



# Thunder Run

Vol. 27 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2012

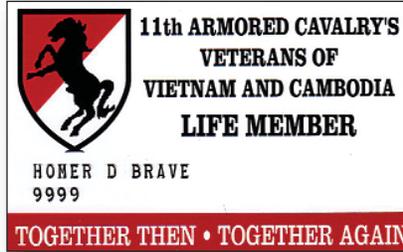
## The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

### Are You A Member?

This issue of Thunder Run is being mailed to over 16,000 Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam. This includes members, lapsed members 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 this time to 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 on the first line of the label, take this opportunity to join and become a member. If the words “EXPIRED” are printed, this

Please turn to **MEMBER** on page 9

### Who Goes There?

By: Mark S. Crist  
I-Troop, 1969

We spent the previous evening watching L-Troop mix it up with Charlie in the woods out to our front. We thought for sure we’d get the call to react to contact and pile on as the saying goes. That wouldn’t happen until this morning when the order came down with the sun beginning to rise. There was still some sporadic firing in the distance as our Platoon moved out of Bandit Hill.

We left the road and got on line headed cross country to the wood line. As we punched in I noticed the jungle wasn’t as thick as I’d seen in previous engagements. There were some open areas in between the trees and underbrush. We were in one when I spotted a bunker off to my right on the edge of some trees. It didn’t look like anyone was home as we pulled in behind it. I grabbed my 16, some hand grenades, and tossed one in anyway. Once back on board we continued our sweep. We busted into some more trees and as luck would have it, threw a track. While the rest of the Platoon moved on heading for the sound of the guns another ACAV was left for security as an attempt was made to pop the track back on.

Please turn to **WHO** on page 9

### Veterans Day 2011



Blackhorse troopers gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day to say thanks to ALL Blackhorse troopers for their service to this great country and our great REGIMENT! ALLONS!

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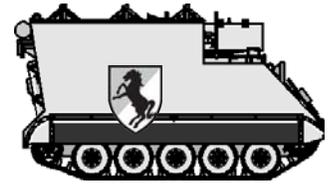




Allen Hathaway  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



**We have located or can account for over 20,000 Blackhorse troopers. If you are not yet a member or your membership has lapsed, take this time to join and become a member or renew your membership.**

Planning is under way for the 27th annual reunion in Orlando, Florida, on September 16-20, 2012. The reunion is an excellent place to meet with old friends, to make new friends, to share your experiences and renew your pride in serving with our great regiment. From the minute you walk in the door and see the first Blackhorse insignia, you feel "at home" and among friends. They are all Blackhorse Troopers who have been the same places as you, talk the same "language", and experience many of the same things.

Orlando and the Central Florida area also offer a number of activities. This is an excellent opportunity to combine the reunion with a vacation. Plan to arrive a few days early or stay a few days longer.

Approximately 1,100 attended the reunion in St. Louis in 2011. Sixty (60) troopers attended their first reunion. Every year we hear remarks from the "first timers" such as "I don't know why I put it off so long. I'll be back next year".

I also spoke with several ladies who attended the reunion for the first time. Many remarked that after several years they were finally able to persuade their husbands they needed to go to a reunion. So ladies, keep working on those men! Men, don't put it off another year.

The 2012 Scholarship Fund raising effort kicked off in December with the mailing of the annual 11th ACVVC calendar to all members. This is the 17th year for the ever popular calendar.

Our Scholarship Fund is self sufficient and relies solely on your donations to continue. All scholarship awards as well as all printing and mailing cost associated with the calendar are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. We ask that you make the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can. Names of donors are listed in this issue. Your donation will ensure that we can continue to mail you a calendar each year and also support the Scholarship Program.

It's been customary for the president to give a brief report in the first issue of the newsletter on the state of the organization. I

am pleased to once again report that the overall state of the 11th ACVVC is excellent. We continue to grow and thrive in many areas.

Our treasury is solvent. The investments made over the years are guaranteed and safe investments. The investments were made to ensure we will continue to have operating funds for the future of this organization. Currently we rely on two main sources of operating income: membership dues and quartermaster sales. There may be a time in the future when we need to draw on these investments if membership or quartermaster sales decline. We ask that you continue to support both of these areas.

We continue our effort to locate and account for Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam. We have located or can account for over 20,000 Blackhorse troopers. If you are not yet a member or your membership has lapsed, take this time to join and become a member or renew your membership. Many of our troopers have been found when they noticed one of our members wearing a Blackhorse hat or shirt. The quartermaster offers a variety of "insignia products" to show your colors. You can see the entire line of products and order form in this issue and on our website.

Our other funds such as Reunion, Scholarship and Memorial are doing well and are in an excellent state. Each of these

funds is self sufficient and relies on the support of our members to continue.

The quarterly newsletter *Thunder Run* continues to bring news and information to our members with a variety of articles, many of which are submitted by our members. Our website continues to be a source of information for our members and visitors. Our reunions continue to be successful and are well attended. Our average annual reunion attendance for the past five years is 1,100.

The success of this organization is due in part to the group of reliable and dedicated members who volunteer their time every day to help their fellow Blackhorse veterans. The most important factor however is the support from our members. Your support throughout the years has helped this organization continue to grow and succeed in every area. Once again I'll say that this support is a result of the pride we all have from serving in the best unit in the United States Army!

In closing I ask that you continue keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. When you see someone in uniform take a minute and offer your hand to thank them for their selfless service. These young men and women contribute daily to the security of our great country. We thank them... ALLONS! - It's good to be "Together Again".

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

*Thunder Run* (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P.O. Box 956, Colleyville, TX 76034; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

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

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# 11th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXVI



# St. Louis, MO





## Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory

**For those of us who rode in Vietnam, this year will mark the 40th anniversary (7 March 1972) of the conclusion of the mission in Vietnam.**

Bill Gregory, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

Happy 2012 to the Blackhorse veterans of all eras and to the active Regiment! For those of us who rode in Vietnam, this year will mark the 40th anniversary (7 March 1972) of the conclusion of the mission in Vietnam. All those who went before us can take comfort in the fact that we continued to uphold and build on the proudest traditions of the regiment. Those who came after us inherited those traditions and have thus far earned our respect by continuing to build on them.

This issue of *Thunder Run* is going out to everyone we can find who served with us in Vietnam, as well as our members. If you are a member, we thank you for your support of the finest veteran's organization we know of. Those who are not members please join with us, fellowship with us, and get reacquainted with those men who you were so close to "back in the day." I hope you enjoy this issue. I think we have put together an informative and entertaining issue for you. We have a good variety of information and entertainment, from the Chaplain reminding us of what decade it is, to action stories from that great live fire exercise across the water. Please do remember that it is time to make plans for the reunion in Orlando, Florida in

September, I cannot think of a more "family friendly" place than the Orlando area, with Disney World and a host of other attractions. We have all the information you need to plan your trip, make reservations, and complete your travel plans. The 2012 Scholarship information is also in this issue, so encourage your eligible children to get their paper work in. If you don't want to tear the application out of your *Thunder Run*, you can copy it or find it online at <http://www.11thcavnam.com/>

Please look closely at our Quartermaster's order form this quarter, it has changed the method of calculating the shipping and handling charges that you must add to your order. The charges are now based on the total amount of your order rather than a cost per item method. The Quartermaster feels this new method is a more fair way to calculate those charges.

If you have something to share, from short stories to 'Show Your Pride' items, please send it to us; we have some very good writers in this organization and most of them have never been published. Even if you are not confident about your writing ability but have a story to tell, do not fear, we can help with the mechanics of it.

ALLONS!!

I admire her for the research she did on the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during our war and the struggles our troopers have with PTSD. I'm sure she sees our war as somewhat of a movie where it was just day-to-day travels for us that participated in it. It is refreshing to know that many of our children have continued to be a part of the Blackhorse Family.

Her article is fit to be published in any national veteran's magazine and I appreciate you placing it in *Thunder Run*.

Ollie Pickral  
K Troop 1968-69

## SFC Rodney Yano Dedication

The Armor Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, has announced the dedication of a new facility in honor of SFC Rodney J. T. Yano. SFC Yano was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for actions on January 1, 1969 while serving with Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

**The dedication is schedule for 10:00 am, Friday, March 23, 2012.**

The dedication is schedule for 10:00 am, Friday, March 23, 2012. Guest speaker will be BG John C. "Doc" Bahnsen (USA Ret), Air Cavalry Troop commander and pilot of the aircraft involved in the incident. All Blackhorse troopers, family and friends are invited to attend. No invitation is necessary. Dress is casual. Show your colors - wear something Blackhorse!

The Armor School completed the move from Fort Knox to Fort Benning in September 2011 and combined with the Infantry School to become the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE). The Armor School is an all new, state-of-the-art facility located in the Harmony Church area of Fort Benning.

To mark the completion of the move, in September 2011 the MCOE Headquarters building at Fort Benning was officially dedicated as McGinnis-Wickam Hall. Specialist Ross A. McGinnis was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for actions on December 4, 2006 while serving with the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq. Corporal Jerry Wayne Wickam was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for actions on January 6, 1968 while serving with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam.

Directions to The Armor School and Harmony Church: Traveling south from Columbus, Georgia on I-185. Exit onto GA-1 S/GA-520 E/US-27 S/US-280 E/Martha Berry Hwy/Victory Dr. Continue to follow GA-1 S/GA-520 E/US-27 S/US-280 E/Martha Berry Hwy 4.3 miles then take the exit toward Access Point/8th Division Road. Directional signs from the Access Point will be posted to guide you into the Ceremony Site.



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for the great article in 4th Qtr. *Thunder Run*, "Sometimes People Died and Sometimes They Didn't," by Elena Brown.

Ms. Brown is the daughter of Ed Brown (Troop A 1967-68) and attends most of our reunions with her dad and her family. She sees the war from the outside looking in and hears our troopers talk of the battles they fought in, sees the tears of sorrow when our KIA are mentioned and tears of joy when troopers see each other after 40+ years.

# REGISTRATION

By: Bob Moreno  
Director and Registration Chair  
11th ACVVC

Here it is already 2012 and time for me to start really getting ready for the Orlando reunion. While the name tags are beginning to start being printed and the meal tags are in the design stages, I am preparing myself and my computer for the incoming amount of registration forms we will be receiving.

I'm sure due to the location of this year reunion, that we will see a lot of new people as well as many who have not been to a reunion in a few years. And I think that is WONDERFUL! The more the merrier.

With that being said, I want to remind you all that you really should be calling the hotel to make your reservation. We did last week and the gentleman Barb spoke with said the hotel was filling rapidly. So don't wait to much longer.

And as soon as you see the registration form, either on line or in the *Thunder Run*, fill it out and get it mailed in. Why?

Number one - it keeps Barb from going insane when making for everyone (and parts are being done by hand this year), number two - if for any reason I have to call you about your choice of meals, or a question on the spelling of your name or that of a guest, I have a lot of time to get it done (remember I work every day from 7AM until ???). And finally number three - after you mail it to Ollie, it can take up to a week, or longer, to get to me.

I am also asking for your help by using one of the many address labels you receive in the mail. They really do make things so much easier. Also please allow some time for your name to appear on the web site as attending. It does take a little while for me to send them all in as I have a lot of other things to do upon receiving the registration forms before I even get to that. When I do get them in and

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**...I want to remind you all that you really should be calling the hotel to make your reservation. We did last week and the ... hotel was filling rapidly.**

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you see somethings wrong with your name. whether it be a spelling error or under the wrong unit, please call ONLY ME - NOT Ollie, NOT Allen, NOT Steve or anyone else, as I am the one who is responsible for putting them in or taking them out and moving them. ONLY ME!! My email and phone number can be found either in the *Thunder Run*, on the Website or at the bottom of this article.

Meal choices - again this year, your choices are going to be BEEF, CHICKEN, OR VEGGIE. There will be NO Prime Rib, Lobster or anything else. Just Beef, Chicken or Veggie! So don't ever ask or Barb may just see that you get 'bread and water' or worse MRE's .

Watch the cut off dates very carefully as no likes paying late fees. Our family will be leaving for Florida earlier this year so that we can incorporate our family vacation before the reunion as we need to get home immediately after for work.

So that's another reason to get them in early. Cause if I leave here and don't have yours yet, you may end up paying again plus the late fee until I can get it verified that it was indeed sent in on time.

If you find you need to cancel after sending in your registration, it should not be a problem. Just let me know so I can tell Ollie and he can then probably issue you a refund.

I'm sure as the months get closer to the actual reunion, I will have a lot more to say, but for right now, this is all I can think of. So until next time - So long and see you in Florida.

Bob's email: [gtrouppbob@gmail.com](mailto:gtrouppbob@gmail.com)

## Incoming...

**From Robert J. Lessnau (F Troop, 71-72).** On Jan 17, 1972 I turned 21. I had just come back from a mission and was hungry, wet and cold. I casually mentioned to a few guys sitting near me that I was 21 today and someone said "Oh yeah? I'll give you a gift" and handed me a can of Campbell's Tomato Soup. This was a rarity. I don't think I ever saw a Campbell's can in Nam before then. I guessed his mother must have sent it to him. It wasn't wise to make a flame to cook with at that hour so I ate it raw out of the can and nothing ever tasted so good. Then I broke out a bottle of rum which I'd been saving for this occasion and we all had a little nip. This has been the fondest memory for me and I've told it to various people over the years but sadly I can't remember the names of anyone

involved. Were you there? Do you have any memory of this? If you were the guy with the soup, I'd like to give you the warmest thank you and if you live within 1000 miles of Detroit, I'd like to take you out to dinner with our wives or something. Contact me at [robert\\_lessnau@yahoo.com](mailto:robert_lessnau@yahoo.com) or call (734) 281-1828. I was in F Troop

◆ ◆ ◆

**This comes from Michael D. Mobley (A Troop, 1/11, 67-68).** In July of 1968 with one week to serve in country, he was on recon with A Troop and they were caught in an ambush and he was awarded a Silver Star for his heroic actions during this contact. Unfortunately he never got the award and needs help from his buddies to substantiate his claim since his records were lost in the

### Information provided by and for our Troopers

fire at the records center. If you can help Michael with this please contact him at (517) 431-8312.

### 2012 Newsletter Deadlines

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

**First Quarter 2012 .....Jan 15**  
**Second Quarter 2012 .....Mar 25**  
**Third Quarter 2012.....Jun 25**  
**Fourth Quarter 2012.....Oct 1**

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



## From the 64th Colonel of the Regiment

Tony Aguto



**G**reetings and Happy New Year from your Blackhorse Troopers! As we kick off another busy and exciting year of training our Nation's Army, let's first reflect upon our accomplishments from the last quarter.

Since October, the Regiment has been going nonstop, ensuring that all units that come through the National Training Center are fully prepared for their upcoming deployments. We helped to train the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the New York Army National Guard, the 2d Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 2d Infantry Division out of Fort Lewis, and the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the Ohio National Guard. After the non-stop pace of the last few months, we left for our well deserved break. As always, you should be very proud of our accomplishments in replicating realistic conditions that these units will face as they deploy to Afghanistan.

In October, the Horse Detachment traveled to Fort Reno, Oklahoma for the 2011 National Cavalry Competition. The competition included 10 events and focused on drill and ceremony, combat skills, and horsemanship. This year's competition consisted of more than 80 riders and was the largest gathering of mounted Soldiers to participate in a review since 1948. This year the 11th ACR Horse Detachment placed in eight events and won the General Casimir Pulaski Cup Outstanding Military Unit

**Some of our upcoming events include the Regiment's 111th Birthday on February 2nd. Please come out to celebrate it with us on February 1st at our Stable Call at 4:30pm on Fritz Field. Also, we would love for you to join us for our Regimental Ball at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas.**

Award. This was their 10th time competing in the National Cavalry Competition and their 2nd time winning the coveted award. We are proud of our skilled horsemen because of their dual mission as a ceremonial unit, and training role at the National Training Center by simulating local nationals during the rotations.

December 14th marked the date for our 15th Annual Veterans Home Memorial March to bring cheer to the residents of the Veterans Home of California-Barstow. Cheered on by enthusiastic supports, more than 225 Soldiers paraded through Barstow. Following the march, through the generous donations of BAE, The Blackhorse Association, AUSA, and your Troopers, we were able to present a check for over \$2500 to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund of the home. We also presented a giant holiday card, signed by all of the Soldiers who participated in the march, to the residents. Since its start in 1997, the march has become a favorite for the Veterans Home of California-Barstow, and it is their second largest ceremony after Veteran's day. The residents of the home and the Soldiers alike look forward to the event every year. It is a way for

them to compare notes and bond over their experiences serving in the armed forces. It was an uplifting event that allowed our Troopers to help and honor those who served first.

Some of our upcoming events include the Regiment's 111th Birthday on February

2nd. Please come out to celebrate it with us on February 1st at our Stable Call at 4:30pm on Fritz Field. Also, we would love for you to join us for our Regimental Ball at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas. It will be held the evening of April 5th. More information can be found on our Facebook page or by contacting the Regimental Adjutant at 760-380-5740.

We're close to completing our first rotation of the year as we send off 1st Battalion of the 30th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart. February will bring another tough rotation as 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley gives us their all. Come March, we will tackle our first Contingency Expeditionary Force (CEF) rotation. This type of rotation combines counterinsurgency operations or COIN with conventional land-force maneuvers. Training the units in this manner allows us to combine traditional fighting tactics with a more modern hybrid threat aspect to prepare our Nation's Army for what may lay ahead. Our Troopers will battle 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Benning in an all out assault. The change in rotations will most certainly not be the only challenge your Blackhorse Troopers will be facing, but rest assured, they are recharged from the Holiday break and are ready to continue training America's Army.

As always, I openly invite any of you Blackhorse Veterans to come and visit us. If you are in the area and would like to visit, we will be more than happy to spend time with you and show you what your Regiment is accomplishing with amazing strides.

## Show Your Pride



**Jim "Turk" Weltzien's (B Troop, 1/11, 70-71) 1931 Chevy 3 window Coupe is Armor yellow and shows his pride at shows.**

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## MEMBER from page 1

is a good time to renew your membership. Expired members will also have their membership number printed on the same line.

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 including month and year. Also include any other information such as nickname, track number, platoon or section. 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. Over 90 percent of our members are LIFE members.

Membership dues are only \$15 per year, or \$100 for a LIFE membership. Over 90 percent of our members are LIFE members. 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 26 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!

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## WHO from page 1

Before getting off the track again I spotted another bunker about 30 meters off to the right. And once again it didn't appear anyone was in residence. While it didn't look like a fight had taken place here recently maybe L-Troop's arrival had sent the occupants on the run. They eventually bumped into them the night before. I had my fatigue shirt off along with my steel pot in anticipation of helping to get the track back on with another "warm" Vietnamese day beginning. I was told instead to go check that bunker out. So off I went with the 16 and some more hand grenades.

I tossed one in and after it went off went to the doorway. It was like most bunkers I'd seen with the logs embedded above the door and covered with a mound of dirt. They were solid to be sure having had to dig a few up looking for intell. I guess they didn't want to disturb anything with a shaped charge. So there I stood in the door; no shirt, no helmet, and sporting my tan from the waist up. About that time I heard a LOACH approaching low and slow above the treetops. Maybe I'd get to wave at one of the Observers I knew in Air Cav. It finally appeared and I was

about to wave when it came to an abrupt halt not far from me. The next thing I saw was the mini-gun flex in my direction. "Ah s—t, they think I'm a VC!" I guess from up there the scenario looked cut and dried, a deadlined track and a Viet Cong getting ready to take advantage of the situation. I slowly raised both arms and waved. The LOACH flew off. I was glad I'd answered the call of nature before moving out that morning if you catch my drift.

I went back to the vehicle and it appeared they weren't having much luck getting the track back on. I got back up top behind my 60. The gunfire in the distance continued, but it sounded like we were the only ones firing. That was until I heard the unmistakable sound of a burst from an AK. A while later I heard it again, but the decibels had changed. It seemed to be getting louder; and louder, and louder still, while the pitch from ours remained the same. I yelled down to my TC and suggested whoever the rest of the Platoon was after was circling back behind them. He told me to radio the Platoon Leader. I did so and received the transmission, "negative on that AK fire!" He'd only been in

the field a week or so and don't think he knew the distinction yet. The TC was back onboard and informed the LT there was a problem getting the track back on. We were told to have the other vehicle tow us back to Bandit Hill.

We were being towed from behind as we headed back and although unserviceable it must have been a formidable sight none-the-less; 3 machineguns forward, 3 aft. As we came into that open area where I'd seen the 1st bunker, and paralleling the ruts we'd come in on, I looked down and saw several sets of fresh footprints in the dirt. Whoever it was had also vacated their Ho Chi Minhs since they were bare footing it. I pointed them out to the TC. I'm not saying I'm right all the time, but the possibility those Cong had indeed circled back was foremost on my mind. We braced for the possibility anyway, though nothing happened. If they were those Cong maybe they were low on ammunition by now, headed back to those bunkers, and didn't want to mix it up with this battleship passing by. I'll never know who "they" were, but glad the crew on that LOACH got a handle on who "I" was.

# Meet Our 2011 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2011 Scholarship Winners. Twelve of our winners were featured in the last issue of *Thunder Run*. Following are the remaining 2011 Scholarship Winners.



**Raphael Brandao, son of Asa Fisk, HHT, 1/11, 1968 - 1969**

I wish to express my immense gratitude to the 11ACVVC for this accolade. It was, genuinely, an unmeasurable honor to be chosen as one the recipients of this prestigious award. The support given to me by the 11ACVVC has unquestionably kept my worries under control, and it has made it possible for my devoted parents to not get into a deeper debt in loans this semester. I sincerely value my education, and this economic aid made it possible to continue with my academic pursuits in the medical field. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. I look forward to the time that I can finally put everything I am learning into practice and help others as you have helped me.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Kenneth W. Hendrix, D Co., KIA 10/26/70



**Jeannie Hatch, daughter of Jeri Young, K Troop, 1969-1970**

Thank you for allowing me to further my education with the generous scholarship fund that has been awarded. This scholarship has given me the confidence I will need to finish my degree. Along with grants this scholarship will help reduce the amount of funds it will take to complete my degree. I appreciate this honor of being selected as one of the scholarship winners. I will work hard to represent this Veteran's Organization. Thank you for this opportunity,

Scholarship dedicated to SSG Ronald Ray Walls, F Troop, KIA 09/26/68.



**Abbi Kenyon, daughter of Fred Kenyon, HHT, Regiment, 1969 - 1970**

Since writing my application for this scholarship i have recently changed my major to early care which is birth to kindergarten which will lead to my career as a pre-school teacher. This scholarship will relieve some of the vast stress which is prevalent in many college students, especially during the first year while i am still trying to figure everything out. Thank you for choosing to award me with this scholarship. It is a great blessing to me and i will have the rest of the required material sent to you shortly.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Charles C. Napper, A Troop, KIA 11/07/69.



**Ryan Smith, son of Paul Kwiecinski, HHT, Regiment, 1970 - 1971**

I would just like to say thank you very much for choosing me to receive the 11ACVVC scholarship. This scholarship means a lot to me because not only does it give me a security blanket for the financial aspect of attending college, it also feels good to be receiving aid that is needed. I cannot thank you enough for choosing me to receive the scholarship.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Kenneth J. Kreutz, L Troop, KIA 6/9/69.



**Debora Snyder, daughter of Paul Spivey, I and K Troops, 1968-1969**

There are no words to adequately express my gratitude to the members of the selection committee of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for the award of my scholarship. I was so excited to receive the email from Chairman Rafferty – and so very grateful. I have been working off and on for the last several years to complete my bachelor's degree with this award I will be able to fulfill that dream. Having my BS in hand will help offset my age to potential employers. I hope to "pay it forward" by continuing my work in the field of victim advocacy – with my goal being to work with military families. The commitment the 11ACVVC "family" has to helping and supporting each other in their educational goals and dreams through this scholarship program is amazing. Thank you. I specifically want to thank the family of Frank E. Reynolds in whose memory I am receiving this scholarship. I was fortunate to have my father return home – my heart hurts that it wasn't the same for you. Please know that I will do everything possible to bring him honor through my work. May you be blessed as I have been blessed. He will forever have a place in my heart. Again, thank you and may many others be touched by your generosity and commitment.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Frank E. Reynolds, F Troop, KIA 3/4/67.



**Patrick Spacek, son of Frank J. Spacek, III, E Troop, 1967-1968**

I would like to thank the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for awarding this scholarship to me in memory of Douglas Cann. Thanks to my father's pride in his service with the 11th Cav, your organization has always been a part of my life. I served in the US Navy from January 1991 to July 2006 and recognize the honor of being chosen by peers. This scholarship will

enable me to complete my lifelong dream of becoming a college graduate. I am projected to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology Management in May 2012 from Florida State College. Upon graduation, I am hoping to return to government service. Thank you again for your support and this opportunity. ALLONS!

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Douglas Allen Cann, H Company, KIA 07/02/68.



**Jillian Spino, daughter of Floyd Spino, F Troop, 1968-1969**

This scholarship is a big honor for me. It means a lot to me and helps out with my last year of schools tuition. The scholarship is an honor to me because I was selected out of many applicants. It also means that all of the hard work I have put into school and the scholarship application has paid off.

Scholarship dedicated to SGT Jack W. McCann, K Troop, KIA 12/27/70.



**Jennifer Steigert, daughter of Norman Steigert, G Troop, 1969-1970**

Thank you so much for choosing me as one of the 2011 ACVVC Scholarship recipients! As I read your letter, I could hardly believe my eyes! I sat in awe for a moment just thinking about what honor this is and how incredibly lucky I am. When I called my father to

share the wonderful news with him, he was absolutely thrilled! Finding out that I was awarded this scholarship made my day, but it was icing on the cake to know how happy he was because of it! I know my dad is just as excited as I was and although he didn't say it, I think he felt very proud to be a part of an organization that supports fellow veterans and their families.

I would like you to know how truly grateful I am for your generosity and for believing in me. You have made such a difference in my life and I will always remember this very special gift.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Hilbert Walter Teeter G Troop, KIA 4/24/71.



**Elizabeth B. Tankovich, daughter of James Tankovich, M Company 1968**

I am honored that the 11th ACVVC has chosen me as a recipient for this year's scholarship. The news could not have come at a better time after my dad's job recently ended with the closure of the Joint Forces Command. Not only does this scholarship

enable me to pursue my passion for nutrition, but it also inspires me

to always put forth my best effort in my studies. I am entering my final year of dietetics at Virginia Tech and will be applying for Dietetic Internships for the following year. I look forward to joining the effort to improve the health of our Nation as a Registered Dietitian. Thank you for all of those who served in the Blackhorse Regiment and for all of those who have made this scholarship possible.

Scholarship dedicated to SGT Arthur L Jordan, I Troop, KIA 4/29/68.



**Kathleen Thomas, daughter of Larry Thomas, HHT Regiment, 1967-1968**

Thank you so much for rewarding me with this scholarship! I will not be able to attend the reunion due to the start of school. When I applied for the scholarship, I was planning on attending Missouri University of Science and Technology, but now I am going to attend

Central College in Pella, Iowa for business management and psychology. The scholarship will help fund a proper education in which I can be successful in my future. Thank you again!

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Gary Bruce Nichols, Air Cav Troop, KIA 5/7/69.



**Gunner Toups, son of Blaz Toups, A Troop, 1969-1970**

Thank you very much for choosing me as an awardee for the 11th ACVVC scholarship. I feel incredibly grateful to be deemed worthy of such an honorable scholarship. This scholarship will help me achieve my academic goals in college, and further prepare

me for a successful future. Not only does this lessen the unavoidable stress of entering college, but it helps ensure a positive future in college. Once again, thank you so much.

Scholarship dedicated to SP4 Willie Lee Page, G Troop, KIA 06/06/67.



**Tamara Williams, daughter of Kenneth Wood, 919th Eng., 1967-1969**

I wish to express my eternal gratitude for the honor you have bestowed me and my family. As a proud daughter of an 11th Armored Cav. member, I am keenly aware of the sac-

rifices all of you have made for our country to secure our freedoms. One of the many freedoms that we have in this great country is our access to education. Your generous gift will afford me the opportunity to complete my elementary education degree; passing the torch of knowledge to future generations. Thank you again for such a generous gift

Scholarship dedicated to SFC Robert T. Sickels, I Troop, KIA 4/4/67.

# 11<sup>TH</sup> ACVVC DONATIONS

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Babcock, Robert  
Barber, John  
Barrett, Donald  
Beckman, Jack  
Benitez, Jaoachim  
Bishop, Verlon  
Bostelman, Christopher  
Brand, Robin  
Brownell, Roger  
Buchholz, Richard  
Burk, Wesley  
Burns, James  
Burton, Joseph  
Calhoun, Dwight  
Christeson, Frank  
Church, Frank  
Clement, Stephen  
Cloyd, J.J.  
Cole, Larry  
Cramer, G. William  
Cross, Frezell  
Crouthamel, John  
Dalegowski, Gary  
Dart, Larry  
Dewit, Leray  
Dewitt, Michael  
Erwin, Samuel  
Foreman, James  
Frens, John  
Frizzell, Leo  
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Giesige, Raymond  
Goff, Thomas

Goode, David  
Goudard, Francis  
Greek, Charles  
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Johnson, Russell  
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Kester, Larry  
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Kraycer, Edward  
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McGrail, John  
McKinley, Martin  
Mertz, Albert  
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Mourglea, Gene  
Mowery, Robert  
Mutch, Scott  
Newcomb, Dale  
Newman, Gary  
O'Neal, Robert  
Owens, Aiden  
Pemberton, Donald  
Petrusko, Donald  
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Powers, Richard  
Radzwillas, Paul  
Raney, John  
Rebeck, William  
Reed, Donald  
Renda, Frank  
Resty, Walter  
Roberts, John

Rogers, Edward  
Rosendahl, Myron  
Ruscher, John  
Rusteberg, Homer  
Sanchez, Vincent  
Sasaki, Frank  
Sammelmeier, Peter  
Severeid, Ralph  
Share, Michael  
Shinault, Angus  
Sieja, Ronald  
Sinervo, Vincent  
Sisson, Howard  
Smith, Jim  
Smith, Robert  
Strine, James  
Taylor, Craig  
Templer, Thomas  
Townsend, Frank  
Vail, Richard  
Votaw, John  
Waldroop, Clinton  
Watts, Wayne  
Weaver, William  
West, Wayne  
Westerberg, Victor  
Whitlock, August  
Whitney, Don  
Williams, Tyrus  
Wolfe, Okey  
Worley, Richard  
Wresch, Michael  
Yopp, Nixon  
Young, Jerl

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Abney, Steve  
Aguilar, Arthur  
Ahrens, Daniel  
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Alestra, Malcolm  
Alexander, James  
Allen, Donald  
Allen, Raymond  
Alsobrook, William  
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Anderson, James  
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Arnold, Charles  
Ashenfelder, Roseanne  
Atchison, Daniel

Atkinson, John  
Bacon, Dean  
Baerman, Vincent  
Bailey, David  
Baker, Robert  
Baker, Stacy  
Banks, Ray  
Banning, Bill  
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Barbeau, John  
Barnes, William  
Baronti, William  
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Basler, Harold  
Bathurst, J.A.  
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Belville, Harold  
Benham, John  
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Brooks, Edward  
Brown, Ollis  
Bruglia, Richard  
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Carpenter, Raymond  
Carpenter, Michael  
Carr, William  
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Cassen, Samuel  
Castle, Roderick  
Caswell, Danny  
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Childress, Warren  
Christensen, Arnold  
Christensen, Bert  
Christian, Gus  
Christman, Dennis  
Christman, David  
Ciborowski, Dennis  
Clack, Douglas  
Clark, Glenn  
Clark, Floyd  
Clarke, Theodore  
Coates, Gary  
Cocke, John  
Coffey, Maynard  
Colameco, Thomas  
Cole, Richard  
Collins, Michael  
Colman, Richard  
Colmone, Salvatore  
Colson, Darrel  
Commons, Joe  
Compton, Bob  
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Conner, Wilma  
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Cordero, P. Fred  
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Costa, John  
Cotton, Earnest  
Courtney, Patrick  
Cox, Bernard  
Coyle, Elizabeth  
Crabtree, James  
Cramer, John  
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Cunningham, Charles  
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Czerwinski, Joseph  
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Daub, August  
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Davenport, Jesse  
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Davis, Buster  
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Dickinson, James  
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Dietz, John  
Dignard, Michael  
Dimeo, John  
Dinardo, Michael  
Dobson, Jerry  
Dolen, Charles  
Doll, Thomas  
Domingez, Jesus  
Doyle, Kenneth  
Dublin, Sammy  
Dulaney, Linda  
Dunkle, Clarence  
Dunlop, Catherine  
Dupiantis, Patrick  
Durham, Charlie  
Durr, Merritt  
Durrett, James  
Eads, Hugh  
Eager, Michael  
Eggleton, Andrew  
Eitel, Roger  
Ekert, Frank  
Elbert, Dennis  
Elligan, Richard  
Epperly, Howell  
Erato, Steven  
Ergish, Walter  
Evans, Denver  
Evans, David  
Evener, Kathryn  
Fairchild, Robert  
Farrell, James  
Farris, Barry  
Faulk, Danny  
Fedorinchik, William  
Feick, Charles  
Femovich, Walter  
Fernstrom, Carl

Fink, Eugene  
Finkelsen, Kenneth  
Firchau, Melvin  
Fischer, Donald  
Fixx, Darrell  
Flaherty, Thomas  
Flynn, Patrick  
Fordonski, David  
Fordyce, Kenneth  
Forrester, Larry  
Foster, David  
Foster, Gary  
Fox, Bobby  
Fraase, William  
Frank, Dale  
Franken, Henry  
Franklin, Sheldon  
Franklin, Martin  
Freeman, B.E.  
Freeman, Dennis  
Fremd, Harold  
Freme, Robert  
Frenette, Robert  
Freyn, Richard  
Fricke, Dennis  
Friend, Richard  
Gabbert, Roderick  
Gaines, James  
Gallanger, Joseph  
Gambert, Robert  
Gamble, Jimmy  
Ganno, Charles  
Garcia, Bexaida  
Garcia, Julio  
Garell, Paul  
Garland, Stanley  
Garner, Joe  
Garny, Thomas  
Garrett, Dean  
Garvey, David  
Gee, Luther  
Geesey, Kenneth  
Gehring, Joseph  
Gelder, Albert  
Geldziler, Gene  
Gensemer, Walter  
Gerhardt, Terry  
Gharing, Richard  
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Gietzen, William  
Gillette, William  
Giorgio, Vincent  
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Gizzi, Ernest  
Glaser, Barry  
Glatzer, Ross  
Gleditsch, Herbert  
Goad, Billie  
Goodwater, Howard  
Gorko, Antonie  
Govan, Stephen  
Grams, Gary  
Gray, Zane  
Greaves, Reginald  
Greeley, John

Green, James  
Green, Dennis  
Greene, Alanson  
Gresh, Vincent  
Griep, Gerald  
Griffin, William  
Grimme, John  
Grisham, William  
Grogg, John  
Guerena, J.  
Hadfield, William  
Hagood, Robert  
Haines, William  
Hains, James  
Halama, Ronald  
Hall, John  
Hall, Rick  
Hall, Charles  
Hallman, Eugene  
Halterman, Michael  
Hamric, Roxile  
Handcock, William  
Hanson, Paul  
Hanson, Jeffrey  
Harmon, Benjamin  
Harvey, Michael  
Hass, Robert  
Hathaway, Allen  
Hathaway, Jean  
Hauser, Stanley  
Hawk, John  
Hawkins, Robert  
Hawley, Robert  
Head, Wayne  
Headrick, Joseph  
Hedgcoth, Erie  
Hein, Dwane  
Heine, Lloyd  
Hellowell, Donald  
Herlinsky, Walter  
Herman, Paul  
Hernandez, Doug  
Heuston, Robert  
Hicks, L.R.  
Hill, John  
Hinkle, Weldon  
Hinojosa, Leonardo  
Hinson, Ray  
Hinton, Duncan  
Hjort, Ronald  
Hladky, Joseph  
Hobbie, William  
Hoem, Neil  
Hoff, Don  
Hofmann, William  
Holbrook, Gregory  
Hollar, Glenn  
Holliday, Joseph  
Hollis, Ron  
Hooton, Berke  
Hopper, Jay  
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Horn, Donald  
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Jones, John  
Jones, Edward  
Jones, DeWayne  
Jordan, John  
Joseph, Paul  
Jseman, William  
Juarez, Jose  
Jumper, Bobby  
Juskiewicz, Thomas  
Justison, Roger  
Kauppi, Ernest  
Kearnes, Richard  
Kelly, Thomas  
Keltner, Neil  
Kersey, Mark  
Kile, Lynn  
Kirchoff, Thomas  
Kirk, Walter  
Kittelson, Harold  
Klein, Earl  
Kleingartner, Timothy  
Koliba, Eugene  
Kontzelmann, Fred  
Koppenal, Kenneth  
Krcelich, George  
Krebs, Richard  
Krzyzan, David  
Kudzia, John  
Kuehner, James  
Kulpa, Norman  
Kuntzman, John  
Kurniawka, Thor  
Kwiecinski, Paul  
Labriola, Leonard  
Lakari, Walter  
Landusky, Thomas  
Langley, Rickey  
Lanphier, Connie  
Larocque, Robert  
Larson, Ken  
Laskowski, John

Laspina, William  
Lawlor, Thomas  
Lee, Robert  
Lee, Kenneth  
Leesmann, Dale  
Leeson, William  
Leis, Robert  
Lescisko, John  
Lessard, John  
Lessard, Gernard  
Levario, Jaime  
Lewellen, Bill  
Lewis, Larry  
Lewis, David  
Little, Eldred  
Livingston, Donald  
Lloyd, Archie  
Longworth, Larry  
Looft, Richard  
Loudon, Orrin  
Love, Guy  
Loveday, Gary  
Loya, Atanacio  
Lozon, Frank  
Ludwick, John  
Lyle, Roger  
Lytle, Howard  
MacDonald, John  
MacDonald, Clifford  
Mackley, Kurt  
Madrid, David  
Magnarelli, John  
Maiuri, John  
Malone, Walker  
Mankowski, Carl  
Markowicz, Carl  
Marlatt, Charles  
Marmet, Dave  
Marquez, Gabriel  
Marshall, Robert  
Marth, Gary  
Martinez, Daniel  
Martinez, Richard  
Massengale, Glen  
Matthews, Milton  
Matthews, James  
Mattis, George  
McBryde, Jerry  
McCain, Timothy  
McCarthy, John  
McCarthy, Jerry  
McCollum, Charles  
McDonald, David  
McGarrity, Thomas  
McGowan, Bernard  
McIntosh, James  
McKelvey, William  
McKillip, Clarence  
McKnight, Matt  
McKnight, Don  
McLendon, Glenn  
McMasters, Cary  
McNally, Brian  
McNeal, Thomas  
McNeil, Robert

Menefee, Douglas  
Merkle, William  
Merz, Robert  
Mesardjian, Michael  
Meyer, Keith  
Michaud, Randolph  
Mikluscak, Michael  
Miles, James  
Miller, Louis  
Minakowski, Charles  
Mitchell, Harry  
Mixon, Henry  
Mobley, Michael  
Moeller, Daniel  
Molstad, Steven  
Monaghan, John  
Montgomery, Fred  
Moon, Bradford  
Moore, David  
Moore, James  
Morelock, Jerry  
Moreno, Ray  
Moriarity, Douglas  
Morrison, Charles  
Morrison, Willie  
Morrisey, Matthew  
Moughmer, David  
Moushegian, Stephen  
Mullen, Kenneth  
Mulrath, John  
Murphy, Don  
Murphy, Alan  
Murphy, L.K.  
Murray, William  
Murray, Joe  
Mutter, John  
Nagel, John  
Napier, John  
Nash, Dane  
Nelson, Jack  
Nelson, David  
Newlin, Ronny  
Newman, Leslie  
Newman, David  
Niswonger, Randolph  
Nunley, Willie  
O'Brien, James  
Ohlmeyer, Daniel  
Olechny, Patrick  
Ondulick, James  
O'Neil, John  
Ontko, David  
Opp, Terry  
Ortiz, Concepcion  
Ostrom, David  
Pabey, Orlando  
Pace, D.L.  
Padovano, Joseph  
Pagan, Angel  
Palmer, James  
Parish, Hubert  
Parisien, Dennis  
Parker, Elmer  
Parrish, Edgar  
Paschke, David

Pascual, Carl  
Passanisi, Julie  
Patten, Thomas  
Patterson, John  
Patterson, Eddie  
Patton, Thomas  
Pelton, Andrew  
Pender, Johnny  
Pendola, Lloyd  
Perrin, Craig  
Perry, Richard  
Pertuit, Donald  
Pfohy, Dennis  
Phalen, Fred  
Phillips, Charles  
Pitt, Christopher  
Poe, James  
Points, Richard  
Poland, Duane  
Pollace, John  
Pope, Ronald  
Portagallo, T.  
Posak, Nicholas  
Poundstone, John  
Powell, Alexander  
Price, Donald  
Proctor, Jay  
Pryor, Lee  
Puckett, Larry  
Puglisi, Tony  
Pullium, Michael  
Purifoy, George  
Quinn, Richard  
Quinn, William  
Rafferty, Michael  
Ralston, William  
Ramnytz, Samuel  
Raspberry, Jessie  
Raseman, Kim  
Rawlings, Jack  
Rawson, Robert  
Reardon, Maurie  
Reddick, Richard  
Redmond, Sylvester  
Reed, Ronald  
Reeves, James  
Reeves, Edward  
Rego, Joseph  
Reichgeld, Blake  
Reinick, Harold  
Reiterman, John  
Relyea, Mark  
Retzlaff, Jerry  
Reynolds, Phillip  
Rice, Danny  
Richardson, Lawrence  
Richardson, John  
Richardson, Randy  
Riley, Dwight  
Rinne, Howard  
Roberts, Joe  
Roberts, Larry  
Robertson, Melvin  
Rogers, James  
Rogers, Jimmy

Rollins, Charles  
Roman, Irving  
Romano, Anthony  
Rose, Jerome  
Rosenbalm, Allan  
Roshier, Galen  
Ross, Carey  
Roth, Steven  
Ruble, David  
Rudisill, Gerald  
Russell, W. Arthur  
Russell, Richard  
Russell, Michael  
Russell, David  
Saine, Dan  
Samsel, Larry  
Sandlin, Robert  
Saxby, David  
Schaefer, Michael  
Schamberger, William  
Schaunaman, Donni  
Scheumann, David  
Schlepperegell, William  
Schneider, David  
Schneiter, Robert  
Schofield, David  
Schopp, Charles  
Schorr, Harold  
Schultz, Lane  
Schumacher, Robert  
Schunck, James  
Selch, William  
Seleman, Elmer  
Sevelius, Arthur  
Sexton, James  
Seyller, Philip  
Shakow, Raymond  
Shambarger, Bob  
Sheehan, Theresa  
Sheldon, Dennis  
Shelley, R.L.  
Shepler, Mike  
Sherman, Garry  
Shogan, Alexander  
Shuey, Lawrence  
Sinclair, Steven  
Six, Robert  
Skillon, Arthur  
Skinner, Ray  
Slattery, Robert  
Slomienski, Walter  
Slone, Kermit  
Slusser, William  
Smith, Doyle  
Smith, Billy  
Smith, Dale  
Smith, Patrick  
Smith, Leslie  
Smith, Paul  
Smith, Russell  
Smith, Sherman  
Snapp, Larry  
Soehnlén, Nicholas  
Sorich, John  
Southerland, Gary

Spadafora, Vincent  
Spahr, Thomas  
Spaulding, David  
Spear, Reggie  
Spitze, Jim  
Spivey, Paul  
Spriggs, Steven  
Staffieri, Eustacchio  
Stafford, Edmund  
Stamey, Charles  
Stanfa, Tony  
Starbuck, Todd  
Stark, David  
StClair, Harold  
Sternier, Jerry  
Stevens, Billy  
Stevenson, William  
Stinefelt, Howard  
Storer, Martin  
Streeter, Billy  
Strickland, John  
Stuedemann, R.  
Stumbo, Gregory  
Suminski, Raymond  
Summers, Carl  
Sutton, Harold  
Sutton, Gordon  
Swanson, George  
Sweningson, Bruce  
Tanberg, Lauren  
Tanner, Joseph  
Tarr, Raymond  
Tate, Ben  
Tebbe, Doug  
Temple, Billy  
Templeton, D.R.  
Templin, William  
Terlecky, Slofko  
Thompson, David  
Thompson, Thomas  
Tiedeman, David  
Timmons, Don  
Tobias, Manuel  
Todal, Christopher  
Tonkovich, Dennis  
Tonks, Glenn  
Torsok, Michael  
Totaro, Lawrence  
Trabanco, Andrew  
Traylor, Douglas  
Trusley, James  
Uebelher, Francis  
Upton, P. Richard  
Valdez, Anthony  
Valenti, Thomas  
Van Ert, William  
Vanderbogart, Kirk  
Vela, Victor  
Venhoff, John  
Verbeke, Russell  
Vitella, Dennis  
Wagner, Dewitt  
Wagner, Paul  
Wagner, Larry  
Wakeham, David

Walburn, Lowell  
Waldron, Gene  
Walker, Ronnie  
Walker, Lawrence  
Wallace, Richard  
Wallen, Harry  
Walls, Keith  
Ward, Bobby  
Washington, Ben  
Waters, Larry  
Watrous, Antoinette  
Watt, Philip  
Watts, George  
Waugh, Steven  
Webb, Gary  
Wells, John  
Weltzien, James  
Wentz, Darrel  
Werker, Frank  
Wertz, Edward  
Wesley, James  
West, George  
Westphal, John  
Wetmore, Joseph  
White, Robert  
White, James  
Whitener, Ernest  
Wieland, David  
Wiese, Timothy  
Wilcox, John  
Wilkerson, Danny  
Willard, John  
Williams, Ernesto  
Williams, Terry  
Williams, Philip  
Wills, Thomas  
Wilson, Arnold  
Wilson, Mike  
Wilson, Felice  
Wing, Shayne  
Wing, Douglas  
Wisdom, Scott  
Wisenor, William  
Witek, Joseph  
Witt, William  
Witt, Marvin  
Witzel, Terrence  
Wolfenden, William  
Wollschlaeger, Kenneth  
Woodson, Roddy  
Woolard, J.D.  
Worthey, Kenneth  
Wright, Curtis  
Wright, Mary  
Wright, Stephen  
Wynne, William  
Yeider, Tim  
Yirsa, Harold  
Yochum, Thomas  
Yoder, Kenneth  
Young, Manuel  
Young, Paul  
Zaler, Douglas  
Zaun, James  
Zimmerman, Tim

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By: Don Snedeker,  
Historian, 11th ACVVC

• **Basic Training Remembered:** From an article in the June 1966 edition of Army Digest, entitled "This Is Basic!": "Apart from combat, the period of basic training is, for the average soldier, the time of greatest stress and impact. Lessons learned here—good or bad—are hard to forget. Habits acquired here—good or bad—are difficult to uproot... There are 352 hours of instruction during eight weeks of training... Basic individual training of eight weeks is designed to convert a civilian into a highly-trained, disciplined, psychologically-motivated basic soldier. He learns the fundamentals of a soldier, qualifies with his basic weapon, learns to live and survive in the field, and participates in an intense physical conditioning program. More important, the new soldier begins the process of being indoctrinated with the spirit, the desire and the motivation of a professional combat soldier... Hard training [!], exercise [!!], proper food [?] and rest [??] have strengthened and toughened him. The trainee who passes all hurdles will march with his unit as a graduate on that last Saturday morning. He is ready to cope with the immediate future." Sounds like the same recruiter who got us to sign up also wrote this little bit of fantasy...

• **COSVN Propaganda Center Captured:** From *Vietnam Studies: Cedar Falls – Junction City: A Turning Point*: "On 6 March [1967] the two squadrons [First and Third Squadrons] of the 11th Armored Cavalry began a sweep along the Cambodian border. The sweep was to cover a zone extending 1,500 meters from the border in the north and was to end at Lo Go [a small hamlet in western War Zone C]. The sweep would include all of the border in the 'Little Elephant's Ear' proper. Just after noon on 11 March one troop [Alpha Troop, First Squadron] was brought under small arms, automatic weapons, RPG2, and recoilless rifle fire from an estimated Viet Cong company at six kilometers northwest of Lo Go and within 200 meters of the Cambodian border. The enemy was in well-prepared positions with fortified bunkers and an extensive trench system. As friendly fires and air strikes increased, the Viet Cong were trapped on the near bank of the river which marks the border at this point, helicopter gunships [from Air Cavalry Troop] kept the river under surveillance to prevent escape into Cambodia. During the night the position was kept under continuous illumination by flareships and under artillery and mini-gun fire from the flareships. However, the enemy slipped away during the night, leaving twenty-eight dead behind. The reason for the stiff resistance became readily apparent the next morning. Located in reinforced concrete bunkers fifteen feet underground were two large, electrically powered Chinese printing presses weighing nearly a ton each. Manufactured in Shanghai in 1965, each press had an hourly output of 5,000 printed sheets measuring 17 by 24 inches; the presses also had cutting and folding attachments. A further search yielded several barrels of lead printers type as well as thirty-one individual weapons. The presses were airlifted to the 25th [Infantry] Division's base camp. Indications were that the presses were being utilized by the COSVN [Central Office for South Viet Nam – the enemy's main headquarters] propaganda and cultural indoctrination section."

• **Professional Litter Bugs:** During the period between the beginning

of May and the end of July 1968, Regimental psychological operations personnel flew 77 aerial missions and dropped over FIVE MILLION leaflets! Can you imagine the NVA First Sergeant's police call to pick all that paper up?

• **Medic Heroism:** In August 1968, Second Squadron was under the operational control of the 1st Brigade, 1st (US) Infantry Division – the Big Red One – conducting reconnaissance in force operations around Loc Ninh and An Loc. On 19 and 20 August, Fox and Golf Troops, reinforced with Hotel Company tanks and supported by 2nd Howitzer Battery, got into a running battle with elements of the 141st and 165th NVA Regiments of the 7th (NVA) Division. On the 19th, Specialist 4 Arthur Dowding, a Headquarters and Headquarters Troop medic assigned to Golf Troop, was awarded the Silver Star. His citation, in part reads: "On this date, Troop G was conducting a reconnaissance in force mission in a rubber plantation near the village of Loc Ninh when it was suddenly struck by an intense volume of small arms, automatic weapons and antitank rocket fire from well-entrenched North Vietnamese Army elements. In the initial burst of fire, the medical vehicle in which Specialist Dowding was riding received a direct hit from an antitank rocket, severely wounding him. Ignoring his painful wounds, Specialist Dowding immediately dismounted his vehicle and dashed through the intense enemy fire to the other vehicles which had been hit by the hostile fire. He administered first aid until he was physically unable to carry on and was evacuated. After having his wounds treated, Specialist Dowding struggled to his feet and assisted in treating casualties at the rear station until all of the wounded had received medical care."

• **Combat Lessons Learned:** In mid-1969, Third Squadron Howitzer Battery found that it was being mortared whenever it stayed in one place for more than three days. They then initiated a plan to move night defensive positions every two to three days. According to an after action report: "The mortar attacks have ceased since the program was initiated. The interior of the fire bases do not become a quagmire during the rainy season. The Howitzer engines and automotive material are exercised more frequently. Ammunition storage capabilities are limited. Firebase defenses are kept to a minimum."

• **Flying Horses:** From the October 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "HIGHFLY, TRAVELLER, WINCHESTER – these names and others make the Hueys of the Regimental Aviation Platoon easily recognizable. What is not so well known is the source of these names. Each of these slicks has been named after a horse of a famous general, either Union or Confederate, of the Civil War. General Grant's horses, CINCINNATI and FOX, and General Lee's, TRAVELLER and AJAX, all lend their names to Blackhorse helicopters. These names were selected from a list of 23 sent to the platoon by the chairman of the Department of History at the Citadel in Charlestown, S.C. The final choices were made by the ships' crew chiefs. According to the Regimental Aviation Officer, Major Charles W. Abbey, it was easier to rule out some of the suggested names than to make the final decision. 'None of the crew chiefs wanted NELLIE GRAY (Fitzhugh Lee's) or BALDY (George G. Meade's),' he said. 'They didn't think those names fit the image, I guess.'"

# SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman



The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 292 scholarships totaling \$877,000 to children of our members and KIA's since its inception in 1997. Every scholarship dollar paid was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans!! You will find a usable copy of the current Scholarship Application in this issue of Thunder Run and also on our website.

Our recently updated Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at [www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html](http://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 for the narrative response to the 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 30 applications from eligible children of members in 2011 and the scholarship committee continues to be amazed 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 reviewed annually.

Please inform your eligible children that applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2012. Email me at [DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions.

**The 2012 Revised Scholarship Application is included on page 17. Our recently updated Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at [www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html](http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html).**

At the reunion...

## Directions For Quilt Meeting

By: Barb Moreno

Women's Coordinator 11th ACVVC

There has been some discussion about the quilt we are planning to make at our meeting at the Orlando reunion.

Ladies, this is NOT a do-at-home-and-bring-with-you project. At the Ladies Meeting we will break into groups of two or three and each group will be given a *blank* quilt square.

There will be fabric pens for you to use. This is the only medium that we will be using. This way the quilt will look neat and uniform. So DO NOT plan on sewing one, cross stitching one or making one in any other way.

This quilt is intended to be a meeting time project! After we make them *at the meeting* they will be put together into a nice looking quilt and brought to the reunion in Indianapolis where we will 'donate' it to the silent auction. This will be our contribution to the scholarship fund that year.

So there is nothing for you to do at this time except to start thinking about possible designs to bring to your group. Again, **do not make them at home!!!**

Anyone wanting to help with this project must attend the women's meeting in Orlando. This is the only way we will do this.

You will receive at the meeting:

- one quilt square (size ??)
- fabric paint pens for painting the squares

We are hoping to make a quilt big enough to cover a King size bed.

Please be careful as to what you wear. If you get paint on you it may not come out. You may bring an apron to save your clothes from possible splatters.

If you have any questions about this project please e-mail me at [puppytoes8@gmail.com](mailto:puppytoes8@gmail.com).



# 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11ACVVC) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION *[revised February 23, 2011]*

➔ Please print the latest **Scholarship Guide** at [www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html](http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html)  
*Scholarship Chairman Michael "Doc" Rafferty*

- ➔ [1] **Applicant's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_
- [2] **Applicant's Social Security Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment/Unit # \_\_\_\_\_
- City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- [3] **Applicant's Qualifying Status:** *(Check Only One)*:  Child of Deceased 11ACR Trooper who served in Vietnam or Cambodia  
 Child of Current Member  Trooper Who is a Current 11ACVVC Member
- ➔ [4] **Applicant's SPONSOR 11th Cav Veteran:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
- [5] **Sponsor's 11th Cav Unit** in Vietnam: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_ 11ACVVC Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

➔ [6] **Name and Address of College or Trade School That You Plan to Attend: (Undergraduate Studies Only)**

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

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

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

Have You Made Application?  Yes.  No. Have You Been Accepted?  Yes.  No.

- [7] **Standard Test Score For Your State:** ACT \_\_\_\_\_ SAT \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- [8] **Estimated Expenses for the School Year:** Tuition & Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Room & Board \$ \_\_\_\_\_;  
Books & Supplies \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Miscellaneous \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Total Exp. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

➔ [9] **Schools and Colleges Attended: (10th Grade to Present)**

Name	City, State	Dates From / To

Name	City, State	Dates From / To

- ➔ [10] You **must** attach a copy of your **grade transcripts** from your **last two years of education** in High School or College.
- ➔ [11] On **one** typed sheet of paper with **your NAME & EMAIL** and your **11ACVVC Sponsor/Father's** name at top of the page:
1. State the **Field of Study** That You Plan to Enter and **Why**.
  2. Tell Us **Why** You Would Be a **Worthy** Recipient of the 11ACVVC Scholarship.
  3. **Note:** Concentrate on **why you** should be awarded an 11ACVVC Scholarship. Focus on **your** qualifications and not your father's military experience. If applicable, also describe **your** participation in veterans' affairs or events, if any.

I, the undersigned, give my permission for a copy of my High School / College Transcript to be submitted with this Scholarship Application. I understand that the selection process may involve a committee composed of individuals that are in the community at large.

- [13] \_\_\_\_\_  
 ↑ Signature of **Applicant** Printed Name Date
- [14] \_\_\_\_\_  
 ↑ Signature of **Sponsor Veteran or Guardian** Printed Name Date

➔ [15] **Please Mail Your Completed Application with attachments for [10] and [11] above to the Scholarship Committee Chairman:**

**Michael "Doc" Rafferty**  
 11ACVVC Scholarship Chairman  
 5837 Habanero Drive • Las Cruces, NM 88012  
 Email [DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net) • Cell phone 575-915-2921

➔ **QUESTIONS? Email is Doc Rafferty's PREFERRED method of communication.**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING IN  
 SEPTEMBER MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15 OF THE SAME CALENDAR YEAR.**



## Changing Perspectives

Several weeks ago I was talking with a veteran friend who lives at the Army Residence Community where my wife and I settled when we left the motor home lifestyle. This is a retirement community where all the residents are retired military. To live here the retired person or spouse must be at least sixty-five years old. The average age is about eighty-three. That means many are well up in years, some far into their nineties. This makes for an interesting group of people. We're a mix of all the services, mostly Army and Air Force.

My friend and I began talking about how life changes as we grow older. Everybody who lives here has had a military career and so everybody understands each other pretty well. My friend and I got to talking about how our perspectives, our outlooks on life, change as we mature, gain experience, face situations, and simply live our life. This is a reason I'm enjoying my senior years. No kidding. As a "senior," I've never been so respected and treated so well as I am these days. (Don't get me wrong, I have my aches and pains, I'm quite acquainted with King Arthur-itis, I'm growing shorter instead of taller, and I take a lot of pills.) Younger people sometimes offer me their seat and young ladies sometimes hold the door for me. (Wow!). More seriously, I enjoy growing older because my outlook on life has expanded and I've gained so many memories, experiences, and friends that have made my life richer.

I'll tell you how I look at it. I hope you'll see that what I'm saying is worth thinking about, no matter how old you are, or how young. (I'd be honored if you who are vets will include your military experiences in thinking about your perspectives on life as you get older too). Here's what I'm talking about:

From this end of life I clearly remember being young - that's the stage when you look forward to everything. You're filled with anticipation and apprehension of what lies ahead; the

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**From this end of life I clearly remember being young - that's the stage when you look forward to everything. You're filled with anticipation and apprehension of what lies ahead; the unknown, stresses of doing new things, meeting new people, developing new relationships, and new abilities.**

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unknown, stresses of doing new things, meeting new people, developing new relationships, and new abilities. Life itself is full of questions. I remember my first tour to Viet Nam. There was so much I didn't know, so much to fear, so many questions - could I handle a whole year of this? You know what I'm saying because you've been down that road too.

Then came the middle years of my life. I got through two years in Viet Nam and six along the East German border. I was old enough to know a lot about myself, what I was capable of, and what made me tick. But I still had many years ahead to keep on growing, to set new and higher goals, to reach for whatever was out there, to get married late (at age 50) and adopt a family, to clarify what I was committed to.

Way too soon the later years arrived. This is when we've retired from whatever our life's work had become, our families are grown, and we no longer wonder how our friends will turn out because now they have turned out. This is when we can see where we've been, our questions are mostly answered, we've made it this far, and we know how we did. But we still have time left for new things and adventures, to seal our legacy, and to make our mark.

When we look back at life to this point, we see the plan of how we lived life, even though how we will close it out isn't decided yet. In our mature years, we can reflect back and see the whole plan of how we were raised, how we prepared, and how we lived. If you don't mind, I'll relate a little of my own life-plan to show you what I mean, then you do the same with your own life's plan. As a child, I was raised in a Christian home and church in Southern

California. I was a pretty mild-mannered kid, never got in legal trouble, just a lot of traffic tickets. I loved cars, drove a Corvette, and went to college part time. I was going to teach junior high school. Then, wouldn't you know it, Uncle Sam notified me to report for a draft physical. There was no war happening, but I still wasn't interested in joining the Army, even though some of my friends did. So, I finagled my way into the Air National Guard. During that time, President Kennedy activated the Guard into the Air Force for the Berlin Crisis and my whole life stopped for a year. By the time the Air Force released our unit back to Guard status I had felt called of God to go into the ministry. So the Guard released me to go to seminary. During my last year in seminary, Viet Nam came along and I felt compelled to go minister to soldiers over there. So I applied for a commission as an Army chaplain, was accepted, and served for 27 years, 4 months, and 3 days. Now I'm still living my story just like you're living yours.

In retrospect, it's easy to see that our life fits into a plan, an actual story. We haven't lived just a helter-skelter existence. I know this sounds pretty preachy, but one thing I really like about getting old (I have no idea of when I'll actually be old), is that I can truly see how my life developed and that I've had a real purpose with these years that have been given to me. Naturally, you'll expect me to relate life to a plan that a divine God has planned for me since the beginning. You're right. I mention it so you can reflect on your own life the same way. While you're at living your life's story, keep it on track, fun, and interesting. (See last paragraph).

Let me tell you a life story of Steve and Monika. In 1971 I was chaplain in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, with the cavalry along the East German Border (which isn't there anymore). Steve was a new Second Lieutenant, fresh to the Cav. He went to a dance one evening very soon after arriving there. He spotted Monika. Right then and there he said, "That's the girl I'm going to marry!" She was cute, smart, and the barber/beautician for the Kaserne (post). On their first date, maybe even the same evening at the dance, when he got her away for a little conversation, he blurted out, "I'm going to marry you. We can work out the details as we go along, but I'm going to marry you." Naturally, she was "taken aback." But six months later they were married - in my chapel. Thirty-five years later, we renewed our friendship

in Houston, Texas. Four years after that, Steve and Monika had celebrated thirty-nine wonderful years of marriage when Monika died of brain cancer. I co-officiated for her funeral.

Why am I telling you such stories? I'm telling you these stories because I want us both to be conscious of and appreciate how our lives progress as we move through the life God gave us to enjoy and to serve its purpose. These stories are just a small example of the blessings of growing older, reflecting on the changing perspectives on life that growth and maturity bring, and encouraging each of us to remember our Creator, the God who brought us here and gave us the gifts and the purpose for which the world is better because we walked here.

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

## 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](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net); for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

(Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Orlando Reunion Update

By Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

It is hard to believe that the 2012 Reunion is a little more than seven months away. The planning process is in high gear. We will produce another first class event in Orlando.

There is no lack of activities available in the Orlando area. We encourage you to Splan extra time before or after the reunion in Orlando to take advantage of these activities. The Rosen Centre is centrally located with complementary shuttle service to Sea World and Universal Studios.

We expect another large crowd this year. Estimates at this time are 1,100+. Hotel reservation information can be found in this issue along with the Reunion Registration Form. As of January 15, one-third of our room block has been reserved.

To help you plan your stay, remember a few things:

- Reserve your hotel room early. Reservations must be made no later than August 29, 2012. You may cancel up to 72 hours prior to check-in.
- Mail your reunion registration early. In order to avoid the late fee, reunion registration must be postmarked no later than August 29, 2012. Note: We want to accommodate everyone. The hotel must have a meal count by September 10. Registrations must be received no later than September 7.
- Contact old friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Don't assume they will attend. Make the effort to contact them. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend.
- Dig out your old photos and scrap books.
- Finally, come prepared to enjoy yourself!

This will be another great event. Additional information on travel tips and other suggestions is available from the Visit Orlando website listed below.

www.visitorlando.com  
Free Vacation Planning Kit  
Telephone: (407) 363-5872  
Toll Free: (800) 972-3304

# From the Reunion Chairman

By: Steve Page  
Director and Reunion Chairman

It is hard to believe that the 2012 Reunion is a little more than eight months away. The planning process is in high gear, we will produce another first class event in Orlando. There is no lack of activities in the Orlando area. We encourage you to plan extra time before or after the reunion in Orlando.

The Rosen Centre is centrally located with shuttle service to most of the attractions. Remember it is not too soon to book your room at the hotel this registration information is listed in this issue. Reunion Registration is also being accepted the registration form is in this issue. We encourage each of you to attend this Reunion it will be great.

## Reunion Assistance Fund

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members 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,

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**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.**

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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.

Requests must be submitted no later than to August 29, 2012.

You can find the complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund on our website at: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)

### ERRATA

In the 4th Quarter 2011 edition of Thunder Run we made a mistake in the chart showing the Gold Star Family attendees at the St. Louis reunion. We erroneously listed the KIA date for Richard Earl Weiss as February 3, 1971. The correct date is June 23, 1969. We regret this error.

REGISTRATION FORM



27th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
Orlando, Florida



Wednesday, 12 September thru Sunday, 16 September 2012

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT

Rosen Centre Hotel  
9840 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819  
Reservations: 800-204-7234

Registration fee is \$90.00 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. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations post marked after AUGUST 29, 2012. All registrations must be received no later than Friday, SEPTEMBER 7, 2012.**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: B TRP, D CO )

(Example: 1966-1967)

**ATTENDEES (please print)**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
<b>Total Registration Fee</b>	\$ _____

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

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

KIA Relative?  Yes Name of KIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to KIA: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# MEMORIES OF SLOPE 30

*“Six this is nine over.”*

*“This is six.”*

*“We’re having problems seeing above the canopy. Would like to adjust our center piece on target 106, with round Willie Peter and fuse Victor Tango over.”*

*“Roger. Go ahead. Out.”*

Thus started our nighttime preparations to hone the howitzers in at targets around our perimeter. Lieutenant Vail<sup>1</sup> had requested to fire white phosphorous rounds above the jungle canopy with the center howitzer raised at high angle. Several loud pops later and with the deadly white plumes of phosphorous coming closer to our perimeter, a few troopers became worried. A senior NCO confronted me directly and demanded that I call a halt to the firings. We, however, had no choice but to ignore the nervous request. It was tactically essential that we be able to provide instantaneous and accurate fires close in to our defensive positions. At 11PM that night, both mortar and howitzer batteries were zeroed in on our preplanned targets. Satisfied, I went to catch some sleep on a cot behind my track while trying to ignore the noises of the jungle and our own harassment missions.

At precisely 1.10AM, I woke up to a loud barrage of explosions from incoming mortar and antitank rounds accompanied by the vicious rattling of heavy machine guns. I threw myself onto the ground, ripping my mosquito netting from above and while shaking off the netting I burst into my track. The fires of hell had broken loose. A vicious Vietcong (VC) attack was launched at three sides of our perimeter.

I felt a sharp pain in my left elbow and saw blood trickling down my arm. Ignoring the pain I quickly alerted our batteries and other indirect fire support elements. Our howitzer Fire Directions Center NCO was wounded and out of action. Two of our best officers<sup>2</sup>, had jumped into the breach and taken over. I reported:

“Three, this is niner- six, all units ready to fire, over.”

“This is three, roger stand by, have the

**Leo Deege**  
**How 3/11, 1965-67**

mortars fire round illumination on target 407, over.”

“Niner-six, roger, out.”

While waiting for the mortars to fire illumination around our perimeter, I quickly wrapped a rag around my elbow while looking around for the rest of my crew. Our operations officer, the S-33 could be heard requesting sit reps [status reports] on the command frequency. It became clear that our two main combat teams had been simultaneously attacked.

The main assault was designed to overrun Team K, i.e., the 3rd Squadron Headquarters, K Troop and Howitzer Battery. The other attack was launched to disable Mortar Battery of Team M. Our illumination mission enabled the perimeter defense of Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle (ACAV) crews to better engage the attacking hordes of VC with our heavy machine guns, grenades and small arms. Steel against steel. Our brave mortar crews while dodging incoming shells and bullets send out round after round to light up the surrounding fields on the edge of the jungle.

Looking outside, I saw some men scurrying around like mice; one senior NCO burst into my track, perched himself up on a table while protecting himself with steel on three sides; fear does strange things to men under fire. Our Squadron Commander<sup>4</sup> sat outside of the Squadron command track in a lazy lounge chair, seemingly unperturbed; thus reassuring everyone. As soon as my crew was inside our track, we buttoned up the rear door while tearing away the tented extension. All of sudden, lots of smoke appeared out of nowhere; an anti-tank round had hit an adjacent track.

With the smoke filling our track, we pulled on our gas masks. No one seemed particularly affected and our work proceeded as before. After several minutes

that seemed like hours to me, we were given a fire mission for Howitzer Battery. We were directed to fire high explosive rounds around the M Team perimeter. The Vietcong had not counted on Howitzer battery’s quick response with our pre-planned targets and together with the direct fires of Team M’s 90mm tank cannons the attack on Team M was quickly defeated.

At the same time, Mortar Battery kept on firing illumination missions. At 01:35AM a fare-ship of the 7th Tactical Air Force arrived and took over the illumination mission. Our mortars were then redirected to fire high explosive rounds to the east of our perimeter and into the adjoining rubber plantation. Throughout the rest of the night, our two batteries kept pumping out countless rounds of deadly ordinance.

The main attack at our encampment was still underway at the northern and southern ends of our perimeter. A helicopter team of the Regiment’s air cavalry troop flew to the northern perimeter, avoiding our own mortar rounds. After a strafing run into the rubber tree line, the S-33 praised the helicopter team by saying, “that was the best damn strafing run I have ever seen.” After a while the Air Force’s “Puff the Magic Dragon” arrived on station and peppered the southern side of the perimeter. The Aussies, also in our support were now firing their 8 inch and 175mm artillery. This resulted in many enemy casualties as was later shown by the bloody trails on the VC withdrawal routes.

During the fight, one of our look out patrols was surrounded by VC, and needed to be extracted by a volunteer team of six ACAVs. Another patrol was discovered by the VC as they were retreating, but it got overrun and peppered with automatic weapons fire and hand grenades. Five of our patrol members were thus killed and four wounded. As is normal in combat, there were lots of heroic efforts by our

**Our troopers taught the Vietcong that the 11th Cavalry is better not tangled with. While we lost 9 men and had 32 wounded, the VC lost countless more.**

troopers. And more importantly as Nelson had urged before the sea battle of Trafalgar, “Every man did his duty!”

Our troopers taught the Vietcong that the 11th Cavalry is better not tangled with. While we lost 9 men and had 32 wounded, the VC lost countless more. At dawn, or about 4 AM, the battle was over and I was the last of the wounded to get a ride back to our base camp. The Huey helicopter was filled with our body bags. When I arrived at base camp surgery, I saw several operations in progress. A team of doctors and nurses tried to stop the bleeding of a man who had had his shoulder shot off; his lungs were clearly visible. It was a horrible sight. He died on the operating table. I visited with three of my men who had also been wounded. Two mortar men had suffered severe burn wounds over most of their bodies, and one artillery man had his finger shot off. My elbow did not take long to fix up; I was the lucky one. Later on I realized just how lucky I had been, one or two inches higher or lower would have caused the shrapnel to penetrate my left chest cavity.

A few weeks later, after having completed my tour, I landed in San Francisco airport, dressed up in class A uniform. I was glad to be back and pleasantly surprised at my newly won ribbons. I started to feel like an old timer. With my hearing somewhat degraded, I could just hear someone yelling at me. An airline clerk called out, “Hey soldier boy, why don’t you get your ass over here into this cue for your flight to LA!” I could not believe my ears, but I kept my anger inside. A few months later, some young men sneered at me for having fought in Vietnam. Some civilians will never understand the concept honor, duty to country or the sacrifices that our soldiers make. Our 11th Cavalry brothers deserve nothing but our greatest admiration and respect. Please never forget to remember our disabled veterans. Allons!

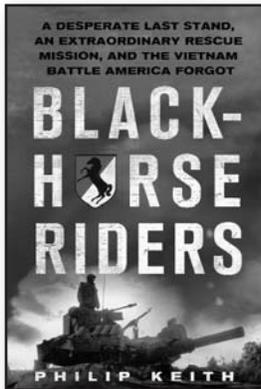
**Editor’s Note:** Leo Deege was Battery Commander of How, 3/11 for two years 1965 – 1967.

1. Currently a retired Colonel.
2. Lt. Vail and Lt. Austin
3. Major Doyle, currently a retired Lt. General.
4. LCol Cochran



## Book Reviews

### The Saga of the ‘Blackhorse Riders’



This is the incredible true story of a brave military unit in Vietnam that risked everything to rescue an outnumbered troop under heavy fire—and the thirty-nine-year odyssey to recognize their bravery.

Deep in the jungles of Vietnam, Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry, the famed Blackhorse Regiment, was a specialized cavalry outfit equipped with tanks and armored assault vehicles. On the morning of March 26, 1970, they began hearing radio calls from an infantry unit four kilometers away that had stumbled into a hidden North Vietnamese Army stronghold. Outnumbered at least six to one, the ninety-man American company was quickly surrounded, pinned down, and fighting for its existence. Helicopters could not penetrate the dense jungle, and

artillery and air support could not be targeted effectively. The company was fated to be worn down and eventually all killed or captured.

Overhearing the calls for help on his radio, Captain John Poindexter, Alpha Troop’s twenty-five-year-old commander, realized that his outfit was the only hope for the trapped company. It just might be possible that they could “bust” enough jungle by nightfall to reach them. Not making the attempt was deemed unacceptable, so he ordered his men to “saddle up.” With the courage and determination that makes legends out of ordinary men, they effected a daring rescue and fought a pitched battle—at considerable cost. Many brave deeds were done that day and Captain Poindexter tried to make sure his men were recognized for their actions.

Thirty years later Poindexter was made aware that his award recommendations and even the records of the battle had somehow gone missing. Thus began the second phase of this remarkable story: a “battle” to ensure that his brave men’s accomplishments would never be forgotten again.

The full circle was completed when President Obama stepped to the podium on October 20, 2009, to award the Alpha Troop with the Presidential Unit Citation: the highest combat award that can be given to a military unit.

#### Praise

“A riveting account of one of the most extraordinary and courageous rescues in U.S. military history. *Blackhorse Riders* is written with enough detail to satisfy even the most particular of military historians, yet Keith’s compelling storytelling breathes life into the personalities involved, so that minute by minute, following both rescuers and rescued, you keep turning pages to find out who lives and who dies.”

—Karl Marlantes, New York Times bestselling author of *Matterhorn* and *What It Is Like to Go to War*

“One of the finest and best-told combat stories to come out of Vietnam. *Blackhorse Riders* is a portrait of men at war; reluctant soldiers in an unpopular conflict whose actions on a single day rose to the level of extraordinary heroism, courage, and sacrifice. For those of us who were there, this is the kind of book we would be proud to pass on to our children.”

—Nelson DeMille

“This gripping, vividly detailed narrative finally tells a story that was overlooked for far too long, a story of nail-biting action and *Band of Brothers*—like courage. *Blackhorse Riders* is a bold tale, well told, of heroism, rescue, and, finally, recognition.”

—Bob Drury and Tom Clavin, New York Times bestselling authors of *Halsey’s Typhoon* and *The Last Stand of Fox Company*

Continued on page 27

# The Best Job in the Army

By: George Ruggles  
How, 3/11, 66-67

Ask any Army officer what's the best job in the business, and my guess is that if he or she ever held the position, they'd say "company commander". In the 11th ACR, that could be troop or battery commander as well, basically the same job. Reasons: close to the troops, see the result of your efforts, relatively autonomous, lots of responsibility. Those in the artillery, as I was, might argue that Battery XO was just as good or better, especially in the ACR: all of the above, plus in charge of the guns, and the CO was rarely on hand. I don't know about the enlisted side, but my guess is 1SG would be the best there is.

I wouldn't argue for long about any of those slots as to which is better, but for a month during OPN Junction City in 1967, I think I had the best job in the Army—Air Observer for the 11th ACR.

The day the operation started, someone came thru the S-3 shop where I was a gopher and asked if anyone knew how to adjust artillery fire and wanted to volunteer to do it from the air. Despite good advice I'd heard for years to never volunteer, I did.

This turned out to be the proverbial good deal: pretty much 8 to 5, stop for lunch, clean and dry, interesting pilots to talk to when nothing was happening on the ground, birds-eye (literally) view of the action, no threat from small arms as long as you stay above 3000 feet or so, and definitely able to see the results of your efforts. As far as 8 to 5, stop for lunch: it's not that we were lazy, it was just practicality: the O-1 had a relatively short range, 500 miles or so, and you can't keep flying with no fuel, so a periodic landing was a necessity. And, not equipped with instruments for night flight, touching down well before twilight was only prudent.

There were some issues, of course. The planes were O-1 Bird Dogs, single engine, two seats, and the first time I went to the flight line, I asked the pilot what were the yellow patches on the skin of the aircraft. "Bullet holes" was the not very comforting answer. The back seat was cramped and awkward, and the flight controls there, should the pilot get hit, were minimal. (What would I have done with them, anyhow?) The biggest problem, though, was the lack of communication with the USAF in the area.



O-1 Bird Dog used by Army Air Observers.

**I went to the flight line, I asked the pilot what were the yellow patches on the skin of the aircraft. "Bullet holes" was the not very comforting answer.**

For example, one day about a week into the operation, we were boring holes in the sky looking for targets of opportunity when suddenly two F-4's flashed by, one in front and one in back. They must have seen us, but we surely didn't see them until they were gone. Jets like that on a strafing run will definitely get your attention when they're just yards away from your plane. There must have been an Air Force FAC in the area, but he didn't talk to us. I should have brought a change of underwear.

Another day we were heading west back toward the airstrip at Tay Ninh when a few clicks to the north the ground suddenly started to erupt with huge explosions. It was what I think they call an Arc Light mission, B-52's dropping big stuff into the jungle. Again, we had no notice, and could easily have been in the path of those bombs.

But most days were better. We looked for enemy activity, and responded to fire requests from ground troops throughout the 11th ACR area. I kept a special watch for camouflaged enemy structures, and here I had a unique advantage that resulted from a minor handicap: I'm mostly colorblind. I can distinguish between a vivid red and a vivid green, which was all I had to do to get into West Point, but show me those bubble deals where you're supposed to see a number and I'm toast. Colorblind people know not to trust themselves on color, so they look for shapes and textures. You're more likely to wear mismatched socks than I am, because I don't concentrate on the color as much as I do the weave, the pattern, and so forth. Well,

as an air observer, I looked for discontinuities in the jungle, shapes that didn't look right, that sort of thing. When we identified a possible target, and got permission to engage, (which often took forever, even in a supposedly free-fire zone), the pilot would go into attack mode. This meant arming the wing-mounted rockets, gaining altitude to be able to then achieve a dive-bomber trajectory, and firing the missiles at the right time. We were hoping for secondary explosions, evidence that we'd hit something worthwhile, but were never rewarded with such an event. At best, we might have blown up somebody's rice cache, or at least spoiled their day completely.

Further to the hassle of requesting permission to engage, it must be said that part of the picture is making sure there are no friendlies in the area. This is a consideration well worth waiting for. One day, flying east in a sector north of Tay Ninh, I monitored a fire request from a ground unit to a mortar platoon and realized that the target coordinates given would likely impact on US forces in that area. I called in, and the mission was scrubbed. It may well have been that the two units involved did not know they were on the same ball club; that happened all too frequently in the jungle, and as we know, still happens today in the Mid East.

The old Army adage, "never volunteer", still holds true for most details. But in this case, I did volunteer, and for three weeks or so in 1967 it was "The Best Job in the Army."

# 2012 11th ACVVC Calendar

By Allen Hathaway  
President, 11th ACVVC

The 2012 11th ACVVC Calendar was mailed to all members in mid December. The calendar once again features 12 new photos submitted by you! The calendar also contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam.

The calendar is one of three fund raising projects that helps support our Scholarship Program. We once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a separate fund that depends solely on your donations. 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.

Your continued support ensures the calendar can be produced each year. We ask that you help support the calendar and Scholarship Program 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.

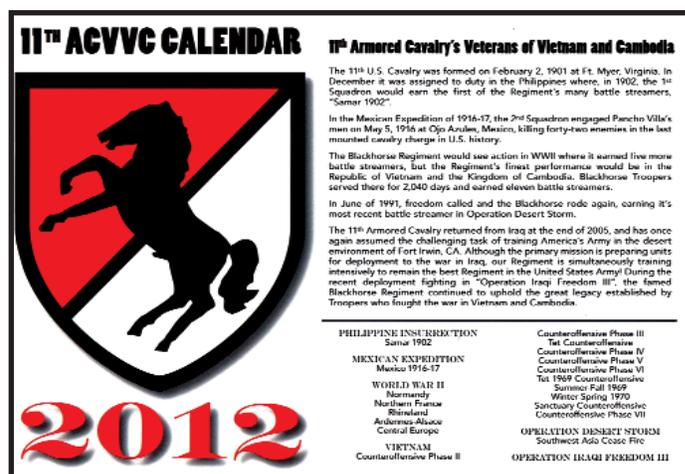
In 2011 we set a goal of \$39,000 in donations in support of the Calendar Fundraising project. Through your generous contributions we exceeded that goal. In 2011 the combined fund raising activities throughout the year allowed us to award 24 scholarships totaling \$98,000.

For 2012 we have two goals. Our first goal is to once again collect \$39,000 in donations. We will need your help in attaining this unprece-

dent level. Many of you have generously donated \$100 to \$500 for this cause. We ask that you continue your ardent support and to add more to your rolls.

The second goal is to increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Over the past few years we have slowly increased the number of members making donations from 20 to 22 to 23 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 asking that you please make a donation. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount.

Continued on page 30



## 27th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2012

The Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

[www.rosencentre.com](http://www.rosencentre.com)

RESERVATIONS: 800-204-7234

**ROOM RATE: \$95.00 SINGLE - QUAD**

- ◆ Room types are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ◆ Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability.
- ◆ Complementary self parking.
- ◆ Complementary guest room internet.
- ◆ Complementary scheduled shuttles to Universal, Wet n Wild and Sea World Parks.
- ◆ Please make hotel reservations early.



**RESERVATIONS MUST BE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 29, 2012**



# 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
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>	
Dishong, Donald J	69-70	Mankowski, Carl F	66-67	Jacobs, John R	68-69	Hall, Charles W	68-69
Lambert, Curtis L	70-71	May, Randall W	70	Kura, Joseph S	70-71	Kienow, Melvin D	71
<b>398th TRANS DET</b>		<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		Romano, Dominic		<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>	
Watson, Donald E Jr	71	Hansford, Harold L	69-69	Wikberg, Albert C	67-68	Clayton, John T	69-69
<b>919th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		Kienow, Melvin D		<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		Norwood, Cornelius M	
Ivey, John L	67-68	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11</b>		Benson, John M		<b>HHT, 3/11</b>	
<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		Barker, Louie T		Ferrill, Grady W		Neal, Bobby L	
Coffman, Elmer L Jr	66-67	Mabry, Jimmy L		Metzger, Kirk R		<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11</b>	
						Doyle, James A	
						69-70	



# 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](http://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 P Amstutz**, HHT 2/11 (1968-1970) passed away on January 2, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Plant City, FL.

**Steven J Bagbey**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 29, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Luverne, MN. He was laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery, Luverne, MN.

**Robert L Bradley**, HHT Regiment (1970) passed away on November 21, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dupont, WA.

**Peter M Echon**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 22, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Arnold, PA. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery of The Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.

**Thomas J Earnest**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 3, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Alsip, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

**Paul F Gorko**, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971), passed away on October 8, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Irving, NY. He was laid to rest in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Buffalo, NY.

**Rodney Greer**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 13, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bryan, TX.

**Arthur W. Hawthorne**, HHT Regiment (1964-1967) passed away on December 5, 2010. He was a resident of Longview, TX. Arthur served as the 11th ACR regimental sergeant major in Germany, US and Vietnam. Prior to being selected for this position he was first sergeant of I Troop, 3/11. Funeral services will be held at 1:00pm on Monday, March 12, 2012, at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA, followed by graveside services in Arlington National Cemetery. Arthur was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

**James M Hill**, 919th Engineer Company (1970) passed away on December 28, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Perry, OK. He was laid to rest in Ft. Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, OK.

**Johnnie H Kramer**, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1972) passed away on November 9, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shelbyville, IN. He was laid to rest in Blue Ridge Cemetery, Shelby County, IN.

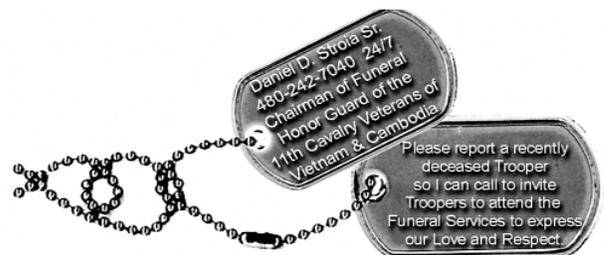
**Charles E McCollum**, HHT 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 19, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greenfield, TN. He was laid to rest in Obion County Memorial Gardens, Union City, TN.

**Thomas J McCormick**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 16, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Centreville, VA.

**Nollie G Todd**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 30, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Riverview, FL. He was laid to rest in Sunset Memory Gardens, Thonotosassa, FL.

**Christian F Vissers**, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 19, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ellicott City, MD. He was laid to rest in Us Military Academy, West Point, NY.

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



# Put a Face to a Name

By Allen Hathaway  
President, 11th ACVVC

A project is underway by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to collect photographs and stories of each of the 58,000+ men and women whose names are engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The names of 730 Blackhorse troopers are among those listed on the wall.

The project "Put a Face to a Name" is in conjunction with the new Education Center at the Wall. Groundbreaking for the Education Center is slated for Veterans Day, 2012, the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

For several years our organization has been collecting and posting photos on our website of our honored Blackhorse troopers. We have posted nearly 300 photos, or approximately 40 percent of our casualties. Many of the photographs have been submitted by relatives. The photographs we have collected have been shared with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the "Put a Face to a Name" project.

We need your help. Many of you served with someone whose name is on the wall or know someone from your hometown or local community. Let's each take it upon ourselves to find a photograph of those friends to help better tell their story and to keep their memories alive. Remember the old saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words".

Please make the effort to locate photos for anyone whose name is listed on the wall. Digital photographs can be uploaded to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Website by following the directions at: [www.vvmf.org/photos](http://www.vvmf.org/photos)

Please also send a copy to our webmaster for posting to our website. Actual photographs can be mailed to Allen Hathaway. We will scan them, post them to the website, share them with the VVMF and return the photo. Contact information can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Collected pictures will be used in the Education Center at The Wall and can also be found on The Virtual Wall. Visit [www.buildthecenter.org](http://www.buildthecenter.org) to learn more about the Education Center and the proposed Wall of Faces exhibit.

Names on Vietnam  
Veterans Memorial  
Wall, Washington, DC.



## Design Competition for Life Membership Pin

By: Peter Walter  
Vice President, 11th ACVVC

At the 2011 reunion in St. Louis the Officers agreed that Troopers who are Life members should receive special recognition for their commitment to the 11th ACVVC in the form of a "Life Membership" pin.

It was decided that the design of this pin should come from the membership. Any Life member of the 11th ACVVC may submit their proposed design to the Vice President. He will copy and distribute these designs to the Officers, who will choose the best five entries. The five finalist's designs will be displayed at the 2012 reunion in Orlando and in Thunder Run. All Life members will have the opportunity to choose the winning entry.

No strict rules exist as to the proposed design elements; however the winning design should incorporate the image of the Blackhorse patch and any other appropriate embellishment that will immediately identify the wearer as a Life member, proud of their combat service in the legendary Blackhorse Regiment.

Design entries should be in color and can be hand-sketched or computer generated. Keep in mind that the final product will be a cloisonné type lapel or hat pin, not to exceed 2" in any dimension. Entries must be postmarked no later than July 31, 2012

Please submit your entries to:

Peter Walter  
11th ACR Pin  
8 Tallowood Drive  
Westampton, NJ 08060-3721

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### BOOK from page 23

"This riveting true story of young American soldiers fighting in Vietnam paints a gut-wrenching picture of combat rarely described in print."

—John C. "Doc" Bahnsen, Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.), former Squadron Commander of 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry, the "Blackhorse Regiment"

#### About the Author(s)

PHILIP KEITH became a naval aviator after graduating from Harvard. During three tours in Vietnam he was awarded, among other decorations, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Air Medal for Gallantry, the Purple Heart, and the Navy Commendation Medal. Keith is also a columnist for the Southampton Press and a feature writer for magazines. He lives in Southampton, Long Island.

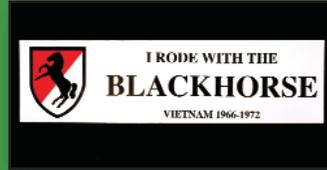
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



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



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#12 Lighter, \$18.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



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

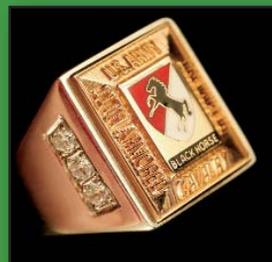


#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$325.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$380.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



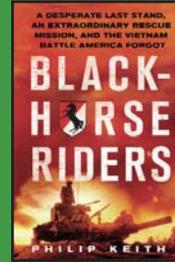
#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



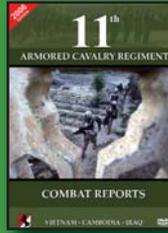
#31 Book: Blackhorse Riders \$25.00



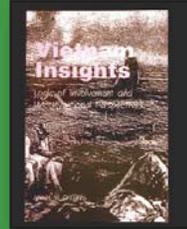
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



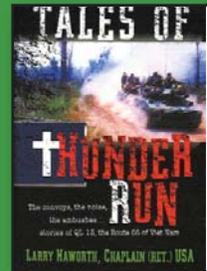
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



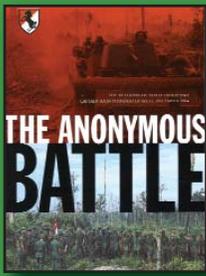
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



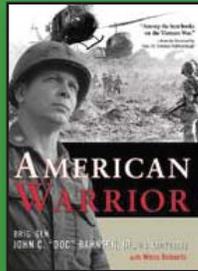
#33 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



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



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



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



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39a/b T-Shirt, gray/dark gray \$18.00



#40a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



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



#41 Denim Shirt (shown), w/BH & VN Ribbon, or Blue Dress Shirt (Mens) \$32.00 each



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Happy 2012!!!! Where does the time go? One reunion ends and already it's almost time for the next. Yippee! And in Florida - which makes it even better.

I just checked the calendar and in about 236 days from today, Bob, Raleigh and I will be packing up the car and heading to beautiful, sunny, warm Florida. I can hardly wait. Of course if it were up to me, I would go to Florida in November and return to Wisconsin in, oh I don't know, maybe May. Guess I'm getting too old for these cold mid-western winters.

In our little group of Blackhorse Ladies things seem to be going well. We want to congratulate Kathy Tandberg on the newest addition to her family. They welcomed a darling new grand-daughter into their family in September.

Our Prayer Shawl program has been warmly welcomed and is certainly a big hit with everyone who has received one. Since last reunion we have sent out over 20 prayer shawls. Of course that also means we have lost 20 of our beloved Blackhorse Heroes. For those of you who were not at our meeting last year or may not have heard anything about this program let me try to explain.

Each year the Blackhorse Ladies, undertake a service project that will show support to the organization. This year it was decided it would be nice to 'remember' our hero's. Cherry Platt suggested doing Prayer Shawls. These shawls are crocheted and sent to the widow or surviving next of kin of a trooper who passes on to Fiddlers Green. Along with the shawl, a book marker with a beautiful message on it is

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**Our Prayer Shawl program has been warmly welcomed and is certainly a big hit with everyone who has received one. Since last reunion we have sent out over 20 prayer shawls.**

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attached and all are tied together with a beautiful ribbon. So if you hear of someone passing please be sure to let me know as we don't want to miss anyone.

Up until now all supplies and postage have been donated for this project but now it's time to restock the supplies. In order to do this we need your help. Our group simply does not have the funding to handle this on our own and still do other fun things, like produce the new cookbook that we want to do. So here is what we are asking of you. If you can help with the making of these shawls please let me know and I will contact Cherry who will get in touch with you. If you don't crochet than PLEASE consider making a monetary donation to help cover expenses of materials and shipping cost. Each shawl cost about \$44 and \$10 to mail.

At our meeting this year we will be very busy. Not only will we be voting on the continuation of this project as a group but we will also be talking about another service project that involves Arlington Cemetery. Plus, we will also be working on a project for the Silent Auction for 2013. So come join us for fun and information.

The project I have made reference to is a quilt. We will be breaking into groups and each group will be constructing a quilt block using fabric paint. The supplies for this are being donated. DO NOT do any of these at home. All blocks need to be made of the same fabric and paint. When you come to the meeting on Saturday, please do not wear anything that you would mind getting paint on, as I'm not sure of the wash ability of the paint.

So you see our Ladies Meeting will be VERY busy. You will ultimately be working on the quilt and listening to

what is being said at the same time. So come join us and be sure to have a lot of energy.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE and it is awesome!!! To access it, go to Facebook and in the search box, type Blackhorse (11th ACVVC) Women and the site should pop up. Cathie Bower has done a wonderful job setting it all up so let's all use it.

By now you all should have received your copy of the Blackhorse Ladies address book. If you haven't received one, or want to be added to it, please let me know and I will get one to you. I have found mine very useful as I love to send out birthday cards to all my friends. Each year I buy a bunch of birthday cards and now with my Ladies address list, I can send you all each one too.

Well, guess that's it for now. I'm going to send the newsletter editor the guidelines for our quilt in hopes of it being published also. If by some odd chance it isn't, I will post it on our web site as well as on the Facebook page. So be sure to look for it somewhere.

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## CALENDAR from page 25

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The 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. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

## Membership is Our Strength

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1st QTR 2012

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	10.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	3.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Blackhorse Belt - One size fits all	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	50.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	Lighter, brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	18.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	5.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	7.50	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	45.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	35.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	325.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	380.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book: "Blackhorse Riders" <i>NEW!</i>	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)	16.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	11.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	20.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> dark gray <input type="checkbox"/> gray	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim Shirt or Blue Dress Shirt (Mens)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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

Shipping and Handling \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

A)	\$2.00	—	\$5.00	=	\$3.00
B)	\$6.00	—	\$15.00	=	\$6.25
C)	\$16.00	—	\$60.00	=	\$10.50
D)	\$61.00		and over	=	\$14.20

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$14.20. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid.

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

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



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 JACKSONVILLE, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 3



## From the Quartermaster...

**Jerry Beamon**

Hello to all BLACKHORSE Troopers

Jan and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With this New Year we are hoping to see more Troopers at our Reunion in Florida this year. We have had great turn outs at our past Reunions and are looking forward to seeing everyone again, those of you who have been unable to attend we want to see you this year.

So make plans early, it's not very long from now, and time will creep up on you before you know it. And on this note; we have some Troopers who are not able to travel very far from home in our East Texas Area. Several troopers want to have an East Texas Round Up here close to the Tyler area so they can attend to see what goes on and catch up with some Blackhorse Brothers. We are going to Tyler State Park on May 5th for a great time of fun, food, & a few war stories. While our wives and friends go fishing or sit and visit. Plans are being made as we speak, and if you are in the East Texas area and want to attend, come on over We will be glad to see you. Jerry Mitchell is the guy to contact if you would like to attend. Please contact him at 903-894-3951 or E-mail [jmitchell5@nctv.com](mailto:jmitchell5@nctv.com) for any information.

Now on a more serious note guys. Some of you are still not putting your sizes for your shirts and jackets on your order form, and we also need your information like name, address, city, and state written so we can read it. Please help us. Sometimes this holds your order up due to not being written correctly. If you have an e-mail address please put that on the form as well so we can get in touch with you. Also if you send checks don't forget to put your driver's license number on the check. Your order will be processed much faster.

Thank you so much troopers. We enjoy getting your orders and sometimes getting to talk with you. We are really looking forward to our East Texas Round Up for any Trooper who would like to join us. Also please bring your family to the Round Up. Hope to see lots of you in May. Please RSVP as soon as you can so we make plans accordingly.

Don't forget to let us know if you would like to help us in the Quartermaster Store in Orlando. We would enjoy your help as well as getting to visit with you.

*Allons*

### QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

Please fill out your desired clearance & featured items as OTHER on the QM Order form. Fill them in on the describe item line with your choice and fill in the blanks provided for \$ Amt., Size, Qty., and \$ Total.



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



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