



Thunder Run

Vol. 34 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2019

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

God Loves You and So Do We

State of the Reunion

August 21 to August 25, 2019

Frank Church /Reunion Chairman

The plans for our 34th reunion at the Westgate Resort and Casino in Las Vegas Nevada are in the process of being finalized. The hotel room block is over 70% taken and still going. The plans for the Ft. Erwin trip are also near completion and the golf outing plans are done. The registration forms for both of these events as well as the reunion registration are elsewhere in this issue of *Thunder Run*.



Group presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award to Chaplain Emeritus, LtCol Larry Haworth, USA (Ret). From left (standing): Charles Vied, Marty McKinley, Billy Sartor, Rodney Wolfe (wearing cavalry hat), Ernie Enloe, Mike Rafferty, Frank Church, Jim Reed, Allen Hathaway, Ed Brown, Eric Newton, Jerry Beamon, and Larry Haworth (sitting).

On February 14th of this year 12 members of the 11th ACVVC traveled to San Antonio Texas, as did a number of his friends from the local area, to present our Chaplain Emeritus, Lieutenant Colonel Larry Haworth a Life Time Achievement Award. During the planning of the presentation the fact it was

on Valentines Day didn’t have anything to do with love, just a coincidence, and that it was Larry’s 82nd birthday, again just another coincidence. But after further thought the day was fitting for the presentation of such an award.

Please turn to **HAWORTH** on page 4

Blackhorse Celebrates 118 Years of Service

by Allen Hathaway

Happy Birthday Blackhorse!

February 2, 2019 marked the 118th birthday of the regiment. Troopers, family and friends gathered at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to lay a wreath to mark the occasion. Veterans from Vietnam, Border Legion, Iraq, and four active duty troopers from Fort Irwin were among those attending.

The temperature was 19 degrees. The Sergeant of the Guard announced “Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention.

This is a wreath laying ceremony of the United States Army 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment....” At that point I had a lump in my throat, goose bumps and a tear in my eye. I thought of the thousands of Blackhorse troopers I have met over the years and I stood just a little taller.

A video and photos are posted on Facebook.

Please turn to **CEREMONY** on page 4



It was reported to me that there was a “glitch” in the computer system and it has been corrected. If you did not get an email confirmation and have a confirmation number call the hotel (800-635-7711) to request one.

I have had numerous complaints about not getting hotel room confirmation when registering on line. It was reported to me that there was a “glitch” in the computer system and it has been corrected. If you did not get an email confirmation and have a confirmation number call the hotel (800-635-7711) to request one. I discovered, by accident, that a confirmation is also available if you go to the web page (<https://book.passkey.com/go/SACV9R>) for making reservations. There is a link at the bottom of the page to get the confirmation. I did this and had my confirmation in minutes.

I visited the Westgate in February to do a recon of the hotel and surrounding areas. My last article had information on shuttles, tram to the strip, and scooters. The shuttle to and from the airport is the best way to go. It is the least expensive and takes about 15 minutes. However, you must pre-sched-

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 5





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

By Pete Walter

I hope you all survived the winter and feel revitalized by the spring weather!

All the plans for our 34th annual reunion August 21 – 25 at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, NV are finalized and we expect another great turnout highlighted by our trip to visit the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. Details and a registration form are in this issue and on our website: *11thcavnam.com*. Our previous reunions in Las Vegas drew an average of 1,442 attendees. As of April 1, we have already filled 73% of our room block for Friday and Saturday, August 23 – 24. It is imperative that you make your reservations today! Don't delay!

This issue of *Thunder Run* contains everything you need to know to enjoy the Las Vegas reunion. Please read it all carefully. Because there is so much info in this issue I'll try to keep my message short.

Reunion Guest Speaker - We are pleased to announce that Colonel Brian Cook will be the guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and program. Colonel Cook has served in every leadership position from platoon leader to battalion commander deploying 5 times in support of Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and Enduring Freedom with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Colonel Cook is the Director of Theater Strategy at the US Army War College.

More Honors! - Another long-time 11th ACVVC member is being recognized for his six decades of nose-to-the-grindstone work in and in support of the 11th ACR. During Armor Week, at the St. George Ball, on May 3 at the Rivermill Event Center in Columbus, GA, Allen Hathaway (President Emeritus, 11th ACVVC) will be honored with the Noble Patron of Armor Award, Gold Medallion. Allen was nominated by BG (Ret) John Sherman Crow (49th Colonel of the Blackhorse) and COL

(Ret) Glenn Snodgrass. Congratulations Allen and "Well done!"

Upcoming Events

Breakfast at Poor Richard's Café – The North Texas members of the 11th ACVVC will be gathering at Poor Richard's Café, 2442 K Avenue, Plano, TX 75074 for breakfast and friendship on Friday, April 19 at 10:00am, 2442 K Ave, Plano, TX 75074.

East Texas Round Up - will be held at the Tyler State Park, May 3rd, Friday evening fish fry and May 4th, Saturday for Lunch. For more information please call Jan Beamon at 903-780-5621 or 903-805-0703 and we will help with any info you need. We have one more camper spot available Wednesday – Sunday.

Memorial Day Wreath Laying – Once again, Blackhorse Troopers from all eras will gather near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 5 Henry Bacon Drive NW, Washington, DC 20245. All Blackhorse Troopers, family and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall at 10:00am, Monday, May 27, 2019. We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall. Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath

that will be there by 9:30am. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested in participating. If you can't attend, take a moment wherever you may be and remember our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Our memories of them will live forever.

- 11th ACVVC Women's Group – Please be sure to read Sheryl Myers informative report and learn more about what our Women's Group is doing.

- Registration – BOD member Bob Moreno covers all the bases in his must-read article.

- 11th ACVVC Scholarship – The application and a complete report by Chm. Mike "Doc" Rafferty is in this issue.

- Silent Auction – Greg Mason spells out the format for donating to and bidding in the Silent Auction.

- 11th ACVVC 2019 Calendar – If you haven't received your copy of the 11th ACVVC 2019 calendar, please contact me or Allen Hathaway. If you did receive your copy and like it, please mail in a donation. Thank you!

Finally, thank you to everyone who donates to our various funds; thank you to all our Committee Chairman, our Officers and our Women's Group and a special thanks to every member of the 11th ACVVC; without you, we would not exist or succeed.

"ALLONS!"

SELF at Rest

Does life conform to the plans, each of us has made;

Do we possess special insight, guiding us from birth to grave?

Or, are we insignificant ingredients, in life's primordial pot;

Adrift in an endless maze, moving randomly from spot to spot.

Sometimes seeing a ghostly shade of what might become;

More often, random chance renders our plans quickly undone.

Some believe a grand design steadfastly illuminates our path;

If so, what explains the hate, the prejudice—war's blood bath.

Do the questions really matter, if we embrace humility and humanity in our lives?

Stability is ours to have, when selfishness is sacrificed.

Life flow freely, moment to moment, and we are at our best;

Sharing love and respect with each other, and keeping SELF at rest.

HAWORTH from page 1

For many years Chaplain Larry Haworth wrote an article for Thunder Run. He always ended the article with the words "God loves you and so do I". When wording of the award was being developed echoing that sentiment in a paraphrase of those words was decided to be appropriate. From the time Captain Haworth ministered to the young men of the 11th Armored Cavalry in the jungles of Vietnam in 1969-1970 to the years 1986 and forward serving the "older" Veterans of the 11th ACVVC, the love he had for these men was always evident. But the love and respect they had for him wasn't fully realized during those days of their youth in a time of war and awaiting their time to go home.

As the years passed after coming home from Vietnam some memories faded but many would not be forgotten. Some of what was remembered were those Sundays that Chaplain Haworth would step off a chopper and set up his make shift chapel. Those young men were given the opportunity to put aside their daily routine of waging war and share in the thoughts of peace and love.

The significance of those brief respites and the message that was being conveyed began to be fully appreciated when at the reunions of the 11th ACVVC Larry would again set up his alter, now a proper one, and again shared his message as he did in the jungle so long ago.

If it had not been for the words of our Chaplain in those darker days in Vietnam we would have lost sight of the love that men could still feel and forgotten that peace still existed, somewhere, and on those Sundays that peace was with us.

During the presentation of Larry's award love and peace, were evident in the faces and acts of every man (and woman) present. It was shown in the handshakes and hugs exchanged freely and without pause between the men that had been linked together by a war so long ago and now bonded by the comfort found in the same words that were spoken then and now. It was underscored by the respect and reverence shown to the man who once again shared his wisdom.

**For this we honor Chaplain Larry Haworth,
The man that God loves, and so do we.**

Frank Church

CEREMONY from page 1



Blackhorse Troopers lay wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Interesting Facebook statistics for the video of the wreath laying at Arlington on Feb 2, 2018 had:

- Reached 53,493 people - it's excellent to reach this many people.
- Was shared 638 times (people saw the video and "shared" it with their friends.
- Had 42 comments

Here's an example of one comment: "I proudly rode with the Blackhorse from November 1969 thru November 1970".

Many of us never heard or knew the history of the regiment in Vietnam. I don't remember celebrating the birthday on Feb 2, 1967 when I was there.

The Regiment also has video on their FB site. It's worth watching!



Welcome Home and ALLONS!

Allen



**Membership is
Our Strength**



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

REUNION from page 5

ule the ride at least 4 hours in advance. If you want to use the shuttle schedule it before you leave home, and you will need the confirmation number before boarding the shuttle. The web site is also on the hotel registration confirmation page, or visit the web page for "LASexpress." If at all possible do not take a taxi! I did this on arrival and was "long hauled" to the hotel and it cost more than double the shuttle rate. If you are arriving late consider Uber. If a taxi is the only transportation tell the driver you will report him if he takes the long way to the hotel. The trip should be straight up Paradise Dr. from the airport to the hotel in no more than 15 minutes. If the taxi takes you onto I-15, it's the long way.

The tram stops at the hotel and is painless to use and is a very good way to get to the Strip. You can get a discount on the fare by going to <https://tix.lvmonorail.com>. Follow the instructions to purchase the number of days you want to ride. The reservations must be purchased on line to get the discount. It can not be done at the station.

I did not use the scooter service but I did see many of them in the hotel. Those can be reserved at the time you make reservations.

If you want information on things to do while you are in Vegas go to the Convention Bureau website (LVCVA.com). There is also information on the Hotel confirmation web site.

The in-room amenities can be somewhat misleading. In room unsecure WIFI

is available for no cost but a secure connection does have a cost. If you drink the bottled water it's extra, same with the coffee. If you want more than I cup, there's a Starbucks in the lobby. Just be aware of the unpublished costs.

Pay attention to each bank of elevators, they only go to certain floors and there is security to admit only those who have a room-key after 10:00pm. For those who have their service dogs with them, there is an area near the North parking garage for pet relief. Please be a responsible pet parent and pick up after your little friend. There is ample evidence that many people do not.

Please adhere to our cutoff dates. Reunion registration cutoff date is July 24, 2019. Hotel registration is 3 days prior to your scheduled arrival. All is fully refundable if done so by these dates. Late registrations cannot be honored. This isn't just an arbitrary date. The 11th ACVVC officers responsible for making the reunion a success must have time to process all registrations, have your reunion packets and name tags ready, set the bunker and banquet rooms to accommodate the number of attendees and have the hotel prepare the correct number of meals. All before they themselves leave to go to the reunion. Planning a successful reunion is a huge endeavor. You can help make it more enjoyable for everyone by making your reservations early.

We are all looking forward to seeing you at this year's reunion!

Eleventh Cavalry Plans Observance of Mexican Battle

Reprinted from The Californian, (Salinas, California) 28 April 1926, Wednesday, page 2 (Research courtesy of Don Snedeker)

MONTEREY, April 27 – Plans are under way at the Presidio of Monterey for the celebration by the Eleventh Cavalry of the tenth Anniversary of the Regiment's success in the engagement at Ojo Azules, Mexico. This was on May 5, 1916 when the organization served with General John J. Pershing in the punitive expedition across the border.



The engagement anniversary will be celebrated this year on that date and will take the place of the customary celebration of the anniversary of the organization of the regiment which occurred on Feb 2. It was on Feb. 2 1902, that congress authorized the organization of the Eleventh Cavalry, but at the suggestion of Colonel Leon B. Fromer, post commander it was decided this year to celebrate the battle of Ojo Azules instead of the organization.

Plans for the celebration have been announced by Captain Alexander B. McNabb, post adjutant. A short program of military exercises, including the review of the regiment will mark the early part of the day. At noon, the men of the post will be served a holiday dinner. The afternoon will be devoted to sports.

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



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

VA Claims and other ‘stuff’

Chuck Bosko (F Troop, 69-70)

Greetings again fellow Blackhorse vets! So — evidently, some members read the previous article in the 1st Quarter edition of *Thunder Run* as I have been in contact with a few vets and one fellow member rendered some thoughts of his own. Okay, one purpose of my submissions is to elicit discussion — and so it has! Great — Let’s keep the conversation lively and let’s move on! Actually — Allons!

Mind you fellow reader, the topics I share with you derive from my own experiences as a VSO. As such, how I approach a veteran, and or the vet’s family, seeking assistance may very well differ in some nuance from other VSO’s approach to advocacy. However the approach, advising a veteran is a primary responsibility. As a fellow vet-especially a Nam vet- “I tell it like it is”. My intention is to inform a claimant of what the VA MUST have to substantiate a claim for compensation which was basically provided in the previous article. By so advising and ensuring all supporting medical and related evidence is accumulated and arranged in a Fully Developed Claim, once submitted, the prospects of that claim becoming an award for the veteran is greatly enhanced. Granted- there are no guarantees- especially with the VBA! However- the advocacy of a VSO is to promote the best advice. “Tell it like it is”. So far for the past seven years- it works! More on this in a future article. Oh, by the way- most VSO’s incorporate the “Intent to File “claim, with close management.

PTSD! Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The one wound no individual is ever prepared to encounter. A wound which, although not visible, manifests in so many visible manners. According to the American Psychiatric Associations, DSM V, PTSD is an anxiety disorder which merits a unique category only because unlike other anxiety disorders, this uninvited guest lingers- indefinitely. During so many office visits with veterans — and sometimes with a spouse- a claim for a condition, or conditions, will be prepared. Once the claim is

Mind you fellow reader, the topics I share with you derive from my own experiences as a VSO. As such, how I approach a veteran, and or the vet’s family, seeking assistance may very well differ in some nuance from other VSO’s approach to advocacy.

“finished” and prior to saying our good-byes, I allow a moment of silence before I inquire of one more condition, especially of a Nam vet- or any combat vet. IF the spouse is present, I quietly mention to the vet that I am going to ask the spouse a question. Most often, the response is “Okay”. “Spouse have you two ever been driving somewhere, of just sitting around, and everything is nice. Then you just happen to utter a thought or do something and out of the blue, your vet’s behavior goes south- for no apparent reason! He yells at you, says something that hurts. Then after some time has passed, he’s sorry beyond words. Has this happened in your lives together?” When my fellow vet bows his head, when tears swell in her eyes, and his eyes, I know my advocacy is not quite completed. Understanding this medical condition and exactly what the VBA requires of any mental health claim is so important. Of critical importance is an acknowledgement that the VA folks who process a claim- for the most part- have no medical background of any nature. They simply read what an examiner reports on a compensation examination. They do not interpret; they rate by what the examiner renders. Another “By the way”- VA only will accept a diagnosis for any mental health condition from a Psychologist or Psychiatrist. A “diagnosis” from a social worker, Nurse practitioner, counselor will not be considered as a true diagnosis. Anyway- on to a claim-

• VA 21-526EZ, VA 21-0781, VA 21-4138, DD 214 (DD 215 if applicable), VA 21-686c, personal statements from “buddies” or family in support of a claim, orders or related military documents if in possession of and whatever else deemed important. This “stuff” I refer to is actually very important to support a claim for any mental health condition including PTSD especially if this is a first ever claim for a vet. The

following is my methodology which has been successful through the years. Allons-

• **21-526EZ-** the claim. What is the vet indicating is a medical problem? In this example, PTSD (or any mental health condition), due to combat.

• **DD 214** (215 if applicable) — This will indicate what the vet did in service. Indicates MOS — or specialty such as infantry, combat medic (my MOS), awards including a Purple Heart, Silver Star with valor, etc. This is important as combat arm skills are a presumptive for direct enemy engagement. For other military skills, VA requires additional “proof”. More on that in a bit.

• **21-686c.** Dependent information. Hey, include it with the original claim. Any ratings 30% or higher allow for extra \$\$\$.

MUST have marriage license(s), divorce docs-if any for both, children’s dates of birth, birth certificates, and SSN’s for each individual.

• **21-0871:** This is the most important form to have completed- in detail! This form allows for dates of enemy engagement or any related “Stressor or stressors” that are the cause of any mental anguish. I always tell an individual that writing about those buried memories is not easy, is not pleasant. However- by describing in as much depth as possible for one or several incidents allows for some VA person to become so very aware of how deep a vet is suffering. There is nothing in the world that will erase what we saw, what we had to do. To be honest, no matter the rating, no matter the money — we will take those memories with us. Yet, whatever money does come along, we can make our lives and the lives of those we love just a little bit better. Any veteran with any mental health condition -has earned that.

More on supportive statements. These need to be clear, as much detail as possible,

names and ranks of those killed or injured, what a vet saw or did. I always advise to just write- write whatever comes to mind. When finished- put that aside for a day. Then reread and revise. Make it clear, this is your story! (Make four years of high school English pay off). When others write supportive statements for you, their words must also add clarity. Please remember this if anything. Some VA person, who may never meet you, needs to become aware of your story. That individual will also schedule a compensation examination. The more detail that is included – the better informed an examiner (PhD or MD) will be and based on the examination with the vet, the more likely a diagnosis(dx) for mental health- PTSD will be.

Okay, granted- I do get wordy! Yet detail counts. A couple of more “by the ways”. First, a first claim for any medical condition will necessitate a VA compensation examination with a VA doctor. Many vets submit DBQ’s (disability benefits questionnaires) with a first claim. VA is under no requirement to accept those- not for a claim to establish service connection. Once service connection is granted- then VA is more lenient. Second- so very important – if a vet is currently under the care of a mental health professional, GREAT! The vet should include all private medical records associated with the claim. VA medical records will be acquired by VA. Just indicate which VA hospital has those records on the claim form. This establishes an existing, diagnosed medical condition. VA will still schedule a comp exam. That’s just the way it is. DO NOT MISS THAT EXAM! Third- IF a vet is not currently under the care of a therapist- START! Fourth-VA will research all dates, names, etc. Again, that’s the way it is.

Whew! Anyone reading this entire article deserves something- what, I am not sure. Perhaps if I attend this year’s reunion in Vegas, a round on me. Get me before I hit the tables though- I suck at gambling.

Fellow vets- none of this is easy. Do not submit any claim on your own. Seek the assistance of good VSO’s. VSO’s exist to assist you with your claim.

Allons and welcome home-
 Chuck Bosko
 Medic, F Troop

2019 Election

By Greg Mason

Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting held Saturday morning, August 24th, during the 2019 Reunion. **The three positions are Vice President, Treasurer and one Director.**

The Vice President and Treasurer will serve two-year terms. The Director will serve a three-year term. All terms will begin January 1, 2020.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their elected term.

The elected candidates must be able to communicate by e-mail with the other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters. Each candidate must be highly organized and be able to commit time and energy to a specific project or committee as directed by the President. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Word and Excel are required in order to prepare reports and other documents required of all positions.

The position of Vice President serves as the President’s right hand man. In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. Sound leadership skills are fundamental to the position.

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund, the organization’s investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

The Directors are expected to commit themselves to a specific area of interest within the 11th ACVVC or as directed by the President.

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or submitted from the floor at the General Membership meeting. Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.

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.

Meet the Officers of the 11th ACVVC

Michael Dean Rafferty was born in Lansing, Michigan on September 25, 1946. He attended public schools in Lansing through the 12th grade. Then he enrolled in nearby Michigan State University and completed a Bachelor of Music degree in 1968. After completing work on a Master of Music degree at Ball State University, he was drafted in July of 1969. Since he had requested and received conscientious objector status from his local draft board, he was sent to Ft. Sam Houston for Basic and AIT. Upon arrival in Nam in early December, he was assigned to the 11th ACR and after meeting Dr. Collins, the 2nd Squadron Surgeon, was sent out to the field to join G troop. Mike spent the next six months as a platoon medic with G troop. In June of 1970, he was assigned to the 2nd Squadron firebase aid station to assist the squadron surgeon, Dr. Spurgeon. He spent the last two months of his tour in Dian at the aid station working for Dr. Spurgeon.

After his return from Vietnam, Mike had attained the rank of Spec. 5 and was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington to work in the main aid station. He was discharged from the Army in July of 1971 and decided to return to Ball State University to continue his music studies in the fall. It was there that he met his wife, Elaine, who was working on her Master of Music degree. They were married in Independence, Missouri on May 28, 1972. Since their wedding, they have lived in Muncie, Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Kansas City Missouri; and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mike and Elaine have two sons. Alan is a cellist in the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Patrick is a Vice President and Senior Program Manager for a large French bank. They have one grandchild, Clara who is 7 years old and plays the cello like her Dad.

Mike has had three different careers during his working life. He taught vocal music in public schools in Illinois and New Mexico. He had a career in the insurance business for 16 years in New Mexico. For 13 years he was a self-employed piano teacher in Missouri. Since retiring in Las Cruces in 2009, he has worked in the



Michael Dean Rafferty, ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, then and now.



public schools as a part time piano accompanist. He has also accompanied his church choir for the past several years. Elaine had a career in music teaching as well and currently is active playing the violin and viola in various musical groups in Las Cruces.

Mike has been a member of the 11th ACVVC since 1992 when he also attended his first reunion in San Antonio. There he met Frank Cambria, Frank Church, Wayne West and other guys he had served with in Vietnam. At the reunion he found other people he could talk to about the war because they had been in the “valley of the shadow of death” and knew what he was talking about. He kept coming back to reunions and became a board member and Scholarship Chairman in 2011. He wishes to continue to serve our organization as long as he is able.

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2019

**By: Mike “Doc” Rafferty,
Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman**

The proceeds from this year’s raffle will go towards providing scholarships for the children and grandchildren of life members, deceased life members, and our KIAs. If you have a grandchild or child who is planning on attending a university, community college or trade school, please encourage them to apply for an 11th ACVVC scholarship. Please advise them to look at the scholarship guide and application on our website (www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.htm) or contact me for more information or if they have questions.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2019 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, August 24th during the 34rd annual reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

- 1st place (\$500)
- 2nd place (\$400)
- 3rd place (\$300)
- 4th place (\$200)
- ...and eleven \$100 prizes.

Raffle tickets will be mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May. Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

DEFINING MOMENTS

The veterans of the Vietnam War are not young anymore, No matter how good of shape we think we're in, no matter how hard we push ourselves physically to stay fit, the truth is our age is catching up with us, albeit more quickly (or slowly) for some. While in our own minds we may think we are as tough and capable as we ever were, our bodies remind us we aren't quite as fit as we used to be, and our memories are not quite as sharp about some things, while curiously remaining crystal clear about other events in our lives regardless of how long ago those memories were made.

As we get older I think we share a common experience that sometimes we reflect on memories that seem to persist as fresher, and more intense than any of our other memories. These memories are often of defining moments or turning points in our lives. These are memories of events that are so intense and so profound they have left a forever indelible impression on our lives and psyches, and forever changed the course of our lives. We recognize these memories as so significant they bear special remembrance of things that changed our lives, some in a positive way, or even some in a negative way. Even now some of these distant memories are so powerful they evoke an upwelling of emotion we are barely able to contain.

As I age I find that my memories and emotions are triggered a little more easily than they used to be, especially when I think about the war in Vietnam. I confess I don't fully understand that. I'm not sure why Vietnam seems to be the most defining, memorable turning point in my life. It's not that I don't have memories of other significant and even pleasant events in my life, I just find that my memories of in-country remain closer to the surface than any of my other memories. It's like there has been no time lapse between then and now.

I went off to the war in Vietnam fully expecting not to survive. I had volunteered for the military and volunteered to go to a combat zone. Once in country I attempted to volunteer for more hazardous assignments only to be told I was more valuable in my assigned job. I was prepared not to

As I age I find that my memories and emotions are triggered a little more easily than they used to be, especially when I think about the war in Vietnam.

survive. I accepted the idea that I was going to die in a far-away place. I welcomed the prospect of ending the suffering I had experienced as an orphan, and an outcast of my extended family. As a ward of the court by the time I was ten-years old I had lived in five different homes. My mother had died, and my father had abandoned me. I thought I had nothing to live for, no future. Certainly nothing in my life up to that point had resembled a normal childhood. Effectively I felt didn't exist. I was pretty sure that if I died in Vietnam it would hardly matter. I had no strong relationships to sustain me, my church had shunned me because of my involvement in the war, and I really had nothing positive to come home to. I had been mediocre at best in high school and I had already flunked out of college. I thought I was in love, but while I was in-country my girlfriend cheated on me (how many of us chanted marching cadence to "Jodie" in basic and AIT ?). I had no job prospects, no real family support, and nowhere to live even if I survived and made it home.

But sometimes a single event can intrude and totally upend your reality. Perhaps a moment of sudden fear can cause an epiphany that blocks out the perceived terror of the moment and provide a clarity of vision that shows you a crystal clear picture of what is happening in your life, and where your future should go. It can become a turning point in your life. You suddenly realize that you can overcome the fear of the moment, forget self doubt, and become motivated to overcome not only the adversities of the present, but reveal a confidence that you will overcome future adversities as well.

Vietnam upended my reality. My defining moment happened about a week after I completed Newbie school at Dian base camp. On bunker guard for the first time, I got my first taste of abject fear. We started hearing mortars in the distance, sounding as if they were moving toward our perimeter (they weren't). Suddenly I imagined sappers (who incidentally weren't there)

coming towards our section of the perimeter. Staring hard into the darkness at the concertina wire directly to our front I could just make out hints of movement in the wire. Scared, but ready to fight, I popped a flare to light my field of fire, only to discover that the movement that had instilled such fear in me was merely the remains of old flare parachutes caught up in the wire. I felt like a dumbass. However, in that moment I realized that had I not flunked out of college, I never would have been in this situation. It only took that one near paralyzing moment of fear (no matter how irrational at the time) to change my perspective and instill in me a drive not only to survive, but to return to the "World" and turn my life around. You've no doubt heard the old adage that there are no atheists in foxholes. Despite the fact that my faith had all but deserted me prior to deployment, I swore to God that if he would get me out of Vietnam alive and well that I would go back to college, get straight A's, and make something out of my life. I kept my promise (mostly). So here we are nearly 50-years later. When I read the 11th AVCC newsletter every quarter I am struck by the increasing number of our brothers that await us in Fiddler's Green. Like you, even though we aren't young anymore I'm not willing to acknowledge that I am on the "downhill" side of life. We can say that age is just a number, but the real truth is that we are much closer to the end of our lives than the beginning. That's OK though. We don't need to dwell on it, or be afraid of it, and it's no reason to climb into our favorite chair and wait to die. We need to press on. We need to recognize the value of the time we have left and choose to continue to experience the very best life has to offer while remembering so many are so much less fortunate than we are. We need to bear witness and honor the memories made so long ago, and recognize the positive as well as the negative impacts the war had on our lives. It was a turning point in all of our lives...

*K.H. Elliott, 541st MID
Life Member 11th ACVVC*



The Glory is in the Quest

On the 6th of June, American patriots will celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day; the Normandy invasion that penetrated the impregnable North Atlantic Wall and served as a portent of our victory in Europe. It is hard to imagine that a 20 year old lad in 1944, who survived that invasion will be 95 years old on June 6, 2019. A very small percentage of those men will be around to celebrate that invasion and that victory this year. But of those who are still with us, and of those who hit the beaches of Normandy that day or landed by glider or floated to earth via parachute in the fields near Sainte Mere-Eglise, few believed it was a victory that day. For them war indeed was hell, and their quest was survival, their goal was victory.



On 19 March of this year, coming back from North Carolina through Central Virginia, I took my brother-in-law to see the D-Day National Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. Bedford is a small town just below the Peaks of Otter of the Blue Ridge Mountains that has a somber distinction. Joe and I took a back country road, a Virginia By-way that meandered along rocky ridges, across swollen streams to climb up one side of a mountain only to slide quickly down the other.

Joe Rizzo (my brother-in-law) was driving and was a bit perturbed with his navigator (me). To his frequent question as to how much further and where is this place, I could only answer: *"keep driving Joe, the glory is in the quest."* When we got there and viewed the memorial and landscaped grounds, read the myriad plaques and heard the stories of the Bedford Boys, it really was a story of courageous young men, a community that nurtured them and, of a nation that was to glory in their triumph.

On the morning of 6 June 1944 there were 44 soldiers, sailors and airmen from the town and county of Bedford, Virginia massed off the shore of Normandy, bobbing in the English Channel. Thirty-seven of these young men were assigned to Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. On that day 31 of them loaded into landing craft and were in the first wave to hit Omaha Beach. Five were blown from their landing craft, 20 were killed on the beach and four others were wounded in a matter of minutes. In comparison with its 1940 population, Bedford suffered the nation's severest per capita D-Day loss. From the small town of Bedford, Virginia of those who participated in the Normandy invasion, only two came home.

Vietnam veterans have and will continue, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Some of us even have a lapel pin or coin to acknowledge our quest for victory or survival in that war. Like the city of Bedford, our token is but a reminder of a somber distinction. We found no glory in victory, but only glory in our quest.

Not too many days from now, we will be observing Memorial

Day. We will be remembering our fallen, both those who died in "the Nam" and those who have left our side since. This year that observation will take place on the 27th of May and a significant number of troopers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment will travel to Washington, DC to salute our honored dead and each other. We continue that glorious quest.

Most of those gathering will be the veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia who regularly gather on the National Mall a little north and east of the Lincoln Memorial. They will be accompanied by some of their family members, and are often joined by former Blackhorse Troopers who stalwartly stood in a thin line facing the might of the Soviet Union in the canyons of Fulda Gap and even by active duty soldiers who received their baptism of fire in the sand pits of Southwest Asia.

It is always a surprise as to who, and how many, show up early each Memorial Day morning in the shadow of "The Three Grunts." Beside our guys who come from as far away as California or from deep in Florida, or who venture an early morning 4 hour drive from a Central Pennsylvania farm, we are joined by family members of our KIA's and of our gallant survivors, for-

Your Big Chance to Be Heard

Needed

Singer(s) for our Reunion Memorial Service
(Current Chaplain sounds like a frog.)

Songs

- "America the Beautiful"
- "God Bless America"
- "Amazing Grace"
- "The National Anthem"

Also

It would be great to have a Bugler to play "Taps"
[and maybe "Ruffles and Flourishes" when the President approaches podium!]

Contact

Chaplain Bill Karabinos on 757-566-8885
or by email at blandinkarabinos@gmail.com

You will find it a rewarding experience ... and will really feel good on your way home.

Your fellow Blackhorse Troopers will really appreciate your vocal talent.

mer nurses - who with soft hands, warm hearts and beautiful smiles cared for us at the Blackhorse Base Camp hospital. We have even hosted a multi-decorated hero of the 11th Armored Cavalry of World War II who also held the posts of the United States Ambassador to Luxembourg and the Netherlands. More often than not, we also have at each of these gatherings a retired general or two, former colonels of the regiment and even a number of men who were to be named a "Colonel of the Regiment."

That happens - the gathering that is, again each Veterans Day and in recent years, on the birthday of the 11th Cavalry Regiment, when we formally and solemnly lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Few would believe, especially those familiar with obnoxious traffic in the Washington DC area, that so many would return year after year like on a pilgrim's quest just to be with their Blackhorse brothers and to pay homage to their fallen comrades.

And you do it also in other places around the country; at our annual reunion and when you present yourselves at the wake or funeral rite of a recently fallen Trooper. The pride and comfort you bring to the surviving family members is priceless. The joy and satisfaction you will know, or have felt deep in your gut, is eye-watering.

What is our Quest? In its pursuit, how do we find Glory?

Our quest? It is to seek out each other because we were proud to serve in a special unit; with competent, caring, loyal and trust-

worthy men. We didn't know at the time just how good we had it, or why it would be called - the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment. It took us some years and a lot of encouragement from the greeting of so many of our fellow warriors that we've met on the streets. It seems to never fail that a fellow Vietnam veteran or a family member of a warrior, spotting our red, white and black patch will stop and say thanks ... or more likely, "*you saved my derriere.*" It wasn't me, it was you and all the Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1972.

As an example: this month on the 2nd of March in Monument Valley, Arizona a Navajo Tour Guide saw the 11th Cav patch on my hat and greeted me - "Blackhorse." His uncle, who has passed, served with us in '67; on Sunday the 10th in church, a former Engineer officer and retired Army veteran, saw the lapel pin and stopped to tell me how his "Rome Plow" unit was chased and pinned down in 1967 by an NVA company, before two Blackhorse tracks arrived to blow them away. It happens every time I walk the bridge from Arlington Cemetery to the The Wall. Some former soldier wearing another unit's pin or patch will salute me and say "Thanks Blackhorse" you came to our rescue.

We have yet more quests to pursue and a final one to secure. I found a summation on my computer screen recently: "*A doctor can save your life, a lawyer can defend your life, a soldier can give you a peaceful life, but only God can give you everlasting life.*" Amazing. Our Quest for Glory; never thought it was that simple.

SALUTE TO HONORABLE MEN AND WOMEN

By Dr. Sandra L. Russell

Published July 27, 2018

OCS Profiles: Bill Suhre and Thomas McGarrity

Often the bonds between war buddies are eternal. Such is true for these two Vietnam veterans, Suhre and McGarrity. The heading from The Greeley Tribune written by Mike Peters reads, "Bill Suhre stands in his Greeley law office Saturday in Greeley. The decorated Vietnam veteran was awarded the Bronze Star (w/V) for saving the lives of his fellow soldiers under fire and trapped in a bombed, burning vehicle. Suhre recently received a letter from one of the men he saved. He thought the man had later died of his injuries."

It is my decision to share the entire article for this chapter on the effects of how a letter brings back memories and emotions that are deep seated and better spoken to readers by the staff writer, Peters, and the direct quotes from the two veterans.

It takes a lot to make combat veterans cry. They are tough guys who have seen the worst. But when he got the letter, Bill Suhre - combat veteran, Vietnam vet, Purple Heart winner - admits that maybe he cried a little. Addressed to Suhre, who is a Greeley attorney and retired veteran, the envelope looks like it was addressed with shaking hands. It came from Griffithville, Ark, a place Suhre couldn't recall. Because of the shaking hands that wrote it, the letter was difficult to read, but Suhre took the time. It was from Thomas McGarrity, who wrote that he has Parkinson's disease and

it's difficult, "but I felt compelled to try and write the letter." And McGarrity told the story.

"On May 4, 1968, I was TC (tank commander)... that was hit with an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade). All in my vehicle was wounded, my driver the worst. I was hit with 128 pieces of shrapnel."

McGarrity explained how the vehicle continued to take fire from enemy soldiers hidden in the jungle.

"When I came to, you were coming to me and pulled me back behind the vehicle. Thank God you were there!"

The letter made Suhre think back to those days when he was a young lieutenant and platoon leader in the 11th Armored Cavalry. Today he calls those days, "the best and most difficult of my life."

The event McGarrity wrote about was near Duc Hua, Vietnam. Suhre won the Bronze Star that day. The award reads, "Disregarding his own safety, Lt Suhre ran under intense fire to the disabled vehicle and carried the casualties to an awaiting vehicle for evacuation." It goes on to explain how Suhre then returned to his own vehicle and directed the battle. "I thought McGarrity was dead," Suhre said from his office last week. "He looked in bad shape when they took him away to the hospital. In those days, when the men were taken away injured, you never heard from them again and never found out what happened to them."

11th ACVVC 34th Reunion Registration! Do it now!

Greetings to everyone from the blustery cold Midwest! As I sit here writing this article, I am also thinking how sunny and warm it will be when we join once again in Las Vegas.

Following the Reunion in Michigan, we decided to go north to Mackinaw City MI and spend a few days there. We have driven through Mackinaw City quite a few times before but never taken the time to go to the Island. So, we took the ferry across to Mackinaw Island for the day. As I was coming out of one of the stores a man got in my face and said "Blackhorse, G Troop 1969" and I said yes! I had my Blackhorse hat and Blackhorse t-shirt on, and in 1969 I was with G Troop. I asked him how he knew I was with G Troop in 1969? He said he didn't but said that was the year and the unit he was with in Viet Nam. What are the odds? He said he didn't know about the reunions we have been having. I got his address and told him that I would send him more information. (His name is Don W. Creger from Machesney, IL and that he was the 3rd PLT LDR on track G-36.) He was the second trooper that I came across on this trip. I'm sure that a lot of you have a story like this that you can pass on about coming across a troop who was in the 11th Cav. If you do, pass it on.

Is this your first reunion? We had 126 First Timers registered last year and 50 to 80 First Timers in the prior past 7 years. Be sure to let us know by marking the Registration Form where it asks, "Is this your first reunion?". Our goal is to locate as many, if not all, of those who served with the Blackhorse in Viet Nam.

If you are one of our Star Families, please be sure to include the name of the member who was the "Blackhorse Trooper", what unit he was with, when he passed, and what relation you and your guests are to him.

OK, Registration Forms. Let's begin with the page on which the Registration Form is printed. "PLEASE DO NOT" cut or trim this page down. Send in the whole page! When I receive the forms, I record the information from it onto the web-site. I then place all the forms into a 3-ring binder which is used as a reference at the Reunion itself. After the Reunion that binder is used for future references and is put in the bookshelf that I have for all the past Reunions that Barb and I have done. So, you see having the whole page makes it easier to punch the three holes and file into the binder.

When mailing in your Registration Form please use one of the many address labels you receive in the mail. They really do make a difference, by having the correct spelling of your name and where you are from sure makes my job a lot easier. As we get older our handwriting seems to get harder to read. And my eyes aren't as good as they use to be.

When you register for the reunion on the 11thACVVC web-site we get that form right away and we can process it. When you mail your Registration Form to Ollie it may take a week before I receive it. As soon as I get them, I will put all the information on to the web-site under who is attending the reunion. When I do get them posted on the web-site and if you see some-things wrong with your name, whether it be a spelling error or under the wrong unit please call only me. I am the one who is

responsible for making any corrections on the list on the web-site. My home ph.# is 608-372-5892 or send me an e-mail with the correct spelling or correct information, my email is gtroop-bob@gmail.com.

I have had several calls from Troopers asking if it was alright to bring a "friend" with them. Of course, it is, just remember that they too must preregister and pay the full Registration amount. When you list your guest on the Registration Form and if they are from a different State or City please place that next to their name on the Registration Form. I will put this information 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. Remember to register your service dog (no fee). Please always wear your name tag during the Reunion.

Your meal tickets are located behind your name tag. They are color coded for the type of meal you have chosen for the Banquet for Saturday night. The Red is for Beef, Yellow is for Chicken, the Green is for Veggie and the Purple is for Fruit. Chose only one per person, all Chicken and Beef meals come with veggies and/or potato. When you find your table and your seat you need to put your meal ticket on the table in front of you. This will let the server know what plate to bring you. The meal count is turned in to the Chef as soon as possible and can't be changed so please if you need to change your choice get with someone else who would like to trade theirs with you.

Your name tag has your Name, Unit, Date you were with that Unit in Viet Nam "or Guest" and the City and State you are from. The Unit on your name tag is the Unit you and your Guest will be sitting with at the Banquet on Saturday night. Please don't sit with another Unit during the Banquet, all seats are set by the count that you all have given us.

If you are not sure if you can make the Reunion and won't know until we get closer to the date of the Reunion, please register any way. If you find you can't make the Reunion you can cancel and your money is refundable. We (Ollie Pickral or Bob Moreno) must receive (by phone or mail) your cancellations by the 12th of August for a full refund. The 13th of August is the date that we turn in the count to the Chef for the meals and we are then committed to paying for those meals. The hotel is filling up fast please make your reservation for the hotel as soon as you can. If you need to cancel your hotel, the cutoff date is August the 5th for a full refund.

Last year we had a 1st Time Trooper who came only for the Banquet. The Registration desk was closed when they got there. We try to keep the Registration desk open as long as we can before we go to our room to get dressed for the Banquet. Since they had no idea what to do because they didn't have their name tag or a meal ticket they left. This year a cell phone number (608-387-3346) will be posted at the Registration desk. I will always have my phone with me, so this doesn't happen again.

NOTE: If you haven't sent in the envelope that came with your calendar, please do so. One hundred percent of the donation goes to the scholarship fund. Remember, we are now accepting

scholarships applications for grandchildren. The more funds we have in the scholarship fund the more scholarships we can give. It would be great if we could give every applicant a scholarship. With your donation we can. "PLEASE DONATE"

Well, I'll save any thing else for the next time. Please get those Registrations in early and be sure to make your Hotel

Reservation now! And please call me if you have any questions.

ALLONS

Robert "Bob" Moreno
G Troop 2/11th
11th ACVVC Board of Directors
Registration Chairman

Reunion Assistance Fund

Ollie Pickral, 11th ACVVC Treasurer

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members of our troopers killed in action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A hotel room for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
2. Transportation funds for fuel for auto, airfare or bus/train tickets
3. Registration fee.
4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations by our members and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is a separate account and published in the 11th ACVVC financial reports.

To be considered for financial assistance from the fund to attend a reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as parents, siblings, children, widows) making the request must:

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, and
2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th ACR.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation. In addition, the Trooper may be required to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or survivor of a KIA .

Requests must be submitted no later than to July 13, 2019!

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Reunion Assistance Fund

History: In 1989, the Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC agreed there was a need for monies to assist our member Troopers in getting to a reunion. Prior to 1989, the organization received many calls for assistance directly from the Trooper needing assistance or from the buddy of a Trooper hoping to get his buddy to the reunion. It was decided in 1989 that during the meeting of its members, a "passing of the hat" for donations would take place. With those donated funds, the 11th ACVVC could assist in getting some Troopers who might otherwise not attend because of monetary limitations.

During the 2008 Reunion Members Business Meeting, the Board of Director proposed and the membership passed Motion 2008-0823A

to modify the definition and name of the fund to include immediate family members (Parents, siblings, children, widows) of our KIAs.

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Reunion Assistance Fund is to assist, if requested, Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Survivors of our Troopers Killed in Action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
2. Funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare.
3. Registration fees.
4. Meals or food allowance.

Maintenance of Funds: Funds collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting shall be maintained and accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall include the Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report. The Treasurer shall dispense funds from this account as directed by the Officers and Directors of the 11th ACVVC.

Rules of Acceptance: To be accepted for consideration for assistance, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows) requesting financial assistance to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, must

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, and
2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment. *

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC.

Recipients will only be allowed this assistance one time. Exceptions to the one time only use of the Reunion Assistance Fund will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the President and the Treasurer.

Exceptions to the "one time only" rule will rarely be granted and will never be allowed in consecutive years.

*Note: If the request is made by a member of the 11th ACVVC he has already presented "evidence of... service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.



11th ACVVC 34th Annual Reunion

Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road Las Vegas, NV 89109



Day, Date, Time	Event	Location
Tuesday, August 20		
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk
Wednesday, August 21		
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk
9:00 am -	BOD Meeting	Boardroom
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Ballroom Registration Desk
2:00 pm - Midnight	Bunker open	Pavilion 1-8
Thursday, August 22,		
7:00 am	Ft Irwin Trip (depart Westgate)	Bus loading Area (follow signage)
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk
	Quarter Master Store Closed	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Ballroom Registration Desk
2:00 pm – Midnight	Bunker open	Pavilion 1-8
7:00 pm	Ft Irwin Trip (return to Westgate)	Bus Loading Area
Friday, August 23		
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	28th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing	Wildhorse Golf Club
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Ballroom Registration Desk
2:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Registration Desk
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3
2:00 pm – Midnight	Bunker open	Pavilion 1-8
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Silent Auction Sell Off	Pavilion 11
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Pay/Pick up Silent Auction Items	Pavilion 11
Saturday, August 24		
8:30 am	Raffle Drawing	Pavilion 9-11
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting	Pavilion 9-11
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Women’s Group Meeting	Conference Rooms 4-6
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Memorial Service	Pavilion 9-11
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Quarter Master Store Open	Conference Rooms 1-3
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration Open for late arrivals	Ballroom Registration Desk
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm	Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	Ballroom Foyer (Rooms D-G)
	(Banquet Room doors open at 6:00 pm sharp)	
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Banquet, Program, Presentation and Salute	Ballrooms A, C, C
10:00 pm – Midnight	Dancing to DJ	Ballroom Foyer
Sunday, August 25		
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Non-denominational Worship Service	Pavilion 9-11
All Day	Farewell and Safe Travels	

REGISTRATION FORM



34th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Las Vegas, Nevada



August 21 - 25, 2019
Westgate Resort & Casino
3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
Reservations: 1-800-635-7711

Registration fee is \$100 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Wednesday, JULY 24, 2019. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, August 12, 2019.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION
(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Unit Assignment _____ Dates in Country _____
(Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is your banquet seating.) (Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

Please accept my donation to help an active duty Trooper attend the reunion \$ _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken ___ Beef ___ Veggie ___ Fruit ___

Is this your first reunion? Yes No Wheelchair or special needs seating? Yes No

Visa MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:

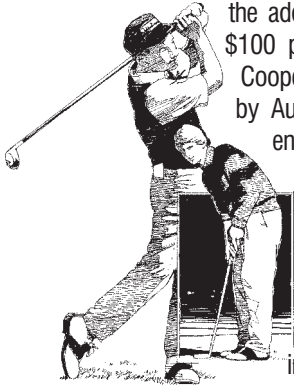
11th ACVVC
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL
571 DITCHLEY RD
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482

THE 28TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Friday, August 23, 2019, Wildhorse Golf Club, 2100 W Warm Springs Rd, Henderson, NV 89014, 702-434-9000

In 2019 we will once again visit Las Vegas, Nevada for the third time and will revisit Wildhorse Golf Club in Henderson, consistently rated as one of the top public courses in Southern Nevada. Wildhorse Golf Club is a great venue for golfers of all abilities. Originally built in 1959, the course was redesigned in 2004 by architects Brian Curley & Lee Schmidt, featuring several holes guarded by shimmering lakes. The championship, par 70 layout is a local's favorite, and a former stop on the PGA tour. Wildhorse Golf Club offers an enjoyable round of golf at an affordable price. The par 4, 9th hole measuring 398 yards was named the toughest hole in the Las Vegas area by the staff at Vegas Golfer Magazine. Placement off the tee is a premium. Too short, and golfers face a long-iron or wood second shot into a green that is fronted by a second lake. Too long, and water comes into play behind the green, leaving the only bailout to the right. One of the finest, as well as toughest golf holes in Southern Nevada, this one has golfers coming back for more

Your \$100 entry fee includes round-trip transportation to/from Wildhorse Golf Club/Westgate Resort & Casino, greens fees, cart with GPS yardage system, post-event luncheon and prizes!



Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Joseph Coopet). Form must be postmarked by Aug 9, 2019 to guarantee your entry! You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and you'll be paired with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men

and women. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will

receive confirmation of your registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Rental clubs are available at \$35 per set (call the course directly to reserve). Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

28TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

E-mail _____

Mail Checks To: **Joe Coopet, 9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125-7507**

2019 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2019 reunion in Las Vegas, NV.

Orders must be received by July 24, 2019.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Shirt Color: White with reunion logo embroidered on **left** side; name, troop, year on **right** side.

Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each. **Shirt size:** _____

Shipping: If you can't attend the reunion, you can still order the shirt. Add \$7 for shipping and we will mail your shirt to you.

Prices include up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)

PLEASE PRINT

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Card No. _____ CVC Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks or money orders payable to **11th ACVVC**. If paying by check, write your drivers license number on the check.

Mail form to **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, C/O Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757**.



2019 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

The 2018 Silent Auction raised \$10,351 for the **11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund** with 240 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows (Please note changes to the hours):

1) Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 34th Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2) We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from **1pm to**

5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

3) You can ship items to Arthur Ehrenberg, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

4) **The auction will be from 6pm to 9pm on Friday night** with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.

5) Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.

6) If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell

phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

7) We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregmason311@gmail.com or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your email as I receive them.

Our reason for requiring items to be picked up and paid for the evening of the auction is because of the difficulties we have had in prior years getting all the items delivered and paid for. We appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas and thanks in advance to all the donors!

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below. **Please print clearly.**

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

Phone # of Donor: _____ Value of Item Donated \$ _____

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Arthur Ehrenberg, 1620 Plata Pico Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128-7370



Membership is Our Strength

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





Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers and Lajaunda Williams, Women's Group Co-coordinators

Dear Ladies,

Spring has sprung here in Colorado... we hope!! For those of you who experienced a wild winter season, I know you are also looking forward to seeing some sun & blossoms.

The first message I would like to share with you is from Kathy Tandberg, our former Coordinator and now our Fund Raising Chairman. Kathy sends a big Thank You to those who brightened her days, after she suffered a stroke in December. Your cards, messages and prayers were and are greatly appreciated. Kathy is working hard to regain her strength and mobility, in the hopes that she will be able to join us at the reunion in Las Vegas.

She sends her love to you all.

Reunion Resgistration

Reunion Week is Aug 20th-25th. Please send in your Reunion Registration and reserve a room at the Westgate, as August will be here before we know it.

If you have any questions about the Reunion, please contact President Peter Walter.

• Rooms: Call the Westgate at 1-800-635-7711 and mention the Reservation Code SACV9R .

• Reunion Registration: Registration forms can be found in issues of the Thunder Run, or on the 11th Cav website: 11thcavnam.com. Deadline is July 24th.

Blackhorse Women's Meeting

The Blackhorse Womens Group will meet on Saturday of reunion week, at 9:00am, while our Troopers are attending their Annual Membership Meeting. Our program details are still in the planning stage, but we are looking forward to meeting you there. If the Las Vegas Reunion will be your "first", we welcome you to join us on Saturday morning.

Once in awhile during the year we may need to communicate with you between Thunder Run issues regarding Blackhorse Women's Group happenings. Please notify me, or one of the Board

Each December, we donate a portion of our raised funds to Wreaths Across America to place wreaths at the gravesites of the 21 Blackhorse KIA buried at Arlington Cemetery. We would like to expand our outreach,...

Members of any changes in your contact information, including phone #, or your E-mail address.

If you don't have E-mail, perhaps a family member or friend could accept messages for you at their address.

How We Support The 11th ACVVC Family

Prayer Shawl Project -Cherry Platt and her team of volunteers create beautiful shawls to be mailed out throughout the year to families of a Trooper who has passed on to Fiddlers Green.

The need for shawls is increasing, so if you would like to join Cherry's team, or help in any other way, please contact her by E-mail at fredplatt@att.net.

Wreaths Across America - Last year, Kathy Tandberg announced how the Women's Group will be further supporting this project. Each December, we donate a portion of our raised funds to Wreaths Across America to place wreaths at the gravesites of the 21 Blackhorse KIA buried at Arlington Cemetery. We would like to expand our outreach, by eventually placing a wreath at each of the remaining 709 KIA Blackhorse troopers' gravesites across the nation. We have a plan, but we will need your help. We will be providing more information on HOW you can help in future Thunder Run editions and of course at our meeting in Las Vegas.

Fund Raising - Why do we have fund raisers? The projects mentioned above are supported by our fund- raisers. For example, the funds buy postage and yarn for the Prayer Shawl project and wreaths for Wreaths Across America. We will have those popular reunion site-specific lanyards available at our fund raising table again this year, and Kathy is working on providing a second item that we know you will love. We depend on vol-

unteers to work the fundraising table.

Please let me know if you would like to add your name to our volunteer list. The more volunteers that sign up, the shorter the shifts will be, and the more time you will have to enjoy other reunion events. Plus, it's fun! You can email me at sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com or call me at 719-559-0695 to volunteer.

Sarah's Angels - In 2015, after the passing of one of our faithful volunteers, we began honoring as "Sarah's Angels", those 11th ACVVC women who have passed since the date of

January 2015. We honor these women at each meeting by reading The Honor List of Sarah's Angels. Please contact Jan Beamon by email at janwowwe@gmail.com , or myself at 719-559-0695 or 19155 Royal Troon Dr. Monument, CO 80132, if you have information on a loss. All losses need to be verified, so Jan will need the women's name, husband's name and unit, date of death, address, and a copy or link to the obituary notice (or email of notice) would be greatly appreciated.

The Women's Group Board Members contact information is listed on the 11thACVVC website at 11thcavnam.com. In the middle of the home page, click on "Messages," which will take you to another page with the listing "Blackhorse Women's News." Click on that and you will find a listing titled Blackhorse Women's Board Members. Important additional links are listed there as well.

Please join us for fun and purpose, as we support our Blackhorse Women and the 11thACVVC Family.

Happy Spring,

Sheryl Myers and Lajaunda Williams, Co-coordinators

Sinise Receives AUSA Chapter's Inaugural Donlon Award

AUSA News; Thursday, March 21, 2019

The Association of the U. S. Army's Greater Kansas City Chapter recently recognized humanitarian, actor and philanthropist Gary Sinise's almost 40 years of exceptional support to veterans, service members and families with the inaugural presentation of the Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon Patriot Award.

The award honors Donlon as both the first U.S. Army Special Forces soldier to receive the Medal of Honor and its first recipient in the Vietnam conflict.

Donlon personally presented the award to Sinise before an audience of more than 370 veterans, service members and members of the Kansas City community who filled the Count Basie Ballroom of the Kansas City Downtown Marriott.

Friends for over a decade, the two shared a heartfelt embrace as Sinise received the framed U.S. Special Forces insignia carved in Brazilian Cherry wood, with stiletto, set on

the red field of the 7th Special Forces Group.

The turnout was tremendous and provided proof of the great esteem held for Donlon and Sinise by both local veteran and civilian members of the community.

Their personal friendship helped make the inaugural presentation of the Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon Patriot Award highly memorable.

Donlon retired from active duty in 1988, and following his distinguished military career has ceaselessly volunteered his time and energies in supporting the nation and his community.

As a captain on July 6, 1964, Donlon led his 12-man Special Forces team alongside 300 South Vietnamese soldiers in successfully defending the Nam Dong Special Forces Camp against a concerted, two-day attack from two Viet Cong battalions with a combined strength of well over 800 communist fighters. President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him with the Medal of Honor on Dec. 5, 1964.

Sinise, who played Lt. Dan Taylor in the movie *Forrest Gump*, is the author of *Grateful American: A Journey from Self to Service*, and continues giving back to those who sacrifice for our nation and encouraging others to do the same.

Sinise has committed his time and energy to veterans since the early 1980s, beginning with "Vets Night" free dinner performances for Vietnam veterans at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago.

Since establishing the Gary Sinise Foundation in 2011, he has led his fellow citizens in doing "all we can to extend our hand in times of need to those who willingly sacrifice each day to provide that freedom and security ... that we, as Americans, should never take for granted."

This is not the first time Sinise has been honored by AUSA.

At AUSA's 2017 Annual Meeting and Exposition, he received the George Catlett Marshall Medal, the highest award for service to the nation presented by the association.

Veterans No Longer Punished for VA's Errors

(Big Sandy, Mont.) – U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) introduced legislation to prevent the VA from charging veterans for its own accounting mistakes.

The VA annually sends as many as 200,000 overpayment notices totaling thousands of dollars to veterans and their families, sending them into crippling debt and withholding future benefits payments until the debt is paid. These overpayments are often a result of the VA's own accounting errors, but the VA puts veterans and their families on the hook for repaying the debt.

Tester, Boozman, and Brown introduced the Veterans Debt Fairness Act to reduce these overpayment errors and require the VA to hold itself, and not veterans, accountable for its mistakes. Their bill requires the VA to shoulder the debt burden of overpayments if the VA was responsible for the debt.

"It's wrong to put the debt from the VA's accounting mistakes on the shoulders of men and women who have served their country," said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "For some veterans, these benefits make the difference

between paying monthly rent or missing payments, and we've got to stop the VA from pulling the rug out from under veterans and their families."

"Veterans rely on their VA benefits to make ends meet and shouldn't be penalized for the department's accounting mistakes," Boozman said. "Supporting veterans and their families by eliminating the potential for hardships caused by the VA's errors is important to honoring our commitment to their service and sacrifice."

"Our veterans sacrifice so much already to serve our country. They shouldn't be paying for the mistakes of the agency that's supposed to serve them," said Brown.

VA benefit overpayment notices have been steadily increasing, sometimes for a payment period dating back as far as five years. Many of these debt overpayments are at no fault of the veteran or their dependents, but rather VA accounting errors and record mismanagement. Currently, the VA can send out debt repayment notices to veterans requesting the full amount due within 30 days while freezing all benefit payments until the debt is repaid.

The Veterans Debt Fairness Act requires the VA to update its computer systems so veterans can update their own information regarding their beneficiaries, eliminating a key cause of overpayments. Under their bill, the VA would be required to offer electronic notification of debt notices, including information on how to file appeals and hardship waivers. Debt collection would have to adhere to a 5-year backlog time limit and no more than 25% withholding of benefit payments.

The Senators introduced similar legislation last year. Provisions of that bill were signed into law as a part of Tester's Veterans Benefits and Transition Act, forcing the VA to allow veterans to make changes to their personal information themselves. The backlog of these information requests were a main contributor to VA overpayments.

Cosponsors of the Veterans Debt Fairness Act include Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.).



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 486 scholarships totaling \$1,563,000 to children and grandchildren of our members and KIAs since its inception in 1996. Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving applicants was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans through our Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers. You will find a usable copy of the current Scholarship Application in this issue of Thunder Run and also on our website. This is an updated application form and must be used by all applicants applying for scholarships in 2019.

Our Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on complet-

ing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the Scholarship Guide at www.11thcavnam.com if you wish. If you have a child or grandchild who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school this fall, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship.

Please inform your eligible children/grandchildren that applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2019. E mail me at platoonmedic36@gmail.com if you have questions. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at 575-915-2921.

SALUTE from page 11

So for the past 42 years, Suhre thought McGarrity was another soldier lost in Vietnam. He never expected the letter from Arkansas.

McGarrity said he had so many injuries in battle that they flew him to a hospital in Japan, where he spent weeks and had his 20th birthday.

McGarrity also made a career of the military and was in for 15 years until he received a medical discharge in 1981. He drove a truck for years, then in 1992, a doctor found injuries from the Vietnam shrapnel, 24 years after the attack. He's now on military medical disability.

But he began dreaming about Vietnam last year, and he thought of the lieutenant who saved his life. "And then the Lord told me one day to write and thank him," McGarrity said.

Both men remember one specific incident in 1968 that makes them laugh to this day. McGarrity was on patrol and found a Vietcong tunnel. He radioed his commander – Suhre – to tell him.

I was from Arkansas and had a bad accent, and he was from New York and had a bad accent. We had a hard time understanding each other over the radio. Finally, the lieutenant just got in his jeep and came over to see what I was talking about."

But Suhre didn't have a hard time understanding McGarrity's letter.

"Just felt I should tell you," McGarrity wrote. "Thank you for all you did."

And Suhre? That tough military, ex-combat soldier, retired Colonel?

Well, he didn't want to admit it. But he cried.

(Submitted by staff writer Mike Peters column about Weld County people, The Tribune.)

While researching through volumes of articles, books, and resources to gather ideas and views on leadership, the above article best links to a description the "Armed Forces Officer" produced by the Department of Defense; Department of the

Army Pamphlet No. 600-2, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington which states under XXVII: "In battle crisis, a majority of Americans present will respond to any man who has the will and the brains to give them a clear, intelligent order. They will follow the lowest-ranking man present if he obviously knows what he is doing and is morally the master of the situation, but they will not obey a chuckle-head if he has nothing in his favor but his rank."

Through the exchange between Suhre and McGarrity, the above proposition proves to be a truth for leadership. Suhre did what he as a leader was trained to do in battle crisis. McGarrity reached out to express his gratitude after years of silence. Neither of these honorable men fall into the category of "chuckle-head" relying on only rank to garner favor and trust from his troops.

(Submitted for Bill Suhre and Thomas McGarrity, OCS.)

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.



**11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia
Scholarship Application (effective October 1, 2018)**

Please review Scholarship Guide at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html

Application Deadline May 15th, 2019



**IMPORTANT: A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED AN 11TH ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN.
Students working on advanced degrees (master's, doctoral) are not eligible to apply.**

Applicant's full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applicant's social security number: _____ E mail address: _____

Street address: _____ Apt./Unit # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone #: _____

Applicant's Status: Child Grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC.
 Child Grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11th ACVVC.
 Child Grandchild of an 11th ACR veteran who was killed in action in Vietnam or
Cambodia.

Applicant's Sponsor (11th Cav Veteran): Full name: _____ E mail: _____

Sponsor's 11th Cav unit in Vietnam: _____ Dates in Vietnam _____ 11thACVVC member# _____

Name and Address of College or Trade School you plan to attend:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Schools and Colleges Attended (10th Grade to Present)

Name	City, State	Dates (From/To)

What was your High School GPA? _____ College GPA (if applicable)? _____

You must attach a copy of your grade transcripts from your last 2 yrs. of High School or College.

You must have at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average to apply for a scholarship.

Briefly tell us about your extra-curricular and volunteer activities in the **space below:**

I, the undersigned verify the answers given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give my permission for a copy of my high school/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application.

Signature of Applicant **Printed Name** **Date**

Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardian **Printed Name** **Date**

Please send your completed application and grade transcripts to:

Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, PO Box 13188, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88013

Email: platoonmedic36@gmail.com

11TH 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

Dunphy, Timothy
Eggleton, Andrew
England, Billy
Enloe, Ernie
Fierro, Jose

Perea, Carla
Perea, Carla
Poorman, Clair
Randolph, James
Rector, David
Reed, Robert

Gajkowski, Edwin
Gamble, Jimmy
Garloch, Dale
Garrott, Robert
Gathe, Wilbur
Gauld, David

Wallen, Harry
Watts, Wayne
West, George
Wilson, Jerry
Witzel, Terrence
Woertz, Arthur

Cleveland, William
Cordero, P.
Cotton, A.C.
Craft, Troy
Crommett, Charles
Crook, Jerry

Gold Level

Arabian, Gordon

Bronze Level

Canincia, Marcelino
Cutright, Danny

Finnerin, Arthur
Flanagan, Hershel
Forbes, Michael
Forbes, Michael
Foster, Roland

Reid, Eric
Rieth, Gary
Rucker, Richard
Ruoff, Michael
Russell, W. Arthur

Gordon, Dalton
Gordon, Ralph
Green, Dennis
Guenthardt, Gerald
Halstead, Babe
Harris, Charles

Worley, Richard
Zaiontz, Lee

Cullerton, Thomas
Curti, Ben
Czerepuszko, Daniel
Dais, Merlin

Bronze Level

Scholarship Fund

Gold Level

Cartwright, Wavely
Escobar, Gabriel
Grundy, Farl
McCormick Foundation,
Matching Gift

Franks, Fred
Fulco, Janet
Gambert, Robert
Gilbert, Robert
Gourm, Dennis
Graham, James

Rybacki, Henry
Schmidt, Dennis
Shumaker, Barry
Sieminski, Edmund
Smith, Horace
Smith, William

Kerrins, William
King, Edward
Koch, Anthony
Lambdin, Robert
Lewis, Stanley
Long, Robert

Adams, Raymond
Adkins, Jerry
Allender, William
Angeline, Frederic
Atchison, Daniel
Baker, Stacy

Daugette, Frank
Davis, Henry
Davis, Robert
Denaro, Matthew
Derby, Steve
Derk, David

Matching donor, John
F. Votaw, Sr.

Graham, Raymond
Henry, Freddy
Hensley, Jerry

Smith, Wade
Sowell, Jerry
Tomchick, James

Malnarick, Bernard
Massey, T.S.
Merideth, Glen
Morgan, Stephen

Balans, Tony
Banks, Patricia
Barnett, Thomas
Bartell, Kenneth

Dickson, Robert
In Memory of SSGT.
Wayne Sanders
Dimeo, John

Bronze Level

Allendorf, J.W.

Hessburg, Joseph
Howard, Joseph
Humbertson, John

Tonkovich, Dennis
Tufankjian, Haig
Twigg, Paul
Walter, Pete

Murphy, Kenneth
Murphy, Smokey
Murphy, Thomas
Nuckols, Keith

Beck, Rudolf
Behrend, Steve
Bell, Gregory
Bergeson, Dennis

Dominguez, Jesus
Dove, Russell
Doxtator, Everett
Drew, Donald

Assistance Fund

Gold Level

Walsh, Courtney

Hunt, Charles
Husing, David
Ishley, Gary

Webb, Mark
West, Ralph
Wheeler, Richard

Moses, James
Murphy, Kenneth
Murphy, Thomas
Nuckols, Keith

Berna, Gerald
Birch, Manuel
Bird, Robert
Blann, John

Duell, Ronald
Duncan, Lester
Durham, Charlie
Dye, Donald

Bronze Level

Phillips, Karl

ITT, Cousin
Johnson, Gene
Jordan, Phil

Williams, Ray
Woellert, Larry

O'Neal, Robert
Petrusko, Donald
Philipp, Edward
Reinfeld, Edgar

Bomba, Robert
Boster, Dennis
Boston, Russel
Bouchard, Wallace

Dyer, Rodney
Eads, Hugh
Emerson, Ron
Erickson, Larry

Calendar Fund

Platinum Level

Brumm, Errol
Dennis, Steve
Gardenhire, Gary
Tamulonis, John

Jordan, Phil
Kallina, Gerald
Kauppi, Ernest
Kelliher, Patrick
Kern, Donald

Silver Level

Aguilar, Arthur
Arble, Patrick
Barnes, William
Barnes, Douglas

Petrusko, Donald
Philipp, Edward
Reinfeld, Edgar
Roppolo, John
Sayers, Brenner

Bowling, Thomas
Bradford, Allan
Brand, Robbin
Brewington, David
Bridgeford, Daniel

Fagundes, Edward
Farris, Barry
Faucett, Jack
Femovich, Walter
Fisher, Paul

Gold Level

Andreasen, Allen
Barnthouse, Lawrence
Bock, Daniel
Bowen, Alfred
Brennan, Paul
Brewer, James

Kerns, Timothy
Kerrick, Jonathan
Klink, Robert
Krieg, Steven
Krinock, Gregory

Arble, Patrick
Barnes, William
Barnes, Douglas
Boitnott, Harlan
Bosko, Charles
Brawn, Bill

Roppolo, John
Sayers, Brenner
Schulz, Dennis
Scott, Alexander
Seese, Harry
Sewell, Leslie

Bowling, Thomas
Bradford, Allan
Brand, Robbin
Brewington, David
Bridgeford, Daniel
Brockwell, Ronald

Fagundes, Edward
Farris, Barry
Faucett, Jack
Femovich, Walter
Fisher, Paul
Fitzgerald, William

Cloyd, J.J.
Cobb, Richard
Collinson, Daniel
Cox, Bernard

Marotta, Robert
McAlister, Patrick
McCoy, Robert
McGrail, John
McRoberts, Thomas

Burns, John
Cargile, Ronnie
Cox, Alan
Cunningham, John
Dalton, Phil
Davis, James

Sinervo, Vincent
Sink, Woodrow
Skinner, Gary
Smiley, Paul
Smith, Thomas
Sorrells, Arlo

Brockwell, Ronald
Brody, Thomas
Buehre, Michael
Burke, Roy
Butler, R. Frank
Caldwell, Ronald

Fitzgerald, William
Flaig, James
Floyd, Gary
Flynn, Patrick
Fodor, Edward
Foster, Gary

Dunn, Marshall

Miller, Marsha
In Memory of, Louis
Miller
Miller, S.
Mitchell, Jerry
Montalbano, Frank

Dickensheet, Joseph
Dray, Randa
Durr, Merritt
Erser, James
Ferrill, Gady
Ford, Timothy

Souza, Albert
Strycker, William
Sunderman, Kenneth
Terry, Hardy
Terry, Gary
Titschinger, Mark

Callahan, Donald
Canuel, Richard
Carabetta, J.
Carrier, Arlie
Chapman, Lindsey
Church, Michael

Geddings, Larry
Gee, Luther
Gelder, Albert
Geller, James
Gibbs, George
Gray, Zane

Montgomery, W.F.
Musselwhite, John
Nelson, Lee
Page, Stephen
Pemberton, Donald

Frank, Dale
Fye, Stan
Gaines, James

Wagg, Robert

Clark, Joseph

Gray, Zane

Grisham, William	Jarvis, Eugene	Manley, Clyde	Oliver, John	Sawvell, Gary	Tolf, Dale
Grunloh, John	Jensen, Robert	Marcum, Darol	Oracz, Robert	Schaaf, Glen	Torno, Charles
Guaderrama, Jose	Jewell, Thomas	Marquez, Gabriel	Ortiz, Concepcion	Schaefer, Michael	Torrez, Henry
Gutierrez, Winslow	Joel, Candace	Martinez, Nichols	Ostrander, Robert	Schafer, Warren	Totaro, Lawrence
Guy, Michael	Jones, F. Edward	Mathews, Anthony	Pagan, Angel	Schoonmaker, Tracey	Towe, Danny
Guzowski, Frank	Kaiser, Paul	Mayer, Jan	Paulsen, William	Selman, Bruce	Ungurean, Timothy
Hafer, John	Kays, Danny	McChesney, Thomas	Payne, George	Sevelius, Arthur	Vargas, Luis
Hainley, Norman	Keirns, Tommy	McIntosh, James	Phetteplace, Duane	Sevigny, Richard	Venhoff, John
Hanna, James	Kidd, Ralph	McKillip, Clarence	Pimentel, Henry	Shakow, Raymond	Violet, J.W.
Hans, Owen	Kile, Lynn	McMasters, Cary	Pitt, Miller	Shepler, Michael	Wallace, John
Hansford, Harold	Kirk, Walter	McWethy, Wesley	Poland, Duane	Sherman, Dale	Ward, Bobby
Harris, Gerald	Kloewer, Leo	Merrill, Blaine	Puglisi, T.	Shimel, Dale	Waters, Theodore
Haynes, John	Knight, George	Michaud, Randolph	Rahn, Charles	Shire, Philip	Weege, Henry
Heath, Clinton	Kreger, Danny	Migues, Willie	Ramirez, Grable	Silvernail, Marion	Weeks, Keith
Hebert, Donald	Kurihara, Harry	Miller, David	Ramnytz, Samuel	Sinclair, Robert	Wehrle, Hubert
Helgeson, Steven	Laite, Allan	Miller, Richard	Reed, Ronald	Smith, Michael	Welmon, Harry
Hendrickson, John	Lane, Dennis	Mitchell, Joseph	Rego, Ronald	Smith, Paul	Welton, Floyd
Henshaw, Russell	Laneve, Louis	Mitchell, Loren	Reiterman, John	Snapp, Larry	Wentz, Darrell
Heuston, Robert	Laspina, William	Mix, Lawrence	Retzlaff, Jerry	Southerland, Gary	Wesley, James
Hladky, Joseph	Laternus, Simon	Morgan, Dennis	Richmond, David	Spahr, Charles	Whitener, Ernest
Hoem, Neil	Lee, Eugene	Morrison, Charles	Riordan, Timothy	Sprueil, James	Wieland, David
Hofflander, Nancy	Lenger, Norman	Moser, Kenneth	Robertson, Elmer	Stampley, James	Wierema, Ronald
Hollingsworth, Theodore	Like, David	Murphy, Robert	Rogers, Richard	Staples, Thad	Williams, Loreda
Holmes, Malcom	Linberg, Robert	Naidas, Kenny	Rogers, Sammie	Steed-Jones, Eleanor	Wills, Thomas
Huggins, Ronald	Liriano, Lady	Newcomb, Dale	Rossi, Carey	Stewart, Randal	Wing, Shayne
Humbert, John	Looft, Richard	Newman, Frederick	Rossi, Frank	Stumbo, Gregory	Wollschlaeger, Kenneth
Huml, Michael	Lopez, Jeffrey	Newton, Kenneth	Rothmeyer, Larry	Switek, Joseph	Wright, Ralph
Hunt, Francis	Lopez, Joseph	Niswonger, Randolph	Ruble, David	Swope, Harry	Zaier, Douglas
Insley, Philip	Lopez, Miguel	Nyberg, Roger	Runion, Jack	Taylor, F. Robert	Zaun, James
Ivey, John	Lovato, Sam	O'Brien, James	Russell, David	Tebo, Paul	Zeph, Robert
Ivey, Walker	Love, Guy	Ochman, Ronald	Salerno, Alan	Tetreault, Glenn	Zimmerman, Winn
Jarrett, David	Malewski, Robert	O'Hara, James	Sanford, Clinton	Toddy, Dale	Zinko, Joel

It's official: Army approves 'pinks and greens' uniform on Veterans Day

By: Meghann Myers November 11, 2018

The Army announced on Veterans Day that it will adopt a throwback service uniform as early as 2020. (Ron Lee/Army)

The Army was able to straighten out its congressionally mandated notification requirements in time to announce on Sunday, Veterans Day, that the much anticipated "Army Greens" will indeed be your next service uniform.

Formerly known as the "pinks and greens," the World War II-era officers uniform could go Army-wide as soon as 2020, according to a release that was posted Sunday to the Army's website but was not shared through any of its social media channels.

"The current Army Blues Uniform will return to being a formal dress uniform, while the Army Greens will become the everyday business-wear uniform for all soldiers," the release said.

The new uniform will be "cost-neutral," according to the Army, though details of the budgeting plan were not immediately available.

Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey told Army Times in September that while higher quality materials translated to a dol-

lar-for-dollar more expensive uniform, the fielding plan would negate some of those extra costs in the aggregate.

For example, the release said, new soldiers will receive the uniform when they reach their first unit of assignment.

This, theoretically, would relieve the cost of issuing and tailoring uniforms for soldiers in basic training who end up dropping out, or whose weight fluctuates, requiring more alterations.

The uniforms are also expected to last longer — about six years, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Isaac Taylor told Army Times.

"We are purchasing a higher quality uniform with a longer service life, and we are executing a longer phase-in period to remain cost neutral," Taylor said, but he did not provide a price breakdown.

The standard uniform set-up will require pants and brown leather oxfords for both men and women. Women will have the option to wear a pencil skirt and pumps. Everyone will also be able to buy a leather bomber jacket as an outerwear option.

The rest of the Army would have until 2028 to pick up the new uniform, the release said.

Fort Irwin Policy for POV Entry

We have been asked if individuals can enter Ft. Irwin in POVs (Privately Owned Vehicles) during our scheduled bus trip to Ft. Irwin, Thursday, August 22, 2019.

Individuals with current, valid DOD ID will be permitted to enter Ft. Irwin in a POV, but cannot be guaranteed they will be able to follow, accompany or park in the same areas as the chartered busses.

Additionally, any individual in a POV entering Ft. Irwin will not be able to participate in the planned luncheon at the dining facility.

Individuals who wish to travel to Ft. Irwin with the 11th ACVVC bus trip must board the outbound busses at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and board for the return trip at Ft. Irwin.

Please see the 1st qtr issue of "Thunder Run" for details, which we will also post on the 11th ACVVC website.

While Ft. Irwin's Military Police will not deny access to those with valid DOD ID, I strongly discourage any 11th ACVVC members from driving to Ft. Irwin.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pete Walter at: basepiece70@verizon.net

Respectfully,

Pere Walter, President
11th ACVVC

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.**

11th ACVVC Reunion Trip to Fort Irwin

Thursday, August 22, 2019 from 6:45AM to 7:00PM

The 11th ACVVC has contracted with Arrow Stage Lines of Las Vegas to provide transportation to and from Fort Irwin in conjunction with our 34th annual reunion. Price includes R/T transportation on a luxury, air-conditioned motor-coach w/ restroom, water and lunch at Fort Irwin.

6:45AM - Pick up at Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV

7:15AM – Depart Westgate for Fort Irwin

10:00AM – ETA Fort Irwin

4:00PM – ETD Fort Irwin

7:00PM – ETA Westgate Resort & Casino

Please provide the following information with your reservation: (please print)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Number of riders: _____ X \$40 per person = TOTAL \$ _____

VISA MASTERCARD Card No: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CSC Code: _____

Signature (required for credit card): _____

Mail this completed form to: **Ollie Pickral**
571 Ditchley Road
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

We have been asked if individuals can enter Ft. Irwin in POVs (Privately Owned Vehicles) during our scheduled bus trip to Ft. Irwin, Thursday, August 22, 2019. Individuals with current, valid DOD ID will be permitted to enter Ft. Irwin in a POV, but cannot be guaranteed they will be able to follow, accompany or park in the same areas as the chartered busses. Additionally, any individual in a POV entering Ft. Irwin will not be able to participate in the planned luncheon at the dining facility. Any POV entering Fort Irwin is subject to search.

Individuals who wish to travel to Ft. Irwin with the 11th ACVVC bus trip must board the outbound busses at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and board for the return trip at Ft. Irwin.

While Ft. Irwin's Military Police will not deny access to those with valid DOD ID, I strongly discourage any 11th ACVVC members from driving to Ft. Irwin.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pete Walter at: basepiece70@verizon.net

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Blackhorse Maintenance. Since time immemorial, cavalry sergeants have told their Troopers to take care of their mounts before they take care of themselves. For its first four decades, this meant taking care of their horses for the Troopers of the 11th U.S. Cavalry. After 1942, it meant taking care of their vehicles and aircraft. Troopers heard over and over again that you didn't bunk down for the night unless your mount was ready to go to war the next day.

Maintaining armored vehicles and armed helicopters was a never-ending job in the 11th ACR in Vietnam. Track block end connectors had to be tightened, air filters had to be cleaned, hydraulic lines had to be checked, and oil, fuel, and water levels had to be checked and topped-off as needed. Every day. Not whenever it was convenient. Every day. And under some pretty difficult conditions. As Tom Montgomery, the 2nd Squadron maintenance officer in 1968, said: "Maintaining and fixing our vehicles and equipment was largely done in forward locations under pretty austere conditions."

And yet, the job got done. And not just done, but done well. Montgomery continues. "I learned how important these unsung heroes, our mechanics, were to the fight. They were tireless, proud and usually covered in mud and grease. Many of them kept extending, taking 30 day free leaves and returning to the mud."

At no time was the necessity of all this backbreaking work at the end of a hard day in the sun or rain more obvious than on 31 January 1968. That was the day every vehicle in the Blackhorse Regiment was needed to counter the massive Tet offensive against Saigon, Bien Hoa, and Long Binh. Firepower was needed, and it was needed RIGHT NOW! Leaving vehicles behind or, worse yet, having them break down on the only available road during the mad dash south was not a viable option. Colonel Jack MacFarlane (36th Colonel of the Regiment), with justifiable pride, noted: "Your equipment's got to be in good shape. If it starts breaking down alongside the roads, then the columns start getting butchered up in a hurry ... There were very few dropouts on this particular move."

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was 'one of a kind' in Vietnam – a fact that was both a blessing and a curse. The curse was that the Infantry Divisions didn't have a clue what to do with the Blackhorse, and the logistical support units weren't prepared to deal with almost 450 combat vehicles and aircraft (and another 400-plus wheeled vehicles and trailers) in one unit. Higher-level mechanics were not trained to repair the sheer volume of tanks, ACAVs, self-propelled howitzers, armored bridges, flame throwers, command post vehicles, gunships, scouts, and slicks. And the repair parts system was overwhelmed within months of the Regiment's arrival at Vung Tau in September 1966.

Proof of this came during Operation Junction City in early 1967. Two squadrons operated full time in War Zone C for about a month and the repair parts delivery system broke down. Here's what Battle 6 (Lieutenant Colonel Ben Harmon) had to say about it: "Maintenance operations were characterized by considerable mine damage to suspension systems on the M-113 ACAVs and M-48A3

tanks. Repair parts for suspension systems were quickly used up ... Normal supply channels were utilized with unfavorable results ... Supporting Ordnance facilities were not geared to support large scale armored operations."

So, 'cannibalization' (taking a part from one broken vehicle to fix another) became a combat necessity. Such was the case when an ACAV from the regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop Scout Section broke down in the middle of a rubber plantation near An Loc in mid-1969. It's never good when you hear a "clanking thud" while driving an armored vehicle, but that was exactly what Sergeant Roy Johnson and his crew heard. Thinking that it might just be a thrown track, he and his driver, Specialist 4 Jim Meyers, dismounted to investigate. What they found was disheartening. The track was still in place, but the final drive yoke was broken.

So, there they were, in the middle of the rubber trees, many miles from Quan Loi, with dark approaching in about 4 hours. And, oh by the way, the regularly-scheduled afternoon thunderstorm was fast approaching, which would make the mud even deeper. Unlikely salvation, however, was just a few feet away. Remembering that they had just passed the hulk of a burned-out M-113 near the trail, they chose option B. Three hours of hard, sweaty, muddy work to cannibalize a yoke from the blackened hulk appeared preferable to towing the ACAV in the mud (option A). The whole scout section pitched in, either providing local security or turning wrenches. These resourceful Troopers made the best out of a bad situation and were underway before sundown.

Pilots and crew chiefs understood that if they didn't do their maintenance checks thoroughly, they wouldn't simply stop going forward – they would fall out of the sky, usually with unpleasant results. Both pilots and crew chiefs heard this mantra from day one of their training and a culture of maintenance awareness existed in the Army aviation community that was not always duplicated among tracked vehicle drivers and track commanders.

So, for the most part, young right-out-of-flight-school warrant officers and experienced 500-flight-hours majors, newby private first class door gunners and savvy staff sergeant crew chiefs alike, did their pre- and post-flight inspections and made sure things were as they should be. The attachment of the 398th Transportation Detachment (Aviation Maintenance) to the Regiment from the beginning of its service in Vietnam helped to ensure the aviation maintenance system worked.

Specialist 5 Donn Kemp was an airframe repairman for the 398th in 1969-70. He recalls that about 75 helicopters were shot down, blown up by incoming fire, crashed due to pilot error, mechanical failure, "or what not" in a year. He still believes that replacing the Huey chin bubble was the most difficult task. Some were broken when hitting something upon landing, some when the pilot pulled out his .38 caliber pistol and shot at a Viet Cong in the grass as he hovered overhead. There were 158 rivets on each side, all of which had to be drilled out, then new Plexiglas had to be put in place with clamps. New rivet holes were then drilled in the Plexiglas. He remembers many trips to the "boneyard" (military vehicle junkyard)

to get Plexiglas chin bubbles and other parts when the supply system couldn't get them fast enough.

The resourcefulness of Blackhorse Troopers to address the shortcomings of the maintenance support system in Vietnam is on full display in the following story (from a 919 th 'Red Devil' Engineer who wishes to remain anonymous).

The sergeant walked into the Long Binh depot office and asked for two ¾-ton trailer tires. The clerk behind the counter asked for his

requisition paperwork. The sergeant said he didn't have any, but would be happy to fill it out on the spot. The lieutenant behind the counter, who had been listening to the conversation, noticed the Blackhorse patch on the sergeant's jungle fatigues. "Give him the tires", the LT told his clerk. "He's 11 th ACR. If we don't give them to him, they'll just come back tonight and steal them."

Allons!



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

HELLO TROOPERS... We Are Still Here.

We hope you are looking forward to this year ahead. I know we are! There are many things going on here in East Texas. April 19th is breakfast at Poor Richards Café. Then we are looking forward to the EAST TEXAS ROUND UP here at the Tyler State Park, May 4th, Saturday for Lunch and 3rd Friday evening fish fry for all. For more information you can call Jan at 903-780-5621 or 903-805-0703 and we will help out with any other information you may need. We have one more campers spot available Wednesday – Sunday.

Please take time to look the quartermaster Store over as we have changed a few items. And again don't forget to fill out the bottom of the order form, along with a phone number. PLEASE.

Then you guys had better make your plans to attend the reunion this year in Las Vegas. It is already shaping up to be another great one. With the trip planned out to Fort Irwin it will be a great time to visit our Regiment to see what's going on.

Remember you can always cancel if you are unable to attend. So call the Westgate Resort and Casino at 1800-635-7711 and use the reservation code SACV9R.

SO, you have NO excuse not to get it done now while you are reading this article.

Also, if you plan to order a REUNION Shirt please get your order form in as soon as possible. If you would like to have one but cannot attend PLEASE add an additional \$7.00 for shipping and we will send it out to you before we leave for Las Vegas.

Again, we are asking for volunteers to help us out in the Quartermaster Store. If you have any spare time come on in and help us out. With the trip planned to Ft Irwin our days of operation will be limited. With shorter days comes longer hours for us. So please come on by and help us out. We will be looking forward to seeing everyone.

ALLONS

Jerry



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
506th SUPPLY & SERVICES CO.		HHT, 2/11		Mckenzie, Robert C	66-67	HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11	
Cutright, Danny D	67-68	Holland, Thomas D	67-68	Shukis, Anthony J	68-68	Goins, Gary	70
551st MAINTENANCE COMPANY		E TROOP, 2/11		G TROOP, 2/11			
Hunter, Edwin K	68-68	Becker, Frank R	69-70	Lewis, James E	71-72		

Change Of Responsibility Ceremony, April 24, 2019

On behalf of the 68th Regimental Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Colonel Scott C. Woodward, and the 22nd Command Sergeant Major of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Command Sergeant Major Michael J. Stunkard, I would like to cordially invite you to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Change of Responsibility Ceremony. Event to be held at 0800 on Wednesday, April 24th at Fritz Field, Fort Irwin, CA.

The uniform for this event will consist of OCP's for Active Duty Soldiers and Business Casual for Veterans and Guests attending; Campaign Hats and Spurs are optional.

If you wish to attend the event, please RSVP at: <https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=440684&k=0665420F7353>

If you have any questions or would like additional details, please contact the Regimental Adjutant, 1LT Hunter Nixon, at hunter.d.nixon@mail.mil.

Hunter Nixon, 1LT(P), EN
Regimental Adjutant
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
Office: (760)-380-5740
ALLONS!

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



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring Embroidered \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#9 Cavalry Hat, Black or Brown \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$13.00



#12 Key Ring (metal) \$8.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00



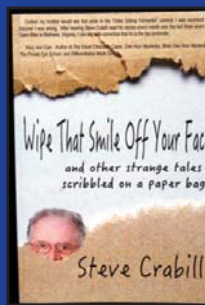
#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



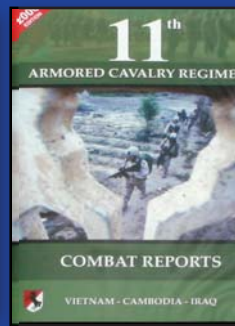
#26 Large Magnetic Patch (8" x 7 3/4") \$7.00



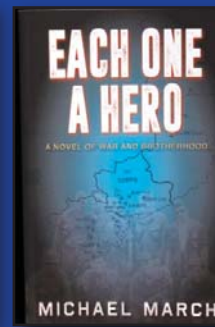
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



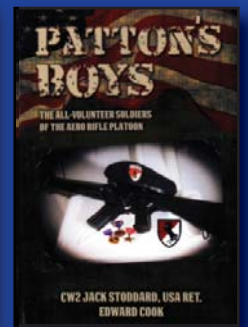
#27 Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



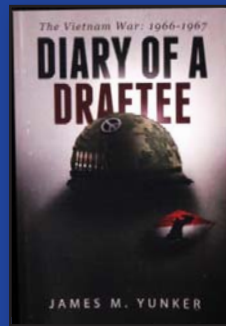
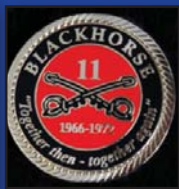
#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00



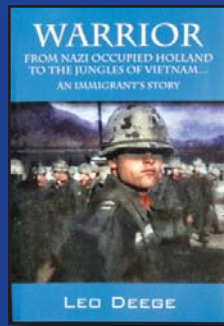
#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00



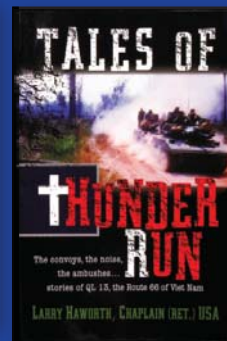
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$16.00



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



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#34a
#34 Signs \$25.00



#34b



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



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



#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, Light Gray & Green \$20.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket (lined), 100% Nylon \$95.00



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



#41 Light (A) or Dark (B) Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00





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

Lance W. Alsup, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 3, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lebanon, TN. He was laid to rest in Alsup Cemetery, TN.

Gerald J. Billone, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 20, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Calabash, NC. He was laid to rest in Saint Marys Cemetery, Greenwich, Fairfield County, CT.

Garry E. Coey, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1970) passed away on May 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New London, OH.

James T. Collins, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 27, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Erie, PA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Bruce A. Evans, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1970) passed away on February 13, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Anchorage, AK.

Barry D. Farris, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on February 13, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

John Lee Gray, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 26, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cambridge, MD. He was laid to rest in Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, Hurlock, MD.

Kenneth W. Green, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 16, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Phoenix, AZ. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery Of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.

John Gutierrez, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 10, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Huffman, TX. He was laid to rest in San Jacinto Memorial Park, Houston, TX.

William C. Fargo, 19th TASS(FAC), USAF Attached (1966-1967) passed away on December 23, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Murphy, NC. He was laid to rest in Chattanooga National Cemetery, Chattanooga, TN.

James T. Gallahorn III, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 3, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in North Charleston, SC. He was laid to rest in St. James Cemetery, Charleston, SC.

James D. Hershey, I Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 24, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Glendora, CA.

John W. Hill, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 4, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kinston, NC. He was laid to rest in Pinelawn Memorial Park, Kinston, NC. John is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Benjamin M. Hotchkiss, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1967) passed away on February 20, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bullhead City, AZ. He was laid to rest in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

James D. Laws, HHT 1/11 and D Company 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 2, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Goshen, IN.

Daniel G. Martinez, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Burlington, NC. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

Stanley A. Milligan, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 10, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dundalk, MD. He was laid to rest in Glen Haven Memorial Park, Glen Burnie, MD.

Stephen Moushegian, Air Cavalry Troop (1969) passed away on March 22, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Salem, VA.

Daniel W. Naughton, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 26, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marion, IA.

George T. Raach, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 3, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Leavenworth, KS. He was laid to rest in Ft. Leavenworth National Cemetery, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

John F. Reiterman, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 and F Troop, 2/11, FO (1969-1970) passed away on March 28, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Glendale, AZ.

Charles D. Roberts, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 5, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marshall, NC. He was laid to rest in Roberts Family Cemetery, Marshall, NC.

Thomas P. Scoggin, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on January 28, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wyandotte, OK.

Daniel A. Swiatek, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 3, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hamburg, NY.

Edwin P. Swineford, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 14, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Massillon, OH.

Donald E. Williams, H Company, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pike Road, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.

Virgil D. Young, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 7, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Aurora, CO. He was laid to rest in Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO. Virgil is also a veteran of the Korean War.



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 2nd Qtr 2019

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			
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt	30.00			
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) <i>NEW!</i>	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 (metal) <i>NEW!</i>	8.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	9.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	13.00			
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, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	22.00			
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.	Overnight Bag <i>NEW!</i>	25.00			
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	18.00			
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 'Veteran' <input type="checkbox"/> (34a), 'Deadly Force' <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"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green	20.00			
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Black (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Red (B) <input type="checkbox"/> White (C)	35.00			
41.	Denim shirt (men's) <input type="checkbox"/> Light (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Dark (B)	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			

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. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 11th ACVVC. 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**



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