



# Thunder Run

Vol. 32 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2017

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

### Orlando, we hope you are ready for The Blackhorse!

In just a number of days The 11th ACVVC will descend on Orlando for our 32nd Annual Reunion. Our 32 consecutive reunions are quite a feat. You, the members of this organization have made them what they are today. Without your enthusiasm, pride of your service and dedication we would not be at this point. I hope when you read this issue your registration has been sent in.

**Most have made their hotel reservations early. We thank you for that and the numbers look great.**

Orlando will be another great event a very large attendance is expected. Most have made their hotel reservations early. We thank you for that and the numbers look great. Reunion registration on the other hand has been slow as of now. We hope you have already registered.

Please remember there is a cutoff date that will be enforced. Please note that registrations received after **Wednesday August 9th** will be returned and you will miss out on this reunion. Please do not miss the deadline and be left out. This policy has been posted in all three issues of TR. This policy is the way it will be on into the future. A refund policy is also in place. All cancellations must be received by the Treasurer before Friday September 2, 2017

Orlando is always evolving and this year there are many new attractions and venues. Please register before the deadline and join your Fellow Blackhorse Troopers and Friends in Orlando. We look forward to seeing everyone again this year.

Steve Page, Reunion Chairmen

### The beginning...

## 11th ACR Combat Photography

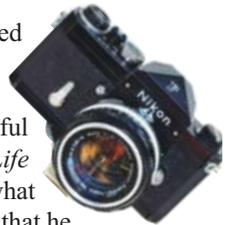
How the 11th ACR Got Its Combat Photography Capability, and How It Got the Photo Feature Story in *Life Magazine*: A Comedy in Several Acts

By Davidson Loehr

### PART I

You may have known that we had a combat photography capability (at least from January to August 1967), and that *Life* magazine published a photo essay of our beloved Black Horse Regiment. But nothing happened through channels or by the book. It involved a screwed-up TO&E, a Chinese darkroom operator, the Air Force, bundles of jungle fatigues and C-rations, the beginner’s luck

of a neryv but inexperienced young Lieutenant, a party at the *Life* magazine villa in Saigon, a harsh and painful scolding of me by the *Life* war photographer, and what was probably a slow week that he wanted to fill. It also involved the great cooperation of all the people of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment who did what the photographer asked of them, and more. It was a team effort.



Please turn to **PHOTOGRAPHY** on page 20

## Vietnam? I Was There Last Night

Reprinted with the permission of the author, Robert David Clark

A couple of years ago someone asked me if I still thought about Vietnam. I nearly laughed in their face. How do you stop thinking about it? Every day I wake up with it and go to bed with it.

But this is what I said. “Yeah, I think about it. I can’t quit thinking about it. And I never will. But I’ve also learned to live with it. I’m comfortable with the memories. I’ve learned to stop trying to forget, and learned instead to embrace the memories. Vietnam just doesn’t scare me anymore.”

A psychologist once told me that not being affected by the experience would be abnormal. When he said that, it was like he’d given me a pardon. It was as if he said, “Go ahead and feel something about the place, Bob. It isn’t going anywhere. You’re going to wear it for the rest of your life.

“I’ve learned to stop trying to forget, and learned instead to embrace the memories. Vietnam just doesn’t scare me anymore.”

Might as well get to know it.”

A lot of my “brothers” haven’t been so lucky. For them, the memories are too painful – their sense of loss too great. My sister told me of a friend she has whose husband was in Vietnam. She asked this guy when he had been there. Here’s what he said: “Just last night.” It took my sister awhile to figure out what he was talking about. Just last night. Yeah, I was in Vietnam.

When? Just last night. And on my way to

Please turn to **VIETNAM** on page 5

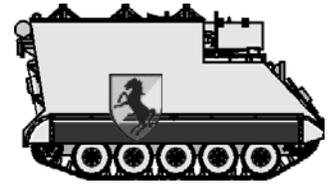




Allen Hathaway  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



**“Welcome Home”.** This is a greeting often used among Vietnam veterans. We always begin with this greeting at our gatherings at the Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The greeting has many very deep meanings. It began because many veterans never received a proper welcome home, so veterans began welcoming each other home.

The greeting truly means “welcome home” both physically and mentally. It means “Thanks for your service. I understand what you endured and the sacrifices you and your family made while serving our country”. The greeting is always accompanied with a firm handshake and sometimes a bear hug and pat on the back.

My wife and I were with some family friends recently. The father of our friend was also with the group. In the conversation, he asked what I did in my retirement. I replied that I was heavily involved in our organization of Army veterans who served in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He replied that he served in the Korean War with the 70th Tank Battalion. I immediately shook his hand, looked him straight in the eye and said, “welcome home”. I could tell by the expression on his face and the look in his eyes that he was moved. He was of a different generation, a different war, and he may have never been greeted in that manner, but he knew exactly what it meant.

The greeting opened an entirely new conversation as we began to compare notes. He trained at Fort Knox. We joked that we may have used some of the same WW II barracks, motor pools or tank ranges. We joked about the “cruise” across the Pacific.

I write about this because the greeting created an immediate connection between two strangers. His family may not have known much about his service or even understood anything about his experiences. He may never have had the opportunity to talk about his service. I know he left that day feeling proud of his service and so did I.

Our reunions are similar to the conversation described here. The reunions are an opportunity to meet others who have the

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**Mail your raffle tickets well before the reunion. This year we are offering prizes of \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and eleven \$100 for a total of \$2,500 in prizes.**

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same experience only with a much deeper connection, we all served in the same unit, the Blackhorse! We all know Xuan Loc, Quan Loi, 90th Replacement, Bien Hoa, sand bags and much more. We talk about the people we knew and many of the good times we had that kept us all together and sane.

Over the years I’ve talked with many of the ladies who attend our reunions. Many say their husbands never talked about Vietnam until they began attending the reunions. Some were reluctant to attend but after much encouragement they finally gave in and took that first step and signed up. No doubt, that is a big step! I’ve also talked to many veterans after they attend their first reunion. Almost to the man there is relief; relief that there are others out there who appreciate and understand. There’s renewed pride in their service. There’s also regret; regret that they waited so long to attend a reunion! So, if you haven’t attended a reunion why are you waiting?

Our next reunion in Orlando is just around the corner. Bob and Barb Moreno have been busy processing all the reunion registrations. By all indications we expect 1,200 or more again this year. Over 30 troopers will be attending their first reunion with more expected to attend. You can check our website for a list of all those who have already registered. We still have many more to register by the August 9 deadline.

Be sure to attend the Veterans’ Seminar

on Friday morning during the reunion. The seminars are always helpful and informative. The women’s group is selling nametag lanyards again this year. The lanyards are a good souvenir of the reunion and the sale helps support some of the projects of the group. Our quartermaster, Jerry Beamon, is stocking up on insignia products to offer at the reunion so be sure to visit the QM store.

Mail your raffle tickets well before the reunion. This year we are offering prizes of \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and eleven \$100 for a total of \$2,500 in prizes. All proceeds from the 2017 raffle will benefit the Scholarship Fund. The drawing will be held on September 9, 2017 during the reunion.

We’re also looking for items for the silent auction. The auction is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. We welcome any item for the silent auction. Insignia items are always popular. Please see the Silent Auction Donation Form in this issue and on our website.

Get ready for another great reunion. Bring your photos, scrap books and other memorabilia and be prepared to have a good time.

Lastly, continue to support those who wear the uniform. These young men and women and their families serve and sacrifice every day for the freedoms we enjoy. Reach out, shake their hand, and thank them for their service. Welcome Home, it’s good to be “Together Again”.

## Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to document and standardize the 11th ACVVC reunion registration cutoff dates. Effective with the 2017 reunion, and all future reunions, the cutoff date for registration will be twenty-eight (28) days prior of the first Wednesday of the reunion.

The cutoff date for Orlando will be August 9, 2017. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

**Cancellations and Refunds:** Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer at least five (5) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.



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

*Thunder Run* (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P.O. Box 956, Colleyville, TX 76034; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

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

<b>President</b>	Allen Hathaway, (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Drive Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <11thcav1966@comcast.net>	<b>Quartermaster</b>	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <JerryLBea@aol.com>
<b>Membership Chair</b>		<b>Editor</b>	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 <basepiece70@verizon.net>
<b>Operation Embrace</b>		<b>Information Technology/ E-commerce</b>	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72) 11515 English Garden Way Louisville, KY 40229 (502) 645-2931 <sales@kysales.net>
<b>Vice President &amp; Funeral Honor Guard</b>	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@verizon.net>	<b>Assistant Information Technology/Ecommerce</b>	Paul Gruber (G Troop, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317 (850) 878-8425 <pgruber@polaris.net>
<b>Secretary</b>	Gregory R. Mason (HHT 3/11, 68 – 69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 (813) 754-2980 <gregrmason@aol.com>	<b>Website Manager &amp; Facebook Site</b>	Robert Kickenweitz (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 (908) 803-3455 <bobk11acr@comcast.net>
<b>Director &amp; Scholarship Chairman</b>	Mike "Doc" Rafferty (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 (575) 915-2921 <PlatoonMedic36@gmail.com>	<b>Veterans' Information</b>	Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 1967-1969) 542 Main St. Rockport, IN 47635 <slumlord@psci.net>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 (804) 435-3658 <11cavalry@verizon.net>	<b>Historian</b>	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 22046 (703) 533-1905 (W) <Blackhorse4@verizon.net>
<b>Director</b>	Robert "Bob" Moreno (G Troop 2/11, 68-69) 24284 Endeaver Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 ((608) 387-3346 <gtroopbob@gmail.com>	<b>Public Affairs</b>	Eric Newton (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) 1037 Bluff Creek Point Strawn, TX 76475 <armor11ACR@aol.com>>
<b>Director &amp; Reunion Committee Chairman</b>	Stephen R. Page (B Troop, 1/11, 66-67) 4201 Ravenwood Dr. Little River, SC 29566 (843) 249-5278 <page116667@gmail.com>	<b>Women's Coordinator</b>	Kathy Tandberg 3818 Lone Peak Drive Bismark, ND 58503 (701) 870-6868 <kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com
<b>Chaplain</b>	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 10000 Rhineland Dr., Unit 209 San Antonio, TX 78239-3139 (661) 860-0093 (cell) (210) 646-3835 <lehaworth@aol.com>		
<b>Auditor</b>	William "Bill" Suhre (I Troop, 3/11 '68) 3620 W 10th St. Unit B PMB 405 Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 381-0335 <william@suhrelawfirm.com>		

# MEMORIAL DAY 2017



Troopers and family met at Poor Richard's Café in Plano, TX, on Memorial Day for a real down-home breakfast. This has become an annual event on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Plan to join them if you live in the Plano, TX area. (photo by Jan Beamon)



On Memorial Day Colonel Joe Clark, 67th Colonel of the 11th ACR, placed a wreath at the Iraq Memorial to honor the Blackhorse troopers lost there in 2005-2006.



11th Cavalry Memorial in Colorado Springs

The 11th Cavalry Memorial in Colorado Springs is decorated with American flags in observance of Memorial Day. (photo by Sheryl and Gary Myers)



# The Wall – 35th Anniversary



November 11, 2017, will mark the 35th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

As part of the commemoration of The Wall's 35th anniversary, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) will be hosting the 2017 Reading of the Names inscribed on the wall. Volunteers are needed for this monumental event, as a reader or as a spectator, in honor of their sacrifice.

The Reading of the Names will take place at The Wall for 65 hours over a four-day period beginning with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Names will be read from 4 p.m. on

November 7 to 12 a.m. on November 8 then from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m. on November 8, 9 and 10. Each volunteer will read 30 names in approximately two minute intervals.

The wall originally listed 58,191 names when it was dedicated on November 11, 1983. **As of May 2017, there are now 58,318 names, including 730 Blackhorse troopers.**

If you live in the Washington, DC, area or will be visiting during this time, please consider volunteering to read names. It is an honor to read names. You must register as a volunteer by August 11, 2017. Please visit [www.vvmf.org/rotn](http://www.vvmf.org/rotn) for more information and to register.

## Show Your Pride



Pete Walter, Westampton, NJ (3rd HOW BAT, 1970) shows his "Blackhorse Pride" with Blackhorse caps, vanity plates, frames and custom made Blackhorse medallions.



### Membership is Our Strength

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



## Acts of Courage and Bravery

By Frank Church (G Trp 69-70)

I was recently asked the question, "When in Vietnam did you witness any extraordinary acts of courage or bravery?". My thoughts initially went to deeds that would merit a medal of some sort, Bronze or Silver Star or even a Medal of Honor. I did witness such acts; some were recognized with awards some were not.

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**It took all the guts you could muster to blindly find your way to the cupola for guard duty on a pitch-black night.**

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As I began to think a little deeper on the subject I realized that I saw acts of courage and bravery on a daily basis.

First of all it took the dedication to our country and resolve to do our duty when called or felt the need to support our government in time of war whether we agreed or not.

It took a lot of boldness to sit on top of an ACAV or M-48 while busting through the jungle. It took a lot of pluck to be lead track on a "thunder run" down a dusty road. A lot of nerve was required to walk alone out in front of a column of vehicles on a mine sweep. It took all the guts you could muster to blindly find your way to the cupola for guard duty on a pitch-black night. It required fortitude to endure relentless downpours during the monsoons and choking dust in the dry season.

You had to be fearless to go on line and charge when contact was made with the enemy. It took daring to dismount and search for wounded or dead NVA. It took courage to lift the bodies of your brothers on to a dust off and continue your mission as if nothing had happened. It took spirit to carry on and continue to look out for and laugh with your buddies.

And then it was all over, you are back home. You feel as if no one recognizes your sacrifices or your gallantry. That is not true, I do and so do all of those that served with you, because we all know what true courage and bravery is.

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## VIETNAM from page 1

work this morning. Over my lunch hour. Playing with my kids. Yeah, I was there.

My sister says I'm not the same brother who went to Vietnam. My wife says I won't let people get close to me – not even her. They are probably both right.

Ask a veteran about making friends in Vietnam. It was risky. Why? Because we were in the business of death, and death was with us all the time. It wasn't the death of, "If I die before I wake." This was the real thing. The kind where boys scream for their mothers. The kind that lingers in your mind and becomes more real every time you cheat it. You don't want to make a lot of friends when the possibility of dying is that real, that close. When you do, friends become a liability.

A guy named Bob Flanigan was my friend. Bob Flanigan is dead. I put him in a body bag one sunny day, April 29, 1969. We'd been talking, only a few minutes before he was shot, about what we were going to do when we got back to "The World." Now, this was a guy who had come in country the same time as I had. A guy who was lovable and generous. He had blue eyes and sandy blonde hair. When he talked, it was with a soft drawl. Flanigan was a hick, and he knew it. That was part of his charm. He didn't care. Man, I loved this guy like the brother I never had. But I screwed up. I got too close to him. Maybe I didn't know any better. But I had broken one of the unwritten rules of war.

Don't get close to people who are going to die.

Sometimes you can't help it.

You hear veterans use the term "buddy" when they refer to a guy the spent the war with. "Me and this buddy of mine."

Friend sounds too intimate, doesn't it? Friend conjures up images of being close. If he's a friend, then you are going to be hurt if he dies, and war hurts enough without adding to the pain. Get close – get hurt. It's as simple as that.

In war you learn to keep people at that distance my wife talks about. You become so good at it, that for years after the war you still do it without thinking. You won't allow yourself to be vulnerable again.

My wife knows two people who can get into the soft spots inside me. My daughters. I know it probably bothers her that they can

do this. It's not that I don't love my wife. I do. She's put up with a lot from me. She'll tell you that when she signed on for better or worse, she had no idea there was going to be so much of the latter. But with my daughters it's different.

My girls are mine. They'll always be my kids. Not marriage, not distance, not even death can change that. They are something on this Earth that can never be taken away from me. I belong to them. Nothing can change that.

I can have an ex-wife, but my girls can never have an ex-father. There's the difference.

I can still see the faces, though they all seem to have the same eyes. When I think of us I always see a line of "dirty grunts" sitting on a paddy dike. We're caught in the first gray silver between darkness and light. That first moment when we know we've survived another night, and the business of staying alive for one more day is about to begin. There was so much hope in that brief space of time. It's what we used to pray for. "One more day, Lord. One more day."

And I can hear our conversations as if they'd only just been spoken. I still hear the way we sounded, the hard cynical jokes, the morbid humor. We were scared to death of dying, and trying our best not to show it.

I recall the smells, too. Like the way cordite hangs in the air after a firefight. Or the pungent odor of rice-paddy mud, so different from the black dirt of Iowa. The mud of Vietnam smelled ancient, somehow. Like it had always been there, waiting. And I'll never forget the way blood smells – sticky and drying on my hands. I spent a long night that way once. That memory isn't going anywhere.

I recall how the night jungle appears almost dream-like as the pilot of a Cessna buzzes overhead, dropping parachute flares until morning. That artificial sun would flicker and make shadows run through the jungle. It was worse than not being able to see what was out there sometimes. I remember once looking at the man next to me as a flare floated overhead. The shadows around his eyes were so deep it looked like his eyes were missing. I reached over and touched him on the arm – without looking at me, he touched my hand. "I know, man. I know." That's what he said. It was a human moment.

Two guys a long way from home and scared shitless. "I know, man." And at that moment he did.

God, I loved those guys. I hurt every time one of them died. We all did. Despite our posturing, despite our desire to stay disconnected, we couldn't help ourselves. I know why Tim O'Brien writes his stories. I know what gives Bruce Weigle the words to create poems so honest I cry at their horrible beauty. It's love. Love for those guys we shared the experience with.

We did our jobs like good soldiers, and we tried our best not to become as hard as our surroundings. We touched each other and said, "I know." Like a mother holding a child in the middle of a nightmare, "It's going to be all right." We tried not to lose touch with our humanity. We tried to walk that fine line: To be the good boys our parents had raised, and not to give into that unnamed thing we knew was inside us all.

You want to know what frightening is? It's a 19-year-old boy who's had a sip of that power over life and death that war gives you. It's a boy who, despite all the things he's been taught, knows that he likes it. It's a 19-year-old who's just lost a friend, and is angry and scared, and determined that, "Some son of a bitch is gonna pay." To this day, the thought of that boy can wake me from a sound sleep, and leave me staring at the ceiling.

As I write this I have a picture in front of me. It's of two young men. On their laps are tablets. One is smoking a cigarette. Both stare without expression at the camera. They're writing letters. Staying in touch with places they would rather be. Places and people they hope to see again.

The picture shares space in a frame with a picture of my wife. She doesn't mind. She knows she's been included in special company. She knows I'll always love those guys who shared that part of my life – a part she never can. And she understands how I feel about my brothers who I know are out there, yet.

The ones who still answer the question: When were you in Vietnam?

Me? I was there last night.

*Robert David Clark lives in Minnesota, and served as an eleven-bravo with the 2/60th, 9th Infantry Division, 1968-69.*



# From the 67th Colonel of the Regiment

COL Joseph D. Clark



Greetings from the Fort Irwin National Training Center to the Troopers, family and friends of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia! On behalf of the Troopers of 11th ACR, I hope that this message finds you well.

Summer has begun, and the Regiment is off to a strong start for what is sure to be a very successful quarter. In May, we participated in the 58th Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade in Torrance, California. Blackhorse Troopers represented themselves with pride and distinction with a display of tactical vehicles, horse mounted Cavalrymen, and dismounted formations. The Regimental Support Squadron's Maintenance Troop was able to restore "11ACR HQ6", a WWII-era M2 half-track, and she fought valiantly through the entire parade route, without flaw. Audiences were impressed and captivated by it, the M1A1 Abrams, the M2 Bradley fighting vehicle and other

tactical vehicles driven by our Troopers. Families were allowed the opportunity to climb in and take photos with Troopers from the Best Damn Regiment. We hope to participate and be just as successful next year, and invite you all to attend with us.

Rotation 17-07 is now in full swing. We are providing the contemporary operating environment for the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the Mississippi National Guard. As expected during every rotation, Blackhorse is providing complex and decisive training for multi-component Soldiers to be ready to fight and win our nation's wars. All Soldiers, no matter their component, receive the same intensity from the Blackhorse so we can continue to make the Army better.

Next month we welcome the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Carson, Colorado. This rotation will test the Army's

new Reconnaissance and Security Brigade concept. To help provide a complex operating environment the entire Regiment will deploy and replicate two full Brigade Tactical Groups and The Division Tactical Group headquarters. This rotation will be the closest we get to our own rotation while I'm in command, and the Regiment is ready to vanquish our foes. We are excited to test this new formation and make sure it is worthy of taking over the mission of the 11th ACR of fighting for information against an element much larger than itself.

I am eagerly anticipating our reunion with the 11th ACVVC in September. The opportunity to share all of the Blackhorse Regiment's accomplishments with the finest Troopers in the land is something I could never miss!

For more information on the Blackhorse Regiment, please visit and like our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/11th-Armored-Cavalry-Regiment-Blackhorse-158715460811763/>

ALLONS!

Joe Clark

The 67th Colonel of the Regiment

## Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

- 1st Quarter ..... Jan 15
- 2nd Quarter ..... Mar 25
- 3rd Quarter ..... Jun 25
- 4th Quarter ..... Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112-7800; email [11thcav1966@comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net).

## MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of *Thunder Run* without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112. Email [11thcav1966@Comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@Comcast.net)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to:

Allen Hathaway  
13194 Rettew Dr.,  
Manassas, VA 20112;  
Phone: (703) 791-6610  
[11thcav1966@comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net)

for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

# 11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2017

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman

The proceeds from this year's raffle will once again go towards providing scholarships for our children. **The 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 390 scholarships totaling \$1,264,000 to children of our members since 1996.**

All children (natural, adopted or step children) of our members who are planning on attending a university, community college or trade school are eligible to apply. There is no age limit and students do not need to be pursuing a degree. Please look at the scholarship guide on our website ([www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.htm](http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.htm)) for more information.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in

the 2017 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 9th during the 32nd annual reunion in Orlando, Florida. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

- 1st place (\$500)
- 2nd place (\$400)
- 3rd place (\$300)
- 4th place (\$200)
- .....and eleven \$100 prizes.

**Raffle tickets were mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May.** Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

## The Na'vi River Journey

**Register Now for the 2017 ACVVC Reunion in Orlando, Florida!**



### 2017 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2017 reunion in Orlando.

**Orders must be received by August 1, 2017.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Shirt Color:** Blue with reunion logo embroidered on left breast.

**Adult Sizes:** M, L, XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each

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



**Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Fellow Troopers – “Thunder Run” has had six editors over the past thirty-two years. I’d like to recognize them and thank them all for their great work as “Thunder Run” has evolved from a small black & white newsletter to a full-color, professionally produced, award-winning quarterly magazine.

Raye Ashe (HHT REGT, 66-67) was the first Editor of our newsletter. Raye was a “boat person” and contributed one of the most memorable and touching stories ever published by the 11th ACVVC, “The Summer of ‘66”. Sadly, we lost Ray on May 23, 1997. Thank you Ray and Rest in peace.

Ollie Pickral (K Trp, 68-69) was the founder of the 11th ACVVC and the second Editor of our newsletter from 1990 through 1993 and again in 2002. It’s unbelievable how this organization has grown since its inception. For everything you’ve done, thank you Ollie!

Mike Kennedy (HHT REGT, 66-67) stepped up as Editor in 1994 and kept

the presses running through 2001. Also a “boat person” Mike contributed much to this organization and engaged in considerable historical research for the 11th ACVVC. Thank you Mike!

Jim Griffiths (F Trp, 68-69) followed Bill Gregory and became Editor from 2005 through 2011. As a published author (“Vietnam Insights: Logic of Involvement and Unconventional Perspectives”) and long-time high school history teacher in Michigan, Jim brought experiential talent and a professional perspective to “Thunder Run”. Thank you Jim!

Carlos “Bill” Gregory (H Co, 69-70) served as Editor from 2002 through 2005 and again from 2011 through 2016. To list everything Bill did as a soldier and citizen would fill this page. Bill passed away on Dec. 3, 2016. A quiet and competent professional and a friend to all, Bill will be missed. Thank you Bill and Rest in peace.

After Bill’s unexpected death there was a void in the position of Editor, and

as always, President Allen Hathaway stepped forward and took over the job until a suitable replacement could be found. If I am a suitable replacement remains to be seen, but I have accepted the position as your Editor.

When looking at the names of the men who have held this position I realize I’m trying to fill big shoes, but the obligation to produce a high-quality publication is an honor. Like every aspect of the 11th ACVVC, success depends on the unfailing participation of our members. If not for your sacrifices this organization would not exist. The Editor of “Thunder Run” serves as a conduit for the stories, photos and historical information that you want to see. Your continued submission of material will keep the presses running. If you have any questions about or suggestions to improve “Thunder Run”, please contact me immediately.

I look forward to working for you!

Respectfully,

Pete Walter

## 2017 Election

By Greg Mason  
Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting held Saturday morning, September 9th, during the 2017 Reunion. The three positions are Vice President, Treasurer and one Director.

The Vice President and Treasurer will serve two-year terms. The Director will serve a three-year term. All terms will begin January 1, 2018.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their elected term.

The elected candidates must be able to communicate by e-mail with the other

### **Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.**

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

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

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using

Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund, the organization’s investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

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

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



### Getting Around

Did you ever ride a cyclo when you were in Viet Nam? Those were the contraptions with a guy riding a bicycle pulling a little trailer carrying a couple of you. It's no wonder the cyclo "driver" (or whatever they called him) stayed so skinny. I'd be skinny too if I rode a bicycle all day pulling a couple of big GIs wherever they wanted to go. That's what I remember about cyclos. Am I right? Maybe you don't know. Maybe you stayed out in the bush all the time and never got to the rear, the rear being near the cities, like Saigon and Long Binh where they had cyclos. On the other hand, maybe you rode in cyclos when you came out of the bush to go on R & R. Or maybe you were assigned to the rear where you could ride cyclos all the time. After all, someone had to do the admin, run the R & R center, and get ammo to the guys in the field. My point is that cyclos were one way of getting around. I never rode a cyclo, myself.

There were plenty of other ways to get where you were going, like mostly your feet, of course. "That's obvious," you say? I know. I just thought I'd mention feet because sometimes we tend to overlook the obvious, feet being clearly obvious as a way to get around. In the Nam feet were really obvious when you were humping in the bush which was jungle trails, elephant grass, rice paddies and dikes, or whatever else was there to walk on (not including punji stakes which were to be avoided at every opportunity).

Moving along, some common means of getting around were jeeps, tracks (tanks, ACAV's, M48s and such for you civilians who don't know what a track is), helicopters of several kinds, trucks of several kinds, and jet airplanes. "Jet airplanes? Hey! I wasn't in the Air Force," you say. True enough. But don't you remember your ride over there? Even more important, don't you remember that Freedom Bird, your ride out of Viet Nam? Of course you do. You might not have thought of it in terms of getting around. OK, maybe it's a stretch, but I mention it anyway. After all, that jet airplane got you where you wanted to go, didn't it?

You probably didn't ride around much in a jeep, did you? Not when you were out in the bush which I referred to a minute ago. Jeeps were around, though, like at Quan Loi forward support base (FSB for short) or Di An or wherever your rear was. (You know what kind of rear I mean, so don't snicker). I had a jeep for a few days after I got into country. It was at Quan Loi. But they took it away permanently when we went back out to the bush for the duration. You couldn't take jeeps into the field (bush/jungle). It was easy to see why. It didn't make much difference to me – my jeep was a maverick, anyway. You do know what a maverick was, don't you? How did I, the chaplain, come to have a maverick jeep? I don't have a clue – it was there when I came. Where did it come from? I don't have a clue about that either. I have more jeep stories but I'll move along and save them for later. You can ask me later if you want. I don't mind.

Let's move along to helicopters as a way for getting around. I think you've ridden in Hueys at one time or another; coming into your outfit for the first time, for instance. You were the new guy, the cherry, and you were green and scared. Someone told you to go get

**You couldn't take jeeps into the field (bush/jungle). It was easy to see why. It didn't make much difference to me – my jeep was a maverick, anyway. You do know what a maverick was, don't you? How did I, the chaplain, come to have a maverick jeep? I don't have a clue – it was there when I came.**

on that Huey which you did, of course. Then it took off for your first ride in a helicopter. (Some people call them choppers or helos. I don't). The ride probably would have been fun if you hadn't been so scared about where you were going. Besides Hueys there were Chinooks. I rode in them, which I think you did too. They held more troops and more stuff than Hueys, such stuff as mermite cans with hot chow, ammo and other kinds of supplies including water and diesel. Those Chinooks were loud enough to blast your ears apart – they had two main rotors, you know. No wonder they were so loud. They stirred up a whole lot of dirt too. Have you ever seen one set down inside your perimeter? You'd remember if you had. That Chinook didn't just stir up dust. It churned up a dirt cloud (not an exaggeration!).

Having been in Viet Nam you'll recall that the Vietnamese people had ways of getting around that we thought were pretty strange but were normal to them. It shows that different cultures have different ways of being normal. Huh? Well, take water buffalo, for example. I'm sure you remember water buffalo. We both know they were used like tractors. They pulled plows through rice paddies or whatever else needed to be plowed. But that's not all. In more villages, towns, and more places than I can remember, I saw boys riding water buffalo. They had to get around, didn't they? As you will remember, our cowboys rode horses. So what's so different with riding a water buffalo? Nothing. Of course, they were very, very slow. But they were powerful. So, it made sense to use them like tractors. For plain riding, it was mostly a way to get to the field to do the plowing. Anyway, it was a Vietnamese way of getting around.

Hey, I'm running out of time. Sorry, but I don't have time to talk about some other common ways of getting around. Like, red Honda 50s with two girls and a guy riding the trails between villages or Lambrettas with 15 passengers hanging out or old French Citroens like we saw in Cambodia or bicycles with flat tires being ridden anyway, and things like that. Great memories, I kid you not!

Speaking of getting around, one of the most important that I know about I'll mention last, right now. I wasn't there, of course, because it happened two thousand years ago. Specifically, I'm talking about Jesus Christ. Normally, in those days, most people walked. A few had donkeys, camels, and some Roman soldiers had horses. But most people walked, including Jesus. However, there was a time

when he rode a donkey because that's how he wanted to get around that day. Understand that in those days when a king rode a donkey it meant that he was coming in peace. Are you familiar with the Triumphal Entry? It was the original Palm Sunday when Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem. It was the week before his crucifixion and resurrection (the original Easter). He was riding into the capital of ancient Israel as the coming king, not the earthly king as in King George, but as the spiritual king as in the Kingdom of God. You can read about it in the Gospels such as Luke 19:28-40. Verse 38 tells what the people were shouting about Jesus as he rode by, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (NIV). Those people recognized Jesus as their king, the Son of God.

Without going into more details, I'll check out by leaving you the question, "Is Jesus Christ the King of your life too?" I hope the answer is yes. God bless you.

*God loves you. So do I.*

## We will always remember...



### TO BE

WHEN LIFE IS GOOD, AND SELDOM TRIED, T'IS  
EASY TO GROW LAX AND SLIDE. FROM DAY TO DAY  
OUR PATH GOES ON,  
WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT OF FUTURE DAWNS.

THEN ONE DAY COMES-A-TRIAL GREAT,  
A PATH FOR SOME, THAT SORELY BREAKS THE  
PEACE OF MIND ONCE HELD WITHIN,  
REPLACED WITH THOUGHTS- "WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."

YET EVERY CHALLENGE IN OUR WAY,  
CONTAINS A HIDDEN GEM THAT STAYS  
A PART OF WHO WE THEN BECOME, AS  
STEP BY STEP, EACH BATTLE WON.

WITH SORROW, WE MAY SOMETIMES SEE, A  
PART OF WHO WE USED TO BE. LAMENTING  
CHOICES THAT WE'VE MADE, AND CLEARLY  
SEE THE PRICE WE'VE PAID.

BUT THROUGH IT ALL, IF FROM WITHIN, WE  
DRAW UPON THE STRENGTH TO WIN. OUR  
SPIRIT WILL UNCONQUERED LEAN,  
WHEN THROUGH THE LENS OF KNOWLEDGE SEEN.

EACH STEP IN LIFE, A TEST WE'LL FACE,  
WITH STRENGTH FROM EACH, A QUICKENED RACE, AS  
BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT GROW  
THE SEEDS OF MOUNTING WISDOM SOW.

AND SO IT IS, THIS MORTAL PLAIN,  
IS STEEPED IN TIMES OF GRIEVOUS PAIN.  
YET FROM IT ALL WE COME TO SEE,  
THE WHOLE OF WHAT WE'RE MEANT TO BE.

MURRAY DOUGLAS SALLENBACH©  
March, 2017

## 11<sup>TH</sup> ACVVC DONATIONS

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

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# Reflections on Vietnam

Fifty years ago, in August of '66, as a member of the 11th ACR advance party, I landed at Tan Son Nhut airbase to begin my one-year stretch in-country. That year would change my life, as well as the lives of the more than three million veterans of the War in this small corner of Southeast Asia.

First impressions: the bus trip to Long Binh, the temporary base for the 11th ACR, was fascinating. Vietnam looked different, sounded different, even smelled different than anything I'd experienced before. Unarmed, but too green to be scared, our group headed through Saigon and out into the countryside. It did seem odd that the windows on the vehicle had wire mesh on the outside, but maybe it was just local custom. Our job was to prepare the base for the arrival of the regiment, scheduled for about a month away. There was little time to think about why we were there, the "big picture" of it all.

Occasionally I am asked to speak to high school history classes about the War, and so I've had to think about that big picture. Invariably, the kids ask, was it worth it?

As I pass around the Coke can that got shot instead of me, I try to answer that question, was the Vietnam War worth the effort? (Full disclosure: I was transferred to the 9th Infantry Division in February '67 and that can was in a case of Cokes outside my tent. One night near the town of Binh Phuoc in the Mekong Delta we got shelled and the Cokes were an effective replacement for sandbags. I think that by the time that too-close round exploded, I had, in the vernacular of the time, "unassed" that tent). At this point, the class is more interested in how you open this can; they've never seen a church key!

So, I say to the kids: The purpose of the American effort in RVN was often expressed in terms of the "domino theory," the idea that if Vietnam fell to the Communists, so then would all the rest of Indochina. Next might be the Philippines, Singapore, even Australia. After the War, Laos and Vietnam would be controlled by the Communists anyhow, but none of the other countries in question. So was the

By George Ruggles  
(How Battery, 3/11 ACR, 1966-67)

**Things are different now. Viet vets are largely celebrated and respected. That's led to many "stolen valor" cases of men saying they served in-country who in fact did not. Some internet sources, for what it's worth, say three million were in Vietnam but nine million claim to have been.**

domino theory wrong? Some would say yes, but another viewpoint is that the US involvement in the Vietnam War proved our country's commitment to SEATO, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. Drawn up in 1954, the Treaty specified that South Vietnam would be protected. The USA was a signer, as well as France, the UK, and Australia. In the end, South Vietnam as a non-communist entity was taken over by North Vietnam, at the cost of 58,000+ American lives and countless casualties, some not known at the time.

The students ask about Agent Orange. Talk about a double-edged sword. I believe the defoliant saved American lives when we served, but costs those same lives now because of its latent effects on our bodies. And this in addition to the toll that it must still take on the health of the Vietnamese people. The story of the late Admiral Zumwalt is instructive: he was the commander who instituted Agent Orange application with the best of intentions, and his Vietnam veteran son later died of AO-related cancer, years before his father's death.

I recently finished reading LTG Mc Master's book, *Dereliction of Duty*. It's a thoroughly documented tome that lays blame for the War on all the higher-ups, from LBJ on down. He clearly has the least respect for the Service Chiefs, all of whom he sees as too timid to stand up to the political powers. I believe that one of the few

positives we can take from the War is that the junior leadership of the services recognized the deficiencies of their organizations and resolved that when they were in senior positions, they would act differently. Hence the Powell Doctrine; hence the non-reliance on body-counts; hence the quick victory vs. Saddam in the First Gulf War. The War in Vietnam taught our Army a hard lesson.

The kids ask what it was like to come home from Vietnam. My experience was a lot different from what many soldiers found upon their return to the States. I came back to my home town, Portland, OR. Never heard an unkind word about my service in Vietnam, no harassment at all. The only time people looked at me funny was when I turned down a marijuana joint. In later years, though, particularly after My Lai, attitudes changed. I worked in Belgium in the early eighties, and the locals were always curious to hear an American's story—where you grew up, went to school, etc. If I happened to mention Vietnam, they would literally take a step back. By then, some Vietnam veterans had developed poor reputations that affected us all; drugs and alcohol were key factors. I'm sure you know someone who fell victim to those demons.

Things are different now. Viet vets are largely celebrated and respected. That's led to many "stolen valor" cases of men saying they served in-country who in fact did not. Some internet sources, for what it's worth, say three million were in Vietnam but nine million claim to have been. The most egregious case I know of is the Senator from Connecticut, Blumenthal, who said he was in-country during the War when actually he never left the USA, per the NYT, May 17, 2010. How does a guy like that get elected?

The male students understand that they must register for the draft when they turn eighteen. They know what selective service is about when I mention that roughly 25% of Vietnam vets were draftees, in for two years. Our drafted troopers will recall that their first few months were stateside, for training and leave. Then off to Southeast Asia for a one-year tour. Near the end of that year, the Army would often

offer the soldier an early-out deal: extend for three months in-country, and as soon as that is over, we'll ship you back home and discharge you the day you arrive. This was the proverbial good deal, a win-win for everyone. The Army kept experienced jungle-savvy troops on the ground, showing the ropes to the new guys; and the draftee, well, he gets out of the Army, where he probably never wanted to be in the first place, early by three months.

But here's the unintended consequence: you got this guy, tonight he's on an ACAV in a free-fire zone. He's manning the 50-cal and you told him if anything near the tree line moves, open up on it. And tomorrow, this same guy is a civilian on the streets of Los Angeles or Hoboken. You think he's going to act like a normal person? No wonder so many vets went around the bend.

Speaking of the draft, has it occurred to anyone else that we are still in Afghanistan some 15 years now, no end in sight, and yet there is little public sentiment to end it? You can make a strong case that the Vietnam War ended because of civilian pressure. (Although, I think Walter Cronkite should get major credit. Go to YouTube and enter "Walter Cronkite, Vietnam War" and watch his report on his 1968 trip there; it's said that when Lyndon Johnson saw that, he knew it was over). The difference, in my opinion, is the draft, or lack of one. In the Vietnam era, everyone in America had a stake in the outcome; a brother, son, husband, father, all of them subject in one way or another to get called up. Now, without the draft, it's someone else's kid. So, we fight on, deployment one after another, troops stretched thin and families exhausted. The students I talk to know they won't have to worry about Afghanistan unless they volunteer. We'll probably never see the draft again, not unless some catastrophe arises; seems like we'd better get used to lengthy conflicts.

Back to the original, and most difficult, question: was the Vietnam War worth it? I suppose it depends on whom you ask. To any family with a lost or wounded veteran, the answer must clearly be "no". Guys like me, never wounded, luckily never lost a man, it's fifty years later and I'm still not sure.

What do you think?

## Recalling Vietnam at the San Antonio Reunion

*By Leo Deege, CO HOW 3, 1965-67*

Each reunion is different and full of surprises. Although the San Antonio meeting was very special for me, it contrasted sharply with the 25 year reunion of boat people in Washington DC. Gone were most of the boat people who made the 25 year reunion so special, undoubtedly because many of the 50 year celebrants had already passed on to Fiddler's Green.

At the San Antonio reunion I recalled six months of medical training at Ft. Sam, while I was waiting to be accepted to Artillery OCS.

I will never forget the needles that we learned to insert in each other, the spurting blood when missing a target vein and the atropine injections that we were required to administer into our own thighs. We revisited the medical facilities where we had trained, while honoring the many Medal of Honor recipients and viewing the "dust off" helicopters that so frequently delivered the wounded and dead to our jungle basecamp in Vietnam. During my own brief stay in our basecamp's hospital I had already learned to appreciate the medics, surgeons and nurses that supported us. Special recognition was given to our own HOW 3, "Doc" Moses, who had dressed many wounds, performed emergency surgeries on our cannoneers and had undoubtedly performed way above his pay grade.

I remember the ten mile courses I used to run getting ready for the arduous OCS experience. One other memory stands out, my first experience on horseback. A group of trainees had decided to test the Fort's parade horses. My cohorts assured me that there was nothing to riding a horse. I thought I did OK holding on to my horse's Western saddle while galloping across the parade field. Not until we entered some woods and were riding three horses abreast, did I sense trouble when the upcoming bridge could only support two horses at a time. My horse being on the outside decided to jump the creek

instead and I promptly executed a summersault that landed me square on my back, knocking the wind out of me. A long painful walk back to the stable followed.

My son and I met many HOW 3 soldiers from different time periods and had fun sharing experiences. We had dinner with one of my former colleagues, Mr. Herman Roest as well as his charming wife. Herman, a former Dutchman, was a communications specialist, who one evening had the misfortune of finding himself late at night in HOW 3's orderly room. While I was overwhelmed by mountains of paperwork, we received a call from our Squadron Headquarters requiring me to report on the double. Since my driver had already turned in for the night, Top quickly tapped Herman to drive me to Headquarters. Off we went and before we had gone about 20 yards or so, Herman had steered the jeep into a muddy ditch, built to transport overflow monsoon rain. According to Herman I belted out a Dutch swear word, but had not taken my frustrations out on Herman. You can imagine the strange stares at my muddy fatigues and boots when I arrived at the 3rd Squadron Head shed.

It just so happened that I recently met and discussed our time in Vietnam with Mr. Brad Kennedy. Brad has written a fictional account of his stay in HOW 3 as a forward observer. The book describes some humorous incidents that I had forgotten and is called "Betrayal-Will Stone in Vietnam," available from Plain View Press. Brad describes conflicts that were felt by all and ends the book with a powerful conclusion. In short it is a great read!

Every reunion I have attended has been a great experience, where long lost friends reunite and if you haven't been to one you should make plans to attend the next one. We all long to meet again those brothers who had similar experiences and to remember that no matter what our backgrounds, we are bonded together through patriotism.

# 2017 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

The 2016 Silent Auction raised \$10,020 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 193 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process continues to be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 32th Annual Reunion in Orlando, FL. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cav related or not.
2. We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Thursday from 2pm to 6pm, and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.
3. You can ship items to Greg Mason, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.
4. The auction will be from 7pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.
5. Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.
6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bidder at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.
7. We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at [gregmason@aol.com](mailto:gregmason@aol.com) or 813-754-2980. I will respond to your email as I receive them. If you do not get a response, it is probably because AOL has a habit of putting stuff in their "junk" folder so feel free to follow-up with a phone call.

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

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando and thanks in advance to all the donors!

## 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

### Donated Items Information Form

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

Description of item donated: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

**Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Greg Mason, 4636 West Knights Griffin Road, Plant City, FL 33565**

# Reunion Registration

by Bob Moreno

Here we are again with the last newsletter before we celebrate this year's reunion in Orlando, Florida.

As the excitement of seeing old and new friends draws nearer make sure that you have sent in your registration form. With the registration time line changes this year it is important that you mail it or e-mail it so that either Ollie or I receive it **NO LATER than August 9th**. Any registrations received after this date will be returned and you will not be permitted to attend. Remember that if you find out later that you cannot attend after all, then all you have to do is contact Ollie Pickral no later than Sept. 1st to receive a refund.

When sending in your registration, please either print clearly, or even better use a return address label. So far this year we have had to make very few calls to check spellings of names or addresses.

To those of you that already sent your registration in, I want to thank you. Receiving them as early as possible has been very helpful as I have been doing just about everything myself this year as Barb was very ill for a while. She is now beginning to feel somewhat better and is able to help me more.

I have had several calls from troopers asking if it was alright to bring a "friend" with them. Of course it is, just remember that they too must preregister and pay the full registration amount. The more the merrier!

When you pick up your registration packet at the check in desk don't be offended if your name tag shows something abbreviated or your nickname is not on it. Please understand that we have a very limited space with which to work so please do not be offended. We do try very hard to put everything on it but sometimes

it just doesn't fit. So we do the best we can.

I hope to see all of you in September in sunny Florida. In the meantime if you need to contact me please do not hesitate to call me. You may call my phone number (608-372-5892). You will possibly get the answering machine so just leave a message and I will return your call. The other ways to contact me would be on my cell phone. This is probably the better way to get me. That number is 608-397-3346. And you can always reach me via e-mail at: [gtrouppbob@gmail.com](mailto:gtrouppbob@gmail.com).

If you would like to help out at the check in desk, please let me know. We will be happy to have you!

*Bob Moreno  
G troop 2/11th 68-69  
Board of Directors  
Registration Chairman*



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 17, 2017** – 27th Annual Northern California Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ. 11:00 am til ????. Slidehill Park, 2850 Temple Drive, Davis, CA 95618. Everyone is welcome to join us for a casual picnic in the park. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice.

Directions: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take 1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left.

— OR —

I-5 to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection - Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go 1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left.

RSVP: Ron Krueger: 530-758-0351/cell 530-304-4249  
[ronkrue@hotmail.com](mailto:ronkrue@hotmail.com)

**November 11, 2017** – Veteran's Day Wreath Laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C., 5 Henry Bacon Dr NW, Washington, DC 20245

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

*When:* 9:45 AM, Saturday, November 11, 2017

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

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

*What:* We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall. Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30. Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

**November 11, 2017** – Veteran's Day Breakfast in Plano, Texas at Poor Richard's Café, 2442 K Ave, Plano, TX 75074. The North Texas Members of the 11thACVVC will be gathering at Poor Richard's Café, Plano Texas for Breakfast and Friendship on November 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The Management will be hosting, along with the Blue Star Mothers, a celebration of Veterans Day. Activities at the Café will include a Unit Flag Display, along with recognition of the different branches of service by trumpet. Blue Star Mothers will be "Greeters" and have a display of memorabilia and various pins for donations. The Management will present to each Veteran a token of their appreciation for their service to our country. Those 11th ACVVC members, and/or family members of the same, are welcome to join the group in celebrating this day of importance to our country. Should you wish to be part of our group, please contact: Jay Reese, 972-690-4386, by phone, or email:

[jayree7282@aol.com](mailto:jayree7282@aol.com)

Any additional information including directions to Poor Richard's Café, Plano, Texas and updates will be provided. "ALLONS!"

REGISTRATION FORM



32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Orlando, Florida
September 6-10, 2017



Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 9, 2017
Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819
Reservations: 1-800-204-7234

Registration fee is \$95.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Wednesday, AUGUST 9, 2017. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, September 1, 2017.

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

Name Telephone No:

Address

City/State/Zip

E-Mail Address

Unit Assignment Dates in Country

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

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA:

Relationship to KIA: Unit:

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

Four lines for listing attendees with dollar signs for fees.

Total Registration Fee

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken Beef Veggie

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

Visa MasterCard

Card No. Exp. Date

Signature (Required for credit card)

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

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

# 32nd ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION

SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2017

**The Rosen Centre Hotel**  
**9840 International Drive**  
**Orlando, Florida 32819**



**RESERVATIONS:** 800-204-7234  
**ROOM RATE:** \$99.00 SINGLE - DOUBLE  
 \$20.00 each additional person

- Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability.
- Complimentary self parking.
- Complimentary guest room internet.
- Complimentary scheduled shuttles to Universal, Wet n Wild and Sea World Parks.
- Please make hotel reservations early.

Register online using the link on our website: [www.11thcavnam.com/](http://www.11thcavnam.com/)

**Hotel Reservations Must Be Made No Later Than August 27, 2017**

## THE 26TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

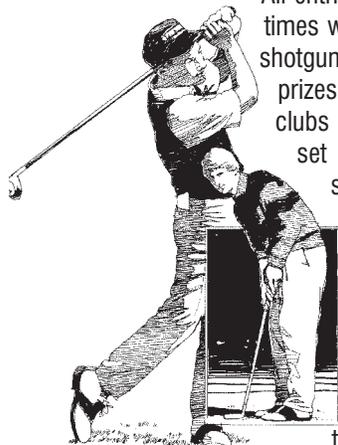
**Thursday, September 7, 2017; Shingle Creek Golf Club, 9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando Florida 32819**

This year we will once again play at the spectacular Shingle Creek Golf Club! Those who played in our 2012 MOMGO at Shingle Creek can tell you how much they enjoyed it. [golforlandoflorida.com](http://golforlandoflorida.com) named Shingle Creek the Best Golf Course in Orlando, "Shingle Creek has it all...course design, tournament quality conditions, first class service and a perfect location." Entry fee includes greens fees, cart, range balls, locker room usage, one bottle of water, Italian lunch buffet and prizes!

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$95 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter). Form and fee must be postmarked by Aug 7, 2017 to guarantee your entry! You do not 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. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of you registration in the mail.

All entries must be prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Rental clubs are available at \$56 per set (includes tax and two sleeves of balls). Each golfer is responsible for getting to/from the golf course. All golfers who will be driving should offer rides to their fellow golfers. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"



### 26TH 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: **Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westhampton, NJ 08060-3751**



# 32nd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819  
September 6-10, 2017



## Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, September 6

- 2:00pm-6:00pm.....Registration Open
- 2:00pm-6:00pm.....Quartermaster Store Open
- 2:00pm-6:00pm.....Silent Auction donations accepted
- 2:00 pm - 12:00 am..... Bunker Open (hospitality ballroom)

### Thursday, September 7

- 6:00am-.....26th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf  
Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
- 2:00pm-6:00pm.....Registration Open
- 2:00pm-6:00pm.....Quartermaster Store Open
- 2:00pm-6:00pm.....Silent Auction donations accepted
- 2:00 pm - 12:00 am..... Bunker Open

### Friday, September 8

- 10:00 am -Noon..... Veterans Seminar (open to all attendees)
- 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm..... Silent Auction donations accepted
- 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm..... Registration Open
- 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm..... Quartermaster Store Open
- 2:00pm -12:00 am.....Bunker Open
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm..... Silent Auction

### Saturday, September 9

- 8:30am ..... Raffle Drawing
- 9:00am - 12:00 pm ..... Annual Membership Meeting (members only)
- 9:00am - 12:00 pm ..... Women's Group Meeting
- 2:00pm-3:00pm.....Memorial Service
- 3:00pm-5:00pm.....Registration Open for Late Arrivals
- 3:00pm-5:00pm.....Quartermaster Store
- 5:45pm-6:45pm.....Cocktail Hour
- 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm ..... Banquet, Program, Presentations and "Blackhorse Salute"
- 10:00 pm - 12:00 am ..... Dancing

### Sunday, September 10

- 10:00 am- 11:00 am .....Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
- All Day ..... Farewells and Departures



# Blackhorse Women's News

By Kathy Tandberg, Women's Group Co-coordinator

## Saturday morning

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world.

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia fought to make a difference. Then they came home to discover that not everyone understood them or even agreed with their efforts.

They didn't come home to cheering crowds and ticker tape parades. They came home instead to jeers, protesters and name-calling. At home again, many found that they had no one to talk with about what they had done as soldiers. No one wanted to hear it.

Then one day many years ago, a group of Blackhorse veterans met by chance at the Wall in Washington, D.C. Those few became more each year as they realized how good it felt to be together again, if but once a year. Something great was born from these few who have since become many.

These men will gather once again for the 32nd annual 11th ACVVC Reunion, September 6-10, this time at Orlando, Florida, now just a few weeks away.

There won't be a ticker tape parade in their honor, but after all these years, they have something better than that – they have one another. And, those who come will know they did indeed make a difference so many years ago.

I'm often asked, "What is the Blackhorse Women's Group?" Simply said, we are spouses, significant others, family and friends of the 11th ACVVC.

We gather in support of our Troopers, honored to share in their reunion celebration. We fundraise and use those funds to purchase memorial wreaths from Wreaths Across America, an organization that places wreaths at National Cemeteries across our nation.

We have in the past also donated funds for the men's group causes, such as the scholarship fund. We have also assisted the spouse/significant other/caretaker with reunion funds when accompanying a Trooper.

In the past recent years we have built our treasury again. At our annual meeting held Saturday morning of the reunion, we will be discussing a couple more ways to use these funds. We invite all family and friends to join us to hear about this and other topics when we meet.

**Saturday Morning Meeting Plans, 9 a.m. September 9:** This year our Saturday morning meeting plans include a shorter business meeting and a discussion of our funds. We will also discuss plans in the making for a Women's Group outing and luncheon for the 2018 reunion at Grand Rapids, Michigan. We will announce details at our meeting.

Next, board member Cherry Platt will be teaching us how to make great red, black and silver beaded Blackhorse bracelets. Cherry said these bracelets are easy to make, taking about a half-hour or so. We'll be working on them together as a group so we can help one another and enjoy time getting to know each other better.

Cherry has already been purchased beads and supplies to make kits for 150 people. If you are a beader, think about joining us and helping those who have never beaded before. I'm sure Cherry would appreciate the extra helpers. You can let her know at Saturday's meeting if you are willing.

**Volunteers:** We will be offering Orlando reunion lanyards (to hang the reunion ID around the neck). Look for our table in the Quartermaster room. We will be there the same hours as the Quartermaster. The lanyards sell out quickly so please be sure to get yours early.

We always need volunteers, sometimes a few, sometimes many. We are calling upon volunteers to take shifts at our fundraising table, both at Orlando and in Michigan. Shifts are not long and the more we can get to take a turn, the more everyone can enjoy the reunion. If you have already contacted me to help, watch for an email in July about shifts at lanyard table. Please let me know if you would like to be placed on our volunteer list. We will especially need volunteers in Grand Rapids for other assistance.

**Blackhorse Women Losses:** This will be the first full year that we will be honoring Sarah's Angels, recognizing the loss of Blackhorse spouses and significant others.

If you know of the loss of a Blackhorse woman who has passed since January 2015, whether she attended our meetings or not, we ask that you notify us. Please contact me (below) or Prayer Chair Jan Beamon with information of a loss. Jan will need her name, husband's name and troop, date of death, and address.

All losses need to be verified so if you have a link to an obituary (or one that can be emailed) that would also be appreciated. Please contact Jan by email at [janwowwe@gmail.com](mailto:janwowwe@gmail.com) or by phone at 903-780-5621, or you can contact me at [kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com) or by phone 701-870-6868, or any other Women's Group Board member.

Contact information for all Women's Board Members can be found on the men's website at <http://www.11thcavnam.com> and then go to the area marked "Messages" in the middle of the home page. Click the "Messages" link. That will take you to the next page where you can click on Blackhorse Women's News, then click on Women's Board Members for contact information.

*11th ACVVC Troopers, TOGETHER THEN, TOGETHER AGAIN!*



## Don't Wait!

Register for the  
11ACVVC Orlando  
Reunion Now!

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## PHOTOGRAPHY from page 1

In some ways, this belongs in “Catch-22,” though this is the first time I’ve written about it. I left it out of my only essay on the war that’s been published,<sup>1</sup> because it was just too weird and complex. It’s part of our history you’ve never heard before.

### How we began doing combat photography in January/February 1967

From January through early August 1967, I served as combat photographer and Press Officer with the 11th ACR — technically, with the 17th Public Information Office assigned to the Black Horse Regiment, though we wore the Black Horse shoulder patch. We were a small office with 2 officers and 3-4 enlisted men, responsible for photographing, writing, and getting stories published about the Black Horse Regiment, and recording human-interest taped interviews with individual soldiers that were played on radio stations in their hometown areas. Understand that the real reason positive news stories are so important in a war is because of how much they can improve *morale*. When soldiers get letters from home saying “We read about your unit in the paper!” or “We heard you interviewed on the radio!” it’s a huge morale booster. And high morale saves lives. But how combat photography came about in the 11th ACR is still crazy after all these years.

I was sent to Vietnam in July 1966 to be a forward observer with the 1st Infantry Division. I didn’t want to go. Though I’d graduated from Artillery Officer Candidate School, and had lots of map-reading classes, I couldn’t — and still can’t — read a map, and have absolutely no sense of direction. Hell, I still get lost several times a week in Asheville. So I arranged a job interview after arriving in country and (another long story omitted here) wound up as The Vietnam Entertainment Officer with the 1st Logistical Command in Saigon. The office was run by a GS12, and we had 4 enlisted men and two Vietnamese secretaries in our air-conditioned office about a block from Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky’s palace. We handled every USO show, sports or movie star except the Bob

Hope show. During my five months in the job, these included George Jessel, Arthur Godfrey, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans (amazing, inspiring people), the remarkable, funny, high-energy and hard-drinking Martha Rae, Frank Sinatra Jr., Nancy Sinatra, Jennifer Jones (who danced divinely and was very gracious when I stepped on her toes), baseball stars Brooks Robinson and Harmon Killebrew, the wonderful Australian singer Col Joye, and others. I worked my butt off, wrote the regulation governing all US forces’ responsibilities for the shows they got, and had a lot of fun. I took all the shows out for a dinner at one of Saigon’s best restaurants (Caruso’s was my favorite), and after work could usually be found on the notorious Tu-Do street (aka Sin Alley), at one of the many bars and steam bath massages. Yes, it was cushy, and there are a lot of fun stories from my five months in Saigon. I felt very smug about “beating the game.”

But a few months after getting the job, something happened that changed my life. I’ve written about it in the “To Care Without Judging” piece. An OCS classmate was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for heroic actions with the 1st Infantry Division, and my smug and cushy little world came crashing down. I suddenly felt cowardly and ashamed living the high and fun life in Saigon while my OCS classmates were in the field. On a deeper level, I decided that I hadn’t “beat the game” at all, but had completely misunderstood it. War is one of the archetypal experiences of human history, and this would be my only chance to learn what it was like first hand. I knew that if I returned home without having experienced war, I would not want to look at myself in the mirror again.

So I put in a “Military Transfer Form” (DA form 1049) and requested a transfer to the field. I wanted a wider range of experiences than just being a Forward Observer (and remember, I couldn’t read a map or know where I was). I had met another 1LT at the Saigon Officer’s Club who had an interesting job in the field, and wanted to get out of it and into a job he had been

offered at USARV headquarters (ironically, working for the new office that would take over the Entertainment duties from our office). But the Army rules were that he couldn’t leave his job unless he could find a replacement acceptable to the 11th ACR. We both wanted that person to be me, so Pat and I wound up sitting with the Cav’s Regimental Adjutant for my job interview. The interview should have been straightforward and easy. Pat was the Press Officer, wrote stories, and made frequent rounds of the civilian news media offices in Saigon. I knew Saigon well, and had served as editor of the monthly newspaper for the training brigade at Ft. Leonard Wood where I’d worked as the Asst. Brigade Adjutant, so writing was not a big deal. But half way through the interview it got very strange, and a little scary. The Captain got an eerie, menacing look on his face. This confused me, and completely freaked Pat out, and he said “Sir, why do you have an evil smile?”

The Adjutant explained that the job description had been changed during Pat’s recent 3 days in Saigon. Colonel Cobb had decided he wanted the unit to have photographic capabilities. This seemed nuts, because when the unit had been taken out of mothballs for Vietnam, the Table of Organization & Equipment (TO&E) got screwed up, and someone forgot to allocate cameras, film, paper or darkroom to the unit. So there was no way it could do photography. Pat, with controlled hysteria, explained all this to the adjutant. Evil Smile answered that the Colonel had said this will be the creative challenge of whoever they accepted to take Pat’s place.

At this point, I felt the hysteria coming over me too, so I had my little psychotic break. I hit the Captain’s desk hard, broke something which went flying in several directions, and got into my own frightened anger. “That’s enough of this shit! Hell, I’ve been a photographer since I was eight years old working at my dad’s newspaper! I’ll write your stories, take your pictures, and figure out the rest! But enough! There’s an important God-damned job to do, so let’s do it, Sir!”

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<sup>1</sup>“To Care Without Judging” was published in the Summer 1985 University of Chicago Magazine, and then reprinted (without my knowledge, but with my appreciation) as the lead essay in Walter Capps’ 1992 *The Vietnam Reader*. Capps, former US Congressman from California, taught a popular class on the Vietnam War for years at the University of California Santa Barbara, and collected the best assortment of essays on the war that I’ve seen.

I'd heard of Nikon, people said it was the best camera, so when the Cholon PX got some in, I bought a Nikon F. I didn't know anything about these cameras, and didn't know I'd bought one without a light meter.

There was a sudden silence. The Captain sat back in his chair, shrugged, and simply said "Pat will show you to your tent." As we walked to the big tent I'd be sharing with four other men, Pat stayed maybe ten feet away from me, since he now realized he was near a crazy person. Neither of us spoke a word till we got to the tent, when Pat said "I didn't know you were a photographer." "How hard can it be?" I snapped. OK, my father didn't have a newspaper, and I'd never done any photography in my life, except for a picture I took when I was 13 — now framed on my wall — of my horse in the living room. That's another story. But I really meant it: how hard could photography be? If you see a good picture, take it. Wasn't it that easy?

First, I had to buy a camera — I used my own camera for all the combat photography, and bought all the film. I'd heard of Nikon, people said it was the best camera, so when the Cholon PX got some in, I bought a Nikon F. I didn't know anything about these cameras, and didn't know I'd bought one without a light meter. So I began shooting the war with my Nikon in one hand, and that slip of paper from the Tri-X film box in the other, trying to figure out whether it was "Hazy" or "Cloudy Bright" so I'd know what camera settings to use. (Later, I developed an "eye" for the light, and could guess the exposure pretty well.) I also discovered — luckily! — that I had a fairly good eye for pictures.

But there were other problems that were more complicated. We had no darkroom, could not get authorization for one, so I had no way to develop film (which I didn't know how to do anyway), print pictures (ditto) or the rest of it. On my first operation, up in the Tay Ninh area, I shot one roll of film. 36 pictures seemed like a lot, so I'd only bought a few rolls of film at the PX. As the Entertainment Officer, we had had most shows play the Saigon USO before sending them into the field, and I remembered that the USO had a darkroom (I'd never been in one). So I took my Nikon to the Chinese man who ran the darkroom, said I'd just bought the camera, had taken this roll of film, didn't

know how to get it out of the camera, or develop it, or anything else. He took pity, and showed me how to do it all. After the negatives were hanging up to dry, I realized they were so little — and reversed, with the whites black and the blacks white — that I couldn't tell what was in the pictures, or if they were any good. So my darkroom mentor showed me how to make contact sheets, and gave me an 8x magnifying glass so I could see the tiny pictures. Much better! Some were obviously bad, or duplicates. A couple were out of focus, exposure was way off in a few. But it looked to me like most of them were pretty good war pictures, so I asked for help again. Together, we went through them, and decided that 21 were good enough to print.

This brought up other — bigger — problems. Military photographers had to get the pictures into newspapers or onto wire services (AP, UPI, Reuters, etc.) and I didn't know how to do that. Pat had told me there was a press briefing at 4:45 every afternoon at the Joint United States Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO) office in Saigon, on the main floor of the building that had the Officer's Club on the roof. (The press briefings were soon nicknamed the Five o'clock Follies by the media). And he said there was a large rack of photos brought by photographers from the services.

But there were rules. You had to have twenty 5x7 prints of each photo, with typed captions and unit identification taped to the back. Suddenly my 21 pictures became 420 prints, and 420 hand-typed captions. I didn't know how to print pictures anyway, and that quantity was too much for the little USO darkroom facilities. Someone at the JUSPAO office suggested I contact the Air Force, which had an air-conditioned, automated high-volume darkroom out at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport (where I think all troops arrived and departed from). This was getting more complex. It was also about to get surreal.

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to be continued

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## The Blackhorse Trooper

Bobbie R. Eubanks, Co, HHT,  
3/11 ACR 1970



The lightning flashed, the thunder roared  
The earth stood still it seemed,  
And out of the fire and ashes  
Came the men in olive green.

They mounted tracks, they started tanks  
Their guns were oiled and hot,  
And then as if by signal,  
They moved out like a shot.

The Devil with his gates flung wide  
A smile of cold cement  
Released upon the battlefield  
The Blackhorse Regiment.

Never falter, never slack  
They moved into the lead,  
Wearing on their shoulder  
The patch of the Blackhorse steed.

Moving through the rubber,  
Or down a jungle trail,  
Each man sent by the Devil,  
From the gates of Hell.

Other men spoke of their valor  
Charlie called it lust,  
Troopers with determination,  
Doing what they must.

So when you pass a Trooper  
With a Blackhorse on the right,  
He's not a Saigon warrior,  
He's had his share of fight.

And when his tour is over,  
He no longer wears the green,  
He'll tell of Blackhorse Troopers,  
The best he's ever seen.



# Fiddler's Green

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

**Samuel E. Adams**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1970) passed away on October 16, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lakewood, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, OH.

**Eibert M. Alexander**, F Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away on September 14, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bluefield, WV. He was laid to rest in Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, VA.

**Marion Boyd**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1963-1967) passed away on March 14, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarksville, TN. He was laid to rest in Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Clarksville, TN.

**William A. Boyd**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 20, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mattoon, IL. He was laid to rest in Elder Cemetery, Farina, IL.

**Mark F. Boyle**, F Troop, 2/11 (1968) and G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on June 3, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint James, MO. He was laid to rest in Fort Leonard Wood State Veterans Cemetery, Waynesville, MO. Mark is also a veteran of World War II and Korea.

**Alvin H. Brison**, E Troop, 2/11 (1972) passed away on May 1, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lancaster, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

**Donald H. Brunelle**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) and Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 30, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Agawam, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Agawam, MA.

**Charles O. Bullock**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 18, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarendon, NC. He was laid to rest in Cribb Cemetery, Clarendon, NC.

**Roger D. Cain**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) and F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 10, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roswell, NM.

**A J. Campbell**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 27, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Newport, TN. He was laid to rest in Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Dandridge, TN.

**Ricky J. Carver**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 4, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winston Salem, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

**Richard W. Castagna**, HHT REGT (1970-1971) passed away on April 7, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in McMurray, PA. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery of The Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.

**Arthur F. Cochran**, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 31, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lake Jackson, TX. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Eugene Collins**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on April 25, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thomasville, GA. He was laid to rest in Peaceful Rest Cemetery, Thomasville, GA.

**Thomas M. Cupp**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 4, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Centre, AL. He was laid to rest in Lafayette Memory Gardens, Fayette, GA.

**Arnold R. Curnutte**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968) passed away on May 13, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cicero, IL. He was laid to rest in Mt View Memory Gardens, Williamson, WV.

**Tiofilo R. De Los Santos**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 15, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corpus Christi, TX. He was laid to rest in Coastal Bend Veterans Cemetery, Corpus Christi, TX.

**Charles W. Dietz**, 409th RRD (1968) passed away on August 29, 2012. He was a LIFE

member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Eighty Four, PA. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery of The Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.

**Michael A. Dignard**, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on October 25, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Auburn, NH. He was laid to rest in New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscaawen, NH.

**Ephraim S. Dodd**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1967-1968) and HHT, 2/11 (1969) passed away on April 10, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kosciusko, MS. He was laid to rest in Conehoma Cemetery, Williamsville, MS.

**Lenza J. Eldridge**, 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on April 24, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marietta, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.

**William L. Espenschied**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 15, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Davenport, FL. He was laid to rest in Dover Burial Park, Dover, OH.

**Lester S. Folensbee**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 2, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Zachary, LA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Willard J. Fossand**, HHT Regt (1967-1968) passed away on May 19, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bemidji, MN.

**Wayne R. Gassaway**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on February 3, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hoschton, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.

**Thomas N. Hale**, 409th RRD (1969-1970) passed away on January 27, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sun City, AZ.

**Frederick V. Hayes**, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 25, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ivanhoe, NC. He was laid to rest in Newkirk Cemetery, Ivanhoe, NC.

- Thomas G. Hayes**, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) and HHT, 1/11 (1968) passed away on September 18, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Renton, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.
- Charles G. Hebb**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 1, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reedsville, WV. He was laid to rest in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Kingwood, WV.
- Wilton L. Helveston**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 7, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Iberia, LA. He was laid to rest in Holy Family Cemetery, New Iberia, LA.
- Louis K. Jones**, M Company, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 20, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shoals, IN.
- Phil Jones**, 398th Transportation Det (1969-1970) passed away on September 12, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lumberton, NC. He was laid to rest in Harpers Ferry Baptist Church, Maxton, NC.
- Hardie D. Kent**, 37th Medical Company (1966-1968) passed away on August 27, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jeanerette, LA. He was laid to rest in Beau Pre Cemetery, Jeanerette, LA.
- Michael J. Korsmo**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 27, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bradenton, FL. He was laid to rest in North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Mandan, ND.
- Sylvester A. Kramer**, HHT, 1/11 (1970) passed away on March 13, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wetumpka, AL. He was laid to rest in Brookside Memorial Gardens, Millbrook, AL.
- Edward J. Kraycer**, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 28, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Liberty, NY. He was laid to rest in St Peter's Cemetery, NY.
- Robert J. Larson**, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 18, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waukee, IA. He was laid to rest in Iowa Veterans Cemetery at Van Meter, Adel, IA.
- Thomas K. Lendon**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 7, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Big Prairie, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Seville, OH.
- Kenneth N. List**, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) and C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 17, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grafton, WV. He was laid to rest in West Virginia National Cemetery, Grafton, WV.
- William B. Mann**, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 6, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hillsboro, NH. He was laid to rest in New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, NH.
- Richard L. Marty**, B Troop, 1/11 1965-1967) passed away on March 9, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Creston, OH. He was laid to rest in Chippewa Church of The Brethren, Ceston, OH.
- Casey G. McCormick**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 17, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ira, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.
- Kevin T. McKeon**, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 23, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Saint Lucie, FL. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.
- Garland R. McSpadden**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 12, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Issaquah, WA. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX. Garland is a Korean War veteran.
- James M. Meeks**, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 7, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winfield, WV. He was laid to rest in Donel Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery, Dunbar, WV.
- William F. Merkle III**, HHT Regt (1967) and B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 18, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Orlando, FL. He was laid to rest in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.
- Gary R. Meyers**, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on April 5, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Akron, OH. He was laid to rest in Rose Hill Burial Park, Akron, OH.
- George W. Murphy**, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1968) and 33rd Chemical Det (1966) passed away on November 29, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Philadelphia, PA. He was laid to rest in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.
- Carl R. Newberry**, 541st MI Det (1970-1971) passed away on January 30, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ocean, NJ. He was laid to rest in BG William C Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ. Carl is a Korean War veteran.
- Boyce J. Newton**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-1967 and 1970-1971) passed away on June 6, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Montclair, CA. He was laid to rest in Bellevue Memorial Park, Ontario, CA.
- John R. O'Brien**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 26, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pennsville, NJ. He was laid to rest in Salem County Veterans Cemetery, Runnemede, NJ.
- Richard J. Onofrey**, HHT, 1/11 (1964-1967) passed away on April 20, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Louisville Memorial Gardens, Louisville, KY.
- Jeffrey D. Orr**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1970) passed away on January 24, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Covington, IN. He was laid to rest in Mt Hope Cemetery, Covington, IN.
- Charles B. Parkey**, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 12, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clinton, TN. He was laid to rest in East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, Knoxville, TN.
- Richard A. Piotrowski**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 5, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Munhall, PA. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery Of The Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.
- Robert E. Rankin**, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 5, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vanderbilt, PA. He was laid to rest in Plum Creek Presbyterian Cemetery, Creekside, PA.
- Harold R. Reinick**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on January 19, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reno, NV.
- Kenneth E. Reynolds**, D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 19, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Swanton, VT. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery, Swanton, VT.

**Larry K. Rogers**, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairmont, OK. He was laid to rest in Collett Cemetery, Fairmont, OK.

**Thomas J. Sanborn**, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 15, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Canastota, NY. He was laid to rest in Lenox Rural Cemetery, Lenox, NY.

**Willis E. Schenck**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 8, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Metamora, MI. He was laid to rest in Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak, MI. Willis is a Korean War veteran.

**John Schmeb**, I Troop, 3/11 (1970) passed away on June 24, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lockport, NY. He was laid to rest in Bath National Cemetery, Bath, NY.

**Dale D. Sealscott**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on September 30, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Celina, OH. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Celina, OH.

**Juan Segura**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 7, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lubbock, TX. He was laid to rest in City of Lubbock Cemetery, Lubbock, TX.

**Darrell L. Smith**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 3, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarksville, TN. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery-West, Hopkinsville, KY.

**John W. Smith**, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 28, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Drew, MS. He was laid to rest in City Of Drew Cemetery, Drew, MS.

**Alan D. Sweeney**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) and HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 28, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Goose Creek, SC. He was laid to rest in Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Bloomfield, Bloomfield, MO.

**Douglas R. Tebbe**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 21, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thornton, CO. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Donald D. Vallus**, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1971) passed away on September 13, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brown City, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.

**Maynard M. Waller**, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 4, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Salisbury, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

**Claude A. Wharton**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on May 19, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seneca, SC.

**Robert J. Williams**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on March 30, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waltham, MA. He was laid to rest in St Patrick Cemetery, Natick, MA.

**Willie L. Williams**, 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on April 21, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bay Shore, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.

**David T. Wilt**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 9, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hilton Head Island, SC. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**George Witten**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 15, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Moravia, NY. He was laid to rest in Wyckoff Reformed Church Cemetery, Wyckoff, NJ.

**Jerry T. Yates, D Company**, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 18, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in East Moline, IL. He was laid to rest in Greenview Memorial Gardens, East Moline, IL.

**Carl R. Yonkey**, HHT REGT (1967-1968) passed away on April 26, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Texarkana, TX.

**Lance T. Zarnowski**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on March 23, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ann Arbor, MI. He was laid to rest in Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee, WI.

## Are you Moving? Do You Have A Seasonal Address?

By Allen Hathaway, Membership

With each mailing of *Thunder Run* there are several copies returned by the post office marked "moved, no forwarding address". We pay a fee for these returns but more importantly we've lost track of a member.

Are you moving? Please remember to file a change of address form by visiting your local post office or file online at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). This will ensure your mail is forwarded to your new address. Then, remember to notify us! Use the change of address form in each *Thunder Run* and complete all information including phone and e-mail address. These last two pieces of information as just as important as your new address. You can also submit your change of address through our website. It's a simple process and it helps us keep our records up-to-date.

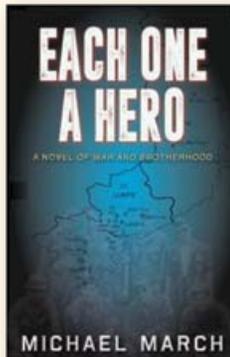
Do you have a seasonal address? Please notify us of both your summer and winter addresses, along with dates, phone and e-mail address. We'll make arrangements to continue to deliver your *Thunder Run* magazine summer and winter. Also remember that some mail forwarding services do not forward magazines such as *Thunder Run*, newspapers or advertisements. Please check with your mail forwarding service.

We value our members and we don't like to lose any of them. Help us to keep our files up-to-date so we can continue to deliver your copy of *Thunder Run* to the correct address.

## Book Reviews

Two new books have been offered by the Quartermaster. Both books are written by troopers who served with the 11th ACR in Vietnam

**Each One A Hero: A Novel of War and Brotherhood** by Michael March (HHT 11th ACR and Howitzer Battery, 3/11, 1967-68).

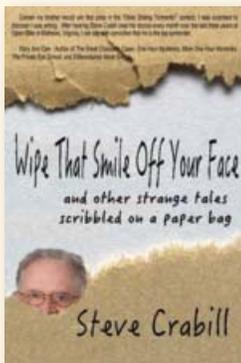


In the tradition of *Catch 22* and *MASH*, *Each One a Hero* stretches the limits and dynamics of serving in the military. By some odd chance, should the Big Lebowski and Platoon unite and decide to procreate, this tale of fiction, taking place during the Vietnam War, would be the product of such an imperfect union.

In July of 1967, a rebellious college dropout finds himself serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. He is not your prototypical draftee. His irreverent demeanor, offbeat sense of humor and optimistic attitude help to buoy him, as he faces the horrors of war while keeping a watchful eye on the churning turbulence of change blowing across America. As friends become nightly news statistics, he has no choice but to absorb the pain and continue to fight; fight for his own and for his brothers' survival. Is there any meaning in all this death and destruction? Does God actually exist? One must be patient. The answers are revealed in due time. 316 pages, paperback

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**Wipe That Smile Off Your Face** by Steve Crabill (M Co, 3/11 1968-69).



Steve Crabill has always loved a good story, and believes it gives us a commonality and triggers something in our hearts. Steve has been telling stories since he was a kid. He has been writing stories for twelve years and has been published in *Thunder Run*, a quarterly magazine for his beloved 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. (*Thunder Run*: 2012, 2nd qtr; 2013, 2nd qtr; 2014, 1st qtr)

*Wipe That Smile Off Your Face* is a series of short stories that provide pictures of life in all its magic, mystery, and brutality. How about stepping in dog doo and having to ride home on the roof of the family car, for instance? Sound familiar? No? Okay then: you're working in a veterinary hospital as a teenager, and you have to tell a beautiful young woman that her dog is dead! Just all in a day's work, and weird work, too! On we go, right to edge of insanity in South East Asia. A twenty-two-year-old tank driver with nine lives. How does one mainstream back into the "flower child" community after this? It ain't easy! Approximately one-third of the book contains stories of his experience in Vietnam. 242 pages, paperback.

## 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard

by Pete Walter ([basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net))

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 Cavalrymen stop here for a drink with departed comrades and never leave.

In reality, we will all depart this world at some time. The 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard renders the last respects for fallen comrades by simply attending the viewing or funeral service of our fallen brothers.

Any member of the 11th ACVVC who lives within an hour's drive of the funeral service might get a call and/or an e-mail from me asking you to attend a viewing or funeral service. All we ask or expect is that you dress neatly, introduce yourself to the family, tell them you served with the Blackhorse 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, we 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 below. If you can provide date/time/details of the viewing and funeral service, or a link to the funeral parlor or obituary, it will make the task easier. You can check the Funeral Honor Guard website at: [11thcavnam.com/honorguard/index.php](http://11thcavnam.com/honorguard/index.php)

It is also important to help us keep the contact information for every member up-to-date. If you move, change phone numbers or e-mail addresses, please use the convenient change of address form in every issue of *Thunder Run* or contact Allen Hathaway, (11th ACVVC President) directly at 703-791-6610 or by e-mail at: [11thcav1966@comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net)

We have 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. "ALLONS!"

Contact: Pete Walter, [basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net)  
609-261-5629

## Show Your Pride



"When we got back home in 2016 from San Antonio this beautiful flag was flying at my house. I am so proud of this I had to cry. My wonderful son gave me my Christmas present..." Robert ("Colonel") Klink, Frostburg, MD, (D Co., 1/11th ACR, 1970)

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

## Extraordinary Bravery on Thunder Road

In the first half of July, 1969, the Regiment was conducting Operation Kentucky Cougar, under the operational control (OPCON) of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the northern part of the III Corps Tactical Zone between Quan Loi and Loc Ninh. Second Squadron, supported by the 3rd Platoon, 919th Engineer Company, was located around Loc Ninh, conducting reconnaissance, rapid reaction, convoy escort, and civic action missions. Enemy activity in the area was relatively light, except for a series of mortar and rocket attacks between 28 June and 11 July. The three regiments of the 7th (NVA) Division (141st, 165th, and 209th) were the main neighborhood troublemakers, and they were planning to rumble with Blackhorse Troopers on July 9th. They had a plan to get even for the whipping given them at the hands of 3/11 on 18-20 June near An Loc.

Private Vu Dinh Bao was born in North Vietnam in 1950. He joined the NVA in late 1968 and began his long march south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in March 1969, arriving in Cambodia on July 4th. The next day, he and 80 other soldiers he had come south with were assigned to the K5 Battalion, 165th Regiment, located about a six-hour walk from the Fishhook area of the Cambodian border. Private Vu and his comrades weren't given much time to get acquainted with their new unit. Within 24 hours of arrival, they all moved out headed southeast – destination, the rubber trees along Highway 13 (Thunder Road) north of An Loc. They completed their long march almost 50 hours later. At this point, Private Vu had been walking for over a hundred days in a row. He and his comrades were given a brief rest before being put into ambush positions on both sides of Highway 13, about three kilometers north of An Loc.

Senior Sergeant Pham Duc Khiem was drafted into the NVA in February 1967. He moved south with the newly formed 209th (NVA) Regiment about a year later, arriving in South Vietnam in April 1968. From October 1968 to May 1969, he was 'combat ineffective' from malaria, in a hospital somewhere in Cambodia. Similar to Private Vu and the 165th, Senior Sergeant Pham and the rest of the K8 Battalion, 209th Regiment left their Cambodian sanctuary on 6 July, arriving near the Highway 13 ambush site on the 8th. Without local guides to assist them, he and his comrades moved through the jungle during daylight hours, despite the risk of detection from the air "because they were unable to find their way at night."

At 0400 hours on the morning of July 9th, parts of the three infantry companies of the K5 Battalion, 165th Regiment, and part of the three infantry companies of the K8 Battalion, 209th Regiment, established an ambush on both sides of Thunder Road, with a mortar company in support. Recent battlefield losses meant that each NVA company only had a foxhole strength of about 15.

Early on the morning of July 9th, a routine supply convoy departed Loc Ninh for Quan Loi. In addition to the supply trucks, there was a mix of 2/11 vehicles, some using the convoy to return to Quan Loi, others to provide protection for the unarmed trucks. The 3rd Platoon, 919th Engineers provided the core of the convoy escort, along with a couple

## Four Blackhorse Troopers lost their lives in the 9 July killing zone, and another 15 were wounded. Twenty-two NVA bodies were found in their fighting positions along Thunder Road;...

of Echo Troop Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAVs).

At ten o'clock in the morning, all hell broke loose. Rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) repeatedly struck the lead and trail ACAVs, effectively blocking the bulk of the supply column within the killing zone. RPG, recoilless rifle, and automatic weapons fire poured into the convoy, while 82mm mortar rounds began to explode up and down the roadway. That's when training, camaraderie, and old-fashioned bravery took over.

The engineers, providing rear security for the convoy, bore the brunt of the fire. Three Red Devil ACAVs were knocked out of the fight almost immediately. The platoon leader, 1st Lieutenant Carl Shirley, directed his ACAV into an exposed position in order to engage the dug-in enemy. While bringing suppressive fire "on the hostile positions and directing his platoon's defense, he was mortally wounded by an exploding rocket-propelled grenade" (from Shirley's posthumous Bronze Star for valor citation – he died from his wounds on 22 July and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery). When he saw that the platoon leader had fallen, Platoon Sergeant Carlos Sanders immediately assumed command, leading "an assault on the hostile positions until his vehicle received a direct rocket-propelled grenade hit, wounding him and damaging his radio beyond repair. Despite his wounds, he continued to lead his men until the enemy was routed" (from Sanders' Bronze Star for valor citation).

Staff Sergeant Ronald Murphy realized that he had the only radio still operating in the platoon. He immediately took over the task of organizing the defense and medevac of the wounded. Then his ACAV was struck by an RPG "severely injuring his right leg. Despite the painful wound, Sergeant Murphy continued to direct a heavy concentration of suppressive fire on the well-concealed enemy positions. He instilled an inspirational spirit in his men" (from Murphy's Silver Star citation).

Specialist 4 Arlester Dennis dashed through 40 meters of withering fire to administer first aid to the crew members of the lead vehicle that had been struck by several RPGs. He then "manned a machine gun, firing accurate suppressive fire against the well-concealed North Vietnamese Army positions" (from Dennis' Silver Star citation). The vehicle Specialist 4 Daniel Stocki was driving was also hit by a series of RPGs, killing three of his crewmates and wounding him and several others who lay dangerously exposed atop the ACAV. "Despite his wounds he leaped from the driver's compartment and began pulling the injured personnel back into the vehicle... He continued to administer what first aid was possible and made certain his comrades were evacuated before he allowed himself to be treated" (from Stocki's Silver Star citation). Five other Red Devils were awarded the Bronze Star for valor that

day, two of them posthumously.

The cavalry arrived 30 minutes after the ambush started – volunteers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2/11 in Quan Loi, Hotel Company and Golf Troop diverting from a recon in force, the 4th Platoon and members of the maintenance section, 919th Engineers, and gunships and the Aero-Rifle Platoon from Air Cav Troop all piled on. The ambush was overrun.

The 919th Engineers had been issued three Combat Engineer Vehicles (CEV) in August 1968, replacing their M48 dozer tanks. These behemoths, armed with a 165mm, short-barreled cannon (designed to destroy bunkers and obstacles), were employed for the first time in the Regiment – perhaps for the first time in combat – in a direct-fire role. There was one CEV on Highway 13 on 9 July 1969. The 165mm demolition gun proved absolutely devastating against the dug-in enemy infantry.

Four Blackhorse Troopers lost their lives in the 9 July killing zone, and another 15 were wounded. Twenty-two NVA bodies were found in their fighting positions along Thunder Road; one wounded NVA was captured on the 9th and three more over the next two days (including Private Vu and Senior Sergeant Pham).

Eight days later, the 2nd Platoon, 919th Engineers (attached to 3/11) found itself reacting to another convoy ambush, also along Highway 13. Once again, training, camaraderie, and bravery came to the fore. Platoon Leader 1st Lieutenant Michael Kuehn moved his three

ACAVs to the sound of the guns, entering the contact area and laying down suppressive fire. Dismounting to aid some wounded Troopers, he received a face wound that partially impaired his vision. “Ignoring his extremely painful wounds, he evacuated the others and then returned to his vehicle to resume the assault on the enemy fortifications” (from Kuehn’s Silver Star citation). Company Executive Officer, 1st Lieutenant George Greene led seven vehicles to the sound of the guns, charging into the middle of the contact, providing much-needed firepower. He dismounted, making several trips through intense enemy fire to move several wounded Troopers who were exposed to enemy fire. “When he was sure that they were receiving proper medical assistance, he rejoined the assault on the hostile positions” (from Greene’s Silver Star citation).

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clemens Duprey, the maintenance officer of the 919th, was on one of those seven vehicles. He was in the center of the heaviest fire. “Ignoring the enemy rocket-propelled grenades that were exploding about his position, Warrant Officer Duprey remained in place until the safe evacuation of the injured had been accomplished. He then reorganized his men and mounted a vicious assault against the enemy positions completely destroying them” (from Duprey’s Silver Star citation). Five other Red Devils were cited for heroism on the 17th and awarded the Bronze Star medal for valor.

Six Silver Stars and a basket full of Bronze Stars for one company in just over a week. Truly extraordinary bravery on Thunder Road!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$100)  
 LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

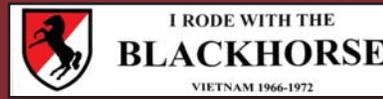
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



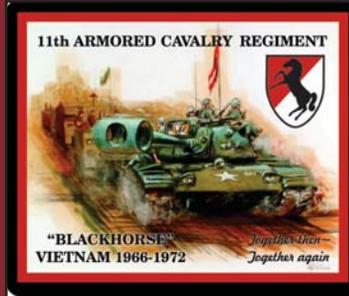
#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$5.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



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



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$8.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



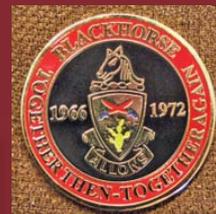
#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#12 30th Reunion Challenge Coin \$15.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



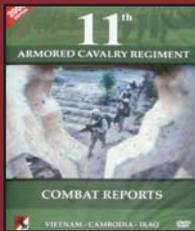
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



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



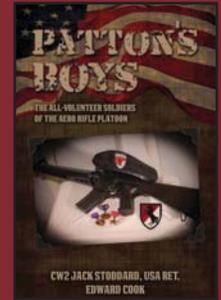
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



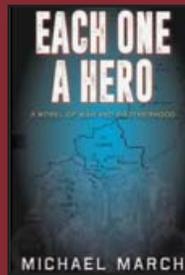
#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



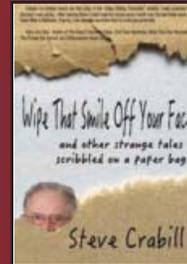
#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00



#22 Gear Bag, camouflage \$45.00



#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00

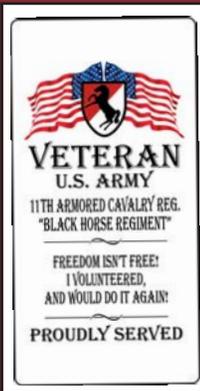


#27 Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00

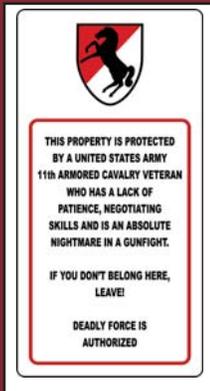


#36. Henley Sport Shirt w/ BH patch and RVN ribbon red in color, \$28.00

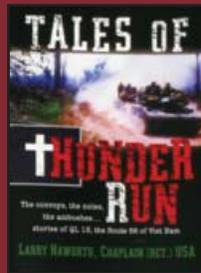
#34a



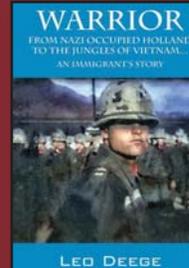
#34 Signs \$25.00



#34b



#37 Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth \$11.00



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$15.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Gray \$35.00



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Dark Gray & Sand \$20.00



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



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



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all you Blackhorse Troopers and Troopers Wives out there!

Again we are headed to another great reunion in Orlando. Have you made your plans to attend yet !! Well what are you waiting on... orders?

Ok you have them, just ask your wife, or husband and listen to what they have to say. Get your reservations made today and don't delay. By the time you read this, time will be so short, so hurry up, get registered at the Rosen Centre Hotel so you can come and see all of us and have a good time with other Troopers. There is a golf outing scheduled and there are a lot of attractions in Orlando to see.

Then if you have any spare time, we could use some volunteers in the Quartermaster Store. Any spare time you have we would appreciate it.

And on that note if you are ordering a Reunion Golf shirt we will have them in the Quartermaster store when we open Wednesday afternoon. So hurry and get your order turned in ASAP. As usual

don't forget to fill out the bottom of the order form along with your phone number.

Also a follow up on the East Texas Round Up. We had a great time at Tyler State Park! There were some first-time visitors. So if you are in the neighborhood come on by for a visit on April 27 & 28, 2018. So put this on your calendar for next year for things to do.

I have been asked a number of times why I do not have my phone number in Thunder Run. Some of our troopers need an easier way to get in touch with me to order a few things. Well I guess it is time to put it in! But please remember I may not be at home when you call so leave me a message. I WILL call you back just as soon as I can. My home phone number is 903-825-1135.

So again we will be looking forward to seeing everyone in Orlando real soon!

ALLONS

Jerry



# Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		Spezzacatena, Nicola	67-68	Williamson, Guy	66-67	<b>H COMPANY, 2/11</b>	
Christensen, Robert J	70-71	<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		Graessle, Thomas J	69-70
Crabtree, Timothy E	70-71	Cummings, James E	68-69	Bell, Willie C	68-69	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11</b>	
Foht, Howard B	70-71	Greer, Douglas G	68-69	Davis, Marjoe W	69-70	Buchanan, Thomas	69-70
Joiner, Charles L Jr	70-71	Howard, Gary R	65-67	Mizell, James R	71-72	Hopkins, Ernest	66-67
Wetherbee, Frank J	71-71	Merriweather, John H	70-70	Newsome, Herman D	70-71	<b>HHT, 3/11</b>	
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		O'Donnell, Larry D	69-70	Derick, Barry E	67-67
Baughman, George D	69-71	Burnette, Larry O	68-68	Piccola, John P	67-68	Ferguson, Charles E	70-71
Cusman, David J	69-70	Oden, Gerry D	68-69	<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		Sandrok, Robert E	69-70
Holly, John D Sr	69-70	Shively, Mearl C	65-68	Lewis, Alfred R	68-69	Scott, Eugene F	70-71
Stoy, David W	68-68	Walker, Glenn D Jr	66-67	Mcleod, Alexander E	71-72	<b>I TROOP, 3/11</b>	
<b>37th MEDICAL COMPANY</b>		<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		Meadows, James D	70-70	Bowen, David L	69-70
Cappello, Carl A	66-67	Baughman, George D	69-70	Sadler, Michael A	71-72	Ford, George Jr	69-70
Davis, Marjoe W	69-70	Lafranchi, Melvin L	69-70	<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		Heaton, Alex W Jr	69-69
<b>409th RADIO RESEARCH DET</b>		Sather, Lorin D	70-70	Forbes, Leslie E Jr	69-70	Monstrola, Thomas A	68-68
Zitzmann, Michael P	66-67	Simpson, Lonnie D	69-70	Gaughan, Michael F	67-68	Stagnaro, Michael V	67-68
<b>551st MAINTENANCE COMPANY</b>		Smiley, Paul E	69-70	Robinson, Larry E	67-68	<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Kalick, Larry A	68-69	Uecker, John R	66-67	Schoettle, Francis M	70-71	Ferguson, Charles E	70-70
<b>919th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		Velasquez, Daniel	71-71	Gary, Charles E	70-70
Marino, Frank Jr	67-69	Manning, Larry C	69-69	<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Gaughan, Michael F	69-69
Tomscheck, Mark A	71-72	Raborn, Norman G	66-68	Paulsen, William F	68-69	Risch, William F	69-70
<b>B COMPANY, 31st ENGINEER BN</b>		Williams, Hugh G	70-70	Schumer, James E	71-72	<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
Moon, Richard B	68-68	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11</b>		Stevenson, Donald S	71-72	Derick, Barry E	66-67
<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		Engle, Billy R	67-68	Valencia, David A	67-69	Pines, Joe L	70-70
Avila, Arlando M	70-71	Luck, Calvin R	70-70	Witham, Harry L	65-67	Townsend, Robert J	70-71
Browder, Wade R	68-68						



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rd Qtr 2017

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5 " Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Mouse Pads .....	12.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price--round or oval head shape).....	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style "web" trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	60.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	30th Reunion Challenge Coin.....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	8.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	12.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath.....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4").....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, camouflage wwith color BH insgnia.....	45.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle.....	45.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin.....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4").....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabill.....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only).....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Car Flag.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh.....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Patton's Boys," by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook.....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Signs <input type="checkbox"/> 34a, <input type="checkbox"/> 34b.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "Warrior," by Leo Deege.....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	Henley Sport Shirt w/ BH patch & RVN ribbon red in color. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL .....	28.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth.....	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d.....	17.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> White .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim shirt (men's).....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back ), and ACVVC front left .....	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.....	_____	_____	_____	_____

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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

Shipping and Handling \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)

- A) \$4.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00    C) \$15.00 — \$59.00 = \$12.50
- B) \$6.00 — \$15.00 = \$6.75    D) \$60.00 and over = \$17.15

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$17.15. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid.

Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

**\* Required info to process your order**



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

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



Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry, family and friends met at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day to remember and honor the sacrifice of all Blackhorse troopers who have served our great nation. Many veterans of Vietnam (1966-1972) as well as Iraq (2005-2006) were present for the annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall. Also attending was Paula Boyett (TX) whose husband, George O. Spangler, was killed in action on May 19, 1968 while serving with A Troop, 1/11 ACR.

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