



# Thunder Run

Vol. 24 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2009

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

### After 41 Years Troopers Gather To Honor Fallen Platoon Sergeant

By Lou Reymann, H CO. (67-68)

**B**lackhorse Trooper PSG Glenn E. Nicholson (H Company, 2/11ACR), a former faculty member of Kansas University’s Army ROTC department prior to his Viet Nam deployment, was honored September 10th on campus, forty-one years after he was killed in battle in Vietnam May 5, 1968. During the ceremony, held in front of a formal cadet battalion formation, an engraved portrait of Nicholson was unveiled and will be permanently hung in the university’s Military Science Building. As a tank platoon sergeant

Plaque hung at Kansas University in honor of PSG Glenn Nicholson. It can also be viewed at <http://www.11thcavnam.com/KIAs/Nicholson%20G%20E.htm>



Nicholson was responsible for 19 troopers and five M-48A3 tanks. During his nine month Vietnam tour Nicholson earned two Bronze Stars for Valor and two Purple Hearts.

“Mom raised all eight of us by herself.

Please turn to **NICHOLSON** page 6

### Greeting Our Troops, One Flight At A Time

By Bob Hersey, K Troop (1968-1969)

**M**y wife Hellen and I are part of a group of citizen volunteers known as the Pease Greeters who give up our time and energy to greet troops as they deploy and return from the Middle Eastern Theater, particularly Iraq and Afghanistan. The group has greeted over 300 flights since its beginning over three years ago. My wife and I have personally greeted 116 flights to date. We joined the group in March of 2007.

Please turn to **GREETING** on page 14

### A Troop – Presidential Unit Citation Recipient

The 63rd Colonel of the Regiment, Paul J. Laughlin, proudly displays the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer of A Troop, 1st Squadron with “War Zone C” inscribed on it.

Related story on page 12



Bob Hersey, K Troop 68-69, with Master of the Maersk Alabama Captain Richard Phillips

(Photo by Fred Schottler).

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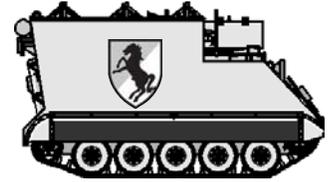




Allen Hathaway,  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Our 24th annual reunion was held on September 9-13, in beautiful Santa Clara, CA, Approximately 675 people attended the reunion

Two reunion sites were presented to the membership ...The Millennium Hotel St. Louis, MO, was chosen by the majority vote of the members for the 2011 reunion.

this year. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the reunion run smoothly again this year.

Attendees began arriving as early as Monday to take advantage of a few extra days of sightseeing in and around the beautiful San Francisco Bay area. By Wednesday there was a noticeable increase in crowd. Bright and early Thursday morning the golfers headed out for the 18th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament. This is always an enjoyable day at the course with a round of golf, prizes and lunch. Also on Thursday approximately 150 attendees took advantage of the optional bus transportation to San Francisco and Pier 39. They enjoyed one of a number of tours of the city, cable car rides, views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and shopping. Most topped off the day with a meal and a beautiful view of the bay at one of the many seafood restaurants.

Friday offered two optional activities. Approximately 35 people took the opportunity to visit the nearby Military Vehicle Museum in Portola Valley. The museum boasts the largest private collection of military vehicles in the world. Another group of 95 ventured to nearby Monterey for a day of shopping and sightseeing.

By Friday evening most attendees had arrived and the "bunker party" got into full swing. The silent auction was also held on Friday evening. This is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion where items of interest are donated and individuals bid on the items. Thanks to all who made donations and to those who bid. All proceeds go to benefit the scholarship fund.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday morning. Ollie Pickral, the treasurer, gave the annual financial report. Elections were held for five positions. (See the separate notice). The hat was passed to replenish the Reunion Assistance Fund. Three troopers were helped this year so that they could attend their first reunion. A total

of \$1,482 was donated by our members. I want to thank all who have contributed to this fund at the Annual Business Meeting and throughout the year.

Two reunion sites were presented to the membership for the 2011 reunion. Initially, a total of 14 properties in five cities were considered. This number was narrowed down to the final two sites: St. Louis, Missouri, and Houston, Texas. On Friday a fact sheet was distributed to attendees summarizing the key points of each city – room rates, hotel amenities, transportation costs, local activities, etc. Each city provided a slide presentation that ran on a continuous loop for several hours on Friday evening. Each attendee had the opportunity to view information on the two sites before making a decision. The Millennium Hotel St. Louis, MO, was chosen by the majority vote of the members for the 2011 reunion.

The Saturday evening banquet and program are the highlights of the reunion. The program opened with the posting of the colors by the Regimental Color Guard. The color guard received a round of applause from the audience in appreciation as they were leaving the room after posting the colors.

We would like to once again thank our guest speaker MG John E. Longhouser (USA Ret) for his very interesting remarks during the Saturday evening banquet. As a captain 1968, he served as troop commander for K Troop. General Longhouser has attended several 11th ACVVC reunions over the years and is a real friend to the troopers.

We also want to thank the current regimental commander COL Paul J. Laughlin and RCSM Martin Wilcox for attending the reunion and giving us an update on the activities of the regiment. Our soldiers at Fort Irwin do some very interesting things to ensure the worlds best Army receives the

best training. We send our thanks and appreciation to all Blackhorse troopers for their service and wish them all the best in their continued mission at the Fort Irwin, CA.

Attendees were also honored to witness a ceremony awarding the Presidential Unit Citation to A Troop, 1/11 ACR for action on March 25, 1970. John Poindexter gave a summary of the account of this incident. This process has taken nearly 5 years to locate, contact and gather all the eye witness accounts and information required for review of this request. COL Laughlin read the citation approved on 6 April 2009 and conveyed the award to the current A Troop commander CPT Gregory. A formal ceremony is scheduled for the White House in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, October 20, 2010.

A total of 56 troopers attended their first reunion this year. First timers were recognized and applauded by their fellow troopers during the Saturday evening banquet. We're always glad to see these first timers. Almost to the man they wondered why they put it off for so long.

The annual raffle drawing was held on Saturday evening. The 1st prize of \$1,000 went to Garry E. Coey (F Trp, 2/11) of New London, OH. The 2nd prize of \$750 went to Christopher C. Bostelman (A Trp, 1/11) of Winemucca, NV. Christopher donated his \$750 prize money back to the Scholarship fund. The 3rd prize of \$500 went to Herbert L. Carpenter (C Trp, 1/11 and E Trp, 2/11) of Killeen, TX. The 4th prize of \$250 went to Earl J. Edwards (HHT, 3/11) of Pendleton, SC. Congratulations to all the winners for this years raffle. Thanks to all who supported the raffle again this year. Those \$1.00 tickets add up quickly.

The Saturday evening program was topped off by the Blackhorse Salute. This is always a very powerful and sometimes

Continued on page 6



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

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*Thunder Run* covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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# 11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV



Registration area, the first stop at the Reunion



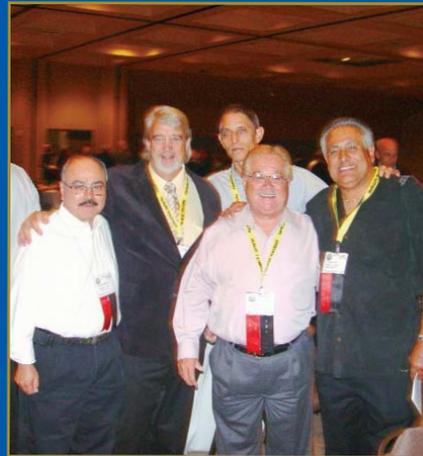
The Quartermaster Store—in great hands as usual!



Santa Clara Reunion Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament Participants.



Scene from the Saturday night Reunion Banquet.



B Troopers "Together Then" and "Together Again" at the Saturday Night Banquet.



Troopers, families, and guests remember and honor our fallen comrades at Saturday afternoon's Memorial Service.



President Allen Hathaway presents the 11th ACVVC Trooper of the Year Award to Ron Krueger (HHT 1/11, 66-67).



"Big Jim" Holt (How 1/11, 67-68) singing his very moving solo at Saturday's Banquet.



Jim Griffiths (F Trp., 68-69) preparing to pass on the Jack Quilter Award to Bob Moreno (G Trp., 68-69).

# Santa Clara, CA



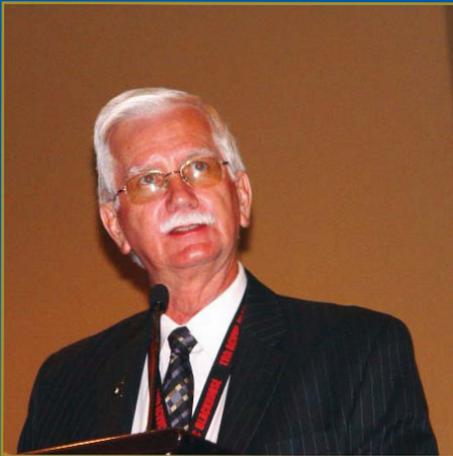
The ever popular Bunker Party on Friday evening.



Board of Directors and some other 11th ACVVC volunteer position holders after the Business Meeting.



Adrian Vaaler (HHT Regt., 67-70) playing Taps in a fashion we all always admire.



11th ACVVC President Allen Hathaway addressing the Saturday Night Banquet.



Major General John E. Longhouser (USA Ret), Keynote Speaker, addresses the Saturday Night Banquet



John Poindexter, relates details of the rescue of stranded soldiers for which A Troop is being honored.



Barb King, the recipient of the 11th ACVVC Women's Award.



Troopers from the Active Regiment who joined us and were warmly welcomed at the Reunion.



Ken Jankel (B Trp., 66-67) reunited with South Vietnamese National, Thien Phouc Nguyen, who served with the 11ACR 1966-1972.



Jim Griffiths, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

## Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

Reunions always have a penchant for being rewarding affairs and the trip to Santa Clara,

CA for the 24th Reunion of the 11th

ACVVC was no exception to the rule. It was great to have a Reunion in a geographical region of the country that allowed me to meet, greet and socialize with so many people that I had not been with at a Reunion previously. I had never been to this area of the country for a Reunion and many I fellow-shipped with had never been to Reunions in other geographic areas that I had attended and it was especially refreshing to be with those long not seen as well as those usually seen.

On Friday my wife and I participated in the trip to Monterey Bay. She particularly enjoyed dinner in a fine restaurant on Cannery Row (famous for a novel written by John Steinbeck that was made into a movie) where we could view the Bay and the otters that were swimming around.

We also took a long walk that took us close enough to fisherman's wharf to hear barking sea lions that were on rocks in the bay. During this walk we were able to find and visit the Presidio at Monterey. This was very interesting because of the historical connection with this Presidio and the 11th Cavalry. The 11th Cavalry was stationed at the Presidio from 1919-1940 and we visited a quaint little museum there that had some very interesting tidbits of history concerning our 11th Cavalry predecessors. Enhancing our enjoyment was the fact that we had the museum totally to ourselves and were able to peruse it at our own leisurely pace enjoying the displays unimpeded.

Today the Presidio is an army base that serves as The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) and currently trains over 3700 resident students in 22 languages and dialects and also offers over 80 different language programs through the DLI-Washington contract program.

Fourth quarter *Thunder Run* has a bevy of articles for your enjoyment. We have numerous pictures and articles that are reunion oriented including some from our regular con-

tributors covering their respective aspects of Reunion activities.

We also have a number of excellent personal contributions this quarter. Of special note are an article by Bob Hersey (K Trp. 68-69) about rubbing shoulders with a celebrity while greeting soldiers returning from overseas as well as Lou Reymann (H Co. 67-68) reporting on the ceremony at Kansas University's ROTC Department honoring PSG Glenn E. Nicholson who was one of our KIA's in Vietnam.

A Troop travelled to the White House to receive a Presidential Unit Citation from President Obama himself on October 20, 2009. Congratulations to them! This achievement commemorates and represents one of the greatest moments in the illustrious history of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Read all about this momentous event on page 12 of 4th Quarter *Thunder Run*. This issue surely is a keepsake

Read all the articles, as they are interesting, and enjoy your *Thunder Run*!

### NICHOLSON from page 1

She would have been proud at what happened here today. She always bragged about dad being on the faculty and I felt it fitting his portrait should be kept here" his daughter Judith Dietz said after the ceremony. Nicholson's wife died November 30, 2008.

Two former Blackhorse officers who served with Nicholson flew in and participated in the ceremony. From California came former 1LT Kent Hillhouse (MG, USAR retired) who led Nicholson in battle that fateful day. Former CPT Louis Reymann traveled from Maryland. He was Nicholson's Acting Company Commander. The host for the event, LTC John Basso, Professor of Military Science at Kansas University, was the Executive Officer of Nicholson's unit, twenty-four years later.

Three Blackhorse officers - each having served in the same company at one time or another - gathered in mid-America to pay tribute to a fallen trooper who was killed 41 years ago. That's Blackhorse kinship at its best - running deep, running long and running true.

*Allons!*

### COMMAND TRACK from page 2

emotional portion of the program as we salute the service of the thousands of Blackhorse troopers who served with this great regiment.

The year 2009 proved to be another successful year for our calendar, raffle and silent auction fundraising activities. Through the generous donations from our members we were able to award 17 scholarships totaling \$53,000. We would like to congratulate the 2009 scholarship recipients who are listed in this issue. Special recognition goes to Nikkol R. Wymer, daughter of John E. Terletter (E Trp, 2/11), who received the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship. Each of the remaining 16 scholarships was awarded to honor one of our KIA's.

Our 2010 Fundraising activities will begin in early December with the mailing of our 2010 calendar to all members. Our members look forward to the calendar each year. We urge each of you to make a donation for the calendar for whatever amount.

Be sure to check the "specials" being offered by the Quartermaster. These items are being offered at a special reduced price. Quantities and sizes are limited to stock on hand. With the holidays approaching, order early to avoid any last minute holiday delay.

Many people work throughout the year and behind the scenes to ensure each reunion is a success. By all accounts this was another very successful reunion. We thank all the volunteers for their time. We especially thank all those who attended in support of these great events. We hope to see you in Washington, DC, in 2010. ALLONS!

### 2010 Newsletter Deadlines

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

**First Quarter 2010 .....Jan 15**

**Second Quarter 2010 .....Mar 25**

**Third Quarter 2010.....Jun 25**

**Fourth Quarter 2010.....Oct 1**

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

# Incoming...

## Information provided by and for our Troopers

From Steve Page.....A note of thanks.....On behalf of me and my and my three children we would like to thank everyone for their prayers thoughts and cards during this most difficult time. Your thoughts and prayers helped us through this. It is uplifting to know people really care.....Steve Page, Lorie Henchey, Steven Page and Michelle Tisdell.....

From Steve Spriggs....5th Annual Hoedown Fundraiser To Support The Blackhorse Association, Saturday, March 6, 2010 5:00-11:00pm.....Make your

plans to travel to the American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 in Newport Beach, CA. Once again the charge will be lead by 11th ACVVC member, Blackhorse Association member and Post 291 Commander Steve Spriggs. The Hoedown has raised over \$30,000 and we expect a full house once again

DONATION \$25.00...If you can't attend, purchase a ticket for a Trooper. (No tickets sold at the door, so please call 949.673.5070). Dress: Hoedown duds.

## 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial Restoration Donations

**The memorial restoration at Fort Knox, KY, is still ongoing. There are granite bricks available for purchase and we encourage your continued support of this worthwhile project. Troopers and their families have purchased bricks to honor the service of family members and friends. The next group of bricks will be placed at the memorial in late 2009. Approximately 150 bricks are available for purchase. Order forms can be found on our website under "Brick Order Form."**

**The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and groups, to include B Troop and Air Cavalry Troop, who have purchased bricks between June 30, 2009 and October 1, 2009.**

- Walter V. Behrman
- Charles T. Coates
- John F. Haberer
- Freddy W. Henry
- Al Noetzel
- Vincent S. Simmers
- Barry L. Sutherland
- Frank R. Cambria (4). In memory of 1LT Bob R. Lewis, SP4 Keith R. Arneson, Doc Paul M. Dailey. In honor of SP4 Dillon, SGT Tanner.
- Dennis H. Creal dedicated to Dennis Creal and Wayne Scheu.
- Thomas S. Massey (3). Dedicated to the 541st MID. W. J. Malone, L. Minh Chau, Fernandez, Wanio, Kowalski, Spole, McGrail, Jackson, Doc Burriel, Gray, Berry, Matus, Mac Woodson, Lansing, Mazzeo, MacMurdy, Cumiskey, Nguyen.
- Pat, Chris and Annie Rondeau in memory of Ronald Rondeau.
- Jack Rawlings in memory of Earia Wayne Hopkins.
- Deloros Wilson in honor of Dennis Wilson.

## From the Secretary's Desk

Adrian Vaaler, 11th ACVVC Secretary

### Election Results

Greetings: Elections were held during the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2009, for five positions. Elected for a two year term beginning January 1, 2010, were: Allen Hathaway (President), Pete Walter (Vice President), Adrian Vaaler (Secretary), and Ollie Pickral (Treasurer). Elected for a three year term January 1, 2010, as Board Member was Steve Page. I am personally honored to be serving the Regiment once again as secretary.

## Rodney George Steps Down

To the board and membership of the 11th ACVVC:

It has become necessary for me to curtail my activities because of an ongoing heart condition. I wanted to complete my last major duty as chairman of the silent auction at Santa Clara. That has been completed and I feel that the time is right to step down. My successor has already been elected. I feel that Steve Page will be an excellent addition to the board of directors of this organization. I feel that it is only fair to step aside at this point and allow Steve to assume his duties pro-tem until the January 1st transition date.

I have served this organization in any way that I could since joining in 1987. It has always been a labor of love for me. I have come to know so many of you over the years through my eight plus years as your quartermaster and then four years on the Board of Directors of the 11th ACVVC (completing one year of an open board position and one three year term that I was elected too).

I have great memories and the satisfaction of knowing that this organization is in good hands. Thank you all for your friendship and allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Rodney H. George

## 1st Plt, E Troop Meets



1st Platoon E Troopers (68-69) met at a mini reunion in the home town (Olive Hill, KY) of their PSG in Sept. Left to right - Jay Avent, Stanley T. Hargrove, Jim Dittmer, Gary Easterling, PSG Clair Yeager, Bob Helm, Joe Bear, & Jim Bland. They would like to expand and if interested please contact Jim Dittmer at jimshere789@zoominternet.net

**Shop the Quartermaster Store for Christmas!**  
See pages 28-29

# Meet Our 2009 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2009 Scholarship Winners. This issue contains brief statements from 12 of our 2009 Scholarship Winners. Future issues will feature the remaining Scholarship Winners.



**Nikkol Wymer**  
Daughter of John Terletter, E Trp, 66-68

First and foremost thank you 11th ACVVC for selecting me as this year's recipient of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship. I am honored and truly appreciative. This scholarship represents the fulfillment of an educational goal and a step closer to the achievement of a dream. Perhaps best of all, your generous scholarship allows me to set a positive example for my children who will both cheer for me and emulate me as they set their own educational goals in the years ahead. Finally, this award also brings me closer to the dream of owning a business and providing a better life for my family. On behalf of my entire family, my warmest thanks for your confidence in me and for generous support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship; Died on Veterans Day 2007 as President of the 11th ACVVC.



**Coeta Grove**  
Daughter of Michael Grove, F Trp., 69-70

Receiving your letter in the mail that I had been selected as a recipient of the scholarship took such a huge weight off of my family's shoulders. These economic times have been hard on everyone, myself included. It's so great that the 11th Cav was able to give out scholarships this year to students. I am only able to attend a University because of your help financially! Thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart. Your generosity has touched my family.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Herbert Spencer Barnes; F Trp; KIA May 19, 1971; Age 20.



**Brianna Harcum**  
Daughter of Weldon Harcum, E Trp., 70-71

It is an honor and a privilege to be one of the recipients of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship. Thanks to your charitable support, I will have less of a financial strain during my last year as an Undergraduate at the University of Baltimore in Maryland. I received my Associates Degree in Addictions Counseling and will get my Bachelors Degree in Human Service Administration this spring. My long-term goal is to attend Graduate School in the fall of 2010.

I am presently working full-time in the addictions field and have had the pleasure to help many struggling Veterans and their families. My father, Weldon Wright Harcum, a Vietnam Veteran, inspired me to submit an application for this opportunity. This scholarship, my education, and my intensive involvement working with others have made my father and me very proud.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Michael Lynn Wemhoff; E Trp; KIA April 16, 1971; Age 20.



**Whitney Hendrix**  
Son of Brian Hendrix, H Co., 69-71

When I was younger, I would always be left stunned as my dad recited some of his stories and divulged so many descriptions of his experience in Vietnam and Cambodia. Some were frightening, some were sobering and some were riveting, but all of them enlightening to the experiences and the perils my father and the rest of the 11th Armored Cavalry went through in the war. Having now been to Vietnam and Cambodia and seen firsthand the land, its people and its history, these stories are now more profound to me than ever.

I am honored to have and deeply appreciate the support that I am receiving from the 11th Armored Cavalry veterans that have been through so much in their time. Having this funding from these veterans and carrying on their legacy will greatly help in allowing me to strive towards my own academic goals. I would like to thank all of those who gave so much for their country in their day, and who continue to give so much to the next generation.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC William Emanuel Baker; B Trp; KIA August 15, 1967; Age 23.



**Devin Jones**  
Daughter of Thomas M. Jones, HHT Regt, 70

Thank you very much, 11th ACVVC, for selecting me to be a recipient of the 11th ACVVC Scholarship. This award will help me focus all my time toward school and help me pursue my goal of becoming an optometrist. It is such an honor to receive this scholarship and it means so much to my father and I. I am very grateful to all the members who contribute to making this scholarship available. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your help!

Scholarship dedicated to SGT Joseph Wakefield Jr.; A Trp; KIA March 25, 1970; Age 23.



**Brett Lacey**  
Son of Douglas Lacey, HHT 3/11, 68-69

I would like to thank the 11th ACVVC for its generosity in assisting young men and women achieve their academic goals and for awarding me with this scholarship. This will help immensely with tuition as I start my college career, so I can focus more on my studies. In my quest to become a public accountant and entrepreneur the money will be put to great use. My father is extremely proud of his service in the 11th ACVVC, and I am extremely grateful to be able to accept this reward in honor of Larry Schmidt.

Once again, thank you!

Scholarship dedicated to SGT Larry Roman Schmidt; H Co; KIA August 12, 1969; Age 21



**Robert Messick**  
Son of Ronald Caldwell, D Co, 69-70

First of all I would like to thank anybody who served our country in Vietnam or Cambodia. This scholarship is greatly appreciated. With the funds you have given me, I can attend college and have my first year fully paid for. Without this scholarship it would have been extremely difficult to pay for classes, attend them, and work

to pay bills. With the funds you have given me I will be able to study more and fulfill my dreams. I would like to thank The 11th ACVVC for everything and my condolences to the family of Fred Walters. Thank you for everything you have done and I am truly grateful

Scholarship dedicated to CPL Frederick F. Walters; C Trp; KIA May 13, 1968; Age 21.



**Amie Price**  
Daughter of Clyde Price, H Btry. 2/11, 67-68

Thank you 11ACVVC. I am so excited to be the recipient of a scholarship that was formed by Heroes that fought for my freedom. This is the most prestigious scholarship I could have received. This means so much to my Dad, and I could not be more proud. I really cannot find enough words to explain my appreciation and

honor of this memorial scholarship. It means the world to me. The best I can do is to work hard in school and one day I hope to become a nurse. I know I have Blackhorse power behind me and they don't mess around. God Bless you all.

Scholarship dedicated to SGT John Patrick Henry; HHT 3/11; KIA March 10, 1970; Age 20.



**Brittany Silva, Daughter of Matthew Silva, 398th Trans., 70-71**

I am honored to be the recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship. It means a great deal to me and my family to have this scholarship awarded to me. Receiving this scholarship gives me a great sense of pride to represent the Blackhorse and will also allow me to more easily reach my goals of going to medical school. I am proud to receive this scholarship and want to thank the committee for their dedication and generosity. I am very grateful for all the brave men and women who have served and are currently serving our country today. Without their bravery the world we live in today would be a very different place.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Leonard Vito Tedesco; K Trp; KIA June 19, 1967; Age 21.



**Katherine Silver, Daughter of Donald Morin, HHT 2/11, 69-70**

I would like to sincerely thank you for the honor of being selected as a recipient for the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia scholarship award. I am currently pursuing my dream of one day becoming a physician, at the University of Maine. This award aids my family and me greatly with our financial dilemmas, and my step-father is very proud of my receiving it. Words cannot even begin to express the joy I felt when I first opened the manila envelope, the very first word of the letter knocked me off my feet, "Congratulations!" Thank you.

Scholarship dedicated to SSG Clarence James Claycomb; HHT 1st Squad; KIA January 13, 1968; Age 27.



**Elizabeth Smith, Daughter of Steven Smith, I Trp., 68-69**

I am truly grateful to the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans for granting me this scholarship. It is an honor to represent your organization and the men that fought so bravely for our country.

This scholarship gives me the opportunity to continue my educational career and helps my family tremendously. Because of this scholarship much of the stress of paying for school has been lifted and I can now put forth more of my time to focusing on my studies. So many students struggle with the financial side of college and I am humbled that I was even considered for this prestigious award. I am currently a freshman at the University of Central Florida and majoring in Biology in hopes of one day becoming a doctor. Your generosity will never be forgotten nor will Michael Bazel, to whom my scholarship is dedicated.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Michael George Bazel; G Trp; KIA April 25, 1970; Age 21.



**Nicole Sutton, daughter of George Sutton, 37th Med., 1970**

I am extremely grateful for the gift of financial support from the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans for my final year of undergraduate study at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I sincerely appreciate the contribution of the members that make this award possible for so many students each year. Knowing that I have your encouragement, I will strive for the best in my education to finish my undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders this year. I will go to graduate school next year for my Masters in Speech Pathology, with the goal of aiding those in need of swallowing and speech therapies.

While I am extremely proud to be one of the recipients of your financial award, I am even more grateful to be able to say thank you, veterans, for your immeasurable contributions to the United States of America. Again, thank you for your confidence in me, and an even bigger thank you for making this award possible.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Jon Anthony Allen; L Trp; KIA November 26, 1969; Age 23.

See the complete list of 2009 scholarship winners on page 10



# Scholarship Winners: 2009

Coeta Grove	daughter of Michael Grove	F Trp.	69-70
Brianna Harcum	daughter of Weldon Harcum	E Trp.	70-71
Whitney Hendrix	son of Brian Hendrix	H Co.	69-71
Devin Jones	daughter of Thomas Jones	HHT Regt.	70-70
Brett Lacey	son of Douglas Lacey	HHT 3/11	68-69
Larry Langowski	self member 11th ACVVC	Air Cav Trp.	67-68
Robert Messick	son of Ronal Caldwell	D Co	69-70
Amie Price	daughter of Clyde Price	How Btry. 2/11	67-68
Brittany Silva	daughter of Matthew Silva	398th Trans.	70-71
Katherine Silver	daughter of Donald Morin	HHT 2/11	69-70
Elizabeth Smith	daughter of Steven Smith	I Trp.	68-69
Nicole Sutton	daughter of George Sutton	37th MED	70-70
Tamra Towles	daughter of Johnny Riley	M Co.	69-70
Trisha Voellinger	daughter of Robert Wiskur	M Co.	67-68
Matthew Weaver	son of William Weaver	HHT Regt.	69-70
Kelly Wehner	daughter of Charles Wehner	G Trp.	69-70
Nikkol Wymer	daughter of John Terletter	E Trp.	66-68

## The 11th ACVVC Annual Awards

The following awards were presented at the Reunion Banquet for service "Above and Beyond" to the 11th ACVVC and its membership.

### Trooper of the Year Award

**Ronald L. (Ron) Krueger:** For hosting the Northern California BBQ and Pot Luck Picnic for the past 20 years and for his continuous and outstanding support of Blackhorse troopers everywhere.

### Quilter Award:

**Robert E. (Bob) Moreno** who has exemplified the values of the 11th ACVVC over a period of time and who has contributed to the enhancement of our members, this organization and the Regiment.

### Women's Award

**Barbara King:** For outstanding support and exceptional service to the 11th ACVVC Women's Group.

## 2009 Scholarship Winners and KIA Dedications

By Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11 ACVVC Scholarship Committee Chairman

Since the inception of the 11ACVVC Scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 245 college scholarships totaling \$699,000. This year we received thirty scholarship applications and were able to award seventeen scholarships. Sixteen \$3000 scholarships were awarded to deserving applicants. One \$5000 scholarship was given in the memory of our former 11ACVVC President, Chuck Schmidt. One trooper and sixteen children of troopers received these awards. Twelve were female and five were male. The seventeen winners had an average G.P.A. of 3.7!

Last year the scholarship committee decided to dedicate each scholarship to one of our brothers who was killed in action. This year we decided to give each scholarship winner a certificate honoring the KIA name assigned to their scholarship. Frank Cambria designed an attractive certificate which is suitable for framing. I believe this has helped to make the KIA dedication more meaningful for the award recipients.

The fact that we have been able to help so many people attain their educational goals is a tribute to your generosity. Our membership's support of the calendar, raffle and silent auction have provided the bulk of the monies given to these deserving students. Rest assured they appreciate your generosity.

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

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 3rd Quarter 2009 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
<b>General Account</b>	<b>Trooper Assistance Fund</b>	Huddle, Doug Schmidt, Bonnie In Honor of Chuck Schmidt	<b>Silver Level</b>	Dinger, Robert Fordonski, David Fulop, Frank Hass, Robert Hayes, Edward Hebb, Charles Hoover, Lawrence Kerrins, William Knight, George Oltmans, James Ortiz, Concepcion Richards, Dennis Wehner, Charles Williams, Ray
<b>Gold Level</b>	<b>Silver Level</b>	<b>Gold, Level</b>	Bonesteel, Douglas Coffman, Richard Gulley, Gerald McDole, Harry Iasillo, Robert Olson, Gene Wheelock, Thoma	
Jaime, Jose	Keltner, Neal	Eichenger, Joseph Penn Sport Embroidery Poorman, Clair Schmidt, Bonnie Smith, Steven Stoyanoff, Christy	<b>Bronze Level</b>	Austin, Julius Crimmins, Carl
<b>Bronze Level</b>	<b>Calendar, Scholarship</b>			
Arman, John Behrman, Walter Medbery, Thomas Teffner, Melvin	<b>PLatinum Level</b>			
	Bostelman, Christopher			

# THANKS TO THE TEAM!

By Allen Hathaway, President

Any organization, including the 11th ACVVC, is successful because of the efforts and cooperation of many members that come together and function effectively with a sense of teamwork. The Reunion and the organization in general demonstrate this successful formula. A round of Thanks is in order for all those who make things work so well.

**Officers and Board Members:** Thanks for all you do throughout the year. Thanks for your support and help through all the reunion planning and execution.

Thanks to Frank Cambria for 11+ years as secretary and board member and to Rod George for 8 years as quartermaster plus 3 years as board member. Your contribution has helped make this organization so successful.

**Reunion Registration:** Bob, Barb and Raleigh Moreno and Deanna Haworth. I can't say enough on how hard you folks work during the reunion. You greet everyone and make them feel welcomed, especially the first timers. That is appreciated and so important.

**Activity Buses:** Paul and Teresa Gissible - great job on the activities this year. The check-in table was well organized, information was plentiful (and the food at Pier 39 was GREAT!) These activities give folks something to do during the day while still allowing them to spend time with their friends in the evening. Everyone seemed to enjoy the trips.

**Reunion Volunteers:** Ron and Janet Krueger and all the volunteers. Thanks for ensuring everything is in the right place at the right time during the reunion. Thanks also for the many months of pre-reunion planning and coordinating the many details of the reunion. Thanks also for making arrangements for donations from Blue Diamond, Jelly Belly, Pier 39 fun packs and info from Santa Clara CVB. Thanks also to Tom and Teri Morrison, Bill and Jessis Jeans, Don and Hilde Whitney, Steve and

Kathy Govan, Ron and Michele Betz, and Joe Rooney for help before and through the reunion weekend.

**Scholarship:** Thanks Mike Rafferty for all your work on the scholarships. Your presentation during the membership meeting was excellent and very professional. We are very proud of this program.

**Thunder Run Newsletter:** Thanks Jim Griffiths for you PATIENCE in dealing with all the last minutes changes every quarter to make sure the most current and accurate information is published. Our newsletter is first class because of your efforts.

**Raffle:** Jim Holt and Pete Walter - \$37,000+ in raffle tickets. OUTSTANDING. Thanks for your work with the raffle.

**Silent Auction:** Rod and Elida George. Another very successful silent auction with approximately \$4,000 in donations. A great deal of work is involved in this project and it is appreciated.

**Quartermaster:** Thanks to Jerry and Jan Beamon. Also big thanks to Jerry and Pat Mitchell for helping out not only during the reunion but also throughout the year. Folks love the quartermaster.... that's usually the first thing they they ask for.

**PAO / News Media:** Thanks Eric Newton for helping to alert the news media on the reunion. A very nice story appeared on Sunday in the San Jose Mercury News:

**Reunion Photos:** Thanks to Ken Jankel for the photographs during the reunion and especially Saturday evening.

**Veterans Seminar:** Thanks to Mike Jensen assisted by Eric Newton and Pete Walter. Thanks for the excellent veterans seminar. This is so important. I was very pleased at the material, the turnout (approximately 60) and the questions. I was especially pleased to see the ladies attend. They listen and ask questions!

**Roses:** Thanks to John and Carol Casterman for the red roses that were given to each of the ladies on Saturday evening. There is an old cavalry tradition

that a trooper present his sweetheart with a rose. This was a very nice touch!

**Embroidering:** Chuck and Cathi Bower. Thanks for bringing your embroidering machines to Santa Clara and thanks for working extra late to have all these orders completed. We'll work on "pre-orders" of reunion shirts for 2010.

**Memorial Service / Worship Service:** Thanks as always to Larry and Deanna Haworth. The memorial services are always well attended and very powerful in remembering and honoring our departed brothers. The Sunday worship service is also a very special time to worship with fellow Blackhorse brothers.

**Gold Tournament:** Thanks to Joe Coopet for coordinating the Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament during the reunion. This is always a fun day and a very successful outing.

**Website:** Thanks to Otis Carey and Pete Echon for their work throughout the year on keeping our website up-to-date with all the latest information on the many activities of the 11th ACVVC.

**Treasurer:** Thanks Ollie Pickral for all your advice and for ensuring that all funds from all sources at the reunion are collected accounted for.... and paying the bill.

**General all around help:** Thanks Pete Walter for always managing to show up at the right place and at the right time so I can unload yet another last minute "challenge" on you. Your reply was always "Don't worry about it, I'll take care of it". I didn't, and it was.

**Reunion planning:** I can't say enough about Steve Page and the amount of work that goes into planning and organizing a reunion. I have a new appreciation for what is involved. Thanks for all you do, you do it well. Next is Washington, DC, in 2010, then St. Louis in 2011.

**Members:** Finally thanks to all members for attending the reunions and especially supporting of all activities of this great organization. This organization has continued to grow and prosper because of your support. We thank you all.

# Alpha Troop Awarded Presidential Citation

Rose Garden October 20, 2009

## Remarks By The President In Awarding The Presidential Unit Citation To Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry



President Barack Obama prepares to deliver remarks during the Presidential Unit Citation Award presentation in the Rose Garden of the White House Oct. 20, 2009. (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy)

President Barack Obama greets members of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the presentation of Presidential Unit Citation Award in the Rose Garden of the White House Oct. 20, 2009. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)



**THE PRESIDENT:** Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the White House. And welcome to a moment nearly 40 years in the making.

Last month, I was privileged to present the parents of an American soldier, Sergeant First Class Jared Monti, with our nation's highest decoration for valor — the Medal of Honor. Today, we celebrate the awarding of our nation's highest honor for a military unit — the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Presidential Unit Citation is awarded for "gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions." Since its creation during the Second World War, it has only been bestowed about 100 times.

Today, another unit assumes its rightful place in these ranks — Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry, the leg-

endary Blackhorse Regiment.

To mark this occasion we're joined by Congressman — and Vietnam veteran — Leonard Boswell; Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jim "Hoss" Cartwright; John McHugh, our Army Secretary; and Vice Chief of Staff Peter Chiarelli; from Fort Irwin, California, leaders of today's 11th Armored Cavalry — Colonel Paul Laughlin and Command Sergeant Major Martin Wilcox; and most of all, the men of Alpha Troop — those behind me and some 100 here today.

Now, these men might be a little bit older, a little bit grayer. But make no mistake — these soldiers define the meaning of bravery and heroism.

It was March 1970, deep in the jungles of Vietnam. And through the static and crackle of their radios Alpha Troop heard that another unit was in trouble. Charlie Company, from the 1st Cavalry Division,

had stumbled upon a massive underground bunker of North Vietnamese troops. A hundred Americans were facing some 400 enemy fighters. Outnumbered and outgunned, Charlie Company was at risk of being overrun.

That's when Alpha Troop's captain gave the order: "Saddle up and move out."

As these men will tell you themselves, this isn't the story of a battle that changed the course of a war. It never had a name, like Tet or Hue or Khe Sanh. It never made the papers back home. But like countless battles, known and unknown, it is a proud chapter in the story of the American soldier.

It's the story of men who came together, from every corner of America, of different colors and creeds. Some young — just 18, 19 years old, and just weeks in the jungle; some older — veterans hardened by the ugliness of war. Noncommissioned officers who held the unit together and the officers assigned to lead them.

It's the story of how this team of some 200 men set out to save their fellow Americans. With no roads to speak of, they plowed their tanks and armored vehicles through the thick jungle, smashing a path through bamboo and underbrush, mile after mile, risking ambush and landmines every step of the way, and finally emerging from the jungle to the rescue — what one member of Charlie Company called "a miracle."

It's a story of resolve. For Alpha Troop could have simply evacuated their comrades and left that enemy bunker for another day — to ambush another American unit. But as their captain said, "That's not what the 11th Cavalry does."

And so, ultimately, this is a story of what soldiers do — not only for their country, but for each other: the troopers who put themselves in the line of fire, using their tanks and vehicles to shield those trapped Americans; the loaders who kept the ammunition coming, and the gunners who never let up; and when one of those gunners went down, the soldier who jumped up to take his place.

It's about the men who rushed out to drag their wounded buddies to safety; the medics who raced to save so many; the



**Participants walk from the East Garden to the Rose Garden of the White House to attend Presidential Unit Citation presentation to A Troop. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)**

Alpha Troop have pulled out their medals and joined their old troop. Some of you still carry the shrapnel and the scars of that day. All of you carry the memories. And so I say, it's never too late, we can never say it enough. To you and all those who served in Vietnam, we thank you. We honor your service. And America is forever grateful.

Today also reminds us of our obligations to all our veterans, whether they took off the uniform decades ago or days ago — to make sure that they and their families receive the respect they deserve, and the health care and treatment they need, the benefits they have earned and all the opportunities to live out their dreams.

And finally, if that day in the jungle, if that war long ago, teaches us anything, then surely it is this. If we send our men and women in uniform into harm's way, then it must be only when it is absolutely necessary. And when we do, we must back them up with the strategy and the resources and the support they need to get the job done.

This includes always showing our troops the respect and dignity they deserve, whether one agrees with the mission or not. For if this troop and our men and women in uniform can come together — from so many different backgrounds and beliefs — to serve together, and to succeed together, then so can we. So can America.

I cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to these men, who fought in what came to be called The Anonymous Battle. Troopers, you are not anonymous anymore. And with America's overdue recognition also comes responsibility — our responsibility as citizens and as a nation, to always remain worthy of your service.

God bless Alpha Troop and the 11th Armored Cavalry. God bless all those who wear this nation's uniform. And God bless the United States of America.

Thank you very much, everybody

**Members of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 11ACR stand behind President Barack Obama during the presentation of the Presidential Unit Citation Award. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)**



injured who kept fighting hour after hour. And finally, with dark falling, as the convoy made the daring escape back through the jungle, these soldiers remained vigilant, protecting the wounded who lay at their feet.

The fog of war makes a full accounting impossible. But this much we know. Among the many casualties that day, some 20 members of Alpha Troop were wounded. And at least two made the ultimate sacrifice — their names now among the many etched in that black granite wall not far from here. But because of that service, that sacrifice, Alpha Troop completed its mission. It rescued Charlie Company. It saved those 100 American soldiers, some of who join us today. And those soldiers went on to have families — children and grandchildren who also owe their lives to Alpha Troop.

Now, some may wonder: After all these years, why honor this heroism now? The answer is simple. Because we must. Because we have a sacred obligation. As a nation, we have an obligation to this troop. Their actions that day went largely unnoticed — for decades — until their old captain, John Poindexter, realized that their service had been overlooked. He felt that he had a right to wrong. And so he spent years tracking down his troopers and gathering their stories, filing reports, fighting

for the Silver Stars and Bronze Stars they deserved and bringing us to this day.

Thank you, John.

We have an obligation to all who served in the jungles of Vietnam. Our Vietnam vets answered their country's call and served with honor. But one of the saddest episodes in American history was the fact that these vets were often shunned and neglected, even demonized when they came home. That was a national disgrace. And on days such as this, we resolve to never let it happen again.

Many of our Vietnam vets put away their medals, rarely spoke of their service and moved on. They started families and careers. Some rose through the ranks, like the decorated Vietnam veteran that I rely on every day, my National Security Advisor, Jim Jones.

Indeed, I'm told that today is the first time in 39 years that many from

**Retired U.S. Army Platoon Sergeants Earl W. Fleming, left, and Charles Ezell stand together in the East Garden of the White House. Fleming and Ezell who served together in A Troop were reunited after 39 years. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)**



# COMBAT FIRES I HAVE ATTENDED – II

By Charles W. Abbey, HHT 2/11 (1966-1967)

**I**t was a sparkling-bright sunny morning, really pretty. No smoke or fog on this cool June morning in Vietnam.

I have departed Quan Loi and am chugging along in a Battle OH-23G, hugging the treetops, well aware that War Zone C is not a nice place to be shot at if you can help it. The jungle floor reveals occasional piles of junk that were once aircraft; a helicopter carcass here, the remains of a C-123 there... moderate

“pucker factor” in effect.

The Second Squadron fire support base is finally just ahead, gleaming in the early morning sun. This is a large, dog-bone shaped clearing in the middle of nowhere. Battle Tactical Headquarters, Howitzer Battery and some other Squadron elements are here to fire missions-of-opportunity.

I make a fast approach, touch down, shut down, tie down and trundle off to the CP track. Dreadful place this “whatever it’s named” firebase. Full of greasy ash

and red dust; kicks up in little “puffs” when you walk...so flat, this must be a shallow lake during monsoon.

KA-WHAM, WHUMP!! Oh &#@0!! Not another Ka-Wham!

A hundred pairs of eyes snap toward the source of the noise. “Was that incoming?” Black smoke, laced with flame billows upward. How Battery ammo supply is on fire! Suddenly, increasingly towering flame and dense white smoke, along with big chunks of tumbling stuff is high in the air, 200 feet up and seemingly, coming my way!

I assume a lively jog to the CP track and bang on the door of the armored M577. Door opens, I am quickly in, door closed...Merci beaucoup! Muffled Ka-whump again! A considerable number of rattling fragments fall topside.

After careful thought, I decide that I don’t like it here in this vehicle very much. First: This track has aluminum armor. The stuff falling on it is steel. Steel is stronger than aluminum! Second: I do not like being where I can’t see out! Third: I have a perfectly functional (I hope) helicopter sitting out in the open. It would not be good if something heavy should fall on it! “Gentlemen, may I be excused?” I invite.

I jump back outside through the M577 doorway and initiate another sprightly jog toward my OH-23. I observe that many troopers are popping up and down taking pictures of the fire and explosions. This really was a very pretty day.

Coincidentally, there is a big M88 VTR moving along my route. I wave and beckon and they respond alongside me providing some cover from the hot fragments falling here and there.

We reach the helicopter directly. I conduct a hasty inspection, untie the blades, jump in, strap in, fire it up and rocket out of there! Controls feel ok. No curious engine noises or unfamiliar transmission vibrations, all instruments normal range. Thank goodness.

I make one lap around the firebase (ironic name) and then a quick descent toward the “safe” end of the clearing.

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## GREETING from page 1

I always wear my Blackhorse tee shirt and hat and make a point to tell the troops and the greeters I meet that I am there representing the members, friends and family of the 11th ACVVC. I tell them who we are and what we are all about and that they have the greetings of my fellow Blackhorse.

The greeters form a welcome line as the troops deplane, shaking hands and offers a brief welcome to Pease (a former AFB named after a New Hampshire WW II veteran Harl Pease, a bomber pilot awarded the Medal Of Honor, posthumously). The troops are then directed to a telephone bank of 14 phones to make free calls. Also provided are coffee, cold drinks, donuts, foods and other goodies free of charge while their plane is being refueled, cleaned, serviced, pantry restocked and a change of flight crew. They are with us about an hour.

Before we send them off a group photo is taken that will hang on the air terminal’s “Wall Of Heroes”, the national anthem is sung, a brief ceremony is conducted and then they board their flight. We try to provide them with the welcome that we didn’t receive upon returning from Vietnam and vow that the troops who pass through Pease will not go unnoticed nor unappreciated.

My wife Hellen and I had the great honor and pleasure of meeting and talking with Captain Richard Phillips, Master of the Maersk Alabama, the merchant ship captured by Somali pirates on April 9, 2009. Captain Phillips was freed of his captors by a rifle team of Navy Seals dispatched from the USS Bainbridge and

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**I always wear my Blackhorse tee shirt and hat and make a point to tell the troops and the greeters I meet that I am there representing the members, friends and family of the 11th ACVVC.**

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returned safely to his home in Vermont.

Captain Phillips was on hand at Pease International Tradeport, joining with the Pease Greeters, to greet a flight of returning US Army soldiers who had been deployed to Iraq after having spent 12 months there rebuilding the country. Captain Phillips was introduced to those attending and spoke briefly of his ordeal and what it meant for him to be among his heroes, the brave men and women fighting for freedom’s cause. Addressing the soldiers and the veterans, Captain Phillips said, “I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for men and women like you . . . you are my heroes.”

The Captain presented a flag of the Merchant Marine Service to Captain Ed Johnson, former Commandant of the Seacoast Detachment of the Marine Corps League and leader of the Pease Greeters. The flag will be displayed at the air terminal as a reminder of his visit and the contribution the Merchant Marine Service has made to America’s safety in the world. Captain Phillips returned to his home in Underhill, Vermont later in the morning and will long be remembered by those who had the opportunity to meet this heroic American seaman, devoted to his family, his crew and the American people.

Continued on page 26

## 2009 Reunion

# Registration

Reunion 2009 is now over and it's time to reorganize all our registration supplies and put them away for a few weeks. After things are cleaned up and somewhat back to normal we will start working on next year's tags, and meal tickets. Raleigh has already started playing around with a few designs.

I want to thank everyone who was in anyway connected with helping with registration this year; everyone from the first person to register, to those who helped out at the table to — well just everyone.

I hope you all had as much fun at reunion as I did helping you get through the registration process. I hope all the first timers this year felt welcomed and will continue to join us each year. We had an impressive number of first timers this year. There were a total of roughly 60 plus troopers this year. Just as a reminder, if at reunion you see someone wearing a red number 1 or a rose, this indicates that they are a first timer. So be sure to make them feel welcome.

A special thank you needs to go out to Deanna and to my son Raleigh. Without the two of them working so hard and for so long I would not have had the time to talk and visit with everyone.

The Quilter Award- WOW what can I say. It was really a surprise. I am not one who is often at a loss for words but this sure did it. It is certainly an honor to have you my fellow Cav Brothers bestow this honor on me. I'm sure there are many others who deserve it more than I do. What I do for the organization is truly a labor of love and not really considered a 'job' at all. Thank you seems such a small thing to say for such an honor. Now I must decide who I feel should get it next. Believe me when I say this is a hard decision because there are so many who are deserving. You all will just have to wait and see who gets it next.

Next year we will be in Washington D.C. Barb and I are very excited about it as that is the area where Barb grew up. So for us it will be kind of like going home. She has already started planning the time we are taking after the reunion weekend. Anyone needing ideas of places to go around there just e-mail either one of us

and we'll be happy to help with ideas.

Well it's late and as usual after traveling I am coming down with the flu, so I think I'll turn in for now.

Remember as soon as the application form for reunion 2010 comes out send it in. And be sure to use those little address labels you get in the mail. It makes things so much easier when it comes to getting the spelling correct.

In case you all missed it, a couple of our Next of Kin folks as well as Barb were in

the Sunday paper there in Santa Clara. It was a very well written article about our reunion and organization.

Again Thank You so much for the award you bestowed upon me. I am truly grateful. I look forward to seeing all of you next year in Washington D. C.

ALLONS

Bob Moreno

G troop 68/69

Board of Directors - Registration Chairman

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## While Neil Armstrong Was Stepping On The Moon

By Bryant Nelson, HOW 1/11 (1969-1970)

Forty years ago, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong famously stepped on the moon. While at that very moment 250,000 miles away, others made their impressions on the monsoon-soaked, muddy roads of III Corps in Vietnam. Nearby is a picture of an 11th ACR trooper's boots buried ankle-deep at the exact moment Commander Armstrong stepped off the lunar lander.

In an article titled, "Vietnam: Boots On The Ground And In the Mud," Frank Gannon wrote an article depicting another event that was going on, on that famous day: The first squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry was road marching from one fire support base to another. The article is published at <http://thenewnixon.org/2009/09/11/vietnam-boots-on-the-ground-and-in-the-mud/>. You can also view the article by going to [www.thenewnixon.org](http://www.thenewnixon.org) (the website for the President Richard Nixon Library) and look up this article by title and author.

This piece has eight photos I took of fellow troopers on a road march in that same day as the moon landing — one picture is particularly poignant of a monsoon-soaked gun crew member clutching a small dog wrapped in a towel on that same July day. Additionally, Mr. Gannon selected photos of M-109s firing a battery six, a flamethrower and a road march over Song Be Bridge. He also liked shots of troopers enjoying down time: Shooting hoops at Blackhorse Base Camp and a picture of FDC members washing that same dog on a warm sunny day.

I also have more photos at my website, [www.bryantnelson.com](http://www.bryantnelson.com). I've captioned names of guys I remember from my Fire

Direction Center, however, I don't know the names of gun crew members depicted in these photographs. Perhaps you can provide those names and I'll include them at my site.

Mr. Gannon also provides historical background about the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He notes the great work the 11th ACVVC is doing by aiding veterans and their families. Additionally, he includes specifics about the present-day 11 ACR and its mission at Fort Irwin, CA, and in fields of battle.

I hope you enjoy the article. If you have comments or can provide additional information regarding photo captioning or other specifics for my site, please contact me at [www.bryantnelson.com](http://www.bryantnelson.com).



Boots in the Mud, 11th ACR, RVN 1969

# Circle of Honor and Memorial Bricks

## UPDATE

By Allen Hathaway

The next group of 168 inscribed granite bricks will be set in place at the 11th Cavalry Memorial Circle of Honor in November 2009. This group represents orders received from July 2008 through October 2009. This latest group brings the total number of inscribed bricks at the memorial to 830.

The memorial bricks are inscribed at a facility in Kansas and shipped to Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Bricks are inscribed in groups in order to reduce production costs. The larger the group, the lower the production costs and more funds available for the memorial.

Orders are being taken for the next group of bricks to be placed in the Circle of Honor in September 2010. Only 150 bricks are available. If you have not ordered a memorial brick this is an excellent opportunity to do so. Bricks are a very special way to honor your service to the regiment and to show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial.

We are now offering a new miniature, half size replica of the memorial bricks. Miniatures are inexpensive special keepsakes that show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial. Miniatures can be displayed with other memorabilia from your service. Miniatures are

## Brick Order Form

**Instructions:** Print your message in the boxes below exactly as you want your brick to appear. Be sure to leave a blank box between words. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters, including blank boxes and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens). If ordering more than one brick, photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper.

LINE 1:														
LINE 2:														
LINE 3:														
<b>(Use Lines 4 and 5 for 8" x 8" x 2" bricks only)</b>														
LINE 4:														
LINE 5:														

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed
- 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$25 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months (\$25 x 4 = \$100). Bricks will be inscribed when the full amount is paid.
- 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$175 enclosed
- 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$85 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$30 in 3, 6, and 9 months (\$85 + 3 x \$30 = \$175). Bricks will be inscribed when amount paid in full.
- 2" x 4" x 1/2" Miniature Replica Brick - \$20 enclosed
- 4" x 4" x 1/2" Miniature Replica Brick - \$30 enclosed

Visa     MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for Credit Card): \_\_\_\_\_

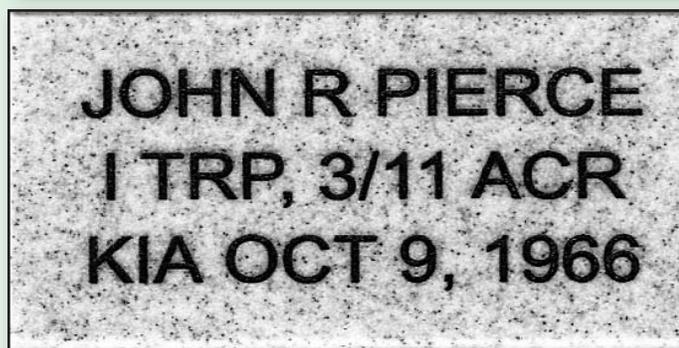
Granite bricks will be placed at the memorial in September 2010. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of miniature replica bricks. Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check, money order, or credit card (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Treasurer, C/O Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd, Kilmarnock, VA 22482**

We are now offering a new miniature, half size replica of the memorial bricks. Miniatures are inexpensive special keepsakes that show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial. Miniatures can be displayed with other memorabilia from your service.

made of composite material that closely resembles the full size granite bricks. Two sizes are available: 2" x 4" (\$20.00) or 4" x 8" (\$30.00). Inscription guidelines are the same as the full size granite bricks. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters, including spaces and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens, slashes and dashes). The order form has been updated to include the miniature bricks. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery for miniatures. Price includes shipping.

All proceeds from both the granite and miniature bricks are used to offset the cost of restoring, repairing and maintaining the 11th Cavalry Memorial.

The 11th Cavalry Memorial is a place to honor all Blackhorse troopers from all campaigns. They were our buddies, our friends and our comrades-in-arms. It is up to us to preserve their honor. They shall not be forgotten. Do your part to help this worthwhile project.



Inscribed miniature bricks

## 11th Cavalry Monument Survey Results

The results of the 11th Cavalry Monument Survey have been tallied. The final results show a majority (approximately 6 to 1) in favor of moving the monument to Fort Benning, GA. Many submitted comments with the survey expressing their difficulty in having to make this choice however realized that the best location providing the highest visibility of our monument would be at the new Armor and Cavalry Museum and the new Home of Armor at Fort Benning.

In April 2009 we received a letter from the Commanding General, Armor Center, through the Blackhorse Association regarding the move of the Armor Center and School from Fort Knox to Fort Benning. This move is part of the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC). The letter outlined plans to move the bulk of the armored vehicle collection currently at Fort Knox to the new National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning. In addition, the CG recommended that all monuments currently at Fort Knox (approximately 43) be moved as well. Those units having active veterans associations such as the 11th Armored Cavalry (11th ACVVC and Blackhorse Association) were given the option of leaving their monument at Fort Knox or moving the monument to Fort Benning and the new Home of Armor. A final decision was due to the CG by October 2009.

Information on the proposal has been disseminated to Blackhorse troopers from the 11th ACVVC and the Blackhorse Association during the past six months through our newsletters and websites. Every opportunity was given to Blackhorse troopers to submit their choice. Ultimately, the final decision was made by the Blackhorse troopers who responded to the monument survey or took the time to e-mail their choice.

In October the Commanding General, Armor Center, was notified of the decision to move the 11th Cavalry Monument to Fort Benning. The entire monument, including the Vietnam Memorial, three additional memorials as well as all granite bricks will be moved and paid for by the Army as part of the BRAC move. Any move would not take place until 2011 or 2012. The monuments will be located at the monument park planned for the new state-of-the-art National Armor and Cavalry Museum. The museum will be co-located with the new National Infantry Museum which was officially dedicated in June 2009.

We thank all those who participated in the monument survey. We will continue to monitor and update the members on this project as it progresses.

Please review these websites:

**Armor Center and School BRAC:**

[www.knox.army.mil/school/mcoe/time.asp](http://www.knox.army.mil/school/mcoe/time.asp)

**National Armor and Cavalry Museum:**

[www.armorcavalrymuseum.org](http://www.armorcavalrymuseum.org)

**National Infantry Museum:**

[www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com)



## NOISE

There were a lot of noises over in the Nam so that's what I'm going to talk about today. Huh? "Why would anyone want to talk about noise, especially you, chaplain," you say? Well, look at it this way; every noise, every sound, meant something over there. Some noises were good and some were bad, some were happy and some were sad but they all meant something. I'm sure you agree, especially if you were there. If you're a family member of a Viet Nam vet or if you're a vet of a different war, or if you're just interested in what vets think about, then you'll see what I mean and I'm sure you'll understand.

Take the noise of Hueys, for example. Hueys were the most common helicopter invented. They were used in the bush and paddies of Viet Nam. They went "whop!, whop!, whop!" or "whap!, whap!, whap!" depending on how you pronounce your noises. Now that whop-whop-whop (I pronounce it with a hop,) sure sounded good to every trooper I knew. It meant chow or ammo was on the way, or a ride out of the bush was coming and we were getting out of there, at least for a while - maybe even permanently if our DEROS date was due. If we'd just been in a contact, that whop-whop-whop was music to our ears because it meant help was on the way to medevac casualties or to bring new guys to join our situation. To this day the sound of a Huey brings back old memories, like when a news helicopter flies over. I hope that most of your memories are OK, hopefully even good. I know these sounds can bring on bad memories, even flashbacks, for some of you. But I want you to know that even though you were conditioned to react to noises in certain ways for survival, you can be re-conditioned to react in other ways, ways you want, even these years and decades later.

Moving on to other noises, what about the noise of thunder? Some would even say, "Rolling Thunder." These days I like the sound of Rolling Thunder - it means a big swarm of bikes - motorcycles - as in 400,000 rolling past the Viet Nam Vets Memorial in D.C. on Memorial Day. In the old days it was the sound of many tanks,

**Some noises were good and some were bad, some were happy and some were sad but they all meant something. I'm sure you agree, especially if you were there.**

M48's, ACAV's, and Sheridans rolling by a remote village somewhere on the way to give Charlie a hard time. It struck music to our ears, or like a guy said, "It sounds like victory." It struck fear to Charlie's ears.

How about the noise of artillery? I was mostly acquainted with the noise of 155 howitzers which were set up next to my tent. Maybe you had 155's, 105's, 8 inchers, 175's or whatever else there was that I don't know about, like the Navy's big guns which sailors fired from out in the South China Sea. I was glad they were on our side. I was out with a recon troop one night up by the Cambodian border when our own artillery fired support for us. They were hitting on our far side from where the tubes (artillery tubes) were firing. That meant the rounds were flying low over our heads and hitting just outside our perimeter. That whoosh of the projos (means projectiles for you uninitiated) coming in low sent shudders up my spine. It sent more than shudders up the spine of any gooks (bad guys - good guys weren't gooks) out there. Sure made me happy to be on the side giving that noise and not on the side receiving it. For those receivers of artillery it was a lot noisier than for us givers. RPG's were noisy too, but that's a different noise and a different story.

There were other noises too. I don't have time to go down the list, but will mention a few, like tank squeaks. Remember? If you weren't around M48's I guess you don't know what I'm talking about. Otherwise, you know. Our tanks weighed about 50 tons, give or take a few tons. I'm a chaplain, remember, so don't expect me to know the details. Anyway, they were heavy. They rode on tracks, which you already know. Each section of track had a sort of hinge with a long metal rod going through to hold each section together. When the tank went along, the track squeeeeked very loudly. You could hear tanks coming a long way off which didn't matter because the noise of the diesel engines gave us away anyway. You definitely didn't surprise any VC/NVA by

sneaking up on them. But you sure put the fear of God into them because they knew what was coming. I was happy that the bad guys didn't have tanks. RPG's were bad enough (they could kill a tank). The bad guys had RPG's.

Do you remember generators? Maybe it's strange that generator noise was something to remember. Know what I mean? Naturally, we couldn't always use them because they made noise. In the bush noise wasn't what you needed to be making. On the other hand, it did have a sort of soothing effect, at least to me, because it meant there were plenty of other troopers around and that was always a welcome situation. The generator noise also meant that whoever was making the decisions didn't expect to be hit that night, which was also a welcome situation. Of course, the decision-maker might be wrong, which naturally detracted from the positive aspects of having a generator making the noise that we liked to hear. Maybe my reasoning is a bit strange, but I don't claim to be normal all the time. Besides, being "normal" doesn't always apply.

I'm about out of time so I'll just list a few other noises and you can fill in the details for yourself: Like arc lights - the distant thunder sound of many bombs being dropped by many B52s into the jungle. They weren't dropped on our side; they were dropped on the other side, for which I was satisfied to not be there with them at the time, or at any other time, for that matter.

Jet fighters making strafing runs, radios breaking the silence at night, mad minutes opening up along the whole perimeter to scare off any VC who wanted to visit us when they weren't welcome, especially at o-dark thirty in the AM. These were all noises that you probably remember, hopefully with pleasure, but maybe with some dismay. I hope not with dismay, but if dismay, then there's a way out. Check other chapters, articles and places for suggestions.

Continued ➤

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

• Under the heading “not its intended purpose” comes this report from the Third Squadron Maintenance Officer following Operation Hickory in October 1966: “Trim vanes [the extendable wooden panel mounted on the front of the Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles designed to trim the vehicle during amphibious river crossings] were an unexpected maintenance problem. Fourteen (14) trim vanes had to be replaced by cannibalizing unserviceable M113’s [armored personnel carriers]... The reason for the damage to this item was because it was used in the extended position to increase stand-off distance of HEAT [high explosive anti-tank] rounds from AT weapons. Movement through heavy brush caused cracking, warping, and breaking of the plywood item. Personnel should be instructed not to use the trim vane except in river crossings for which it was designed.”

• From the June 1969 edition of the

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## CHAPLAIN (continued)

Mostly check the Word of God. That’s the main way out of dismay and out of every other trouble too. Actually, it’s the way to live your whole life, noise or no noise.

What I’m leading up to is from the Word of God which talks about the matter of noise. It also talks about the opposite of noise which is no noise, silence (you’d be surprised what you can gain from being quiet once in a while). Here’s how it goes: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.” (*Psalm 46:10-11, 1-3*). God bless you. God loves you. So do I.

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
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LEHaworth@aol.com

Blackhorse newspaper: “Blackhorse [basecamp] now has its very own movie star, complete with long dark hair and dark flashing eyes. She is Dee Dee Drosnes, a San Francisco girl who ‘wanted to marry Aristotle Onassis, but he married Jackie, so I came to Vietnam as a Special Services Director instead.’ During the year she has been in Vietnam she has, among other things, ‘starred’ in a Special Services recruiting movie. ‘It really was a lot of fun,’ she says. ‘I got to travel a lot and ride elephants, and have snakes around my neck.’ A Michigan State University grad who speaks three languages, Dee Dee joined Special Services in 1966 and went to Korea for 14 months. When her tour was up she took a year off to be a social worker before signing up to come to Vietnam. Asked why she came over, she replied, ‘I thought it was a tremendous opportunity to do something useful and to see for myself what was going on all at the same time.’ So far she has been here 12 months at such places as Vung Tau, Tay Ninh, and Long Binh (90th Replacement Bn.). She is extending her tour to take the Blackhorse Service Club, slated to open in mid-July, because ‘This will be the biggest and best club in Vietnam. Besides,’ she confides, ‘I’m really kind of sweet on the men of the Blackhorse.’”

• On 19 April 1970, Fox Troop captured North Vietnamese Army Sergeant Ngo Duc An, a squad leader in the 1st Battalion, 165th Regiment, 7th NVA Division. During Sergeant An’s interrogation, he revealed the following:

— He was born in 1941 and was living with his wife and three children and working as a farmer when he was drafted in 1965. He received six months of infantry training and was assigned to a unit in North Vietnam until July 1969, when he started his three-month trek, along with 400 other NVA soldiers, through Laos and Cambodia into South Vietnam. He was assigned as an infantry squad leader in the 165th NVA Regiment in early February 1970, until he was captured.

— From the interrogation report: “An’s mission when captured was to locate

armored units and report to battalion so that an ambush or attack could be planned... The mission was composed of the CO [Commanding Officer] of C1 [an infantry company of approximately 50 soldiers], company assistant PO [Political Officer], the two platoon leaders of C1, a guide from battalion reconnaissance, Sgt An, and six soldiers from the two platoons of C1... They left their base camp at 1400 hours 18 Apr 70. They traveled until... 1900 hrs when they stopped and rested until 0300 19 Apr 70. They traveled to the SE [South East] until 1100 hrs when they decided they were lost, so the CO sent the assistant PO, Sgt An, and 3 soldiers out to try to find the way back. The five men also lost their way. While trying to find the other 7 men, they saw some C-rations in an open area. An went to pick them up and as a result was captured...”

— Based on the interrogation of Sgt. An and another member of the 165th Regiment captured by Echo Troop on 13 April, the Regimental Order of Battle analysts concluded that one or two battalions of the 165th Regiment would attack the Second Squadron Command Post at Fire Support Base Burkett sometime between the 20th and 25th of April.

— The 1st Battalion of the 165th NVA Regiment (Sgt. An’s unit) conducted a coordinated ground attack, preceded by a barrage of about 130 rounds of 82mm mortar rounds, against Fire Support Base Burkett in the early morning hours of April 21st. Because of the advanced warning, the Second Squadron Troopers were ready and repulsed the attack with no friendly losses.

• On 28 July 1971, Lieutenant Colonel William M. Stokes, III, the Second Squadron Commander, shared these thoughts with other combat unit commanders still in Vietnam: “Infantry can operate appropriately between track vehicles and to their flanks, but the utmost care must be taken to avoid having infantry directly to the rear of track vehicles. Upon taking significant fire, a track vehicle can be expected to make adjustments in its position, for example, to back to the rear quickly...”

# PIO Memories—Parts I & II

By Owen Ditchfield, 17th PID  
(1966-1967)

## PART I

I joined the 11th ACR in Vietnam about a week after the unit's arrival, the day after the first combat action, when the VC tried to ambush a convoy on the road from Saigon. Score was 99 to 0 as the enemy learned of the awesome firepower of armor.

The 17th Public Information Detachment would set up a press camp when the 11th ACR would go to the field on extended operations. One boring day in the spring of 1967 we were working on home town news releases in our tent in a rubber plantation when we got an urgent call from CWO Chester Van Slyke, the regimental personnel officer, who we called Mr. Van. He was inbound, he said, with a VIP from "The FBI...", and wanted us to meet his helicopter with a cameraman and reporter.

It struck me as strange that the FBI would be in Vietnam, but I grabbed a photographer and went to the landing zone. As the chopper approached, I saw a very excited Mr. Van pointing to a man sitting next to him. This guy was dressed in a safari outfit, had long hair, no weapon, and was definitely not in the military.

You need to understand that, due to an overexposure of TV in my high

school years, my wife and I agreed to avoid that pitfall with our children. In fact, we didn't even own a TV until I got out of the army in 1972 and our kids had already acquired a love of reading.

I went up to the aircraft, and, over the roar of the engine, introduced myself. The visitor said his name was Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. "What a weird name." I thought t to myself. As we got away from the LZ, I asked our guest to repeat and spell his name. As he did so, I wrote it on my hand.

"So what brings you out here?" I asked in my most tactful voice.

"I'm just here to meet and encourage the troops," he replied.

I thought this was a strange place to be recruiting for the FBI, so then asked him exactly what he did for a living." I'm an actor on television," he said, "Including a show called The FBI," he answered.

"Never heard of it," I not so tactfully replied. "So, did you want to walk around and meet some of our soldiers?" He agreed, and as we walked around, I had to keep glancing at my hand to remember his name. Some of the soldiers lit up with recognition, as they had watched the show. Others didn't have a clue.

As he approached his helicopter to depart, I (again without much tact) told him he wasn't doing too badly, since

about half of our soldiers recognized him. He was gracious in his reply.

## Part II

Legendary Martha Raye visited the Blackhorse base camp twice during the first year we were in Vietnam. The first visit was unannounced, except I got a call at our PID tent that an entertainer was arriving in a few minutes at the helipad and I should get down there.

I had never seen Martha Raye before, and although she had been entertaining troops since WWII, she had probably never seen the 11th ACR before.

It was obvious that her arrival was a complete surprise, as no arrangements or audience had been arranged. This didn't bother her a bit. She and her guitar accompanist climbed on the back of a flatbed semi trailer and just started singing to the handful of clueless troops that happened to be there. By the time she had finished her mini-show, a small crowd had gathered. After her usual closing comments about how the protesting, anti-war hippies back in the states weren't worthy of untying the boots of our soldiers, she flew out.

The next time she came we were better prepared. Our engineers had just completed the stage and amphitheater in the headquarters area and she brought a whole cast to do the music from Hello Dolly! The show was well-attended and a great success. Word is that when Colonel Cobb had her over to his trailer for lunch before the show, she finished his whole supply of Class VI beverages, but you wouldn't know it from her performance. And it was fortunate that no dust offs came in during the show, as Raye would often stop the show, change into her Army Reserves Medical Corps LTC role and go help with the injured.

I wrote my folks in California about the performance, and when my mom met Raye backstage in San Bernardino after a performance of Hello Dolly! They hugged and had a special moment talking about how much her shows meant to the troops.

## Show Your Pride



Robert Sandlin, (HHT, 3/11 69-70) is proud of his Mercedes Benz 500 SL Roadster and shows Blackhorse pride with symbols on his hood, an 11th Cavalry license plate, and Fulda, Germany grille emblem.





## Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Once again reunion has come and gone. Now we have another whole year to wait for the next one. Washington D.C. BOY will that one be fun. Washington is what I refer to as my backyard.

Growing up in Pennsylvania it was only about an hour (more or less) to DC. We used to go there on weekends just for something to do. Of course there is so much to see and do in the area. If you're into history and the growth of our country there are the many branches of the Smithsonian to visit and explore. Of course my favorite is the Air and Space Museum. There is also the Vietnam Veterans Wall, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Women's Military Memorial over in Arlington and many, many more.

Besides DC, the Civil War is represented without having to travel very far; Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to name just a couple of places. A short drive away is the Baltimore harbor. That's pretty neat too. And for a fun filled day at an amusement park, Chocolate World, in Hershey Park is only a few hours away.

Going in the opposite direction you are only a short drive from historic Williamsburg VA., and Jamestown colony. So as you can see we will be in a wonderful historical part of our country. So much to see and do. I know you will have a great time if you come for just the reunion but an even better time if you take a few extra days following the reunion for a short vacation.

Our fundraiser this year did not produce what we had hoped it would. I ended up shipping home about 325 towels. We did make almost enough to pay our bill for having them made. And with your help we can get them all sold before starting on our next project. Therefore we are now offering them via mail. They are still selling for \$25 plus an additional \$5 for shipping and handling. These make great gifts for the holidays. And where else can you get a beach/bath towel that proudly proclaims your loyalty to the Blackhorse. So order yours now. (Please get them out of my house.)

We also have begun to get recipes for our new cookbook. Until last week the title was going to be "Partying With The Blackhorse"

but during the women's meeting one of the ladies came up with a much better title. So the new title is "In the Blackhorse Bunker". So much better, don't you agree? Now just send me or email me your 'party' recipes. You know appetizers, drinks, deserts or finger foods. I need these by the 1st of May 2010, in order to get the book done and available for the DC reunion. Let's make this book as good if not better than the first. When you send those recipes be sure to include your name, spouse's name, and unit/year. The recipes can be sent via email or regular mail

I want to express my thanks to both Janet for lending her house for storing things prior to the reunion and to Cookie for her expert selling of the towels. Cookie sold an entire case of them by herself. Awesome job Cookie, well done. If each lady had sold just 5 we would have had them all gone. So next year ladies, let's all do our part to help.

We had a good women's meeting this year. There were about 48 ladies in attendance and some great discussion. To those of you who were upset that we didn't have a guest speaker, I apologize. The gentleman that I had lined up was attending his first reunion and I decided that his attendance at the men's meeting was more important. Having a speaker at our meeting is almost a repeat of the Veterans Seminar that is held on Friday. I encourage each of you to attend the Veterans Seminar as so much good information is put out there. It is certainly worth your time. They cover so much more than we could ever cover at our meeting.

It was decided by the group this year that we would have a white elephant (or should I say a black horse) exchange next year. So all of you ladies need to bring with you a gift to exchange. This gift, not wrapped, can be something new or something you have around home that you really would like to find a new home for. No matter which way you do it, it should not exceed a \$5 - \$10 range. This should put an interesting twist to our door prize portion of the meeting.

Our traveling treasure chest went home with Pam Hathaway this year. She will fill it with objects that represent the area she is from. It will then be passed on to the lady who lives near the St. Louis reunion the following year.

This year it was filled with things pertaining to roses from the area where the Rose Parade is held.

We have just about put away all of the reunion supplies here and are now designing next year's name tag as well as meal tickets. So you see it just doesn't stop. I will start stamping the envelopes next week and I am going to work on meal tickets when I finish this article. I want to thank those of you who used address labels on your registration forms, it made it so much easier.

Congratulations to Barb King on receiving the Women's Award this year. It was a very deserving award. Her dedication to her soldier as well as to the 11th ACVVC is very admirable. Who will receive next year's award? I have a few names running around in my head. Do any of you have any ideas as to who you think deserves it? Let me know if you do and why you feel they deserve it. I am always open to suggestions. Remember our Women's Corner on the web site. We must use it. I do check it every day!

It's midnight here and Raleigh just came into our room and grabbed the remote control. He said "listen to this." There on Saturday Night Live they were doing a sketch about a guy who made a trip to Viet Nam and he was singing the song that is played at our banquet each year. Timing is a strange thing isn't it? As it finished I made a note to myself to find a copy of it. I've been told that it was sung by Billy Joel, so I guess I'll check out his web site.

In our meeting this year we talked about donating funds to an organization called Freedom Calls. Several of you wanted to know more information about them before we commit to them. You can find them at [www.freedomcalls.com](http://www.freedomcalls.com). I have seen it work and am a great supporter of it. Hope you will be too. Please let me know what you think.

Well folks I guess that's it for now. It was wonderful seeing all of you again and of course meeting so many of you for the first time.

Barb Moreno  
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Tomah, WI 54660

# Silent Auction Update from Santa Clara Reunion

Greetings to All: Many thanks to all of you who made our silent auction another successful fund-raiser for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund. It is only with your continued support that we are so successful. Below is the list of donors to whom we owe so much gratitude. The silent auction brought in \$3,371.00. This is my final year serving as the chairman of the silent auction. I leave this post grateful for all that the membership has done to support our scholarship program.

ITEM	DONOR		
001 Red & black hand painted notebook	Elida George	046 Saigon post legion hat	Anonymous
002 Vietnam belt buckle	Eric Newton	047 1970 PX catalog	Anonymous
003 M-113 knife	Eric Newton	048 Afghan	Roland E. Baird
004 Huey knife	Eric Newton	049 Ladies Hoodie	Chuck & Cathi Bower
005 Commemorative knife w/case	Eric Newton	050 Hat – red & black	Chuck & Cathi Bower
006 (item did not arrive in time for auction)	Eric Newton	051 Ladies Golf shirt	Chuck & Cathi Bower
007 Commemorative coin	Eric Newton	052 Wall plaque – Cavalry	Allen Hathaway
008 Plate – Heroes Reunited	Eric Newton	053 Wall plaque – Army	Allen Hathaway
009 Plate – The Wall	Eric Newton	054 Earrings	Paul & Pegi Anderson
010 Plate – Touching the Memory	Eric Newton	055 Framed poem	Terri Morrison
011 Plate – Sharing the Memory	Eric Newton	056 Fleece Blanket	Dale & Marguerite Austin
012 Plate – Friends of the VN Memorial	Eric Newton	057 VN DVD set	Paul Gissible
013 M-113 model	Eric Newton	058 Webkinz Blackhorse	Paul Gissible
014 M-113 w/recoilless rifle model	Eric Newton	059 Book – We Were Soldiers	James R. Hain
015 M-48A-3 model	Eric Newton	060 Plate – Candlelight Memorial	Eric Newton
016 Vietnam Magazines (Gen. Starry interview)	Eric Newton	061 Plate – Friends of VN Memorial (2)	Eric Newton
017 Book – Army at War	Eric Newton	062 Crystal standing horse	Eric Newton
018 Hat – black w/dragon	Eric Newton	063 Tabletop beanbag game	Nancy & Paul Hofflander
019 Mermite food container	Eric Newton	064 DVD – Fiddlers Green (3)	Jack Stoddard
020 Hat – brown VN vet w/ribbon	Eric Newton	065 Plate – Remember them Always	Eric Newton
021 Hat – brown VN vet	Eric Newton	066 CD's – Sounds of the 60's (10)	James M. Gaul
022 Hat – OD w/dragon	Eric Newton	067 Sonoma wine basket	Steve & Kathy Govan
023 Hat – OD cavalry	Eric Newton	068 Men's eagle shirt	Chuck & Cathi Bower
024 Hat – cavalry, camo	Eric Newton	069 Woman's shirt	Chuck & Cathi Bower
025 Hat – army, camo	Eric Newton	070 Woman's Tee shirt	Chuck & Cathi Bower
026 Hat – 5 Aces, camo	Eric Newton	071 Woman's Tee shirt	Chuck & Cathi Bower
027 Hat – OD pillbox VN vet	Eric Newton	072 misc. US army recruiting items	Anonymous
028 Hat – brown, ultimate body piercing	Eric Newton	073 Henley shirt	John D. Wilcox
029 Hat – OD	Eric Newton	074 Poster – framed	Barb & Bob Moreno
030 Hat – black, combat medic	Eric Newton	075 Poster – framed	Barb & Bob Moreno
031 Poster – Point of Penetration	Ron Krueger	076 Book – Outrageous Hero	Ron Betz
032 M-48-A3 Corgi tank	Ron Krueger	077 Wood coin display board	Anonymous
033 Blackhorse Beer (4 six-packs)	Ron Krueger	078 UH-60 Wood model	James & Joanne Beckwith
034 Black Horse wood plaque	Ron Krueger	079 Cavalry Saber	Ron Betz
035 Blackhorse candle	Ron Krueger	080 Hat – 11th Cav (2)	Lauren Tandberg
036 Blackhorse golf towel	Ron Krueger	081 Necklace (2)	Lauren Tandberg
037 Almonds gift pack	Ron Krueger	082 Laminated Stars & Stripes	Mike Rafferty
038 Blackhorse granite tile	Ron Krueger	083 Poster – 11th Cav collage	Anonymous
039 Diamond Willow walking sticks (2)	Wayne Molhoff	084 GI Joe – The Wall	Eric Newton
040 Book – Fiddlers Green	Jack Stoddard	085 Smokeless cigarettes	Eric Newton
041 Blackhorse rock from Fulda, Ger	Ken Naidas	086 Smokeless cigarettes (stealth)	Eric Newton
042 Poster	Ken Naidas	087 Men's Little Devil Tee shirt	Wayne Goad
043 Poster	Ken Naidas	088 VN knife collector set w/case	Dennis Creal
044 Wooden bowl, hand-carved	Sam Czys	089 Pin – M-48 tank (3)	Dennis Creal
045 Pier 39 Fun Pack (2)	Anonymous	090 Black Horse Pub Plaque	Rex Harold
		091 2nd Squadron framed picture	Rex Harold
		092 Mettler Petite Sirah wine (12)	Larry Mettler
		093 Wall of Fame wall hanging	Earl Edwards
		094 Black Granite 11th ACR	Terry Gerhardt
		095 Two small etched stones	Terry Gerhardt
		096 Two small etched stones	Terry Gerhardt
		097 Footlocker	John Casterman
		These 97 items constitute the donations to the 2009 silent auction	
			Rod George



## From the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment

Paul J. Laughlin



Summer is finally beginning to wind down in the beautiful Mojave Desert and your Blackhorse Troopers are continuing to train the most lethal fighting forces in the world. We have just finished the first of three straight rotations, successfully challenging and improving the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division from Ft. Bliss, Texas. Soon we will start the next rotation with 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division out of Ft. Stewart, Georgia followed by Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in November. December brings with it the opportunity for the Blackhorse Troopers to hone their fighting skills with two weeks of intense training and gunnery.

We were thrilled to be invited to the recent reunion held in Santa Clara, California. It was an honor to mingle with such a distinguished crowd, and it was a proud day for us to be able to show the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer of A Troop, 1st Squadron. After many years, your sacrifice, determination, and warrior spirit was finally recognized and rewarded. Following the reunion, we were very happy to see our invitation to come visit the Regiment and Fort Irwin was immediately taken up by a few. We had the distinct pleasure of providing a birds-eye tour of Fort Irwin, the Regimental Museum, and rotational operations to Mr. and Mrs. Walt Flick, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Mitchell, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Beamon.

**We were thrilled to be invited to the recent reunion held in Santa Clara, California. It was an honor to mingle with such a distinguished crowd, and it was a proud day for us to be able to show the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer of A Troop, 1st Squadron.**

They were able to get up close and personal with some of our MIA's, Bradley's, and M113s. Mr. Neil Morrison, the museum director, also provided an extremely thorough tour of the museum, highlighting the proud and distinguished history of the Regiment from its inception. The highlight of the tour was a trip out to "the box" to watch an iteration of the Urban Mounted Patrol Lane at the town of Medina Wasl, where they got to see the impressive capabilities and technical proficiency of our Blackhorse Troopers. It was a great opportunity to see first-hand the realism and authentic training our Troopers take part in. As always, we welcome all the veterans of the Regiment to come visit us. If you are interested, please contact us and we will set it up for you.

Our two National Guard units – 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry (Wildhorse) from Las Vegas, Nevada; and 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery (Mustangs) from Burbank, California recently deployed. 1-221 CAV deployed

in June to execute a security mission in Afghanistan, and 1-144 FA left in mid-September to begin their peacekeeping mission to Kosovo.

Recently our Horse Detachment competed in the National Cavalry Competition at Fort Robinson, Nebraska and earned the coveted Gen Pulaski Award. This award, named after the first American Chief of Cavalry is presented to the outstanding active military, Reserve or National Guard unit that best represents the highest standards of the US Cavalry. Fort Irwin 2009 will appear engraved on a brass plate on the base of the "Trooper of the Plains" statue at the US Cavalry Association headquarters in Ft Riley, KS. They beat teams from Ft Riley, Ft Carson, and Ft Hood to name a few. This is an amazing feat given the size of our detachment versus those of other Army installations, and exemplifies the pride that your Regiment carries on.

Our food service Troopers also excelled at a recent competition by taking first place in the FORSCOM level Philip A. Connelly Cup. This demanding competition is designed to recognize food service excellence, from maintenance on the equipment, sanitation, cooking, and everything in between. The cooks now move on to the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) level competition and will be evaluated in December. We will keep you posted on how they do!

We are looking forward to the upcoming quarter. We will take our block leave for two weeks over Christmas and New Year's. It will be a much needed break after three intense and challenging rotations. We won't have a Christmas formal this year, but are planning one for the end of March. It will be an excellent opportunity to celebrate the tradition and heritage of the Cavalry and to introduce our youngest Troopers to one of the more formal aspects of Army culture.

We hope that you and your families have a safe and joyous holiday season!

ALLONS! 63

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

# Cool New Stealth Electronics on the Battlefield

By Eric Newton

Technology is constantly improving life for everyone fortunate enough to have the latest gadgets available. The battlefield is no different. Computerization has revolutionized the way our soldiers step into the battle zone. It has to be smaller, faster and more accurate than it was just ten years ago. In Vietnam for instance, the two-way radio carried by a nineteen-year-old Grunt was the size of a twenty-four can case of soda. Night vision, which was relatively new, was the size of a two-liter bottle. That was forty years ago. Today, it all fits in the palm of your hand.

Not all the gadgets are designed to make quick work of the enemy. Some are high tech versions of creature comforts that your forebears carried during the war of the Greatest Generation... the tobacco cigarette. A new generation of soldier is considered better trained, better equipped, and better educated than those who went before him. You will find fewer smokers in today's military than in the Vietnam Era, where each meal came with a pack of four cigarettes from one of the following brands; Winston, Marlboro, Salem, Pall Mall, Camel, Chesterfield, Kent, Lucky Strike and Kool's, complete with moisture resistant matches. Cigarettes in the meal package were considered as much a necessity as the tightly folded toilet tissue; all standard issue.

Throughout history, countless cigarettes were pressed to the lips of young soldiers as they took one last personal moment before the insanity and carnage of battle began. Some eventually lay mortally wounded and sought the comfort of a smoke as the last breath of life made one final pass. No fellow warrior would deny such

Today's soldiers are fortunate to have the support of some of the older vets from earlier wars and recent tours and benefit greatly from their experience and knowledge. One life saving idea came from a combat vet who, after being introduced to the electronic cigarette, decided to improve the design to make it safer for soldiers to take with

them into battle.

The electronic cigarette does not burn tobacco or create second hand smoke that is considered harmful to others as with regular cigarettes. This new electronic cigarette looks like a real one and is powered by a rechargeable battery connected to a microprocessor that heats a liquid in the simulated filter to produce a vapor when puffed on. The user has a choice to inhale nicotine in a smaller dose than that of a tobacco cigarette or none at all. It even recreates an almost odorless smoke that vanishes quickly.

These are excellent substitutes for the real deal for combat soldiers since they are water resistant, take up less space and do not require a lighter. The e-cig, as they are called, look so much like the real thing, they even have a LED light on the end that simulates a burning cigarette. However, the glow of the LED light could be a major problem for a soldier on the battlefield. The glowing tip of either can be seen thousands of yards away and can give away a soldier's position. A patient sniper can use the glow to zero in and literally hit his target between the eyes. The e-cig becomes a life saving devise.

SS Choice LLC headquartered in Southlake, Texas, set out to change the game in our soldiers' favor and created the No 7 STEALTH. The Stealth comes in a matte black finish and has no active LED light on the tip. It was introduced appropriately on July 4th, 2009, and has been a big hit with the troops engaged in the wild zones across Iraq and Afghanistan." "We have been over-

**One life saving idea came from a combat vet who, after being introduced to the electronic cigarette, decided to improve the design to make it safer for soldiers to take with them into battle.**

whelmed with orders," said Kyle Newton, owner of SS Choice LLC. "We sold out of our first production quickly and have restocked with sufficient inventory to meet the increasing demand. We also had a significant amount of orders from civilians who feel that if it is good enough for the military, it must be good. They wanted to smoke in the Stealth Mode at the office. For a short time we had to place the civilian orders on hold until we took care of our soldiers."

This new electronic cigarette hit the battlefields about the same time the Pentagon announced they were considering prohibiting soldiers from smoking tobacco. The study commissioned by the Pentagon recommends phasing out tobacco products such as cigarettes and cigars over a 5 to 10 year period. That announcement did not sit well with retired Gen. Russel Honore. "When you're tired and you've been going days on end with minimum sleep, and you are not getting the proper meals on time, that hit of tobacco can make a difference," said Honore. The general was a visible image on TV with a cigar in his mouth as he coordinated military relief activities following Hurricane Katrina. Some people have a nicotine urge when they need a boost and others slug down caffeine. Some do both. Could a caffeine ban be proposed next?

The cost of electronic cigarettes are about half that of their tobacco competitors. Other advantages of electronic cigarettes include an end to burns on gear and clothing. No lost productivity as you can smoke on the move. These should get a big thumbs up from Smokey the Bear. There has been no reported case where an electronic cigarette has started a forest fire. That alone could save the state of California millions of dollars a year.

SS Choice LLC wants to say, "THANKS FOR SERVING," and always honors the military with a discount on products shipped to APO and FPO addressed. The old Sarge shouts out, "Smoke em' if you got em" or, perhaps, "Smoke em' while you can!"



# Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		McClaskey, Jim L	71-71	Owens, Elmer G	66-67
Brown, Robert D	67-68	Castro, Daniel C	69-70	<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		Woodruff, Jerry L	70-71
Weachter, Dennis L	69-70	Cruz, Edward G	69-70	Arman, John W	70-71	<b>I TROOP, 3/11</b>	
<b>31ST ENGINEER BN</b>		Gutierrez, Pasqual V Jr	69-70	Ross, Ivan E	70-71	Gray, Jay D	69-69
Bradbury, Leroy C	66-68	Hart, Burl O	69-70	<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>K TROOP, 3/11</b>	
<b>37TH MEDICAL CO</b>		Herrmann, James L	68-69	Bayless, Paul H	67-67	Butler, James H	69-70
Bradbury, Leroy C	68-69	King, Larry G	70-70	Green, Don S	66-67	Harley, Harvell	67-68
Nyberg, Roger D	69-69	McClaskey, Jim L	70-70	Newman, Frederick L	68-68	McDonald, Harry R	66-67
<b>398TH TRANS DET</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		Revels, J D	68-68	McGrath, Jack H Jr	68-69
Kemp, Donn B	66-72	Cornelius, Calvin V	68-68	Whitmire, Richard S	71-71	<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
Mays, Bobby J	71-71	Romero, Carlos J	65-67	<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Haberer, John F Jr	70-70
<b>409TH RR DET</b>		<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		Wesley, James A	69-69	Wilson, George W	66-67
Alter, Philip L	69-70	Stevens, Charles H	66-67	<b>HOW BTRY, 2/11</b>		Zimmerman, Winn A	67-68
Arpan, Zane S	68-69	<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		Briggs, Gary M	72-72	<b>HOW BTRY, 3/11</b>	
Hoem, Neil D	68-69	King, David R	68-68	Williams, Edward C	71-72	Brockwell, Ronald D	66-67
<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		<b>HHT, 3/11</b>		Wolan, Daniel F	71-71
Sammons, Robert L	67-68	Cipriano, Santino	70-71	Coll, Dennis R	68-68		

## COMBAT from page 14

Once squarely on the ground I check the aircraft thoroughly finding no new scratches, leaks or dents.

After some more careful thought, I don't think I like it here either! There is virtually no one around. The helicopter is parked a scant 50 meters from the edge of the forest. There is no cover or concealment. It is a long way to the CP and other friendly folk. I fret.

By and by the fire burns itself out and I fly back over to the CP. Colonel Home might want to check things out from the air.

The Fire Direction Track and some other related vehicles are now cooling blobs of melted aluminum, each about the dimension of a queen-sized mattress. A couple of our troopers have slight injuries or burns, but nothing too serious I am told; no need to medivac. Perimeter security is unbreached and everybody notches-down a little.

I still keep a small chunk of one of those Battle vehicles on my desk as a paper weight, just to remember that very pretty, if surprising, day in Vietnam.

## The 11th Cav Postman

By Sam S. "Doc" Ellison (KIA, July 9, 1968)

The postman just rambled by my track,  
Across his back a heavy sack;

A letter here a letter there all written with care,  
Perhaps a letter from you is hidden there;

Letters galore and packages so fine,  
But from you I find not a single line;

Surely there is some delay,  
I know you write me every day;

Away I walk not a letter in hand,  
I know you're more than a friend;

But that mailman will be back,  
And I'll smash that stupid sack!

*Submitted by Bob Straub, E Trp, (67-68)  
in Memory of Doc Ellison*



# Fiddler's Green

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

**Mario Aversa**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 25, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in White Plains, NY.

**Tony Blalock**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 4, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mentone, AL. He was laid to rest in Holy Springs Cemetery, Mentone, AL.

**Joseph R. Bullington**, G Troop, 2/11 (1967) passed away on July 24, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Christopher, IL. He was laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Benton, IL.

**Edwin A. Cherry Jr.**, 919th Engineer Company (1971-1972) passed away on June 12, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Las Vegas, NV.

**Wayne J. Cichello**, Air Cavalry Troop (1969) and 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on April 30, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Venice, FL. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

**Richard G. Clary**, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 20, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saltillo, MS. He was laid to rest in Euclatubbe Cemetery, Guntown, MS.

**Donald D. Detwiler Jr.**, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 4, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Soap Lake, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

**Richard W. Douglas**, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 14, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New London, WI. He was laid to rest in Royalton Cemetery, Royalton, WI.

**Harold D. Epperson**, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 21, 1996. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Edenton, NC. He was laid to rest in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, Chesapeake, VA.

**Michael J. Graziani**, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 5, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, MD.

**Benjamin L. Guyer**, H Company, 2/11 (1970) passed away on September 11, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY. Benjamin was also a veteran of the Korean War.

**Glen R. Hampton II**, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) and E Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on September 13, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elizabethtown, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

**Romie S. Harman**, A Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on May 25, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waynesburg, PA.

**Alfred L. Hayes**, HHT, 1/11 (1965-1967) passed away on August 27, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pekin, IL.

**Richard S. Isaac**, E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 20, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarkston, WA. He was laid to rest in Normal Hill Cemetery, Lewiston, ID.

**Euclid L. Johnson**, 37th Medical Company (1969) passed away on April 30, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Henderson, TN. He was laid to rest in Friendship Cemetery, Henderson, TN.

**Robert Kelly**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 29, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bloomsburg, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annapolis, PA.

**David King**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 25, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pickens, SC.

**Henry C. Qualls Jr.**, C Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 27, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kearny, AZ. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ. Henry was also a veteran of the Korean War.

**Ronald L. Rondeau**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 29, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Green Bay, WI.

**Salvador A. Samano**, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 27, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pearblossom, CA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Michael J. Sena**, G Troop, 2/11 (1971) and HHT, 2/11 (1971) passed away on June 1, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ticonderoga, NY.

**Donald L. Seyfer**, 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on April 23, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lexington, SC. He was laid to rest in Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC.

**Martin W. Silver**, H Company, 2/11 (1968) passed away on May 17, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Longwood, FL. He was laid to rest in East Ellis Cemetery, Rumford, ME. Martin was also a veteran of the Korean War.

**Leroy Slaughter**, F Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away on April 2, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Little Rock, AR. He was laid to rest in Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery, North Little Rock, AR.

**James E. Smiley**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on July 7, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Louisville Memorial Gardens West, Louisville, KY.

**Charles A. Steeves**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 7, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in North Grafton, MA. He was laid to rest in Pine Grove Cemetery, Leicester, MA.

**Alexander K. Thomas**, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on May 27, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fayetteville, NC. He was laid to rest in Cumberland Memorial Gardens, Fayetteville, NC.

**Kevin W. Woodard**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969) passed away on August 8, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY.

You might want to make copies of these dog tags, place one on your refrigerator

and extra dog tags on your adult children's refrigerators

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

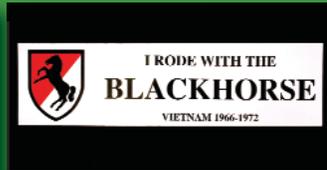
Shop the QM Store for Christmas!



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band \$35.00

#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$30.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#12 Lighter, Zippo \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



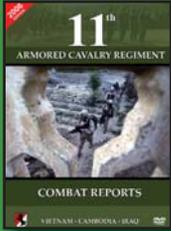
#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



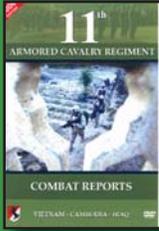
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



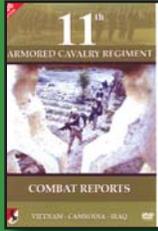
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



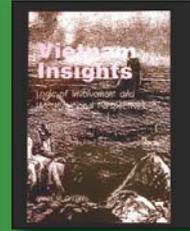
#29 Video Combo #1 \$50.00



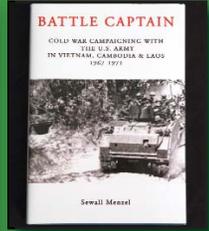
#30 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



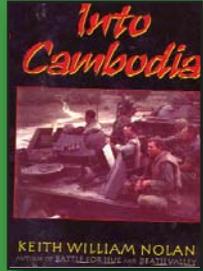
#31 Video (DVD): Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam \$30.00



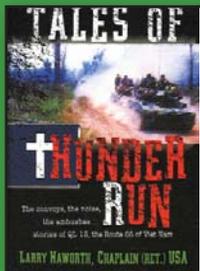
#32 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



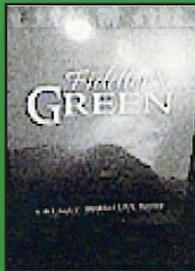
#33 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



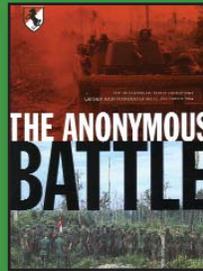
#34 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



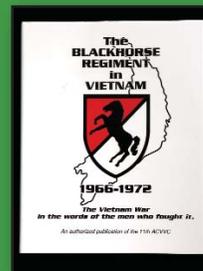
#35 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



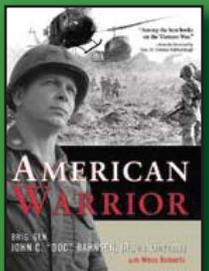
#36 Book: Fiddlers Green \$16.00



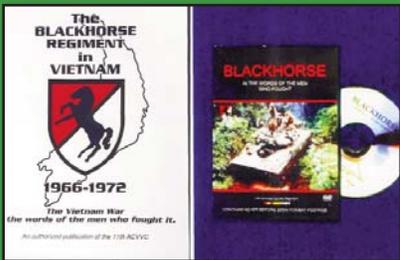
#37 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#38 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#39 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen-\$20.00



#43 Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$40.00



#41a/b T-Shirt, black/ash \$16.00



#42a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



#40a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#40b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



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



#44 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$30.00



#45 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00

# 2010 Reunion – Washington, DC

**DC - The Nations Capital.** There are plenty of things to do in DC that are FREE. The reunion hotel is located just four blocks from the National Mall and within walking distance to all the Smithsonian Museums including Air and Space, Natural History and American History. It's just a short walk to the Washington Monument, Capitol Building visitors center, the White House, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, FBI Building, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, etc. A METRO subway station is located in the hotel which provides transportation to anywhere in DC and nearby Arlington National Cemetery and the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, and Reagan National Airport. There are various military concerts, parades and performances throughout the summer (schedules are published in February 2010). Take in a baseball game with the Washington Nationals as they play seven home games during the week of the reunion (Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals). There are plenty of restaurants near the hotel offering a variety of food choices. We expect another large turnout for this very special "25th Anniversary" reunion. This is a perfect opportunity to make this week a vacation and visit the Nations Capital. More information will follow in the 1st quarter 2010 *Thunder Run*.

## 2010 11th ACVVC REUNION 25th Annual Reunion

**"SILVER ANNIVERSARY"**

**AUGUST 25-29, 2010**

**GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON  
1000 H STREET NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001 |  
www.grandwashington.hyatt.com**

**RESERVATIONS: 202-582-1234 or 800-233-1234**

**ROOM RATE: \$139.00 SINGLE/DOUBLE  
RATES ARE GOOD THREE DAYS PRIOR TO  
AND THREE DAYS AFTER EVENT.  
PLEASE MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY.**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL4Q 09

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 4th QTR 2009

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00			
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00			
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00			
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00			
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00			
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00			
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	30.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00			
12.	Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	7.50			
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00			
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	A	5.00			
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	5.00			
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	A	5.00			
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	B	45.00			
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00			
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00			
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	280.00			
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00			
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00			
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00			
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00			
29.	Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only)	C	50.00			
30.	Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD) & Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam (VHS)	C	40.00			
31.	Book, Video (DVD) Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam	C	30.00			
32.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00			
33.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00			
34.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan	C	23.00			
35.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00			
36.	Book, "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard	C	16.00			
37.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00			
38.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00			
39.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00			
40.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	12.00			
41.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	16.00			
42.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	32.00			
43.	Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam	C	40.00			
44.	Denim Shirt, Mens	B	30.00			
45.	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			
46.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	B	35.00			

**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: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$6.00; C items = \$9.95  
(items totaling over \$75.00 = \$13.95 cost of shipping)

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 \$13.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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



## From the Quartermaster...

**Jerry Beamon**

Hello Fellow Troopers,

Well what a great reunion we had. Our attendance was down a little, but we still had a great time visiting with all our friends. We arrived home safely and we hope everyone did as well. Jan and I saw some new faces this year. Great to have our First Timers with us. Hope you guys will always come back. We are very busy getting all orders filled and everything back on track.

Jan and I want to send a great big THANK YOU to Jerry and Pat Mitchell for all their help in the store, as well as their support this past year. On that note I'll start asking for volunteers in Washington next year.

If you have not been out to Ft. Irwin to see what is going on with our Regiment you need to get there if possible. Jan and I had a chance to go all the way out there and I'm glad I got to go. Captain Mahoney and her chauffeur Sp/4 Esperale gave us a tour

of duty in Iraq just after a fire-fight had been played out, training some troops who will be going overseas soon. This took place in Ft. Irwin's Iraq. As I got to look over the training area I was able in my mind's eye to envision just what they were doing, which was preparing troopers for the real thing as they deploy overseas. Such pride, such emotion, these Troopers had for their mission to train today's Fighting Force for Duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. I salute these Troopers of the Blackhorse for all their hard work. God bless them, each and every one. We are so proud of them.

To the 63rd Colonel, Paul J. Laughlin and the Command Sergeant Major who allowed us to take some of their time to view the base, we owe you a debt of gratitude for so much.

ALLONS,

Looking forward to seeing you next year in Washington.

*Jerry*

### QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Past reunion golf shirts: Chicago 2008 in size large only and Louisville 2007 in x large and xx large, \$15.00. Combo: DVD and Book 'The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam' \$40.00; a \$15 savings when purchased together.**



**#44 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon Men only \$30.00**



**#43 Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$40.00**

