



Thunder Run

Vol. 18 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2003

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

The Blackhorse in Eugene

by *Adrian Vaaler*,
Eugene Reunion Chair

Next summer is not too far away for the 18th annual reunion of the 11thACVVC. I hope you will be able to come to Eugene, Oregon for this reunion. The major events have been scheduled, including the Memorial Service, Banquet and Bunker parties. Other events will include membership meetings, VA service presentations and side tours

Here’s a rundown by day of presently scheduled activities.

Wednesday, July 30

Side tours offered (see page 6).

Thursday, July 31

Side tours offered. Bunker Party at the Eugene Hilton.

Thursday, July 31

12th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament at Tokatee Golf Club up the McKenzie River about an hour from Eugene (rated one of the top 25 public golf courses in the country-see pg 18). Joe Coopet is Golf Tournament Director (Phone: 651-578-2857).

Please turn to **EUGENE** on page 4

General Robert J. Sunell to Speak at Eugene Reunion

The honored guest speaker at the Eighteenth Reunion Banquet will be Retired General Robert J. Sunell, U. S. Army. Robert J. Sunell entered the military service in 1953 and retired 33 years later as a Major General, United States Army. He served in Korea, Vietnam and Germany.

General Sunell received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education Administration from the University of Nebraska and a Master of Science Degree in Communications from Shippensburg State College. He is a graduate of the US Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the US Army War College.

General Sunell has commanded both Infantry and Armor units in peace and war. He was the Deputy Director, Cavalry Scout Study, Director, Armored Family of Vehicles Task Force, Deputy Program Manager, XM-1 Tank, Commanding General of the Army Training Support Center during the development of the National Training Center, and later, Program Manager, US Army Tank Systems. He has been a leader in the development of conceptual use of artificial intelligence in warfare.



Guest speaker at the 18th National Reunion banquet, General Robert J. Sunell, U. S. Army (Ret)

In the international arena, General Sunell was an exchange officer with the British Army and Program Manager advisor for “Tank 88,” a Korean indigenous tank. He also chaired the US German and US British Tank Standardization and

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1st Quarter
2003

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Ollie Pickral, President
11th ACVVC

I hope all of you had a great holiday season and are having a great 2003. January 01, 2003, will be my final year as your President. These last five years

have been very rewarding. Over these five years I've had a terrific group of Blackhorse Troopers "covering my back". I'm speaking of the other three Officers and the three Directors of 11 ACVVC. These guys have made my job so much easier. They have made our organization one of the best veteran unit organizations in the country! I'm talking about John Sorich, our Vice President, Bill Holford our Treasurer, Frank Cambria our Secretary; our Directors, Eric Newton, Chuck Schmidt, and Mike Forbes. When you see these guys at the upcoming reunion, let them know how much you appreciate their work. They spend countless hours each day and I mean every day of the year working for our organization.

There are others who are not Officers and Directors who contribute many hours and days for 11 ACVVC. Rod George and his wife Elida run our Quartermaster store, they had over \$72,000 in sales for 2002. Bill Gregory our newsletter editor, Warren Swinford who runs our Membership committee, Rick O'Dell who heads our Veteran Service committee, Gene Johnson and Steve Page who assure our reunions are the greatest. We have one of the best websites on the internet because of troopers like Otis Carey and Pete Echon. Jim Murray contacts our KIA families and gets them to our reunions. Let's not forget our Chaplain, Larry Haworth who has given us guidance and direction for so many years. I can go on and on with the Blackhorse troopers who make our organization a "smooth running machine". Thanks from the bottom of my heart.

We are still in need of volunteers for your organization. We continue to look for someone to run our Membership program. Help for the reunion is always needed, both from our registration desk and our Quartermaster Store.

We will be conducting elections at the Eugene reunion. See John Sorich's article in the following pages regarding the rules for conducting our elections. Be thinking of qualified troopers who might be candidates for these important positions. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Board position are going to be selected at the business meeting.

I just received my latest VFW national magazine and was thumbing through it when I came upon a story about military reunions and how much good these reunions do for veterans, especially war veterans. Without reading the article, I can vouch for the title. I've been to every reunion except Nashville. I know how much good it does to come to a reunion, see old buddies, laugh/cry together, and talk about the bad times and the good times.

Many of our troopers who come to a reunion let us know how they enjoyed the camaraderie and how it was good to be able to talk about our time of war. They feel good about our service for our country and for our historic Blackhorse Regiment. For those of you who have wanted to come to a reunion and just haven't been able to push yourself to get there, do so and do so NOW!! Don't wait until you physically can't get to one and wish you had. They are addictive.....just ask anyone who has been to one.

Like in past years, this issue of Thunder Run is being sent to everyone on our roster who served with us in Vietnam and Cambodia. This "freebee" is being sent to you for two reasons. First, we want you to join up and get

back in contact with your old buddies again and second, we want to continue being in contact with you. Some of your buddies could be looking for you at this moment and sometime in the future, you may want to find your buddies you served with in the 11th Cav. So, we want to be there for you when you are ready. Try us out for a year and I bet you'll want to continue your membership with us.

Your Officers and Directors will be heading for a mid-year meeting at Cibolo Ranch in southwest Texas February 15. We will meet for three days to discuss items that affect the future of our organization and to discuss the day-to-day business of 11 ACVVC.

Please continue to support your scholarship program through donations of money and/or items to be donated for our silent auction that we have at each reunion. In 2002, we were able to give scholarships to 14 members of our Blackhorse family.

Notice that we have placed the Registration form in this issue for the Eugene, Oregon reunion. The dates are July 31 Aug 3, 2003. Sign up early and please, please make your hotel reservations now. Our reunion site chairman, Adrian Vaaler has all the info you need to get you to the great Northwest!! Check out his article with all the reunion information. The Reunion Committee has completed its budget and is pleased to announce the registration rate of \$55.00 per attendee. We are expecting at least 1,000 to attend.

We are still in need of volunteers for your organization. We continue to look for someone to run our Membership program. Help for the reunion is always needed, both from our registration desk and our Quartermaster Store. Let any of the Officers or Directors (on page 3) know if you would like to help 11 ACVVC continue to grow and become the best advocate for those troopers who served with us.

Until next time,

ALLONS!!

SUNELL from page 1

Harmonization program, and he has worked closely with the Israeli and Swedish research and development community. Currently he is a member of the Saab sponsored Swedish Science Council.

Upon retirement from active duty, General Sunell founded Suonperra, Inc. and has been a contract professional for several companies involved in training simulation, robotics, composites and armaments for future combat vehicles. He has been on the Steering Committee of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., for the Defense Industrial Base Study and the future of Armor/Anti-Armor Warfare. He was also an advisor to the Army Science Board on "Close Combat (Heavy) Training Strategies for the 1990's" and The Future Tank Study. Currently, General

Sunell is a consultant for Armor/Anti-Armor and Virtual Simulation programs with the Institute for Defense Analyses.

General Sunell was appointed as a consultant to the Army Science Board's "Tank Modernization" Study and to a three-year

term as a member of AUSA's Advisory Board of Directors and assigned to the Land Warfare Committee.

General Sunell holds numerous awards for valor and service.

WANTED: REUNION VOLUNTEERS

Your reunion committee needs you. Volunteers are needed to help in every aspect of your reunion. Drivers for a 15 passenger van, eugene airport greeters, amtrak station greeters, memorial service guides, registration desk, silent auction.

The success of these events depends on the assistance of all members. If you are willing to assist and still have a great time at the reunion. Please fill out the form below and send to the people listed.

Name _____

Date and hours available _____

Type of work preferred _____

Contact number, e-mail address or phone number _____

Adrian Vaaler, Site Chairman

2610 Baker Blvd.

Eugene, OR 97403 (E-mail: blackhorseeugene@aol.com)

All replies will be sent on to Bob and Barb Moreno, Volunteer Coordinators

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



Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080-3409. Telephone (972) 235-6542; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@isc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory Jr, 720 Ashbrook Dr., Hixson, TN 37343-1285 <Battle46A@comcast.net>

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Editor's Corner

C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

We all made it through the holidays, and are getting ready for another exciting year. This issue of your newsletter is devoted to getting the word out for the Eugene Reunion, and we do hope that you can make plans to be there. This year we elect officers, selecting those who will lead the 11th ACVVC for the next several years. Your participation in that important decision is valuable to all of us.

I remember in the old western movies, someone always had a sign on one of the covered wagons saying "Oregon Or Bust"; well in this issue we have articles that will hopefully give you all the information you need to plan your trip to Oregon at the end of July. Our President and Vice President have both provided needed information about the operations of our organization, Chaplain Haworth reminds us of one of the best memories most of us have about Nam, and Barb Moreno gives us the ladies' point of view. We have included some very touching and

hopefully entertaining pieces from members and their families. This newsletter is slightly larger than our usual issue. We had to enlarge it so we could get all the important information about the reunion and other official functions of the 11th ACVVC in it, and still have room to include the important articles from our readers. We will try to keep this size, but that will be dependent upon having enough material, right now that is not a problem, but as the saying goes, "keep those cards and letters coming folks".

Our "Show Your Pride" series continues to thrive with several submissions coming in recently. Let me remind you that we must have an original photo OR we can accept digital pictures if they are at least 300dpi. The usual Internet picture is only 72 dpi and cannot be used. Please also try to send close up shots wherever possible, a picture with a broad view usually leaves the part showing the car tag or writing so small that we cannot use it. Hope you enjoy this issue, keep letting us know how we can get better. ALLONS !!

EUGENE from page 1

Friday, August 1

Bunker Party with finger food at night at the Eugene Hilton. No side tours offered.

Saturday, August 2

Memorial Service at 2pm in Skinner Butte Park with music and a special speaker. Banquet (6pm No Host Cocktails, dinner at 7pm) in the Eugene Hotel. Banquet Speaker is General Sunnell. A DJ will provide music after dinner and program. No side tours offered.

Sunday, August 3

Church Service at 10am in Eugene Hilton. Side tours offered.

The Eugene Hilton Hotel is for all practical purposes sold out for Fri and Sat nights as of Jan 13th. Please register at the Doubletree Inn.

Hilton Reservations:

- Thu, 7/31 - 231 rooms reserved
- Fri, 8/1 - 246 out of 250 reserved
- Sat, 8/2 - 242 out of 250 reserved
- All other days - plenty of room

So far, about 550 people have registered at the Hilton.

For Eugene Hilton Host Hotel Reservations (downtown Eugene): 1-800-973-6660 or 541-342-2000 (Both local Eugene numbers).

Overflow Hotel: Doubletree Inn (Gateway Mall) - Phone 541-726-8181 (Preferred Reservation Number); National Phone: 1-800-222-8733

Side tours include a rafting trip down the McKenzie River, trips to ocean beaches and a local winery tour. See application elsewhere in this issue.

Airline Discounts: (Check elsewhere for details) United Airlines is the official Reunion airline.

Rental Car Discounts: Avis, good for 7 days before and 7 days after the reunion. Avis (AWD) CODE D086507

Toll free Number is 1-800-331-1600

I welcome everybody to Eugene and hope we have another memorable reunion. The hotels and visitor's bureau are ready to help us out in anyway.

Allons,
Adrian

EUGENE REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, July 31 thru Sunday, August 3, 2003

Registration fees are \$ 55 per person, regardless of age. This \$ 55 fee is required for attendance to one or all of the scheduled program events, inclusive of Thursday and Friday Bunker Parties and Saturday Banquet. The Registration fee is \$70.00 after July 15 and when paid at the door (Only if space is available)

Please Print All Information

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ email address: _____

Unit Assignment: (list **only one** Troop/Company) _____

This will be your seating assignment for the Saturday night banquet dinner

Years in Country (ie....1966-1967) _____

Attendees

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee): Chicken Beef

Special dietary needs _____

Wheelchair requirements: Yes No

Send Check or Money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to

11 ACVVC Reunion XVIII, C/O Gene Johnson
4054 Venitia Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89120-1442

Reunion Notes

Steve Page,
Reunion Committee Chairman

Greetings fellow Troopers. Preparation for The Eugene Reunion is well under way and the process is going quite well thanks to your local Chairman Adrian Vaaler he is doing a great job. Just a few reminders Book your rooms NOW. Discount Airfares and Auto rentals are available use them it will save you money. United Airlines fly into Eugene the others fly into Portland either way the discount will apply. Make sure to use the CODE numbers and Toll free telephone numbers provided.

We have assembled an experienced team for the registration table under the direction of Registration Chairman Gene Johnson and coordinated by Bob and Barb Moreno. They run a tight ship, volunteers are always welcome it's a great way to meet new people and the work is fun. We look forward to seeing all our old friends and meeting all of you who will make this Reunion your first. See you soon in Eugene.

United Airlines is the Official airline of The 11th ACVVC Reunion. If you or your travel agent call United's toll free number (1-800-521-4041) to book your reservations, you will receive a 5% discount off the lowest applicable discount fare, including First Class or a 10% discount off full fare unrestricted coach fares, purchased 7 days in advance. An additional 5% discount will apply when tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance. **You must use meeting ID number 516BE for discounts**

Southwest Airlines, while not the official airline of the reunion is offering a 10% discount off their already low fares. You must use the ID Code: B0142 for Portland, city code PDX. The Southwest Airways toll free number is 800-433-5368 and the discount is valid for travel July 25 through August 8, 2003.

Avis is offering discount rates good 7 days before and 7 days after the reunion the Avis (AWD) Discount code is: D086507, and their toll free number is: 1-800-331-1600. Avis rates are:

Avis Car rental Rates

Car Class	Car Group	Daily	Weekly	Weekend
Sub Compact	A	34.99	144.99	22.99
Compact	B	38.99	154.99	23.99
Intermediate	C	42.99	169.99	24.99
Full Size 2 Door	D	43.99	179.99	25.99
Full Size 4 Door	E	45.99	189.99	26.99
Premium	G	48.99	199.99	29.99
Luxury	H	77.99	344.99	71.99
Mini Van	V	77.99	344.99	71.99
Convertible	K	77.99	344.99	71.99
Sport Utility	W	77.99	344.99	71.99

■ The above rates are guaranteed. Return to the same renting location or additional surcharges may apply. All rates include unlimited free mileage. Weekend daily rates are available from noon Thursday - Monday at 11:59 P.M.

■ Rates available from July 24, 2003 to August 10, 2003.

■ Should a lower qualifying rate become available, Avis is pleased to present a 5% discount on that rate OR if a car size is selected that is not available above, Avis will discount the best available rate by 5%. The attendee must use the assigned Meeting Avis Discount Number and meet Avis rate requirements to receive the discount. (Rate discounts are available at all corporate and participating licensee locations.)

■ Seven free day certificates for every 20 confirmed reservations using the Meeting Avis Discount Number will be provided. This program applies to compact through 4-door full size cars.

■ Rates do not include any state or local surcharges, tax, optional coverage's or gas refueling charges. Renter must meet Avis' age, driver, and credit requirements.

■ Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-331-1600 or online at www.avis.com.

Elections Will Be Held in Eugene

By: John Sorich, Vice President

As GIs we were acting not for ourselves, but for our countrymen, including our loved ones...especially them. Public service comes in many forms. It is always about putting back into a cause or an organization that you believe in. Its roots are CONCERN, COMPASSION and GENEROSITY of SPIRIT.

We in the 11thACVVC have been very blessed to have had very dedicated men and women who have stepped forward over the years and given of their time. They have made the 11ACVVC an organization that is very strong and forward thinking. We are the envy of many larger veteran organizations that sometimes ask, "How do you guys do it"?

The answer is "The Troopers."

At this year's reunion in Eugene, Oregon, (July 31st to August 3rd) we will be holding elections in accordance with the By-Laws of the 11thACVVC:

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2-A:

"The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected biennially at the annual meeting in odd numbered years to serve a two year term starting on January 1st of the following year and terminating at midnight, December 31st."

SECTION 3-A:

"An officer may succeed himself no more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of the incumbent Treasurer and Secretary who may run for re-election to those offices without term limit."

It is standard operating procedure in most organizations that the Treasurer and Secretary do not have a time limit on successive terms for reelection. The primary reason is for organizational continuity. It can create problems when all of the officers change at the same time. Programs and projects become interrupted or stopped and no current officer would be familiar with ongoing issues. The Secretary and Treasurer can be a vital link between changing administrations.

I was elected to the Board of Directors in 1997. Then the next year your votes made me Vice President. In 2001 your

Continued on page 21

Eugene Tours LLC

SPECIALTY TOURS & EXCURSIONS

P.O. Box 2321
Eugene, Oregon 97402-0073

VOICE - 541-579-8266

FAX - 541-344-0525

EMAIL - info@eugenetours.com
WEBSITE - www.eugenetours.com

11ACVVC 2003 REUNION XVIII TOUR INFORMATION & REGISTRATION FORM

OLD TOWN FLORENCE AND THE OREGON COAST

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2003	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	\$55 EACH	# PEOPLE CAVE___ DUNES___	\$ _____
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	\$55 EACH	# PEOPLE CAVE___ DUNES___	\$ _____
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2003	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	\$55 EACH	# PEOPLE CAVE___ DUNES___	\$ _____

A day at the Oregon coast is a treat to remember. Enjoy shopping in Old-Town Florence, then travel up scenic Highway 101 to the Sea Lion Caves, permanent home to about 200 Steller Sea Lions - **or** - take an exciting Dune Buggy ride over the world's most beautiful dunes, with views of the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the Siuslaw River (approximately one hour). We'll have lunch at a suitable scenic location. Tour price includes box lunch, plus Sea Lion Cave Tour **or** Dune Buggy ride.

McKENZIE RIVER RAFTING, HALF-DAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2003	9:30 AM – 2:30 PM	\$75 EACH	# PEOPLE _____	\$ _____
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003	9:30 AM – 2:30 PM	\$75 EACH	# PEOPLE _____	\$ _____
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2003	9:30 AM – 2:30 PM	\$75 EACH	# PEOPLE _____	\$ _____

Just an hour east of Eugene and Springfield, the McKenzie River offers a perfect sampling of spectacular Oregon scenery and heart-pounding whitewater thrills. Cascading through a canyon blanketed in pine and old growth forest, this river is a crystal clear jewel with an abundance of dancing rapids. The Lower McKenzie, a family favorite, has calm, scenic stretches spiced with exciting Class II and Class III whitewater. Tour price includes the guided river run, plus a box lunch.

CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINERIES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2003	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	\$35 EACH	# PEOPLE _____	\$ _____
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	\$35 EACH	# PEOPLE _____	\$ _____
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2003	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	\$35 EACH	# PEOPLE _____	\$ _____

Enjoy one of Lane County's premier wineries, on a tour and taste of award-winning offerings from the traditional to the exotic. You will learn about the broad range of wines produced in our lush Willamette Valley, and have the opportunity to sample – and buy – the best of Oregon wines. Tour price includes standard wine tasting fees.

TOTAL COST FOR ALL TOURS CHOSEN \$ _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, OR PRINT YOUR INFORMATION BELOW AND SIGN THE FORM TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD

CARDHOLDER NAME _____		BILLING ADDRESS: _____
VISA OR MASTERCARD NUMBER _____	EXP DATE _____	_____
SIGNATURE _____	DATE _____	_____

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID BY JUNE 15, 2003. (CREDIT CARDS WILL BE DEBITED NO EARLIER THAN JUNE 15, 2003). REFUNDS CANNOT BE MADE AFTER THAT DATE, BUT SUBSTITUTIONS MAY BE MADE AT ANY TIME ANY TOUR WITH FEWER THAN 20 PARTICIPANTS MAY BE CANCELLED. IN THE CASE OF CANCELLATION, FULL REFUND WILL BE MADE. CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT FULL FARE AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. SOME TRANSPORT IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSABLE, SO PLEASE PUT A NOTE IN THE MARGIN FOR ANY TOUR ON WHICH YOU NEED A LIFT-EQUIPPED COACH. ALL TOURS WILL BE VERIFIED AT THE TIME OF CHECK-IN AT THE REGISTRATION DESK.

THE UNITED STATES ONE DOLLAR BILL

■ Share this page with everyone so they can learn what is on the back of the United States dollar bill and what it stands for...otherwise, they may never know.

Take out a one dollar bill and look at it. The one-dollar bill you're looking at, first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact, a cotton and linen blend with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually a material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is over-printed with symbols, and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top, you will see the scales for a balanced budget. In the center, you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath, is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know!

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task, and another two years, to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West, or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything!

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the Pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the Pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has

begun." At the base of the Pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776. If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most heroes' monuments. Slightly modified, it is the Seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield, you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak, you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM," meaning, "one nation from many people."

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away.

Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually

never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum," 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and, if you look closely, 13 arrows. And, for minorities, — the 13th Amendment.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this, and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all!!

Author unknown

Provided by Ruth Maynard

Show Your Pride



John Carabetta (D Company, '68-'69) shows his pride coming and going on his red Escort around his home in Connecticut. (Photo by John Carabetta)

I think everyone at one time or another thinks about having a title or honor before or after his or her name. During a very short period of time I received such an honor from my peers. This honor came from a group of people with whom I was very close. A group that still has my utmost respect today. The time was late 1967 or early 1968. A time when people grooved, when something was awesome or it was the greatest! Playboy magazine was not just promoting pictures but the Playboy philosophy as well. A time when everybody tried to be clean cut, well attired, and to drive a late model hot car. Green was becoming the fashionable color even though most people tried to avoid wearing the color.

There I was in green, riding a big green tank. We called the Big Boys. I was playing medic and tanker. At that time the duty was not real bad. We were guarding a little black top road about eight feet wide day and night. We weren't busting jungle, going through mud, busting track, or getting shot at. How many tanks were guarding the road, I don't know. I know that my platoon of five big boys were approximately a half a mile apart. Just close enough to see each big boy beside you in daylight. The days were hot and the nights were dark. We hated the days and loathed the nights. We were always prepared to move if some one got fired upon. There was constant guard duty with someone ready at the radio and ready to grab the main gun trigger. Normally we would have four men on a tank, but we were short one man. That meant a lot of time doing guard duty. When you weren't pulling guard duty you were never more than eight to ten feet away from the radio and main gun controller. In that small area you would sleep, eat and yes, use the bathroom. It would be like working in a plant in a small work area and never leaving even for a break.

In the early evening on most days each big boy would leave the area where the tank was parked and go to a staging area. Here they would get needed supplies such as ammo, fuel, mail, and most of the time a very hot meal. It was also a time when you got to see someone besides your own crew, drink hot coffee, drink Kool-Aid, send out mail, or trade for magazines. Some people described this as a small period of time when you were allowed out of

My Ph.D. in BS

**By: David R. "Doc" Berger
(D Company, 1/11, '67-'68)**

your jail cell. Afterward you returned to your designated guard position to get set for one of those long, dark and mind-bending nights. I was one of those people who could manage to stay awake at night better than the other two crewmembers. I might pull four or five hours of guard duty. Midnight to 5:00 am found about all the high-ranking people asleep. During these hours it was like the world was shut down and there you were all alone atop a pile of metal that was supposed to be capable of causing about as much destruction as a company of infantry. Except for a call on the radio each hour for a situation report and starting the tank about every two hours, you sat there staring into the dark looking for enemy. Then there was the two-way radio on the tank and the other four people on guard duty on the other four big boys. Suddenly the two-way radio was like, "Radio Free Vietnam".

At first there would be a couple of calls that would seem almost official. Then the calls would appear as necessary personal calls. When there was no reaction from the high-ranking personnel, the radio would become sort of a radio chat line. Everybody would have something to say. The first couple of hours everybody was

Sitting atop of that big boy pulling guard duty in the dark of night, fighting despondency and the urge to just give up, the honorary PhD in BS really meant something.

up beat. Scores from sports would be announced. Prices of Corvettes, GTOs, Roadrunners, Mustangs, Sunbeams, and MGs with various options would be discussed. Of course girls and sex were not far behind. Sometime after 2:00 am the mood would change, a little more homesick whining and stupid Army would set in. After 3:00 am, the personnel pulling more than two hours guard duty would slow down the talking. There would be more dead radio time, stupid jokes, and just stupid statements made. I can remember one guy would say, "Oh if I could just kiss a nice soft cheek." Someone else would immediately reply, "I have a nice soft cheek you can kiss, the only trouble is I am sitting on it." Sometimes one guy would like to sing. The songs were always up beat and encouraging songs like "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" And he would usually make up his own verses.

Just talking to the five platoon members would open up the world. Without the radio talk you were just a couple of eyeballs and ears trying to survive. The radio nightlife soon came to a halt. A new radio repairman came into the company. Like me he liked to work the late shift and was a regular radio policeman. "Radio Free Vietnam" came to a halt. The company commander was being alerted to our game and our wayward radio ways were changed. Without the radio, sanity would just pass you by. You would sit there just thinking weird thoughts like, "If I were to elevate this main gun and bust a cap on a high explosive round with a possible range of thirty miles, where would the round land?" "Wonder if radar would pick it up? Maybe it would land in some army outpost or maybe it would land in the jungle killing a bunch of slimy snakes. The more you thought the worse it got.

Different people tried to soften up this mean minded radioman. Nobody could seem to get a decent conversation going with this guy. He was cold, direct and without mercy. It was at one of those staging times someone pointed him out to me. Without hesitation I announced I was going to have a talk with him and get him to change his ways. The personnel around me laughed and someone said, "You might last thirty seconds." Someone else said I could accomplish more trying to walk through a minefield. I walked up to him

sure and brazen and stuck out my hand, "I'm Doc . . ." He cut me off saying, "I know who you are, I listen to you each night." I crashed and burned real fast; it was time for some different tactics.

"Where you from," I asked.

"You never heard of the little place" he replied.

"Try me I've been around" I replied lying through my teeth.

"New Martinsville, West Virginia" he responded.

Without thinking I said. "Yea, Magnolia High School is located on Maple Avenue".

He turned toward me and his eyes got as big as golf balls and bigger. My eyes probably did the same. Within that minute we came to realize we were from the same hometown. We weren't just becoming friends; we were homefolks. The next twenty minutes we conveyed our backgrounds to one another. We were amazed we didn't know one another. His father got killed in a coalmine and his mother moved the family to New Martinsville so she could work. While I was spending two years in college, he was finishing his last two years in high school and we never got to meet. In the last two minutes talking to him, I asked him to give us a little break explaining what it was like and if we were causing problems for him, and if the company commander was up and around, just let us know and we would stop talking on the radio. He agreed. As my big boy passed the other tanks, I motioned everything was all right. Later that night I had to be the one that started "Radio Free Nam". Everyone was a little timid, but it wasn't long before things returned to normal.

When I was asked how I accomplished the almost impossible, I always replied, I just applied a little BS here and a little BS there and it worked. Later that week I was informed that the platoon had bestowed on me a Ph.D. in BS. I was honored. Sometimes late at night the radio talk would stop and then someone would call, "Two Three Tango Delta Oscar Charlie" (meaning two-three tank; tango, meaning Doc;) and I answer and they would continue with their radio talk. "Delta Oscar Charlie you aren't smart enough to be President of the United States, but with

your gift of gab and line of bull you certainly would make a fine Vice President of our great country." There is nothing like having someone brag on you when you are in deep darkness. When you can't see your hand in front of your face you sometimes become unsure you are alive or that you are any kind of living being. When you hear someone brag on you its like light or energy flowing to you. Somehow it's like someone putting a hand on your shoulder and you say to yourself, "I am alive!"

In the darkness you can be ugly or beautiful, stupid or smart, weak or powerful and when the radio crackles and a voice tells you something you believe it. During the day light hours when someone feeds you a line or brags, it means nothing. At night in deep darkness you believe every word. If I were going to try to sell snow to an Eskimo I would do it in darkness. Sitting in the dark, I actually believed I was somebody; after all I had a Ph.D. in BS. It was an awesome feeling for a couple of weeks. Then someone in the platoon found out the radioman and I were from the same hometown.

It was in the evening when my tank went to the staging or supply area that the academic committee of the platoon met me. It was sort of like a college academic committee where everybody gives you disapproving looks and your sentence requires you to be cooked in boiling oil. The charge was sort of a form of plagia-

rism. I had not used my BS abilities to get us talk time on the radio. I had accomplished my great feat by dealing with someone from my hometown. The basic charge was something like, "Its not nice to lie to the platoon." When I replied that I had not lied, the charge was reduced to, "You mislead us and it's not nice to mislead your platoon." I was stripped of my PhD in BS and given a high school degree in BS. It was later upgraded to a two-year college degree in BS.

Sitting atop of that big boy pulling guard duty in the dark of night, fighting despondency and the urge to just give up, the honorary PhD in BS really meant something. I was no longer a king pin on "Radio Free Vietnam." The guys in the platoon were good to me, even though my fellow talkers felt a little betrayed. A voice would occasionally come across the radio late at night and simply say, "Delta Oscar Charlie, you did good."

You might think this story is a little stupid, but an honorary degree meant something to me at a time when nothing else gave me the urge to keep on fighting the darkness. Even in today's world while occasionally driving late at night with headlights to guide me and my radio to comfort me, I will hear a certain golden throat voice come across the radio singing "Are you lonesome tonight?" and I fondly reflect back to a time when I had a PhD in BS.

Show Your Pride



Mike Barlett (K Troop '69-'70) shows his pride to all who pass his place in Lansing, MI. (Photo by Mike Bartlett)

A Short History of the 11th United States Cavalry

Submitted by: Ollie Pickral, (K Troop, 3/11,
1968-1969) (Author Unknown)

The 11th U.S. Cavalry was activated on 2 February 1901 at Fort Myer, Virginia. In December of that year, the Regiment was deployed to the jungles of the Philippines. Its mission was to help neutralize the insurrectionist forces that were trying to seize power in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. The Regiment served under the first civil governor of the Philippines, William Howard Taft, who would later become President of the United States. The troopers were issued "bolo" knives (machetes) to slash through the thick jungle vegetation of the Philippine Islands. A pair of crossed bolo knives later became a part of the Blackhorse crest symbolizing the "first blood" or "battle action" of the Regiment.

First Squadron, while posted on the island of Samar, earned the Regiment its first battle streamer entitled "Samar 1902". The Regiment's first casualty occurred in an ambush on 4 March 1902, when Private Clarence L. Gibbs was killed by insurrectionist forces. In 1904, after returning from the Philippines, the Regiment was stationed at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The 11th Cavalry Regiment was then ordered to Cuba on 16 October 1906. From their base at Camp Columbia, Cuba, the 11th Cavalry, less first Squadron, conducted small mounted patrols as a display of the power for the United States. When order had been restored, the Regiment deployed back to America.

Upon arriving back in the continental United States in February 1909, the 11th Cavalry was ordered to mount up for the inaugural parade of incoming President William Howard Taft in Washington, DC. In March 1909, the Regiment was then stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia with a mission of preparedness for military contingencies. In early 1911, the Blackhorse was ordered to Fort Sam Houston, Texas to begin mounted desert training as concerns about Mexican stability increased. In May of 1914, "The Ludlow Massacre" touched off an armed riot among miners in Colorado. The 11th Cavalry was deployed to the towns of Trinidad and Ludlow,

Colorado, to stop the bloodshed by a show of force that would allow both sides time to negotiate.

On 9 March 1916, the Mexican revolutionary "Pancho" Villa raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico. After killing fifteen Americans and several visiting Mexicans, he left the town in ruins. President Woodrow Wilson ordered Brigadier General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to lead a Punitive Expedition into Mexico to destroy Villa's rebel army. On 12 March 1916, the 11th Cavalry joined the expedition into Mexico to capture Villa and neutralize his army. While in Mexico, on 5 May 1916, the Second Squadron (Provisional), commanded by Major Robert L. Howze, led the last mounted cavalry charge in U.S. military history. After the action, Howze's men reported forty-two enemy dead while suffering no friendly casualties or loss of mounts. The 5th of May was later established as the Regiment's official organization day, in honor of Howze's charge.

On 9 July 1919, the Regiment moved to its new posting at the Presidio of Monterey, California. The Institute of Heraldry provided the Regiment with its own Grant of Arms on 25 August 1921. The "Allons" crest officially established the Regiment as distinctive from other mounted units. On 14 September 1924, "the Great Monterey Oil fire" erupted when lightning struck an oil storage tank. The fire raged for five days. The 11th Cavalry participated in the fire fighting effort and twenty-six Blackhorse troopers were killed. John Philip Sousa had written the tune "The Black Horse Trooper" and the 9th Colonel of the Regiment, Herbert J. Brees, received permission to adopt it as the Regiment's tune.

In 1937, the 11th Cavalry appeared in the film "Sergeant Murphy" starring Ronald Reagan. On 1 June of that year, it also participated in the opening ceremony of the Golden Gate Bridge. By the late 1930's, the 11th Cavalry was ordered to start experimenting with scout cars, the first mechanized cavalry vehicles. In the summer of 1942, the tide of mechanization finally swept away the last of the horse-mounted cavalry. In a very emotional farewell, the mounts that had symbolized

the true cavalry trooper were turned in for vehicles. From horse to horsepower, this marked the end to an area.

On 15 July 1942, the 11th U.S. Cavalry was inactivated at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Headquarters and Headquarters Troop was redesignated on 19 April 1943, as the HHT, 11th Cavalry Group Mechanized. The former squadrons of the 11th Cavalry were sent to fight with the 10th Armored Division and the 90th Infantry Division overseas. HHT, 11th Cavalry Group Mechanized drew new squadrons, the 36th and 44th Reconnaissance Squadrons, and received an Assault Gun Troop (a howitzer battery). On 1 June 1944, the Group moved to Camp Gordon, Georgia, to begin training for overseas deployment. Declared ready for combat soon after, the Regiment departed from New York bound for the United Kingdom on 29 September 1944 and entered France on 23 November 1944. The first unit of the Blackhorse to cross the English Channel was B Troop, commanded by 1LT Leonard B. Holder, who would later become the Regiment's 37th Colonel in Vietnam. After the war, the 11th Cavalry Group Mechanized was redesignated as the 11th Constabulary Regiment to maintain order in war torn Germany. It was a grand time for the Regiment as they received horses again to patrol the devastated villages and towns of post-war Germany. The "CIRCLE "C" COWBOYS" rode from May 1946 - November 1948.

In November of 1948, the Blackhorse was redesignated as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and inactivated. On 1 April 1951, at the height of the Korean War, the Blackhorse was brought back on active status as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Camp Carson, Colorado. In 1954, the Regiment transferred to Fort Knox, Kentucky to receive its training in armored tactics. In May 1954, the Regiment deployed to the Desert Warfare Training Center at Camp Irwin, CA, (little did the Regiment know it would not be the last time). In mid-March 1957, the entire Regiment rotated to southern Germany to relieve the 6th ACR patrolling the Germany-Czechoslovakia border.

In 1964, the Blackhorse returned to the United States and was stationed at Fort

Meade, Maryland for two years, until it received orders in March 1966 to deploy to Vietnam.

The Blackhorse Becomes a Legend in Vietnam

In early 1966, the Regiment began redesigning its equipment for a new type of warfare based on recommendations from American advisors based in Vietnam. Additional armor and two more 30-cal. machine guns were added to the Regiment's M113s, transforming them into what became known as Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles or ACAVs. The new design of armored gun shields provided a measure of protection for the crew and track commander. The result was a rapid all terrain fighting vehicle which could deliver devastating firepower. The Blackhorse troops arrived in South Vietnam on September 7, 1966, (the Air Troop arrived in December), and quickly engaged the enemy with M-48 tanks, ACAV's, artillery and helicopters. The Regiment established the justification to receive its own patch on 1 May 1967 from the Department of Heraldry and was the first of five Armored Cavalry Regiments to receive a distinctive shoulder sleeve insignia.

The main operational areas for the Blackhorse squadrons were the provinces around Saigon and up to the Cambodian border. The unit clearly demonstrated it's rapid mobility when Saigon came under siege during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The unit raced over 100 kilometers in eight hours to the defense of the city and fought street by street to overcome the attacking Viet Cong. History now points out that the Viet Cong were virtually annihilated during these battles. From that time forward North Vietnamese Army units, well supplied and equipped by the communist superpowers, would fight a war of attrition against the United States. Rarely however, would they risk a head-to-head confrontation with their most feared adversary, the 11th ACR. In July of 1968, the 39th Colonel of the Regiment, George S. Patton Jr., assumed command and soon applied his expertise in armored combat tactics. The Regiment moved the armor off the roads and into the jungles in search of the enemy, a concept previously thought not feasible. This action was so successful that the enemy could no longer move freely

and was forced to seek sanctuary inside neutral Cambodia. Colonel Patton coined the phrase, "FIND THE BASTARDS, THEN PILE ON", which remains today as the Regiment's battle cry. From well-established bases inside Cambodia, the communists would strike out into South Vietnam and then return across the border to resupply and regroup.

On 1 May 1970, the 11th ACR spearheaded a historic attack across the Cambodian border into an area called the Fish Hook to deny the enemy of these safe havens. Commanded by the 41st Colonel of the Regiment, Donn A. Starry, the Blackhorse penetrated for more than 60 kilometers to capture the town of Snoul. The Cambodian Incursion was the last unrestrained offensive use of U.S. ground forces in the war. The capture and destruction of tons of enemy weapons and supplies left the enemy devastated and demoralized. The result was a smoother transition of responsibility to the South Vietnamese military as the American combat forces continued to withdraw. Countless American and allied lives were saved by the operation that left the North Vietnamese Army crippled and unable to mount an effective offensive for some time. In February of 1971, First and Third Squadron redeployed to the U.S. and were inactivated. On 6 April 1972, after almost six years of continuous combat the Blackhorse Regiment's Air Troop and Second Squadron departed Vietnam having never lost a battle. One year later, on 29 March 1973, the last American combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam. Within two years, on 30 April 1975, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese. In all, 768 Blackhorse troopers made the ultimate sacrifice by helping to protect and defend the people of South Vietnam from their north communist aggressors. The Regiment's wounded totaled 5,761. Three 11th ACR troopers were awarded the Medal of Honor, two of which were posthumous. In its best performance, the gallant troopers of the Blackhorse

Regiment earned fourteen battle streamers for bravery and forever secured a place in American military history and legend.

On 17 May 1972, the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment was redesignated as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fulda, Germany. The Blackhorse Regiment became the first line of defense on the "THE FRONTIER OF FREEDOM" protecting the Fulda Gap. In the event that hostilities broke out, the 11th ACR had the mission of holding off tying down a Soviet Army ten times its size in order to give the divisions behind it time to react. They were more than up to the challenge, standing ready and vigilant against the Warsaw Pact forces and contributing to the West's ultimate victory in the Cold War. On 9 November 1989, the East-West German wall fell. The Regiment's 17-year vigil along the Iron Curtain was over. In August of 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. 1st Platoon, E Troop, 2nd Squadron went to war with 3rd ACR. On 10 April 1991, the Regiment deployed an aviation task force to support the U.S. Kurdish relief efforts in Turkey and Northern Iraq (Operation Provide Comfort). On 16 May 1991, the Regiment deployed to Kuwait for Operation Positive Force to secure Kuwait as it struggled to rebuild from the war. By October, Task Force Thunderhorse's mission in Turkey was over, and its remaining troopers returned to Fulda. As the need for U.S. forces in Europe decreased, the Blackhorse Regiment was inactivated in a very emotional ceremony on 15 March 1994.

The 11th ACR was reactivated on 26 October 1994, at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. The Blackhorse continues the tradition of "finding the bastards, then piling on" while serving as the Army's premier training unit, the NTC's Opposing Force (OPFOR). The Blackhorse now sets the standard for training the world's greatest Army, while remaining ready to respond to any contingency.

ALLONS - Blackhorse forever!

Truly one of the All-Time best quotes:

In a recent interview, General Norman Schwartzkopf was asked if he didn't think there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harbored and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwartzkopf. He said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function. Our job is simply to arrange the meeting."

GORDO

By: Charles W. Abbey
HHT, 2/11, 1966 – '67

Dust devils, I knew about, but I had never seen any the size of South Vietnam's. True, I was familiar with dust devils at home, but these Asian monsters were towering whirlwinds, many meters high that often danced along for a quarter of an hour. I remembered that the comic character, "Gordo" had warned his strip colleagues, "Never jump into a dust devil!" But he had not mentioned flying a helicopter into one. I cannot relate why, but I knew that it was destined that I should fly an OH-23 into one of these diminutive twisters as a small contribution to aeronautical science.

Battle (2/11 ACR) missions didn't allow for very much independent pleasure flying during the heady days of the war in 1966 and 1967. Indeed no time was allowed for chasing dusty whirlwinds; but I kept my eyes open never the less. To be sure, I saw many dust devils, but they were always dying-out, or moving in the wrong direction or I was busy with some other pesky, war related task. Time seemed to be fast slipping by and the monsoon rains would ultimately put an end to this quest. I needed an opportunity. I needed to fly more. I needed my day in the dust.

Fate was with me one morning as I took off from the Battle heliport. I noticed to my left, a sizeable dust devil heading

my way from the vicinity of the Blackhorse Base Camp heliport. "At last! Low enough. In the right place at the right time! OK you elusive enigma, here I come!"

Whoa, Nellie! This thing was violent. It swallowed the little OH-23, shook it violently up and down, right and left, shot a load of dirt into the cockpit, in my helmet, in my mouth, down my neck and into my boots! It spat us out directly, barely upright but still flying.

I could tell that the Crew Chief was not amused. Dust, small bits of gravel and vegetative remains littered the cockpit. Material had gotten into the spaces beneath the decking where push-pull tubes, bell cranks and control cables resided. This was not good. Thick and abrasive dust clung to each hanger bearing and to each lubrication fitting. The air filter was partly clogged. Gearboxes were adorned with muddy grit. Shame! No damage done, but my moment of youthful experimentation would cost the Crew Chief several hours of extra cleaning, wiping and lubrication. This was his bird and he was a dedicated Army Aviation mechanic and clean freak. I sheepishly appealed for forgiveness and volunteered to help him with the cleaning, under his close supervision, Of course. We cleaned the aircraft carefully and by-the-book. I was respectfully and repeatedly admonished; "Never, never do this again!"

And, I promise that I never have!

Show Your Pride



Bob Hersey (K Troop, '68-'69) shows his pride around Portsmouth, NH. (Photo by Bob Hersey.)

It Is Still With You!

By J. Carole

It has been over 30 years now,
Your tour in Vietnam has ended, but,
It is still with you!

Having not been there, it's hard for me
to understand,
How that experience has imprinted
your mind, heart and being, but I do
know,
It is still with you!

Maybe it was because you were so
young and impressionable back then.
You were open to all the excitement of
being a young man, facing your future
And, you were thrown there, to "Hell"
on earth.
It wasn't fair, but the reality of war
dampened your spirit, and,
It is still with you!

Memories still haunt you,
Why did you survive when so many
didn't?
Why did it have to be part of your life?
The answers will never be known, and,
It is still with you!

Sometimes, I feel you have this wall
around you that nothing can penetrate,
Can you ever let your guard down and
let your true emotions come through?
Can't you ever let it go?
Why, oh why,
Is it still with you?

Listen!! You need to know this.
Your fighting, as well as your survival,
was for us, your brothers and sisters
back home.
We could say "thank You" until we are
blue in the face,
But the words to truly thank you for
what you did for us simply don't exist.
We can welcome you home with "open
arms" now,
We know it's much too late to let you
know that you truly were our heroes,
but,

We want you to know, not only that,
but also that our total lack of apprecia-
tion back then,
Is still with us!

(Editor's Note: J Carole is the wife of
Trooper William J. Madej, M Company,
3/11, 1966 – '67)

Through A Daughter's Eyes

By: Kristy Miller*

I am the daughter of a Vietnam veteran of the 11th Cavalry L Troop and this was my first experience at a veteran's reunion (Nashville 2002). I had a lot of uncertainty about attending a reunion for a war that tore at the fabrics of society and brought so much pain to so many people. My personal thanks go out to the men and women of the 11th Cavalry (Blackhorse) who made it possible for me to be writing this letter, and for bringing my father home.

Besides my personal interest about Vietnam lie many questions about the years of silence about such an unforgettable time in history. Vietnam was always an unspoken word at my house. I can't remember a time when the Vietnam War was talked about openly. It essentially was ignored, denied, put in the closet, what have you. I do not know what happened over there; needless to say, I was not even around when these conflicts began. But growing up you could see the haunting past, and see the pain in my father's eyes that no words needed to be associated. You felt the presence of death and devastation without asking a single question. So, as I have gotten older and have reflected on my own childhood, I have come to many realizations about the Vietnam War.

There is little argument that the Vietnam War was emotionally, our toughest war. Our soldiers marched home to furled flags and silent drums. The Veteran was quickly stereotyped as a victim out of control.

Certainly, there are veterans with problems, severe and lingering problems, which stem at least in part from their service in Vietnam, in part from their reception when they came home. But what should be said, because it has been so overlooked, is that most veterans have been able to build on their experiences in Vietnam. Their lives contradict the stereotype. For every veteran who had difficulty readjusting, dozens of others have thrived. This became strongly evident to me when I attended the Nashville reunion. These men and women have a bond that unites beyond life. Their experiences have scared them for life, but it has brought out an internal strength that no war movie or novel can ever portray accurately. Their patriotism and devotion needs to be recognized, not only for the past, but also for what they have built for the future. Above all, Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most of America.

Time casts long shadows over memories of all events. I believe that there is much to learn and everything to gain by allowing Vietnam veterans to speak about their history in war. These reunions provide veterans with therapy and support for their shared experiences, and in a sense, continuity to move on beyond war, but also never forget. Most of us will never know the realism of war, and for that we are more fortunate.

**Kristy Miller is the daughter of Trooper George Eric Miller, 3rd Platoon, L Troop, 3/11, (1969 - '70).*

GENIE!

A man was walking along a California beach when he stumbled across an old lamp. He picked it up and rubbed it and out popped a genie. The genie said "OK so you released me from the lamp blah blah blah, but this is the fourth time this week and I'm getting a little sick of these wishes, so you can forget about three. You only get one wish.

The man sat back and thought about it for a while and said, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii but I'm too scared to fly and I get very seasick. So could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there?"

The genie laughed and replied, "That is impossible. Think of the logistics of that. How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific? Think of how much concrete! How much steel!!! No, think of another wish."

The man agreed and tried to think of a really good wish. He said, "I've been married and divorced four times. My wives have always said I don't care and that I'm insensitive. I wish that I could understand women; to know what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, to know why they are crying, to know what they want when they say 'nothing'...."

The genie replies, "You want that bridge two lanes or four?"

A Soldier Died Today

Submitted by: Jimmy L. Rogers, 3rd Platoon, K Troop, 3/11, 1968. (From the Internet, original author unknown)

"A Soldier Died Today"

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;

They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer

For a soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,

'tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were
young,

But the passing of a soldier

Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man.

Continued on page 17

Unidentified Troop Assignments of our KIA

Dear Troopers & Friends,

This issue of the newsletter is being mailed to all the Troopers who served with the 11ACR. We welcome your help in a project to help us get our friends who were Killed In Action placed in their correct units.

Thanks to your effort we have made some significant progress in identifying our KIA Troopers that were previously unassigned to

a Troop. Over the last 2 issues of the Thunder Run of the 173 names on the list we have placed 120 of these men where they belong. The job is not done please help us continue this effort until we get it right. May their memory be eternal.

Allons,

John Sorich,
Vice President 11ACVVC

The following KIA troopers of the 11 ACR do not have their Troop assignment. Please inform 11 ACVVC if you know Troop they served with. The asterisk (*) indicates placed in unit.

*PFC Dennis Springsteen	10/12/66	I Troop, 3/11.	PFC Thomas Williams	7/1/68	we show 1/11	Troop??
*PFC Jimmy Williams	10/25/66	E Troop, 2/11.	*SP4 Kurt Ward	7/18/68	B Troop, 1/11.	
PFC Melvin Anderson	12/1/66	we show 2/11	*SP4 Charles Hamner	7/31/68	G-Troop, 2/11.	
*SP4 Frank Reynolds	3/4/67	L Troop, 3/11.	WO Douglas Collins	8/21/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	
*SP4 Hugh Best	3/14/67	A Troop, 1/11.	*SFC Dick Hamilton	8/21/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	
*SP4 James Ruffin	3/19/67	I Troop, 3/11.	PFC Jerald Pretiatko	9/5/68	we show 2/11	Troop??
*SP4 Jose Quintero	4/17/67	G Troop, 2/11.	*PFC Edgar Tomlinson	9/12/68	HHT, 3/11	
*PFC Dale Tolbert	5/19/67	C Troop, 1/11.	SFC Robert Gregory	9/19/68	we show 2/11	Troop??
PFC Donald Walters	5/22/67	we show 1/11	*MAJ Norman Cunningham	9/24/68	Air Cavalry Troop (ACT).	
SP4 Edward Stahl	5/25/67	we show 2/11	*SP4 John Matuska	9/29/68	HHT, 2/11	
*PFC Francis Collins	6/5/67	G Troop, 2/11.	*WO William Rollins	9/29/68	HHT, 2/11	
*SP4 Willie Page	6/6/67	G Troop, 2/11.	*PFC Don Crane	10/27/68	K Troop, 3/11.	
*PFC John Campa	7/21/67	How. Battery, 3/11.				
*PFC Frank Cruz	7/27/67	A Troop, 1/11.	(name correction			
*PFC Earl Long	8/15/67	C-Troop, 1/11.	should be John, not Don).			
1st Lt. Garland Whitmore	9/5/67	Troop/Sqdn.??	PFC Kenneth Faul	10/28/68	we show 1/11	Troop??
SP4 Michael Gidvilas	9/7/67	we show 1/11	*SP4 Robert Press	10/31/68	K Troop, 3/11.	
*PFC James Lubas	9/22/67	D Company, 1/11.	*CPT John Hayes	11/8/68	B Troop, 1/11.	
*PFC Lawrence Crawford	9/24/67	G Troop, 2/11.	*PFC Stephen Glore	11/11/68	B Troop, 1/11.	
*PFC Erral Smallwood	9/24/67	G Troop, 2/11.	*PFC Robert Jasura	11/13/68	B Troop, 1/11.	
PFC Bobby Smith	9/24/67	F or G Troop?	*SGT Alfred Small	11/24/68	I Troop, 3/11.	
SP4 Joe Thomas	9/24/67	F or G Troop??	1stLt Johnny Benton	11/25/68	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
SSgt Johnny Hayes	9/26/67	we show 1/11	*SP4 John Moulden	11/28/68	919th Engineer Company.	
*PFC Melvin East	10/14/67	C Troop, 1/11.	PFC Nolan Byrd	12/3/68	we show 2/11	Troop??
SSgt Robert Howard	11/4/67	we show 2/11	*PVT Earl Thomas	12/21/68	H Company, 2/11.	
*SP4 Walter Murphy	12/12/67	A Troop, 1/11.	*SP4 Thomas Bullard	1/11/69	A Troop, 1/11.	
*PFC Juan Burgos	12/14/67	E Troop, 2/11.	*SSGT Thomas Pilson	2/26/69	H Company, 2/11.	
*SP4 Michael Jones	12/17/67	E-Troop, 2/11.	*SGT Frank Saracino	3/20/69	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
*PFC Reginald Chun	1/4/68	I Troop, 3/11.	*CPT Kenneth Bailey	3/22/69	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
SSgt Clarence Claycomb	1/13/68	we show 1/11	*SP4 Bill Moschetti	3/23/69	C Troop, 1/11.	
PFC Bruce Dudley	1/23/68	Troop/Sqdn. ??	*SSGT Gary Gillis	4/7/69	M Company, 3/11.	
SP5 Julius Morris	1/25/68	we show 1/11	*SP4 Ricky Mauney	4/10/69	919th Engineer Company.	
*PFC Kenneth Grassl	1/29/68	B Troop, 1/11.	*SP4 Larry Barfield	4/13/69	A Troop, 1/11.	
*PFC Ricky Myers	1/29/68	B Troop, 1/11.	*SP4 Kenneth Jensen	4/13/69	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
*SP4 John Zielinski	1/29/68	B Troop, 1/11.	2nd Lt. Daniel Leahy	4/18/69	we show 1/11	Troop??
*PFC Randall Gustafson	2/14/68	I Troop, 3/11.	SP4 Robert Morgan	4/18/69	we show 1/11	Troop??
*PFC Joseph Weaver	2/14/68	I Troop, 3/11.	*SP4 Ronald Pongratz	4/18/69	A Troop, 1/11.	
*SP4 Melvin Wangeshik	2/19/68	B Troop, 1/11.	SP4 Donald Noel	4/26/69	we show 1/11	Troop??
SP4 David Isom	2/23/68	we show 1/11	*1st Lt Edward Powers	5/2/69	HHT, 3/11	
*2nd Lt Clarence Roussel	3/6/68	G Troop, 2/11.	*PFC Wavel Powell	5/2/69	HHT, 3/11	
PFC Donald Irby	3/9/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	SP4 Charles Case	5/12/69	Troop/Sqdn.??	
PFC Santiago Torres	3/9/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SSGT Gerald Hill	6/4/69	E Troop, 2/11.	
SGT Richard Vincent	3/9/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SGT Kenneth Pitre	6/7/69	B Troop, 1/11.	
SP4 Theodore Mazon	3/18/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	SP4 Carlos Collazo	6/11/69	we show 3/11	Troop??
(Date correction suggested on Mazon 4-19-68, Troop Unknown)			*SGT Hollis Miller	6/18/69	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
*SP4 Victor Mohr	4/25/68	B Troop, 1/11.	SP4 Edwin Turk	6/18/69	we show 3/11	Troop??
SP5 Danny Rich	5/6/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SP4 Calvin Hunt	6/19/69	we show 3/11	HHT, 3/11
CPL Kenneth Floyd	5/7/68	Troop/Sqdn.??	*1st Lt Bernard Pierce	6/19/69	I Troop, 3/11.	
1st Lt Woodroe Warth	5/8/68	we show 3/11	*SP5 John Cornwall	7/9/69	919th Engineer Company.	
*SFC Wallace Little	5/18/68	C Troop, 1/11.	*SGT Jimmie Scrogum	7/9/69	919th Engineer Company.	
*SP4 Allan Fredricksen	5/19/68	A Troop, 1/11.	*1st Lt Thomas Ceres	7/10/69	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
*PFC Stanley Schroeder	5/19/68	A Troop, 1/11.	*1st Lt Robin Wetzler	7/10/69	Air Cavalry Troop, (ACT).	
*PFC George Long	5/30/68	B Troop, 1/11.	*1st Lt Dennis Newman	7/15/69	G Troop, 2/11.	
*SP4 Thomas Edwards	6/20/68	A Troop, 1/11.	*Sgt Charles Matthews	8/13/69	A Troop, 1/11.	
*SP4 Dwight Hinman	6/23/68	A Troop, 1/11.	WO Terrance Ledden	9/5/69	Troop/Sqdn.??	
			(Chopper Pilot AH- 1G, Troop Unknown)			
			*SGT Leo Hartsuff	9/7/69	I Troop, 3/11.	

*SP4 John Shannon	9/14/69	K Troop, 3/11.	SP4 Joe Fulgham	8/2/70	Troop/Sqdn.??
*SGT Anthony Standifer	9/18/69	M Company, 3/11.	PVT Joseph Marcantonio	8/10/70	we show 2/11 Troop??
SP4 William Haney	10/17/69	Troop/Sqdn.??	*PFC Robert Rother	8/23/70	C Troop, 1/11.
*SP4 Peter Mestas	10/19/69	HHT, 3/11.	SGT William Wilhelm	9/6/70	Troop/Sqdn.??
SSGT Charles Russell	11/24/69	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SP4 Kenneth Hendrix	10/26/70	D Company, 1/11.
*SP4 Barry Scott	11/26/69	HHT, 3/11.	*SGT Donnie Cunningham	11/18/70	A Troop, 1/11.
*PFC Donald Demond	11/30/69	A Troop, 1/11.	*SP4 Jorge Jourdan-Font	11/27/70	Troop/Sqdn.?? HHT, 1/11,
*PFC Calvin Thompson	12/3/69	919th Engineer Company.	or B Troop ? (Font was a cook)		
CPL Donald Majkowski	1/22/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SGT Carver Vaughn	12/27/70	K Troop, 3/11.
*PFC Frank Hammond	1/23/70	G Troop, 2/11.	*PFC Roy Chaney	12/31/70	E Troop, 2/11.
SP4 Donald Rice	1/23/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SGT Alfredo Salazar	12/31/70	E Troop, 2/11.
*CPL Jesse Fray	2/25/70	B Troop, 1/11.	*SGT Dennis Webster	12/31/70	E Troop, 2/11.
*SP4 Thomas Lovley	3/2/70	C Troop, 1/11.	SP5 Raymond Enyeart	1/5/71	Troop/Sqdn.??
SGT Robert Smith	3/10/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*1st Lt James Cartwright	1/8/71	F Troop, 2/11.
SP4 William Moorhouse	3/12/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	SP4 Loren Lebeau	2/1/71	Troop/Sqdn.??
SP4 George Patterson	4/1/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*CW2 Joseph Brown	2/18/71	Air Cavalry Troop (ACT).
SFC Mance Brown	4/3/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SGT Willis Andrews	4/17/71	HHT, 2/11.
SSGT Orland Lloyd	4/7/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*SP5 George Orr	4/17/71	F Troop, 2/11.
*SSGT Robert Thompson	4/8/70	919th Engineer Company.	*SP4 Gary Reynolds	4/17/71	F Troop, 2/11.
*SP5 Craig Van Akin	4/8/70	919th Engineer Company.	SP4 Fidencio Flores	4/23/71	Troop/Sqdn.??
(date correction suggested 5-2-70)			*SP4 Hilbert Teeter	4/24/71	G Troop, 2/11.
CPL Raymond Williams	4/9/70	Troop/Sqdn.??	*PFC Herbert Barnes	5/19/71	F Troop, 2/11.
PFC Ernest Thorson	4/26/70	we show 2/11 Troop??	*PFC Mickey Lane	5/19/71	F Troop, 2/11.
*SFC David Dash	5/2/70	919th Engineer Company.	(name should be Lang?)		
*SP4 Dionisio Carrizales	5/6/70	Air Cavalry Troop (ACT).	*Billy Wayne Disheroon 8-22- 71		E Troop, 2/11.
*PFC Padua-Ledesma	5/6/70	Air Cavalry Troop (ACT).	SGT Jack Garnes	10/30/71	Troop/Sqdn.??
*SP4 Larry Morgan	5/8/70	Scout Section.	SFC James Conley	11/07/71	Troop/Sqdn.??
*CPT Rhonald Durham	5/9/70	Air Cavalry Troop (ACT).	SP5 Albert Robalin	12/28/71	Troop/Sqdn.??
*SP4 Wiley Hooks	5/9/70	Air Cavalry Troop (ACT).	*CPT William Clark	2/23/72	G Troop, 2/11.
*SP4 James Russ	5/23/70	C Troop, 1/11.	*CPT Joseph Harris	4/8/72	HHT, 2/11.
*SGT Thomas Healy	6/8/70	B Troop, 1/11.	*SGT Mike Aguilar	5/10/72	F Troop, 2/11.
*PFC Thomas Cusson	6/20/70	A Troop, 1/11.	(possible wrong date?)		
*PFC Merrill Holt	6/20/70	A Troop, 1/11.	Send any information you may have to: email or address:		
*PFC Thomas Griffin	6/20/70	A Troop, 1/11.	johnnydiamond@mindspring.com or		Battle46A@comcast.net
*SP4 Burder Athey	6/21/70	A Troop, 1/11.	John Sorich		C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.
*SP5 Buford Spencer	6/21/70	A Troop, 1/11.	5037 France Ave. So		720 Ashbrook Drive
*SP4 Michael Dadisman	6/24/70	B Troop, 1/11.	Minneapolis, MN 55410		Hixson, TN 37343-1285
*SP5 Greg Stevenson	7/24/70	C Troop, 1/11.			

Scholarship Drive 2003-2004 has begun.

This will be my fourth and final Scholarship drive as your Vice President & Scholarship Chairman. It has been very gratifying to see that the efforts of all of us have helped out so many of our children with their College & Trade School education.

Each year the drive begins with the mailing of the Calendar. I will get checks for donations to the Scholarship starting in early January. Your generosity is really something to behold. The checks will consistently flow from now till some time just after our convention. Some of our members donate to *all* requests, *The Calendar*, *The Raffle* and *The Silent Auction*.

All of us donate what we can. We will continue to count on you.

This last year we were able to give 16 of our children Scholarships. Over half of the applicants who applied received a Scholarship. Your generosity is the reason this happened. I remind applicants that

This last year we were able to give 16 of our children Scholarships. Over half of the applicants who applied received a Scholarship. Your generosity is the reason this happened.

many who apply don't get it on the first or second try. If you are persistent in applying your chances of being selected are greatly enhanced.

I hope this last year of my responsibility as Chairman we will set a new record in giving. We who serve as volunteers on the Board of Directors must be optimistic...and I am.

The 11thACVVC membership is in the area of 4,000 dues paying and Life members. Last Scholarship season 844 donated to the Calendar and some of the same folks donated again to the raffle, the number there was 730. You can see why I am opti-

mistic...there are many more who can help with the Scholarship, so step up and do what you can. The kids will benefit & in doing so it brings blessings to us all! Mail your donations in care of: 11thACVVC Scholarship, John Sorich Chairman, 5037 France Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55410.

Information on the Scholarship is on our web site: www.11thcavnam.com or contact me at: johnnydiamond@mindspring.com

Some gave all, all can give some.

Allons,

*John Sorich,
Scholarship Chairman*

Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15
Third Quarter.....Aug 15
Fourth Quarter.....Oct 15

2003 CALENDAR DONORS

471 donations totaling \$ 9,225.00

Allons, Allons, Allons —Thanks, John Sorich

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