



Thunder Run

Vol. 25 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2010

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

Are You A Member?

This issue of Thunder Run is being mailed to over 16,000 Blackhorse troopers on our mailing list, including members, lapsed memberships and those who have not yet joined.

If you haven’t yet become a member of the 11th ACVVC, or if your membership has expired, this is a good time to take a minute and become a member or renew your membership.

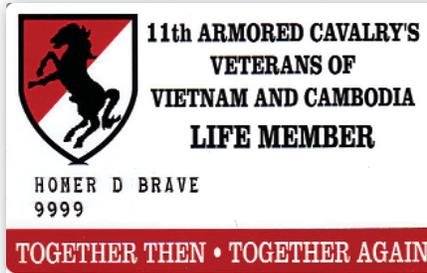
If you are not sure of your membership status in the 11th ACVVC, take a second and check the mailing label on the back page of this newsletter. Look for these words: **FREE COPY** or **EXPIRED**

If the words “**FREE COPY**” are printed

Together Again!

John Sorich, A Troop 69-70

All of us involved in the 11th ACR past and present owe a big “Thank you, Sir!” to Alpha Troop’s Capt. John Poindexter. Since first meeting John at our San Antonio reunion over a decade ago I had no idea then what a positive influence he would become for all of us. All of the 11th ACR and the 11thACVVC have been enriched through his diligence and generosity. Most definitely the men he served with in A Troop. Recently, as most of you may



on the first line of the label, take this opportunity to join and become a member. If the words “**EXPIRED**” are printed, you should take a minute to renew your membership. Expired members will also have their membership number printed on the same line.

Please turn to **MEMBER** page 6

know, our unit was awarded The Presidential Unit Citation for an Anonymous Battle that took place on March 26th, 1970. This was made possible by the commitment of John Poindexter.

When John came to me at our most recent reunion in Santa Clara with the information that we would be going to the White House to meet our President and receive the PUC, I could hardly believe it. He said to me, “I’d

Please turn to **TOGETHER** on page 7

2LT Jessica N. Roberts



L to R, BG Anderson, 2LT Jessica N. Roberts, and proud Grandfather Otis Carey (F Troop, 71-72).

2LT Jessica N. Roberts was commissioned by BG Anderson, Deputy Commander USAREC recently at HQ Ft. Knox, KY.

Jessica hails from Leitchfield, Kentucky. She is the daughter of Leisha and Dale Roberts and the granddaughter of Otis and Julie Carey. Otis (F Troop, 71-72) is the Internet Coordinator for the 11th ACVVC.

Jessica Roberts earned her Associates Degree in Nursing from Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in 2008. She is currently employed as a Registered Nurse for the Medical Surgical Unit at Twin Lakes Regional Medical Center in Leitchfield Kentucky.

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Allen Hathaway,
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



The 2010 Scholarship Fund raising effort kicked off in December with the mailing of the annual 11th ACVVC calendar. This is the 15th year for the ever popular calendar. Donations from the calendar are used to fund our scholarship program. The scholarship program continues to thrive thanks to the support made by our members.

Our Scholarship Fund is self sufficient and relies solely on donations to continue. All scholarship awards as well as all printing and mailing costs associated with the calendar are paid directly from donations made to the scholarship fund. We ask for your continued support of the calendar and scholarship program. While the calendar you received is unsolicited, we ask that you make the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can. Your donation will ensure we can continue to produce the calendar year after year and support the scholarship program. An envelope is included for your convenience to mail your donations.

The 2009 reunion in Santa Clara, CA, was another success. The reunion brought together troopers from all units of the regiment from 1966 thru 1972. Many met old friends. Some met buddies for the first time since leaving Vietnam. Fifty-six troopers attended their first reunion. They vowed it wouldn't be their last reunion. All went away having made new friends.

Planning is under way for the 2010 reunion in Washington, DC, August 25-29. This is our 25th annual reunion. The "Silver Anniversary". The Grand Hyatt Washington is located in the heart of Washington just blocks from the White House, the National Mall, museums, monuments and many more attractions. Please read the separate article on the reunion for ideas and suggestions to help you plan your trip.

You can help make this another successful reunion by keeping a few things in mind: Mail your registration early and avoid the late registration fee. Reserve your hotel room early. You may cancel up to 24 hours prior to check-in. Contact old

As president, I am pleased to report that the overall state of the 11th ACVVC is excellent. We continue to be successful in many areas; treasury, membership, quartermaster, newsletter, website, scholarship and reunion attendance to name a few.

friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend. Finally, come prepared to enjoy yourself!

As president, I am pleased to report that the overall state of the 11th ACVVC is excellent. We continue to be successful in many areas; treasury, membership, quartermaster, newsletter, website, scholarship and reunion attendance to name a few.

Our treasury is solvent. The investments made over the years guarantee the organization will be in a good financial position for many years to come. Our two main sources for operating income are membership dues and quartermaster sales. Nearly 500 new members joined in 2009. Many annual members choose to renew as LIFE members. We continue to find Blackhorse troopers every week.

Our quartermaster store is very popular with our members and continues to do a great business by offering a variety of insignia products. Items are featured in each issue of "Thunder Run" and on our website. The quarterly newsletter continues to deliver news and information to our members with a variety of articles, many of which are submitted by our members. The website continues to be a source of information for our members. The website offers a central location for current information about this organization. The scholarship program continues to thrive thanks to the support of our members.

The success of the organization is due in part to the group of reliable and dedicated volunteers who work every day to ensure the continued success of this organization. But the most important factor is the support from our members. Your support throughout the years has helped this organization continue to grow and succeed

in every area. This support is a result of the pride we all have from serving in the best unit in the United States Army!

In December we learned of the passing of our former regimental commander BG James H. (Jimmie) Leach. As a colonel he served as the regimental commander from April 1969 until December 1969. He was a guest speaker at our 1988 reunion and also the memorial re-dedication in 2007. He and his lovely wife Marion attended many of our reunions. Whenever two or more Blackhorse troopers were together he never missed the opportunity to sing the regimental song. I had the honor of singing with him on several occasions, the last was in October 2009 at the reception for the Presidential Unit Citation. Our condolences go out to Mrs. Leach, son Jamie and all the Blackhorse family.

Several of our members have sons and daughters or grandchildren serving in the military. As always, keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Take a minute and offer your hand to thank them for their selfless service. These young men and women in uniform contribute daily to the security of our great country. We thank them..

ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".

2010 Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter 2010Jan 15

Second Quarter 2010Mar 25

Third Quarter 2010.....Jun 25

Fourth Quarter 2010.....Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106. Email: JGriff11@aol.com.



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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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Legends

By Mark S. Crist, Air Cav & I Troop (68-69)

I recently watched an old western movie about the 7th Cavalry as it fought in our 19th Century Plain's Indian War. It was described in the film as a legend. Its commander at the time was LTC (Brevet Major General) George A. Custer who would himself become a legend, maybe due in part through the efforts of his wife Elizabeth. She would write several books and speak often of him. I'd see several more renditions growing up on how the 7th and its commander met their fates on the Little Big Horn River.

There would be more American legends committed to film with stories on Davy Crockett, Kit Carson, and William F. Cody. When television came along we could now see even more on a weekly basis rather than wait for a movie to come on the Late Show. We had series about Wild Bill Hickock and I believe another was actually titled, "The Legend of Wyatt Earp."

At least one dictionary defines "Legend" as "a story, which may or may not be true, handed down from the past." I do believe what was put on film in years past had more of an "entertainment" value and in my youth what legends were portrayed were

bigger than life that lent something to the imagination. At the least many an hour was spent playing cowboys and Indians.

As I got older the portrayals were getting a little darker and the plots began to thicken. Then I began hearing about the "anti-hero." Later on would come the so called Information Age and more and more details began to surface on these legends. For one thing it seemed the Dime Store novel writers of the old west took liberties with certain events and all wasn't as advertised. Researchers were also conducting extensive investigations to bring the legend to light. A more accurate depiction of what transpired with Custer and the 7th Cavalry is covered in several books, documentary, and yet another movie. The gunfight at the OK coral wasn't a long drawn out affair, but over in less than a minute.

There is an old saying, "when the legend becomes fact, print the legend!" Yet, most legends are built on some fact. Custer did lead many a Cavalry charge during our Civil War, Wild Bill was known for his skill and nerve with a pistol, Buffalo Bill did blaze many a trail in the old west, and Wyatt Earp went unscathed at fairly close range during that famous gunfight. These legends

became part of our American folklore, yet they were real people. Witnesses to their actions may have considered them extraordinary and beyond their pale, maybe simply not worth the risk, or perhaps just a different metal altogether. The deeds and actions of the few were not only recorded, but passed down by the many, being told and retold until the stories became legends. I don't recall hearing the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord fame ever being referred to as legends, but what the Army endured during our Revolution might be beyond anyone's pale today.

There were many more from the 19th century and later would come the likes of Alvin York, Eddie Rickenbacker, and Audie Murphy to name a few who added a distinctive American brand to the word legend. Maybe the aforementioned people never or would never consider themselves a legend given modesty and humility. They just reacted in a situation, but none the less they were catapulted into the nation's imagination. It's often said we need our heroes.

As with the 7th Cavalry, other military units, even ships or airplanes might have reached legendary status. However, they don't usually become so on their own merit, but rather through the actions of those who comprise it or make up the crew. I believe I heard the German battleship Bismarck referred to as a legend. The British Admiralty probably wanted to quell any such rumor as myth lest it affect those charged with sinking that ship. There is our own Arizona. Perhaps those who served on her decks and survived the attack on Pearl

Show Your Pride



LEFT: Benton Conner (HOW, 1/11 66-67) has the colors flying and a Memorial Sign for 1st Squadron 11 ACR to show his Blackhorse pride

RIGHT: Jerry Mitchell (I Trp. 67-68) shows his Blackhorse and Cavalry pride with his weaponry, I Trp. Guidon, and his cavalry regalia.



Harbor might see her as a legend. Later in the war would come the B-17 Memphis Belle. I do believe for older generations our legends arose from a more “romantic” period in our history.

Younger generations who grew up with the Information Age with all its facts and figures may view things differently. I’m not sure if they have legends anymore unless they’re from the sports or entertainment fields. Even then anyone or anything has been through the complete screening process, scanned to the last atom. There doesn’t seem to be any room for wonder or myth anymore, just the facts.

The only thing I knew about the 11th Cavalry when I first joined the Army was seeing the distinctive patch on someone’s uniform once and overhearing a conversation that, “the 11th Cav might be in a bind, but they kick butts!” Little did I know that’s where I’d wind up. When I first arrived I did have a gut feeling I was part of something special, but couldn’t quite put a finger on it. I was still a dude and the frontier was outside the berm at Blackhorse. Over the next 18 months I’d see a lot and hear even more. While I never thought of it at the time maybe some legend was in the works.

I completed a second tour in 1972. I came home to a country where legends seemed to be the last thing on people’s minds in any heroic sense of the efforts made regarding the war. All I kept hearing was the public wanted nothing more than to put it all behind them, but it would go under the microscope for years to come. I didn’t think about legends either, but it would just take some time to sort things out. I had my memories, many of which were in the scrapbook I put together. Sometimes I’d look at the war as not being too far removed from our 19th century. There was an east and a west so to say, not just a north and a south. I remember hearing we were so far west we were east again. We were also a microcosm of Americana from all corners, races, and culture. Maybe the word “Cavalry” led the charge. There are memories of seeing first hand that cavalry on line and hearing so many stories about same, sometimes against a far superior force. Then there were passing memories of seeing someone walk by with a .38 or .45 in a holster strapped to their hip, their bush hat with some distinctive look to it. Maybe it was seeing one of our aircraft with a per-

sonal name painted across the nose.

There was also some bravado about making someone get out of Dodge. I do believe I heard the term “Indian Country” once or twice. Then there were the clubs that filled in for a saloon. On one occasion I remember making a PX run with I Troop to Long Binh. Our crew made an impression on those “easterners” as to what was going on outside of town. There was the well worn faded, sweat, and mud stained fatigues as well as the boots that had long since given up the black for various shades of brown and red. Of course there were the

guns that weren’t checked at the town limits. Fellow soldiers in more pressed attire were snapping pictures and asking questions as though the Wild West was back. I think we were perceived as the Wild Bunch come to town. Some guys seemed in awe, “we’ve heard about that 11th Cavalry!” And in no way are these words meant to make any light of some life and death situations. I don’t recall anyone swaggering around when it was hitting the fan.

I had given thought that the Vietnam Veteran was in him or herself a legend. The

Continued on page 9

Welcome Home Parade

(David Ontko, (middle of picture) leads the Shelby, Ohio Welcome Home Parade and has his Blackhorse bumper sticker on his chair arm.)



I am trooper David M. Ontko, HHT1/11 Zippo, (1969-1970) and I just wanted to let everyone know what the town of Shelby, in my home state of Ohio did for me and my fellow Viet Nam Veterans. I am not from the town of Shelby but this lovely town and its residents gave me and my fellow Viet Nam Veterans the gratitude and recognition which we didn’t receive when we came home from Viet Nam all those years ago.

On November 7, 2009 the Viet Nam Veterans of Ohio were finally given the recognition and gratitude we never received when we came home from Viet Nam. We were honored with a parade in the lovely town of Shelby, Ohio. This all took place due to a young man named Jared Smith, a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and Operation Iraqi Freedom V. Jared was so moved by the welcome home

he received that he thought it was finally time that the Viet Nam Veterans received this same recognition. So with the help of Mr. Bill Staton, Mayor Bill Freytag, the Attorney General of Ohio, Rolling Thunder, and the lovely people of Shelby, Ohio the Viet Nam Veterans were finally given a heartfelt and grateful welcome home. These men from Shelby, Ohio went so far as to get permission from the Pentagon to have 2 F-16 fighter jets do a fly over, Rolling Thunder was there, and several hundred Viet Nam Veterans marched in the parade. There had to have been at least 5,000 people in attendance for this wonderful tribute. In the picture you can see the Blackhorse is in the lead again.

To any of my fellow troopers who have not been given this honor and recognition—please let me say a very heartfelt welcome home to you too!!!!



Jim Griffiths, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

Good news has been received from Judith (Nicholson) Dietz who is the daughter of Blackhorse KIA PSG Glenn Nicholson and Chairwoman of the

Kansas Gold Star Family Committee. Legislation has been formulated and hopefully by the time you receive *Thunder Run* will have been introduced into the Kansas State Legislature to establish a Gold Star Family License plate. We have been monitoring and reporting Judith's progress in this effort which had its origins with Blackhorse Trooper Richard Stobbs' similar and successful effort in Ohio. We confidently await to report that Judith's effort has become law in the State of Kansas.

This issue, as per usual for 1st Quarter *Thunder Run*, is being sent to thousands of former Blackhorse Troopers who are not members of the 11th ACVVC. We do this to let our former Troopers see that we have a vibrant, active organization that stands ready to warmly welcome them into the fold of proud Troopers from the 11th Armored Cavalry that served proudly and many times valiantly in Vietnam. We stand ready to offer you non members a high degree of camaraderie and fellowship should you choose to take the step and join with your fellow former Blackhorse Troopers. Together Again!

We have numerous contributors to *Thunder Run* that may have never seen or have forgotten the parameters we expect and observe for publication in TR. I have condensed our Editorial Policy to the most salient matters you should be aware of if you submit an item for publication.

When submitting written items or photos to us, please keep in mind:

• *Thunder Run* is a publication of the 11th ACVVC used to communicate events, ideas, nostalgia, helpful information, and entertainment to our members. The 11th ACVVC is a non-profit, non-political, corporation organized and operated within the provisions of 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code and is limited in activity by that charter.

• *Thunder Run* will consider all submissions but does not guarantee their publica-

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tion. All submissions are subject to editing, including adaptation to our publications style.

• *Thunder Run* will not advertise except to promote our organization and to promote items for sale through the 11th ACVVC Quartermaster Store.

• *Thunder Run* requires photos be sent as at least a medium-size jpg file at 300 dpi. Digital photos are preferred, but "hard copy" is acceptable. Photos for "Show Pride" are expected to contain a highly visible Blackhorse or 11th ACVVC indicators or symbols. The viewer should be able to note a link to Blackhorse or the 11th ACVVC. (please indicate if you want any photo returned and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope).

• *Thunder Run* will accept poetry and short fictional articles, although personal experiences in Vietnam or Cambodia or with the 11th ACVVC are preferred. It is expected that submission be formatted in Word or some type of acceptable word processing program or as an email attachment. Very short, typed hard copy can be sent.

• *Thunder Run* accepts articles from members and occasionally others. Request inputs be limited to 1000 words or less. Longer articles will be considered, but shorter are preferred. Publication of any submission is not guaranteed. Again, it is expected that submission be formatted in Word or some type of acceptable word processing program as an email attachment. Very short, typed hard copy can be sent.

Hard Copy items (pictures or written should contain an email address or telephone number so the Editor may contact you for questions.

Please give it your best shot at remaining within these parameters. Thank you and enjoy your *Thunder Run*.

MEMBER from page 1

To join or renew your membership in the 11th ACVVC just fill out and mail the membership form printed in this newsletter. Make sure you give your full name, address, service number, unit(s) and dates in country (month/year). This will help us match you with others that served in the same unit. We also encourage you to sign the release line at the bottom of the form. This gives us permission to give your address and/or telephone number to other troopers who may be looking for you. Your name, address, etc are NOT sold or given out to vendors or anyone other than Blackhorse troopers.

Membership dues are only \$15 per year, or \$100 for a LIFE membership. We also offer an easy and convenient LIFE payment plan which divides the \$100 membership dues into four payments of \$25 each. We also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards for all transactions.

Your membership dues provide you with this quarterly newsletter *Thunder Run*. The newsletter keeps you informed of your organization, its members, and the activities of the 11th Cavalry, both past and present. We pride ourselves on our continued commitment to bring the news to our members through this newsletter.

Thunder Run has been printed and mailed every three months for the past 24 years. This shows our reliability and commitment to our members.

When you become a member or renew your membership you will receive your new membership card. All members are assigned a membership number that appears on their membership card. LIFE members receive a plastic membership card with their name and membership number embossed. All new members will be listed in the "Welcome New Members" section of *Thunder Run*. Show your support and join today!

ROBERTS from page 1

Jessica would like to acknowledge her Grandfathers: 1SG Otis Carey who served in the Army from August 17, 1970 to October 1, 1991 including a tour with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam, 2 tours in Germany, 82nd Airborne Division, and as First Sergeant of the Nassau New York Recruiting Company and James Roberts who served as a Darby Ranger in World War II.

TOGETHER from page 1

like your help to call the men who served during that time so we can have a good turn out on this momentous occasion." I was happy to help.

I enlisted the help of a friend to help with this. Both J.C. (Joe) Hughes and I got busy calling everyone on this list. Our goal was to ask them if they had received the information that had been mailed to them about the Presidential Unit Citation. During this process John Poindexter and his assistant Sally Garza diligently mailed updates nearly every week to the almost 300 men on the mailing list. Joe and myself made an effort to call everyone on the list (and we did!) and ask them to be part of this ceremony.

Incoming...

Information provided by and for our Troopers

Toler Lee Hutchins Jr., who was KIA May 21, 1967 while serving with K Troop, was honored as The Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Tommy Tradewell, was in Forrest City, Arkansas on Monday, January 18, 2010 to institute the Toler L. Hutchins, Jr. VFW Post 12089. The Hutchins widow and children were present for this occasion. We send our thanks and appreciation to VFW Post 12089 for honoring this soldier and fellow Blackhorse trooper

From Henry Morris (F Trp '68)..... All 1968 F Troopers come spend an August week in Virginia and DC. Hang out in Evington, VA (10 miles south of Lynchburg) 24 - 25 Aug and 29 - 31 Aug BEFORE and AFTER the DC Reunion 25 - 29 Aug. Spouses are welcome. We will car-pool to and from DC. If you are flying to DC arrange for departure on 1 Sep. Drive down to Rockfish, VA (3 hours) for Sunday church and lunch with Mrs. Embrey then on to Evington. We will plan informal visits to the D - Day Memorial (Bedford), War Between the States Surrender field (Appomattox), and Tank Museum (Danville) Mon and Tue (30, 31 Aug). Driving time from Lynchburg to DC is about 5 hours. Contact info: "Captain Morris" shandtmorris@wildblue.net (434) 941-8585 (c)

From William Bray (37th Med. Co.,70-71)..... LZ Lambeau, welcoming home Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans, will occur May 21—23, 2010. More information on this event is available at www.lzlambeau.org/

It soon became apparent to both Joe and I that we were encountering a fair percentage of men who we had served with that have had little or NO contact with us. Some had never been to a reunion. Some had never talked with anyone from our unit.

For those of us who have attended many of our 11ACVVC Reunions, do you remember how you first felt? Do you remember the first time you reopened that locked file cabinet marked MY VIET NAM EXPERIENCES. I know for me it was Philadelphia in the early 90's and I was very scared. Both Joe and I had forgotten (because we have been to so many reunions) how hard it was for us to take that first step.

Our calls went like this. "Hello, I am John

or from William at dociceman70@gmail.com

From Bill Haponski.... I served in Regimental S-3 and was Regimental XO under Colonel Patton. I also commanded the 1/4 Cav. I have written a recently released book that is highly researched and covers the battles in the AO of the 11th ACR from the French War and through and beyond the American portion of the War. All perspectives of all countries' militaries are represented concerning the major battles in the area during the various eras from the French period through the post American period. The title of the book is One Hell of a Ride: Inside an Armored Cavalry Task Force in Vietnam and is available at Amazon.com

From Gene Johnson..... 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment – Blackhorse Association Reunion will be held in Houston, Texas June9-13, 2010. For more information contact Gene Johnson at (936) 205 4553 or reunion@blackhorse.org. (This reunion is separate from the 11th ACVVC Reunion.)

From Allen Hathaway.... Richard Daniel Narhuminti served in HHT, 3/11 from July 1966 until he was wounded on or about 10 September 1967. He was evacuated to the 106th General Hospital in Yokohama, Japan. Richard passed away in August 2007. His wife is requesting information from anyone who has records for the Purple Heart which also lists Richard Daniel Narhuminti. Please contact Allen Hathaway if you can help. 703-791-6610 or 11thcav1966@comcast.net

Sorich and I served with (soldier's name) in 1969-1970 with Alpha Troop".... "Did you receive the information about the Presidential Unit Citation?".. "Is he there?" "May I talk with him?" Some wouldn't come to the phone.

I was on calls that lasted 15 minutes, 30 minutes and some over an hour. Some men I talked with twice or more. As a result of these calls we understood again the human side of battle as well as the pain and suffering that some of these men were still experiencing. My many trips to our reunions have lessened my suffering and put my mind at rest. From attending our 11thACVVC Reunions I have helped myself and others lessen the demons of My Viet Nam experience. We want this for all of our brothers.

"Some things are hard to forget," reported a Trooper who refused to come to the PUC or reunions because he still had issues with a bad day when he lost a close friend. WE understand. We were there too. We all knew him. Friends killed in Nam will never be forgotten. We see to that at our reunions. We honor our KIA's and let their families know that these soldiers who were our friends will not be forgotten. We want you to come to a reunion, we want to help you heal, we are willing to help, and all you have to do is show up. In this spirit, I'd like to ask, if you have never attended one of our reunions to COME TO A REUNION. I have never heard anyone who has come to their first reunion and not felt good about the experience. That said, I'd like to ask our membership to recall a person they would like to see come to a reunion. Someone you have wanted to see again. Now take action to contact them, find out there address, their phone number and give them a call. This last year I saw, for the first time in 40 years, four crew members I left in country when I DEROS'ed in 1970. That made me very happy. How about you?

Could we stand more happiness? So I am on a mission to get what I want. "Doc" Barry Watson, Donnie Porter and Juan Reyes WE WANT YOU to come to this year's reunion in Washington D.C. I'm going to get after you.....or you can call me. I am ready at 612-750-5752. I'd love to be together again!

I want to ask you to reach out to someone, make an effort, we can help them, we know how they feel. We are a Blackhorse family.

Meet Our 2009 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2009 Scholarship Winners. This issue contains brief statements from 5 of our 2009 Scholarship Winners.



Tamra Towles
Daughter of Johnny Riley, M Co., 69-70

I am honored to be a recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship. Your generous support is helping me to fulfill a life long dream of going to college. I rely on financial aid, grants, and student loans to help finance my education. Receiving this award will help reduce the financial burden and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my education.

My first year at Midway College has been both challenging and exciting. It seems that academically I am off to a good start, having made the Dean's List for the term. My plans are to complete an associate's degree in nursing and possibly continue to achieve a bachelor's degree in the program. Midway College is known as one of the top colleges for nursing in the state of Kentucky and I am honored to have been accepted into their program.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Charles Henry Batozynski; A Trp; KIA March 6, 1968; Age 19



Matthew Weaver
Son of William Weaver, HHT Regt, 69-70

I am both honored and indebted to the members of the 11ACVVC for the generous scholarship awarded to me. This grant will greatly aid me in achieving my goal as a marketing major at Lehigh University. This scholarship is a tremendous honor, and I am greatly appreciative. This scholarship is significant to me because it is dedicated to the memory of Trooper Johnny Benton and because it comes from my father's Regiment.

Scholarship dedicated to 1st LT Johnny William Benton; Air Cav Trp; KIA November 25, 1968; Age 21



Kelly Wehner
Daughter of Charles Wehner, G Trp., 69-70

I first want to start by saying thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to acknowledge those of us who are preparing to enter a new chapter of our lives. It is your doing that makes it possible for so many people to afford higher education. Thank you to all who participated.

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship means a great deal to not only me but my father as well. To see his joy in my recognition is worth more than I can explain. This scholarship makes my first semester of school

practically free. I am so appreciative to be able to pursue my dreams without having the thought of student loans waiting for me when I graduate. Your scholarship is one of the most significant factors that has made college affordable. Thank you

Scholarship dedicated to PFC William Arthur Brown; I Trp; KIA March 21, 1967; Age 21



Trisha Wiskur-Voellinger
Daughter of Robert Wiskur, M Co., 67-68

I am honored to be awarded an 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship in memory of James Buchanan.

The financial assistance you awarded me is of great help to me in paying for my educational expenses. This in turn will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. I appreciate your support in my education at the University of Central Missouri and your confidence in me to achieve my goals as an elementary teacher to our children.

Scholarship dedicated to SSG James Elson Buchanan; E Trp; KIA November 3, 1969; Age 23



Larry Langowski
Member 11th ACVVC, Air Cav Trp., 67-68

Thank you very much for considering me for this award. It will have a number of immediate impacts. Beyond the immediate and obvious, the lessening of financial pressure, it will free up some of my time to devote to putting together a community service project with some administrative funding from the Schweitzer Foundation. The concept there is to team with a local non-profit agency to meet a currently unmet medical need in the community. They are really big on HIV-AIDS issues, and the school already has an informal relationship with the Howard Brown Clinic (a famous one) here in Chicago. Research indicates that acupuncture is particularly effective in ameliorating side effects of AIDS medications, and a number of my classmates have indicated interest in volunteering to be part of the project. As I conceive it, I would like to do outreach at the agency and treatment at the school clinic where students can gain exposure to and experience with such protocols I will also have a few more hours to devote to seeking state funding for our veterans outreach. The school donates space and resources to auricular acupuncture that has proven effective in curbing addictive behaviors, smoking, drugs, etc., as well as providing relief for certain PTSD symptoms.

Scholarship dedicated to SSG Richard Jackson Swiger; M Co; KIA September 7, 1969; Age 22

'Hot C-Rations – Cold Sapper Team'

By Ward Abbett, (L Troop, 1967-1968)

My ACAV platoon had just returned from some heavy fighting at Loc Ninh, where we “interrupted” Viet Cong resupply teams crossing the Cambodian Border. MSgt Ziesmer (my platoon sergeant) and I led the platoon to a fire base, where our mission was to provide security. One night, we took all 8 ACAV’s out on patrol and eventually laagered adjacent to a rice paddy – all vehicles facing out, with claymores placed

During the night, a VC Sapper Team was able to infiltrate through the rice paddy, close enough to fire an RPG7 at our

position. One of our ACAV’s took a hit – right into the stack of four cases of C-rations strapped on top. No one was injured, the place smelled like a barbecue, and through his starlight scope, our sniper saw the 2-person sapper team run into a lone hooch on the far side of the rice paddy.

Now, it just so happened that our mortar section had fired a registration point 100 yards north from that hooch. In moments, we got on the horn to them: “From registration point Charlie – South 100 – Fire for effect”. The mortar section had 10 rounds in the air when the first one came down – right on top of that hooch. That night, we lost the C-rations – and the Sapper Team.

LEGENDS from page 5

few who stood up and faced adversity on more than one front. They often performed extraordinary deeds that the many back home would view as beyond their pale, not worth the risk, or maybe of different metal for something bigger than self. No “anti-heroes” here, but the real deal!

Then came my first get together with thousands of fellow Veterans at the Vietnam Memorial in 1984 which led to my joining the 11th ACVVC with card number 187. Looking at all those men and women in their faded uniforms, medals, patches, and pins I couldn’t help feeling there was legend in there somewhere in all our generation holds dear.

For sure as our reunions went on from year to year the word legend would come up now and then when the 11th Cav’s exploits in Vietnam were now being described at length and in detail. We’d also hear about the history and it’s involvement against Pancho Villa while horses were still in the inventory. It was also good to finally get back with fellow Troopers who I’d served with in the Regiment. There were many stories to be told and retold. This retelling had nothing to do with embellishment as much as fading memories. We speak often of others we knew who in there own way have become somewhat of a legend. Maybe it was some deed, series of deeds, or just certain mannerisms that set them apart. I’m sure those from other Troops, Companies, or Detachments remember someone who stood out in some way. Maybe they won’t make it into a history book, but they’ll be some legend to us.

I don’t know that the word legend precedes the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in any official Army description in the order of battle. Perhaps it’s made mention in some file or other record. I know I’ve heard it said by guest speakers. Our Memorial presents a record of the Regiment’s service in Vietnam. In its and my own way, I can’t help seeing a legend. Those who weren’t witness may not see it that way. Wherever it may find its honored resting place maybe it’s for those who served to tell of their experiences, their feelings, and stand tall for the contributions made to the Regiment by deed or service. Dime Store novels are not required. I think the facts are in on this one.

It’s Too Late To Thank Us Now!

By Jack Nelson, (C Trp. 1968)

We returned with pain and grief, our bodies and minds were incomplete,
and you turned your backs on us.
We reached out our hands for help from you, and hate and pity was returned.
We needed compassion and a smile, but nothing came our way.
So it’s too late to thank us now.

We had no defense, we were in our youth.
We thought we were doing good.
We turned our hurt deep inside and through time it was slow to heal.
We tried to date, the answer was no and please do not ask again.
So it’s too late to thank us now.

We strove on our own and built our lives, worked hard and met our goals.
We banded with brothers to help our own, to heal the wounds of war.
We schooled the children of the fallen, that you had left behind.
We thank the many solders that protect us day and night,
So it’s too late to thank us now.

We no longer shrink when asked, did you serve.
We wear our scars with pride.
We speak of our brother’s heroic deeds and selfless sacrifice.
We have grown strong as 100 year oaks defending our uniformed sons and daughters.
We will not allow you to tread on us, as in the past was done.
We now protect our cavalry brothers, and our way of life.
So it’s too late to thank us now.

We are no longer that scared young solder that you taunted, jeered and spat.
We are hardened warriors, that no longer seek your praise.
Now through our vindication, after decades of hurt you seek, to thank the Vietnam soldier for the sacrifices that they made— —no because it’s too late to thank us now!

But as you ponder your past, if there is a bit of remorse, you may want to thank that soldier that protects your way of life.
Because you need to thank them NOW.

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11th ACVVC 'Silver Anniversary' Reunion

REGISTRATION

Hello everyone and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The other day Barb and I had a discussion about how to pronounce this year. Is it 'two thousand and ten' or is it 'twenty ten'? We've heard it pronounced both ways and just aren't really sure yet which we prefer. Which do you say? Guess we'll just have to wait and see which of them grows on us. Whichever way you decide to say it, just know that in a few short months it will once again be time for our annual reunion.

And what a reunion it will be. Not only is it a time of friendship and fellowship but it is also the "silver" anniversary of the annual 11th ACVVC Blackhorse reunion.

Yes folks it was just 25 years ago that some of our brothers got together for a weekend of friendship and fellowship. As the story goes there was a bathtub of beer involved. I've never heard the entire story so I won't even begin to repeat it here for you. But I'm sure if you were to ask around someone will be happy to retell their version of it. I know Ollie was there. In fact I know he had a major part in the start of it all.

No matter what version you hear, it is now the 25th year that we have been joining together for a weekend of fun and reconnecting with old friends.

Soon you will be finding on one of the pages of the *Thunder Run* or on our web site, the registration form for you to fill out and send in to let us know that you will be attending.

When filling out your registration please note the section on it for wheelchairs or special needs. This does not mean we will provide wheelchairs. What it refers to is the banquet. If you are in a wheelchair, walker or on crutches, we are going to attempt to have tables set up on the perimeter of the room for you to sit at. Please be advised that this means you will probably NOT be sitting with your unit. It is totally impossible for us to accommodate everyone needing special seating to be with their unit. Also if you let us know that you have a special dietary need we will do our best to let the hotel know so that they can try their best to serve you.

Now, I know that there has been a lot of talk on the web site about the cost of the hotel. Yes, it's a little expensive, but realize that when making arrangements with a hotel, that we must take into consideration that we are asking them for enough rooms for not only everyone to stay overnight, but we also need space for the following: meeting rooms, a room for the bunker, a room for the Quartermaster, a room for registration properties and silent auction to be stored, as well as banquet facilities for over 1000 people. And sure we'd love to have free parking facilities, but in places like Washington D.C. parking anywhere is at a premium. So this is another expense we need to take into consideration. Could we make the parking free for us? Probably, but that would only raise the rates more.

Could we find less expensive accommodations and just use a grand hotel or Civic center for our meetings and banquet? Sure we probably could. But now then we have to pay for two facilities and guess what? That could and most probably would, turn out to be more expensive. So folks, the upshot of this is, that this was the very best we could do in Washington D.C.

Every year we place in the Bunker, information about the cities that are being proposed for the reunion in two years (we always work two years in advance). This is also why we encourage you to attend the membership meeting and listen closely to the presentations of the different places and if you have any questions or ideas be sure to speak up. Don't just sit there quietly and then later complain about it. Speak up, we don't bite.

Please note that the membership meeting is open to dues paid members only! This does not mean a person who is registered to be at the reunion. This means you must be a card carrying member of the 11th ACVVC. And gentlemen, these meetings are for you and they are important. Remember, our meeting is for the men only. The women also have a meeting at the same time.

Okay, so the place is set for this year, Washington D.C., the date has been chosen, August 25 - 29, 2010, you've filled out your registration and mailed your money to Ollie. Now, what do you get for it?

First your money will cover your registration which includes, your name tag, finger foods, beer and sodas and your choice of three different meals for the banquet. Part of these funds 'help' to pay for all those items we talked about earlier as well as expenses occurred for printing items as well as all awards that are presented. Also included in those funds are any expenses we may have for our guest speaker.

Once you have mailed your registration form and money to Ollie, it does take a week or more to get to me. Why? Because he is in Virginia and I am in Wisconsin.

Once he receives your registration he takes out the money, records it and deposits it in our account and then mails me the registration forms. He doesn't do this on a daily basis, but instead waits until he has probably 10 or 20 of them and then mails them. Next step is for me to go through them all and enter them in my computer. This does take time to do as I have to check all spellings, to include your name, where you live, meal choices and who is attending with you. I am only a one finger typist as well.

After checking everything and making any calls I need to, in the event I can't read your handwriting (those address labels are a wonderful help), I enter it into my computer, again one finger at a time. Then I enter them into the web site. This is VERY time consuming as I need to be careful not to put the wrong person in the wrong unit or accidentally record them twice. This very often is done at about 2 or 3 in the morning. So please be patient about finding your name on the website.

Next in the process is that I hand over all forms to Barb and she then types them into her computer using the information from them for printing the name tags. Name tags can only be printed six per page, at a time. She of course has to figure out how to make your complete name, unit, years and where you live fit onto the name tag. So please let us know what you want on your tag. Not "everything" fits. Then she makes your meal ticket. These are a bit easier to do as they are run on a page of ten and no additional information goes on them. We do however try to make them a little different each year so she has to decide the design for them.

So you see it is a long process and this doesn't even include putting the packets

together before we leave home so that we can get started almost as soon as we arrive.

I always wonder each year who will be the first to pick up their packet. Of course that always makes me think of the year we met in Kansas City. Barb and I found ourselves a day ahead of schedule, so we decided to spend the night just outside of KC and go to a casino there. While walking around deciding what to play, we heard over our shoulder someone ask if they could get their registration stuff now. I thought Barb would come unglued with laughter. So let me just say this, we really do need to check into the host hotel first and get unpacked and settled, and then we can go down to the registration area and get things set up so we can open bright and early the next morning. We will not give out packets until Thursday morning. So please don't even ask.

I want to remind you all of the memorial bricks. If you haven't already gotten yours - do it now. This is a wonderful way to recognize and show your pride in your service to the Blackhorse and your time spent in Viet Nam.

Also available are the new miniature bricks. Both bricks are awesome. So go ahead and order the large one to be put around the base of the monument and a small one for your bookcase, trophy shelf or coffee table. Remember you can purchase bricks for anyone, not just yourself. I not only got one to honor my time with the unit but also one to honor the time that Barb spent in the Women's Army Corps

and one for her dad who was with the 8th Army Air Corps during World War II. Soon I will be ordering the smaller ones for both of us and one to be given to my mother-in-law. When she saw the pictures of the large one we had made, she literally cried. She has told me that because she is now 89 years old, she is sure that she will probably never see the actual monument. So this is a great way for her to actually see what it looks like. So order yours today. Order forms are located in the Thunder Run as well as at the reunion registration desk. Both brick sizes can be ordered on the same form.

Okay, Barb says I've rattled on long enough and besides which she's probably going to have me rewrite part of this anyway, so I'll close for this time. But before I do, let me say this, - GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN EARLY!!! I will be attending Boy Scout camp with my grandsons the end of July and Barb will probably be in Pennsylvania the first week of August for a function with her high school classmates. So if you can get yours in early then we won't have anything to worry about while either of us is gone.

And again everything will run smoothly.

Happy New Year everyone. See you in D.C.

ALLONS

*Bob Moreno
G troop 68/69
Reunion Registration Director
11th ACVVC Board member*

2010 11th ACVVC REUNION

25th Annual Reunion

"SILVER ANNIVERSARY"

AUGUST 25-29, 2010

**GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON
1000 H STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, DC 20001**

www.grandwashington.hyatt.com

RESERVATIONS: 202-582-1234 or 800-233-1234

ROOM RATE: \$139.00 SINGLE/DOUBLE

RATES ARE GOOD THREE DAYS PRIOR TO AND THREE DAYS AFTER EVENT.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JULY 28, 2010

PLEASE MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY.

REGISTRATION FORM



**11th ACVVC Reunion XXV, Washington, DC
Wednesday, 25 August thru Sunday, 29 August 2010**



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT
Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-582-1234 800-233-1234**

Registration fee is \$89.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.

Please register early. Deadline for registrations is August 20, 2009. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations postmarked after August 4, 2010

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Telephone No: _____

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

Attendees

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

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken _____ Beef _____ Veggie _____

Special Dietary Needs: Yes No (Please indicate needs) _____

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

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Visa MasterCard Card No _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

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

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

2010 Reunion – Washington, DC

By Steve Page – Reunion Chairman

It seems that we have just returned from Santa Clara and the next reunion will be upon us soon. Planning for the Washington DC reunion is well under way as this will be our 25th Annual Reunion. The cost of the hotel will be offset by the many FREE nearby venues and attractions in Washington. This will be the perfect time to spend some time and get to know the Washington DC area.

The reunion hotel is located just four blocks from the National Mall and within walking distance to all the Smithsonian Museums and monuments.

The Metro subway also offers a convenient and inexpensive way to travel in DC and nearby Reagan National Airport, Arlington National Cemetery and the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial. The Metro Center Subway Station is located at the Grand Hyatt Hotel lobby. This station serves the Blue, Orange and Red lines. Information and maps for the Metro system can be found at: www.wmata.com

There are various military concerts, parades and performances throughout the summer (schedules are published in February 2010). Take in a baseball game with the Washington Nationals as they play seven home games during the week of the reunion (Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals). There are also plenty of restaurants in the blocks surrounding the hotel offering a variety of food choices.

Valet Parking is available at the hotel on a limited basis at \$20 per day. Self parking is \$24. Additional parking is available at the parking lot directly across from the front entrance to the Hyatt at \$20 per day. Several parking garages are also available in the immediate area of the hotel at \$10-15 per day

An alternative is to park at the long term economy parking lot at Reagan National Airport then take the convenient Metro Subway Blue Line to the hotel. The cost for parking at the airport is about half of that in DC.

Please make your reservations early. Reservations must be made by July 28, 2010. As of Jan 25, half of the rooms set aside for the reunion have been reserved.

Please make your reservations early. Reservations must be made by July 28, 2010. As of Jan 25, half of the rooms set aside for the reunion have been reserved.

You will not be billed until checkout. In the event you are not able to attend, you may cancel your reservations up to 24 hours prior to check-in.

This will be a memorable reunion and will be well attended. We expect another large turnout for this very special “25th Anniversary” reunion. This is a perfect opportunity to make the week a vacation and visit the Nation’s Capital.

Airports and Directions:

Reagan National Airport (DCA). Take the convenient and inexpensive Metro Subway Blue Line from Reagan National Airport to Metro Center Station located at the Grand Hyatt. (Approximate 15 minute travel time)

Dulles Airport (IAD). Use the Washington Flyer motor coach service to Metro Subway West Falls Church Station (approximately \$18 round-trip). Then take the Metro Subway Orange Line from West Falls Church Station to Metro Center Station located at the Grand Hyatt. Washington Flyer motor coaches leave every 25 minutes. For complete schedule see: www.washfly.com

Activities and Points of Interest (free except otherwise noted)

Arlington National Cemetery – Take the convenient Metro Subway Blue Line from the Grand Hyatt to the Arlington Cemetery Station (Approx. 15 minute travel time) www.arlingtoncemetery.org/

Marine Corps Sunset Parade – Iwo Jima War Memorial, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA. Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm (admission free) This is a one hour performance featuring the music of “The Commandant’s Own”, The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and precision drill by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Take the convenient Metro Subway Orange Line from the Grand Hyatt to the Rosslyn Station. (Approximately 10 minute travel

Walk four blocks south on N Fort Myer Drive to the memorial. www.mbw.usmc.mil

Marine Corps Evening Parade – Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets SE, Washington, DC. Fridays – 8:45-10:15pm (admission free but prior reservations are required) This is a one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching. The Evening Parade features “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own” The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, Ceremonial Marchers, and LCPL Chesty XIII, the official mascot of Marine Barracks Washington. Take Metro Blue or Orange Line from Grand Hyatt to Eastern Market Station. (Approximately 10 minute travel) Walk two blocks south on 8th Street to Marine Barracks. www.mbw.usmc.mil

Other points of interest and activities:

- White House and Visitors Center
- U. S. Capital and Visitors Center
- Smithsonian Museums (16 total)
- Smithsonian American History Museum
- Smithsonian Natural History Museum
- Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
- Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian
- National Mall
- Washington Monument
- Lincoln Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- World War II Memorial
- Korean War Memorial
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
- National Zoo
- National Aquarium (\$)
- Holocaust Museum
- International Spy Museum (\$)
- Library of Congress
- National Archives
- Union Station
- Ford’s Theatre
- National Postal Museum
- Bureau of Engraving and Printing (tours free, sorry no free samples)

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 245 scholarships totaling \$705,000 to children of our members and KIA's, and every dollar paid was donated by *you*, the members of this great association of Blackhorse Combat Veterans!! You will find a usable copy of the 2010 Scholarship Application in this issue of Thunder Run and also on our website.

Our three-page Scholarship Guide for 2010 provides more information on the scholarship process and provides detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the 2010 Guide and 2010 Application at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html.

Effective in 2008, each recipient's Scholarship Award will be dedicated to honor a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed In Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIA's to be honored each year will be selected on an impartial and random basis. An attractive certificate suitable for framing containing information about the trooper in whose honor their scholarship is dedicated is sent to each recipient.

In addition, one recipient will be selected to receive a special Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award in honor of former 11ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt for his leadership and devotion to the 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Troopers of the Vietnam War. Chuck died on Veterans Day 2007 as a result of Agent Orange-related cancer shortly after being elected to his third term as President. Chuck's widow, Mrs. Bonnie Schmidt, will select the recipient of this award from the applicants. The recipient will also receive an additional scholarship award paid by Chuck's estate.

Scholarship Judges are asked to rate each applicant on a **30-point system**. The point total for a perfect score is 30.

1. Up to **7 points** may be awarded for Application completion, legibility, and following the instructions on the form and in the Guide
2. Up to **8 points** may be awarded for Grades of the Applicants' most recent two years of education (high school or college)
3. Up to **15 points** may be awarded to the narrative response for typed narrative response to questions in item #11 of the 11ACVVC Scholarship Application.
4. Each applicant will be judged independently by each Judge. Currently we have five participating independent Judges.
5. The Judge's scores are averaged to obtain a final score for each applicant.
6. The 11ACVVC Board of Directors will determine the number of Scholarship awards to be granted in any given year based on the available donated funds and the dollar amount determined for each scholarship award. The Scholarship Committee will then apply that number to the list of applicants in descending score order to determine who will receive the Awards.

We received 29 applications from eligible children in 2009, but we had funds for only 19 awards. We are amazed every year at how many of our Trooper members still have college age children.

Grandchildren of members are not currently eligible. The criterion to include Grandchildren as eligible for scholarships is being reviewed annually.

Please inform your eligible children that applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2010. E mail me at DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net if you have questions.

Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund Revisited

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist, if requested, Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Survivors of our Troopers Killed in Action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more 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 or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer includes the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report.

To be considered for financial assistance from the fund to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows) making the request must...

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, *and*
2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA.

You can find the complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund on the website www.11thcavnam.com.



Choosing

Do you ever give much thought to choices in your life? I have to admit that I sometimes don't. It's kind of strange because choosing is something we all do, all day, every day. Choosing is a regular part of our life. I guess that's why we don't give making choices much thought. We just do it. But think about it. Like, right this minute I went to the refrigerator, got a peach, chose to eat it, and did. I chose to do it. No one made me and it wasn't automatic. "OK," you say, "some people eat automatically, as an unconscious action. Look at all the lardos out there." I reply, "Right, but even automatic eating starts by choosing to eat too much." Do you get what I'm saying? My point is that life is full of choices. We're making choices all the time. Sometimes we think about what we're doing. Usually we just do it. Sometimes our choices are so insignificant that we don't need to think them through first. Other times our choices are so profound that they change the course of our whole life.

Here's a true story from my first tour in Viet Nam to show you what I mean. (Are you still with me?) Our Catholic chaplain and I (being Protestant) flew around the Mekong Delta every Sunday doing church. Sometimes we flew in helicopters from his unit at Vinh Long and sometimes from my unit at Soc Trang. This Sunday we were in a Soc Trang helicopter. My assistant, Shelby, chose to come along this Sunday. We landed on the soccer field at Long Xuyen, went to the MACV compound, had church, and came back to the helicopter. Since the aircraft commander (AC) knew me, being his chaplain at Soc Trang, he offered to let me fly the helicopter. So the other pilot got in back (nap time) and I took the controls. By the way, these choices were all freely made (wise or not? = different subject). The AC said to go ahead. I said, "OK. What do I do?" (I needed to know what to do so I could choose to do it, which I did). He said to push forward on the stick and lift on the cyclic. I chose to do what he said and we lifted off the ground - with considerable wobbling which was normal for a new "pilot." I chose to do exactly what he said although I'd already told him to grab the controls if anything was about to go wrong. I pushed forward on the stick and we

It's not hard to see that choices are sometimes optional – we choose to do, to have, and to be whatever we want. Other times we choose because a situation is forced on us and we have to do what seems best at the time.

started moving rapidly forward - so far so good. Except now I ran out of any resources with which to make any choices. I had us headed straight for the goal posts with no sign of gaining altitude. Having run out of other choices, the AC immediately chose to take the controls. We gained the necessary altitude, just barely, and flew over the goal posts, the trees, and all else that would have sent us to our ancestors, had the impending scenario played out. I learned later that my assistant and the Catholic chaplain knew nothing about our "adventure" and were just enjoying the ride. I expect, if they'd known their peril, they'd have automatically made the choice to scream, panic, brace, pray, or whatever was in their character to do in such a circumstance.

You have your own stories about choosing, of course. Some are probably longer than this one. Some shorter. Some of your choices have been life changing. Some not. Did you choose to join the Army? Maybe you did. Maybe you joined because your number came up and the draft caught you. So you joined because you chose to do what you saw as right instead of escaping or running off as others chose to do for whatever reason. Or maybe you're one who joined for the GI Bill benefits. That was your choice.

Once you were there a lot of things happened that were not your choice, even if it was your choice to be there - in Viet Nam, I mean, or Germany or Korea or Desert Storm or Afghanistan or Iraq or Normandy or Okinawa or in other tough places at other tough times. I'm sure it wasn't your choice to be in the firefight that took some of your buddies. I'm sure it wasn't your choice to be traveling along in your ACAV or tank when a mine (or RPG) blew and injured you. I'm sure it wasn't your choice to come home with a dose of PTSD, flashbacks, nightmares, or Agent Orange problems. Plenty of guys came back from Viet Nam and faced spitting, taunts, and hostility at home. They chose to

just trash their uniforms and stuff their experiences and pain. Many chose to also stuff the good memories because the good and the bad were all mixed together. ("Good memories,?" you say. Yes - your buddies, your brothers, the little kids who thought you were great, the late night talks when all was quiet and nothing was happening, times of horsing around with friends who understood you). These days, troopers are still returning and choosing to stuff things. Us old vets can choose to help them. We've been there.

It's not hard to see that choices are sometimes optional – we choose to do, to have, and to be whatever we want. Other times we choose because a situation is forced on us and we have to do what seems best at the time. Sometimes we choose because it's what we think we can handle under the circumstances. You know what I mean. I urge you to think about your choices so far so the choices you'll make in the future will be the best, considering your circumstances and resources at the time. Let's be clear here: you are able to make choices that you probably don't feel like you can now in your present condition for whatever reason. Actually, you can choose to do what is best regardless of your situation or anything else involved. Of course, you don't have total control of your situation. You might be going through a hard time right now. I ask you to choose the best course that is available to you for yourself, your situation, and whoever else might be involved. There are many choices, if you think about it. I know you can't choose whatever someone else controls, but the choices open to you are more and better than you might think right now.

I'm sorry I can't be more detailed and personal now. But please think about what we're talking about and apply it to your own situation. A major story in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible is about a great warrior named Joshua. It makes good reading.

Continued ➤

PIO Memories—Parts III & IV

By Owen Ditchfield, 17th Public Information Detachment (1966-1967)

PART III

Those of you with the 11th ACR the first year remember the disaster on 21 May 1967, when a convoy from the rock quarry at Gia Ray tripped an ambush the VC had set up to surprise an ARVN unit coming the other way. Our convoy had one tank, about four ACAV's a truck and a jeep, and since we had failed to provide air cover, we took heavy casualties in men and equipment.

I was in base camp when I heard of it, and before I knew it, a chopper full of newsmen from Saigon was landing. They wanted to go to the site of the ambush and we took them there. After photographing the wrecked vehicles and talking to a few of the survivors, we took the media folks back to base camp, where some asked to interview our wounded at the hospital.

The newsmen respected the injured troopers by only talking to those able and willing to discuss the battle. One of the reporters was Peter Arnett, who had been working for The Associated Press in Vietnam since 1962 and went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1966 (as well as gaining fame for his report-

CHAPLAIN from page 18

Joshua made a statement that is helpful for our discussion. He was talking to the Israelites whose army he had led into the Promised Land. He was a genuine leader and hero. He'd personally seen plenty of bloody hand to hand combat - it was brutal and bloody in those days. He said: "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness.... But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." This is from the book of Joshua 24:14-15. It's a book loaded with action and lessons learned and choices made the hard way. I suggest you check it out and see how it fits your own situation.

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth
6508 Bannocks Drive
San Antonio, TX 78239
LEHaworth@aol.com

ing during the gulf wars).

As the reporters were doing their job, I noticed one man in a bed at the far end of the ward, separate from the other injured troopers. I walked down and asked if he had been in the ambush. He said he had and his name was Richard Friend. I then noticed his trousers hanging on a nail above his bed. On the belt was an empty knife sheath. I asked him about the whereabouts of his knife, and he replied that it was probably still in the back of the sapper he killed with it.

As with any journalist, I smelled a story and called Peter Arnett over to interview SP5 Friend. It turned out that Friend was in the jeep when the ambush was sprung. The vehicle veered into a ditch and Friend found himself alone in the weeds without his rifle. After sizing up the situation, he realized his only hope was to run to the only ACAV he could see that wasn't disabled or destroyed.

As he ran toward the vehicle, he saw a sapper running toward it with a satchel charge. The only thing Friend could think of was stopping the sapper who was about to take out the ACAV. He grabbed his hunting knife and killed the enemy, jumped aboard the vehicle, and got out with only minor injuries. Arnett took notes and a photo of Friend holding his empty knife sheath.

I'm not sure how big a story it was back in the States, but about four months later some trooper brought me the September issue of *Male* magazine. It was the typical testosterone-laden, he-man rag with articles about Nazi prisons, well-endowed loose women and ads that would appeal to guys with low self-esteem.

What caught my eye was an article entitled, "Cpl. Dick 'Slasher' Friend's Bowie Knife Rampage Through Xuan Loc Ravine" The summary leading into the story said, "At his back were his wounded buddies, victims of a sneak Red attack." Ahead lay a venomous torture jungle, filled with hundreds of Viet Cong killers. Then, armed only with a rusty hunting knife, this steel-gutted young GI chopped his way through an enemy horde like a vengeance-lusting human buzzsaw..."

You get the idea. Using the basic facts and photo from the Arnett article, plus some stock photos that had nothing to do with the battle, the author, Jeff St. John, let his creative instincts take over. He invented a much

more exciting account, to include hand to hand combat between Friend and a VC deep in the jungle (there was no jungle), Friend chasing off three armed VC with his knife, etc.

After being separated from the Army in 1972, I became a middle-school teacher at Fort Benning and, in my journalism class for 7th and 8th graders, would describe the event as it happened, and then read the magazine article to show them you can't believe everything you see in print. I hope the lesson stayed with them as they entered the age of the internet.

PART IV

More short memories...

.....

To celebrate the Fourth of July in 1967, we wanted to do something special. We sent out a message to all units in base camp to find us a trooper from each of the fifty states. We got most of them and had them assemble by an artillery battery in base camp. Each was given chalk and directed to write the name of their state on one of the artillery rounds. We then fired a fifty-gun salute at known enemy positions. We did a hometown news release on each of the state representatives, telling the folks back home what a blast we had.

.....

We moved into position for Operation Junction City by leaving base camp in late afternoon so we could go through Saigon after curfew that night. Our 6-man Public Information Detachment had a duce-and-a-half ton truck to move our press camp. As we drove toward Saigon, my driver, who had been up on guard duty, got very sleepy and started nodding off. Finally I had to do something so told him to pull over and move over. "Does this thing shift like a VW?" I asked him. He assured me it did and I had an OJT driver lesson as I followed the convoy through Saigon.

.....

Do you remember Diet-Rite Cola? It seems I was the only person in base camp who could stand it. Since beer and soft drinks were ten cents each, I was given a lot more Diet-Rite Cola that I could ever use.

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

• On 20 July 1966, 15 tons of 1:250,000, 1:50,000, and 1:25,000 maps of Vietnam were distributed to the units of the Regiment in preparation for deployment to Southeast Asia one month later.

• From the September 7, 1966 edition of the *New York Times*: “Nearly 4,000 new United States troops arrived today, to raise the strength of United States ground forces in South Vietnam to about 308,000 men. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Meade, Md., came ashore at this port [Vung Tau], 40 miles southeast of Saigon from the troopship Sultan. Heavily equipped with tanks and armored personnel carriers, the regiment is noted for its mobility and firepower. The contingent known as the Black Horse Regiment is commanded by Col. William Warren Cobb, 49 years old, of Dallas. It is a mobile reconnaissance and striking force made up of three squadrons, a headquarters troop and an air-mobile troop.”

• The 1967 Indianapolis 500 was a unique event in many respects. The race began on Tuesday, May 30th. However, it was called after 18 laps – with Parnelli Jones in the lead – due to heavy rains. The race resumed on the 31st, with many of the favorites falling out throughout the day. Mario Andretti lost an engine on lap 59, Cale Yarborough spun out – while under a caution flag no less – and a six dollar transmission bearing failed with just four laps to go, sending the leader Parnelli Jones to the garage. ABC Wide World of Sport broadcast the Brickyard classic in color for the first time. But what made this year's 500-mile race most unique was that 33 units in Vietnam were honorary sponsors of cars on the track. The Blackhorse Regiment sponsored Al Unser, Sr. A.J. Foyt, Jr. (sponsored by American Forces Radio and Television Service Vietnam – AFRTS-V) eventually won the 1967 Indianapolis 500, with the Blackhorse-sponsored number 5 car driven by Al Unser coming in second.

• In the hours after dawn on the morning of 9 August 1969, aero-scouts and gunships from the Air Cavalry Troop conducted a bomb damage assessment following a B-52 strike on a suspected enemy staging area west of An Loc. Shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning, the aero scouts observed a number of enemy soldiers on the ground, some apparently still dazed from the previous night's bombing. First Lieutenant George Adams [Distinguished Flying Cross] called for volunteers to land and snatch these enemy soldiers before they could reorganize themselves and escape. Over the course of the next hour, the ARPs captured six soldiers who were members of two regiments of the 9th Viet Cong Division. During this action, seven Blackhorse Troopers earned the Silver Star, while five others earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and two the Air Medal with “V” for valor. Because there were no place large enough for a Huey to land, the ARPs were inserted three and four at a time in stripped-down light observation helicopters (LOH). Specialist 4 William Fergstrom and Private First Class Rothie Brackins, Jr. [both Silver Stars] secured the initial landing zone, allowing other ARPs to be

inserted. SP4 John Montgomery [Silver Star], after helping secure the landing zone, “assumed the point position and began moving through the dense jungle. As he advanced, he came upon two enemy soldiers. After he had persuaded them to surrender, the two prisoners led him to a third enemy soldier, who was discovered to be the commanding officer of the hostile force operating in the area [Silver Star Citation].” PFC Bruce Stephens [Silver Star], who had helped secure and interrogate the prisoners, moved them back to the landing zone for extraction. After the third prisoner had been secured, SP4 Montgomery led the rest of the ARPs in pursuit of two more enemy soldiers who had been seen crossing a nearby river. SP4 Daniel Bock [Silver Star] and SP4 Montgomery, despite receiving rifle fire from the enemy who were beginning to get reorganized, “dashed into the river” while Sergeant Edward Cook and PFC Robert Lambdin [both Silver Stars] provided accurate suppressive fire. These actions led to the capture of two more enemy soldiers and the deaths of at least three others. About this time, the Aero Scouts, circling the area, “spotted a large enemy force approaching”. Notifying the ARPs



Many thanks to Don Snedeker who has handled getting the Blackhorse Wreath to the Wall for our ceremony on Memorial and Veteran's Days for numerous years, rain or shine. (photo by Bill Karabinos (HHT 2/11, 71-72).

on the ground, WO1 Stephen Gardipee [Distinguished Flying Cross] landed his unarmed LOH to extract the ARPs. Lieutenant Adams, even though “the main and tail rotor blades of the helicopter had been damaged by limbs surrounding the landing zone...set his aircraft down two more times to extract prisoners captured by the friendly element and to remove the ground troops from the enemy-infested area...” [Distinguished Flying Cross Citation], while scouts and gunships provided covering fire. Specialist 5 Robert Bonesteel [Air Medal with “V”], an Aero Scout Platoon observer, “leaned far out of the aircraft to drop hand grenades” on the enemy, then “continued to pour out suppressive fire on the enemy positions, rendering them ineffective and saving the lives of his comrades” [Air Medal with “V” Citation] from the Aero Rifle Platoon. The subsequent interrogation of these prisoners revealed the enemy’s plans to attack US and allied bases between Quan Loi, An Loc, and Loc Ninh two days later. The 48-hour warning of the impending attack provided by the six captured enemy soldiers enabled the Regiment to reposition its forces and led to an overwhelming battlefield victory over the following days.

• From *The Hurricane Magazine* (II Field Force Vietnam official publication), April 1970 edition, *Riding with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment*: “The damned dust hung over Fire Support Base Dennis like an impenetrable cloud, and red ghosts moved about in green uniforms. The soul brothers were strawberry blondes with orange-red eyelashes, and tongues searched for dust that stuck to the roofs of dry mouths—Vietnam peanut butter, low in calories, rich in minerals.”

So that his brethren shall know...

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

Blackhorse Towels Still Available

By Kathy Tandberg, 11th ACVVC Women’s Fundraising Coordinator

Are you geared up to continue your enthusiastic support of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse fundraisers that provide annual scholarships and trooper assistance?

If so, the Women’s Group has just the thing for you, oversized bath/beach towels.

First offered at the 24th annual 11th ACVVC Blackhorse Reunion in Santa Clara, California in September, 2009 these towels are now available by mail.

Sized at 30-inches by 60-inches, the towels are a true representation of the Blackhorse featuring the regimental colors of the red, black and white. A large 11th Armored Cavalry emblem with the Blackhorse rearing up for the charge is featured in black on the rich, red towel. This one-of-kind custom collector’s towel is being offered at \$25 each plus \$5 each for shipping.

Approximately 300 towels remain so order yours now. This towel is the perfect gift for birthdays, anniversaries, or any occasion and remember profits from the sale help support your organization.

The towel fundraiser is a continuation of the efforts the Ladies of the Blackhorse to aid and support the 11th ACVVC organization. The Ladies began fundraising in 2006 and since then have raised more than \$6000.

Good news continues as the Blackhorse Ladies look ahead to future fundraising. This time the Ladies are working on a second 11th ACVVC Blackhorse cookbook. This cookbook will be filled with recipes for entertaining, appetizers, desserts, beverages and more.

So Troopers and Ladies, this new mission is now up to you to keep the tracks rolling. Recipes are being collected now. To give everyone a chance to get their recipes into this cookbook, the Ladies would like to suggest at least 3-4 recipes in each category per person if possible. The categories include appetizers, bars, beverages, bread, cakes, cookies, pies and pastries, salty snacks, sauces and relishes, and miscellaneous snacks.

You send it and we will find a place for it. So that we can get it organized and sent to the printer in time to have it for the reunion in Washington, D.C., we will need to have all recipes turned in to Barb no later than 1 May 2010. To order towels or submit a recipe for the upcoming cookbook, contact Barb Moreno at puppytoes@charter.net with “Blackhorse” in the subject line, or mail them to: Barb Moreno, 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660.



MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of *Thunder Run* without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112.



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____



Welcome 2010 and of course Happy New year to all of our Blackhorse family.

It's midnight here in Wisconsin. Bob has given me my New Years Eve kiss, we've toasted our wine glasses (filled with Diet Pepsi of course) and we have welcomed in a new decade.

May the New Year bring all of you much happiness, health and prosperity. For me, I look forward to a year that will be filled with a closer relationship with my husband, my grandchildren, my sons, my daughter-in-law, and of course with my mom and sisters. May it also be filled with many more family adventures.

I have decided to dedicate this year to "family." So many times we get caught up in our busy lives that we let the all important family time slide to the back burner. We find ourselves going in what seems to be a million different directions like watching different shows on the TV in separate rooms, each taking their own car but generally going to the same place or wanting to go to a movie but never having the time to go together. An example of this occurred just this evening. I ate my dinner in our computer room while watching a movie. Okay so that doesn't sound so terrible, but Raleigh was in his room eating his dinner and playing a video game. And where was Bob? He was in the family room watching the same movie I was, while eating his dinner. Now don't you think that's just a little dumb?

Whatever happened to quality family time? Remember when we would all gather round the kitchen table for supper and talk about what went on that day at school or work? Sometimes I think our world has spun out of control with all the new electronic devices, and the availability of fast food. So this year I have decided that, in at least our household, not only will we start eating healthier but we will also try to resurface some of those old time traditions we knew when we were children. Maybe an evening of no television, instead we'll all watch a movie "together." Other options could be an evening dedicated to playing a board game, going to a local

We are still looking for recipes for our newest cookbook, "In the Blackhorse Bunker." This book will contain all those wonderful recipes we look for when going to a party or open house.

hotel for a quick swim before retiring for the night, attending an event at the local high school or even just having dinner "together". Wish me luck.

I wish I could tell you that all the Christmas gifts and decorations have been put away for another year, but I can't. The tree is still up (in fact we never took it down last year). There are opened gifts still under the tree that need to be put away, and a huge overflowing box of wrapped gifts that need to find their way up to the grandchildren. Of course in another box located in another corner of the family room are the gifts for next Christmas. Ones I bought, at the sales the day after Christmas and then came home and wrapped. I know, I'm weird.

Bob says he's leaving the outside lights up this year because he's tired of freezing his you know what, off to put them back up next year. Guess we could light them again for Easter or Halloween or maybe even the Fourth of July. Who knows maybe we'll start a new trend here in our neighborhood.

Our towels are selling well, but we still have quite a few left. We really need to get them sold. They are in my garage and I would just love to have the space back to pull my car in out of the snow. Especially now that it's finally paid off.

The towels are a beautiful bright red with the rearing horse and lettering in black. The cost of these towels is \$25 each plus \$5 each for shipping. They can be ordered simply by mailing me a check or money order. It should be made out to BLACKHORSE LADIES and mailed to: Barb Moreno 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660. As soon as I receive your request and payment, I package them up and Bob takes them to the post office. He has been, for the most part, able to get

them there the very next day. So you see we really do have a quick turn around time. If you happen to misplace my address, just look in the Thunder Run. It is on the page that lists all of the organizations directors. I think mine is the last one listed, but it is there. It is also on the website.

All profits from any of our fundraising events are returned to the organization. They are used in several ways, one being the scholarship fund and some being kept by the women's group for future fund raising items.

We are still looking for recipes for our newest cookbook, "In the Blackhorse Bunker." This book will contain all those wonderful recipes we look for when going to a party or open house. So think appetizers, finger foods, dips, deserts, cookies, pies and pastries, cakes, bars, breads, dips, salty snacks, sauces and relishes, soups and of course beverages. If everyone (men and women) sent in at least 3-4 recipes in each of their favorite sections we could have another great book. So be sure to look for your favorites and send them in. Also be sure to ask your mom, dad, grandma and grandpa, aunts, uncles, children, friends and neighbors for theirs. We want them all. I say 3-4 recipes but we will welcome as many as you want to send.

I would like to have them by the 1st of May 2010, so Kathy and I can organize them and prepare them for the book company to print. So hurry and get them to me. You can either mail them to me or e-mail them to me. My e-mail address is at the end of this article as well as in each edition of the *Thunder Run*. It can also be found on the website.

If by some chance, we do not receive enough recipes by May 1st, or we don't sell almost all of the towels, we will have to hold off with the book for another year. I really hate to do that as I like to bring something new to the reunion each year.

Soon it will be time to start sending in your reunion registrations. Ladies, again I ask you that when your guy is filling it out, remind him to use those little address labels we all seem to receive hundreds of

in the mail. If you're not using them, then please, please print your information clearly. It makes things so much easier when I start making out the name tags. Because so many of you used them last year we didn't need to remake as many name tags as we have in the past. Either that or we're just getting plain old good. Hmmm.

I also want to remind each of you ladies who attend the ladies get-together at the reunion, that it was decided we should have a White Elephant (aka Blackhorse) exchange this year instead of the normal door prizes. We ask each of you to bring an unwrapped gift in the \$5-\$10 range. This can be a new item or something that you have that you would like to find a new home for.

All ladies are welcome at our meetings and are encouraged to attend. We would love to see you there. Remember ladies, the meeting that the men are attending are for the MEN ONLY! If you attempt to attend their meeting, you will be asked to leave.

Remember to check our Women's Corner on the web site and that I am always available to just chit chat, a shoulder to lean on in time of need, a friend to 'vent' to or whatever else you need. I check my e-mail several times a day, so let me hear from you once in a while. I am also now on Facebook.

Well dear friends, the ball has dropped, welcoming in the New Year, and after stopping for a short while to look at the Blue Moon, and watch the fireworks that were set off over Grand-dad Bluff, I find it is nearing 2:30am. My eyes are growing heavy and so I think it is time for bed.

And as you too go off to dreamland tonight, say a prayer for our brave men and women who are still so far away from home, fighting for our continued freedom. May they all be home in time for the next New Year's Eve celebrations.

So until either I talk to you on the web, write to you again via the Thunder Run or see you in Washington D.C., I wish each and every one of you HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Always,

*Barb Moreno
Women's Director, 11th ACVVC
Puppytoes@charter.net*

In Memoriam

Jimmie Leach, 40th Colonel of the Blackhorse

Brigadier General James Herbert (Jimmie) Leach, 87, of Lady's Island, S.C. died Thursday, Dec. 17th 2009.

General Leach was born in Houston, Texas on April 7, 1922, the son of David W. Leach, Jr. and Ellen Curry Leach, both of Houston, and the grandson of Sergeant D. W. Leach of the 8th Louisiana Heavy Artillery, CSA.

General Leach entered the Texas National Guard in 1938. He attended Officer Candidate School in 1942 after his unit was called to active duty, prior to the Second World War.

He served in General George Patton's famous 4th Armored Division as a Company Commander of B Company, 37th Tank Battalion. He stayed in the US Army as a career Army Officer rising to the rank of full Colonel. He served in Korea and in Vietnam where he was the 40th Commanding Officer of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment - The Blackhorse Regiment. After having moved to Beaufort, SC in 1986, the Adjutant General of South Carolina appointed Col. Leach to the post of Brigadier General in the SC Military Department.

General Leach's Decorations include:

- Distinguished Service Cross - for Actions in France and Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge
- Croix de Guerre - Luxembourg
- Virtuti Militarie - Poland
- Two Silver Star Medals awarded during Viet Nam
- The Legion of Merit
- Two Bronze Star Medals with "V" device
- Five Purple Heart Medals for wounds received during the Second World War.

Honors include: OCS Hall of Fame, Ft. Benning, GA; First recipient of the Order of St. George, US Armor Association. Professor of Military History, Ft. Knox, Kentucky. President - Military Officers Association of America and President of the Veterans Cemetery Committee of Beaufort (VCCOB) and First Professor of Armor at the US Army Armor School

He was an undergraduate of the University of Omaha and held a Master's degree in International Relations from Georgetown University.

He is survived by his wife Marion Hiers



BGEN Jimmie Leach

Floyd Leach, of Hampton, S.C. and by his son, James H. Leach II (Jamie) & wife Annabelle of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and one granddaughter, Annabelle Virginia Leach of Tallahassee, Florida.

A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at the Beaufort Presbyterian Church with burial following at the Beaufort National Cemetery.

In the winter of '44, (then) Captain Leach served under Lt General George S. Patton, Jr. Almost 25 years later on 7 April 1969 (his 47th birthday), he would assume command of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment as it's 40th Colonel. The Regimental colors were passed to him by the 39th Colonel of the Blackhorse, George S. Patton, the son of Leach's former commander.

Known as an approachable, outgoing and friendly gentleman, Jimmie Leach was a legend among armor officers - indeed, over the past forty years, whenever historians would pose a query regarding armor, the answer was invariably "Ask Jimmie Leach".

Any visit to Arlington National Cemetery should include a stop at the United States Armored Forces Monument, about 50 yards west of the Visitors Center on Memorial Drive. Remembering and honoring the service of those who fought in Armor was a duty to Jimmie Leach. It is our duty to remember, honor and thank him for his service to the United States and to our Regiment.

Rest In Peace Colonel...

2010 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By Allen Hathaway

The 2010 11th ACVVC Calendar was mailed to all members in mid December. This is the first of three annual fundraising activities to benefit the Scholarship Fund.

The 2010 11th ACVVC Calendar once again features 12 new photos submitted by you! The calendar also contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam.

We once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a separate, self sufficient fund that depends solely on member donations to sustain. All scholarships as well as all printing and mailing costs associated with the annual calendar are paid directly from donations made to the scholarship fund. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during that year. Without your support the program would not be viable.

The calendar you receive is yours to keep and use whether you donate or not. Your continued support ensures the calendar can be produced each year. We ask that you help support the calendar and Scholarship Fund with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of the 11th ACVVC members begin or continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

In 2009 we set a goal of \$39,000 in donations in support of the Calendar Fundraising project. Through your generous contributions we met that goal with exactly \$39,000 in donations. In 2009 the combined fund raising activities throughout the year allowed us to award 19 scholarships for a total of \$59,000.

The second goal is to increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Over the past three years we have slowly increased the number of members making donations from 20 to 22 percent. We want to increase the number of members making donations. If half of our members participate, we could award scholarships to all qualifying applicants. To help meet this goal and to ensure that you continue to receive a calendar every year we are

2010

11TH ACVVC CALENDAR



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

The 11th U.S. Cavalry was formed on February 2, 1901 at Ft. Myer, Virginia. In December it was assigned to duty in the Philippines where, in 1902, the 1st Squadron would earn the first of the Regiment's many battle streamers, "Samur 1902".

In the Mexican Expedition of 1916-17, the 2nd Squadron engaged Pancho Villa's men on May 5, 1916 at the Azules, Mexico, killing forty two enemies in the last mounted cavalry charge in U.S. history.

The Blackhorse Regiment would see action in WWII where it earned five more battle streamers, but the Regiment's finest performance would be in the Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Blackhorse Troopers served there for 2,040 days and earned eleven battle streamers.

In June of 1991, Freedom called and the Blackhorse rode again, earning it's most recent battle streamer in Operation Desert Storm.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq at the end of 2005, and has once again assumed the challenging task of training America's Army in the desert environment of Fort Irwin, CA. Although the primary mission is preparing units for deployment to the war in Iraq, our Regiment is simultaneously training intensively to remain the best Regiment in the United States Army! During the recent deployment fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom III", the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.

<p>Philippine Insurrection Samur 1902</p> <p>Mexican Expedition May 5, 1916-17</p> <p>World War II Bismarck Northern India Blackland Ardenne's Massac Central Europe</p> <p>Vietnam Cambodia</p>	<p>Cambodia-Phase III Cambodia-Phase IV Cambodia-Phase V Cambodia-Phase VI Cambodia-Phase VII Winter Spring 1971 Cambodia-Phase VIII Cambodia-Phase IX</p> <p>Operation Desert Storm Southwest Asia Crisis I-III</p> <p>Operation Iraqi Freedom III</p>
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asking that you please make a donation.

The annual calendar is one of three annual fund raising projects. We also conduct our annual raffle prior to the reunion at which the winning tickets are drawn, and the Silent Auction of donated items at the reunion. Each of these activities has also flourished over the years thanks to the support of our members.

A limited number of extra calendars are available while supplies last. Instructions on how to order extras are included with the calendar. Please use the convenient envelope enclosed with the calendar to return your donation. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount. *Thank you in advance for your generous support!*

11th Armored Cavalry Memorial Restoration Donations

The memorial restoration at Fort Knox, KY, is still ongoing. There are granite bricks available for purchase and we encourage your continued support of this worthwhile project. Troopers and their families have purchased bricks to honor the service of family members and friends. The next group of bricks will be placed at the memorial in late 2009. Approximately 140 bricks are available for purchase. Order forms can be found on our website under "Brick Order Form."

The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and groups, to include B Troop and Air Cavalry Troop, who have purchased bricks between October 1, 2009 and January 15, 2010.

- Julian G. Avent
- Philip M. Call
- Arnold B. Christensen
- Robert L. Keefer
- Robert L. Merz
- Harry W. Moody
- James N. Pitts
- Jerry Rose
- Thomas E. Rosini
- William J. Sidebottom
- Richard D. Taylor
- John Sherman Crow in memory of Monty Monteleugno
- John Sherman Crow in memory of Dinny Crow, Pat Crow, Letty Starry
- Rod B. Hergesheimer in memory of John Wesley Sparks, KIA Jan 9, 1970
- Lorraine Phalen-Cross in honor of SGM Fred Phalen
- Paul S. Renschen in memory of John Hulsey Hays, KIA Nov 8, 1969
- Max Sweet dedicated to son Michael
- Gerold Wears in memory of Kevin Overfield



From the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment

Happy 2010 and greetings again from the High Mojave Desert! After a well-deserved Christmas Holiday season, the Blackhorse Troopers are back at work training the most lethal force in the world. Your Blackhorse Troopers spent the last few weeks of the year squeezing in training to keep their Warrior skills sharp and deadly. We started off the Holiday season with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner where the Regimental Command Sergeant Major and I, as well as other leaders from the Regiment served a Thanksgiving meal for the Troopers in the Regiment at the Dining Facility.

In December, the Regiment made the most of two weeks of intense training and gunnery. As you may or may not know, with our busy schedule supporting rotations here at the National Training Center, finding time to train can be challenging, but the Squadrons efficiently utilized the few weeks prior to block leave training their Troopers.

Also in December, we conducted the 13th Annual Road March to the Barstow Veteran's Home. More than 300 Troopers accompanied Santa as we marched through Barstow. Along the way, the citizens of Barstow lined the streets encouraging us and exchanging Holiday greetings. The Veterans seemed appreciative of our visit and we were honored just being in their company. They shared many stories as our Troopers listened intently and truly enjoyed the visit.

We said goodbye to 2009 and welcomed 2010, along with our neighbor and good ally, Canada, as we host the 2d Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group to the National Training Center. They will be with us for nearly two months and rest assured we will put them through the same rigors and intensity the Blackhorse is known for. We will ensure they are able to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Allied forces in Afghanistan later this year.

Since this Canadian rotation does not require the entire Regiment to be in the box, we are leveraging the opportunity to

The blast from the M1A1's 120mm main gun echoed through the Fort Irwin cantonment area and it was a great way to ring in the New Year.

give our Troopers even more gunnery training opportunities. The Troopers of Ironhorse were on the range the first week back from block leave executing tank gunnery. They had their own brand of fireworks in store for the Soldiers and Family members living in Fort Irwin. The blast from the M1A1's 120mm main gun echoed through the Fort Irwin cantonment area and it was a great way to ring in the New Year.

The 1/11 Troopers did a commendable job adapting to a new gunnery manual and grading system, switching from Tank Table VIII to the new Tank Table VI for crew qualification. The command teams, from the troop commander down to the tank commanders, excelled at this new challenge. Next up are the Bradley Troopers executing Bradley Gunnery. In February, Eaglehorse conducts its own Tank and Bradley gunnery as well as squad-level live-fire exercises. Then in March, we will yet again switch gears and train the Soldiers of 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii for

Paul J. Laughlin



their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The last time I wrote to you, I mentioned our Troopers competed in the FORSCOM-level Phillip A. Connelly Cup and took first place. I think you'll be proud to know our food service Troopers took the Regiment's winning tradition all the way to the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) level competition. The DA-level judges descended upon a Field Kitchen set up in the training area and our food service Troopers were outstanding. Last week they announced the results, and our Blackhorse cooks took home the Gold! They will soon attend a Department of the Army formal awards presentation in Reno, NV.

We are looking forward to the challenges ahead of us this year and are eager to meet and/or exceed expectations. As always, if you are in the southern California area and would like to pay us a visit, we always have time to share with Troopers from the Regiment. May the New Year bring you health and much happiness! Also, on behalf of the entire Regiment our condolences to the Family and Veterans of the Regiment on the passing of the 40th Colonel, James H. Leach.

Allons! 63



An M1A1 tank from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, fires at a target at the Range 1 facility at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 7. (Photo by Spc. Nathaniel Muth, 11th ACR Public Affairs)



Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		Lewis, David B	66-67	HOW BTRY, 1/11		I TROOP, 3/11	
Brown, Dale E	68-69	Sullivan, Joseph F	68-68	Hoyer, Dennis J	69-69	Beard, Carl F	66-67
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		Shannon, Robert R	67-68	HHT, 2/11		Fain, Clifford E	70-70
McMichael, Eric A	71-71	A TROOP, 1/11		Patterson, Craig I	72-72	Morelock, Larry	69-70
USAF-5TH WEATHER SQDN		Clark, Floyd H Jr	69-70	Socci, Roger D	66-67	K TROOP, 3/11	
Reinfeld, Edgar A	66-67	Day, John E	70-70	E TROOP, 2/11		Colvin, Mitchell	68-69
37TH MEDICAL COMPANY		Fultz, Jimmie C	66-67	Spacek, Frank J III	67-68	Fagan, Julian F	66-67
Athanasoulas, Michael D	68-69	Hlusak, Mark A	70-70	F TROOP, 2/11		Pankey, Alfred	66-67
Maragos, Andrew G	69-69	Lorenz, Rodney R	69-70	Litz, Gary L	71-71	L TROOP, 3/11	
7TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL		McGee, Thomas D	69-69	G TROOP, 2/11		Hilligus, Marshall	69-69
Braendel, Douglas A	69-69	Meier, Michael E	71-71	Sneddon, Duane N	71-72	Mullinax, Larry D.	66-67
Burdick, Max N	67-68	Selvitella, Dennis A	69-70	Staton, Marshall L	71-72	M COMPANY, 3/11	
Fry, Bobbie M	67-68	Thacker, Carroll L	69-70	H COMPANY, 2/11		Brewer, Joel W	67-68
Henshaw, Russell W	67-68	Wisdom, Scott	70-70	Rose, Richard A	67-68	Litz, Gary L	70-71
409TH RR DET		B TROOP, 1/11		HHT, 3/11		HOW BTRY, 3/11	
Whitson, Thomas	69-70	Borri, Steven L	68-69	Consolo, Thomas J	66-67	Moliterno, Leland N	69-70
HHT, 1/11		Hardin, Harry T	69-69	Reynolds, William C	70-70	Morelock, Larry	69-70
Buchholz, Richard R	67-68	D COMPANY, 1/11					
		Smith, Billy E	67-67				

'Legacy of a Combat Veteran'

By Frank Schuyler

Many years have quickly passed,
Not all of them were kind,
The dreams I thought would never last,
Still burning in my mind.

I thought that I would grow and change,
Remove my guilt and fear,
But all attempts were in vain,
The ghosts are always near.

A sound, a smell, a single word,
Can take me back again,
A place that seems a world away,
Is just around the bend.

A vision bursts into my mind,
Of smoke and broken trees,
I see the dying and the dead,
The medic on his knees.

I feel the heat, I taste the air,
I scramble for the ground,
The crackling guns, a blinding flash,
Another friend is down.

Our adversary waited,
Hidden by the green,
They made their presence obvious,

But never were they seen.
And just as quickly as it came,
The vision slips away,
The thoughts, the dreams, they are all the same,
It's just a different day.

I shake my head, I wipe a tear,
I strain to clear my mind,
Why can't I wipe away the fear,
And leave the war behind?

I thought I had the answer,
With bottle by my side,
A quick and easy antidote,
A place for me to hide.

The potion made me thirsty,
For it's miraculous relief,
What I thought was saving me,
Only brought me grief.

And now the drink betrays me,
It's magic all but gone,
I wallow in self pity,
I struggle all alone.

Surely there is an army,
Of old soldiers, just like me,
A regiment of battered souls,
A group in unity.

We're all good men, who made it through,
The HELL that is our past,
We shall band together,
A battle weary cast.

We seek the help of others,
Who understand our fears,
Men who dare to show their grief,
Who dare to shed their tears.

We came home scarred and broken,
With resentment, even hate,
It's time to heal our wounded souls,
Before it is too late.

We served our country honorably,
We gave all we could give,
It's time for us to be set free,
It's time for us to LIVE!

Submitted by Pete Walter,
(HOW 3/11, 70)



Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

John E. Back, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 3, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jonesboro, AR. He was laid to rest in Pine Knot Cemetery, Paragould, AR. John was also a veteran of the Korean War where he received the Silver Star.

William R. Black (SGM USA Ret), 37th Medical Company and HHT, 1/11 (1966-1968) passed away on November 17, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Aiken, SC. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. William was also a veteran of the Korean War.

James E. Chaddock, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on December 7, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beverly Shores, IN.

David D. Greeley, HHT, 1/11 and F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 24, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brookville, PA. He was laid to rest in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Knoxdale, PA.

Alton R. Harper, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on September 14, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Amarillo, TX.

Harley Gene Hartwick, HHT Regiment (1967-1968) passed away on December 29, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Eldon, MO.

Thomas R. Harrington, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 28, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winchester, VA.

James H. Holt (LTC USA Ret), Squadron Commander, HHT, 1/11 (Sept 1967-Jan 1968) passed away on October 9, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Denison, TX. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. LTC Holt was also a veteran of the Korean War.

Norman L. Jones, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on October 5, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marshall, MI.

Ricky D. Kester, HHT, 3/11 and L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 26, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Danville, IL.

Scottie R. King Sr., HHT Regiment and A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1971) passed away on October 19, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gallatin, TN. He was laid to rest in BG William C Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ.

Richard L. Lavasseur (SFC USA Ret), M Company, 3/11 (1967-1969) passed away on October 26, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Franklin, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA.

Jeremy R. Layman, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 15, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lubbock, TX.

James H. (Jimmie) Leach (BG Ret), Regimental Commander and 40th Colonel (Apr 1969 – Dec 1969) passed away on December 17, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beaufort, SC. He was laid to rest in Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC. Colonel Leach was also a veteran of World War II where he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Edward J. Malone, 27th Engineer Battalion (1967-1968) passed away on January 2, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Saint Lucie, FL. He was laid to rest in South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL.

Wayne D. Martin, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1969) passed away on November 6, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waipahu, HI. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery of The Pacific, Honolulu, HI.

Larry D. McCullough, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 22, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in High Point, NC. He was laid to rest in Carolina Biblical Gardens, Jamestown, NC.

Michael G. Mohler, C Troop, 1/11 and L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1970) passed away on November 23, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Puyallup, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

Coy L. Reddell, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 26, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Weatherford, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX. Coy was also a veteran of the Korean War.

Howard W. Sayre (1SG USA Ret), HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 26, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ. He was laid to rest in Fort Huachuca Post Cemetery, Fort Huachuca, AZ. Howard is also a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Dale J. Silhanek, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on October 29, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tama, IA.

Julian O. Soto, C Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on November 22, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX.

William P. Trobaugh (COL USA Ret), Regimental Chaplain, HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on November 19, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Macon, GA.

James T. Tuberty (BG, USA Ret), HHT Regiment (1969) REGT XO passed away on August 28, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Howey in the Hills, FL. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. General Tuberty was also a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Walter R. Wojciechowski, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 16, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cicero, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

Robert L. Womack II, 37th Medical Company (1968-1969) passed away on November 6, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bowie, MD. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

You might want to make copies of these dog tags, place one on your refrigerator and extra dog tags on your adult children's refrigerators



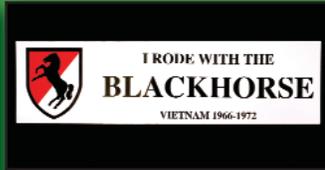
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band \$35.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$30.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#12 Lighter, Zippo \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



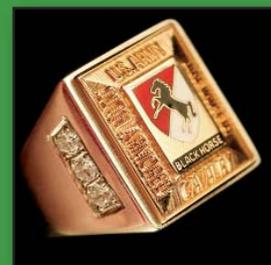
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



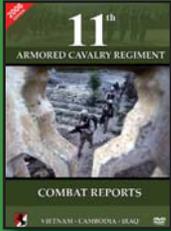
#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



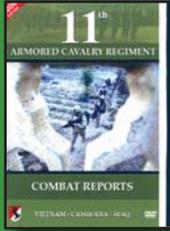
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



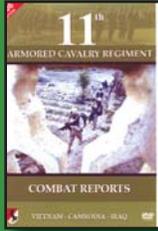
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



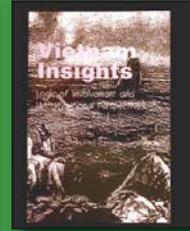
#29 Video Combo #1 \$50.00



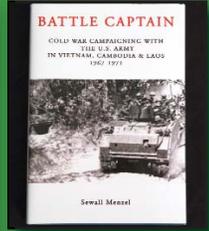
#30 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



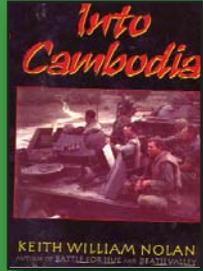
#31 Video (DVD): Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam \$30.00



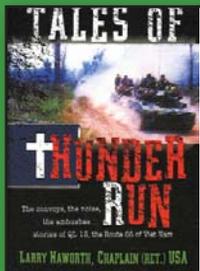
#32 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



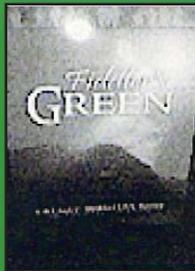
#33 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



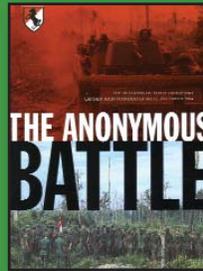
#34 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



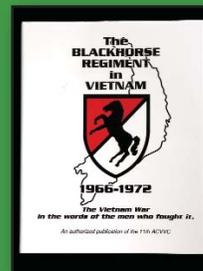
#35 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



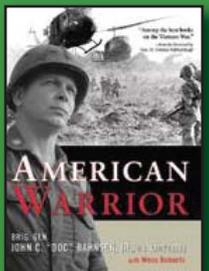
#36 Book: Fiddlers Green \$16.00



#37 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



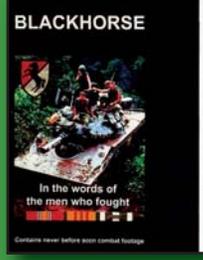
#38 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#39 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen-\$20.00



#43 Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$40.00



#47 Combo: VHS and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$30.00



#40a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#40b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#41a/b T-Shirt, black/ash \$16.00



#42a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



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



#44 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$30.00



#45 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00

The 11th Cav Postman

By Sam S. "Doc" Allison (KIA, July 9, 1968)

The postman just rambled by my track,
Across his back a heavy sack;

A letter here a letter there all written with care,
Perhaps a letter from you is hidden there;

Letters galore and packages so fine,
But from you I find not a single line;

Surely there is some delay,
I know you write me every day;

Away I walk not a letter in hand,
I know you're more than a friend;

But that mailman will be back,
And I'll smash that stupid sack!

*Submitted by Bob Straub, E Trp, (67-68)
in Memory of Doc Allison*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL1Q 10

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

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

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

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

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

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1ST QTR 2010

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00		_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00		_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00		_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00		_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00		_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00		_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00		_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00		_____	_____
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00		_____	_____
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	30.00		_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00		_____	_____
12.	Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00		_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00		_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	7.50		_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00		_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00		_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	A	5.00		_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	5.00		_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00		_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	A	5.00		_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	B	45.00		_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00		_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00		_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	280.00		_____	_____
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00		_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00		_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00		_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00		_____	_____
29.	Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only)	C	50.00		_____	_____
30.	Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD) & Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam (VHS)	C	40.00		_____	_____
31.	Book, Video (DVD) Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam	C	30.00		_____	_____
32.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00		_____	_____
33.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00		_____	_____
34.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan	C	23.00		_____	_____
35.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00		_____	_____
36.	Book, "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard	C	16.00		_____	_____
37.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00		_____	_____
38.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00		_____	_____
39.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00		_____	_____
40.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	12.00		_____	_____
41.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	16.00		_____	_____
42.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	32.00		_____	_____
43.	Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam	C	40.00		_____	_____
44.	Denim Shirt, Mens	B	30.00		_____	_____
45.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	B	75.00		_____	_____
46.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	B	35.00		_____	_____
47.	Combo: VHS and the book "11th Armoured Cavalry in Vietnam"	C	30.00		_____	_____

Subtotal _____

Shipping and Handling _____

Total _____

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

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$6.00; C items = \$10.25
(items totaling over \$75.00 = \$13.95 cost of shipping)

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$13.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**



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

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From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello Fellow Troopers!!

Well we survived the Holidays, even though we were dodging tornadoes through the month of December. Jan and I hoped all had a Very Good Holiday Season and your New Year has started off better than last year.

Now the Holidays have come and gone we are now getting ready for our 25th Reunion in Washington D.C. We all are hoping that this will be our biggest reunion ever. Jan and I will be excited too see all our friends once again as well as all the newcomers attending their 1st Reunion. I want to say to all who have never attended, "JUST COME" as you are. We want to reunite with all who have ridden with the Blackhorse.

Many of you guys that served in country after 69 and up to 72 are still wanted. I know many of you receive The "TR" issues so don't put it off any longer. Like many others since my 1st in 1992 I look forward to the next Reunion each year. In past articles by some of the

first time troopers have been rewarding in many aspects, so please come.

Once again Jan and I are asking for volunteers. There is a great deal of activity that goes on in the Store and all volunteers are greatly appreciated. So if you can spare some time PLEASE come by and lend a hand or two. Or come by and say Hi. We'll be glad to see you.

Hey Guys !! I need a favor. Please do not forget to put down your shirt sizes when ordering and also a phone number so we can reach you if we need to.

Once again I would like to thank our guys who help us out all year long particularly Otis Carey on the Web and Jerry Mitchell in the Store. These men I owe a great deal to with their help to keep us running. Thanks Guys. Also, thanks to all of you who make purchases at the QM Store. The money we take in goes to a very good cause, the support of the Organization.

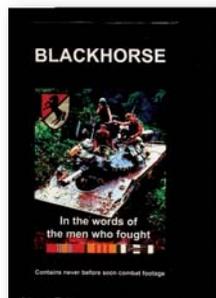
ALLONS, Jerry

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

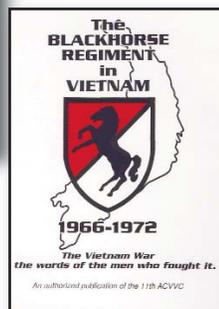
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Past reunion golf shirts: Chicago 2008 in size large only and Louisville 2007 in x large and xx large, \$15.00. Combo: DVD and Book 'The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam' \$40.00; a \$15 savings when purchased together.



#44 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon Men only \$30.00



#47 Combo: VHS and Book "The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam" \$30.00



#43 Combo: DVD and Book "The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam" \$40.00

