



# Thunder Run

Vol 37-No. 4

“Together Then - Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2023

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

## President's Message

Frank Church



As we close 2023, I am sharing some of the significant events that occurred this year. During the Men's Business meeting we held elections for 3 positions. Allen Hathaway was elected as Vice President, Ollie Pickral as Treasurer and Pete Walter as Director. I am confident in our cohesive and competent Leadership. We have what is best for the

11ACVVC and its members as our primary concern.

Several items were presented to the membership for discussion and approval. Our bylaws were over 30 years old and were updated to reflect changes in language that is no longer relevant or outdated. There was one change that the members requested to be reconsidered and that will be taken back for more discussion, then presented at the next membership meeting, other items passed.

The board passed three other motions, one to place \$500,000 dollars into high yield CDs with varying maturity dates so they can be cashed in as we need the funds and not incur penalties. We entered into an agreement with the Blackhorse Association to share maintenance cost of the M60 tank at the Shrine of Remembrance in Colorado Springs CO., with the BHA eventually taking over complete responsibility. We are placing \$50,000 in a trust fund for perpetual maintenance of our Memorial at Patton's Park Columbus Georgia. All documents have the necessary signatures by all parties involved.

Our Thunder Run Editor, Pete Walter, has made some changes in the companies that publish our newsletter. He successfully negotiated better pricing and secured a more reliable on time delivery. Pete is also positioning us to make a timely change in the Editing responsibilities at the time that may become necessary.

A Finance Committee has been formed to manage our funds so they last as long as the organization does.

A joint project involving the 11ACVVC, the active Regiment and the BHA to build a replica of our Memorial at Fort Irwin is in early planning. The purpose is to link today's Blackhorse Troopers to the history of the Regiment. More information will be available as this develops.

The Quartermaster store responsibilities have been transferred to an outside vendor. This was a very difficult decision for Jerry and Jan Beamon. They have been operating

the store for almost twenty years, and have done so superbly. They were torn between the love of their work and the demands on their time and energies. They will not be gone from the QM. Jerry has indicated they will work, as he has been doing, with the new vendor as needed. Please support Barb Brown and Mark Chenoweth of Finish Line Awards, and make it your second stop at the reunion. They will continue to offer the most popular items that are unique to the 11ACVVC plus new items related to the 11ACR.

The transition to a new web site is in progress and you will be able to order items from our current web site. The new web address will be activated and the domain has been named, after the building of the site is completed. That should happen in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. Thank you, Jerry, and Eric, for your stewardship in that transition.

Reunion planning and execution is very time consuming and is physically and mentally demanding. Planning starts two years in advance and intensifies as the reunion gets closer. The current and past reunion chairmen have immersed themselves into making the reunions meet the expectations of the members. We have the premier reunion of all military reunions because of that work.

Please turn to **President** on Page 3

## 2023 Election Results

The results of the elections held at the Membership Meeting on September 23, 2023, at the Grand Rapids reunion are as follows:

- Elected for the remaining term as **Vice President** September 23, 2023, to December 31, 2023, Allen Hathaway. Mr. Page resigned his position earlier this year and Mr. Hathaway was appointed to this position Pro Tem until the Grand Rapids membership meeting.
- Elected for a two - year term as **Vice President** beginning January 1, 2024 - Allen Hathaway.
- Elected **Treasurer** for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2024 - Ollie Pickral
- Elected for a **Director** three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 - Pete Walter.

Greg Mason, Secretary





## 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 Master Printing + Mailing, 95 Pelret Industrial Pkwy, Berea, OH 44017, MasterPrintingGroup.com 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.

<b>President</b>	<b>Frank T. Church</b> , (G Troop, '69-'70) 2917 N. Vista Way Payson, AZ 85541 <fchurch4@aol.com> (386) 365-0487	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Blandin W. "Bill" Karabinos</b> , (HHT 2/11, '71-'72) 7312 Little Creek Road Toano, VA 23168 <blandinkarabinos@gmail.com> (757) 566-8885
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Allen Hathaway</b> , (HHT Regiment, '66-'67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 <11thcav1966@comcast.net> (703) 791-6610	<b>Facebook Manager</b>	<b>Robert Kickenweitz</b> (HHT Reg't, '66-'67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 <bobk11acr@comcast.net> (908) 803-3455
<b>Secretary &amp; Silent Auction Co-Chm.</b>	<b>Gregory R. Mason</b> , (HHT 3/11, '68-'69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 <gregrmason311@gmail.com> (813) 754-2980	<b>E-commerce &amp; Assistant IT</b>	<b>Paul Gruber</b> (G Trp, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317 <pgruber@polaris.net> (850) 878-8425
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ollie W. Pickral</b> , (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 <11cavalry@verizon.net> (804) 435-3658	<b>Women's Group Coordinator</b>	<b>Sheryl Myers</b> 19155 Royal Troon Drive Monument, CO 80132 <sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com> (571) 721-9189
<b>Director - Scholarship Chm. &amp; Silent Auction Co-Chm.</b>	<b>Mike "Doc" Rafferty</b> , (G Trp, 2/11, '69-'70) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 <platoonmedic36@gmail.com> (575) 915-2921	<b>Veterans' Information</b>	<b>Chuck Bosko</b> (F Trp, 2/11, '69-'70) 1230 Robin Hood Lane La Grange Park, IL 60526 <chuckbosko@att.net> (708) 205-3541
<b>Director - Reunion Registration</b>	<b>Robert "Bob" Moreno</b> , (G Trp, 2/11, '68-'69) 24284 Endeaver Ave Tomah, WI 54660 <gtroopbob@gmail.com> (608) 372-5892	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Don Snedeker</b> 38888 Sandpiper Circle Frankfort, DE 19945 <blackhorse7478@gmail.com> (571) 215-9610
<b>Director - Public Affairs</b>	<b>Eric Newton</b> , (K Trp, 3/11, '68-'69) P.O. Box 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 armor11ACR@aol.com (817) 239-3437	<b>Auditor &amp; Judge Advocate</b>	<b>William "Bill" Suhre</b> (I Trp 3/11, '68) 3230 SW 3rd Lane Cape Coral, FL 33991 <william@suhrelawfirm.com> (970) 381-0335
<b>Quartermaster</b>	<b>Barbara Brown</b> P.O. Box 475 Wellington, CO 80549 <barb@finishlineawards.com> (866) 510-4550	<b>Tax Auditor/ Finance Committee</b>	<b>Dennis Freeman</b> (HHT, 2/11, '70-'71) Novato, CA

# President

As the years accumulate and our health wanes it has been increasingly difficult to make that happen.

We looked internally for someone to take this on but there were no viable candidates. We need stronger legs and sharper minds; we do not have that younger blood in our ranks. The Officers agreed to hire a professional reunion planner to take over after contracts are signed and do the work required pre-reunion and on site. We looked at

four different agencies to do this and decided on Sidock Hospitality. Danielle Sidock was the event manager in 2018 when we were in Grand Rapids and demonstrated the skills to do what we need. This will begin with the 2024 reunion in Omaha.

The decision on reunion planning and the QM change is a necessary step to ensure that we can meet every year and enjoy each other's company and do so at the level of quality we expect. Our

goal is to meet every year until we are no longer able to do so.

These are a lot of changes to absorb but it is vital to maintain the organization into the future. The 11ACVVC still has life in it, let's continue to enjoy good times together.

***"We were, we are, and will always be "Blackhorse Troopers"!"***

Frank



## WE WERE ENEMIES ONCE

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

We were both soldiers once, but we never met, in spite of the fact that over fifty years ago we both spent a lot of our time trying to find and kill each other. We didn't care about or even want to know each other's names, or where we came from, or anything about each other's families. What we knew is that we were enemies because someone else (our politicians) said it was so. I suspect most of us really didn't hate each other either, but we were bound by our military oaths and our countries policies to seek each other out, and if possible to eliminate (kill) each other. You were my enemy, and I was yours. Neither one of us wanted to die for our country. Yet we both knew that neither of us would willingly yield, and that the possibility of our ultimate sacrifice was real. We were so young, why were we so willing to lay down our lives? In spite of our martial past, every so often I still think of you and wonder how you are doing so long after our war.

We did our duty, you and I, and now, over fifty years later, by some miracle we count ourselves among the lucky ones who survived the madness and got to return to our homes and families. The trouble is that for some of us survival came with a price we didn't know we would have to pay. The real world has not erased the memories that weigh heavily on us still. Our joy at survival is tainted by the horrors we witnessed, things that young men of our age shouldn't have had to see, hear, or feel; we carry forever the thoughts of those lost, physically maimed, or psychologically so damaged they can never again live a normal life. The mere fact of survival can carry its own unending tortuous guilt.

But we're not enemies anymore. We're just old men with war stories we tell our veteran friends, and maybe we celebrate our memories on our respective National holidays. Mostly our countries have forgotten our war as newer world conflicts dominate the news. We've been fortunate to have a life beyond our conflict, and I can only hope that as we both reflect on the past we are able to find some good that came out of service to our countries. We were enemies then, but through our common experiences we have become life members of the brotherhood of arms. We will forever share the kind of memories of experiences that only those who have gone to war can understand. We'll probably never meet or become friends, but in spite of the differences that fueled our conflict, perhaps we can find in our hearts (at least) a grudging acknowledgment of respect for each other. We are the lucky ones, we survived.

## ***Veteran Service Officer Information***

First Timers! First Timers! Yes, the reunion in Grand Rapids was my first visit with other members of our 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC and truly a wonderful experience. Susan and I really enjoyed meeting folks and becoming acquainted with quite a few. Kudos to our leadership team.

I was invited to present a Veterans Seminar during the reunion which occurred on Friday. My intention was to share with those present some practical observations about two important spousal benefits – Dependent Indemnity Compensation and Survivors Pension. During the Pension portion, a member presented a question regarding how a Trust would affect a claim for VA Pension. Since I was not entirely sure about an answer, I promised I would do a bit more research and present the answer in this article. Here goes.

A trust is a legal instrument to protect one's assets by which an individual transfers property to an individual or entity who manages the property according to terms of the trust whether for the grantor's own benefit or of another individual. VA considers this as an asset that can be liquidated and not be excluded from one's net worth. So, a claimant cannot move assets to minimize total worth when applying for VA pension which reiterates my comments during the session- VA pension is very limited as a potential benefit. Hope this answers the question raised during the session.

Allons

See ya all in Omaha.

Chuck Bosko  
chuckbosko@att.net  
708-205-3541



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



# From the Editor's Desk

This issue may have reached you a bit later than normal, as our reunion was held later than ever before, and we wanted to include as much as possible from our 38th reunion. It was a successful gathering with over 750 in attendance and this issue contains dozens of photos from the festivities in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Thanks to Jennifer Quinn for her photographic skills, time and effort! And "Congratulations" to Jen for being named the "Woman of the Year" by the Blackhorse Women's Group!

We are using a new printer, and you may notice some subtle changes in the layout and appearance of Thunder Run. We strive to produce the best publication possible while still getting the best value for your money.

I hope you all enjoy reading Thunder Run as we strive to improve with every issue. As always, I urge you to submit your personal stories to be considered for publication. If you are planning activities of interest to our members, please let us know in advance and we will help get the word out. If you send high-quality digital images (300 dpi) of the events, we will try to publish them also.

Thunder Run is your newsletter, and it should reflect the topics and recall the stories you lived fifty-plus years ago when our lives depended on each other. If you have suggestions as to how we can improve this publication, please let me know. We are currently printing 32 pages every quarter, though we may have to reduce that number if we do not have sufficient input of interest from our readers.

Winter is here and many of us will be spending more time indoors. I hope you can find time to write a story or two for Thunder Run. Additionally, please pull out your old photo albums or slide trays and review your images from Vietnam and Cambodia. High quality photographs and transparencies ("slide") are always needed to continue to make our annual calendar the favorite of our members. Scan them and email them to me, please. You should be receiving the 11th ACVVC 2024 calendar about the same time as this issue. I hope you enjoy it. It is my pleasure and honor to work for you, combat veterans of the "Legendary Blackhorse Regiment".

I hope you all enjoy a happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in Omaha, Nebraska, September 4 - 9, 2024!

### ALLONS!

Pete Walter (HOW BAT. 3/11, 1970)  
basepiece70@verizon.net



"Ammunition liberated from VC and NVA forces in RSVN, War Zone D, by 1LT John Berry, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and 199th Light Infantry Brigade -- 1966-1967. Rounds identified via Army Field Manual of Ammunition, including countries of origin (8 here). Most captured weapons were dirty and in poor condition."

### 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 publications must be sent to:

Peter L. Walter  
8 Tallowood Drive  
Westampton, NJ 08060-3721  
email: basepiece70@verizon.net.

# Message from COL Timothy J. Ferguson,

70th Colonel of the Blackhorse



**ALLONS!!** Hello from the Troopers, NCOs, and officers of the Best Damn Regiment and the FINEST IN THE LAND! Blackhorse continues to be the measuring stick of Army readiness as multiple Brigade Combat Teams have rotated to the National Training Center and left bruised and battered after combat with the Regiment. We've executed several rotations since the last update with units from 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The Regiment took a well-deserved block leave in June and returned to the Mojave Desert recharged and ready to fight and win.

Additionally, the Regiment hosted Squadron level spur rides with hundreds of Troopers earning their spurs and a German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) that enabled over 200 Troopers to earn and wear a foreign military award.

What was very special about the fight with 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment is that it concluded with a great celebration of the "Lucky 16" as we hosted leaders from the Brave Rifles and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment sent representation from Germany to participate as well. We resigned and reaffirmed the charter to protect and continue our cavalry traditions.

The Regiment having just concluded Rotation 23-10 against 1<sup>st</sup> SBCT, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is now in an exciting window of training and testing. We are in the process of fielding the Army's newest and most lethal tank, the M1A2SEPV3 which will dramatically increase our lethality as the OPFOR and give our tankers the platform experience they need to continue their professional development. There are many excited faces going through the operational new equipment training (OPNET) right now and it will conclude with a gunnery in early November. Additionally, Troopers continue to prepare for the upcoming E3B, which consists of training and testing for the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB), Expert Soldier Badge (ESB), and Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Once that wraps up, we will conduct our final rotation of the calendar year against 3<sup>rd</sup> ABCT, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. That will take us up to around the time of Thanksgiving and we will celebrate with a

Blackhorse Commander's Cup challenge. We will closeout the calendar year with a tank gunnery, team and squad live fire exercises and some holiday events to celebrate 2023.

We will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MG Robert J. Sunnell Blackhorse Marathon on 23 September, sponsored by the Blackhorse Association and are in preparation for the "Long Walk" around Veterans Day to honor our past at the Barstow Veterans Home. As the marathon is ongoing, I am absolutely honored to come and speak at the 38<sup>th</sup> ACVVC Annual Reunion in Grand Rapids, MI and provide many of you an update on your Regiment.

Our Horse Cavalry Detachment is enroute to the National Cavalry Competition at Fort Reno, OK where it is competing for its fifth straight national championship. The team is trained, ready, and hungry to show the world what excellence looks like.

Though the Army is facing recruiting challenges, we have been doing outstanding with our retention missions, recently closing, and exceeding our FY23 and FY24 missions with many Troopers reenlisting to stay in the Regiment.

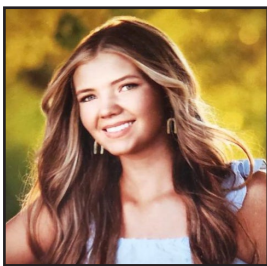
As always there is much going on in the Blackhorse every day and it is a very exciting time here in the high desert of California. Our best wishes from all of us to all of you. You are our legacy, we are the present, and we each look fondly toward the future of our Regiment and continuing to serve our nation.

DEATH RIDES A BLACKHORSE! Allons!

Sincerely,

COL Timothy J. Ferguson, 70th RCO

## 11th ACVVC 2023 Colonel Charles Schmidt Leadership Award



I have been beyond words and tears since I received your letter and certificate award for the 2023 Colonel Charles L. Schmidt leadership Scholarship.

My name is Natasha Henry daughter of Mike Henry & Jodi Reynolds & granddaughter of Marla & Johnnie Reynolds. My grandfather

Johnnie served in Vietnam from 1969-1970 and was Pete Walter's gunner.

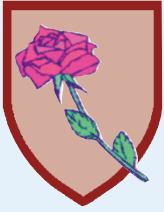
I grew up in rural Niobrara, Nebraska. My grandparents were very much a part of my upbringing. My grandfather took me boating and he taught me how to fish. He also taught me how to do good for others and when you say something make sure it has meaning. I miss my grandfather every day but his legacy will live on through me and my dream of becoming a nurse.

A couple of highlights from high school: I was inducted into the National Honor Society, and I was also crowned Homecoming Queen. I was a cheerleader, played basketball, and played in the band during my four years in high school.

I have volunteered for our local Niobrara Promoters bringing games and fun to our local youth. I have volunteered for Toys for Tots and have also assisted with our local Ducks Unlimited Banquet.

I am currently enrolled at the University of Omaha in Nebraska and plan to earn my degree in Nursing. My passion is to be a nurse and help people who are hurting. I know my grandfather would be proud of me and I am greatly appreciative to receive such an honor coming from those who served with my grandfather in Vietnam. This means so much to me; Thank you and I hope to make you proud as well.

Natasha Rose Henry, granddaughter of Johnnie Reynolds, How Btry 3/11, 1969-70



# Blackhorse Women's News

Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2023

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

To those who were able to attend this year's Reunion in Grand Rapids, thank you for supporting the Women's Group. Your purchases of Lanyards and Blackhorse Picture Frames will allow our group to make a generous donation to the 11ACVVC Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to the ladies who volunteered at our Fundraising Table, we couldn't do it without you.

To those who were able to join the Tour to Heritage Hill and Lunch at the Dunneback & Girls Farm, it was our pleasure to be able to arrange that "Fun Getaway". Before departing the Farm, Sueanne "Mom" Dunneback, drove a few of us to the cemetery to honor her brother Michael. (Michael Dunneback, KIA Vietnam '69) Troopers Garlock & Newman explained the meaning of the memorial coins as we placed them on Michael's stone. Sueanne and her family were very appreciative.

Our Saturday morning Women's Meeting was well attended. Grace Aducci, niece of John Aducci, KIA '69, opened the meeting by singing "How Great thou Art". Grace then spoke about her life in America, after being adopted at 3mos old, from Vietnam. This talented young lady also sang and performed Taps at the Memorial Service.

"Hello, my name is Alex Ferguson, and I am a Blackhorse Wife", is how our second speaker began her speech. Alex's message on life as an active-duty spouse was fun, heartfelt and so appreciated by all in attendance.

We have included our guests' speeches in print for this edition of the Thunder Run, for all to enjoy.

Our meeting closed with the Presentation of the Woman of the Year Award :

**"For her exceptional service to the 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC and the Blackhorse Women's Group"**

**the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Woman of the Year Award is awarded to**

***Jennifer Quinn***

**WE LOVE YOU JENNIFER!**

Wishing you all good health and a wonderful holiday season. We will be looking forward to seeing you in Omaha in 2024 !! Marguerite, Sheryl & Lajaunda



## Joanne Holbrook Patton 1931 – 2023

*Joanne Holbrook Patton, 92,* philanthropist and activist in support of special-needs citizens, veterans, military families, open lands, sustainable agriculture, education and the arts, passed away peacefully on September 24 at her senior residence in Darien CT, where in 2019 she had relocated from her home in Topsfield to be near her children and grandchildren in Connecticut and New York.

Joanne hailed from five generations of military officers through both parents, including the Army's first and last Chiefs of Cavalry and her father, Brigadier General Willard A. Holbrook, Jr., whose 11th Armored Division accepted the surrender of Linz, Austria, from the Nazis in 1945. Her 1952 marriage to Captain George S. Patton IV, son of General George S. Patton, Jr., of World War Two fame, may therefore have seemed an inevitable return to the military life of far flung postings and extended spousal absences that she'd experienced as a child. But her studies at Sweet Briar College had awakened talents in journalism and musical theater (she was a gifted pianist and

composer) that led to a beckoning career in New York City. Captain Patton's proposal won out, however, and their 52-year marriage would produce five children and involve multiple household moves across America and Europe until his retirement as a major-general settled them at the Patton homestead in South Hamilton in 1980.

War and duty were factors during much of their marriage. The couple's eldest daughter was born while George was fighting in Korea. Their two youngest children were born amid his three tours in Vietnam in the 1960s. The challenge to Joanne of heading the household in his absence, coupled with their eldest son's mental disability, spurred what became an extraordinary capacity to inspire and facilitate programs supporting military families, especially those with special needs children. Her first foray into volunteerism came in 1965 with the social programs managed by the newly formed Army Community Service. Later Joanne would become a national consultant for volunteer programs at ACS and hold a similar position with the American Red Cross.

In retirement, George established Green Meadows as a commercial farm while Joanne founded Patton Consultant Services to bring her experience in volunteer management to business, government, and non-profit entities. After her husband's death in 2004, she led Green Meadows to become a Community Supported Agriculture collective and one of the first certified -organic farms in Massachusetts. Her charitable endeavors expanded to dozens of organizations in Massachusetts and beyond. Among them were Northeast Arc, North Shore Music Theater, Ready Willing... Enable!, Special Friends, the USO, the National Military Family Association, Operation Troop Support, Washington Cathedral, Gordon College, Endicott College, Salem State University, Norwich University, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Community House in Hamilton, and St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly.

In 2014 Joanne Patton was honored as a Noble Patron of Armor (Gold) by the United States Armor and Cavalry Association, the - the only woman so honored.

As everyone who worked with Joanne can attest, her engagement was hands-on and tireless. She could be counted on to attend advisory meetings, public forums, or commemorative celebrations to lend her experience and can-do optimism to worthy initiatives large and small. In 2012, she spearheaded the gift of her home and surrounding grounds, originally purchased in 1928 by her Patton in-laws, to the town of Hamilton as a public park and civic center. She and her family subsequently received the Essex Heritage Hero Award from the Essex National Heritage foundation. Joanne followed up in 2017 by donating the Patton Archive of private manuscripts and military memorabilia to the Wenham Museum.

In recent years, Joanne worked with her sister Marian Roberson to bring recognition to the work of their grandmother, impressionist painter Anna Stanley Holbrook (1864-1907), through gallery and museum showings in America and Europe. She also remained devoted to her Virginia alma mater, Sweet Briar College. As president of its Class of '52, Joanne played a major role in the 2015 emergency fund drive that restored Sweet Briar's endowment and helped elevate it to the top ranks of women's colleges, with particular emphasis on engineering and business leadership. She visited the campus regularly, including for her class's 70th Reunion in 2022.

Predeceased by son George earlier this year, Joanne is survived by her siblings, Willard Holbrook and Marian Roberson; her children, RM Margaret Georgina Patton OSB, Helen Patton, Robert Patton and wife Victoria, Benjamin Patton and wife Blair; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. With steadfast Christian faith, Joanne was ever buoyant and graceful. She will be remembered as a loving wife and mother, an American patriot, and friend to all.

## ***“My name is Alex Ferguson and I am a Blackhorse spouse”***

Welcome fellow Blackhorse spouses. My name is Alex Ferguson and I am Blackhorse spouse! My husband is the 70th Colonel of the Regiment. We have been in Fort Irwin, CA for almost 15 months and we have really enjoyed our time in the Regiment and in the Mojave Desert.

I am originally from Winchester, Ma, a small suburb of Boston. My parents are both Dutch and I don't come from a military family. My uncle was a paratrooper for about two years, and my dad served in the Dutch Army because it was conscripted service. The stories he tells me, it sounds like he was more like a camp counselor rather than a soldier in the Army. Tim had a few members of his family that served in military, but he doesn't consider his family a military family either.

Tim and I met in 1997 while we were in college in Carlisle, Pa. We met on a blind date and were set up by our respective freshmen roommates (they eventually broke up, but we did have them walk down the aisle together at our wedding). 3 ½ years later after we both had graduated and I was living and working for my parents in Massachusetts and Tim was stationed at Fort Cavazos (formerly Ft. Hood), he asked me if I would like to move there to see if “this military life would be for me”. I took a chance and moved to Texas!

After arriving and living with Tim and his two roommates for 2 months as a trial period, I decided to truly experience military life I had to live there permanently. I eventually found a job working in insurance.

The first 8-9 months in Texas were tough. I was learning to live on my own, but also with a guy that was never home (the first year I lived there he was gone almost 9 months due to training at NTC and field training). Also, the FRG (Family Readiness Group) didn't want to include me because I was just a girlfriend. I am a stubborn and persistent person so I would just show up to meetings that Tim told me about. I would volunteer to help with bake sales, car washes, make food for women who just had a baby, because I wanted to feel included, and I wanted to know what Tim did and what an Army family was like. I finally worked up the

courage to host a “coffee”...which is a social group that was originally made up of only officers and senior enlisted spouses. Now it is made up of both officer and enlisted spouses. The Battalion Commanders spouse showed up at my house a week before the event, just shy of wearing white gloves to inspect my house. My experience of growing up in the restaurant business (my parents had 4 different restaurants over nearly 40 years), paid off. After that, I was included in all events, and I was even asked to help cater baby showers and other small intimate events that the Battalion Commander's spouse hosted.

In addition to having to be persistent to be part of the FRG, I had to learn to wait, and manage my expectations. While we were in Texas cell phones had just come out and man were they expensive. Tim would only call as he was walking out of his office. More times than I can remember he wouldn't show up at home for another hour or two because someone would call needing something or a tank part would finally come in and he needed to stay to help install it.

After living in Ft. Hood for 3 years we moved to Ft. Knox, but not before getting married by the Justice of the Peace at the 1st Cav Museum. I often tell people that instead of a shotgun wedding we had a tank gun wedding (there was a giant tank behind us while the JP married us. We decided to get married by the Justice of the Peace because we thought Tim's unit was going to be deployed. He didn't end up getting deployed until several years later.

During our time at Ft. Knox I made even more Army spouse friends and learned everything that I could by attending Army Family Team building classes. I learned everything from the different ranks to how to dress for certain events and how to properly address a card to a military couple.

While at Ft. Knox we had an opportunity to talk with branch to help decide where we would be going next. I asked Tim if I could come to this branch meeting to hear about our options and ask questions...again I am a persistent person. I remember sitting down with Tim and the branch manager and he was initially shocked that I would want to come. At the end of the meeting, he told me he wished more spouses would attend because it would save everyone a lot of time going back and forth with service members asking their spouse what they thought about a certain duty station. I am not sure what effect my presence had at this meeting, but we found out we would be going to Germany. Tim and I were so excited to

be going overseas. Tim was excited because he would be going to 1st Armored Division which was deployed to Iraq, and I was excited because we would be living in a foreign country and only 4 hours from my grandparents, Aunt, Uncle, and cousins. I blocked the part of Tim possibly deploying out of my mind.

When we got to Germany, it was amazing. The Division had just returned from a very dangerous deployment and Tim's bosses were constantly telling him to go home. No one is shooting at you. Go be with your wife and explore Germany. Our first year in Germany we traveled nearly every weekend. It was such a wonderful and amazing experience. If Tim and I didn't travel alone, we were traveling with other Army friends or I was traveling with other Army spouses.

After a year Tim was told he would be moving from Wiesbaden Germany to Friedburg Germany where he would eventually take company command of a Tank company. He took command while deployed in Iraq. This was the first time he deployed and I was the FRG leader... in charge of keeping rosters of spouses in the company up to date, sharing information about what was going on in the company, and what was going on in the community. Communication on that first deployment was somewhat primitive...to us. Soldiers had calling centers that they could use their calling cards to call back home to family. They also had access to computers to send emails and very early messaging. I know for some of you this form of communication must sound amazing compared to the minimal or lack of communication you received from your Soldier. A lot of the changes to communication came from the demands you, the families, and the Soldiers made to the Army. So thank you for that.

Tim's first deployment was only supposed to be 12 months but about 9 months in we found out that his unit was being extended to 15 months. With this news the need to have a solid communication and support system was more important than ever to Army spouses and families.

After another move to a different brigade, a new German town, another nearly 15 month deployment, we left Germany with some German furniture, some wine, and a baby (I delivered our son 3 months before Tim deployed for the 2nd time).

After 8 more years, having another baby (our daughter Evelyne was born in Philadelphia while Tim earned his master's), and 7 moves, we found out that Tim would be taking command of the 11th ACR. He was very excited





and nervous at the same time because for nearly 20 years I told him if he ever got Ft. Irwin as an assignment, he would go by himself. The reason was, all I heard about Fort Irwin was from Tim's multiple rotations to NTC and that it was in the middle of the Mojave Desert. After some time freaking out, I spent time learning about the area and that instead of being in the middle of no where it is in the middle of everywhere. We have taken trips to Palm Springs, the Grand Canyon, the beaches of Southern California and this winter we have a ski trip planned to Tahoe.

Tim and I were also nervous and excited to be part of such a storied unit with so much history and a unit that has some of the finest Veterans I have met. The saying, Once a Blackhorse, always a Blackhorse is true to today as it was when your Solider served.

Tim and I have had the incredible opportunity to host several Veterans, some who served in Vietnam, Cambodia, the Border legion, and their stories and continued connection to the Regiment is truly inspiring. I am honored to be part of the Blackhorse family. The Soldiers, Spouses, and families try to make all of you proud.

Something else I had to learn, or get used to, is that being the RCO spouse people will come to you asking to volunteer and with issues or problems that they are having. I came to understand that I have voice to help make changes and that I have a seat at the "table" with Senior leaders. I have also learned that to be an effective leader and Senior Military spouse, you need to be passionate not emotional. It is a balance for me between supporting the unit and their families, the community, and my family and self. What helps me get through this "Military life" are the friends (fellow Army spouses) I have made along with way. They are my confidants, my family (especially when our own families sometimes live on the other side of the world). I lean on them to help support my own family, the one's I go to for advice, and the one's I vent to.

A military spouse is someone who gives their time/effort/energy to others in the Army community. We are a group of amazing people that wherever we go we have an instant connection and that helps make this life easier to live.

Over the nearly 25 years Tim has been an active-duty Soldier and I have been on this journey with him, I have no regrets. I have loved all the opportunities this life has afforded me.

Allons.

Good morning and thank you for having me this morning! It is an honor and a pleasure to meet you all, especially after growing up hearing about this reunion. For those who don't know of me, my name is Grace Adducci, and I am the niece of John Adduci, who was KIA when he was only 20 years old. John's identical twin brother is my dad, Tony Adduci, who has been married to my mom, Lynne Adduci, since August 1, 1970. They both went on to have 8 kids together, but decided they needed more excitement in life, so they also then adopted 7 more; all daughters, because my mom found girls easier to raise than boys. I'm the first of the adopted crew, so I like to think that I was SO good, I inspired

them to get more, ha-ha. Where does this tie into for today, despite these familial connections? Well, I was adopted at 3 months old from Tay Ninh, Vietnam, which is located in the southern bit of Vietnam, 4 other sisters were adopted from Vietnam, and 2 sisters are from China. And I believe that it's because of John.

John loved little kids. My mom would send him boxes of hard candy so he could toss them from his half-track to the little kids he would see along the way. My parents believed that adopting us was partially an homage to John...his legacy; us being the kids he never got to have. His life was never kept from us. We always knew that we had an uncle that went to Heaven a little early. That he served in a war in the part of the world that we were all born in. And that his death inspired our lives. When I was adopted, my mom and dad starkly remember the haunting feeling of driving to get me from the village I was in and passing by Black Lady Mountain. The very same Black Lady Mountain that he had written about in his letters a couple decades ago, and close to the site of his death.

One of our favorite movies to watch was the Sound of Music, and in it, one of the most memorable lines is "When God shuts a door, somewhere he opens a window." With this comfort in mind, one could say that, while God shut a door on John's life, he opened 7 more windows for myself and my 6 sisters I wouldn't trade even the world for. As a strong Catholic, thanks to my parents, I firmly believe that there is no amount of evil or bad that God cannot undo. So even though there are horrible times, like war and destruction, there is no amount of it that God cannot overcome. That even after the darkest night, God's light will shine even brighter the next day. And I believe that as horrible and life altering it was to lose John so young, when he had so much to live for, through his life, he was able to bring about new life opportunities for seven little girls.

With this life, I was able to receive a lot of opportunities and care I wouldn't have if I remained in Vietnam. I was given a safe and clean place to live, with good food to eat, clothes to wear, a loving family, and so much more than can be taken for granted. I was able to attend good schools and pursue hobbies and sports. I was able to attend Indiana University, where I studied music, and now I work as a Band Director at a high school in the Chicago suburbs. I'm so grateful for my life, and for the lives of my younger sisters.

---

Gentlemen,

Pictured is Kennedy Thomas (scholarship award winner) and her 11th Armored Cavalry veteran grandfather, Stephen Thomas. As a family we are extremely proud of both of these individuals and just wanted to share this sweet picture with you all. Kennedy is extremely grateful for the award and my dad is proud to be a veteran and to be able to help his granddaughter with her education through this organization. As a veteran's daughter, I personally want to send my gratitude and appreciation as well. The organization has been an encouragement to my dad.



THANK YOU!  
Blessings, Paula DuVall

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

The following are excerpts from an end-of-tour interview with Lieutenant Colonel Garland McSpadden. He served as the commander of 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron from August 1967 to April 1968. The Battle Squadron was deployed to I Corps (near the DMZ) when McSpadden took command, under the operational control of the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade – part of Task Force Oregon. The Squadron returned to Regimental control in III Corps in late October 1967 and was heavily involved in the Tet '68 offensive. The interview was conducted on 24 April 1968 by Major Richard Hoy, Commander of the 28<sup>th</sup> Military History Detachment.

**The Enemy:** “The NVA [North Vietnamese Army] soldiers that we came in contact with indicated every evidence of really well-trained, rather well indoctrinated individual infantry soldiers. They did what they were told. They stayed – in many cases they stayed in their holes and fought us until we actually had to dig them out with machine guns and hand grenades. In other words, they, I think, were a high quality infantry soldier ... once their discipline began to break down and their chain of command began to break down, I think we found more than [an] average number who were willing to come over and cooperate with our side. The VC [Viet Cong], the local types, I think, vary much more widely. Some of them, undoubtedly, are really fine soldiers, and others are ... not really adequately indoctrinated or adequately trained ... [O]n the whole, I think, significantly poorer soldiers than the NVA.”

**Tactical Operations in September 1967:** “I took over the squadron in August of last year [1967], at the time when the large and very heavy ... turnover of personnel was just being completed. I was what you might call on the tail end of the hump of the new squadron coming in because I believe it was over 90 percent of the personnel had been changed over in June, July, and August ... We did have a number of NCOs [Non-Commissioned Officers] who had combat experience, but the troops and most of the officers had seen little, if any, in the way of combat ... We had a couple of weeks in which we were essentially guarding the roads and protecting things over the [South Vietnamese national] election period, widely scattered. We had at that time, I believe, about an 80-mile frontage between my left-most and right-most element. And, in either case, this was either a platoon or a platoon-minus that was out on the very edges of the area that the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade was responsible for, one platoon actually being out of the brigade territory ... Shortly after we arrived in this area [north of Tam Ky], we hit two NVA companies, and this was the moment of truth in each case because, by and large, the men that were going into the battle were people who had never really been in combat before ... As it developed, however, the first company that we hit, the troops were in good positions [F Troop, reinforced by G Troop, 24 September], and when the word was put out to close [with the enemy], they closed, and they closed very, very effectively ... Later that same week we had a similar sort of thing happen, only in this case we had another troop involved [G Troop and H Company, 28 September]. And, again, we were very fortunate in being able to move very aggressively against a lightweight enemy unit ... These two actions pretty well got the squadron set up as a competent professional outfit.”

**Real-Time Intelligence:** [Regarding the contact on 24 September] “On the morning of the contact we were moving out, just looking in a general area where we thought there might be some VC. We got a report as of 9 o'clock in the morning saying a PF [Popular Force part-time soldier] had seen men in camouflage uniform in the vicinity of such-and-such a location. When we got that we called it in to the unit that was moving into that area [G Troop], gave them a fix, and they moved immediately to the area, and around noon on that day we were in the area of contact. In other words, the general plan for that day was based upon just looking to see what might be there, and then we capitalized upon a specific piece of intelligence which says they ought to be at that particular spot, and we had one of our most successful engagements as a result ... I might say that we only got that information because my S2 [Intelligence Officer] had a working relationship with the ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam] advisor who was located about 20 clicks [kilometers] from where we were.”

*[From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron Annual Historical Report for 1967: “On 12 September the Squadron moved north from Chu Lai to Tam Ky to participate in Operation GOLDEN ROSE. This was the first opportunity the Eagle Squadron had to work as a unit and it was during this operation that the enemy gained his first real taste of what a Cavalry Squadron could do.”]*

**Troopers' Morale:** “The men's morale, I think, was extremely high upon our return [to Regimental control at Blackhorse Base Camp in October 1967]. They had a desire to show what we had done in the past [while in I Corps] and what we were capable of doing. I think this resulted in very good performance in our first two or three missions after we returned ... Primarily ... we'd been fortunate in hitting the enemy when he was not expecting us. By and large, it's been us on the offensive as opposed to waiting for him to ambush us ... The psychological impact and the total impact is much better than even our very high body counts where we sit and wait for the enemy until he comes in and does what he wants to and then is forced to withdraw. The regiment has inspired a large number of our people to very high performance of duty. I think the esprit of the Blackhorse Regiment is very meaningful in the capabilities of the men in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron to carry out their mission.”

**Troop & Company Commanders:** “[T]he real accomplishments in combat, the real things that are being accomplished by and large are being accomplished at the troop level, the platoons and the troops, and that any engagement that comes up is essentially a troop war. The value of the troop commander cannot be overemphasized. The need for a man who can positively lead his people in an aggressive and effective manner is the key to success in almost all the engagements that we have participated in.”

**Squadron Howitzer Battery:** “Artillery support, by and large, has been good. I think I should put in a plug for the squadron howitzer battery. There is no doubt but what the presence of a howitzer battery in the squadron improves our capabilities immeasurably and gives us the type of capability for independent operation for which it was designed. By adding the fire power of the 155 battery and the integral fire power of the troops, that is the mortars of the troops, we have a significant indirect fire capability within the squadron ...”

**Air Cavalry Support:** "Helicopter support – absolutely invaluable to the armored cavalry squadron. First of all, the command and control ships – you cannot explain just how important they are, because without the availability of helicopter support, of helicopter command and control, the ability to move the squadron rapidly on multiples axes to seek out and find the enemy is so severely restricted that it really makes a difference ... Helicopter gunship support and use of the helicopter-borne scouts are extremely valuable in the use of our cavalry squadron. I think that the provision of [aero-]scouts to go before the lead elements of the squadron as aerial scouts enhance the capabilities greatly, and then the ability to follow through with helicopter gun ship support on suspected enemy locations and specifically to bring in gun ship support early, after we made initial contact with the VC or the NVA, have been a significant part of our ability to be successful in our combat operations."

**Working with the Infantry:** "I think most people would be amazed at the differences that we run into between the units just in our own core area here in Vietnam ... Some of the units feel that the ultimate is to close with the enemy rapidly, with a minimum of additional supporting fires. Other units feel that the only way to fight the war is to hit [make contact with] them, and then hit them with everything you can in the way of artillery and air, and then go in. This is taken, I think, to the absurd lengths in certain cases of putting five or six air strikes in on what probably was only three or four or maybe, at most, a dozen enemy forces when a company of U.S. troops are involved ... At the lowest level [platoon], I think, it makes for some problems and, in some cases, difficulty in understanding ... It was a shock to me when we first started working with U.S. infantry units, and my concept of an infantry company was quite different from what I actually got ... When we expect to have an infantry company [about 170 personnel authorized], and we very often end up with, let's say, 100 men, three platoons of perhaps 30 men, much less than we expect."

**Operating in the Jungle:** "Weather and terrain definitely have an effect [on operations]. I think both the tanks and the ACAVs, however, have moved effectively in all types of adverse conditions. And I think it's surprising, the effectiveness of tanks in the jungle ... The tank gives you an ability to go into the jungle at a place where the VC do not expect you to be and the fact that you start pushing those trees over, it apparently has some rather significant psychological effect on the VC ... We do find, however, that our ability to use the tanks in jungle areas is greatly enhanced when we have some good, aggressive infantry who will move somewhat behind but off to the flanks and keeping their eyes open for hunter-killer teams in the jungle."

**Tet '68:** "I think the Tet offensive gave the regiment a chance to show its considerable mobility even here in the restricted areas of Vietnam. Although the number of significant actions that we were able to participate [in] during Tet were relatively small, I do think that the fact that the regiment was able to move from such diverse areas, and areas far away from Bien Hoa and Saigon as Loc Ninh, Ninh Thanh, and Ben Cat in the Trapezoid area, moved rapidly to the Bien Hoa area without being deterred by a few obstacles which the VC tried to put in our way and were capable of moving immediately, then, into combat operations. I think this was a significant contribution to the security of the Bien Hoa area and the Saigon area, too. And it showed the VC and NVA that even though we might have troops all the way up in the vicinity of the Cambodian border or very deep within the jungle areas around Ninh Thanh, that we could still get out, get into the act as far back as the critical areas of Bien Hoa ... I don't believe that the VC like to meet our forces. As a matter of fact, I think they specifically don't like the ACAVs and tanks."

**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.**

# ABSENT FRIENDS

(Presented at the Purple Heart Ceremony August 12, 2023, Ocala, FL)

Good morning. My name is Thomas Reese. I am a recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Vietnam. I served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the legendary Blackhorse Regiment, as a tank company Platoon Leader and Troop Commander in the 3rd Squadron.

We are here assembled to solemnly honor and pay tribute to all Purple Heart recipients either killed or wounded in combat against enemy forces in wars fought by the United States of America throughout Her remarkable history.

General George Washington established the Purple Heart, then known as the Badge of Military Merit, 241 years ago to recognize meritorious service in action during our Nation's war for independence.

Today, the Purple Heart is reserved for military service members wounded or killed in action against enemy forces. On this day, we pay tribute to these men and women and our Gold Star families, who have suffered and sacrificed so much for our nation.

A little-known fact is that the Purple Heart is the only medal not requiring nomination for award.

This reminds me that when my children were young, they asked what I did to receive a Purple Heart. I paused, thinking do I want to traumatize them, and responded, "Dad zipped when he should have zagged". Young laughter filled the room and they never inquired again. Mission accomplished!

I have chosen to share a personal perspective, based on words written by P. McCree Thornton that, in my mind, provide a glimpse into the untold acts of bravery and courage that prompted the acts of valor that resulted in the award of the Purple Heart.

Mr. Thornton wrote: "To those who fight for it, freedom and life have a special flavor the protected will never know".

The Blackhorse Regiment served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1972 proving that Armor could effectively fight in a jungle environment. The combat decorations awarded to Blackhorse Troopers attest to courage and valor seldom seen in American combat operations.

These individual valorous decorations include 3 Medals of Honor (Harold Fritz, Roger

Wickham and Rodney Yano), 27 Distinguished Service Crosses, 365 Silver Stars and the award of the Purple Heart that brings us together today; a staggering 5,761 Purple Hearts. The regiment suffered 730 KIA. During our time in Vietnam, 1 in 5 troopers were wounded and 1 in 19 were killed in action.

It is important that we never forget their sacrifices. I wrote the following remembrance in honor of all M Company 3/11 ACR Purple Heart recipients wounded or killed in action in Vietnam. I entitled it ABSENT FRIENDS:

"Dawn breaks over the fog shrouded edge of the jungle canopy. Silence is the only sound I hear. My eyelids are crusted shut, no more tears to moisten them. Memories of the night before slowly creep into my consciousness. Dryness parches my throat, my skin crawls with the tension of combat and the smell of cordite, death and screams of the wounded fill the still, warm air.

Empty faces greet me as I peer into the fog. Shattered forms of the night before appear whole. Voices tell me they are well and that I should not grieve but honor them for their sacrifice. They ask me to tell their stories of courage, bravery and valor so future generations of young American men and women will not forget them; but let their actions of last night be a guiding light to keep the American promise and values alive; to do so is my honor and duty. Their bravery and dedication will never be forgotten.

Time diminishes my memories of long ago; rivers that ran red with blood now gurgle and meander aimlessly through the landscape; the water clear. Stained and barren earth has been recaptured by nature and the land is now lush and green.

But, in the distant recollections of my mind, I see young men who, in the prime of their lives, shared their dreams and future aspirations with me.

I returned. I pray that the life I have lived has, in some small measure, fulfilled the dreams of those fallen comrades and wounded brothers of yesterday and they are pleased and proud.

Young men, now gone, 730 in all, rest peacefully on Fiddler's Green. Cavalry lore tells us this is our final bivouac. When Cavalry troopers pass from this mortal state, they arrive at Fiddler's Green. My fellow troopers, from time long past, await my arrival; ready to ride again.

Together then and in due time, together again.

I will never forget their sacrifices and so, join me in raising my glass to ABSENT FRIENDS.

I would like to share words spoken by MG David Fastabend, West Point class of 1974, at his retirement on March 23, 2006:

***"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 sacrifice, we did our jobs each day, we were citizens and soldiers and Army all the way!***

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

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

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge with gratitude and gratefulness, the bravery, skill and calming tenderness of untold numbers of medics, corpsmen, nurses and doctors who attended us. Specific to Vietnam and later conflicts, I must include and acknowledge the skill and bravery of our dust-off helicopter pilots, as extraction of our wounded was often under heavy incoming fire.

In 1965, an extraordinary example of heroic airmanship was exhibited by LTC Bruce Crandall and CPT Ed Freeman, both Medal of Honor recipients, who flew their Huey aircraft a total of 36 missions, under withering fire, into LZ X Ray located in the Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam, saving 70 wounded 1st Cavalry Division soldiers. During a 4-day period at LZ Xray and LZ Albany, 234 US soldiers were killed and 250 were wounded.

During the entire 43-day Ia Drang Valley campaign, 545 Americans were killed; enemy deaths have been estimated at 3,561.

Many who survived their combat wounds, over the course of our history, since Vietnam, did so because of the bravery and skills of dust-off pilots.

Thank you from all of us.

May God bless all here assembled and those who serve in our armed forces across the world today; may He protect and bless the United States of America.

Thank you.

# 11<sup>th</sup> ACR Horse Detachment Wins 5th Consecutive National Championship!



Photo credits Eric Newton and PFC Stevenson Fort Irwin

2023 National Horse Cavalry Competition held at Fort Reno - Oklahoma 27th – 30 September.

Units from the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Wuachuca, the UK and various independent competitors met on the field to compete in the United States Cavalry Association Sponsored Competition. This year the moving Vietnam Wall replica was on display during the event. Several of our 11th ACWC members were on hand to cheer them on. Ervin Brune, E Troop 70-71, Mark Selvidge, G Troop 69-70 and Harry Pikin. The next competition will be in San Angelo, Texas in April 2024.



## Chaplain's Corner

### Don't Dodge Your Fences

Some kind of sweet talk? No. A directive from Colonel Patton, the 39th Colonel of the Regiment: not to the troops but to his daughter. More later.

For now; what a reunion in Grand Rapids! A reunion so well attended and elevated above the ordinary by the buoyancy and camaraderie in the Bunker that was overwhelming. It was a three-day holiday day for veterans, if not three veteran days. Although we actually had a few more guests than troopers, in the Bunker the rattle of sabers was only muffled by the laughter and joy of our Blackhorse brothers. I felt like I was walking through another miracle. My life has really been a life of miracles.

Every day in every way, through the grace of God, it gets better and better!

The 38th Reunion (you can see the pictures and watch it on the web site) was amazing. The venue, the hospitality, the graciousness of the staff and warmth of the Michigan troopers and their wives, children and friends, underlined this recent miracle in my life. I wish you all could have been there.

Here was a gathering in opulent surroundings, little different in spirit than the gathering around the back of a couple of ACAVs that had pulled in and were setting up an NDP in an elephant grass plain in Tay Ninh province. Of course, we had more back slapping, cleaner clothes, piles of photographs, a few snacks and plenty of beer in Grand Rapids. We also had a lot less fear, no fleas and ticks, the smell of lilacs and roses, not diesel or burning "defecation" cans. We gathered with brothers we

### Chaplain Blandin Karabinos, HHT 2/11 ACR 71-72

knew from way back and other brothers we learned to love from prior reunions. We were living another miracle. A times It even took us fifteen minutes to a half hour to get back to our tables after picking up another cold one at the bar. You too, if you were there, were living the life of miracles. We could relate with one another because we didn't dodge our fences. We went to Vietnam, we wore the uniform, we met the enemy and jumped their fences. We now rejoice and celebrate one of our regimental brags: ***I Rode with The Blackhorse in Vietnam.***

In 1982 - going back to our opening paragraph, General George Patton IV told his daughter, Margaret, who was quite a good equestrian rider and jumper, not to dodge her fences. Margaret was about to enter the convent-Abbey of Regina Laudis in Connecticut.

In her own words:

"One of my father's directives to me growing up was: 'Don't dodge your fences.' I rode horseback for most of my life before entering and have a body sense of what concentration it takes not to 'dodge my fences,' rather to focus all my attention on the fence ahead of me and trust the horse to carry me over. I have often in my monastic life called on the skills I learned from horseback riding to see me through tough times, as well as to rejoice with abandon in the moment of risking the leap."

Just like us, in Vietnam... but we trusted the tank or ACAV, we trusted our Platoon Sergeant or Troop Commander, and in the Bunker, I saw that 'rejoicing with abandon' in the moment of risk.

Please turn to **Chaplain** on Page 23

---

---

# Reunion Registration Chairman

---

What a turn out we had this year at Grand Rapids Michigan. The attendance has been increasing every year since Covid-19 hit us. With this being my 20<sup>th</sup> year doing registration, we had 856 people registered but fifty-four canceled and thirty-two were no show, (they didn't pick up their name tags). Please if you know that you can't make the reunion after you have registered call me on my cell phone so I can let your friends know that you won't be at the reunion. I did try to call all who did not pick up their packet at the registration desk to get a sitrep and let them know that they were missed.

We had 326 troopers in Attendance, 420 guests, ten Gold Stars, and fourteen Next of Kin. To our Gold Star families, it is always an honor to have you join us. The sacrifice that your loved one gave will never be forgotten and you will forever be part of the Blackhorse family.

We had sixteen First Timer Troopers, twenty-nine First Time guests, and three First Time Gold Stars. It's amazing that even after all these years we are still finding First Timers to attend our reunions. Thank you all for attending our reunions. We hope that you will continue to attend all our future reunions.

We also had 177 people from Michigan attend, forty-seven from Ohio, forty from Wisconsin, thirty-nine from Illinois, thirty-nine from Florida, thirty-eight from California, and three from Canada.

G Troop 2/11<sup>th</sup> had seventy-one in attends, F Troop 2/11<sup>th</sup> had sixty-six, A Troop 1/11<sup>th</sup> had sixty-two, K Troop 3/11<sup>th</sup> had sixty, I Troop 3/11<sup>th</sup> had forty-eight, and 919<sup>th</sup> Engineer had forty. I want to thank all who attended and all who worked so hard to make this reunion an immense success.

We will have all the information for our next reunion in Omaha, Nebraska in the next Thunder Run if not in this one.

Since this is the last Thunder Run of this year, I and the Moreno family want to wish you and yours a Scary Halloween, a Bountiful Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, and a Merry Christmas.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone with all my heart for your condolences on Barbara's passing. She loved going to reunions and seeing all the guys, your family and even your pets (especially you Jack).

If you have any questions, please call me [home] ph. 608-372-5892 or [cell] 608-387-3346 or email me at gtroopbob@gmail.com

From the Moreno's  
Stay safe and stay healthy. "ALLONS"

Roberto 'Bob' Moreno  
G Troop 2/11<sup>th</sup> (12/68-12/69)  
Member of the 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC Board of Directors  
Reunion Registration Chairman

---

---

## Locust Valley Schools

### Commemorate WW2 Remembrance

By Niall Fitzgerald

*(Editor's note: This article was reprinted with permission of Grant Lally, Publisher of "The North Shore Leader", a weekly newspaper on the Gold Coast of Long Island, NY. The 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC gratefully acknowledges and thanks Mr. Lally, Tom Nothel, Niall Fitzgerald and Dave Husing [CPT, 2/11 HOW Bat, 1968-69] for their efforts in helping us publish this story.)*

Locust Valley's schools celebrated Homecoming week with the Remembrance Bowl and by teaching about WWII to students from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

In 1944, shortly after the D-day invasion of Europe, American and Allied soldiers liberated Locust Valley's sister city, Sainte-Mere-Eglise, in France.

The Remembrance Bowl is a flag football game played between the 101<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne units in Sainte-Mere-Eglise to honor the Allied soldiers who fought to liberate Europe. And the game has now come to Locust Valley through a partnership between Locust Valley's own Operation Democracy and the Patton Legacy Sports organization.

At Bayville Primary School, Margaret Marchand, the President of the Locust Valley School Board, taught Mr. Shishkoff's first graders about D-day and US paratroopers. The kids got their own paratrooper toys to test out on the playground.

On the same afternoon over at Locust Valley Intermediate, third, fourth and fifth grade students learned about the evolution of the United States flag, the flag code, and how to

fold a flag during an assembly.

The next day, Locust Valley Middle School students filled the auditorium to watch a documentary called "Mother of Normandy" about the family of Sainte-Mere-Eglise's mayor Simone Renaud.

After the film, students participated in a question and answer session with director Doug Stebleton and the author of the book of the same name. Jeff Stoffer Maurice Renaud, the son of Simone, came from France to participate in the week's events and spoke to the students as well.

### LV Falcons Defeat CSH Seahawks in Remembrance Bowl

After a week of learning about the heroic sacrifices of American soldiers at Normandy, the Locust Valley High School Falcons and Cold Spring Harbor High School Seahawks took to the gridiron on Sept 23 in similar weather conditions to those on D-day.

The game, the first of its kind played in the United States, kicked off with a ceremonial coin toss performed by Helen Ayer Patton, the daughter of General George Patton, as players donned red, white and blue jerseys. Both team's jerseys were signed by each Falcon and Seahawk during a ceremony on Sept 21. The Falcons scored two late touchdowns on a Connor Geertgens strike to Michael Hancock and a fumble recovery by Michael DiLorenzo to win 20-8.

The Falcons and coach Michael Gilbert returned to the school gymnasium after the game in their waterlogged gear to receive the trophy from Ms. Patton.

The Remembrance Bowl is a flag football game played between the 101<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Divisions in Sainte-Mere-Eglise, France, the first community recaptured by the Allies on D-day to commemorate a game that was supposed to be played by American soldiers in December 1944, but was canceled when the troops were redeployed to Belgium for the Battle of the Bulge. Helen Patton and Michelle Strauss of Patton Legacy Sports brought "The Game That Never Happened" to life in 2018.

The Locust Valley-based organization Operation Democracy helped form a bond between the hamlet and Sainte-Mere-Eglise after the war and the two communities became sister cities. Thankful for the aid, the mayor's wife Simone Renaud wrote a poem entitled "Locust Valley" to mark the bond.

Locust Valley Central School District educators spent the summer tailoring a unit of WW II history to students from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, culminating in lessons the week of the Remembrance Bowl.

*(End note: This game was played the same day as the 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC Memorial service and banquet at our 38<sup>th</sup> reunion. The following morning, we learned of the passing of Joanne Holbrook Patton, wife of MG George S. Patton IV [39<sup>th</sup> Colonel of the Blackhorse, 1968-1969], and mother of Helen Ayer Patton.)*

# 38th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Grand Rapids, MI



← STANDING ORDERS



BLACKHORSE PRIDE ↑

38 STRAIGHT REUNIONS! ↓



QUARTERMASTER  
← STORE



SILENT AUCTION ↓

JAN & JERRY, THANK YOU! ↓



GREG & DOC, SILENT AUCTION CO-CHAIRS ↑

37TH MEDICAL COMPANY ↓



RICK, LAURA, RAY & RUTH ↑



398TH TRANSPORTATION DET & 541ST MID ↑

# 38th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Grand Rapids, MI

B TROOP ↓



JUDY, SALLY & JEN ↓



E TROOP ↓



THE GRAND RIVER ↑

F TROOP ↓



G TROOP ↓



CHAPLAIN ↑  
BILL, 50+ YEARS AGO

KEN AND  
← STEVE

A TOAST! ↓

K AND I TROOP ↓







WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD →

3RD HOW BAT, THANKS DOC! ←



BLACKHORSE WOMEN'S MEETING ↑

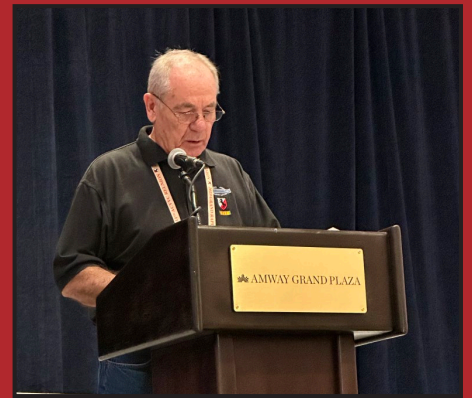


CHP BILL LEADS THE MEMORIAL SERVICE ↑

VAL & MIKE, MISSING MAN TABLE ↓



PRESIDENT FRANK CHURCH ↓



ANDY & DIANA ↓



ALEX FERGUSON & SHERYL MYERS ↓



REGIMENTAL HQ TROOP ↓

G TROOP ↑



COL TIM FERGUSON, ↑  
70TH COL OF THE BLACKHORSE



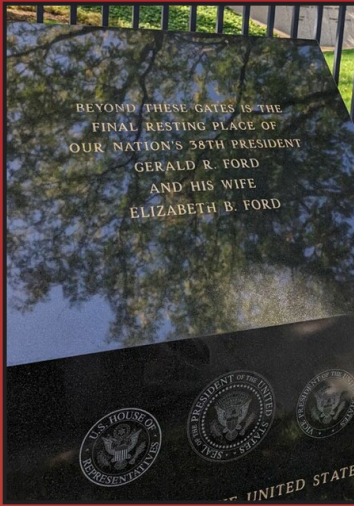
DUNNEBACK FARM TOUR ↓



# 38th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Grand Rapids, MI

## GERALD FORD PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY ↓



SCHOLARSHIP CHM "DOC" RAFFERTY ↑



BOB MOTRENO TOASTING →

## FRANK CHURCH INDUCTED INTO BLACKHORSE HONORARY ← ROLLS



## BLACKHORSE BREAKFAST ↓



↑ DOC CARTER PRESENTS TERRY STIVERS WITH QUILTER AWARD

## JUDY & GRUMPY LARRY ↓



## A Special Thank You to Our Reunion Volunteers



Sherri Church  
Carrie Holton  
Jen Quinn  
Maddie Hough  
Sheryl Meyers  
Jim Young  
Bob Moreno for Barb\*  
Mike Rafferty for Elaine\*  
Raleigh Moreno  
Robert Moreno  
Terry Sowinski  
Janet Sowinski  
Ray Rodriques  
Lou Reyman  
Ron Krueger  
Janet Krueger  
Paul Gissible  
Tom Morrison  
Joe Gehring  
Dave Mathis  
Fred Droski  
Sarah Evans

Vincent Sinervo  
Jeanne Boyce  
Walker Ivey  
Jerry Beamon  
Jan Beamon  
Joanne Mason  
Eric Newton  
Jerry Mitchell  
Pat Mitchel  
Pat Smothermon  
Emmett Holt  
Concetta Ciofi  
Dave Ballard  
Phyllis Ballard  
Nancy Patterson  
Scott Woodard  
Ed Brown  
Yolanda Gehring\*  
Fred Sheets  
Kathy Phillips  
Harry Nelson  
Russel Nelson

Joe Coopet  
Jaci Coopet  
Don Snedeker  
Chuck Bosko  
Otis Carey  
Paul Gruber  
Bob Kikenweitz  
Bill Suhre  
Dennis Freeman  
Russel Wilson  
Cherry Platt  
Pam Hathaway  
Geri Page  
Kathy Tandberg  
Elain Bates  
Marquerite Austin  
Lajaunda Williams  
Zelda Ritchie  
Renee Majors  
Cathy Bower  
Sarah Belcher\*  
Rosa Rector\*

Diana Kubena  
Shelly Brown  
Linda Baily  
Linda Baily  
Eileen Felia  
Arlene Terry\*  
Kathy Malon  
Pat England  
Cheryl Kenyon  
Eileen Carter  
Edna Enloe  
Margaret Stanley  
Debbie Hummel  
Lee Nelson  
Ken Sabo  
Fred Droski  
Bill Karabinos  
Kathy Malone  
Debbie Hummel  
Kathy Tandberg

# Two Thanksgivings

---

## November 1967, Vietnam

*"Grab your aid bag Doc! We gotta roll!"*

I had only been in Vietnam two months and had participated in just two small skirmishes - no major injuries. As a medic with an 11th Armored Cavalry tank company, I was relieved that my responsibilities consisted mostly of treating toothaches, cuts and burns and various body fungi.

But this was different. Less than a mile from our position a bus carrying more than 70 unarmed Vietnamese civilians had been rocketed by Viet Cong. My tank platoon had been called to provide security and medical help.

My first sight of the total carnage and horror of war literally froze me. Blood everywhere. Bodies everywhere. Screams of pain and terror in a language understandable by everyone. The stench of burning flesh and gunpowder. The smell of fear. The smell of death.

Welcome to the war, Jack.

Thanksgiving Day, 1967, I helped put 29 civilians, mostly women and children, into body bags and lined them along the roadside. The Vietnamese authorities would pick them up later.

That day I helped evacuate more than thirty seriously wounded civilians. That day I helped bury arms, feet, hands, legs and other unidentifiable body parts. That day I listened to the cries of children who did not understand what had happened. And I listened to the cries of mothers who did understand.

## November 1991, Shreveport, LA

Today, my in-laws are coming for dinner. I am fortunate to have in-laws such as these. We not only get along together but we actually enjoy each other. I look forward to watching the Dallas Cowboy game with my Texan brother-in-law. I look forward to playing Canasta with my father-in-law as my partner. Later tonight, my family will meet my brother's family at our parents' house. My wife (and best friend) of 30 years is busy putting the final touches on a Thanksgiving Day feast. She has worked for three days on her homemade rolls. She doesn't often have the opportunity to make them. My teenage daughter is in her room talking on the phone and playing her radio too loudly. This is irritating, but this time I let it pass. She doesn't drink, she doesn't smoke, and - thank God - she doesn't do dope. I'm happy. I have a lot to be thankful for.

But as I open the drapes and look out the window, I see my neighbor's trash. Black bags of leaves and grass are lined along the roadside waiting for pickup. They remind me of body bags lining a Vietnamese roadside and memories of that Thanksgiving Day in 1967 assail me. After a moment I close the drapes and walk over to hug my wife. She understands. And I am thankful.

Jack Bryant

*(Editor's note: Jack Waymond Bryant served as a Sp 5, Combat Medic with HHT, 1/11 ACR in 1967 - 1968. Jack was a recipient of the Silver Star and was wounded in action three times. He passed away May 28, 2005. Rest in peace Doc)*

---

## Lesson Learned – **PRESS THE BUTTON** By Robert "Bob" Kickenweitz

For my Vietnam Veteran Brothers and Sisters who have read my stories before about my tour of duty in Vietnam, this story is not about Vietnam but the effects of Agent Orange on our bodies. In March 2022, I had three cysts removed from my face, all three come back from a Pathology Lab diagnosed as Mantle Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (MCL, cancer). For a second opinion I went to Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK), in June 2022 but the results were the same.

With MCL, the standard procedure is to watch it for a while, during that time they gave me Labs (height, weight, blood, EKG), CT Scan, Pet Scan, Bone Marrow, two biopsies on my right arm, and a colonoscopy. I would go to MSK every three to four months for checkups. In June 2023, my doctor said it was time to start treatments, I said *"I have some dental work that needs to be done."* My doctor and the Prosthodontist had a conference call and agreed the dental work need to be completed first. I was then sent to an Oral Surgeon who extracted eleven teeth. A new date was set for my treatment to start, 8 August 2023.

After some quick labs I met with my doctor and RN and I then went in for treatment. I was prepped with multiple drugs so my body would accept this new drug. The first half hour of the infusion went well, so they increased the rate for the second half hour (SOP), but it only took ten minutes for my body to start to reject it. My hands and body started to shake and I was very cold; I just wanted another blanket but my daughter said *"PRESS THE BUTTON Dad!"* I said *"I only want a blanket not a staff of RN coming just to bring a blanket."* My daughter said *"PRESS THE BUTTON Dad!"* So I pressed the button and an army of RN's came in to my area. Each one of them went to different stations, one turned off the drip, two went to read screens, one had a pad and wrote down the time and the readings while another was putting an oxygen reader on me, then a blood pressures meter, while another was fixing syringes with other drugs to help me through the rejection. They started their procedure then called my doctor who was only 30 yards down the hall. Things were going downhill very fast; the doctor was asking me some questions and then she would give orders as to which drugs to use. One RN said *"Bob, I'm going to insert an EpiPen"* I said *"Just do what you have to do."* The one RN inserted the EpiPen and another RN helped by pressing down on the button of the pen and they counted to six and removed the pen. It took awhile but things got better. I had three blankets on me and two heating pads to warm me up. I must say here, everybody was very professional from Dr. Kumar to all the RN's. They all kept their cool, everybody was calm, no shouting, just doing what they had to do to help me. A truly great team!

When things finally got back to normal I had to stay for about an hour to make sure it wouldn't flare up again. Due to time restrictions I had to have the balance of the treatment the next day. We got to MSK at 8:00 am, they were going to start the same treatment but the rate would be much less, and it worked. We left MSK at 4:00 pm another long day.

So if for any reason you are given a Button to Press, please press the damn BUTTON...it may save your life.

# 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. (IMO = In Memory of)

<p><b><u>Memorial Fund</u></b></p> <p><b>GOLD LEVEL</b> Clinton &amp; Rita Waldrup</p> <p><b><u>Assistance Fund</u></b></p> <p><b>PLATINUM LEVEL</b> Jerry Eichelberger</p> <p><b>GOLD LEVEL</b> Jim Brigman MaryEllen Bourdeau <i>IMO Michael Bourdeau</i> Paul Griep</p> <p><b>SILVER LEVEL</b> Donal Chandler</p>	<p><b><u>Scholarship Fund</u></b></p> <p><b>PLATINUM LEVEL</b> Arthur Ehrenberg Gerald Gulley Richard Organ <i>IMO Sgt. Montana</i> Bonnie Schmidt <i>IMO Charles Schmidt</i></p> <p><b>GOLD LEVEL</b> Gerald Arnaud Wavely Cartwright Lorenzo Garrisi Glendon Ingram Michaele McKenna Doc Michael Rafferty</p>	<p>Dan Rambo Joe Ruiz Arthur Smit</p> <p><b>SILVER LEVEL</b> William Bees</p> <p><b>BRONZE LEVEL</b> Virginia Aday <i>IMO Capt. Michael Aday</i></p>	<p><b><u>Calendar Fund</u></b></p> <p><b>GOLD LEVEL</b> Jeffrey Jeter Mark Tomscheck Silver Level James Cunningham Thomas Godfrey John Kerr</p> <p><b>BRONZE LEVEL</b> William Anderson David Barnes Thomas Doll Wayne Grulke W.F. Iseman James Main</p>
--	---	--	--

## 2023 RAFFLE DONORS

<p><b><u>PLATINUM</u></b></p> <p>Michael Taylor John Barber Glen Davis Brad Endres William Gaston Richard Justesen James Potter</p> <p><b><u>GOLD</u></b></p> <p>Ken Ault Bobby Adams Ryan Aday Allen Andereasen Anonymous Bruce Barnes Doug Barnes James Belver James Bland William Boice J. Bowen Bill Brawn Tim Brooks Christian Buehier John Byers Ron Caldwell Dwight Calhoun Doug Campbell Wavely Cartwright</p>	<p>Sal Cassano Rod Castle Frank Christenson Fran, Church Stephen Clement Jerry Cornelius John Costa Ernest Cotton Richard Cowell Alan Cox Richard Crabbs Dennis Creal J. Crissman Robert Croft John Crow Larry Dart August Daub Matt Davis Ralph Dawson Arthur Dowding Andrew Eggleton Jerald Eichelberger Ken Ellingson Leslie Ernst Jack Faucett Richard Field Thomas Finegan Arthur Finnerin John Finnerty</p>	<p>John Getgood Robert Gilbert Richard Gilpin John Glauner Ralph Gordon Ray Gorospe William Gray John Gray Paul Greany James Griffiths G. Gunderman Thomas Helm Aaron Henicke L. Hicks John Hoefler William Houchins Robert Hurt Daniel Kaufman Greg Kayle Richard Kenyon Paul Kern Tim Kerns Jonathan Kerrick Thomas Kirchaff William Knowlton Steven Krieg Greg Krinock K. Laird Michael Lakner</p>	<p>Bruce Lamere James Lewis Pierre Lorio Thomas Mackenzie Roger Macleod Greg Mason Thomas McGee James McGill Ed McGrail Stewart McGregor David McMillion Robert McNeil Michael Meyrick S. Miller Stephen Morgan Matt Morrissey Monte Murdock Ken Murphy Ed Murray Harry Mussche George Norris William Ofries Tim O'Neill Gary Ostrander Buzz Patch Bert Pehr Leo Pierce Lee Pryor Eladio Quinones</p>	<p>Paul Radzwillas Ralph Rasmussen Robert Rawson George Richeson Oakley Riggsby Silvio Romero Ray Ross Luis Ruiz W. Russell Vincent Sanchez Dennis Schmidt Tom Schmitt Charles Scott William Selch Marvin Sellers Larry Smith Jack Stoddard Larry Swartz Richard Teters Richard Thomas John Thompson Kirk Vanderbogart Dan Walker Holly Ware Michael Watkins Thomas Whitson Eric Wickstrom Guy Williamson Fred Wolfe</p>	<p>Ed Wood Sandra Young</p> <p><b><u>SILVER</u></b></p> <p>Kevin Andersen Robert Baker Thomas Brody Bernard Cullinan Joe DeLallo John Doremus Carol Dougherty Tim Dunphy Stephen Ellis Carmine Esposito Ed Fegenbush Martin Franklin Richard Franks Ross Glatzer Ron Glawson Herbert Gleditsch Sam Gochenour Dalton Gordon Franklin Green Ted Gwinn Jeff Hanson Dwane Hein Paul Herman Herbert Hertel Zach Holzman Richard Jeranek</p>
--	---	---	---	--	--

Francis Johnson  
 Roger Justison  
 Jerome Kotwica  
 David Like  
 James Madell  
 Harold Mann  
 Wyndham Manning  
 Glen Merideth  
 L. Murphy  
 Paul Myers  
 Michael Norris  
 Richard Orridge  
 Donald Pemberton  
 Floyd Perry  
 John Pudeiek  
 Joe Raccosta  
 Sam Ramnyty  
 Blake Reichgeld  
 Jerry Retzlaff  
 Galen Rosher  
 Billy Sartor  
 Phillip Scheetz  
 Nelson Schiller  
 C. Schoiz  
 M. Silva  
 Dennis Smiser  
 Ed Suberia  
 Andrew Travanco  
 Haig Tufankjian  
 Richard Vail  
 William Van Ert  
 Jerry Van Matre  
 Frank Varljen  
 Jay Villwock  
 Rod Woodson  
 Ken Yocum  
 Steven Zellmer

### **BRONZE**

Dan Ahrens  
 Anonymous  
 Joe Arzate  
 Dean Bacon  
 Robert Baratti  
 Elwood Barrows  
 Manuel Birch  
 Michael Blasé  
 Charles Bonfanti  
 Bob Bowen  
 Robert Brennick  
 Leonard Carlson  
 Patrick Carney  
 Sam Cassen

Fred Chattin  
 William Cleveland  
 Richard Colman  
 Joe Commons  
 Fred Costner  
 A. Cozier  
 Thomas Cullerton  
 Merlin Dais  
 Herbert Daub  
 Eugene Davis  
 Donald Davison  
 Leray Dewit  
 Ron Dolgae  
 Jesus Dominguez  
 Peter Evans  
 David Evans  
 Douglas Farfel  
 James Farrell  
 David Godwin  
 Robert Goff  
 William Graham  
 G. Greene  
 William Hadfield  
 Robert Herrmann  
 William Hofmann  
 Leon Hoisbeke  
 John Humbert  
 Robert Hunt  
 George Hutchins  
 Ronald Joe  
 Dan Kays  
 Ron Kelly  
 Ron Kemp  
 Ralph Kidd  
 George Kreclich  
 Harry Kurihara  
 Guy Love  
 John MacDonald  
 Clyde Manley  
 Wiley Marks  
 Jon Masley  
 James Matthews  
 James McVicker  
 Randolph Michaud  
 Douglas Moriarity  
 William Morris  
 Robert O'Brien  
 John Oliver  
 John Olson  
 George Paul  
 Willie Proctor  
 James Rose  
 .....

William Ruocco  
 Donald Scheffler  
 Thomas Schmersahl  
 Fred Schneeman  
 Tracey Schoonmaker  
 Lane Schultz  
 Elmer Schuman  
 Paul Selvitella  
 Mark Smith  
 Robert Spangler  
 William Stevenson  
 Louis Tripp  
 Thomas Valenti  
 John Venhoff  
 Ed Wadington  
 Ed Wertz  
 Michael Wresch  
 Tim Yeider

# MEMORIES

Leo Deege, CO of How 3, 11<sup>th</sup> ACR, 1966-1967

How well, I remember my introduction to Howitzer Battery of the 3rd Squadron. I was a young first lieutenant assigned in the spring of 1966 to the battery after a year's tour in Korea. At that point in time, I was thinking about considering other career choices. After having walked out of helicopter flight school because I disliked my overly demeaning instructor, and because my last three months as executive officer of the only nuclear missile battery in Korea, had been problematic, I knew that I would have to walk on water for the rest of my Army career to have a chance of remaining in the officer ranks until retirement. I just had trouble getting along with people in authority if they did not meet my expectations. I still had a lot to learn.

Upon my return to the United States in Fort Meade, I was given command of Howitzer Battery, Third Squadron, 11th Cavalry,

a self-propelled unit of 105MM howitzers. The battery had just completed a combat readiness retest, having flunked its earlier test. During my first week, my Non-Commissioned Officers asked me to throw the book (reduce in rank or levy a fine) at seven soldiers for breaching Army discipline. I obliged and after that, there was a renewed atmosphere of discipline in the battery. The unit snapped to, knowing that I was not going to be permissive. My First Sergeant, Marion Boyd, I was told, let it be known to the Regimental Commander, that he highly approved of me. Top as I used to call him, stayed with me for the next year and a half and we worked extremely well together. He managed the battery functions and details with authority over all enlisted, while I focused on battle planning in coordination with the third squadron staff as well as training and administrative matters.

In mid-1966, I had been advised that we would soon deploy to Vietnam. Since we had a massive turnover of personnel, we initiated a new training cycle of artillery skills and tactics, at the conclusion of which we passed our combat readiness test with flying colors. Colonel Boyer, of World War II fame and one of General Patton's lead tank commanders during the battle of the Bulge, personally witnessed our test and then gathered us together on the testing grounds, to emotionally congratulate us with tears in his eyes. I could not have been prouder of my men. Upon Colonel Boyer's departure as Regimental Commander, he gave me the most glorious evaluation that I had ever thought possible. I then thought that perhaps I could overcome my checkered Army past.

Next, Colonel Cobb (later a General) became the new Regimental Commander and Lieutenant Colonel Peterson (deceased) assumed command of the 3rd Squadron and told me that he wanted me to continue my command of the battery and accompany the Squadron to Vietnam. He presented me with First Lieutenant George Ruggles (deceased) as my new executive officer. I welcomed George and thought that he would be an excellent replacement for my previous executive officer. My unit continued to lose and replace personnel. Very few of the NCOs remained with the unit. Among those remaining was our mess sergeant, SFC Maddox. He had earlier been in financial difficulties, but one of my Lieutenants was an accountant who helped him to consolidate his debts, so that he only had one easy payment per month. Sergeant

Please turn to **Memories** on Page 31



# 11th ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Committee Chairman  
 E mail address: platoonmedic36@gmail.com



This year the 11th ACVVC scholarship program awarded **56 scholarships totaling \$170,000**. Our 2023 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 (11thcavnam.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 all of our scholarship winners were grandchildren of our members. In fact, I received a total of 116 applications. All but one applicant were children of our members. 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 Natasha Henry, granddaughter of Johnnie Reynolds, (How Btry, 3/11). She was selected for this award by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow. Congratulations Natasha on this well-deserved honor!

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship is dedicated to one of our Black-horse brothers who was killed in action in Vietnam or Cambodia.

Each recipient received a certificate suitable for framing honoring the KIA name assigned to their scholarship. Next of kin were notified their loved one was being honored whenever possible. We received several thank you notes from next of kin who were very appreciative their loved one was honored and remembered in this manner. **To date, 514 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 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!

## Meet Our 2023 Scholarship Winners

RECIPIENT	SPONSOR	UNIT	KIA DEDICATION
Bacorn, Gregory	Ross Lyle	D co	Dick Hamilton
Bensch, Precha	Robert Bensch	HHT 3/11	Earl Cook
Bilodeau, Shayla	Paul Gissible	G troop	Allan Fredricksen
Cantrell, Addison	George Gunderman	C troop	Walter Murphy Jr
Cioffi, Kristina	Theodore Cioffi	K troop	Ronald Huxtable
Cole, Carson	John Welch	G troop	Rodney Drake
Cook, Jonathon	Gary Coates	K troop	Victor Johnson Jr
de Wit, Brynn	Leray de Wit	B troop	Douglas Factora
Dykema, Benjamin	Don Larson	A troop	Richard Tuten
Eddy, Leila	Robert Eddy	C troop	Donald Holman
Ferraro, Marley	Vincent O'Connell	K troop	Gerald Hill
Fiscor, Lindsey	John Fiscor	HHT Regt.	Don Sykes
Focht, Allison	Raymond Tarr	A troop	Richard Banks
Gillen, Alexandra	Peter Wallace	B troop	Richard Green
Henry, Natasha	Johnnie Reynolds	How Btry	COL Charles Schmidt
Hicks, Joel	Leon Hicks Jr	L troop	Bennie Hively
Horseman, Madeline	Edward Fegenbush	How Btry	James Gravley
Kelsch, Katherine	Elmer Robertson Jr	HHT 1/11	Floyd McFadden
Kinney, Bailyn	Paul Cochran	HHT 2/11	Peter Mestas
Knight, Diana	Thomas Lawler	K troop	Michael Scott
Lockwood, Rosemary	William Collins	F troop	Donato Simiele
Lumbeck, Andy	Ernest Pilkington	HHT Regt.	Clint Collins
Mangan, Alana	Bruce LaMere	G troop	Alfred Small
Martinelli, Syrah	Eugene Martinelli	37th Med	Joseph Weaver Jr
Martinez, Marco	Patrick Murphy	G troop	Willie Ray
Misenheimer, Hunter	Edward King	398th Trans.	Harry Taylor
Morrow, Olivia	Charles Morrow	I troop	Timothy Ownbey
Myers, Olivia	Robert Myers	HHT 3/11	Ronald McKinney
Myers, Sydney	Thomas Fagan	E troop	William Smith
Piccola, Elyse	John Piccola	HHT 2/11	German Nicholson
Pimental, Freddy	Fred Pimental	A troop	Dionicio Carrizales
Pizzuta, Breona	Walter Siomienski Jr	HHT Regt.	Arthur Strahin
Plempel, Jordan	Blaine Gadberry	409th RRU	Jesse Brandon
Postula, Marlie	Theodore Postula	F troop	Robert McGee Jr
Rapp, McKenzie	Dennis Rapp	K troop	Grover Wright Jr
Raymond, Amanda	Donald Morin	HHT 2/11	Robert Chinquina
Rodgers, Reese	Bobby Rodgers	398th Trans.	Bill Moschetti
Roenigk, Kylie	Arthur Borchert	919th Eng.	Allen Sheline
Rosendahl, Jack	Myron Rosendahl	HHT 3/11	Anthony Roybal
Russell, Jacob	W. Arthur Russell	G troop	Marcello Barrios
Rymel, Baylee	Dannie Arnold	How Btry	Jonathan Gaddis
Salerno, Owen	Alan Salerno	M Co.	Raymond Pirrman
Shimel, Simon	Dale Shimel	C troop	Homer Medley
Skibinski, Olivia	Harold Fritz	A troop	Jimmy Abernathy
Smith, Rylee	Grover Smith	720th MP	William Rollins
Thomas, Kennedy	Stephen Thomas	B troop	Elmer Spivey
Tinsley, Donald	Ronald Caldwell	D co	Ronald Hovis
Urban, Haley	Louis La Neve	A troop	Kenneth Dusart
Utt, Jayda	Connie Padgett	919th Eng.	George Myers
Walker, Easton	James Walker	I troop	Dennis Springsteen
Walker, Mason	Ronnie Walker	F troop	James Jackson
Wickam, Savannah	Jerry Wickam	F troop	Jerry Wickam
Willis, Andrew	James Willis	HHT 3/11	Larry Jones
Wisdom, Ty	Scott Wisdom	A troop	Charles Grisham
Wiskur, Lillian	Robert Wiskur	M Co.	Robert Wozniak
Yoder, Alex	Thomas Jones	M Co.	Harry Colon

## Chaplain

You can't hardly believe this, but it is true. When Margaret Patton was clothed in her monastic habit, the Lady Abbess named her **Sister Margaret Georgina** out of reverence and gratitude for her genealogy. Now, she is the Mother Sub prioress and the reason for the gratitude extended her at her profession of vows, was due to the fact that her grandfather, George S. Patton, Jr., and the American 3rd Army, had liberated the Abbey of Notre Dame de Jouarre in France from Nazi occupation during World War II.

During the Memorial Service, we added a few names of "fellow warriors" as affiliate members. One of those named was General Patton's son, George Smith Patton V. George Smith Patton V was a disabled son of the General and Mrs. Joanne Holbrook Patton, who despite mental and physical challenges became an Olympian. He won Gold and Silver Medals at the Special Olympics in Equestrian events and was able to live a full and self-sufficient life as an instructor for many years until his death this past February. He had higher and more difficult fences to jump, and through his persistence and strong will learned to not dodge them.

During the Reunion's final hours, we also learned of the passing of Mrs. Joanne Holbrook Patton, a long time and generous supporter of the 11th ACVVC scholarship fund and other programs. We honor her as a special lady who not only loved her family, but also her extended family of Blackhorse veterans. They all, General and Joanne Patton and their children may have touched some of your lives, as they did mine. You see, you too have lived a life of miracles. I pray that it is so.

Chaplain Bill.



## Quartermaster News

The 11th ACVVC gratefully thanks Jerry and Jan Beamon, who have provided their daily services as our Quartermaster Store for eighteen years. They did this work for free and drove to all the reunions in that time period towing a trailer loaded with our merchandise so they could offer it in person at our reunions. After all these years Jerry and Jan deserve a rest and have decided to retire from the position of 11th ACVVC Quartermaster.

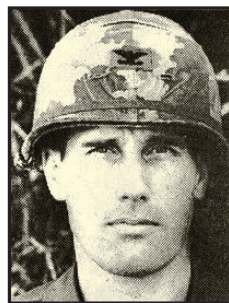
The 11th ACVVC has transferred the Quartermaster

store to an outside vendor, Finish Line Awards of Wellington, Colorado. During the transition period to the new vendor, the QM Store link on our website will be updated and will not be in operation immediately. Please check back periodically as we will do our best to have everything running smoothly as soon as possible. Until then, you can continue to order by mail using the QM form in Thunder Run.

We welcome our new vendors Barb and Mark and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership with Finish Line Awards.

## THE FINAL "ALLONS"

*(Editor's note: The article below appeared in the last Blackhorse newspaper published in Vietnam in February 1971. General Wallace Nutting was born June 3, 1928, in Newton, Massachusetts and passed away August 7, 2023, in Saco, Maine at the age of 95. He served in combat in the Korean War and the Vietnam War and was a recipient of the Silver Star, the Soldier's Medal and two Purple Hearts. General Nutting, then a Colonel, commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam in 1970 – 1971. He was the 43rd Colonel of the Blackhorse and the last living Regimental Commander from the Vietnam War.)*



The Blackhorse Regiment today is undoubtedly the proudest and highest spirited unit in our Army, and with good cause! It is 4,5000 people day-in-and-day-out driving 1,000 vehicles, flying 48 helicopters, firing 1,500 automatic weapons and communicating through 800 radios. It takes blood, sweat and tears, and yes, even love, to put it all together and develop the full material and human potential of this tremendous organization. This you have done, not towards the end of destruction and devastation, but in pursuit of the goal of permitting the people of South Vietnam to manage their own affairs. A principle our country has upheld for 200 years.

In four and one-half years of service in Vietnam, the regiment has performed this mission brilliantly. In 1,607 days of combat, 24,421 men have passed through the ranks of the Blackhorse; they have driven almost 23 million miles and have flown their aircraft on 250,000 sorties; they have exploded 43,500 tons of ammunition and killed 7,010 of the enemy. But this is not all. They have operated with the 1st Cavalry Division (AM), the 1st, 4th, 9th 23rd and 25th Infantry Divisions; 101st Airborne Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade; the 18th and 25th ARVN Divisions; and with countless Regional Force and Popular Self Defense Force units in pursuit of a common goal. Nor is this all. Blackhorse Troopers have conducted wide-ranging operations Military Region III and Cambodia, and even north to Chu Lai in Military Region I. With great forbearance and determination they have provided security to election sites, as in December and October of 1967, when the Vietnamese people expressed their opinions at the ballot box. With humility and compassion they have performed 900 medcaps and treated 50,500 patients. This is part of the Blackhorse record of accomplishment.

It is an experience none will forget. The effort in Vietnam has been highly controversial and may not be seen I proper perspective for many decades, when the younger generation of today is the older generation. It has been an effort to preserve, not destroy and has faced squarely the reality of man in the international environment. Each in his own heart knows the depth of his contribution, the extent of his service. To those who have fallen we owe an unpayable debt. Those who depart the Blackhorse have much to remember. Those who remain have much to defend. We have all been privileged to ride in the Blackhorse, in the cause of freedom. There is much on which we can look with pride. Stand tall in the saddle Blackhorse Trooper!

"Allons"

Wallace H. Nutting  
Colonel, Armor  
Commanding



## Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names.

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

**Michael Weaver Aday**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1969) passed away on October 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mountain Brook, AL. He was laid to rest in Roselawn Gardens Of Memory, Decatur, AL.

**William Edward Anderson**, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 16, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Athelstane, WI. He was laid to rest in Forest Home Cemetery, Athelstane, WI.

**James M. Angelini**, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1970) passed away on August 6, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY.

**Gustaf Charles Bernt**, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 1 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Auburn, NE. He was laid to rest in Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery, North Little Rock, AR.

**Jimmy S. Birch**, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 15, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ash Grove, MO. He was laid to rest in Ash Grove Cemetery, Ash Grove, MO.

**William Luther Bowman**, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 21, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ozark, AL. He was laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Ozark, AL.

**Robert A. Bye**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on July 17, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bloomington, IL. He was laid to rest in Eastview Christian Church Cemetery, Normal, IL.

**Joseph Leo Crosier**, 37th Medical Company (1969-1970) passed away on November 30, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Prince George, VA. He was laid to rest in Southlawn Memorial Park, Prince George County, VA.

**Ronald Lynn Dean**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 29, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hope Hull, AL. He was laid to rest in Union Cemetery, Georgiana, AL.

**George Thomas Devine**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1969) passed away on November 19, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Pauls, NC. He was laid to rest in Mcneill Family Cemetery, Lumberton, NC.

**Andrew Peter Drozd**, HHT REGT (1969-1970) passed away in 2019 according to his family. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Portland, OR.

**James L. Embrey**, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 3, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rineyville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

**Samuel R. Erwin**, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away according to his family. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mc Ewen, TN.

**James R. Fisher**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on September 20, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

**David Lee Hardin**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 12, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

**Donald Dennis Harmon**, 27th Engineer Battalion (1966-1967) passed away on August 2, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lake Placid, FL. He was laid to rest in Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, FL.

**George Willard Heller**, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 10, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bath, PA. He was laid to rest in Mount Eaton Cemetery, Saylorsburg, PA.

**Freddy Wayne Henry**, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Maiden, NC.

**Weldon Dewaine Hinkle**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on February 5, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Advance, MO. He was laid to rest in Missouri State Veterans Cemetery Jacksonville, MO.

**Walter Buford Holman**, M Company, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 8, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sparta, TN. He was laid to rest in Old Bon Air Cemetery, Bon Air, TN.

**Kingston Burnette Horstman**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 4, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palm Springs, CA. He was laid to rest in Prescott National Cemetery, Prescott, AZ.

**Wayne M. Hukill**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 5, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tyler, TX. He was laid to rest in Bethesda Cemetery, TX.



**Jimmy Noel James**, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 24, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bonham, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

**Phillip Lee Jordan**, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rushsylvania, OH. He was laid to rest in Grove Cemetery, Kenton, OH.

**John Florian Laskowski**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 26, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarksville, TN. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery-West, Hopkinsville, KY.

**John Wesley Long**, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on July 18, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gadsden, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.

**Gary Raymond Marks**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 4, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oshkosh, WI. He was laid to rest in Borth Cemetery, WI.

**Curtis Raymond Mays**, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kernersville, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

**Robert Wayne Meece**, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 15, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rockingham, NC. He was laid to rest in Richmond County Memorial Park, Rockingham, NC.

**Keith Larkins Millea**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 3, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cottage Grove, OR. He was laid to rest in Union Cemetery, Brentwood, CA.

**David Franklin Miller**, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 5, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harlan, IA. He was laid to rest in Harlan Cemetery, Harlan, IA.

**John Michael Monahan**, (1967-1967) passed away on October 25, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Amarillo, TX.

**Terry Floyd Morehouse**, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 31, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Baltimore, MD.

**Wayne Eugene Mott**, H Company 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 13, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chesterfield, MO. He was laid to rest in Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Higginsville, MO.

**Robert Roy Mueller**, HHT 3/11 and M Company 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 2, 2023. He was a life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cable, WI. He was laid to rest in Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Spooner, WI.

**Wallace Hall Nutting** (General, Ret), HHT REGT (1970-1971, 43rd Colonel) passed away on August 17, 2023. He was a resident of Saco, ME. He was laid to rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Saco, ME.

**Charles William Olmstead**, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1967) passed away on December 17, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lompoc, CA. He was laid to rest in Lompoc Evergreen Cemetery, Lompoc, CA.

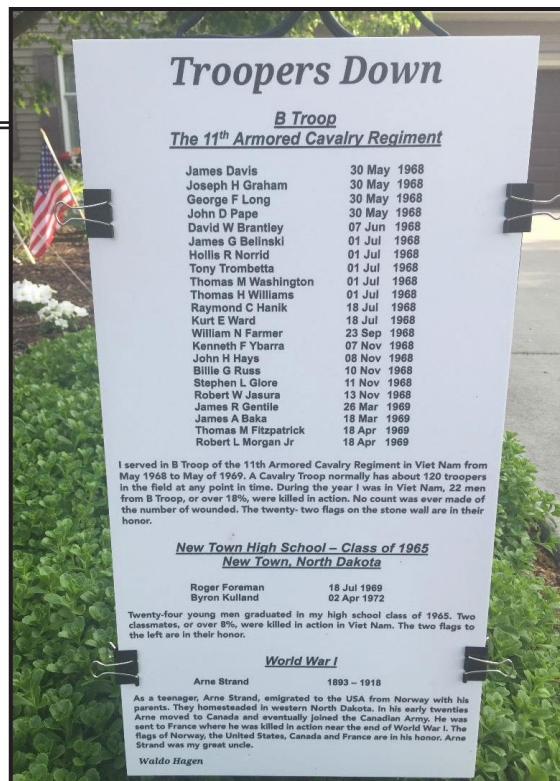
**Anthony Gene Ortiz**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away in July 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Europe.

**Steven Duane Oyer**, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 21, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Punta Gorda, FL.

**Thomas B. Peterson**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 11, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and was a resident of Spring Valley, IL. He was laid to rest in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Spring Valley, IL.



Each Memorial Day I set out a display in the front yard of my home that honors some special veterans. I leave it up for a week prior to and a week following Memorial Day for people who may walk or drive by.  
Allons,  
Waldo Hagen



**David Lee Pickel**, E Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on May 27, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harrisburg, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, PA.

**Dean Allen Pode**, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on November 22, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pinckney, MI.

**Michael Martin Polewski**, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 6, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Affton, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

**John Larry Prince**, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 25, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bay City, TX. He was laid to rest in Houston National Cemetery, Houston, TX.

**George Gerald Red Elk**, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 19, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lawton, OK. He was laid to rest in Deyo Mission Cemetery, Lawton, OK.

**Harvey Martin Reichman**, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 22, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sunrise, FL. He was laid to rest in Star Of David Memorial Gardens, North Lauderdale, FL.

**Charles Lynwood Renfrow**, 398th Transportation Det (1966-1967) passed away on December 31, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kenly, NC. He was laid to rest in Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery, Kenly, NC.

**Edward Howell Robertson**, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1968) passed away on September 3, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Friendship, TN. He was laid to rest in South Fork Baptist Church Cemetery, Friendship, TN.

**Perry Wayne Rose**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on January 14, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belton, TX.

**Richard Mesa Saldana**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 11, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Avalon, CA.

**Claud Edwin Sartain**, 398th Transportation Det (1970-1971) passed away on July 2, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jasper, AL. He was laid to rest in Providence Cemetery, Providence, AL.

**Charles Harry Slocum**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away September 26, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roxbury, VT. He was laid to rest in Northfield Falls Cemetery, Northfield, VT.

**Jerry Donald Stephens**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 16, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Salisbury, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

**Kenneth August Sunderman**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 4, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wauseon, OH. He was laid to rest in Saint Lukes Lutheran Church Cemetery, Clinton Township, OH.

**William R. Sweeney**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away September 19, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Philadelphia, PA. He was laid to rest in Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, PA.

**Val A. Swan**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on May 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in La Mesa, CA. He was laid to rest in Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA.

**Frank Shepard Taylor**, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 13, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dry Branch, GA. He was laid to rest in Stone Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Dry Branch, GA.

**Richard Peter Teper**, HHT REGT (1967-1968) passed away on March 16, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jewett City, CT.

**Barry R Thomas**, 398th Transportation Det (1969-1970) passed away on May 1, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Menville, IA. He was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery, Menville, IA.

**Michael Harold Thompson**, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 20, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Onondaga, MI.

**Thomas James Thompson**, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on November 22, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Allegan, MI. He was laid to rest in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI.

**James Michael Traner**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1967-1969) passed away on July 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Edmonds, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

**Dennis Lee Van Alstine**, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 10, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sacramento, CA. He was laid to rest in Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA.

**David Lee Wakeham**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on August 31, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Burtchville, MI. He was laid to rest in Allied Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Port Huron, MI.

**Robert W Walradth**, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 3, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Parker City, IN. He was laid to rest in Gardens Of Memory, Muncie, IN.

**Joseph Albert Wasdovitch**, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 26, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Strongsville, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Seville, OH.

**Larry Marvin Waters**, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 5, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Haven, IN. He was laid to rest in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne, IN.

**Wayne Edward Watts**, F Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on April 28, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harvest, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.

**Thomas Dean Young**, F Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on August 10, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Xenia, OH. He was laid to rest in Woodland Cemetery, Xenia, OH.

# Salute to Veterans

One of the still most watched movies, is Saving Private Ryan.

It is a gruesome depiction of the Normandy Invasion and the follow up battle for control of Contentin Peninsula. A couple of times in the movie we hear the words of General George Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff, writing a letter to the mother of Private Ryan expressing the nation's official condolences for the loss of her three...yes, three sons on the battlefields of Europe and in the Pacific during World War II. It tears your heart...listening to his words.

That letter was the prequel for sending out a patrol of eight men to find and bring home her only remaining son, Private James Francis Ryan. Most of those men on that patrol died in that cause. But Private Ryan does come home; raised a beautiful family and did, as Tom Hanks (Captain Miller in the movie), whispered his dying words: "James, earn this...earn it". That World War II veteran, did indeed, "Earn it." He was a good man.

I have written and still do write similar letters. Near to 250 a year.

During my stint in Vietnam, I only had to write a few, as we lost only 11 Troopers in those waning days of 1971 and 1972. But each of their lives was important and each of their death's was a grief. Their names are on The Wall.

My worst letter writing period was in May of 1972, two months after the Blackhorse troopers were withdrawn from Vietnam and I was then with the Gary Owen Task Force of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. On a Sunday morning, May 10, 1972, a Chinook helicopter, with a crew of 5 from the 362<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Company, transporting 29 soldiers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry went down burning at 10:23 AM. I was actually in the air at the time, and we (the Loch pilot and myself) saw the fireball.

All thirty-four died in that flaming crash and are listed in alphabetical order on Panel One West of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Probably the only place on The Wall, where our fallen brother veterans are listed in alphabetical order.

When I read the after-action report, only recently, I noted that all were identified as from 1st Cavalry units. All but one... and I can't understand why. But that one trooper, who just happened to be a dear friend and one of the 11<sup>th</sup> Cav F Troop tank commanders, was Sergeant Mike Aguilar. The official After Action Report, actually has Mike Aguilar listed on that manifest as being from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. There (with the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR) we knew him as "Chief." Mike was by ancestry, a Native American.

I didn't write all the letters for those soldiers that died that day, as I only learned many weeks later as to who was on that Chinook 47A. But once I learned of his passing, I did pray for Mike, and all those warriors who perished in that crash. And I still pray for Mike and think of "the Chief," each time I visit the Wall.

Currently I still do write letters of condolence to the family survivors of our 11<sup>th</sup> Cav veterans: those who survived that fiery crucible and returned home to become, like Private Ryan ... "good men." I am

astonished each time, I read one of their obituaries and learn how they "had earned it," how they became good men. So many of them contributed in no small measure to making this nation a better place, not only in their communities, but their efforts spread far from their homes. We have two members who had been inducted in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Texas Panhandle Hall of Fame; nationally recognized doctors and research team members, County Commissioners, mayors, police chiefs and officers; firefighters, career Army officers, school teachers and principals. Past Commanders of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion and VFW Post Commanders, Grand Knights of Columbus, lawyers and judges, and coaches; we have former Blackhorse troopers everywhere from Little League to college campuses. So many good men, who have all "earned" that title.

I know, it should be stressful and grief striking to write those condolences letters, but all so often, I am so proud of the men who served with the Blackhorse Regiment...because of what they did with their lives, that like the Regiment they served, I am proud of their legendary status.

They left behind so much, they served above and beyond the call of duty. They left us not just memories, but with acts and deeds that are still making our world a better place. It is like they never died.

Consider. It is said, a man hasn't died as long as he is remembered. This prayer, that follows, frequently referred to as a "Native American Prayer" is a way for families, friends and fellow veterans to remember our fallen brothers and sisters: it sings joy and hope more than sorrow and grief.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there; I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints of snow.  
I am the sunshine on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning hush  
I am the swift, uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight  
I am the stars that shine at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there  
I did not die.*

*Excerpted From the Memorial Service  
38<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia*

Chaplain Blandin "Bill" Karabinos

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



#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



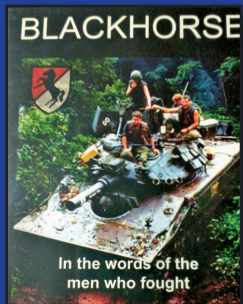
#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



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



#DVD Blackhorse \$15.00



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



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



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



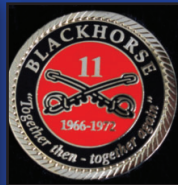
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



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



# 1 2023 Reunion Polo Shirt \$42.00 (S-L); \$44.00 (2X-4X)



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

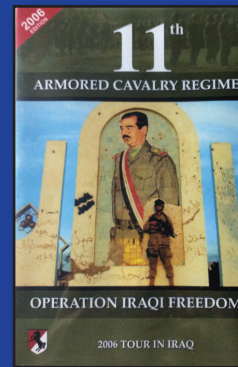
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



Dark Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#DVD 11th ACR in OIF III \$15.00



#38a



#38b



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



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





# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 4th Qtr 2023

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Reunion Polo Shirt (\$42 for S-L; \$44 for 2X-4X) ..... <i>NEW!</i>	42.00-44.00	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____
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.	DVD 11th ACR in OIF III ..... <i>NEW!</i>	15.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	DVD - Blackhorse..... <i>NEW!</i>	15.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4").....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Golden Boot Spurs .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs .....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Blackhorse Tales" .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	See-through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c .....	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	_____	_____	_____
41.	Dark Denim shirt (men's) ).....	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	_____	_____	_____
<p>Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL. Specify size and color preference of item requested.</p>					<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Subtotal</b> _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping and Handling</b> _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b> _____</p>

**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 **Finish Line Awards**. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC QM, c/o Finish Line Awards, P.O. Box 475, Wellington, CO 80549**

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

# MEMORIES

---

Maddox, much relieved, turned his attentions to the mess, which was later voted as the best mess in the Regiment. Major Doyle (Deceased Lt. General) the Squadron's Operations officer, had me study Cavalry tactics and together we reorganized our firing battery so that it became smaller, more mobile and hardened during operations by eliminating all unnecessary personnel and vehicles. In the meantime, George Ruggles and I planned our battery training cycle to ensure that all of the new personnel were fully trained and understood our recently revised tactics for cavalry operations. I figured that we would need to become capable of deploying into a firing position during a road march, in less than 10 minutes and with very little notice. We knew that the Vietcong was very experienced and often used the tactic of ambushing columns of vehicles. Artillery fire support would then be immediately needed.

After individual training was completed, we deployed our battery to Camp Picket, where we focused on rapid deployments (called "hip shoots") with life fire with forward observers directing the fires at distant targets. We trained intensely and longer than other regimental units (at the shagreen of my soldiers' wives) and once again we passed our battery test with flying colors. We were very keen and everyone felt ready.

Lieutenant Vail (retired Colonel Vail) top graduate from officer candidate school, Lieutenant Austin, top graduate from ROTC, Lieutenant Bogovich, as well as two military academy and ranger trained First Lieutenants (Ruggles and O'Grady, both deceased) and some topnotch NCOs, like Master Sergeant Bobst had joined us and participated in our training. I was overjoyed with the caliber of officers and NCOs that we were blessed with and would accompany us to Vietnam.

After an ocean voyage in the tail end of a hurricane, we disembarked on Vung Tau beach, in the republic of Vietnam. We were the last of the Regiment to arrive in Vietnam, but because of our well-known preparedness we were the first howitzer battery in the Regiment to begin combat operations. Throughout the next year we performed in an outstanding manner and received many decorations. The Squadron had also entrusted us with all nine of its 4.2 Inch self-propelled mortars, because they had proven undisciplined and erratic. We quickly turned them into another firing battery and added a fire direction center to ensure more disciplined and safer fire support. I also placed two of my best people in charge to ensure safety of operations. That battery under command of Lieutenant Vail and later Lieutenant Bogovich, also distinguished itself throughout the year and in critical battles. Halfway through the year in Vietnam we exchanged our 105MM howitzers for 155MM self-propelled howitzers and thus increased our firing range with more deadly payloads.

Some of our men and I received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medals. Not until my last day in Vietnam, and after I had turned my command over, did our battery have some casualties. I later read an account of that ambush and surmised that there had been a lack of target planning along the road to the employment area. Our forward observer was apparently also not traveling with either the Troop Commander in charge of the movement or with the Squadron Commander who was flying overhead in a helicopter. I still don't understand why these common-sense procedures had been omitted. More people may have been killed possibly because of the lack of artillery support. This was unnecessary in my opinion and a shame that spoiled our battery's otherwise outstanding performance record.

I would like to salute the men of the 11th Cavalry that rode with us in that unpopular war. We were asked to join the military, go to war and never questioned our duty. While coming from many different places and had different upbringings, we learned to respect each other and trust each other while under the most difficult of circumstances. We ignored what made us different, but valued what we had in common. There is nothing that binds people closer together than serving a common goal such as going to war when our Nation's leaders ask us to. I regret that people are no longer obligated to serve for even as little as one year in whatever capacity, be it in the military or in some other national utilitarian activity. This would teach us more about each other to learn that people have the same basic needs and have more in common than what so often seems to divide us. That would help to unify our Nation more than petty political speeches and well-intended social initiatives.

In closing, I am very proud to have served in the 11th Cavalry and will honor you and our departed all of my remaining days.

