



Thunder Run

Vol. 36 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2021

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

Spc 4 Joe Minor Thomas Inducted into The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame

4th Quarter 2021

State of the Reunion

Troopers attend induction at the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Troopers Mike Bloese, John Graber, Charlie Hawkins (unknown)



For those who could not attend this year’s Reunion in Dallas you missed a very good one. Attendance was lower than many past years but significantly higher than last year in Indianapolis. We went from the lowest reunion numbers ever (160) to 600 this year. That is a reflection of the desire of our members to meet with their Blackhorse family again and enjoy the camaraderie it always provides. We are planning for nothing less than that next year in Birmingham, Alabama.

This year, as in many, we had a very difficult time making the final detailed plans due to late registrations and cancellations that were past the cutoff date.

As the country continues to throw off the constraints of COVID we are optimistic about an even higher number in 2022. The level of success of any reunion is measured by the attendance of our members and their families, you make it great.

This year, as in many, we had a very difficult time making the final detailed plans due to late registrations and cancellations that were past the cutoff date. The cutoff date is determined by several factors. The primary one being that the hotel must know how many banquet meals to prepare well in advance of the actual banquet. If we don’t get it right, we pay for meals not consumed or the possibility of not having enough.

Blackhorse Medic Made Ultimate Sacrifice for his Brothers

On a beautiful fall day at Oklahoma State University, Tulsa campus, two native Tulsans were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. BG Roscoe C. Cartwright and Spc 4 Joe Minor Thomas, both graduates of Booker T. Washington High School, were honored before a respectful crowd of locals, their families, friends and fellow Blackhorse

Troopers. BG Cartwright was a 1936 graduate and Spc Thomas a 1965 graduate of the segregated high school which would not be integrated until 1971. BG Cartwright was tragically killed December 1, 1974, in the TWA Flight 514 crash 29 miles northwest of Dulles International Airport.

Please turn to **Thomas** on page 11

11th Armored Cavalry Horse Detachment Excels Again!

Submitted by 11th ACVVC PAO Eric Newton

Your 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Horse Detachment was the winner of the National Cavalry Competition at Fort Reno, Oklahoma on September 25, 2021.

The troopers won the General Pulaski Trophy given to the Most Outstanding Military Unit overall.



11th ACR Horse Detachment, Winners of National Cavalry Competition

Please turn to **COMPETITION** on page 11

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 11





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

Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P.O. Box 956, Colleyville, TX 76034; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. 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.

President	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 <basepiece70@verizon.net> (609) 261-5629	Silent Auction	Gregory R. Mason (HHT 3/11, 68 – 69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 <gregrmason311@gmail.com> (813) 754-2980
Funeral Honor Guard Calendar Editor		Editor	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 <basepiece70@verizon.net> (609) 261-5629
Vice President & Reunion Chairman	Frank T. Church, (G Troop, '69-'70) 2917 N. Vista Way Payson, AZ 85541 <fchurch4@aol.com> (928) 474-3762	Information Tech./ E-commerce	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72)
Secretary & Quartermaster	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <jerrybea@aol.com> (903) 805-0703	Assistant Information Technology/Ecommerce	Paul Gruber (G Troop, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317 <pgruber@polaris.net> (850) 878-8425
Treasurer	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 <11cavalry@verizon.net> (804) 435-3658	Public Affairs	Eric Newton (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) P.O. Box 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <armor11ACR@aol.com> (817) 239-3437
Directors	Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman/ Silent Auction Co-Chairman (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 <platoonmedic36@gmail.com> (575) 915-2921 Robert "Bob" Moreno, Reunion Registration (G Troop 2/11, '68-'69) 24284 Endeavor Ave, Tomah, WI 54660 <gtroopbob@gmail.com> (608) 372-5892 Blandin W. "Bill" Karabinos, Chaplain (HHT 2/11, '71-'72) 7312 Little Creek Road Toano, VA 23168 <blandinkarabinos@gmail.com> (757) 566-8885	Women's Group Coordinator	Sheryl Myers 19155 Royal Troon Drive Monument, CO 80132 <sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com> (571) 721-9189
Chaplain Emeritus	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 10000 Rhineland Dr., Unit 209 San Antonio, TX 78239-3139 <lehaworth@aol.com> (661) 860-0093 (cell) (210) 646-3835	Website & Facebook Manager	Robert Kickenweitz (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 <bobk11acr@comcast.net> (908) 803-3455
Membership KIA Issues	Allen Hathaway (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 <11thcav1966@comcast.net> (703) 791-6610	Veterans' Information	Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 1967-1969) 542 Main St. Rockport, IN 47635 <slumlord99@hotmail.com> (609) 261-5629
		Historian	Don Snedeker 3888 Sandpiper Dr. Frankfort, DE 19945 <blackhorse7478@gmail.com> (571) 215-9610
		Auditing Committee/ Judge Advocate	William "Bill" Suhre, (I Troop 3/11, '68) 3230 SW 3rd Lane Cape Coral, FL 33991 <william@suhrelawfirm.com> (970) 381-0335

President's Message

By Pete Walter

I hope this issue finds everyone healthy and happy...a lot to ask for in the era of COVID-19.

By the time you receive this issue, Thanksgiving will have passed, and you will be readying for the Christmas & New Year holidays. This issue is later than normal for a myriad of reasons, primarily because I'm behind in my work. Secondary is the huge holiday mail volume, exacerbated by the planned slow-down of the USPS surface mail. Thus, a perfect storm of delays! But excuses are like, well, pick your favorite phrase... let's get on to business.

2021 Reunion - VP/Reunion Chairman Frank Church gives a summary in his column, so I'll be brief: it was a big success, and I was happy to see such a large turnout. As you read this issue, Frank is already hard at work on the 2022 reunion in Birmingham, Alabama, and I recently signed the hotel contract for the 2023 reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Thanks - I want to thank all the Officers and Committee Chairmen and Chairwomen with special thanks - obviously! - to our Vice President/Reunion Chairman Frank Church. There were many complex issues in negotiating with the hotel, but Frank handled them all without ever breaking a sweat. I could go on for paragraphs here about his attention to detail and tenacity, but I would embarrass him. He knows how we all feel!

I also need to give special thanks to: Chris Farmer, for an outstanding job running the annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing, Sheryl Myers and all of her staff for running the Women's Group Luncheon & Tour and meeting, Donna & Tom Stone and Dave Vargo for the great "Dave's Military Display", Cindy Mueller and Amanda Baker for the knowledge, experience and insight they provided at the Veterans Benefits Seminar, Greg Mason and all of the volunteers who helped at the Silent Auction, Jerry & Jan Beamon and their volunteers at the Quarter Master Store,

Don Snedeker for his presentation to the Women's Group and his seminar on the 11th ACR in Vietnam, Bob Moreno and his family for their great work at the Reunion Registration desk, Chaplain Bill Karabinos for his wonderful and respectful Memorial Service and prayers, Eric Newton and MG Peter C. Bayer, Jr. (President of the Blackhorse Association) for the MOPH citation, Jen Quinn for her excellent photographic coverage, Bill Suhre, Esq., for his sage legal counsel, LCOL John Williams, 11th ACR Deputy Commander, 2/11 ACR CSM Pena, SFC Stemple, SSGT Wilson, SGT Perkins, Spc Sandoval, Spc Mosqueda (the 11th Armored Cavalry Regimental Color Guard), Spc Gower Liu for his great work as the Regimental Photographer and CPT Evan Cain PAO for the 11th ACR. Finally, I extend my special thanks and the thanks of all the Officers to LGEN John S. Caldwell, Jr., former CO of L Troop in '69-'70.

I'm sure I missed many, but I hope you realize it is almost impossible to recall and recognize all the individual efforts that go into hosting an annual reunion with the longevity and success for which the 11th ACVVC has become renowned.

None of our reunions will succeed without the support, contributions and attendance of our members. While everyone noted above deserves recognition, just like in 'Nam, nothing succeeds without every Trooper working towards a successful goal, so thank you all from all the Officers for your support of the 11th ACVVC, your organization - and your reunion!

Resignation - New/Old Secretary - Elections - Our QM and Secretary Jerry Beamon tendered his resignation as Secretary on Oct. 1. Pursuant to our By Laws, the remaining Officers elected a Secretary pro tempore ("for the time being"), who will serve until the next Membership Mtg., Sep. 10, 2022, in Birmingham, Alabama. Greg Mason was elected unanimously as Secretary pro tempore. Thank you Jerry for all the hard

work you've done and thank you Greg for accepting the position; these are two fine Blackhorse Troopers who stood up and helped whenever and wherever needed. There were also elections held at the annual Members Mtg. during the reunion. Frank Church ran unopposed as Vice President as did Ollie Pickral as Treasurer and Steve Page for the unexpired term of Director 2 Year vacated by Bill Karabinos earlier in the year. The 3 Year Director's position was the only contested office with two excellent candidates, Bob Moreno and Allen Hathaway vying for the office. Bob Moreno won the election. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all the candidates for running!

Awards - At the Members Mtg., Don Brown, Tigard, OR (HHT, 1/11, 1965-67) the 2020 recipient of the Jack Quilter Award selected Rick Alford, Katy, TX (HHT, 1/11, 1969-70) as the 2021 recipient of the Jack Quilter Award. Congratulations Rick!

At the annual Banquet, I was honored to present two Special Recognition Awards to Joe Gehring, The Villages, FL (I Trp, 2/11, 1967-68) for his years of help in many capacities at the annual reunion and to Chuck Bosko, La Grange Park, IL (F Trp, 2/11, 1969-70) for his work as a Veterans Service Officer (VSO), advisor and contributor to Thunder Run on VA matters.

The most prestigious award presented annually is the 11th ACVVC "Trooper of the Year." For 2021, I chose our long-time historian and continuing contributor to Thunder Run, Don Snedeker. Don was not only truly deserving, but he was also visibly moved to be so honored.

Letters to the Editor - I also serve as your editor and hope to continue in this capacity as long as possible. I welcome letters at all times and particularly enjoy those that point out mistakes and/or are critical of articles written by me or others. This may sound disingenuous, but I believe a person learns more from their

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 10

The ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXVI





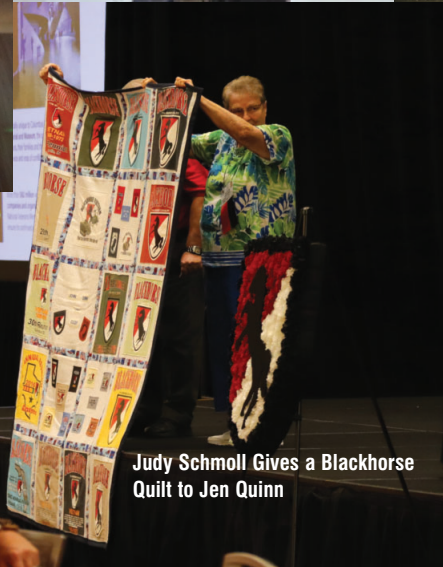
Our Photographer



View From the Top



28th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing (Note Bill Suhre Holding His Balls.)



Judy Schmoll Gives a Blackhorse Quilt to Jen Quinn



A Blackhorse Marriage Proposal



Mike Cricco & Terry Stivers, 37-0 Perfect Attendance!



Crowd in the Bunker



Carrie Holton Singing At The Memorial Service



Meet Me at the Elephants, Heard Frequently at the Anatole



1th ACR Color Guard/Horse Detachment Post the Colors

Greg Krinock Lights The Candle
At The Missing Man Table



The Missing Man Table



Deputy
William

Scholarship Chm Mike Rafferty Presents
\$2,000,000 Plaque to the Membership



Mg Bayer & Eric Newton Award Moph Citation and Sign to 11th ACVVR



Joe
Rec

Chaplain Bill Offers A Closing Prayer



11th Acr Color Guard/Horse Detachment
Retire The Colors



LCOL Williams Gives Don Brydge
Directions to the Men's Room



Peter Bayer, MG, U
Williams

A Pickral Family Reunion



Doc Rafferty & Kiefer Earl, an 11th
ACVVC 2021 Scholarship Recipient



Steve Pointin
to be???





Duty Regimental Cmdr LCOL John Williams Addresses the Audience

Vice President/ Reunion Chairman Frank Church Addresses the Audience

Guest Speaker LGEN John Caldwell Addresses the Audience



Joe Gehring Presented Special Recognition Award

Don Snedeker, LCOL USA Ret, is Presented 11th Acyvc 2021 Trooper of the Year Award

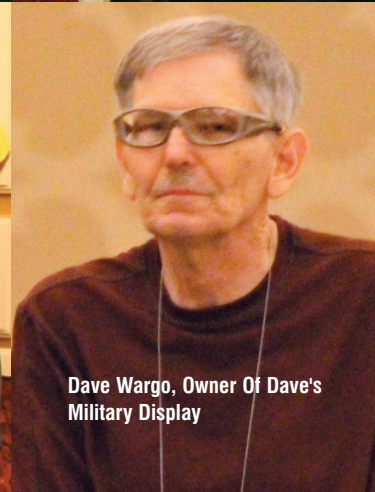
VP Frank Church Presents Appreciation Award to Laura Stephenson of Helms-Briscoe



USA Ret & LCOL John



Proud L Troopers



Dave Wargo, Owner Of Dave's Military Display



...nting to Where His Brain Used



Janice Lindsay, Sister Of Troy Battles (KIA) w/ Ron Herndon & Tom Stone

RONALD "RON" HERNDON
F TRIP 2011 67-68
WISSE, MISSOURI

JANICE LINDSEY
GUEST H CO 2011
PEORIA, IL

TOM STONE
F TRIP 2011 67-68
ARLENE, TX



Andersonville National Historic Site, Andersonville, GA

Be That Someone

Stand up. You did. Was I ever startled at the Memorial Service!

Was I ever so proud of the veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment! We had just finished reading the 333 names of our brother troopers who had passed away since our reunion in Indianapolis in 2020, we had heard eloquent and heartfelt expressions about some of our fallen brothers, had listened intently and somberly to the reading of "Bury Me With Soldiers" and now paused to reflect and remember our friends. Then a video came on the screen, a collage of singers: Country Western, military men and women, Rock stars and civilians - all singing "I'm Proud To Be An American," and you reacted. Your response was electric, spontaneous, so warm and patriotic. You stood up, raised your arms and pointed at the flag, some joined in the singing...and if it hadn't been a solemn Memorial Service, you would have cheered as at a football game. What a beautiful and unforgettable moment.

We are not talking here of a small group, we are talking about an almost filled banquet hall. We are talking about veteran troopers, their wives and family members; about young active-duty troopers from Fort Irwin, about retired officers, non-Coms and soldiers and even civilian guests.

And...and I just sat there with my mouth wide open. Little did I expect such spontaneity. You are indeed the great cadre that

makes up the 11th ACVVC family. You have created and continue to promulgate the fame of **The Legendary Blackhorse Regiment**.

I didn't have to wait till Veterans Day to walk the rows of military graves or touch the sacred Wall, I did a similar stroll only eight days after we left Dallas and the 36th Reunion behind. I did so at Andersonville; the National Military Cemetery in Georgia. The cemetery that is built around the site of the prisoner-of-war camp, where so many American soldiers died from starvation or malnutrition, from the diseases that breed when so many are packed together without medical attention. It is also the site for the American POW Museum and Memorial.

It was a planned visit, my wife wanted to honor her mother and father who are buried there. Her father was a World War II and Korean War veteran and a Georgia native. His grave is marked with a military headstone, different from the thousands of Civil War veteran's headstones in that his is 6 feet apart from other recent burials, while the Andersonville soldiers' stones are less than 6 inches apart.

So many of the Andersonville headstones are titled "UNKNOWN" as so many of the bodies were recovered from mass graves and re-interred without benefit of modern DNA verification. As I strolled some of the rows, I thought the inscription "Unknown" should have read, "Unknown but to God." Then I

reflected again and thought, no, they were someone. Someone very important to their family and friends at that time, someone very important to their local community, someone very important and vital to their country. Yes, they were someone special. And hoped that I could be, someday ... **that someone.**

When I got home, I found a newsletter from my high school alumni association with a feature story entitled, "Become that Someone." What a coincidence. Then again Leroy Jethro Gibbs in the TV show NCIS states in Rule 19: "Don't believe in coincidences."

The story "Become that Someone" is about Basketball Hall of Fame and former NBA great, Jack Twyman and his care of his teammate Maurice Stokes. It is a touching story of love and brotherhood and determination, dedication and care. Stokes was injured and totally disabled in a basketball game in 1958. Jack Twyman adopted his friend and cared for him for the next 12 years. Stokes was a black ballplayer, Twyman was a white ballplayer. At the time of the accident, they were both super stars. But the NBA was not then the cash-cow it has become in recent years, so Twyman had to cover Maurice's hospital and medical bills for almost 11 years and then provide a home for him when he began to recover. The story is an amazing one of fraternity and when reporters asked Jack Twyman why did he take care of Stokes, he answered; "Maurice was on his own. Something had to be done and somebody had to do it. I was the only one there, so I became that someone."

We, veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, BECAME THAT SOMEONE.

You all recall the ridicule upon your return. We waive that off now, because so many have wished us well in recent years. So many have said to us: "Welcome Home Brother" or "Thank You For Your Service." Some of us have even been the beneficiary of a stranger paying for our meal, maybe a couple of meals over the years. I have even tried to catch them in a parking lot to say thank you, and they are long gone. If we wondered why; maybe it was because that thought that we were really ... that Someone. And you are, you are that someone who stepped up. You are that someone who walked point, you are that someone who sweated from your shoulders and often enough when you were lifting a comrade aboard a dust-off helicopter, from your eyes. You are that someone who carried the burden, came home, shrugged off the insults and carried on doing your part to make a better America, a better community, a better family and sacrificed every bit of the way. You were and are self-reliant, self-sufficient and unselfish. You donate millions of dollars not only for our scholarship fund but for so many causes, you also work countless hours still, as a volunteer, to become that someone.

Hoover Dam right I'm proud of you! So proud to be part of the 11th ACVVC family. So happy to be included in your mailing list, so glad to be at your reunions, so look forward to seeing you in Washington DC each year on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and on Groundhog Day (February 2), the birthday of the Regiment. I hope I'll see you on Veterans Day this year and again in Birmingham next year, at our 37th Annual Reunion. Allons.

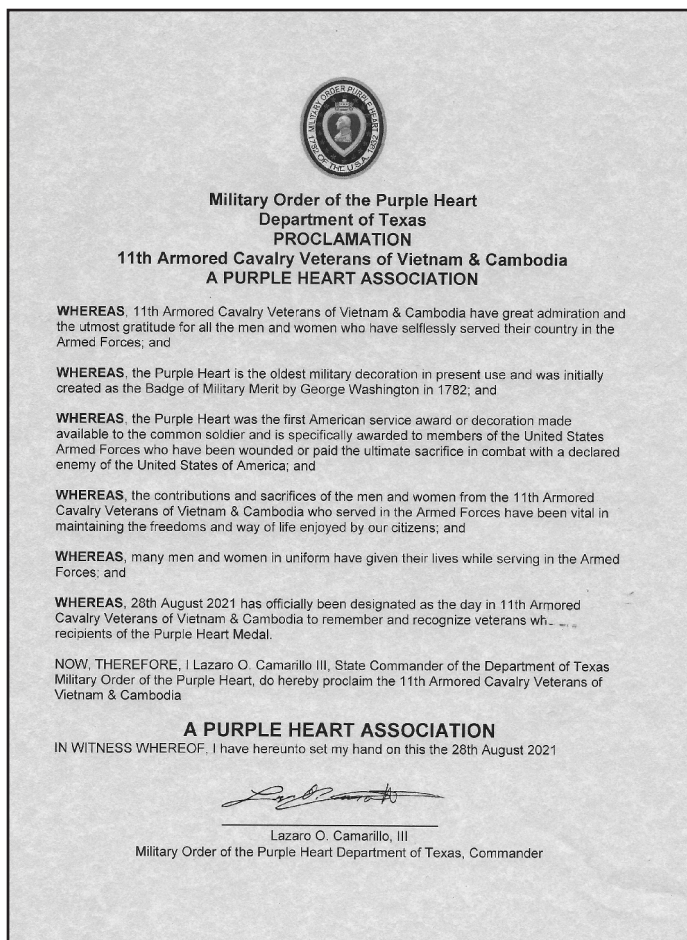
Chaplain Bill

11th ACVVC Designated a Purple Heart Association

Eric Newton, 11th ACVVC PAO

11th ACVVC was designated a Purple Heart Association at the Dallas Reunion. The presentation was made by Major General Peter Bayer, the 61st Colonel of the Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 11th ACVVC is the 2nd unit in the nation to receive this designation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart.



The Order of the Spur

Those troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and wish to receive a Spur Certificate should submit their NAME, RANK (highest in Vietnam), UNIT and DATES along with MAILING ADDRESS to:

ALLEN HATHAWAY
13194 RETTEW DR.
MANASSAS, VA 20112

critics than they do from their supporters. It's always nice to hear compliments, but justified criticism teaches us where we have either erred or could have exercised greater tact. Recently I received two letters/emails critical of the words some of our Troopers have used to describe the people of Vietnam and Cambodia. Today these words are considered slurs, but I ask those readers who were offended to consider the perspective of the writer. Some of these stories are written at the suggestion of a PTSD counselor (often a VA counselor) and are the memories and images of a soldier in the 1966-1972 era. He is typically a young man, age 18 to 20, 10,000 miles from home, immersed in a war and culture far different than his own; a stranger in a strange land who may have recently been wounded or witnessed a fellow Trooper being seriously wounded or killed. These stories are written from the soul...regard them as your Blackhorse brother speaking to you in person in his most honest and personal terms about his war time experiences.

Politics – In Article III: STATUS. Section 2, our By Laws read “The 11th ACVVC shall be a nonprofit, nonsectarian, nonpolitical, nondiscriminatory, veterans organization” (bold italics mine for emphasis). I mention this because I occasionally receive phone calls, letters and emails espousing a political position and wondering why Thunder Run and/or our website do not post their (the writer's) specific political position. Simply put, we are as stated in our By Laws “nonpolitical”. On a personal basis, I have voted regularly for fifty years, and you can rest assured your comments will not change my mind any more than mine would sway you. So, do not expect to see any articles supporting any candidate or political position or party.

Calendar – Hopefully, the 11th ACVVC 2022 calendar will be in your mailbox by the time you receive this issue of Thunder Run. There are some great pictures in this issue, but as always, I ask you to go through your old photos and slides and look for high-quality images you can scan or copy and email or surface mail to me for consideration in the next issue of the calendar (copies

I appeal to all of you to write a story for publication. We need more input for Thunder Run, input from your viewpoint, stories about your time in Vietnam and Cambodia....You need not be a skilled journalist; write from the heart, it will be appreciated.

only, not your originals!). I also ask that you identify any print, flash-drive, CD or email scan with your name for proper attribution. Unfortunately, there are many photos, slides, etc., that have been passed along over the years and I can no longer identify the original photographer. If you see a photo in the calendar with incorrect attribution or with none, and you are sure you took that picture, please let me know. I'll do my best to provide credit in Thunder Run. Thanks for understanding how things can get mixed up over fifty years!

Thunder Run Input – I appeal to all of you to write a story for publication. We need more input for Thunder Run, input from your viewpoint, stories about your time in Vietnam and Cambodia. Every one of us lived through the war and came home with different perspectives, different memories, some that we've stored away in our mind for fifty years. We won't be around for another fifty years, so if you want your stories told, now is the time and this is the place. You need not be a skilled journalist; write from the heart, it will be appreciated.

Fiddler's Green & the 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard – As in every issue, the names of our deceased brothers are published as soon as possible after we learn of their passing. I read the names of each Trooper and say a silent prayer for them all. Some I knew personally, but in reality we knew them all. They were “Tex”, “Slim”, “Mac”, “FX”, “Tiny”, but they were all Blackhorse Troopers. My sincere thanks – as always – to Allen Hathaway for all the hard work he does on assembling the details in “Fiddler's Green”. Read it well...and remember them.

Finally, we as a nation and we as vet-

erans lost three significant members of our community recently. Joe Galloway, the only civilian to receive a Bronze Star for Valor in the Vietnam War, died August at 79. Born in Refugio, TX, he co-authored with LGEN Hal Moore, “We Were Soldiers Once...and Young”, about the battle of the Ia Drang Valley in 1965. The book was made into a movie and both Galloway and Moore were guests at our 2010 reunion in Washington, D.C. I had the pleasure of sharing some Irish Whiskey a few years earlier with Joe Galloway; he was not just a great storyteller and great American, but a pleasure to be around.

Colin Powell, GEN, USA (Ret) and past Secretary of State passed away Oct 18 at 84. Born in Harlem, New York City, he rose to the rank of General, and unlike many of his peers who were graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, he came from the Reserve Officers Training Corps. Powell was well known for his “Thirteen Rules of Leadership”. None ring truer than the shortest, “Share credit”.

At the last minute I went back and added this paragraph as I just got word that Max Cleland passed away Nov. 9 at 79. Born in Atlanta, GA, he was a Captain in the 12th Cavalry Regiment when on April 8, 1968, during the Battle of Khe Sanh, he was so badly wounded on Hill 471, that he lost both legs and one arm. He would go on to head the Veterans Administration from 1977 to 1981 and serve in the U.S. Senate from 1997 to 2003.

May they all rest in peace.

Though this issue will reach you much later than Veteran's Day, I hope you all had a safe, peaceful and reflective Veteran's Day.

Pete Walter

REUNION from page 1

Our Officers work hard all year to plan the reunions and we must have time to finalize details, ship items needed for the reunion, to wrap things up and need travel time during which we can't do any reunion work. The planning phase typically ends about 2 weeks prior to the reunion. If we don't get cancellations prior to this we stand to lose a lot of money, and some won't get a refund because the funds have already been committed. We dislike not refunding registration fees, but the 11th ACVVC is a business, and we must treat it as such. Please abide by the cutoff dates.

I do have some info for you now. Plans are not complete, but the registration fee is set, and you can reserve rooms now.

Although Birmingham is not widely known as a destination city it does have a

lot to offer. Just outside the hotel is the Entertainment District that has 6 restaurants with their own food styles and price ranges. Among the many attractions in Birmingham are the Barber Vintage Motorcycle Museum, Alabama Veterans Memorial, Vulcan Park and Museum, several Botanical Gardens, Baseball Museum, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the oldest Baseball Park in the US, a zoo, several Civil Rights historical sites and the Museum of Flight featuring a Tuskegee Airman diorama.

I will have more information on events near the Hotel in upcoming Reunion updates. Until then, make your reservations on time and let's enjoy another good time together.

Frank Church- Reunion Chairman/VP

Sheraton Birmingham
2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
September 5- September 11, 2022

- Reservations by phone: 205-324-5000. Be sure to tell reservation agents that you are with the 11th ACVVC, group code VET
- Reservations on line: <https://book.passkey.com/event/50238985/owner/16607/home>
- Room rate: \$125+taxes. Hotel reservation cutoff date is Aug. 8, 2022. You may be able to reserve a room but may not get the reunion rate.
- Cancel 72 hours before arrival date for a full refund.
- Parking: \$8 per night
- Registration fee - \$100 per person
- Registration Cutoff date: Aug. 8, 2022
- 20% discount on outlets in the hotel
- Pets allowed for \$50 per night fee; max of 2. Service dogs no charge but bring valid documentation
- In room coffee makers

THOMAS from page 1

Joe Minor Thomas was born January 11, 1947, to Ora L. Thomas and Mitchell Thomas. Joe entered the U.S. Army August 15, 1966. After Basic Training he received his Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston and was assigned MOS 92B20, Medical NCO.

He deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, beginning his tour February 13, 1967.

On September 24 of that year, Spc. Thomas was serving as a Medic with G Troop when they came under heavy automatic weapons fire from a Viet Cong force. He saved the lives of three fellow Blackhorse Troopers before being mortally wounded. For his actions he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross; Joe Thomas is the only soldier from Tulsa to be awarded the DSC. Joe was 20 years old at the time of his death, he is interred in Crown Hill Cemetery, Tulsa, Oklahoma. (See Thomas' DSC Citation on page 13)

Two other Troopers were killed in this action; PFC Lawrence Bernard Crawford, G Trp, 21, from Detroit, Michigan and PFC Erral Dale Smallwood, G Trp, 20, from Putnam City, Georgia.

Remember them all and may they rest in peace.

(The 11th ACVVC extends sincere thanks Mike Lapolla, Ambassador to the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame for his extensive work in seeing Joe Minor Thomas's nomination and induction into the OMHOF.)

Pete Walter

COMPETITION from page 1

Outstanding team and individual rider performance, bringing home 20 ribbons as a team with every single rider winning at least 1 ribbon.

■ Eight 1st Place ribbons across all competitions

■ Winner of the Major Howze Competition with a perfect time, the first time it's ever been done. (A force march leading up to the historic 11th

Cavalry "Last Charge".)

■ Best rider overall in Level 2 (Cpl. Wenger)

■ Most aesthetic horse overall (Bradley, ridden by Spc. Mosqueda)

■ The Spanish American War authenticity award (Staff Sgt. Perkins riding Yano)

■ Three riders in the Bolte Cup, which is only open to the top perform-

ers of the competition (Sgt. 1st Class Stemple, Cpl. Wenger, and Spc. Mosqueda)

Watch the newsletter and 11th ACVVC social media for future events and come out and support your regiment.

Regional Cavalry Competition
Fort Concho Parade Ground
San Angelo, Texas
April 21 - 23, 2022

Dealing with the past, one day at a time

I was drafted November 1, 1965, in Los Angeles, CA at 7:30am. We left down town LA at 11:30pm for Fort Polk, Louisiana for processing, due to some cases of the Meningitis at Ft Ord, CA. After processing I was sent to Ft Carson, CO, for basic and AIT; both took place in the snow. So I thought I had a good chance I was going to Germany. Germany was not to be, I was sent next to Ft Meade, MD, and was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Things were changing, the training wasn't bad. While on leave, my older brother returned home from Vietnam where he was an MP for the past year. I wanted to talk with him about his tour in Vietnam, he had nothing but bad stories to tell. It scared me so much I had to lie down from weakness of fear, and he wasn't even in combat. My father saw my fear and said I didn't have to go, that I could go to Mexico. I must have impressed him, where I got the courage from I don't know, but I told him I had to prove myself as a man. So I took an extra day and was given an article 15 for being one day AWOL and placed on the USNS *Barrett*, a week later. We hit a typhoon on my 21st birthday and we landed in Vietnam on September 11, 1966, six days after my birthday. I put on my blinders and decided to take it one day at a time, just to survive as I'm basically a loner, I felt like I was in prison over there.

Before the ambush of May 21, 1967 at Soui-Cat most of my experiences were not too bad, I thought it was going to be easy but I was in for a big surprise, the VC were not playing. We used to have patrols and guard duty, it was quiet there, mostly kick back.

On a quiet sunny day I was near our ACAV when I heard loud voices, it sounded like trouble; the trooper said there was an ambush, so we started to get ready. I was ready to go but they were waiting for more help and other military obligations. It seemed forever but we finally got going, I remember locking and loading the M-60 and thinking when we get there I'm going to shoot up those VC. When we got to the area of the ambush I was overwhelmed with fear and shock, the destruction, the blood, the moaning of men in pain, all the

By Edmundo Martinez, K Trp., 3/11 ACR 66-67

A trooper afterwards asked me if I prayed to God, I told him I did, but I didn't, I was busy wondering what to do. To me this was my worst day because after it was all over I was told to take out a night patrol, me a PFC! I never wanted to be responsible for other young men's lives; I didn't believe I was qualified!

holes in our armored vehicles, an officer snapped us out of it by telling us to set up our defensive positions, I ended up guarding our rear with an M-16. I felt like I was holding a peashooter. You could hear the artillery firing from a distance, but I believe the VC were long gone. My first vision there was trooper Christianson, who removed his M-60 with its shield from his track and placed it on a pile of chopped wood at the side of the road and firing at the fleeing VC.

At the end of this long day I saw a crying Vietnamese man with papers in his hand. They said he wanted to claim his dead wife's body killed by our artillery. They wouldn't let him claim her body. It was a very sad and frightening day, I'll never forget it. Sometime later back at base camp in Xuan Loc, my mind had closed on me, I remember some trooper saying "let's go visit the guys at the hospital." Their names I don't remember. I'll never forget this one trooper he was such a nice guy and so very happy to see us.

19 June 1967 another mission, hope it's not a bad one! Going on the road mostly sight-seeing, a VC could be right there in the tree line and I couldn't see him, or her. When we got to our destination, we'd set up our night defensive position and get the patrols ready, we would either have to go on patrol or perimeter watch. On that night

we were on watch. As we take turns watching, at 0100 one of the troopers I knew, we seemed to have a lot of changes, different troops, trying to make up for our losses, R&R or ETS.

He woke me and said, "I think we're under an attack!" When I looked out there was a .51 caliber machine gun firing big green tracers between our ACAV and the one on our left; I guess they had a target in the perimeter. At this time I was in shock I don't know what else was firing at us. I got on the M-60 to shoot the 51 caliber machine gun but I froze. There was a light skinned black trooper with a Fu Manchu mustache with us, I believe it was his 2nd tour. He shot out the 51 caliber machine gun. We assumed the patrol was lost. We hesitated then we were told to return fire! We opened up with all our weapons, I fired the M-60, M-16 rifle and the M-79 grenade launcher. Around this time the ACAV on our left was hit with a direct hit with an RPG or recoilless rifle. I heard moaning from the track then I saw the ramp fall open but didn't see anybody come out. I'm watching and firing at the same time. We were fighting for about 2-4 hours constantly. I knew what they did to our troopers at Soui-Cat, so I made sure I was shooting all over. I was so nervous that I even shot a hole in our exhaust pipe. Towards the ending of our shootout "Puff the Magic Dragon" came in firing showers of bullets, we all cheered, it was over. We waited till light to check the damage, as we slowly moved in we spotted a trooper from the patrol. He was shot in the head and part of his skull was missing on top front; he seemed to be in a state of shock and he was mumbling. I hoped he survived.

As we went in further a black trooper with the patrol jumped in our vehicle and started shooting at the dead VC I assumed, I didn't see anything. I was shocked when I saw melted weapons. I noticed the VC had a wire attached to the trees. I guess they followed it to their attack positions, but the patrol messed up their plans. This probably saved us from the full attack. A little further down we found a big plastic bag with little baggies packed in it, was it drugs or was it their rice, I don't know?

Then came the bodies, the only bodies I saw was VC bodies and the one American trooper we saw laying in the field. I searched the VC bodies for souvenirs, eventually I through them away, I didn't feel right. This is when I felt like an animal, we were told to pick up the VC bodies, put them on our ramps and take them to the nearest village and leave them there. I didn't go as I was tired and hungry, but I could hear screams from a distant village. I still had their blood on my hands, I wiped my hands on my pants took out my c-rations and ate!

At this time I was getting short, I didn't know how short! I'm still a PFC, I wasn't looking for a promotion, but when one drinks too much you don't look good, or do well on your days off. On July 21, 1967 I believe we were attached with L Trp on a convoy or mission, I don't recall, support? It's the usual thing, get ready for movement, well here we go again going down the road, all the vegetation looks the same to me! I don't know how many miles we've gone, just looking at the road, "BANG!" We've been hit by an RPG and automatic fire from the rear, the bullets are bouncing all over our gun shields, sparks are flying. We go down for protection as we contemplate what to do, our gun on that side was not working, our 50 cal. was jammed by a bullet stuck between the bar-

rel and the housing, I suggested we toss grenades over the side to keep them from getting close. At the same time the RPG hit it didn't penetrate but knocked the driver out of his seat, as he looked at us with big eyes he shouted, "I'm not going to do this anymore" I wished I could have said that, he was new and later he was placed on kitchen duty. The battle wasn't too long but we had a lot of casualties, K troop had three KIA's and L troop had seven KIA's. Our Captain was killed, a trooper I recognized that woke me for KP one time, was decapitated from a direct hit from an RPG. These troopers I knew were running by our ACAV; theirs must have been knocked out by a RPG, I told them to get down but they were in a daze running.

A trooper afterwards asked me if I prayed to God, I told him I did, but I didn't, I was busy wondering what to do. To me this was my worst day because after it was all over I was told to take out a night patrol, me a PFC! I never wanted to be responsible for other young men's lives; I didn't believe I was qualified! We lost a lot of guys. I remember the new guys with fear and bewilderment in their eyes, we got together talked about it and had no contact that night and we all made it safe the next day.

I didn't know how short I was, but a few days later we went on another mission, but

previously I picked up an infection and had to go to the hospital for about 7-10 days, I felt guilty leaving. When I got back I was put on tower guard at our base camp in Xuan Loc for my remaining days. My last battle was on July 21, 1967. I was home on August 21, 1967 (what was it all about?)

I survived the war physically, I come from a very dysfunctional family, so today I still got to deal with crap, but I survived the war, I can survive this. A sister of mine asked "why do Vietnam Veterans cry." I had a cousin, who was in Vietnam, our tours over lapped. He was in the 101st Airborne and was KIA after I returned home. So after the funeral I went back to his house. His mother, my aunt, come over to me and said "Why did you live and Richard die?" and slapped me in the face. She was naturally traumatized with the grief of losing her son. The war will never leave my mind, but I'm making it! Ten years after the war, my brother got a gun and took his life, my elder sister and I cleaned up the mess, drinking. I cried for 3 days straight, my eyes swollen shut (they took him in a body bag). Today I'm over 6 years sober, my 3rd attempt, I have survival guilt, I've had several relationships, 5 kids, and they're all doing well. I've sought a lot of help and had it; troubles still come, but one has to just keep fighting, one day at a time.

Specialist Fourth Class Joe M. Thomas

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS CITATION

September 24, 1967, G Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
Tam Ky, Quang Nam Province, Republic of South Vietnam

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Joe Minor Thomas (US54-663-060), Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Specialist Four Thomas distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 24 September 1967 while serving as medic of an armored cavalry platoon on a combat mission deep in hostile territory. While moving along rice fields in search of hostile elements, his platoon was savagely attacked by a Viet Cong force firing automatic weapons from well-fortified positions.

He saw three comrades wounded by the intense barrage and sprinted three hundred meters across an open rice paddy under a hail of fire to aid them. With bullets striking all around him, he remained in the open to treat the casualties and move them to safety. He detected the Viet Cong emplacement and fired furiously into the attackers. Completely disregarding his own safety, he stood up in the midst of the firefight and fearlessly assaulted the enemy bunker alone. Firing lethal bursts as he ran into the face of the enemy weapons, he reached the fortifications and destroyed them with grenades and rifle fire, killing three enemy soldiers.

He was mortally wounded while gallantly defending his comrades in the face of grave danger. His fearless actions completely defeated the determined insurgents and enabled his men to successfully complete their mission. Specialist Four Thomas' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 6017 (November 21, 1967)

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

(July 2021)

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Prisoner Snatch

Captured Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and Chieu Hois (enemy soldiers who willingly switched sides) were sometimes a good source of hard intelligence, but not always in a timely manner. For example, about midway through Operation Manhattan (29 April 1967), a captured VC told his 541st Military Intelligence Detachment interrogators that a headquarters element of some 400 VC was located in a tunnel system about 10 kilometers southeast of Dau Tieng, on the boundary between the 3rd Brigade, 1st (US) Infantry Division and the 11th Cav. First Squadron was sent to investigate, but hours of fruitless searching (without dismounted infantry) resulted in finding only several huts and one booby trap (with one Blackhorse Trooper wounded). They returned the following day with a battalion of dismounted infantry and found a base camp with still warm food, but only a few stay-behind VC whose job it was to cover the withdrawal of the enemy headquarters staff.

In early September 1968, the Regiment was operating in the area known as the Lam Son and the Catcher's Mitt. These areas were operationally lucrative, both in the number of VC and NVA soldiers killed and captured and in the amount of supplies found. The North Vietnamese commander of the Dong Nai Regiment was directed by his boss to send forces south out of War Zone D to deal with the pesky 11th Cav. The 4th Battalion (also known as the Phu Loi Battalion) was tasked with the mission, arriving in the vicinity of Chanh Luu in late August.

By late 1968, things were tough for the Dong Nai soldiers; replacements were few, food was scarce, and they frequently were forced to flee allied operations and B-52 strikes - the dreaded 'steel crows' that rained unseen destruction from the air. Most of the original VC guerrillas were gone; many of them killed during or surrendered after the Tet '68 offensive. The NVA soldiers who replaced them were perhaps better trained, but they spoke with a funny accent, didn't know the terrain, and were just, well, 'different'.

Things were so bad, in fact, that the K-4 Battalion's second-in-command, known as Ka, was ready to quit. His battalion was located in the abandoned rubber plantation just north of Chanh Luu; Blackhorse Troopers called it the K-4 Woods because that's where the K-4 Battalion was located. Ka, who just happened to be the brother of the South Vietnamese district chief, let it be known that he would Chieu Hoi, provided he was allowed to bring his wife with him. And he wanted it to look like a kidnapping, not a defection, so the VC would not retaliate against the rest of his family. The District Chief, South Vietnamese Major Phuoc, agreed and turned to the

11th Cav for help. In exchange for the help, Major Phuoc promised Blackhorse 6 (Colonel George Patton) he would have first crack at the intelligence from the defector. Patton wrote that the ensuing operation "to bring the defector in safely reads like a James Bond novel."

The District Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU), accompanied by the Vietnamese-speaking Regimental Intelligence Officer (RS-2, Andy O'Meara), flew aboard Air Cav Troop slicks into a landing zone just outside the village. Their target said he would be in a hootch with a blue Lambretta motor-scooter parked outside.

O'Meara watched as the well-trained South Vietnamese assault team went in "looking like a VC unit just returning from a mission". They wanted the residents of this Communist-sympathetic village to think this was just a routine day and a routine K-4 operation. Once they came to the hootch with the blue Moped outside, the PRU grabbed Ka, tied him up, and walked back out. "Nobody screwed with them," O'Meara recalls.

Patton had told O'Meara to get the locations of the Dong Nai units and get it back to him ASAP. "Patton had the Regiment queued up, ready to assault," according to O'Meara - the Aero Rifle Platoon (ARPs), 3rd Squadron, a company of the 1/16th Mechanized Infantry (with the rest of the battalion on stand-by), and a South Vietnamese ranger battalion all waiting for the word to go. But the district chief hadn't seen his brother in some time, so he had a celebratory lunch for him that went on and on. "Finally," O'Meara recalls, "they stopped, but it took me a while to get them focused."

Taken into a room next door to the banquet hall, Ka identified the location of each K-4 company. He put dots on O'Meara's map showing where the tunnel entrances were; the companies were all located in tunnels underground. He also gave locations for a hospital and the VC military region headquarters. O'Meara quickly jumped back on the Thunderhorse helicopter. Doc Bahnsen (Air Cav Troop commander) said that Patton was livid, constantly asking on the radio: "'What's taking so damn long?'"

Within 30 minutes of receiving the information on where the headquarters element of the Phu Loi Battalion was located, two squads of ARPs, led by platoon leader 1st Lieutenant Dennis Reardon (Raider 6), were inserted within a couple hundred meters of the site identified by defector Ka. Moving on line, the ARPs engaged and killed two enemy soldiers in a treeline. Entering the woods, they discovered an ammunition cache and a tunnel entrance in the bank of a creek. Raider 6 recalls that day.

That day the ARPs were deployed in full force. A heavy line of trees and thick jungle separated the ARPs from the armored units. They were out of our line of sight. To our front was a dry creek bed that contained tunnel entrances with exit

holes in the midst of our position. We became aware of those tunnel exits when a VC popped out, fired and hit my RTO [radio-telephone operator] Sp4 [Ed] Clark with three rounds on his left side... SGT Bob Roeder took that VC out. Heavy VC fire followed from other tunnel exits. Another VC fired from behind the creek bed bank and then retreated. I moved forward, leaned over the creek bank and threw a grenade into the tunnel entrance. Moments later he or another VC popped up from the same spot and I took him out before he could fire his weapon.

Meanwhile, Thunderhorse 6 was orchestrating gunship and artillery support for his ARPs. India Troop, reinforced by two platoons of Delta Company, 1/16th Infantry piled on, sealing the area and quickly achieving fire superiority over the surprised enemy. The fight lasted only about an hour, but Ka's intelligence information had proven to be accurate. In addition

to numerous casualties and three prisoners of war, the K-4 Battalion was scattered, effectively precluding it from interfering with the Regiment's successful operations to interdict the flow of supplies and replacements into the Lam Son-Catcher's Mitt area for weeks, if not months.

O'Meara sums the day's operation up: "The young lads that we captured...17, 18 years old, who had been marched down the [Ho Chi Minh] Trail carrying mortar rounds or whatever, maybe just their gear when they marched down as infantry, they were confused, they were disoriented, and they weren't real war-like. They weren't too enthused about that war. And so, when we captured these guys, they'd tell us anything you wanted to know. They were very helpful. They told us a lot about the other side."

The Blackhorse in Vietnam By Donald Snedeker

11th ACVVC 2022 Calendar Appeal

The first of our 2022 Scholarship fundraising efforts should be in your mailboxes by Christmas. The 11th ACVVC 2022 Calendar will again feature twelve new photos submitted by you the members of the legendary Blackhorse Regiment. We thank all who have sent in photos for consideration. The calendar contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia with photographs documenting many of our daily activities. Based on your comments and incredible generosity it appears the 2021 calendar was a smashing success and well received by our members.

Our Scholarship Fund is a separate, self-sufficient fund; scholarships awarded, printing and mailing costs for the calendar are all paid from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. Membership dues are not used to pay for the calendar. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the donations made during that year; without your support this program would not exist.

The calendar you receive is yours to keep and enjoy whether you contribute or not. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

I will not appeal to you donors for greater donations, as you have established well the levels of your unbridled generosity. The donations you made in the past year set a new record! As of this writing, you the members of the 11th ACVVC, your families and friends, have donated ~\$100,000 to the 2021 calendar appeal! Since its inception, the 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Fund has provided more than \$2,000,000 in scholarship funds to our children and grandchildren. I want to thank all of you for

your generosity and recognize our long-time Scholarship Chairman, Mike "Doc" Rafferty. Mike has done a tremendous job and those in attendance at the banquet at our reunion in Dallas saw Mike present an award to the membership for their generosity in surpassing the \$2,000,000 mark.

Those of you who have never contributed to the Scholarship Fund Calendar Appeal should consider a modest donation. Additionally, printing and mailing costs continue to rise and we can reduce costs by not mailing a calendar to anyone who does not want one. If you do not want to receive future calendars, please return the remittance envelope and check the box indicating this. If anyone has a suggestion as to how we can increase participation in this project, please contact me or any Officer.

A limited number of extra calendars will be available while they last; instructions for ordering extra copies are included with the calendar mailing. Watch for your calendar in the holiday mail, but keep in mind the Postmaster General has plans to slow down mail and this will likely result in your calendar being received later than usual.

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

We thank you in advance for your generous support!

Pete Walter, 11th ACVVC President



Membership is Our Strength

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



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

Gold Level

Minor, Charles
Schriver, Randall

Scholarship Fund

Platinum Level

Brewer, James
Endres, Brad
Gulley, Gerald
Kaul, Jenna & Families
In Memory of Terry Kaul
Tamulonis, John

Gold Level

Alter, Phil
Burke, Tim
Cartwright, Wavely
Chesarek, William
Curtis, Kendall & Jane

In Memory of Bruce Miller
Ehrenberg, Arthur
Lewis, Dawn (Kaul) & Clint
In Memory of Terry Kaul
Mason, Eleanor, Robert & Todd
In Memory of Bruce Miller
Melhuish, Ursula
In Memory of Bruce Miller
Rafferty, Doc
Siegman, Jerome & Kathie
In Memory of Bruce Miller
Soehnlén, Nick
Tepper, Elliott
Unnamed, Marvin & Ruth
Ann

Silver Level

Bauer, Bill & Mary
In Memory of, Bruce Miller
Kelly, Pamela
In Memory of Bruce Miller
Sheesley, Ken & Katy
In Memory of, Bruce Miller

Venhoff, John

Bronze Level

Austin, Dale
Beaven, Barry
Dietz, John
Hughes, Sidney
Kuneman, Gary
Rush, Robert
Tankovich, James

Assistance Fund

Gold Level

Burke, Tim
Decanini, Dante
Knox, Ronald
Taylor, Constance

Silver Level

Gehring, Joseph

Bronze Level

Taylor, Constance

Memorial Fund

Bronze Level

Taylor, Constance

Gold Level

Creal, Dennis
Ehrenberg, Arthur
Hrom, John
Pines, Joe
Silver Level
Mott, Miki

Bronze Level

Henderson, Ralph

Calendar Fund

Gold Level

Carr, Mark

Sale, William
Tomscheck, Mark

Silver Level

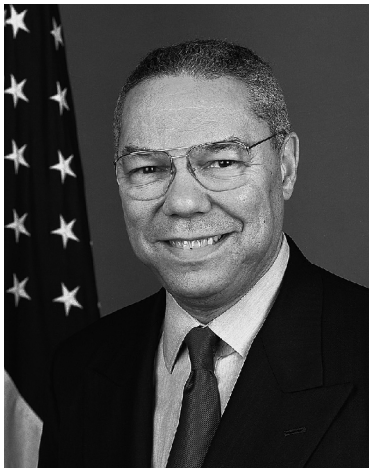
Brauer, William & Mary
In Memory of Bruce Miller
Chesarek, William
Kelly, Pamela
In Memory of Bruce Miller
Pitt, Michael

Bronze Level

Averill, Gordon
Cole, Larry
Davis, Gary
Kidd, Ralph
Newton, Michael
Pullium, Michael
Scherz, Gerald
Sidel, Connie

Colin Powell, A Personal Remembrance

Don Snedeker



It was the fall of 1992. I was sitting at my desk in the Pentagon. I was drafting a speech for my boss, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, to give to the Houston Chamber of Commerce. We were scheduled to fly there in a few days. I shared office space with the Chairman's Public Affairs staff. CNN was on the TV 24/7 in those days when it was still the most reliable news source.

"Breaking news" meant something back then, so when they interrupted their "regularly scheduled newscast" for breaking news, we all stopped what we were doing to listen. It was, indeed, "breaking" news.

The Berlin Wall was falling. With Gorbachev's encouragement, the East German government was issuing passes for its citizens to travel into West Berlin. Within hours, Germans began literally tearing down the Berlin Wall. The Cold War was ending before our very eyes.

I thought back to a visit by General Powell's Soviet counterpart,

Marshall of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev. The two of them – arguably the two most influential soldiers in the world – spent several days together touring military units and installations in the United States. Two stops during that visit always come to mind when I think about working for General Powell.

In an underground ICBM silo in the middle of nowhere, Marshall Akhromeyev asked the young Air Force Captain what the target was for his nuclear-tipped missile. Without hesitation, the Captain replied: "The Soviet Union, Sir."

A couple days later, it was the Army's turn. Fort Hood, Texas, home of the 1st Cavalry Division and 2nd Armored Division. General Powell and Marshall Akhromeyev were in an armored battalion's motor pool. The battalion's 54 M1 tanks were lined up for their inspection. The crews stood in front of their vehicles.

Akhromeyev stopped in front of one of the tanks and asked the young E5 Sergeant what his mission was. "To kill Commies, Sir!" General Powell smiled and tried hard to not laugh out loud.

You gotta love the American Soldier. And you gotta love a leader like Colin Powell who had enough faith and trust in our citizen-soldiers to do – and say – the right thing. He was that kind of leader. When you met with him, he treated you as if you were the most important person he was meeting with that day.

And he had a vision. He was a big man in a big position – and he thought big thoughts. But he never forgot where he started. He never forgot all those who helped him along the way.

I will miss you, Sir!

Let's Thank Heaven For A Good Fellow

IF IT WASN'T FOR A GOOD FELLOW
BACK AT ALPHA PAD
LEANING ON THE RADIO
WITH ALL THE LOVE HE HAD
KIDCLIT WOULD STILL BE THERE
FIGHTING...FIGHTING WITH
WHATEVER HE HAD.
FOR THE GOOD FELLOW
WALKED 'EM IN
YEA HE WALKED 'EM IN
ONE BY ONE
ALL AROUND THAT SATURDAY
AFTERNOON RIDGETOP
HE WALKED 'EM IN UNTIL
IT CAME TIME TO RUN (LIKE DE DE MAO)
I REGRET TO INFORM YOU...
TWO TOOK ROUNDS UPON THE BURST
AND THE FUNG...
WELL HE JUST FROZE
ALL HE COULD DO WAS
LOAD AND RELOAD
HELL, I GUESS IT COULD'VE

BEEN WORSE.

SO THANK YOU MR. GOOD FELLOW
MY GOOD FRIEND
FOR IN BATTLE WE FOUGHT TOGETHER
AND NOW IT IS OURS TO COMPREHEND
FIVE STILL WALK IN A MID DAYS SUN
THANKS TO A GOOD FELLOW AND
ALL THAT HE HAD

...that was one of the many tales the kid would tell
about his adventures, his adventures from hell, for the
kid knew the jungle, knew it damn well, knew it like the
ring of his old school yard bell.

...and it still breathes inside of us you know, yea
it flows right through us like water through a well,

...."DADDY DADDY" A SON QUERIED, "IF THIS IS THE
REAL

...WORLD, WHA WHA WHAT WAS VIETNAM?"

a poem by terry gerhardt
about kenny barr and
frankie gowrie.
April 20, 2004

Poem notes/reader:

- alpha pad: forward position, the 11th air cav used inside of the 101st airborne base camp in the bien hoa area of Vietnam
- claymore mine: anti-personnel land mine for defense from a ground attack
- good fellow: frank gowrie, a lrrp (long range reconnaissance patrol) team leader, after vietnam he became a n.y. city detective and went undercover (the first) in the mob. m scorsese used him as an advisor in the movie goodfellas.
- kidclit: Kenny barr a lrrp team leader in vietnam in 1968
- fung: f...ing new guy
- de de mao: get out fast (Vietnam/French slang)
- walk 'em in: artillery support
- the burst: exchange of gun fire upon launching of an ambush

(Editor's note: The author's formatting style has been retained as closely as possible. Kenneth D. Barr passed away November 16, 2008. Francis X. "FX" Gowrie passed away April 28, 2012. May they rest in peace.)

'We Were There'

**If you want to find out who we are,
just ask us where we've been,**

**From the frozen fields of Valley Forge,
to the trail called Ho Chi Minh,**

**Through the glory and the sacrifice,
we did our jobs each day.**

**We were citizens and soldiers,
and Army all the way.**

**We were there when we were needed,
When we were needed we were there.**

**Though it wasn't always easy,
and it wasn't always fair,**

**When freedom called, we answered,
we were there.**

(Excerpted and edited from the "A Lot of Stuff has Happened" speech)

MG David Fastabend, USMA Class of 1974. Retirement Ceremony, Mar 23, 2006, Ft Monroe, VA (6MAY52 – 20MAR20, Rest in peace Sir.)



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.

There is an unusually high number of names listed in this issue. Earlier this year a review of our Master Roster was done to determine the members status. While we ask to be notified if a member passes away, that is not always the case. Using several reliable resources, these LIFE members were found to have passed away. Please do not assume they were COVID related. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

- Robert J. Allen**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 17, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Maria, CA.
- Willard T. Armitage**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 5, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairhope, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, Spanish Fort, AL.
- Danny L. Arnett**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 25, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dayton, NV. He was laid to rest in Highland Garden Of Memories, Belvidere, IL.
- Jimmy S. Baird**, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on March 11, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brownsville, TN. He was laid to rest in Marvin Chapel Cemetery, Brownsville, TN.
- Barry E. Baker**, HHT 11th ACR (1967-1968) passed away on June 20, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Manchester, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.
- Donald L. Bentley**, HHT 11th ACR (1969-1970) and Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on April 11, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spokane, WA.
- Gerald O. Berna**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 20, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fountain Hills, AZ.
- William J. Bogdanski**, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 25, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Perrysburg, OH. He was laid to rest in Saint Rose Cemetery, Perrysburg, OH.
- Gregory M. Burch**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1968) passed away on January 26, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Charles Town, WV. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- Frank L. Burse**, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 13, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pennsville, NJ. He was laid to rest in Salem County War Veterans Memorial Park And Cemetery, Woodstown, NJ.
- Jon W. Cameron**, 398th Transportation Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on March 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Willcox, AZ.
- Samuel Castillo**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 25, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dallas, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.
- Larkin C. Cathey**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on January 20, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bossier City, LA. He was laid to rest in Forest Park Cemetery West, Shreveport, LA.
- Charles R. Chism**, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 21, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Minneapolis, MN. He was laid to rest in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, South Minneapolis, MN.
- John E. Cobb**, I Troop, 3/11 (1969) passed away on September 8, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bastrop, TX.
- Mitchell Colvin**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 14, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Niagara Falls, NY.
- Frezell Cross**, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 9, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, OH. He was laid to rest in Glen Rest Memorial Estate, Reynoldsburg, OH.
- William B. Czyzewski**, H Company, 2/11 and F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 9, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bunker Hill, WV. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- Lindly A. David**, E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 9, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pottersville, MO.
- James D. Decker**, 124th Combat Support Maintenance (1969-1970) passed away on January 14, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Smithfield, RI.
- Patrick Dempsey**, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 7, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pasadena, MD. He was laid to rest in Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD.
- John F. Donahue**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 21, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ashaway, RI. He was laid to rest in Rhode Island Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, RI.

Douglas G. Endres, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 27, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ronkonkoma, NY.

William E. Everett, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-1968) passed away on April 14, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ocean City, NJ.

Omer L. Ferguson, HHT 11th ACR (1966-1967) passed away on May 19, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Woodlawn, IL. He was laid to rest in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Woodlawn, IL.

Thomas G. Fisher, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 25, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Losantville, IN. He was laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Losantville, IN.

Leland P. Garner, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1970) passed away on May 30, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Independence, MO.

Buford A. Golden, HHT 11th ACR (1966-1967) passed away on January 22, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Linden, AL. He was laid to rest in Dunning Cemetery, Marengo County, AL.

Paul S. Gonzales, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 5, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Porterville, CA. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery, Porterville, CA.

Paul R. Grosh, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 5, 2021. He was as LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lancaster, PA.

Roland L. Gurnsey, L Troop, 3/11 and HHT, 3/11 (1966-1968) passed away on November 29, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wyoming, IL.

Benjamin F. Harmon, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on November 7, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Grady E. Hassell, H Company, 2/11 and HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 21, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roper, NC.

William B. Heinefield, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 2, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rock Hall, MD.

Grant W. Heslip, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 20, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Escanaba, MI.

Ludwig A. Hoge, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 25, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colonial Heights, VA. He was laid to rest in Sunset Memorial Park And Mausoleum, Chester, VA. Ludwig is also a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Howard J. Holst, H Company, 2/11 and G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on February 18, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Orange, TX.

Glenn P. Hollar, E Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 15, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vine Grove, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

Robert W. Howington, 37th Medical Company (1968-1969) passed away on April 4, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sanford, NC. He was laid to rest in Euphronia Church Cemetery, Sanford, NC. Robert is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Walter J. Hryzan, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 24, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lunenburg, VT.

Swanson N. Hudson, Air Cavalry Troop and HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 21, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thomasville, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

Ralph E. Huffman, C Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 14, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sardis, OH. He was laid to rest in Sardis Cemetery, Sardis, OH.

Ross L. Jones, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 4, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shinglehouse, PA.

Terry H. Kaul, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 29, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Springfield, SD. He was laid to rest in Danzig Baptist Cemetery, Avon, SD.

Kevin T. Kelleher, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on November 25, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Houston, MN.

Eric L. Lengefeld, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 9, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Aurora, CO. He was laid to rest in Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO.

Per I. Madsen, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on July 11, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pittsburgh, PA. He was laid to rest in Mount Royal Cemetery, Glenshaw, PA.

Donnie J. Marquez, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 29, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pueblo, CO.

Sterling D. Matthews, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 10, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kingwood, TX.

Larry B. Mayes, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 8, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, IN. He was laid to rest in Garland Brook Cemetery, Columbus, IN.

Chester A. McCallum, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 7, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Keansburg, NJ.

Bruce Miller, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 21, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY.

Jimmy S. Miller, H Company, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 20, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Calabash, NC.

William C. Mizer, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 1, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Union, WA.

Raul C. Munoz, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1970) passed away on December 2, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dixon, MO. He was laid to rest in Ft Leonard Wood State Veterans Cemetery, Waynesville, MO.

Ruth J. Neher, American Red Cross (1968-1969) passed away on December 19, 2019. She was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dollar Bay, MI.

Richard E. Newberry, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 3, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Louis, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

William A. Orange, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 24, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Maywood, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

Michael J. O'Grady, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-67) passed away on October 14, 2021. He resided in Martinez, GA. Inurnment at West Point Cemetery will be at a later date.

Alfred A. O'Rourke, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 23, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Ignace, MI. He was laid to rest in St Ignatius Cemetery, Saint Ignace, MI.

Ronald B. Rosett, 46th Infantry Platoon Scout Dog (IPSD) (1967-1967) passed away on May 24, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kingman, AZ.

George J. Rudolph, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on November 11, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in High Point, NC. He was laid to rest in Guil-Rand Memorial Park, High Point, NC.

Roy M. Scheitlin, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 5, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Radcliff, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

Robert C. Schreck, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 7, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kennerdell, PA. He was laid to rest in Melat Cemetery, Rockland, PA.

Bruce C. Selman, Air Cavalry Troop and M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 28, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Standish, MI.

Clarence E. Shavers, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 17, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wilmington, NC. He was laid to rest in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Wilmington, NC.

William H. Sheehan, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on January 17, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hampton, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Edmund J. Sieminski, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on June 14, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mountain Top, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Michael W. Slaick, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1970) passed away on August 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gainesville, GA. He was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, Gainesville, GA.

Doyle W. Smith, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 23, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spotsylvania, VA. He was laid to rest in Hamblen Memory Gardens, Morristown, TN. Doyle is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Jerry R. Strouse, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on March 29, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mount Vernon, OH. He was laid to rest in Morris Chapel Cemetery, Mount Vernon, OH.

Arli Sullemun, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 26, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Norfolk, VA. He was laid to rest in Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk, VA.

Charles E. Thompson, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 31, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wilmington, NC. He was laid to rest in Oleander Memorial Gardens, Wilmington, NC.

Francis Thompson, 124th Combat Support Maintenance (1969-1970) passed away on May 1, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Goldsboro, NC. He was laid to rest in Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Goldsboro, NC.

Dale D. Toddy, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 29, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hamilton, GA. He was laid to rest in Geneva City Cemetery, Box Springs, GA.

Michael J. Trask, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on May 5, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Linwood, MI.

Lonnie J. Turner, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 18, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Warren, MI.

Michael D. West, H Company, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 20, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Honey Creek, IA. He was laid to rest in Branson Cemetery, Loveland, IA.

Bobby G. White, H Company, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 31, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dry Fork, VA.

Danny L. White, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 4, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jacksonville, IL. He was laid to rest in Cavalry Cemetery, Jacksonville, IL.

Robert A. Williams, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 29, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Meshoppen, PA. He was laid to rest in Overfield Cemetery, Meshoppen, PA.

William K. Witt, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 27, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Temple, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

Terry Wynn, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on August 5, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rochester, IN. He was laid to rest in Rochester loof Chemetery, Rochester, IN.

Darrell B. Zipp, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 7, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ.

VSO INFORMATION

November 2021

A brief opening before the usual information:

Mid-September, I received a rather surprising and unique gift- A Special Recognition Award for contributions to the members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. When I opened the package with my wife Susan, we were thrilled with the award. Susan expressed how beautiful it is. My reaction is still one of sincere appreciation – appreciation because this gift is from fellow vets of an organization that is truly special, Blackhorse troopers of Viet Nam. Of course, I then called Allen and Peter to express my thanks and how deeply impressed Susan was. When I asked Peter why, he simply stated the articles submitted for Thunder Run regarding veteran's benefits has had some positive results for our members. Well – if so, then I am pleased. So- to my fellow Black Horse vets – Thank you very much! Peter and Allen, thank you, I am honored and humbled, and as always ALLONS!

VSO information

I'm venturing onto different topics of sorts yet topics that we, as veterans, need to attend to, even though some we all shy away from. These topics concern VA Health care and I will attempt to present various VA Health care benefits that may be of interest to veterans of our generation (the

generation of the best music ever!). VA Health care is not my usual daily concern as disability claims are. However, I truly believe we all need to become cognizant of the various VA health care programs available to us and our loved ones. To be honest, as I research some of these programs, I am learning also. So- here goes.

This first article will focus on Hospice. I know- hopefully, none of us wish to experience this. But we should be aware and plan for the big "what if" I guess I'm presenting this only because as I have been back in my office since mid-May, there are daily calls from spouses and family members frantically searching for any kind of assistance for their veteran who is terminally ill. Believe me, talking with families is always heartening. Perhaps with proper awareness of the availability of programs such as Hospice at ALL VA hospitals, a dignified and supportive environment for a terminally ill veteran can be offered.

As I mentioned, all VA medical centers offer a hospice program. As an example., I will present the basics of the hospice program at Edward Hines VAMC located in a Western suburb of Chicago. Hospice is available for "established" veterans enrolled in VA health care and for veterans who are not. For those veterans enrolled in VA, their primary care provider is the go-to person to initiate hospice care. The provider contacts the primary medical social worker who then facilitates communication

between veteran/family/palliative care consult team. For veterans not enrolled in VA health care, there is a slightly different approach, yet the veteran will receive hospice.

Hines VA does have a 15-bed hospice unit. It is reserved for veterans in their last days to weeks of life. VA does also contract with community hospice centers should a bed in the unit within Hines not be available. Further VA offers homemaker/ home health aide services which provides up to 15 hours per week of in-home homemaker support. Veterans enrolled in home hospice are eligible for 30 days of in-home respite services per calendar year with each day up to six hours per day.

This information is intended only to provide the reader with very basic information for hospice. I'm sure I may be leaving out some finer details, so to gather all the information, one needs to contact the palliative care coordinator at the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center. I know- no one really wants to think about these bits of reality, yet we owe it to our families to have reliable information at the ready for our families. They will have enough grief on their minds- they do not need to be frantically searching for a benefit that most veterans are entitled to. Make life a bit easier for them

*chuck bosko, 708 205 3541
chuckbosko@att.net*

ALLONS

21

Love In The Time Of Vietnam

Remember when we went to basic training? Those of us who had girlfriends and wives said tearful goodbyes to our loved ones and went off to war. We arrived at induction stations across this nation where we began the process of becoming U.S. soldiers. Some of us were already married, some got married just prior to induction. We all promised our undying love and swore we would be true throughout our military enlistment and (if single but attached) to come home to marry our sweethearts when it was all over.

It was the Vietnam War era. For a lot of us there was an urgency in our desire to secure our loves in marriage before we left because who knew? We might not return from the war and this might be our only shot at love. We didn't want to miss out on what might be our only chance at love. It had been the same in every war before Vietnam, so why should it be different for us?

Remember in basic training? Whether you were already married or just had a girl you thought you loved at home, the Drill Instructors started early in our training letting us know that while we were gone, JODY was after our girls. The longer we were away from home the more paranoia set in and convinced many that our loves were in fact running around on us and had no intention of waiting for us. How many trainees received their "Dear John" letters while still in Basic or advanced training, or got the bad news when they returned from basic training?

I went to basic training at FT. Polk, and out of a training company of 240 men we had 57 men who went AWOL during training. Some couldn't handle the training, some couldn't handle the fact that they were bound for Vietnam, but some, and I'm sure not just a few, went AWOL to go home and try to get his girl back from JODY.

We were too young to be in serious love, and certainly too young to be making snap decisions about marriage

The longer we were away from home the more paranoia set in and convinced many that our loves were in fact running around on us and had no intention of waiting for us. How many trainees received their "Dear John" letters while still in Basic or advanced training, or got the bad news when they returned from basic training?

before we deployed. In my case (and maybe yours too) a parent (usually the girl's) intervened and sat you down and gave you the what for. At the very least you got the royal grilling. What was the plan for once you were married? Where would you live? How were you going to support their daughter in the manner THEY thought she deserved to be kept? What if you got her pregnant before deployment and then got killed in-country? How would she (they/remember the baby!) get along if you didn't come home? And even if you made it home how were you going to support their daughter? WHAT IS THE PLAN? If you were lucky the grilling was all you got, and maybe you both agreed to wait until after you returned from the war. At worst the girl's father threatened you with bodily harm and warned you off because he couldn't stand the idea that maybe you were already sleeping with his little sweetheart!

So, maybe you agreed to wait until you got back to the world to marry. Daddy was happy because he thought the immediate threat to his daughter's future had passed. In his mind (and maybe mom's too) he figured that while you were gone for at least a year his daughter would hook up with someone else more acceptable and close to home. But, you and your love promised to write each other every day while you were gone and swore there would never be anyone else.

Eventually we deployed and while JODY was tempting our girls back at home, no discussion of love in the time of Vietnam would be complete without acknowledging the temptations that we faced in-country. After all, a year away from home was hard on us too. More

than a few lonely and loved starved GI's, married or single, found soothing female companionship in the ever present steam baths, with Saigon Tea girls, "Boom Boom" girls, or in the infamous 200P Alley in Saigon. None of this was truly about love of course, but it was a temporary substitute. The bad news is that some of these in-country trysts led to medical circumstances (I know you caught my hint!) that in some cases actually delayed the unlucky trooper's DEROS.

At a point some lucky husbands actually got to enjoy R&R meeting their wives in Hawaii. For the rest of us, who can forget the pleasures and adventures in female companionship that could be had in exotic places on R&R. In fact by the time I served in-country, instead of R&R in an exotic place we could even choose to fly back to the world (at our own expense of course). If we were lucky we even got to see our girlfriends. Most of those trips home were problematic for JODY, but some ended up problematic for us when the strength of our undying love was found to have weakened.

Then, how many of our brothers got dear John letters during their tours? I guess some of those dads were right about their daughters. A year was too long to wait. The problem is that a lot of our brothers who got those letters were crushed. For many the love betrothed before we deployed is what sustained us in a place so alien, so dangerous, so devoid of everything we had been raised to value and love. It was what we held onto while we counted the days to DEROS and going "Back To The World". Unfortunately, some were young and emotionally unprepared for dealing with this kind of crushing heartbreak.

Even worse, how many of our broth-

Dedicated To Jeffrey T. Schomp
541rst MID, 11th ACR 1970

ers made it through their tours only to go home and be surprised to find out that the object of their love had moved on but had been too cowardly or just unable to tell them before they got home. Can you imagine the feelings of betrayal? You survive a war only to come home and find out the future you had planned in your mind no longer exists? You can barely understand what you've just been through for the last 13-months, and now you can't understand why the future you counted on back in the world has been upended. Is it any wonder that suicide could

become a choice?

Not so amazingly, actual real love did happen in country for some, and they married Vietnamese girls and took them home to mom and dad when they rotated back to the world.

The really good news is that most of us made it back home to find our loved ones were waiting (mostly with open arms). However, we were no longer the men they used to know. We had been changed by our war. We struggled to relate to our new circumstances while carrying the burdens of everything we had seen, heard, and experienced.

PTSD took it's toll on many relationships.

In the end, many relationships were strengthened by the separation we had endured. JODY didn't really get all of our girls. Love prevailed. Families, husbands and wives were reunited. A lot of the rest of us got lucky and our girlfriend's dads even let them get married to us! We turned our experiences into positive motivation to move beyond the war and let love and family become the focus of our futures.

Keith H. Elliott, 11th ACR, 541st MID 1970-1971

Reflections

In the 3rd Quarter 2021 issue of our newsletter, I was struck by the large number of names of our brothers who have passed on to Fiddler's Green. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. We are not young anymore. Every quarter I review the list in the newsletter looking for names of those I knew then, and I am reminded of my own mortality. As time goes on every quarter the list will likely grow as we will honor more brothers who have passed from this life to the next. It's the natural way of things. It has become our time to increasingly pass into the annals of time and history. I can't help but feel that we are slowly passing quietly (no longer noticed) into the dark night.

We still struggle to understand our war. Our loved ones still struggle to understand what our war did to us, did to our country, and did to them. The fight goes on to recognize the physical and mental toll the war took on all of us, and to try and hold our country to the promise that our country will take care of us. The Veterans Administration tries hard to be there for us, but no matter how hard they try the truth is that they are limited by budget, politics, and an influx of new veterans from the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts our brothers and sisters have served in for the last 50 years.

When I travel to my local VA hospital for treatment I see mostly aging Vietnam Veterans in the hallways. But,

When I travel to my local VA hospital for treatment I see mostly aging Vietnam Veterans in the hallways. But, increasingly I see more recent veterans (male and female) that look almost out of place among the overwhelming number of veterans of our war.

increasingly I see more recent veterans (male and female) that look almost out of place among the overwhelming number of veterans of our war. Invariably these newer veterans are silent, almost invisible among the legions of aged Vietnam veterans. As we focus on the problems of the veterans of our war we need to remember that these new veterans are in fact members of our extended family.....folks who have served with the 11th ACR (and other combat units) in distant faraway places throughout the war on terrorism. But no matter who they served with they deserve better than to walk the halls of their local VA hospital in quiet non-recognition as we (Vietnam Veterans) focus solely on our own medical and psychological issues. Whether or not the country sufficiently recognizes these veterans for their contributions to the Nation's security, we, as their elder brothers (and sisters) in arms owe them the courtesy of being here to support them no matter what, just as we have supported each other for the past 50 plus years. We owe them the benefit of our experiences fighting for the benefits we (they) deserve.

Our war puts us in a unique position. What we have been through, what we continue to go through, puts us in a better position to understand better than most what our most recent brothers and sisters in arms have given and lost in the war on terrorism. We know what they face in trying to gain recognition and compensation for what they have given. Together we are part of an unbroken chain of service to our country that extends back more than 250 years. The challenges our veterans of the war on terrorism face are still essentially the same challenges we faced.

SO, the next time you encounter a more recent veteran of the war on terrorism take the time to thank them for their service (that's more than we got!), engage them in conversation, let them know they are our brothers and sisters, let them know that we (better than most folks) understand what they have been through, and what they are facing now that they have come back to the world. Tell them and show them that there is life and love after war.

K.H. Elliott, 11th ACR, 541st MID Vietnam

In Memory of Johnny Riley (1948 – 2020)

Late in the evening of December 14, 2020, I received an email from Pete Walter with the sad and unexpected news that my dear friend, Johnny Riley, had succumbed to COVID-19 after several weeks on a ventilator in a hospital in Lexington, KY., where he fought the disease alongside his beloved wife, Delores, who, gratefully recovered.

From January-July 1970, I served as the M Company 2nd Platoon Leader with our 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse). My tour overlapped Johnny's, who was assigned to the 3rd Platoon. I had met him on several occasions and was impressed with his "can do" attitude, leadership qualities and the willingness to undertake any task assigned to him in order to assure battle readiness; clearly, the essence of an effective combat unit.

Johnny loved our country and our flag; symbolic of the values defended by us and others who preceded our efforts to defend our nation and her ideals of liberty and freedom. In demonstration of his feelings, he flew a large American Flag on a 30 foot flagpole high above a statue of a Vietnam soldier carrying a wounded comrade to safety. Johnny was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in Vietnam.

It was years later at our Philadelphia reunion that I again met Johnny, was introduced to his wife, Delores and began what became a lifelong friendship

with Johnny, Delores and their young daughter, Tammy. From that time until his passing, I visited him and his wonderful family whenever I was in Lexington on business in addition to talking at least once a month. At the end of each phone call or visit, Johnny always ended our farewells with, "I LOVE YOU, MAN". While we reminisced about the actions and exploits of accomplishments we shared during our service with the Regiment, my fondest memories are conversations centered around our families and the activities of our children. As the years rolled by, we both welcomed sons and daughters-in-law, grand-children and great grandchildren.

Johnny loved our Blackhorse Regiment and the men he served with in the 3rd Platoon. In order to rekindle the relationships with those men, Johnny and Delores decided to open their home and host a mini-reunion on Memorial Day that began in 1993 and continued through this year. Johnny and Delores loved hosting their reunions.

Due to his passing early during the COVID 19 Pandemic, Delores was not able to have a proper burial Memorial Service for Johnny. She contacted me and M Company troopers who had traveled to past reunions to announce she would host Johnny's beloved reunion activities over the Memorial Day Weekend in order to finally, after almost five months, have a proper military burial service and farewell for Johnny.

So, Delores, Tammy and her husband, Brian began planning the weekend, to include a proper military funeral for Johnny with the VFW performing the Flag and Rifle Volley protocols. On Sunday, Johnny's family, reunion veterans and their spouses and friends, traveled to his gravesite to render our final respects in person. Tears of sadness and the joy of knowing such a gentle, loyal, and wonderful man overcame many of us. All of us are infinitely better people for receiving the blessing of Johnny's friendship

Delores has decided to continue Johnny's mini-M Company reunions in his honor. Next year we will again gather to share in the bonds of friendship forged during combat in a distant land, many decades ago. I know Johnny will be with us and we will all feel his presence, as we did this past Memorial Day.

In closing:

A special thanks to Delores and the entire Riley family for continuing the tradition Johnny loved.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank troopers from M Company who fought alongside Johnny, along with their wives* and friends who attended and participated in Johnny's memorial funeral service. Your attendance this Memorial Day and those preceding is the best testament that can be given to what Johnny meant to all of us.

Reunion Attendees:

Michel Bloese, Mark Oakman, Marshall and Pat Woods, Jerry and Marvinna Brannam, Tom and Karen Jones, Lora McCarthy and Mike Nuese, Phillip and Connie Tidwell, Dwight and Sharon Humphrey, Melvin and Naddie Smith, Randall and Cricket Garrison, Harold and Gladys Sutton, Chuck and Merrill Mulcher, Tommy Hearn and Sharon Holtsclaw, Tom Reese, and the entire Riley family.

*Lora McCarthy is the widow of Len McCarthy (3rd Platoon) and her friend, Mike Nuese.

Rest in Peace, Johnny. I LOVE YOU, MAN.

Thomas H. Reese, Jr.

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: _____



Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Dear Ladies and Supporters of the Blackhorse Women's Group,

I would like to begin by thanking the Ladies, and Troopers, who were able to attend our Tour of the Dallas Gardens & Arboretum. You braved the heat and near starvation, but many took the time to share their appreciation for the chance to explore this beautiful Dallas landmark.

On Saturday morning, at our BWG meeting, we were treated to music by Carrie Holton, inspired by a message from Chaplain Karabinos, and given a history lesson by podcast, created just for us, by Don Snedeker, our 11th ACVVC Historian. Titled "Blackhorse Women's Group Historical Overview, Don gave us insight through historical photos, writings and conversations, into the lives of 11th Cavalry wives & family members, beginning in the early 1900's. We laughed, as well as shed a tear or two, appreciating the difficult lives of the loved ones who waited at home or in a few cases, found a way to join their trooper wherever he was assigned !! To Carrie, Chaplain Karabinos and Don, we thank you.

We also honored one of our own, by presenting the 18th Annual 11th ACVVC Woman of the Year award to Lajaunda Williams. Lajaunda serves as our Co-coordinator. She also took on the job of mailing out all the Blackhorse Tote Bag orders in 2020 & 2021. This was difficult at times when she had to evacuate her home a few times because of flooding storms in southern Texas !! Congratulations, Lajaunda !

We also honored those ladies whose names have been entered on Sarah's Angles Honor Roll. Marguerite Austin, our Treasurer, read the ladies names as well as their Trooper's name. We miss each of these ladies and honor them for their support to their Trooper, and the Blackhorse Women's Group.

Fundraising - A big thank you to the ladies who volunteered to help at our Fundraising Table this year. Thanks, also to the Beamons for the space and table provided to us in the Quartermaster Store. Unfortunately, we did not receive our site-specific lanyards order before the reunion,



Lajaunda Williams, 18th Annual 11th ACVVC Woman of the Year.



so were limited to just sales of the Blackhorse Tote Bags. We have included a revised order form for the Totes, in this issue. **Note change in Marguerite's address.*

Projects - Wreaths Across America - We will again this year, be sending a donation to Wreaths Across America to place a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery at the gravesite of the 21 11th ACR Troopers buried there. Prayer Shawl Project - Cherry


and her volunteers are angels at work, providing shawls of comfort to families whose Trooper or spouse has passed. Please notify Pete Walter or Chaplain Karabinos at the passing of a Trooper, or a Lady of the Blackhorse. Their contact information is in the Thunder Run. Remembering Our KIA's - The goal of this project is to honor each of the over 700 KIA's of the 11th ACR. You can help us by visiting the gravesite of a KIA, placing a memorial that recognizes the 11th Armored Cavalry and then taking a picture of the gravesite and memorial. Please send that picture to Sheryl Myers by email or mail to: sheryl.e.myers@mail.com or 19155 Royal Troon Dr. Monument, CO 80132. The names of the KIA's and the state and Cemetery location are listed on the 11th Cav website, or you can call or write me, and I will see that you receive your state's list. 571-721-9189 .

Examples of memorials are shown in our Remembering our KIA's Scrapbook on the website or in a *Thunder Run* Edition.

Please know that however you choose to support the work of the Blackhorse Women's Group, it is greatly appreciated. We will be looking forward to meeting with you all in Birmingham, AL in 2022.

Love, Sheryl, Lajaunda, Marguerite, Kathy, Renee, Cathi, & Jan

Blackhorse Women's Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!



Blackhorse Women's Group Fundraiser!!

These two-colored black and red heavy duty totes are offered for \$10 each plus shipping.*

All proceeds raised benefit the women's group Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects and our group donation to the 11th ACCV Scholarship Fund.

Please complete the order form below and mail with payment to:
Marguerite Austin 34578 Kimble Shores Dr. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____


Number of bags _____ X \$10 each = \$ _____

Shipping* \$ _____

Total \$ _____

*Shipping: \$7.50 for 1-3 bags; \$15 for 4 or more bags.

Thank you for supporting the Blackhorse Women's Group!





SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S
 VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA
 PROUDLY RECOGNIZES OUR MEMBERSHIP
 FOR
 CONTRIBUTING OVER
 TWO MILLION DOLLARS
 TO
 OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
 1996 - 2021




"TOGETHER THEN - TOGETHER AGAIN"
ALLONS!

\$2,000,000 Plaque

females and 54 were from male applicants. Most of the applicants fell into the 18-20-year-old age range.

Each year one applicant is selected to receive the **Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award**. This year's winner is **Hunter Monson**, grandson of Lyle "Skip" Monson, Air Cav troop (1969). He was selected for this award by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow. Congratulations Hunter on this well-deserved honor!

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship is dedicated to one of our Blackhorse brothers who was killed in action in Vietnam or Cambodia. Each recipient received a certificate suitable for framing honoring the KIA name assigned to their scholarship. Next of kin were notified their loved one was being honored whenever possible. We received

Our 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Since the inception of the 11th SACVVC scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 638 college scholarships totaling \$2,025,000! This total includes the 55 scholarships totaling \$167,000 we were able to award this year! Our 2021 scholarship winners submitted outstanding applications and are well-deserving of their awards.

A listing of our scholarship recipient's names can be found in this issue of *Thunder Run*. You can view most of the recipient's photos and their feelings about receiving a scholarship on our website (11thcavn.com).

Unfortunately, because of the large number of scholarship winners, we are not able to publish their photos and notes of appreciation in our newsletter.

This year 53 of our scholarship winners were grandchildren of our members. In fact, I received a total of 146 applications of which 143 were from grandchildren and only three were from children of our members. 92 applications were from

Last Name	First Name	Sponsor	Unit	KIA Last	KIA First
Antich	Emma	Robert Carlson	Air Cav	Young	Samuel
Bannister	Thomas	Thomas Stone	F trp.	Standifer	Anthony
Brooks	Alexandria	Neal Dahl	E Trp.	Sutton	Edmund
Brownell	Torrey	Christian Ament	How Btry	Pullen	Melvin
Calandrino	Lilyan	Norman Lenger	D Co.	Stephens	James
Carson	Ashley	James Rice	31st Eng.	Stanley	William
Clabbers	Joshua	Richard Crabbs	B trp	Lee	Alfred
Clabbers	Jason	Richard Crabbs	B trp	Pierce	Bernard
Cooper	Emma	Patrick Kelliher	HHT 3/11	McGlone	Michael
Earl	Kiefer	Larry Earl	L Trp.	Evans	Ray
England	Sara	George Wright Jr.	HHT Regt	Schmidt	Daryl
Fariello	Emma	Albert Fariello	541 MID	Morris	Julius
Fick	Hannah	William Paulsen	G trp	Cannan	Dennis
Gibbons	Paige	Lawrence Gibbons	HHT 3/11	Davis	Billy
Gustafson	Anna	Thomas Collins	L Trp.	Keski	Keith
Hallstrom	Jenna	Paul Foley	HHT 2/11	Wheeler	Larry
Holcek	Kaylie	Everette Roper Jr.	HHT Regt	Johnson	Willie
Hunt	Ethan	Ralph DeMasi	M Co.	Davis	Wendle
Jacobson	Alysa	Dennis Schreck	A trp	Rodriguez	David
Joly	Emma	Pierre Joly	541 MID	Harris	Joseph
Jones	Kaydee	Lee Jones	How Btry	Burgos	Juan
Kitten	Benjamin	Jerry Van Matre	HHT Regt	Smith	Donald
Kobrock	Carlee	Donald Henson	398 Trans	Flores	Jose
Kouma	Cassie	Russell Hiatt	A trp	Labahn	Darwin
Landis	Grant	Alan Cox	F trp.	Williams	Thomas
Landis	Wesley	Alan Cox	F trp.	Myers	Ricky
Lawe-Isom	Christie	Richard Lawe	B trp	Healy	Thomas
Lockwood	Jack	William Collins	F trp.	Saracino Jr.	Frank

Since the inception of the 11th ACVVC scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 638 college scholarships totaling \$2,025,000!

several thank you notes from next of kin who were very appreciative their loved one was honored and remembered in this manner. To date, 423 of our brothers who died in Vietnam and Cambodia have been so honored!

The fact we have been able to help so many children and grandchildren of our members attain their educational goals over the past twenty-five years is a tribute to your generosity. Your support of the calendar, raffle and silent auction have provided the bulk of the monies given to these deserving students. Thank you so much for your outstanding generosity!

Hunter Monson, 11th ACVVC 2021

Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award Winner

Hunter A. Monson is a 2021 graduate of the Providence School of Jacksonville, Florida and the grandson of two Army veterans. Now a freshman at the University of Florida, Hunter was a scholar-athlete throughout high school. He was salutatorian of his graduating class and earned the school's top awards in AP Calculus AB, AP Macroeconomics, English IV Dual Enrollment/Honors and Marine Science Honors in his senior year. During his Junior year, he earned top awards in AP U.S. History, Pre-Calculus Honors and Personal Finance. Hunter is a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized as a National Honor Society Distinguished Scholar in 2020. He also was a member of the French National Honor Society and served as vice president of his school's chapter.

Hunter participated in a variety of high school sports including football, basketball and serving as captain of his cross-country team his senior year. He was recognized as Most Improved Runner and Most Valuable Player. He and his teammates won several District and Regional Championships and his team was runner-up at the 2017 State Championship race. He also ran track for several seasons.

As a freshman at the University of Florida, he will be on a pre-health track where he intends to pursue a degree in medicine or biomedical engineering. Hunter is the grandson of 11th ACR veteran Lyle D. "Skip" Monson of Mesa, Arizona and the late Lee Hilman Holifield of Laurel, Mississippi, who served in the 20th Regiment, 6th Infantry Division. Hunter is the son of Steve and Teresa Monson of Jacksonville, Florida.

Last Name	First Name	Sponsor	Unit	KIA Last	KIA First
MacGilvray	Ronan	Richard Jeranck	B trp	Jackson	Fred
Manning	Riley	Francis Krimm	I trp	Schmidt	Danny
Matt	Angela	Nova Curtis	HHT Regt	Jones	Terry
McCarley	Jillian	Willard Armitage	HHT 1/11	Ladd	Larry
McElhinny	Isabelle	Stephen Tracy	E Trp.	Clary	John
Miles	Maxwell	William Crane	HHT 3/11	Chavez	David
Monacelli	Jeffrey	Paul Monacelli	HHT 1/11	Dacey	Bertrand
Monson	Hunter	Lyle Monson	Air Cav	COL Schmidt Award Winner	
Monson	Alexander	"Lyle "Skip" Monson"	Air Cav	Farmer	William
Moody	Kelci	A.R. Moody	I trp	Ward	Kurt
Morrison	Andrew	Samuel Gochenour	Air Cav	Rodgers	John
Mowrey	Adrienne	Dale Price	HHT 3/11	Swaney	Larry
Otto	Madison	Silvio Romero	HHT 1/11	Gilbert	Donald
Peters	Naia	William Sturley Jr.	C trp.	Webster	Dennis
Place	Monica	Clarence Branham	I trp	Chambers	James
Reilly	Isabella	Jon Reilly	How Btry	Gassaway	Ambrose
Ruby	Allison	Jerry Self	33rd Chem	Battles	Troy
Russell	Katherine	W. Arthur Russell	G trp	Thomas	Earl
Stein	Chloe	James Bertges	I trp	Morgan	Larry
Sturley	Katherine	William Sturley Jr.	C trp.	Shank	John
Thomas	Katarina	John DiMeo	I trp	Powell	Wavel
Walker	Alisa	Dennis Glunn	How Btry	Foster	George
Whitlock	Emma	James Yunker	HHT 3/11	Noe	Marvin
Whittington	Abby	Michael Zitzmann	409th RRD	Simpson	Walter
Willis	Ally	James Willis	HHT 3/11	Jackson	Angus
Wilson	Kaleigh	Charles McCollum	HHT 1/11	Rankins	Donald
Yoder	Adam	Thomas Jones	M Co.	Miller	Hollis



COL Charles Schmidt Award Winner,
Hunter Monson

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



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



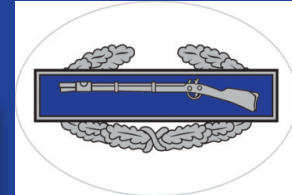
#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#9 CIB car magnet, 3"x4" \$6.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



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



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



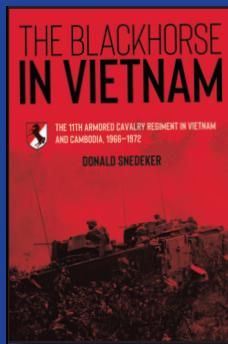
#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00



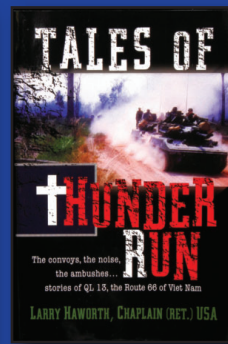
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



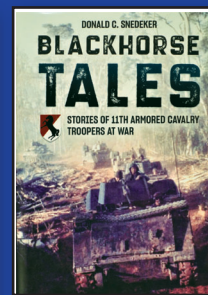
#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#34 "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" \$25.00



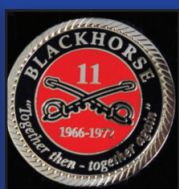
#37 Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth \$11.00



#33 Blackhorse Tales \$25.00



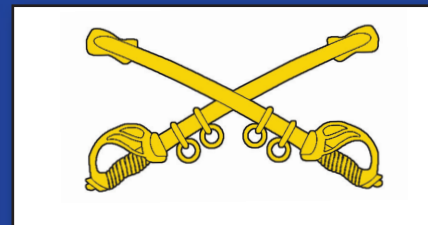
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



#35 See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



#32 See through Window Decal, Sabers, 13" x 13" \$15.00



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



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



#44 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 5" x 4.5" \$10.00



#45 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



#40 Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, 2X, 3X, 4 X \$20



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Light Gray & Green \$20.00



#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



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



Hello Troopers and Troopers Wives,

Jan and I hoped everyone who was at the Reunion in Dallas had a good time, visiting friends and making new ones. We had a great time in the Quarter Master Store once again. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who came to our aid again this year. I'm asking everyone to PLEASE pay attention to the ORDER FORM once again. There are going to be some changes coming in the future and so many of you are not filling out the bottom of the order form, especially when it comes to sizes and a phone number. Don Snedeker's new book is out, and we have a limited supply of the first edition. It should be listed in this issue of Thunder Run.

Again, I want to THANK all those who helped us out in the QM Store, your help is so much appreciated. Jerry

Mitchell, Jim and Venessa Young, Pat Smothermon, and we had a 1st time helper this year as well. So, "Thank You" all so much for your time.

Here shortly we will be gearing up for Christmas orders and as usual the Post Office will be over abundantly busy. So please send it to us as soon as

you can. It will give us time to get it in the mail as early as possible.

So, if you missed Dallas, get busy planning for Birmingham Alabama! We would like to see you there. It will not be long, time is short, it's just a year away.

Allons, Jerry

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.

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 (\$50)

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

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

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rd Qtr 2021

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, Plastic	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.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4"	6.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00	_____	_____	_____
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, 14x1x6 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.....	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.	Golden Boot Spurs	30.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only).....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace.....	18.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Car Flag	25.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs	7.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	See through Window Decal, Sabers, 13" x 13".....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Blackhorse Tales"	25.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" by Donald Snedeker.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13".....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
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.	Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4 X	20.00	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____
44.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 5" x 4.5"	10.00	_____	_____	_____
45.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13"	15.00	_____	_____	_____

NEW!

Subtotal _____

Shipping and Handling _____

Total _____

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

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

- A) \$3.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$10.00 — \$35.00 = \$15.00 Gear Bag Only = \$25.00
- B) \$6.00 — \$10.00 = \$9.00 D) \$36.00 and up = \$20.00 Gear Bags with other items = \$28.00

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



11ACVVC
13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

REUNION 2022 SHERATON BIRMINGHAM



NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Pontiac, Illinois
 PERMIT NO. 592

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DEPARTMENTS

President's Message	6
Chaplain's Corner	8
Blackhorse Hoofbeats	14
11th ACVVC Donations.....	16
Colin Powell, A Personal Remembrance	16
Fiddler's Green	18
VSO Information	21
Blackhorse Women's News	25
Scholarship Update & Important Information.....	26
QM Store.....	28
From the Quartermaster	30

Membership Application	30
Quartermaster Order Form	31

NEWS & NOTES

The ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXVI	4
11th ACVVC Designated a Purple Heart Association	9
Dealing with the past, one day at a time	12
11th ACVVC 2022 Calendar Appeal	15
Let's Thank Heaven For A Good Fellow (poem).....	17
'We Were There' (poem)	17
Love In The Time Of Vietnam	22
Reflections.....	23
In Memory of Johnny Riley (1948 - 2020).....	24

