



# Thunder Run

Vol. 16 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2001

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

To start our next 100 years...

### A New Look

By Ollie Pickral

No, you didn't receive a newsletter from another organization...this is our new look for *Thunder Run*. This is definitely a visual improvement from our past newsletters of over 15 years. With our new look, we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 11th U.S. Cavalry. On February 2, 1901, the 11th was formed at Ft. Myer, Virginia.

**...we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 11th U.S. Cavalry. On February 2, 1901, the 11th was formed at Ft. Myer, Virginia.**

Our big event will be the first weekend of August in Washington, DC. August 3 - 5, 2001. The 16th Annual 11th ACVVC reunion will be held at the Hyatt Regency Wash. on Capitol Hill. See additional information in the "From the Command Track" article on the inside cover. We have included a reunion registration form in this issue.

Inside find another page that talks about our new 100th Anniversary, 11th U.S. Cavalry calendar. As I write this,

only 300 of the 1,500 remain unsold. Use the form inside to order yours right away before they are all gone.

Included inside is a copy of the requirements for our Trooper Assistance Fund. After several drafts, the "policy paper" appears inside. Our Secretary, Frank Cambria, will maintain this procedural document. Requests for assistance should be addressed to 11 ACVVC Headquarters.

Our Chaplain, Larry Haworth has his usual good message for us all with his quarterly article. He and his wife Deanna have hit the road again in their travel home so we'll have to keep up with their whereabouts.

See an article from Otis Carey, our website manager about how 11 ACVVC was instrumental in getting one of our KIA's medals back to the family that was offered for sale on Ebay.

Also inside, Vice President John Sorich gives us the list of recipients of our annual Scholarship Fund and information on where to send donations for our coveted "Silent Auction" that benefits our Scholarship Fund.

Enjoy your newsletter

Allons !!

### Trooper's Medals Recovered

Sgt. Joseph R. Harris, E Troop, 2d Squadron, 11th ACR. Trooper entered service in Vietnam on 3 November 1969 and was killed in action 24 November 1969.

Fellow Troopers:

I, like a hand full of others, received an email from Jack Stoddard, alerting us that the medals of one of our KIA's were being sold at auction on ebay.

When I first looked at the auction, I felt like any Trooper would naturally feel. It was to me like the time when we returned from Nam and nobody cared. It was like someone was reaching down into this Trooper's honored grave just to make a buck.

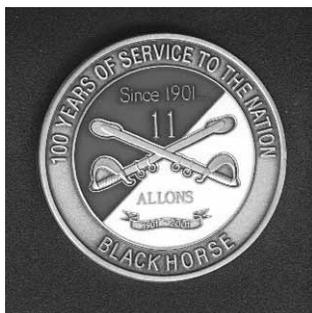
I talked to our President, Ollie Pickral, and several others. It became apparent that we needed to do something. We knew that we could not let everyone know about this until the auction was over, because we knew that every good hearted trooper would start bidding in an effort to get these medals back to the family. The price of the medals would sky rocket if we were all bidding against each other.

At this point we had less than 72 hours before the auction ended. We devised a plan.

1. Find out who is selling the items, and how they got them.
2. Locate the relatives and see what information they had.
3. Find a way to raise enough money to purchase the items and either return them to the family, or if no family exist, put them in the Blackhorse museum.

Please turn to **MEDALS** on page 3

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



"The Reunion of our Century"

## Reunion XVI

Washington, DC  
August 3 - 5, 2001

**Sign up now to attend  
Information and Registration  
material on page 13**





Ollie Pickral, President  
11th ACVVC

We are hoping each of you had a great Christmas and New Year. We now begin the year of our 100th Anniversary of the 11th U.S. Cavalry. On February 2, 1901, the 11th Cavalry was established at Ft. Myer,

VA. In celebration of "100 years of Service to our Country," we plan to go back to Ft. Myer for our 16th reunion, "The Reunion of our Century." As most of you are aware, we will be quartered at the Hyatt Regency of Washington on Capitol Hill. We have a full range of activities to include our usual Friday night party, and the Saturday banquet. Our Memorial service this year will be for all troopers who either died in the line of duty or were killed in action. The services will be held at the Arlington Cemetery. The afternoon activities will be at Ft. Myer. You will find the registration form inside for you to fill out and send in. It would be wise to make your hotel reservations now. We expect to fill most, if not all of the 800 rooms available.

There will be a substantial increase in the registration fees for this reunion. After the reunion committee calculated and negotiated costs with the hotel, it will take \$75.00 per person to break

In celebration of "100 years of Service to our Country," we plan to go back to Ft. Myer for our 16th reunion, "The Reunion of our Century."

even. Food and beverage costs, plus the heavy expense to rent buses to take us to Ft. Myer and back, make up the brunt of the increases. As most of you are aware, Washington D.C. is a very expensive area of the country. Jack Burns, our reunion chairman and Gene Johnson, our reunion committee chair, are requesting troopers who live in the DC area to volunteer their services. There are many facets that require manpower in coordinating such a large-scale reunion. We always need and depend on our local troopers to help out. If you are willing to help, please contact either Jack or Gene. Their telephone numbers and email addresses are listed in this copy of the newsletter.

With the New Year here, we have made a change to our Officers and Directors. Eric Newton, a long time active and Life member will take over one the Board of Director positions. Eric is also our website manager and our PIO. Outgoing director, Tom Reese of M Company, served us faithfully these last three years and we will miss his expertise in the business arena. Tom specifically helped out refining our By-laws, reunion policies and many of our motions. Please say thanks to Tom for

his service to 11 ACVVC when you see him at the reunion.

The 2001 calendars have been shipped. All those who sent payment to Turner Publishing Co., should have theirs already. I got mine and it is absolutely a work of art! Many thanks goes out to Eric Newton who collected the photos, edited the historical information, and got it to the publisher in time for 2001. If you haven't ordered yours yet, please see the page that has the ordering info and get yours. As of this writing, less than 300 remain unsold. Also remember to complete the envelope that comes with it and get your Scholarship donation to us. Thanks to all those who have mailed us a donation already. We've listed your names inside this issue.

We have purchased our new American flag and have received our battle streamers for our colors.... They are beautiful and we will adorn our 11th Cavalry colors with them in a ceremony at the next reunion.

Inside this issue, see the policy paper on the Trooper Assistance Fund. This is the procedure set up by your Officers and Directors after some confusion on what our policy was. Basically it says that those members of 11 ACVVC who cannot afford to attend a reunion, can get help from the organization. It does require the member to request the assistance in writing, prior to attending the reunion. It also requires some personal questions regarding finances, etc.

Let us know what you think of our new look...if you like it, great. If not, tell us what you don't like.....this is your newsletter!

See you next quarter,  
Allons !!

## MOVING?

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEDALS from page 1

4. Ollie said that if we could not raise the money needed, he would pay for the medals and return them to the family in the name of the 11th ACVVC.

5. Eric Newton suggested that we all contribute to the cause. At that point the money and offers of support started rolling in from loyal troopers and KIA relatives. Over \$1,000 was pledged.

6. Since I live in Kentucky and Sgt. Harris was from KY, I decided to locate the family if possible. After calling all the Harris' in the phone book, I located the nephew of Sgt Harris about 2 a.m. in the morning, he gave me the phone number of his father, Sgt Harris's brother. I talked to him about 2:30 a.m. and he was surprised to hear the news. He said that his stepfather had died a year ago and had let his other son, a non-blood relative, sell everything without letting the KIA's family know. Our KIA has a daughter and a grandson that never knew her dad. I tried unsuccessfully to locate the daughter and grandson.

7. His blood brother desperately wanted the medals but did not have the money to bid the items.

8. Sgt. Harris's brother, James and I talked many times over the next few hours. He did not know of the 11th ACVVC. He visited our website and now wants to meet the troopers his brother served with.

9. During this time Ollie took charge of the bidding on ebay. With only 3 hours left the bid was \$300.00 made by a guy named Perry.

10. James called me and told me that after he told the guys at work about it. They raised \$300.00 for the cause. James then told me that he thought that he did not have any friends and that he sure was wrong. I told him that not only did he have friends at work, but through his brother, he had a few thousand more friends.

11. Ollie was preparing to bid as high as needed to secure the bid. He was concerned that at the last minute, someone would out-bid us. That was not acceptable.

12. I then emailed the high bidder, Mr.

Perry and told him the story and asked that he cease bidding. He not only stopped bidding, He even withdrew the bid he had placed of \$300.00. Ollie was again the high bidder.

13. Keep in mind that while this was all going on, a flurry of emails of support came from all the people that knew the story, inclusive of the website staff and many, many others.

14. Next, James Harris called and told me that the seller of the medals had contacted him. He had received so much email over this sell, it scared him and he would stop the auction. He agreed to sell the medals to Mr. Harris for what he had paid for them, \$350.00. This appeared to be the best scenario.

15. Less than 2 hours before the auction ended, the seller stopped the auction and the medals have now been returned to the Harris family.

### *Mission Accomplished*

Respectfully Submitted

Otis Carey (F Troop: 3/71-3/72)

## 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. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," Ollie Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Dr., Richardson, TX 75080-3409 <ktrp11acr@aol.com>

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**T**here is a Wall in Washington D.C. This Wall was dedicated in 1982. It is constructed of black granite and over 58,000 names are inscribed upon it. These are the names of the red-blooded American heroes that answered the call, gave their best, and lost their lives after being called for duty by their country to a place called Vietnam. It has been said that the Wall is a place of healing where many Vietnam veterans congregate, fellowship with each other, and pay proper homage to their deceased comrades. A proper memorial to these fallen warriors is considered necessary and proper to those veterans that seek the all elusive closure to a grim and sometimes devastating chapter of their own lives

My initial pilgrimage to this Wall was in 1984. As many other sojourners to this hallowed place have expressed, I experienced a cathartic reaction. As well as honoring the dead of the Vietnam war, I felt the Wall served as recognition of my service during the war as well as the service of the millions of others that had returned to an ambivalent at best and sometimes hostile at worst nation. The Wall seemed to somewhat erase the ambivalence and hostility and replace it with a recognition by the American nation of our honorable service.

Despite this positive feeling, my subsequent visits to the wall through 1989 did not produce the closure that I deeply desired concerning the war. The answer or an answer as to what the war was all about still eluded me. I assume that numerous Vietnam veterans went through or are still going through the search for an answer as to why the lives of the thousands of their brethren listed on the Wall were sacrificed. I would like to share with others what has assisted me in approaching closure and provided me an answer or the answer to this question. It involves another wall and what happened to it and my thinking in 1989 and after.

There was a wall called the Berlin Wall in East Germany. This Wall and the country of East Germany no longer exist. The Berlin Wall was probably the world's greatest symbol of communist tyranny and the suppression of freedom during the Cold War. It symbolized the

# A Tale of Two Walls

*James M. Griffiths*

**The Berlin Wall fell with a thunderous seismic crash that hopefully rattled the very foundation of the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington D.C. The Cold War was ending.**

hundreds of millions of people enslaved by totalitarian regimes behind the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe.

The Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961 to halt the waves of escapees from the so called "workers paradises" of Eastern Europe into the freedom of the West through West Berlin. The wall was as grotesque as the ideas it symbolized. A snake rising ten to thirteen feet high curling throughout one of Europe's largest cities, it would have been nearly one hundred miles long if straightened out. It had 285 watchtowers, mine fields, guard dogs and armed guards ready to WI any-

one that tried to cross its border.

The Berlin Wall continued to stand until November of 1989 when a series of events in the Soviet Union occurred. The Soviets announced they would no longer enforce communist orthodoxy in the Eastern satellite nations. In East Germany, as well as other Eastern European nations, communist governments fell as the demand for free governments prevailed. West and East Germany began the first steps toward reunification. The Berlin Wall fell with a thunderous seismic crash that hopefully rattled the very foundation of the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington D.C. The Cold War was ending.

The Berlin Wall and the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington are inexorably linked. It is my belief that the destruction of the Berlin Wall was contributed to by the men whose names appear on the Vietnam Wall. The Vietnam War was a smaller part of the overall struggle called the Cold War and the American side prevailed in the cold war. There is no greater symbol of the forces of democracy being victorious in that epic struggle than the destruction of the Berlin Wall.

My subsequent visits to the Vietnam Wall since 1989 and the witnessing of the demise of most communist regimes in the world have strengthened and solidified my thoughts and feelings. The all elusive closure sought by me concerning the meaning of the war has been moved forward. The ultimate sacrifice of the 58,000 plus names on the Vietnam Wall was a monumental contribution to those hundreds of millions of people that were to breathe free with the fall of Communism. Knowledge of this has brought a higher degree of closure to me concerning the meaning of the Vietnam War. It is my fervent wish that this mode of thinking will enable those of you still searching will find closure also. Welcome home and best wishes.

James M. Griffiths  
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(616) 465-3414 Jgriffiths@Aol.com

*James M. Griffiths Served as a machine gunner and scout driver with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, June 1968-1969*

# Scholarship Update

By John Sorich

I hope all of you and your families had a joyous holiday. I was much to be thankful for. One of my many blessings is the involvement with the 11th ACVVC. Since 1991 when I took my head out of the sand and reunited my past with the brothers that I served with in Vietnam, I have experienced tremendous satisfaction and growth.

Since becoming Vice President and the Scholarship Chair, I am once again reminded of the men who have preceded me (in country, so to speak), who broke the trail that I follow. My thanks and recognition go out to Ben Hotchkiss and Bill Lewellen. With their help, there has been a seamless transition from them to me that has allowed over 30 of our young people to receive scholarships since 1996.

**The generosity that we display in attaining our goals is really heart warming. The spirit of our organization is evident in each envelope that I open.**

This benevolent task that we accomplish each year would not happen if we didn't receive help from you, our troopers. The generosity that we display in attaining our goals is really heart warming. The spirit of our organization is evident in each envelope that I open. We get very large donations and some envelopes that contain

only a few bucks. It all adds up to assist us in helping our kids.

All of your contributions are too numerous to mention and at my age, well you may be able to relate. The "memory thing" catches up with a guy. I would like to make mention of a few notable Troopers. At this year's reunion, we had a silent auction and it was a huge success. My thanks go out to Ollie Pickral, Eric Newton and Gene Johnson for their help in getting items that were to be sold. One of our Troopers, Glen Tharp, all by himself, purchased enough to pay for one of our kid's scholarships for the whole school year. Our hats are off to Glen. Many others contributed some outstanding items to be auctioned such as John Poindexter and James McDonnell offered some outstanding vacations at exclusive properties. Also Dennis Jacoba, Sr. was diligent on his bidding of items until the auction was closed. All these efforts and many more made this year's Scholarship one that I was proud to be involved in. Due to space (in my mind), I can't thank all of you directly. Items for the Silent

Auction can be sent to: 11th ACVVC Scholarship, c/o Glenn Snodgrass, 7830 South Valley Drive; Fairfax Station, VA. 22039. Glenn will assure they get to the hotel for the auction.

So, this year, I need to ask you to be there again for our kids. I need to have fresh contributions to be used in the silent auction. I am looking to double last year's production. Consider what you may have to donate that may be used for the silent auction and let me know ahead of time so I can prepare. Please, when the raffle tickets are sent to you in a couple of months, be as generous as you can. This is where most of the money comes from. Remember much of what you contribute is *tax deductible*.

## Scholarship Recipients for Fall 2000

Steven M. Boyd	Lake Land College, Matton, IL Son of William A. Boyd
Casey Flynn	University of Wyoming, Laramie Son of Patrick H. Flynn
Brooke K. Gloege	South Dakota State Univ., Brookings Daughter of Douglas Gloege
Brittany Y. Johnson	Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, KY Daughter of Leroy Johnson.
Ryan Johnson	University of Tennessee, Knoxville Son of Bruce Johnson
Steven Kendrick	University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Son of Paul Kendrick.
Sarah A. Munson	Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD Daughter of Chuck Munson
Syeffany J. Pilkington	Indian Hills College, Ottumwa, IA Daughter of Ernest Pilkington.
Megan Sinclair	Stonehill College, Easton, MA Daughter of Robert Sinclair.
Robert N. Stout	University of Arizona, Tuscon. Son of David W. Stout.
Scott M. Pratschner	Western Washington Univ., Bellingham Son of Gregory Pratschner.

I really look forward to seeing you all at this year's special events. Contact me with questions that you may have regarding contributions and items to be used on the Silent Auction at: John Sorich; 5037 France Ave.; South Minneapolis, MN. 55410 or 1-800-298-4016. ALLONS.

## Donations to 11thACVVC Scholarship Fund – (\$2,600.00)

★ James Aarestad	★ Fred Franks	★ Louis Miller	★ William Selch
★ Paul Burkett	★ Ross Glatzer.	★ Rosalio "Monty" Montelongo	★ Richard Sinsigalli
★ John Burns	★ William Hipps	★ Jack Morrison	★ James Smith
★ Larry Burwick	★ Kenneth Hoke	★ Thomas Naylor	★ Sherman Smith
★ The Craig Company	★ Donald Horn	★ Kevin Overfield	★ William Smith
★ Cnatigny-1st Division	★ Carl Howard	★ John Pearl	★ John Sorich
★ Charles Cumiskey	★ George S. Patton III	★ Richard Quinn	★ Thomas Taylor
★ Herbert Daub	★ Kenneth Koppenal	★ John Raffety	★ Andrew Trabanco
★ Lee De Nault	★ Joseph Lade	★ John F. Raney	★ Dennis Van Alstine
★ David Drake	★ Roy Lingle	★ Roper and Roper Rental	★ Tim Yeider
★ John F.Raney	★ James McGrain	★ Gerald Rudisill	(Remember, all donations are
★ Joseph Lade	★ Stanley Meeks	★ James Ryan	tax deductible)

# 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry: Heritage of the 11th Cavalry “Blackhorse” Regiment

by Frank R. Cambria, CPT U&4 (RET)

Blackhorse Vietnam veterans may find many eye-opening similarities here between two wars 70 years apart

A little known fact to many military history enthusiasts is that the 11th Cavalry was first formed during the summer of 1899 as the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry in the Philippines, a full year before Congress authorized the creation of the 11th U.S. Cavalry as a Regular Army regiment. Called into existence by The Army Act of 2 March 1899 which authorized the President to enlist 35,000 volunteers for service in the Philippines, the U.S. Volunteers were an experiment. The U.S. War Department wanted soldiers who would combine the best qualities of the State Volunteers as seen during the Civil War, and the Regulars. The Volunteers generally demonstrated greater initiative, morale, esprit de corps, and an aggressive fighting spirit. A later testimony of the Volunteers' aggressive fighting ability and heroism was that Volunteers received 17 of the 23 U.S. Medals of Honor awarded in the Philippines. The Regulars, on the other hand, brought discipline, years of training, tactics, military experience and leadership. The 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry quickly proved itself as a hard-fighting unit with a combination of the best qualities of both Volunteers and Regulars.

The soldiers of the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry were recruited in late 1899 primarily from U.S. State Volunteers whose enlistment's were up in the bloodied state regiments which had shouldered the burden of fighting in the Philippines. Each volunteer received a special \$500 bonus to reenlist in the 11th U. S. Volunteer Cavalry or one of two U. S. Volunteer Infantry regiments. They were the sons of fathers who wore Blue and Gray, and these sons now trained and fought together under one flag. Regulars, many who fought in the American Indian Wars and the recent Spanish-American War also volunteered to join the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry from other units in the Philippines. And a few of the senior officers and NCOs were veterans of the American Civil War.



*[It is interesting to note that when the three squadrons of Regular Army's new 11th Cavalry Regiment were being formed at Jefferson Barracks MO, Fort Ethan Allen VT, and Fort Myer VA in 1901, the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry was heavily engaged in its second year of combat in the Luzon.]*

The fighting in the Luzon was bitter and brutal with little quarter given or asked. One of the first recorded combat actions of the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry took place on 18 December 1899 in the hilly country on the 20 miles NE of Manila which was heavily defended by over 1,000 well-armed insurgents. In the midst of a monsoon, General Henry W. Lawton moved battalions from the 27th and 29th U.S. Volunteer Infantry and two squadrons of Col. James Lockett's 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry to a bluff near the Marikina River. Delayed by rain, mud, and a rapidly rising river, only one infantry battalion and a mounted squadron of the 11th Cav reached the rendezvous point on time. Unable to cross the fast moving river, General Lawton directed his infantry to set up a firing line behind paddy dikes to engage the insurgents on the other side of the river who were bringing heavy rifle fire at the Americans. Lawton then sent the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry up river to find a ford, cross over, and attack the enemy flank. After several hours, the 11th Cav found a crossing and conducted a classic mounted charge into the flank of the enemy using newly issued Krag repeating carbines, pistols and even a few sabers. General Lawton, however, was killed by a sniper's bullet in the chest as he walked

along the infantry's firing line encouraging his infantry soldiers to stand fast.

Nine days later, converging columns of the 45th and 27th Infantry and the 11th Cavalry attacked a stronghold across a gorge on the San Mateo River. Dismounting to fight, the platoons of the 11th Cavalry and the 45th Infantry used a new method of advancing by rushes (fire and maneuver) and dropping to the ground to lay down suppressive fire with their Krag's as the next platoon rushed forward. The recorded body count was 25 insurgents with over 10,000 rounds of ammo captured.

In January 1900, the 45th Infantry and the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry again fought side-by-side, this time in the hellish mountains of the Batangas border region. At one point the 11th Cavalry filed through a pass so narrow that their saddlebags scraped along the sides. During the night, the 11th Cavalry was attacked by groups of monkeys which tossed coconuts at the troopers and kept them awake all night with their howling. The next day the troops reached their objective village of Nasugbu and was immediately fired upon by the guerilla soldiers. The 11th Cavalry lost several hard-to-replace horses in the desperate fighting, but killed four guerillas and found many blood trails as it forced the remaining insurgents out of the village. Later that day, the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry fought off a large guerilla force which ambushed the Cav at a river crossing.

With most of the fighting in southern Luzon against large enemy units tapering down in the Fall of 1900, the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry was given hundreds of square miles to secure. The army controlled the towns, but the guerillas controlled the jungles. The eight troops of the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry were split among garrison duty, convoy escorts, and a mobile strike force. Small guerilla units of three to nine soldiers would fire into marching columns and then simply vanish, often reappearing as peaceful "amigos." The guerillas also proved highly adept at building deadly booby traps that severely restricted American infantry and cavalry

Please turn to **HERITAGE** on page 11

# Website Breaks the 100,000 Mark

The traffic on our own 11thCavNam.com web site is dramatically increasing with time. Jim Murray has been receiving and answering many requests from relatives who wish to make contact. People are now able find the 11' Cavalry veteran's site through the World Wide Web. Bud Campbell has compiled a listing of the known trooper Email addresses and keeps them updated on "Find an Old Friend." Our ability to reunite with old Cav buddies is better than ever.

Webmaster Otis Carey and Assistant Editor Pete Echon have busied themselves with adding new features and making the site easy to use. Some redesign was necessary because of the massive amounts of information, photos and new sections, which have been added over the past year. A list of the monthly additions to the site can be found on "New For February" at the upper left main page. If you haven't been online for a while, you can see all the newly added stuff plus go back month-by-

month in the archives.

Check out the "Reunion Information" for a list of who has sent in their registration form. In this category you can check out the hotel and the sites to visit in advance. If you have never been to DC, I must warn you that you can not see it all in a few days. The Smithsonian Museum alone would take a week. While visiting the "Reunion Information" section, check out the new "Scholarship Auction Items" donated so far this year. Browse the photos and descriptions so you know how much money you will need to bid on and win that special auction item. We are receiving more items each-week. Contact John Sorich if you would like to donate an item.

We need clear photos of equipment and operations, after action reports and awards orders for Bronze Star and above to post on the site.

The new "Education Section" allows us to tell students and the world the truth about the Vietnam War and us. No longer

do we have to listen to inaccurate news accounts by inept reporters without a chance to tell it like it really was. I for one am proud to have served my country and proud of every single Vietnam vet, especially those who rode with the Blackhorse. You are the guys who stood firm against communism in Vietnam, which ultimately lead to the end of the Cold War. Other smaller nations benefited and continued their struggle for democracy while the communist attention was focused on Vietnam. And remember, the War in Vietnam ended for us with the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement in 1973. For the next few years after that, nobody was saying that WE lost the war. The mother of all lies, "We lost in Vietnam". Who is responsible for it?

BLACKHORSE: men of character, dedication, honor. This new year is dedicated to you my friends.

ALLONS

Eric Newton

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## Trooper Assistance Fund

### History

In 1989, the Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC agreed there was a need for monies to assist our troopers in getting to a reunion. Prior to this date, the organization got many calls for assistance directly from the trooper needing assistance or a buddy of a trooper hoping to get his buddy to the reunion. It was decided then that during the meeting of its members, a "passing of the hat" would take place and with those funds, we could assist in getting some troopers who might otherwise not attend because of monetary limitations.

### Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Trooper Assistance Fund is to assist troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the kingdom of Cambodia, attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Qualified candidates will be given one and perhaps more than one of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and

the degree of assistance required: 1) a room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend; 2) funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare; 3) registration fees; 4)meals.

### Maintenance of Funds

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

### Rules of Acceptance

To be accepted for consideration for assistance, the trooper may be required to: show proof that he is or was a member of 11 ACVVC or eligibility that he is qualified to become a member; describe his monetary situation, ie....job, salary, fami-

ly, etc. Troopers will only be allowed to accept this assistance one time. Exceptions to the one time only use of the Trooper Assistance Fund will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and will require a unanimous vote of the Officers and Directors available for voting. Exceptions will rarely be granted and will never be allowed in consecutive years. (The Secretary will maintain a listing of those who have been assisted and will pass on to successive Secretary(s). The President will also maintain a copy); The trooper requesting assistance must do so in writing to the Secretary or the President and must also provide evidence of service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC will vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a trooper, by a majority of those Officers and Directors. The Officers and Directors shall not divulge the names of those assisted troopers to anyone other than another current Officer and/or Director.

## Opening old wounds

Some time back I wrote an article called "It Don't Mean Nuthin'." You might remember it. I know you remember only too well what it was about, even if you didn't read the article. It was about when something real hard or traumatic happened and you couldn't deal with it right then because you were too busy shooting or too busy just surviving. Maybe a buddy was hit right beside you and you couldn't save him. Maybe you had to do something extremely hard or very ugly, like shoot at someone up close. You learned why they say war is hell. Whatever happened, you had to stuff it to keep from going crazy so you could keep functioning as a soldier in your squad, your platoon or wherever you were. After all, the other guys were depending on you like you were depending on them. Know what I mean? Of course, you do. Real well. Too well.

Every once in a while, to this day, I'm reminded about stuffing it. I still hear from families and "significant others" of vets who say their man just won't talk about Viet Nam (or Korea, or WWII). "He clams up when I ask." "I'm afraid to ask." "I think he's going off the deep end." You know a vet like that? Are you one? Could be. I agree that there's no need to keep blabbing about it all the time. OK. But sometimes there is a need to talk, to open up, to just stop jamming it in and going it alone. Even at the risk of opening up old wounds. Actually, that's how a lot of wounds get healed. Open them up. Expose them to the air. Let it out. Like I said, every once in a while I'm reminded of that old need to stuff it. But that was back in the Nam. Then was then. Now is now. Now I hear from women or kids or even other vets who have a man, a dad, a friend who still has it stuffed. And it shouldn't be. It's time.... No, it's past time, to unstuff. Why, there are vets living in the woods that are still fighting the war. They're living like hermits, surrounded by trip wires and automatic ambushes. Some are drinking themselves into oblivion ("I'm not alcoholic." "I can handle it."

## "He wanted to look up the name of his closest friend on The Wall so he could say good-bye before he died."

Yeah, sure). Some are self-medicating on drugs. Or they're mad at the world. Or they're just plain mad all the time and don't even know why.

On the other hand, plenty of vets unstuffed long ago. I remember one of the first nights after we finally went into Cambodia. Our How Battery stayed on the Viet Nam side to fire support for the recon troops who crossed the border. Some of our cannon cockers were sleeping in a GP Medium tent when a 107 mm rocket landed just outside, slid into the tent and went off between two of the troopers. Both of them lost a leg, one his right and the other his left, each just below the knee. I don't need to describe the misery or the trauma. You know that subject well enough already. I heard what had happened when they were on the way to the aid station at Quan Loi so I got over there when they were brought in. They were stabilized and sent on to the rear to the evac hospital. Some years later I was stationed in the same state as one of them so I went to visit him. I'll call him Jim which is not his name. Jim was doing very well. He had a nice family, a good job, a nice home and he said all was fine. He could, and did, talk about his Viet Nam experience, his healing and how it all fit into his life now. Which was just fine. Looked to me like everything that might have been stuffed at one time was unstuffed now. It wasn't hard to see. Goes to show it can be done.

### Another story

When I was stationed in Northern Virginia I went down to The Wall on Memorial and Veterans Days and talked to the guys. I was in uniform and when vets would spot the Blackhorse patch they would open up and talk a lot. They could see that I was a chaplain and maybe that helped. I guess with some it didn't. Mostly Viet Nam vets at The Wall liked to talk. About a lot of things. It was very healing. It was, and is, a very good

place to get "unstuffed." I remember one vet in particular. He was in a wheel chair. I don't remember his name. He was with his wife, his son and a Viet Nam vet buddy. He belonged to a Viet Nam vets group down in Texas. The guys there had taken up a collection and his buddy got in his old, decrepit van and drove him and his wife and son to The Wall. He wanted to look up the name of his closest friend on The Wall so he could say good-bye before he died. He had only six months to live from whatever it was that put him into the wheelchair. With his wife, his son and his friend, he did just that. He said good-bye to his closest friend in Viet Nam. I was so happy that his buddies name on The Wall was near the bottom where he could see it easily from his wheel chair. Before he died, he was able to unstuff himself and get a whole lot of healing. A good way to finish off.

A point of this story is that I believe every Viet Nam soldier (or Marine, sailor, airman or civilian support person) had a lot of stress (or should I say trauma?) to deal with. Many stuffed it, maybe most did. Some didn't. It was stuffed simply because it was just too much to handle at that time and place, especially for those out in the bush where most of the most traumatic things happened. But in the rear too. The rear wasn't always a cake-walk either. You know what I mean. I don't have to be graphic to make the point. Some were able to deal with it, to unstuff it, right away. Some took longer. Some a lot longer. And some haven't unstuffed it yet. Regardless of which category you fit into, don't ever forget, we're all brothers and we're all in this together. For the few who didn't then or don't now consider themselves part of the brotherhood, OK. And when I say brothers, I mean sisters included, because we all know the greatness of the nurses, the donut

dollies, and all the other women who were there and were part of the "brotherhood." So, for you who are still stuffing it, come on out. It isn't worth it to keep stuffing it and it isn't necessary. For you who have unstuffed, remember your brothers who haven't and help them out. Show them the way. For you who never had to stuff anything at all, and there aren't too many of you, share your strength. Be open and available. We all need each other. Even these thirty and more years later. Let me be clear about one more thing; this is not a matter of rank. Anyone qualifies. Clear? 'Nuf said? Comprende?

Finally, I would like to quote from the most reliable and powerful source for help and healing. It is the place which tells the way to really unstuff and to become healed, whole and put together right. If you know me at all, you'll know I'm talking about the Holy Bible, the Word of God. Now if you're fading out, starting to examine the inside of your eyelids or going into the thousand yard stare, hang in for a minute longer. Realize that now is the time for grasping the meaning of what this is all about. Here is a realistic and reliable word of advice: "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you. Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that Christians all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation." (I Peter 5:7-10 - New Living Translation of the Holy Bible).

A lot of vets have come out of the biggest cases of stuffing through this word of advice. You can too. OK? OK. Allons!

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
LEHaworth@aol.com  
1634 Holly Ave.  
Darien, IL 60561



## Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno

Another holiday season has come and gone. As we prepare to pack away all the ornaments and tinsel for next year, I hope we will all take a few moments to think and pray for those loved ones departed for "Fiddlers Green." Some of them 30 some years ago and others more recently. To me and hopefully to all of you, they will always be "heroes" in our hearts and minds and never forgotten.

I recently had an email from Mona Nevil. She is living in Texas and is very happy. She has a new love interest in her life and laughingly says she is with a "younger" man (He's just a few months younger). She would love to hear from some of the gals who attended reunions with her. So if you want to email her, just send a note and I'll send you her address.

It is now time for me to start working on the reunion for August. There are several things I want to try this year. Instead

of one women's meeting, I am asking Ollie for permission to have two meeting times. I thought we would have just an informal get together during the guy's bunker time, to just get to know each other and talk about whatever we feel like talking about. And the second would be during our regularly scheduled time. I am planning on asking someone to come in as a guest speaker on Saturday. The subject?????

Please give me some ideas. Do you want something serious like a talk about PTSD or something more lighthearted?? Let me know!

Well folks, I know this is a really short article but it's New Year's eve and I have a "hot" date with my husband so until I see you all in Washington, DC, may you have peace and happiness in 2001.

*(Barb Moreno is the 11 ACVVC Women's Coordinator and the wife of SFC (retired) Bob Moreno, G Troop 68-69.*



## Incoming!

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

**Michael R. Maccini** died on June 01, 2000. Mike was a Life Member of 11 ACVVC. He served with the 919th Engineers, 3rd Platoon.

**Jerry Hough** died on October 16, 1999. Jerry was a member of 11 ACVVC and served with the 409th RRU.

**Ralph Miles** died on October 30, 2000. Ralph was the Commanding Officer of L Troop in 1970. He died of a heart attack.

**Geoffrey Hancock** died on October 7, 2000. Geoffrey was a Life Member of 11 ACVVC. He served with the 541st MID in 1970-71. He was a CW2 during his time with the 11th ACR.

**George A. Mueller** died on November 29, 1997. George served with E Troop in 1968 as the platoon Sgt. for 2nd Platoon.

**Denver D. (Denny) Adams** died on November 16, 2000. Denny was a Life Member of 11 ACVVC. He served as a helicopter crew chief with HHT, 3rd Sqdn in 1969-70. Denny fought a long battle with cancer.

**Harold M. Killough** died on July 22, 1992 from complications of Agent Orange. Harold served with D Company, 1st Sqdn. from Nov. 1967 to 1969.

### Burial Caskets

Wayne Goad has notified the HQ that you can save many dollars by ordering a burial casket from a company that offers colorful caskets at a reasonable prices. These caskets come with beautiful exteriors in just about anything you want. They also sell cremation urns that are different as well. Wayne says contact him and he will steer you in the right direction. Wayne can be reached at: (918) 682-7245.

# Getting through the door

By John E. Howell

Reprinted from *The Stars and Stripes*

Most veterans know that if you caught a disease or were injured in the service, you can go to the VA and apply for disability compensation. Most, however, do not understand the process.

The VA is a huge organization. It has billions in its budget, thousands of employees and hundreds of programs. Yet, as with any bureaucracy, if you understand what's required, it is easier to succeed.

To get VA disability compensation you must prove your claim is “well-grounded;” obtain service connection; have your disease or injury rated for the correct percentage; and get the right “effective date.” Let's talk about the “well-grounded claim.”

Think of a “well-grounded” claim as the price of admission. It is a “screening” or “gate-keeping” device. The VA will do very little for you until you establish that your claim is well-grounded. That saves them time and money because they don't have to work on a claim that has no merit.

In other words, to get through the door, you must get the necessary evidence. But, because the VA provides minimal help, you must establish only that your claim is “probable” or “possible” or “more likely than not”.

## Three Questions

Claimants must answer three questions: Do you have medical evidence of a “current disability?” Did your disability begin or was it aggravated while you were in the service? Is there a medical connection between your current disability and whatever happened to you while in the service?

The “current” disability requirement is easy. You go to a doctor, maybe even a VA doctor, if you are hurt or don't feel well. Let's say your left knee is bothering you. The doctor says you have arthritis and torn cartilage in that knee, and he agrees to give you a memo to that effect.

Proving that the injury occurred or was aggravated “in-service” may be more dif-

**To get VA disability compensation you must prove your claim is “well-grounded;” obtain service connection; have your disease or injury rated for the correct percentage; and get the right “effective date.”**

ficult.

Did you have trouble when you stumbled and twisted your left knee while doing PT? Your knee began to swell, so you went of “sick call” and got excused from PT for a week (or, more likely, for only one day). That sick call visit should be in your medical records, which can supply the second element.

There are other ways. Statements from your friends, called “buddy statements,” saying that you had an accident may help. If you were at certain places at certain times, “in-service incurrence” may be presumed. For example, if you were in Vietnam and possibly exposed to Agent Orange, the “in-service incurrence” may be satisfied.

Finally, is there a connection (the medical “nexus”) between your knee injury while in service and your current problem?

## See Your Doctor

The easiest way to prove this is to see your doctor and ask: “Is it possible that my left knee problem began or was aggravated when I twisted my knee in the service?” This may not be an easy question for the doctor, but he may say it is “possible” or even “probable” that the knee problem you had then caused or contributed to your knee problems now.

With that evidence, the VA should agree that you have a “well-grounded claim” – and you're “through the door.”

Are you home free? No. It only means that the VA now has a duty to help you establish service connection. They will get records, set up medical examinations and work with you.

# A Fine Warm Sunny Day

Charles H. Pennebaker

After patrolling the Loc Ninh area in September, October and November of 1969 for several weeks — busting jungle, pulling road security and generally driving around in circles to see what we might scare up, H Co gets an order to back track a ways and do a RIF into northwest Tay Ninh. The purpose was to check out the area of operations where a previous Arc Light (B-52) strike had been conducted. So on a fine warm sunny day off we go to do some sniffing around in Charlie's front yard.

**As we are sitting on top of our bomb, Pat and I are scared to death to move any unnecessary muscle. Not even to twitch. Finally we convince ourselves we better get the hell off this tank— now!**

My tank was H55 which consisted of William Kimbell (driver), William Binsted (loader), Gary Patterson (TC), and myself, Charles H. Pennebaker (back deck gunner). For some reason I was sitting on top of the loaders hatch that day. As we proceeded our RIF, we had to go single file due to the numerous bomb craters all over the place (don't want to fall into one of those). Some were bone dry, some half full and some full to the brim with water. The terrain was open grass land with numerous clumps of small trees and bushes so you couldn't see very far. We were running 6th or 7th in line when we broke out into an open grassy area with a bomb crater full of water to our immediate right.

All of a sudden our tank lurches with a jolt to the right which throws me into the open TC hatch cover and throws the TC into the edge of the cupola ring bashing both our ribs in the process. So we are rubbing our ribs wondering what the %&#@ was that all about. The tank stops right on top of what ever it was. The left side of the tank is way up in the air. So what is it? A rock maybe? A tree stump maybe? Pat tells me to take a look so I lean out over the side and was dumbstruck by what I saw. I sit

Please turn to **FINE DAY** on page 14

# 100th Anniversary Calendar

- ❖ **Last Chance** to get a 100th Anniversary Color 2001 Calendar
- ❖ 11 U.S. Cavalry, Blackhorse. Makes excellent Christmas Gifts.
- ❖ Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.
- ❖ The 100th Anniversary Calendar is the perfect gift for any 11th U.S. Cavalry Veteran, family member or military enthusiast!
- ❖ Each month shows a different photo or print depicting the 11th U.S. Cavalry with a descriptive caption.
- ❖ Includes special dates of interest pertaining to the 11th U.S. Cavalry.
- ❖ Annual 11th U.S. Cavalry Reunion listed.
- ❖ The 100th Anniversary calendar will become a collector's item!
- ❖ Oversized (Big) 17 x 11 inch glossy color format!

As you read this, the calendars have already been printed and the supply will be dwindling. Orders are coming in for multiple copies. There are five Limited Edition Prints included within the calendar. Some are no longer available and most originally sold for over \$100.00 each. For a preview, go to the front page of our web site at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com).

## Final Warning

There will be no mailing of the annual black and white calendar this year to all members for a donation to the scholarship fund!

To commemorate the once-in-a-lifetime occasion of the 100th year of the 11th U.S. Cavalry, we are producing a large (17 x 11 inch) glossy color calendar—much larger than the typical calendar. Everyone who has seen the proof copy has been blown away. It is simply awesome. The word has spread and even civilians, cavalry enthusiasts and other Cav units are ordering copies. The clerk at the Post Office who helped wrap the proofs was so impressed; she ordered one for herself and more for gifts.

The theme will cover the Regiment from 1901 to present and will feature five commemorative prints from renowned artist and photos with period scenes from museum archives. A history of the last hundred years, operations awards and other historical events will make this calendar a keepsake. There is a B&W photo taken in 1902 of the landing on the Philippine Islands.

There were only 1,500 copies planned for the over 6,000 members because we had no idea this calendar would become so popular. You must order right now or risk extreme disappointment. When they are gone, they are gone. Pick up the phone and get your credit card ready. Call now 1-270-443-0121.

Copies must be ordered from Turner Publishing (see below for mail/credit card orders). The 11th ACVVC and the Quartermaster Store do not have copies for sale.

## Reserve Your Copies Today!

Send all mail orders to:

11th U.S. Cavalry 2001 Calendar  
Turner Publishing Company  
PO Box 3101  
Paducah KY 42002

## Order Form

Please enter my order for \_\_\_ copies of the 11th U.S. Cavalry 2001 Calendar – Only \$ 10.00 each. – Add \$5.00 shipping and handling for up to three copies, \$1.00 for each additional. Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ship To:** (Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Better still, pick up the phone! Visa/MasterCard orders call: (270) 443-0121

## 11 ACVVC General Fund Donations – \$155

### Thanks for Your Support!

The following troopers have made donations to 11 ACVVC:

- ★ Hall, Rick, P.
- ★ Janairo, Antonio, R.
- ★ Nielsen, Eric, D.
- ★ Opp, Terry, B.
- ★ Thompson, Craig
- ★ Wardrope, Scott, M
- ★ Yell, Horace, E.

## HERITAGE from page 6

operations. In July 1900 the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry's Commander LTC Charles G. Starr selected LT George Wray, an officer who had already demonstrated his proficiency as a hard-hitting platoon leader, to head an elite 25-man strike force to target on the guerrilla cells. In the latter months of 1900, Wray's Scouts conducted half the 11th U. S. Volunteer Cavalry's expeditions and fought in four of its six major engagements.

By the time the U. S. Army regular 11th Cavalry Regiment reached the Philippines

in mid-1902, the 11th U. S. Volunteer Cavalry virtually ceased to exist as its ranks were severely depleted when most of the volunteers' enlistments ended in the second half of 1901. The remaining 11th U. S. Volunteer Cavalry troopers joined the regular units and some integrated into the newly arrived 11th Cavalry Regiment which was split between Batangas Province, northern Luzon, and Samar Island where the Regiment's first official battle streamer was earned by the 1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry in 1902.

# A friendship bonded by similarities

Alonzo Wilson, Drayton Plains, MI  
and Daniel Stroia, Taylor, MI

We met for the first time on the rifle range in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, January 1967. We both found out that we were drafted from Michigan and we both found out that we were engaged to be married and were surprised that our wedding date was on the same day, month and year—4/29/67.

Similarities are:

- ◆ Both received draft notices on 10/4/66, to serve in the U.S. Army 11/28/66 to 11/27/68.
- ◆ After basic training we both had orders to report to Fort Polk, Louisiana, AIT, Light Weapons Infantry training and our orders are to be shipped to Vietnam.
- ◆ Married on 4/29/67, two weeks before going to Vietnam, we were both 20 years old.
- ◆ We flew together on the same jet from MI to Oakland, CA, Army Depot. On

Monday 5/15 we were assigned on the same jet, sitting next to each other, on Pan American Airlines to Saigon.

- ◆ We both shipped to the 90th Replacement Center. When it got dark we said a prayer that we would get sent to the same unit. A few days later we received orders to report to 11th Cavalry. Wilson and I, along with approximately 45 other soldiers, were replacements for a platoon of K Troop that was ambushed on Sunday morning on 5/21/67.
- ◆ We both were assigned as drivers, Wilson was 3-3 and Stroia was a lead scout driver of 3-0, of K Troop. We, of course, were in the same battles, convoys, patrols, etc.
- ◆ We went together on R&R to Hawaii to meet our wives on 9/17/67 to 9/25/67, with five days in Country. Our wives, Roberta Wilson and Barbara Stroia, flew together from Michigan to Hawaii to meet us and they have blond hair and blue eyes. It was wonderful! It was the

first time in my life I had to pinch myself, I thought I was dreaming.

- ◆ We were promoted to SP4, same grade, same day, month and year in K Troop, Vietnam.
- ◆ We both went home on emergency leaves due to death in the immediate family.
- ◆ We both only have two children, a girl and a boy each. Our lovely daughters were born first, Kristi Wilson and Tina Stroia. 11. Our sons, Kyle Wilson and Daniel Stroia, Jr., were both born on the same day, month and year, 1/22/73. Both of our sons, now 27 years old, are still single and as of this date have never married and they both live in Arizona.
- ◆ On 4/29/74, on our 7th wedding anniversary, we both worked on the same construction site, Iron Workers for American Bridge, building the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan.
- ◆ We both only like butter on baked potatoes. We do not like sour cream.
- ◆ We both have brothers named David and their permanent homes are in Michigan.
- ◆ We both drive full size pick up trucks with Blackhorse stickers on the back window.
- ◆ We both found out that two of our children use to work at the same store, at the same time, approximately 30 miles away from each other in Michigan.
- ◆ We both sang in the 11th grade boys glee club and the 12th grade high school choir. For being choir boys, we also love to play football.
- ◆ We also found out years later that we both graduated in June 1966 rather than 1965 due to childhood diseases in first grade and because we missed too much school our mothers held us back to first grade.
- ◆ We both have residences in Arizona and are 53 years old.
- ◆ We both made it to our first 11th Cav reunion in 1999 in San Diego, CA. It was great!

I sure do enjoy going to the reunions and I look forward to them each year. You can feel the love, respect and brotherhood. It is heartwarming to know the 11th Cav veterans worked hard to find us and all of the good things they do, Thunder Run, scholarships, etc., as well as the sacrifices that were made. ALLONS!



## Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, (11th ACVVC) as of 12/31/00

### 37TH MED CO

Santos, Joseph, F 69-70

### 409TH RRD

Dean, William, L. 68-68

### A TRP, 1/11

Burks, George 69-70

Donohoe, Gary 68-69

### AIR CAV TRP

Baker, William 67-68

Rich, Michael 69-71

### B TRP, 1/11

Jarvis, Louis, G 66-67

### C TRP, 1/11

Michitsch, Philip 67-68

### HOW BTRY, 1/11

Nabel, James, C n/a

### E TRP, 2/11

Fureigh, Joseph, A. 71-72

Irizarry, Rafael 67-68

Scott, Alexander, D. 67-68

### F TRP, 2/11

Lattin, Dennis 66-67

### G TRP, 2/11

Mortenson, Jerry, G 71-72

### H CO. 2/11

Jackson, Joe 69-70

Sutton, Delbert 66-67

### I TRP, 3/11

Bailey, Ben, H. 67-68

### L TRP, 3/11

Honaker, Donald, E. 69-69

### HOW BTRY 3/11

Cullinan, Bernard 68-68

### UNIT UNAVAIL

Foster, David, W. 69-70

Lester, Jerry, R. 66-67

### Join the VFW or American Legion

Rick Hall is asking everyone who isn't a member of the VFW or American Legion to please join up now and become active. He stated that over 1,000 WWII soldiers are dying every day and these organizations are in danger of dying out as well if we Vietnam vets don't join and lead these organizations

# 11th Armoured Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia, (11ACVVC)



## Reunion XVI



Washington, DC ❖❖❖ August 3 - 5, 2001

### REGISTRATION FEES

Each attendee, both adults and children: Pre-registration \$75 each. \$85 at door. Registration fees include hospitality room, Friday night Stable Your Mount Party (Soda/Beer/Finger Food), Saturday Memorial Service, Bus service to Ft. Myers, Saturday Banquet & Dance You MUST register and wear your name tag for all functions.

**Important:** Registration fees must be received by **July 25, 2001** to guarantee seating at the banquet program. Full refunds if cancellations are received by 5 p.m. July 30, 2001

### HOTEL

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Wash. DC 20001

**Phone:** (800) 233 1234, or (202) 383 1234, Fax (202) 393 7927. Web Site: www.hyatt.com

**Rates:** Single-Quadruple Occupancy \$99 plus 14.5% tax.

**Deposit:** One night's deposit using check, money order or major credit card. Requires 48 hours advanced notice of can-

cellation for full refund. Reservations must be made by **July 13, 2001** as any remaining block of rooms will be returned to the hotel for use by the general public.

**Ask For:** "11th Armored Cavalry's 100th Anniversary Reunion".

### PARKING

\$24/day or \$12/day across the street from hotel.

### AIR LINES

Discounts for several major airlines are available through 'Adventures In Paradise,' 800 861 5585 or 702 454 5585. E-mail: aiptvl@aol.com. Travel arrangements before 20 May will bring substantial savings.

### REUNION CONTACT

John Burns, 46 Waterview Drive, Sandy Hook, CT 06482-1206, Phone: (203) 426 6474, E-Mail: jburns1how66-67@webtv.net

### Registration Form

( Please Print )

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assigned \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending. (Clearly print **your** and **all** attendees names in the spaces below)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Meals: (Pick one per person): # Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ # Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order [No Cash Please] payable to "11 ACVVC" and Mail to:

**11th Cavalry Reunion**  
c/o Bill Holford  
8515 Shoalcreek Blvd # 108  
Austin, TX 78757-7548

**FINE DAY** from page 10

back on the loaders hatch and Pat's asking me, "What is it?" I don't remember saying anything for a few moments so Pat crawls in front of me to take a look for himself. When he passed back in front of me, I could see 10 years age on his face as he mouthed the words, "Oh F%#@!". The radios started crackling and someone wants to know what the hold up is. Someone answers that 55 has stopped. The radios crackle, "55 this is 66 ... what's the hold up?". Pat is searching for some words when he says, "66 this is 55. We're sitting on top of this big ass bomb". Immediately the tank in front of us digs out into the tree line and the tank behind us throws it into reverse and disappears back into the bushes with most haste.

As we are sitting on top of our bomb, Pat and I are scared to death to move any unnecessary muscle. Not even to twitch. Finally we convince ourselves we better get the hell off this tank—*now!* It didn't blow up yet so maybe we'd be lucky and jump for it. So off we jump and (sorta) get away from the tank (but not far enough to be sure). The CO comes back on foot to take a look and check things out and about all I can remember (clearly) was that everyone was walking around saying "Oh F' this" and "Oh F' that". Finally it is decided that we will just drive off it since it hadn't blown up yet, maybe it won't. Ok, it's time for some more thrills and chills as our driver Bill Kimbell is the man who's going to do it. The rest of us get waaay waaay back behind another tank as Bill is revving up the engine for a maybe one way ride to hell. He slams 55 into low gear and off he goes, hits high gear and he is really off and running now; shoots past us and was still going strong with a slight case of the horrors hot on his tail.

All's well that ends well. The bomb was one of ours, OD in color with yellow stripes around the nose. It was 6 to 8 feet in length and you couldn't put your arms around it. I will never ever forget just how lucky H55 and crew were that fine warm sunny day. I can tell you it was a "pucker factor 10" kind of day.

*Charles H. Pennebaker  
4th Eng. Bn (Tank Sect. - 7/68-8/69,  
H Co 2/11ACR - 7/69-11/70*

# THE 10TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday, August 2, 2001  
At Fort Belvoir, Virginia**



**G**olf outing is for all members, family, and friends of the 11th Armored Calvary Regiment, past and present. The outing is open to men and women. \$60.00 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch, beer, soda and prizes for: low gross, low handicap, high gross, low foursome (modified Callaway handicap system), longest drive, closest to the pin. Fill in the form below and mail it with a check for \$60.00 per golfer payable to Donald Brydge to the address below. Form and fee must be received by July 15th 2001! We cannot guarantee a tee-time if form and fee is received after July 15th!!!!

You do not need to have 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 the golfers in the group that you are paying for. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!!

## 10TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks To: **Donald Brydge, 905 Ashbrook Ct., Virginia Beach, Va. 23464**

*The 11th ACVVC or Blackhorse Assn. is not responsible financially or in any other way for the golf tournament. It must be noted that the 11th ACVVC will not be held accountable, for any reason, for any facet of the golf tournament.*

### **Bumper Stickers...**

- ❖ LOVE: TWO VOWELS, TWO CONSONANTS, TWO FOOLS.
- ❖ PRIDE IS WHAT WE HAVE. PITY IS WHAT OTHERS HAVE.
- ❖ GIVE ME AMBIGUITY OR GIVE ME SOMETHING ELSE.
- ❖ MAKE IT IDIOT PROOF AND SOMEONE WILL MAKE A BETTER IDIOT.
- ❖ CONSCIOUSNESS: THAT ANNOYING TIME BETWEEN NAPS.



# Quartermaster

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

## ORDER FORM

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white, 11oz., with full color Blackhorse insignia .....	C	5.00			
Stein, Ivory, ceramic. 24 oz, with full color Blackhorse insignia and crossed sabers .....	C	14.00			
Hat, black, poplin, adjustable size, with full color direct embroidered Blackhorse insignia .....	B	9.00			
Keyring, 1 1/2" acrylic square, with full color Blackhorse Insignia. ....	A	2.50			
11th ACR Regimental Crest (Allons!) .....	A	3.00			
Blackhorse Pin .....	A	3.00			
Pin, "Xuan Loc" .....	A	3.00			
11ACVVC Reunion Pins (circle) Indianapolis Colorado Springs Las Vegas Appleton New Orleans .....	A	1.00ea			
11th -ACVVC 1999 Calendar .....	B	5.00			
Bumper Sticker "I RODE WITH THE BLACKHORSE" with full color Blackhorse insignia .....	A	2.00			
Window Sticker, Blackhorse insignia and Vietnam Service ribbon .....	A	1.50			
Blackhorse History Book. "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" .....	C	25.00			
Blackhorse Watch with full color Blackhorse insignia on dial face ) <input type="checkbox"/> Men's <input type="checkbox"/> Women's .....	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch <input type="checkbox"/> Red/White <input type="checkbox"/> Subdued .....	A	3.00			
Black.horse Challenge Coin. Antique silver, 1.75" diameter insignia/VN map on faces.....	A	12.00			
Blackhorse belt buckle, solid brass with crossed sabers and Blackhorse insignia .....	B	15.00			
Blackhorse Cavalry pin. Brass crossed sabers with an "11" above.....	A	4.50			
Blackhorse Flag. Indoor/outdoor nylon 3'x5' with color insignia .....	B	49.00			
Blackhorse License Plate Frame. Metal with "Blackhorse" and "11th US Cavalry".....	B	6.00			
Blackhorse License Plate Red/White background with "11" over gold crossed sabers .....	B	5.00			
Blackhorse "Zippo" style lighter, brushed chronic with Blackhorse insignia .....	B	15.00			
Woman's Pendant w/chain. 10k gold w/full color Blackhorse insignia <i>NEW!</i> .....	C	70.00			
Men's Ring 10k gold w/full color Blackhorse insignia. Specify Ring Size <i>NEW!</i> .....	C	275.00			
Blackhorse Attache Case w/shoulder strap. 11.5" x 15.5". soft material w/ Blackhorse insignia and Vietnam ribbon on front flap. ....	B	30.00			
Blackhorse T-shirt, Hanes, 100% cotton "beefy" T-shirt, pre-shrunk, w/color Blackhorse insignia. Sizes: M (38-40), L (42-44), XL, (46-48),2XL (50-52 add \$2.00), 3XL. (54-56 add) \$2.00) Specify Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Grey.....	B	16.00/18.00			
Blackhorse Henley Shirt,. Fruit of the Loom,. 100% cotton,. short sleeve, round collar w/ Blackhorse insignia and Vietnam ribbon (left front) Sizes: M (38-40), L (42-44), XL (46-48), 2XL (50-52) Specify Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White .....	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Sweatshirt. Haines, 50% cotton/50% acrylic, w/full color Blackhorse insignia Sizes: M (38-40), (42-44), XL (46-48), 2XL (50-52 ADD \$2.00), 3XL (54-56 ADD \$4.00) Specify Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Gray.....	B	18.00/22.00			
Golf Shirts, (Outer Banks or Pine Island) 1005 cotton white golf shirt w/W full color embroidered Blackhorse insignia (left front). Sizes:M (38-40), L (42-44), XL (46-48), 2XL (50-52) Specify Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White .....	B	26.00			
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% nylon. snap front, quilted nylon lining. Full color- embroidered Blackhorse insignia (6" back), cross sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left). Sizes: M (38-40), L (42-44), XL (46-48), 2XL (50-52 add \$2.00), 3XL (54-56 add \$4.00) .....	C	62.00/70.00			
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
A items = \$1 .50, B items = \$4.00, C items = \$5.00 (max ship, handling is \$5.00 for any order)		Shipping/Handling			
		<b>TOTAL</b>			

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check if address change

Please include *largest* of the shipping/handling amounts noted above with your order. The *maximum* shipping/handling charge for any order is \$5.00. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC". Allow 5-6 weeks for processing and delivery. Prices effective to **June 2001**. Previous lists invalid. Mail order to: **11ACWC Quartermaster,c/o Rodney George, 21450 W Ninemile Rd, Huson, MT 59846.**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**NL-1Q01**

**11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA**

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) \_\_\_\_\_ SSN NO \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$100)  
 LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

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

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR  
 (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC MEMBERSHIP, OLLIE W. PICKRAL, 1602 LORRIE DR, RICHARDSON TX 75080-3409**

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



**Thunder Run**  
**11th ACVVC**  
**1602 Lorrie Dr.**  
**Richardson, TX 75080-3409**

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