



# Thunder Run

Vol. 36 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2021

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

Nominee for Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame

### JOE MINOR THOMAS

Specialist Fourth Class, Combat Medic, United States Army

#### Extraordinary Heroism



- Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart
- Combat Medic, with 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
- Vietnam Wall at Panel 27E, Line 7
- Joe Thomas is the only Tulsa soldier to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross since World War II.

The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest award for valor an Army soldier may receive.

In the history of the U. S. Army, only 192 Oklahomans – and 17 Tulsans - have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism.

Source: *Hall of Valor database provided by Doug Sterner via personal correspondence May 8, 2019 and at valor.military-times.com.*

## Observations From A Crossroads To Wherever

One of the worst things about being in the Army was never being allowed to think for yourself. Just shut up and do what you’re told. The Army is now your mother, wife, minister, teacher, all knowing Master of Ceremonies and puppeteer of your life. You are no better than a slave to the boring, mundane, drudgery of repetitious military life. You must repress your personality and conform to being another brick in the wall, another cog in the gear, another spoke in a wheel.

I had absolutely no interest in the Army or anything to do with military life. I simply did my job, kept a low profile, and spent a lot of

#### NOMINATION STATEMENT

Joe Thomas personifies the Hall of Fame categories of Military, Oklahoma and Community. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism, the only Tulsa soldier to receive that award since 1945. He was killed in action when he was only 20 years old.

Oklahoma statehood created segregated schools for African-American children. Tulsa’s Booker T. Washington High School (BTW) was founded in 1913 as a segregated school. The school was eventually integrated in 1973. Today it ranks in the top 1% of all U.S. high schools.

Joe Thomas was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High

School in 1965 – one-hundred years post-Civil War. This year of 2021 marks

Please turn to **Thomas** on page 4

3rd Quarter 2021

## State of the Reunion

Not a lot of info has changed since the 2nd quarter Thunder run was published so this is basically the same info with a few updates. In Dallas the one major change is the mask mandate. Those who are fully vaccinated will not be required to wear them in groups that are vaccinated. For those who have chosen not to be vaccinated, masks are still needed to protect yourself and others who are not. We will not ask for proof, we will trust in your concern for yourself and others.

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I am fully expecting a great turnout at this year’s Reunion to be held at the Anatole Hilton Dallas, Texas August 23-30, 2021. Registrations were, at first, slow due to the fact that the 2nd quarter *Thunder Run* was delayed in publication but has increased rapidly since the wider availability of the Corona Virus vaccine and the registration information is now in the hands of the Membership.

Since then, room reservations at the hotel and reunion registrations have gained momentum. Knowing that we can all meet in a safer and more socially relaxed atmosphere and the desire for us to meet up with our buddies again has had a very positive impact. To make sure you have all the info you need to plan your reunion attendance I’ll give that to you again.

Reunion dates are August 23-30,

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 7



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Please turn to **CROSSROADS** on page 3





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

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

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time AWOL in my mind. We were never told in advance what our mission was, and I think often times we just blundered around until we stumbled onto the enemy, or they attacked us. I personally thought the United States should mind its own damn business and let those halfway around the world fight their own battles. I never did buy into the Domino Theory. Anyone who won't defend their own homeland deserves the consequences. That was my frame of mind when we came to "The Crossroads".

This particular crossroads was in either War Zone D or The Iron Triangle in the Republic of South Vietnam. Our column stopped at the crossroads and the first thing to catch my attention was the skeleton of a burned-out filling station. The rusty, bullet riddled smoke blackened sign hanging from a support beam appeared to have once said Texaco. An old papasan had laid a scorched board across two cinder blocks and was selling gas and oil out of green quart bottles that looked like Canada Dry ginger ale bottles with a rag and bamboo stopper. Two large trucks loaded with logs came lumbering through the crossroads raising a cloud of dust as they laboriously continued down the road. I noticed there was a half dozen or so hooch's with a couple dozen Vietnamese milling around jabbering in their sing song language. Four gooks were squatting around a fire with a large caldron in the middle. They were smoking pot while a fifth gook chopped up what looked like leeks with a machete and tossed them in the kettle. A mama san was checking a child's hair for lice and when she found one she would crush it between her teeth and spit it out.

A large old bus clanked, clunked, and sputtered its way to a stop at the crossroads. I have no idea how many people were on that old bus, but they were hanging out windows, standing in the aisle and a dozen or so were perched on top, some holding bamboo cages with bantams imprisoned inside. A few people got off the bus and a few

## **A crossroads is more than a place where roads intersect or a center of activity. A crossroads is often a place where important and sometimes vital life changing decisions must be made.**

got on. An old mama san who had got off the bus ambled over to the shade of a banana tree, dropped her pajamas, and had a bowel movement. She broke a leaf off the banana tree, wiped herself and tottered back to the bus where the younger Vietnamese made a path for her to get back on board.

A Vietnamese youth came over to our column with a large bunch of bananas. There must have been forty or fifty small bananas in the cluster, and they were only four or five inches long. Our TC (track commander) bartered a few cans of C-rations for a dozen. We each ate a couple, and they were really sweet. When the gook who was chopping up leeks with his machete reached for a puppy that was waddling by, another youth grabbed it before it went into the cook pot. He brought it over and our driver traded a case of C-rations for the puppy. The little mongrel had a white streak down its side, so we decided to call him Tracer like the phosphors rounds from our M-60 machine guns. The driver let the puppy lick his face for a while and then sat him down beside the 50-caliber machine gun turret where he promptly relieved himself. The puppy's scat was so full of worms I thought the feces was going to crawl right off the side of our ACAV (Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle).

An old mama san carrying a large transistor radio decided to serenade us. She was high as a kite from chewing her betel quid. The betel juice had rotted out most of her teeth and her mouth and lips were stained reddish black. The radio didn't work, and she was dancing in the dust to music only she could hear.

I don't know if our fearless leader was lost or was waiting for further orders or what the situation was, but we just idled there while the sun beat down on my steel pot (helmet) scrambling my brain. The bus revved its engine and moseyed into the intersection where it scraped a gear and backfired as it made a right turn. The bus just missed colliding with a Lambretta scooter driven by a pimp and his cargo of six prostitutes. The TC motioned with his M-16 for the pimp and his whores to keep right on moving. Peddling along on a bicycle in the dusty wake from the Lambretta was a gook barber. He hopped off his bike and unfolded a portable stool placing it beside our column. He reached into his pouch and held up a straight razor in one hand and a pair of hand clippers in the other. A couple troopers jumped off their ACAV's and lined up for a haircut. About halfway through the second trooper's haircut we got orders to mount up and move out. His bad haircut took a lot more than three days to look good.

A crossroads is more than a place where roads intersect or a center of activity. A crossroads is often a place where important and sometimes vital life changing decisions must be made. The sad thing is that when you are in the military those decisions are usually made by someone you don't know and never see. When our column pulled into the intersection we, who were mere cannon fodder, had no idea which way we would go or what the future would be. We were just passing time as we passed through on the next road to wherever!

*Harold W. Smith (5/26/2019)*

## THOMAS from page 1



Joe Minor Thomas

the Centennial observance of what is known as the Tulsa Race Riot/Massacre of 1921. As part of this observance, the heroic legacy of Joe Thomas is being renewed and celebrated in Tulsa this year.

Booker T. Washington High School has produced two unique soldiers who are being recognized and honored locally this year. The most valorous was Joe Thomas (Class of 1965), the highest decorated Tulsa soldier since WWII. The most accomplished career soldier BG Roscoe Conklin Cartwright (Class of 1936) who was the first black Army officer to be promoted to general officer in the integrated U.S. Army. Individually they were outstanding soldiers. Together they exemplify Oklahoma Valor and Honor. Both have been inducted into the Booker T. Washington H.S. Hall of Fame. The BTW Alumni will honor both this summer with a special display and exhibit in the Hall of Fame corridor later this year. And both are being nominated for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame this year.

In a tribute to his sacrifice, the Fort Sill Spec. 4 Joe Minor Thomas Troop Medical

Clinic was dedicated April 6, 2012. The year 2012 coincided with the Centennial celebration of the founding of his high school alma mater, Tulsa's Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa.

September 24, 2020 was proclaimed Joe M. Thomas Day in Tulsa to honor his service and sacrifice. That was the date in 1967 when Joe Thomas was killed in action in Vietnam and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions as a combat medic. If inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, he would join Mike Rose, another combat medic whose 1970 DSC was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2017. Rose was selected for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame last year.

### An Ambassador's Endorsement

#### Michael Lapolla, Ambassador, Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame

Combat veterans know that the difference between a Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor is often wording, timing and circumstance. The actions are similar. An example is Oklahoman Mike Rose, a combat medic whose 1970 DSC was upgraded to a Medal of Honor in 2017.

Joe Thomas graduated from a segregated high school in 1965, was drafted into the Army and trained to be a combat medic in 1966, and fought and died in

Vietnam in 1967. He was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Service Cross for his courage and heroism – and he was never properly recognized in the fog of current events of 1967 and beyond.

His story is Exhibit A of a soldier deserving Oklahoma's perpetual memory and honor. In that spirit, he was reintroduced to Tulsa last year when September 24 was designated Joe Thomas Day in Tulsa, and when the street of his boyhood home was named for him. Friends and family came from as far as St. Louis to attend a brief ceremony honoring him. His family has a renewed pride in their brother; his classmates a new respect for the Army and his service, and his high school has now recognized him in their prestigious Hall of Fame that contains scores of outstanding Oklahomans.

His family and friends remember him fondly as a mature young man of manners and caring and fun. His sister remarked on the changes she saw during his brief time in the Army. She recalled that his training as a medic refocused him to pursue a career in medicine.

His capstone honor should be induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. This nomination package tells a compelling story of military heroism, civic pride, and social progress. This year of 2021 is the perfect year to honor this Tulsa hero.

## SP4 Joe Minor Thomas to be Honored

By Allen Hathaway

Specialist 4 Joe Minor Thomas, a medic who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross while attached to G Troop, 2/11 ACR, will be inducted into the prestigious Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in a ceremony to be held in October 2021 in Norman, Oklahoma. Joe is one of six Oklahomans to be inducted in the class of 2021. The announcement was made in June by the Board of the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Specialist 4 Joe Thomas was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthu-

mously for his actions on September 24, 1967. The Distinguished Service Cross is the nation's second highest honor for combat heroism after the Medal of Honor.

Joe Thomas was born on January 11, 1947, in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Mitchell and Ora Thomas. He grew up in Tulsa and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1965. While in high school he excelled in math and was a running back for the football team and a member of the swim team.

After graduation, Joe went on to attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, but after about a year his studies were interrupted when he

was drafted into the Army in August 1966. Joe became a combat medic and planned to resume college to become a medical doctor after his enlistment.

In February 1967, after completing training as a medic, Joe was sent to Vietnam and assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment where he served as a medic with G Troop.

On September 24, 1967, Thomas and his unit were on a combat mission in hostile territory in Quang Nam Province when they came under heavy fire from the Viet Cong. The DSC citation reads:

While moving along rice fields in

search of hostile elements, his platoon was savagely attacked by a Viet Cong force firing automatic weapons from well-fortified positions. He saw three comrades wounded by the intense barrage and sprinted three hundred meters across an open rice paddy under a hail of fire to aid them. With bullets striking all around him, he remained in the open to treat the casualties and move them to safety. He detected the Viet Cong emplacement and fired furiously into the attackers. Completely disregarding his own safety, he stood up in the midst of the firefight and fearlessly assaulted the enemy bunker alone. Firing lethal bursts as he ran into the face of the enemy weapons, he reached the fortifications and destroyed them with grenades and rifle fire, killing three enemy soldiers. He was mortally wounded while gallantly defending his comrades in the face of grave danger. His fearless actions completely defeated the determined insurgents and enabled his men to successfully complete their mis-

sion.

In March 1968, Joe's mother and father, Mitchell and Ora Thomas, were presented the Distinguished Service Medal on his behalf. Joe was also awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Medic Badge.

An estimated 25,000 men served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the 5 1/2 years in Vietnam. Joe Thomas was the third of 29 Blackhorse troopers to receive the Distinguished Service Cross. Four of the 11th ACR recipients were combat medics. Joe was the only medic of the four who was killed in action.

In a tribute to his sacrifice, the Spec. 4 Joe Minor Thomas Troop Medical Clinic at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was dedicated April 6, 2012.

On September 24, 2020, the city of Tulsa proclaimed "Joe M. Thomas Day" to honor his service and sacrifice. That was the date in 1967 when Joe Thomas was killed in action in Vietnam and

awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions as a combat medic. In further recognition, a street sign was unveiled on a portion of North Hartford Avenue and designated "Joe Thomas Way".

Mike Lapolla, Ambassador, Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame has been leading a group of volunteers to have Joe Thomas recognized and inducted in the Hall of Fame. Joe's parents have passed away but his sister, Annette (Thomas) Thompson will be representing the family during the ceremony in October.

**Sources:** *The Cannoneer*, Fort Sill dedicates clinic to combat medic, Oklahoman, April 12, 2012, Cannoneer staff

*Tulsa World*, Hero Finally Gets His Due, August 30, 2020, by Tim Stanley

*Tulsa World*, A young African American soldier from Tulsa is finally receiving his hero's due, Oct 6, 2020, by Tim Stanley

Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Nomination Document, May 2021

## Show Your Pride



"John Baumhackl (33rd Chem. Det & Air Cav Troop, 1969-70) of Dale City, California shows his Blackhorse Pride!"



# President's Message

By Pete Walter

Fellow Blackhorse Troopers, families, and friends,

I hope this issue of *Thunder Run* finds everyone healthy, happy, and staying as cool and comfortable as possible in this sudden, summer heatwave of 2021.

I want to recognize one of the many Troopers who has worked in the background to help make our news magazine "Thunder Run" the great publication it is. James Vincent "Jim" Scahill has helped me immeasurably by proof-reading many of the stories submitted to "Thunder Run". Jim passed away suddenly at his home in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, June 19, 2021. Jim served as a 1st Lieutenant on F-26, F Troop, 2nd Squadron in 1971. He worked for the Pennsylvania Coal Association and also served as a County Commissioner. He was instrumental in work with veterans through various organizations including the Pennsylvania Hero Walk. We spoke often; he was a friendly, funny, and intelligent man and my friend. The 11th ACVVC extends our sincere condolences to his widow Audrey and children Erin, James, John, and Katherine. Rest in peace Jim.

**Fiddler's Green** - You may notice the length of the list of Troopers who have made the journey to "Fiddler's Green". This is partly due to our demographics – we are old guys now, for sure – and partly due to the great diligence of Allen Hathaway who has labored long and hard to locate Blackhorse Troopers, whether living or deceased. Due to the length of the list, necessity required that we reformat it in a different manner than in previous issues.

As you all know, we publish our Troopers obituaries online and if notified in time, I contact Troopers who live within a one-hour drive of the deceased Trooper and urge them to attend the services. Those of you who have done so – and there are literally hundreds of you – have called, written, and emailed me to tell of the gracious and heartfelt responses you have experienced from the families of our deceased Blackhorse brothers. Recently, Terry Opp, of rural Baltic, South Dakota (pop. 1,265) passed away May 4. Though we have only a few Troopers in South Dakota, Roger and

Mary Karels attended Terry's funeral and even brought a Blackhorse flag. Terry was the first Blackhorse Trooper to be interred at the newly opened South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery, about 15 miles north of Sioux Falls. Mary Karels provided a link to a story about the cemetery at: <https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/veterans-cemetery-officially-opens-in-sioux-falls/>

**Email scam** – Not much to say about this. There are bad actors out there who will pretend to be a fellow Trooper and ask you in an email for money or gift cards, etc. Ignore them.

**Blackhorse Brothers** – The recent article about brothers serving in the Blackhorse in 'Nam initiated a surprising response. A few more pairs of brothers contacted us to inform the 11th ACVVC they both served in the Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam and/or Cambodia. Membership Chairman Allen Hathaway is updating his list. Thanks for letting us know and as always, thank you for your service to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment!

**National Vietnam War Museum** – Those Troopers attending the reunion in Dallas may want to consider making a day trip to the National Vietnam War Museum, 12685 Mineral Wells Highway, Weatherford, Texas, which was the home of Fort Wolters, where some of you went through primary helicopter training and learned to fly OH-23s and TH-55s. Although it is about 84 miles west of Dallas, in Texas this is "just down the road a piece". (Reprinted in part with permission from "Saber")

**Elections & 2023 Reunion Site Selection** – Both will occur at the annual Membership Meeting which will be on Saturday morning, August 28. Read the article on elections elsewhere in this issue. I urge all Life members to get involved on one or more of our committees and if you are qualified, consider running for an office. We can always qualified help!

**Submissions to Thunder Run** – See an article or story that piques your interest or stirs your memory? Write something yourself! We always need well thought out sto-

ries about your service with the Blackhorse. It helps if they are somewhat based in fact! If you are not Bill Shakespeare, do not fret...we have skillful proofreaders who will correct and – if possible – improve on your writing. Please...please, submit all input in Microsoft Word. Do not send handwritten, printed, or typed copy. The editor does not have time to retype it into Word for submission to the printer. Additionally, please avoid sending anything in pdf. PDF can be converted to Word, but formatting gets lost and it often requires extensive retyping into Word...no fun on this end. Finally, we are an aging and dying group – if you want to tell your story, time is running out. If you want your story told - there is no time like the present.

**Silent Auction Chairman** – Greg Mason (HHT, 3/11. 1968-69) whose talents have served the 11th ACVVC with professionalism and distinction as Secretary (2014-2020) and Silent Auction Chairman (2015-2021) has informed me he will no longer be able to host the annual Silent Auction after the 2021 reunion. If you believe you have the time and talent to take on this task, please contact me. A personal and heartfelt "Thank you" is in order from me to Greg for all he has done to help his Blackhorse brothers.

**Joe "Doc" Thomas** – Allen Hathaway has penned a beautiful story about Joe Thomas; the Nomination Statement is on the front page and Allen's story amplifies it on page 4. Another Blackhorse Brother is honored, never to be forgotten.

**"I Want You"** – You will find a small version of a recruiting poster on the front page of this issue. If anyone would like a full page, full-color version, please contact me, and I will email you a jpg of the poster, suitable for printing and framing.

I would like to ask everyone to take a moment and remember those souls who lost their lives in the collapse of Champlain Towers South in Surfside, Florida. We have about 860 Troopers living in Florida. To the best of my knowledge, none were residents there.

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 8

# 2021 Elections

Jerry Beamon

## 2021 Elections

There are four positions up for election this year during the annual Business Meeting to be held Saturday, August 28th during the 2021 Reunion. The offices are: Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors positions. One Director is normally elected each year, but due to the Feb. 15, 2021 resignation of Bill Karabinos, it was necessary for the remaining Officers to elect a Director "pro tem" until the next Business Meeting when a Director will be elected to fill Bill's unexpired term. The winner of this election will serve from Aug 28, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

The Vice President and Treasurer will serve two-year terms. The Director will serve a three-year term ending December 31, 2024. All terms will begin January 1, 2022 except for the aforementioned unexpired Director's term.

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 email with other Board members, and be able to help the Board

There are four positions up for election this year during the annual Business Meeting to be held Saturday, August 28th during the 2021 Reunion.

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.

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 annual Business Meeting.

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

Names submitted so far are;

- For Treasurer: Ollie Pickral
- For Vice President: Frank Church
- For Board of Director: 3 Year Term - Bob Moreno
- For Board of Director: Unexpired Term - Stephen Page

Other names may be submitted to the Secretary in writing or by email.

Also, individuals can be nominated from the floor at the Membership Meeting.

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## REUNION from page 1

2021 with Reunion functions starting on August 25th ending on August 29. To make your hotel reservation call the Hilton Anatole, Dallas TX. at 1-800-445-8667. The 1-800-774-1500 number has had some issues so if you can't make a reservation at either of those numbers, call the hotel direct at 855-516-1090, you must tell them you will be with the 11th ACVVC. The group code 'VVC' will be needed for all reservations. You can also use the direct online booking link <https://book.passkey.com/go/5ce4394f>.

Room rates are \$139 per night with upgraded Tower Corner rooms available for \$169-\$179 per night. Self-Parking is discounted 50% over the reunion dates which include dates 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion. Hotel reservations

cut off is July 23, 2021. Reservations can be made up to August 23 but the rooms are not guaranteed after July 23. Transportation to and from DFW can be a choice of a shared ride at <http://yellowcheckershuttle.com/> or call 214-841-1900; a non-stop private van for up to ten people or limo for two can be reserved through the same company. Taxi, Uber and Lyft are also available. I don't recommend the shuttle because it is such a frustrating experience.

Scooters can be reserved with either of two companies. A to Z Medical Equipment and Supplies (214-349-2869) for \$30 a day with a \$50 dollar delivery fee. Heiline Scooter Rentals (855-443-5463) for \$50 a day with no delivery fee. Scooters can be picked up at the concierge desk.

We will have a display of historical military items from Wed.-Fri. courtesy of Dave Vargo. It will be located in vicinity of the Registration and Quartermaster and is free of charge.

Reunion registration fees are \$115 per person. The registration form is in *Thunder Run* and on our web site at: [11thcavnam.com](http://11thcavnam.com)

Any registrations not received by our Treasurer by July 23, 2021 will be returned.

Make your hotel reservations, get registered for the reunion, call your buddies and let's enjoy another great reunion!

*Frank Church, Reunion Chair/VP*



# SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



As of the writing of this article (June 13th), I have received a total of 129 scholarship applications. Since our extended deadline for applications is June 15th this year, I expect I will receive a few more in the next couple of days. 127 of the applicants are grandchildren and 2 are children of our members. We have 85 female applicants and 44 male applicants to date. Most of the applicants are high school seniors.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors are pleased to be able to award 55 scholarships for a total of \$167,000 this year! This is eight more scholarships than we awarded last year. Since the establishment of our scholarship program in 1996, we have awarded 638 scholarships totaling \$2,023,000! This is a tremendous accomplishment for an organization of our size and is only possible because of the

generosity of hundreds of our members who support the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers every year.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive a \$3000 award except for the winner of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship who will receive \$5000.

All of the applicants should have been notified of whether or not they qualified for a scholarship by the time you receive this issue of *Thunder Run*. The determining factors for scoring applicants were Grade Point Average for their most recent two years of education and how involved they were in extra-curricular and volunteer activities.

## 11th ACVVC 2021 Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty  
Scholarship Committee  
Chairman



The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. From 1996 through 2020, the 11th ACVVC's

Scholarship Program has awarded 583 scholarships totaling \$1,856,000 to children and grandchildren of our members! This year we will award 55 more scholarships totaling \$167,000. This is an incredible accomplishment due solely to the generosity of our membership.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2021 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday,

August 28th during the 36th annual reunion in Dallas, Texas. 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. If you have not already done so, 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 me a donation for the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

### PRESIDENT from page 6

Finally, I would like to type a few words of thanks to Chuck Bosko (Medic, F Trp., 69-70). Chuck served in Vietnam and Cambodia as a Combat Medic, a position that, regardless of rank, was the most respected and revered among "boots on the ground" soldiers. Chuck continues to serve his Blackhorse brothers with valuable information on how to navigate the often maze-like VA. Thanks Chuck.

I will sign off now, and hope to see you all again in Dallas, where we will be "Together Again."

Pete

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2021 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

We were unable to hold a Silent Auction at the 2020 reunion but are hopeful we will have a more normal 2021 reunion. As a reminder, the 2019 Silent Auction raised \$9,233 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 237 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 will be as follows:

1) Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 36th Annual Reunion in Dallas Texas. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2) We will have a **collection site** set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

3) You can ship items to Eric Newton, 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

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 [gregmason311@gmail.com](mailto:gregmason311@gmail.com) or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your emails as I receive them.

items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

4) The **auction will be from 6pm to 9pm on Friday night** with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm. Those in wheelchairs or motorized chairs will be allowed in at 5:45 to allow them a little time to view the items before the crowds enter.

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

6) If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 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 [gregmason311@gmail.com](mailto:gregmason311@gmail.com) or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your emails as I receive them.

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

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

## 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

### Donated Items Information Form

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

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

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Value of Item Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Eric Newton, 6408 Bordeaux Park, Colleyville, TX 76034

REGISTRATION FORM



36th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
Dallas, Texas- August 23-30, 2021



Hilton Anatole

2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Tx

Reservations: 1-800-445-8667

Registration fee is \$115 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 Friday, July 28, 2021. 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, August 13, 2021.

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Country \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative?  Yes Name of KIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to KIA: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

**Total Registration Fee** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Visa  MasterCard

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



**11th ACVVC 36th Reunion  
2021 Schedule Dallas, Texas  
August 23-29, 2021**



**Tuesday, August 24**  
3:00 PM

Rooms available for set up

Storage - Cortez A

**Wednesday, August 25**

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

Quartermaster Store open  
Registration  
Bunker open  
BOD Meeting  
Silent Auction items accepted

De Soto  
De La Salle-A  
Chantilly Ball Room  
Coronado-D  
Registration

**Thursday, August 26**

8:00 am-3:00 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
2:00 pm - Midnight  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

29th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing  
Quartermaster Store open  
Registration open  
Bunker open  
Silent Auction items accepted

Stevens Park Golf Course  
De Soto  
De La Salle-A  
Chantilly Ball Room  
Registration

**Friday, August 27**

8:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Board Bus at the Grand Entrance  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
10:00 am - 12 noon  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
2:00 pm - Midnight  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
9:00pm - 10:00 pm

Blackhorse Women's Group Tour  
  
Quartermaster Store open  
Veterans Seminar  
Silent Auction items accepted  
D. Snedeker POD Cast/11th ACR in Vietnam  
film  
Registration open  
Bunker Open  
Silent Auction sell off  
Silent Auction Pay/pick up

Dallas Arboretum & Gardens  
  
De Soto  
Coronado-D  
Registration  
  
Coronado-D  
De La Salle-A  
Chantilly Ball Room  
Coronado B/C  
Coronado

**Saturday, August 28**

9:00 am - 12:00 noon  
9:00am - 12:00 noon  
  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm  
6:00 PM  
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
10:00 pm - 1:00 am

Annual Membership Meeting  
Women's Meeting Special Speakers Don  
Snedeker / Chaplain Bill Karabinos  
Memorial Service  
Quartermaster Store open  
Registration open for late arrivals  
Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)  
Banquet room Doors Open  
Banquet, Presentations & Blackhorse Salute  
Dancing (DJ)

Wedgewood Ballroom  
Coronado D  
Wedgewood Ballroom  
De Soto  
De La Salle-A  
Chantilly Foyer  
Chantilly Ball Room  
Chantilly Ball Room  
Chantilly Foyer

**Sunday, August 29**

10:00 am - 11:00 am  
All Day

Worship Service  
Farewell and Safe Travels

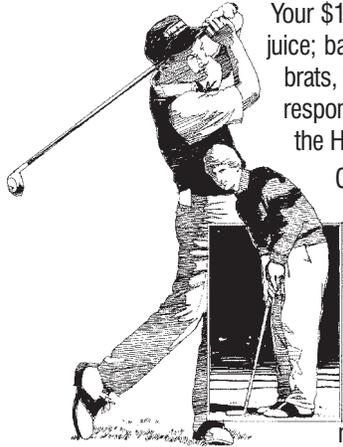
Coronado - D  
No space Required



# THE 28TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, August 26, 2021, Stevens Park Golf Course, 1005 N. Montclair Avenue, Dallas, TX 75208, 214-670-7506

We will resume our annual outing this year playing at Stevens Park Golf Course, one of the top 50 municipal courses in the United States. Stevens Park is a local gem, a par 70, playing 6,235 yards, it has earned recognition as one of the region's premier golf experiences! "Absolutely fun course to play!" "One of my favorite courses to play!" "A great golf course!" "The 'Little Augusta' of North Texas!" "Country club golf in the heart of historic Kessler Park!" "... ranked 49th in nation by Golf Week for 2012 and in the Top 20 Texas courses for 2013!"



Your \$100 entry fee includes breakfast featuring sweet breads, croissants, bagels, egg burritos, fresh fruit, coffee, and orange juice; balls, tees, greens fees, cart with GPS yardage system, post-event luncheon featuring grilled buffet of gourmet burgers, brats, beef hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh fruit, chips, cookies, iced tea, water and prizes! It is the golfer's responsibility to get to the golf course on time; transportation is not included in the entry price. The golf course is 3.7 miles from the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Christopher W. Farmer). Form must be received by Aug 12, 2021 to guarantee your entry! We cannot accept late registrations or walkups; due to COVID-19 the golf course will not be able to accommodate this. You do not need a foursome to enter.

Include your average score for 18 holes and you will be paired 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 your registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. There will be a light breakfast, with tee times at 8:00 AM and lunch and prizes following golf. Rental clubs are \$60 per set (call the course to reserve). Do not delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

## 27TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mail Checks To: Christopher W. Farmer, 2612 Beaver Bend Dr., Plano, TX 75025

## 2021 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2021 reunion in Dallas, TX.

**Orders must be received by July 24th, 2021**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Shirt Color:** Ash with reunion logo embroidered on **left** breast. Name, troop, year on **right** side.

**Adult Sizes:** S M, L, XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 4XL - \$46.00 each

**Shipping:** If you can't attend reunion, add \$7.00 shipping and shirt will be mailed to you.

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



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

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money orders payable to **11th ACVVC**. If paying by check, write your drivers license number on the check.

Mail form to **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, C/O Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757**.

# Reunion Registration

On the 7th of June I turned 74 years old, and Barb turned 70 years old on the 6th of June. That makes it easy to remember her birthday. We have been married 50 years this September 26 TH and I remember when she said that she would not see her 52nd birthday but here we are. One of the greatest things that we have done was to come to the reunion in 1992 which was held in San Antonio, Texas. That was the 7th Reunion held by the Blackhorse Troopers that served in Vietnam. George S. Patton (39th Colonel) was our guest speaker. That was 29 years ago, and we haven't missed a reunion since. There is so much I can say as to why we go every year, but the thing is you must come to at least one reunion and see and feel and remember with your fellow comrades what we experienced so many years ago. The thing is we are not getting any younger and before you know it you missed the opportunity to come to a Reunion. So please, if you haven't been to a reunion try to make one, the sooner the better. As of today, I have one trooper and six guests for whom this will be their first reunion.

We have reunion pins from former reunions that you can pick up at the registration desk for a donation of a dollar or more per pin. The donations will go into the reunion fund. We do not have pins from all the reunions but what we do have you can pick up as many as you want. When they are gone, they're gone.

I still have people asking if it's OK to bring friends to the reunion. The answer is yes however they must be registered and have paid the registration fee. They can partake in all the functions except

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**If you miss the cutoff date for cancellation and you can't make the reunion, please call me so I can let your fellow troopers know that you are not going to make the reunion.**

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the Membership meeting. This meeting is for the dues paid members of the 11th ACVVC.

By this time, you should have booked your hotel room and be registered for the reunion. Remember there is a cutoff date in place to be registered for the reunion. This is the date that we must turn in the banquet meal information (that's how many and what type of meal) to the hotel. Once that number is turned in, we cannot change it, and we are committed and obligated to pay for those meals.

The last day we can accept your registration would be July 23, 2021. If for some reason you or your guest must cancel, refunds will be paid in full to our members, if your cancellation is received by the Treasurer or myself no later than Friday, August 13, 2021. You can call, email or phone Ollie Pickral or Bob Moreno and inform us who is canceling by name and unit. If you want to donate your refund to the scholarship fund or any other fund that can be done or you can request a refund and it will be sent to you after the reunion. Don't forget to call the hotel and cancel your hotel reservation if you are not attending.

If you miss the cutoff date for cancellation and you can't make the reunion, please call me so I can let your fellow troopers know that you are not going to make the reunion.

Frank church has a "Rotation Unit/Seat Poster" which shows the location of where all the different units are in the banquet room. On the night of the banquet this poster will be located at the entrance to the banquet room. Each unit has a certain number of tables and chairs assigned to it. This number comes from the information that all of you have indicated on the registration forms. One of the things printed on your and your guest's name tag is the unit that you served with in Viet Nam. Flags are placed on each table with your unit designation on it. You and your guest should be sitting at this table for the dinner.

If you have any questions, please call me, my home phone number is 608-372-5892 or my cell number is 608-387-3346. You can also email me at: gtroop-bob@gmail.com

So, it's time to dust off the suitcases, drag out all the photo albums and prepare for a great weekend of fun, friendship, and memories. From the Moreno family (Barbara, Raleigh, and myself) to your family, stay cool, stay dry, be safe and stay healthy. See all of you in Dallas, Texas.

"ALLONS"

*Roberto "Bob" Moreno  
G troop 2/11th (12/68-12/69)  
Member of the 11th ACVVC  
Board of Directors  
Reunion Registration*

## Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellations

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 Dallas will be July 28, 2021.** All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to the 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, August 20, 2021.

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

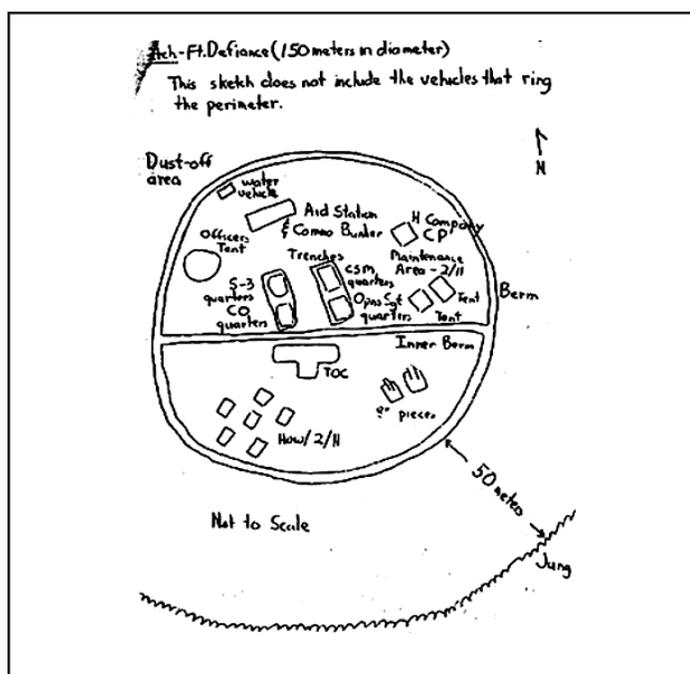
Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

(July 2021)

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

**Fort Defiance.** Fire Support Base (FSB) Fort Defiance was built by the 919th Engineers on top of Hill 95 in eastern War Zone C. It was occupied by 2nd Squadron on 8 March 1970. Fort Defiance was built in a place designed to irritate the enemy the most. It was about 8 clicks south of the Cambodian border and midway between Ka Tum and Ton Le Cham. The Squadron's mission was to provide security for Rome Plow land clearing operations. As Hotel Company platoon leader Bill Gregory recalls: "War Zone C out into Tay Ninh Province ... was to us something from the movies, was Indian country. There was nobody out there except us and the bad guys ... [W]e were right in the middle of their territory and we were daring them to mess with us, and they did." Battle Squadron's job was to uncover where the bad guys were hiding.

The Red Devils of the 4th Platoon, 919th had to clear away trees and bamboo, while 2/11 tracks crushed down the scrub brush and the carpet of foot-tall elephant grass. A 6-foot red clay berm surrounded the 150-meter circular FSB, with a string of concertina wire outside that. Claymores, trip flares, and a couple barrels of foogas rounded out the perimeter defenses. Upon completion, the defenders inside Fort Defiance had fields of fire out to about 40 meters before the jungle blocked lines of sight. A landing pad for the daily resupply Chinook was cleared on the northwestern edge, just outside the berm.



The Red Devils also built a second berm, dividing Fort Defiance into a northern and a southern half. The 2/11 Howitzer Battery (minus two guns) and the Squadron TOC set up inside the southern half, while the aid station, commo and maintenance

sections set up in the northern half. All of these were dug in, thanks to the 919th Engineers. Hotel Company tanks and 2/11 HHT ACAVs, as well as four M-42 Dusters and two Zippo tracks, were spaced evenly around the outer perimeter; the perimeter berm was high enough for all vehicles to be in hull defilade.

Fort Defiance was also home to a two-gun 8-inch section from the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, located next to 2/11-HOW in the southern half of the FSB. Ralph Porter was assigned to the Fire Direction Center for Alpha Battery, 6/27th and remembers Fort Defiance: "Morale was high, even though we were being shot at regularly by snipers, mortars, RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades], and even an occasional rocket from the surrounding triple canopy jungle."

The battle for FSB Fort Defiance began about a month before the actual attack. Securing Rome Plows from the 984th Land Clearing Company, 2/11 was having considerable success in opening large swaths of the Mustang Trail to aerial surveillance and ground interdiction. The recon troops, supported by aero scouts, worked in their separate areas. Their mission was to screen the trail networks, looking for signs of enemy movement to the south. Troopers deployed a series of automatic ambushes on a nightly basis, inflicting casualties and instilling fear in the NVA porters and couriers on the trails. First Squadron was accomplishing a similar mission in the western sector of northern War Zone C, while 3/11 was working with the 1st Air Cav around Loc Ninh. Further to the south, two brigades of the 1st Cav were prepared to take on anything that had made its way through the 11th ACR screen.

On 1 April, Air Cav Troop scouts sighted 30 to 40 enemy personnel moving south along the Mustang Trail. The aero-scouts also uncovered five new trails in the same vicinity, all of which showed signs of recent use. Between 2 and 8 April, 2/11 Troopers made daily contact with small elements from both regiments of the 7th (NVA) Division and 50th Rear Service Group; in all cases, the enemy quickly broke contact and evaded deeper into the jungle. All three recon troops (Echo, Fox, and Golf) and Hotel Company, as well as the 4th Platoon, 919th Engineers, repeatedly found mines and freshly-dug bunkers. On two occasions, they found commo wire stretched across the roads, a sure sign that a larger-sized force was in the area and establishing a base camp, probably in preparation for an attack. Documents found on the body of an NVA soldier killed on 4 April identified the C-21 Sapper-Recon Company of the 165th (NVA) Regiment. This enemy soldier was probably part of the recon party planning the attack on Fort Defiance – a fact not missed by the intel analysts of the 541st Military Intelligence Detachment.

The final contact with the gathering enemy force before the assault on Fort Defiance itself occurred on 8 April when Chief Warrant Officer 2 Johnny Mallette, piloting an OH6A with the 2/11 operations officer (Major Fred Franks) and his crew chief-

scout observer aboard, spotted a trail with signs of fresh use. Taking his LOH down to tree-top level, Chief Mallette followed the trail until he saw a group of NVA who appeared to be preparing an ambush position. Almost immediately, the NVA saw the helicopter and took it under small arms and machine gun fire, hitting the aircraft and causing a rapid loss of oil pressure.

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

One additional piece of intelligence information provided an indicator of the enemy’s intentions. In the days leading up to 9 April, there was a dramatic increase in the occurrences of ground-to-air fire against Blackhorse helicopters in the vicinity of Fort Defiance. These attacks posed a significant risk to the aviators, as the enemy riflemen had been issued new armor-piercing ammo for their AK47s. The intel specialists concluded that this increase was not coincidental, but by design: “[T]he increase occurred at the time when the enemy was preparing his battlefield for his attack on Ft Defiance. Therefore, it is felt that the enemy planned this increase and in part used these firings to cover other activities by diverting attention.”

It didn’t work.

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

The Troopers didn’t have to wait long. The attack came just after midnight on 9 April. Mortar rounds and rockets rained down inside and outside the perimeter – between 70-100 60mm, 82mm, 107mm, 120mm, and 122mm rounds struck in less than 15 minutes. RPGs, caliber .51 machine gun, RPD, and AK47 fire accompanied the barrage of indirect fire. The Commander of the 7th (NVA) Division had assembled a potent force to take on Fort Defiance. The 165th Regiment was reinforced with two sapper companies, an artillery battalion, a mortar company, and an anti-aircraft company.

Inside the perimeter, Hotel Company’s 1st Sergeant, Paul Curran, was earning a Silver Star. Neither the company commander nor the XO were at Fort Defiance that night, so the company’s Top Soldier recognized that his leadership and experience would be needed. With incoming rounds impacting all around him, he headed for one of his tanks that was in danger of being destroyed by a fire that started when an RPG struck a barrel of oil. While a medic tended to two wounded crewmen, Top Curran tried to beat the flames out with his flak jacket. When he realized that was not going to happen, he shoveled dirt onto the fire until it was extinguished. Throughout the remainder of the fight, he went from vehicle to vehicle in full sight of the enemy, encouraging the crews, ensuring the wounded were taken care of, and

resupplying and redistributing ammo among the tanks. This latter task was especially important, as the crews were using mostly high explosive (HE) instead of canister. The Company’s master load plan called for more canister rounds than HE on board the M48 tanks (appropriate considering the nature of the ‘normal’ threat). Because the enemy gunners did not leave their positions inside the jungle, Hotel Company track commanders and loaders were using the HE rounds to penetrate the thick vegetation. Top Curran had to make sure the crews had enough HE during the fight.

One of the medics who was working the perimeter with 1SG Curran was Bill Montgomery. When the incoming rounds began to impact inside Fort Defiance, Montgomery headed for the perimeter. He saw HQ-66, the 2/11 commander’s track, take an RPG and catch on fire. Disregarding the continuing barrage of mortars and rockets, as well as the flames on the track, the medic knew his duty. His Silver Star citation explains what he did next.

“Specialist [4] Montgomery ran through the fragment torn base and began to administer aid to the wounded crew members. Despite the painful burns, Specialist Montgomery carried the injured soldiers to the aid station. He then returned to the perimeter to insure all wounded personnel had been taken care of.” When the medevac helicopters arrived, he went with the section of Hotel Company tanks to the landing pad. Just before the choppers landed, the enemy let loose another barrage of mortars and rockets. “Specialist Montgomery instructed the wounded to take cover but remained exposed to the enemy rounds to direct the helicopters away from the area.” Only after all the wounded had been cared for did Bill Montgomery allow another medic to take care of his own severe burns.

Things were especially hot and heavy in the HOW Battery area of Fort Defiance. Within minutes of the first rounds impacting, the 4 howitzers were in action. The deadlined Number 6 gun provided illumination (because there was no engine in the vehicle, all traversing, elevating, and loading had to be done by hand), while the other 3 howitzers fired counter-battery missions. An incoming RPG hit the Number 6 piece, blowing off the entire caliber .50 mount.

The Number 5 piece was hit twice, first by an RPG that penetrated the engine compartment and started a fire, and a second time by an 82mm mortar that struck the ammo bunker next to the howitzer. Two layers of sandbags and an Air Force pallet did their job by absorbing the blast and the ammunition didn’t explode. Another 82mm mortar struck the berm next to the Number 4 piece, starting a fire in one of the powder bags. The crew quickly put the fire out before it caused any further damage. Altogether, almost 40 mortar, rocket, and 20 RPG rounds impacted in the Battery area.

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

Fred Franks recalls that it “was a heck of a night.” He was asleep in his dug-in trailer, “which was fortunate because the plywood in the thing was just peppered through with [shrapnel] holes. I don’t know why I didn’t sit up. If I’d of sat up, I would have looked like the plywood.” Instead, Franks rolled off the cot to the floor, down the steps, over to the Tactical Operations Center.

Franks remembers: “We figured it would take the NVA two to three days to find us, do a reconnaissance, a couple of days to rehearse any kind of an attack, so we figured if we moved every four to five days, that they couldn’t attack us. But if we stayed in one spot longer than four to five days – which we did at Ft. Defiance because it sat right across the major infiltration routes from Cambodia down toward Saigon – that if we stayed longer

than five days, we’d be hit. That’s exactly what happened ... We knew we were in a really good position there astride their infiltration routes ... We knew they’d attack us if we stayed there longer than five days. We thought it important for us to stay there ... We deliberately stayed there not necessarily daring them to attack but because it was such key terrain.”

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



## Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain Blandin Karabinos, HHT 2/11 AGR 71-72**

### Muddy Boots

We all love a good story. Fairy tales lull us to a peaceful sleep. Ghost stories around a camp fire open our eyes. At reunions we laugh in “The Bunker” sharing war time tales that grow bigger and more exciting each year: even more colorful with lubrication. Now, in quiet and more somber times, we still enjoy tall tales when gathered with friends or family and still thrill at history stories that arouse our curiosity, make us proud of our patriotism ... and even cry.

Stories have changed our lives. Stories can turn us on a dime and start us in a new and fresh direction. Stories refresh minds that are weary from thinking too much; mend our broken hearts - hurt, from loving too much; and, re-create our bodies spent from having fought too much. Stories heal ... and inspire.

On 4 March 2021, I learned that the remains of an Army Chaplain who died in a POW camp in North Korea in 1951, were recovered and positively identified. Those remains of Chaplain Emil Kapaun, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division will be returned to his Kansas home town for re-burial.

This story is not just a tale of another recovered body, but this story has a special significance to me. It is very personal and a story of triumph that relates to my stay with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. It is a story that still excites me, even as my bones grow weary from celebrating life too much.

Let’s go back to a campfire in 1952, and a recollection of a story told by my Scoutmaster, Thomas J. Donahoe. Tom had a knack of keeping a scout troop on edge as he spun ghost stories. As the evening wore-on he shifted to stories of events and people that formed our American heritage and made us proud and excited to be patriots. Tom Donahoe was a wise and good man, among the finest I ever met. His son was my best friend and became my brother-in-law, also named Tom. I would speak at both of their funerals in 1994 and in 2013. Two really great guys.

Standing in the glow of that October camp fire in 1952, Tom told the story of “the priest who was a thief.” It was the first time I had heard of Father Emil Kapaun, a United States Army Captain and prisoner of war in Korea. Chaplain Kapaun served in the Burma Theatre of World War II and then, in the 1950s, in Korea. The Korean conflict was still in progress when Tom told the story, it wouldn’t end until July, 1953. Army Captain (Chaplain) Emil Kapaun never came home. He died on 23 May 1951 ... in a prisoner of war camp in North Korea.

American troops, following the Inchon Landing in 1950, triumphantly pushed the North Koreans back far to the north of their own capital city. But then the Chinese Communists sent in hundreds of thousands of troops in November of 1950, and the American advance was stopped and the leading strike teams were overwhelmed. The Marines were trapped around the Chosin Reservoir and the 1st Cavalry over run near Unsan, in North Korea. Caught off guard by an overwhelming force, many U.S. troops were captured and sent to POW camps, together with their wounded.

Emil Kapaun, chaplain for the 3rd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry remained behind with the wounded and was captured and marched to a POW camp. He did all he could to help his fellow prisoners to stay alive, or to comfort them as they died. Emil Kapaun, was a real “Muddy Boots” chaplain and really did steal food and medicine for his fellow soldiers. Still, American prisoners died by the hundreds: 4,000 died in North Korean POW camps. With him in the camp was an Army surgeon, Dr. Sidney Estesten, who often gave him the list of food and drugs he needed to treat our troops. Father Emil scrounged what he could, begging, borrowing and even stealing until he finally was caught and brutalized. But yet he continued once he recovered and scrounged until his dying days.

Captain (Chaplain) Emil Kapaun was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads in part:

“...he calmly walked through withering enemy fire in order to provide comfort and medical aid to his comrades and rescue friendly wounded from no-man’s land. Though the Americans

successfully repelled the assault, they found themselves surrounded by the enemy. Facing annihilation, the able-bodied men were ordered to evacuate. However, Chaplain Kapaun, fully aware of his certain capture, elected to stay behind with the wounded .... his unparalleled courage and leadership inspired all those present, including those who might have otherwise fled in panic, to remain and fight the enemy until captured.”

At that time, and around our Scout campfire, we were not aware of the MOH citation, but we were still touched by our Scout Master’s story ... and I, wanted to be an Army Chaplain. That campfire story planted the seed of my vocation and my desire to serve in the military. Thirteen years later, on the 23rd of May, the same date that Father Emil Kapaun died, I was ordained. It took me another six years to become an Army chaplain. So, you can understand how that news story of the identification of his remains, means so much to me.

I started my Army career at Fort Knox with a Basic Training Brigade. Before I knew how to salute or where to place my uniform insignia, the senior chaplains at Fort Knox sent me to the field to be with the trainees. No problem, I learned to camp out as a Scout and take care of myself in the field in all kinds of conditions. I grew in my early military days quickly under the eyes or some “enthusiastic” drill sergeants. After that, it was to the Armor School and the 194th Armored Brigade. There I crawled under tanks and cleaned mud off of personnel carriers and made friends with men who had returned from their first tour in Vietnam. My turn came about a year after I enlisted, and as God so designed (and General Patton IV so directed) I was assigned to the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment, the 11th Armored Cavalry. It was a field combat

unit: an offensive armored cavalry fighting machine of tanks, Armored Personnel Carriers (ACAVs) and helicopters, (Hueys and Cobras) that roamed all over South Vietnam, from the South China Sea to the Cambodian border (and beyond), not only striking the enemy, but also defending friendly firebases, villages and especially the city of Saigon. The men and machines of the 11th Cav were in the field, and that’s where I had to be. I smelled of dust and diesel fuel, seldom wore a clean uniform and my boots were ever a mess. My favorite dress was a steel pot and flak jacket, and daily, I donned for about a half hour, Mass vestments. That’s the way I wanted it to be, and I had a great group of sergeants and officers: Platoon Leaders, Troop Commanders, Squadron Commanders and their staff who expected me to be with the men, wherever they had to go. I was mirroring the service of Father Emil Kapaun, a thousand miles south of where he served and twenty years after he died in the service of God and Country.

And then, in October of 2010, forty years after my time in Vietnam, I was paid the highest honor I could have received. No not the Medal of Honor, like Father Emil, but I was given a moniker that let me stand in the shadow of that hero. My Commanding Officer in Vietnam, Colonel William Stokes published a book about the 11th Cavalry’s last year in Vietnam, and in that book, he named me a “Muddy Boots” chaplain. Thank you, Father Emil and thank you Tom Donahoe, my Scoutmaster for setting the bar so high.

The only thing I have to do yet, is continue to keep the faith, spread the love, help other people find their way to heaven and hopefully, not stumble on my way. Because the only tragedy in life is “not to be numbered among the saints.”

*Chaplain Bill*

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

### 11th ACVVC Member Donations, 2021

Contributions	Donors	Levels	Class Limits
\$13,350.00	20	Platinum	\$500 - +
\$46,521.00	410	Gold	\$100 - \$499
\$16,495.00	325	Silver	\$50 - \$99
\$20,078.57	1,028	Bronze	\$1 - \$49
\$96,444.57	1,783		Total
General Fund	Total	4	\$695.00
Memorial Fund	Total	2	\$150.00
Assistance Fund	Total	4	\$454.00
Scholarship Fund	Total	43	\$8,410.00
Calendar Donations	Total	1,783	\$99,444.57.00
<b>Total Donations</b>		<b>1,836</b>	<b>\$109,153.57</b>

June 28, 2021  
Ollie Pickral, Treasurer



# 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.

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

Name	Unit / Dates	Fiddler's Green	Home Town
Abrahamson, James L.	HHT 1/11 & HHT Regt 1969-70	October 12, 2020	Chapel Hill, NC
Allen, Bobby R.	HHT 3/11 1968-69	October 4, 2014	Holdenville, OK
Appelgate, Paul E.	B Troop 1/11 1969-70	August 25, 2018	Burnsville, MN
Austin, Frank J.	G Troop 2/11 1971	November 6, 2019	Elgin, OK
Baker, Solomon M.	919th Engineer Co 1970	February 10, 2016	New Orleans, LA
Ballweg, John R.	HHT Regt 1965-67	June 17, 2020	Bel Air, MD
Barfield, Randall H.	D Company 1/11 1969-70	April 19, 2016	Hardwick, GA
Barker, Louie T.	Howitzer Btry, 1/11 1966-67	May 13, 2020	Mexia, TX
Barry JR, Harold V.	HHT 3/11 1969-70	December 3, 2020	Bronx, NY
Bascom, Delbert L.	C Troop 1/11 1966-67	April 9, 2013	Saint Albans, VT
Basham, David F.	F Troop 2/11 1968-69	January 16, 2020	Bowling Green, KY
Beach, Richard R.	D Company 1/11 1970-71	June 1, 2019	Harker Heights, TX
Becker, John C.	G Troop 2/11 1971-72	June 23, 2019	Margate, FL
Bedolla, Carlos	F Troop 2/11 1966-67	March 23, 2020	Madera, CA
Biggs, Dannie R.	F Troop 2/11 1967-68 1970-71	April 22, 2021	Greenbrier, TN
Boman, Arnold W.	F Troop 2/11 1970-71	May 31, 2020	Alto, NM
Bowman, David L.	HHT Regt 1967-68	October 23, 2018	Orange, CA
Bryant, Benjamin F.	G Troop 2/11 1967-68	March 13, 2019	Medina, OH
Bryant, James D.	B Troop 1/11 1970-71	July 10, 2015	Sparks, NV
Burch, Gail L.	HHT Regt 1969-70	September 12, 2016	West Valley City, UT
Burnham, Stanley A.	I Troop 3/11 1968	May 19, 2016	White River Junction, VT
Burns, Eugene M.	I Troop 3/11 1968-69	April 15, 2021	Charleston, SC
Butler, Clyde R.	B Troop 1/11 1968-69	May 9, 2021	Parkersburg, WV
Caldwell, William L.	M Company 3/11 1966-67	February 3, 2020	Crandall, TX
Cambron, Thomas M.	D Company 1/11 1968-69	July 3, 2013	Bardstown, KY
Carey, Arthur T.	HHT 2/11 1967-68	April 4, 2021	Jonesboro, GA
Carpenter, Raymond J.	F Troop 2/11 1968-69	October 3, 2019	Westbury, NY
Carter, Thomas J.	L Troop 3/11 1969-70	February 8, 2016	Waverly, IA
Castaneda, Charles A.	37th Medical Co 1969-70	April 22, 2021	Anniston, AL
Cavin, Joseph J.	HHT Regt 1968-69	March 8, 2016	Placerville, CA
Church, Carl O.	C Troop 1/11 & Howitzer Btry 1/11 1966-68	July 7, 2016	Adena, OH
Clark, Bill M.	A Troop 1/11 1967-68	July 10, 2020	Andrews, IN
Clark, George A.	HHT Regt 1967-68	April 7, 2021	Greenville, MS
Cline, Danny C.	D Company 1/11 1967-68	January 10, 2020	Harker Heights, TX
Coad, William F.	HHT 3/11 & HHT Regt 1966-67	August 3, 2019	Austin, TX
Collison, Donald E.	G Troop 2/11 1967-68	December 15, 2012	Sanford, MI
Colvin, Douglas E.	F Troop 2/11 1968-69	February 13, 2019	Economy, IN
Conner, Benton E.	Howitzer Btry, 1/11 1966-67	July 18, 2019	Scarbrough, WV
Cook, Charles L.	HHT 1/11 1967	December 1, 2007	Miamisburg, OH
Cooper, Lyle D.	A Troop 1/11 1968-69	September 15, 2016	Corinth, TX
Cutlip, Stanley E.	G Troop 2/11 1971	December 2, 2020	Sutton, WV
Dancy, Thomas N.	HHT Regt 1966-67	March 29, 2017	Long Beach, CA
Demay, Gary L.	F Troop 2/11 1971-72	June 23, 2018	Saint Louis, MO
Dennis, John A.	L Troop 3/11 1969-70	September 16, 2014	Inverness, FL
Denson, Walter S.	K Troop 3/11 1967-68	May 13, 2020	Ball Ground, GA
Dickson, Richard L.	HHT 2/11 1969-70	January 1, 2021	Oklahoma City, OK
Dills, James A.	D Company 1/11 1969	January 11, 2021	Omaha, NE
Disney, Glen M.	HHT Regt 1969-70	November 29, 2019	Knoxville, TN
Dobrowsky, Robert D.	K Troop 3/11 1966-67	June 19, 2018	Coraopolis, PA
Donley, Gerald N.	HHT 1/11 1967-68	December 1, 2019	Saint Clairsville, OH

Doyle, David K.	HHT Regt 1966-67 & HHT 3/11 1969	May 8, 2021	Austin, TX
Dubois, John W.	37th Medical Co 1968-69	December 3, 2015	Tooele, UT
Durham, Daniel A.	HHT 3/11 1968-69	August 10, 2020	Sierra Vista, AZ
Eastman, William T.	HHT Regt 1969-70	February 22, 2016	Anaheim, CA
Echelbarger, Douglas H.	D Company 1/11 1970	July 2, 2020	Alamogordo, NM
Firestone, Daryl R.	Air Cavalry Troop 1968	April 9, 2021	Las Vegas, NV
Fonod, Stefan	HHT 1/11 1968-69	May 22, 2021	Saint Louis, MO
Forkner, William L.	Howitzer Btry 2/11 & F Troop 2/11 1967-68	April 4, 2019	Richmond, TX
Fox, Robert W.	HHT 2/11 1966-67	September 5, 2020	Porterville, CA
Friedline, William G.	L Troop 3/11 1969-70	February 21, 2021	Monroe, MI
Fritz, Randall B.	HHT Regt 1969-70	April 8, 2018	Auburn, MI
Fulop, Frank R.	C Troop 1/11 1968-69	July 4, 2019	Fairfield, CT
Gacke, James A.	F Troop 2/11 1967-68	February 5, 2020	North Mankato, MN
Galloway, Larry K.	919th Engineer Co 1968	September 1, 2016	Greenup, IL
Garbin, John R.	C Troop 1/11 1965-67	May 7, 2019	Marina, CA
Giesler, Donald W.	HHT Regt 1966-67	August 26, 2020	Saint Charles, MO
Goff, Thomas G.	M Company 3/11 1967-68	May 29, 2021	Lansing, MI
Golden, Danny L.	G Troop 2/11 1967-68	April 13, 2019	Lincoln, NE
Goodman, Victor F.	HHT 1/11 1968	April 14, 2015	Lucedale, MS
Gruber, George B.	185th Maint 1970-71	February 20, 2017	Saint Paul, MN
Guess, Darrell W.	HHT 1/11 1968-69	September 20, 2020	Salem, KY
Hall, Evin	HHT 2/11 1969-70	January 1, 2020	Neon, KY
Hall, Shirley F.	Howitzer Btry, 2/11 1967	February 21, 2015	Corpus Christi, TX
Hallmark JR, James O.	C Troop 1/11 1969-70	May 4, 2017	Cleveland, AL
Hamilton, Gregory D.	Howitzer Btry, 3/11 1968-69	February 26, 2021	Cincinnati, OH
Hardin, James A.	K Troop 3/11 1967-68	June 7, 2020	Jasper, AL
Heddesheimer, Bruce A.	HHT Regt 1970-71	April 10, 2021	Schenectady, NY
Henson, Johnny W.	HHT Regt 1967	March 7, 2021	Killen, AL
Higa, Guy K.	I Troop 3/11 1970-71	January 16, 2019	Kurtistown, HI
Hilsmeyer, Lonnie D.	HHT 1/11 1969-70	November 28, 2019	Stendal, IN
Hinojosa, Leonardo	H Company 2/11 & G Trp 2/11 1970-71	June 28, 2013	Killeen, TX
Hockenberry, Dennis E.	HHT 1/11 1966-67	May 11, 2021	Shippensburg, PA
Hoffman, Sande M.	37th Medical Co 1967	July 9, 2019	Hewitt, NJ
Hogan, Raymond H.	Howitzer Btry, 2/11 1966-67	August 31, 2015	Palestine, TX
Hogard, Dale L.	A Troop 1/11 1968-69	March 7, 2020	Flushing, MI
Horne, Kibbey M.	HHT 2/11 1966-67	May 20, 2019	Riverside, CA
Howard III, Harvey E.	HHT 1/11 1968	March 24, 2019	Saint Cloud, MN
Howze, Willie L.	L Troop 3/11 1966-67	February 11, 2021	New York, NY
Hoyt, Robert D.	409th RRD 1969-70	September 7, 2016	Ponchatoula, LA
Hunt, Otis W.	G Troop 2/11 1966-67	December 4, 2020	Louisville, KY
Hutter, Stanley C.	I Troop 3/11 1970-71	October 10, 2015	Durand, WI
Jack, William M.	HHT 3/11 1968-69	November 21, 2020	Treasure Island, FL
Jackson JR, Joseph L.	H Company 2/11 1969-70	April 10, 2020	Chandler, AZ
Janusz, Wayne D.	K Troop 3/11 1969-70	April 18, 2013	Wonder Lake, IL
Kambeitz, Leroy L.	B Troop 1/11 1966-67	December 10, 2019	Bismarck, ND
Kanoa, William	HHT 3/11 1970-71	June 13, 2019	Lawton, OK
Kent, Edward M.	G Troop 2/11 1967-68	March 17, 2019	Longview, WA
Kiesman, Daniel L.	Howitzer Btry, 3/11 1969-70	March 28, 2021	Dunnellon, FL
Kingsley, Larry E.	F Troop 2/11 1967-68	April 17, 2021	Shawnee, OK
Kirk, Harold J.	F Troop 2/11 1968-70	February 16, 2021	Jonesboro, AR
Kirk, James E.	409th RRD 1970-71	August 8, 2019	Iola, TX
Kleingartner, Timothy B.	398th Trans Det 1970-71	June 7, 2013	Loveland, CO
Koziol, Richard A.	HHT 2/11 1967-68	August 19, 2018	Frisco, TX
Kozminski, Corwin H.	C Troop 1/11 1968	July 24, 2019	Grants Pass, OR
Lafontaine, James F.	37th Medical Co 1970	May 14, 2021	Sebring, FL
Larocque, Robert J.	HHT 3/11 1967-68	October 29, 2015	Loveland, CO
Lemons, Tommy I.	HHT 3/11 & HHT 1/11 1970-71	March 20, 2021	Lawton, OK
Lindsey, Ronald H.	HHT 3/11 1970-71	January 6, 2019	Wilmington, NC
Liriano-diaz, Carlos M.	Air Cavalry Troop 1972	November 30, 2012	Flushing, NY
Little, Martin L.	K Troop 3/11 1967-68	January 11, 2014	Columbia, SC

Little, Otis D.	A Troop 1/11 1970-71	March 14, 2013	Land O Lakes, FL
Livingston, William R.	F Troop 2/11 1967-68	November 17, 2012	Blair, NE
Lochbaum JR, Henry E.	919th Engineer Co 1969-70	January 16, 2021	Chillicothe, OH
Lockwood, John Q.	HHT 3/11 1969-70	March 22, 2021	Westminster, CO
Lozon, Frank J.	919th Engineer Co 1971-72	February 9, 2019	Ypsilanti, MI
Mabry, Jimmy L.	Howitzer Btry, 1/11 1966-67	August 1, 2020	Lawton, OK
Macchiarella, Jack A.	D Company 1/11 1969-70	May 31, 2016	Stow, OH
Macdonald, Sande S.	D Company 1/11 1967-68	October 23, 2019	Tampa, FL
Marlowe, Kenneth B.	HHT Regt 1970	January 14, 2018	Nacogdoches, TX
Marshman, William H.	I Troop 3/11 1966-67	January 27, 2021	Redding, CA
Martinez JR, Agapito	398th Trans Det 1969-70	January 28, 2016	Converse, TX
Matthews, Thomas C.	409th RRD 1969-70	January 1, 2021	Houston, TX
Mcafee, Jerry D.	F Troop 2/11 1967-68	May 21, 2019	Birch Tree, MO
Mccubbin, Garry G.	A Troop 1/11 1969-70	April 15, 2021	Edwardsville, KS
Mcdonald, Leon C.	1969	July 23, 2019	Hartsville, SC
Mclendon, Ronald W.	L Troop 3/11 1970-71	January 4, 2021	Simpsonville, SC
Mcmahon, Leroy J.	B Troop 1/11 1966-67	March 2, 2020	Riverside, RI
Mcrae, Glenn E.	H Company 2/11 & M Co. 3/11 1967-68	May 25, 2020	Darlington, SC
Meador, Ronald N.	Howitzer Btry, 1/11 1969-70	December 21, 2019	Lafayette, TN
Merriman, James R.	37th Medical Co 1969-70	September 9, 2018	Fort Wayne, IN
Merritt, Walker	A Troop 1/11 1967-68	March 16, 2016	Augusta, GA
Mertz, Albert P.	M Company 3/11 1968-69	June 17, 2019	Palmerton, PA
Mikluscak, Michael A.	HHT 2/11 1968-69	November 22, 2020	Osprey, FL
Minard, William R.	L Troop 3/11 1968-69	December 31, 2017	Portland, OR
Mixon, Henry E.	E Troop 2/11 1968-69	January 5, 2021	Geneva, AL
Moncrief, Willis	F Troop 2/11 1967-68	February 17, 2017	Port Huron, MI
Morefield, Carson G.	L Troop 3/11 1968-69	April 14, 2018	Smiths, AL
Morehouse, Ronald D.	A Troop 1/11 1968-69	August 20, 1993	Champlin, MN
Morgan, Owen L.	M Company 3/11 1968-69	December 23, 2020	Midway, TX
Morgan, Raymond B.	K Troop 3/11 1967-68	April 27, 2021	Portsmouth, VA
Morlock, Glenn W.	HHT 2/11 1969-70	October 6, 2019	Elizabethtown, KY
Moser III, Alonzo L.	G Troop 2/11 1971-72	December 22, 2020	Hot Springs, AR
Moudry, James O.	K Troop 3/11 1969-70	July 30, 2016	Abingdon, MD
Mucha, Gregory	919th Engineer Co 1968-69	April 7, 2020	Schererville, IN
Munoz, Amador C.	B Troop 1/11 1966-67	April 2, 2021	Eureka, CA
Musico, Anthony	E Troop 2/11 1967-68	June 9, 2018	Fleming Isle, FL
Newman, David A.	G Troop 2/11 1965-67	September 7, 2020	Point Marion, PA
Newton, Billy J.	B Troop 1/11 1968-69	December 20, 2020	Elberton, GA
Norton, Gerald M.	I Troop 3/11 1967-69	August 18, 2019	Minneapolis, MN
Okinaka, David K.	Howitzer Btry, 1/11 1966-67	December 10, 2020	Koloa, HI
Oltmans II, James R.	919th Engineer Co 1971	January 29, 2020	Evergreen, CO
Ondulick, James M.	HHT 2/11 1967-68	March 6, 2018	White Oak, PA
Opp, Terry B.	Air Cavalry Troop & 398th Trans Det 1969-70	May 4, 2021	Baltic, SD
Patten, Gary W.	H Company 2/11 1969-70	October 26, 2017	Fair Oaks, CA
Payne JR, Gilbert M.	I Troop 3/11 1966-67	October 25, 2020	Fernandina, FL
Pejakovich, Michael S.	A Troop 1/11 1968-69	August 27, 2020	Lake City, MI
Pepin, Joseph A.	B Troop 1/11 1969-70	January 4, 2018	Franklin, MA
Pertuit, Donald J.	HHT Regt 1968-69	September 25, 2015	Raceland, LA
Petit, Ernest G.	HHT 1/11 1968-69	August 6, 2019	Queen Creek, AZ
Petrovich, Ronald C.	HHT 2/11 1971-72	May 10, 2017	Colorado Springs, CO
Phalen, Fred E.	F Troop 2/11 1970-72	December 28, 2020	Knoxville, TN
Picklesimer, Anthony L.	HHT 1/11 1970	July 18, 2015	Sharpsburg, GA
Pierce, John E.	M Company 3/11 1969-70	September 18, 2020	Dix Hills, NY
Pittman, Bernard E.	I Troop 3/11 1968-69	January 26, 2012	Alma, GA
Pruitt, Terry L.	B Troop 1/11 1970-71	April 14, 2021	Rialto, CA
Purkiss, Thomas W.	I Troop 3/11 1969-70	January 24, 2018	Hemet, CA
Quintana, Jose A.	G Troop 2/11 1969-70	April 2, 2021	Rociada, NM
Reeves, Clinton L.	HHT Regt 1970	August 7, 2014	Denison, TX
Rice, Larry E.	398th Trans Det 1970-72	July 30, 2018	Washington, KY
Risinger, James E.	L Troop 3/11 1970-71	December 6, 2020	Berkeley Springs, WV

Robotham, Robert P.	Howitzer Btry, 3/11 1967-68	February 10, 2019	Clatonia, NE
Rolfson, Ronald C.	K Troop 3/11 1966-67	May 26, 2021	Julesburg, CO
Rose, Jerome B.	L Troop 3/11 1966-67	March 27, 2019	Arlington Heights, IL
Rucker, Ulester	919th Engineer Co 1967-68	February 2, 2013	Oklahoma City, OK
Russell, Durward E.	B Troop 1/11 1969-70	April 24, 2019	Atwater, OH
Ryle, Patrick E.	F Troop 2/11 1968-69	September 8, 2017	Toledo, OH
Saeva, James M.	Howitzer Btry, 3/11 1968-69	January 16, 2016	Orlando, FL
Scahill, James V.	F Troop 2/11 1971	June 19, 2021	Kittanning, PA
Schaefer, James A.	409th RRD 1966-67	January 31, 2021	Snohomish, WA
Schorr, Gerard J.	Air Cavalry Troop 1966-67	April 12, 2021	Houston, TX
Schultz, Arthur L.	HHT 1/11 1969	January 22, 2019	Cedar Springs, MI
Schumacher, John W.	HHT 3/11 & HHT Regt 1966-67	February 5, 2021	Glendale, AZ
Schumacher, Robert J.	I Troop 3/11 1966-67	March 18, 2015	Saint Louis, MO
Schumann, Virgil P.	F Troop 2/11 1966-67	May 7, 2021	Marion, TX
Schwab, Larry H.	G Troop 2/11 1967-68	November 13, 2020	Frankfort, MI
Shannon, Robert R.	1/11 1967-68	March 30, 2012	Everett, WA
Shelley, R L.	37th Medical Co 1970	February 11, 2021	Conway, AR
Shiplett, Curtis H.	HHT 1/11 & C Troop 1/11 1966-67	August 9, 2017	Fort Worth, TX
Shol, Bruce C.	HHT Regt 1969-70	April 26, 2019	Erhard, MN
Sikora, Thomas	E Troop 2/11 1969-70	June 2, 2021	East Aurora, NY
Skelton, Elbridge E.	F Troop 2/11 1968	March 2, 2021	Holly Springs, MS
Skinner, Ray M.	C Troop 1/11 1970-71	March 19, 2019	Avon, NY
Smallwood SR, Thomas H.	Air Cavalry Troop 1969-70	September 23, 2017	Hewitt, TX
Smith, Major L.	H Company 2/11 1969-70	November 5, 2020	Milford, KS
Stallings, Joseph R.	E Troop 2/11 1970-71	April 26, 2018	Green Valley, IL
Stewart JR, Leemon	Howitzer Btry 3/11 & L Troop 3/11 1967-68	January 11, 2013	Fulton, KY
Strehlow, Roy A.	I Troop 3/11 1970-71	May 23, 2020	Elk Point, SD
Strevel, Marion S.	398th Trans Det 1967-68	August 18, 2017	Pooler, GA
Strine, James T.	A Troop 1/11 1968-69	March 6, 2019	Union Bridge, MD
Sutton, Gordon L.	HHT 2/11 1967-68	September 21, 2019	Kalamazoo, MI
Tate, Ben J.	HHT 1/11 & C Troop 1/11 1970-71	November 16, 2019	Spanaway, WA
Telles, Elfego G.	409th RRD 1966-67	December 13, 2018	Las Cruces, NM
Terry, Michael D.	G Troop 2/11 1970-71	February 8, 2020	Anchorage, AK
Thatcher, William J.	C Troop 1/11 1966-68	September 15, 2018	Albion, IA
Thomas, Arthur D.	HHT Regt 1966-67	December 10, 2020	Brunswick, OH
Thomas, Dale R.	C Troop 1/11 1967-68	January 9, 2014	Brewton, AL
Thompson, Harold A.	HHT 2/11 1968-69	March 16, 2020	Clarksville, TN
Triplett, Larry D.	HHT 3/11 1969-70	October 30, 2020	Alamogordo, NM
Turben, Robert J.	I Troop 3/11 & Howitzer Btry 3/11 1967-68	October 1, 2020	Winchester, VA
Velasquez, Daniel L.	F Troop 2/11 1971	March 19, 2021	Scottsville, KY
Verburgt, Ronald J.	37th Medical Co & E Troop 2/11 1969-70	December 9, 2017	Wautoma, WI
Veverka, John A.	HHT 2/11 1969	October 15, 2011	Xenia, OH
Vickers, Kenneth E.	D Company 1/11 1967-68	September 13, 2013	Deridder, LA
Wallace, Richard H.	409th RRD 1969-70	August 28, 2020	Newark, DE
Walling, James A.	Air Cavalry Troop 1967-68	February 10, 2016	Port Charlotte, FL
Watson, John W.	HHT 1/11 1969	August 20, 2017	Universal City, TX
Weave JR, George A.	A Troop 1/11 1969	October 25, 2020	Bradford, ME
Westberry, Donald E.	G Troop 2/11 1969-70	August 2, 2018	Jesup, GA
Wetzel, David A.	HHT 2/11 1970-71	September 7, 2016	Oak Creek, WI
White, Edward A.	A Troop 1/11 1967-68	March 14, 2021	Douglas City, CA
Wilborn, Louis V.	HHT 1/11 1968-69	February 22, 2016	Blackstone, MA
Williams, Harold I.	HHT Regt 1969-70	December 30, 2019	Hampstead, NH
Windham, Hilton R.	HHT 1/11 1967-68	April 1, 2021	Virginia Beach, VA
Winningham, Lewis M.	HHT 2/11 1971-72	February 16, 2018	Moncks Corner, SC
Wisenor, William W.	Air Cavalry Troop 1968-69	November 14, 2020	White Bird, ID
Wood, Dallas	506th S&S Co 1966-67	September 23, 2015	Paragould, AR
Woodworth, Harold G.	27th Engineer Bn 1966-67	April 16, 2021	Springfield, IL
Wright JR, David	K Troop 3/11 1971	June 12, 2019	Monroe, LA
Wright, David E.	M Company 3/11 & K Troop 3/11 1968-69	December 25, 2018	Grand Prairie, TX
Wyrick, Guy E.	Howitzer Btry, 2/11 1966-67	May 11, 2019	Delano, CA
Yeager, Robert V.	HHT 3/11 1968-69	November 25, 2020	Rogers, MN

# Despite Flaws, Patton Got Results

By Lt. Gen. Daniel Bolger  
U.S. Army retired

Lt. Gen. Daniel Bolger, U.S. Army retired, commanded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a senior fellow of the Association of the U.S. Army. His most recent book is *The Panzer Killers: The Untold Story of a Fighting General and His Spearhead Tank Division's Charge Into the Third Reich*.

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If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. We've all heard it. The old joke has teeth because it reflects the experience in a lot of families.

It's also true for U.S. Army divisions. If the two-star general objects, the division's thousands of soldiers will soon know it. And that goes double, triple or even more should that particular major general be the high-maintenance type.

There was no higher-maintenance American general in World War II than George Patton Jr. His tirades formed the stuff of legend. Failure to salute, out of uniform, slacking off on duty—regardless of the offense, if he found you committing it, he'd blister you and your chain of command.

Patton combined clever insults with outrageously foul language. Soldiers often shared stories about "Georgie" lighting up the unwary. The GI Joes found these episodes hilarious until they personally entered the beaten zone. Then it wasn't so funny.

## Form and Substance

Combat troops accepted Patton's over-the-top antics because his sharp words reflected his driving commitment to the offensive. Behind the bluster, Patton knew his stuff tactically, having commanded the first American tank brigade back in World War I. Patton understood his German foes, anticipated their moves and usually got there first in greater force. The general had a temper, but he got results and saved lives. Plus, he spent much of his time up front under fire, not back in a tent sticking pins in a map. That all resonated as the war reached its crescendo.

But the Patton legend started long before America joined World War II. It sure wasn't guaranteed. A year and a half before the Pearl Harbor attack of Dec. 7, 1941, that brought America into World War II, Patton was an older colonel in his 30th year of service. He was commanding the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Myer, Virginia, a traditional horse trooper organization



busy with ceremonial duties around Washington. Patton hadn't served with tanks since just after World War I ended. Yes, he'd been great back in the day, and he'd been a colonel once already around the time of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918. But that was wartime. Now, Patton amounted to another old guy enjoying a nice final assignment. If America entered World War II, there would not be much demand for another aging horse cavalry officer.

There was more. Patton had a checked reputation in the small prewar officer corps. Good in combat, sure, but otherwise ... well, there were red flags. Patton and his wife, Beatrice, both hailed from wealthy families, and their high life grated on many. In those frugal days of the Great Depression, the Pattons flaunted expensive horses and flashy cars.

In an especially tone-deaf act, the Pattons proceeded to a 1935 assignment in distant Hawaii not on a drab troop ship but aboard their own large sailing yacht.

That didn't sit well among the ranks of a shriveled Army that had suffered pay cuts and scraped by with limited

amounts of worn-out gear.

The flamboyance with money rankled many officers. But that might be forgiven as it didn't affect the soldiers. Patton's emotional outbursts, however, were another matter. He came across as a hothead, a man who let his mouth outrun his judgment. An experienced Army spouse saw it. After one notable Patton explosion, Katherine Marshall warned the old cavalry colonel: "Now you could do that as a captain or a major, but you aspire to be a general, and a general cannot talk in any such wild way." Given that her husband was U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall, Patton listened and shut up for a few months.

### Expertise Respected

Gen. Marshall respected Patton's tank expertise from 1918. Although a forbidding, utterly self-disciplined presence himself, Marshall indulged more than a few mavericks. Marshall knew the color-within-the-lines types did well in peacetime but often stumbled in war. Patton might be a firebrand, but he got things done.

In 1940, the Army chief of staff placed Patton in command of the tank brigade of the brand-new 2nd Armored Division at Fort Benning, Georgia. The old colonel pinned on his first star in October. By April 1941, Patton took command of the division.

Patton's elevation coincided with the arrival of thousands of new draftees as America prepared for war with the first peacetime conscription in the country's history. The Regular Army officers and NCOs were distributed across the expanding force. Patton's 2nd Armored Division inherited only a few hundred old hands. The rest were rookies: officers, sergeants and privates.

### Making Fighting Men

Patton knew he had his hands full. "I have sixteen thousand [enlisted] men who have never seen an officer, and twelve hundred officers who have never seen a[n enlisted] man," he com-



mented, "so I have quite a job on my hands." Although 55 years old, lifelong athlete Patton had the vigor of a soldier 20 years younger. He'd need every bit of that stamina.

Patton set the example. He understood the tanks, weapons and radios inside and out. Moreover, Patton had the ability to boil down complexities to simple phrases, often laced with profanities to be memorable. He never missed opportunities to gather soldiers and explain how to fight. "Grab 'em by the nose and kick 'em in the [pants]" became Patton's explanation of suppressing by frontal fire while maneuvering an armored team to a hostile flank.

He preached his combat gospel at rifle ranges, in motor pools and on field maneuvers, appearing at dawn, midday, dusk and in the dead of night, encouraging, chastising and spreading the word. Patton's energy proved infectious. If this old general could keep going, a 19-year-old private could, too.

You sure couldn't miss him. Tall, trim, and straight as a ramrod, Patton decked out his personal light tank with a siren. He claimed you could hear the thing wailing from 8 miles away. Pat-

ton's tank featured red, white and blue rings around the girth of its turret. In the commander's hatch stood Patton in his personally designed "Green Hornet" getup, a verdant fitted uniform with a shoulder holster, twin rows of brass buttons for style and a golden football helmet provided by the Washington Redskins NFL team. It was quite a show. Woe to the soldier caught disheveled or confused, and greater woe to that private's sergeant, captain and lieutenant colonel.

### Old School

Patton's division lacked its full complement of vehicles but got the most from the incomplete fleet. In one memorable exercise, the general led a 400-odd-mile round-trip motor march from Fort Benning to Panama City, Florida, and back on Dec. 12-13, 1940. The division consisted of 125 tanks and almost 1,000 other trucks,

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**Opposite:** On May 26, 1910, Lt. George Patton Jr. married Beatrice Banning Ayer at a church near Boston. **Above:** Lt. Gen. Patton in March 1943.

OPPOSITE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS. ABOVE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Revisit an article

Black Horse guys, as COVID-19 has diminished and I have returned to my IDVA (Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs) office in Chicago, there has not been one day without a few calls from veterans or their families requesting a copy of a veteran's DD 214. Mostly, these requests are from family members needing a DD 214 for burial benefits and related issues. On most occasions, we will have a copy because at some point, the veteran provided one. However, there are many instances when we do not have a copy. And that becomes very disappointing for the family. However, precious time is saved, and frustration diminished by veterans keeping several copies at home and informing families where those DD 214's are located. I realize many 11th Cav guys are proactive and are prepared. It is just that I, and many Veteran Service Officers (VSO), encounter these issues daily and I offer these words as advice.

DD 214's can be requested by visiting [archives.gov/military](https://www.archives.gov/military).

An extremely easy web site to navigate.

I am amazed at times by how many veterans have service-connected disabilities, currently receive compensation yet are not aware that they may very well be entitled to higher ratings. When the VA awards a vet a rating, the award letter (I refer to that as an award narrative), includes an explanation why the vet was awarded a certain rating and most often, what conditions are necessary for a higher rating. I advise vets to share that information with their medical providers which is okay to do. Gents, when your doctor reads that appropriate narrative and tells you "Yea, you meet these conditions", there is your claim for a higher rating. Should this occur, my advice is to locate a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) in your area for assistance. I always advise, do not submit

a claim on your own. Many States have state agencies like the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the American Legion, VFW, DAV and Viet Nam Veterans of America all have full time VSO's. Just google and search.

And - just in case any member of our 11th ACVVC would like a second or third opinion regarding a claim for disability with the VA, I am including for members my contact info below. I know - I may receive messages disagreeing with me about an issue. However, I receive all sort of messages everyday at work so a few more is okay. So - feel free to reach out to me. As I include in my Voice Mail at work, "I will return your call within 24-48 hours". Simply leave a good message, name and number for me to call.

Allons

*Chuck Bosko*  
*chuckbosko@att.net*  
708 205 3541

## I Love You, Man

As many of you know, Johnny Riley, died due to Covid-19 on December 14, 2020. I was informed of his passing by Pete Walter as Pete knew how close I was to Johnny and his wife, Delores, who also contracted the virus and survived.

Due to our decades long, relationship, I felt compelled to share my thoughts about Johnny and the indelible impact he had on my life.

Johnny's tour (1969-1970) with M Company, 3rd Squadron, over-lapped mine and throughout our time together, I was always impressed with the way he performed his duty, his bravery under fire and how well-liked he was by his fellow troopers in M Company. He was possessed of an infectious personality and made friends easily. To those of us who fought alongside him, he was a brave and courageous soldier. Delores and his entire family can be proud of his dedication and service to America.

We are all saddened at his parting; however, we should all remember and celebrate his life and be thankful we had the opportunity to know and serve with him.

The words of an author, unknown to me,

best describe Johnny Riley.

"The true gentlemen is the man whose conduct proceeds from goodwill and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies, who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness, but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word, who thinks of the rights and feeling of others rather than of his own; and, who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

In a word, his life was robust, he truly appreciated life and lived it to the fullest extent possible. Yet, in a remarkable manner, he blended his appetite for living with a simple sensitivity and deep-seated concern for others.

As the years' past following Vietnam, I became very close to Johnny, Delores, their daughter, Tammy and her husband, Brian,

and children Brandon and Britton. Delores and Johnny loved to open their home in Lexington, KY to members of M Company in celebration of Memorial Day. Over the years, the attendance of troopers who served with Johnny in Vietnam were a testament to the deep friendships with Johnny that were forged during our time together in Vietnam.

Over the past 50 years, I have spoken with Johnny on too many occasions to count and visited him and Delores as often as possible. At the end of each hug or phone call, Johnny would always say, "I love you, man".

Johnny has continued the journey that we, in due time, will begin. I rejoice in the knowledge of his destination and in the certainty of faith that his spirit will someday reunite with his temporal body and that eternal life will be, in due time, alongside Delores, his beloved wife.

And so, my good and faithful friend, as you have begun your eternal journey, let me just say, "I love you, man".

With deepest respect,

*Tom Reese, M Company,*  
*3/11 ACR, Vietnam*



# Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

The Blackhorse Women's Group is looking forward to seeing you all in Dallas and hoping you receive this edition of *Thunder Run* before you leave for the reunion!!! Come and join us as we support the 11th ACVVC Family.

## Women's Group Schedule of Events in Dallas:

### Wednesday Aug 25

1:00 pm – 5:00pm In Quartermaster Store – The Blackhorse Women's Fundraising Table Items available: Dallas Reunion Lanyards and Blackhorse Tote Bags. (If you would like to volunteer for a 2 hour shift at our table, please contact Sheryl)

### Thursday, Aug 26

9:00am – 5:00 pm In Quartermaster Store – The Blackhorse Women's Fundraising Table Items available: Dallas Reunion Lanyards and Blackhorse Tote Bags. (Grab 2-3 of your friends and volunteer a 2 hour shift at our table...be the team to sell-out our items!!)

### Friday, Aug 27th

8:30 am – 1:00pm – Dallas Arboretum & Gardens Tour- Registered participants meet at the hotel's "Grand Entrance" at 8:30am to board tour bus. (If you are not attending the Gardens Tour, please volunteer to work our Fundraising Table. Times available: 9:00am - 11:00am or 11:00am -1:00pm.

1:00pm – 4:00pm - Any remaining fundraising items will be available at our table in the Quartermaster Store until sold out !! Need volunteers to be the "team" to "sell out".

Times available: 1:00pm –???

### Saturday, Aug 28th

9:00am – 12:00noon – Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting - While our Troopers attend their Annual Membership Meeting, we invite the rest of our 11th ACVVC family to join us for the morning.

We will begin with a very short business meeting and announce the 11th ACVVC Woman of the Year recipient.

Chaplain Bill Karabinos, 11th ACVVC Chaplain, and Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian will be our speakers. Carrie Holton will be entertaining us again with her beautiful voice. See you then.

### Updates:

• Sarah's Angels Honor Roll – We recently added two additional names to the Sarah's Angels Honor Roll, with the passing of Rosa Rector, wife of David Rector, I Trp, and Yolanda Gehring, wife of Joe Gehring, I Trp. We will surely miss these ladies and all the support they gave to the 11thACVVC.

• Prayer Shawl Project – Many thanks to Cherry Platt and all the ladies who knit or crochet the Prayer Shawls & Lap Shawls. Families should report the loss of a Trooper to President Pete Walter and/or Chaplain Bill, and they will notify Cherry. Loss of an 11thACVVC Lady should be reported to Sheryl Myers.

• Remembering our KIA's - If you would like to take part in this project, please contact Sheryl.

If you do not have access to the online listing of the cemeteries where 11th ACR KIA's are buried, I can send you a paper copy.

If you have any questions or need to sign up to volunteer at our Fund-raising Table, please contact Sheryl at 571-721-9189.

*Sheryl, Lajaunda, Marguerite, Cherry, Cathi, Kathy, Renee, & Jan*

## Blackhorse Women's Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!



Handy and custom made tote bags. These two colored black and red heavy duty totes are offered for \$10 each, plus postage/shipping as follows: **1-3 bags \$7.00; 4-8 bags \$14.50.**

Remember this is a fundraiser that helps support the group's Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects.

Please complete the order form below and mail, with payment to:

**Marguerite Austin, 4189 11th Ave. SE, Willmar, MN 56201**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping address (all bags in an order will be shipped to one address.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Provide your Email address and phone number should we need to contact you about your order.

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bags \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping amount as listed below .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Check or money order only, sorry, no credit cards).

For the Bags: 1-3 bags \$7.00 Postage, plus cost of bags at \$10 each. 4-8 bags \$14. 50 postage plus cost of bags at \$10 each. Fill out form above and send with payment in full in check or money order only (sorry, no credit cards) to the address above.

*Thank you for supporting the Blackhorse Women's Group!*

**HEADQUARTERS, 541st MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT**  
**11th ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT**  
**APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257**

**Subject: Unit History**

March 1971 - STANDDOWN ! At last the fighting 541st can rest. The unit is going home - the unit, not the personnel. For this who had been in the unit for almost a year it was an amazing experience. A year ago the war had been going hot and heavy and the 541st had been cranking out intelligence at an amazing rate. Now, March 1971, the War in III Corp is relatively quiet. The only thing hot and heavy about the war for the 541st is all the important and meaningful details the troops are put on.

Of course the main reason for the slow-down of the war was the Cambodian adventure. By boldly striking across the Cambodian border, US forces were able to seize large amounts of enemy supplies. By cunningly limiting the extent of our advance to 12 miles, the stateside politicians enabled COSVN to escape. An added bonus was the expanding of the war into Cambodia so that main force NVA, VC, and Rouge Khemers could steal half that country from the Cambodians. AT LEAST SAIGON WAS SAFE !

The Cambodian venture allowed the Cav to partake in classic armor tactics. Like Patton (our patron saint) racing across Europe, Col. Starry and the 11th ACR raced to Snoul. And as they raced to Snoul, the II shop raced to read out and prepare maps based on a mission flown over Snoul. Armed with such intell. the Cav made such quick work of SNOUL that a recent Newsweek commented that now days some IIICorps GIs refer to the total leveling of a place as "Snouling it". Right On !

Of course Cambodia was not without it's casualties. Col. Starry was slightly wounded when he tried to coax an NVA soldier (PSYOPS style) out of a bunker. The results were 1 x CC grenade exploded and 2 x US WIA (slightly). Lt Keevan of the 541st, at 3rd sqdn. was wounded toward the end of the two month campaign during a mortar attack. During the attack some 96 rounds were fired by a logistically crippled enemy. It's a good thing we captured all those supplies before anyone really got hurt. Also were four students at Kent State who died at the

hands of our brave stateside counterparts - The National Guard.

But morality aside (why not !) Cambodia did hurt the enemy. He was hurt and hungrey. Our old friends, the Dong Nai, were forced to break down into smaller units to survive. In terms of classic guerrilla war, the enemy was reverting to stage one. Big battles would not be fought. For the grunt and the tanker the war would become even dirtier. Automatic ambushes were the key weapons. The 541st also readjusted. More concise information was required. Intelligence became even more important. And surprisingly despite the large amounts of BS cranked out by all the shops, the needed information was obtained.

Of course if one were to try and gauge our greatest success in terms of praise received, the CMMI would take top billing.

While the war raged all around us, well North of us anyway, harried members of the 541st divided their time between OB studies, INTSUMS, and those god-damn vehicles. Who among those that were here during this exciting time could forget the electrically charged atmosphere. Images of those days flash into mind like star clusters. Cpt. Schaden at motor stables exhorting the troops with "Don't worry we'll pass the CMMI". We weren't worried. Or Tenderella running around with Det 4 screaming "God damn jeep, god damn jeep." And the pear - Maj. Nicklas. Who can forget his nightly payer "Please god let Det 6 be better than the Colonel's jeep."

Was it worth it? You bet. Remember at the change of command ceremonies when when Maj. Huntley took over. At the time Col. Gerrity himself addressed us. For those who were not there and those who have forgotten this is what he said, "It is a great pleasure to have the 524th Maint... ..or military intelligence with us. Your job on the CMMI is legend here at DIAN, the only unit to pass. And you do good intelligence work too!"

With happy hearts the men of the 541st left the ceremony to find out their next mission. Ah yes, the next mission was to

be the most important of all, the capstone of all our towering achievements, the AGI!

But before AGI would come TET. TET, that time of year when our inscrutable enemy became truly treacherous. Getting himself smoked up on dew he would launch massive assaults at positions manned by smoked up GIs (well, fair is fair). Premonition, or call it a hunch told many members of the unit that this year Dian would be "it" in a deadly game of rocket tag. Those far sighted individuals, including Timmy Mac and the Major, put their heads together (just a figure of speech). Plans were made. Change was in the air. The sniper tree came down, thus denying cover to snipers and a nesting place for birds. A basic load was placed in the major's office - in case the ammo dump took a hit (Knowing the 541st to be the center of resistance at Dian, the dinks no doubt had our ammo dump zeroed in). And all the ammo boxes were filled with dirt and laboriously placed around the hootches thus keeping the II shop off the streets for 4 days. But it was all for naught. This year the VC brought in TET at the Phnom Phen airport.

The year was an amazing one for all of us, full of the joys of Army life. Remember the PW we guarded because the MPs did not have the facilities. That PW compound over by the 37th Med was evidently less secure than our 5 ton van. Remember all all those nice OB studies that drew all the chuckles out at sqdn. ? Remember the (and typical) II mission flown for 1st sqdn.? It arrived 2 weeks after it was ordered and on the day of 1st sqdn.'s standdown. And although not a part of the 541st let us not forget the BARF's last mission AND WHAT IT COST !

And last of all let us not forget this country and this war and what it has done to the Army, the United States, and us. And someday when you bounce your grandchildren on your knee tell them. And if you tell them like it was, if you tell them the truth than maybe this inhuman folly will not happen again.

PRAY GOD IT DOES NOT !

# The Children of Vietnam

By Bernie Seiler

A backdrop to the chaos and carnage in Vietnam were the children who always provided a juxtaposition for these things when I encountered them. They included the lovely young girls on their way to school in Saigon, dressed in their flowing white tunics, to the small barefoot children found along dusty, remote roads, near the Cambodian border. Their innocence, openness, their inherent cheerfulness, alongside their seemingly inability to understand what was happening to them, were among my most prominent remembrances during that period. The start of the War had preceded their birth, and the atmosphere of terror and deprivation in their communities was evident, and yet most appeared to remain positive and upbeat. As our armor units thundered through their villages, kicking up clouds of dust and debris along the way, it was usual to have children running alongside us with excitement, laughing, waving, and in some small way making us feel as though we were the liberation army we hoped to be. However, one only needed to see an undernourished child, or a baby alongside its mother in the rice fields, or a youngster playing near rubble from the violence that surrounded them, to bring into focus the true nature of war for many of these innocents.

I remember a day, somewhere in Tay Ninh Province as it neared darkness, we were setting up an encampment for the night just outside a small village, only a few yards off the main road. As usual, the children followed along, standing on the side of the road at a safe distance, and watching us set up camp, as darkness approached. I could not tell if it was a friendly village, but in reality, even friendly villages were often forced at night to provide intelligence about our movements by the Viet Cong. Although the children did not escape our wariness, so long as they kept their distance, we did not bother them.

The next morning, at sunrise, I saw several women arriving with baskets laden with fresh fruits and vegetables from their gardens, as well as trinkets to sell to the Americans, offering these women an unexpected windfall of opportunity. Arriving too, were all the excited children from the previous day, taking up their original spot along the road. It was another hot, humid day in Vietnam, with the rising morning sun scorching our encampment, as we prepared to leave. The children watched our preparations from their safe distance and, as children will do, they rough housed with each other, chased each other around, laughed and played, with the boys trying to act tough in front of us.

A day or two before our visit to this village, I had received in the mail a revolutionary new invention. It was a small Kodak camera, rectangular in shape that was made of unadorned cardboard and preloaded with film. It reminded me of the simple old "Brownie" cameras of my childhood. All you had to do, the instructions said, was to point and snap your 12 pictures, then mail the entire camera back to Kodak for free processing. As we continued to break up our encampment, I remembered the camera and thought this might be an opportunity to snap a few pictures for the folks back home. In the meantime, I noticed a small boy that had a basket filled with a type of elongated bread roll that was common in Vietnam. I understood that he had probably been sent

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**I had not noticed previously when taking the pictures, the Americans were nearly children themselves, being perhaps only six to eight years older from the small group of Vietnamese children.**

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out by his mother with the fresh bread and felt a pull on the old heart strings to buy something from him. I had heard that this native bread was good, but to be aware that it usually included small bugs that were in the flour used to bake the bread. Throwing caution aside, I waved for him to come over to me, as I perched on top of my personnel carrier. I could not understand the price he was trying to relay to me, but I signaled I wanted one roll and reached down handing him a US dollar bill, bringing a big smile to his face. Turns out the bread did contain little bugs, but I grew tired of trying to pick them out and, once again, throwing caution to the wind, ate the tasty bread, bugs, and all.

Retrieving my new camera, I approached the group of kids on the roadside and signaled that I would like to take their picture. Like children everywhere they were delighted and began jockeying for position, finally striking a pose with their arms slung around each other, leaning on each other, all laughing and trying to act tough for my benefit. I loved these kids because they reminded me of my own carefree childhood, at that moment. Before we left that morning, I took a few other pictures of the dusty, hot encampment, including a shot of the crew from my personnel carrier, all looking bedraggled as soldiers do that have been in the field for months upon end.



**The kids and crew of Vietnam.**

Many years later, I was going through a box that contained memorabilia from my tour of duty in Vietnam and found the old photographs from that day. I realized for the first time that the picture of the children and my crew still engendered a sense of affection from me. My crew had struck a pose that was almost identical to the Vietnamese children, all wanting to be recorded showing how they felt about their friends, their place in the group and perhaps their heroism. I had not noticed previously when taking the pictures, the Americans were nearly children themselves, being perhaps only six to eight years older from the small group of Vietnamese children. I concluded the subjects of both pictures taken on that hot, humid morning were all "The Children of Vietnam."

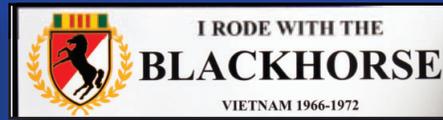
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



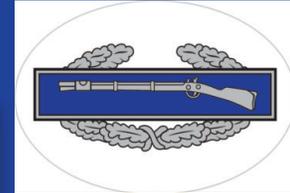
#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



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



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



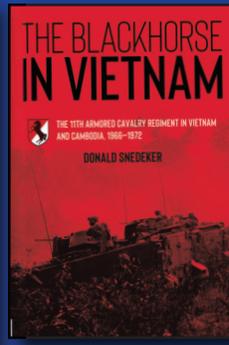
#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00



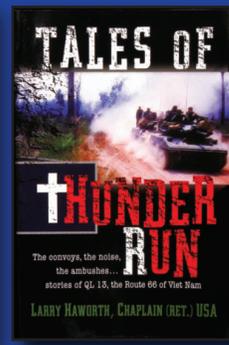
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



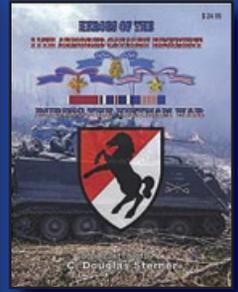
#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#34 "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" \$25.00



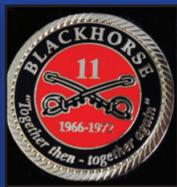
#37 Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth \$11.00



#33 Book: Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment \$20.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



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



#32 See through Window Decal, Sabers, 13" x 13" \$15.00



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



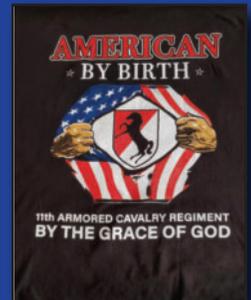
#36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, \$28.00



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



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



#40 Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, 2X, 3X, 4 X \$20



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



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



#42 Blackhorse Jacket (lined), 100% Nylon \$95.00



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



#41 Light (A) or Dark (B) Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00





Hello Troopers and Troopers Wives.

Hope everyone is getting ready for Dallas, DALLAS is getting ready for the BEST Combat Regiment in the whole Army that has ever had.

If you have not registered yet, DON'T put it off any longer, lets get it done today. Come on wives keep reminding them to stop putting off. Covid is under control here in TEXAS. Just check us out and see.

Registration is open until JULY 28th, So let's Git-R-Done, guys. Let's Git-R-Done. We want to see all of you guys and gals. Don't forget your Hats and Boots this is TEXAS now. Hot days and very warm nights. If you don't believe me, ask Ollie Pickral.

East Texas Round Up went really well. Sorry you missed out on a good time with

## Registration is open until JULY 28th, So let's Git-R-Done, guys. Let's Git-R-Done.

us. We had several new visitors to stop by for a visit. Looking to see them back next year along with all you troopers who live in East Texas or around the neighboring states. We had troopers and wives from Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and

Louisiana, & yes Texas as well. More to come later on this, please stay tuned.

Again, we will be looking for you in Dallas.

ALLONS

Jerry

### Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

<b>1st Quarter</b> .....	<b>Jan 1</b>
<b>2nd Quarter</b> .....	<b>Apr 1</b>
<b>3rd Quarter</b> .....	<b>Jul 1</b>
<b>4th Quarter</b> .....	<b>Oct 1</b>

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

### 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 (\$50)

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rd Qtr 2021

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, Plastic	6.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	3.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00			
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt	30.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	5.00			
8.	Mouse Pads	12.00			
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4"	6.00			
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle	25.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	9.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	13.00			
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, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	22.00			
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.	Overnight Bag	25.00			
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.	Golden Boot Spurs	30.00			
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00			
29.	Ladies Necklace	18.00			
30.	Car Flag	25.00			
31.	Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs	7.00			
32.	See through Window Decal, Sabers, 13" x 13"	15.00			
33.	Book, "Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment"	20.00			
34.	Book, "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" by Donald Snedeker	25.00			
35.	See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13"	15.00			
36.	Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. 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"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green	20.00			
40.	Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4 X	20.00			
41.	Denim shirt (men's) <input type="checkbox"/> Light (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Dark (B)	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.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 5" x 4.5"	10.00			
45.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13"	15.00			

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

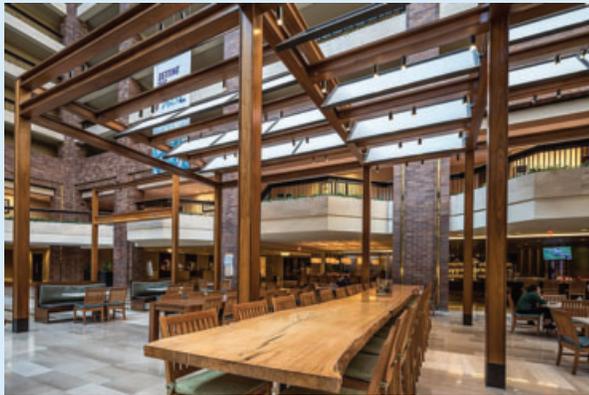
Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 11th ACVVC. 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



Hilton Anatole -  
Reunion 2021 -  
Dallas, TX



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