



Thunder Run

Vol. 29 – NO. 1

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2014

The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia LAS VEGAS 2014

By Steve Page,
Director & Reunion Committee Chairman

The planning for your 2014 reunion is well under way. The folks at The Rio All Suites Hotel and Casino are anxiously awaiting our arrival. Forty percent of the room block had been taken by mid January.

The guaranteed room rate is \$109.00 single / double occupancy. These rates are good for three days prior and three days post

reunion dates. The cut off for hotel reservations at this rate is Monday, August 11, 2014. Reservations can be made through our website or by calling the hotel directly at 1-888-746-6955. You must ask for the 11th ACVVC rate. Use Code SRAVC4.

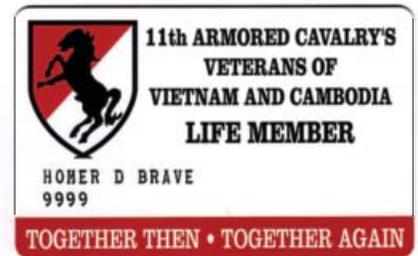
A few changes have been made to the normal schedule. Please see the reunion schedule printed in this issue. Our Silent Auction will be held on Thursday evening

Please turn to **LAS VEGAS** on page 6

Are You A Member?

By: Allen Hathaway,
President and Membership Chairman

This issue of *Thunder Run* is being mailed to nearly 14,000 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. If the words "FREE COPY" are printed on the first line of the label, take this opportunity to join and become a mem-

Please turn to **MEMBER** on page 6

Welcome to Ft. Irwin



This is a "Regimental Portrait" of today's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment taken on November 27, 2013. These guys and gals are looking forward to welcoming you back to the regiment for a visit during the Reunion in September. See trip ticket info on page 7.

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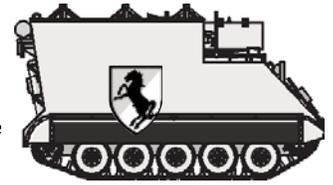




Allen Hathaway
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



The 29th annual reunion will be held on September 3-7, 2014, at the Rio All-suites Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Our reunions are well attended averaging 900-1,100 each year over the past six years. The 2014 reunion in Las Vegas and the 2015 reunion in Columbus / Fort Benning, Georgia are expected to draw large crowds and be within this range.

One of the highlights of the reunion will be the trip to visit the regiment at its home at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. The 11th ACR's unique mission is to provide intense and realistic training for America's Army. This is a critical mission and vital to the readiness of our army. We're looking forward to visiting our regiment and the Blackhorse troopers there. The regiment has put together a schedule of demonstrations and displays that I know you won't want to miss. All are welcome! Veterans, family members and friends are encouraged to attend the reunion AND to join us on the trip to Fort Irwin.

The reunion registration form is printed in this issue and is available on our website. Please note that we have added a line on the form for donations to allow the regimental color guard and other deserving Blackhorse troopers to attend the reunion on Saturday. Your support is appreciated.

There are many activities you can enjoy while in Las Vegas. This is another excellent opportunity to combine the reunion with a vacation. The Rio Hotel offers our special reunion rate three days prior to and three days after the reunion. Plan to arrive a few days before the reunion or stay a few days after.

We're expecting another large attendance this year. Over 1,000 attended the reunion in Indianapolis in 2013. Fifty-three (53) troopers attended their first reunion. For anyone who has never attended a reunion, what are you waiting for? We encourage you to make the effort to attend. If you're not sure what to expect, contact me or any of the other board members. We would be happy to answer any of your questions. Are you looking for an old friend and want to meet an old friend at the reunion? Again, contact me and we'll try to connect you.

The Women's Group is looking for suggestions from the ladies as they plan a reorganization in 2014. I encourage the ladies to take a few minutes and read the article on

the Women's Group in this issue. If you plan to attend the reunion, make it a point to attend the women's meeting on Saturday morning.

The annual calendars were mailed to all members in mid December. This is the first of our 2014 scholarship fundraising projects. The calendar features 12 new photos submitted by our members.

Our Scholarship Fund relies solely on donations from fundraising projects such as the calendar. All scholarship awards, as well as printing and mailing cost, are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. In 2013 we surpassed the \$1 million mark in scholarships awarded since the program began. This milestone was accomplished through the continued support and generosity of our members. We ask that you continue that support of the calendar by making the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can. Your donation will ensure that we can continue the Scholarship Program and to send you a calendar in the future.

It's been customary for several years to give a very brief update on the state of the organization in the first quarter issue of *Thunder Run*. I am pleased to report that the overall state of the 11th ACVVC is excellent. Once again, we continue to be successful in many areas: treasury, membership, reunion attendance, newsletter, website, scholarships, and quartermaster to name a few.

Our treasury is solvent. All funds, including General Business, Scholarship, Reunion, Reunion Assistance, and Memorial, are in excellent condition with sufficient balances. Our primary sources for operating income are membership dues and quartermaster sales.

We continue to find new Blackhorse troopers every month. Over 200 new members joined in 2013. Many annual members choose to renew as LIFE members.

Our reunions are well attended averaging 900-1,100 each year over the past six

years. The 2014 reunion in Las Vegas and the 2015 reunion in Columbus / Fort Benning, Georgia are expected to draw large crowds and be within this range.

Our quartermaster store continues to be very popular. The QM offers many insignia products that instill pride in your service to our regiment. These insignia items also help "spread the word" by attracting other Blackhorse troopers! QM sales have continued to be strong over the years. Items are featured in each issue of *Thunder Run*, on our website and at the reunions.

Our investments did very well in 2013. These investments will guarantee the organization will be in a good financial position for many years to come. At some point it may be necessary to begin to draw on these investments to supplement operating expenses if membership dues or quartermaster sales begin to decline.

Our quarterly newsletter, *Thunder Run*, continues to keep our membership informed of their organization and the 11th Armored Cavalry with many interesting articles and activities. We encourage our members to continue to write and submit their stories for consideration in *Thunder Run*. Our website and Facebook pages are other useful sources of information for our members.

As mentioned earlier, the scholarship program continues to thrive thanks to the support of our members.

The most important area of this organization is the support from our members. Your support throughout the years has helped this organization continue to grow and succeed in all areas. This support is a result of the pride we all have from serving in the best unit in the United States Army!

In closing, please continue to keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. Take a minute to offer your hand to thank anyone in uniform for their selfless service to our country. ALLONS and Welcome Home! – It's good to be "Together Again."



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 XXVII



Indianapolis, IN

Photos courtesy of Ken Jankel



Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory



LAS VEGAS from page 1

this year as we will be returning from Fort Irwin on Friday evening. Registration and Quartermaster will be closed during the day on Friday to allow our volunteers to take the trip to Fort Irwin. Saturday's events will take place as usual.

We have scheduled a trip to Fort Irwin to visit with the troops. This trip includes lunch at one of the dining facilities. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to visit Fort Irwin. Reservations for the trip can be made using the link on our website. You can also make reservations by phone or mail using the form printed in this issue. The fee is \$38.00 per person.

These motor coaches have ample space underneath to hold a folded wheelchair if needed. If you are in need of a coach with a lift gate make that known at the time you purchase tickets. The transport company will make provisions for you.

The events at Fort Irwin are on a very tight schedule and the time loading and unloading the motor coaches will be crucial if we want to do everything scheduled. Busses will begin boarding at the Rio at 6:30 am and will leave for Fort Irwin at 7:00 am.

We expect another great turnout for this reunion. Please make your reservations early to help us with the planning. Remember you can always cancel if the need arises. Cancellations must be made at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the great city of Las Vegas

This is the one issue each year that goes out to all our Blackhorse friends, even those who have not joined the 11th ACVVC. We hope you will join if you do not already belong.

Welcome to the first issue of *Thunder Run* for 2014! We are so glad you have decided to read our newsletter and I your humble editor will try to make 2014 a year of enjoyable and informative newsletters. Each new year is like having a new canvas to draw upon; let us try to do a better picture than we have ever done before. I hope this year is going to be a good year in all our lives. It has started out with extreme weather over most of the country, even here in the sunny south we have had some really cold weather, and it is only January!

This is the one issue each year that goes out to all our Blackhorse friends, even those who have not joined the 11th ACVVC. We hope you will join if you do not already belong. There is a whole article in this issue to explain how to tell if you are a member or not. Las Vegas is in our future and it is already shaping up into another great reunion trip. Make your plans early to make sure you get the best accommodations possible. I understand that the active duty regiment is going to go all out for us at Fort Irwin this year and make us feel at home. I know we will have a great day out there.

We have some entertaining articles this issue along with some informative ones; we

may even have a few that are both entertaining and informative. We have information on the Las Vegas Reunion. We have the last nine scholarship winners from 2013. We also have information on how to apply for 2014 scholarships. The deadline to have completed applications in is May 15, 2014. We are happy to have some guest writers again this issue, sharing memories and remembering friends. Some are funny, some are touching, and hopefully some will be uplifting.

Probably the most exciting thing your organization has done in the last three months is the distribution of the beautiful 2014 calendar, in color for the first time. Having it in color makes it more cheerful and appealing to the eye. Thanks to all who worked on it and those who allowed their pictures to be in it. Please support the scholarship fund through the calendar, if you possibly can.

I hope you are all well and safe until we visit again for the second quarter issue, if you have some thoughts or a story to share, send them along. We never have too much material and I know many of you have stories to tell. May you go in peace and love and with the blessings of God.

Bill Gregory, Editor
Thunder Run

MEMBER from Page 1

ber. If the words "EXPIRED" are printed, this 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 95 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.

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 and also a LIFE membership pin. All new members will be listed in the "Welcome New Members" section of *Thunder Run*. Show your support and join today!



11th ACVVC Reunion Trip to Fort Irwin
The BusBank - Order Number: 100799
Friday, September 5, 2014 from 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM (PDT)



The BusBank is proud to be providing transportation for the 29th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion.

Pick up at Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, 3700 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV

6:30 am - Buses begin loading

7:00 am - Depart Rio All-Suites Hotel for Fort Irwin

8:30 pm - Estimated arrival time back at Rio All-Suites Hotel

Please provide the following information with your ticket order (please print):

Name _____ Telephone : _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Number of tickets: _____ X \$38.00 per person = TOTAL \$ _____

Pay with credit card by phone by calling: 1-866-428-7226 ext. 6157

AMEX DISCOVER MASTERCARD VISA

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC CODE: _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks or money orders payable to "BusBank". Mail this completed form with payment to:

THE BUSBANK
820 WEST JACKSON BLVD SUITE 815
CHICAGO IL 60607-3290

Your 2013 Finances at a Glance

By Ollie Pickral, Treasurer

During the calendar year of 2013, our organization received donations and dividends from our investments that allowed us to fund and execute all our various projects. Below is a listing of those projects:

- 1.) Our investments in securities and mutual funds netted the 11th ACVVC over \$80,000 in dividends for the year.
- 2.) Your generous donations to our Scholarship program funded 19 scholarships to the children of our membership. It should be noted that our total funding of scholarships throughout the years exceeded 1 million dollars in 2013.
- 3.) Donations from our annual calendar totaled over \$66,000 accounting for 16 scholarships!
- 4.) Your bidding at our reunions' Silent Auction added over \$12,000, providing an additional 3 scholarships.

5.) Our annual reunion cost the 11th ACVVC just over \$89,000 and we collected just over \$89,000 in registrations... ..great planning Steve Page!!

6.) Our annual raffle netted us \$40,000 that will be used to relocate our monument from Fort Knox to Fort Benning. We are certain we will have the best monument there; all done with money provided by you our members.

7.) All our combined accounts gave our organization a net worth of over \$850,000 at the end of 2013.

All of these accomplishments were achieved because of our member's giving from the heart. Thanks go out to all the Officers and Directors and our many volunteers who give their time to make all the above happen. Here's hoping 2014 will be another banner year for the 11th ACVVC.

Veterans Day 2013

Approximately 35-40 Blackhorse troopers and friends attended our annual wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day. It was a good group and the weather was perfect.

We've been meeting regularly at the "Wall" on Veterans Day and Memorial Day since 1986. Thanks again to Don Snedeker for making our beautiful Blackhorse wreath. Don has been doing the wreath on Memorial Day and Veterans Day since 1998.

There were several troopers from NY, NJ, FL, IA, and CA as well as troopers from VA, MD, and DC.

Our thoughts on this day were for the thousands of Blackhorse troopers across the country who proudly served this great country and especially our great regiment. We hope each of you had a great day as well.

Thanks for your service and Welcome Home!

Allen Hathaway

Photos by Pete Walter and Chaplain Blandin Karabinos.



It was sometime in April of 1969 that we were told one morning the entire Troop would be moving to Bien Hoa for a 3 day stand down. Officially, this would be a time to regroup, take a breather, and get caught up with the chores. The Troop had seen its share of RIF's, busting jungle, fire-fights, mines, and casualties since I joined it in January. The news that morning did begin some unwinding process and during the road march to the rear plans were shared about the good fortune to come to include hot meals, hot showers, and the ritual of cold beer.

Unofficially, rumors were passing down about Colonel Patton's departure from the Regiment that month and some ceremony was in the works. Indeed, when we pulled into the Trains area at Bien Hoa most of the 3rd Squadron was either there or coming in behind us. Whatever the reason was, most of the scuttlebutt was now revolving around the 3 hots, a bath, and last, but not least, the beer. We were also told the Colonel would be coming around the next morning to say his goodbyes.

It was late afternoon when our equipment had either been parked polished or put to bed. It was an awesome sight looking down the line and seeing most of one Squadron with all its firepower lined up together. Now it was time to start that unwinding. The shower was all that I remembered it to be. I don't remember what was on the menu that night, but the belly was full too. Some guys elected to stay home that night, some took off in pairs or small groups to hit the club circuit. As I remember, aside from the 11th Cavalry, there were also contingents from the 1st Cavalry and 101st Airborne Divisions in residence at Bien Hoa. They each had EM clubs where a live band might be playing along with the liquid refreshment sought after this night. I know I managed to abuse the privilege, but somehow made it back to the track. That missing time that winds up in a parallel universe along with the socks from the dryer. As I lay me down, to sleep it off

The Stand Down

By: Mark S. Crist I-Troop, 1969

Our Platoon medic was relating his night, which involved a black eye or two received at a 101st Airborne club. And word spread down the line like wildfire, as though the spirit of Paul Revere was riding that night.

on the back hatch music could be heard from several battery operated record players. Try as I may I might never erase the opening line of Okie from Muscogee, but still grapple with some of Vanilla Fudge.

I was awakened by some heated discussion down below and more tuned in to it. Our Platoon medic was relating his night, which involved a black eye or two received at a 101st Airborne club. And word spread down the line like wildfire, as though the spirit of Paul Revere was riding that night. Modern day Minutemen from the rest of 3rd Squadron came up wanting details. They went back to their respective units and the next thing heard were diesel engines cranking up. I wouldn't call it coordinated, but an offensive operation was about to get underway. I do seem to recall rivalry's between units, even the Services. I'd seen them on television, whether it was the Army/Navy or some war movie. And maybe I should note here to those who might read this who never wore the uniform, no one was reaching for a weapon; well, not exactly true if the after action report was based on facts, but will explain later. The tactics were shall we say, learned in schoolyards and the streets back home.

Whatever the case, an affront to the code and the pride of the 11th Cavalry had been made. A combination of events had come to a head..... months in the field, a relaxation of inhibitions if you catch my drift, and a reckoning that had to be exact-

ed. Somebody was about to get a taste of, "find the bastards, then pile on."

The dust may have settled the next day, but a number of guys weren't in shape to stand in a formation on a hot Vietnamese morning. Aching heads were one thing, but daylight revealed more tattered remains from the previous night. We heard stories like an M-48 being driven to that club, the cannon pointed in the door, and a request for the perps to come out with all due haste. Then something about either a 5 ton truck or AVLB rammed into a bunker causing the guards inside to scatter, not to mention the good accounting made by individuals. I don't recall there being any serious injury except for maybe a

bruised ego on the opposing side. Maybe some who read this were there that night and remember something. Maybe some of what I heard the next morning is the stuff of legend. Just prior to Colonel Patton arriving we were called into formation and given a pep talk by the Troop Commander. Well, maybe "pep talk" is a stretch. The copious slang used the night before, which shall go unmentioned here, was replaced by more lofty verbiage like "flagrant" and "despicable" used in relation to our conduct. We were even told Colonel Patton might skip our Troop and "I wouldn't blame him!"

Well, the Colonel did come by. He talked of us popping our ambushes too quickly and shooting to high. If we shot a little lower we might at least kick up a stone and hit Charlie square in a certain part of his anatomy. He mentioned the Blackhorse base camp being an anchor around his neck and wished he could free up the squadron left there for security be allowed to maneuver with the other two. However, he led off with the maneuvering done the night before in Bien Hoa which might have surprised our Captain. I still remember his words. "I heard what you guys did last night and had I been here would have joined in." After all, this was his fighting Regiment for his time remaining and all expectations had been realized on.....and off the battlefield. Not to mention the honor upheld.



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11ACVVC) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION [revised November 21, 2013]

➔ Please print the latest **Scholarship Guide** at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html
Scholarship Chairman Michael "Doc" Rafferty

➔ **Important:** A person who has been awarded an 11th ACVVC Scholarship is not eligible to apply for a second scholarship.

[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 a Current 11ACVVC 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:** Are you pursuing a graduate degree program? _____

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. 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: platoonmedic36@gmail.com • Phone 915-792-2804 or 575-915-2921

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



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded **336 scholarships totaling \$1,045,000** to children of our members and KIAs 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. Beginning in 2014, applicants planning on attending graduate school programs are eligible to apply for a scholarship, however undergraduate applicants will be given preference in the judging process (see #6 below). You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html. If you have a child (natural, step child or adopted) who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school this fall, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions.

Beginning in 2008, each recipient's Scholarship Award has been dedicated to honor a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIAs 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, each year, 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 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 list of scholarship winners.

Scholarship Judges are asked to rate each applicant on a **30-point system**.

- 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) If some applicants are graduate students, the scholarship chairman shall add 4.0 points to each undergraduate student applicant's score.

7) 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.

In 2013, we were able to award 19 scholarships totaling \$78,000 to children of our members.

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, 2014**. E mail me at platoonmedic36@gmail.com if you have questions. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at 915-792-2804 or 575-915-2921.

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. Email 11thcav1966@Comcast.net



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

Email: _____

2014 Newsletter Deadlines

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

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

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

Meet Our 2013 Scholarship Winners

This issue contains brief statements from 9 of our 2013 Scholarship Winners. The last issue featured 10 of our latest Scholarship recipients.

Katrina Herweh



Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity. I am very honored to have been awarded the scholarship. I am putting it to good use as I study social work at Xavier University. By becoming a social worker I hope to let the fallen soldiers of the 11th ACVVC live on and honor them for their love and dedication to this country. Without

this scholarship I would not be able to achieve my life's goal of helping others as easily. It is very struggling already to maintain great grades while working but I will do so with admiration of the courage and perseverance they all had while in service. I am much appreciative and honored to have been awarded this great scholarship among such deserving individuals. This reminds me that I am truly blessed and I cannot be ever more grateful.

Katrina Herweh is the daughter of Terry W. Herweh, 541 MID, 70-71. KIA dedication to Frank D. Leal, L Troop, (KIA: 07/21/67).

George F. Krcelich



I am honored to be selected as a recipient of an 11th ACVVC Scholarship. College is very expensive but this award will go a long way in helping me with my expenses. This fall I will begin my first of six years to become a pharmacist. I will attend Washington & Jefferson College for 4 years and then

2 years at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Pharmacy. I think that the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program says a lot about the men and woman of this fine organization and their commitment to members and their families across the country. I am truly grateful for your generosity and thank all of you for your service to this great nation.

George F Krcelich is the son of George J. Krcelich, How 1/11, 70-71. KIA dedication to Larry H. Brinkly, K Troop, (KIA: 5/6/1969).

Adrian Z. Mireles



Adrian Z. Mireles is the son of Michael J. Mireles, L Troop, 1967 – 1968. KIA dedication to Joseph N. D'Ambra, I Troop, (KIA: 5/9/68).

John L. Patton



I do want to thank you and all of the members of the committee very much for the scholarship. It will pay my tuition, fees and buy all the supplies I need to complete the law enforcement academy. This has been a dream of mine for a very long time and this scholarship is exactly what I needed. Again, thank you so very much.

John L. Patton is the son of George L. Patton Jr., 919th Engineers, 1968. KIA dedicated to Roger B. Schaefer, HHT 3/11, (KIA: 11/25/1969).

Andrea M. Pehr



This scholarship is important to me because it shows that hard work and determination really pay off. This scholarship also makes attending a top engineering school possible, allowing me one step closer to achieving my goal of a degree in mechanical engineering. I hope to one day work in the design and manufacturing of prosthesis. Simply this scholarship

means a step closer to achieving my dream.

Andrea Pehr is the daughter of Bert L. Pehr, HHT 3/11, 70-71. KIA dedication to Lawrence B. Crawford, G Troop, (KIA: 9/24/1967).

Timothy M. Rusteberg



My family and I would like to thank the 11th ACVVC for the scholarship you have awarded me and allowing my family and I to attend the Indianapolis reunion where I got to talk to some of my father's friends. The funds will go a long way in helping pay for my Nursing

Visit our website at:

www.11thCavNam.com

degree. Upon graduation I will combine my 16 years of being a Paramedic and my degree to help many of the people in my surrounding community, local hospitals and the State of Illinois to start a community Paramedicine program. This program will bridge the gaps of community health systems, Emergency Medical Systems, and hospitals so at risk patients can find other and better ways to receive health care. Thank you once again for assisting me in achieving my goal in helping those in need.

Timothy Rusteberg is the son of Homer Rusteberg How Battery, 3/11, 70-71. KIA dedication to Everett A. Herritz, 919th Engineers, (KIA: 7/15/67).

Makenzie Lee Skrabal



Words cannot express how thankful I am for receiving this prestigious scholarship. It will help me a great amount in my endeavors to become a physical therapist as I am hoping to specialize in helping children. I am so honored to receive an award that represents ALL the soldiers who have served in the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and for this opportunity that will allow me to pursue my education and dreams.

Makenzie Skrabal is the daughter of Edward L. Skrabal, HHT Regiment, 68-69. KIA dedication to Donald L. Martinez, HHT, 1/11, (KIA: 4/17/67).

Maria L. Stabler

When I was asked what this scholarship means to me I pondered several things, the honor of being chosen; the ability to further my education, the sacrifices made by our fore fathers that have allowed us an education. When our fathers and grandfathers stood and fought in the trenches of war they could never fathom what their sacrifices would eventually foster. They fought for freedom. The freedom not only to live as we chose, but to better ourselves with a more educated America. Knowledge is power and we are empowering ourselves to bring America back to its former glory and to make sure their sacrifices were not in vein. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all.



Maria L. Stabler is the daughter of Myron K. Stabler, G Troop, 1971 – 1972. KIA dedication to Robert R. Huster, L Troop, (KIA: 4/8/67).

Hayley Webb



Thank you for awarding me this scholarship in honor of Willis N. Andrews. This award has been by far the most generous one I have received. I would like to thank all the members of the 11th Armored Cavalry who have continued to serve our country and have made this scholarship possible. This scholarship has made me appreciate how lucky I am to be able to go to college when I think of all the young men around my age going off to war in Vietnam instead of attending college. I most greatly honor Willis N. Andrews who sacrificed his life on April 17th, 1971 for the benefit of our country. My heart goes out to his family who, because of his heroism, only had him for a short twenty four years. Hayley Webb is the daughter of Amos M. Webb, G Troop, 70-71. KIA dedication to Willis N. Andrews, F Troop, (KIA: 4/17/1971).

Find an Old Friend

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

Allons,
Bob Kickenweitz



**Membership is
Our Strength**



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



Tracks

"What's a tracked vehicle?" you might ask if you're a civilian. A Cavalry trooper would reply, "It's a vehicle that runs on tracks." "Railroad tracks?" you ask. Troopers reply, "No." A tracked vehicle rides on tracks, but they're not like railroad tracks. They're heavy metal and rubber pads linked together and mounted onto the vehicle in such a way that the vehicle rides on the pads. A large wheel with sprockets on the vehicle pulls it along on this string of linked pads. These pads go around and around so the vehicle is actually riding on its own road, or "track," as it moves along. So tracked vehicles carry their road and drive on it at the same time. No kidding. You troopers, tankers, and self-propelled cannon cockers are the experts. How've I done with this explanation?

If you're in armor please check me out. If you're non-armor you're probably asking, "Why don't you just say tank if that's what you're talking about?" My response is this, "Because tanks aren't the only kind of tracked vehicles." There are also Armored Personnel Carriers, ACAVs (armed APCs), heavy tank retrievers, light tank retrievers, M548s (a truck on tracks instead of regular wheels and tires), and tanks, of course. Plus, do you remember the Army half-tracks in World War II? Maybe you don't remember, but I'm sure you saw "Saving Private Ryan" or other old WWII movies on TV. There were many half-tracks in those movies. So you don't have to remember personally in order to know what a half-track is. They were regular trucks with tires on the front and tracks on the rear.

A major characteristic of tracked vehicles (which we'll just call "tracks") was that they could go almost anywhere, especially places where wheeled vehicles couldn't go. I had a jeep for my first couple of weeks at Blackhorse base camp at Quan Loi. When we moved out to the jungle they took my jeep away. Who was "they"? I don't know. Supply, I guess. It really didn't matter since I

If you're in armor please check me out. If you're non-armor you're probably asking, "Why don't you just say tank if that's what you're talking about?"

couldn't use a wheeled vehicle in the jungle anyway. It couldn't climb over jungle growth and I think it was a maverick. "So what's a maverick, you ask?" A maverick was a piece of equipment that didn't belong to you. Well, yes, everything did belong to the US Army and I was in the US Army. Still, a maverick was accountable on somebody else's books. So I didn't complain when they took it away. It wasn't technically mine to begin with. "Whoa," you say. "You were a chaplain and you had an illegal jeep?" I respond, "Yesssss, sort of. But it was there when I came and they took it away pretty fast. So what could I say?" Easy answer, "Nothing."

Like you, I've met a lot of people in this world who I truly admire and appreciate. Many of them are troopers I rode with on tracks in the jungles of South Viet Nam - the 'Nam' for short. Those troopers (you troopers, if you're one that I'm talking about) were great on their tracks. They rode those tracks all day, every day. They would bust jungle, ride the trails, go on line (strung out side by side) to shoot into the bush at VC, and set up laager positions at night, which means in a circle with each track facing outward. Their track was where they lived, where they ate, slept, fought, conversed, and shaved. At night ACAV troopers would lie inside, set up a cot outside, or catch some sleep whenever they could - it's where they lived. They carried C Rations by the case so they never went hungry. M88 Heavy Tank Retriever crews usually slept inside because they had plenty of hard metal floor space. Cannon cockers (self-propelled howitzer troopers) had to sleep in tents because their tracks had no place to lie down inside. They barely had room for standing to fire their guns.

I'll insert this: our troopers would bust through the jungle all day, they'd pull Medcaps (do medical treatment for Vietnamese civilians), they'd blaze

through ambushes and firefights, they'd stop in the villages and mix it up with the people who generally liked them, they'd buy trinkets from the mama-sans, and give candy to the kids. After an active day they'd pull maintenance all evening outdoors wherever they were. Was this a big deal? Yes it was. Pulling maintenance wasn't just checking the oil. It was everything else too, like removing the packs (engine and transmission assemblies), or replacing broken track sections which were heavy and hard to handle. Like I said, these young troopers were incredible. Some of you I'm talking to now were those troopers.

Those soldiers could drive their tracks almost anywhere. Busting jungle was exactly that, blazing new trails through the jungle. We couldn't always use the roads and trails because of the mines and ambushes. So they'd just drive through and over the jungle growth. I have to point out that the tanks were best at jungle busting because they were big and heavy - much bigger than ACAVs or Sheridans. You don't need much imagination to get the picture. Our guys went almost everywhere, found the enemy, and took care of the situation. Busting jungle included pushing trees over, mashing bamboo, parking on termite and ant hills two or three feet tall, making new trails, finding the enemy, reacting when he found you, clearing landing zones for helicopters, clearing fields of fire and night defense positions, and various other similar activities.

At the end of the day, all else being equal, no shooting and such, troopers would eat chow (sometimes hot chow brought out by the re-supply Chinook helicopter), do their maintenance and repairs, maybe get a shower (outdoors, under a hanging bucket), write a letter, and then pull night shifts guarding Ho Chi Minh Trail side trails coming out of Cambodia.

The soldiers I rode with in Viet Nam were men to make you proud. Women I knew in other places around 'Nam were equally great. They all deserved acclaim and respect which wasn't there in those days. It's there now.

If you've "been there, done that" please tell your kids about it. You have great stories even if they're not always easy to talk about. They're important. Your kids and grandkids want to know and they need to know. I'll point out something else that's important; our active military troopers need to know too. They want to connect with veteran troopers. Every generation of warriors wants to connect with those before and those after themselves. You understand.

A Scripture comes to mind that I'll close off with. It's from the New Testament book of Hebrews (12:1-3):

"Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from

sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

It was always an honor, and often even fun, to ride tracks with the Cavalry. It was an honor to wear the uniform of our country. It's a greater honor to run the race of life that God has set for me. I trust that you're running too. I hope the running is with perseverance for all of us.

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

2013 REUNION - GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Fifteen (15) Gold Star family members attended the reunion representing the 4 fallen Blackhorse Troopers listed below.

★ Kurtis A. Berry	July 6, 1969	C Troop, 1/11
★ Lanny J. Norman	November 11, 1968	F Troop, 2/11
★ Robert L. Bolan	July 24, 1970	HHT, 2/11
★ William E. Pasch	May 11, 1968	M Company, 3/11

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.**

29th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

Las Vegas, Nevada ♦ ♦ ♦ September 3 - 7, 2014

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 3

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Open
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

Thursday, September 4

7:00 am - 23rd Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
9:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration Open
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Silent Auction
8:00 pm Raffle Drawing

Friday, September 5

6:30 am - 8:30 pm Fort Irwin Trip (optional fee per person - includes lunch)
6:30 am - 7:00 am Board busses
7:00 am - 10:00 am Travel to Fort Irwin
10:30 am - 5:30 pm Fort Irwin tour and demonstrations (includes lunch)
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm Travel to Rio All-Suites

6:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration Open
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open

Saturday, September 6

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting (Members Only)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Women's Group Meeting
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Memorial Service
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Open for Late Arrivals
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Cocktail Hour
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet, Presentations and "Blackhorse Salute"
10:00 pm - 1:00 am Dancing

Sunday, September 7

10:00 am - 11:00 am Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
All Day Farewells and Departures





29th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

Las Vegas, Nevada

September 3 - 7, 2014

Rio Hotel - 3700 West Flamingo Road - Las Vegas, NV 89103

Reservations: 1-888-746-6955



Registration fee is \$95.00 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.

Register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations post marked after Saturday, AUGUST 16, 2014. All registrations must be received no later than Saturday, AUGUST 23, 2014.

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)

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Please accept my donation to help an active duty trooper attend the reunion \$ _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

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**

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker,
11th ACVVC Historian

Lessons Learned. Over the course of the Regiment's service in South Vietnam and Cambodia, Blackhorse Troopers identified a number of lessons learned that they shared with those who came later. The following are a selected few.

Trafficability (1967). "Watch the water buffalo. He does not go where he cannot stand on the bottom. If the bottom supports him it will usually support an APC (Armored Personnel Carrier)... Rice paddies without standing water during the rainy season are too soft to support APC. Those containing clear water and green vegetation are usually trafficable for APC. During the dry season all rice paddies are assumed to be trafficable for APC."

Roles and Missions (1967). "Armored cavalry units, particularly the squadrons of the [11th] armored cavalry regiment, are being increasingly employed in those roles previously assigned to armor and infantry combat maneuver battalions... The extensive firepower and combat strength of the armored cavalry squadron have dictated its more effective use in the role of a well balanced maneuver battalion rather than in its traditional roles [reconnaissance, security, and economy of force]."

M-72 LAW (1968). The M-72 Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW) was a relatively effective – if not entirely reliable – counter to the RPG-2 and -7 employed extensively by the VC and NVA. It was especially effective against bunkers and the giant ant hills that the bad guys sometimes hid behind. However, most units found that the "light and flimsy construction does not stand up well to extended field exposure, particularly in the rainy season. After being carried approximately six weeks in the field it becomes unreliable."

Organization for Combat (1969). "The most effective organization for combat during jungle busting operations is a Headquarters element (Troop/Company), tank section or platoon, reconnaissance platoon, infantry platoon, and an AVLB [Armored Vehicle Launcher Bridge] and ZIPPO [flame track] if practical. This team provides speed, firepower, staying power, and the ability to effectively break jungle. The infantry is most adapted to provide security for the armored vehicles and searching enemy complexes."

Air Cavalry (1969). "The importance of air cavalry to establish and maintain contact cannot be over emphasized. Air cavalry is constantly required to scout the area, find targets, locate routes for reinforcement, as well as guide tanks and armored vehicles through the jungle. Whenever possible, pink teams (1 LOH [Light Observation Helicopter] & 1 Cobra) should be placed in direct support of advancing ground elements."

Medical Evacuation in a Tank Company (1970). "At the request of the Commanding Officer, 11thACR, a survey was made of the evacuation capacity of the medical platoons of each squadron. It was found that the tank company of each squadron did not have

an evacuation track (M-113) for its company aidmen to conduct medical operations. The lack of a M-113 evacuation track often forced the company aidmen to ride inside or on the outside of a tank during combat operations. In addition, there is no way for the aidmen to adequately protect casualties from further injury from small arms fire, except to load the patient into an adjacent tank, often creating further complications. This problem was solved by obtaining a M-113 evacuation track for the tank company on a 180 day temporary loan... The addition of this M-113 evacuation track to each of the tank companies has received extremely favorable comments."

Operation Manhattan. From 23 April until 11 May 1967, First and Third Squadrons and Regimental Headquarters participated in Operation Manhattan in the Long Nguyen Secret Zone, east of the Saigon River between Dau Tieng and Ben Suc and west of QL 13 – Thunder Road. The Regiment's mission was to locate and destroy elements of the headquarters of VC Military Region IV, Group 83 of the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN – the headquarters in charge of all forces in South Vietnam and Cambodia), and rear services units. As always, the Air Force's Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) accompanied the Regiment to the field during the operation. Here's how Bill Fargo, a radio operator who used the call sign 'Chirp 95', remembers the operation. "With two weeks left in-country I was sent out on Operation Manhattan. In the middle of nowhere in the mud... Lots of shooting going-on. Our ground FAC [Forward Air Controller]...was living in the mud and the snakes with us. It was a short Op but miserable. I wanted to go home. I did not enjoy the perimeter probes and the incoming to say the least. I remember throughout the hell of this operation you could look outside the TOC [Tactical Operations Center– the Regimental Command Post] and down the hill and see a neon cross on a Catholic church in the Ville [village]. It was an uneventful convoy in and out which was a surprise for all of us."

Blackhorse Medics. In the fall of 1968, the Regimental Surgeon initiated a new assignment and training program for all regimental medics. Upon assignment to the 11thACR, all Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) 91A10 and 91B20 medics were initially assigned to the 37th Medical Company at Blackhorse Base Camp. For two to six weeks, the medics received on-the-job refresher training in outpatient, clinic, ward, and surgery procedures. This program was designed to ensure a common level of training and familiarization with combat procedures. After evaluation of their medical skills, each medic was assigned to a squadron and further assigned to a troop, company, or battery for a minimum of four months of field duty.

Civic Action, Red Devil Style. From the January 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "The children of the Montagnard hamlet of Lich Loc, southwest of Quan Loi, received a new playground for Christmas due to the combined efforts of the 919th Engineer Company and Regimental S-5. The project had its

beginnings shortly before Christmas when the engineers decided to build a playground for one of the nearby hamlets. With the help of the S-5, Lich Loc was chosen and work started immediately. The area was first cleared off and leveled. Engineers then constructed playground equipment from whatever material they could scrounge at Quan Loi. The effort did not stop there, despite the happiness of the children at the new toys. Cookies and candy were collected and bundled into packages which were presented to the children by the hamlet chief on Christmas Eve. Despite the speed and coordination of the project, it was almost impossible to get anyone to take credit for the idea. 'The S-5 section was just the coordinator. The 919th did all the work,' explained Major Michael V. Barnes, Regimental civil affairs officer. The engineers pointed to one man, Sergeant First Class R. A. White of Milton, Fla. When asked whether he was the man,

White said, 'No, I just helped.' When pressed, he admitted, 'Well, I guess you could say it was my idea. I always figured it was better to give than to receive.' But, he quickly added, 'It wasn't me who actually did it. It was the men and they deserve all the credit.' The engineers are planning to paint the small Montagnard school as a finishing touch."

Miss America. On 15 August 1970, Miss America, Pamela Anne Eldred, gave a two-hour show at Fire Support Base Henderson for First Squadron and at Di An for Second Squadron.

Delinquency Reports. From the Second Squadron Commander's Note #2, dated 25 July 1971: "In the past there has been a relaxed attitude in Vietnam toward personal appearance. Times are changing, however, and personnel are being given DR's (Delinquency Report) for improper uniforms, no hats, haircuts, etc."



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
C TROOP, 1/11		F TROOP, 2/11		HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11		K TROOP, 3/11	
Pepple, Kerry R	68-69	Richardson, William J	70-71	McCombs, Patrick T	70-70	Henry, Allen A	69-70
Simpson, Harry A	66-67						
		G TROOP, 2/11		I TROOP, 3/11		M COMPANY, 3/11	
HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11		Ballard, William D	67-68	Martinez, Ruben H	69-70	Andersen, Kevin L	70-71
Carlson, Dennis L	66-67	Steiner, Robert E	66-67	Simpson, William B	68-69	Clopton, Wallace	69-70
HHT, 2/11		H COMPANY, 2/11					
Evans, Allen R	72-72	Newby, Donald J	66-67				

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
Memorial Fund	McCollum, Christine In Memory of Charles McCollum Nash, William	Scholarship	Bronze Level	Marilyn In Memory of James Hellman
Platinum Level	Silver Level	Platinum Level	Calendar	Rodriguez, Juan Smith, Paul Thompson, Thomas Tracy, Stephen Twigg, Paul
McCollum, Christine Earls, Kimberly Wilson, Carrie Wilson, Greg Wilson, Kaleigh Wilson, Natalie In Memory of Charles McCollum	French, William In Memory of Larry Miller	Gold Level	Gold Level	General Fund
Gold Level	Bronze Level	Crabill, Steven Dunmyer, Dennis In Memory of James Hellman Kalbitz, Darrell & April Kern, Paul Rietkerk, Barbara	Drake, David Norris, Danny Rucker, Richard	Silver Level
Franken, Henry Hane, James Kalbitz, Darrell & April Kern, Paul Mahler, Keith	Grant, Robert Sabol, J.C.	Silver Level	Silver Level	Smith, William
Trooper Assistance Fund	Silver Level	Smith, William	Bronze Level	
	Smith, William		Awe, Dean Dressen, Donald Jack, Fred	



From the 65th Colonel of the Regiment

COL John Ward



COL John "Lanier" Ward

9 January 2014

Greetings former Blackhorse Troopers, Families, and Friends! I sincerely hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. After two-weeks of holiday leave, our Troopers are hitting the ground running – ready to roll into the first of many Training Rotations that 2014 will bring. In fact, we just completed our first Regimental run of the year to “welcome” 3d Brigade, 2d Infantry Division to NTC as they prepare to face the Blackhorse. As we head into the New Year, recharged, refocused and ready for any challenge, all of us wish you a very happy New Year!

Since I last had the opportunity to address our Blackhorse Family - the Regiment’s momentum and dedication have continued, unbridled. It is an honor serving as the Blackhorse 6, and I continue to relish in the opportunity to not only share in our past history, but our accomplishments as we carry the Regiment’s honor forward.

During the month of October, we took on the role as a Contemporary Operating Environment Force (COEFOR) in Rotation 14-01. We prepared the 3d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division to meet the challenges of transferring operations from US-led operations in Afghanistan to that of host-nation security forces. In November, we continued that same mission during the 14-02 Rotation with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. We also had the opportunity of remaining a viable combat force in our own right. Immediately following both rotations, we utilized our available time to train our Troopers in both maneuver and live fire operations.

For the first time in many years, over 200 of the Regiment’s Troopers dusted themselves off from the field to begin a 38-mile march from Fort Irwin to the Veteran’s Home in Barstow, CA. The march paid tribute to our Nation’s Veterans who have ‘Been There, Done That’. An additional 300 Soldiers completed the last three miles of the march, which concluded with a Veterans’ bar-beque with the residents and the presentation of a donation check to the home.

Behind many of our Troopers is a supporting Spouse. It is widely known and appreciated in the Regiment that Spouses also serve. So in December, we gave our Blackhorse Spouses a chance to share in our traditions and see what it’s like to earn your spurs in the Cavalry, during a Spouse Spur Ride. The event provided the Regiment the opportunity to show our Spouses ‘here is a little bit of what your Troopers do during all those late nights’.

In between each of these events, Family time and a little R&R can be the glue that keeps it all together. During our Thanksgiving-break, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Fox Sports, who put on an amazing event that brought a live Thanksgiving Day broadcast of the Detroit Lions vs. The Green Bay Packers game - direct from Fort Irwin’s Training area. Troopers of the Regiment, Fort Irwin Soldiers and their Families

turned out for the event which included food, prizes and a 30-foot screen bringing the game here, live as it happened. Troopers were given the chance to join the broadcast by asking questions of Fox Sports’ Terry Bradshaw and other sports commentators live. It was a gesture that meant a lot to our Troopers and served as a reminder for us that Americans truly do view our military with appreciation. It also reminds us that we have a legacy to proudly uphold; forged by past Veterans of the Regiment.

With December came the Holiday Season, which gave many Troopers and their Families the chance to spend time with one another and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Right before we departed for the Holidays, we said farewell to CSM Travers, the 20th CSM of the Regiment, as he moved on to take over as the NTC CSM. Our 2d Squadron CSM, CSM Simpao is filling in until the 21st CSM arrives in March. As the calendar turned to the New Year, Troopers returned to duty, ready to accept any challenge 2014 can throw at us. This coming year we will see many back-to-back Training Rotations that we take on without skipping a beat. We wish you all the very best in the coming year and we couldn’t be more excited to see many of you as you attend the Vegas Reunion in September.

We invite you to keep up with our Regiment at the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment’s facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/11th-Armored-Cavalry-Regiment-Blackhorse/158715460811763?ref=tn_tnmn.

R P G

By: Frank Church
G Troop 1969-1970

Out of the shadows of the jungle a ball of fire speeds
A woosh, a whistle, a crackle, a black trail of smoke
It flies swiftly in a straight line toward its point
The impact comes in less than a heartbeat

An explosion of orange flame and red glowing light
Molten metal thrown in a fiery ring
Shards of steel hurled and scattered
Nothing is intact, everything is scorched

Clothing and flesh is shredded, only silence remains
Dust and smoke fill the air,
Fear and adrenaline fills the soul
Anguish fills the heart, tears flush the eyes

The shock of the moment rushes through the body
The shock of the memory lingers in the spirit

The Four Gold Horses (Together Again)

By Ollie Pickral with contributions from Sherri Bowman, Frank Church and Mike Osborne

[Don Bowman, Frank Church and Mike Osborne were all from Ohio and served together in G Troop on tracks G-24 and G-25 in 1969-70]

It was 1984 and I was in Washington, DC to celebrate the dedication of the Three Fighting Soldiers monument at the Vietnam Memorial. This was my first trip where I would be seeing troopers from my unit. The word was that the Blackhorse and many other Vietnam units would have suites at the Gramercy Hotel and here I am getting off the elevator somewhat in a daze. I got on at the ground floor and before the doors closed, three Medal of Honor recipients, all wearing their award and a uniformed Marine climbed aboard. It was early afternoon and they were feeling no pain. I was not only honored but knew I was at the right place.

Many Blackhorse troopers were there from both the Germany era and Vietnam era and I met Don Bowman from G Troop. He had driven down from Cleveland and we seemed to hit it off right away. We spoke of having reunions for us “Nam” guys as this gathering in DC was proving to be a very nice get-together. Seeing my buddies again initiated the need for having our own 11th Cav reunions. I didn’t see him again until we had our first reunion in the Dallas, Texas area in 1986.

One afternoon in late 1988, I was going through my latest issue of *Vietnam Magazine* and noticed a full page advertisement for gold pendants for the various combat units. The photo showed a pendant of the patch of the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One). I wondered if they would do one with a Blackhorse patch design..... I let the thought pass but did look for the ad in subsequent issues of the magazine and never saw it again. I thought that perhaps there wasn’t enough interest, too pricey and they may have gone out of business. I was correct.....but, not before Don Bowman had purchased four, each 14kt. gold



11th Cav pendants of Don Bowman, Frank Church, Mike Osborne and Ollie Pickral. “They were and still are a token of our friendship and a symbol of our pride in serving with the 11th Cav”

Blackhorse pendants. These pendants were cast from a copy of our Blackhorse patch. The size of each pendant is 1”x 3/4”.

At the fourth reunion in 1989, Don showed me his new piece of jewelry and then presented me with one. After getting home, I rushed out to get a chain for it. Don and Sherri held on to the other two pendants and after Don’s death in 2002 from Agent Orange, Sherri kept Don’s pendant then she gave the other two to Mike Osborne and Frank Church. The first year that all four pendants showed up at the reunion was in 2004 and then again

in 2012 and this past reunion.

As Frank stated, “They were and still are a token of our friendship and a symbol of our pride in serving with the 11th Cav”. All four of us wear our Blackhorse pendants every day and ponder what will become of them once we pass.....right now I think of Don and the friendship we had and my good buddies, “Oz” and Frank. This pendant is unique because it’s one of a kind, just like our friendship. All of this would not have happened had we not started having reunions. It’s a daily reminder of how special our friendship still is.

Errata

On page 9 of the fourth quarter 2013 issue we ran a list of the Blackhorse Gold Star Families present at the 2013 Reunion in Indianapolis. Through an error, the name of one fallen trooper was omitted from the list. That fallen trooper was William E. Pasch who fell on May 11, 1968, while serving with M Company, 3/11. This was a clerical error that we deeply regret and offer our sincere apology to the family and friends of Trooper Pasch.

On page 21 of the fourth quarter 2013 issue in the Show Your Pride section we made an error in the description of the picture of the race car. We said the car was driven by Trooper Bruce Overbee of C Troop, when in fact the car is driven by Bruce’s grandson Dylan Miller in tribute to his grandfather. Sorry for the mix up and we apologize to Bruce and his grandson.

Character

Blandin W. Karabinos, HHT 2/11 ACR 71-72

*Blandin W. Karabinos
HHT 2/11 ACR 71-72*

Of times it seems the only troopers we remember from Vietnam were the characters. Seldom do we remember last names or given names, but we can't forget nicknames or monikers. Those monikers were often stenciled across the back of a flak jacket or even on the side of a truck, so that most of our characters could be identified coming or going. When we were transferred around, or got home and told stories, we would often say "now there was a character."

Chaplain Walt Montondon was one of those characters.

Father Walt was a regimental chaplain in Vietnam. He proudly wore the Black Horse patch on his left shoulder from August 1970 to August 1971 and, for the next 21 years, on his right shoulder. His 23 years of service spanned two tours in Germany as well as numerous stateside posts. His last four years of active duty had him at Fort Myer. On all those tours a guitar was frequently slung over his back.

When he arrived at Fort Knox to take over my duties at the Armor School and 194th, the guitar was there. His return from Vietnam to Fort Knox happened while General Patton was Commandant of the Armor School, and the general, when asked by a group of visiting clergymen if he attended church, answered: "every goddam Sunday." Both of the Generals Patton had a history with their chaplains and believed their work important.

So that first Sunday at Fort Knox, with the Patton family in attendance, he sang the John Cash number "Sunday Morning Coming Down." He was a character.

General John Sylvester, a Troop leader with him in Nam, said he didn't even know that the original Tom T. Hall song was about a guy coming off a drug-high. He just liked the melody and rhythm.

He seldom carried the guitar with him in the field, as it was cumbersome jumping off Huey's or riding ACAVs. But when he was back in the rear, or at an Army Post, he really entertained and



Painting by Sharon Karabinos — Wife of Blackhorse Trooper – 2013.

inspired the troops. Chaplain Francis Simeone, told me, "he wasn't just a three cord wannabee, but had real talent." He had even played back-up for Janice Joplin before she was famous and before he entered the seminary. A character.

Our General Patton's daughter, Helen wrote in his Memorial Book: "I recently wrote a veteran because this vet built an altar out of a stump. I thought what a coincidence, as Father Walt used to sing about a man who was a sinner, a drunk, a loser; but went out and built an altar out of a stump." That was from the Tom T. Hall song, "Me and Jesus, that she remembers from his chapel services at Fort Hood.

But we have to pause here and note the difference between a character and one who has character. A character calls attention to one self, stands out, is singled apart, is at times self-centered. Someone with character is rather opposite, concerned for others, their well-being, their welfare. A man of character cannot think of himself first, but serves for the common good ... or more often for his friend, his fellow soldier, his Troop, his unit and his country. Father Walt was more than a character, he had character.

"Gracious, a wonderful counselor, good friend ... he helped me personally get through a rough time" states Don Snedeker, our Blackhorse historian.

At age 39, when he arrived in Vietnam, Father Walt was a hale fellow who commanded attention by merely stepping out of a jeep; even before speaking a single jaunty word. His face was firmly shaped and set with marks of confidence. His intensely dark eyes rested in the light shadows of a healthy complexion, and sparkled quickly to laughter. Openly and freely his personal warmth attracted men, women, children, and dogs that ached to be called his friend. There was a flintiness in his eyes that attested to unyielding tenacity and valorous bravery. His voice was well pitched, not a deep baritone or a rumbling bass, but like Crosby and Cole, pleasantly heard and easily understood. It went forward without sputtering ... the voice of a motivated man with energy and definitive ideals and focused objectives.

John Sylvester remembers him well not only while they served in Vietnam, but also as his staff chaplain in Germany. "It is important" he said "that the commander stay close to his peers and to his chaplain to stay well informed as to the welfare of the troops, their families and understand their responsibilities and needs. Walt always fulfilled his responsibilities as that hinge man ... but with more than enough flair."

Glenn Snodgrass, President of the Blackhorse Association remembers him as a gracious man, who served the association as their chaplain for years after he retired from active duty. And many still smile at his parting line, "Such is life without a wife." Monsignor Walter Montondon of the Diocese of Beaumont, passed away at Port Arthur, Texas in December of 2012. As a fellow trooper, his spirit roams on Fiddlers Green. His mortal remains however, are interred in Arlington National Cemetery, resting on Chaplain Hill.

On Veterans Day (2013), I was not surprised to find a Black Horse pin balanced on top of his military headstone. It was,

Ode to Da Pineapple

By: Steve Crabill, *M Company*, 68-69

We all had these nicknames in Viet Nam, back then it was sort of like being accepted into a club. "Uncle Adolph" a guy who admired Hitler, "Chief" a full blooded American Indian, "Speedy" Gonzalez after his last name and the cartoon character. My favorite though was from Hawaii, Mike Tavares: "Pineapple." Mike was a big guy with a huge smile, and laid back attitude. I used to love to listen to him talk about Hawaii, with pigeon English slipping through. Like me, he was a tank driver, and unlike me skinny little "Zooley," he made a real tight fit in the driver's compartment. I have two memories that stand out about Mike: Once during the monsoon, we moved into a fire support artillery base, and used it for our base of operations for about three or four weeks. Now the artillery guys, even though they had tracked vehicles, just stayed put...no going out on night patrols, no convoy escorts...they were quite content to stay where they were...slinging 155mm and 7 inch shells where ever someone need them, night time day time, why even on Sundays they would mess up the VC's church services twenty six miles away!

Their "camp site" was (as usual), in Bumf*** Egypt, muddy nasty, with no out house, and a big pit where they had been burying their garbage. On the plus side? All the vegetation had been destroyed for a 200 meter radius around their compound, so it was a totally open fire zone for the enemy to try to traverse, should he want to attack! The night we arrived, I backed my tank into a place around the circle that looked solid enough, but turned out to be a mushy trench filled with reeking garbage! God was my tank commander (the company XO) ticked! It took about three days for the stench to get worn off the tracks! No one wanted to follow us down the roads, slinging our garbage out behind us along with the big lumps of mud.

Speaking of mud: moving in and out of this base in the outback, our tanks created a moat of soupy reddish chocolate mud all the way around. It was three and sometimes four feet deep, no way you could walk through it, so it added to the security



of our little circle of armored wagons quite well! HOWEVER, we drivers had to move steadily but very slowly through this moat, leaving or coming back in.... one evening Pineapple's platoon was late getting back in, it was getting dark and everyone was worried about them, because first: you don't want to be in "VC land" after dark, and second: you darn sure don't want to be approaching an American compound in the dark either! So it was with great joy we heard 3rd platoon approaching at dusk, and everyone was standing by their tanks cheering, as they churned along through the moat, to their places on the circle. As Pineapple approached my position, I could tell he was going too fast, pushing a huge wave of liquid mud in front of him. As he turned and flashed that famous smile at me, his tank dipped down into a depression in the moat floor, and the wave washed up the front slope, and over Mike's CVC helmet clad head! He slowed but didn't stop, and all that you could see after the mud subsided, were those white teeth and his eyes behind the goggles! I almost messed in my pants, and had to hold onto the side of the track to keep from toppling over, since my

feet were mired in mud! Fortunately his girth kept the mud from cascading into the driver's compartment, but OMG that was funny. His reaction later? "Hey bruddah, guess I was going too fast for conditions... Yeah?" One of the main reasons I went to Hawaii for my R&R, I needed more of this "no worries brah" attitude, I longed for something peaceful, even if only for six days... it would serve me well surviving another seven months of insanity in Southeast Asia.

Years later, needing another shot of paradise, I moved my family of five from the DC suburbs to the Big Island. We lived there for almost 10 years. All three daughters still consider Hawaii their home, and two of them have moved back there for a while. Thanks Pineapple!

Another time, our tank unit got into a knock down drag out firefight, and it was so dragged out that we disengaged in the evening to refuel, and reload. We did this about a mile away, and spent all night repairing lubricating and getting ready to get back into the fight the next morning. No lights, no smoking, and the CO called in a B-52 strike on "Charles" so HE wouldn't get any sleep either! I wrote another story about this ordeal, but the ground actually vibrated up and down for the short time the bombers carpeted the enemy's base camp! They were still shooting at us the next morning, but the place was mostly blasted into the trees, and their main force had beat feet north, leaving 30 or so bandaged cadre to slow us up. When all was smoldering and quiet, the infantry started sniffing around the ruins for intel, and body counts. Pineapple walked up surveyed all the carnage, and with arms crossed over his chest, said: "Hey... tough little Buggah, that Charlie!" You had to love that guy; he gave a morale boost even during the depths of a crap day in Viet Nam!

Mike always said he was not going to stay in the army a day longer than he had to, so when I ran into him in Alexandria Virginia in the early 70s, I really got a shock! I was riding my ten speed from a community college toward a small bank, through a parking lot with lots of office

Continued on page 30



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. 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. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm.

Eugene R. Cheney, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971, medic) passed away on February 15, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beach Park, IL.

Dennis Conway, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on November 20, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Conway, SC.

Adolfo T. Flores, HHT 1/11 (1964-1967 and 1968-1969) passed away on December 20, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Taft, TX. He was laid to rest in Taft Memorial Park, Taft, TX.

Robert A. Hass, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 24, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Staten Island, NY. He was laid to rest in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.

James C. Hellman, HHT Regiment (1969) passed away on November 15, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kansas City, MO.

Duncan L. Hinton, HHT, 1/11 (1970) passed away on January 10, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mission Viejo, CA.

Mark D. Lownsbery, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 5, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pottersville, MI. He was laid to rest in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI. He was laid to rest in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI.

Gary L. McNeill, D Company, 1/11 (1969-1970), passed away on October 30, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mount Gilead, NC. He was laid to rest in Hamer Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Mount Gilead, NC

Larry A. Miller, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 12, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coos Bay, OR.

Terry M. Nelson, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 9, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hendersonville, NC.

Jimmie B. Quinn, HHT, 3/11 (1968) passed away on October 22, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pine Bluff, AR. He was laid to rest in Graceland Cemetery, Pine Bluff, AR. He was laid to rest in Graceland Cemetery, Pine Bluff, AR.

Gary L. Schroeder, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 31, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corona, CA.

Stephen M. State, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 7, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Minnetrista, MN. He was laid to rest in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

Gary R. Stenulson, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on September 23, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Portland, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.

Jerry Q. Sterner, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 16, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wyandotte, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.

Jerry L. Stertzbach, H Company, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on June 19, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, OH.

James E. Taylor, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 23, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wilson, NC.

Charles B. Tidwell, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 12, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Durham, NC. He was laid to rest in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens, Durham, NC.

Albert R. Westbrook, 551st Maintenance Company (1966-1967) passed away on October 2, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Benton, AR.

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@com-cast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

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



29th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION

SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2014

Rio All Suites

3700 West Flamingo Road
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Reservations must be made by August 11, 2014

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

Show Your Pride

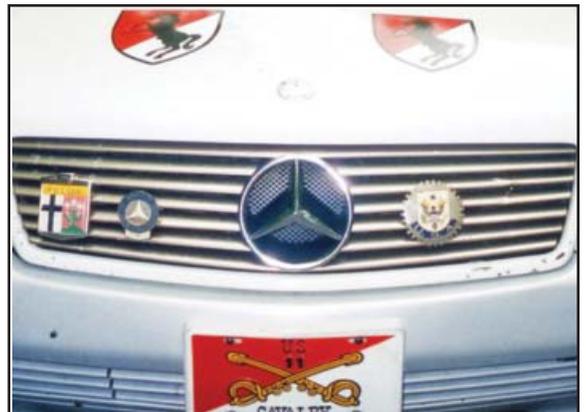


Flying proudly in front of the home of Brian G. O'Loughlin's (919th Engineers, 68-69), in Danvers, Massachusetts are the colors of the 11th ACR!

Allen Gonzales (D Company, 69-70) made this Blackhorse Fire Pit to use at his NDP in Renton, Washington so all who share his company will know where his loyalties lie. ➤



Robert Sandlin (HHT, 3/11, 69-70) shows his pride in the Blackhorse from Vietnam and Germany as he travels near and far from Campton, Kentucky. ➤

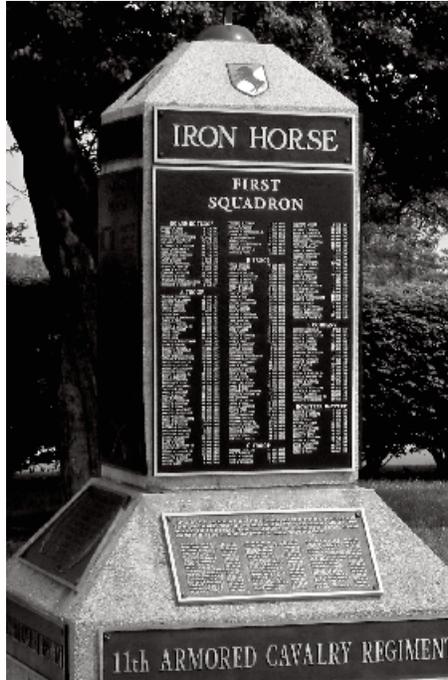


11th Cavalry Memorial Project

Planning for the relocation of the 11th Cavalry memorial from Fort Knox to the new National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning is moving forward. Our goal is to complete the move and construction of the new memorial site no later than early 2015. This gives us just over one year to complete the project.

The entire memorial complex will be moved, including the large Vietnam Memorial, the three memorials which are dedicated to the Philippine, World War II and Iraqi Freedom campaigns, plus the nearly 1,000 granite bricks which surround the memorial. All bricks will be catalogued prior to the move and will be placed in the new location in the same relative position.

The cost of the move will be shared between the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and the Blackhorse Association. To help offset the cost of this project both organization will be offering granite bricks.



Anyone can purchase a memorial brick. Memorial bricks are a lasting tribute of YOUR SERVICE to our regiment. The bricks are a special way in which we ALL can participate and show

our support for our fellow Blackhorse troopers whose names are listed on the memorials. The bricks measure 8 x 4 x 2 inches and can accommodate inscription of up to three lines of 15 characters per line. Many choose to have their name, unit, and years of service with the regiment inscribed on their brick. Some have chosen special inscriptions which are very touching: "IN OUR HEARTS," "MAY GOD BLESS", "TO OUR BROTHERS" and "HONOR, DUTY, CAVALRY" are just a few examples. The cost of the granite bricks is \$100. Bricks will be placed at the new memorial site at Fort Benning during the construction phase.

The opportunity to purchase a brick will end later this year. The bricks add a very special and personal touch to the memorial. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this project. We urge you to support this worthwhile project by ordering a brick.

Brick Order Form

Instructions: Print your message in the boxes below exactly as you want your brick to appear. Be sure to leave a blank box between words. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters, including blank boxes and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens). If ordering more than one brick, photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper.

LINE 1:

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LINE 2:

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LINE 3:

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NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed

Visa Master Card Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for Credit Card): _____

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

11th Armored Cavalry Memorial Relocation Donations

The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals who have purchased granite bricks in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial relocation project. The list includes orders received through January 15, 2014. Numbers in “parentheses” indicate more than one brick purchased.

- Patrick G. Andrews in memory of George Dale Arnold
- John J. Beas in memory of John P. Hill
- Stephen Chipman
- Robert E. Delve
- William Emerson
- William J. French In memory of Larry Miller
- Gary Grams (2) The track and crews of G34
- Robert L. Harris
- John Hawk in memory of Paul A. Laurent
- John Hawk in memory of Carlton C. Kluck
- Larry Haworth
- John M. Kapphahn
- Theodore E. Kujawa
- Randy Loeser
- Patty Lund in honor of Roland Martin
- Angel L. Marcano
- Loyd E. Mayberry
- David F. Miller
- John M. Navarro
- Roger M. O’Neal
- Richard Quinn in memory of Jack M. Keator
- Marla Reynolds in honor of Ron Krueger
- Marla Reynolds in honor of Scott Whitcomb
- Marla Reynolds in honor of Peter L. Walter
- Marla Reynolds in honor of Tom Patten
- Marla Reynolds in honor of Dale A. Leesmann
- Marla Reynolds in honor of Dave Seymour
- John Roche
- Virgil Schumann
- John M. Sell in memory of Joseph Sell
- Jerry W. Sowell
- Edward J. Tinney in honor of Adolfine Tinney
- Edward J. Tinney in honor of Marie V. Tinney
- Emily A. Vissers in memory of Christian Vissers
- Robert A. Wagg, Jr. in honor of A.C. Cotton
- Suzanne Wickam in memory of Jerry W. Wickam

2014 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By Pete Walter,
11th ACVVC Vice President

By now all dues-paid members of the 11th ACVVC should have received their personal copy of our 2014 calendar. If you have not received a calendar please contact Allen Hathaway (11thcav1966@comcast.net) or myself. This year’s calendar features twenty-two color photographs, thirteen submitted by members of the 11th ACVVC, and nine provided by the active duty Regiment. In addition it includes historical information on significant dates in the history of the United States and your Regiment. We have received many compliments on the 2014 calendar along with many generous donations and we thank you for your continued support!

This full-color calendar is the first of our 2014 Scholarship fundraising efforts. The calendar you received is yours to keep and use whether you donate or not. We do however ask for your support with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of 11th ACVVC members to begin or continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

You donated over \$60,000 to the 2013 calendar appeal and at our 28th annual reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana in September 2013, Scholarship Chairman Mike “Doc” Rafferty presented

President Allen Hathaway with a plaque signifying over \$1,000,000 in scholarships awarded by the members of the 11th ACVVC! Every member of this organization can be proud of our service with the legendary Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia; over forty years later we continue to serve and show our pride by our generous support of the children of our Blackhorse brothers.

One comment and request on the future of our calendar. It is imperative that you the members of the 11th ACVVC continue to search through your old photos and submit the best quality photos you can find to be considered for inclusion in future issues. We transitioned to the full-color version last year and to continue to publish a full-color calendar we need a large pool of high quality color photographs. The best photos for reproduction purposes are high quality 35mm prints or slides showing groups of Troopers performing every-day combat missions and chores along with images of the landscape, hamlets and indigenous Vietnamese. If you have the capability of electronically scanning photos at a resolution of 300 or 600 dpi, you can send them to me using e-mail. This is the easiest, cheapest, and quickest way to submit images. If you must send prints, please send copies and retain your original. Info describing the subject matter, identity of Troopers, date, location, etc., is appreciated. This calendar shows your service, your history...please help me make it a great production!

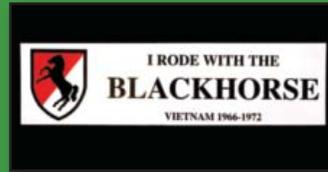
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



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



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



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



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$380.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$430.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



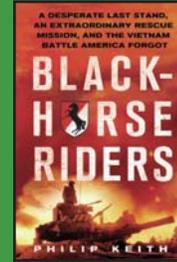
#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



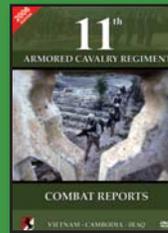
#31 Book: Blackhorse Riders \$25.00



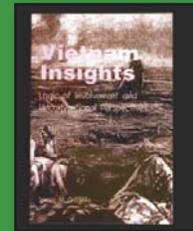
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



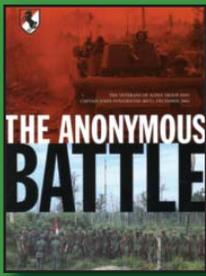
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



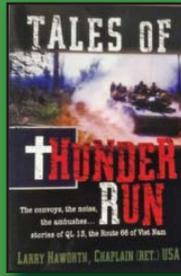
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



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



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



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



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Ash/Black \$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 Blue Dress Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$32.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





You Are Invited to Attend

■ Women's Group Reorganizing in Vegas

The 2014 meeting in Las Vegas is especially important as we begin our reorganization. That's why we need you, our troopers' family, and friends. We want to hear your wants and needs as we move forward.

Have you ever attended a Blackhorse Women's Group meeting? If not, the 11th ACVVC 2014 reunion in Las Vegas is the perfect time to check out the group. Or return to our meetings if it's been a while, because the Women's Group is reorganizing and looking for input.

So let me ask you. How well do you know the 11th ACVVC spouses and other family members who support a trooper? We are family who look forward to our trooper's annual reunions. It's a time when our troopers become reacquainted with one another. A time of happiness, a time to remember, share, laugh, and even cry. We, as well, look forward to seeing our Blackhorse family and friends, to visiting with spouses/significant others and other family members.

So let me ask you: Do you sit at the same table and visit with the same women and family members in the bunker and banquet each year? I know those friends

are near and dear, but what about those at the other tables. Have you ever wondered about them? So let me challenge you: Why not invite a friend or two or more from your bunker or banquet table, some of those great once-once-a-year friends, and come to the 2014 women's meeting in Las Vegas. There you can meet more wonderful women and family and share in the fun.

Yes, fun. We do more than fund raise and discuss a little annual business. We laugh, we share, and we do good works with the money raised as well. We also have interaction in which some share stories and experiences, while some simply listen. We already have an interesting and fun mixer in the works for our meeting in Las Vegas.

Another plan in the works is to have a guest speaker for our meeting at the 2015 Blackhorse ACVVC meeting at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The 2014 meeting in Las Vegas is especially important as we begin our reorganization. That's why we need you, our troopers' family, and friends. We want to hear your wants and needs as we move forward. If you are interested in participating with the newly organized board or serve on a committee contact me anytime. An election will be held at the meeting to formally seat a board. So you will have a say. Our interim volunteer board of directors at this time is as follows: co-coordinators, Kathy Tandberg and Jan Beamon; secretary, Sheryl Myers; treasurer, Marguerite Austin; board member, Cherry Platt; board member, Cathi O'Nan Bower. These women also hold various committee chair positions as do other volunteers.

We need and want ideas from you and your Blackhorse friends. We meet Saturday morning at the same time as the men have their annual meeting. All family and friends, men and women are welcome to attend. Please, come share with us what you want from the Women's Group meetings, and let's see what we can do together.

Editor's Note: Kathy can be reached at or at 701-873-2970. Also, be sure to check out the Blackhorse Women's webpage site at www.11thcavnam.com as well as the Facebook page under Blackhorse Women.

PINEAPPLE from page 23

buildings. After 3 years in the army, I figured I could fit in easier if I let my hair grow, and played hippie/closet GI. Who knows, I might even get lucky quicker? ANYWAY I spotted these two soldiers in uniform, (both SSGs) and as I rode by them, one flashed me that familiar smile! Yep, it was Sgt. E-6 Tavares, who looked at me kind of like I was a lowlife, and said: "That HAIR?!" I replied: "That UNIFORM?!" He explained that there weren't many jobs in Oahu, and he needed to support his family... so he just stayed in. We didn't talk much, because we both had to go somewhere, and it was a little awkward just staring at each other in the middle of a parking lot. I lost track of him for another thirty years.

I hoped I would run into him at the dedication of "The Wall" in DC/ 1981, and then again at the centennial reunion of the 11th in '01, but not to be. Finally I was sniffing around the 11th ACR web page, and found a comment from a M.Tavarez who wanted to hook up with old buddies from M Co! ALRIGHT!! Through a couple phone calls, I found out that Mike was retired from the army, divorced; living in Tennessee, and co owned a trucking company. He said that his dad lived on the west coast, and he had not been back to Hawaii for awhile. He did say he attended a reunion or two, but was embarrassed that he had to look at old pictures to remember some of the guys. I told him he wasn't alone... after all thirty or more years had

passed, but he still seemed upset about this. I probably remember too much myself, and after I asked him about a guy that basically died in our arms, he got sad and the conversation drifted off... he said he still had the guys Hawaiian shirt which he promised to deliver to his family in California, still in the box... never did find them. After that we e-mailed back and forth a bit, then he dropped off my radar again. I told my wife that maybe I remembered too much for him, and he quit talking. She didn't think so, and a few months later I had my answer: Old Pineapple had marched off to Fiddler's green... maybe someday I can buy one of those memorial bricks for him at Ft. Benning..."Here's to Da Pineapple: Rest in Peace Bruddah!"



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1st QTR 2014

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" Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	4.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price)	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Blackhorse Belt – One size fits all	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	50.00	_____	_____	_____
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	10.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00	_____	_____	_____
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)	380.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	430.00	_____	_____	_____
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"	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)	16.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00	_____	_____	_____
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"/> ash <input type="checkbox"/> black	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.	Blue dress or denim shirt (men's)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal					_____

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

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

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

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Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$14.55. 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**

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From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Happy New Year!!! To all of you BLACKHORSE Troopers out there!!!

Hello from your Quartermaster Store. Hope everyone had a Happy New Year, and it got started off ok. We closed out last year on a positive note, sales were good, and we had a great time at the past reunion in Indy.

Hope you are making plans for Las Vegas, I know we are. We are already looking forward to seeing everyone there. And as usual Jan and I are asking for volunteers way ahead of time, so please sign up to help us out if you have spare time.

Hey troopers, if you live somewhere close to the East Texas area Wayne Jacobits is planning another East Texas Round-up in Rusk, Texas. Again it will be at the Rusk State Railroad. Contact Wayne at (903) 588-2898. This is his home phone number, and

find out more information. I think he said the Train should be running so you can take a ride through beautiful East Texas. The round up will be the first Saturday in May that is May the 3rd. We are hoping to have a big group of troopers this year. Bring your appetite and a desert or two. So call Wayne, and he can give you more information. If you live in Houston or the Dallas or thereabouts come on over and spend the day and have a good time, we'll be looking for you.

Thank you all so much for your support to the Quartermaster Store. Thank you to Otis Carey at the website and Bill Gregory here at the Thunder Run.

Allons

Jerry

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS



Cavalry Hat
\$225.00
 (Item #9)

