



# Thunder Run

Vol. 31 – NO. 31

“Together Then – Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2016

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

### Yes, Ice Cream

*Blandin Karabinos,  
Chaplain 2/11, 71-72*

It was about as ludicrous as seeing John Wayne, walk into a western saloon in a movie set in Monument Valley and demanding: “Pour me a Pinot Grigio, Bar-keep.” Ice Cream delivered to three Troops in Vietnam, outdoors, nine degrees north of the equator and before global warming. But that did happen. Cold, refreshing ice cream was delivered to all three Troops (E, F and G) in early 1972. Forty-four years after we attended services together in Phu Loi in 1971, Wayne Glass reminded me of this incredible story on Christmas eve this past year.

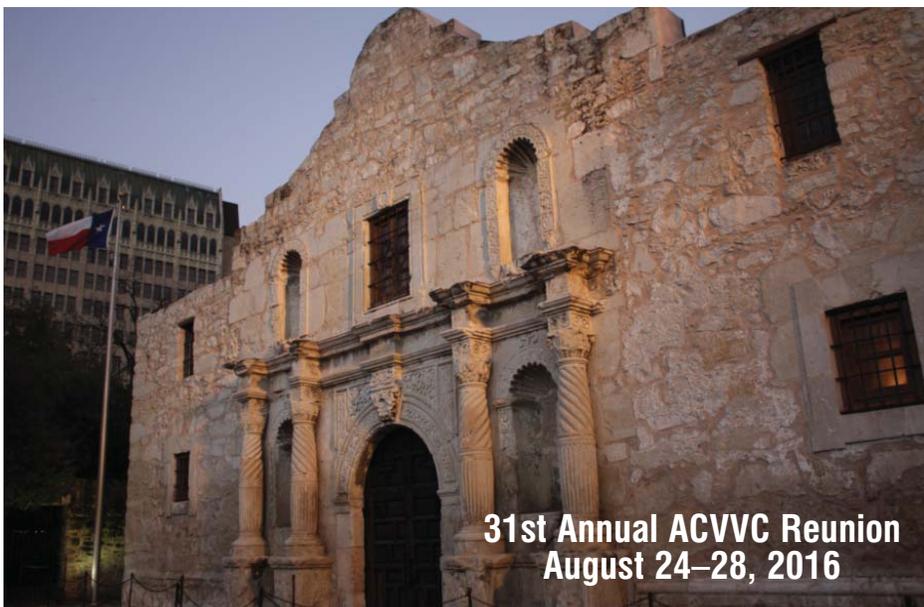
“At one point during our tour I was the S-4. One day our squadron commander, LTC Bill Stokes and I were talking at fire base Fiddlers’ Green ... and he mentioned that he thought the troops would really enjoy getting some ice cream.” He thought it would be a good treat for them

“...a suggestion was made to use hand-held fire extinguishers to spray against the Styrofoam coolers to keep the ice cream inside cold. I did a test and sure enough it worked!”

and asked me if I could arrange it. It was January, 1972. We had completed the relocation to a new fire base, and had been in contact with the enemy almost daily. The three Troops (E, F and G) were in or around the forward base on a rotational basis, and the number of dismounts and ambushes had increased significantly as had rocket attacks. Ice cream in the hot

Please turn to **ICE CREAM** on page 6

### Remember the Alamo!



**31st Annual ACVVC Reunion  
August 24–28, 2016**

### MEDIC! MEDIC!

*By: Steve Page,  
Director and Reunion Chairman*



#### Calling all Medic’s

The 2016 Reunion in San Antonio is dedicated to The 18 KIA Medic’s and all the other over 300 fine Medics who served in The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. This was your training ground. We would like to see as many of these brave men as possible in attendance. Many of us had interaction with The Medic’s through enemy fire, accidents or illness. They all did a great job. We owe them our Thanks.

**One of your own, Michael (Doc) Rafferty is working on a tour of The Army Medical Center Museum at Fort Sam.**

One of your own, Michael (Doc) Rafferty is working on a tour of The Army Medical Center Museum at Fort Sam. Please note that a picture ID is required for entrance on Fort Sam. More information on the tour will come later.

The Grand Hyatt Riverwalk is located just a few steps off The River Walk. This area abounds with food, beverage, entertainment and shops. The Hop-On-Hop-Off Tours are a great way to see the city. A trip on the River Barges and the Alamo are must see attractions. The Long Barracks Museum at The Alamo is worth the visit, as is the Mission San Jose, the San Antonio River, the Natural Bridge Caverns, the Mission Trail, and Morgan’s Wonderland. Also, be sure to see the Japanese Tea Garden,

Please turn to **MEDIC** on page 7

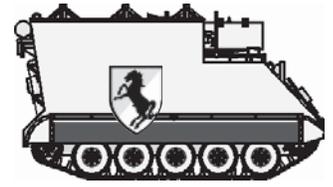




Allen Hathaway  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



This first issue of *Thunder Run* for 2016 is being mailed to the nearly 15,000 on our mailing list. *Thunder Run* is published four times each year, February, May, August and October. For those of you who have not yet joined as members, this issue will give you an opportunity to catch up on some of the activities of the past year as well as those planned for 2016. We encourage you to take a few minutes and read this magazine cover to cover then fill out and mail the membership application in this issue.

Last year, 2015, was once again a very busy year. On Memorial Day Blackhorse troopers, family and friends gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor our fallen with the annual wreath laying. We have gathered at the wall every year since 1986. We never forget our fallen. If you're in the D.C. area on Memorial Day, please join us.

In July, nineteen (19) scholarship recipients were announced for 2015. Thanks to the support and generosity of our members for our Scholarship Fundraising projects we were able to award scholarships totaling \$78,000. Eighteen (18) applicants received scholarships of \$4,000 with one receiving the \$6,000 Chuck Schmidt Leadership Award. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients.

In August we held our 30th annual reunion in Columbus, GA and Fort Benning. This was another outstanding reunion. Over 1,250 troopers and family members attended! One of the traditions at our reunions is to recognize veterans attending their first reunion. Eighty-eight (88) "first timers" were recognized at the Saturday evening banquet. Welcome home!

Also during the August reunion, we rededicated the 11th Cavalry Memorial at the National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning. This beautiful memorial is dedicated to our fallen comrades and all who have served the 11th Cavalry since it was formed in 1901.

On Veterans Day, nearly 40 troopers

The [reunion] hotel is filling up quickly. As of mid January, over 550 of the 600 rooms set aside for the reunion have been reserved. We strongly recommend making your hotel reservations soon!

gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for our annual wreath laying. We were also joined by a number of active duty troopers who served with the regiment.

We wrapped up 2015 with the mailing of our annual calendar as part of our Scholarship Fundraising project. Members are always eager to get their calendars. The calendar contains 12 photos of "every day life" in Vietnam. There are also many significant dates and historical notations about the regiment's service. We encourage those who received a calendar to help support the Scholarship Program by making a donation. Even a small donation is helpful. Donations also ensure that we can continue to print and mail the calendar to each of our members.

In 2015 we published four outstanding issues of *Thunder Run*. Each issue contained a variety of photos and interesting articles, many submitted by our members. We encourage everyone to continue to submit their stories and photos. Throughout the year we posted photos and other items of interest on our website and Facebook page. Please check our website and Facebook page for all the latest news and updates.

We have an exciting year ahead in 2016. We will continue our Memorial Day and Veterans Day traditional wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:

In May we will mail raffle tickets to all members as part of our Scholarship Fundraising effort. Once again this year, we will offer the chance to win one of 15 prizes ranging from eleven \$100 prizes to the top prize of \$500.

In August we will host the 31st annual reunion in San Antonio, TX, at The Grand Hyatt San Antonio. The hotel is located on the world famous River Walk. There's plenty to do in San Antonio and we're

looking forward to another great reunion.

We'll be marking the 2016 reunion with three important milestones:

- The 11th Cavalry was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in 1911-1912
- 50 years since the 11th Armored Cavalry arrived in Vietnam in September 1966
- To salute the many medics, doctors and nurses who served in Vietnam with the 11th ACR, 37th Medical Company and 7th Surgical Hospital. All medical personnel trained at Fort Sam Houston. We are encouraging each of the over 300 medical personnel on our mailing list to attend the 2016 reunion.

Of course, we strongly encourage everyone to attend this reunion. Reunions are a great place to meet old friends and to make new friends. We all share the very special bond of having served together in the 11th Cavalry. Reunions provide an opportunity to renew your pride in serving our country and our regiment.

The hotel is filling up quickly. As of mid January, over 550 of the 600 rooms set aside for the reunion have been reserved. We strongly recommend making your hotel reservations soon! The reunion registration form is printed in this issue and also available on our website. Please remember that all reunion **registrations are due by August 1, 2016.**

We also recommend contacting your old friends early and make arrangements to meet them at the reunion. Give them plenty of time to make their plans. Feel free to contact any officer or board member if you need help finding an old friend.

We will finish 2016 with the mailing of our annual calendar in December. We're always looking for good quality and interesting photos for our calendar. If you have a photo with an interesting subject and

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 7



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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. 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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# Fort Benning — 2015







Bill Gregory, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

Welcome back, we have had a little break to celebrate the holidays and now it is time to regroup and begin again. 2016 looks like it could well be an exciting year. Many things are in the offing for us, like the 31st Reunion in San Antonio, Texas coming up in August. This is the 50th anniversary year of the arrival of our regiment in Vietnam, an event many of you were a part of and that had an important effect on all our lives. It is a leap year, so we get an extra day at the end of February, I think someone said it is a presidential election year as well, maybe that will be interesting.

When I traveled to Vietnam, it was late November 1969. I left from Knoxville, Tennessee (high temperature in the 40's) routed through Chicago and to Travis Air Force Base, for the flight over to (as one of my Sergeants said), "The big live fire exercise over the great waters." As it happened, I did not really see the outside much, if at all, during the trip. I was inside airplanes or air terminals most of the time. If I saw the outside it was briefly, during refueling and at night. My body and mind were still set on winter time in East Tennessee, when I stepped off the Braniff (an airline that quit flying in 1982) Airways plane in

**This is the 50th anniversary year of the arrival of our regiment in Vietnam, an event many of you were a part of and that had an important effect on all our lives.**

Vietnam. As I walked out in the sun (it was mid-day) for the first time in 36 hours – the heat, humidity, and bright sun took my breath away. Talk about shock! Felt like I had entered a different world, and I had. I just did not know how different yet.

In this issue Chaplain Haworth shares his flights to Vietnam with us. We also have Robert Iasillo's story about a special welcome home as well Chaplain Karabinos's story about ice cream. Don Snedeker's "Blackhorse Hoofbeats" is a little different this quarter, he is giving us part one of a three-part series on "The Animals" that were our friends (mostly) while we were in Vietnam. We will run parts two and three in the second and third quarters of *Thunder Run*. We also have a lot of information about the reunion. Everything you need to know to get yourself to San Antonio is included. This looks like another big one. The hotel rooms have gone faster than I ever remember seeing

them fill up – better get yours now. They really are going fast – I know I said this last year, and some did not believe me. I won't go into where they wound up sleeping in Georgia. There are more things to do in San Antonio than the usual reunion site, really something for everyone – plan to take advantage of it!

This issue is going out to members, former members and those who have never been members, but served with us, if we have a valid address for them. Please read the "Are You a Member" article and check your membership status. Join us if you are not a member, membership in this organization is the least expensive of any veteran's organization I have seen. You will not be sorry you joined. Attend one reunion and you will want to be a member for life.

I am out of time and space again, so I must go until next quarter. May the Good Lord bless and keep you and all those you hold dear. Allons!

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## ICE CREAM from page 1

dry and extremely dusty plain just might be a pleasant surprise.

"Of course I agreed – not giving much thought about the 90+ degree temps and the distance the ice cream would have to travel to get to each of the Cav troop's dinner locations. Sure thing sir, I can make it happen. Then the logistics for such an operation sank in. I knew I had a LOG Bird, (Huey "slick") available ... so, transportation was no problem. I had to make sure we could get the ice cream. Once I worked that out, I now had to figure out the most difficult task, how to keep the ice cream cold so it wouldn't arrive as warm sweet soup."

Captain Glass was able to secure a large ice cream supply, locate Styrofoam containers to place the ice cream drums

in, but now had to figure on how to keep it cool so it would be palatable when it reached its destination?

"I can't remember if it was one of my NCO's, a Mess Sergeant or a helicopter pilot (experienced in moving beer in theater) ... but a suggestion was made to use hand-held fire extinguishers to spray against the Styrofoam coolers to keep the ice cream inside cold. I did a test and sure enough it worked!"

During much of February, ice cream was delivered to the troops in the field, maybe twice a week. The CO was happy and the troops receiving ice cream in the field loved it. On the 25th of February G Troop started the final stand down of the 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam and road marched to Phu Loi. The rest of the

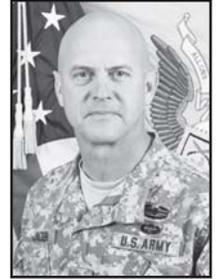
Squadron field elements began their phase-down in early March with F Troop being the last unit to leave the field and return to Phu Loi on the 14th of March. On 21 March, a stand down ceremony was held in Phu Loi, ending a five-and-a-half-year valiant presence in country where, TRAC Commander, MG Hollingsworth, said "... no U.S. unit had served in Vietnam with greater distinction."

Wayne Glass added one side note. "Fire extinguishers had to be re-filled at a much faster pace than normal and I remember taking them to the fire department at Phu Loi and the fireman saying, "you all must be having a lot of fires with your equipment in the field." I just muttered yep and kept on carrying fire extinguishers out of the fire department."



# From the 66th Colonel of the Regiment

COL Kevin L. Jacobi



COL Kevin L. Jacobi

**Soldiers from the 11th ACR Horse Detachment competed as a Team and Individuals in the 2015 National Cavalry Competition. As a team, the Horse Detachment received a first place blue ribbon in the Major Howze Mobility March and one of our riders was nationally recognized in the Bolte Cup.**

It seems like a great time to reflect on what the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment has accomplished since ending FY 2015 and transitioning into FY 2016. Throughout FY 2015, the 11th ACR OPFOR employed a full spectrum of combat capabilities to make the training environment more challenging for Rotational Training Units at NTC. Every operation executed set a different stage which became powerful venues for learning. Drawing on these lessons learned, we continued to advance our battlefield strategy by combining conventional and irregular war fighting tactics simultaneously. In FY 2016, we began using Unmanned Ariel Vehicles (UAVs). The UAVs enhanced operations by synchronizing ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) and FIST (Fire Support Team). All targets of interest during each rotational battle period can be monitored in real time at each echelon within the Regiment.

The Blackhorse improved occupational practices during FY 2015 in order to help preserve and protect its fleet of combat vehicles. Loading OSVs (Opposing Forces Surrogate Vehicles) and MBTs (Main Battle Tanks) on to HETS (Heavy Equipment Transporter Systems) significantly decreased the operating stress on our tracked vehicles. In FY 2016, we

secured a contract to hire specialized maintenance personnel to properly maintain our combat vehicles on site. Over the course of 10 yearly rotations, the Regiment will continue to reduce maintenance expenses in support of NTC operations.

Rather than working a contract to purchase new Desert Camouflage Uniforms (DCUs) to outfit OPFOR personnel, the 11th ACR obtained an Army stockpile of several thousand DSUs at no cost. Blackhorse Troopers are currently being issued four sets of DCUs instead of only two sets.

Marines from the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion of Camp LeJeune, N.C. deployed to NTC to join forces with the 11th ACR in support of Rotation 15-10. Approximately 550 Marines arrived to conduct reconnaissance and security operations for 11th ACR Soldiers contending rotational units. The joint training was a huge success and we will continue to schedule joint training during FY 2016.

Rotation 16-02 was a unique experi-

ence for the Regiment. OPFOR Soldiers battled against a light infantry battalion exercising dismounted tactics. This was the first rotation the Regiment was required to primarily employ dismounted operations as the main effort for each battle phase. Since Blackhorse Troopers are conditioned to perform at 100% regardless of mission unfamiliarity and difficulty, VICTORY was ours.

Soldiers from the 11th ACR Horse Detachment competed as a Team and Individuals in the 2015 National Cavalry Competition. As a team, the Horse Detachment received a first place blue ribbon in the Major Howze Mobility March and one of our riders was nationally recognized in the Bolte Cup.

This year we had twice as many Soldiers participate in the 19th Annual Regimental Long Walk. The Regimental Long Walk is a two-day, 38-mile foot march from Fort Irwin to the Veterans Home in Barstow to honor local veterans. Approximately 300 Blackhorse Troopers completed the event. After 19 years, the Regimental Long Walk has become a tradition that residents of the Veterans home would like to see continue in the years to come.

I'd like to conclude by saying how much I appreciate each member of the Blackhorse team and that I recognize we would not be where we are without the contributions made by each and every one of our Soldiers. We not only survived FY 2015, we thrived. We want FY 2016 to be even more successful for the Regiment. We have earned a great reputation at NTC and we want our reputation for excellence to become our legacy.

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## PRESIDENT from page 2

crisp, clear lines please take the time to contact our vice-president, Pete Walter.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. We have a tremendous organization that has grown from a handful of members 31 years ago to the thousands of members today.

Finally, always remember the men and women who serve our country every day in the military, law enforcement and public safety. Take a minute to thank them for their service to this great country of ours. Welcome home! It's good to be "together again".

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## MEDIC from page 1

and The Institute of Texan Cultures, the list goes on. To say the least there is something for everyone in San Antonio. Remember this return to San Antonio was requested by you, the members.

The City and hotel are both great venues and they look forward to hosting The 11th ACVVC. This is shaping up to be another great reunion. Hotel and Reunion information is available on our Web Site and on our Facebook page.

# 1966 to 2016

By Allen Hathaway  
President, 11th ACVVC

This year, 2016, marks 50 years since the 11th Armored Cavalry arrived in Vietnam. Over the next 5 ½ years the 11th ACR would develop a reputation as a legendary fighting force in Vietnam. The regiment won fourteen battle streamers, had three of its troopers awarded the Medal of Honor and would receive numerous unit and personal awards. It was during Vietnam that the Regiment was granted authorization to wear its distinctive "Blackhorse" unit patch.

In early 1966 the regiment was located at Fort Meade, MD. The strength of the 11th was at bare bones from having provided large numbers of men to other units. Only Regimental Headquarters, Air Troop, 1st and 3rd Squadrons were active. In early February the regiment was ordered to a full state of readiness to prepare for deployment to Southeast Asia. By mid February the regiment began receiving hundreds of new replacements to fill the empty ranks. Busloads of soldiers arrived each day. Over the next few months the soldiers trained at Fort Meade, Camp Pickett then finally at Camp A.P. Hill. New equipment was developed and tested including the modified M-113, dubbed the Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle or ACAV. The troopers quickly became familiar with all weapons, equipment and tactics.

In mid July, after months of intensive training, the regiment was ready. In early August nearly 300 troopers of the advanced party flew to Vietnam. Their mission was to prepare for the arrival of the main body. A large area north of Long Bien was cleared. This area was temporary until a permanent base camp was built. Hundreds of tents were erected. Field kitchens were set up. Sand bags were filled in preparation for the day the regiment would arrive.

On August 19 the first of three troop ships carrying the main body departed Oakland, CA. After a nearly three week voyage across the Pacific Ocean the regiment began arriving

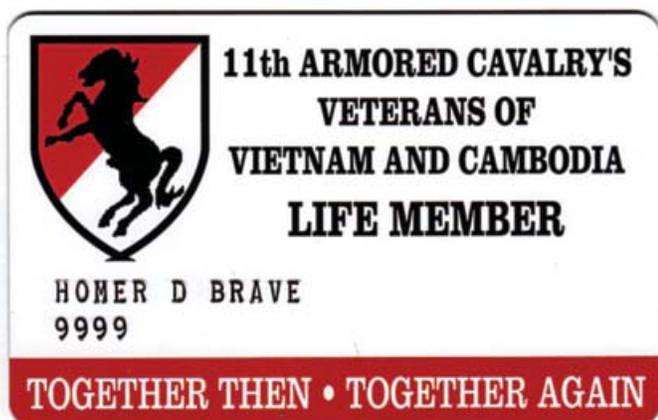
**The regiment won fourteen battle streamers, had three of its troopers awarded the Medal of Honor and would receive numerous unit and personal awards.**

offshore at Vung Tau, South Vietnam, on September 7. On September 23 the rear detachment would depart Oakland

Within days after the main body arrived and over the next six weeks 11 cargo ships and a small aircraft carrier arrived at the port in Saigon carrying the tracked and wheeled vehicles, helicopters and countless conex containers full of supplies. Ships were quickly unloaded in order to make room for the scores of ships waiting offshore to dock. Convoys of vehicles and equipment traveled nearly every day and night from the docks to the staging area. Troopers unpacked, cleaned and checked all equipment. Jungle fatigues, boots, mosquito nets and repellent were issued. Miles of barbed wire were strung. Pallets of sand bags were unloaded. Troopers with M-14's exchanged them for M-16's. Ammunition was distributed. The weekly Monday schedule of anti-malaria pills began. Troopers also began to adapt to the new sights, sounds and smells of Vietnam. There was constant dust, scorching temperatures, sweat, torrential downpours, nightly artillery fire and flares, the shrill of the alert sirens, and the smell of diesel exhaust on a hot day. The unmistakable sound of Hueys and Chinooks is forever engrained in the mind of anyone who served in Vietnam.

At 2200 hours on September 28 the first artillery round was fired by COL William Cobb and 3rd Squadron Howitzer Battery. The regiment began operation Hickory and Atlanta. The 11th Armored Cavalry had arrived in Vietnam and thus began another chapter in the history of this great regiment.

## REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS



Do you need to replace your LIFE membership card? Contact Allen Hathaway for a replacement. See page 3 for contact information.



**Membership is  
Our Strength**



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



# 31st Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

San Antonio, Texas ♦ ♦ August 24-28, 2016



## Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, August 24

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open  
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open  
 2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

### Thursday, August 25

6:00 am - 25th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)  
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open  
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open  
 2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

### Friday, August 26

10:00 am - 11:00 am Veterans Seminar (opened to all attendees)  
 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration Open  
 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open

2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open  
 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Silent Auction

### Saturday, August 27

8:30 am Raffle Drawing  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting  
 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  
 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Cocktail Hour  
 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet, Program, Presentations and "Blackhorse Salute"

### Sunday, August 28

10:00 pm - 12:00 am Dancing  
 All Day Farewells and Departures

## Registration

By: Bob Moreno  
 Director and Registration Chairman

Hello all. The holidays are over and everything is put away and now it is time for Barb, Raleigh and I to start working on the 2016 reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

Let's begin with the page on which the form is printed. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT cut this page down. Send in the whole page! When I receive your form, I record the information from it into the computer, I then place ALL forms into a notebook which is used as a reference at the reunion itself. After the reunion that notebook is put on file in the bookshelf that I have for all military paperwork for both myself and for Barb. So you see having the whole page makes it easier to fit into the book.

Unit - on the form you will see that it asks for unit. I want to remind you that you are only to list one unit that you were with. This is extremely important as this is also the unit that you will be seated with at the banquet on Saturday evening. So remember ONLY one unit is to be listed. This is also true for the time that you were with them.

Guests - you are more than welcome to bring anyone with you that you want. Just remember that they too need to pay the same registration fees as you do. They also pay the same amount for their meal. So if you are bringing a 5-year-old and they will be occupying a seat and eating at the ban-

quet, that they will pay the same amount as an adult. There are NO children's servings available.

Meals - while on the subject of guests and meals, remember that we have 3 choices available. They are Chicken, Beef and a Veggie plate. Each registered person must choose one (1). Do not list (for let's say 2 people) one beef, one chicken and two vegetables. All meals come with some type of vegetable.

It is very important that you decide what it is that you want to eat because once you list it, that is what we tell the cooks to prepare. We turn the meal count into the cooks on Wednesday before the banquet. Therefore, we will NOT be able to make any last minute changes, so if you order chicken and then decide you would rather have beef, you will be responsible for finding someone to trade with.

The registration table will not have any extra tickets available. Therefore, if you are not pre-registered and are just walking in and wanting the meal, then you will have to wait until about a half hour before the banquet to see what (if any) tickets are available due to no shows. Please understand that this may also mean that you will possibly not be able to sit with your unit.

Also on the subject of meals, it is important that you do not lose your meal ticket. We cannot replace them and you must have a

ticket in order to eat. A good place to keep them is in your name tag behind your name card. Once seated at the table, place them on the table so the wait staff can see them.

Wheelchairs or special needs seating - this does not mean that we can provide wheelchairs. It just means that we need to know this so that we can try to make arrangements for them in the banquet hall.

Please watch the cutoff date for mailing in your registration. It needs to be received by me no later than the 1st of August. If you can get it in prior to that, it would be awesome as we (myself and my family) will be leaving Wisconsin around the 3rd of August for a function in Pennsylvania prior to driving to Texas.

When you do mail in the form, please use one of those address labels that everyone receives in the mail. These make it so much easier to have the proper spelling. And we sure don't like having mistakes if they can be avoided.

Lastly, if you see anything incorrect on the web site when you check to see who else in your unit is attending or don't see your name listed, please call or email me. I am the one who has to have the correct information. My contact information can be found in the Thunder Run or on the web site. If you happen to get my answering machine, please be sure to leave a message.



# 31ST ANNUAL REUNION



**SAN ANTONIO, TX ♦ ♦ ♦ AUGUST 24-28, 2016**

Mark your calendars for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion in beautiful San Antonio, TX, on August 24-28, 2016, at the Grand Hyatt.

The hotel is located on the famous San Antonio River Walk. Take a casual boat ride along the River Walk and stop to enjoy a delicious meal at any one of the countless open air restaurants along the way. Visit the historic Alamo, located just blocks from the hotel. Several museums with displays of early Texas life are within a short walk of the hotel. There are many other nearby attractions including:

- The Riverwalk
- The Alamo (3 blocks)
- Open air restaurants
- Historic Market Square (2 miles)
- Rivercenter Mall (2 blocks)
- Buckhorn Saloon & Museum (3 blocks)
- The Texas Ranger Museum (3 blocks)

- Numerous city tours
- San Antonio Aquarium
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Fort Sam Houston Medical Museum (5 miles)

We'll be marking the 2016 reunion with three important occasions:

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in 1911-1912.
- 50 years since the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry arrived in Vietnam in September 1966.
- To salute the many medics, doctors and nurses who served with the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR, 37<sup>th</sup> Medical Company and 7<sup>th</sup> Surgical Hospital in Vietnam and who trained at Fort Sam Houston. We have over 300 medics on our mailing list!

A block of 550 rooms has been set aside for the reunion. Over 1/3 of the rooms (175) have already been booked. This is an excellent opportunity to make San Antonio your next vacation. Make your reservations early.

**Grand Hyatt**  
**600 E Market Street**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78205**  
**Hyatt Reservations: 1-888-421-1442**

Reservations may also be made through our website: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)

Room Rate: \$119.00 single/double/quad (room rate good 3 days prior and post reunion)

Self Parking: \$13.50 per day

Reservations must be made no later than **AUGUST 1, 2016**

More information on San Antonio can be found at: [www.visitsanantonio.com](http://www.visitsanantonio.com)



REGISTRATION FORM



31st Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
San Antonio, Texas



August 24-28, 2016

Registration Deadline: Monday, August 1, 2016

Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E Market St, San Antonio, TX 78205

Hyatt Reservations: 1-888-421-1442

Registration fee is \$80.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

Registration deadline: Monday, August 1, 2016. The registration fee will be an additional \$35.00 per person for registrations post marked after Monday, August 1, 2016.

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016.

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)

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

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

**ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)**

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

**Total Registration Fee** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## Flying Over

I remember a few things about my trips going over to Viet Nam. What about you? One thing I remember is that I flew out of Travis Air Force Base in Northern California. You probably did too, or maybe you flew out of McCord AFB in Washington (State). I didn't have to stay at Oakland Army Base for a week before flying out like some of you did so you could do paperwork and push-ups and such. I'll have to admit that I was a bit nervous about taking that trip the first time. Actually, I was very nervous. Later I went back for a second tour and was nervous then too. Of course there was a major difference between those trips. On my first trip I was nervous, even a bit scared, of the unknown. You know some psychology, so you know people get scared of unknown things that might happen in the future. My second trip was different because that time I'd already been there so I was scared of the known. Know what I mean?

Lest you think my first trip was miserable, don't. I wasn't miserable, just nervous. There was even some pleasure in the trip. "Excuse me," you say? "That's right," I reply. The pleasure part was this. I met an old friend at Travis waiting to go too. He, John, and I had been classmates in school years before and now we were both chaplains going to Viet Nam together. He was tall with long legs. I was medium with short legs. John wanted to sit in the front row to accommodate his long legs. Fine with me, I like lots of space even though I have short legs. So there we were in the very front row of this airliner which was TWA. That's Trans World Airlines, and it went out of business years ago. In those days it was flying strong – the airplane was strong and so was the economy of the airline. The Army had contracted with them to fly soldiers to Viet Nam. That was fine with us because airliners were much better to fly in than Air Force cargo planes – no offense if you are Air Force. TWA was more comfortable, the food was better, and the stewardesses were better looking than the tech sergeants on the cargo planes (who were male) anyway.

One pleasant benefit was that we had TWA's senior stewardesses. Stewardesses liked flying to Viet Nam – they cared about our troops going to war. One thing about this flight that was typical in those days was that the stewardesses were stewardesses – all women, no men. Now they've added men, so they are not stewardesses anymore, they're flight attendants – OK? Another thing is that all the soldiers on this flight were men. No women soldiers. Those were the days of the draft, and they didn't draft women. There were female soldiers in Viet Nam, but none on our flight that day. So the soldiers especially appreciated the stewardesses. After all, men always appreciate women and men going to war appreciate women even more. I'm pretty sure you'll agree.

Back to the front row, it was a distinct advantage sitting next to John with his long legs, partly because we got more attention there. Nothing personal to the other rows, but in front the stewardesses can see you better. You get to talk with them more easily than in the other rows. So sitting in front was a pleasant extra about flying to Viet Nam that day. Now, that's my story about flying over to Viet Nam. What's your story? Tell me when we get together at the reunion.

Another thing I remember about the flight will be short. We landed at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. I hear you saying "Whoa, Chaplain. This could be long because Hawaii is great and beautiful so you should have a lot to say." My reply is, "I agree soldier. I should. However, I actually didn't see much." We landed at three in the morning and got off the airplane so they could re-fuel. We went inside the terminal where we sat around for an hour. Then we got back on the plane, and took off again. I did see some lights on the ground, but that's all of Hawaii I got to see.

From Hawaii, we got as far as Okinawa before we had to re-fuel again. This time it was Kadena Air Force Base. Here's where I get fuzzy because I don't remember much about Okinawa, Kadena, or any-

thing else there. What I do remember is that it was a perfectly nice, sunny day when we re-boarded our flight. Then we sat (in the airplane, of course) on the tarmac where we watched B-52's taking off. Until now, I hadn't thought about it for years, but we had to wait a long, long time to take off because the B-52's had priority. That made sense because I think they were heading for Viet Nam to drop their bombs. I assumed that because it seemed like a good assumption at the time. Where else would they be going? After the B-52's flew away, since we were already in our TWA airliner sitting on the hot tarmac with the senior stewardesses, we finally took off in the same direction as the B-52's which was toward Viet Nam, South Viet Nam.

Well, that's about it, except for the landing. I've talked about that before but, in case you didn't hear, the landing was kind of memorable too. It's the only time I've ever been in a full size airliner when it went into a steep dive to the runway, which is what happened. I guess the crew, senior stewardesses included, didn't want to get shot at and I'm not the one to blame them. That was after seeing bomb craters all over the place when we arrived in South Viet Nam airspace. I'm sure you remember the same, having been on a similar flight yourself, whether or not you had TWA's senior stewardesses, I wouldn't know.

I'm out of time so I'll stop now except for one thing – "Why did we go to Viet Nam in the first place?" I hope you can answer that in a way to see meaning and purpose for why we went. I can. In a nutshell, our purpose for going was to serve. Maybe that sounds corny – OK. But it is a legitimate way of saying why we went there. We landed, got scared, sweated, fought, and stewed. We did it to serve – to serve our country, to serve the people there, to serve each other. Whether we served well or poorly had a lot of variety in how it happened. How much our serving was appreciated at home is another subject. But it is why we went. History has shown that it worked, not as well as it

could have, but it worked. So let me put in a Bible thought here because it's what I like to do and it helps both of us. Here's the Bible thought you can apply to yourself: "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men because you

know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free." (Ephesians 6: 7-8). The principle applied then and still applies now, even though our flying and re-fueling days are over.

That's it for today. I hope you'll dig into your memory and tell your own story about flying to Viet Nam - unless you went by boat, then tell your boat trip story.

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

## 2016 Silent Auction

By: Greg Mason,  
Secretary, 11th ACVVC

The 2015 Silent Auction raised \$7,735 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 170 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

Last year we are made a few changes to improve the experience and process. We plan again to have the auction in a separate room. We also plan to make it easier to get into the room so we do not have the long lines we had in 2015.

The auction process continues to be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 31th Annual Reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item or service of value is welcome, Cav related or not.

We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Thursday from 2pm to 6pm, and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

3. You can ship items to Ed Brown, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form

and include it with the item.

4. The auction will be from 7pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.

5. Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.

6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bidder at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

7. We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at *gregmason@aol.com* or 813-754-2980. I will respond to your email as I receive them. If you do not get a response, it is probably because AOL has a habit of putting stuff in their "junk" folder so feel free to follow-up with a phone call.

Our reason for requiring items to be picked up and paid for the evening of the auction is because of the difficulties we have had in prior years getting all the items delivered and paid for. We appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio and thanks in advance to all the donors!

### 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

#### Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

**Please print clearly.**

Description of item donated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Value of Item Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Ed Brown Jr., 1235 Creek Ranch, San Antonio, TX 78253-4899



## Planning for San Antonio

### Women's Plans Underway

We are nearly halfway to meeting once again, this time in San Antonio, Texas, where we'll gather for the 31st annual reunion of the 11th ACVVC! The past months since Georgia have been busy. This includes discussion by phone and email by the Women's Board as we research ideas for San Antonio. It seems everyone who attended our Saturday morning meeting in Georgia enjoyed it so much that we are working on making this next reunion another big hit!

First of all, you all enjoyed our speaker last year so we've been pulling ideas for a possible speaker for our annual women's meeting set for 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Saturday, August 27. Also, as requested by a majority at our meeting last year, we are searching for an economically feasible outing of some kind for the Women's Group. There's so much going on that Friday that we may not be able to fit a tour in. However, if we aren't able to plan a tour, it doesn't mean that we can't still plan something fun. One idea is to host another luncheon. We're thinking a fun, San Antonio style luncheon could be great fun and that's what we're working on! Now we realize that not everyone may care for the Hispanic flair of cuisine, but we're making plans for more than one option including one with a milder taste as well, so we can please everyone.

There will be fun options to go along with luncheon, so just hold onto your hats, or should I say sombreros! We'll have more details ready for you in time for the next *Thunder Run*, but I won't spill all the beans yet!

### 2016 Projects

#### Prayer Shawls:

Our group has two top projects that we support each year. The first is our Prayer Shawl Project, in which handmade prayer shawls are mailed throughout the year to families of our Troopers who pass on to Fiddler Green. Our Prayer Shawl Chairperson Cherry Platt keeps on top of the increasing need and add her tender loving touch to the prayer shawls that are croqueted by Cherry and our many wonderful volunteers from throughout the organization. Thank you volunteers who help create the beautiful prayer shawls. Also, thank you to those who have donated to the postage fund when we "pass the hat" for it at our meetings each year. These funds are used strictly to mail the prayer shawls. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering your talents with this worthy project, or simply want to learn more about it, you can contact Cherry by email at [for more information](#).

#### Wreaths Across America:

Each year in December, the Blackhorse Women's Group sends funds for the annual Wreaths Across America project that places wreaths at the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Wreaths Across America also places wreaths at each of the nation's national cemeteries as well as Arlington. This year we donated funds for 21 wreaths. You may wonder why 21? This number is rep-

resentative of the 21 Blackhorse Troopers who were Killed in Action in Vietnam and are buried at Arlington. While we can't furnish wreaths for each of the 730 Blackhorse Troopers Killed in Action in Vietnam who have been laid to rest across our nation, we feel the 21 wreaths are a small token representing each of those men.

Organization President Allen Hathaway and his wife, Pam, a Women's Group member, volunteer for this worthy project each December, helping place wreaths at Arlington.

We thank Pam who sent the following information about their endeavors at the event held December 12:

Allen and I were at Arlington National Cemetery at 8:30 a.m., in time to watch the procession of tractor trailers and escort vehicles enter the cemetery to deliver the wreaths. It is an amazing thing to watch.

We didn't see just how many trucks actually made the trip from Maine this year as most of them were already positioned inside the cemetery to distribute the wreaths, but we did hear that the organizers estimated that 240,815 wreaths were laid at Arlington today. There were an estimated 70,800 volunteers laying wreaths. I can't tell you how impressive it is to see that many people honoring our fallen heroes. We were honored to be a part of such a special occasion.

Special thanks to the Hathaways, who were able to place wreaths at the graves of 11th ACR soldiers whose names are listed below:

- John Garnett, JR, F Troop, 2/11 ACR
- Richard S. Cunningham, H Company, 2/11 ACR
- Don R. Sykes, E Troop, 2/11 ACR
- James R. Gentile, B Troop, 1/11 ACR (WW II, Korea, Vietnam)
- David J. Murray, 11th ACR, IRAQ

In addition to the 21 Vietnam KIA troopers who died in action in Vietnam, the following Blackhorse are also laid to rest at Arlington:

- 1 KIA in Iraq
- 104 other Blackhorse troopers who passed away after serving in Vietnam
- 42 others, who served with the 11th Cavalry between 1901 and 1966, including the first commander Francis Moore.

Prayers go out to each and every family who has lost a Trooper then and more recently. God bless.

Did you know? If you are in the area of Arlington February 2 there will be a placing of a wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in remembrance of the 115th Anniversary of the 11th US Cavalry.

Kathy can be reached by email at [kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com) or by phone at 701-873-2970. Also, be sure to check out the Blackhorse Women's webpage site by going to [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com) and locating Blackhorse Women's News tab in the white box near the bottom. Find and "Like" us on Facebook by searching Blackhorse (11th ACVVC) Women.



# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 375 scholarships totaling \$1,202,000 to children of our members and KIAs since its inception in 1996. In 2015, we were able to award 19 scholarships totaling \$78,000 to children of our members. Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving applicants 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. 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. You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com). 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.

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 is selected to receive a special Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award in honor of former 11th ACVVC 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, selects the recipient of this award from the list of scholarship winners.

## A scholarship applicant must fall into one of the following categories:

1. A child, stepchild, or adopted child of an 11th Armored Cavalry Trooper who was Killed In Action (KIA), Died of wounds (DOW), or died as a result of the Trooper's service in Vietnam or Cambodia.
2. A child, stepchild, or adopted child of a current member of the 11th ACVVC in good standing.
3. A child, stepchild, or adopted child of an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment veteran who served in Vietnam or Cambodia but is not a member of the 11th ACVVC may apply after their father joins/rejoins the 11th ACVVC.

There is no age limit for applicants. Grandchildren of members are not currently eligible. The criterion to include Grandchildren as eligible for scholarships is reviewed annually by your 11th ACVVC board of directors.

Please inform your eligible children that applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2015. E mail me at [platoonmedic36@gmail.com](mailto:platoonmedic36@gmail.com) if you have questions. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at 575-915-2921.

## 2015 11th ACVVC Raffle Winners

- **1st Place Winner:** \$500- .....Malcolm Alestra
- **2nd Place Winner:** \$400 .....Albert Mihalka
- **3rd Place Winner:** \$300 .....Jose Juarez
- **4th Place Winner:** \$200 .....Al Noetzel
- **5th – 15th Place Winners:** 100 each:

Jack Morrison  
 Randall Long  
 Terry Davis  
 Donald Breed  
 Walter Flick  
 Edmond Sieminski  
 Jim Embrey  
 Stephen Morgan  
 Robin McCarthy  
 Charles Childers  
 William Hancock

Costs: ..... \$7,984.18

Proceeds: ..... \$44,663.00

## Newsletter Deadlines

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](mailto:Battle46A@epbfi.com)



# 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11ACVVC) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION [revised January 1, 2016]

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

➔ **Important:** A person who has been awarded an 11<sup>th</sup> 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

➔ [4] **Applicant's SPONSOR 11th Cav Veteran:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

[5] **Sponsor's 11th Cav Unit** in Vietnam: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC 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:** (10<sup>th</sup> Grade to Present)

Name	City, State	Dates From / To

Name	City, State	Dates From / To

➔ [10] You **must** attach a copy of your **grade transcripts** from your **last two years of education** in High School or College.

➔ [11] On **one** typed sheet of paper with **your NAME & EMAIL** and your **11ACVVC Sponsor/Father's** name at top of the page:

1. State the **Field of Study** That You Plan to Enter and **Why**.
2. Tell Us **Why** You Would Be a **Worthy** Recipient of the 11ACVVC Scholarship.
3. **Note:** Concentrate on **why you** should be awarded an 11ACVVC Scholarship. Focus on **your** qualifications and not your father's military experience. If applicable, also describe **your** participation in veterans' affairs or events, if any.

I, the undersigned, give my permission for a copy of my High School / College Transcript to be submitted with this Scholarship Application.

I understand that the selection process may involve a committee composed of individuals that are in the community at large.

[13] \_\_\_\_\_  
↑ Signature of **Applicant** Printed Name Date

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

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

**Michael "Doc" Rafferty**  
 11ACVVC Scholarship Chairman  
 5837 Habanero Drive ● Las Cruces, NM 88012  
 Email: [platoonmedic36@gmail.com](mailto:platoonmedic36@gmail.com) ● Phone 915-792-2804 or 575-915-2921

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

*Application Deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>*

# 2016 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By Pete Walter,  
Vice President, 11th ACVVC

By now all dues-paid members of the 11th ACVVC should have received their personal copy of our 2016 calendar. If you have not received a calendar, please contact Allen Hathaway [11thcav1966@comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net) or me [basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net). The 2016 calendar features fourteen color photographs, all submitted by members of the 11th ACVVC. 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 2016 calendar along with many generous donations and we thank you for your continued support!

This full-color calendar is the first of our 2016 Scholarship fundraising efforts. The calendar you received is yours to keep and enjoy 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 \$66,000 to the 2015 calendar appeal; we are close to awarding a total of \$1,200,000 in scholarships to the children of members of the 11th ACVVC! Every member of this organization can be proud of their service with the legendary Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia; almost fifty years later we continue to serve and show our pride by our generous support of the children of our Blackhorse brothers.

A comment and request on the future of our calendar is in order. 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 three years ago and to continue to publish a full-color calendar we need a large pool of high quality color photographs. The best photos for repro-

duction 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 as attachments to an e-mail. This is the easiest, cheapest, safest and quickest way to submit images. Additionally, I will have a high-resolution flatbed scanner at our 31st Annual Reunion (August 24-28) this summer in San Antonio, Texas. If you bring your photos I will scan them and return them to you in minutes. If you choose to mail your images, please send copies and retain your original. Information describing the subject matter, identity of Troopers, date, location, etc., is appreciated. This calendar shows your service, your history... please help me continue to make it a great production that we can all be proud of! Thank you. " ALLONS!"

## 11th ACVVC Calendar



# 2016

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

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

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

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

From December of 2004 to January 22, 2006, the Blackhorse deployed to Iraq earning the Regiment's most recent battle streamer for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq in January 2006, and has once again assumed the challenging task of training America's Army in the desert environment of Fort Irwin, California. Although the primary mission is preparing units for deployment to the war in Iraq, our Regiment is simultaneously training intensely to remain the best Regiment in the United States Army! During the recent deployment fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom III," the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.



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

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Portagallo, Tom  
Posak, Nicholas  
Poundstone, John  
Powell, Elmer  
Quillici, Leland  
Quinn, Richard  
Rafferty, Michael  
Ralston, William  
Ramnytz, Samuel  
Raper, Ronald  
Rasberry, Jesse  
Raseman, Kim  
Ray, Kenneth  
Reardon, Maurie  
Rebeck, William  
Reed, Ronald  
Reeh, Dwight  
Reeves, Edward  
Reeves, James  
Refshauge, Charles  
Rego, Ronald  
Rehberg, R.K.  
Reichgeld, Blake  
Reiterman, John  
Relyea, Mark  
Retzlaff, Jerry  
Reyes, Jose  
Reynolds, Johnnie  
Reynolds, Phillip  
Ribota, Richard  
Rich, C.H.  
Richardson, John  
Richardson, Lawrence  
Richmond, Randy  
Riggsby, Oakley  
Riley, Dwight  
Ringstad, Michael  
Ritter, Jim  
Robbins, Donald  
Roberta, James  
Roberts, Don  
Roberts, Larry  
Robertson, Melvin  
Rogers, James  
Rogers, Sammie  
Rolfson, Ronald  
Roman, Irving  
Rose, Charles  
Roshier, Galen  
Rossi, Frank  
Rubas, Ronald  
Ruffner, John  
Rumbley, Ron  
Russell, Dean  
Russell, John  
Russell, Michael  
Russell, Richard  
Russell, Ronald  
Ryburn, Glenn  
Saadi, William  
Sanford, Clinton  
Sarabia, Monico  
Sargent, Larry  
Sartor, Donald  
Sawvell, Gary

Schaefer, Michael  
Schamberger, William  
Scherz, Gerald  
Schleppegrell, William  
Schneeman, Frederick  
Schneider, David  
Schneiter, Robert  
Schoephoerster, Harry  
Schofield, David  
Searcy, Rufus  
Seeger, Patrick  
Seese, Harry  
Selch, William  
Self, Gary  
Selvitella, Dennis  
Severeid, Ralph  
Sexton, James  
Seymour, David  
Sharpe, Terry  
Shelburne, John  
Sheldon, Dennis  
Shepler, Mike  
Sherman, Garry  
Shomin, Richard  
Shuke, Lloyd  
Sieminski, Edmund  
Sikora, Thomas  
Silva, M.  
Silvernail, Marion  
Silverthorn, Robert  
Simpson, Charles  
Sinclair, Robert  
Sisco, Claud  
Skiffington, John  
Slayton, Alvin  
Slinker, William  
Slone, Kermit  
Smith, Billie  
Smith, Dennis  
Smith, Doyle  
Smith, George  
Smith, James  
Smith, Leonard  
Smith, Leslie  
Smith, Paul  
Smith, Paul  
Smith, Robert  
Smith, Russell  
Smith, Sherman  
Smith, Terry  
Smith, Thomas  
Smith, Willard  
Smith, William  
Solid, David  
Sorich, John  
Spahr, Thomas  
Spaulding, David  
Spear, Reggie  
Spriggs, Steven  
Sprueil, James  
St.Clair, Harold  
Stafford, Edmund  
Stamey, Charles  
Stampley, James  
Staples, Thad  
Steed-Jones, Eleanor  
Stevens, Billy  
Stewart, Harry  
Story, M.F.  
Stottsberry, Kenneth  
Stumbo, Gregory  
Sucato, Richard  
Suhre, William

Sullivan, David  
Sullivan, Michael  
Sullivan, Roy  
Summers, Carl  
Sunderman, Kenneth  
Sutton, Gordon  
Swanson, George  
Swanson, James  
Sweningson, Bruce  
Taglianetti, Philip  
Tamashiro, Alan  
Tanberg, Lauren  
Tankovich, James  
Tarr, Raymond  
Tate, Ben  
Taylor, Robert  
Templeton, Vicki  
Tenik, Joseph  
Terlecky, Slofko  
Terry, Gary  
Terry, Hardy  
Tetreault, Glenn  
Thompson, David  
Thompson, Louis  
Thomson, Richard

Thor, Thomas  
Tiedeman, David  
Timmerman, Gary  
Titschinger, Mark  
Toddy, Dale  
Tonks, Glenn  
Toole, Larry  
Torgerson, Edward  
Torno, Charles  
Torsok, Michael  
Totaro, Lawrence  
Towe, Danny  
Trabanco, Andrew  
Tranas, Donald  
Traw, Gary  
Traylor, Douglas  
Trevino, Reynaldo  
Turnbull, Ronald  
Turner, Courtney  
Turner, Edward  
Uebelher, Francis  
Upton, Richard  
Valdez, Anthony  
Van Matre, Jerry  
Vande Vyver, Michael

Vanderbogart, Kirk  
Vassallo, Patrick  
Vaughan, Travis  
Vega, Ramon  
Verbeke, Russell  
Vest, Robert  
Violet, J.W.  
Virusky, Edmund  
Waddell, Darrell  
Waggoner, Hugh  
Wagner, Dewitt  
Wagner, Larry  
Wagner, Paul  
Wait, James  
Waldron, Hilmon  
Walker, Ronnie  
Walkner, Thomas  
Wallace, James  
Wallace, Terrence  
Wallen, Harry  
Walsh, Courtney  
Walton, Carroll  
Walton, Ron  
Ward, Bobby  
Ward, Bruce

Ward, George  
Ware, Woody  
Waters, Larry  
Wathen, Bob  
Watkins, Charles  
Watters, David  
Watts, George  
Waugh, Steven  
Weachter, Dennis  
Webb, Gary  
Webb, Kenneth  
Weis, Jeffrey  
Welch, Dennis  
Weller, William  
Wells, John  
Welton, Floyd  
Weltzien, James  
Wentz, Darrel  
Werner, James  
Werner, Robert  
Werner, Warren  
Wertz, Edward  
West, George  
Westerberg, Victor  
Westerman, James

Westphal, John  
Weynand, Mary  
Whitener, Ernest  
Whorton, Charles  
Wierema, Ronald  
Wiese, Timothy  
Wilcox, John  
Williams, Dana  
Williams, Ernesto  
Williams, Lyndal  
Williams, Terry  
Wilson, Arnold  
Wilson, Henry  
Wilson, John  
Wilson, Wilson  
Wing, Shayne  
Wisdom, Scott  
Wise, William  
Witt, Marvin  
Wolas, Theodore  
Wolfenden, William  
Wollschlaeger, Kenneth  
Woodson, Roddy  
Worley, Dennis  
Worley, Richard

Worthey, Kenneth  
Wright, Curtis  
Wright, Ralph  
Wright, Stephen  
Wurster, Stephen  
Yadon, John  
Yeaman, Kenneth  
Yeider, Tim  
Yell, Horace  
Yirsa, Harold  
Yochum, Thomas  
Yoder, Kenneth  
Yost, JoAnne  
Young, Paul  
Yunker, Susan  
Zaler, Douglas  
Zaremba, John  
Zellmer, Stevens  
Ziller, Robert  
Zimmerman, Winn

## A Special Welcome Home

By: Robert Iasillo  
HHT, 3/11, 69 - 70

A few years ago I was stopped at a traffic light. I was driving a black Jeep Grand Cherokee with Purple Heart plates. I also had an 11th US Cavalry plate bracket and the "I Rode With the Blackhorse" bumper sticker on the back window. I happened to look in my rearview mirror at the car behind me and saw that it was being driven by a Vietnamese man who was my age or maybe a little older. As I looked he

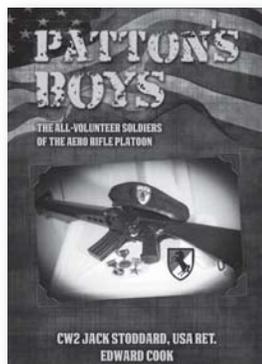
threw a sharp salute and held it for the length of the red light. I nodded several times in acknowledgement, then the light changed and we went on our separate ways. Too bad we didn't pull into the same place and talk. It would have been interesting to hear his story.

Initially, I was surprised by this occurrence and have thought of it often since then. It didn't fit the Hollywood narrative of how the Vietnamese felt about us. I was very moved by it. It meant more to me than all the "Welcome Homes" I never got and all the ones that came 40 years too late.



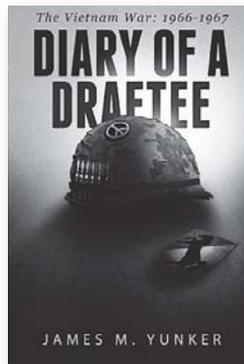
## New Books

Two new books have been offered by the Quartermaster. Both books are written by troopers who served with the 11th ACR in Vietnam. Both are excellent books and a must read for all Blackhorse troopers. Either or both books may be ordered through the Quartermaster Catalog, along with many other fine items.



**Patton's Boys** by Jack C. Stoddard (Aero Rifle Platoon, Air Cavalry Troop 1968-1970) and Edward Cook (ARP, ACT, 1969-1970) is a compilation of nearly 40 short stories of real life experiences by members of the Air Cavalry Troop, pilots, crew chiefs, door gunners and those brave soldiers of the all-volunteer Aero Rifle Platoon. There are many hair raising and sometimes humorous stories of the men whose mission was to "find the

Bastards" so the regiment could "pile on". 253 pages, soft cover, nearly 90 photos.



**Diary of A Draftee** by James M. Yunker (3/11 ACR 1966-1967). This book follows the experiences of a young soldier through basic training, advanced individual training then finally assignment to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in early 1966 as they were preparing to deploy to Vietnam. Most of the book is devoted to the authors year long tour in Vietnam beginning in August 1966 and finishing with his homecoming in August 1967. 304 pages,

soft cover, photos.

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By: Don Snedeker  
Historian, 11th ACVVC

## The Animals - Part I

*...these voracious red ants would build nests in trees. When you shook their perch they dropped down on you. They ate armored cavalymen for lunch.*

*'Also, the insects here are very big, as a matter of fact the mosquitoes are so big here, I have to wait for them to get off the runway before I take off.'*

In the cold of a December morning, the Troopers of Second Squadron boarded a train from their garrison at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. They arrived in New York City and marched to the pier, where they boarded the U.S. Army Transport Crook. Destination – the Far East and war. One of the Troopers who boarded the ship, however, was not on the first sergeant's morning report. 'Yank', a "handsome black spaniel", was given to the Troopers of Hotel Troop by the citizens of the local community. Yank and his fellow Cavalymen were off to war on a far-away Asian battlefield.

When Third Squadron's Captain James Harbord was informed that he and his troop were heading off to the Philippines, he told his boss: "Now that I am to go, I want to take with me as a mascot of my company the meanest, orneriest, ugliest, fightingest bull pup that I can get." And he did.

Half a continent away, the Troopers of First Squadron were surrounded by mascots, ranging from a possum to a goat. But the most beloved mascots on post at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, were the Puerto Rican dogs. One reporter described them as not very different from American dogs except there "are smaller and peculiar little heads." They were brought to the 'Show Me' state by veterans who had joined the raw recruits as the Regiment was preparing for combat. The same reporter noted that mascots "are common with soldiers."

The year? 1901.

During its several trips to and across the border in response to Mexican bandits between 1911 and 1916, Eleventh Cavalry Troopers adopted a number of hairless breeds of local dogs, which, one reporter described as "the ugliest things that walk on four legs." Looks aside, the reporter noted that "the regulars have a hard time making them understand as all the hairless ones bark only in Mexican."

A decade later, Sergeant Beans, "a small short-haired black dog with white spots" joined the Regiment at its new garrison in Monterey, California. Sergeant Beans was smuggled onto the Presidio in a barracks bag after making the trip aboard an Army transport ship all the way from Georgia. This mascot of the Machine Gun Troop stayed on the first sergeant's roster until his death in 1935. The entire troop stood formation for his funeral. Sergeant Beans Avenue on the Presidio today is a testament to how much Blackhorse Troopers care for their mascots.

Ashby Wayne Tyree was a good ol' country boy from southwest Virginia. His first time outside the state was when he went to basic training at Ft. Knox. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that he saw his service in the Army as a big adventure. In fact, he told people that his time aboard the USNS Sultan as one of Bravo Troop's Boat People was "about the best thing I had the whole time I was in [the Army]." Maybe one of the reasons he found the trip so enjoyable was one of his cruising companions. You see, Ashby Tyree smuggled his dog 'Blackie' on board in his duffle bag.

Four years later, SSG Tyree was still with the 3rd Platoon of Bravo Troop – and Blackie was still riding next to him. Ashby had traded in his ACAV for a Sheridan by this time, and it was aboard that vehicle that he 'won' his second Purple Heart. Seven RPGs hit his track that day, wounding the entire crew. But it was an AK-47 round that did the most damage, entering his forehead and coming out behind his left ear. A second round went through SSG Tyree's right leg. He was quickly medevaced, ending up in Walter Reed a few days later.

After recovering from surgery, the hospital administrators asked Ashby if he had gotten all his possessions from Vietnam. Yes, he said, he had gotten his money and personal possessions. When asked if he had lost anything, he replied: "Yes, my dog." The Walter Reed staff contacted the 3rd Platoon ambush survivors, and a few weeks later Ashby Wayne Tyree and Blackie were reunited.

Maybe it's like Chaplain Larry Haworth says: "Pets were a great way for a GI to find comfort and express affection when he was away from the familiarities and comfort of home and friends." Or maybe it's because young men need something to help them get away from the brutal reality of war, something that has nothing to do with death and destruction. Or maybe American GIs just have a soft spot in their hearts for little children, dogs, monkeys, goats, lizards, snakes, chickens, donkeys, and other animals. Second HOW's 1LT Bill McDermott certainly had a soft spot for his mongrel dog Zulu. In fact, he was planning on taking him back to the World with him – until Zulu was killed during a mortar attack. Bill recalled four decades later: "That was sort of hard."

Whatever the reason, no story about any American unit that served in Vietnam would be complete without telling about the animals that accompanied the soldiers to war – as well as those encountered during routine, and not so routine, operations. And the 11th ACR had its share.

The collection of mascots began even before the Blackhorse Troopers stepped off the boats at Vung Tau in 1966. The Regimental Aviation Company (forerunner to Air Cav Troop) had a flying mascot named 'Crash' while still at Ft. Meade. Crash, a Bavarian-born German Shepherd with the permanent rank of K-9, flew with the H-13 pilots, helped the crew chiefs with their maintenance (and morale), and patrolled the company area at night – with special emphasis on protecting the mess hall. An HHT, Regiment mascot, appropriately named 'Combat', a black-and-white Mutt First Class, was born aboard the USNS Sultan while still at sea en route to Vietnam. Combat was smug-

gled into country without the customs officials ever knowing. By early 1968, Combat had been joined by a monkey named 'Colonel' and was fully integrated into HHT's scout section. The two of them appeared in newspapers back in The World in the arms of SP4 John Farnsworth, Jr., a regimental scout.

Shortly after coming ashore, SP4 Jeff Williams, a scout with the regimental scout section, rescued a dog named Stanley from someone's dinner bowl when he purchased her for 100 Piaster at the market in Xuan Loc in late 1966 (Con Cho and rice was a special treat for many Vietnamese). Stanley, riding as a scout-observer in one of the section's jeeps, participated in all the biggies, from Junction City to Emporia. On ambush patrol, she always took the point; at night, when it was her guard shift, she was sure to howl whenever trouble approached. But after suffering "severe shell shock" (according to the Vet who examined her) when the jeep she was riding in was the target of an enemy claymore, Stanley's nervous system never recovered. She began to prefer the bunker outside the scout section's tent to a jeep, especially at night when the mortars and howitzers began their symphony of outgoing music. And it was to that bunker that Stanley retired to have her seven-puppy litter in late 1967. Jeff and Stanley's war ended about the same time, as she also received a port call. His was to Travis AFB; hers was to join Jeff Williams (SP4, retired) at his home in Sacramento.

PFC Tom Brophy hadn't been ashore more than a couple of hours when he encountered one of Vietnam's more unfriendly critters. "When I opened that cot in Long Binh [Staging Area] I thought there was a dried up brown leaf in it and went to pick it up when Keith Brighton jumped over his cot pushed me aside, swatted the 'leaf' off the cot and stepped on it. It was a scorpion. I sat on the cot and said it's going to be a long year." India Trooper Larry Burwick recalls pulling guard duty at the Long Binh Staging Area. "Guard duty was something else. I'd sit in a bunker out on the perimeter and watch baboons feed and play and, occasionally, see snakes (vipers) in the bamboo thickets."

SP4 Art Thomas was another Boat Person who could not resist the companionship of a four-legged friend. Art paid two dollars to a Vietnamese civilian for his pal, C-Ration. The dog got his name for his love of C-rations. "He loves to eat C-rations. One day he got a C-ration can stuck on his nose", Art remembers. When it came time for Art to return to the World, he couldn't bear parting with C-Ration, so he paid the \$150 price to have him shipped back home – almost a full month's pay (\$177.90) for an E-4 in 1967.

Jack Burns, among others, remembers a black burro as one of the early residents of Blackhorse Base Camp. The burro belonged to the 595th Engineer Company (Light Equipment), a short-duration occupant at the new camp at Long Giao. The burro, PVT Jack A.S. Le, Jr., (Le, as in Light Equipment) had been recruited by the company while it was training at Ft. Riley and brought with them from the States. He was on the company's morning report, complete with serial number: MB (for Mexican Burro) 5-595-595 (595 for the unit's designation).

The Troopers of Kilo Troop added a new twist to the concept of the Kit Carson Scout program. These former VC and NVA soldiers who rallied to the South Vietnamese Government, agreed to work with US forces in helping to find their former comrades. Kilo Troop's four-legged Kit Carson scout rallied from a VC base camp during Operation

Manhattan. The black and white mutt soon found her new home atop Kilo 6's ACAV. At the start of Operation Emporia, the Troopers wanted to leave her at Blackhorse since she was pregnant, but the former VC proved her mettle by taking her 'spot' on the ACAV. She delivered six puppies – all different colors – during Phase II of the operation. As the 17th PID reported: "Mother, babies, and the men of K Troop are all reported doing well."

The 409th RRU was always known to be unique amongst the units of the Blackhorse Regiment. Therefore, it is no surprise that they had a unique mascot – not a dog or a monkey but a goat. Homer the Goat joined the Longknives in late 1966. He was a gift from a grateful South Vietnamese SF camp commander in appreciation for some work done by SSG John Clark. Homer was quickly integrated into the detachment. Soon, however, the Troopers became concerned for the goat's well being. Noting that he seemed a "bit edgy" (one Trooper recalls that he was "quite horny" and humping everything in sight, including the First Sergeant's leg – while in formation), they decided that what he needed was a wife. The reception menu following Homer's nuptials featured his favorite delicacy – cigarette butts. PFC John Stanley recalls that Homer "could guzzle about four beers standing on his hind legs... He was quite the goat... We took good care of him."

For many, the platoon dog that rode along on the ACAV, Sheridan, tank, howitzer, VTR, or CP track was as much a part of the crew as any of the two-legged Troopers on board. The 3rd Platoon of India Troop had two mascots – a little dog named 'Tanker' and an "indescrutable mutt" named 'Uncle Ho'. You might think that the mutt was named after Ho Chi Minh, but you'd be wrong. In fact, his name was an amalgamation of Hood Ornament. It seems that Uncle Ho would ride on the front of one of the platoon ACAVs. In a contact, Uncle Ho would "stand underneath that .50 caliber machine gun and just give the enemy fits."

Another case in point was the day in June 1969 when Delta 33 – the oldest M-48 in the company – hit a mine outside of Xuan Loc. The driver, SP4 Roger Gentry, was thrown from the driver's hatch. The rest of the crew tried to shut the tank down, but according to the TC (SGT Larry Hall) "everything was jammed tight – it wouldn't steer. So we couldn't get it out of gear and it wouldn't shut off." The mine blast had jammed the steering mechanism and disabled the fuel shut off valve. SGT Hall, his gunner (SP4 Edward Slay), and his loader (SP4 John Klinepeter) jumped off the still moving tank.

The only crewmember left aboard was a little yellow dog, alternately named 'The Dog' or 'Xin Loi' (pronounced zin loy, 'so sorry' or 'too bad' in Vietnamese), sitting atop the gunshield with his "nose into the wind". Bengal 3, MAJ Don Snow, who had landed his helicopter to medevac Roger Gentry, remembers: "He [the dog] smiled at me and seemed proud to be the sole rider on the tank."

The tank, although damaged (the mine left an eight-foot hole in the ground), was still chugging along at 25 miles per hour in a huge circle. Texan Joe Strickland, the Delta Company First Sergeant, and PFC Flentrus 'Mo Duck' Murdock made rodeo-style leaps from an ACAV onto D-33. Confirming that the mine explosion had jammed the controls in the driver's compartment, Mo Duck Murdock opened the engine cover on the tank's back deck and disconnected the fuel line.

Delta 6 had visions of the tank digging itself further and further into

Please turn to **HOOFBEATS** on page 27

# Meet Our 2015 Scholarship Winners

This issue contains brief statements from 8 of our 2015 Scholarship Winners. Ten winners were featured in the 4th Quarter, 2015 issue.

## Jenna W. Johnson



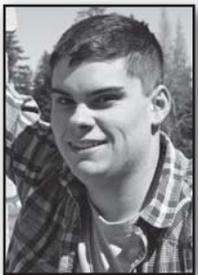
Thank you for selecting me to be a recipient of an 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship award. This scholarship brings me one step closer to achieving my goal of becoming an educator. These funds will help me afford the fees and materials necessary to complete my bachelor's degree in English so that I can pursue a master's degree in teaching. I hope to serve not only as an educator to my students but as a mentor as well. I want to create a classroom that will encourage honesty, integrity, respect, and the drive to succeed. I would like to thank my father and all those who have served or are currently serving our country for giving me such a generous opportunity.

Jenna Johnson is the daughter of Gerald Johnson, (HHT 2/11, 71-72). Dedicated to Steven Clinton Heffner, (G Troop), KIA April 26, 1968.

## Emma May Jones

Emma May Jones is the daughter of Daniel Jones (541 MID, 68-69). Dedicated to Robert Louis Bolan, (HHT, 2/11), KIA July 24, 1970.

## Sean Patrick Kelley



This scholarship means so much to me and I can't thank you enough for the award. I am going to Ferris State University to study Survey Engineering. Many of the scholarships that I have received have been because of my academic achievements in high school but it has been the scholarships that I have received through my father's service in the Vietnam War that has made such a huge difference. He received two purple hearts and the Silver Star along with many other honors and sacrifices during his tour in Vietnam. He is a disabled veteran because of his time served and I am so proud to be his son. I know his sacrifices were huge but he has told me that it was all worth it if it puts me through school and gives me a better life. He is my hero and I hope that my achievements not only in high school but also in college will make him proud of me. I don't know how I could ever repay him or my mom. This scholarship I accept in honor of my father, Patrick Ellis Kelly who served in the Vietnam War and to all of those who serve this country to secure our freedom.

Sean Patrick Kelley is the son of Patrick Ellis Kelley (C Troop, 1969). Dedicated to Johnny Carl Jones, HHT 3/11, KIA November 27, 1969.

## Donald J. Kulpa



First, I would like to thank my father, Norman Kulpa. His support and belief in my abilities gave me the confidence to return to school. I am pursuing a Masters in Library and Information Science, and my future plans involve work addressing inequalities of access to information and services that affect many Americans, including our Veterans. I thank every member of the 11th Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, for this scholarship, and Glen R. Gordon, to whom it was dedicated. I appreciate your support and hope to rise to the example you've set.

Donald J. Kulpa, is the son of Norman Kulpa (B Troop, 1970). Dedicated to Glen Raymond Gordon, I Troop, KIA March 3, 1969.

## Jennifer Motz



This is the most amazing news, I cannot thank you enough. This scholarship will be a huge help, as a working parent paying for my own school with no educational assistance from my employer it has definitely been a struggle. I really cannot tell you how excited I am and how thankful I am for this scholarship. You are truly making a huge difference in my life!

Jennifer Motz, is the daughter of Norman Kulpa, (B Troop, 1970). Dedicated to Donald Robert Robison, M Company, KIA March 12, 1968.

## Katie E. Nybo



I am busy at school but I take the time to reflect on my life, my family, who are my primary support, and things in general. Getting here was not guaranteed and I want you to know how thankful I am for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship that you so generously bestowed on me. I am writing this letter on Veterans Day. I wished my father

a happy one and of course thought of Samuel Lee Patterson, in whose name I received

the scholarship, and all of you. Again, thank you so much. I am pursuing a career which will allow me to give back and to help others and I will carry you all with me. I have been blessed. I can't help thinking how history would have changed had my Dad given "all" as Samuel Patterson and so many did.

Katie E. Nybo is the daughter of Marc Nybo (HHT 2/11, 69-70). Dedicated to Samuel Lee Patterson, (A Troop), KIA May 13, 1969.

### Cody Brett Reynolds

Cody Brett Reynolds is the son of Johnnie Reynolds (How Battery, 3/11, 1969). Dedicated to Freddie Joe Cigar (H Company) KIA May 5, 1968.

### Autumn Wickstrom



Please do not think my delay in thanking you for this generous scholarship indicates a lack of appreciation, quite the opposite – I wanted to share my gratitude once I selected a major. I spent my first semester at East Carolina University in North Carolina exploring various majors and have officially declared Construction Management as my major. Funny,

how something so obvious took time to realize that my passion for architecture, interior design and being outdoors was the beginning of a fabulous career. I would like to thank the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for the scholarship that has been awarded to me in memory David Lee Nord who was killed in Action on June 23, 1969. I am proud that my dad served in Vietnam which has given me the inspiration to help others. In conjunction with my education, I have joined Habitat for Humanity to obtain practical experience for my major. I thank all military members for their service and I will make the 11th ACVVC very proud to have awarded me this wonderful scholarship.

Autumn Wickstrom is the daughter of Eric Wickstrom (How Battery, 2/11 70-71). Dedicated to David Lee Nord, (I Troop) KIA June 23, 1969.

### Ashleigh Rodriguez Williams



I would like to sincerely thank the members of the 11th Cavalry who have served our great country. I recognize the great sacrifices you have endured, which have afforded me with the opportunity to be bestowed with the honor of being a recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. I am honored and beyond grateful to receive this scholarship in memory of Ricky

Fay Cossey. I will honor Mr. Cossey's memory by using the scholarship to complete my education at Regis University, College of Business and Economics where I will graduate with a degree in business and management. It is my goal to honor Mr. Cossey, my father and all of the other great men and women who have served our country by utilizing my education to impact the greater good of our country through ethical leadership in business. Thank you again, for this prestigious honor. I am forever grateful.

Ashleigh Rodriguez Williams is the daughter of Juan Rodriguez (HHT, 2/11, 71-72). Dedicated to Ricky Fay Cossey, (How Battery 1/11) KIA December 18, 1968.

## Reunion Assistance Fund

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members of our troopers killed in action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A hotel room for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
2. Transportation funds for fuel for auto, airfare tickets or bus or train.
3. Registration fee.
4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations by our members and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is a separate account on the 11th ACVVC quarterly financial report.

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

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

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation. In addition, the Trooper may be required to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA. Requests must be submitted no later than to July 16, 2016.

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

## Show Your Pride



Mike Kathman (L Troop, 66-67) is showing his Blackhorse pride in Myrtle Beach, SC driving this Christmas gift from his wife Brenda (a Vietnam era Marine).



# Fiddler's Green

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

- Roger L. Ashley**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 13, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Phillips, WI.
- Robert M. Beck**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 29, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bullard, TX.
- Stanley L. Bills**, E Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on June 9, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Poulsbo, WA.
- Tomas Birriel-Carmona**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on November 4, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morgan City, LA. He was laid to rest in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.
- James L. Bush**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968) passed away on October 27, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Montello, WI. He was laid to rest in Montello Cemetery, Martello, WI.
- Danny D. Caswell**, Howitzer Battery (1967-1968) passed away on January 8, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Stroudsburg, PA. He was laid to rest in Sand Hill Cemetery, Bushkill, PA.
- Andrew M. Daresta**, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) passed away on January 12, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cleveland, TN.
- Carl Fernstrom**, HHT REGT (1967-1968) passed away on May 21, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spanish Fort, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Spanish Fort, AL.
- Walter R. Frick**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 7, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Buckley, WA. He was laid to rest in Buckley Cemetery, Buckley, WA.
- James Geving**, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on November 2, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Minneapolis, MN. He was laid to rest in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, South Minneapolis, MN.
- Freddie T. Gurley**, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 13, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Barstow, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.
- David L. Harper, Jr.**, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1968) passed away on September 3, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Radcliff, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.
- Paul W. Hoffman**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 19, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cortland, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.
- Steven A. Johnson**, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1967) passed away on November 7, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Alvarado, TX.
- Dennis L. Joyce**, K Troop, 3/11 (1966) passed away on October 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lancaster, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.
- Johnny H. Lee**, A Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on December 2, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pensacola, FL. He was laid to rest in Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, FL.
- Richard S. Lester**, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1967-1968) passed away on October 15, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sellersville, PA. He was laid to rest in Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA.
- James S. Louthan**, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 8, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rock Hill, SC. He was laid to rest in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Thompson Valley, VA.
- Archie T. Martin**, D Company, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elizabethtown, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.
- Leonard M. McCarthy, Jr.**, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 20, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brownsville, TX.
- Harold R. McCready**, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 30, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Leesburg, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.
- Stanley Meeks**, A Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on December 7, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Madison, WV. He was laid to rest in Donel Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery, Dunbar, WV.
- William C. Mize**, HHT REGT (1968-1969) passed away on November 11, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Macon, MS. He was laid to rest in Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery, Macon, MS.
- Ralph N. Paul, III**, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 2, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Emmaus, PA.
- Fred C. Platt, III**, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 1, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dallas, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.
- Ralph J. Powell**, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on October 26, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA.
- Freddie A. Robinson**, B Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on October 24, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winchester, VA. He was laid to rest in Mt Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, VA.
- Filiberto Rodriguez, Sr.**, HHT, 1/11 (1969) passed away on November 1, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Topeka, KS. He was laid to rest in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Topeka, KS.
- Jackie G. Russell**, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 21, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Troy, NC. He was laid to rest in Southside Cemetery, Troy, NC.

**Larry L. Samsel**, D Company, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on October 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morristown, TN. He was laid to rest in Hamblen Memory Gardens & Mausoleum, Morristown, TN.

**George A. Simpson**, K Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 28, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richland, WA.

**Michael C. Simpson**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 10, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairfax, VA.

**Robert C. Slattery**, E Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on March 20, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spanaway, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

**Raymond W. Suminski**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1969) passed away on June 13, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Port Richey, FL.

**Edgar H. Tutwiler**, D Company, 1/11 (1969) passed away on April 8, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kingman, AZ.

**John A. Ueland**, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on November 22, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in De Soto, KS. He was laid to rest in Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, KS.

## HOOFBEATS from page 19

the ground until, 200 miles later, it ran out of diesel. But, on its third lap, the tank went nose first into a small stream and sputtered to a halt, bringing to an end the inaugural 200-mile race on the Xuan Loc oval.

As it turned out, Roger Gentry was only a little shaken up and was soon in the club drinking beer with the rest of the D-33 crew. For his part, Xin Loi had resumed his appointed guard post in front of the Delta Company orderly room. As MAJ Snow walked past, he “smiled at me again as I passed. And I’d swear I saw him wink.”

Another tanker, Fox Troop’s SP5 Frances Hinnegan, remembers that lizards and spiders were favored as “turret pets” amongst those who rode in the M-48s. When you rode through the jungle, they “would stay busy eating the foe [insects] that fell into the vehicle.” Most crewmembers didn’t ask – and didn’t want to know – where the lizards and spiders “spent their free time.” He also remembers the mosquito that was “issued to me at Xuan Loc, that followed me my entire tour, two inches above and to the rear of my left ear. The SOB was on the Medevac with me to Valley Forge, PA.”

Part II will appear in the 2nd Quarter 2016 issue of *Thunder Run*

## 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.**

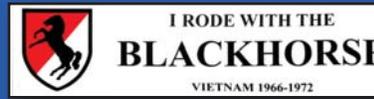
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#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 Gray \$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 \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$20.00



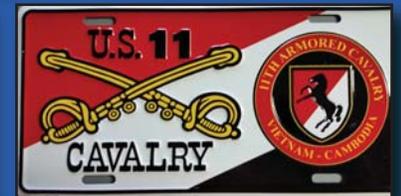
#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



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



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$6.00



#12 30th Reunion Challenge Coin \$15.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



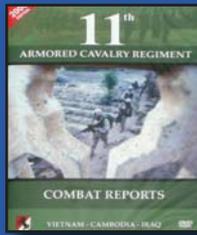
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



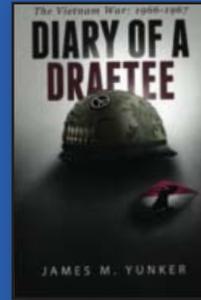
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



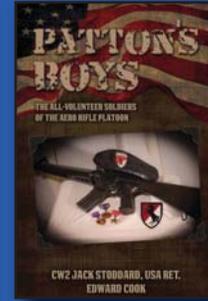
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



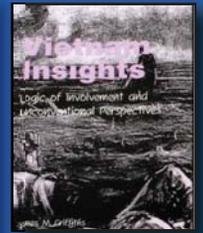
#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00



#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



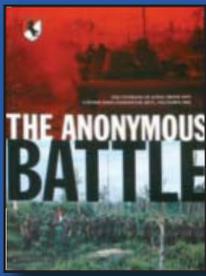
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$45.00



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



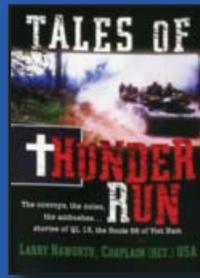
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



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



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



#38 Poplin Hats \$15.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Dark Gray & Sand \$18.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Gray \$32.00



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



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



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



## From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all Blackhorse Troopers. Thanks to our troopers we had another great year with your Quartermaster store. Sales were exceptionally good for Christmas, many orders came in early and often. Again Thank you all so much.

Just a reminder to one and all don't forget to make your reservations for San Antonio at the Grand Hyatt its going to be another *great* reunion and rooms are filling up fast...once again we are asking for volunteers to help us in the quartermaster store.

Please guys when you are filling out your order form for the quartermaster purchases be sure you put your address and a phone number, or an e-mail in case we have a question about your order.

We are once again having The East Texas Round-up in Rusk, Texas. We will be having a fish fry on Friday night April 29th then Saturday will be our big get-together on the

30th of April. Anyone that lives in the surrounding area we would love for up to come join us. On Saturday there will be sandwiches, chips, desserts, tea, coffee, and water with lots of fun and stories. For anyone who would like to join us on Friday we have a hotel in Rusk, the Weston, small but nice. Looking forward to seeing many of you in April. If you have any questions about April 29th and 30th call 903-780-5621. We'll be looking for you.

I would like to take time to give a BIG Thank You to all who have been such a help to us out this past year, often misplaced but not forgotten Otis Carey web site manager and Bill Gregory editor of our Thunder Run. Also to the many, many volunteers who help us out all the time. See you all in San Antonio in August!

*Allons, Jerry*



## Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>7th ARMY POSTAL UNIT</b>		<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>			
Castanien, Donald C	68-69	Spurgeon, Jerry W	68-68	James, Anthony R Jr.	66-67	Collins, William J	68-69
<b>17th PUBLIC INFO. DETACH.</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 2/11</b>			
Klahn, James M	68-69	Everett, John W	67-68	Hewitt, Jay T	67-68	Connolly, David V	68-69



## Letters to the Editor

Bill,

I was inspired by the article in Thunder Run – “A Special Welcome Home” submitted by Gregory Mason (4th Quarter 2015), to share a recent experience I had. Along with medical problems, i.e. prostate cancer, Parkinson's (Agent Orange); I recently had hip replacement – anyone who has ever had it knows that besides the weeks of P.T. one problem is you can't even bend over to cut your toenails. Well to make a long story short. I made an appointment to have a pedicure, the first in my life at 72 years old.

In so doing, as I'm talking to the woman doing this, she told me she was from Vietnam. I told her I had spent a little time in her country (although that year didn't seem like a little time) we talked, just small talk, and when I was ready to leave – the owner came over and handed me a hand written note – apparently a woman a few seats down had overheard my conversation. The note said, and I quote verbatim, “Pedicure on me. Thank you for your service and Welcome

Home! My dad served in the South Pacific WW II Marine – I do this in his memory. Take care of your hip too.” End of note.

She had left the shop, I couldn't even thank her. I don't even know what she looked like or who she was. I took a picture of the “note” and it's with me at all times on my phone. I will never forget that gesture. I only wish I had met this remarkable woman. I fill up just writing about it. I know I'm preaching to the choir; all Vietnam veterans went through the pain of being “shunned” by society, but every once in a while, someone nice comes along and takes away some of the pain.

I am a “boat person”; I was at only one reunion, Philadelphia. I'll be at the next San Antonio. Looking to hook-up with some fellow “Boaters”

*Lou Gray  
HHT 2/11, 1966-67*



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1st QTR 2016

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
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--round or oval head shape) .....	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5" with color insignia .....	60.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	30th Reunion Challenge Coin .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	6.00	_____	_____	_____
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, 14x1x6 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	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, camouflage wwith color BH insgnia .....	45.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle .....	45.00	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths .....	10.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" .....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Diary of a Draftee, by: James M. Yunker .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Patton's Boys, by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter .....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (sizes: S, M, L) .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth .....	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable w/mesh back <input type="checkbox"/> white <input type="checkbox"/> black Solid cloth back, (black only) Old Style <input type="checkbox"/> New Style <input type="checkbox"/> ....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand .....	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray .....	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)

- A) \$2.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00    C) \$16.00 — \$60.00 = \$12.35
- B) \$6.00 — \$15.00 = \$6.60    D) \$61.00 and over = \$16.85

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$16.85. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

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



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

## Are You A Member?

By: Allen Hathaway,  
 President and Membership Chairman, 11th ACVVC

This issue of *Thunder Run* is being mailed to nearly 15,000 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 Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (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 above. If the words **"FREE COPY"** or **"EXPIRED"** are printed on the first line of the label, **take this opportunity to join or 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 97 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 laminated 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!



**WE WANT YOU!**

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