty years ago. To this end, it served as a delayed welcome home for us as well! I am happy to report that you can all be proud of our

Regiment. Their performance of their assigned missions in Iraq was outstanding in every way. As we did so long ago, they fought in a war that is becoming controversial and appears to have less support as time passes. This war on terrorism is going to be a long struggle and has never been portrayed as an easy task. Although we may not always agree on where or how the battles are being waged, the one thing we can always do is support our Troops which includes supporting the successful completion of their mission! Only by winning this long struggle will we eventually be able to remove our soldiers from harm's way and bring them all home to enjoy the freedoms we seem to take for granted as our birthright. "Freedom is not Free" has almost become a cliché but is as true today as it was more than 200 year ago when the people of the United States first took up arms in defense of their freedom. The struggle continues today and will continue as long as there are factions in the world that would rather see us all dead no matter the cost. "Only the Dead Have Seen the End of War", a statement attributed to the philosopher, Plato, stands as a truism centuries later. As much as we long for peace, we must be prepared for war and be willing to defend our freedoms wherever the battle takes us. We salute our Regiment and today's warriors for their willingness to serve. Remember, these are all volunteers and our Nation should be grateful and thank every one for their service. Do not let an opportunity pass you by. If you are in the Fort Irwin area, stop in—you will be glad you did!

Honor our fallen comrades on Memorial Day. Look on the web site as the date approaches for the time and place the 11th ACVVC contingent will meet at the Wall in Washington, D.C. If you cannot make it there, attend a local memorial service—remember: "They were our buddies, our friends, and our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Their memory will live forever."

ALLONS!

## 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. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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### Newsletter Deadlines

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

**First Quarter.....Jan 15**

**Second Quarter.....Apr 15**

**Third Quarter .....Jul 15**

**Fourth Quarter .....Oct 15**

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

### REUNION PROPOSALS FOR 2008

Any one wishing to propose a Reunion site for 2008 should have all required paperwork (Request for Proposal and site information) sent to me by the end of May 2006. The 2008 site will be voted on at The Kansas City Reunion. Please mail all information to:

Stephen Page  
5400 Little River Neck Road  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582  
1-843-280-4506  
stephen.r.page@verizon.net

Thank you,

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## VIETNAM from page 1

its forces in 1973? There are many contributing factors, but the most significant and compelling single factor is that the Allied anti-communist military effort (consisting primarily of South Vietnam, USA, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand forces) in *South Vietnam was doomed to fail from the start because of strategic restrictions placed upon it*. The most militarily significant of these restrictions can be best summarized with one word: *Sanctuaries*. Blackhorse fought an enemy for six years in and around War Zone C that was fully resupplied and reinforced from these hidden safe havens on the other side of the Cambodian border.

The shortest distance from North Vietnam at the DMZ through South Vietnam to Saigon is about 400 miles. It was an impossible task for North Vietnam to supply its army that far through South Vietnam because the NVA would be attacked the entire way by RVN and its Allied forces once it crossed the narrow DMZ. Instead, the NVA communist forces established its logistical bases and roads a few miles inside “neutral” Cambodia and Laos.

North Vietnam threatened the governments of both Laos and Cambodia, and forced them to allow it to bring its military supplies and reinforcements through the western parts of those two “neutral” countries. In addition, the NVA built scores of giant supply bases in both “neutral” countries. North Vietnam knew that the U.S. Congress and the United Nations prohibited ground interdiction to close those illegal supply lines.

The existence and importance of the communist *sanctuaries* may be the most overlooked or ignored subject by the media in its coverage of the war. International politics beginning at the United Nations set the groundwork for this war-winning communist asset. First, a little background.

• **Post-WWII 1945.** Rule of Indochina was returned to France after Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek stated he did not want Indochina, “They are not Chinese. They would not assimilate into the Chinese people.”

• **Ho Chi Minh** lobbied for U.S. support for independence from France, but

## Had South Vietnam’s democracy succeeded, the United States and the Free World could have had a strong economic, military, and political ally with superb deepwater ports in a highly strategic Asian location today.

after the fall of China to Communism in 1949, the U.S.A. would no longer ally itself with any communist organization or nation.

• **1950.** United Nations *mandated* supporting South Korea to expel the North Korean and Chinese invaders during the Korean War of 1950-1953. *Important: The U.N. mandate had the approval of the Soviet Union because of its rivalry with its neighbor, China.*

• **1954.** French forces are defeated by the Viet Minh during the epic battle at Dien Bien Phu, and the First Indochina War ended soon thereafter. *The Geneva Conference on Indochina agreed to split Vietnam into two independent nations along the 17th parallel (as it was split in the 15th Century), leaving North Vietnam under communist control and giving South Vietnam an opportunity to develop a democracy.* The Geneva Conference on Indochina also granted Laos and Cambodia their independence, with Laos returning to its 600-year old monarchy.

• **The Soviet Union** (one of North Vietnam’s major allies) made it clear to the U.N. that it would veto any attempt by the U.N. to mandate support of RVN in its efforts to expel its communist invaders from North Vietnam. This U.N. manipulation and philosophy was also carried forward with the U.N. views on Cambodia and Laos for twenty years of warfare 1954-1975 as the North Vietnamese military activity in those countries was completely ignored by the U.N.

• **The 1962 Geneva Conference** on Laos forbid the U.S.A. to enter eastern Laos in any attempt to stop the flow of NVA troops and supplies down the Ho Chi Minh trail network, thus giving a “green light” to the NVA.

• **1965.** The U.S.A. ground troops entered into the Second Indochina War to aid its ally South Vietnam *without sanction* or assistance from the U.N., much like the

U.S.A. did with its attack on Iraq after 9-11.

The fact that North Vietnam was violating the neutrality of Cambodia and Laos was of no consequence to the U.S. Congress or the United Nations in the prohibition of American ground forces entering those “neutral” countries to eliminate the NVA base camp sanctuaries or to stop the communist infiltration into RVN.

North Vietnam had the ability to supply its invading army from sanctuaries and road networks (primarily the Ho Chi Minh Trail) through Laos and Cambodia with impunity from intervention and ground attack. Furthermore, North Vietnam received unlimited supplies from China, Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, North Korea, East Germany, and numerous other communist bloc countries through its ports including the North Vietnam’s giant Hai Phong harbor, and the Port of Sihanouk in Cambodia only a few miles from the South Vietnam border on the Gulf of Thailand.

The sanctuaries were not just a place for the communist forces to hide. The sanctuaries provided training and R&R for its soldiers, as well as resupply, reinforcements, medical care, operational headquarters, food storage, motorpools, fuel depots, communication networks, massive weapons and munitions storage facilities, and thousands of miles of roads comprising the Ho Chi Minh Trail network. And there was nothing the South Vietnamese, U.S., South Korean, Australian and NZ forces could “legally” do about it. The end result was that Allied forces could only fight the NVA when they caught them *inside* South Vietnam. In other words, the war had to be fought on terms dictated by the communists because of their ability to “hide” on the other side of the border.

Special Forces missions with Montagnard, Thai, and Cambodian mercenaries spied on and harassed the Ho Chi

# Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths



Jim Griffiths, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

Minh trail network. The CIA and U.S. Air Force conducted their secret war in parts of Laos against overwhelming odds. As a Platoon Leader in early 1970, I witnessed cheers from my Blackhorse troopers on the Cambodia border as President Nixon's secret B-52 bombing raids pounded NVA base camps just a few kilometers away on the Cambodian side of the Fishhook.

The 1970 joint ARVN-USA limited 60-day "incursion" into Cambodia had enormous success in terms of enemy supplies captured, and changed the course of the war in War Zones C and D, and in the Mekong Delta for nearly 18 months. It was the only official operation by U.S. ground forces to attack the communist sanctuaries during the course of the war.

Could an Allied military victory have been achieved without a ground invasion and without conquest of North Vietnam? Most likely "Yes" if the resupply of the communist forces was cut off through the following measures:

Ground interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh trail network in Laos and Cambodia to stop the flow of supplies.

Elimination of NVA base camp sanctuaries in Laos and Cambodia.

A naval blockade of military supplies arriving by ship in North Vietnam and Cambodia's Port of Sihanouk.

Continued bombing of military targets inside North Vietnam.

For example, the massive U.S. Linebacker II bombing campaign of North Vietnam and U.S. naval mining of the Hai Phong harbor quickly forced the NVA to sign the Paris Peace Agreement. However, because steps 1 and 2 above were not accomplished, the NVA quickly reverted to its old tactics after the U.S.A. forces withdrew and the POWs were freed.

Had South Vietnam's democracy succeeded, the United States and the Free World could have had a strong economic, military, and political ally with superb deepwater ports in a highly strategic Asian location today. More importantly, the people of South Vietnam would be free and not oppressed as I observed while I visited the country in 2005. Yes, the people of Vietnam are not dying in war today, but they are not free. Today Vietnam is listed as one of the most oppressed, and among most poorest and corrupt nations on earth.

By all accounts the Blackhorse Welcome Home gala celebration at Ft. Erwin in March was a smashing success. The Troopers of the 11th Armored

Cavalry Regiment, returning home from their successful deployment to Iraq were *properly* accorded the recognition and festivities that all returning warriors deserve. A great round of applause goes to the warriors and to all those who contributed to and participated in this event.

Most, if not all, of us understand the sting felt to varying degrees by those of us who were not properly welcomed home. I have a short story that illustrates the varied reactions to this sting.

The year was 1991 and I was attending my 25th High School class reunion. Desert Storm had just been successfully completed and a Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran classmate was speaking to the group about Desert Storm and he spontaneously requested all Vietnam Veterans to come up center stage. My class was relatively large so attendance was large and also a good size contingent of us (including myself) went center stage. To my pleasant surprise, my classmates then spontaneously gave us a standing ovation. Peer recognition had finally occurred and it was a pleasant feeling.

Later, I ran into a classmate at the reunion that was a Vietnam Veteran and had not joined in the activity. I asked him why. His response illustrates the irreparable sting he had felt by not being *properly* welcomed home. He said, "They can take their thanks and shove it, they are too late for me." Some of us felt and carried the sting a very, very, long time and this should never be allowed to happen again.

This issue contains a great variety of material, in addition to our regular contributors, including Eric Newton's final pictures from Iraq as well as pictures of the Welcome Home celebration with accompanying articles. Frank Cambria also has an extensive article about us not being allowed to win the War in Vietnam that you will no doubt enjoy.

Attention should also be paid to the

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**Most, if not all, of us understand the sting felt to varying degrees by those of us who were not properly welcomed home.**

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scholarship articles and information on the reunion in Kansas City. "Heads up" troopers that desire their children to apply for our scholarships. Read carefully as the deadline is coming very quickly and the application form is in this issue. Reunion time dates are also different so make sure you stay on top of those.

Lastly, *Thunder Run's* editorial policy is published in this issue and you need to read this if you desire to successfully contribute to the publication. The parameters are spelled out and the guidelines are there. One thing I want you to know is that if you send pictures to be published in our 'Show Pride' section, the Blackhorse symbol should be prominently visible. Keep in mind that the picture you send us will be in black and white and possibly of smaller size than your submission. Understand too that it is easier for your Editor to transmit pictures to the publisher if they are sent to him digitally as email attachments, if possible. Also make sure you tell us what the picture is all about. Thanks.

I am looking forward to seeing any of you who will be going to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial day. See you there!

Enjoy your *Thunder Run!*

## Memorial Day – 2006

The annual Memorial Day wreath laying by the 11th ACVVC will be held at 10:00am on Monday, May 29, 2006, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

Please meet near the statue of the Three Soldiers. Blackhorse troopers of all eras, family and friends are welcome.

The annual Veterans Day wreath laying will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, November 11, 2006, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

# 11th Armored Cavalry Welcome Home Party



By Chuck Schmidt

The welcome home party at Fort Irwin, CA, 16-18 March 2006 was a great tribute to our latest 11th ACR heroes. We of the Vietnam era remember vividly the lack of any honors, parades, or recognition for our service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia. Unlike the individual replacement and rotation policies prevalent in the Army during the Vietnam War, the policy for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq is unit rotation and unit replacement. The 11th ACR deployed as a trained unit and returned as a successful participant in the war against terrorism in Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

All 11th ACR Veterans were invited to attend and take part in the celebration at Fort Irwin. We thank the Regiment, its Commander, COL Peter Bayer and Command Sergeant Major (CSM), Ricky Pring, for including us in the festivities. The cel-



LEFT: COL Bayer, 11th ACR, CO and CSM Pring unfurl the colors at the “Welcome Home” parade ceremony. RIGHT: F Troop 1st Sgt removes the Vietnam era Guidon from the staff and returns it to 11thACVVC Troopers. Selected Guidons flown in Vietnam were carried to Iraq to symbolize a continuing legacy.

California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was the main speaker for the ceremony, the highlight of which was the uncasing and unfurling of the Regimental Colors marking the official return of the Regiment to Fort Irwin.

celebration and mutual appreciation of the sacrifices made by the Regimental Troops in Iraq and those same sacrifices that we made in Vietnam and Cambodia showed us that we are all part of the mystique of the “Blackhorse Regiment”. We respect and admire today’s Troopers, and they in turn respect and admire the legacy we established some forty years ago in the jungles of Vietnam and Cambodia. All who attended will vouch for the fact that there is little, if any, difference in the camaraderie that we as an organization (11thACVVC) have for each other, and the close binds between today’s Combat Veterans of Iraq. Additionally, we all observed a strengthening of the bonds between the young soldiers of today and us “Grizzled Old Veterans” of yesterday. There is a mutual bond of similar shared experiences that is undeniable and demonstratively evident between all who are authorized to wear the “Blackhorse” patch on the right sleeve.

A number of the almost 200 11thACVVC members arrived at Fort Irwin on the evening of the 16th of March and attended the Key Leaders at which the RCO and others briefed the outstanding results of the Regiment’s deployment as a key part of the forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom III. There was obvious pride among all the Regimental Leadership for a job well done. The invited Vietnam Veterans appreciation for our Troops was overwhelming as was their gratitude for our attendance. Lots of war stories were told that evening over too many beers in Reggies and the Regimental Room.

The morning of the 17th began with the Regimental Run and a couple thousand young (by our standards) Troopers greeted us veterans staying at the Landmark Inn with rousing cadence and a lively formation. They looked GREAT! At mid-morning we all attended a guidon retirement ceremony as the guidons previously passed from the Vietnam Veterans to the Regiment to fly in Iraq back in September 2004 were returned after a year in Iraq. The wear and tear of another war was evi-



Memorial Ceremony for Troopers who made the ultimate sacrifice in "Iraqi Freedom III"



Past Regimental Commander General Terry Tucker, CSM Ricky Pring, and Gene Johnson serve the troops

dent on the standards. We were proud to receive them back, and it was evident that the Troops were proud to have served under these battle scarred banners. Following the emotional exchange, we were all treated to a demonstration of true Cavalry horsemanship as the Mounted Color Guard went through precision maneuvers and skill challenges culminated in a "Cavalry Charge" across the arena.

In the early afternoon, a Memorial Ceremony honoring the 21 who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq was held at the 11th Armored Cavalry Chapel. On a replica of our memorial at Fort Knox, a plaque honoring those soldiers was uncovered and wreaths from the Regiment, the Blackhorse Association, and the 11thACVVC were presented in their honor. Within the Chapel photos and short bios of each of the deceased were on display. We thank the families of these Troopers and honor the sacrifice of their loved ones. We will greet them all when we finally make our trip to "Fiddlers Green".

The Welcome Home Ceremony and Parade followed the Memorial Ceremony. The Troops of the Regiment looked outstanding as they proudly marched onto the field, Guidons and Squadron Colors flying and the Mounted Color Guard in period Cavalry splendor. California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was the main speaker for the ceremony, the highlight of which was the uncasing and unfurling of the Regimental Colors marking the official return of the Regiment to Fort Irwin. As the present and former Regimental Commanders inspected the troops from a WWII half-track, each unit was saluted and acknowledged. As they passed in review, it was again obvious we were observing a proud unit that had distinguished itself in defense of our freedoms. We cannot express our thanks and gratitude thoroughly enough for all that these soldiers have done and continue to do for all of us by their selfless service!

The "Spur Call" at the club that evening lasted until the wee hours of the morning. On Saturday, the 18th, selected units and Troopers were honored in the city of Barstow, CA. On a cold and rainy afternoon, the Chuck Wagon Gang from Odessa, Texas, put on a BBQ for the entire post. Considering the weather, the turn out was tremendous and we were able to once more show the Troops and their family and friends our gratitude and appreciation for their sacrifices and service to our great country. The Chuck Wagon Gang was "honchoed" by Jerry Hensley, one of our 11thACVVC members. They had spent two days and nights working to prepare an outstanding feed for all the brave souls who showed up. A number of 11thACVVC members volunteered to man the serving lines which gave us a unique opportunity to thank the Troops one at a time, face-to-face. As the day wound down, a few hardy Troopers from all eras went to the Family Concert on Army Field that evening.

The Party was a great success, and served its stated purpose not only for our Operation Iraqi Freedom heroes, but for the 11thACVVC Vets too!! ALLONS!!!



Vietnam Veterans, today's Troopers and others recognized for their efforts in support of the Regiment

## IRAQ from page 1



October 4th, 2005 (Hak, Iraq)- 1LT Joseph Linhart (left) with Jerry Williamson (center) and Eric Newton (right), Vietnam War Veterans from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment who visited Task Force 2/11 ACR.



While this child appears to be "FRIEND", He could also be picking your pocket or lifting the gear on your belt. The kids know that they will receive a reward if they can get close enough to read the frequency on the radio strapped to your vest. I lost a pair of sunglasses hooked in my vest while filming inside a school with the kids gathered around me and never knew it until I went outside

new generation of Soldiers is again fighting to bring peace and democracy to a war-torn country.

Members of the 11th ACR Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Association, Williamson and Newton both felt the urge to visit Iraq, to reconnect with the unit that they last fought with over 35 years ago when the two men were just young Soldiers. By gaining support from the present chain of command, the two men came to Iraq together to see the Soldiers who continue to carry on the Blackhorse tradition.

During their seven day stay, Williamson and Newton were allowed unprecedented access to Task Force 2nd

Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. From living in a forwarding operating base to going out on counter-insurgency patrols, the Vietnam Vets were able to witness the full spectrum of operations that the 11th ACR Soldiers have been conducting in their deployment to Iraq.

Task Force 2-11 ACR, operating out of FOB Kalsu approximately 30 miles south of Baghdad, took Williamson and Newton out on patrols where they were able to participate in a raid and witness the clearance of an improvised explosive device. They were also able to sit in on several staff meetings, allowing the Vets to see both the planning and execution sides of

the Task Force's missions.

Towards the end of their visit, Williamson sat down for an interview. He did note the similarities between Vietnam and Iraq. However, he insisted that while today's Soldiers have better technology available to them compared to his counterparts, the jobs of the Soldiers of today have also increased in complexity. Soldiers now have to act more like policeman and must walk an even finer line between fighting an insurgency and winning hearts and minds.

Still, Williamson did not express any concern about the state of the Army or its current mission. In fact, both men were impressed with the competence and pro-



Mosul, Iraq: Command Sergeant Major Ricky Pring, in his office which was once a palace.



In our two weeks in Iraq with the 11th ACR, we experienced everything from an VBIED to a mortar attack. But no firefight. So CSM Pring took us out into the streets of Mosul with the promise to find one.



Medivac lifts off from FOB Kalso carrying wounded after an early morning mortar attack.



Vietnam vets on patrol in Al Dyrara, Iraq with Mississippi Guard's 155th Combat Brigade Team attached 11th ACR. Eric Newton, Left.



The classic tourist pose with Saddam's bullet riddled monument at the entrance of what used to be one of his largest weapons manufacturing plants. Eric Newton, left, and Jerry Williamson.



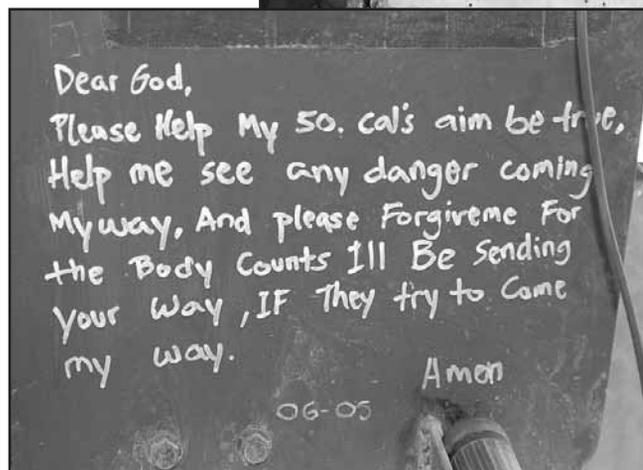
VIP tent at Forward Operating Base, KALSU. Not ready for inspection for sure. Jerry Williamson makes notes of the days events.

professionalism of all the Soldiers they met. The two veterans were adamant that the Army needs to be allowed to finish their mission in Iraq.

Williamson and Newton hope to produce a documentary about their stay in theater. Newton actually carried a camcorder everywhere the two men went. Yet, a documentary was really secondary to their primary goal in coming to Iraq—to visit the Soldiers and cheer them on.

For the Soldiers of Task Force Eaglehorse, the visit by the Vietnam Vets certainly proved to be morale boost. For Williamson and Newton though, it was a chance to rediscover the bonds of brotherhood that were forged in a war years ago but still exist today. Actually, when asked whether the two would follow the Regiment if they were to deploy overseas again, they simply replied with a smile, "You bet!"

Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq



Graffiti in guard tower at Abu Ghraib Prison. This is the tower where Marines were attacked while securing the prison in April 2005. The 11th Armored Cavalry was assigned to security soon after.





# Guide To 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program

## HISTORY

11TH ACVVC began collecting money at the 1989 Reunion in Minneapolis. \$1,000 was donated to the Blackhorse Association Scholarship Program.

At the 11TH ACVVC Membership Meeting during the reunion in 1996, it was decided by the membership to begin a Scholarship Program separate from the Blackhorse Association.

Below is a list of Scholarship's that have been provided;

1997 – 2000	46 Scholarships of \$2,000 each
2001	13 Scholarships of \$3,000 each
2002	16 Scholarships of \$3,000 each
2003	20 Scholarships of \$3,000 each
2004	22 Scholarships of \$3,000 each
2005	25 Scholarships of \$3,000 each

As of June 30 2005, 142 Scholarships have been awarded for a total amount of \$380,000.

In 2001, the Board of Directors voted to use the monies that are generated by the interest received from the Association's Certificates of Deposit for the Scholarship Program. Additionally, the fundraising activities that we participate in each year add to the total scholarship funds. These activities include Calendar Sales, the Raffle and a Silent Auction each year at the annual reunion. Your support makes this program work.

Prior to the 2001 Scholarship season, applicants were judged, in addition to the existing categories, also on the basis of financial need.

To determine financial need required the scholarship committee to make financial needs judgment's and decision's with very limited personal financial information available. Furthermore, divorces, varied costs of living and salaries in different areas of the country made it almost impossible to have one standard to apply to all members. Some applicants felt that the financial need consideration was often prejudicial. It seemed unfair to some student applicants and also prevented many, otherwise eligible students, from applying.

It was decided that the intent and spirit of the 11TH ACVVC Scholarship Program was to benefit the children of all members - and members themselves if qualified. After a long discussion, the consideration of financial need was removed from the criteria.

## THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

11TH ACVVC Scholarship Applications will be accepted from;

- Troopers that are current members in Good Standing
- Children and Stepchildren of Current members in Good Standing
- Children whose legal guardian is a Current Member in Good Standing

Applications will be accepted from applicants whose membership or whose parents' membership has lapsed by the Veteran sending in one year's membership fee.

## THE APPLICANT

The applicant must fill out the Scholarship Application Form completely. The completed Scholarship Application must be received by

the Scholarship Chairman **no later than the deadline of May 15** of each year (Extended to 31 May for 2006).

Applications received after the deadline or not filled out completely Will Not be considered.

The application is available on the website at: [www.11thCavNam.com](http://www.11thCavNam.com). An Application may also be requested by mail or e-mail from the Scholarship Chairman shown above.

The application should be submitted in the two page format as displayed on the website.

## JUDGING

Scholarship Applicant's are judged in three categories:

### I Form Completion & Legibility

### II Grades

### II Written Response to the two questions on page 2 of the 11TH ACVVC Scholarship Application

The Scholarship Committee may offer a priority of Scholarship's to Children of those Killed In Action, and to Children of those who Died of Wounds. These are the only criteria that takes precedence over judged items I through III above.

### The Scholarship Chairman or Committee Member selects the Judges.

The Judges are usually selected from the community where the Scholarship Chairman or Designated Committee Member resides. The main consideration for selection of Judges is that they must be impartial, educated and that they have a good idea of what it takes to succeed in College.

The judges are asked to rate each applicant on a point system. The point total for a perfect score is 30. Up to 15 Points may be awarded for Items I and II above. The remaining 15 points are allocated to Item III above.

Judges' scores are totaled. Applicants are then listed in descending score order. The number of Scholarship Recipients is based on the amount of funds available to award \$3,000 Scholarships. As many Scholarships as possible will be awarded.

Selected Recipients of the 11TH ACVVC Scholarship should be notified in writing by the end of June. The Recipients Letter will include a set of instructions to have the Scholarship Funds sent to the Educational Institution they are attending.

Following the instructions will expedite payment of the scholarship money.

## SUMMARY

The 11TH ACVVC Scholarship Program is intended to benefit all qualified people associated with 11TH ACVVC membership. We will continue to award Scholarships so long as our membership supports the Program.

We thank the thousands of Trooper's, their supportive families, loved ones and all who have contributed so generously over the years to make this program a success. All of us together, contributing what we can, have helped make this program one for which we can all be proud.

Allons !

*11TH ACVVC Officers and Directors, and the Scholarship Committee*



## Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Spring has arrived, finally, and with it the birds, the crocuses, the flies and of course the ticks. Ah yes, we may have despised the snow and the cold but now we to face the bugs and frequent rain showers. Somehow it's always something, isn't it?

Oh well, spring also means that our next reunion is just a few months away. Yea!!

I always look forward to our time together. There are so many friends that we only see once a year but talk about or e-mail only every other day of the year.

It's always so much fun to catch up on family life, grandkids, jobs, and of course the joys of retirement for some. Someday, Bob and I will retire too. For him it's in about four short years. For me – well who knows? With my job it sometimes feels as if I'm already retired and just staying in hotels all the time.

The reunion in Kansas City also means that our "Blackhorse Family" cookbook will be available for purchase. We have received about 400 recipes and they are, as I retype this, being prepared for the printer. I must tell you all how much I appreciate your contributions and support on this project. Some of the recipes were awesomely delicious and some ... well, let's just say that you have interesting taste buds. I would say me, my family and co-workers have sampled about 80% of those that were sent in. Thank you all so much. We have not set a definite price on the book yet but we are planning to keep it low enough that you will easily be able to buy several for Christmas gifts too. It will be somewhere in the \$10 to \$15 range. We will also be taking mail orders for them but not until we return from the reunion. Of course then we will be adding a shipping charge to them.

Of course I would love to see us sell all 1000 copies at the reunion itself. If we do the scholarship fund and the troopers (spouse) assistance fund will be receiving a very nice donation. There will also be a few dollars left over for women's group to use to start another project.

Are there any ideas out there? I think last year there was some talk about getting

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**The reunion in Kansas City also means that our "Blackhorse Family" cookbook will be available for purchase. We have received about 400 recipes and they are, as I retype this, being prepared for the printer.**

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a motorcycle to raffle off. If I am correct on that, then someone who lives in the Fort Knox/Louisville area needs to come forward and let me know that they would be willing to talk to a dealership and arrange for us to get one cheap (or hopefully donated). Anyway, we all need to start to think about an idea for our next project.

I have begun to think about this year's women's meeting. I have had a lot of requests to have Rick come back and answer questions that you all still have. I haven't spoken with him yet, but I plan to do it soon. If not I'm sure we can come up with something interesting.

Of course this year there will be "a lot" of door prizes. We had 80 women in attendance last year and I'm hoping for the same or even more this year. As always, even if you don't win one of the door prizes you won't go away empty handed. So please come join us and bring a friend, for a couple of hours (while your guy is in his meeting) for some laughter, tears and friendship.

Ladies, we all know that getting the reunion registration and other arraignments are usually left to us to do, so just a friendly reminder to get your reunion registrations in as soon as possible so Bob can get the list done for posting.

I know this is pretty short this month but I've been down for two weeks with a bad case of strep throat and still tire easily so I'm going to close for this time. See you all in KC in September. Remember to come and buy your cookbooks. All your family members and friends will want one too. I know I need 12 of them at this point, so that means there are only 988 of them left.

Always,

Barb (Puppytoes@charter.net)

## The 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard

By Pete Walter, (609) 261-5629  
BasePiece70@aol.com

Most of us have heard of the mythical "Fiddler's Green", the "...good old time canteen" located "Halfway down the trail to Hell". Legend has it all Cavalymen stop here for a drink with departed comrades and never leave.

In reality, we will all depart this world at some time. The loosely organized and informal 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard renders the last respects for fallen comrades by simply attending the viewing or funeral service of deceased Blackhorse Troopers.

Any member of the 11th ACVVC who lives within an hour's drive of the funeral service might get a call from me asking that they attend a viewing or funeral service. All I request or expect of attendees is that they dress neatly, introduce themselves to the family, tell them you served with the Regiment in Vietnam and are paying your respects and expressing your condolences to the family of a fellow Blackhorse Trooper.

To accomplish this last farewell, I need to be informed whenever you know of the death of a Blackhorse brother. Please contact me directly at the number and/or e-mail above. If you can provide date/time/details of the viewing and funeral service, it will make the task easier. It should be mentioned that with the increase in cell phone usage many areas have had Area Code changes and overlays. When I call Troopers, it is common for me to have a 50% failure rate due to an area code that is no longer valid. It is important for this function – as well as many others within the 11th ACVVC – that you contact Allen Hathaway (Membership Chairman) any time there is a change in your phone number, area code or address! Allen can be reached at 11thcav1966@comcast.net.

I've been doing this for many years, and have received callbacks and notes from Troopers who were contacted for the first time to attend a funeral service – all were honored to do so and reported the family was very grateful that we never forget our brothers. It is the last service we can provide for our Troopers and their families.



### WEAPONS

A few years ago my wife and I visited the site of the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana. It used to be called Custer's Last Stand. Then people realized that the Indians (OK, Native Americans) had a point of view too, so the name was changed. It's better this way. It was a very historic battle for our country. The weapons in the battle had a lot to do with the outcome, as you would expect. The Indians effectively used bows and arrows and short range rifles. They had tomahawks and knives for hand to hand fighting. On the soldiers side they had long range rifles which were effective until the Indians got the upper hand and took them. I think the soldiers had knives too but they relied mainly on their long range rifles. That became a disadvantage when the Indians got close.

Over in Viet Nam - whaaaat? Viet Nam again? Don't interrupt. Yes, Viet Nam again - that's where we were. You're not old enough to have been in Montana under Custer. Or under Sitting Bull either. Back to my subject - we had all sorts of weapons in Viet Nam. Many were state of the art in those days. As you know, the M16 was the standard rifle. Maybe you preferred the M14, which some did, especially the snipers, as they've told me. I don't know all the ins and outs of the M16 vs. the M14. I just know there were a bunch of both there, but mostly M16s.

For my first tour I was with helicopters and bird dog spotter planes. I remember our helicopter gunships. They were pretty old at the time, being Bravo model Hueys. We had newer Charlie model Huey gunships at Vinh Long which was our sister airfield about sixty miles north. C models were about the same as B models as far as I could tell. Old or not, those B model gunships were deadly. Our pilots were good. My memory is doing pretty well today and I recall that our gunship pilots could get their helicopters into the air within seconds of the first round landing when we were

attacked. Those were the times when some of the pilots flew buck naked. Their skin was on the line and being fast counted more than having their skin covered. This didn't happen all the time, just when rounds were actually hitting. They joked about it. To be honest, I thought it was pretty funny too. Mostly, I was glad they were good at what they did. I didn't care that they were in the raw. Our gunships carried side mounted M60 machine guns, automatic grenade launchers, rocket pods and whatever else they needed to bring skunion upon the heads of the NVA/VC who would have preferred to bring skunion upon our heads. They tried and sometimes succeeded which was not what we desired.

Later, I rode with the Blackhorse 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. We had a whole assortment of weapons. Take the Sheridan cavalry fighting vehicle, as I think it was officially called. We just called them Sheridans. I heard it had problems which I don't know much about, but it sure could bring trouble for the Dinks (Dinks were bad. Regular Vietnamese were good). Sheridans had a tank type turret with a 155mm main gun. One kind of round was called fleshette which had about 999 nails each having a tail like an arrow instead of a head like an actual nail. The Sheridan could put some of those fleshettes through a 12 inch beam from forty or fifty yards. I don't know if that's official, but that's what I saw happen on the perimeter at Quan Loi. Adding the machine guns and the personal weapons of the crew made that Sheridan a fearsome machine.

Or take our M48 tanks which had another fearsome main gun, 90mm as I recall. It also had machine guns. That was besides the heavy metal of the tank itself. By the way, I hope you'll pardon my lack of perfect detail here. It's been a long time and besides, I was a chaplain and not expected to know much about weapons anyway.

Speaking of weapons, which we are, how about our artillery? We had a bat-

tery of 155mm howitzers, self-propelled, of course. Those howitzers could bring hell-on-earth to whoever was on the receiving end which I'm glad wasn't me. One night when I was with F Troop, our How Battery was firing into the jungle on our far side. I'll never forget the bone-chilling whoosh of rounds going overhead and hitting just outside our own perimeter! Sometimes in War Zone C we brought out the eight inchers! There was a fearsome weapon! It fired with an unholy boom! Just the noise would scare me if I thought those rounds were aimed my way. Then there were the 175mm howitzers at Quan Loi. They wouldn't bring them out where we were. I don't remember why. What I remember is that they fired accurately so far that they didn't need to be where we were. The projectiles made a humongous roar when they went overhead too. You didn't want to be under their direction of fire at night if you were at Quan Loi. You'd never get any sleep.

I don't have time to talk about our engineer's Bangalore Torpedoes, mines (Claymore or otherwise), our mortars, automatic ambushes, or our ability to call in air strikes and arc lights. I haven't talked about our Cobra or scout helicopters. This isn't a manual, either. It's just stories from Viet Nam as I recall them, a major purpose being to stimulate your own good memories and stories as you recall them from Viet Nam. Others people will recall and write about the weapon details. If you want recommendations for what to read, let me know.

There is one more weapon I want you to be conscious of. I know many of you already know about it. Some of you probably know it better than me. That weapon fit in the Viet Nam war situation. It fit in the Iraqi Freedom, WWII, Civil War (yes, even back in the 1860s) and other war situations just as well. This weapon fits all of life. I hope you see that we are indeed in a war in our lives. I don't mean fighting each other. I don't mean one nation fighting another, either. I mean personally fighting the Devil and

the spiritual forces of this life. Those evil forces give us trouble from the day we're born to the day we die. Now it's time for me to quote from the Bible for two reasons: (1) The Bible explains it better than I can by a country mile; (2) The Bible is the word of God so has 100% authority which I don't: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV).

The weapon of the Lord is the Word of God that you need to fight the forces of darkness, the forces of the Devil and sin that come at every one of us easily and with unbelievable stealth. You understand what I'm saying, I know. I'm part of God's Army with God's Word as my basic weapon. What about you? God is recruiting you. Sign on.

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

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

## Scholarship Calendar Appeal

# Donations Hit Record High!

*By Chuck Schmidt,  
Scholarship Committee*

Thanks to the tremendous generosity and support of our outstanding membership, donations to the Scholarship Program in response to the 2006 Calendar appeal have exceeded our goal. Having collected over \$25,000 last year, we boldly set \$30,000 as this year's target. To date 1,102 donors have contributed \$30,847 in support of our efforts to assist members and their children obtain an undergraduate degree! The number of donors is about the same as the two previous years, but many more have decided to "dig deeper" and sacrifice to support this outstanding program. More than 65 donated \$100+ and over 500 decided to contribute between \$25 and \$99 to the cause.

Although these figures reflect the willingness of some of our members to be fully active in support of one of our premier projects, it is still disappointing that the number of participants is only about 1/4 of current membership. As I stated in the last issue of Thunder Run, if we could increase the number who support this pro-

gram to just 1/2 of the members, we would be able to support EVERY qualified applicant and open the program to our Grandchildren, which many of you have requested. Last year, we were able to award only 25 of 50 deserving applicants with scholarship assistance of \$3,000 each.

It is never too late. If you have set aside your 2006 calendar telling yourself that you will get to it later, later is here and now! Please consider pulling the donation envelope from your 2006 calendar and sending in what you can afford.

We thank each and every one of you who have made the effort to support this worthy cause. From the \$5 donation to those of \$500 or more, we really appreciate your contribution. The Trooper who sends in a folded \$5 bill has probably made as great or an even greater sacrifice than some who were able to donate \$100 or more. You are the GREATEST—supporting the best Regimental sized veterans organization in the in the entire United States military!! Thanks for your gracious support.

## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday, September 21, 2006**

Shoal Creek Golf Course  
8905 Shoal Creek Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64157  
Phone 1-816-407-7242

### Rated top 10 Missouri golf course!

\$69 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$69 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by September 1, 2006 to guarantee your entry!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Call 651-578-2857 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by September 1, 2006. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of Missouri's best facilities. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars, 3) Soft spike only facility.

## 2006 CALENDAR SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The 11th ACVVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge these generous donations to the Scholarship Fund. Donations listed are through mid April 2006. We will publish donations received after that in a later issue

### Gold Level Donors

#### Donations from \$100 to \$499

Robert L. Fisher II  
Randall & Ann Hardin Ford  
Rosario & Deidre Gorospe  
James D. Holt  
Dennis & Anita Horan  
Donald LaFontaine  
Edward T. Lumppp  
Leonard K. "Smokey" Murphy  
John & Ruth Raffety  
Irwin Rutchik  
Michael C. Simpson  
Gerald & Rhonda Straszewski  
Terrance & Audrey Wallace

### Silver Level Donors

#### Donations from \$50 to \$99

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Jerald & Marilyn Eichelberger  
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Gary & Janet Rieth  
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Robert & Renate Soule  
MSG USA(Ret) Edward & Marie Tinney  
Gerald & Rhonda Trainor  
Frank & Luise Varljen  
Robert & Eddie Mae Wagg, Jr.  
Scott & Caroline Wardrope  
Nicholas & Courtney Williams

### Bronze Level Donors

#### Donations from \$1 to \$49

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Richard A. Belcher  
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John & Vera Crouthamel  
Robin A. Crum  
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Samuel & Judith Czys  
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Ronald & Faye Raper  
William & Rose Rehm  
John F. Reiterman  
Raymond & Sue Rodarte  
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Myron & Judith Rosendahl  
Joseph Rouillard  
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Paul Snow  
Staven & Janice Spriggs  
Bay Ridge Beverage Dist. Staten Island, NY  
Terry & Vicky Stivers  
Kenneth & Deborah Stottsberry  
Dennis & Gloria Strouse, Jr.  
Robert & M. Stuedemann  
Gary Sutherland  
James & Susan Marie Swanson  
F. Robert & Nancy Taylor  
James E. Taylor

COL USA (Ret) Jerry & Donna Thurman  
Michael W. Todd  
Reynaldo V. Trevino  
William & Susan Troxell  
Francis R. Ubelther  
P. Richard & Frances Upton  
Max & Patricia Vigus  
Bruce & Cynthia Ward  
Charles & Donna Watkins  
Michael & Mary Weynand  
Roger D. White  
Charles & Linda Whitmore  
Michael & Molly Wickam  
Thomas R. Wills  
Mike B. Wilson  
Michael & Karen Wresch  
Curtis & Susan Wright  
Stephen L. Wurster  
Horace & Julia Yell  
James & Vanessa Young

### General Fund

#### Silver Level Donors

#### Donations from \$50 to \$99

Douglas R. Clack

#### Bronze Level Donors

#### Donations from \$1-\$49

Eugene Corliss  
Davis M. Garabato Jr.  
Ronald Joe  
Ulysses Johnson  
Keith Jones  
D. L. Pace

### Other Scholarship Donations

#### Platinum Level Donors

#### Donations of \$500 or more

Richard T. Schaden

#### Gold Level Donors

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Robert Macon  
Richard L. Perry

#### Bronze Level

#### Donations from \$1-\$49

William L. Boyd  
John Burns  
John Plummer  
Dennis Simon

## Trooper's Identity Established



We have established the identity of the mystery Trooper whose picture was in 1st quarter, 2006 Thunder Run. He is Leon L. Woodruff, H Co. 2/11 (68-69). Leon said he was hit by an RPG while serving as a tank loader. The original picture appeared in Blackhorse Magazine, December 1969.

Leon said he was "shocked to see my picture in the magazine" and noticed it in the 2006 Blackhorse Calendar also.

Thanks to Leon and all others that responded to this inquiry.



# Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	UNIT	DATES
Acosta, Elisardo	7TH APU	70-71
Adams, Jimmy C	M CO, 3/11	69-69
Allen, Ernest M	398th TRANS	67-68
Arbaugh, Dale	E TRP, 2/11	69-70
Bahndorf, Dean H	E TRP, 2/11	71-72
Barnhart, Michael G	HHT, 1/11	68-69
Bielser, James E	K TRP, 3/11	70-70
Brady, Arthur R Sr	HHT REGT	67-67
Branham, Clarence M	I TRP, 3/11	69-70
Brown, Gary	F TRP, 2/11	66-67
Browning, John D	B TRP, 1/11	70-71
Byrne, Douglas	H Co, 2/11	68-69
Caffey, Jimmie D	919th ENGR CO	69-70
Clack, Douglas R	FTRP, 2/11	67-68
Crowley, Thomas F	L TRP, 3/11	67-68
Dees, Glenn E	E TRP, 2/11	71-72
Dittess, John	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Dublin, Sammy L	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Dunn, Hunter C Jr	HOW, 3/11, L TRP, 3/11	68-69
Eichelberger, Frank G	G TRP, 2/11, HOW, 2/11	66-67
Felker, Albert R	AIR CAV TRP	67-68
Fields, Ben	919th ENGR CO	68-69
Fisher, James R	HHT, 2/11	71-72
Garabato, Davis M Jr	B TRP, 1/11	66-67
Garcia, Benjamin O	F TRP, 2/11	66-67
Garren, Kenneth F	H CO, 2/11	68-69
Halks, Burton R	HHT REGT	67-68
Harwood, Roger	37th MED CO	69-70
Hay, Dennis E	HHT, 2/11	70-71
Joe, Ronald M	HHT, 1/11	67-67
Johnson, Ulyesses L	398th TRANS	70-71
Jutting, Dennis R	B TRP, 1/11	66-67
Kisor, Dennis R	E TRP, 2/11	69-70
Laws, Edward G	D CO, 1/11	70-71
Lowe, Cardus	K TRP, 3/11	69-71
Mascuilli, Timothy S	HHT REGT, I TRP, 3/11	67-68
Mcentire, Timothy A	541st MID	71-71
Mcwethy, Wesley I	D CO, 1/11, C TRP, 1/11	67-68
Moles, Ernest	919th ENGR CO	70-72
Moore, Earl F Jr	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Newton, Billy J	B TRP, 1/11	69-69
Perry, Richard L	HHT, 3/11	68-69
Pursell, Ralph D	F TRP, 2/11	66-67
Rice, Deward B	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Roark, Donald P	L TRP, 3/11	69-70
Roest, Herman	HOW, 3/11	66-67
Santoro, Alfred E Iii	AIR CAV TRP, HHT REGT	69-70
Schaden, Richard T	541st MID	69-70
Schmersahl, Thomas E	G TRP, 2/11	67-68
Schumann, Virgil E	F TRP, 2/11	66-67
Scott, Charles W Jr	F TRP, 2/11	71-72
Sept, Eugene	F TRP, 2/11	68-69
Skrabal, Edward	HHT REGT	68-69
Villwock, Jay J	G TRP, 2/11	66-67
Wasdovitch, Joseph	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
White, Joseph H	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Willer, Randal L	HHT, 2/11	68-69

## OUR EDITORIAL POLICY

When submitting written items or photos to us, please keep in mind:

- **Thunder Run** is a publication of the 11thACVVC used to communicate events, ideas, nostalgia, helpful information, and entertainment to our members. The 11thACVVC is a non-profit, non-political, corporation organized and operated within the provisions of 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code and is limited in activity by that charter.
- **Thunder Run** will consider all submissions but does not guarantee their publication. All submissions are subject to editing, including adaptation to our publications style.
- **Thunder Run** will not advertise except to promote our organization and to promote items for sale through the 11thACVVC Quartermaster Store.
- Photos must be sent as at least a medium-size .jpg or .tif file at 300dpi. Digital photos are preferred, but "hard copy" is acceptable. Photos for "Show Pride" are expected to contain a highly visible Blackhorse or 11th ACVVC indicators or symbols. The viewer should be able to note a link to Blackhorse or the 11th ACVVC. (please indicate if you want any photo returned and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope).
- **Thunder Run** will accept poetry and short fictional articles, although personal experiences in Vietnam or Cambodia or with the 11thACVVC are preferred. It is expected that submission be formatted in Word or some type of acceptable word processing program on a floppy disk or as an email attachment. *Very short*, typed hard copy can be sent.
- **Thunder Run** accepts articles from members and occasionally others. Request inputs be limited to 1000 words or less. Longer articles will be considered, but shorter are preferred. Publication of any submission is not guaranteed. Again, it is expected that submission be formatted in *Word* or some type of acceptable word processing program on a floppy disk or as an email attachment. *Very short*, typed hard copy can be sent.
- Hard Copy items (pictures or written should contain an email address or telephone number so the Editor may contact you for questions.
- 'Letters to the Editor' must be signed, contain the name and address of the writer along with a telephone number or e-mail address through which the editor may contact the author. Letters should be no more than 300 words to be considered for publication. The editor reserves the right to run longer letters, and we will notify letter writers in advance of any MAJOR editorial changes. **Political letters will not be accepted.** *Formatting procedures are the same for letters as all other written material*
- The editorial page is an open forum and does not necessarily represent the official views of the 11thACVVC, its Officers/Directors, or any governmental agency.
- Send letters or other input to: James M. Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI, 49106, or to [jgriff11@aol.com](mailto:jgriff11@aol.com).
- **Firm Deadlines** for consideration in any specific issue of **Thunder Run** are: January 15; April 15; July 15; and October 15.



### 11th ACR and Attached Units KIA “Operation Iraqi Freedom III”

Listed below are the names of those Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and attached units who lost their lives in support of the War on Terrorism in “Operation Iraqi Freedom III.” These 21 soldiers, their families, and loved ones are due our unending gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice they made by giving their all fighting for our country. They leave behind some 23 grieving children and numerous spouses who will never see their fathers or husbands again. **“We will never forget them, their selfless service, or their ultimate sacrifice.”**

Name	RANK	UNIT
<b>Hostile Fire</b>		
Prince, Kevin W.	SPC	E Troop, 2-11 ACR
Frank, Stephen W.	CPT	HHT, 2-11 ACR
Harting, Ralph J. III	CPT	E Troop, 2-11 ACR
Smith, John M.	SGT	E Troop, 2-11 ACR
Barron, Bryan E.	SPC	C Co, 1-155 IN
Parker, Saburant	SSG	C Co, 1-155 IN
Lunsford, Audrey D.	CPL	C Co, 1-155 IN
Varnado, Daniel R.	SPC	C Co, 1-155 IN
Collins, Randy D.	SFC	HHT, 11 ACR
Maida, Mark A.	SGT	E Troop, 2-11 ACR
Murray, David J.	SGT	B Co, 1088 EN, 256 IN5
Cooper, Travis	SGT	C Co, 1-155 IN
Penaromero, Luis Jorge	SSG	B Troop, 1-11 ACR
Derks, Brian K.	SPC	F Troop, 1-11 ACR
Jones, Jacob D.	SSGT	H Co, 2-11 ACR
Oneto-Sikorski, Robert C.	1LT	C Co, 1-155 IN
Villanueva, Javier A.	SPC	H Co, 2-11 ACR
Orosco, Adrian N.	SPC	G Troop, 1-11 ACR
<b>Non Hostile</b>		
Laware, Casey M.	SPC	HHT, 2-11 ACR
Dickens, Tyler J.	CPL	HHT, 2-11 ACR
Rivera, Milton	SSG	B Co, 1-296 IN

### 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment “Blackhorse” Fort Irwin, California 92310

April 06, 2006

Veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry’s  
Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11thACVVC)

On behalf of the over 3,000 Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Command Sergeant Major Pring and I would like to thank you for your participation and support in our Blackhorse Welcome Home activities. Your presence meant so much to our Troopers and their families. The support from Veterans like you continues to motivate and instill a sense of pride for our Troopers. They know that there is a generation of heroes out there that not only knows the difficulties of service, but also continues to live by the Warrior Ethos.

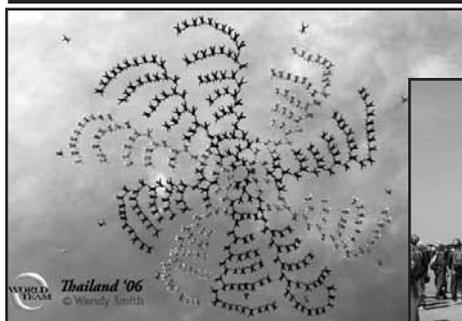
Your presence and continued support reinforces the great heritage of our Regiment and links the past with the present. Once again, we can not thank you enough for all you have done for the Blackhorse Troopers and families.

ALLONS!

Sincerely,

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

## Show Your Pride



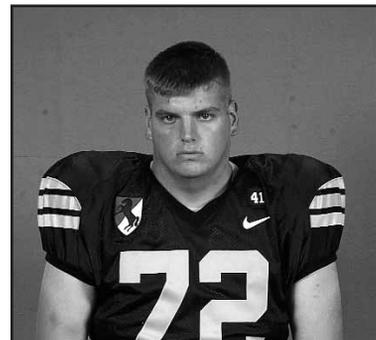
▲ Lee Hunnicut (C Trp 1968-1969) returned to Thailand (scene of his '69 R&R) and participated in a large formation skydiving formation (400) that set a Guinness World Record.

Lee’s Blackhorse patch is displayed proudly on his right leg. ➤



◀ Left to right, Beau Richards (H Co. 69-70), Keith Foster (HHT 2/11 69-70) and Bob Fox (Fulda) on the way to Welcome Home at Ft. Erwin.

West Point’s Junior offensive tackle, Jonathan Cannon, who wore the Blackhorse patch during the 2005 Army gridiron season. ➤



**REGISTRATION FORM**



**11thACVVC Reunion XXI Kansas City, MO**  
**Thursday, September 21 thru Sunday, September 24th, 2006**



Registration fees are \$68.00 per person This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled program events including Thursday and Friday Bunker Parties and Saturday Banquet dinner. **The registration fee will be an additional \$10.00 to above price for registrations received after August 27th, 2006**

Please Print All Information:

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

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

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

Unit Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country \_\_\_\_\_

list only **one** Troop/Company (ie B Troop 66/1967 or H Co 69/70)

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

**Attendees**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee): \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie

Special dietary needs:  Yes  No Please indicate needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**Mail To:**

**11 ACVVC Reunion XXI**  
**c/o Ollie Pickral**  
**571 Ditchley Rd.**  
**Kilmarnock, VA 22482**



# Journey to Fiddler's Green

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

**Ronald L. Bean**, who served in HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on February 14, 2005. Ronald was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Green Forest, Arkansas.

**Edwin L. Brown**, who served in D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 10, 2005. Ed was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Redwood Valley, California.

**Jack W. Bryant**, who served as a medic in HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 28, 2005. Jack was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shreveport, Louisiana.

**Gary L. Buchanan**, who served on B-48 in B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 9, 2005. "Buck" was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Westerville, Ohio.

**Michael G. Cassidy**, who served as a medic in HHT, 3/11 and L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 1, 2005. Michael was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Salem, Oregon.

**James E. Cox**, who served in E Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away on February 16, 2005. James was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ashland, Kentucky.

**Jerry W. Denton**, who served in the 398th Transportation Detachment (1967-1968) passed away on November 1, 2005. Jerry was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kodak, Tennessee.

**Terry P. Dilbeck**, who served in HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on July 24, 1996. Terry was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Gregory J. Dinello**, who served with G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 1, 2006. Nicknamed "Go Go", Gregory was a resident of Huntington Woods, Michigan.

**Thomas P. Donahue**, who served in B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 18, 2004. Thomas was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Moodus, Connecticut.

**Manford A. Elkins**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 23, 2006. Manford was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jenkins, Kentucky.

**Edmond L. Ellsworth Jr.**, who served as 1SG of A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1968) passed away on March 23, 2006. Edmond resided in Belton, Texas.

**Harry R. Evans**, who served in D Company, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 3, 2004. Harry was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Weirton, West Virginia.

**Norval Wayne Finnicum**, who served in A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 11, 2006. Wayne was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Woodlawn, Tennessee.

**Frederick R. Fisher**, who served in HHT Regiment (1967-1968) passed away on June 11, 2005. Frederick was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fallon, Nevada.

**James F. Fisher**, who served in B Troop, 1/11 (1968) passed away on August 8, 2005. James was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bakersfield, California.

**Philip C. Franchino**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) and G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 25, 2004. Philip was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Miami Beach, Florida.

**Roger L. Frye**, who served in I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 15, 2005. Roger was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Springbrook, Wisconsin.

**Henry F. Gonzales**, who served in headquarters platoon, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 6, 2004. Henry was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, Arizona.

**Harlen E. Gray**, who served as the assistant S-3 and regimental S-2 in HHT Regiment (1966-1967) and troop commander in L Troop, 3/11

(1967) passed away on December 10, 2005. Harlen was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, Texas.

**Jack E. Hayes**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 28, 2005. Jack was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dallas, Texas.

**Laban Lewis Holden**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1968-1970) passed away on December 2, 2004. Lewis was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

**Earl L. Johnson**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 27, 2005. Earl was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

**Robert L. Johnson**, who served in Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 20, 2006. Robert was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

**Leonard R. Kain**, who served in L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 3, 2006. Leonard was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Eureka, California.

**George E. Kinback**, who served in HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on January 6, 2006. George was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Weatherford, Texas.

**Charles A. Linaberger**, who served as the troop commander in L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 8, 2005. Charles was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Frederick, Maryland. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

**John C. Lockhart**, who served in HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 13, 2005. John was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ashley, Ohio.

**Henry R. Lupercio**, who served in Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-

1969) passed away on February 26, 2006. Henry was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cutler, California.

**David A. Majersky**, who served in 2nd platoon, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 27, 2005. David was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

**Lynn R. Martin**, who served in A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 28, 2005. Lynn was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tyler, Texas.

**John M. McCarthy**, who served in G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 18, 2005. John was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Roger D. McKinney**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 4, 2005. Roger was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gainesville, Texas.

**James D. McVey**, who served in HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 1, 2005. "Mac" was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Paso, Texas.

**John A. Merriman**, who served in C Troop, 1/11 (1968) passed away on January 23, 2006. John was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nettleton, Mississippi.

**Johnny L. Moore**, who served in HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 15, 1999. Johnny was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Gregory F. Morris**, who served in F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 7, 2005. Greg was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chama, New Mexico.

**James E. Narrell**, who served as the 3rd platoon leader in L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 24, 2004. James was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

**Barry A. Nelson**, who served in the 37th Medical Company (1966-1967) passed away on December 19, 2005. Barry was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Woodburn, Oregon.

**Earl L. Nichols**, who served in D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 23, 2005. Earl was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Wilbert L. Northington**, who served in E Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away on October 13, 2005. Wilbert was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, Virginia.

**Gary L. Oldham**, who served on B-25 in B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1972) passed away on July 8, 2005. Gary was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bakersfield, California.

**Miguel A. Perez**, who served in the 919th Engineer Company (1968) passed away on August 11, 2005. Miguel was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mountain View, California.

**James Townley Price**, who served in the 33rd Chemical Detachment

(1966-1967) passed away on March 2, 2005. Townley was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**John J. Quinn**, who served in Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 18, 2000. John was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jamestown, New York.

**Patrick L. Raistrick**, who served in F Troop, 2/11 (1969) passed away on November 11, 2005. Patrick was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Peoria, Illinois.

**Michael E. Rich**, who served in Air Cavalry Troop and the 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1971) passed away on December 11, 2005. Michael was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

**Salvador S. Rivera**, who served in G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on April 6, 2005. "Sal" was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brownsville, Texas.

**Andrew C. Robertson**, who served in H Company, 2/11 (1970) passed away on January 15, 2006. Andrew was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Washington, DC.

**Roosevelt Robinson**, who served in E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 27, 2005. Roosevelt was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Michael G. Ross**, who served on L-66 in L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 18, 2006. Michael was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in North Fort Myers, Florida.

**Ruben S. Ruiz**, who served in E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 13, 2005. Ruben was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Montebello, California.

**Michael D. Schwerbel**, who served in HHT Regiment (1967) and HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 1, 1998. Michael was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Justin, Texas.

**John J. Sokolas**, who served on K-15 in K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 26, 2005. John was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

**James G. Stewart**, who served in B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 2, 2004. James was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Delbert N. Sutton**, who served in H Company, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 8, 2005. Delbert was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lagrange, Georgia.

**Monte B. Thacker**, who served on E-31 in E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 5, 2005. Monte was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Owingsville, Kentucky.

**Robert D. Turman**, who served in HHT, 1/11 (1969) passed away on July 28, 2005. Robert was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Van Buren, Arkansas.

**Eric A. Weatherwax**, who served in 3rd platoon in I Troop, 3/11 (1970) passed away on February 23, 2006. Eric was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sacramento, California.

**Joseph C. Weber**, who served in M Company (1969-1970) and HHT, 3/11 (1970) passed away on October 20, 2004. Joseph was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lathrop, California.

**Gerald M. Windemiller**, who served in 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1971) passed away on March 15, 2005. Gerald was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

**Darrell K. Youngs**, who served in HHT, 1/11 (1969-1971) passed away on April 13, 2005. "Bud" was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chesapeake, Virginia.

## Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

**James H. Leach** (40th Colonel of the Regiment) has informed us that **John B. Poindexter** (Commander of A Troop, 1970) and **Charles A. "Duke" Doubleday** (Lt. with the Air Cav Troop, 1968-1969) were recently inducted into OCS Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning, Ga.

From **Gene Johnson**, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, a reminder that scholarship applications will be accepted until May 31, 2006.

**Steve Coursey** ("Short Round") would like to hear from anyone who served in B Troop, 1/11 in 1968. He is interested in any actions during that time as well as pictures of B Troop. You can contact him at 302-331-7206 (Dover, Delaware).

**BG Augustus L. Collins**, Commander of 155th BCT (The Mississippi Rifles) extends an invitation to any Blackhorse Trooper past or present to attend the Welcome Home Celebration for the 155th BCT at the Mississippi Coliseum located on I-55 and High Street, Jackson MS beginning at 11:15 and ending at 12:30 on 3 Jun 2006. Following the ceremony, there will be a lunch for all soldiers, family and friends hosted by the VFW at the same site. C/1-155 INF, B/2-114 FA and other elements that were part of **TF 2-11** will be present. A contingent of **TF 2-11** will be present, headed by **SCO, LTC Simril**.

### REUNION PLANNING

Planning for Our Annual Reunion in Kansas City, MO is well under way. The registration form has been published both in Thunder Run and on the Web Site. Airline and Auto discount code numbers and Toll Free numbers are in this issue (Avis and American Airlines). Tours are still in the planning stages we expect to have them ready for the next Thunder Run. Remember it is NEVER TOO EARLY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH THE HOTEL Hyatt Regency Crown Center, 1-816-421-4190. Reunion Registrations are also being accepted.

### REUNION XXI KANSAS CITY, MO

Air and auto Discounts

- AVIS AWD Number J996857: Call 1-800-331-1600
- American Airlines Star file: A9396AC Call 1-800-433-1790

Discounts good 18-27 September 2006  
Steve Page Reunion Committee Chairman



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Along with my wife, I would like to thank everyone for making this last six months an exceptionally meaningful experience serving my 11th Cav brothers. We hear from so many and a large percentage of those are repeat mail order customers.

Please give us your help. We have a large inventory of golf shirts and ladies shirts that we need to move. New merchandise is arriving and will be presented in our next Thunder Run so is it necessary to reduce present inventory.

If you have experienced problems of any sort with your orders, you have my apologies. Please keep me informed of the nature of the

problems as I am striving to make Quartermaster the smoothest running operation possible. I know we had some problems over the holidays but hopefully we have corrected those problems and can keep moving in an improved direction. We anticipate adding express mail in the near future so we can expedite those last minute orders.

Again I would like to express my thanks for being allowed to serve the organization. The leaders you have chosen do a superb job for all of us. The good of the Association and giving their best is always uppermost in their minds. I give them all a heart felt salute.

Allons,  
Jerry

## QUARTERMASTER NEW & CLEARANCE ITEMS

The 11thACVVC Quartermaster Store has some new items to introduce and some items that are at reduced prices.

New items include a couple of books by fellow 11thACVVC Troopers, a large full color magnetic "BLACKHORSE" patch and a magnetic "Support Our Troops" ribbon both of which adhere to any metal surface. The yellow ribbon has "11th ACR" printed on it as well as a full color "Blackhorse" patch and is available as a lapel pin as well. Both items were introduced at the XXth Reunion in Colorado Springs and were in high demand.

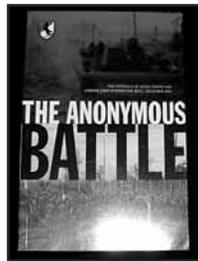
Clearance items include 12oz clear glass, faceted beer mugs with a convenient handle and etched with a "Blackhorse" patch "11thACVVC" and "ALLONS" on one side and a mountain scene and "Colorado Springs,

CO" Twentieth Anniversary and the dates 1986 & 2005 on the reverse. The Quartermaster also has shirts from past reunions up for clearance at an attractive price. Shirts of limited sizes for the 2001 Reunion in Wash, DC, the 2002 Nashville, TN reunion, the 2003 Eugene, OR reunion. (Unfortunately, photos of the shirts are not available for this issue of TR, but they are "Golf" style with site specific embroidery and are similar to shirts illustrated on the QM Web Site—go to [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com) and "click" on QM). Limited numbers of reunion pins from Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Eugene, Daytona, and Colorado Springs are also on sale as clearance items (most of these can also be seen on the Web Site). **ALL CLEARANCE ITEMS ARE LIMITED QUANTITY AND SIZES AND WILL NOT BE RESTOCKED SO IF YOU WANT ANY, ORDER ASAP! WHEN THEY ARE GONE—THEY ARE GONE!**

### NEW QM ITEMS



Book "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard — \$16.00 (C)



Book "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter — \$12.00 (C)



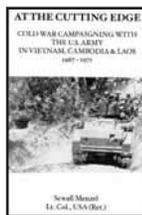
Magnetic "Blackhorse" — \$5.00 (A)

Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon — \$4.00 (A)  
"Support Our Troops" Lapel Pin — \$3.00 (A)



• Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths — \$10.00 (C)

• Book, "At The Cutting Edge" by Sewall Menzel — \$20.00 (C)



### QM CLEARANCE ITEMS



Beer Mug — \$5.00 each or 4 for \$18.00 (C)

• Golf Shirts (B) Originally \$30.00 — Sale \$20.00

Photo not available, see web site; Specify reunion, (e.g. Eugene, etc.), color, (e.g. Red, etc), and size (e.g. XX large, etc.) See note below for availability.

**Availability of Shirts:** 2001, Washington, D.C. —Red; 2 Medium, 14 X-large, 22 XX-Large, 26 XXX-Large. White; 23 XX-Large, 25 XXX-Large. 2002 Nashville, TN—Red; 4 XX-Large, 4 XXX-Large. White; 5 Medium, 3 XX-Large, 5 XXX-Large. 2003 Eugene, OR—Red; 2 Small, 8 Medium, 12 Large, 8 X-Large, 11 XX-Large, 9 XXX-Large. White; 2 Small, 10 Medium, 6 Large, 12 X-Large, 1 XX-Large, 10 XXX-Large. Green; 3 XXX-Large."

• Reunion Pins (A) Originally \$1.00ea — Sale \$.50ea (Photos not available, see web site; (Specify Reunion, e.g. Eugene, etc.)

**NOTE: ADD SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES: CODE (A) ITEMS = \$3.00; CODE (B) = \$5.00; CODE (C) = \$7.50 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order so make it worthwhile and order multiple items for a single shipping)**



# Quartermaster

## ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	C	10.00			
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. ....	B	10.00			
Key ring, 1.5 " Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	A	3.00			
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia .....	A	2.00			
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	A	2.00			
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" .....	C	25.00			
Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Lary Haworth, Chaplain .....	C	11.00			
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's .....	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued .....	B	4.00			
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again .....	B	10.00			
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia .....	B	20.00			
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	B	50.00			
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia .....	B	15.00			
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	B	5.00			
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	C	6.00			
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	C	30.00			
Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Pin .....	A	4.00			
11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	A	4.00			
Pin, "Xuan Loc" .....	A	4.00			
Pin, "Quan Loi" .....	A	4.00			
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav" .....	A	4.00			
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	A	5.00			
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia .....	B	80.00			
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21) .....	C	35.00			
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size) .....	A	275.00			
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tatoo .....	A	3.00			
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD .....	A	30.00			
Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths .....	C	10.00			
Book, "At The Cutting Edge" by Sewall Menzel .....	C	20.00			
Magnetic "Blackhorse" .....	A	5.00			
Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon .....	A	4.00			
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	B	16.00			
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White .....	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	B	25.00			
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left) .....	B	75.00			
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one) .....	B	20.00			
Windbreaker, white w/snap front, crossed sabers w/11BH patch logo, VN Ribbon, Vietnam 66-72 on left brest. Sizes: Small thru 3X available .....	B	35.00			

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

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

Subtotal

Shipping and Handling

Total

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. Prices effective until 06/30/06. Previous price lists invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**Thunder Run**  
**13194 Rettew Dr.**  
**Manassas, VA 20112-7800**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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