



# Thunder Run

Vol. 26 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2011

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

9/11/2001 Revisited

### The Brotherhood of the Blackhorse

By: Andrew M. Trabanco  
HHT, 3/11 ACR 1966-67

It has been 10 years since that fateful day of September 11, 2001. On 9/11, I was recently retired from the New York City Fire Department having served as the Captain of Ladder 11 in the borough of Manhattan. Soon after the attack, I learned that a lieutenant and 5 firefighters working in Ladder 11 were murdered as the towers collapsed. There were 343 New York City Firefighters, scores of police officers and EMS and thousands of civilians who lost their lives that day. That night I made my way down to the site to join the rescue operation and could not believe the devastation.

The telephones were not working locally in NYC after the attack. So when the phone rang and my wife picked it up we were stunned – the caller was Jan Watkins, wife of Gerald, one of my Blackhorse buddies from St. Louis. She was calling to see if we were OK. Apparently, the system was

Please turn to **BROTHERHOOD** on page 6

### McGinnis-Wickam Hall Dedicated



McGinnis-Wickam Hall

By: Allen Hathaway

Fort Benning, GA. Sept 23, 2011 - More than 500 people gathered today to witness the dedication of the Maneuver Center of Excellence’s (MCoE) new headquarters building. McGinnis-Wickam Hall was named in honor of Spc. Ross A. McGinnis and Cpl. Jerry W. Wickam, Medal of Honor recipients representing the Infantry and Armor branches, respectively.

Ross McGinnis was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions while serving with the 1st Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006. He trained to be an Infantry Soldier at Fort Benning.

Jerry Wickam was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions on

**Jerry Wickam was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions on January 6, 1968 while serving with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment near Loc Ninh, Republic of Vietnam.**

January 6, 1968 while serving with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment near Loc Ninh, Republic of Vietnam. He trained to be an Armored Cavalry Soldier at Fort Knox, Ky.

On hand for the dedication were members of the Wickam family to include wife Suzanne, son Michael, grandchildren Blake and Savannah, brothers Daniel and Thomas and cousins Mark and Doug.

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Allen Hathaway  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



The 26th annual reunion was held on August 17-21 in St. Louis, Missouri. Over 1,060 people attended the reunion this year.

Our thanks to all who attended and especially the volunteers who worked tirelessly to help make this another successful reunion.

People began arriving early in the week to take advantage of sightseeing opportunities. Registration officially opened on Wednesday and many were on hand to pick up their reunion packets. The "bunker" opened and the crowd began to filter in to meet up with old friends. The "bunker" is the size of the banquet room. Unit guidons are placed on tables throughout the bunker to make it easy to locate your unit. As the room began to fill troopers were seen with pictures, scrap books, newspaper articles and many other mementoes.

Once again our Historian, Don Snedeker, prepared several display boards of newspaper articles tracing the history of the regiment. A few large scale maps showing the Blackhorse A/O were also on display. Many were seen gathered around the history boards reading the history they helped write.

Thursday was the 20th annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament. This is always a fun event for troopers, wives and friends. More attendees continued to arrive throughout the day. Many others took the opportunity to visit the Gateway Arch, just a short walk from the hotel. Some even dared to ride to the top of the arch to enjoy the view. I heard it was breathtaking.

On Friday morning we held our annual Veterans Seminar. This years topic was "PTSD and the Vietnam Veteran", This was an excellent presentation by Dr. Candace Drake of the VA Gulf Coast Health Care System in Pensacola, FL. Nearly 300 attended the seminar. Many wives attended as well.

More attendees arrived on Friday. By that evening the large banquet room used for the "bunker party" was full and bustling with activity. The silent auction

**A total of 60 troopers attended their first reunion.**

**These "first timers" were asked to stand and received a "welcome home" round of applause from the audience. Many of them commented afterward that they waited far too long to attend a reunion.**

was also held on Friday evening. This is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. Over 100 items were on display this year and available for bid.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday morning where we reported on the state of the organization. Elections were held, the results of which are printed elsewhere in this issue. The membership chose Indianapolis, Indiana as the site for the 2013 reunion.

Chaplain Larry Haworth conducted the memorial service on Saturday afternoon. The names of departed Blackhorse troopers who have passed away since the last reunion were read. Members of the audience had the opportunity to speak about friends or loved ones lost this past year.

The Saturday evening banquet and program are the highlights of the reunion. We would like to thank our guest speaker, Major General William L. (Bill) Nash (USA Ret), for his excellent remarks. As a lieutenant he served as a platoon leader with A Troop in 1969-1970.

We would also like to thank the current regimental commander COL Tony Aguto and RCSM Clinton Reiss for attending the reunion and giving an update on the activities of the regiment. They included an outstanding video mixing scenes of the regi-

ment from the past and the present.

A total of 60 troopers attended their first reunion. These "first timers" were asked to stand and received a "welcome home" round of applause from the audience. Many of them commented afterward that they waited far too long to attend a reunion. Also attending was Mr. Arthur Bass who served with the 11th Cavalry during World War II.

The Saturday evening program was topped off by the Blackhorse Salute. This is always a very powerful and sometimes emotional portion of the program as we salute the service of the thousands of Blackhorse troopers who served with this great regiment in Vietnam.

We especially want to thank the many Blackhorse troopers, family and friends who attend and support these great events. It's your participation that make these reunions so successful year after year.

We're headed for Orlando in 2012. There are many activities available in the Central Florida area. The Rosen Centre Hotel is ready to take your reservations. We expect another large turnout so start making your plans to attend the next reunion. We hope to see you in Orlando in 2012. It's great to be "together again" ALLONS!

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



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

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*Thunder Run* covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr., 421 Fallen Leaf Dr., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577.

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# 11th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXVI



# St. Louis, MO





Bill Gregory, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

# Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory

**We have something new this quarter, after all these years, we are going to have a "Letters to the Editor" column! We will run it on an as needed basis, that is, if there are letters of a general interest to our readers we will print them.**

Thanks so much to all those wonderful people who have so warmly welcomed me back to *Thunder Run*! Hopefully we can continue the tradition of excellence that Jim Griffiths has set for us. This quarter we are all about the St. Louis Reunion (well, not quite all, but a lot). For those of you who were there, we have an issue with lots of memories. For those of us who could not make it this year, we have plenty of information to keep us abreast of all the important stuff that went on, and maybe some fun but not so important stuff as well. We have moving and poignant articles, articles about the nuts and bolts of the organization and some stories from the 'Nam. I hope that there is something for everyone.

We have something new this quarter, after all these years, we are going to have a "Letters to the Editor" column! We will run it on an as needed basis, that is, if there are letters of a general interest to our readers we will print them. Keep the letters short and to the point, 25 words or less. Stay out of partisan politics, and keep the language suitable for your 8-year-old grand daughter to read. Send them to me and title them in such a way that I know they are for that column. We con-

tinue to encourage you to send us your articles and show pride photos. We like them and so do our readers. One reminder, and this is an important one, ALL PHOTOS MUST be ".jpg" format files and at least 300 dpi quality. The dpi refers to the dots per inch of information in the photo file. If we try to print photos of less quality than 300dpi, they look terrible in print and neither you nor our readers would be happy with the final product. Do not attempt to modify the photos in any way. We continue to get great photos that we cannot use. We can accept hard copy photos, but if you want them returned, send us a self-addressed stamped envelop.

We lost one of our great Blackhorse commanders in late August when General Donn Starry passed away. We extend our deepest condolences to his family. I am a person who has always had heroes. These were people who spoke to the best parts of me and made me want to be a better person. I met several such men while in the Army, some were officers, some were NCOs and some were enlisted men. In 1970, I met such a man in COL Donn Starry, who was a larger than life role model for me and many other soldiers. Blackhorse Sir! May God speed.



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the wonderful 3rd Quarter, 2011, article in the "Chaplain's Corner" by Chaplain Larry Haworth. He wrote extensively about the role of draftees in the Army during the Vietnam War. He made a comment about "sometimes I think maybe we should go back to the draft again". I have thought about this issue many times since I was in Vietnam. One primary reason the public doesn't have much concern about our current wars is that there is no draft. Also, there is something to be said for universal service to our country.

I was the platoon leader of second platoon, D Company during most of 1970. Most of the troopers in my platoon were draftees and they performed superbly. I was honored to have them in my platoon and they were really good when the going got tough. Maybe it is time to think about the draft again. Thank you Chaplain, for an insightful article.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tim Brooks  
D Company, 1970*

### BROTHERHOOD from page 1

good to go for calls out of state coming into NYC area codes. It seems that every time the phone rang it was one of my Blackhorse brothers or their wives calling to see if they could help in any way. We got calls from Chicago, Michigan, California, Virginia, Texas, Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Carolina, New Hampshire and Boston.

### 2012 Newsletter Deadlines

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

- First Quarter 2012 .....Jan 15
- Second Quarter 2012 .....Mar 25
- Third Quarter 2012.....Jun 25
- Fourth Quarter 2012.....Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Editor, 421 Fallen Leaf Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577. E-mail: Battle46A@epbfi.com

## Blackhorse Veteran's Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (The Wall)

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Veteran's Day wreath laying at the Wall

- When: 10:00 AM Friday, 11 November, 2011
- Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.
- Who: All Blackhorse Troopers (all eras), family and friends
- What: We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall  
(Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30).

Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Allons!

# REGISTRATION

By: Bob Moreno  
Director & Registration Chair  
11th ACVVC

Now that the reunion in Saint Louis is over I am setting my sight on Orlando, Florida. Land of sunshine and oranges and MICKEY MOUSE!!!! I do need to say a big THANK YOU to all of you who gave us a few hours of help. Especially Pat Smothermon. You certainly surprised us all with your presence and your help was absolutely wonderful! You are more than welcome to help in registration any-time.

Thanks to all of you who got your registrations in early and used those mailing labels. It sure made everything so much easier. In fact, I think we only had misspellings on about 4 name tags. And those were minor errors. You know, like a couple of letters reversed.

Upon arrival back here in Tomah, as I started to put things away, Barb brought me to a complete halt and stated that she wasn't going to look at those messy boxes again next year and try to figure out just what was good and what wasn't. So now everything is in it's own place in a portable dresser type container. It's all set up to just pick it up and load into the car for the trip South. Now why didn't I ever think of that?

We have started to put together the name tags for next year and kicking around ideas for the meal tags. Quite a process as Barb is hand-making them all this year. So she has had to start extra early. You can help out by getting your registrations in as quickly as possible when you first see the registration form appear. Remember you can always cancel if you need too.

Thank you to all of you who sent our family a note of thanks following the reunion. Please know that this is not a chore for us but instead a labor of love and pride. Not only do

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**You can help out by getting your [2012] registrations in as quickly as possible when you first see the registration form appear. Remember you can always cancel if you need too.**

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we love doing it but we also enjoy seeing and talking to "everyone" as they arrive. We hope to be doing it for many years to come. I hope you all have as much fun attending the reunion as we do. And each year just seems to get better and better.

Before I close, I want to remind any of you who did not fill out your evaluation sheet to please do so and get it sent in to Steve Page. These are what we use when planning new things and making corrections to things we've been doing that perhaps haven't worked as well as we thought they were. And of course we are always open to your suggestions. If you have misplaced your form, just let me know and I will be happy to email (or send) you a copy.

Looking forward to seeing you all in sunny Florida next September.

## Incoming...

Information provided by and for our Troopers

• **Rhonda DiLeo**, is looking for anyone who knew her father **Pfc Ronald Charles Collins** who was killed in action on December 15, 1969 while serving with F Troop, 2/11 ACR. Rhonda was only two months old when her father was killed. She wants to know all she can about her father and hero. Anyone who may have known her father is asked to contact Pete Walter (609-261-5629 or BasePiece70 @verizon.net ).

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## DEDICATION from page 1

Michael Wickam said being at the dedication was "a great honor". "It's been almost 44 years since he was killed," said Michael, who lost his father when he was 4 months old. "While my family doesn't need any prompting to keep him in our memory, as the commanding general said today, it really helps the general public to remember the sacrifices our Soldiers have made in all of our wars. Although I did not know him, our family speaks of him often, and this is a great opportunity to keep his memory alive. There are several here today that he served with. It's a tremendous honor."

Michael said he hoped people who read about his dad would learn about leadership. "Leadership is all about people," he said. "The men in his unit that I've

talked to over the last 10 to 15 years described him as devoted to them — they knew that they would follow him anywhere. Leadership, whether in business or in the service, in any walk of life, is about people, is about serving people."

Maj. Gen. Robert Brown, MCoE commanding general said in his remarks during the ceremony: "We cannot recognize our Fallen Soldiers enough, nor thank their families enough, for the sacrifices they have made for the freedoms and the ideals that bind us together. Every time a Soldier walks through the doors of McGinnis-Wickam Hall, they'll think of Spc. McGinnis and Cpl. Wickam and remember the sacrifices they made and the incredible example they set."

Several Blackhorse troopers attended

the ceremony including LTC Anthony A. Howard (DCO, 11th ACR), LTC Matthew A. Boal, veterans Horace L. Baxley, Carlton J. Bledsoe, J.B. Burns, James H. Davis, Owen T. Ditchfield, Larry Gunderman, Allen Hathaway, Murray A. Pledger and Jorge L. Sardinas who served with Jerry Wickam in F Troop.

After the dedication the building was opened to the public for tours of this state-of-the-art facility.

September 23 also marked the official completion of the BRAC initiative to transfer the Armor School from Fort Knox to Fort Benning unifying the Infantry and Armor schools at a single location.

(portions reprinted from "The Bayonett", Fort Benning, GA, September 27, 2011)



## From the 64th Colonel of the Regiment

Tony Aguto



The Blackhorse Regiment is coming off of a busy quarter. Our Troopers are working hard to uphold the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's reputation and to honor past Troopers through our mission of training the force for combat. This quarter we were able to honor two outstanding Blackhorse Troopers, Spc. Javier Villanueva, who gave his life serving our nation with Blackhorse in Iraq and Spc. Jorge Espinoza Martinez, who risked his life off duty to help his fellow citizens on a busy California highway.

On Oct. 3, after months of planning, logistical maneuvering and hard work, Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troopers opened the new Spc. Javier Villanueva Troop Medical Clinic. Villanueva, a 2nd Squadron Trooper, was killed as the result of injuries sustained from a roadside bomb while conducting a dismounted patrol in Iraq on Nov. 23, 2005. The example Villanueva set in his service and sacrifice will inspire and drive the medical staff of our new facility as they work to fulfill the medical needs of today's Blackhorse Troopers.

The newly redesigned aid station will allow for a closer relationship between the Medical Department Activity and the 11th ACR. The Regimental clinic will now be supplied with a physician, a pharmacy technician and an administrative clerk from MEDDAC. This integration will allow our Troopers to receive a better level of care and honor the namesake of our fallen Blackhorse brother.

On Sept. 28, Pfc. Jorge Espinoza Martinez of B Troop, 1st Squadron, was honored with the Soldier's Medal. This medal is the highest honor a Soldier can

### On Oct. 3,... Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troopers opened the new Spc. Javier Villanueva Troop Medical Clinic. Villanueva, a 2nd Squadron Trooper, was killed as the result of injuries sustained from a roadside bomb while conducting a dismounted patrol in Iraq...

receive for an act of valor outside of combat.

Last December, after witnessing a highway motorcycle accident, Espinoza Martinez got out of his car, shielded two injured victims from oncoming traffic and provided them with critical initial medical care until professionals arrived. Espinoza Martinez's selfless actions were the difference between life and death for two of his fellow citizens. Espinoza Martinez's unhesitating devotion to service, both on and off duty, uphold our Regiment's high standards and set an example for other Troopers to live by.

In addition to conducting a number of

ranges and Expert Infantry Badge training, the Blackhorse Regiment also facilitated training for brigades of 82nd Airborne Division, the 2nd Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division. Our Troopers worked hard to replicate realistic conditions that these units will face as they deploy to Afghanistan. The training we conduct at the National Training Center directly correlates to mission accomplishment in the field.

As always, every Blackhorse veteran has my personal invitation to visit us at the National Training Center. The 11th ACR is your unit, your history and we want you to share in our future.

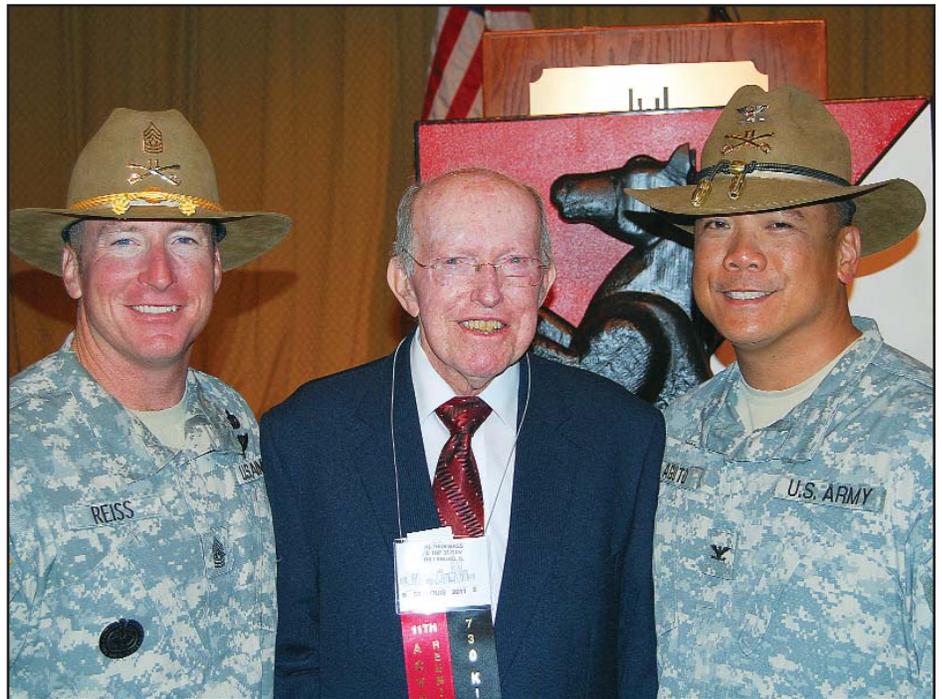
## Past Meets Present

Reunion 2011

## Show Your Pride



No doubt where Ken Jankel's (B Troop, 1/11, 66-67) loyalties lay as he cruises his BMW around near and far from his California home.



CSM Clinton Reiss, Arthur Bass (WWII Vet) and COL Tony Aguto



# 2011 Scholarship Winners and KIA Dedications

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty  
Director and Scholarship Chair

Since the inception of the 11ACVVC scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded **292 college scholarships totaling \$877,000!** These numbers include the twenty-four scholarships totaling \$98,000 we were able to award this year. Our 2011 scholarship winners submitted outstanding applications and are well-deserving of their awards. You can view some of the winner's photos and their feelings about receiving a scholarship in this issue of Thunder Run.

Each year one applicant is selected to receive the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award. This year's winner is Ryan Stabler, son of Myron Stabler (G troop, 71-72), who was selected by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow.

Scholarship award amounts have not changed for ten years so this spring the 11ACVVC board of directors decided to increase the amount of each scholarship from \$3000 to \$4000 (Schmidt award from \$5000 to \$6000). Hopefully this will help students with the ever increasing cost of higher education.

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship this year is dedicated to one of our Blackhorse brothers who was killed in action in Vietnam or Cambodia. Each recipient received a certificate suitable for framing honoring the KIA name assigned to their scholarship. Duplicate certificates were sent to next of kin where possible.

The fact we have been able to help so many children of our members attain their educational goals is a tribute to your generosity. Your support of the calendar, raffle and silent auction have provided the bulk of the monies given to these deserving students. As you read their thank you notes in this issue, you can see they truly appreciate your generosity.

## 2011 Raffle Winners

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2011 Scholarship Raffle fundraiser. Your continued support allowed us to award 22 scholarships totaling \$90,000 for 2011.

Drawing for the 2011 raffle was held on Friday, August 19, 2011. Congratulations to the following winners.

- 1st Place, \$500: E.G. Fish
- 2nd Place, \$400: Lewis Priolieu
- 3rd Place, \$300: R.L. Shelley
- 4th Place, \$200: David Teideman
- 5th thru 11th Place, \$100: R.G. Myers, Tom Amstutz, James Ryan, Willie Schnur, Ginnie Helm, Thomas Smith, Paul Stensgaard, Gerald Scherz, Marjorie Harris, James Fihian, Teresa Gissible.

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

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 3rd Quarter 2011 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Gold Level</b>	Skinner, Byron Vasey, Stephen West, Wade Westbrook, A.R. Wolfe, Frederick	Theodore Hudak, Gary Kerns, Timothy Kirkpatrick, Mike Koziol, Richard Like, David Mac Donald, John Martz, Stanley Montague, Henry Nealis, Frederick Pryor, Lee Rice, Danny Rustenberg, Homer Savicki, Robert Simmers, Vincent Spivy, Charles Stengel, Robert Stoll, Ned Vail, Richard Van Holsbeke, Leon Young, Jerl	Clark, Theodore Cooke, James Covington, John Cox, Bernard De Long, Robert Dewit, Leray Dilling, Edgar Drew, Donald Harcum, Weldon Harmon, Benjamin Hicks, L.R. Horne, Kibbey Howell, Monroe Humbert, John Johnson, Steve Madelle, James Magnarelli, John Michaud, Randolph Middough, Thomas Palmer, David Ralston, William Venhoff, John Watt, Roland Webb, Gary Wilson, William
<b>Gold Level</b> Penn Sport, Embroidery	Abrahamson, James Alberg, Wayne Binns, James Bowman, David Brockwell, Ronald Cameron, Steven Cowell, Richard Dirska, Alfred Doyle, Timothy Duke, John Hinnegan, Francis Horan, Dennis Houchins, William Huckabay, Warren Jarrett, James Kaufman, Daniel Koch, Thomas Montgomery, Bill O'Neal, Timothy Papp, Raymond Peters, Michael Quinones, Eladio Sakole, Michael Skinner, Byron	<b>Silver Level</b> Silver Level Andrews, Jerry Ault, Kenneth Burwick, Larry Campbell, Douglas Cartwright, Wavely Church, Frank Cornelius, Jerry Cunningham, Leslie Decker, James DePaul, R. Eggleton, Andrew Field, Richard Geasland, David Gelsomin, James Halstead, Wayne Hogan, Sean Hollingsworth,	Young, Manuel	<b>Calendar</b>
<b>Silver Level</b> Glauner, Jonn				<b>Gold Level</b> Godfrey, Thomas Marquez, Gabriel Ryburn, Glenn Sorich, John
<b>Trooper Assistance Fund</b>				<b>Silver Level</b> Santoro, Alfred
<b>Platinum Level</b> Creal, Dennis Crowder Family				<b>Bronze Level</b> Boston, Russell Charles, Gale Fujishige, Reid Gibbs, Richard Millea, Keith Murphy, Patrick Patrick, Ronald Stambaugh, Irvin Van Horn, David
<b>Gold Level</b> Lemmons, Tom Stanley, John				
<b>Scholarship</b>				
<b>Platinum Level</b> Bachman, William Nash, William				
			<b>Bronze Level</b> Bacon, Dean Bonesho, Thomas	

# Meet Our 2011 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2011 Scholarship Winners. This issue contains brief statements from 12 of our 2011 Scholarship Winners. Future issues will feature the remaining Scholarship Winners.

## Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award



### Ryan Stabler, son of Myron Stabler, G Troop 1971-1972

This scholarship means the world to me. I can now focus more on my education and stress less on paying my tuition. This scholarship has also made me more aware how important furthering education is and how lucky I am for receiving this chance. The pressure associated with college funding is as big of an issue as any other; however, I can feel relieved and move forward to finding a career and making a name for myself. I would like to thank the 11th AVCCV, all participants and veterans for giving me this opportunity.



### Danielle Bowen, daughter of Robert Bowen, 9th Signal, 1967-1968

I would like to thank the 11th ACR for their generous scholarship, to help me in my educational pursuits. This fall I will be a freshman at Emerson College in Boston, majoring in the performing arts, with a focus on the arts within the community. This scholarship will allow me to perform, or take extra classes that will help me to achieve my goals on and off the stage.

This past summer I had the privilege of performing in the American Conservatory Theater production entitled 'Homefront', a dramatic musical about the events surrounding World War I. In the show, I play a German immigrant who moves to the Midwest and falls in love with an American GI.

After performing this role for three weeks, I can't imagine what it would feel like to lose a loved one in war. My heart goes out to the members of the 11th ACR family who have undergone such a horrible experience. They gave their lives so those of us here on the 'Homefront' could continue to freely pursue our dreams. I will always have the 11th ACR in my thoughts and prayers for having helped me along the way. Many thanks for all you have done, and continue to do. I appreciate it so much. Best.

Scholarship dedicated to CPT. Ronald Lee Durham, Air Cav Troop, KIA 05/09/70.



### Amy Bump, daughter of Robert Bump, C Troop, 1970-1971

Thank you for the opportunity to further my education with an 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia Scholarship Award of \$4,000 in memory of Charles Keith Day. I will start school at Rocky Mountain College this fall, pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology, with hopes to go on to graduate school and enter the field of pathology, working in laboratory science or research. This scholarship will help a great deal with my expenses.

es. It is enough to cover most of my books and lab fees for the next four years. I am awed by your generosity, and humbled by its sources. My certificate calls this scholarship a "most auspicious honor," and I can't say it better. I think I'll frame it and hang it above my desk at school, as a reminder of the costs - not just of my education, but the full costs of our freedom.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Charles Keith Day, A Troop, KIA 01/11/69.



### Hanna Cohen, daughter of Cary Cohen, B Troop, 1969 - 1970

I am excited and honored to be a recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. When applying for the scholarship I hoped I would win but was preparing myself for the financial burden of going to school. When I received the reward letter, it was a very welcome surprise! I cannot thank you enough for this amazing opportunity. Receiving this scholarship will enable me to focus on my studies as opposed to focusing on how to pay for school. I know that through this generous gift I will be able to better myself as a student, a social worker, and a person.

I would like to thank the association who has awarded me with this scholarship, as well as every man and woman who has served our country. Without the sacrifice these heroes have made, I would not be able to have the opportunities I have been blessed with. Thank you.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Bernard M. Thomas, L Troop, KIA 4/7/67.



### Kellyn Craig, daughter of Michael Craig, F Troop 1970-1971

I am deeply honored to have been awarded the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. I give great thanks to those of you who have made this scholarship possible and the men and women who have served this country. I am proud to receive this scholarship in the memory of Gene R Koski.

This money has offered me an opportunity to go to college and get my degree so I can give back to the community. I can't thank you all enough for this scholarship and what it means for my future. I will do everything in my power to prove myself worthy of this scholarship.

Thank Scholarship dedicated to SSG Gene R. Koski, E Troop, KIA 08/12/69.

The remaining recipients of the 2011 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC Scholarships will be listed in future issues of TR



**Sean Fortnam, son of David Fortnam, D Company, 1969-1970**

It is difficult for me to express the depth of my gratitude in words for this wonderful award. This scholarship will no doubt prove invaluable in covering the costs of furthering my education. I would like to give my deepest gratitude to the 11th ACVVC for their awarding me this scholarship. That the members of the United

States military can serve this country in ways unimaginable to many of us and continue to help our citizens in ways such as giving these kinds of awards is most humbling and deeply appreciated. I would like to also thank all the men and women wearing the uniform of the United States of America both past and present. But my greatest thanks I would like to give my dad, David Bradley Fortnam whom I am most proud of.

Scholarship dedicated to SGT. Robert E. Meeker, L Troop, KIA 2/18/69.



**Nickolaus Herweh, son of Terry Herweh, 541st MID 1970-1971**

I would like to start off by saying how deeply honored I am to be awarded an 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. It means a lot to be able to receive funds that will allow me to continue my education at Miami University, Oxford Ohio, next fall. At Miami I plan to major in International

Studies and go on to law school. Seeing that I have a long road to travel before I reach my ultimate goal as a lawyer, I greatly appreciate the contribution of the 11ACVVC. During my studies I will honor the memory of Fred D. Hart who was killed in action and to whom this scholarship is dedicated.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Fred D. Hart, B Troop, KIA 1/2/67.



**Raisa Lebrun, daughter of Raynald Lebrun, G Troop, 1970-1971**

This scholarship means the world to me. It means I can afford tuition this semester, and attend classes. I was on edge about it before, because money is tight in my home, and if I didn't have proof of incoming money, I wouldn't have been able to move in this fall. Thank you so much for accepting me!!!

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Paul Marion Dailey (Medic), G Troop KIA 5/1/70.



**James Marshall, son of William Marshall C Troop, 1970-1971**

I am honored to receive this scholarship from the 11ACVVC committee. It will greatly benefit and help me further my education in the field of Bio-medicine at the University of Central Florida. As a retired war veteran my father has taught me moral, demonstrated value and instilled a sense of pride in me due

to the man he was and still is. I see this scholarship as a way to give back to him and my family only a portion of what they have given to me throughout my life. Also I see this scholarship as another step-

ping stone in my journey to a fulfilling career in the near future and can't thank the committee enough for this wonderful opportunity.

Scholarship dedicated to SGT Alfredo Salazar, E Troop, KIA 12/31/70.



**Charles Meadows, Jr. son of Charles Meadows, B Troop, 1967-1968**

Hello! I am so excited to receive word about this!! I am grateful beyond words.

I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia Scholarship committee and its members on behalf of receiving this scholarship. This scholarship will help me

advance my education in the areas of Political Science and Government at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I am very excited this upcoming semester and cannot wait to see what the future has in store for me! It is my great hope that one day I will be able to help other college students of veterans like you have helped me. Thank you.

Scholarship dedicated to SFC Richard B. Garrett, K Troop, KIA 2/7/69.



**Michie Ana Sasai, daughter of David Sassi, E Troop 1969**

Coming from a small island such as Guam, your educational options are limited, especially for the field I want to pursue; the medical field. Attending college in the mainland seemed like the best choice. This scholarship will help me to achieve just that. College is an expensive experience and I do not want

money to be the reason why I cannot seize this opportunity. I truly appreciate this award. Times are tough, and I cannot rely on my parents for all my expenses. Not only will this scholarship help pay for my school, but it is also a small gift to my parents. A result of all their love, support, and faith in me. At the risk of stating a cliché, this scholarship is proof that hard work does pay off. Once again, Si Yu'os Ma'ase (thank you in Chamorro). With great gratitude,

Scholarship Dedicated to SP5 Greg Douglas Stevenson, C Troop, KIA 7/24/70.



**Patrick N. Shirley, son of Henry Shirley, HHT, 2/11, 1970**

I am very pleased to have been selected to receive this scholarship, and am honored and humbled by the sacrifices made by members of the 11th Armored Cavalry both in the past, and in the present. I plan therefore, on using the scholarship to pursue a greater understanding of history, and in particular, the history of our own nation and the roots of its representative government in the civilizations of Greece and Rome. In addition, I hope to carry on the tradition of service begun by my grandfather and carried on by my father, as I pursue a commission in my school's ROTC program, so that I, in some small way, honor the sacrifices of my father and others like him.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 James Davis, B Troop, KIA, 5/30/68.

## After Action Report

# St Louis Reunion 2011

By: Steve Page  
Reunion Chairman  
11th ACVVC

The 26th annual reunion proved to be another resounding success. Registrations were over 1,060. There were a number of first timers and the weather was great. The City of St Louis proved to be a great site for this gathering of The 11th ACVVC Troopers, their families and friends. There were many places to visit that were free or at minimal cost.

The hotel location was excellent and within walking distance to The Gateway Arch a site that proved to be very popular with our guests. The Budweiser Brewery was also a hit with the attendees. There were many eateries within walking distance. I am sure that everyone had their fill of St Louis ribs and other St Louis delicacies, fried ravioli being one of them. The hotel staff was very helpful in point us to the best places to eat and have fun.

All aspects of the reunion seemed to run well. As usual the registration process was smooth with thanks to Bob, Barb and Raleigh Moreno.

Quartermaster sales ran like a well oiled machine. Jerry and Jan Beamon and their very experienced staff made things run very smooth.

Chuck and Cathi Bower brought the pre-ordered reunion shirts. The design and colors were great.

Paul Gissible and Ron Kruger and their lovely wives ran the silent auction.

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**The voting for the 2013 reunion site was held and Indianapolis, Indiana was chosen by a vast majority of votes. The members present also decided that we should go to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2014.**

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Because of the generosity of our members it was a big success. The variety of items was outstanding with many high ticket items in the mix.

The history boards provided by Don Snedeker were a popular gathering spot to rehash old memories.

Major General William (Bill) Nash (USA Ret), our guest speaker for the banquet was well received. This year's program was shortened and went well.

The voting for the 2013 reunion site was held and Indianapolis, Indiana was chosen by a vast majority of votes. The members present also decided that we should go to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2014.

During The Memorial Service we got to thank military personnel from The Missouri National Guard who are transiting to and from Iraq and Afghanistan. This was a very touching time. We thank them for their service and wish them well.

All in all the reunion was a success because of you the members your families and friends. Without your participation there would be no reunions.

*See you all in Orlando!*

## In Appreciation...

**Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make the 2011 reunion a success:**

**The Board:** Pete Walter, Ollie Pickral, Adrian Vaaler, Bob Moreno, Steve Page, and Mike Rafferty

**Reunion Chairman:** Steve Page

**Guest Speakers:** William L. (Bill) Nash (MG USA Ret), COL Tony Aguto, CSM Clinton Reiss

**Registration:** Bob, Barb and Raleigh Moreno

**Chaplain:** Larry Haworth

**Internet Coordinator:** Otis Carey / Bob Kickenweitz

**Public Affairs:** Eric Newton

**Historian:** Don Snedeker

**Quartermaster:** Jerry and Jan Beamon, Jerry and Pat Mitchell, Deanna Haworth

**Thunder Run Editor:** Jim Griffiths

**Veterans Seminar:** Dr Candace Drake

**Silent Auction:** Paul and Teresa Gissible, Ron and Janet Krueger

**Golf Tournament:** Joe Coopet / Pete Walter

**Reunion Shirts:** Chuck and Cathi Bower

**Women's Group Coordinators:** Barb Moreno, Kathy Tandburg

## 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

**James M. (Jim) Griffiths:** For outstanding work as Thunder Run editor during the past 5 1/2 years.

### Quilter Award

**Lawrence E. (Larry) Haworth** 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.

### Womens Award

**Pamela O. (Pam) Hathaway:** For outstanding support and exceptional service to the 11th ACVVC.

### Outstanding Trooper Award

**James D. (Jim) Holt:** For outstanding service as a board member for over nine years.

## From the Secretary's Desk

By: Adrian Vaaler

Elections were held during the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, August 20, 2011, for five positions. Elected for a two year term beginning January 1, 2012, were:

- President: Allen Hathaway
- Vice President: Pete Walter
- Secretary: Adrian Vaaler
- Treasurer: Ollie Pickral
- Elected as a Board Member for a three year term beginning January 1, 2012, was Robert (Bob) Moreno.

# Silent Auction a Success

Thanks to all who participated in the silent auction. A special thanks to all those who donated items for bid. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 116 items were donated this year for a net of \$9,282 toward the Scholarship Fund. Many of the items had a military or 11th Cavalry theme.

A special thanks goes to Paul and Teresa Gissible (G Trp, 2/11) and Ron and Janet Krueger (HHT, 1/11) for their help once again in coordinating the silent auction during the reunion. Their help in collecting and tagging items, setting up and monitoring the silent auction was invaluable.

The following is the list of donors for our silent auction in St Louis. Several donated more than one item. Start thinking of items that may be donated for next year!

- Anonymous (11 Items)
- Dale E Austin
- Fred D Ayers
- David M & Linda Bailey (3 Items)
- Roland E Baird
- James N & Joanne Beckwith (4 Items)

A total of 116 items were donated this year for a net of \$9,282 toward the Scholarship Fund.

- Chuck & Cathi Bower
- Mark Bredwell (2 Items)
- Daniel & Charlene Bridgeford (2 Items)
- Ronald D Brockwell
- Ervin E Brune
- Ronald G Brundage
- Robert J Bump
- Gus E Christian (2 Items)
- Frank T Church
- Gary G Coates
- Larry E Cofty
- James E Erwin (5 Items)
- Paul M & Teresa Gissible (3 Items)
- Wayne Goad (2 Items)
- Allen Hathaway (4 Items)
- Deanna Haworth
- Howard D Honaker
- Jerry B & Hazel Howerton
- Paul E Hofflander
- Ronald L Krueger (8 Items)
- Alvinia Leesman
- Dale A Leesmann (2 Items)
- Pat Leesmann
- Robert J Maley
- Bob & Barb Moreno (4 Items)
- Charles T Morrison
- Jack N Morrison (14 Items)
- Kenny G Naidas (2 Items)
- Eric L Newton (2 Items)
- Thomas E Patten (2 Items)
- Fred C & Cherry Platt
- Quartermaster Store
- Michael D Rafferty (2 Items)
- Johnnie Reynolds Family (5 Items)
- Carl L Schisler
- Raymond J Sindelar
- Fred Sheetz
- Byron N Skinner (2 Items)
- David E Solid
- Lauren L Tandberg (3 Items)
- Rufus A & Doris Waugh (3 Items)
- Michael A Weynand
- Erwin D Wiggins
- James E Young



## Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		<b>919th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		Moore, David W 66-67	
Cartwright, Wavely R	70-71	Hester, Otis C	69-71	Gaczek, Edward J	66-67	Scali, Salvatore T	69-69
Tufankjian, Haig N	68-69	<b>RED CROSS</b>		Papp, Raymond J	66-67	Williams, Arthur L	67-68
<b>7th ARMY POSTAL UNIT</b>		Caruthers, Verna L	68-68	Schehr, James M	72-72	<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Smith, Philip F	69-70	<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		Earl, Jerry	69-70
<b>27th ENGINEER BATTALION</b>		Fries, William O Jr	68-69	Solem, Bruce M	72-72	<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
Kurniawka, Ihor	66-67	<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Bair, Gary L	67-68
<b>37th MEDICAL COMPANY</b>		Eddy, Richard W	70-71	Kujawa, Theodore E	66-67	Seward, Douglas R	69-70
Dalegowski, Gary R	70-71	Hollis, Ronald	66-67	Nagel, John W	70-70	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11</b>	
<b>398th TRANS DET</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		O'Neil, Thomas E	71-72	Reynolds, Johnnie R	69-69
Dixon, Ronald L	70-71	Cartwright, Wavely R	68-70	<b>2/11</b>		Turnbull, Andrew V	70-71
<b>409th RR DET</b>		<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		Candelario, Mike D	71-72		
Roark, Daniel R	69-70	Clifton, Ross Jr	67-68	<b>I TROOP, 3/11</b>			
Shields, Henry J Iii	68-68	Tutwiler, Edgar H	69-69	Cochran, Steve E	69-70		

# 2012 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By: Allen Hathaway

The first of our 2012 Scholarship fundraising efforts will be in your mailboxes in early December. The 2012 11th ACVVC Calendar will once again feature 12 new photos submitted by you! We want to thank all who have sent photos for consideration. The calendar contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam

We once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a separate, self sufficient fund. That is, all scholarships awarded as well as the printing and mailing cost associated with the calendar are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. Membership dues are not used to pay for the calendar. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during that year. Without your support the program would not be viable.

The calendar you receive is yours to keep and use whether you donate or not. We do however ask for your support with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of the 11th ACVVC members begin or continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

For 2011 we had two goals for the Calendar Fundraising Project. The first goal was to collect \$39,000 in donations. The second goal was to increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Through your generous contributions we met and exceeded both goals. The number of donors increased

by approximately 2 percent and donations also increased. In 2011 our combined fund raising activities throughout the year allowed us to award scholarships to 22 of our children for a total of \$90,000.

For 2012 we again have two goals. Our first goal is to collect \$40,000 in donations. We will need your help in attaining this unprecedented level. Many of you have generously donated \$100 to \$500 for this cause. We ask that you continue your ardent support and to add more to your rolls.

The second goal is to continue to increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Over the past four years we have slowly increased the number of these making donations from 20 to 22 to 23 percent. We strive to increase this number each year. If only half of our members participate, we could award scholarships to all qualifying applicants. To help meet this goal and to ensure that you receive a calendar every year we are asking that you please make a donation.

A limited number of calendars will be available while they last. Instructions on how to order extras will be included with the calendar. Watch for your calendars in the mail in December then use the convenient envelope enclosed to return your donation. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount.

The annual calendar is one of three fund raising projects to benefit our Scholarship Fund. We also conduct our raffle fund raiser prior to the reunion where the winning tickets are drawn, hold a Silent Auction of donated items at the reunion. Each of these activities has also flourished over the years. We thank you in advance for your generous support!

# Field Expedient

By: Bill Gregory

H CO & HHT 2/11 69-70

Remember all that cool stuff they taught you back at the Armor School at Fort Knox? All about armored vehicles, tanks, M-113's (ACAVS), VTR's, and Bridge Tanks? Not to mention communications gear, gunnery, and maintenance on everything from 152 mm Sheridan main guns to P-38 can openers? Most all of us learned it and learned it well enough to graduate from whatever course we were in at Fort Knox. Then they sent us to Vietnam and most of that training went straight down the tube! There were many ways we deviated from the orthodoxy of those hallowed procedures but for now I will limit myself to the process of breaking track on the M-48 tank. The Fort Knox way (if I can even remember) involved track jacks, and end connector pullers, it was a laborious procedure, requiring putting the track jacks in place and tightening them enough to relieve just enough tension on the track to allow you to gently use the end connector pullers to remove the end connectors (on both sides of the track); allowing you to break the track and perform whatever repairs were required. The process took at least 30 minutes and required much skill and patience. Time and patience are not things one has a lot of when out in the field where bad guys may happen on you at any time; and there you are with your track jack and in no position to defend yourself, not to mention higher headquarters screaming at you to get your "self" moving!

To the rescue came the "field expedient" of just enough C-4 to quickly remove the end connector and allow you cut down time to 10 or 15 minutes instead of 30. The trick was to use enough C-4 to get the end connector off of the track without damaging it, while holding the noise down to a slight "pop". Damaging the track would defeat the purpose of the trick and too loud of an explosion would either attract the enemy or worse, call attention to what you were doing. Many of us became quite skilled at this practice to the point that I am not sure any of us left Vietnam even remembering how to do it by the book. There were many other uses for C-4 but discussion of those must be for another day.

# A Tradition of Pride



Family and Friends of the Blackhorse

The Troop was located somewhere between the village of Tan Uyen and Firebase Holiday Inn when I first arrived in January. I'd volunteered for this assignment having been a school trained helicopter mechanic assigned to Air Cav Troop as a Huey mechanic. Somehow I felt I couldn't leave Vietnam without seeing the war in it's totality for myself. I did get a taste of it when I signed in at I-Troops orderly room. The 1st Sergeant was DEROSing and when he saw the wings on my chest asked what I was doing there. When I told him what I'd done he went silent and shot me a look that burned right thru like a .50 caliber incendiary round. He turned to his clerk and told him to, "issue this stupid SOB a rifle and get him out of my sight!" My "glorious youth" as a young naive Spec-4 just met the wisdom of the ages point blank. I can look back on it now and say life, or living, is all about risk. A bit of irony there somewhere I guess. I think Top's philosophy was geared more toward "be careful what you wish for!"

I was assigned as an M-60 gunner and despite all the prep the Army provided in Basic I had a lot to learn. I'd have to OJT as an 11D for one thing. The ropes went a little farther than that, not the least of which was an accelerated course in some of that wisdom mentioned. I wouldn't really get a handle on the meaning of that until I got home. I somehow felt much older being with my peers from High School again.

I was geared up for this new adventure. I already knew the 60 backwards and forwards and gave being all I could be as a crewman on an ACAV my utmost. All the whip cracking my parents and the Army did was getting fine tuned. There were all the daily chores to keep up with from cleaning weapons to refilling the water cans and helping the driver with maintenance. Then came what we were in business for, not the least of which here was to know instinctively where everything was and how to use it if needed. I'd also go on my first RIF and drop the nightly Ambush Patrol off. After a week it was my turn on that roster and instead of one it would be a two night affair. My crew helped me "gear up" this time. I would carry an M-60. There's a first time for everything and I finally felt I was part of this war.

It was near dusk when we headed out across a wide open area of rice paddies. We came to a large stand of banana trees bor-

## First Contact

By: Mark Crist, I Troop, 1969

dering on the jungle which wasn't as thick as some I'd seen. I got the nod and jumped out the door. We put our perimeter out as dusk slowly ebbed. That first night passed without incident. We collected our gear and found a place to hide for the day amongst those banana trees. I still remember how hot the day was while we waited it out. Sometime in the afternoon a "mamasan" was spotted about 50 meters away coming out of the jungle heading toward the paddies. The question was raised had she spotted us? It was decided she hadn't. Dusk finally arrived and we headed out to a new location. It was dark while we set up another perimeter.

I was laying out my bedroll when another member of the patrol, who was putting his claymore mine out, came running back into our position yelling, "VC VC!" I looked in his direction and was greeted by 6 muzzle flashes not 50 feet away. They all looked like they were aimed at me. I was still on my knees taking it all in, but it just didn't register. So this is it, after so many war movies, documentaries, and watching Vietnam on the news for several years this is the real deal. After 3 months in country I still hadn't exorcised all of my stateside stupor and was

**I was laying out my bedroll when another member of the patrol, who was putting his claymore mine out, came running back into our position yelling, "VC VC!" I looked in his direction and was greeted by 6 muzzle flashes not 50 feet away.**

expecting something more. Meanwhile, these guys were still firing and at least 100 rounds went around me somewhere. The Veterans were way more wired and a radio call brought the first flare from the Mortar Platoon. The next thing I heard was, "get your butt down dumbass!" I went to ground, but the shooting had stopped. I looked in the direction where the fire had come from, and though fairly open I didn't see anybody. I looked around and finally saw a lone Viet Cong soldier with an AK and backpack with his back to us. He appeared to be looking around himself. I don't think anyone else saw him yet. I didn't fire my machinegun since I was across from the opposite side of the patrol and would be firing over them. I reached for a hand grenade, pulled the pin, and let it fly after yelling, "Grenade."

About that time someone else began firing his M-16. The grenade went off at the same time and the guy went down. The reaction force was pulling up on line and we were ordered to pull back between the tracks. I was behind a rice dike when the tracks opened up. I'm glad I wasn't on the opposite end of that hell. I doubt a mosquito survived. Between the yellow flares and all that red glowing lead going downrange it wasn't to far removed, but a glorious sight none-the-less. The adrenalin was flowing and I stood up firing the 60 from the hip. I was caught up in the moment!

The next morning we made a sweep and found the body of that VC soldier. I was about to check him out when more wisdom was bestowed on me. A rope was tied to his ankles and the body was dragged in case his compadres had returned and placed a grenade under him. Thanks guys! Once that was accomplished I checked his pockets and found a wallet. Something else didn't quite register either, photos of his family I assumed. Maybe "bastards" was a relative term. An ID also revealed his age at 15. I was just coming up on 19 myself and all I thought at the time was the shoe could have been on the other foot the night before if he had better aim.

Long after the war was over I'd look back on it. I'd read the Viet Cong were all but decimated after the Tet '68 Offensive. They were known to go into villages after that looking for conscripts. I believe part of Nixon's Vietnamization Program in '69 relegated us to village security to prevent this

Continued on page 19

# Remembering Sergeant Rodney Yano

By: Haig Tufankjian  
Air Cav Troop 1969

The Vietnam War has left its mark on everyone living in that era. I fought in it and later marched against it. Just so you know. The Vietnam War, like any war, has its share of dark moments, madness, and fear. But strangely war also has its share of bright moments. Moments that include memories of unforgettable people, leaving impressions, that for me, has lasted a lifetime.

Enough has been written about the dark side of war, I would like to take a little time to write about some of the bright lights that shine in my memory of those times. There are several men whose memory brings a smile to my face. Among them is my drill Instructor at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sergeant Fleming, a tall, lanky Korean War veteran, Major Wesley Wilson, my company commander at Fort Carson Colorado who was a true leader and compassionate human being. Sp5 Pete Wootton. We met during induction and have remained close friends through all these years.

The brightest light though came from Sgt. Rodney Yano. Sergeant Yano was my Tech Inspector during 1968-1969 tour with Air Troop. Yano knew more about helicopters than anyone I ever met. He made sure we treated our Huey slicks and gunships, Lochs and Cobras with great respect. He clearly understood that the lives of everyone who flew with us were in our hands. This may make Yano sound like a no nonsense guy. Yano instilled in us our responsibility to the ships with a mixture technical wizardry and humor. As I remember, Yano could casually walk past a tail boom of a Huey and glance up and point out working rivets. A condition that left unchecked could end a flight in disaster. I remember him pointing out a dark ring around the rivets. It was grit produced by their slight movement. Something we were never taught in mechanic school. He also pointed out a weakness in design in the transmission of the Hueys. We all worked on them and of course almost everything on the



A common evening in the barracks with Sergeant Yano on extreme right, as the center of attention (1968)

ships had a redundancy. Dual hydraulics etc. There were also dual alternators generating electricity. But as Yano pointed out both alternators were driven by a common shaft, so if anything happened to the shaft or drive gears, you were done.

To some it up Sergeant Yano was a pro, a leader and an inspiration and oh yes great fun. I will say we were not the closest of friends, but as a maintenance team leader I always looked forward to Yano inspecting my ships and his unique ways of pointing out stuff we had to do over. I remember he always had a smile on his face when he clipped an improperly wound safety wire. I don't know, maybe he just liked the sound of the click the cutters made.

Probably he also liked the fact he was helping to make our ships as safe as possible.

The loss of Sergeant Yano on New Year's Day 1969 hit us all hard. Tears were not an uncommon sight that day. It was his second tour, was planning to re-enlist and as I remember just thirty days left before rotation back to the states. His Medal of Honor Citation explains in detail his bravery and commitment to duty. But not his humanity, intelligence and ability to brighten any NCO club he entered. I remember there was usually a bunch of us gathered around the end of the bar where Yano was. A lot of good humor came from that end of the bar. I wish I knew him better or put another way, had known him longer.

## 2012 REUNION - GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Eleven (11) Gold Star family members attended the reunion representing the 5 fallen Blackhorse Troopers listed below.

★ Kurtis A. Berry	July 6, 1969	C Troop, 1/11
★ Ronald Emery Clark	May 14, 1968	A Troop, 1/11
★ Donald Kent McLean	February 7, 1969	K Troop, 3/11
★ Richard Earl Weiss	February 3, 1971	I Troop, 3/11
★ Frederick Reed Will	July 9, 1968	E Troop, 2/11

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker

Historian, 11th ACVVC

• Birth of the Red Devils. On 13 April 1966, the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) was activated at Fort Hood, Texas. The company was authorized 5 officers and 161 enlisted personnel. The 919th replaced the 522nd Engineering Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky, which had originally been identified as the company to accompany the Regiment to Vietnam, but was replaced "due to its Armor School support mission".

• Lessons Learned. The months following the Regiment's arrival at Vung Tau in September 1966 were a time for learning lessons. During this period, Blackhorse Troopers found that the terrain, weather, and enemy tactics were both unfamiliar and challenging. This report from Third Squadron sums up the experiences of those initial months in country: "Major problems encountered during the first day [of Operation Hickory] were difficulties in land navigation; lack of adequate road nets in the area; and impassable terrain. Some of the problems with the terrain resulted from inexperience with the area and inability to adequately judge the trafficability of the ground... Occasional thunder showers during the day added to the problems of extracting mired vehicles. The Squadron began making its own roads with bulldozers, tanks and ACAV's to increase its access to certain areas... In one case, it took three days to recover a tank which had sunk up to the turret."

• Silver Star for PSG Keator. On 20 March 1967, Second Squadron left "the dust bowl it called home" – Blackhorse Base Camp – and road marched to An Loc. There, it came under the operational control of the 2nd Brigade, 1st (US) Infantry Division for the start of Operation Junction City II. The next day, Eaglehorse Squadron attacked into War Zone C, conducting reconnaissance in force operations from a temporary fire support base hacked out of the jungle in northern Tay Ninh Province. Just two days later, Hotel Company was assigned a mission to recon an area near the fire base. The Second Squadron's Annual Historical Summary for 1967 relates what happened that day. "On 23 March, Platoon Sergeant John M. Keator led his platoon of tanks out of the newly established base on a routine reconnaissance mission. It was hot that day and the fact that the platoon had to chop and push its way through the dense jungle that characterized Tay Ninh Province didn't help the situation. As the tanks continued to thrash forward on their mission 'Charlie' watched from the hiding places he knew so well. The Viet Cong outnumbered the American force and they were confident of what was to come as they waited in silence with their recoilless rifles and automatic weapons. Sergeant Keator led his force forward unaware of the ambush that was closing about him. Exactly according to his well rehearsed plan, 'Charlie' opened up with his automatic weapons. Two antitank rounds streaked through the air and slammed into the fuel tank and engine compartment of Sergeant Keator's tank causing it to burst into flames. Sergeant Keator grabbed a portable fire extinguisher as the tank moved forward into the jaws of the ambush. The engine died and the tank was ringed in fire but its 90mm cannon miraculously was unharmed. With deadly authority the 90mm spewed forth its steel, first at the recoilless rifle and then

into the thicket from which the automatic weapons fire had come. Eight enemy soldiers died. By this time the tank was completely engulfed in flame and Sergeant Keator ordered his crew to abandon the tank while he covered their exit with suppressive fire from his caliber .50 machine gun. Once his crew had safely reached another tank, Sergeant Keator jumped from his flaming vehicle and ran to another one nearby. Resuming command, he led his gallant force in an assault which completely routed the enemy. For his exceptional courage Sergeant Keator was awarded the Silver Star."

• The M-48 Tank. The following quotation comes from an article in *Military Review* magazine from January 1969: "The tanks of the armored cavalry squadrons presently in use in Vietnam are the M48 series main battle tank. They make ideal vehicles to negotiate the rubber plantations and thick jungle during the dry season and to keep open main supply routes for military and civilian traffic the year round. Their employment in relief columns has been particularly successful... they provide the best protection available against small arms fire, mines, and recoilless rifles." PSG Keator and his crew would agree.

• From the 1969 Senior Officer Debriefing Report of Colonel George Patton: "This mission, effective only during the dry season, has been particularly successful in the CATCHERS MITT and SONG BE Corridor for area denial and uncovering trails. For this mission, an aircraft armed with ten cases of incendiary grenades flies from dry spot to dry spot, setting fires with incendiaries. This technique opens areas up for more detailed aerial observation and denies future concealment of enemy resupply or infiltration activities." What would Smokey the Bear say?

• Signs of success. The 3 October 1970 Regimental Supplemental Intelligence Summary noted that between 23 and 29 September, there were seven "separate cases involving Vietnamese civilians volunteering information to elements of the 11th ACR or other friendly forces." These included a group of children who pointed out a batch of enemy documents to Alpha Troop, a man who told Delta Company where some enemy bunkers were located, two separate farmers who told Charlie Troopers of Viet Cong activity in their area, and two women who separately told Mike Company and the 919th Engineers where mines were located. The official report concluded: "The above incidents have an obvious value in saving lives and gathering intelligence. They are also indicative of the lessening of VC control in these areas."

• Extra Guns. Lieutenant General William J. McCaffrey, Deputy Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, visited the Regiment on 8 February 1971 to discuss the ongoing preparations for redeployment back to the World. During his visit, he authorized Second Squadron to retain up to 15 percent extra machine guns and radios. According to a memorandum for record prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Schweitzer, the Deputy Regimental Commander, General McCaffrey was "'delighted' that the 2nd Squadron had this equipment and was using it." He did insist that the extra weapons and radios continue to be carried on the unit property books and reported "so that parts can be requisitioned in advance in an orderly manner."



## Doing Maintenance

Do you remember what a stand-down was? Yes? No? Huh? Well, some of you know although I realize that a lot of you never saw one. A stand-down was when your unit quit fighting the war in the bush and went back to the rear or wherever you were supposed to go and just do maintenance on your equipment. The idea was that when you were out in the field fighting, shooting, and things like that, your equipment (tanks, guns and such) would wear out, get real dirty, or break. Then they needed more maintenance than you could pull in the field.

When the time came for our squadron to go on stand-down we headed for our base camp which was at Di An. That was somewhere between Saigon and Long Binh. We convoyed from Quan Loi down along QL 13 (Thunder Run - sound familiar?) to get there. Then we stayed there for a few weeks. You guys must have done a great job, because once we were finished and went back to the field, we never went back to Di An again, not for a stand-down, anyway. Did you ever go on a stand-down? Maybe not. I know a lot of you never did. You pulled all of your maintenance in the bush, in the dirt, along a trail somewhere, or wherever you were when a breakdown happened.

When I think about pulling maintenance, I remember our squadron motor sergeant. His name was Diaz, SFC Diaz. He was good. We even named one of our fire support bases for him - FSB Diaz. I don't have a clue what his first name was. Just Sarge, I guess. He and his guys could do wonders with a tank in the field. They could pull the pack, the engine and transmission assembly, out of an M48 tank, fix it, and put it back together right there in the dirt somewhere in the jungle along the Cambodian border. I was amazed at how much work they could do under the circumstances, which were primitive. They kept those iron beasts running - hard telling what they could do in a nice, clean garage back home in "The World." Everyone liked ole Sarge Diaz.

Another thing I observed about pulling maintenance in the field was how you

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**The best kind of maintenance next to taking the Freedom Bird home was to take the Semi-Freedom Bird on R&R. That meant rest and recreation, rest and recuperation, or relaxation and rejuvenation. It was all the same, it was personal maintenance - a chance to get out of Viet Nam and go have a good time somewhere else.**

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guys, so young then, could break track (meaning take it apart, for you civilians), fix it, and put it back together no matter where you were. I recall many times when road wheels wore out or the track came off your ACav. The crew (meaning you at age 19 or 20 plus your platoon sergeant, a bit older) would get out, break track, put it together with new parts, and move out again. This happened over and over. You always got the job done. Some people, civilians anyway, thought you only knew how to shoot bad guys and mess around with boom-boom girls. I'm a witness that you guys did a whole lot more - you were great. Maintenance wasn't the most fun thing you did, but you did it very well, and with hardly any griping. Remember?

There were other kinds of maintenance that you did, of course. We just talked about stand-downs when you were in the rear to do maintenance. There were other times you might go to the rear too, like for checking your records, getting supplies, getting medical attention, and coming and going from wherever you were coming and going from, like R & R. Another kind of maintenance which you pulled was personal maintenance. Maybe you didn't think of it like this, but just being in the rear for a combat field trooper was a wonderful respite (which means change of pace and scenery). Going to the club and getting smashed isn't what I encouraged but it was still a change of pace - personal maintenance, sort of. Going to the club, eating in a mess hall, going to a PX, and things like that were good personal maintenance. I encouraged this - even if someone wouldn't let you into the PX without having your jungle boots polished. They were even "nice enough" to provide the shoe polish at the door (this really happened). At least the respite was a welcome break for you troopers who spent most (or all?) of your time in the bush getting shot

at, sloshing through mud, setting up AAs (automatic ambushes), and such. For you rear-ender troopers, life wasn't the same as in the field (the bush) but you had your own stressors which I recognize but don't have time to describe now. Instead, now we'll talk about another kind of maintenance.

The best kind of maintenance next to taking the Freedom Bird home was to take the Semi-Freedom Bird on R&R. That meant rest and recreation, rest and recuperation, or relaxation and rejuvenation. It was all the same, it was personal maintenance - a chance to get out of Viet Nam and go have a good time somewhere else. This is such a fun subject that I could get carried away. Not to worry, I'll keep it short and to the point. After all, you have your own R&R story to tell (so go tell someone - today). Uncle Sugar, our affectionate name for Uncle Sam, provided several places away from Viet Nam where you could go for a week to just have a good time. Of course, different people have different activities that they call having a good time. The places were Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Sydney, Manila, and I think Taipei and Singapore. For you married guys there was Hawaii. This was a great benefit for married troopers. I went to Sydney and Manila (I did two tours). I wasn't married. Go tell someone besides me about your R&R. I'm too far away. I can't talk to you about my R&R now for the same reason. Maybe we can swap R&R stories later. It would be fun to sit around and talk about R&R.

I have time to discuss one more maintenance item. It's in the category of personal maintenance. This one is deeper and even more important than R&R maintenance, and that's going some. Like I mentioned a minute ago, I went on two R&Rs in two tours so I know how important

R&R was in Viet Nam. This item is special because it's the maintenance of our mind, soul, and everything else about who we are and why we're here. You'll understand when I say that in life we all need to go for maintenance from time to time, for renewal of our souls, our minds, and our hearts. We all need to get our lives squared away. Actually, we need to be right with God. After all, that's what life is all about. So I'll let God speak for himself, which he does in his Word, the Holy Bible. He selected his man Isaiah to say this: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord will renew their

strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31).

This is a great maintenance program. It works for me. It works for millions. It can work for anyone – including you.

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

### So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email: 11thcav1966@comcast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

### CONTACT from page 15

from happening. Was this guy a hardcore VC or one of those conscripts who maybe like some of our draftees was looking forward to a career on the family farm? Regardless, maybe that was his first contact too. There the both of us were on our knees looking around with death on the doorstep. For me, it was a "sinking in" problem that was quickly cured by my fellow patrol members. For him, maybe where his patrol had gone. They'd left him on the field. Maybe I'm too philosophical in my old age, but want to think some wisdom came out of the decision I made, and after 2 tours in Vietnam. Maybe that's why I had a hard time seeing people engaged in petty arguments when I got home. "Things could be a whole lot worse folks, be glad you're living where you are!" And with thoughts of the NOK of "our" fallen Troopers, humility.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

# ‘Sometimes People Died and Sometimes They Didn’t’

## A son’s search for his dad at Reunion XXVI

By: Elena Brown

The day hadn’t been anything special as he sat and filled out the warranty guarantee card for the weed-eater he just bought in a local lawn care store. Another day, another errand, he thought. The salesman looked at the card. A rush of recognition, a wide smile and a hint of sadness flashed across his face.

“Oh wow, I used to know a Ron Clark back in high school. One of my best friends. Died fighting in Vietnam,” said the salesman. “Yeah,” he said nodding his baseball-capped head. And with a simple smile he stated, “That was my dad.”

Ron K. Clark, 43, is the only son of Blackhorse Trooper PFC Ron E. Clark. Clark senior was 22 years old when he was killed in action on May 14, 1968 in Bin Duong Province, Vietnam and is buried in Indianola, Iowa. He died three months before his only son was born. Clark’s name is located on panel 60E line 009 of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.

Ron didn’t know too much about his father and his family didn’t talk much about him. His mother remarried when Ron was a year old. It wasn’t until he was well into adulthood that people began to open up to him about his father.

“They’d tell me I have the same personality. That I’m quiet and laid back just like he was,” he said. Gerry Costa served with Ron’s father in A-Troop. They were friends and even shared a birthday. Costa frequently writes memorials on the Virtual Vietnam Wall to his fallen friend. One entry from May 15, 2001 states: “Hello again my friend. Just wanted to let you know that after all these years you are not forgotten. I toasted you yesterday at 4pm just like every year. I will never forget you or the time we spent in Nam. I am very, very sorry I could not have protected you better and kept you from harms way. Allons always.”

Costa visited the Clarks in Iowa in 2003. They went the grave site and placed a Blackhorse patch on the headstone. Ron could sense the visit was a part of a real healing process for Costa and chose not to bring up many battle memories. “I know

“Oh wow, I used to know a Ron Clark back in high school. One of my best friends. Died fighting in Vietnam,” said the salesman. “Yeah,” he said nodding his baseball-capped head. And with a simple smile he stated, “That was my dad.”

Gerry carries a lot of Vietnam on him,” Ron said. Even though they didn’t talk much about the war, Ron didn’t mind. “He’s a good man, and I’ve made a dear friend.”

Having met Costa, Ron was invigorated and motivated to learn more about his father, the Blackhorse regiment and, most importantly, attend a reunion.

The Blackhorse 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia is a non-profit corporation that aims to honor those that fought and died during Vietnam. They were founded in 1985 and began having annual reunions in 1986. In 2006 Operation Embrace was formed. Operation Embrace strives to locate, notify and welcome the family members of the men killed-in-action to the reunion. This year, Ron was just one of the 11 family members of KIAs that came and joined the 1,063 people, which included surviving soldiers and their families, at the August reunion in St. Louis, Missouri. Some of the men he met included Edward Brown Jr. and James “Jim” Sowinski, men that served with his father.

Retired SSG Edward Brown Jr. served with A-Troop from 1967-1968 and had been in touch with Ron through Costa for about four years. They had spoken on the phone and thru Facebook but had never met face-to-face. Brown was nervous and delighted when he was informed Ron would attend the reunion.

“I know he wants to know more details of the day his dad was hit. It’s hard, reliving that—and to share that with him,” Brown said with a heavy sigh. “But I will.”

Brown recounted Ron E. Clark falling into him during the fight. Clark took a direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. “His death was fast and his survivors should know he didn’t suffer

(alone).” Brown said. “I looked into his eyes as he died.” While Clark died during that fight, many were injured including Brown. The blast perforated his eardrums and he received injuries on his right side, with wounds in his shoulder, chest, liver, hip and leg. Brown’s recovery included 14 surgeries and a skin graft that took nearly three years in the hospital to recover.

“I owe Young Clark and his family. To answer any questions if I can, and to let them know he did not die alone.” Brown said. “God left me here for a reason. It’s my responsibility to share that Clark died a hero. He had a cause.” For his ultimate sacrifice Clark was awarded a Bronze Star with Merit, a Purple Heart, National Defense, Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign medals.

“I always wanted to know if there was something significant on the day my father died. But I learned it was a typical day in Vietnam. Sometimes people died and sometimes they didn’t,” Ron said.

The Army was hit hard in 1968 reaching more than 10,500 deaths that year, according to statistics found on The Wall-USA.com, which is a 15 year old website dedicated to honoring those who died in the Vietnam War. Like a weighted backpack, many survivors carry the Vietnam experience with them in the form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Although PTSD is often associated with Vietnam veterans, it appears in veterans of all wars and eras. Once known as Battle Fatigue and Shell Shock, PTSD symptoms may include intrusive thoughts, distressing dreams, flashbacks and irritability. It can also mean a reduced ability to concentrate, experience pleasure, feel tender emotions or imagine a positive future. Many vets are finding support when learning to cope with their Vietnam experiences. During

the reunion psychologist Dr. Candace Drake and daughter of a Blackhorse trooper, Dennis Drake (HHT 3/11), hosted a veteran's seminar explaining PTSD and the options available for veterans. Brown attends a fully packed weekly PTSD group at Audie Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, TX. "Meeting Young Clark has helped me with my guilt but I'm still sad Clark never met his son, but when I go back home, I'll have a sigh of relief," he said.

For about four days the fellowship is visible as stories flow in "The Bunker."

In military terms the bunker is usually a reinforced concrete underground shelter. Here, at the reunion, it's a place where the men embrace each other with the welcome they never received when they returned home from the war decades ago. This is where they laugh and cry over memories, photos and have a beer or three. "I'd never thought I'd be sitting here laughing and having a beer with Clark's boy," Brown said with excitement. "Brown wasn't the only one thrilled to meet 'Young Clark;' James 'Jim' Sowinski contributed to the shared memories of Ron's father. "It's good to meet Clark's son! I got a clear picture of his dad. Sowinski said. "Everybody's got a piece of something to give Young Clark."

This is an exceptionally intense reunion

of men who served in an unpopular war. There is a bond between them that defies race or religion. And the void that Vietnam left in the souls of vets grows smaller with each reunion, it is a place to remember and a place to heal.

"It's important for me to be here. I know that Ed and Gerry have a lot of guilt. But I don't look at it that way," Ron said. "I'm glad my dad had good friends over there that were with him when he died. I'm

here to thank those guys that were there with my dad."

Ron still sees the salesman in the local lawn care store. He likes to talk with him about his dad. Ron said, "With the guys from Blackhorse, attending the reunion and the salesman, well, it's just another thing that makes me feel a connection to him."

*Elena Brown is a freelance writer and the daughter of Trooper Edward Brown, Jr.*

## Show Your Pride



You don't enter Mark Lownsbery's (F Troop and L Troop 68-69) garage without knowing that he flies his colors with pride as he works on his 1939 Chevy that he named "Fatty".

## 27th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2012

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

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

RESERVATIONS: 800-204-7234

**ROOM RATE: \$95.00 SINGLE - QUAD**

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



**RESERVATIONS MUST BE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 29, 2012**



# 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.

- David C. Arndt**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968), passed away on September 14, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Amsterdam, NY. He was laid to rest in Perth Cemetery, Peth, NY.
- James O. Bailey**, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969), passed away on July 15, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Scottsboro, AL. He was laid to rest in Larkinsville Cemetery, Scottsboro, AL.
- Ray K. Barnes**, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on August 23, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ingram, TX. He was laid to rest in Garden Of Memories, Kerrville, TX.
- Donald K. Blevins**, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967), passed away on July 29, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roanoke, VA. He was laid to rest in Blevins Family Cemetery, Independence, VA.
- Daniel M. Boone**, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 5, 1997. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thomson, GA.
- Tommie C. Brown**, HHT Regiment (1968-1969), passed away on July 9, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Abilene, TX. He was laid to rest in Texas State Veterans Cemetery At Abilene, Abilene, TX. Tommie is a veteran of the Korean War.
- James R. Byrd**, HHT, 3/11 (1969). passed away on July 7, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reidsville, NC. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Memory Gardens, Reidsville, NC.
- Wayne C. Carlin**, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971). passed away on May 31, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ogden, UT.
- Freeman E. Cooper**, 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on June 27, 2005. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dyersburg, TN. He was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery, Dyersburg, TN.
- Peter F. Dalton, A Troop**, 1/11 (1967-1968). passed away on May 24, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Madison, CT. He was laid to rest in West Cemetery, Madison, CT.
- Danny O. Darnell**, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969). passed away on July 5, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Holly Springs, MS.
- Karl F. Fillgrove**, HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on October 30, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Franklin, NJ.
- James L. Fogt**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 14, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sidney, OH. He was laid to rest in Glen Cemetery, Sidney, OH.
- Donald F. Gabhart Jr**, A Troop, 1/11 (1971-1972) passed away on December 18, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Moweaqua, IL. He was laid to rest in Mound Cemetery, Pana, IL.
- Charles A. Gambino**, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971). passed away on July 12, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ventura, CA.
- George R. Hart**, 37Th Medical Company (1969-1970). passed away on June 16, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Atlanta, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.
- Carl S. Hartsell**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969), passed away on August 9, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Charlotte, NC.
- Lloyd R. Hawkins**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971). passed away on August 8, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Snellville, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.
- George A. Hogan**, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on October 8, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Missouri City, Tx.
- John R. Jessie**, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968). passed away on June 20, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Glenside, PA.
- Paul A. Laurent**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972). passed away on June 16, 2011. He resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Funeral Home & Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO. Paul is a veteran of World War II and Korean War.
- Earnest W. Long**, M Company, 3/11 (1968), passed away on May 29, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Minonk, IL.
- David L. Major**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969), passed away on July 14, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Powder Springs, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.
- John P. Milliken**, HHT Regiment (1969-1970), passed away on September 30, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Linden, WI.
- Stanley R. Monroe**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on June 9, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Baltimore, MD.
- Billy V. Murphy**, HHT, 3/11 (1970), passed away on August 6, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Olympia, WA.
- James F. Newsom**, 919th Engineer Company (1970), passed away on June 28, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Baxley, GA.
- Clement J. Palko**, C Troop, 1/11 (1966) passed away on April 12, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rockwood, TN. He was laid to rest in Palko Cemetery, Roane County, TN.
- Tommy J. Parks**, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1970), passed away on July 3, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Livingston, TX. He was laid to rest in Parks Family Cemetery, Livingston, TX.
- Edward C. Poe**, D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) and B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 12, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greenville, MO.
- Johnnie R. Reynolds**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969), passed away on April 9, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Niobrara, NE. He was laid to rest in L'Eau Qui Cemetery, Niobrara, NE.
- Emil J. Roethlisberger**, L Troop, 3/11 (1969), and HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on August 8, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Parker, CO. He was laid to rest in Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO.
- Danny R. Roggow**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 24, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Edgewater, FL.
- Benjamin C. Rowe**, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967), and B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 1, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Staunton, VA. He was laid to rest in Oak Lawn Mausoleums & Memory Gardens, Staunton, VA.
- Dale M. Sharrow**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967), passed away on August 9, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Muncy, PA. He was laid to rest in Cherry Grove Cemetery, Nordmont, PA.
- John S. Smetana**, HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on March 29, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reno, NV. He was laid to rest in Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Fernley, NV.
- Donn A. Starry** (GEN Ret), Regimental Commander and 41st Colonel (Dec 1969 - June 1970), passed away on August 26, 2011. He resided in Canton, OH. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Garland K. Stewart**, HHT Regiment (1968-1970), passed away on September 3, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marietta, GA.

**Charles A. Tinsley**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1970), passed away on July 18, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Erwin, TN.

**Kenneth C. Waller**, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971), passed away on July 1, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Madison, IN. He was laid to rest in Dupont Cemetery, Dupont, IN. Kenneth is a veteran of World War II.

**Barrie P. Winch**, C Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971), passed away on June 17, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Camden, SC.

**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**



## Donn Starry, 41st Colonel of the Blackhorse – May 31, 1925 - August 26, 2011



**Gen. Donn Starry**

**D**onn Albert Starry was born on May 31, 1925 in New York City, New York and died at his home in Canton, Ohio on August 26, 2011 of complications from a rare form of cancer, said his wife, Karen “Cookie” Starry.

The son of a soldier, he was raised in Kansas City, Kansas where his father, a veteran of two world wars was a company commander in the Kansas National Guard. As a child Starry went with his father to summer camps at Fort Riley, Kan., and developed a deep admiration for the cavalry officers who took care of their horses first, then one another, and themselves last. When he was 6, the Guard made him an honorary lieutenant.

In 1943 at age 18 he enlisted as a Private in the Army and soon after received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating with the class of 1948.

Assigned to the armored cavalry, he was given additional training at Fort Knox, Kentucky - a facility he later would command as a Major General. He then joined the 63rd Heavy Tank Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, in Europe as a tank platoon leader.

Almost immediately, an “old school” sergeant taught Starry one of the countless lessons the general said he learned from NCOs during his years of military service. Sgt. 1st Class Willard Lucas handed him a “general mechanic’s tool kit.”

“Sir, so the lieutenant will know as much about tank maintenance as the motor pool he talks to, we’re going to take the lieutenant’s tank apart, to see if the lieutenant can put it back together ...”

Starry served with the 8th Army in Korea in 1954 and 1955 as an intelligence officer. He commanded the 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 32nd Armor Regiment, in Europe in 1960.

In December of 1969 he began his second tour in Vietnam when he was given command of the celebrated 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment by Gen. Creighton Abrams, an assignment he would later call “...the best job I ever had!”

During the fighting in Cambodia Starry was wounded when a grenade exploded near him and another future four-star general, Frederick Franks Jr. In his own words Starry recalled, “I dove after Fred. Knocked him down. Knocked me down. The two of us came back alive with holes in us, and they dragged us off to the hospital, Fred lost a leg, and they operated on me all night. Got a

pile of metal and pebbles.” Every year, the two men phoned each other on the anniversary of that event, Franks said. They called each other “the friends of the Fifth of May.”

Colonel Starry would rise to the rank of General and on July 1, 1977 assumed command of TRADOC (United States Army “Training and Doctrine Command”). There he formulated Air-Land Battle doctrine, which prepared the Army for warfighting into the twenty-first century. Starry concluded his career as Commander, U.S. Readiness Command (1981–1983), retiring from the Army in 1983 after forty years of service. His awards include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier’s Medal, Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart and the West Point Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Award in 2009.

Starry’s first wife, Leatrice Hope Gibbs Starry of Kansas City, Kan., died in 2008. She was his high school sweetheart, and during a marriage of 60 years they raised four children and were blessed with seven grandchildren.

He followed his second wife, Karen “Cookie” Deitrick Starry, back home to Canton, OH where she was born and raised. When the two were married in the spring of 2010 they came to live near her hometown. The two had met at the Pentagon in 1971 where she worked and they had remained friends over the years. His military reputation had accompanied him to Ohio, of course. Once you are a four-star general, you stay a four-star general - You remain respected for your contributions to your country. “He’s been in many parades. He was in a parade in Cuyahoga Falls on Memorial Day,” said his wife. “He rode in a Jeep in his uniform.”

He is survived by his loving wife Karen (Cookie); his sister Sara, (John) Rogers; four children Mike (Bonnie), Paul (Emily), Melissa Starry, and Melanie (Kendall) Mohler and seven grandchildren. Funeral services for General Starry will be held at Fort Myer Post Chapel, Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 12:45 PM at Arlington National Cemetery

Of the men he commanded in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment General Starry stated “No country in history has ever been served so ably by such gallant and dedicated men. God Bless the Blackhorse. The Blackhorse forever. Allons.”

Rest in peace sir.

*Submitted by Pete Walter; excerpts from: The Canton Repository, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Blackhorse Association e-News, The Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam, 1966-1972.*

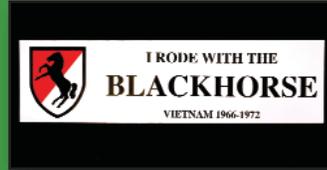
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#12 Lighter, \$18.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



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

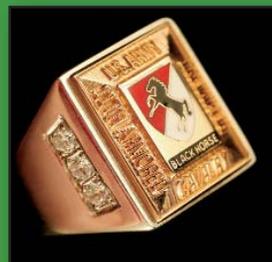


#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$325.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$380.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



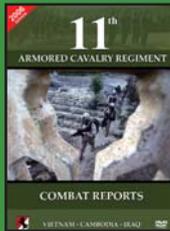
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



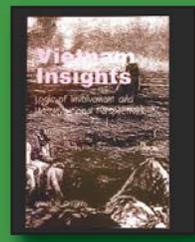
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



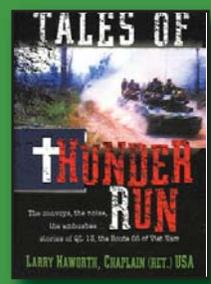
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



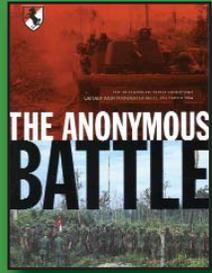
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



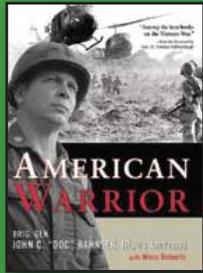
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#33 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



#35 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



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



#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) \$20.00



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39a/b T-Shirt, gray/dark gray \$18.00



#40a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



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



#41 Denim Shirt (shown), w/BH & VN Ribbon, or Blue Dress Shirt (Mens) \$32.00 each



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Saint Louis reunion is now behind us and from it we take it so many memories that we will not soon forget the wonderful time we had there. Now we must turn our thoughts to the next one in Orlando, Florida. Ahh, land of sunshine and Mickey Mouse. Can it get here soon enough?

In St. Louis, we held our regular meeting on Friday this year. There were approximately 55 ladies in attendance and 'one gentleman'. Yes, there was indeed a 'man' there this year. Now I know what you are thinking. Hey, we're not allowed in their meeting, so why was he at ours? Allow me to enlighten you. You see this gentleman was Allen Hathaway, the president of the organization. He "said" he was there just to visit since he had heard that we said the board members don't seem to know or care what we do. But really I think he was there to see his wife Pam receive the Women's Award this year. And since he promised to behave and sit quietly we allowed him to stay.

Organization was the major item this year. I had recently decided that we needed some involvement from everyone and so the idea of a basic board was created. Prior to the reunion, I approached several ladies that felt would be good in certain positions. And thankfully they all accepted.

The new officers are

- Women's Director - myself
- Fund Raising Chairperson - Kathy Tandberg
- Fund Raising Chairperson Assistant - Jan Beamon
- Face Book Chairperson - Cathie Bower
- Attendance/Address Book Chairperson - Margaurite Austin
- Secretary - Sheryl Myers
- 2011/12 Project - Cherry Platt

I'm sure we will work together and make a bigger and stronger unit for the Blackhorse.

Our new service project for this year are, Prayer Shawls. It was suggested and unanimously voted upon to help with this project. We will be making and sending

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**We will be making and sending Prayer Shawls to the wives of any of the troopers who were members of the 11thACVVC membership who have passed onto Fiddlers Green.**

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Prayer Shawls to the wives of any of the troopers who were members of the 11thACVVC membership who have passed onto Fiddlers Green. We are also working on a project of possibly making a lap blanket for the men of any Blackhorse Lady who passes. People are needed to help make these. And if you neither crochet, knit or sew, you can still help out in several ways. First by informing me whenever you hear of anyone who may have suffered this great loss or (and very importantly) by contributing a few dollars to help cover the mailing expenses. Remember we have no additional income after reunion. And those funds are used to finance next year fundraiser. But we MUST all help to make this a success.

Some have expressed concern that we will not be able to support or follow through with this project. Let's prove them wrong. So if you can help please contact myself or Cherry ASAP. We have already sent out several and have a few more ready to go.

The cruise was a huge success. Saturday morning, despite the downpour of rain, 80 women and a handful of men headed to the St. Louis docks to board the riverboat Tom Sawyer. Arriving looking rather like a bunch of drowned rats, we boarded and had a group picture taken. The boat no more than left the dock, when the sky parted and the sun came out. Being the only ones on the boat we sure had plenty of room to move about. Everyone seemed to have a glorious time as we drift-

ed lazily down the Missouri River and back again. We all learned more about our host city of St. Louis as we went. I even heard one lady who happened to be from St. Louis, say that 'she never knew that' about something that was said. So educational it was.

This trip led to the discussion of another such outing next year. It was decided that since there was a golf tournament for many of the men of the organization, that we the members of the Ladies Group should hold our own. So we are now working on plans to hold the 1st ever Women's Meeting Golf Tournament. MINI GOLF THAT IS!! Cost and plans are still in the works and will be listed in the women's corner on the Blackhorse website, our NEW face book page and in the Thunder Run as well as an email news letter we are putting together. So keep your eyes open for further details.

Once again our Cookbook had to be delayed for a year. The flooding this year that hit so much of the country, hit the company that produces our book pretty hard. So we now have time to accept more recipes. But please no more cakes, cookies or pies, unless it is something very unusual. What we do need is ones that are sugar free for diabetics and ones that are gluten free. We can also use more finger foods, dips, punches and kitchen tips.

Well, folks this is getting a little long so I had better stop now. I miss you all and hope you are planning to go to Florida for our next get together. Remember to check out our Women's Corner on the Blackhorse web site and visit our Face Book site (Blackhorse (11thACVVC) Women ) soon to read the directions for the project we will be working on IN OUR MEETING next year. And it's always good to hear from each and every one of you.

Always

*Barb Moreno*

## **Membership is Our Strength**

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rd QTR 2011

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	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Blackhorse Belt – One size fits all <i>NEW!</i>	B	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	Lighter, brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	18.00	_____	_____	_____
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	325.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	380.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin <i>NEW!</i>	A	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available) <i>NEW!</i>	C	16.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) <i>NEW!</i>	B	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> dark gray <input type="checkbox"/> gray	B	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	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	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim Shirt or Blue Dress Shirt (Mens) <i>NEW!</i>	B	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, <i>NEW!</i> (6" back), and ACVVC front left	B	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc. _____			_____	_____	_____
			<b>Subtotal</b>			_____
			<b>Shipping and Handling</b>			_____
			<b>Total</b>			_____

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 = \$6.25; C items = \$10.50  
(items totaling over \$75.00 = \$14.20 cost of shipping)

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*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 \$14.20. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

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



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

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 PERMIT NO. 3



## From the Quartermaster...

**Jerry Beamon**

Hello to All Blackhorse Troopers.

I would like to take this time to first of all to say a heartfelt Thank you to all the volunteers, who helped us out at the Reunion. We had a really good turn-out of troopers & their families. Jan and I were glad to have so many 1st Timers. Several troopers came by the QM store & were surprised to see what all that goes on at a Reunion. Like so many of us before them. The comment was "I'll be back next year."

Allen, Steven, and all the rest of our Board did an excellent job in planning and coordinating our reunion in St. Louis. Quartermaster operations went really well.

Again, as we sometimes have to do, we had to do some changes in our Quartermaster items. So please before you fill out your list, check it out real good. Some items have been deleted & some have changed. Sorry but, changes do come. Our T-shirts have changed again: a new one is displayed in the picture page. Along with our

Blackhorse Jackets have a new look. As our cost has gone way up we felt changes were better than charging a higher price for the same things. Requests have been made over the last several years for T's for the GRAND KIDS. So we went about to try this out as a pre order item. Your request was overwhelming, so we thought we would extend this for the last quarter, so some could order them who were unable to attend for Christmas Items.

We have added a line on the order form called "OTHER" if you do not find an item & number fill it in here.

Finally, I would like to say "Later" to a great guy that has for the past 6 years been very helpful in making sure we had a Quartermaster Store in the *Thunder Run* that is second to none. Thanks Jim Griffiths, it has been a pleasure. And I'm looking forward to working with Bill Gregory who is replacing Jim as editor of the *Thunder Run*.

*ALLONS*

### QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

Please fill out your desired clearance & featured items as OTHER on the QM Order form. Fill them in on the describe item line with your choice and fill in the blanks provided for \$ Amt., Size, Qty., and \$ Total.



**#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$32.00**



**#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) \$20.00**