



Thunder Run

Vol. 30 – NO. 33

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2015

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

The Almighty Mermite Can

By: *Ollie Pickral, K Troop '68-'69*

Sitting on my front porch, situated in the far corners are two cans. In one corner is an early picnic cooler with a metal screw drain plug and a top that is sealed shut by a rod fitting over the handle, named Pleasure Chest. It was made in the early '50s I believe. On the other side sits a military style box with ribs if I can so name them. The box is oval with a 2” insulation wall, is OD green and fastens down and actually looks like a big metal ammo box. I purchased mine on Ebay and did a little restoration by painting it, yes... ..OD green.

These containers, made to carry hot food to the field were made by various manufacturers during the Vietnam war. My can was made by American Wyatt Corporation. These “hot” food containers weigh 30 lbs. with the three inserts and lids. We of the 11th Cavalry had no use for the three inserts so we “canned” them,

pun intended. Mermites measured 26”length x 12”wide x 18”deep. These were standard issue to most field kitchen setups. Each of the three inserts was made of aluminum with a locking lid and wire handle. Each insert would hold a different meat or vegetable and they made a perfect fit into the mermite can. The food would be cooked at base camps and choppered out to the Troops. Chow could remain hot for a long period of time.

When I arrived in Vietnam with the 4.2” mortar tracks (K Troop), I saw these cans sitting right up there on top of the track with the cases of C- Rats. I thought back at my AIT training at Fort Knox a few weeks previous, and didn't recall such containers on the tracks we trained with..... “ah, we “borrowed” them from the mess hall when they brought us hot chow in the bush” was the answer when I inquired. He further stated, “Did you ever go to the beach or lake and take a cooler with you?” “Yes but what does that ammo

box have to do with the beach?” “It's a mermite can and we keep our sodas and beer cold. They make excellent coolers when we are humping the bush”.

Ice.....these mermite cans won't keep anything cold without ice. I can't remember the number of times that K Troop came out of the bush after many days or weeks without seeing any civilization (other than the ones we were looking for) and there is “mama san” and family selling cold cokes (and other things) and what else. . .ICE. . .completely covered in rice hulls to insulate it. . .weird. We'd buy the ice and if we had hot beer or sodas in the bowels of our tracks, we'd start rolling it across the ice, making a trough and in about a minute, you had an ice cold beverage. Our mermite cans were stuffed full and off we'd go looking for “Charlie” again.

How important were our mermite cans?? Well, every track had one, even the

Please turn to **MERMITE CAN** on page 6

Remembering our Blackhorse troopers...



Memorial Day 2015: Over 45 Blackhorse veterans as well as many family members gathered on Memorial Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC to remember those Blackhorse troopers who sacrificed everything in the service of our country. Blackhorse troopers from many eras attended including a World War II veteran, many from Vietnam, the Gulf War, several who served with the 11th in Iraq and one currently serving with 2/11 at Fort Irwin. Blackhorse veterans have been gathering each Memorial Day and Veterans Day for the past 29 years. Join us on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015, 10:00 am. —ALLONS!





Allen Hathaway
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



This issue of *Thunder Run* will arrive just a few weeks before the 30th annual reunion in Columbus / Fort Benning, Georgia.

By all indications we expect another great turnout for this very special reunion.

This reunion will mark two very special occasions. First, we will celebrate our 30th annual reunion. Second, and perhaps the more important occasion, will be the dedication of the 11th Cavalry Memorial on Thursday, August 20. The memorial is dedicated to the sacrifice of the hundreds of brave and courageous Blackhorse troopers who have served the 11th Cavalry since it was formed in 1901.

This year will have several challenges that are not normally part of the annual reunions. We are located in five different hotels which means we will be traveling between hotels and events, walking and waiting. However, this is an opportunity to attend another great reunion, meet up with old friends and be a part of history as we dedicate the memorial. We ask for your help and patience throughout the weekend.

Please review the reunion schedule printed in this issue to ensure you are familiar with the location and times for the events scheduled at the Columbus Convention Center and the National Infantry Museum. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to get to each location, park if using your own vehicle, and walk to the designated meeting point. The reunion schedule will be posted in the lobby of each of the five reunion hotels to help with times and locations.

It's hard to believe this will be the 30th annual reunion. I was fortunate to have attended that first reunion in Arlington, Texas, in 1986. I remember the anxiety and mixed feelings I had in the months and weeks before the reunion. I didn't know what to expect. All those doubts were quickly erased when I arrived and saw someone wearing a hat with the Blackhorse insignia. I didn't know the person but I knew that we shared a very special bond.

This reunion will mark two very special occasions. First, we will celebrate our 30th annual reunion. Second, and perhaps the more important occasion, will be the dedication of the 11th Cavalry Memorial on Thursday, August 20.

I was fortunate that I had contacted a few of my old friends from Vietnam and planned to meet at that first reunion. Even though it had been 20 years since we had seen each other it seemed like only the day before. Within just a few minutes we were catching up on the past 20 years, pouring over photos, wondering about some of the other friends. We also began to learn about what the regiment did after we left in mid 1967. That weekend I met many new friends, friends I see now almost every year. As the weekend ended I knew I was hooked. I enjoyed being with my old buddies and I knew that I wanted to help others find and meet with their old buddies. I was happy we voted to have another reunion the following year.

Now, some 30 reunions later, we have held reunions in many parts of the country. We have seen sights that we probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to see. We have renewed the pride of having served our country and the Blackhorse regiment. We have touched the lives of thousands of people. We have helped each other heal and remembered those we lost. We have met many new friends and helped reunite thousands of "old buddies". This is what it's all about; remembering, healing, and renewing old friendships.

Once again this year promises to be an outstanding reunion and an opportunity to be with others who served with the Blackhorse Regiment. Dig out your old pictures, slides and scrapbook and come prepared to enjoy yourself!

We also want to remind everyone to start thinking of items for the silent auction. The auction is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. We have many talented people in the organization and they always come through for the

silent auction. We welcome any item for the silent auction. Please see the Silent Auction Donation Form in this issue and on our website.

Raffle tickets were mailed to all members in late May. This year we are offering prizes of \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and 11 \$100 for a total of \$2,500 in prizes. All proceeds from the 2015 raffle will benefit the Scholarship Fund. The drawing will be held on August 22 during the reunion.

We want to take this opportunity to welcome the nearly 99 new members listed in this issue. Each member is assigned a membership number. During the past three months membership number 10,000 was assigned. Congratulations to all and welcome home!

Finally, as always, I ask that you keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. Reach out to those who wear the uniform and contribute daily to the security of our country, offer your hand, and thank them for their selfless service. ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".

Newsletter Deadlines

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

- 1st Quarter Jan 15**
- 2nd Quarter Mar 25**
- 3rd Quarter Jun 25**
- 4th Quarter Oct 1**

All submissions for publication must be sent to: C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Editor, 421 Fallen Leaf Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577. E-mail: Battle46A@epbfi.com



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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr., 421 Fallen Leaf Dr., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577.

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The Blackhorse Memorial Under Constuction...



CAMPAIGNS

PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION 1902-1904
11TH U.S. CAVALRY REGIMENT
SAMAR

MEXICAN EXPEDITION 1916-1917
11TH U.S. CAVALRY REGIMENT
MEXICO

WORLD WAR II 1944-1945
11TH CAVALRY GROUP (MECHANIZED)
NORMANDY
NORTHERN FRANCE
RHINELAND
ARDENNES/SALCEZ
CENTRAL EUROPE

VIETNAM 1966-1972
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
COUNTROFFENSIVE, PHASE II
COUNTROFFENSIVE, PHASE III
TET COUNTROFFENSIVE
COUNTROFFENSIVE, PHASE IV
COUNTROFFENSIVE, PHASE V
COUNTROFFENSIVE, PHASE VI
TET 86 COUNTROFFENSIVE
SUMMER-FALL 1969

WINTER-SPRING 1970
SANCTUARY COUNTROFFENSIVE
COUNTROFFENSIVE, PHASE VII
CONSOLIDATION I
CONSOLIDATION II
CLASS-FIRE

SOUTHWEST ASIA 1991
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
CLASS-FIRE

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2003-2006
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
IRAQ GOVERNANCE

THE BLACKHORSE MEMORIAL

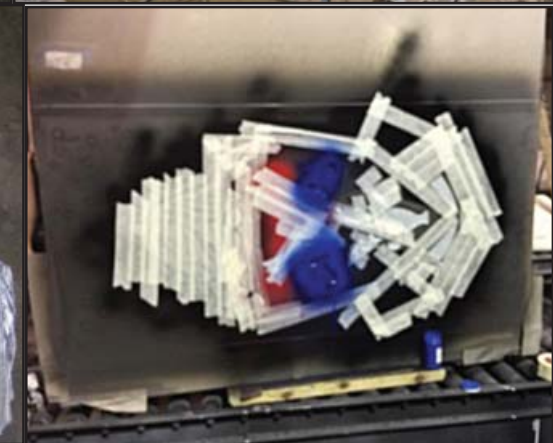
THE MEMORIAL IN FRONT OF YOU COMMEMORATES THE SERVICE OF THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT (BLACKHORSE) IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA FROM SEPTEMBER 1966 TO APRIL 1972. THE MEMORIAL WAS CUT BY A ROCK QUARRY AT GIA RAY, SOUTH VIETNAM. IT WAS SHIPPED BY VETERANESQUE TRUCKS AND U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS AND TRANSFORMED THE RAW STONE INTO A SHINY, FOUR-SIDED, POLISHED STONE ONE EACH FOR FOUR REGIONS, THIRD, AND PROVISIONAL SQUADRONS. THE FORMER STONE WAS USED TO THE MEMORIAL IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, STARTING WITH SOUTH VIETNAM. BRASS PLAQUES, WHICH BLACKHORSE TROOPERS KILLED IN ACTION IN VIETNAM, THE MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED AND DEDICATED IN PHU THUAN, IT STOOD IN FRONT OF THE REGIMENT'S FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE FIRST PLATE AND FURTHER AWAY FROM LONG GIANG. THE MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED AND DEDICATED IN PHU THUAN, NEAR THE END OF THE REGIMENT'S SERVICE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. FROM PHU THUAN, THE MEMORIAL ACCOMPANIED THE REGIMENT FIRST TO QUANG BINH, THEN LATER TO DI AN, NEAR THE LONG JOURNEY TO FORT ANKOV, KENTUCKY. THE MEMORIAL WAS LOYALTY TO THE REGIMENT. THE INDIVIDUAL BRASS PLAQUES HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH BRONZE TABLETS, LISTING THE NAMES OF THE 2ND BLACKHORSE TROOPERS KILLED IN ACTION. DESPITE ALL THESE CHANGES, THE BLACKHORSE TROOPERS, IT REMAINS A TOUCHSTONE FOR WHY WE SERVED. IT REMINDS US ALL THAT WHAT WE DID WAS HONORABLE, BUT NOT WITHOUT GREAT COST AND SACRIFICE.

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

ALLONS!

THE BLACKHORSE ASSOCIATE





Ft. Benning

Columbus, GA



Bill Gregory, Editor
Thunder Run

We are just weeks (not months) away from our 30th Reunion in Columbus, Georgia at Fort Benning! Looks like another great one in the making! When you get there and see any of our officers or directors be sure to thank them for all the extra work that has gone into this special reunion!

Our Blackhorse Memorial has been relocated to Fort Benning, from Fort Knox, and that was no small task. We will rededicate it on Thursday, August 20. I know you don't want to miss the ceremony! This reunion involves a central meeting place (The Columbus Convention Center), and not one, but five hotels! Add to that the fact that some of our activities will be at the Convention Center while others will be at Fort Benning, and you have a lot of moving parts and many things that can go wrong. When complications arise, please be patient and understanding. Your officers, directors, and volunteers are working very hard to make it a wonderful reunion. If the past is any indication, I am betting they will pull it off!

Reunions are about friends, old friends and new friends. I have been to many of our reunions and always have a great time. This year, I hope to share some time with some of the men I was with in Vietnam and some that I have met at reunions since then. Time has a way of taking the edge off of hurts, and adding sweetness to the good times. We meet again and share both good and bad. The bad becomes less burdensome because we all carry it together. The good becomes better as we relive those memories of good friends and funny stories, they, like fine wine mellow and become more valuable with age.

This issue contains all the information you will need to make your trip to Columbus. Please pay special attention to the instructions concerning the hotels, tours, special activities and the banquet. If you do not already have a room and have registered please do not delay – it really is almost too late! In addition to reunion information you will find some entertaining articles

Our Blackhorse Memorial has been relocated to Fort Benning, from Fort Knox, and that was no small task. We will rededicate it on Thursday, August 20. I know you don't want to miss the ceremony!

from our regular columnists, as well as from some member contributors. Hope you enjoy! I am looking forward to see-

ing you in Columbus in August! May God's blessings be with each of you. Allons!

Blackhorse Memorial Progress

Things Shaping Up at Fort Benning

Construction of the new 11th Cavalry monument is nearly complete. In April, the site was excavated and the concrete pad was poured. The concrete was allowed to cure for the next two months. Earlier this year, stone for the two new granite tablets was cut from the quarry, polished, insignias applied. The new bronze plaques were cast and mounted to the granite tablets. In late June the four obelisks and two granite tablets were installed at the memorial site. The more than 1,500 granite bricks were placed in the monument. The sidewalk leading from the Walk of Honor to Pattons' Park was poured. Finally, the area surrounding the monument and sidewalk will be graded and seeded. Photos of the movement of our monument from Fort Knox to the construction at Fort Benning can be found on our website and our Facebook page.

With just a few weeks before the dedication we wish to thank all who have supported this project by purchasing granite bricks or making donations.

MERMITE CAN from Page 1

CO's track had one. Other than our boxes of ammo, this box placed a good second in importance. We could live without one but why should we, we ride to battle!!

I can visualize the conversation between Ft. Lee (Quartermaster School in Petersburg area of Virginia) and our guy at Binh Hoa, our rear area. "Sir. . .we don't need any more pots, pans or knives, just mermite cans. The only answer I have is that the VC shoot them all up as they are loaded on the choppers so our troops won't get hot chow. . .send as many as you have as we need to get them out to our men!"

Since each track had one, the Army must have revised the TO&E for equipment on ACAV's, M48's, M106's, 155's,

etc. If our tracks were turned over to the ARVN, did they get our beloved mermite cans also?

Below is the National Stock Number in case you want to do like me and have one in your possession. They still keep my beer cold like before but without the rice hulls.

Check Ebay and you can put your mermite can back on "your" track!!

NSN: 7330-00-238-2411
(complete unit)

Complete insert: 7330-00-243-3253
(includes cover and gasket)

Insert cover: 7330-00-243-3254

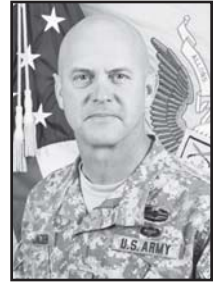
Insert cover gasket: 5330-00-032-2721

Outer cover gasket: 5330-00-032-2722



From the 66th Colonel of the Regiment

COL Kevin L. Jacobi



COL Kevin L. Jacobi

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – Another great quarter for the Blackhorse Regiment! I continue to be impressed with the professionalism and expertise of our Soldiers. Since my last update, the Blackhorse Regiment closed out three rotations, held a Regimental Ball, celebrated Memorial Day with our local community, and executed some great training, ensuring our Troopers remain experts in their craft.

Starting with rotations, April brought 2/1 ID Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Big Red One, Fort Riley, Kansas. The following month brought 3/1 CD Armored Brigade Combat Team from Fort Hood, Texas. More recently, in June we faced off to the 1/1 AD Stryker Brigade Combat Team of Fort Bliss, Texas. As with each rotation, we continue to enhance our warfighting skills and just as I mentioned in my last update, we are continuing to hone our efforts on mastering movement to contact.

I am always amazed by the continued

dedication of Blackhorse Troopers for being prepared to deliver as the National Training Center’s hybrid threat force. 11ACR Troopers and many other Soldiers across NTC are dedicated to making sure the Army’s Brigade Combat Teams are prepared for worldwide deployment. On that note, I wish a happy summer break to the Blackhorse Troopers. They really earned it!

In the last quarter, 1,089 Cavalry Troopers and their significant others came together from an evening of esprit de corps and camaraderie for the Annual Regimental Ball. The Regiment had the great honor of hosting a distinguished veteran of the Regiment: Congressional Medal of Honor recipient LTC (R) Harold Fritz. It was a great evening that capped off with dancing into the early hours of the morning.

Two of my Regimental Staff Officers had the privilege of speaking at Memorial Day ceremonies. While I thank the Regiment and my Troopers for all that they do, I also want

to take the opportunity to share my thanks with those who served before us. We strive to live up to the legacy of Blackhorse veterans.

In April, Blackhorse Troopers competed for the Expert Infantry Badge, presented for completion of a course designed to test proficiency in infantry skills. The result was an above average graduation resulting in 34 EIB awardees. In May, Cold Steel Troop conducted a tank gunnery. Crews gained proficiency in armor crewman gunnery tasks. Please join me in congratulating Cold Steel’s, SSG Harris and his crew for achieving ‘Top Tank’ with a distinguished run on tank table VI.

Remember, you are always welcome to come and visit us. I also encourage you to stay up to date with us at our 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment-Blackhorse Facebook page. Death Rides a Blackhorse! Allons!!

2015 Election

By Adrian Vaaler,
Secretary, 11th ACVVC

(The following description of our annual election process is the policy currently in place.)

Five positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting held on Saturday morning, August 22, during the 2015 Reunion. The five positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and one Director.

The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will serve a two year term. The Director will serve a three year term. All terms will begin January 1, 2016.

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

The elected candidates must be able to

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

The positions of President and Vice-President require considerable time and superb organizational skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization. The Vice-President serves as the President’s right hand man. Sound leadership is fundamental to both positions.

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records,



We Want You!

preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund, the organization’s investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

Candidates for Secretary should be able to intently follow and record organized minutes, summarize reports, actions and decisions from official meetings, and maintain records of the 11th ACVVC and its numerous projects. He should have strong language and writing skills and know basic Robert’s Rules of Order. Information management skills on a computer are required.

Continued on page 9

The Blackhorse Memorial: A History



Vietnam, Blackhorse Base Camp, fall of 1967, foundation for memorial is poured.



Fall of 1967, construction phase.



Fall of 1967, construction continues.



Fall of 1967, construction is complete.



Dedication of Blackhorse Memorial, Fall of 1967



1988 at Ft. Knox, KY.



2007 at Ft. Knox, KY.



2015 pouring foundation at Ft. Benning.



2015 basic work complete at Ft. Benning



2015 sorting and placing Memorial Bricks at Ft. Benning.



2015 ready for finishing touches at Ft. Benning.

2015 Reunion Logistics, Transportation & Tours

By: Pete Walter, Vice President

Blackhorse Troopers, families and friends, hopefully this article should answer some of your questions and explain the transportation routes and tours.

The 2015 reunion is unique in that we'll be using five hotels for lodging and the Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center (CCTC) for our bunker, meetings and banquet.

The CCTC (801 Front Ave, Columbus, GA) is a beautiful facility located in the Historic Columbus Iron Works and painstakingly restored to its Civil War splendor. The Iron Works is a unique setting situated on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The Trade Center is a local landmark of the downtown area and is located conveniently to first-class sleeping accommodations, restaurants and entertainment facilities.

The five hotels we are using are:

- **Hilton Garden Inn**, 1500 Bradley Lake Blvd, Columbus, GA (~7 miles north of the CCTC)
- **Home 2 Suites**, 1664 Whittlesey Rd, Columbus, GA (~6.6 miles north of the CCTC)
- **Doubletree**, 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd, Columbus, GA (~5.6 miles northeast of the CCTC)
- **Holiday Inn North**, 2800 Manchester Expressway, Columbus, GA (~5.1 miles northeast of the CCTC)
- **Marriott**, 800 Front Ave, Columbus, GA (~100 yds from the CCTC)

Those reunion attendees who indicated on their registration form that they would require bus transportation are expected to use the shuttle buses provided by the 11th ACVVC to travel to events at the CCTC. These buses will pick up and return passengers to the Hilton Garden Inn, Home 2 Suites, Doubletree and Holiday Inn North. Those attendees who did not request transportation on their registration forms must drive their own vehicles or provide their own transportation to events at the CCTC. All attendees registered for the

We contracted buses based on the information you provided on your registration form; it is imperative that only those attendees who requested bus transportation use the buses.

Friday optional tours (Rangers Demo, Armor Restoration, and Women's Tour) may use the shuttle buses or drive themselves to the CCTC where the tour buses will pick them up. The tour buses will return riders to the CCTC and/or their respective hotels.

As above, those reunion attendees who indicated on their registration form that they would require bus transportation are expected to use the buses to attend the Blackhorse Memorial dedication on Thursday. Those attendees who will be driving will find ample parking at the **National Infantry Museum (NIM)** just outside the entrance to Fort Benning. The memorial is also located outside the gate to Fort Benning so anyone can drive their own vehicle to the NIM parking lot.

We contracted buses based on the information you provided on your registration form; it is imperative that only those attendees who requested bus transportation use the buses. We do not want anyone needing a bus to be unnecessarily delayed or inconvenienced. Nor do we want to pay for buses that are traveling with no passengers. Please use the buses only if you indicated you would need them.

All the schedules listed below are as accurate as we can determine at this time but should be considered slightly flexible. Please check the info sheet provided in your registration packet to confirm all pick-up (PU) and drop-off (DO) times and

locations. Additionally, signage will be displayed at all the reunion hotels and the CCTC showing routes and PU/DO times and locations.

Wednesday, August 19 –

- **2:00 pm to 12:00 am**, Shuttle service to/from hotels to/from CCTC

Thursday, August 20 –

- **7:30 am to 2:00 pm**, Shuttle service from hotels to/from NIM
- **2:00 pm – 12:00 am**, Shuttle service to/from hotels to/from CCTC

Friday, August 21 –

- **7:00 am to 12:30 pm**, Shuttle service to/from hotels/CCTC for optional tours (Rangers in Action Demo, Armor Restoration Facility)
- **7:30 am to 12:00 am**, Shuttle service to/from hotels to CCTC
- **9:00 am – 3:30 pm**, Women's Columbus Tour

Saturday, August 22 –

- **7:30 am to 12:00 am**, Shuttle service to/from hotels to/from CCTC

If you have any questions, please call me at 609-261-5629 or e-mail me at: basepiece70@verizon.net

We look forward to another memorable reunion! Your understanding of the schedule and cooperation will help make this possible. Thank you in advance for your support!

“ALLONS!”

ELECTION from page 7

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

The officers will serve a two year term and the Director a three year term

Note: At our Mid-year Officers meeting in November, the Officers voted to amend the By Laws in order to stagger the terms of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. For this motion to be implemented it must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the members at the next membership meeting on August 22, 2015



Blackhorse Women's News

By Kathy Tandberg, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Getting Ready for a Taste of Georgia Blackhorse Women Welcome Dr. Candace Drake

In just a few short weeks, the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse family will gather once again – this time for its 30th annual reunion set for Fort Benning/Columbus, Georgia, August 19-23. I can hardly believe it – 30 years of reunions! How wonderful! Take a moment, if you would, and reflect back – what were you doing back then, when we were all so much younger? It seems a lifetime ago, but then I guess it has been a lifetime, when in 1984 a group of Blackhorse Vietnam Veterans began gathering names of fellow troopers while in Washington, D.C., for the dedication of the “Three Fighting Men” statue near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The first reunion was held just two years later in 1986. Since then it's grown to great numbers in these past 30 years. Bravo to those who began these reunions. Bravo, as well, to those Troopers who continue to make the reunions great and never give up on searching for more Troopers!

We have some exciting happenings for women attendees this year while in Georgia.

First up is our Women's Columbus Tour and Luncheon. We were limited to 100 participants unfortunately, but if you missed getting a place there is more to come at our Saturday meeting. But, back to the tour – because the reunion ended up filling so many Columbus hotels, there is a slight change in how you will get to the Tour Bus that morning, Friday, August 21.

You will need to catch the Convention Center shuttle bus at your own hotel that morning. Once you arrive at the Convention Center, we will gather together to board the tour buses. Watch for Women's Tour signs. If you have given your email address at our women's meetings, I will send an email in July with information. Also, there will be information on all reunion tours inside your registration that will tell you how to get from your hotel to the Convention Center to meet tour buses. Our tour buses are air conditioned, as are the museum and Wynn House that we will tour and have lunch.

At the historic Linwood Cemetery, we will remain on the buses except for a few short stops such as at the chapel and also some historic gravesites. You may want to bring an umbrella for shade if you get out at these brief stops. Or you can choose to stay on the air conditioned bus. The rest of the tour is a nice, cool drive through historic Columbus, before drop off at the end of the tour.

If you have a paid place on the Women's Tour but find you can't attend, there are no refunds. However, we have a short waiting list of women who might purchase your ticket from you. If you need help finding someone to buy your ticket, you can contact me (Kathy) anytime, now or at reunion, by my cell phone at 701-870-6868.

Dr. Drake to speak at Women's Meeting

It gives our women's board of directors great pleasure to announce that Dr. Candace Drake, Ph.D., PTSD Psychologist with the Veterans Administration, will speak at our Saturday morning

meeting, August 22. Check your reunion schedule that will be included in your registration packet for time and location. Dr. Drake is the Assistant Director of Training, Psychology Internship Program, at Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Pensacola, Florida. We thank men's board of directors with assistance in locating Dr. Drake, who is also a 11th ACVVC family member. We are honored that she has agreed to speak with us. PTSD is an important subject for our group and all military families and members. Even if you have never attended our women's meetings before, you are welcome to attend our meeting and hear Dr. Drake. Perhaps this is the perfect time to check us out and attend our meeting.

Saturday Lunch

Following the men's and women's Saturday morning meetings, don't forget that lunch will be served to reunion attendees (included as part of the reunion registration). The menu will include a selection of sandwiches, potato salad or coleslaw and a cookie.

Fundraiser

The Women's Group is once again offering a special Fort Benning and Memorial lanyard at this year's reunion. We try to make our lanyards a collector's item each year so each is different and site specific. Look for us in the Quartermaster's room and get your lanyard as soon as possible as we hope to sell out as usual.

Also, be sure to check out the Blackhorse Women's webpage site by going to the men's website at www.11thcavnam.com and on the New Website Format locate “Messages” in the long box near the bottom of the page above the words “Members Area.” Click on Messages. This will take you to a second page for selection under the words “Blackhorse Messages” and you will find several links including one to our pages “Blackhorse Women's News.” Also please “Like” us on Face book by searching Blackhorse Women.

(Co-coordinator Kathy Tandberg can be reached by email at kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com or by phone at 701-873-2970 or 701-870-6868.)

Find an Old Friend

All Troopers, please go to “Find an Old Friend” on our web site www.11thcavnam.com. Click the letter which corresponds with the first letter of your last name. Now go down the list to find your name, now click the e-mail box. Is this your current e-mail address? If not please send your current e-mail address to Bob Kickenweitz at bobk11acr@comcast.net. Remember if your e-mail address is incorrect, how are your buddies going to find you? Don't forget our Facebook site at www.FaceBook.com/11thACVVC.

Allons,
Bob Kickenweitz

THE 24TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

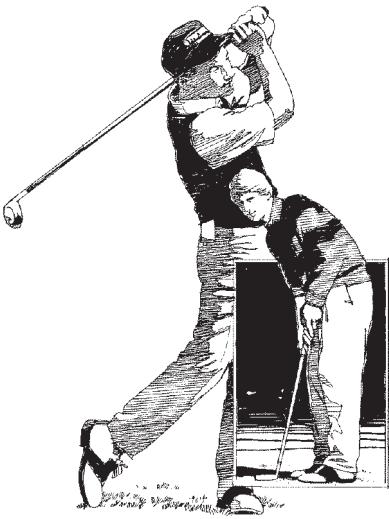
Friday, August 21, 2015

Bull Creek Golf Course West
 Mike Spitz Miller, Tournament Director
 7333 Lynch Rd
 Midland, GA 31820

Veteran Friendly Championship Golf Club

\$75 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$75 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 4, 2015 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!



Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 4, 2015. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of the best facilities in the south Georgia. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3) Soft spikes only facility. Tee times will be an 8:00 AM shotgun start with lunch following golf.

Bull Creek's legacy is one of being extremely military friendly. Their staff eagerly awaits the arrival of our 11th Cav reunion.

24TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Mail Checks To: Joe Coopet, Golf Tournament Director,
 9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

UNLIKE YEARS PAST, THIS EVENT IS BEING HELD ON FRIDAY OF REUNION WEEK.

Check your schedule vs other planned events. We will rideshare from our individual hotels. No rental clubs will be available!



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman

I received a total of 19 scholarship applications by the May 15th deadline this year. That is the same number of applications that were submitted in 2014 and 2013. All of the applicants are children of our members. 13 applicants are female and 6 are male. The youngest applicant is 17 years of age and the oldest is 45 years old. Twelve of these students fall into the "traditional" college age bracket (17-24 years of age). Three of the applicants are graduate students. The applications came from all across the country ranging from Hawaii to Florida. There were 15 states represented in all with the most applications coming from California (3). These students are majoring in a variety of disciplines including: Medicine, Engineering,

There were 15 states represented in all with the most applications coming from California (3).



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

Nursing, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Psychology, and Education.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors is pleased to be able to award scholarships to all of these deserving applicants this year. Their names and photos will appear in upcoming issues of *Thunder Run*.



GREEN

Anyone who's served in Viet Nam has had an opinion about the country, both the place and the people. As always, the purpose in our discussions is to remember and think about positive things from our experiences there, so today we'll discuss positive subjects again. The negative things, like being shot at and shooting back, are discussed in other places. So consider this: some of us think Viet Nam was really a beautiful country, regardless of all that had happened in years of war. I'm told by friends who've been there lately, that the country is more beautiful now, especially with no war going on. (That's another subject I'm sure we all have our own feelings about).

Let's move to a very agreeable topic. Let's talk about green in Viet Nam. "What!," you say? My reply, "Right". Let's talk about green, the color." We've talked before about several different colors that figured into our life there. One time we discussed about green being the color of every fifth round of NVA machine guns and red the color of every fifth round of our machine guns. Purple and yellow were some colors of smoke grenades. OD (Olive Drab) was another color you know about which I hope we talk about later. Colors have a lot of memories for us.

Green was important to the American troops there. Think about it. One important thing to us was green-backs, good old American folding cash. A reason it's so memorable is that we didn't have any. "They" took them away because American green-backs caused consternation in the Vietnamese economy. GIs had to exchange their green-backs for MPC (military payment certificates)

When green comes to mind, it's usually about trees. You know what I mean, like jungle tree-lines for example. On the other hand, rice paddies come to mind too.

when they came into country. I might be foggy here but I do remember that we were paid with MPC instead of green-backs. With MPC we could buy things at the PX (if we got near one). So that's a green subject you know about which is positive. (I think). Besides, the VC wouldn't usually shoot at you for MPC because the government occasionally expired them which made them worthless for the VC but OK for us. Anyway, MPC didn't have any green on them whereas American dollars were black on the front and green on the back, thus "green-backs." I think MPC were black, gray, and light purple. (I'm not positive about that).

When green comes to mind, it's usually about trees. You know what I mean, like jungle tree-lines for example. On the other hand, rice paddies come to mind too. Let's talk about rice paddies first. Most rice in Viet Nam is grown in paddies (not "patties"). Paddies are sections of flat land that are surrounded with dikes to hold water. People plant the rice by hand in the water. In the growing season, the rice paddies are very beautiful, bright green for miles, with canals and villages interspersing the paddies and water buffalo here and there helping the farmers.

In 1969 our squadron set up a Firebase near the Cambodian border by Loc Ninh in a dry land rice field. I'd seen a lot of rice paddies growing rice in water. This one on dry ground was as green and beautiful as the paddies. Naturally, our tracks operating there

mashed the green rice into brown mud, although some of the green survived. Everyone understood that doing that was a necessity of war. Anyway, the farmer was happy because our government paid him a healthy profit for his rice crop and for using his land.

Our mission included War Zone C. It was mostly natural green jungle. Many miles there were developed into plantations, mostly rubber and teak trees. I'm sure you remember well how much we operated in those plantations. So did the VC. Today we aren't discussing the VC and their spider holes and tunnels because it's negative. We're discussing memories that are positive, or at least not dangerous to your health and survival. Watching the Vietnamese workers tap the rubber trees for the rubber sap was interesting and actually enjoyable. (No, sap wasn't black. It was white. It became black tires later). You might still remember that Michelin owned the rubber plantations. It was Michelin as in Michelin Tires, a French company. Who owned the Teak plantations? I don't have a clue. What I do remember was we were told that it cost our government \$300 for every teak tree we knocked down with our tanks when we were after the bad guys in that teak forest. It's where the bad guys operated and had base camps. I don't know how much it cost us to accidentally knock down a tree in a rubber plantation either; probably the same as teak.

You'll probably agree that some of the most beautiful green was the natural

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email: 11thcav1966@comcast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

jungle growth that flourished along the Cambodian border where we operated for several months. Our mission was to protect the Rome plows (Caterpillar D40 bulldozers with a special blade) that were clearing vegetation to provide a field of fire so highway traffic could be protected against ambush and attack by VC operating in the jungle. It was heart-breaking to see some beautiful trees knocked down to make open space. Two incidents were especially memorable. One was watching a bulldozer working hard to bring down a huge mahogany tree. The dozer had to tear back and forth, chewing away at that magnificent tree to bring it down. Such a shame it had to go. However, some Vietnamese profited by being able to use the wood to make furniture. Another memorable time with a mahogany tree was when we were setting up a fire base half way along the road from Loc Ninh to Bo Duc/Bu Dop. There were some pieces of old

mahogany lying on the ground. We were digging in and needed some cover for our tent hole. There was a piece of mahogany nearby, about seven feet long by two feet around. It was so heavy it took half a dozen troopers to carry it. It was so hard no one could pound a nail into it. What a remarkable piece of wood.

A particular time the green beauty of the jungle came home to me was when I was out with F Troop riding the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia. The different kinds of jungle growth was remarkable in their shades of green, from the low bushes to the tall trees. The vegetation was so tight that if you wanted to get off your ACAV (or Sheridan), you couldn't go anywhere because the jungle was too dense. This was all triple canopy jungle. That meant the green growth was overhead, blocking the sun and shading the entire trail, even at noon. It became a problem when our commander was fly-

ing overhead in his helicopter and couldn't see where we were. So we popped smoke, it went up through the canopy, then he knew our position.

We're out of time so I'll finish off with this relevant thought from the Bible: "For the Lord is a great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land." (Psalm 95:3-5). Wherever I travel and see the beauty and majesty of creation, I look at the mountains, I see the deserts, I ponder the oceans and I feel the hand of God. Even in Viet Nam in the days of war and destruction or the days now of relative peace and whatever is called normal, the hand of God is there. Just as He was when I was Viet Nam. And when you were there too.

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

30th Annual Reunion - Columbus / Fort Benning, GA ♦ August 19-23, 2015

Hotels and Transportation

HOLIDAY INN COLUMBUS NORTH

2800 Manchester Expressway
Columbus, GA 31904
Rate: \$99 single
Phone: 706-324-0231
Reservation Cutoff: Aug 3, 2015
175 rooms - Distance to Convention Center: 5 miles
Rate includes full southern breakfast buffet

DOUBLETREE COLUMBUS

5351 Sidney Simons Boulevard
Columbus, GA 31904
Rate: \$109 single/double
Phone: 800-222-8733
Reservation Cutoff: July 28, 2015
150 rooms - Distance to Convention Center: 5 miles

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON

1664 Whittlesey Road
Columbus, GA 31904
Rate: \$98 single/double
Phone: 706-257-6931
Reservation Cutoff:
50 rooms - Distance to Convention Center: 5 miles
Rated includes breakfast

HILTON GARDEN INN

1500 Bradley Lake Boulevard
Columbus, GA 31904
Rate: \$109 single/double
Phone: 660-1000
Reservation Cutoff: Aug 3, 2015
100 rooms - Distance to Convention Center: 5 miles
Rate includes 1/2 price breakfast coupons, 2 coupons per room per night (\$5.00 per person)

MARRIOTT COLUMBUS

800 Front Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
Rate: \$112 single/double
Phone: 800-228-9290
Reservation Cutoff: July 20, 2015
110 rooms - Distance to Convention Center: 1/2 block

All hotels offer the following:
Complimentary parking
Complimentary guestroom internet
Complimentary shuttle service to/from Columbus airport (call the day prior to make arrangements)

For anyone needing transportation free shuttle service will be provided from Wednesday thru Saturday between the following hotels and the Convention Center: Holiday Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Doubletree.

COLUMBUS CONVENTION AND TRADE CENTER

801 Front Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
Reunion Registration, Quartermaster, Bunker, Membership Meeting, Women's Meeting, Saturday Banquet and program
Complementary Parking (400 spaces)
www.conventiontradecenter.com/

NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

1775 Legacy Way
Columbus, Ga 31903
www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/

GROOME TRANSPORTATION

706-324-3939 or 800-584-6735
www.groometransportation.com/

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE

706-225-9639 or 888-881-6541
www.columbusairportshuttleservice.com

2015 Silent Auction

By: Greg Masonn

The 2014 Silent Auction raised \$7,635 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 159 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of-a-kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

This year we are making a few changes to improve the experience and process.

The auction process will be as follows:

Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 30th Annual Reunion in Columbus, GA. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item or service of value is welcome, Cav related or not.

We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Thursday from 2pm to 6pm, and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

You can ship items to Horace Baxley, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship

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

items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

The auction will be from 7pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.

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

If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bidder at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

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

Our reason for setting up in near the registration area is allow our volunteers

to be able to interact with friends as they arrive, rather than working in a back room. With that said, we do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregmason@aol.com or 813-754-2980. I will respond to your email as I receive them. If you do not get a response, it is probably because AOL has a habit of putting stuff in their "junk" folder so feel free to follow-up with a phone call.

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

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

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

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

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

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

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC
C/O Horace Baxley
1629 Lee Rd 330
Smith Station, AL 36877



Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT Regiment		551st Maintenance Company		I Troop, 3/11			
Daley, Vern B	67-67	Case, Jack	68-72	Knieriem, Dennis C	70-71	Bachler, David F	68-69
Goleman, Rodger W	69-70	Potter, Fred J	66-67	Lindner, Charles E	71-72	Barnett, Thomas E	67-68
Griinke, Roger	66-66	595th Engineer Company		Maley, Martin J	72-72	Bartlett, James F	70-71
Hartnett, John P Jr	69-69	Gosa, Robert E	67-68	Mcmullen, Thomas L	68-70	Bolton, James A Iii	68-68
Patterson, Paul C	68-69	919th Engineer Company		Richards, Charles M Iii	71-71	Chittick, Reginald T	62-67
Rhyner, Robert J	70-71	HHT, 1/11		E Troop, 2/11		Chittick, Reginald T	69-69
Thomas, Gerald E	66-66	Hernandez, Manual A	69-69	Arnold, James R Jr	68-68	Harbin, Franklin D	69-70
Williams, Ernest L	70-71	Air Cavalry Troop		Cabot, Michael J	69-70	Miller, Harry E	69-70
		Chism, Charles R	68-69	Diaz, Joseph R	68-69	K Troop, 3/11	
Brey, Roger J	69-70	Felthager, Gary L	69-70	F Troop, 2/11		Bolton, James A Iii	68-68
Brown, Lutrell M	71-71	Haas, Leroy A	70-70	Brown, Dennis R	69-70	Davis, James F Jr	69-70
Carrillo, Armando D	69-69	Rumbley, Ronald W	70-71	Brown, James W	71-71	Marcus, Joseph J	67-68
Johns, Kevin J	71-72	A Troop, 1/11		Levasseur, Mark A	69-70	Rullo, Neil	67-68
Mcguire, Gordon L	70-71	Felthager, Gary L	69-70	Taylor, Mitchell E	67-68	Swift, Clinton J	69-70
Schaffer, James B	69-70	Portal, Charles A	69-70	Vanburger, William N	67-68	Walker, Dwayne R	69-70
Sineath, Marvin H	69-70	Porter, Donald N	68-69	G Troop, 2/11		L Troop, 3/11	
Thomas, Gerald E	66-66	Wagner, John J	65-67	Kern, Richard P	67-68	Acker, Michael J Sr	67-68
7th Army Postal Unit		West, Ralph A	70-71	H Company, 2/11		Bates, Bobby R	69-70
Adleta, Michael A	70-70	Barker, Carl M	69-70	Lawson, Arthur A	70-71	Mcguire, Gordon L	70-70
37th Medical Company		B Troop, 1/11		Mckinney, Max O	68-69	Parker, Robert W	68-69
Allen, Willie Jr	68-69	Croak, Peter A	69-70	Patten, Gary W	69-70	Sporrer, Paul E	67-68
Hoffman, Sande M	67-67	Dixon, John A	70-70	Howitzer Battery, 2/11		M Company, 3/11	
Mccluskey, Wayne S	68-68	Giovinazzi, F Giles	66-67	Ancel, Edward L Jr	67-68	Bachler, David F	68-69
Pickett, Glenn E	67-68	Kyzer, Russell H	68-68	Markowski, Thomas M	72-72	Howitzer Battery, 3/11	
Rinehart, Hurst P	68-69	Montoya, Gregory T	70-71	Pendergrass, Larry G	69-70	Hackler, Paul E	69-70
124th CS Maintenance		C Troop, 1/11		Pitts, Charles T	70-71	Hamilton, Gregory D	68-69
Sineath, Marvin H	69-70	Atwell, Franklin P	68-69	HHT, 3/11		Llamas, Michael S	69-70
188th Maintenance Bn		D Company, 1/11		Frank, Donald C	69-69	Wallace, Frank D	68-69
Potter, Fred J	66-67	Behlen, Craig R	69-70	Hamm, George T	67-68	Wilson, Kenneth A	67-68
398th Transportation Det		Owen, Jerry D	70-71	Hathaway, William T	66-67		
Stuart, James R	67-68	Howitzer Battery, 1/11					
409th RR Det		Doughty, Harvey J	66-68				
Mahonen, David W	66-68	Timmons, Donald L	71-71				
Telles, Elfego G	66-67	HHT, 2/11					
541st MI Det		Doty, Theodore M	69-69				
Lubbers, Henry G	70-71	Fann, James D	66-67				
Moore, Charles	67-68	Harvey, James D	71-72				
		Hileman, Dennis J	68-68				

ERRATUM:

In the article on page four of our last issue, we incorrectly stated the KIA date for PSG McCullough. PSG Alfred McCullough was killed in action on June 6, 1968. We apologize for this error.

The Ambush

A. A. Loya, B Troop, 1/11,1965-67

On December 2, 1966, three tracks (B-23, B-21, B-20) and two M-48 tanks from "D" Company had orders to go to the rock quarry to pick up fifty dump trucks and convoy them back to our base camp in Xuan Loc. I was in SSG David Ross' track, B-20. When we arrived we found out the fifty trucks were cancelled. We ended up only convoying three of our mess trucks back to Xuan Loc off Highway 1. It was an extremely hot day and I was letting my flak vest dry off on the hatch from all the sweat. I was sitting on the back of the hatch as we headed down the road. My brothers and I were all talking to each other at the time. When we got to a certain stretch of the road I had a bad feeling come over me. I stood up, grabbed my vest, zipped it up, and got back on my M-60 machine gun. My buddies asked me "What's wrong?" I told them "I don't know, but something doesn't feel right."

Just then we heard a big explosion coming from the front of the convoy. We went straight into a herringbone position, just like we were trained. Then all hell broke loose. Our track, B-20, was second to the last in the convoy. Explosions, gunfire, mortar rounds, RPG's and recoilless rifle rounds were going off all around us. I tell you no lie; I was scared to death that day. Bullets whizzed past my ears and head. Then as I was firing my M-60 machine gun all of a sudden an explosion hit my M-60 gun shield and my left elbow and the side of my vest. I yelled out to Sgt. Ross that I was hit. He said for me to get down and stay inside. I went down and checked the left side of my vest and arm. I saw a little bit of blood running down my left arm. I looked around inside the track and said to myself: no way was I staying down here while the firefight was still going on. I got back up on my M-60 machine gun.

Just then I was looking straight into the jungle and saw three Viet-Cong (NVA) with a 75 mm recoilless rifle ready to fire a round at us. As I pointed my M-60 machine gun at them, I prayed to God to let me kill them. Then as I pulled the trigger, I saw them all hit the ground. I knew that I had killed them. I was glad at the time. Just

Continued on pag 18

REUNION MULTI-EVENT REGISTRATION

RANGERS IN ACTION DEMONSTRATION REGISTRATION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015, 0730 – 1200

The Ranger demonstration is limited to the first 400 who register. Transportation will be furnished with pick-up at your hotel: Cost: \$20 per person. **Make your check or Money Order payable to: 11th ACVVC.** Do not send cash. All registrations must be received by August 1, 2015. You must have a valid photo ID to enter Fort Benning! The name on your ID must match the name on the form!

ARMOR RESTORATION FACILITY TOUR REGISTRATION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015, 0730 – 1200

The Armor Restoration Facility Tour also includes a stop at the Armor School at Harmony Church to view a static display of many of the vehicles and weapons used in today's Army. This tour is limited to the first 400 who register. This tour is not wheel-chair accessible. Transportation will be furnished with pick-up at your hotel: Cost: \$20 per person. Make your check or Money Order payable to: 11th ACVVC. Do not send cash. All registrations must be received by August 1, 2015. You must have a valid photo ID to enter Fort Benning! The name on your ID must match the name on the form!

WOMEN'S GROUP COLUMBUS TOUR REGISTRATION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015, 0915 – 1500

First stop is the Columbus Museum for a guided tour of art and area history followed by a special ladies lunch at the historic Wynn House, which also includes a tour of the house. After lunch, re-board buses for a driving tour of the old city and along the river area and the port. This will include the 1800s churches followed by a stop at historic Linwood Cemetery. Please note that registration for this tour is limited to 100 ladies so please sign up as soon as possible. All registrations must be received by August 1, 2015. Transportation will be furnished with pick-up at your hotel. Cost: Lunch included at \$25 per person.

(Cut here, send bottom portion with payment)

FIRST NAME _____ MI ____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL (if available). _____

Mail this form with your payment to: PETER L. WALTER
11th ACVVC VP
8 TALLOWOOD DRIVE
WESTAMPTON, NJ 08060-3721

RANGER TOUR: # ATTENDING _____ X \$20 = AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

ARMOR TOUR: # ATTENDING _____ X \$20 = AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

WOMEN'S TOUR: # ATTENDING _____ X \$25 = AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

TOTAL AMOUNT = _____

(Please include full names of all attendees and selected tours on a separate sheet of paper.)

REGISTRATION FORM



30th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Columbus, Georgia - Fort Benning

August 19-23, 2015

Registration Deadline: July 18, 2015



Registration fee is \$70.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

Register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$35.00 per person for registrations post marked after Saturday, July 18, 2015. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015.

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

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Unit Assignment _____ Years in Country _____
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Total Registration Fee	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection: Char-Grilled, Rib eye Steak _____ Chicken Supreme _____ Veggie _____
(Indicate number for each selection)

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

Will you need bus transportation to events or will you drive your own vehicle? Need Bus Will Drive

Visa MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

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

Registration

By: Bob Moreno, G Troop, 2/11
Director & Registration

Hello All! First let me apologize for not having an article in the last *Thunder Run*. We had several things come up here at home and time just sort of got away from me. But now my mind is on August and our exciting week at the 11th ACVVC reunion in Columbus, Georgia.

In my last article we talked about how to fill out the registration form. I want to congratulate most of you; there are far fewer mistakes coming in this year than in the past. But still there are a few, so let's address those at this time.

Let's start with the page that the form is on. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT cut this page down. Send in the whole page. When I receive your form, after recording the information into the computer I place ALL forms into a notebook which is used as a reference at the reunion itself. After reunion that notebook is put on file in the bookshelf that I have for all military paperwork for both myself and for Barb. So you see having the whole page makes it easier to fit into the book.

Unit - on the form where it asks for your unit, I want to remind you that you are only to list one that you were with. This is VERY important as this is also the unit that you will be seated with at the banquet on Saturday evening. So remember ONLY one unit is to be listed. This is also true for the time that you were with them. At the banquet you must sit with your own unit AFTER the meal you may sit wherever you like. If you do sit with a different troop for the meal then you are shorting seats for someone from that troop and you will be asked to move.

Guests - you are welcome to bring anyone with you that you want, just remember that they too need to pay the same registration fees as you do. They also pay the same amount for their meal. So if you are bringing a 5 year old and they will be occupying a seat and eating they will pay the same amount as an adult. There are NO children's servings available.

Meals - while on the subject of guest and meals, remember that we have 3 choices available. They are Chicken, Beef and a Veggie plate. Each registered person must

Please watch the cutoff date for mailing in your registration. It is the 18th of July and to be received by me no later than the 1st of August.

choose one (1). Do not list (for let's say 2 people) one beef, one chicken and two veggies. All meals come with some type of vegetable.

It is very important that you decide what it is that you want to eat because once you list it that is what we tell the cooks to prepare. We turn this count into them on Wednesday before the banquet. We will NOT be able to make any last minute exchanges. So if you order chicken and then decide you would rather have beef, you will be responsible for finding someone to trade with. The registration table will not have any extra tickets available. Anyone just walking in WILL NOT be able to eat and will have to wait until after meal is completed to enter the banquet hall for the remainder of the program.

Also on the subject of meals, it is important that you do not lose your meal ticket. We cannot replace them and you must have a ticket in order to eat. A good place to keep them? In your name tag tucked behind your name card. Once seated at the table, place them on the table so the waiter can see them.

Wheelchairs or special needs seating - this does not mean that we can provide wheelchairs. It just means that we need to know this so that we can try to make arrangements for them in the banquet hall.

Please watch the cutoff date for mailing in your registration. It is the 18th of July and

to be received by me no later than the 1st of August. If you can get it in earlier than that, it would be awesome as we (myself and my family) will be leaving Wisconsin around the 8th of August for a family function in Pennsylvania prior to driving down to Georgia.

When you do mail in the form please use one of those address labels that everyone receives in the mail. These make it so much easier to have the proper spelling. And we sure don't like having mistakes if they can be avoided.

Lastly, if you see anything incorrect on the web site when you check to see who else in your troop is attending or don't see yours listed, please call or email me. I am the one who has to have the correct information. My information can be found in the *Thunder Run* or on the web site. If you happen to get my answering machine please be sure to leave a message. Since retiring last fall Barb and I are now doing things that we put off for so many years.

Well folks, I guess that's all. I look forward to seeing all of you in Georgia. We will be arriving there sometime late on the 18th.

PS. When you check in be sure to say happy birthday to Raleigh. It really isn't his actual birthday but Ft. Benning is where he was born 41 and a half years ago and it's the first time he will be back there since then.

AMBUSH from page 16

then I saw the tank commander, in the last tank behind us, go down inside the turret to get more ammo for his .50 Cal. All of a sudden I saw a RPG or recoilless rifle round hit the T.C. cupola and it blew straight up into the air like a cork. Then all of a sudden without thinking I grabbed the back of Sgt. Ross's vest and yelled to him that it was time for us to move out. At that time, Sgt. Ross was already radioing our lead APC B-23 that it was time to move out, that we were running low on ammo. Just then the rest of our unit arrived and got into the fight.

Later that night we went back into our base camp. While we were reloading our tracks, Sgt. Ross wrote in big red letters on the side of our track, "THE BATTLIN' BASTARDS", and that's how we became known to him. The next day we went back to the ambush site to see what we could find. Some of our units were coming out of the jungle with a bullet-riddled 75 recoilless rifle. Sgt. Ross believed me then. You should have seen the look on his face. I will never forget it. It's been over 40 years or more and I still remember it as if it was just yesterday.

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Combat Ready. On 26 September 1966, 20 days after the main body of the Regiment arrived at Vung Tau, the 11th Armored Cavalry was declared ready for combat and placed under the operational control (OPCON) of the II Field Force Vietnam. One day later, elements of First Squadron provided an escort for the movement of heavy equipment from C Company, 27th Engineer Battalion, from their Long Binh staging area to an area south of Xuan Loc – the start of the Blackhorse Base Camp construction. On 9 October, the Merchant Marine Ship North Hills arrived in Saigon. At this point, 95 percent of Regiment's heavy equipment had arrived in country, including 499 wheeled vehicles, 483 combat tracked vehicles, and 22 helicopters.

Lipstick on Your Collar. On 20 August 1967, the Miss America show entertained an audience of 2,400 at Blackhorse Base Camp. On 13 December, Connie Francis presented a musical show to 2,000 personnel at Blackhorse Base Camp.

New/Used Car Sale. Uncle Sam was having a new/used vehicle sale, and the Blackhorse was first in line. In the first half of 1968, the Regiment received twelve 'right off the showroom floor' M-548 cargo carriers with two 500 gallon bladders each to be used as fuel vehicles in those cases where trucks couldn't get off the roads to the armored vehicles. Not to be outdone, the Regiment's Howitzer Batteries turned in their M-109 howitzers and drew the 'new and improved' fifth-year model M-109A1. The Regiment also received four diesel engine M-132A1 flamethrowers (Zippo!). The 919th Armored Engineer Company drew two Combat Engineer Vehicles (CEVs) in exchange for their M-48 dozer tanks. Not to be outdone, Air Cavalry Troop began receiving its first OH-6A scout helicopters in May. Nine venerable OH-23s, which had been in use since the Regiment's arrival at Vung Tau two years earlier, were exchanged for the OH-6As. In August the new AH-1G Cobras also began arriving. All in all, not a bad take in such a short period of time.

The Dog. From the July 1969 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "Hey, D-three-three, you have the oldest tank. Why don't you take the lead? That way there will be no loss if you hit a mine.' When that not too serious challenge came over the horn recently the crewmen on D-33, of the 11th Armored Cavalry's D Company, accepted it in good humor. Had they known what lay ahead they probably would have had second thoughts. 'But we took the lead willingly,' said loader SP4 John N. Klinepeter of Duncannon, Pa., 'and started down the road from Gia Ray towards Blackhorse [basecamp].' They hadn't gone far, however, when the challenge proved all too true. D-33 struck what was later evaluated as an 80-pound mine, blowing off one of the right road wheels. Tank commander Sgt. Larry E. Hall, Somerset, Ky. was tossed up on the hatch. The driver was completely thrown from the vehicle. But driver SP4 Roger Gentry, Beattyville, Ky., was more shook than anyone else. Luckily the commo on the six month old vehicle was momentarily bad. Thus he had been standing in the hatch in order to hear instructions from the TC, and had escaped the worst of the blast. 'The first thing we did was try to shut her down,' said Hall. 'But everything was jammed tight – it

wouldn't steer, so we couldn't get it out of gear and it wouldn't shut off. The second thing we did was evacuate.' One crew member refused to leave the stricken tank, however. Mounting the gun shield, nose into the wind, third platoon's mascot, a canine named The Dog, continued to ride the tank along its erratic, circular path. 'The vehicle was going around in a big circle, busting jungle on both sides of the road,' commented gunner SP4 Edward Slay, Savannah, Ga., 'when 1SGT Strickland (Joe Strickland of Killeen, Texas) came up alongside the stricken tank riding an ACAV, and jumped onto the tank.' After his rodeo-style leap 1SGT Strickland attempted to stop the runaway machine but he didn't succeed. Finally giving up, he tossed the dog from his perch and jumped off... On its third time around the ever-widening circle, the tank stalled and finally came to rest in a small stream. 'It's a good thing she stalled' said Hall. 'One more trip around and it would have gone through a small village that was in its path.' After it was all over the crew admitted it had been a pretty rough day. 'But we got a new vehicle out of it,' chuckled Klinepeter."

Where's My Hat? From the October 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "He had to go through War Zone C, Cambodia, and all the way back through Di An to the eastern coast of Vietnam, but Specialist 4 Larry W. Maltba, of Lenoir, N.C., finally found his hat – 10 months and 100 miles from where he lost it. When Maltba came to the Blackhorse Regiment last November, he got a brand new jungle hat and like many others, had his initials and home state sewn on the brim. His hat was easy to identify because the girl who did the sewing left out the last 'a' in Carolina. But he only had his hat for a few days before he lost it while in-processing at the finance office in Bien Hoa. Then, in mid-September, while working with the 2nd Squadron supply platoon at Fire Support Base Rivera, he saw a familiar-looking hat atop a young Vietnamese boy's head. It was his long lost jungle hat, right down to the missing 'a'. The boy, whose name is Ba, said that he had found the hat in a trash pile near Rivera, and had cleaned it up. Maltba offered to buy the hat from the boy, but he was turned down. He consoled himself by saying, 'It won't make any difference. I'll be going home in a couple of months anyway.'"

Stand Down. From the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Redeployment After Action Report, dated 5 March 1971: Typical of the manner in which out processing was handled throughout the Regiment, Third Squadron organized a checklist process for each departing Trooper. "The prevailing theme throughout was that the troopers were not leaving the Blackhorse Regiment, but were still members of a Regiment which, having completed its mission, was leaving Vietnam... Twice daily, an S-2 debriefing was conducted. This briefing also included a map briefing on where 3d Squadron had operated and where other major units in Vietnam were located. After the S-2 briefing, a ceremony was held presenting any approved awards to the departing troopers. The Squadron Commander, or in his absence, the executive officer or S-3, talked to the departing troopers. They were thanked for the job they had done for the Squadron and the Regiment. The meaning of the wearing of the Blackhorse patch on the right shoulder was explained along with the responsibilities of the men to this Blackhorse patch."



30TH ANNUAL COLUMBUS / FORT BENNING, GA

Places to Visit in the Columbus, Georgia Area

PORT COLUMBUS, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM

1002 Victory Drive
Columbus, GA 31991 [706-327-9798]
Tues. thru Sat. 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Sun. thru Mon. 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
visitor@portcolumbus.org
Admission Fee

CALLAWAY GARDENS

17800 US Hwy. 27
Pine Mountain, GA 31822 [800-852-3810]
www.callawaygardens.com
Admission Fee

ANDERSONVILLE

760 POW Road
Andersonville GA 31711
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
www.nps.gov/andersonville
Camp Sumter, Civil War Prison Site
Admission fee

NATIONAL POW MUSEUM

Andersonville National Cemetery
No Admission fee
Approximately 30 miles from Columbus
This is a must see if time permits.

NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

1775 Legacy Way

Columbus, GA 31903 [706-653-9234]
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
www.NationalInfantryMuseum.org
Donations Encouraged

COCA COLA SPACE SCIENCE CENTER

701 Front Street
Columbus, GA 31901 [701-649-1470]
Mon. thru Fri. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat. 10:30 am - 6:00 pm
Admission fee

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

401 Little White House Road
Warm Springs, GA 31803 [706-655-5807]
9:00 am - 5:00 pm - 7 Days

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, August 19

2:00 pm - 12:00 am Shuttle service between hotels and
Columbus Convention Center
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open (Convention Center)
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

Thursday, August 20

7:00 am - 2:00 pm Shuttle service between hotels and
National Infantry Museum
**9:00 am - 10:00 am Armor AIT Graduation - National Infantry
Museum Parade Grounds grandstands**
**10:15 am - 11:00 am 11th Cavalry Memorial Dedication -
National Infantry Museum Parade
Grounds grandstands**
11:00 am - Self tour National Infantry Museum,
World War II Company Street
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Shuttle service between hotels and
Columbus Convention Center
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open (Convention Center)
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

Friday, August 21

6:00 am - 24th Annual Martyr Ognibene Memorial
Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
7:00 am - 3:00 pm Shuttle service between hotels and
Columbus Convention Center
All Optional Tours begin at Columbus
Convention Center
Optional Tours (optional fee per person)

1) Rangers in Action Demonstration OR
2) Armor Restoration Facility/Armor
Center **(sold out)**

9:15 am - 3:00 pm Women's Group Columbus Tour and
lunch **(sold out)**
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Shuttle service between hotels and
Columbus Convention Center
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration Open (Convention Center)
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Silent Auction

Saturday, August 22

7:30 am - 12:00 am Shuttle service between hotels and
Columbus Convention Center
8:30 am Raffle Drawing
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting (Members Only)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Women's Group Meeting
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Lunch
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Memorial Service
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Open for Late Arrivals
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Cocktail Hour
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet, Program, Presentations and
"Blackhorse Salute"
10:00 pm - 12:00 am Dancing

Sunday, August 23

10:00 am - 11:00 am Chapel Worship Service (nondenominational)
All Day Farewells and Departures

ANNUAL REUNION

GA ♦ ♦ ♦ AUGUST 19-23, 2015



We're looking forward to the 2015 reunion in Columbus. We have an exciting agenda planned for the reunion week. This is a brief description of some of activities and tours in store for the reunion.

WEDNESDAY - Registration, quartermaster and the bunker will open in the afternoon at the Columbus Convention Center. For those who requested transportation, free shuttle service will run between the five reunion hotels and convention center from Wednesday thru Saturday. Shuttle schedules will be posted in the lobby of each hotel. Those who have their own vehicles should drive to the Convention Center and use the 400 car parking garage.

THURSDAY - This is an exciting day as we begin at the National Infantry Museum Parade Ground to attend graduation ceremonies from covered grandstands for a new generation of armor and cavalry soldiers following in our footsteps. The 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans



will be recognized during the graduation ceremony.

Following the graduation will be the dedication of the new 11th Cavalry memorial. We will begin with a short program in the covered grandstands. Following the program, those who wish to proceed to the memorial for the unveiling, photos and to locate their brick are welcome to do so. Please note the distance from the grandstands to the memorial is approximately 1/3 mile.

After the memorial dedication you can visit the World War II Company Street across the parade field. Although originally intended to be "temporary" in the 1940's many of these



buildings were still in use in the 1960's and 1970's. This is a nostalgic look back at the "luxurious accommodations" in the barracks, mess hall, orderly room, supply room and chapel that many of you may have used during your service.



You will also have the opportunity to visit the National Infantry Museum for an on-your-own tour of this amazing state-of-the-art museum which traces the infantryman through the history of the United States. Be sure to visit the Armor Gallery on the lower level of the museum. The new gallery tells the Armor story through a mix of actual combat vehicles, uniforms, soldier equipment, wall displays, and dioramas that also showcase the Armor Museum collection. Also plan to visit the half scale replica of the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial at the National Infantry Museum.

For those who requested transportation, shuttle service will be provided between the reunion hotels and the National Infantry Museum. Those who have their own vehicles should drive and park in the museum parking lot. Registration, quartermaster and bunker will open at the Columbus Convention Center in the afternoon.

FRIDAY - We are offering three optional half day tours. All tours will originate from the Columbus Conventions Center. For those who requested transportation, shuttle service will be provided from each of the reunion hotels to the Columbus Convention Center. Those who have their own vehicles should drive to the Convention Center and use the 400 car parking garage. All those registered for one of the three tours will board buses at the Columbus Convention Center.

1) Rangers In Action Demonstration. This exciting demonstration is held at Victory Pond and is part of the Ranger School graduation. This highly coordinated performance will awe and thrill you as Rangers detonate explosives, jump from helicopters into the water, rappel down and



up towers, race down zip lines, and participate in hand to hand combat.

2) Armor Restoration Facility at Sand Hill. This is where many of the armored vehicles are being restored for eventual display in the Armor and Cavalry Museum. Here you will see the worlds largest collection of armored vehicles. Many U.S. as well as foreign armored vehicles are featured. The tour also includes a stop at the Armor School at Harmony Church for a static display of many of the vehicles and weapons used in today's Army.

3) Women's Group Columbus tour. First stop is the Columbus Museum for a guided tour of art and area history followed by a special ladies lunch at the historic Wynn House, which also includes a tour of the house. After lunch, re-board buses for a driving tour of the old city and along the river area and the port. This will include the 1800s churches followed by a stop at historic Linwood Cemetery. Lunch is included.

The 24th annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament will be held on Friday morning. Registration, quartermaster and bunker will open on Friday afternoon at the Columbus Convention Center. The silent auction will be held on Friday evening.

SATURDAY - Annual membership meeting, women's meeting, memorial service, Saturday evening banquet and program at the Columbus Convention Center. Lunch will be provided at the Convention Center at no cost.





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. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

Emery J. Andrews, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 & HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970), passed away on November 29, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Marys, GA.

Douglas R. Barnes, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968), passed away on April 15, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grant, MI.

Horace L. Baxley, A Troop, 1/11 & HHT, 1/11 (1969), passed away on May 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Smiths Station, AL. He was laid to rest in Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, AL.

Frederick J. Berry, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967), passed away on December 1, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lansing, MI. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI. Frederick was a veteran of the Korean War.

Paul Besgans, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on December 1, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Diego, CA. He was laid to rest in Greenwood Memorial Park, San Diego, CA.

James E. Bielser, K Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971), passed away on April 1, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oquawka, IL. He was laid to rest in Oquawka Cemetery, Oquawka, IL.

Richard E. Brown, D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968), passed away on April 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greenbrier, TN. He was laid to rest in Greenbrier Cemetery, Greenbrier, TN.

Joseph M. Browning, Jr., HHT, 1/11 (1965-1967), passed away on November 3, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Etta, MS. He was laid to rest in Philadelphia Baptist Church Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS.

Franklin D. (Frank) Burkhead, HHT REGT (1970-1971), passed away on May 29, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Radcliff, KY. He was laid to rest in North Hardin Memorial Gardens, Radcliff, KY. Frank was a veteran of the Korean War.

John L. Clark, B Troop, 1/11 (1970), passed away on April 13, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wichita, KS. He was laid to rest in Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Winfield, KS.

Danny C. Copeland, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on June 18, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mount Pleasant, TN. He was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, TN.

Donald V. Crisp, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969), passed away on March 4, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sharpsburg, PA. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.

Craig J. Dahms, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970), passed away on June 1, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Walcott, IA. He was laid to rest in Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island, IL.

Ronald G. Ficke, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on May 29, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Steilacoom, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

Michael L. Freitas, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969), passed away on March 26, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cortlandt Manor, NY.

Paul H. Garber, HHT REGT (1970-1971), passed away on April 5, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Midland Park, NJ. He was laid to rest in East Ridgeland Cemetery, Clifton, NY.

James R. Garrett, E Troop, 2/11 & HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970), passed away on April 1, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC, served as a Medic for E Troop, 2/11, and resided in Cheyenne, WY.

James M. Gaul, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970), passed away on May 26, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Burlington, WI. He was laid to rest in Saint Johns Catholic Cemetery, Twin Lake, WI.

James M. Gould, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1970-1971), passed away on June 13, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Meeker, CO. He was laid to rest in Highland Cemetery, Meeker, CO.

William M. Haskett, H Company, 2/11 & F Troop, 2/11 (1968), passed away on December 23, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pocatello, ID. He was laid to rest in Mountain View Cemetery, Pocatello, ID.

Richard A. Heaton, I Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971), passed away on October 13, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Paso, TX. He was laid to rest in Fort Bliss National Cemetery, Fort Bliss, TX.

Lance S. Hembree, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on June 17, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Joplin, MO. He was laid to rest in Jessee Osborne Memorial Cemetery, Joplin, MO.

George C. Hoffmaster, Jr., HHT, 3/11 & HHT REGT (1969-1970), passed away on May 18, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Blacksburg, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Warren C. Huff, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on March 28, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vineland, NJ. He was laid to rest in Cumberland County Veterans Cemetery, Bridgeton, NJ. Warren was a veteran of the Korean War.

Homer Hungerford, Air Cavalry Troop & HHT, 2/11 (1969), passed away on December 11, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greer, SC. He was laid to rest in Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC. Homer was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Peter H. Jones, G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972), passed away on May 11, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vinton, VA. He was laid to rest in West Point Cemetery, West Point, NY.

Franklin D. Lamar, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969), passed away on April 29, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Birmingham, AL. He was laid to rest in Shanghai Cemetery, Quinton, AL.

John R. Landry (MG USA Ret), B Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967), passed away on June 13, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairfax, VA. He will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. John was also a veteran of the Gulf War.

Richard B. Lindstrom, 409TH Radio Research Detachment (1970-1971), passed away on March 15, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rexburg, ID. He was laid to rest in Sutton Cemetery, Archer, ID.

William G. McShane, HHT REGT (1969), passed away on July 8, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reading, PA. He was laid to rest in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, PA.

William J. Neal, Air Cavalry Troop (1968), passed away on February 9, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Paso, TX. He was laid to rest in Fort Bliss National Cemetery, Fort Bliss, TX. William was a veteran of the Korean War.

Allen V. Nebergall, Chaplain, HHT, 3/11 & HHT Regt (1967), passed away on April 25, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oldsmar, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

Bruce R. Nilsson, 28th Military History Detachment (1966-1967), passed away on June 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ormond Beach, FL.

Dewey C. Pelfrey, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972), passed away on February 9, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Superior, WI.

Calvin E. Philbert, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968), passed away on October 19, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morrison, MO. He was laid to rest in Oklahoma Church Cemetery, Linn, MO.

Charles M. Price, HHT, 3/11 & M Company, 3/11 (1968), passed away on April 13, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Ana, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

John F. Raney, I Troop, 3/11 & HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969), passed away on May 16, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in South Portland, ME. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, ME.

Paul S. Renschen, HHT, 1/11 & A Troop, 1/11 (1968), passed away on April 26, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairbanks, AK. He was laid to rest in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, South Minneapolis, MN.

Jimmy L. Rogers, K Troop, 3/11 (1968), passed away on April 20, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Raymond H. Rooper, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970), passed away on March 27, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lewiston, ID.

Claude A. Spiggle, 541ST Military Intelligence Detachment (1967-1968), passed away on November 30, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Woodstock, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Leroy C. Travis, HHT REGT (1968-1969), passed away on August 3, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Collinston, LA.

Richard M. "Gunner" Wagner, D Company, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on May 22, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in the Philippines.

Richard W. Williams, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972), passed away on April 7, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lee, FL. He was laid to rest in Stonewall Cemetery, Lee, FL.

Veterans Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Veterans Day wreath laying at the Wall.

When: 9:45 AM, Monday, May 25, 2015.

Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Who: All Blackhorse Troopers from all eras, family and friends.

What: We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall.

Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30. Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
Trooper Assistance Fund	Gold Level Cartwright, Wavely Davis, Barry Smith, William Strasner, Anne & Marc In Memory of, Daniel Phillippi Jr	General Fund Gold Level Brown, James Hamm, George Silver Level Mehegan, Charles Bronze Level Baker, Robert Ellis, Stephen Frank, Donald Richards, Charles Scott, John West, Ralph Williams, Ernest	Calendar Fund Platinum Level Simpson, Michael Gold Level Kaufman, Daniel Morris, Richard Perry, Richard Rouland, James Rucker, Richard Tomchick, James Silver Level Silver Level Brewer, James Gallman, David	Godfrey, Thomas Gordon, Dalton Moeller, Daniel Simmons, Michael Bronze Level Barnhart, Richard Chavez, Larry Christensen, Arnold Dimeo, John Drozd, Andrew Garrity, Thomas Geller, James Gossett, Nancy Herlihy, Matthew Insley, Philip Jack, Fred Lile, Nicholas
Gold Level				Lombardo, Stephen Martinez, David Meyer, William Phillips, Frank Radovich, Jack Rea, Michael Retterman, John Roller, Arthur Shakow, Raymond Shimel, Dale Sink, Woodrow Snapp, Larry Stottsberry, Kenneth Walker, Lawrence White, David
Silver Level	Bronze Level Bligh, Stephen Gehring, Joe Peters, Joseph Riley, Charles & Betty In Memory of, Daniel Phillippi Jr Varljen, Frank Venditti, Charles			
Scholarship Fund				
Platinum Level				
Brumm, Errol				

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



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Gray \$4.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$20.00



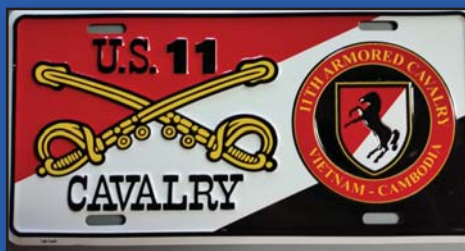
#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$10.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$6.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



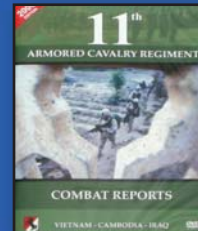
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



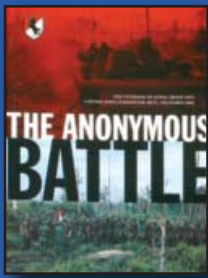
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$45.00



#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



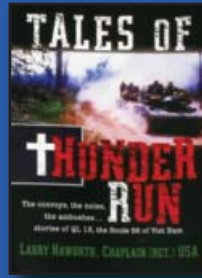
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#32 Book: The Anonymous Battle : Part II \$16.00



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



#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) \$20.00



#38 Poplin Hats \$15.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Dark Gray & Sand \$18.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Gray \$32.00



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



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$32.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello Blackhorse Troopers!

In Just a few short weeks we will be gathering for our 30th Reunion in Columbus Ga. Can you believe this our big 3 – 0. Thirty years of gathering together again, time does go by so fast. It seems like it just January several weeks ago. Vietnam seems like just a short decade ago.

As you take a few minutes to look through this issue of the *Thunder Run* Quartermaster Store, you will see several new items and several items with a new look. Please don't forget to fill out the bottom page of your order form, some of you forget. I need, a return address, if your address changes and the block is not checked you might not receive your order in a timely manner. So please check to see that all is correct. On that note, your

Quartermaster Store will be CLOSED from August 7th through August 28th; so we can get geared up, packed up, loaded up, and headed out to Columbus, for our Reunion.

Hope you have made your reservations and have registered for this Reunion. It has been planned to be another great reunion. Once again Jan and I are asking for volunteers . If you have some spare time, please stop by and we will put you to work taking care of our troopers. Be sure to keep a copy of the Schedule of Events handy so as not to miss out on the many events that been planned, and when your QM Store will be open and closed. Looking forward to seeing everyone once again in just a few short weeks; everyone drive carefully, and have a safe flight to Columbus.. See you soon.....Allons!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

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

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

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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



Membership is Our Strength

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





Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rd QTR 2015

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	15.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	4.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price--round or oval head shape)	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle	20.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	6.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	10.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, camouflage wwith color BH insgnia	45.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)	16.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable w/mesh back <input type="checkbox"/> white <input type="checkbox"/> black Solid cloth back, (black only) Old Style <input type="checkbox"/> New Style <input type="checkbox"/>	15.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim shirt (men's)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Subtotal _____

Shipping and Handling _____

Total _____

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

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

A)	\$2.00	—	\$5.00	=	\$3.00
B)	\$6.00	—	\$15.00	=	\$6.60
C)	\$16.00	—	\$60.00	=	\$12.35
D)	\$61.00	and over	=	\$16.85	

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$16.85. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid.

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

*** Required info to process your order**



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

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 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 JACKSONVILLE, FL
 PERMIT NO. 3

Reunion Time is Drawing Near

By: Steve Page
Director & Reunion Chair

Our Columbus reunion is getting closer. This will be our last attempt to get out The Reunion Information. The Hotel room block is now nearly filled on peak nights, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We are unable to add rooms until the current block is sold out.

The Double Tree and Hilton Garden Inn still have rooms available. The Holiday Inn will continue to take reservations as long as they have rooms available. The Holiday Inn rooms that remain are single bed units.

We have added Home2Suites to our inventory. Please do not wait until the last minute to make lodging reservations. Your reunion registration needs to be sent in NOW. This will insure that there is adequate banquet space for everyone. Remember

Remember that the registration cut off is July 18th. Last minute registrations will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made.

that the registration cut off is July 18th.

Last minute registrations will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. The schedule of events and the Shuttle Bus schedule will be posted in the hotels. Plan ahead and guarantee your place.

There are many moves involved with this reunion. It is your responsibility to be on time for the Tour Busses. Shuttle bus information is in this issue Shuttle busses will only run between The Hotels we have contracts with and The Convention Center.

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www.11thCavNam.com



Posted www.11acr.com/hg.htm Obituaries

