



# Thunder Run

Vol. 33 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2018

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

### Gallantry in action: Humboldt veteran receives Silver Star

Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Wilford “Mike” DeNote stood in full uniform before a room of soldiers, including two of his sons, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, as Brig. Gen. Todd Royar presented him with the Silver Star.

Cassandra Stephenson, Jackson Sun Published 3:02 p.m. CT Sept. 20, 2018 | Updated 3:38 p.m. CT Sept. 26, 2018

*(Editor’s note: Jack Morrison [ACT, 1969] informed me of the following story. Loary & Chuck Coates [ACT, 1970] and Doug Haywood [ACT, 1970-71] also provided valuable input. Knowing that awards presentations ~50 years after the fact are usually driven by political influence, I contacted Doug Haywood, the Platoon Leader of (then) SGT DeNote’s platoon to learn more about the process.*

*We spoke for nearly an hour and I was left with the striking impression of an Officer whose intensity was matched only by his respect and love for his men. Doug contributed a number of stories to the book “Patton’s Boys” by Jack Stoddard and Ed Cook.)*

The third-highest personal decoration for gallantry in action, the Silver Star was awarded to DeNote on Aug. 30, 2018, for his actions in Vietnam nearly 50 years prior. DeNote, a Humboldt resident, maintains he was just doing his job that September day in 1970.

“You kind of put your own [interests] at the back, and you put the others up front,” DeNote said. “That’s just how you work ... we were all just doing our jobs. I am no hero.”



The star pinned on his chest represents a harrowing battle, a life saved and a nearly 10-year-long effort by DeNote and his lieutenant, Douglas Haywood, to get the awards and recognitions applied for during their time of service in Vietnam.

“I’m very proud of the fact that we were able to do it,” Lt. Haywood said.

Both DeNote and Haywood were part of an Aero Rifle Platoon in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment whose primary mission included rescuing air crews and pilots and securing helicopters that had been shot down, Haywood said. The majority of their time was spent flying to locations to patrol and search for enemy activity.

“Essentially, I think we were ... the first people in to look around, and if we made contact, then the regiment could bring other assets in,” Haywood said.

Please turn to **DENOTE** on page 6

### State of the Reunion: 2018

Frank Church Vice President/  
Reunion Chairman

Another year and another very successful reunion has come and gone. I received a lot of positive feedback from those who met in Grand Rapids, Michigan for our 33rd annual event.

I need to recognize all those gave who up a little time to assist me in some of my unglamorous and unseen but absolutely necessary duties. A big “thank you” to Mike Osborne and his Granddaughter Madison Hough, Ollie Pickral, Gus Christian and his wife Sharron and Sara Evans. Especially to my wife Sherri for her support and encouragement and to “Jack” for the calmness he brings to me. Also to all of my fellow troopers for placing their trust in me to be there Vice President and reunion chairman. Also, the Board of Director for their hard work that

**Looking ahead to 2019 we will be in the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino for our 34 reunion. The dates are 8/21/2019 through 8/25 2019.**

makes our reunions envied by other Military Organizations.

Looking ahead to 2019 we will be in the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino for our 34 reunion. The dates are 8/21/2019 through 8/25 2019. The room rates are \$89.00 dollars including resort fee, internet access, cardio room, in room safe and free local calls. These prices are good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion.

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 7





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

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

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# President's Message

**G**reetings from your newly elected President!

I appreciate the support you have given me and the trust you have in me to serve you as your President. I will do my best and with the tremendous support and help I've grown to expect from the members and Officers of the 11th ACVVC, we will continue to be the standard of excellence for Vietnam Veteran unit associations.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to both Allen Hathaway and Steve Page for the great job they've been doing for decades in leadership roles in the 11th ACVVC. We were lucky to have these dedicated professionals as "Blackhorse Troopers" in 'Nam ("Together Then") and 11th ACVVC Officers ("Together Again"). We look forward to seeing them both finally getting to relax at our reunions!

We had almost 1,300 people attend our 33rd annual reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This was our first visit to this state and to Grand Rapids and based on the hundreds of positive comments we received, I expect we may visit the "Beer City" again. The city was a great host and the Amway Grand Plaza hotel and staff were spectacular as was the DeVos Place Convention Center, our venue for the Saturday banquet. Both Frank and I were impressed by the professionalism and attention to detail of Danielle Sidock, the Convention Services Manager at the Amway; thank you Danielle!

We had five offices up for election, an unusual situation due to resignations. The results are posted elsewhere in this issue, but your newly elected Officers are: Frank Church (Vice President), Chaplain Bill Karabinos (Director) and myself as President. Re-elected were Greg Mason (Secretary) and Bob Moreno (Director).

We are fortunate that Frank worked closely with Steve Page in the past few years as his Reunion Assistant; this allowed for a virtually flawless transition for our 2018 reunion. Thank you Frank for a great job!

I've been honored to serve you in numerous capacities over the years

**Our 34th annual Reunion will be held Aug. 21 – 25, 2019 at the Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109. The room rates are \$89 dollars...**

(Secretary for six years and VP for ~12) so this is not my first rodeo, but it is my first time in this saddle. I'll need your help. Wish me well!

We hosted our 27th Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing at Thornapple Pointe Country Club with forty-seven golfers registered. We had our annual Veterans Seminar with speakers from the Grand Rapids Vet Center; Joe Martinez (13 year Army vet, Iraq) and Kristina Krozal gave an interesting and informative presentation. Our Women's Group meeting was very well attended and the trip to the Frederik Meijer Gardens had over one hundred touring! Our Memorial Service was once again a somber and respectful service chaired by Chaplain Karabinos. The Quarter Master Store, hosted by Jan & Jerry Beamon was again a huge success as was our Silent Auction hosted by Joanne & Greg Mason; more info on these events is included later in this issue.

Our Saturday night Banquet featured a welcome from Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor of Grand Rapids, a truly heartfelt speech with three personally narrated vignettes from our Historian, Don Snedeker, an update from Scott Woodward the 68th Colonel of the Blackhorse, presentation of awards and culminated in the "Blackhorse Salute", our spectacular audio-visual program. A great time was had by all!

One "hang-fire" item from the reunion: QM Jerry Beamon still has custom embroidered reunion shirts that were ordered but not picked up at the reunion. If your name follows, please contact Jerry ASAP at jerryrlybea@aol.com or call: 1-903-530-2718; shipping is \$7. Dave Taylor, Ron Slack, Burl Swain, Larry Woellert, Dennis Kelly, John Trujillo, William Stevenson, Ernest Hutchins, Larry Feyers, Don LaFountaine, Thomas Sikora and Roy Curlin.

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We invite all Blackhorse troopers, family and friends to join us at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Sunday, November 11, to honor our fallen comrades as we lay our Blackhorse wreath at the Wall. If you're not able to attend, take a moment wherever you may be and remember our Blackhorse brothers.

Your annual 11th ACVVC calendar should arrive in your mailboxes around Veterans Day. Read more about it later in this issue.

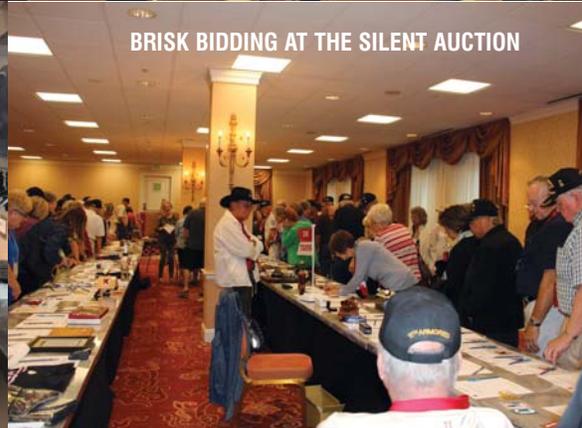
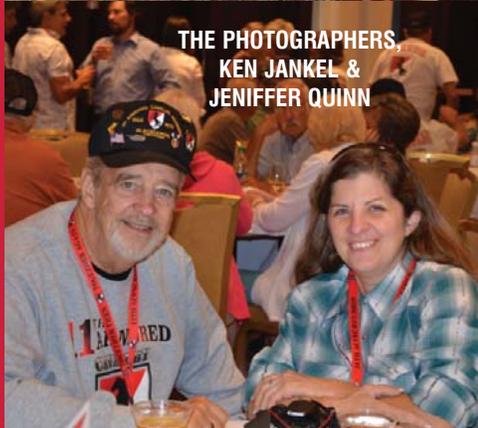
Finally, we your elected Officers value and need your feedback. We need to know:

- What do you enjoy the most about the 11th ACVVC?
- What are we doing right? More importantly, what are we doing wrong?
- What changes do you think we should implement to improve the 11th ACVVC?

This organization would not exist without you, the Blackhorse Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment who served with honor and distinction in Vietnam and Cambodia for 2,040 days. Contact any Officer with your suggestions, comments, etc. We are honored to work for you!

*"ALLONS!"*

# 14th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXIII



# Grand Rapids, MI

MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING



KEN MILLER IN HIS NORMAL LIE



FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE TOUR



GREG MASON, THE "SILENT AUCTIONEER"



WOMENS GROUP MEETING

JOE FRAZINE, MOMGO TROPHY WINNER



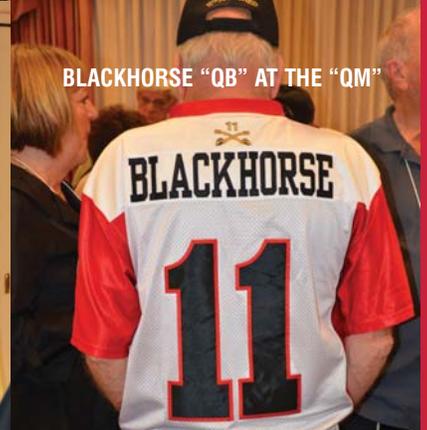
JAN BEAMON & JIM YOUNG AT THE QM STORE



JERRY "QM" BEAMON



BLACKHORSE "QB" AT THE "QM"



VC MEMBERS MEETING



LUNCH



2017 QUILTER AWARD WINNER "OZ" OSBORNE & 2018 WINNER



## DENOTE from page 1

### Gallantry in action

On the morning of Sept. 17, 1970, Haywood's platoon received information that American prisoners of war were being moved between enemy camps.

"We had never gotten a mission like this before," Haywood said, adding that the opportunity to rescue prisoners gave the platoon increased motivation.

The platoon, including DeNote's squad, arrived in the general location of the mission at 9 a.m. They patrolled for approximately five hours, tripping three enemy booby-traps in the process that fortunately failed to deploy, Haywood said.

As they ventured farther into enemy territory, the terrain grew rugged, Haywood said. They encountered several ravines, one of which contained enemy ammunition.

Haywood and DeNote decided they and DeNote's squad would destroy the ammunition while the other three squads returned to the pickup zone where they would be transported out by helicopter.

"Then we heard a loud explosion, which was always not good news," Haywood said. "It was in the direction of where I had sent the remainder of the platoon. I tried to reach somebody on the radio, but I couldn't reach anybody."

One of DeNote's men, on lookout, reported that enemy soldiers were approaching in the ravine. With no contact from the rest of the platoon, they headed

Retired Army Sergeant First Class Wilford "Mike" DeNote holds a Zippo lighter that he carried with him throughout his tour of duty during the Vietnam War. DeNote received a Silver Star on Aug. 30 for his actions during a battle in September 1970. (Photo: Courtesy of the US Army)



for the pickup zone, trailed by enemy soldiers.

The explosion there had left three of their platoon dead and three injured. The rest of the platoon soon found themselves under heavy enemy fire, green Russian tracers whizzing through the air, Haywood said.

"It was a pretty bad scene," Haywood recalled.

DeNote's squad was closest to the enemy and returned fire. DeNote sustained a minor wound as he led his squad in the defense.

The platoon's medical section leader Staff Sgt. John Hamm was injured in the explosion, Haywood said. Hamm suffered injuries to his back and legs, and one of his lungs had been penetrated by shrapnel. But, Haywood said, Hamm crawled to the other injured soldiers and administered aid. Hamm made it to DeNote and began treating his wound, but lost consciousness due to loss of blood.

"Mike picked him up and carried him about another 100 feet to where he could

be evacuated by a medical helicopter," Haywood recalled. "All the while, the enemy's shooting at us, and he exposed himself to a lot of enemy fire. And then he went back and rejoined his squad."

The enemy broke contact with the platoon after about 30 minutes of fighting, and the platoon evacuated, Haywood said. Hamm survived his injuries and DeNote said he has seen him several times since at reunions. Hamm also received a Silver Star for his actions in Vietnam.

"I still feel that I was just doing my job that day, and everybody pulled together, or it could have been a whole lot worse than what it was," DeNote said.

"I mean, that's what we all ... were there for," he said. "For each other. And my unit was a special unit."

DeNote said his 40-man unit was usually maintained at 18 men, because they saw so much contact and regularly sustained injuries and deaths.

"It just made you closer," DeNote said. "And my theory on that is to train your men to the best that they can be, and that helps you get through a lot of situations. That's what I did."

### Recognition of bravery

Haywood began his effort to seek recognition for members of his platoon after he regained contact with them several years later online. He found out that many of his men never received the awards they were submitted for, including DeNote.

"I said, 'I'm going to rectify this,' and that's how we started," Haywood said.

Haywood said it can take a long time to apply for an award like the Silver Star now, because after so much time has passed, proving things becomes more difficult.

## MOVING?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said they had submitted for the decorations while they were still in Vietnam, but the rapid pace of their operations make any sort of follow-up difficult.

"It was so much pressure, and I had already lost three guys, killed in August [1970] and now I had another three guys killed [in September 1970]," Haywood said. He began to experience symptoms of PTSD, he said, including guilt.

"It had a pretty good hold on everybody," Haywood said. "Most of us were thinking, at the rate we were going, we're never going to make it out of here alive. If we keep doing this, pretty soon our number's going to come up."

DeNote said Haywood found out around 2012 that DeNote hadn't received many of the awards and decorations he had been put in for, including the Silver Star. Haywood started pursuing it, working with Army friends and contacts who helped him navigate what he calls the "bureaucratic maze."

DeNote said Haywood going through all that trouble for him was enough for him.

"The thought of him just doing that, because he had to fight an uphill battle, and the thought of him just doing it was great for me," DeNote said. "At least my kids knew. You know, when you're in the Army doing something, you don't think about the awards and decorations. Then, later on in life, everybody looks at you for your awards and decorations ... it seems that way."

DeNote ended up receiving his Silver Star with the help of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand in New York. He had tried to contact Tennessee Sen. Lamar Alexander, he said, but he never received a response. When his award was finalized on May 24, 2018, in Washington, D.C., DeNote said they asked him if he wanted a Tennessee senator to present it to him, and he declined. In lieu of receiving the Silver Star in the mail, he requested that he receive it at Fort Campbell, where his son Jason DeNote is serving as a First Sergeant.

Haywood said he is still trying to work with his men to make sure they are recognized for their actions during the war. Now that he knows the system, he said, he thinks the tedious process will move faster.

"There are a lot of brave men that never got recognized," he said.

Haywood has suffered from PTSD since he returned from the war. He said that American soldiers in Vietnam were sent to war individually and came back individually, making the transition back into civilian life sudden and abrupt.

"They never had their buddies to be with them," he explained. "One day they're in combat, and then maybe two weeks later they're on their own trying to negotiate the flights coming back and going home to wherever they lived."

Haywood said he feels the average soldier in Vietnam does not receive much recognition.

"These kids loved each other," he said. "They would do anything for each other."

As for him, he will continue to work to get them the recognition he says they deserve.

"I owe it to these guys," Haywood said. "I was their platoon leader as an officer, and I loved them."

## REUNION from page 1

The call-in number for reservations at the Westgate is 800-635-7711. Be sure to give them our group code (SACV9R). The web page for the Westgate is <https://book.passkey.com/go/SACV9R>. The physical address is 3000 Paradise Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89109. It is off the strip but has easy access to it.

A possible trip to Ft. Irwin is in the early planning stages, more info will be in the next issue of the Thunder Run. We are also working with the hotel for a local company to have scooters available to rent. Both the Ft. Irwin trip and the scooter rentals would be an additional cost. Please make your hotel and reunion reservations early so we can plan and coordinate these two items and receive the best possible prices.

For the room rate bargain hunters, our rate is guaranteed for the days we will be there. Other hotel room rates are subject to change with out notice.

## 2018 Election Results

Greg Mason

The results of the Board of Directors elections held at the Membership Meeting on September 8, 2018 at the Grand Rapids reunion are as follows:

- Elected for 2 year terms beginning January 1, 2019:
  - President: Peter Walter
  - Secretary: Gregory Mason
- Elected for a 3 year term:
  - Director: Bob Moreno
- Elected for Vice President Unexpired term ending Dec. 31, 2019
  - Frank Church
- Elected for Director Unexpired term ending Dec. 1, 2020
  - Blandin "Bill" Karabinos

### Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

1st Quarter .....Jan 1  
2nd Quarter .....Apr 1  
3rd Quarter .....Jul 1  
4th Quarter .....Oct 1

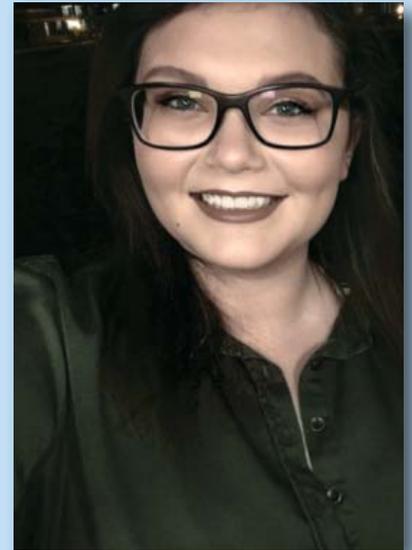
All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060-3721; email [basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net).

# Ashley Smith Wins Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award Scholarship

Ashley Smith is the 2018 Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award Scholarship winner. She is currently a sophomore at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. She is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society and has maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. at Lee University. Ashley has been very involved in extra-curricular and volunteer activities including: a term as her high school Student Body President; runner-up in Miss Georgia Mountain Fair competition; a youth leader at her church; editor of her high school year book; she has participated in numerous food drives and worked in food pantries; helped raise money for leader dog programs; and traveled to Costa Rica on an environmental and community service project.

Ashley is the granddaughter of Grover Smith Jr., who served in Company B, 720th MP battalion which provided Blackhorse Base Camp security during 1967-68. Her uncle, Wade Smith, also served in the 11th ACR during those same years. Another uncle, Lester Smith was a helicopter pilot in the 1st Air Cav. Division. Our Schmidt Scholarship recipient certainly has a great military tradition in her family!

“Receiving the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award is an incredible blessing and ultimately humbling experience, to say the least. I am humbled to know that the courageous veterans who have already sacrificed so much for my country are willing to invest in my future and dreams. This award will serve as a reminder of everyone who is in my corner, rooting for me, and pushing me towards achieving at my highest potential. Through this award, I will continue my education at Lee University where I will major in Communications and grow in my faith as a Lee “Flame.” Once I achieve my goal of obtaining a Digital Media degree, I hope to expand my horizons by field reporting nationally and overseas in the hopes of shining light on the good left in the world. The media can be used to open the eyes of the public to the needs of not only the nations, but also local communities. While there are many things driving me to further my education, nothing persuaded me more than knowing what a positive difference I could make in this world with the talents I have been blessed with. None of this would be possible, though, without the generous contribution of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans.”



Ashley Smith, granddaughter of Grover Smith Jr., 720th MPs, 67-68

## Kathy Tandberg Chosen as Woman of the Year 2018!

Kathy Tandberg of Bismarck, North Dakota was chosen as the recipient of the 16th Annual 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia “Woman of the Year” for her exceptional service to the 11th ACVVC and The Blackhorse Women’s Group. (This award was originally to be presented at the reunion in Grand Rapids, MI, but a communications error resulted in the award not being produced on time.)

Sheryl and Gary Myers traveled from Monument, Colorado to Bismarck to present the award to Kathy in person. Many thanks to Sheryl and Gary and “Congratulations” to Kathy! (Kathy is the wife of Lauren Tandberg, C Trp, 69).



L to R: Sheryl Myers, Kathy Tandberg, Lauren Tandberg

**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:**

**Peter L. Walter  
8 Tallowood Drive  
Westhampton, NJ 08060  
Ph: 609) 261-5629  
[basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net)**

**for listing in  
“Journey to Fiddler’s  
Green.”**



# From the 67th Colonel of the Regiment

**COL Scott Woodward**

**G**reetings to the Best Damn Regiment! The opportunity to be a part of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is a dream come true. I am honored to join the best Troopers the Army has ever seen, past and present, as we train the force to fight and win our nation's wars.

I would like to first thank everyone who came to the Change of Command in June. It is not easy to travel to Ft Irwin and the effort you put forth to welcome our family is representative of your reputation. The sincere notes of encouragement from all the veterans that were unable to attend really humbled me. Your support to YOUR Regiment is what separates us from all others and I cannot wait to meet you all at future events and reunions.

In addition to the Regimental change of command, IRONHORSE, EAGLEHORSE and PACKHORSE all have new Squadron Commander's as well. Even though the Regiment is under new leadership, the Troopers are the ones keeping us all on track with their hard work, enthusiasm, and professionalism.

It was truly an honor to be a part of your reunion in Grand Rapids in

**It was truly an honor to be a part of your reunion in Grand Rapids in September. I am still truly overwhelmed with emotion after spending such a short time with you; you are national treasures!**

September. I am still truly overwhelmed with emotion after spending such a short time with you; you are national treasures! Your camaraderie and loyalty to each other after all these years is remarkable and truly unique, even amongst other military organizations. The Regiment cannot wait to have you out here next summer to give you a tremendous welcome for your 34th reunion.

Your Horse Detachment, led by CPT Steven Kuk and SFC Arturo Baeza, made the Regiment proud during the U.S. Cavalry Association's National Cavalry Competition at Ft Reno, Oklahoma 26-29 SEP. The 11th ACR won the Casimir Pulaski Trophy for Outstanding Military Unit and the Major Howze Unit Mobility Competition. Winning the Howze competition was special in that it's named after the night movement of the 11th Cavalry led by then Major Howze on 4-5 May 1916 during the Punitive Expedition. Major Howze and his unit of 332 officers

and men covered the last 20 miles to the objective area in 2 hours and 45 minutes, in the dark, over a spur of the Sierra Madre Mountains, at the trot. He then launched an immediate, surprise, dawn mounted pistol charge on the Rancho Ojos Azules that is forever memorialized in the Don Stivers print "The Last Charge".

In addition to the team awards, several Troopers earned individual honors in multiple events. Of note, SFC Baeza, the horse detachment NCOIC, was crowned the overall Level 2 National Champion. Congratulations are in order to SFC Baeza and all the Troopers who represented the Regiment with the highest level of distinction in this very competitive event.

Find the Bastards and Pile on!

ALLONS!

*Scott Woodward, COL, 11th ACR*

## 27th Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing

On Thursday, Sep. 6, 2018 at 7:30 A.M. forty-six golfers arrived at Thornapple Pointe Country Club in Grand Rapids to play 18 on an overcast and slightly chilly day. A continental breakfast was served and the duffers headed out to links at 0800 sharp. The weather warmed up as the day wore on and by the end of the round it was a pleasant, early fall Michigan day. The course was in great shape and the golfers enjoyed themselves.

After golf, we all enjoyed a mixed grille buffet of teriyaki chicken breast, sausage & peppers, burgers, salads and desserts. We all paused to remember some of our fellow golfers who have left us in the past year, Paul Graney & John Quinn. Prizes were awarded to the following

- Low Gross Men** – Ab Bagnam, 73 (Grandville, MI)
- Low Net Men** – Joe Frazine, 70 (Muskegon, MI, 1st How Bat 70-71)
- Low Gross Ladies** – Melanie Scheumann, 114 (Decatur, IN)
- Low Net Ladies** – Bonnie Witt, 75 (Muskegon, MI)
- Long Drive Men** – Front 9 – Bobby Ford, (G Trp, 71-72, Dorchester, MA)
- Long Drive Men** – Back 9 – Ken Miller (2nd How Bat., San Jacinto, CA))

**Closest To The Pin Men** – Front 9 – Waldo Hagen (B Trp, 68-69, River Falls, WI)

**Closest To The Pin Men** – Back 9 – Bobby Ford, (G Trp, 71-72, Dorchester, MA)

Special thanks to Ab Bagnam, Dennis Cook, Scott Borniak, Bobby Ford, Waldo Hagen, Melanie Scheumann and Yolanda Gehring, who all returned their prize money to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund or to seed next year's outing!

The staff at Thornapple Pointe was great, especially Sadie! I'd like to recognize the following folks for their donations of time, effort, money, golf clubs, balls, tees, markers, etc.: Dave & Melanie Scheumann, Ken Miller, Yolanda Gehring, Beau Mann, Tom Doll, Rick Belcher and a very special "THANK YOU" to Ed Buening! And finally, my personal thank you to Jennifer Quinn who provided photographic coverage!

We plan to play at Wildhorse Golf Club, 2100 W. Warm Springs Rd., Henderson, NV 89014 on Friday, August 23, 2019. Watch for more info in the 1st qtr, 2019 issue of *Thunder Run*. "FORE!"

Pete Walter, (aka "Mr. Golf")



From the Cambodian border to the South China Sea. Distance from Loc Ninh to Ham Tan: 225 kilometers (near 140 miles) as the crow flies. The 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was spread across South Vietnam in December, 1971. Two of the three field troops as far apart as Detroit is to Grand Rapids or Atlanta is to Augusta.

One week I was bathing in the iron ore stained Song Be River near the Cambodian border and along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and the next I was standing on a gleaming sandy beach on the South China Sea.

Blackhorse chaplains usually visited each field troop and fire base on a set day each week. I broke protocol to stay with G Troop and two Howitzer Batteries on the road march (and caught an ear full) for the few days that took us from the mud flats of FSB Andrews to the northern most point of Vietnam's highway 13 and then east to Bo Duc and the Boi Loi unfriendly woods. One particularly vivid memory is that of LT Jim Machut on his knees. He wasn't just praying, he was probing with his knife for mines. He wasn't about to risk his self-propelled 155's crossing a dangerous stretch. Another memorable experience was jumping into the cooling rust colored waters of the Song Be river to wash off three days of road dust and grime from both my jungle fatigues and then my body. Even in that hostile environment, it was a refreshing swim. The following week, I had a near-tourist like moment along the South China Sea.

F Troop was running security for the Rome Plows engaged in a land clearing operation along the East Coast of South Vietnam. I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw that brilliant beach and that was from the air. Later, after landing at the Troop laager which would become our NDP, a ground level visit made me close my eyes, as the beach was so brilliant in the bright equatorial sun that even my sun glasses were of little help. Along that beach and in the small little hamlet of Ham Tan I was in awe of the calm, beauty and serenity of the entire scene.

I can't help thinking these days, as like most of you, I am daily bombarded by brochures, Facebook ads and unsolicited calls from travel agencies, that those trips; to the Boi Loi Woods and the upper Song Be river, the Michelin rubber plantation and the beaches of Ham Tan would make great tourist destinations.

A lot of our troopers have gone back to re-visit Vietnam. For many it was a good experience; some a melancholy one. But nonetheless, the trip is now an option, not only for Armored Cavalry veterans of that war, but for anyone who can foot the bill. In a stretch, in a strange sort of a way, there are places in Vietnam that have been made hallowed ground — sprinkled with the blood of our Vietnam veterans and those American servicemen and women who didn't come home. Those who have gone back, family members of our KIA's and other Americans who have grown up with a sense of pride in our history, heritage, culture and the moral values this country has striven to preserve throughout its history, believe a return trip to Vietnam a near sacred pilgrimage.

**The sadness, poverty, destruction and fear we were surrounded with on our road marches have faded away. Now, should we make the same trips, it would be with luster, smiles, joy and a sense of opulence.**

Like Gettysburg, where over 150 years after the battle, thousands still visit as it is hallowed ground. I know that when I do, my walk between the monuments is as a walk between the headstones of Arlington Cemetery. I speak in a hushed whisper and am oblivious to surrounding sounds. Gettysburg is hallowed ground, where every one who fought there or died there was an *American*.

I can't precisely describe a visit to such scared ground, few of us can. But a man who fought there and who also nearly died from his wounds twice, in that great civil war, does it well. General Joshua Chamberlain said: *"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass: bodies disappear; but spirits linger .... And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that we know not of ... [are] ... drawn to see where ... great things were suffered and done for them ..."*

In time physical characteristics change. Cities and towns we grew up in have changed in the last fifty years. So too, the people. The adults you knew and respected in your youth have mostly passed on, now the kids you grew up with all look like them. Even peoples' values change as do the things they hold dear. Only it seems, does our memory persevere. When we road marched up Hwy 13 some 48 or 50 years ago, all we saw was the sad sight of that country. Poor people, kids begging for candy, hustlers trying to sell us gold chains or their sisters, and even "Pharmaceuticals."

The sadness, poverty, destruction and fear we were surrounded with on our road marches have faded away. Now, should we make the same trips, it would be with luster, smiles, joy and a sense of opulence.

Reflecting back, it is scary. Beauty overshadowed by fear. Loveliness hidden in squalor, Trust dissolved in anger. Joy buried by hatred. Those values we once were willing to fight and die for, now mocked, disrespected and belittled. I don't have to give examples, you are all adults and know what I'm talking about. You all have experienced it.

At our reunion in Grand Rapids, I was startled by a sudden change just as our banquet program started. I could barely hear myself think as 1300 filed in, looking for a seat at a table, for their buddies or family members, slapping hands or backs or clicking glasses. And then suddenly, and immediately the entire din ended when President Pete Walter asked us to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was a lighting strike in reverse, from a din of 90 decibels to zero in a light-year second. That moment: as common to us, as simple and repetitive, would be a revelation to the media circus world we now live in. That VALUE of respect for God, Country, Flag, ... our fellow troopers, family, home and each other is growing too rare. Some even trying to make it pass away.

I have been happy and joyous in a land that you, your fathers, and their fathers, and all the generation of military servicemen have secured for us. I love who I am and where I am and where I can go to see America the beautiful. As accomplished musician and rough throat-ed singer, Louie Armstrong sang in 1968:

*“I see friends shaking hands ...saying: ‘how do you do.’ They’re really saying ... I love you.” I hear babies cry, I watch them grow ... they’ll learn much more, than I’ll ever know.”* We can’t let our joy, so comfortable for us, our families, those around us be disturbed by hatred.

We are still soldiers who can fight back, not with guns and bullets now, but with a sense of pride in who we are and what we have done; accomplishments that let us smile, perform random acts of kindness and a grant us a determination to ... make someone happy.

## Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2018 Reunion Recap

### Elections:

**President** - Pete Walter, elected for 2 year term beginning January 1, 2019

**Vice President** - Frank Church, elected for unexpired term ending December 31, 2019

**Secretary** - Gregory Mason, elected for 2 year term beginning January 1, 2019

**Director** - Bob Moreno, elected for a 3 year term, beginning January 1, 2019

**Director** - Blandin “Bill” Karabinos Elected for unexpired term ending December 1, 2020

### 2020 Reunion Site:

JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, August 26 – 29, 2020

### Annual Awards:

**Trooper of the Year:** Greg Mason, HHT, 3/11 ACR, 1968-69

**Quilter Award:** Ray Majewski, C Troop, 1966-67

**Woman of the Year:** Kathy Tandberg

**Lifetime Achievement Award, President Emeritus:** Allen Hathaway

**Lifetime Achievement Award, Reunion Chairman Extraordinaire:** Steve Page

### Volunteers:

**Reunion Chairmen:** Frank Church & Steve Page

**The Board:** Allen Hathaway, Pete Walter, Greg Mason, Ollie Pickral, Steve Page, Mike Rafferty, Bob Moreno

**Registration:** Barb & Bob Moreno, Sherri Church, Vince Sinervo

**Quarter Master Store:** Jan & Jerry Beamon, Jim & Vanessa Young, Jerry & Pat Mitchell, Dave & Phyllis Ballard, Tom & Beverly Patten, Sue Reese, Concetta Cioffi

**Memorial Service:** Chaplain Bill Karabinos

**Silent Auction:** Greg & Joanne Mason, Fred Droski, Joe and Yolanda Gehring, Paul and Teresa Gissable, Ron and Janet Krueger, Sara Evans, Terry and Tom Morrison, Russell Nelson, Fred Sheetz and Ann and Steven Wright

**Internet Coordinator:** Otis Carey, Paul Gruber, Bob Kickenweitz

**Golf Outing:** Ken Miller, Joe Wetmore, Pete Walter, Jennifer Quinn

**Reunion Photography:** Jennifer Quinn & Ken Jankel

**Women’s Group Coordinators:** Kathy Tandberg, Sheryl Myers

### Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to document and standardize the 11th ACVVC reunion registration cutoff dates.

Effective with the 2017 reunion, and all future reunions, the cutoff date for registration will be twenty-eight (28) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.

The cutoff date for the 34th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion in Las Vegas, NV will be July 24, 2019. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to the sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

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

### 2018 11 ACVVC Raffle Winners

**1st Place Winner** \$500 .....Melissa Recht

**2nd Place Winner** \$400 .....Dennis Emery

**3rd Place Winner** \$300.....Louis Gray

**4th Place Winner** \$200.....Ron Dixon

**5th – 15th Place Winners** \$100 each:

- William Moore – donated winnings to Scholarship Fund
- Mrs. E. Tinney
- Bob Moreno
- Verion Bishop
- Ronnie Newman
- Paul Bilovus
- Lynnette Smith
- Don Morin
- James Bland
- Kenneth Hoke
- Michael Greenawalt

# In Memory of Senator John McCain

Eulogy by Grant Woods, August 30, 2018

I was 28 years old, and I had only been a public defender, a few years out of law school. For some reason John McCain asked me to be his chief of staff when he got elected.

So on my first day at 7 a.m., John McCain picked me up at my house. I went to the car and I said, “Well, do you want me to drive?” He says, “No, no, I’m going to drive.” So I said, “Well, maybe I can sit in the back seat. I’m no expert on this, but I thought the staff drove.” He says, “No, get in the car, boy, get in the car.” For the next half-hour we talked about the football game the day before, whatever was in the news, politics and told a few jokes. At the same time it was really a lot of fun, and also quite terrifying because of his ridiculously bad driving.

He would get excited — he drove like this anyway, and then he would get excited and start drifting off — like, hello over there? So we finally got where we were going, and I said, “Oh, hey, by the way, what are we doing?” He said, “Oh, I hired the whole staff and I want you to meet them.”

OK, that is good. So we met the staff and then we went back to the car. We got in the car and all the staff came out and they were all waving and things and I said, “Well, they seem to be very nice.”

He says, “Oh, you’re going to have to fire half of them.” I said, “What are you talking about?”

He just sped off. The staff was waving. About one minute later, we went right back by — because he had gone the wrong way, of course — waved again. And I just say that two hours epitomized the next 35 years for me with John McCain.

It was a little harrowing, little wild, little crazy. But a lot of fun, and the greatest honor of my life.

I have people ask me all the time, did you ever know in the early years, did you have a feeling you had someone so special there? My answer is, yes, absolutely, no question about it.

And I’ll tell you the first time, it was in December over in my hometown of Mesa, Arizona. We were at a Rotary Club, and I think it was all men at that time. And you

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**There were some cowboys, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and they were crying. Because they saw in John McCain a little bit of what they hoped to see in themselves. They saw in John McCain the embodiment of values that they hoped to see for their country.**

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know, these are tough guys, kind of cynical about things, and here is this new guy in town. And one of them asked him, since it was December, what about Christmas in prison? And he told them a couple of stories. He told them about one night when he was interrogated for quite a while long time and it did not go well for his captors. They were upset with him, and so they tied him up and tied the ropes tight, and it was very painful, and they left him there for the night.

And some guard came in who he did not know, had never spoken to. And at 10 p.m., the guard walked in and loosened the ropes. And about 4 a.m., the guard came back and tightened them up again so he wouldn’t get in trouble. And John did not know why that happened.

But he found out a little clue a couple of weeks later, right before Christmas, when he was standing in the dirt yard and that guard just walked up next to him. That guard did not say a word, but with his sandal, he drew a cross in the dirt. And they looked at it for a minute, and then the guard rubbed it out and went on his way.

And it was quiet in that room when John told that. And then he said, you know, on Christmas Eve, we celebrated. And we got together under this bare light bulb and we sang Christmas carols, and we quoted Bible verses that we could remember. And we told the Gospel story to each other.

And I guess just that image of this band of brothers together in this godforsaken place, singing to each other, and there at the front, our guy, John McCain, beaten up but not down, singing his favorite Christmas carol. “Silent night, holy night, It is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy infant, so tender and mild.”

The words seemed so far away from that place, but they leaned on the faith of their fathers and their faith in each other, and their faith in their country...and their faith in God.

I looked out into that audience there in my hometown. Those were some of my peers and the peers of my parents. Those were tough, independent guys. They were ranchers and farmers. There were some cowboys, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and they were crying. Because they saw in John McCain a little bit of what they hoped to see in themselves. They saw in John McCain the embodiment of values that they hoped to see for their country.

Over the next few months and years, John got to know this place. And he fell in love with Arizona. He loved the people, our diversity, our Native American community, our Hispanic culture, and he loved the place, in particular, the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River. We floated down that twice together, and then he kept going back and back. He loved it. He hiked the canyon with Jack, not so long ago, rim to rim. He loved Sedona. He loved this place.

And if John McCain fell in love with Arizona, Arizona fell in love with John McCain.

We ran a lot of races here, a lot of elections. He never lost, never really very close. Arizona loved him. We had one little blip one time when he ran for the Senate the first time. He called me on the phone and goes, “Well, boy, I think I might have screwed up.” I go, what? He said, “I was talking to these students at U of A and they said, how come you are the only politician that comes down here? They only go to the retirement places.” “He said well, that’s because you guys don’t vote. The other dudes vote like 100 percent, you know. So if you want people to come down here, you need to vote like they vote out in Seizure World.” I said, “You didn’t say that, did you? Because there is this big retirement community called Leisure World in the East Valley and they weren’t real happy with their new nickname. So John said, like he always does, “OK, I screwed up, let’s go. We’ve got to go out there.”

So we went out and I remember, we drove in, and there was about a 90-year-old guy in a golf cart right there giving us the finger. And little did he know, we both said, that's great. We loved that. And John was like, "Hey, good to see you, good to see you, thank you." So he went in and he said, "Sorry about that" and went to work. And guess what? I think he won that about 85-15 in that election in that precinct.

So we are going to miss so many things about him here in our state...his leadership here on these important issues.

We are going to miss his sense of humor. We're going to miss his love of sports.

He loved the teams, all of our teams. And when I say love them, I mean love them, non-stop. He loved you guys, Fitz and Gonzo and Shane. He really did. Not a coincidence. He didn't become friends with just the best players but with the best people. And he loved you guys.

But we also worry here in Arizona about the bigger picture. And I hope that what he stood for will maybe get a renewed look in

our country. That is what he would want. He would want us to — OK, we recognize him now, but now, let's get to work. And I'm sure the vice president will talk about John and bipartisanship, but he believed so much that in the end, when it's all said and done, this Republican-Democrat thing is not that important.

We are all Americans and we have to get to the point where we can work together as Americans.

His support of the military...I hope you members of Congress will keep that strong. It was so important that he had their backs.

And one other thing...John McCain believed in our Constitution, and he stood up for it. He fought for it every step of the way. So he would not stand by as people tried to trample the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment.

And do you know what? He believed in the Declaration of Independence, when we proclaim to the world that every single human being is important, every single human being is precious, every single person

in this world has the right to live free not because the government says so, but because God gave us that right.

So John McCain, his entire life, stood by freedom fighters across the world. He was there, figuratively and literally, by their side wherever they were, acknowledging their right to live free.

It's a long and winding road that took him from that dirt yard in Hanoi to the dirt back roads of Hidden Valley. But through it all he was resolute, he was courageous every step of the way. And in Arizona, he was our hero.

I think you can see from this outpouring of support and love for John McCain that he was America's hero.

Senator John McCain from Arizona...he served his country with honor. He fought the good fight. He finished the race. He kept the faith.

(Makes cross on the floor in front of the lectern.) Now my friend, we can finish the song. "Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace." Amen.

## **2019 ACVVC Reunion**

# **From the Reunion Registration Chairman...**

*Bob Moreno, Director*

Our 2018 Blackhorse reunion has now come and gone and it's time to turn to our planning for our 2019 reunion in Las Vegas, Nv.

Upon looking back and wrapping things up, I can honestly say, what a great time we had in Grand Rapids, MI! I would like to thank the hotel staff for everything they did to make this reunion a great success. I'm sure they will not forget us for a while.

Before getting into a few other ideas/suggestions for next year I do want to take this time to thank all those who had anything to do with the planning and execution of putting on this reunion. Without your help it would not be what was.

Now for next year - as soon as you see the registration form appearing on the web site or in the Thunder Run, fill it out and get it ready to either mail to Ollie or fill it out on the web site. Even if you are not sure you will be able to attend or even want to attend register anyway, you can always file a cancellation and request a refund. Now would also be a good time to set up your hotel room

too. Get it all done at once. Whatever way you choose to handle it, be sure to watch out for the cut off date for registration and for the hotel.

When you fill out your 11th ACVVC registration form be sure to fill in all the information to include: Name, address (labels are great for this part), unit you were with (this is who you will be eating with at the banquet), and the dates you served in Nam. Next would come the section where you list who is attending with you. When you list those attending, if one of your guests does not live with you please place the city and state where they do live behind their name. I will put this info on their name tag. However, all your guests will be listed with your city and state on the web site. This will help keep you all together on the web site list. If you see something misspelled, please let me know and I will fix it. You can call me (ph.# 608-372-5892) or e-mail me (gtroopbob@gmail.com)

As for name tags, these MUST always be worn! So, when you arrive at the hotel and get checked into your room, come find the

11th Cav registration desk and check in with us and pick up your name tags and meal tickets. If there is any other important information that you must need then we should have it there. No one will be admitted to the banquet without a name tag. So, don't forget it.

We also had 7 service dogs there this year. If you are attending next year and you bring yours, please include their name on the list (no charge for them) and we will have a "special" name tag for them.

Well folks I know this is short this month, but Barb and I are once again on the road but this time not for a fun time. Unfortunately, her brother in law passed away suddenly so we had to pack up and come to Greencastle Pennsylvania.

So, in the next issue we will enlighten you with some of the adventures Barb and I had when we left Grand Rapids.

Until then, ALLONS .

Robert (Bob) Moreno  
G Troop 2/11th 68-69  
11th ACVVC Board of Directors,  
Registration Chairman

# Meet the Officers of the 11th ACVVC

## Chaplain Bill Karabinos, Board of Directors

Blandin (Bill) Karabinos was born in Pittsburgh (1937), graduating from Central Catholic High School (1955), St. Francis University (1960) and Seminary. He was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1964. After seven years of teaching, preaching, parish work and serving as a hospital chaplain, Bill entered the U.S. Army at age 33 in 1970. Serving first at Fort Knox as chaplain for the 194th Armored Brigade and the Armor School (BG George Patton, IV), he arrived in Vietnam in October of 1971, where he served as a “muddy boots” chaplain of the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment until it stood down at the end of March, 1972. He then “walked” as Chaplain with the Gary Owen Task Force, 1st of the 7th Cavalry and “flew” with the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division until they left for CONUS in August, 1972. His final two months in Vietnam was with ASE III Command (MG Hollingsworth).

Returning to CONUS, he was assigned to 3rd Army HQ at Fort McPherson, GA as it was transitioning to Forces Command. Discharged in October of 1973, he was assigned to Franciscan University in Steubenville until he was granted a leave of absence and a dispensation from priestly duties in 1975.



Chaplain Karabinos, 1971



Chaplain Karabinos, 2018

Bill married Mary Sharon Grover in April of 1975 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Atlanta and their son Michael was born in 1977. Bill had a distinguished career with the IRS both in Atlanta and at the National Office in Washington, DC. His positions included: International Training Officer, Public Affairs Officer for the Task Force that established the Electronic Filing System, Labor Relations Liaison (Collection Analyst of the Year, 1990), and then with the Office of Chief Counsel as Training Officer. In 1993 he created an ABA approved graduate program for government attorneys, that was expanded both nationally and on an inter-agency basis via a satellite network. Bill was awarded the Albert Gallatin Award for his exemplary service with the United States

Treasury Department in 1998. He retired from Federal Service and moved to the Williamsburg, Virginia area in 1999.

Besides his Federal service, he was also active in parish, diocesan and community programs especially in Scouting. In 1990, Bill co-chaired with retired Supreme Court Chief Justice, Warren Burger, a new program for Scouts with Disabilities in the DC metropolitan region.

He has been a life member of the 11th ACVVC and ever present (since 1998) at the Blackhorse veterans gathering at “The Wall” on Memorial and Veterans Days and at the Wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns each February 2nd, to acknowledge the birthday of the Regiment.

## Breakfast with Friends – and 48 years later...

### “Together Then – Together Again”

“A breakfast was held in Middleton, Wisconsin on Aug 23rd, with all these Troopers from Dane County, Wisconsin. Next coffee/breakfast is going to be Oct 4th. Need to have it early in the month as two troopers are leaving for Florida that month. The rest of us will brave the good old cold Wisconsin Winter.

There is a story with this picture - while over in Nam, I received a ‘Letter of Commendation’ from the CO (CPT Henry Simon) of How Btry 1/11 for great work, in working with his men (I was their Finance Clerk). He passed it thru channels and I received it and did not pay much attention to it, until I got home. 48 years later I found out that Henry Simon lived close to where I was working, called him and we had breakfast- only 48 years later, did I get a chance to thank him. He’s sitting to my left in the picture.”

Lee Nelson, HHT, 1/11 ACR, 68-69 (Madison, WI)



From left, Will Strycker Regt. 67-68, Lee Nelson HHT 1/11. 68-69, Henry Simon How Btry 1/11. 68-69, James VanMatre Regt. 68-69, James Blechner. 398th Trans. 69-70, Perry McMahan. How Btry 2/11. 70-71, Ed Diederich. HHT 2/11. 67-67

# Airman who inspired 'Good Morning, Vietnam' film has died

Updated: July 19, 2018 — 5:36 PM EDT by BEN FINLEY, The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - Adrian Cronauer, the man whose military radio antics inspired a character played by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam," has died. He was 79.

Mary Muse, the wife of his stepson Michael Muse, said Thursday that Cronauer died Wednesday from an age-related illness. He had lived in Troutville, Virginia, and died at a local nursing home, she said.

During his service as a U.S. Air Force sergeant in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, Cronauer opened his Armed Forces Radio show with the phrase, "Gooooood morning, Vietnam!"

Williams made the refrain famous in the 1987 film, loosely based on Cronauer's time in Saigon.

The film was a departure from other Vietnam war movies that focused on bloody realism, such as the Academy Award-winning "Platoon." Instead, it was about irreverent youth in the 1960s fighting the military establishment.

"We were the only game in town, and you had to play by our rules," Cronauer told The Associated Press in 1987. "But I wanted to serve the listeners."

The military wanted conservative programming. American youths, however, were "not into drab, sterile announcements" with middle-of-the-road music, Cronauer said, and the battle over the airwaves was joined.

In the film, Williams quickly drops Perry Como and Lawrence Welk from his 6 a.m. playlist in favor of the Dave Clark Five.

Cronauer said he loved the movie but much of it was Hollywood make-believe. Robin Williams' portrayal as a fast-talking, nonconformist, yuk-it-up disc jockey sometimes gave people the wrong impression of

the man who inspired the film.

"Yes, I did try to make it sound more like a stateside station," he told The AP in 1989. "Yes, I did have problems with news censorship. Yes, I was in a restaurant shortly before the Viet Cong hit it. And yes, I did start each program by yelling, 'Good Morning, Vietnam!'"

The rest is what he delicately called "good script crafting."

**"I always was a bit of an iconoclast, as Robin (Williams) was in the film," Cronauer told the AP in 1999. "But I was not anti-military, or anti-establishment. I was anti-stupidity. And you certainly do run into a lot of stupidity in the military."**

When the film was released, the presidential campaign of Democrat Jesse Jackson called asking if Cronauer would help out. The conversation died quickly after Cronauer asked the caller if she realized he was a Republican.

In 1992, George H. W. Bush's re-election campaign taped a TV ad slamming Bill Clinton's draft record. In the ad, Cronauer accused Clinton of lying.

"In many ways, I'm a very conservative guy," he said. "A lifelong, card-carrying Republican can't be that much of an anti-establishment type."

Cronauer was from Pittsburgh, the son of a steelworker and a schoolteacher. After the

military, he worked in radio, television and advertising.

In 1979, Cronauer saw the film "Apocalypse Now" with his friend Ben Moses, who also served in Vietnam and worked at the Saigon radio station.

"We said that's not our story of Vietnam," Moses recalled Thursday. "And we made a deal over a beer that we were going to have a movie called 'Good Morning, Vietnam.'"

It wasn't easy. Hollywood producers were incensed at the idea of a comedy about Vietnam, said Moses, who co-produced the film.

"I said 'It's not a comedy - it's the sugar on top of the medicine,'" Moses said.

Writer Mitch Markowitz made the film funny, and director Barry Levinson added the tragic-comedy aspect, Moses said. Williams' performance was nominated for an Oscar.

Moses said the film was a pivotal moment in changing the way Americans thought about the Vietnamese and the war.

Muse, the wife of Cronauer's stepson, said the movie "helped open dialogue and discussion that had long been avoided."

"He loved the servicemen and service-women all over the world and always made time to personally engage with them," she said.

She added that he was "a loving and devoted husband to his late wife Jeane (as well as a) father, grandfather and great-grandfather."

Cronauer attended the University of Pennsylvania's law school and went into the legal profession, working in communications law and later handling prisoner-of-war issues for the Pentagon.



Adrian Cronauer



**Membership is Our Strength**

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



# The 2018 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

Thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction and a special thanks to all those who donated items. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 240 items were donated this year generating \$10,351 in gross receipts for the Scholarship Fund. This amount is equivalent to almost 3 ½ scholarships at \$3,000 each. Many of the items had a military or 11th Cavalry theme, which are always popular. We also had a number of hand crafted items and to those who made these items a very special thanks as many of them were ones that had the highest bids. We hope you will continue to make and donate these items.

A special thanks to Fred Droski, Joe and Yolanda Gehring, Paul and Teresa Gissable, Ron and Janet Krueger, Joanne Mason, Sara Evans, Terry and Tom Morrison, Russell Nelson, Fred Sheetz and Ann and Steven Wright for help in collecting, organizing, tagging items, setting up and monitoring the Silent Auction. Thanks to Bob Moreno and his staff for receiving items in our absence and for assistance at the end of the auction in processing credit card payments. All of these folks helped make the auction a success.

The following is the list of donors for our Silent Auction, many who donated more than one item. Start thinking of items that may be donated for next year's reunion!

- Anonymous (9 items)
- Patrick & Susan Arble (3 items)
- Brooks Atwood (1 item)
- David & Linda Bailey (3 items)
- Michael Bloese (2 items)
- Morris Boyett (3 items)
- Mark Bredwell (2 items)
- Ervin Brune (3 items)
- Jenny Brune (1 item)
- Jack Burns (2 item)
- Jack Campione (6 items)
- Frank Church (2 items)
- Dee Cofty (1 item)
- Rodger Cook (3 items)
- Ralph Cox (1 item)
- Dennis Creal (1 item)
- Randy Czaplewski (2 items)
- Sharon Dimberg (1 item)
- 1st Sgt Embrey (2 items)
- Patricia England (1 item)
- Howell Epperly (1 item)
- John Filbert (1 item)
- Joseph Ford (1 item)
- Sharon Fox (1 item)
- Stan Frisbey (4 items)
- Paul & Teresa Gissible (4 items)
- Michael Henschel (2 items)
- Deb Herndon (13 items)
- Dennis Jancart (2 items)
- Blandon Karabinos (2 items)
- Brenda Kathman (1 item)
- Jean Kauppi (2 items)
- George King (1 item)
- Robert & LuAnn Klink (1 item)
- Ron Krueger (1 item)
- Richard Kuhr (1 item)
- Ted Kujawa (1 item)
- Don LaFontaine (1 item)
- Robert Lambdin (2 items)
- Dale & Patricia Leesmann (1 item)
- Craig Luke (1 item)
- Isabelle Marosek (1 item)
- Greg Mason (4 items)
- Robin McCarthy (1 item)
- Wayne Mollhoff (6 items)
- Bob, Barb and Raleigh Moreno (8 items)
- Henry Morris (2 items)
- Jack Morrison (8 items)
- Charles & Terri Morrison (4 items)
- Jim Moses (3 items)
- John & Lois Mulrath (1 item)
- Kenneth Nelson (2 items)
- Marc Newkom (1 item)
- Dale O'Dell (3 items)
- Robert Oracz (2 items)
- Stephen Page (2 items)
- Bill Pion (4 items)
- Quartermaster Store (2 items)
- Jennifer Quinn (32 items)
- Mike Rafferty (2 items)
- Margaret Ray (1 item)
- Marla Reynolds (2 items)
- Curt Rich (8 items)
- Joy Rodas (3 items)
- Homer Rusteburg (4 items)
- James Scahill (1 item)
- Carl Schisler (2 items)
- Clayton Scholz (1 item)
- Wanda Schumann (5 items)
- Jerry Self (1 items)
- Vincent Sinervo (6 items)
- James Smith (2 items)
- Nick Soehnlén (1 item)
- David Solid (1 item)
- Roger Sonnenberg (2 items)
- Dave Sullivan (1 item)
- Harold Sutton (1 item)
- Steve Thomas (5 items)
- Andy Trabanco (2 items)
- Russ Verbeke (1 item)
- Dennis & Patricia Weachter (5 items)
- Steve Wherley (2 items)
- Eddie Wood (1 item)
- Steve & Ann Wright (1 item)

## Military Order of the Purple Heart Elects Blackhorse Trooper Nat'l Judge Advocate

The 86th Annual Convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the 85th National Convention of the MOPH Auxiliary concluded Aug 3 in Spokane, Washington with the election of new Officers for the upcoming year.

Our own Auditor, William "Bill" Suhre, Esq., CPA, of Greeley, Colorado was elected National Judge Advocate for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Bill served as a 1st Lt, Platoon Leader on I-26, I Troop, 2/11 ACR in 1968. He is a recipient of the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star and CIB and



**Bill Suhre (5th from the left) is sworn in as National Judge Advocate, MOPH.**

is a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC. Congratulations Bill!

# 2019 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

*Pete Walter, 11th ACVVC President*

The first of our 2019 Scholarship fundraising efforts will be in your mailboxes in November. The 11th ACVVC 2019 Calendar will again feature 12 new photos submitted by you the members of the legendary Blackhorse Regiment! We thank all who have sent in photos for consideration. The calendar contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam with the photographs documenting many of our daily activities. Based on your comments and incredible generosity it appears the 2018 calendar was well received by our members.

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 costs 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 this 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 and grand-children of 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.

Your donations to the 2018 calendar appeal generated over \$77,367 and the total amount of scholarship money awarded is now \$1,563,000!

For the 2019 calendar appeal I have one goal: increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Historically we have 24% of our members donating to this annual appeal. Frankly, I am disappointed at this low number. Over 97% of our members have committed themselves to this organization as Life Members, so it is puzzling to me that only 24 out of 100 support the calendar. If anyone now receiving the calendar does not wish to receive it in the future, please notify me or Allen Hathaway. Printing and mailing costs continue to rise and we can

Your donations to the 2018 calendar appeal generated over \$77,367 and the total amount of scholarship money awarded is now \$1,563,000!

reduce costs by not mailing the calendar to anyone who does not want one. If any member has a suggestion as to how we can increase participation in this project, please contact me or any Officer.

A limited number of extra calendars will be available while they last. Instructions on how to order extra copies are included with your calendar. Watch for your calendar in the mail around Veteran's Day then use the convenient enclosed envelope to return your donation. Every donation helps, regardless of the amount.

I also ask our members to submit any photographs you have from Vietnam to be considered for publication. Preferred format is a color print, but negatives and slides are also accepted as are digital scans at a minimum of 300 dpi. Clear photos of interesting activities and/or group photos are the most suitable for quality reproduction. As always, "Thank you!" to those who have submitted photos in the past.

We thank you in advance for your generous support!

## 11th ACVVC Calendar



# 2019

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

The 11th U.S. Cavalry was formed on February 2, 1901 at Ft. Myer, Virginia. In December it was assigned to duty in the Philippines where, in 1902, the 1st Squadron would earn the first of the Regiment's many battle streamers, "Samar 1902."

In the Mexican Expedition of 1916-17, the 2nd Squadron engaged Pancho Villa's men on May 5, 1916 at Ojo Azules, Mexico, killing forty-two enemies in the last mounted cavalry charge in U.S. History.

The Blackhorse Regiment would see action in World War II where it earned five more battle streamers, but the Regiment's finest performance would be in the Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Blackhorse Troopers served there for 2,040 days and earned eleven battle streamers.

From December of 2004 to January 22, 2006, the Blackhorse deployed to Iraq earning the Regiment's most recent battle streamer for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq in January 2006, and has once again assumed the challenging task of training America's Army in the desert environment of Fort Irwin, California. Although the primary mission is preparing units for deployment to the war in Iraq, our Regiment is simultaneously training intensely to remain the best Regiment in the United States Army! During the recent deployment fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom III," the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.

←

**Philippine Insurrection**  
Samar 1902

**Mexican Expedition**  
Mexico 1916-17

**World War II**  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

**Vietnam**  
Counteroffensive Phase II  
Counteroffensive Phase III

→

Tet Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive Phase IV  
Counteroffensive Phase V  
Counteroffensive Phase VI  
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive  
Summer-Fall 1969  
Winter-Spring 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive Phase VII

**Operation Desert Storm**  
Southwest Asia Cease Fire

**Operation Iraqi Freedom**  
Iraqi Governance 2004-2005



# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

## Our 2018 Scholarship Winners

Since the inception of the 11th ACVVC scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 486 college scholarships totaling \$1,563,000! **This total includes the 89 scholarships totaling \$269,000 we were able to award this year!** Our 2018 scholarship winners submitted outstanding applications and are well-deserving of their awards. A listing of our scholarship recipient's names, sponsor's names and KIA dedications can be found in this issue of *Thunder Run*. You can view most of the recipient's photos and their feelings about receiving a scholarship on our website (11thcavnam.com). Unfortunately, because of the large number of scholarship winners, we are not able to publish all their photos and notes of appreciation in our newsletter.

This year grandchildren were eligible to apply and 87 of the 89 scholarship winners were grandchildren of our members. In fact, I received a total of 164 applications of which 161 were from grandchildren and only three were from children of our members. 113 applications were from females and 51 from males. Most of the applicants fell into the 18-20-year-old age range.

Each year one applicant is selected to receive the **Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award**. This year's winner is Ashley Smith, granddaughter of Grover Smith Jr. (720th MPs, 67-68). She was selected for this award by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow. Congratulations Ashley on this well-deserved honor!

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship is ded-

In 2019, children and grandchildren of deceased life members of the 11th ACVVC will be eligible to apply for a scholarship for the first time.

icated 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. Next of kin were notified their loved one was being honored whenever possible. We received several thank you notes from next of kin who were very appreciative their loved one was honored and remembered in this manner. **To date, 274 of our brothers who died in Vietnam or Cambodia have been honored!**

In 2019, children and grandchildren of deceased life members of the 11th ACVVC will be eligible to apply for a scholarship for the first time.

The fact we have been able to help so many children and grandchildren of our members attain their educational goals over the past twenty years 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. Thank you so much for your outstanding generosity!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS			SPONSORS			KIA DEDICATIONS			
Andersen	Josie	Renae	Richard Steedly	How 3/11	70-71	Matush	Thomas	E	A Trp
Anthony	Katherine	Malynn	Alan Murphy	27th Engr.	66-67	Darden	Otis	J	Air Cav
Antich	Tyler	Conrad	Robert Carlson	Air Cav	68-69	Elliott	Phillip	A	B Trp
Bachler	Jessica	Ann	David Bachler	M Co	68-69	Haynes	Bobby	G	C Trp
Bias	Maranda	Jo	Babe Halstead	A Trp	68-69	Shaffer	Victor	T	D Co
Bleshenski	Branda	M	John Ivey	D Co	67-68	Hash	Johathan	P	E Trp
Bloch	Taylor	Nicole	William de Manincor	HHT 3/11	67-68	Deering	Gale	E	F Trp
Boles	Sage	Madison	Ken Jankel	B Trp	66-67	Arneson	Keith	S	G Trp
Burrows	Lonna	Marie	Robert Keefer	How 3/11	67-68	Gregory	Robert	A	H Co
Cannaday	Carly	Grace	Larry Locke	B Trp	67-68	Martinez	Donald	L	HHT 1/11
Carnal	Jessica		James Carnal	L Trp	66-67	Russell III	Charles	M	HHT 2/11
Clabbers	Emily	Elizabeth	Richard Crabbs	B Trp	67-68	Rogers	Charles	L	HHT 3/11
Coupe	Abigail	L.	Monte Murdock	398 Trans	67-69	Russ	James	E	HOW 1/11
DeLong	Rebecca	Lynn	Robert DeLong	C Trp	70-71	Tynes	Reginald	B	HOW 3/11
Dowling	Molly	Mae	Richard McQueen	F Trp	66-67	Crane	William	R	I Trp
Droddy	Kaylene	Renee	Brenner Sayers	D Co	67-68	Jackson	Darrell	A	K Trp
Duncan	Hunter	Leigh	Steven Duncan	919 Eng.	67-68	Jobe	Bobby	W	L Trp
Dutcher	Bailey	A.	Russell L. Halley	C Trp	KIA 11/66	Halley	Russell	L	C Trp
Dykes	Ryan	William	James Powell	G Trp	70-71	Cleveland	Albert	F	919th Eng
England	Kendra	Joan	Billy England	HHT Regt	70-71	Moulden	John	E	919th Eng
Epler	Kaitlyn	N.	Robert Sobolewski	919 Eng.	69-71	Burton	Harry	P	A Trp
Faucett	Ashley	Lynn	Jack Faucett Jr.	37th Med	71-72	Cutler	Richard	A	A Trp
Gibbons	Shannon	L.	Lawrence Gibbons	3/11 ACR	68-69	Foreman Jr.	Robert		A Trp
Gokey	Teaghan	Patrick	Paul Kelliher	398 Trans	69-70	Medina	Carlos		A Trp
Gunderman	Leah	Jordan	George Gunderman	C Trp	66-67	Evans Jr.	Thomas	J	Air Cav
Hall	Nicholas	A.	Robert Sussman	A Trp	67-68	Hodgson	Douglas	R	Air Cav

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

**SPONSORS**

**KIA DEDICATIONS**

Hargrove	Macy	Jo	Stanley Hargrove	E Trp	68-69	Jensen	Kenneth	V	Air Cav
Harnick	Jenna	Marie	Gregory Harnick	B Trp	67-68	Scott	Roger	L	Air Cav
Heithoff	Chase	James	Kenneth Heithoff	F Trp	68-69	Pounds	Ronnie	L	F Trp
Hendry	Makayla	C.	Thomas Brody	HHT 2/11	67-68	Brumley	Johnny	E	B Trp
Highman	Alexis	Shae	Daryl Highman	HHT 3/11	67-68	Cusson	Thomas	L	B Trp
Hinegardner	Madison	Lea	Gary Coates	K Trp	68-69	Graham	Joseph	H	B Trp
Holcek	Kathryn	J	Everett Roper Jr.	HHT Regt	70-71	Wilson	Rob	A	M Co
Holmes	Kayli	Marie	Ronald Struble	I Trp	68-69	Kidd	Peter	A	B Trp
Hough	Madison	Hailey	Michael Osborne	G Trp	69-70	Long	Earl	W	B Trp
Ivey	Kendall	Elizabeth	Jeffrey Jeter	C Trp	67-68	Washington	Thomas	M	B Trp
Jeans	Abigail	Rose	William Jeans	HHT 2/11	66-67	Rhodes	Jimmy	L	C Trp
Jones	Kathryn	Marie	Robert Kickenweitz	HHT Regt	66-67	Tolbert	Dale	W	C Trp
Joslin	Dakota	James	Irving Gall	I Trp	66-67	Loftus	Raymond	S	D Co
Justice	Gabrielle	M	Babe Halstead	A Trp	68-69	Cunningham	David	C	E Trp
Justice	Kaylee	Alexis	Babe Halstead	A Trp	68-69	Hoover	Thomas	L	E Trp
Keels	Jacob	Wyatt	Quintin Goodner	How 3/11	67-68	Roe	Timothy	R	E Trp
Kent	Hannah	Louise	Randy Bodo	B Trp	68-69	Whalen	Michael	J	E Trp
Kohrmann	Ashleigh	Ann	Walker Malone	HHT Regt	67-70	Curl	Robert	G	F Trp
L'Etoile	Kimberly	K	Roger L'Etoile	F Trp	66-67	Ignacio	Roy	J	F Trp
Lohrmann	Abby	E.	Curtis Lohrmann	HHT 2/11	68-69	Orr	George	J	F Trp
Manley	Ann	Marie	Clyde Manley	G Trp	67-68	Stahl	Edward	A	F Trp
Matthews	Hailey	Rose	Donald Jacobson	HHT 3/11	69-70	Crawford	Lawrence	B	G Trp
McAlister	Lauren	B.	Stephen Page	B Trp	66-67	Phelps	Herbert	L	G Trp
McCarthy	Lauren	A.G.	Daniel Jaime	HHT Regt	69-70	Rice	Donald	J	G Trp
McGrath	Mae	Justine	Edward Tinney	Atrp	69-70	Tuttle	James	W	G Trp
Meersman	Victoria	Kathleen	Robert Yeager	HHT Regt	69-69	Tice	Jimmie	R	H Co
Mertens	Cassidy	Jewel	John Clayton	G Trp	69-69	Bair	Robert	V	HHT 1/11
Mitchell	Natalie	Danielle	Jerry Mitchell	I Trp	67-68	Quintero	Jose	H	HHT 2/11
Montalbano	Alexandria	L.	Frank Montalbano	L Trp	66-67	Cole	Richard	W	HHT 3/11
Moore	Haley	Nicole	Larry Fralix	K Trp	69-70	Russell	Fred	C	HOW 1/11
Morrissey	Matthew	Joseph	Matthew Morrissey	HHT 2/11	68-69	Campa	John	E.	HOW 3/11
Mowrey	Chad	Benjamin	Dale Price	HHT 3/11	67-68	Montana	Harold	L	I Trp
Nixon	Kristy	Marie	Charles Schmidt	I Trp	67-68	Ruffin	James	J	I Trp
Nixon	Jacob	Charles	Charles Schmidt	I Trp	67-68	Sparks	John	W	I Trp
Olejniczak	Madalyn	Leah	David Hynes	G Trp	68-69	West	Daniel	F	I Trp
Paul	Brianna	Nycole	Mack Paul	H Co	66-67	Howley Jr.	Wesley	C	K trp
Perotti	Devin	Alexander	Michael Dohme	G Trp	69-70	Landers	Blaine	W	K trp
Rapp	Cassidy	E.	Dennis Rapp	K Trp	67-68	Owens	James	E	K trp
Rodas	Alana	G.	Roger Karels	L Trp	68-68	Saenz	Rodolfo	A	K trp
Romeo	Michael	Frederick	Paul Ionnides	How 3/11	66-67	Stephens	Gerald	W	K trp
Roser	William	Valentine	Farl Grundy Jr.	K Trp	70-71	Williamson	Larry	A	K trp
Roser	Julianne	V.	Farl Grundy Jr.	K Trp	70-71	Coen	Roger	L	L Trp
Roser	Megan	Marie	Farl Grundy Jr.	K Trp	70-71	Dawson	Lawrence	M	L Trp
Ruggles	Alita	Rey	George Ruggles	How 3/11	66-67	Oakley	James	R	L Trp
Ryan	Taylor	Ann	James Ryan	B Trp	68-69	Sanderson	Sander	C	L Trp
Sattler	Callie	N.	Harry Williams	L Trp	69-70	Schutz	Richard	J	L Trp
Schroeder	Peyton	E.	Daniel Werner	HHT 3/11	70-71	Gillis	Gary	W	M Co
Smith	Ashley	Michael	Grover Smith Jr.	720th MP	67-68	Schmidt	Award	Winner	N/A
Smith	Nathan	Dawn	Dale Smith	37th Med	71-71	Messick	James	A	M Co
Smith	Kaelea	T.	Benton Conner	HOW 1/11	66-67	Young	Clarence	C	M Co
Smith	Wilson	M	Danny Vancel	I Trp	68-69	Dillon	William	J	919th Eng
Tinsley	Jacquelyn	Ann	Jack Tinsley	Air Cav	69-68	Thompson	Robert	J	919th Eng
Townsend	Sierra	E.	Eddie Wadlington Jr	C Trp	67-68	Cunningham	Donnie	L	A Trp
Triano	Elaine	J.	Francis Triano	E Trp	69-69	Hodge	Kenneth	R	A Trp
Tucker	Christopher	G.	Paul Foley	HHT 2/11	71-72	Lamb Jr.	Donald	C	E Trp
VanderVorst	Alli	James	Billy Sartor	B Trp	70-71	Wade	Robert	M	E Trp
Van Gorder	Zachary	Nicole	Gary Donn	C Trp	69-70	Johnson	Lane	C	F Trp
Voellinger	Erin	Michael	Robert Wiskur	M Co	67-68	McKenzie	Edward	A	F Trp
Walker	Braden	Leigh	James Walker	I Trp	69-70	Shepherd	Ronald	D	F Trp
Wanosky	Gillian	A.	James Bland	E Trp	68-69	Eaton	Tommy	R	G Trp
Yunker	Isabel	Christine	James Yunker	HHT 3/11	66-67	Shaver	Clinton	W	G Trp
Zaiontz	Abigail	J.	Lee Zaiontz	D Co	66-70	Bainter	Neal	V	HHT 2/11
Zeller	Rionna		Larry Zeller		67-68	Scott	Ronald		HHT 2/11



## Grand Rapids Women's Annual Meeting

Brothers bonded, old friendships renewed, and new friendships formed – the love was felt and heart-warming memories were made at the 33rd Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC which was held September 5-9 in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

As you moved through the reunion hotel, laughter and smiles were evident. It was a celebration yet there were times of sadness, and tears of remembrance and farewells for those brothers who weren't able to be there, those who passed on to Fiddlers Green.

So many things to tell you, so many people to thank, not enough room here for all but let's begin the news of the Blackhorse Women's activities.

Luncheon and Tour: First of all, thank you to all who attended Friday afternoon's luncheon and tour! As you know, this is not a profit-making event. It's simply something fun to do as a group whenever the reunion is in a city where there is something affordable for us to do together.

We filled two large buses to capacity with 112 people for this event. The luncheon tour was held at the world renowned Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Ranked in the top 100 most-visited art museums worldwide, everyone had smiles on their faces and the many comments I heard from our group then and for the remainder of the reunion was that the 158-acre main campus did indeed have something for everyone, both indoors and out.

**Less Business, More Fun as Promised:** Thank you to those of you who attended the Saturday morning Women's Meeting. We began with the business portion of the meeting.

As discussed at the San Antonio meeting, the women's board (Renee Majors, Sheryl Myers, Marguerite Austin, Cherry Platt, Jan Beamon, Cathi Bowers and myself) came through with our promise to skim down the business

portion of the meeting. We hope you heard enough of our organization's efforts and fundraising purposes.

After our business meeting we moved on to the fun of making Blackhorse bracelets! I'm excited to report that 146 women were in attendance to make the silver, red and crystal beaded bracelets!

A special thank you to all of you who joined us! It was heartwarming to see everyone working together, laughing and enjoying each other's company. It was also wonderful to watch everyone help each other, especially those who also helped women who were unable to do this activity on their own.

Lastly, a super thank you goes out to board member Cherry Platt, who donated all of the beads and materials need to make the bracelets! That's material for more than 150 bracelets! Cherry, you are a gem!

**Next Year Las Vegas 2019:** While we've come a long way in the past five years, we are still a work in progress. One of the tasks we spoke about but haven't yet begun is creating a short newsletter to email in between the Thunder Run publications.

We had planned to get it started last year and it got to the wayside. It's still on our list and we have a volunteer to help us with that. Hopefully she will still do it for us. Laurie, we'll be in touch.

Women, if you have a new email address in the past year, or never gave us your email address, please send it to me at the information below. Then we can get you on an email list for the future newsletter.

If you have any ideas for the board to consider, please share it by emailing it to any of the Women's Board (addresses found on [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)). Follow [links](#) under Messages/Blackhorse Women's News. It's easier for us to check ideas out

before the annual reunions and then present those to the membership that are do-able.

Please understand that while you may have a great idea to present, not all ideas are financially feasible for a group of women like ours from all 50 states. I wish we all had blank checks for our ideas, but everyone has different financial situations and we need to think of the group as a whole.

For the 34th annual reunion that will be held in 2019 at Las Vegas, we are working on locating a speaker for our Saturday morning Women's Meeting. We have a couple speakers in mind, so watch for that update next spring.

**Our Main Projects, 'Why We Fundraise:** We fundraise by offering lanyards for a small suggested donation; occasionally we may offer a second item. The funds are never used for our women's group enjoyment. They aren't used for luncheons or coffee for the meetings.

We presently have two very important projects that we raise funds for: The Prayer Shawl Project and Wreaths Across America. We are looking into the validity of another project and that information will be forthcoming at a later date.

**Prayer Shawl Project:** Chaired by board member Cherry Platt, more than 400 prayer shawls have been mailed to family/spouses of 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia since the project began in the fall of 2011.

Cherry often hears requests from friends of a Blackhorse veteran who died before the fall of 2011. Please understand that each Blackhorse death is important to honor. However, we are unable to go back and send a prayer shawl for those countless Troopers who died before the Women's Project began.

The process for a Prayer Shawl begins with notification of a death to the 11th ACVVC organization. Once the organization is notified, President Pete

Walter notifies Cherry of the loss that has a surviving significant other. We verify losses with an obituary as well. However, some veterans are alone without family and we have no one to send a shawl to.

Anyone interested in helping with project, or wants more information about it can contact Cherry by email at fredplatt@att.net or call at 770-445-7534 for information.

**Wreaths Across America:** Each December, the Blackhorse Women's Group donates raised funds for the annual Wreaths Across America project that places wreaths at cemeteries. Because we all reside in locations nationwide, we chose to begin with the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

We donate funds for 21 wreaths. You may wonder why 21? This number is representative of the 21 Blackhorse Troopers who were Killed in Action in Vietnam and Cambodia, who are buried at Arlington. While we can't specify graves to receive a wreath, thousands of wreaths are laid at Arlington and we know our 21 will honor a military death.

While we can't furnish wreaths for each of the 730 Blackhorse Troopers Killed in Action in Vietnam/Cambodia who have been laid to rest across our nation, we are looking at a way to do more.

We now have funds that enable us to add additional wreaths for more of the 730 KIA Blackhorse Troopers. We are

reaching out to you for help in this.

It's a fact that not all 730 KIA are buried in national cemeteries. While some are, others are in family cemeteries, or hometown/home state cemeteries. Our hope is to eventually lay a wreath on each grave perhaps in a rotation each year.

If you are a family member of a 11th Armored Cavalry Trooper killed in Vietnam/Cambodia, or an 11th ACVVC trooper that lives near one of the 730 KIA, please contact me at the email below to discuss what we can do for that Trooper's grave.

I also have a list of where each KIA grave is located by cemetery and state. This information is also located on the 11thACVVC website (11thcavnam.com) under Fiddler's Green. For those not computer friendly, I have this list scanned and would be happy to email a copy of it to you. Contact me at *kathy.z.tandberg@yahoo.com* or by phone 701-870-6868 and leave a message if no answer.

**Last But Not Least:** Now I come to the end of my long article, and also to the end of my run as co-coordinator of the Blackhorse Women's Group.

After five years as coordinator, it's time for me to pass the hat on to someone else. New blood is always good for a volunteer group. Renee Majors, who assisted me as co-coordinator, agreed to step down with me so a new team can begin.

Renee will continue as a voting

board member in the position of secretary. I was planning to be out totally, but I was encouraged to continue as fundraising coordinator, and I agreed due to my years of experience.

My news was unexpected news to the great board of women I work with and others, but it was time. When the Women's Group began to reorganize after the 2013 reunion, I agreed to the position as long as we did it as a board and for a short time.

That time turned into five years. We created a great board that worked together with one purpose and that's the motto of the Blackhorse Women's Group - "We are family, friends and supporters who stand with the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia." When possible, we offer a little diversion to you while your Trooper enjoys additional time with his brothers in arms.

With the six other wonderful board members who have become family, the Women's Group began to grow and continues to do so because of you, Blackhorse family and friends. I love you my friends!

Please welcome Sheryl Myers (Gary Myers, L Troop) and her teammate Lajaunda Williams (Harry Williams, L Troop) as your new coordinators. Sheryl can be reached at *sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com* and I know this team and board will continue to do a great job for you.

This isn't goodbye, I'll see you later!

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

Donor Levels: Platinum Level \$500+ Gold Level \$100-\$499 Silver Level \$50-\$99 Bronze Level \$1-\$49

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

General Fund	Silver Level	Scholarship Fund	Silver Level	Calendar Fund	Zimmerman, Jim
<b>Gold Level</b>	Rankin, William Sandor, John Tallent, James	<b>Platinum Level</b>	Alverson, Ernest Ingram, Glendon	<b>Gold Level</b>	<b>Bronze Level</b>
Anderson, David Brewington, Richard Gillins, Alfonso Terry, Wesley Urre, Bernardo	<b>Bronze Level</b>	Andres, Brad Schmidt, Bonnie	<b>Bronze Level</b>	Escobar, Gabriel In Honor of, Carlos Medina Johnson, Gene Krkovich, Reginald Noetzel, Al Rasmussen, Ralph Tomchick, James	Brill, Grey Carabetta, John Fisher, Carlos Flick, Walter Hufnagel, Richard Keller, Linda Laite, Allan Orozco, Joseph
	McGann, Tim Richards, Charles	<b>Gold Level</b>	Kastner, Gregory Wathen, Bob		
		Bishop, Verlon Carr, Mark Cartwright, Wavely Tucker, Terry			

# ACVVC Raffle Donations

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Riley, Johnny	Scholz, C.	Smith, Willard	Tomsheck, Mark	Walters, R.	Zimmerman, Winn
Ritter, Jim	Schoonmaker, Tracey	Solis, Francis	Tonks, Glenn	Washington, Ben	
Roberts, Bruce	Schreck, D.	Sorich, John	Torno, Charles	Welmon, Harry	

# 11th ACVVC Plans to Visit Fort Irwin in 2019!

(Possible revision of the Regimental crest?!)



Troopers, families and friends, in conjunction with our 34th Annual Reunion at the Westgate Resort & Casino (Aug 21 – 25) we are planning a bus trip to visit the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Irwin on Thursday, Aug. 22. Colonel Scott Woodward (68th COL of the Blackhorse) assumed command of the 11th ACR on June 28, 2018 and has quickly established a strong working relationship with the 11th ACVVC, attending our reunion in Grand Rapids accompanied by SGM Jon Otero. COL Woodward and SGM Otero arrived on Friday and enjoyed meeting with Troopers and their families in the “Bunker”. On Saturday COL Woodward addressed our attendees at our banquet, provided an update on the Regiment’s activities serving as the OPFOR (Opposing Force) at the National Training Center in the high Mojave Desert of California. We last visited Ft. Irwin in 2014 and the reception we received was captured on film in the photo below.

The details are being worked out, but timing is expected to be similar to 2014:

Depart Westgate .....~0700.

Arrive Ft. Irwin .....~1000.  
 Tour Ft Irwin, visit w/ 11th ACR. ....1000 – 1600  
 Depart Ft. Irwin .....~1600.  
 Arrive Westgate Resort .....~1900.  
 Watch *Thunder Run* for details and/or check the website:  
[11thcavnam.com](http://11thcavnam.com)

## Regimental Crest

Additionally, at the Saturday Banquet COL Woodward announced his intention to suggest a revision to the Institute of Heraldry to include an image on the Regimental Crest reflecting the 11th ACR’s service in Vietnam. His statements were received by the 11th ACVVC with rousing applause! It is my intent to learn what we can do to support this effort in any way. Again, watch *Thunder Run* or our website for details.

“ALLONS!”

*Pete Walter, President  
 11th ACVVC*



# 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. Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)

**Joseph F. Buser**, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 9, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brewster, NY. He was laid to rest in Westbrookville Cemetery, Wurstboro, NY.

**Richard C. Cole**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1968) passed away on September 5, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Franklin, NY. He was laid to rest in Milford Cemetery, Milford, NY.

**Charles W. Creason**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 1, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Denton, MD. He was laid to rest in Eastern Short Veterans Cemetery, Hurlock, MD.

**James L. Dennis**, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away in October 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wichita Falls, TX.

**Joseph D. Dias**, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 17, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulalip, WA. He was laid to rest in Mission Beach Cemetery, Tulalip, WA.

**Steven D. Garnett**, HHT REGT (1968-1968) passed away in October 2000. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elkhart, IN.

**Bernard Gorberg**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1970) passed away on September 13, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lancaster, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

**William R. Goree**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 9, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Las Vegas, NV. He was laid to rest in Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City, NV.

**Paul M. Graney**, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 15, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oxford, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.

**Curt D. Hanes**, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 13, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Creswell, OR.

**Raymond C. Heil**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 8, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Georgetown, IN.

**John T. Horner**, 37th Medical Company (1967-1968) passed away on November 4, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carlsbad, NM.

**James A. Jarrett**, 398th Transportation Detachment (1967-1969) passed away on

August 17, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mount Vernon, OH. He was laid to rest in Mound View Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Knox County, OH.

**Bruce L. Johnson**, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1967) passed away on August 31, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Forest Lake, MN. He was laid to rest in Scandinavian Cemetery, Forest Lake, MN.

**Donald E. Keller**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 12, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Creston, IA. He was laid to rest in Graceland Cemetery, Creston, IA.

**Robert J. Klumpp**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 4, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pinconning, MI. He was laid to rest in Fraser Township Cemetery, Pinconning, MI.

**Lawrence D. Kotke**, HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on March 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tampa, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

**Edward R. Kriston**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 12, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Westminster, MD. He was laid to rest in Druid Ridge Cemetery, Pikesville, MD.

**James W. Kuhlmann**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 5, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Midlothian, IL. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Leesburg, FL.

**Keith W. Lape**, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1970) passed away on July 26, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Syracuse, NY. He was laid to rest in Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Syracuse, NY.

**George A. Lesslie**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 28, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Murrells Inlet, SC. He was laid to rest in BG William C Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ.

**Larry R. Locke**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 7, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Troup, TX.

**Vincent J. Loscalzo**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 27, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Astoria, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.

**Robert E. Marshall**, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Le Roy, IL. He was laid to rest in Afton Center Cemetery, De Kalb, IL.

**Julian D. "Bubba" McCormick**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 15, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, MO.

**Richard M. Miller, E Troop**, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 15, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hubbard, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.

**John P. Monaghan**, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 3, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Radcliff, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

**Johnny W. Morelock**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Telford, TN. He was laid to rest in Telford Cemetery, Telford, TN.

**Paul D. Moreno**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on February 25, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Austin, TX.

**John E. Napier**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Defiance, OH.

**John W. Shelburne**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 21, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Boones Mill, VA. He was laid to rest in Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, VA.

**Dalton F. Southern**, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Paso, TX. He was laid to rest in Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, Ft. Bliss, TX. Dalton is also a veteran of Desert Storm.

**Anthony D. Spera**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 29, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sacramento, CA.

**David C. Taylor**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 23, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Springfield, MO. He was laid to rest in Marshfield Cemetery, Marshfield, MO.

**James Williams**, H Company, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 19, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Houma, LA.

**John S. Wojtysiak**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 10, 2002. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palos Hills, IL.

# 14th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXIII

...Continued from page 5

## Grand Rapids, MI



MEMORIES



THE MAP



GERRI & STEVE PAGE



MISSING MAN TABLE,  
RUSS SANFORD  
LIGHTING CANDLE



C TROOP



BLACKHORSE SALUTE



OLLIE PICKRAL, BOB MORENO, SGM OTERO,  
COL WOODWARD



FRANK & SHERRI CHURCH



BLACKHORSE "OUTTA HERE!"

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

## *Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian*

The Civilians. In the spring of 1917, the Troopers of the 11th United States Cavalry had just returned from their arduous 11-month long expedition to catch Pancho Villa and his band of outlaws. The border town of El Paso, Texas, was a welcome sight after countless hours spent in the saddle under a blazing sun and through blinding snow storms. Within weeks of their return, the American Red Cross (ARC) was organizing Saturday night open houses for the young cavalymen far from home. Beverages (non-alcoholic, of course), food, entertainment (the regimental band), and, most importantly, ladies from the local community were awaiting them at the Red Cross Soldiers' Club.

Fifty years later, the Red Cross was still looking after Blackhorse Troopers. Among the few civilians that the men of the 11th Cav encountered in Vietnam, those at the Red Cross Field Office were among the most helpful. These were the men and women who were the bearers alternately of good or bad news. They told new fathers of the birth of their new babies; they also were the ones who let you know that someone back in The World had passed away. John Kneufener, the Assistant Field Director, spent seven months with Blackhorse Troopers at Fort Meade, then sailed aboard the USNS Sultan, handing out paperback books, assisting with emergency loans, and providing family counseling at sea.

Joe Leatherwood was the first ARC Field Director in country. By 1967, Joe and John were assisted by four clubmobile girls – known universally as Donut Dollies. In the early 21st century, such a name might appear demeaning, degrading even; it wasn't meant that way in the 1960s (or during WWII and Korea), and the college-educated women who answered their Nation's call by volunteering for assignment to Vietnam didn't take it that way either.

For the sum of about \$5,000 a year, they clearly weren't in it for the money. As Dee Dee Drosnes told her parents: "Rats are all that bug me—otherwise I enjoy my job tremendously and so do all the other girls I have met in Vietnam." Verna Caruthers left her teaching position with the Red Cross in early 1968 when her students started getting drafted and sent to Vietnam. "My students had no choice, but I did, so I went."

At Christmas time, Joe, John, and the women passed out ditty bags, filled with goodies from The World (in this case, donated by the good citizens of Chillicothe, Missouri), to the Blackhorse Troopers. The round-eyed Red Cross ladies would accompany the cooks to the field on holidays and serve the turkey, stuffing, and gravy out of marmite cans to the Troopers whose mission required them to be in the bush. The Adjutant reported that after the Donut Dollies arrived at the base camp, the morale "of combat and support units has improved by a marked degree."

Red Cross workers – like Donald Ducette and David Peake in mid-1969 – did more than pass messages and ditty bags. For those who lost a parent or needed money for an unexpected emergency, they were there. "Our only purpose for being here at Blackhorse is to help the 11th Cav Troopers," David Peake told a reporter. "We

do this by speedy arrangement of emergency leaves, emergency loans, and other morale building services." An example of how well they did their job occurred in late 1971. Joseph Becker was notified on the morning of 23 December that his father was in the hospital after suffering a heart attack. He was by his father's side in Hanover Hospital near their home in Gettysburg by noon the following day.

Ruth Neher – known at Blackhorse as 'Donut Dolly 6' – spent five and one-half months of her life with the Troopers at Long Giao in 1967 and 1968, about twice as long as she had signed up to do (Tet '68 got in the way of her normal rotation). She already had four months in country (in the "beautiful" highlands) when she arrived at Long Giao in early November 1967. "When the chopper circled to land at Blackhorse, I nearly cried," Ruth remembers. "What a sight! I was horrified by the thick red dust and the primitive conditions."

Ruth's memories include creating a recipe for cherry-flavored olive drab bug juice; red dust; riding in the gunner's seat in a tank back from a field location ("the last thing I remember before the hatch slammed shut was a trooper screaming that I was not to touch anything"); repeated showings of the movie "Green River" ("forwards, backwards, and with reels out of order") when the 'new' movie didn't make the flight from Bien Hoa; accompanying a "slender Santa" to an orphanage, then to the 7th Surgical Hospital on Christmas Eve; and attending the memorial service for 1Lt. Carl Harris before going on R&R.

Forty years later, she recalled her job description. "Our job was to improve morale, to talk, to laugh, to listen ... We were the older sisters, the sympathetic ear for guys with girlfriend trouble, we kidded, we nagged, and we talked you all into participating in our games! You called us Show and Tell, and Kukla Fran and Ollie, and 'Ma'am.'"

Kathy Ormond served at Blackhorse and with the Big Red One in 1968-69. She thought what she was doing was so important that she extended her one-year tour for an additional three months. In the days before she boarded the Freedom Bird, she took to wearing sunglasses to hide her tears. "I felt like a traitor for leaving." She tells anyone who asks: "It was the best thing I ever did with my life."

Dianne 'Dee Dee' Drosnes had more time in East Asia than most of the Blackhorse Troopers she supported in 1969. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1964, she "really couldn't find a job. In those days," she reflects, "women were hired as secretaries." So she volunteered to be a Recreation Director at Army Special Services clubs. She started out in South Korea between January 1966 and April 1967. After a year living at home and working as a social worker in Pittsburgh, she grew restless. She raised her hand once again, and the Army gave her four choices: Germany, Italy, France, or Vietnam. She picked Vietnam. As she told the 17th Public Information Detachment's Fred Hupp, she "wanted to marry Aristotle Onassis, but he married Jackie, so I came to Vietnam as a Special Services Director instead."

During her second tour in East Asia, she worked consecutively at Vung Tau (“beautiful”), Tay Ninh (“we were rocketed all the time”), and Long Binh (“civilized”). Special Services SOP was for the women to stay only a short time in any one place - four to six months on average. “They didn’t want us to get too attached, either to the local nationals who worked in the service clubs, or to the military guys.”

About the time she was coming up on the end of her second one-year tour, Dianne learned about the new service club planned for Blackhorse. For about two months while the club was being built, Dianne was the only non-South Vietnamese woman on the base camp (the 7th Surgical Hospital nurses had departed the previous year). It was tough, but, with 14-months in country, Dianne Drosnes was a miracle worker. She recalls: “You could get anything for San Miguel beer ... I traded a pallet of San Miguel beer one time for a jeep.”

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and Dianne grabbed it. “It was the biggest, most gorgeous Service Club in all of Vietnam. It was a labor of love, built by the Corps of Engineers in their off-duty hours ... It was huge. It was the equivalent of a two-story building. It had anything and everything you can imagine in it.”

“Anything and everything” included a pool room with four or five tables, a separate ping-pong room, music room, TV room, and quiet room; cassette recorders for making tapes to send home, a library, photo lab, craft shop (woodworking, jewelry, and leather), snack bar, and an indoor handball court. The new club operated every day from about nine in the morning to ten at night. The Special Services women served a lot of food – homemade donuts, popcorn, sandwiches, and soft drinks, all at no cost to the Troopers.

The engineers outdid themselves. The new club was the only facility on the base camp with flush toilets; Dianne remembers Troopers coming into the club just to flush the toilets “because it reminded them of home.”

But the grandeur of the club was not her only motivation. “I’m really kind of sweet on the men of the Blackhorse.” That’s what made it so heartbreaking when one month after it opened, the club closed and, along with the rest of Blackhorse Base Camp, was turned over to the South Vietnamese Army. “It was the saddest day ...” Dianne Drosnes whispers four decades later. “I left. I could not bear to see it shut down.”

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



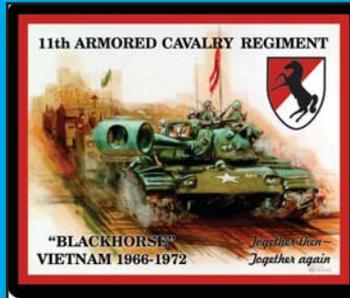
#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$5.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#9 Cavalry Hat, Black or Brown \$225.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



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



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$8.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



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



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#12 Key Ring \$8.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



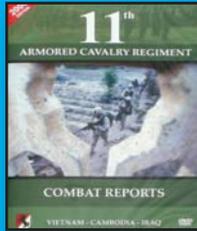
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



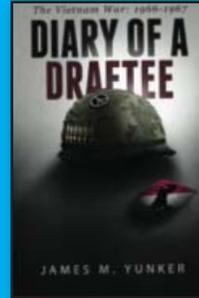
#26 Large Magnetic Patch (8" x 7 3/4") \$7.00



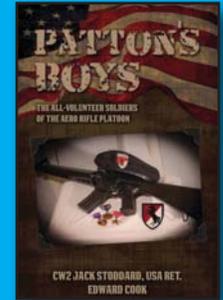
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



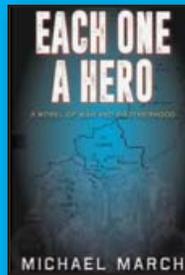
#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00



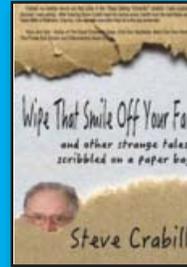
#22 Gear Bag, camouflage \$45.00



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

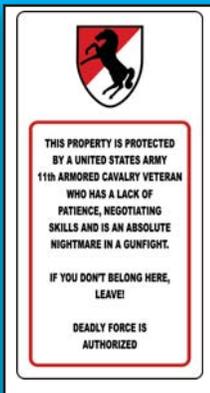
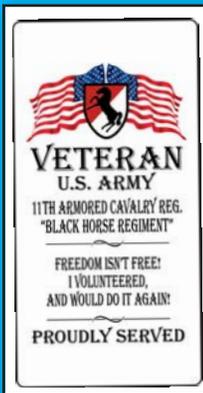


#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00



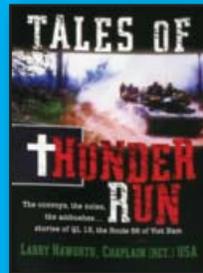
#27 Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00

#34a

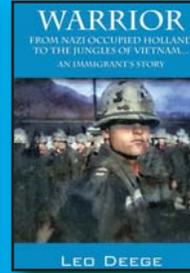


#34b

#34 Signs \$25.00



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



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$15.00



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



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



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

#30 Car Flag \$25.00



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



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



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all my Blackhorse Troopers!

We are getting back into a normal routine again, after another Great Reunion in Grand Rapids. If you missed it we're sorry you could not be there. It was really a great time being together again. Our members saw a change of leadership; First, the retiring of a Great President Allen Hathaway, and our Great Reunion Director Steven Page... both guys will be missed. Our new President is Pete Walter and Reunion Director is Frank Church...both men will do a great job for us.

Would like to thank every one for helping us empty out the Quartermaster Saturday afternoon. All last minute buyers thank you...we left with very little merchandise. And our helpers who helped us to pack up and move out. But most of all to our Helpers...we could not have been such a success without your help. Everyone was so greatly appreciated. Thank you all so much each and every one.

Okay, onto the order forms: Guys please make sure you fill out the bottom of the order form...it is very important we have your Name Address phone number and your e-mail address just because its on the front of the envelope doesn't always mean the addresses are the same. Without this info your order will be delayed...until we get the correct info we need to mail your order. Also please check the shipping for the order without shipping your order may be delayed as well.

Onto some more fun and fellowship: Well anyone in the East Texas area you are Welcome to come join us in May for our East Texas Round-up...Lots of food and Talk. We will be at Tyler State Park, for the campers who would like to join us. We arrive on Wednesday, May 1st. Fish Fry is on Friday night May 3rd and the Big Lunch and gathering is on Saturday at any time; lunch starts around 11am. Please feel free to come on out and join us. May 4th. If you need any further info, please feel free to call Jan Beamon at 903-780-5621 or email janwowwe@gmail.com.

AND lastly please check all pricing on any item. Over the last several issues of Thunder Run some prices have changed. So please check your order over real good before you send it to us. Looking forward to seeing everyone in LAS VEGAS next year. So, make plans now.

ALLONS, Jerry

## Show Your Pride



Michael "Mitch" Henschel, of Iron River, MI (B Trp, 1/11 ACR, 1967-68) shows his Blackhorse pride while participating in the annual antique tractor crossing of the Mackinac Bridge.



## Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>H COMPANY, 2/11</b>	
Morgan, Daniel J	67-68	Morgan, Daniel J	67-68	Howard, James E	70-70	Szymanski, Raymond M	69-69
<b>135TH MAINT COMPANY</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11</b>	
Skinn, Richard W	69-71	Figueroa, Michael R	68-68	Kinsner, Ronald A	69-70	Banks, Laurence R	68-69
<b>541st MI DET</b>		<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		Stites, Samuel L	70-71	McGann, Timothy J	68-68
Anderson, David E	67-68	Baker, Marvin L Sr	67-68	<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Williamson, James P	66-68
<b>557th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		Graham, Richard P Jr	70-70	Coomer, Jimmie D	69-70	<b>HHT, 3/11</b>	
Tallent, James	70-70	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11</b>		Dray, Randeal M	69-70	Lichter, Cyril A	67-67
<b>919th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		Frazine, Joseph E	70-71	Graham, Richard P Jr	70-71		
Rankin, William J	66-67						



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 4th Qtr 2018

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	15.00			
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	6.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	3.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	5.00			
8.	Mouse Pads	12.00			
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price--round or oval head shape)	225.00			
10.	Belt: Military style "web" trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle	25.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
12.	Key Ring	8.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	8.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	12.00			
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00			
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00			
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00			
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00			
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5" x 4 3/4")	5.00			
22.	Gear Bag, camouflage w/color BH insignia	45.00			
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00			
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4")	7.00			
27.	Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabill	16.00			
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00			
29.	Ladies Necklace	25.00			
30.	Car Flag	25.00			
31.	Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh	20.00			
32.	Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker	22.00			
33.	Book, "Patton's Boys," by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook	20.00			
34.	Signs <input type="checkbox"/> 34a, <input type="checkbox"/> 34b	25.00			
35.	Book, "Warrior," by Leo Deege	16.00			
36.	Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	28.00			
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00			
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d	17.00			
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand	20.00			
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White	35.00			
41.	Light Denim shirt (men's)	35.00			
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00			
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00			
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.				

Subtotal

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

Shipping and Handling

Total

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)

- A) \$4.00 — \$7.00 = \$3.00    C) \$24.00 — \$60.00 = \$13.00    Any Gear Bag.
- B) \$7.00 — \$23.00 = \$8.00    D) \$61.00 and over = \$18.00    Shipping \$25.00

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Check if address change

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

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

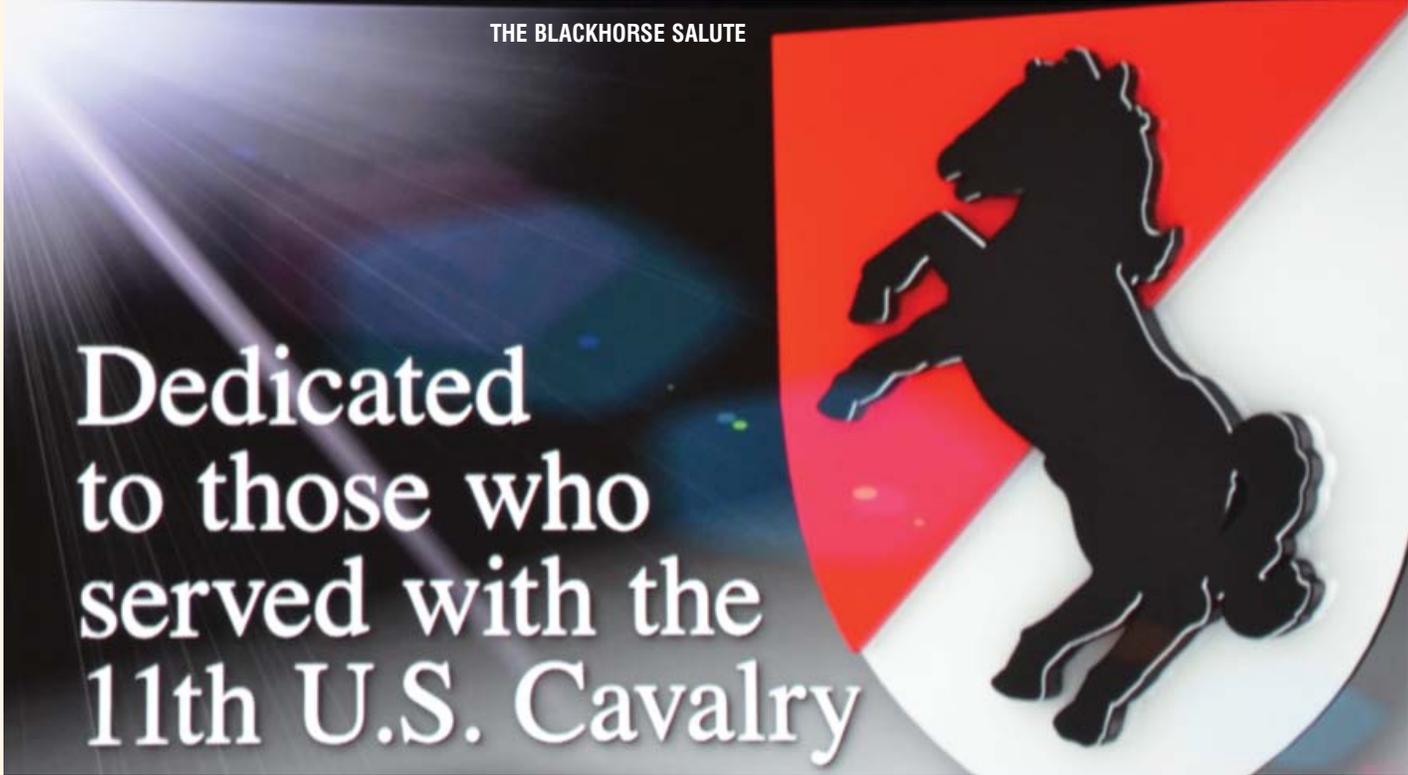
**\* Required info to process your order**



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

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Posted [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com) Obituaries

