



Thunder Run

Vol. 17 – NO. 1 “Together Then – Together Again” 1st Quarter, 2002

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

Why You Should Be a Member of 11 ACVVC

This issue of Thunder Run is being sent out to over 16,000 Blackhorse troopers who served with us in Vietnam and Cambodia. Of the 16,000, only about 6,000 are annual or life members. That means there are about 10,000 Blackhorse troopers who for whatever reason, have decided not to be a member. The number one reason we hear is that some don’t want to be reminded of their service in the war. This is a very plausible reason. However, I’m a firm believer that you must meet the enemy head on and dealing with that problem can be very helpful to you.

Let me tell you a short story about a trooper who for years, wanted to come to a reunion but just didn’t because of the above reason. He feared those memories and surmised the easiest way was to not come. This trooper took the next step and came to one not too long ago. I was in the Bunker enjoying a beer and conversation when I was tapped on the shoulder. I was told that a trooper out in the lobby wanted to talk with me. I was introduced to the trooper and I could see the fear in his eyes. I was the only name he could remember, and he couldn’t go into the

Join us at a reunion and I guarantee that you will “be hooked” on being with your brothers again!

bunker alone. We talked for a few minutes and I told him to come to the bunker with me for something to drink. We did and I walked him to his Troop table and the guys all introduced themselves to him. After a few minutes, I drifted away and made a mental note to check on him in a little while. When I did, he looked to me to have just released about a ton of fear and anxiety. He was in heavy conversation and had a smile upon his face.....no, not a smile, he was laughing and having a great time.

If you’ve been hesitant to join 11 ACVVC or attend one of our reunions, take the next step and join. Join us at a reunion and I guarantee that you will “be hooked” on being with your brothers again!

The application is on the outside cover

Please turn to **MEMBER** on page 3

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

Resolution of Solidarity

Whereas: The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) was founded in 1984 as a unique BROTHERHOOD forged in WAR and dedicated to improving the lives of the men who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (11th ACR) in VIETNAM and CAMBODIA, and;

Whereas: The 11th ACVVC strives to assist its MEMBERSHIP whenever possible, and;

Whereas: The 11th ACVVC continues the camaraderie of the Regiment through REUNIONS, MEMORIAL SERVICES, and COMMUNICATIONS, and;

Whereas: The Blackhorse Association (BHA) was founded in 1969 to honor comrades who gave their lives in service of their country and the 11th ACR, and;

Whereas: The BHA strives to preserve and strengthen comradeship formed in the Regiment, and;

Whereas: The BHA supports the men and women actively serving the 11th ACR (Blackhorse), and;

Please turn to **RESOLUTION** on page 3

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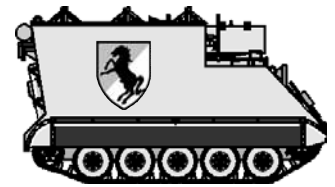
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From The Command Track

By Ollie Pickral, President



Ollie Pickral, President
11th ACVVC

January 01, 2002 is the date I started my last two-year term as your President. Thank you again for your vote of confidence. I assure you that the next two years

we will continue the reputation of being the best in

the field of war veteran organizations. Your Officers and Directors, listed on page 3, are the best group of troopers that I have had the privilege of working with in the 11th ACVVC's eighteen years. They work hard for you and I am very proud of their efforts. During our midyear meeting held at Cibolo Ranch, the seven of us met for three days discussing short and long-term goals for your organization and other facets were pondered over. We passed many motions and assigned action items that will make our organization stronger and stable in maintaining its future status. We "slayed" a few dragons which I'd like to discuss with you.

◆ The "Blackhorse Salute" slide and audio show will be transferred to a CD to assure a quality show takes place each year.

◆ Transfer 20%-25% of our funds to Government securities; keeping 20% liquid.

◆ Establish a committee that will have VA representatives and other qualified persons attend our reunions and speak to our troopers regarding VA benefits, "agent orange" legislation and other helpful information.

◆ Do a feasibility study on the merits of having an 11th Cavalry monument with all our KIAs that would be portable and be used on site at our reunions.

◆ Reunion site selections will be from a variety of sources based on member's home city, visits to reunion locations as representatives of the Army Divisions Association, and the recom-

mendations of the Reunion Committee. Committee will select three cities, negotiate with qualified cities and hotels, and give the Officers and Directors their recommendations. The Officers and Directors will select the future reunion site.

◆ Revise our Reunion SOP. Reunion committee will revise the current reunion SOP to remove some information and streamline it to comply with our policy changes.

◆ Seating arrangements for the reunion's Saturday night banquet will be changed to, first draw the four squadron's names from "the hat." After the banquet hall is divided into four quarters, Troop numbers will then be pulled for each squadron's area. This will allow sister Troops to sit together in the same area.

◆ Request assistance from our Women's group. We have requested our women to provide assistance to help make our functions more smooth and organized. Functions include registration, silent auction, quartermaster sales, and assure all hotel functions are setup in compliance to our requirements.

Those troopers who would like to have a reunion in their city, please contact Gene Johnson, chair of our reunion committee. We must have your completed forms to us by March. The site form is also available on our website at: www.11thCavNam.com

Just like last year, we will have a spe-

cial guest speaker at our memorial service. In addition to that, we will have the 129th Army band of the Tennessee National Guard present to play. They will also play just prior to our banquet on Saturday night. We've included a special page on all the information that you need to get your reservations and registrations in. We have included the registration form for your use to register early. Our fees are \$15 less than the previous reunion. Who said prices never go down???

The Friday night Stable Your Mount Party has been changed back to the Friday Bunker Party. There will be no functions for this night other than our Silent Auction. Bring your photo albums, find your Troop tables and enjoy finger food/ beverages for the evening.

Just to reiterate our front page article, we are sending this newsletter to all our troopers that we have current addresses on. We invite all of you whose memberships have expired to re-join. For those who have never been a member of 11th ACVVC, subscribe for the annual membership and see how we do for a year. Reassess, and consider sending in your Life membership application. Your organization needs to have current information on you so your buddies can locate you. Join up and reunite with your buddies and meet them at a reunion. See you next quarter!!

ALLONS

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of **Thunder Run** without a lot of trouble? Complete this form and mail it to: **11th ACVVC Membership Update, Warren Swinford, 2300 W 400 S., Clayton, IN 46118.**



Name: _____
Old Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
New Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

MEMBER from page 1

of your newsletter. Fill it in and get it to our Membership chair, Warren Swinford. It is one of those “good volunteer” things to do, contrary to what you hear about not volunteering for anything.

Here are some other pluses for being a member of 11 ACVVC:

■ Exclusive membership to an organization that no other can join unless they “Paid the Price”, and brother, you did pay the price. Look on the back of this newsletter and it states:

■ “It’s not the price you pay to belong, it’s the price you paid to become eligible to join. This is so true.

■ You receive four issues of *Thunder Run* each year. This allows you to keep abreast of what’s going on with your organization and information about our annual meeting and reunion each year.

■ You and/or your children are eligible for scholarships to your school or university. We’ve given over \$175,000 in

scholarships over the past years.

■ You and your family can attend our reunions each year. They have become family reunions and many new friends are made each year.

■ We have our own website that is chocked full of information about our organization and all we do. To view, go to www.11thCavNam.com.

■ Inasmuch as we have found 75% of all troopers who served with us, we most likely have found your buddies. Only problem, you haven’t found them. They could be looking for you and from what I’ve seen at sixteen reunions, buddies are getting together and are happy they did.

If monetary restrictions are the reason, let one of our Officers or Directors (see below) know about it and we can work it out. It’s not the money; we just want you to be a part of us. Our motto, “Together Then – Together Again” is so very true.

RESOLUTION from page 1

Whereas: The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (11th ACR), activated in 1901, is still the BEST DAMNED REGIMENT in the United States Army and is supported by both the 11th ACVVC and the BHA, and;

Whereas: The 11th ACR carries on the legacy established by the 11th ACVVC and the BHA and is prepared to proudly carry our colors in battle, and;

Whereas: The 11th ACR is part of the Army that will fight and win our nation’s future wars, and;

Whereas: The 11th ACVVC, the BHA, and the 11th ACR, are therefore comrades-in arms sharing a common heritage with many members sharing dual memberships, be it therefore;

Resolved: That the 11th ACVVC welcomes members of the BHA and the 11th ACR to attend our annual REUNIONS as guests to participate in all scheduled activities open to nonmembers in accord with the Agenda and Programs established by the 11th ACVVC.

ALLONS!!!!



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

Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080-3409. Telephone (972) 235-6542; a not-for-profit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 29902 (finisterre@isc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, “Thunder Run,” Ollie Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Dr., Richardson, TX 75080-3409 <ktrp11acr@aol.com>

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Show your pride

by Ollie Pickral

■ Do You Have Vehicle License Plates That Refer to the 11th Cav?

If so, send us in a photograph of the license plate. There are quite a few of us who have personalized license plates on our vehicles with an 11th Cav theme.

We will publish one or two per issue of *Thunder Run* until we show them all. Send in photos of your Purple Heart license plates as well. We have a ton of troopers who were wounded while fighting with the 11th ACR.



This "Blackhorse Red" Corvette indicates how proud one Blackhorse Trooper is of 1st Sqdn 11ACR. This "vette" belongs to Dennis Kelly, A&B Troops, 1968-69.

The first to be published is from Dennis Kelly, a platoon leader from A Troop, 1/11 in '68-69 and then XO of B Troop. Dennis is an attorney living in Houston, Texas.

Be sure you get close enough to shoot the photo. Black and white photos are the best. Assure it is in focus and the lighter the background, the better for it showing up good in the newsletter. Send all photos to: Thunder Run, 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080-3409.

Bumper Stickers

- ◆ TIME IS WHAT KEEPS THINGS FROM HAPPENING ALL AT ONCE
- ◆ I DIDN'T FIGHT MY WAY TO THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN TO BE A VEGETARIAN.
- ◆ WE HAVE ENOUGH YOUTH, HOW ABOUT A FOUNTAIN OF "SMART."



Letters to the Editor

CSM Don Horn's comments ("Reflection," *Thunder Run*, 4Q/01) relating to us Blackhorse Vietnam vets and our willingness to associate with our younger Blackhorse brothers are well told.

Years ago I was taught that "The step of greeting and the hand of welcome" was one of the best ways to make newcomers feel more comfortable. Indeed this was a true sign of a good organization, well led.

Having just returned home from tours in Vietnam, I was invited by several vet organizations to "look them over" and to "join in." They held interesting meetings with informative speakers and all the membership generally oozed comradeship.

Oddly though, the members tended to avoid or ignore us veterans of the war in Vietnam. True, they smiled a lot and led us to the bar, but we could appreciate that their hearts weren't in it.

World War II had some tables. Korea had some tables. Vietnam wasn't invited to a table. We found the door.

CSM Horn is pointing to the same trend within our organization. "Us vets and Those newbies - not "WE brothers of the Blackhorse". Those who have been paying attention have seen this same attitude at our reunions. In the sense of Don Horn's comments: We are setting a tone of elitism and aloofness not quickly lost on our newer Blackhorse troopers.

To take Horn's thought a step further, perhaps we might better organize our system of welcome at our reunions: Seating by State, rather than unit might be a starting point.

Create a roving band of 'old hands' who "collect, introduce and distribute" some of the younger or solo members and visitors.

We get this right and we will be a lot better organization for it.

Help Wanted

The 11 ACVVC needs you

Your 11 ACVVC Officers and Directors met in mid November and discussed the need for more volunteers for the organization. Please contact us if you would be willing to donate some of your time to your organization. The following positions are needed to assure you have the best damn veterans organization there is:

Reunion Registration Desk

Volunteers to man (or woman) the registration desk during the reunion. The job requires that you assist troopers and their families to register and received nametag, meal tickets, reunion pin and weekend packet. This would require that the volunteers help assemble nametags/ribbons and packets and spend a few hours at the desk each day (Thur. Fri. Sat.).

Quartermaster Store

Volunteers to assist our quartermasters, Rod and Elida George with arranging the

store and selling items to our troopers. This would require a few hours each day beginning Thur. through Sat. or Sunday.

Newsletter Editor

Thunder Run needs an editor. Trooper should be skilled with computer knowledge and have the ability to download newsletter articles to the publisher. He should also have writing skills and be competent with the English language.

Silent Auction

Volunteers are needed to assist our Scholarship committee to conduct our annual silent auction. Each item being offered will need to be cataloged and bid sheets made for each item. After the auction, help would be needed to assist the high bidders in delivery and payments. Assistance would be required on Fri. evening and briefly on Sat. evening.

Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15

Third QuarterAug 15
Fourth QuarterOct 15

11 ACVVC – Reunion XVII – Nashville, TN – Aug. 8 - 11, 2002

Location

Remember Reunion 2002 Nashville, Tennessee August 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2002. Sheraton Music City Hotel, Rooms \$75.00 Dbl., Free airport shuttle and Free hotel parking; a special Memorial Service has been planned, so bring your cameras to this one. There will be Tours, Golf, Shopping and a good time for the whole family.

Airlines

Special discounts for those who are flying into Nashville. American Airlines is offering 10% off published fares. This discount is good from 5 Aug. thru 14 Aug. 2002. Authorization Number is 7582AC and must be used. Call Toll Free 1-800-433-1790 for reservations.

SouthWest Airlines is offering 10% off most fares. Authorization Number is R1425 and must be used. Call Toll Free 1-800-433-5368 for reservations. The office is open M-F 7:00 am to 8:00 pm CST, and Sat and Sun 8:30 am to 5:30 pm CST.

These reservations may also be made through you travel agency provided they use the toll free number and authorization number

Hotel

Contact The Hotel direct for reservations: (615) 885-2200 or (800) 325-3535 for central reservations. Be sure to mention 11th ACVVC Reunion.

Backup Hotel

The backup hotel is the Holiday Inn Opryland – Airport. The room rates are \$75.00 per room for a double. Call them at: 1-615-316-1062 or 1-800-731-3770. Be sure to mention 11ACVVC for the proper rates. The address is 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN. 37214.

Car Rental

Avis Auto renter is offering us discounts. The Discount Number is D086507. The telephone number is Toll Free 1-800-331-1600. Rates are in effect from Aug. 2 thru Aug 18.

Local Info

Nashville Information may also be obtained from: The Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau; 211 Commerce Street, Suite 100, Nashville, TN. 37201. Telephone: (615) 259-4730 or Fax (615) 244-6278.

Golf Tourney

There will be a golf tourney. Specific info will be in the next Thunder Run.

Contact

Stephen Page, Reunion Chairman, 396 Pleasant St., Holyoke, MA. 01040; (413) 534-0720. My email address is: srpage24@msn.com

11 ACVVC Reunion Registration Form

Registration fees are **\$60.00** per person. Children age 6 and under - **\$40.00** each. These fees are for attendance to any one or all of the scheduled program events.

Please Print All Information

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ email address: _____

Unit Assignment: (list **only one** Troop/Company) _____

This will be your seating assignment for the Sat. night banquet dinner. Other 11th Cav Troop units you served with (if different from above) _____ Years in Country (ie....1966-967) _____

Print **all** attendee's names below for nametags:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee): Chicken _____ Beef _____

Special dietary needs _____ Wheelchair requirements? Yes No

Deadline for receipt of all Registration Fees is July 27, 2002.

Send Check or Money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to: **11th ACVVC**; Mail To: **Bill Holford; 8515 Shoalcreek Blvd.; Apt. #108; Austin, TX 78757-7548.**

The 2002 Scholarship Drive Has Begun

John Sorich, Scholarship
Chairman and Vice President

The mailing of the 2002, 11thACVVC Calendar marks the beginning of this years Scholarship drives. In May I will be mailing out tickets for the raffle. All that participate will have a chance to win one of the cash prizes of, \$ 500.00 for first. \$ 300.00 for second and two \$ 100.00 dollar prizes for 3rd & 4th places. At the same time the raffle tickets are being mailed I will be accepting Scholarship applications for the start of the fall 2002 school year. This year I hope to have the energy to do better than last years record performance. You all know *I will need help!*

The support that you've given in the past is an indication of how much we care for our children and this cause. All the proceeds from the 3 events that are fundraisers for the scholarship go entirely to fund our scholarship. They are The

Calendar, The Raffle and the Silent Auction at our convention. Only the costs of printing and postage are deducted from the contributions. This is why our membership can proudly say that we take care of our own. Even though we are approaching and will undoubtedly exceed *a quarter of a million dollars* donated before the end of my term as Scholarship Chairman, all of this has come from your generous donations and none so far has come from the 11thACVVC treasury.

Recently I opened a donation I feel compelled to share with you. Mrs. Margaret Beal of La Harbra, California, wrote that her son Ross Preston was KIA on 6-20-68. He was with A Troop. She wrote in her note; "I am sending a donation for the calendar to remember my son and what he went through. Yes, I would like to send more but I am on social security. " It's people like Mrs. Preston who

humble me and make me work harder. Her check number was 1111; I interpret this as A-1-11. I sent her check back to her and assured her she would never have to worry about us forgetting to send her a calendar or forgetting the memory of her son Ross.

Last seasons scholarship will help 14 recipients finish their college and trade school education. Only time will tell as to how well we will do this year. I am optimistic that we will exceed and do better than we have in the past. I have been Chairman for almost 2 years now. I have a very clear vision of how this works. *Everyone does the best they can* and that's what makes it work. You know the drill. Send your donations to: 11thACVVC Scholarship, in care of, John Sorich, 5037 France Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN. 55410

God has blessed us, ALLONS

John Sorich

Donations to 11thACVVC Scholarship Fund – (\$8,793.57)

The following troopers have made donations to our Scholarship Fund: (*donations are tax deductible*)

Charles Abbey	Alvin Boles	Bison Enterprises Co.	Donald Drew	Luther Gee	Stanley Hauser
James Alexander	Dan Boone	A.F. Cochran	Don Drywall	Gary Gehrig	Robert Hawley
J.R. Alford	William Bowman	Gerald Cole	Merrit Durr	Joseph Gehring	Michael Healey
Raymond Allen	Barney Braucker	Darrel Colson	Donald Dye	Lee Gentry	Clint Heath
David V. Allen	Joseph Brenda	Bobby Compton	Larry Earl	Terry Gernhardt	Charlers Hebb
William Alsobrook	Larry Brennan	Frank Coney	David B. Ekholm	Richard Gibbs	Dwane Hein
Joyce Andrezejewski	Grey Brill	John F. Conway	Ronald Ellison	William Gillette	Thomas Helrn
William Apholz	Albert Britt	Patrick Courtney	Glenn Elsing	Vincent Giorgio	Richard Henson
Larry Arft	Jerry bromley	Daniel Coyle	ErasmusEstringel	Paul Gissible	Donald Herbert
Chuck Argento	Charles Brooks	Michael Craig	Harry Evans	Ross Glatzer	Richard Herdt
John Atchley	Robert P. Brown	John Cuamer	Louis Eyner	Herbert Gleditsch	Paul Herman
John Atkins	Elwood Brown	Charles Cumiskey	Executive	Billy Goad	Robert C. Heuston
John Atkinson	Ronald Brundage	Ben Curti	Transportation Inc.	Rob Goodman	Terry Hill
David Avery	John Buckingham	Larry Cynch	Robert Fairchild	David Gordon	Donald Hines
William Bachman	William Bullcok	Sam Czys	George Fancher	Dennis Gormn	Reinhold Hinz
Benjamin H. Bailey	Gareth Burgmann	Philip Dalton	William Fedorinichik	William Goy	Peter J. Hoffman
Louis Balas	Joseph Burke	Ronald Darnell	William Fenner	Ronald Green	George Hoffmaster
John Ballantyne	Larry Burwick	Herbert Dauls	Richard Field	William Griffin	Tom Hofsteadter
Douglas Barnes	Robert Bye	Allen Davenport	Clifford Fields	James M. Griffiths	Ludwig Hoge
Edward Barnett	John Byers	James Davis	Jose Fierro	John Grogg	Kenneth Hoke
William Baronti	Frank Cambia	Randall Davis	John r. Filbert	Robert Grossman	Jerry Hollowman
Donald P. Barrett	Guy F. Caporiccio	Donald Deal	Karl Fillagrove	George Grover	George Holt
Ken Bartell	Lynn Carender	David Deck	John Flanagan	Ben Guyer	Ole J. Horgdal
Michael Bartlett	Christa Carothers	Patrick Denersky	James Fleshood	Susan Guzowski	Donald Horn
George Barton	Minnieo Carpenter	Steve Dennis	Patrick Flynn	Troy Gwinn	Kibbey Horne
Harold Basler	David Carpentier	Larry Dermith	Stefan Fonod	Charles R. Hack	Frederick hotzman
Paul Bearnam	Thomas Carr	Frank Desanctis	James Forester	William Hadfield	Edward Howard
Leon Benbenek	Patrick Carroll	TJ Desiderio	Ed Fortman	James Hains	Carl Howard
Theodore Bergstrom	Dennis Carson	Michael A. Dewitt	Jerry Franklin	Robert Haley	John Howser
Richie Bernard	Ronald E. Chamberlain	Michael Dietrich	Gen. Frederick Franks	Jay Hallady	Randal Hughes
Francis Bertolini	Frederick Chattin	Willis Diggs	Clifford Frayne	Wayne Halstead	Sidney Hughes
Harry Beuler	Phung Chau	Michael Dinardo	Dennis Fryce	Babe Halstead	John Humbert
Edward Beuning	Warren Childress	John W. Mac Donald	Roger Frye	William Hancock	John Humbertson
William Bienl	Gus Chirstar	Edward Donnelly	Ralph Fultz	William harris	Lee Hunnicutt
Clarence Blackman	Dennis Christman	R.W. Dowgles	Gayle Gafford	Thomas Harris	Robert Hunt
Rob Blanks	Charles Clapper	David A. Drake	Paul Garell	Grady Hassell	Francis Hunt
James Blawat	L.W. Clodfelter	Frank C. Dressman	Robrt Garrettson	Clifford Hauge	Henry Inman

Salem Jamell
 Roger Janke
 Ken Jankel
 David Jarrett
 Duane Javerski
 Jeranek Agency Inc.
 William Johnson
 Gary Johnson
 Steve Johnson
 Margaret B. Johnson
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 Leroy Johnston
 Michael Jokinen
 Russell Jones
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 Richard Kenyon
 Larry Kester
 Lynn Kile
 George King
 William King
 Thomas Kirchoff
 William Knowlton
 Norman Koch
 Herbert Koester
 Kenneth Koppnal
 George Krcelich
 Richard Krey
 David Krzyzan
 C.M. Kuchenbach
 Cornelius kunst
 Michael Kuttin
 Paul Kwiecinski
 Roger L'Etoile
 Walter Iakari
 Paul R. Lariviere
 Robert Iarocque
 Ken Larson
 George Lawrence
 Harry Lego
 Jerry Lester
 Nicholas Lile
 Roy Linge
 John Lingen
 Richard Looft
 Guy Love
 Frank Lozon
 Howard Lytle
 Clifford MacDonald
 Robert Macon
 Per I. Madsen
 John Magnarelli
 Ray Majewski
 Bernard Malnarick
 Michael Mang
 Johnny Mann
 John Marbot
 Ross Marino
 Dave Marmet
 Glen Massengale
 Jim Van Matre
 Matthew's-
 Mustang Sales
 Raymond J. Matus
 Gregory Mazzotta
 Jerry McBryde
 John McCain
 John McCarthy
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 Jerry Mitchell
 Harry Montague
 Rosalio Montelongo
 William Montgomery
 Robert Morota
 Greg Morris
 Duane Morris
 Charles Morrison
 Jack N. Morrison
 Stephan Moushegian
 Edward Mouson
 Jack Moyer
 Joeseeph Muchesko
 Danirl Mulcahey
 Juanita Najar
 Tom Naylor
 Robert Mc Neil
 Ronald Nelson
 Edward Nelson
 Scott Nicholason
 Keith Nuckols
 Willie Nunley
 John O'Donnell
 Cleo Odon
 O'Hara's Brake
 and Alignment
 Patrick J. Olechny
 James Ondulick
 Terry Opp
 Clifton Osborne
 David Ostrom
 Robert Ovas
 Kevin Overfield
 William Palucer
 Hubert Parish
 Elmer Parker
 John Pearl
 Michael Pejakovich
 Nicholas Pellegrino
 Donald Pemberton
 Donald Petrusko
 Robert Phillips
 Charles Phillips
 Ollie Pickral
 Fred Pimental
 John Poindexter
 Duane Poland
 Painting Pope
 Nicholas Posak
 Delbert Powell
 Larry Puckett
 George Purifoy
 John Quilivan
 John Rafferty
 Michael Rafferty
 William Ralston
 Sam Ramnytz
 Jesse Raseberry
 Kim Raseman
 Sylvester Redmond
 Gerald Reed

James Reeves
 Joseph Rehyansky
 Lawrence Richards
 Rendy Richmond
 Riveredge Excavating Inc.
 Jim Ritter
 Wayne Roberts
 John Roberts
 Thomas Roberts
 Joe Roberts
 Melvin Robertson
 Sammie Rogers
 Kent Rosemarie
 Myron Rosendall
 Ben Rowe
 Ron Rubes
 Col. Richard M. Rucker
 Ronald Russell
 Glenn Ryburn
 Kenneth Sabo
 Bennie Sabolewski
 William Sahre
 Vencut Sanchez
 Jerry Saunders
 Clayton Scholz
 Michael Schuefer
 Arthur Schultz
 Paul Schunanman
 Marie Schweitzer
 Charles Scott
 Alexander D. Scott
 William Selch
 David Sellars
 Peter Semmelmeier
 James Settle
 Arthur Sevelius
 Howard Shafer
 Michael W. Shepler
 Alex Shogan
 George Shookla
 Byron Skinner
 Arthur Smit
 Sherman Smith
 Steven Smith
 Jerry L. Smith
 Russell Smith
 Patricia Smith
 Larry Smith
 James Snodgrass
 Nicholas Soehnlén
 Walter Somienski
 Eldridge Sonnier
 Robert Soule
 David Spawding
 Harold J. St.Clair
 Edmund Stafford
 Irwin Stambaugh
 Charles Stamey
 James Stampley
 David L. Stark
 Jerry Stertzbach
 Garland Stewart
 Terry Stivers
 Cletus Stock
 H.G. Stogner
 Martin Storer
 James Sullivan
 Westley Sunt
 Thomas swindler
 Thomas Taft
 Roy Tanner
 Raymond Tarr
 Ben Tate
 Randall Taylor
 Paul Tebo

Billy Temple
 Thomas Templar
 Hardy Terry
 Gary Terry
 Glen Tharp
 Arthur Thomas
 Richard Thomas
 Darold Thomke
 Earl Thompson
 Lois Thompson
 Ernest Tietz
 Edward G. Tilton
 Gary Timmermen
 Edward Tiney
 Michael Todd
 Andrew Trabanco
 Reynaldo Trevino
 Ivan Trifon
 Raymond Trottier
 JR Trucking
 Marvin Tucker
 Tim Ungorean
 Richard Upton
 Ralph Utz
 David Vanhorn
 Luis Vargos
 S. Vassej
 Victor Vela
 Jose Vela
 John Ventoff
 Ron Vetere
 Emilio Villarreal
 Robert Wagg
 Ken Walker
 Peter Walter
 Rick Walters
 Larry Walters
 George Ward
 Ralph Ware
 Gary Water
 Charles Watkins
 David Watters
 Wayne Watts
 Mark Webb
 James Webster
 John Wells
 Frank Werter
 Bobby West
 Wayne West
 Albert Westbrook
 Joe Wetmore
 William Wheatley
 David Wieland
 John Wilcox
 William Wilke
 Hoyett Williams
 Gerald Williamson
 Mike Wilson
 Dennis Wilson
 Steve Wilson
 Shayne Wing
 Marvin Witt
 Okey Wolfe
 Ken Wollschineger
 Kevin Woodard
 Roddy Woodson
 J.D. Woolard
 Raymond Wright
 Albert Ybanez
 Kenneth R. Yoder
 Tom Youchin
 Earl Zerbach

Attention Scholarship Applicants

Make no mistake

John Sorich, Scholarship Chairman

Over my term as Scholarship Chairman I have noticed that some candidates by not filling out the form completely, DISQUALIFY themselves by not doing so. I felt it necessary to comment on this. Through inattention to detail or youthful exuberance, some of you are leaving out requests that may disallow you to be candidate.

The form is simple and must be filled out completely. The most commonly made mistake is for the candidate not to include the information on their father or guardian as an active member of the 11th ACVVC and a copy of their membership card. There may be some confusion on the part of the applicant here as I get some candidates sending copies of BHA (Blackhorse Association) cards and not 11th ACVVC. Many of us belong to both associations. Make sure you send copy of the 11th ACVVC card. Have someone other than yourself review the form prior to sending it in. They may catch some mistakes.....

Include transcripts of High School, College and Trade School grades. The application deadline is MAY, 15, 2002. The application forms are available from two sources for those who meet the qualifications. On our web site at, www.11thCavNam.com or from me at 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, 5037 France Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN. 55410. My email address is: johnnydiamond@mindspring.com.

Good Luck and best wishes,

John Sorich

THINGS TO PONDER

- ◆ Everyone has the right to be stupid. Some just abuse the privilege.
- ◆ If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?
- ◆ Are dog lovers just cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves?
- ◆ Growing old is natural, growing up is optional.
- ◆ One of life's mysteries is how a two pound box of candy can make a woman gain five pounds.



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno

As I sit here at my computer, I have been thinking back over the year 2001. Clearly I remember all the happy and fun events of the past year. Things like the joy and excitement of becoming a Grandmother for the first time or of being reunited with friends at the reunion and the making of many, many new friends. But I also have to remember the losses I have had this year. I lost a very important person in my life and of course we all suffered a great loss in the events of September 11th in both New York , Washington and also in Pennsylvania.

But yet as I look forward to the year 2002, I feel safe and comforted in knowing that there are men and women in our Armed Forces who are doing all they can to ensure that the country that we love and are proud of, remains free.

I also find myself wondering what it must have been like for our guys who were in Vietnam for Christmas and New Years. I can only imagine the loneliness many of them felt or the fear they had. Wondering what the next day, the next minute, the next hour or the next year would bring them.

Did they have a small tree on their track or in the billets? Did they sing all the happy Christmas carols that we did? Did they wish each other Happy Holidays every few minutes? Did they eat the horrible fruitcake that Aunt Nellie sent them? I've asked Bob about it but he just says, We ate C rations, and leaves it at that.

I gave him a model of the track he was on in Nam for Christmas this year. You would think he was given a million dollars. His eyes lit up as he examined every last detail of it. My son and I sat and listened, with tears in our eyes as he told how a round hit the side of it and how close he came to loosing his legs. How it had gone right under his drivers seat. I shiver even now as I think about it.

I received an e-mail tonight from Ollie Pickral with a copy of a message a wife had left on the web site. She just wanted to let all the wives out there know that she wishes them all happy holidays. She mentioned that on the message board there is little or no mention of the wives who love and support their men. I thought about it a little bit

I agree we don't often get the thanks or recognition that we feel we should, but I know in our husband's hearts and eyes that they are grateful to have us to lean on and talk too.

and then sat down and wrote to her. I agree we don't often get the thanks or recognition that we feel we should, but I know in our husband's hearts and eyes that they are grateful to have us to lean on and talk too. As for the message board, as the Chairman of the wives group, I promise that in 2002

I will leave at least a message monthly to all the wives, mothers and girlfriends of the guys. For I am truly proud of all of you women for all that you do for our heroes. And as we all know, behind every great man there is an even greater woman.

Just think, in only eight short months we will all be reconnecting in Nashville. I am so excited to see you all and meet many new friends that I can hardly wait. The reunion is always a highlight of my year and one that I really look forward too.

At this time I am kicking around a few ideas for a program or perhaps just a time to talk about our feeling or our fears. So please plan on joining us to find out what we are all about and make new friends, shed some tears, join in some laughs and perhaps a few games. Those of you who have been with us in the past, I am tasking each of you to bring one new person with you. Let's make our little group grow and become stronger in the 11thACVVC organization. Let's show the guys how much we care and support them.

Until then, may each of you have the happiest of New Years in 2002.

Yours in love and friendship

Barb Moreno

Women's Coordinator 11th ACVVC

417 North Glendale Avenue

Tomah, Wisconsin 54660

<Moreno@mah.com>

SOLIDARITY

by Chuck Schmidt,
COL U.S. Army (Retired)

Member, Board of Directors,
11th ACVVC

The 11th ACVVC's annual reunions are the envy of every similar association in the Army because of the number of veterans and families that attend, our venues, and our outstanding programs. The main purpose of these reunions is to renew and strengthen unique bonds between brothers, forged in war, and shared as only Troopers who have seen combat together can understand or appreciate. This unique bond is clearly stated in our motto: **"Together Then – Together Again"**.

The main purpose of these reunions is to renew and strengthen unique bonds between brothers, forged in war,...

Since the annual reunion held in Las Vegas in 1997, we have been hearing some concern and some "grumbling" from a significant number of our members on the apparent direction that the agenda has been heading over the past few years. There is a perception that too many formal events and presentations have been scheduled and as a consequence there is not enough time left in the weekend reunion for old friendships to be renewed and "war stories" to be shared. Of particular concern is the Friday night program, initially set aside just for visiting with our "Buddies" and sharing old memories, and which had changed into a series of formal presentations and programs with little open time for visiting. The "Stable Your Mount Party" (SYMP) began to dominate the evening's activities.

Unfortunately, the concern over the change in format for Friday night was interpreted by some to mean that we, (11th ACVVC), did not welcome our Comrades-in-Arms from the Blackhorse Association (BHA) and the active Regiment at our reunions. This resulted from the fact that the Friday night activities had begun to be sponsored and orchestrated by the BHA and the Regiment. CSM (Ret) Don Horn in his article "Reflection" in last quarter's

See SOLIDARITY on page 12

Cheryl Igo-Mullins has contacted 11 ACVVC regarding her dad who passed away in March of 1998. Her father, Charles D. Igo served with the 1st Sqdn., 11th Cav during 1967-1968. Anyone who knew Charles is requested to contact Cheryl at email: mcheryl@hotmail.com or contact 11 ACVVC.

♦♦

From **Maynard Coffey** and **Frank Spacek**: At a special ceremony in Culpepper, Virginia, Gale Coates-Dodson received a Purple Heart, thirty one years after her brother, Floyd Burnette Coates was killed in action in Vietnam. Coates served with the 11th ACR when he was killed on March 25, 1970. The Purple Heart will be joined with the seven other medals that Coates received while serving in the Army.

♦♦

From **Rick O'Dell**, our Service chairman: Those of you wishing to get your medals and copies of your medical records, should complete and file a Standard Form (SF 180) with the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. The form is available for downloading online. However, it cannot be submitted via email. All the information you should need (address, form, etc.) is on the following link: Military Awards and Decorations.

♦♦

From **Jo Cowan**: Jo has moved again. She would like for any troopers who would like to contact her by mail or phone. Jo is the wife of former M Co. Sgt. Grady Cowan. You'll recall that Grady was the co-chairman for the reunion in San Antonio some years ago. Contact her at: 100 Mayfair; Apt. 4B; Converse, Texas 78109. Telephone number (210) 566-5632.

♦♦

From **Marsha Hebert**: Marsha is trying to do another quilt, similar to the one she made that was raffled at the reunion in New Orleans a few years back. She is looking for pictures of Vietnam Memorials from each state. She would like to get one from each state. A perfect size would be 6 x 6 inches. It can also be in color. She's asking our members to either email her the picture or give the site address that she can go to and download the pictures. If you have

actual pictures, members could scan it and email it to her. Marsha's email address is mmhebert@bellsouth.net. If you don't have a computer, you can mail the photos to: 3308 Jackson Blvd., Chalmette, LA 70043-2040. The deadline is April 30, 2002.

♦♦

From **Timothy Roush**: He was the Troop Clerk for E Troop, 2nd Squadron, in Vietnam '69-'70. He is one of 15 people selected to run the Boston Marathon for the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, 17 Court Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (telephone 617.248.9400).

This organization helps homeless veterans from all wars, not just Vietnam. He is writing to ask if anyone out there could help him (them) out. He needs to raise \$2,500 by April 1, 2002.

His hope is that many of our troopers might want to send the shelter a few bucks in his name. Thanks in advance. He can be reached at: Timothy Roush, 652 W. 61st Terrace; Kansas City, Missouri 64113. His telephone number is: 816.333.6771.

♦♦

From **Ruth Ann Maynard**: Her niece



Journey to Fiddler's Green

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

Charles D. Igo died on March 22, 1998. Charles served with 1st. Sqdn. in June of 1967 through June of 1968.

Lawrence H. Kruger died on October 4, 1997. Lawrence served with M Co. in 1966-1967.

Ron Grizzle died on November 11, 2001 of Lou Gehrig's disease in Murfreesboro, TN. Ron was an early 11 ACVVC trooper with Life membership #10. Ron served with B Troop from Aug. '68 - Aug. '69.

John Godek died on November 26, 2001 as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage (stroke). John served in Air Cav Troop in 1970. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

Robert S. (Red) Falis died on October 25, 1982 from a heart attack. Robert served with the 919th Engineers. in 69 - 70. He served with D Co., 1st platoon.

Heather Byus (niece of Roger Byus, E Troop, KIA 11/24/69) was married to active Blackhorse trooper Erich Pyles. They met at the reunion in Wash. DC this past August and the relationship budded into marriage. They were married on December 29, 2001 in West Virginia. They currently reside at Fort Irwin, CA. Prior to the wedding, they both visited the gravesite of her uncle and fellow Blackhorse trooper.

♦♦

From **Tim Kerns**: The Atlanta area Vietnam vets businessmen's Association each year honor an area trooper who was killed in Vietnam by dedicating a very nice memorial to him. Visit their website at [<http://www.avvba.org/index.html>](http://www.avvba.org/index.html)

Through the hard work of his cousin, Joe Burnett, one of our own has been selected this year....Allan Callaway, 1st Platoon, D Company who was killed in January of 1969. Allan's brother and his wife attended the reunion this past year in DC. We are all waiting the details regarding the exact date and location of the memorial. I would like to invite all Blackhorse troopers to attend. Dates and times will be forthcoming.

Richard J. Nichols 56, died Dec.17, 2001 from Leukemia at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, MT. He served with How Battery, 3rd Squadron and deployed to Vietnam from Ft. Meade, MD, in 1966.

Lawrence V. "Butch" Brennan Jr. died on December 8, 2001 after a short battle with cancer (lung). Butch was a Life Member of 11 ACVVC and served with B Troop in 1967-68.

Larry D. Callaghan died on October 24, 2001. Larry was a Life Member of 11 ACVVC and served with G Troop in 1968.

Gordon Strangeowl died on February 9, 1999. Gordon served with L Troop, 3rd. Sqdn. in 1969-70.

James Le Roy Long died on October 11, 2000. James served as 1st. Sgt. of E Troop in 1966-67.

Roy Wooley died on January 26, 2002. Roy fought a long battle with cancer. He served in 2nd Sqdn., How Btry in 1969-70. Roy was a Life member of 11 ACVVC.



Counting Time

Where did you go to grammar school? I went to Tarzana Elementary School in - you guessed it - Tarzana. It's part of Los Angeles in Southern California. That was in the days before the Fruits and Nuts moved to California. Except that I'm probably one of the Nuts. But I'm not one of the fruits - they came later. Anyway, those were memorable years. When I was a little kid the high school kids were sure big. I remember riding with my folks past Canoga Park High School and thinking, "I'll never get big enough to go to that scary place." Next thing you know, there I was, graduating from that same high school. I don't know where the time went, but it sure went! Now here I sit, 46 years later, trying to figure what happened to the time. That's my youthful story. What's yours? It's probably similar to mine.

Time sure takes on a different perspective when you grow older and get into different situations. Remember the Viet Nam War years? (Like, who could forget?) Maybe you were drafted. Maybe you volunteered for whatever reason. Maybe the judge told you to join the Army or go to jail (Huh?) Maybe you were a lifer. Maybe you put in for the Blackhorse 11th Armored Cav. Maybe you didn't. Maybe you never heard of the 11th Armored Cav before you got there. Maybe the only black horse you ever heard of was Black Beauty. Maybe you're not old enough to know about Black Beauty. Maybe all you knew of the cavalry was what you saw in John Wayne movies. Maybe this and maybe that. But I bet it's a sure thing that you remember your trip going over there. Going to the Nam, I mean. I sure remember, especially the first time. I was nervous, naturally. I flew. (In an airplane. What did you think?) I wasn't a boat person. When we got into Vietnamese air space, I looked down and got scared almost spitless. Well, a little dry-mouthed, anyway. I saw those bomb craters all over the place and I thought we were going to get shot out of the air for sure, which we didn't. We made the "normal" quick descent because our TWA airliner crew thought they were in the war. Which, in a way, they were. (We had TWA's senior stewardess on board - she

We're at the stage now where we can look back and see life in a perspective we never had before. We're not young bucks any more.

liked us.) Anyway, we got off the plane fast, they loaded up again (with GIs) and took off real soon. At least, I think they did. I was too busy being nervous to really notice.

Here's the main thing I was nervous about besides maybe getting shot at: I kept thinking how can I get through a whole year of this? Is that what you thought too? Well, my second tour was with the Blackhorse. (First tour was with helicopters and Bird-dog spotter planes in the Delta.) Second tour and first tour were the same question: "How can I make it through a whole year of this?" Know what? I did make it. So did you. (How else could you be here reading this?) One way or the other, we made it. Some didn't, as you know. I'm humbled to remember with respect and honor the troopers that didn't make it. We honor them every year with a memorial service. We honor their families too. We also honor and remember our POWs and MIAs. We will never forget them.

Meanwhile, we proceed with our lives. These fast moving lives we live. A few weeks ago I saw a cartoon of a middle aged (or old aged) man looking in a mirror. He was saying, "But I wasn't finished being young yet!" That could be me. You're probably saying the same thing. "But I'm not through being young yet!" Time keeps marching on no matter what.

Does it seem like 25 or 30 years since you were in Viet Nam? Maybe it does sometimes. But I bet most often it doesn't seem that long to you. It doesn't to me. Sometimes I get to thinking about our lives between then and now. Marriage, kids, jobs, promotions, moving, losing jobs, having problems with memories, maybe even PTSD, self-medicating, getting divorced, getting sick, getting well, retiring, taking vacations and so on and so forth. What about thinking about God? Where does God fit in? What about thinking about Jesus Christ and life's meaning? What about thinking about life's blessings? What about thinking about how you show love to your

grandkids? What about retiring and going fishing? What about healing relationships that've been fractured for years? What about making sure your kids know for sure that you love them? What about making double sure that your spouse, namely your wife, knows for sure that you love her? (The other way around if you're a woman reading this.) All these things matter. They add up to a life. Your life. My life.

We're at the stage now where we can look back and see life in a perspective we never had before. We're not young bucks any more. We may like to come to reunions and think we're the same as in the old days. But we're not. It's not just your old buddy who's lost his hair and grew a pouch (or paunch.) Check the mirror. Time hasn't passed you by, either. It's carried you along. Me too. We're all in this together, this life of passing time. There's one inescapable truth about life, your life, my life, everybody's life. It's measured in units of time. Segments of time. Minutes, hours, days, weeks, years. Time is the same for everybody. And at the end of every trail time ends for everybody. That's where eternity begins. For everybody. So I guess a point of all this is to make the most of the time we've got. Which is measured the same way for everybody, like I said. Maybe our wealth isn't the same as the next guy, but our stockpile of time is sure the same. That is, until the end. There's no guarantee where the end of your trail is going to be. Just that it is there. It will come.

Back to my first tour in Viet Nam. When I was at the beginning of it I wasn't sure the year would ever go by. But it did. Then after ten months at Fort Ord I was back in Viet Nam again. This time I was with the Blackhorse living in a tent with the 2/11th out in the jungles along the Cambodian border. I thought that tour would never end, either. Especially when we were getting shot at or some other such interesting activity was occurring. But both of those tours did end. Then I went to Germany with the 14th and 11th ACR. I thought those tours would never end either. But they did. They were great tours. Hard, but great. And they ended. I thought twenty years in the Army would never end. But it did, and more. I did

twenty-seven years (plus four months and three days.) That ended too.

I hope and pray that those Army years were productive years and pleasing in God's sight. I hope I fulfilled my purpose for living. Now I've been back to work again in the civilian community. And now I've gone back into retirement again. I hope my civilian working years were productive. Not all work. Some play. Some relaxation. Much enjoyment. But productive and constructive too. You see, I'm one who believes that every man and woman born on this earth has a purpose, a reason to be here with something to give. That includes you and me. It's very personal. I hope and pray that I've lived my created purpose. I hope and pray the same for you.

Viet Nam thirty-some years ago is done and over. Our lives between then and now are done and over. Our lives here and now will soon enough be done and over too. That's not fatalistic, it's realistic. What I'm wanting is to make the most of it, to get the most out of it, to contribute the most I can while life lasts. I want to enjoy life and, mainly, I do. Then, when I get to the end of my trail, I truly hope to hear the words from God to me, "Well done, good and faithful servant!... Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 26:33 - Holy Bible, New Testament.) I hope you want that too.

I'll finish off by giving you a few verses from the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. I think you'll agree that these verses are very significant, even in the twenty-first century (like, where did the twentieth century go?) You can check these verses out in the very interesting Bible book of Ecclesiastes which was written by King Solomon: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.... Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.... Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (from Ecclesiastes 3:1, 15; 12:13-14.)

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth
Mail: 1290 W. Monache Ave.
Porterville, CA 93257
LEHaworth@aol.com

About Our 2002 Calendar

by John Sorich, Vice President

For the first time since being elected as Vice President almost 2 years ago, the responsibility of seeing that the 11th ACVVC calendar got out to the membership, fell on my shoulders. Two very capable men took care of the last two calendars, Pete Walter who did the 2000 calendar and Eric Newton who did the 100th Anniversary, 2001 calendar.

When I was in the RVN we can all remember it took some time to figure out what was your responsibility and how to do the job well. After a year, just about the time we were getting pretty good, most of us elected to go home. That's the same reason I elected to re-up as Vice President..... just about the time I'm getting a grip on what to do, my term was up. Thank you all for your confidence in me.

Now I start all over again feeling like an FNG and trying to do a good job on this year's calendar. When I asked Pete Walter about how he did it, he said that it was a long project and he didn't think I had enough time to meet my deadline. My goal was to get it into your hands before the first of the year. *I did it!*

It may not have the style and complete information that Pete so meticulously created, year after year. Now I am a Veteran, I earned my CIB, that's Calendar Implementation Badge. I promise that I will do a better job in the future.

Some facts about the calendar. We printed and mailed 4,000 calendars. This mailing is mailed only to our active dues paying members. As of this date 1-03-02, in order to make the deadline of the next *Thunder Run* here is what I have to report.

From the over 600 donation envelopes that I have opened so far I have had only one complaint. That was by someone who commented that I omitted the captions on the pictures and he was also not happy with the quality of the paper or the photos. These are all valid comments. I encourage comments about the calendar and if we hear from enough of you we will gladly consider changing the format. Even though I take criticism personally, I try to be objective and open to doing what our membership wants. That's why I included my email address on the calendar.

Here's the math. If everyone who

If everyone who received the calendar responded by mailing in his or her donation we would have \$40,000.00 total.

received the calendar responded by mailing in his or her donation we would have \$40,000.00 total. Take expenses out and we would have enough to run the Scholarship at the present level. I could stop asking you to give and give. I could enjoy conventions more, work less and spend more time with my A Troop friends, who I've missed since taking on an elected office. *One problem here, only about 20% support the donation.* More than 3000 of us choose to consider it a "Freeby" and that's ok, I just have to work harder.

If you have misplaced the donation envelope and would like to donate to the Scholarship, send the check or money order made out to, 11th ACVVC Scholarship, then mail to me at: John Sorich, 5037 France Ave. So.; Minneapolis, MN 55410.

I would also like to thank the many wives, significant others and women who have assisted the men they love by filling out the checks that have been sent to benefit the Scholarship. Without their help us men wouldn't be as happy as they make us! *Thanks for your support!*

Monkey business...



Art the monkey takes charge of the track. Art was the mascot of A Troop, 1969. Photo by Ron Freemyer.

Unflappable Heros I Have Known

by Charles W. Abbey

During the first days of Blackhorse participation in the war in Vietnam, Battle (2-11) Operations was a very humble place. Yes, there was a really classy sign I posted outside, but the fort itself was pretty plain.

Command tracks, backed together here-and-there in the mushy, muddy jungle made-up the Tactical Operations Center, the central combat brain of the squadron.

To the uneducated eye, the whole property seemed to be altogether unsystematic. Be that as it may, a great many life preserving and needed decisions were originated by our commander and sent from these premises.

One of our troopers and command net radio operators (whose name was never known to me) always impressed me as the epitome of efficiency and soldier professionalism. This young cavalryman was the command net "voice on the radio" through many an enemy engagement.

Heated, sometimes near frantic messages suggesting great need, impending doom, and challenging enemy circumstances regularly crackled over the net. He acknowledged all messages calmly with an emotionless, flat, "Roger, Out."

I recall when I made my first excited, throat constricted report to Battle Ops about ground-to-air fire and BIG green tracers and

for gosh sakes send out the guard. For all my agitation and excitement I received an unemotional, almost bored, "Roger, Out."

I nearly shouted back, "Roger, Out?? What do you mean, Roger, Out?? Don't you understand this? Talk to me, soothe me, reassure me! Do something and tell me about it!" I had not yet learned to fully trust this unseen comrade of mine.

In a very few days of working with this man, we all came to know that each message had indeed been received, skillfully sorted and channeled to the commander or proper staff addressee without any histrionics or quarterbacking.

I am quite sure that in the many months that we served the squadron he and I must have shared some face-to-face contact, but I regret that I did not seek to record his name. Still, I have frequently offered his example and praise for his work to others in similar settings.

I who have been party to the emotion and excitement of combat know how men's voices sound when the bullets fly. Calm is an emotion rarely seen. Never-the-less this fine GI always gave us the support and reassurance we needed with his unflappable, "Roger, Out."

Footnote: The sign mentioned was a 4'x8', ragged edge, "Fort Apache," prepared in Conus, transported to RVN and emplaced at each site of the TOC.

SOLIDARITY from page 8

Thunder Run stated his concerns about the apparent desire to exclude our brothers and sisters (yes, the active Regiment does have female Troopers assigned) from our activities.

Gene Johnson, our Reunion Chairman, in an Editorial for *The Blackhorse*, the BHA's quarterly newsletter, addressed the issue. He stated that at our Annual General Membership Meeting in which the problem was discussed, "In fact, during that same meeting the overwhelming majority were just as vocal in expressing support of the Association's attendance at the reunion and expressed admiration and pride in the Troopers who attend and participate in the annual event."

You spoke—We listened! The Officers and Board of Directors in a meeting in November discussed this problem at length. We concluded that it was unfortunate that some interpreted the desire of the 11thACVVC Troopers to have more time to visit and renew friendships as an effort to exclude the BHA and the Regiment from our reunion activities. We decided that to ensure adequate time for brothers, bonded by shared combat experiences, to renew old friendships, and share some laughs (and some tears, perhaps) we needed to make some changes to the agenda. Therefore, the Friday SYMP will revert to the old format of the "BUNKER PARTY" with adequate refreshments and snacks. The formal program will be limited to a few administrative announcements, the "Silent Auction" display, and perhaps displays by the VA on Veterans Benefits and/or future reunion sites, etc. There will be no formal agenda to interrupt the main purpose of the reunion: **"Together Then – Together Again"**.

We also decided that it is important for us to ensure that comradeship with our brothers and sisters in the BHA and the Regiment is understood and that they are welcome to attend all our reunion activities except the Annual General Membership Meeting which is open only to members of the 11th ACVVC in good standing. To this end see the "Resolution of Solidarity" statement on page one of this issue.

ALLONS!!!!!!

We Called Him Doc

By Bob Stuedeman

We knew he wasn't a Doctor. He went to a different advanced training than we did. We were taught more about taking lives. He was taught more about saving lives.

We asked him questions about numerous things, from colds to sometimes, personal matters, and we appreciated and respected his answers and help.

The main thing was, when things got hot and a buddy needed help, we called, "Doc, Doc". He came and we felt better. We knew he couldn't work miracles, but we knew he could do more for our buddies than we could, so we felt better. It perhaps took some pressure off of us, we

could tell ourselves, "we turned him over to Doc". I'm sure none of us understood the pressure those times put on him.

Even if things didn't turn out good, we knew we had done the right thing, and we knew Doc had done all he could.

We appreciated your being there with us, and for us, and in case we never said it, "Thanks Doc"!!

We Called Him Doc, and We Still Do!

(Bob Stuedemann wrote this to fellow K Trooper, Joe "Doc" Wetmore. He thought this could be applied to any of our Medics who served with the 11th Cav.)

Strength from the Cav

by Dennis Kelly

I know that all of us have had to handle significant problems in our lives. I want to relate a little about how the comradeship of the Troopers of the 11th Cav have helped me in that ordeal.

I served with B Troop for 7 months as a line Platoon Leader, November 1968 through June 1969, then went to A Troop where I served as Executive Officer. During that year, the bonds of comradeship between Blackhorse Troopers gave me the degree of confidence to know that whatever shit happened, there would be somebody from the 11th Cav to get us out.

After my enlistment was up, I came back to the states, married my wife, Rita Marie, and thought that essentially life was pretty easy. My philosophy was and still is, "as long as people don't shoot at me every day, I'll be okay."

After being married to Rita Marie for 7 years, she developed Multiple Sclerosis. MS is a degenerative disease that attacks the nerves and at first makes you believe that the patient is drunk because they don't walk correctly. Later on, it develops into a much more ruthless disease. Rita Marie went from a cane to a walker, to a wheelchair, to a motorized wheelchair to where she could not use either of her hands or fingers, couldn't even talk, could not use restroom facilities without assistance. Because Rita Marie could not move at night once I picked her up out of her wheelchair and placed her in bed, she was in a set position and could not move. Therefore, I might have to get up 5, 10 sometimes 15 times a night to readjust her, get her to the restroom, etc. Further, in order to pick up Rita from the wheelchair 4 or 5 times a day, required me to develop much more upper body strength, so I developed a plan and committed myself to lift weights in order to do the job.

The bottom line is, it was a very, very difficult situation for years. However, in that tragic environment, Rita showed me and the rest of the world a shining example of courage in its finest sense. She became pregnant during the illness and we had a beautiful little daughter named

Tara Marie (now a sophomore at University of Texas in Pre-Med), supervised the help at the house to be able to maintain the household and put up with all of my bullshit. While all these events are happening, Rita never bitched or moaned about how it was unfair for her to have MS. She concentrated on love and other people and became a stellar example of how people can deal with tremendous adversity and still lead a productive life.

The message that I really want to convey to you Troopers is that the experiences I had while serving with the Cav set me apart from the rest of the people and gave me the strength to carry on. Hell, I'd already been through ambush patrols at night, so getting up at night with Rita was not much different. I would get 10 to 15 minutes of sleep here, and hour and a half there, eat when you can, play when you can. Over the years, the days and nights became like a giant bird overhead with the flapping of wings and the days and nights came and went in a macabre dance of trying to maintain the family. But having been shot at; going until you can't go any further; being yelled at by Major Bahnsen (then 1st Squadron Commander); those kind of events will get you ready for anything.

I took care of Rita, not only in the physical sense, but further in an environment of "we can do this thing together."

I hope I didn't bitch or moan too much about how her illness affected me and Tara, but every time that things would get bad or worse, I would draw on my experiences with the Cav and particularly the comradeship and bonds of honor and commitment between us. I used the collective strength of all of you Troopers on a daily basis to keep us both going.

Rita's fight ended when she died peacefully in her sleep next to me on November 7, 1997. It's been almost 3 years before I could really write this letter. I wanted to let you all know how important you have been in our lives. I know most of us have never met, however, as a collective member of "the Cav" you are my brothers and sisters. So this year, I went a little crazy and bought a red Corvette. I finally got my personalized license plates "1-11-ACR." I drive it around Houston, Texas, so, if any of you see me you might honk. On behalf of Rita Marie, I want to thank you all for her. I personally salute you.

I hope that when you all have problems in your life that you can draw on the strength, unity, honor and character of the men and women of the 11th Cav. It is a vast source of strength. All we have to do is reach in, tap the source of power and it will help carry us through the dark times.

Allons!

Photo file...



K Troop "In the Rubber" prepares for a "Mad Minute" before attacking an enemy bunker complex, 1969.

Photo by Ollie Pickral



Quartermaster

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

ORDER FORM

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	B	6.00			
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia.	A	10.00			
Key ring, 1.5 " Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00			
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00			
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00			
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	B	25.00			
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	A	20.00			
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) colored subdued	A	4.00			
Blackhorse Challenge Coin, Antique silver 1.75" BH insignia/VN map on faces	A	12.00			
Blackhorse 100 year memorial coin, 1.75" crossed sabers/BH insignia new	A	12.00			
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	15.00			
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00			
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00			
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00			
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse - 11th US Cavalry in white	B	6.00			
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	B	30.00			
Tote Bag, white, 12x12x6 w/full color BH insignia new	A	20.00			
Barbeque Apron, white, 24x30 w/full color BH insignia new	A	25.00			
Blackhorse Pin	A	3.00			
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	3.00			
Pin, "Xuan Loc"	A	3.00			
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00			
Reunion pin (indicate choice), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton New Orleans, San Diego, Buffalo	A	1.00			
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	70.00			
Gear Bag, red with color BH	B	35.00			
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	B	275.00			

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

Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, pre-shrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	A	16.00			
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	A	20.00			
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	A	30.00			
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	A	25.00			
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	A	70.00			

Shipping Costs: A items = \$4.00; B items = \$6.00 (max shipping is \$6.00 per order)

Subtotal _____

Shipping and Handling _____

Prices effective to 12-31-01. All price lists previous to 04-01-01 invalid

Total _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$6.00. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 12-31-01. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Ninemile Road, Huson, MT 59846**



From the Quartermaster...

Rodney H. George

Greetings to all. My thanks to all that sent holiday greetings to Elida and I. I hope that your Holidays were spiritually satisfying as well as materially so. I would like to add a personal word here. If you have been meaning to contact a person and for whatever reason you have put it off please make time to do it soon. I have been meaning to look up a fellow trooper that I went to Nam with from 3rd How since I returned to Montana. Unfortunately one thing led to another and I never did it. Unfortunately again Richard passed away in a hospital in Missoula just before Christmas.

Back to the business at hand. This issue will be sent to all the known addresses that we have for troopers whether or not they are current members. To you that fall into that category please remember that your membership keeps you connected with your brother troopers. Please consider sending in that renewal form. Almost everyone has that one person that they would like to see again. If we lose track of you that reunion may never happen.

In the good-news category; I don't see a need for any price increases at this time. I will re-evaluate our cost-of goods compared to our prices again in time for the

July issue. There are also rumors pending about the Post Office raising rates again. If this becomes fact and it impacts our costs significantly we will address that in July also.

In the bad-news category I would like to apologize for you that had to wait for some of your orders to be filled. 9-11-2001 affected some of our vendors and I had some extended fill times on some items. One that is still affected is some sizes of sweatshirts. Don't give up. I will get them to you as soon as I receive them.

More good news - we are approaching filling our 550th order for the year. This is the most ever in the history of the organization. Keep up the good work on those order forms.

Kind of bad news (for me) - The quartermaster inventory, packaging and shipping area is in an unheated building and our temperatures here are starting to drop below zero. Contrary to popular belief this does not make me want to go back to California. Hey- if Santa can handle the North Pole, I can survive this.

Remember!!! There are still some of the Reunion golf shirts and hats available. If you want some of them just write Reunion shirt (hat) first choice on the order form and I will send it or substitute a regular golf shirt if no reunion shirt is available at the time of your order.

Allons

Rodney H. George
11th ACVVC QM



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, (11th ACVVC)

Buchanan, Gary	B TRP, 1/11	67-68	-
Clark, John C	409TH RRD	66-67	-
Decoteau, Darrell D	HHT, 2/11	71-72	-
Dobbins, Warren	A TRP, 1/11	68-69	-
Fancher, George J	F TRP, 2/11	69-70	I TRP, 3/11 69-70
Freitas, Richard	AIR CAV TRP	66-67	-
Gooseberry, Willie E	A TRP, 1/11	70-71	HHT, 2/11 70-71
Griffin, Robert T	HOW, 2/11	69-70	-
Gwinn, Troy	B TRP, 1/11	66-67	-
Harbin, Pat	409TH RRD	70-71	-
Harding, Terry F	37TH MED CO	69-70	-
Huetteman, William A Jr	9TH SIG DET	67-68	-
Huff, Robert C	B TRP, 1/11	67-68	-
Jack, William M	HHT, 3/11	68-69	-
Jacobson, Donald L	HHT, 3/11	69-70	-
Jones, Robert	F TRP, 2/11	66-67	-
Kevin, Mckeon	66-67	-	-
Kopko, Chester M	HOW, 3/11	67-68	-
Meyrick, Michael W	HHT, 1/11	68-69	-
Monahan, John M	67-67	-	-
Mrozinski, Allan R	L TRP, 3/11	69-70	F TRP, 2/11 69-70
Newman, Gary	HOW, 1/11	66-67	-
O'Brien, John R	HOW, 1/11	69-71	-
Owen, James H	-	-	-
Pennington, James F	K TRP, 3/11	66-67	-
Peterson, Gary J	K TRP, 3/11	66-67	-
Rice, Robert E	HHT, 2/11	70-71	-
Sadowski, Ron	HHT, 2/11	67-68	-
Van Sickle, Terry A	9TH SIG DET	67-69	-

11th ACVVC General Fund Donations

The following made donations to the 11th ACVVC (\$710.00)

(All donations are tax deductible)

Boyd, James M	Longhouser, John E
Brumm, Maurice J	Macon, Robert A
Burton, George L	Mckibbin, Joseph R
Davis, Terry R	Mcshane, William G
Eaton, Horrace R	Olmstead, Charles W
Franey, Michael J	Paine, Richard W
Garcia, Manuel A	Payne, Danny H
Gary, John A	Rehm, William R
Goodman, Robert A	Renkel, Douglas M
Gossett, Darryl E	Rich, Michael
Hack, Charles R	Rucci, Gerald R
Hammond, Kippert L	Shogan, Alexander J Jr
Harris, James L	Stampf, Robert J
Hauser, Stanley W	Stinefelt, Howard J
Howard, Forrest B	Stogner, Herman G
Kaiser, Robert A Jr	Turner, James R
Kudzia, John J	Webster, James E
Kunst, Neil	Werker, Frank H
Larocque, Robert J	Westerberg, Victor F

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) _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Bill Holford, 8515 Shoal creek Blvd., Apt. #108, Austin, TX 78757-7548.**

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



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