



# Thunder Run

Vol. 19 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2004

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

### From the 61<sup>st</sup> Colonel of the Regt. **Blackhorse Ready for Deployment**

As always, Command Sergeant Major Spring and I would like to first thank you for your constant and unwavering support of the Blackhorse Regiment. The past few months have been full of activity for both our Troopers and Families as the Regiment’s deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom draws near. Even with training as the priority, the Regiment finds the time to participate in some more traditional but equally significant aspects of the deployment, and I would like to share a few of the highlights with you.

To start, however, I would like to touch on just some of the training the Regiment recently conducted. In September, the Squadrons conducted their Tank and Bradley Gunneries in addition to several Light Cavalry Gunneries. All Troops conducted day and night Convoy Escort Live Fires. In addition, 2/11 focused on Squad Urban Live Fire exercises. The Regiment’s medics were able to participate in a medical trauma course at Fort Lewis, providing them with outstanding detailed trauma medical training. In October, units continued to train on ranges and troop training. Regimental Headquarters conducted a TOC Exercise in conjunction with 18th Airborne Corps. 1/11 just started their month-long NTC rotation- to the wonder-

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## A Few Memories

By: *Wes Slimmer, HOW, 1/11, 1967-1968*

I have a few memories of incidents during my tour in Vietnam. The one that stands out the most would be the day we lost our maintenance deuce and a half, somewhere in the rubber. When I say we, I really mean me and when I mean lost, I really mean destroyed.

I don’t know where we were, because being a 1-How mechanic; I was mostly taking a ride from one stop to another, I never saw a map. We were busting jungle, so to speak, it wasn’t as thick as jungle, but it was more dense than rubber with close in brush. In convoy, maintenance was always toward the back of the column.

Suddenly, up ahead, an explosion then all weapons began to fire, and the convoy stopped, the ACAVs ahead and behind got into their herringbone defense and we on the maintenance truck began firing our M-16s and our M-79 into the trees.

As we were reaching for more ammo, the column in front of me began to move, so I followed. I had moved only a couple of inches before the truck came to a sudden halt, with a jerk. It was my turn at driving, and since the others were still firing, I had no choice but to get out and look under the truck to see if the transmission was hanging out or what.

What I saw was that the front axel was hung up on a broken off, what I would call,

**...I knew had been in country all day, but this guy looked like he had just been dropped onto my running board from the sky. He was ready for inspection and his very highly polished boots had no mud on them except for a little around the soles,...**

bush sized twig sticking out of the ground, and it’s only sticking above the axel maybe a quarter, maybe a half inch. I got back into the truck and backed up some and got a small run at it, thinking that I just needed a little run at it to ride above it or knock it over, it wasn’t more than a half inch in diameter, for crying out loud. So I got my short run, and the stub stopped me cold again, remember there is firing in progress, mostly just from the front of the convoy now. So I’m going to back up and move the truck over a few inches so the high point of the axel will miss the protrusion.

Just as I was backing up, a Second Lieutenant jumped on the running board. Now this boy was beautiful, with his shiny gold bar and very stiffly starched shirt, he wanted to know what was going on, and I filled him in on the stub and the go around plan. He wasn’t having any of that, the stub wasn’t that big, and he emphasized that we were to stay in the tracks of the vehicle in

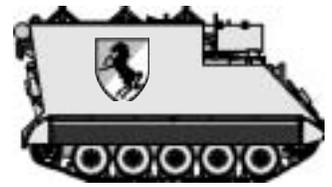
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Chuck Schmidt, President  
11th ACVVC

When you receive this issue of Thunder Run the U.S. Presidential election will be history (we hope), we will all be starting our plans for the upcoming Holidays, and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment will be in the process of

deploying to the Iraq War Zone.

Once more we are reminded that "Freedom is not Free" but is earned through the sacrifices of brave men and women. The deployment of our Regiment to Iraq serves to remind all of us of our similar service many years ago in the jungles of Vietnam and Cambodia. The challenges and dangers that our Troopers are facing today are different, yet eerily reminiscent of our experiences. They face an enemy that uses "Hit and Run" tactics; that uses innocent civilians as shields; that hides among noncombatant citizens; that terrorizes the population with threats and violence; that has no regard for life and readily takes innocent noncombatants hostage and summarily executes them in the most brutal way; in short, they face an evil enemy that hates us and is dedicated to killing as many of us as possible, wherever we may be. This worldwide war against terrorism is one that we must win and whether we individually agree with the decision our government made to take the fight to Iraq our collective firm support for our Troopers engaged in this struggle is imperative!

We all can remember our experiences on returning from our tours in Vietnam, and fighting in a war that was the subject of protest here at home. Let us not let that happen again. Let our Troopers know as they continue the outstanding battlefield legacy we established so many years ago that we are 100% behind their efforts and that we know that they will fight honorably, with integrity, courage, and devastating effect on the enemy. One way to show your support for "Blackhorse" Troopers as they serve our great Nation in Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III is to get

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involved in the "Troop-to-Troop" support program. In this effort, each active Troop, Company, Battery, etc. has a person that serves as a point of contact between the veterans of the 11th ACVVC and the active soldiers and their families. The details of this program are still being worked out, and as the deployment progresses, will become clearer. We envision that the program will include "care packages" for the deployed Troopers, letters, cards, e-mail, or simply moral support. As time passes, we will find out what our Troops need most and will be able to adjust to those needs. Our deployed Troopers' families will also need our support, and we are working on ways to include them as well as the Troopers of the 221st Cavalry (our 3rd Squadron) of the Nevada Army National Guard that will deploy to Ft Irwin to continue the ongoing mission as the OPFOR at the National Training Center. Current points-of-contact are listed elsewhere in this issue of Thunder Run and Gene Johnson, Vice-President of the 11th ACVVC, is coordinating the overall effort. Contact him if you want to get more involved for your former Troop or Company. Gene's contact information is listed in the Officers, Directors, and Volunteers data (page 3). **Support Our Troops!!! Support Our Country!!! God Bless The USA!!!**

Planning is continuing for the 20th Anniversary Reunion of the 11th ACVVC to be held in Colorado Springs, CO 4-7 August 2005. Dave Tessier and I are the co-chairmen for this milestone event. We expect a large turnout so make sure you get your hotel reservations early. You can find the hotel information in this issue as well as a short article about this event. Any questions should be directed to me, Dave, or our overall reunion Chairman, Steve Page. Contact information can be found under the Officers, Directors, and Volunteer Directory (page 3).

Mike Forbes served for five years on the Board of Directors and will be leaving the

Board as his term expires on 31 December 2004. Mike will be replaced by "Big Jim" Holt who was elected to a three-year term at the reunion in Daytona Beach last August. On behalf of all Officers, Directors, volunteers, and our membership, I would like to recognize Mike's service and thank him for all his contributions. Stay active, Mike!

Most of our recent scholarship winners are now enrolled in their respective colleges. We congratulate them and wish them success in pursuit of their studies. However, the work continues and based on the record number of applicants we had last year, it appears that we will have more of our children seeking assistance to further their education again this year. We will again have three major fund raising activities this year, the first of which begins now. You will be receiving the 2005 edition of the 11th ACVVC calendar shortly. In it will be an envelope soliciting a contribution to the scholarship program. Please be generous!

Allen Hathaway, a member of the Board of Directors, is wrapping up his research program to identify accurately all of our KIAs. For the past eight years or so, we have been recognizing 768 of our Brothers for having made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Prior to that time, we were listing 716 KIAs. The real number is somewhere in between those figures, with the inaccuracies resulting from erroneous data from Army and Department of Defense records. We even have one of our members, who is alive and well, listed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. and on our Monument located at the Patton Museum in Ft Knox, KY! Allen has put in countless hours of research in search of the truth, and when the project is finished, we will be updating the list of names on our Web Site database and will redo the plaques on our Monument in Ft Knox. For ease of identification, we plan to list names on the

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



*Thunder Run* (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P O Box 717, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

*Thunder Run* covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory Jr, 720 Ashbrook Dr., Hixson, TN 37343-1285 <Battle46A@comcast.net>

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Monument by Squadron and by Troop of assignment. A rededication ceremony will be scheduled upon completion. Thank you, Allen, for this personal labor of love.

The 11th ACVVC Web Site continues to be actively used by our members and visitors. The "Members Only" forum is extremely active with the majority of the discussion centered on politics, especially during the recent election season. Thanks to Otis Carey, Pete Echon, and other volunteers, www.11thCavNam.com continues to lead the way in veterans' sites. You can now go to the site and order items from our Quartermaster store, renew your member-

ship, register for reunions, and make donations to the general or scholarship funds on line by using your Visa or MasterCard credit cards. This convenience has been used by many already, and is provided to make your active participation in our organization easier.

And finally, I would like to thank all of our volunteers who make this organization function from day-to-day. In addition to the Officers and Board of Directors, many of our members dedicate numerous hours to support all that we accomplish. From the Women's' Coordinator, Barb Moreno; through the Quartermaster, Rod George; our

Service Advisor, Rick O'Dell; the Editor, Bill Gregory; Reunion Committee, Steve Page; Historian, Don Snedeker; Chaplain, Larry Haworth; Auditor, Bill Suhre; Funeral Honor Guard, Pete Walter; and to all of you who work quietly behind the scenes to help make the 11th ACVVC the best Veteran's organization in the Army—THANK YOU!!

Remember—when you see a Soldier, Airman, Sailor, or Marine in uniform, approach him or her, shake their hand and simply say, "Thank You for Your Service!!!"



## Editor's Corner

C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

### LETTER from page 1

ment of all; our own OPFOR will now be trained under the guidance of Operations Group.

On 30 September, the Troopers of the 11th ACR were proud to host a guidon exchange ceremony that was organized and attended by several members of the 11th ACVVC. Veterans and Troopers alike were blessed with a beautiful morning for the ceremony. Once the Regiment regrouped after our monthly unit run, the ACVVC members were introduced and the guidon exchange commenced. During the ceremony, veterans of B, E, and F Troops passed their Vietnam War combat guidons to their modern-day counterparts to carry during the Regiment's upcoming deployment to Iraq. Following the ceremony, Soldiers had the opportunity to mingle with the veterans who passed along some of their valuable experience and advice.

Prior to our deployment, the 11th ACR will conduct its Deployment Ceremony on 17 November. Also included in the ceremony will be the combat guidon exchange for A Troop and 1/11 HHT. Following the ceremony will be the dedication of the Regimental Support Squadron's horse stables to COL(R) John S. Wood, Jr., a long-time supporter of the Regiment and son of the legendary WWII commander MG John "Tiger Jack" Wood. That day will also host the opening of the NTC Family Wellness Center, an on-post building dedicated to providing an area for the Families of deployed Soldiers to interact with each other, the Chain of Command, and their loved ones overseas via e-mail and web cams. For the Troopers, their Families, and Blackhorse Veterans, the afternoon will conclude with a Regimental BBQ.

Our Soldiers have always had reason to be proud of serving in the Blackhorse Regiment, in part because of the efforts of veterans like you. Now more than ever, the Regiment's new deployment status brings home to all our Soldiers the importance of knowing our remarkable history and Cavalry traditions. Events such as the guidon exchange and Deployment Ceremony truly introduce the Regiment into a new significant chapter of Blackhorse history, and I can promise you that we are ready to write it.

ALLONS!

Peter C. Bayer Jr.

On 30 November 1969, three days after Thanksgiving, I left

Travis Air Force Base on a Braniff jet, bound for the Republic of Vietnam. Do you remember Braniff? They had the bright colored airplanes, and the one that I rode to RVN was a bright green - not olive drab, mind you, but bright green! They went out of business years ago, and I did not miss them. In the middle of the night we landed for refueling in Honolulu, Hawaii; it was about 0300 hours local time and the only thing I remember clearly is seeing the "Aloha" sign lit up by a huge spotlight. We did not stay long, then it was back in the air with the next stop being Clark Air Force base in the Philippines. It was the middle of the day when we got there and I have no recollection of why we stopped, but recall that I thought things were deteriorating. Not that the Philippines are a bad place, but Clark was a step down from Oahu! We were not at Clark long, then it was back in the air, and on to Bien Hoa.

When the doors opened in Vietnam, we could feel the heat; it was winter back in "the world" and this was climate shock for most of us. Then, it was on to the 90th Replacement Company, then to Di An, then to "newby" school and on to Squadron, then to the company. Before Christmas I was in the field and spent Christmas 1969 being shot at during the "Christmas Truce" which we honored while they did not. Since the holidays were always a big, big deal in my family, my trip to the "live fire exercise over the great waters" was made even more emotional for me, and has made the hol-

**...it is nearing the holidays again and the Blackhorse is going back into combat. I cannot help but remember, and my heart goes out to our sons and daughters and their families who are moving out during another holiday season.**

iday period even more special since. Why am I thinking of this now? Well, it is nearing the holidays again and the Blackhorse is going back into combat. I cannot help but remember, and my heart goes out to our sons and daughters and their families who are moving out during another holiday season.

Look for our "Troop To Troop" update in this issue. We have our usual columns, which are all as good as we are used to; we have the introduction of the rest of our 2004 scholarship winners, scholarship information, a message from Colonel Bayer of the active regiment and a very entertaining article from Wes Slimmer. There are also messages from the President Chuck Schmidt and information on the Research and Verification project. We hope you enjoy this issue.

This is the third year that I have had the privilege of extending my family's best wishes to my fellow Blackhorse Troopers and their families. Our best wishes to each of you this holiday season. This year we send a very special wish for the troopers of the active regiment, and their families. May God be with each of you (active or veteran) and your families.

*Merry Christmas and a joyous 2005!*



## Welcome Aboard!

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

Eugene R. Cheney	F Troop, 2/11	1970 - 1971
Wade C. Smith	HHT, 2/11 and HHT, Regiment	1967 - 1968
Butch Thorson	C Troop, 1/11	1967 - 1968
Christopher E. Young	Unknown	Unknown
Jimmie Campbell	HHT and C Troop, 1/11	1967 - 1968

# 11th ACR KIA Research and Verification Project

In May 2003, the 11th ACVVC formed the Memorial Restoration Committee (see "11th ACR Memorial Restoration" - page 1, 4th Qtr 2004 Thunder Run). The committee had three primary objectives:

- Consider options on how to restore and preserve the 11th ACR Vietnam memorial at Fort Knox
- Research and verify each name on the memorial to determine specific troop, company, or battery
- Consider using a portable/traveling monument at our reunions

One of the first steps of the project was to begin researching the names listed on the memorial to ensure that all information was correct. This included accurate spelling of each name, correct casualty date, verification of assignment to the 11th ACR. A number of resources have been used to collect this information including various official government documents at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD; Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, TX; the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in Saint Louis, MO; the Department of Defense Combined Area Casualty File (CACF); and The Adjutant General's Central Casualty File (TAG-CEN). We have also relied on information supplied by family members as well as personal accounts from many of our members who served with these men.

Another key resource is Richard Coffelt, a retired lawyer and Korean War veteran. Richard, along with volunteers and Vietnam Veterans David Argabright, Richard Arnold, Ken Davis, and Bruce Swander have been researching all 58,000+ casualties of the Vietnam War. Their extensive knowledge and endless resources have helped identify and verify unit information down to the company level for nearly all 58,000+ Vietnam casualties.

Our research is nearly complete. Over the course of this project, we have discovered some errors in unit identifica-

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## MEMORIES *from page 1*

front – mines, he indicated. (He had some information I didn't), and if need be he would get the ACAV in front of me to pull me on over the twig. Hey he was the lieutenant. Ok, so I got out and retrieved a tow strap from the back of the truck to connect to the ACAV. The firing up front was fainter now, either they were leaving us or the nearer vehicles with the big weapons, had stopped firing.

The rest of my maintenance group, John, Leo, and Smock were not shooting any more, the same with the men on the tracks in front and back of us. Suddenly there was a CRAAACK and all of us looked up to see the trail of a rocket just disappearing over the gap in the trees that had been made by the leading vehicles. It wasn't the first time we had heard that sound since being in country.

When we looked back down to get on with the business at hand, the Lieutenant was nowhere to be seen.

Now remember, I had seen a few officers that I knew had been in country all day, but this guy looked like he had just been dropped onto my running board from the sky. He was ready for inspection and his very highly polished boots had no mud on them except for a little around the soles, and it had been raining very heavily earlier in the day. You could cut tomatoes with the creases in his pants, and he obviously had not had a flack jacket on those cloths, and as I said he was wearing his brass, not his camo, but he looked as if he knew what he was doing, giving orders and such, he just had that bearing. To this day, I have no idea how he got there, and in that condition, we had been in convoy most of the day and it was mid afternoon when this took place.

Anyway, as we're going about our business, up pops the lieutenant from a mud puddle just behind the truck, it's really hard to keep from laughing at a time like that. Then CRAAAACK, another rocket, this time no one looked up – everyone was watching the lieutenant. This time he was much cooler and didn't react so quickly. Then the rotors of a chopper and we look up and there was a Cobra appearing into the narrow clearing in the trees, then he disappeared over the trees again.

We worked to connect the strap from the track in front to the bumper of the truck and

the order was given for the track to start pulling. Sitting in the drivers' seat, I felt a small bump, and figured that the task was complete, and then there was a second and more violent bump then a third. At that point, everyone was yelling and shouting about something and the track stopped. I got out to release the strap and dismounted the truck by stepping on the front wheel, the track had pulled the truck over the front wheels and the axel was still stuck on that stupid little tree trunk.

The firing had stopped completely and the decision was made to bring up the wrecker from the very rear end of the column – of course, he had to go around and to the side of the rest of the vehicles (not following in any other tracks) to get in front of me.

The wrecker picked up the front of the truck and everyone piled back in as if we were still driving. We left that area with the front wheels off the ground.

Continuing with the convoy, as we turned around a blind corner we saw what the reason for the firing was, there on the side of the road, just where the foliage started to clear into an open area, was a huge smoking mass, obviously a large mine had destroyed something, I feared that it was one of the guns. As we drew closer, it became barely identifiable as a tank, but there wasn't much left of it, what the tank hit had to have been huge. We just continued on, but I can't remember anything after that, where we went or where we set up that night, just the tank, and a few guys standing there as we passed, we looking at the tank, and them looking at us with our wheels in the air. As serious as the scene was, and I'm certain some lives were lost there, that must have given them a small chuckle, but I'll never forget that blown up tank.

I am sure that incident, had a bearing on the decision to not use wheeled vehicles in the bush any longer, and since we were always in the bush, we were all upgraded to track vehicles, and some more powerful weapons. No more busting jungle with wheeled vehicles. We received our tracked carrier just a few days later.

As far as I know I never saw that lieutenant again, but for sure not the way he was dressed then.

# Getting To Know Our Scholarship Winners

To help us all become acquainted with and appreciate our scholarship winners, we ran eight winners last quarter. Here we introduce the remaining fourteen winners.

**Jessica Allen**, daughter of Bobby R.



Allen (ACT & HQ 3/11, 1968 - 1969) plans to attend Connor State College as a double major in Agriculture Communications and Soil and Water Management. She told us: "I have been

raised in a small rural community on a working farm. I believe in the core values of God, Country and Family in which my parents instill in me and want to pursue a career which will allow me to continue in this life style."

.....

**Lance Alsup**, son of Lance W. Alsup



(M Company, 3/11, 1969-1970) Will be a pre-law major at Cumberland University. He says, "My family has owned and operated a farm in Middle Tennessee for three generations. As

with any business we have needed the advice and assistance of an attorney. His help has been invaluable to our family. I would strive to help other people as he has helped."

.....

**John Casterman**, son of John M.



Casterman (M Company, 3/11, 1966 - 1967 & 1969 - 1970). John tells us, "I plan to study Environmental Science as my major in college. I took environmental science this year at my high school, not really

knowing what to expect, but I found my passion and, I hope, a rewarding career path. I have always loved nature, and have always been interested in the outdoors and the problems facing the future of the earth. Environmental science has

answered many of my questions about major environmental troubles, and has set me thinking on possible solutions to keep humanity living sustainably on our earth. I hope a career in this field will allow me to make a real difference, not just in a few peoples lives, but in the way the world works, hopefully making the world a better place."

.....

**Angel Haumschild**, daughter of



Robert Haumschild (H Company, 2/11, 1966 - 1967), says: "I am pursuing my Master of Arts in Management to achieve my goals and obtain a position of leadership. By obtaining my Masters Degree, a broad range

of positions will be obtainable. This will help me find a career that will utilize my skills and allow me to grow within a company."

.....

**Jennifer Long**, daughter of Richard



M. Long, (C Troop, 1/11, 1970) tells us, "I am currently a sophomore attending the University of Michigan and am enrolled with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Education. Ultimately, my goal is

to obtain a job that allows me to do research in the area of Pharmaceuticals, as well as to be qualified to teach High School and College levels. There are millions of people who still suffer from illnesses and diseases where the drugs and remedies we currently use have been proven to be less than adequate. My dad was recently diagnosed and hospitalized with diabetes. As far as we know, there is no history of that illness in our family. There is no cure, but it can be controlled with drugs. There needs to be permanent cures found for diabetes and many other

ills that inflict the people of our world. Somehow, through research the eradication of these diseases will happen and I would like to be part of one of those research teams!"

.....

**Christopher Magnarelli**, son of John



Magnarelli (F Troop, 2/11, 1969 - 1970) will attend Marist College and says, "I plan to enter the business field because I want to obtain skills that are business related so I can get a job when I get out of college. If I major in business, my range of job opportunities will be greater than in other areas. I plan to major in accounting and finance."

.....

**Georgina Maritz**, daughter of Samuel



Caldwell (ACT, 1967 - 1968) will attend Angelo State University. She told us, "Nursing, specializing in Surgery. I like to help people, especially after seeing my Step Father having to spend so much time at

the hospital and how much the doctors and nurses affect his healing."

.....

**Kelly McFarling**, daughter of Leonard



I. McFarling (F Troop, 2/11, 1969 - 1970) is attending Indiana/Purdue University and sends us this message, "I plan on entering the business field. I will focus on marketing and advertising by majoring in Business

Marketing with the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. I have added Distribution Management to my

majors. I am interested in marketing for major automotive companies like BMW or Ford Motor Company. I would also like to plan events and conventions for major corporations.”

.....

**Zandra Messick**, daughter of Ronald



G. Caldwell (D Company, 1/11, 1969) who will study at Salt Lake Community College says she plans to study “. . . Finance and Credit. I have chosen this field because I plan to own a business one day. This field allows me to gain an understanding on the economy and make sound investments in my career and in everyday life.”

.....

**Lauren Mitchell**, daughter of Jerry R.



Mitchell (HHT, 1/11, 1966 - 1967) plans to attend the University Of Maryland and has this to say about her future. “I plan to enter the field of Information Technology. I believe that the application of technology to today's business environment enables companies to streamline processes and improve efficiency. Being able to make this kind of positive impact is something that excites and interest me. Information Technology is also interesting because it is always evolving in the field of information technology. I feel that through hard work and perseverance I can be accepted in this male dominated environment, and make a significant impact.”

.....

**Stephanie O'Donnell**, daughter of



John P. O'Donnell (F Troop, 2/11, 1966 - 1967) will attend the University Of Rhode Island. She told us, “I applied to the University of Rhode Island undecided, but I am looking towards nursing or physical

therapy. I have attended several nursing job shadows and I enjoy the atmosphere of the hospital. I enjoy working with people and helping them and I think something in the medical field would be perfect for me.

.....

**Jolynn Rawson**, daughter of Robert



M. Rawson (F Troop, 2/11, 1968 - 1969) plans to attend the University Of Washington. She says, “Everyday medical personnel help millions of people by saving lives, easing their suffering, or

keeping them healthy. I have always known that I wanted to work in a service-oriented career, because I like to help people. Through my employment I have discovered that helping people bring me great satisfaction; throughout high school I have worked at two childcare facilities, and such jobs are not enjoyable id service to others does not bring you joy. Tenth grade health class and psychology influenced my decision to go into the medical profession as a nurse because I find the human body and its development absolutely fascinating. My goal is to gain experience by working as a nurse in a hospital or other medical facility for a number of years, then return to school to become a nurse practitioner. This would allow me to open my own pediatric clinic and practice medicine, much like a doctor.”

**Megan Wurster**, daughter of Stephen



L. Wurster (C Troop, 1/11, 1969 - 1970) will attend Seattle Pacific University told us, “I plan to enter the field of communications. Every career option that I am currently considering will be covered by a communications major. I am very interested in rhetoric, media studies, and journalism, and how communication is the most critical aspect to building and maintaining a society.”

.....

**Ashley Wiegand**, daughter of Henry J.



Wiengand (53rd Signal Company, 1969 - 1972) will be attending Kent State University. She said, “I plan to enter the field of nursing because I want to help people and I know it is a career I will always

be able to have since nurses are in high demand.”

**Submit your photos to “Thunder Run!” Originals are best. Remember, if you submit digital pics, be sure the resolution is at least 300dpi. The 72dpi resolution for web use is not good enough for the printed page.**

## Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From **John T. Tillman** (B Troop, 1/11 1970-1971) After a fantastic two days at Fort Irwin for the guidon passing ceremonies I feel that we Bravo Troop troopers need to return the favor to the current members of Bravo Troop. I'd like to seek donations from the Bravo Troop Vietnam Veterans to get some CARE packages together and send them over to the current troopers of Bravo Troop after they get to Iraq.

I have requested that the current members of Bravo Troop let me know what they would like/need once they get settled in. I

was thinking of mailing the first CARE package in time for it to arrive in Iraq for Christmas. Can you run a blurb in the 4th Quarter edition of the Thunder Run asking the troopers of Bravo Troop to dig deep and donate for these CARE packages? I'm sure they all remember how good it felt to receive these goodies from home, and I think we former troopers of Bravo Troop should continue the tradition. Many thanks.

*John T. Tillman  
P.O. Box 1492*

*Mesquite NV 89024-1492  
Blackhorse, Troop B 1970 - 1971*

# Guide to 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program

The Current Scholarship Committee Chairman (2004-05) is Gene Johnson.

Mailing Address is:

11th ACVVC Scholarships  
c/o Gene Johnson  
3335 Casey Drive, # 101  
Las Vegas, NV 89120-1183  
Phone: 702 456 3218  
E-Mail: gene677@aol.com

Past Scholarship Committee Chairman were:

John Sorich  
Bill Lewellen  
Ben Hotchkiss

The following information is provided to help member's understand how our Scholarship Program was developed and how the program works.

## History

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

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

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

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

As of June 30 2004, 117 Scholarships have been awarded for a total amount of \$305,000

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

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

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

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

consideration of financial need was removed from the criteria.

## The Criteria For Eligibility

11TH ACVVC Scholarship Applications will be accepted from;

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

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

## The Applicant

The applicant must fill out the Scholarship Application Form completely. The completed Scholarship Application must be received by the Scholarship Chairman **no later than the deadline of May 15 of each year.**

Applications received after the deadline or not filled out completely **will not be considered.**

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

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

## Judging

Scholarship Applicant's are judged in three categories:

- I Form Completion & Legibility
- II Grades
- II Written Response to the two questions on page 2 of the 11TH ACVVC Scholarship Application

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

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

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

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

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

Following the instructions will expedite payment of the scholarship money.

## Summaey

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

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

Allons !

11TH ACVVC Officers and Directors, and the  
Scholarship Committee

### **!BORDER LEGION TROOPERS!**

#### **JOINT 11TH ACR (ALLONS)/14TH ACR (SUIVEZ MOI) BORDER LEGION REUNION PLANNED JUNE 1-5 2005**

For our members who served in the Border Legion as well as in Vietnam and Cambodia, information is being provided on a reunion currently being planned to be held in Fulda, Germany the first week in June 2005. The events schedule is in the planning stages, but will include activities in Bad Hersfeld and Bad Kissingen for Troopers who served in the 3rd or 2nd Squadrons respectively. Fulda will be the center of the gathering and will include Fest Tent; Local tours as well as tours of former East Germany landmarks; OP ALPHA Ceremonies; Memorial Services; Banquet; etc. More information will follow as it is made available.

Points of contact, if interested:

Frank Varljen                      or  
6508 Shamrock Road  
Manassas, VA 20112  
<f.varljen@verizon.net>  
Tele: (703) 791-6218

Don Snedeker  
2221 Tulip Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
<snedekerd@saic.com>  
Tele: (703) 241-0794

## Show Your Pride



When Kenny G. Naidas (G Troop, 2/11, 1971 – 1972) rides his new steed (a 2004 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic) around his Radcliff, KY home, he proudly shows his colors.

## 2005 11th ACVVC CALENDAR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

### **Alert!! Watch Your Mailbox For Your 2005 Calendar Alert!!**

*(Due to arrive in late November or early December 2004)*

As you all know by now, the 11thACVVC Scholarship Program provides \$3,000 award on a one time basis for our eligible children and Troopers and relies solely on your annual contributions for funding. The three fundraisers that we run annually are the 11thACVVC Calendar, the annual Raffle and the Silent Auction, the latter two which culminate at our Annual Reunion which next year we will hold in Colorado Springs, CO (4-7 August 2005). To date, through your generosity, we have been able to award more than \$300,000 in support of our children's post secondary education goals! Scholarships are awarded on a strictly competitive basis based on merit. A number of recent awardees were applying for a second or third time in their attempt to qualify---persistence and improved applications work!

---

**Please be generous again in  
your support of this program.  
Last year 47 of you donated  
\$100 or more with an additional  
65 donating between \$50 and  
\$99!!**

---

The first "leg" of our fundraising efforts for the 2005 Scholarship Program is the Annual Calendar. We are not "selling" calendars, but are providing them to all members as an opportunity to remember their service and the important dates in our

Regimental history, and at the same time to make a donation to help fund the Scholarships. Through your contributions, we were able to raise a record of more than \$23,000 with the 2004 calendar! Our awardees thank you for your support. Every dollar contributed through your donation goes directly to the Scholarship Fund. The goal this year is established at \$25,000 for this part of the fundraising effort. Last year, 22 of our children benefited from the program and some of them are featured elsewhere in this issue of Thunder Run. In order to provide the same number of awards again in 2005, we will need to have successful fundraising drives for all three of our efforts.

Please be generous again in your support of this program. Last year 47 of you donated \$100 or more with an additional 65 donating between \$50 and \$99!! We will need more of this type of support to make our goals and to provide an opportunity for our children to attend colleges. Although almost 5,000 calendars are mailed to members, only about 1,000 respond with donations. We ask each member to step up and be counted. A minimum of \$10 is solicited, but we need many larger donations to be able to continue the program.

This year for the first time, you will be able to make your donation via credit card (Visa or MasterCard only) as well as by check or money order. We have added that opportunity to make it easier for you to make a generous contribution. When you receive your calendar and the accompanying donation appeal envelope. *Please be generous in your support!* Any amount you can afford helps send a child of one of our own to college and ultimately helps out one of our Brothers!!



## Close Calls

I was in the third grade when I had one of my first memorable close calls. You'll know what I'm talking about, having had them yourself. I was riding my bike (bicycle, not chopper) home from school. I was tearing along at nine miles an hour. I went around this corner and nearly broadsided a car at the stop sign. The poor woman driving thought I was going to wipe out on her while she was just sitting there minding her own business. That wasn't my first close call, but it was an early one. I won't bore you with more. You have your own close call stories from when you were a rowdy eight year old too.

In the natural course of things, I got older, even becoming a teen-ager. I'll skip my close call stories about driving the LA freeways and drag racing on the side streets (not schmart – what can I say?). You had plenty of teen-age close calls yourself. Don't deny it. I won't ask your mom because she wouldn't know anyway – you wish. Right? Right.

Now fast forward. Zoom in on close call stories from Viet Nam! Whaaaaat? Viet Nam again? Sure, why not? Some of those close call stories are real attention getters. Like one time down in Soc Trang. You don't know where Soc Trang is? That's OK. It's where I did my first tour, which you might already know about. Anyway, during Tet '68 one of our guys had a close call that clearly got his attention. He was pulling perimeter guard in the middle of the night. We were on a small airfield, which you probably didn't know. Dave (or whatever his name was) dug a cool foxhole about waist deep. He dug away the side to make a seat. Then he put an old plywood sign on the dirt ledge so he could sit and not get his keister muddy. In those days in the Mekong Delta we usually got hit with 75 mm, recoilless rifle rounds, which the VC fired indirectly, like mortars. The VC there didn't use rockets and mortars against us because I suppose they didn't have any – who knows? I guess they just used whatever they had. To us on the receiving end, it didn't make much difference. In the middle of one night, it happened. We got hit.

**... a round came right into his fox hole, cut a four inch slice through his plywood seat about an inch from his butt, and buried itself into the side of his fox hole. It didn't go off. Whew!**

You guessed it: 75 mm recoilless rifle indirect fire. The close call that happened to Dave was that a round came right into his fox hole, cut a four inch slice through his plywood seat about an inch from his butt, and buried itself into the side of his fox hole. It didn't go off. Whew! If it had, the plywood seat wouldn't be around anymore, and Dave wouldn't be telling his story. It was a memorable close call.

A couple of years later I was at Quan Loi with the mighty Blackhorse Cavalry. We had armor on the perimeter; tanks, ACAVs, Sheridans, M578 tank retrievers and such. One night in August, we were hit on three sides. "Hit by what?" you say. Well, I can't give a complete list, but I know there were green tracers flying from way inside the perimeter and in the morning our guys policed up 248 Gook bodies in the wire. By the way, a Gook was a Vietnamese who was trying to make you dead, with or without a proper funeral. Other Vietnamese were regular Vietnamese. They weren't Gooks. Now it's bad Iraqis trying to make our soldiers dead. I don't know what they're called, except bad Iraqis who aren't good Iraqis. Good Iraqis are friendly.

Anyway, back to close calls. One of our troopers told me about his close call which happened when he was inside his M578 Light Tank Retriever. When the sappers started swarming through the wire Trooper decided he'd better stay inside with the hatch closed at maximum tightness. It was clearly the wise thing to do considering the circumstance, which was that the Gooks were climbing all over his M578. They were even jiggling the hatch handle to get inside where he was located at the time. Fortunately for Trooper, they didn't make it. Fortunately for me too because I like him and would have to find another close call story to tell you if this

one hadn't worked out. Given the length of my memory, I don't remember Trooper's name. But I've talked to him at reunions, so I know this close call story to be accurate. If you want to know more, you can come to a reunion and ask Trooper for yourself. No problem. He'll be glad to tell you. He'll probably listen to your close call story too.

You've probably heard the old phrase that a miss is as good as a mile. That fits, like in the stories I just told you. Recoilless rifle rounds would either hit and go off or not go off. This time it didn't go off so that was that. At Quan Loi, the Gook either got into the tank retriever or he didn't. This time he didn't. Not to say that close calls don't get your attention. They do! But at least Dave and Trooper are still here to tell about it – the round missed, the Gook went away. Similar with your own close call stories. Close counts in horseshoes, which is not what we're talking about. We're talking about life. There are plenty of things in life where close calls count. They count for good sometimes like when I missed the car when I was a kid. Sometimes close counts for bad, maybe very bad, like when you miss your Freedom Bird flight home (remember Freedom Birds?) or you almost remembered your wife's birthday, but not quite? Compende?

Jesus told a story in the Bible about a close call. It was when a young man almost committed to being a Christian believer and obtaining eternal life. Close but not quite. It's recorded in the Bible in Matthew 19:16-22(NIV) which I'll quote so you can see what I'm talking about: "Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" ...Jesus replied, "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." "

Continued on page 15

# 11th ACVVC XXth ANNUAL REUNION

## 4-7 AUGUST 2005 ♦ ♦ ♦ COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

By Chuck Schmidt

At the 2003 Annual Reunion in Eugene, Oregon, the membership voted to hold the 2005 11thACVVC Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The city was selected for a second time (the 9th Annual Reunion was held there in 1994) as the preferred location over three other proposed sites.

**Colorado Springs is one of the few locations in the country that has an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment memorial.**

The State of Colorado and the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains where Colorado Springs is situated is ideal for family vacations. There is something for everyone to do, including your children and grandchildren. Our Reunion Hotel, the Colorado Springs Sheraton ([www.sheraton.com/coloradosprings](http://www.sheraton.com/coloradosprings)), has recently undergone an \$8 million renovation and makeover spending an average of \$8,300 per room. The hotel is currently ranked in the Top 20 Sheraton hotels in North America according to a survey taken of hotel guests. We encourage you to make reservations early as our room block is limited. Overflow hotel data as well as reunion registration information will be available in the next issue (1st Quarter) of the Thunder Run.

For more information on vacation options in the Pikes Peak area you can get a Visitors Guide by calling the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-(800) 368-4784 or access the web site [www.coloradosprings-travel.com](http://www.coloradosprings-travel.com). An additional source of information is available at the Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association at 1-(800) 525-2250 or [www.pikes-peak.com](http://www.pikes-peak.com). Because interests among our members are so varied, we will not be arranging any formal tours to allow each family to make their own plans. We encourage you to make an extended stay in the Pikes Peak region so you will have more opportunity to visit your buddies and

attend the various reunion events as well as doing some site-seeing. Just one word of caution—although Denver prides itself as being the “Mile Hi” city, downtown Colorado Springs is more than 1,000 feet higher so take it easy, drink plenty of water, and allow a day or two to let your body adjust to the increased altitude.

Colorado Springs is one of the few locations in the country that has an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment memorial. We will plan to conduct our memorial service at that site if at all possible. The

memorial was constructed at the Shrine of Remembrance through the combined efforts of Costos Rombocos, President of the Shrine, Dave Tessier and other local 11thACVVC members. Along with a tank, there are two plaques in the Veterans Honor Court dedicated to the 11thACVVC and our Medal of Honor winners.

See you all next year in Colorado Springs!! (See inset for additional information)

### PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 11thACVVC 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION BASH!!

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO ♦♦♦♦ 4 – 7 AUGUST 2005

SHERATON COLORADO SPRINGS HOTEL

NEWLY RENOVATED \$8M UPGRADE!!

REASONABLE RATES:

\$89/NIGHT (Honored 3 days prior and 3 days after Reunion dates)

Make your reservations now—limited availability!

1-(800) 981-4012 or 1-(719) 576-5900 (direct to hotel)

(Must Mention 11th Armored Cavalry Reunion)

[www.sheraton.com/coloradosprings](http://www.sheraton.com/coloradosprings)

Free Parking in large hotel lots!

Free Colorado Springs (COS) Airport Shuttle to Hotel!

(Or fly to Denver (DIA) and rent a car—1 1/2hr Drive to Hotel)

*Plan an extended vacation in one of the prime destination vacation spots in the USA.*

- ★ Pikes Peak (America's Mountain) (COG Railroad To Top)
- ★ Pikes Garden Of The Gods
- ★ Pikes Royal Gorge (World's Highest Suspension Bridge)
- ★ Pikes US Air Force Academy
- ★ Pikes Fort Carson
- ★ Pikes Pro Rodeo Hall Of Fame
- ★ Pikes US Olympic Hq And Training Center
- ★ Pikes US Figure Skating Hall Of Fame
- ★ Pikes Cripple Creek (Old Mining Town, Limited Stakes Gaming)
- ★ Pikes North Pole (For The Grandkids)
- ★ Pikes Seven Falls
- ★ Pikes Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- ★ Pikes Cave Of The Winds
- ★ Pikes Ghost Town
- ★ Pikes Cliff Dwellings

And Many, Many More!!!!

Great weather! — August average high 81degrees – low 55 degrees



# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Autumn has begun to settle in here in the Midwest. Mornings are cool, followed by warmer afternoons and again coolness in the evenings. The trees have turned their beautiful shades of reds and gold's. The cranberries are a brilliant red, and the harvest has begun.

It's now a joy to sit out on the deck in the evenings and smell the fires from the campground down the street. The smell of the wood burning in the campfires often lead Bob and I to talking about when the children were small and how we would take off on weekends and go for a drive, stopping at night to pitch a tent and cook our dinner over an open fire. We're older now and can no longer handle the hardness of the ground all night, the boys are grown and so gone are those treasured family times. Hopefully our sons will soon be enjoying those types of weekends with our grandchildren.

Among the many memories we have of those years, come the times spent sitting around the campfires before settling into our sleeping bags for the night. Bob would often tell the boys stories about the different places he had lived as a child and about his time in the service. He especially enjoyed telling them about his time in Vietnam. I remember wondering to myself about how much of what he told them was true or was it exaggerated. But after attending reunions for the past 13 years, I have heard others telling the same stories. So I guess they must have been true.

As many of you may remember in the issue before last, I wrote about a unit who were staying here at the hotel I work in. They were on their way to Iraq. Well, the other night while I was on my shift one of their moms called to make reservations for several of the families. They are coming back to the post here to begin their briefings prior to the units return in early February. They will be attending a few days of classes to help them deal with the re-entry into the "real" world again and how they may or may not handle things.

Since it was a very slow night when she called, I had a few minutes to talk. As we talked all the memories and visions of that night came, rushing back and again tears

welled up in my eyes. She said they had all talked about their time here for weeks, and that those memories got them thru some pretty rough times.

Unfortunately, not all the unit will be returning as they lost two of the guys in a bombing incident. I offered my condolences from my family, and staff of the hotel as well as those from the 11thACVVC to be passed onto the families it affected. May the rest in peace.

I am so looking forward to the families coming in a few weeks and finally to the return of the unit. Since that night almost a year ago, many of them feel like my own sons, and I think of them often.

On a little bit of the lighter note, the Ladies Corner website is slowing taking shape. I have followed all the instructions the site gave me but it just doesn't seem to want to activate. But I'll keep working at it. I will get it yet!!!

The ladies group is starting to work on a fund raising project to aid the scholarship fund. We are putting together a cookbook. So, send or e-mail your favorite recipes to me at: Barb Moreno, 24284 Endeavor Ave, Tomah, WI 54660 or [Moreno@Tomah.com](mailto:Moreno@Tomah.com) subject: recipes. We are looking for your favorite appetizers, main dish, casseroles, side dishes and of course deserts. I must have these recipes no later than April 1st so they can go to the publisher to be ready in time for the next reunion. Be sure to include your name and husbands troop and years he served with the Blackhorse.

This is for a wonderful and worthwhile cause, so let's all support it! And remember they can come from not only the ladies, but the guys too. And, if you have any friends or family members who want to contribute – send them too. The more we get the better the book and the more money we can raise for scholarships.

Well folks, my shift here at work is about over so I'll close for this issue. May you all have a wonderful holiday season and in the words of Tiny Tim "GOD BLESS US EVERYONE".

Barb

P.S. Send in those recipes!!!!

## KIA RESEARCH from page

tion. We owe it to these men that they be identified with the correct unit. As a result, there will be some changes made to our KIA list. Those changes will be reflected on our website, the 2005 11th ACVVC calendar which will be mailed in December and eventually to the monument at Fort Knox. The changes will include:

- Addition of 5 new names with two additional names pending verification of assignment to the 11th ACR

- Identification and separate grouping all former Blackhorse troopers who were assigned to other units when they were killed

- Removal of names where it has been determined the individual was not assigned to the 11th ACR when they were killed and had never served with the 11th ACR

The five (5) new names that will be added are:

1. P4 Wayne Dabney McRay, C Troop, 1/11 ACR, Feb 14, 1970
2. SGT Jack William Messer, C Troop, 1/11 ACR, Mar 12, 1970
3. CPL John Lee Smith A Troop, 1/11 ACR, Apr 1, 1970
4. SGT Bruce Donald Stephenson How Battery, 2/11 ACR, Apr 24, 1971  
(*forward observer with G Troop, 2/11 ACR*)
5. SP4 Michael James Whalen E Troop, 2/11 ACR, Apr 16, 1971

It is important to note that multiple, reliable sources were used throughout this entire research. It is extremely important that we be accurate and historically correct.

Although we are nearing the end of this phase, there are approximately 40 of our Blackhorse troopers that need positive troop identification. In most cases, we have multiple documents that indicate conflicting information for troop assignment. We are confident however that all Blackhorse troopers are accounted for.

The monument restoration committee will continue to pursue the three main objectives and report the progress to our members.



# Quartermaster

## ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	C	10.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. ....	B	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" C .....	C	25.00		_____	_____
Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Lary Haworth, Chaplain .....	C	11.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued .....	B	4.00		_____	_____
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again .....	B	10.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia .....	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	C	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	C	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc" .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Quan Loi" .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav" .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
Reunion pin (circle choice), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Eugene .....	A	1.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia .....	B	70.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21) ....C .....	C	35.00		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size) .....	A	275.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tattoo .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD .....	A	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	B	16.00		_____	_____
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one) .....	B	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left) .....	B	75.00		_____	_____
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one) .....	B	20.00		_____	_____

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

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. Prices effective until 12/31/04. Previous price lists invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Nine Mile Road, Huson, MT 59846.



# Journey to Fiddler's Green

We're sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our deepfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

**William R. Agalio**, who served with the Air Cav Troop in 1970 passed away on June 25, 2004. He was from Clarksburg, West Virginia, and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Albert Sid Britt**, who served with HHT, 1/11 (1966 - 1967) passed away on December 8, 2003. He was from Columbia, South Carolina and a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Jerry Brown**, who served with K Troop, 3/11 (1970 - 1971) has passed away. He was from Hemingway, South Carolina and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Jack E. Cloud**, who served with HHT, 1/11 (1970) passed away on August 4, 2004. He was from Kokomo, Indiana and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Clifford W. Dexter**, who served with L Troop, 3/11 (1968 - 1969) passed away on April 26, 2001. He was from Marysville, California and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Gerald D. Green**, who served with the Air Cav Troop, (1970) passed away. He was from Gillette, Wyoming and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Stewart J. (Pete) Hinkle**, who served with L Troop, 3/11 (1967 - 1968) passed away on October 9, 2004. Pete was from Cantonsville, Maryland and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Thomas T. Hughes**, who served with M Company, 3/11 (1969 - 1970) passed away on November 3, 2002. He was from Springfield, IL and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Edwin Kinney**, who served with 1st. Platoon, F Troop, 2/11 (1969 - 1970), passed away from a heart attack on October 3, 2004. Ed owned a trucking company called the Blackhorse Express, was from Fabens, Texas and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Bernard H. Kraft**, who served with H Company, 2/11 (1968 - 1969) passed away on November 15, 2002. He was from Sparks, Nevada and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**William M. Lynch**, who served with HHT, 2/11 (1968 - 1969) passed away on February 5, 2003. Bill was from Lake Havasu, Arizona and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Robert Makepeace**, who served with HOW Battery, 1/11 (1966 - 1967) passed away on December 17, 1991. Robert lived in Castaic, California and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Gerald K. Neal**, who served with B Troop, 1/11 (1970 - 1971) passed away. He was from La Marque, Texas and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**William B. Norris**, who served with HHT, Regiment (1968 - 1969) passed away on November 6, 1999. He was from Aubrey, Texas and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Travis C. Quinn, Jr.** whose service dates and unit are unavailable passed away on March 11, 2000 near his Elizabethtown, Kentucky home, from injuries received in a traffic accident. He owned Tops Appliances in Elizabethtown and was 63 years old.

**Rick S. Sprague**, who served with K Troop, 3/11 (1969 - 1970) passed away on August 22, 2004. He lived in Brookings, Oregon and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Bruce E. Thornton**, who served with H Company, 2/11 (1970 - 1971) passed away on October 8, 2004 in Olympia, Washington. Bruce was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Gary D. Turner**, who served with HHT, Regiment (1968 - 1969) passed away. He lived in Belton, Texas and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.



## From the Quartermaster...

Rodney H. George

Greetings to all. I would like to thank Frank Cambria and all of his helpers at Daytona for taking over and running the Quartermaster Store in my absence. Elida and I missed seeing all of you at the reunion.

We are approaching Christmas time. Please be sure to order early to ensure that your gifts arrive on time. When there is an increased amount of sales, there is a greater possibility of items being out of stock and on backorder.

Also, be sure that you use an up-to-date order form. We are deleting several items and will be adding some new ones and it is important to have an accurate order form so that I don't have to return it to you because you have ordered items no longer available.

There seems to be good acceptance of our new ability to process credit cards for orders. This is good for us also because I don't have to ship checks to

the treasurer for deposit in our account. Please remember that the same "allow six weeks for delivery" still applies to credit card orders as well as check orders.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that the active duty regiment will soon be engaged in operations in Iraq. This will be the first combat duty for the unit since our deployment to Vietnam. They will be as young, scared and lonely as we were and can use our prayers and support! Keep your eyes out for the upcoming 11th ACVVC programs to help support today's Blackhorse Troopers!

Allons,

Rodney H. George  
QM 11th ACVVC

## 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.**



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Newsletter Deadlines

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

**First Quarter.....Jan 15**  
**Second Quarter.....Apr 15**  
**Third Quarter.....Aug 15**  
**Fourth Quarter.....Oct 15**

# TROOP TO TROOP

## ■ As the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Deploys to Iraq

As we are writing this, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is deploying to Iraq. The active regiment believes that they have much to learn from the Vietnam Era troopers and most of us veteran troopers want to do what ever we can to support our regiment. To that end, the 11th ACVVC is joining with the active regiment to set up a mechanism to help those who want to support our troops. Each active Troop (Company, Battery etc.) will have a person serve as the specific point of

contact between themselves and the veteran troops. By the same token, each Vietnam Era Troop (Company, Battery etc.) will have a volunteer to serve as the specific point of contact between the veterans and the active troops. {That is to say, A Troop will work with A Troop, B Troop with B Troop etc.} The Points of Contact for the Active Regiment are listed below. The idea is to have a mechanism to facilitate communications between the two groups, so that whatever help we provide will reach the right place and in a timely fashion. The support may be in the form of letters, cards, supplies or just

moral support. A lot will depend on what they need and what we can provide. If you want to volunteer to be the point of contact for your troop, company, battery or support organization please contact

Gene Johnson  
4054 Venita Court  
Las Vegas, NV 89120-1442  
(702) 456-3218  
gene677@aol.com

With your support, we can make sure our troopers have the kind of support - both moral and material - that we did not.

## 11TH ACR IN-THEATER REPS FOR THE 11TH ACVVC

UNIT	RANK	FIRST	LAST	EMAIL	IN THEATER ADDRESS
HHT, 11th ACR	SPC	Angelic	DeJager	Drewbmoore@hotmail.com	N/A
HHT, 1-11th ACR	1SG	Brian	Vogl	brian.vogl@us.army.mil	N/A
A Troop	1SG	Wilfred	Urioste	wilfred.urioste@us.army.mil	N/A
B Troop	SSG	Scanlan	James	james.m.scanlan@us.army.mil	N/A
	SSG	Kennedy	Kyle	kyle.d.kennedy@us.army.mil	N/A
	SGT	Gonzales	Joshua	joshua.albert.gonzalez@us.army.mil	N/A
	SGT	Do	Nghia	nghia.chan.du@us.army.mil	N/A
	SGT	Skaja	Tony	tony.skaja@us.army.mil	N/A
	SPC	Ferren	Joseph	joseph.ferren@us.army.mil	N/A
C Troop	1SG	Glindemann	Keith	keith.glindemann@us.army.mil	N/A
D Company	1SG	Credito	Ronilo	ronilo.credito@us.army.mil	N/A
	SGT	Gentle	Elston	elston.gentle@us.army.mil	N/A
	1LT	Juan	Renaud	lightfighter.renaud@us.army.mil	N/A
HHT, 2-11th ACR	1LT	Juan	Renaud	lightfighter.renaud@us.army.mil	N/A
E Troop	1LT	John	Pelikan	john.pelikan@us.army.mil	N/A
F Troop	1LT	Christopher	Moro	val.moro@us.army.mil	N/A
G Troop	1LT	Kevin	Tobias	kevin.tobias@us.army.mil	N/A
H Company	1LT	Michael	Miller	Michael.k.miller@us.army.mil	N/A
58th CEC	1SG	Elmo	Leichenauer	elmo.leichenauer@us.army.mil	1SG Elmo Leichenauer HQ Platoon, 58th Engineers 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Div. APO AE 09303

## CHAPLAIN from page 10

Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother', and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great

wealth." Understand, it wasn't the money that caused the trouble. It was what the young man was committed to in his heart.

A close call for this young man mattered. Nothing mattered more for him then. Same now for you and me. Sometimes close just doesn't cut it. This is one of those times. With our other stories, a close call was as good as a mile - a miss was a miss - then. But now, like with the rich young man in the Bible, only a direct hit counts.

For riding bicycles, being missed by recoilless rifle rounds or avoiding Gooks, close was good enough. For having eternal life, close is not good enough. I want in, which I am. I'm not just close. What about you?

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
176 Rainbow Drive, #176  
Livingston, Texas 77399  
LEHaworth@aol.com

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080.**

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



**Thunder Run**  
**11th ACVVC**  
**P O Box 717**  
**Soddy Daisy, TN 37384**

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